

## State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan

### LONG-TERM HEADWATERS STREAM CONSERVATION STRATEGY

During the development of the Habitat Conservation Plan for state trust lands, riparian conservation strategies were defined for fish-bearing streams and larger non-fish bearing streams. One notable gap in the long-term riparian conservation strategy was the protection needs for what were called Type 5 streams (now referred to as headwater streams). The Habitat Conservation Plan Implementation Agreement provides an interim strategy and specifies that we will develop a long-term conservation strategy for Type 5 streams.

"At the end of the 10 year period, a long-term conservation strategy for forest management along Type 5 waters shall be developed and incorporated into this HCP as part of the adaptive management component" (DNR 1997 p.IV.59).

Until the long term strategy is developed, Type 5 [headwaters] waters will be protected under the Forest Resource Plan (DNR 1992) to maintain stream conditions beneficial for both headwater and downstream systems. The plan states that Type 5 waters not associated with unstable slopes will be protected:

"...when necessary for water quality, fisheries habitat, stream banks, wildlife, and other important elements of the aquatic system" (DNR 1997 p.IV. 59).

In the HCP, we define a strategy for protecting wetlands 0.25 acres (0.1 hectares) and larger. We also recognize that smaller wetlands are very valuable ecologically and cannot be separated functionally or in a regulatory fashion from small streams. This is expressed as follows:

"Seeps and wetlands smaller than 0.25 acre will be afforded the same protection as Type 5 waters. That is, such features will be protected where part of an unstable hillslope.

Research to study the effects on aquatic resources of forest management in and around seeps and small wetlands will be included in research programs for Type 5 waters" (DNR 1997 p.IV 69). The role of wetlands smaller than 0.25 acre will be examined as part of achieving the headwaters conservation strategy goal.