

Practices of Water-Conscious Landowners

- Manage invasive and noxious weeds on your property.
- Be careful where and how you build near water. Avoid modifying wetlands or stream areas and limit paving. Consult a professional if you have questions about how your changes may affect nearby water.
- Work with qualified hydrology-minded engineers and other design professionals, and get required permits for work near streams and shorelines to ensure best results and long term success.
- Minimize pesticides and fertilizers, and keep compost, pet waste, oil, grease, and other substances far away from waterways and storm drains.

Protect Plants Around Streams & Lakes

- Maintain healthy vegetation in your riparian buffer area, including diverse native trees and shrubs. These plants have root strength to stabilize soils.
- Do not mow or create lawn all the way to the water's edge. This causes unstable banks and increases erosion.
- Plant riparian plants such as willow cuttings and other species where the riparian buffer is sparse.



Three native crayfish species are dependent on Idaho's healthy riparian buffers.

For more information, visit the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/surface-water) and the University of Idaho Extension publications catalog (www.uidaho.edu/extension/publications).

Check out this video to learn more about how vegetated riparian buffers can protect land and streams: youtu.be/CPqC2561y9E.

See also the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission's Riparian Plant Reference Guide (swc.idaho.gov/media/12949/riparian_guide_web.pdf).



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PROTECTING STREAMS AND LAKES IN IDAHO:

A LANDOWNER'S GUIDE

As water stewards and landowners, we have a responsibility to the land we inhabit.

By establishing and caring for vegetated riparian buffers along the edges of water on our land, we will protect the health of the water bodies. Healthy streams and lakes are crucial to the wellbeing of all organisms, including people; steps taken today will help keep our water flowing clean.

Riparian buffers serve as the first line of defense in protecting local waterways. As a landowner, you have the unique opportunity to support the health of Idaho's riparian areas and waters through maintenance of these crucial habitats on your property.

What is a riparian buffer?

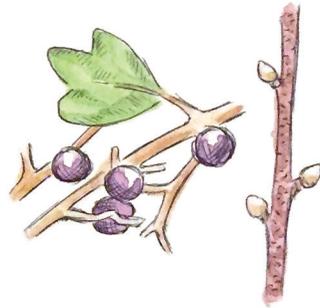
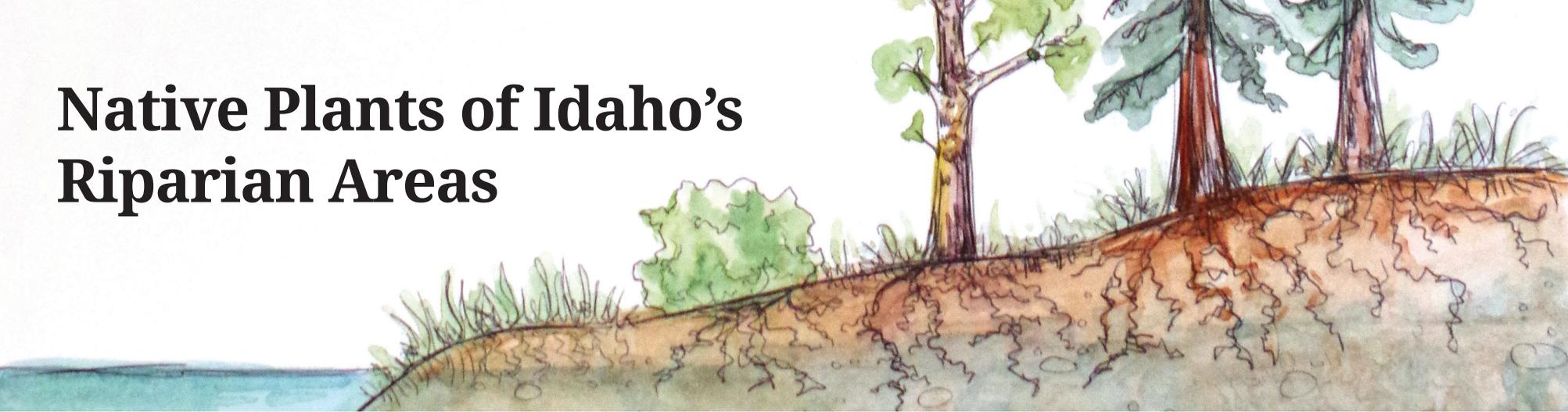
Riparian buffers are vegetated areas in floodplains and along the edges of waterways and shorelines.

How do they help?

- Slow runoff for better summer streamflow
- Reduce nutrients
- Protect land from erosion
- Filter sediment & other pollutants
- Improve water quality
- Reduce flood damage
- Provide habitat for fish and wildlife
- Shade and cool the stream

IDAHO
MASTER WATER STEWARDS

Native Plants of Idaho's Riparian Areas



Golden Currant
Ribes aureum



Quaking Aspen
Populus tremuloides



Willows
Salix spp.



Douglas Hawthorn
Crataegus douglasii

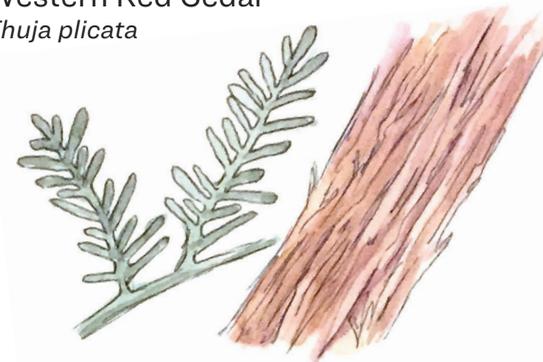
Spirea
Spirea douglasii



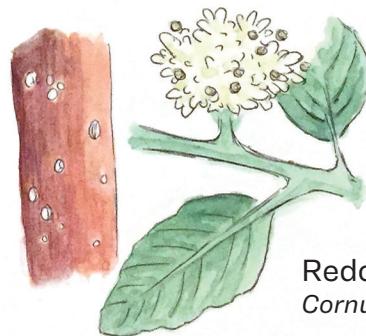
Black Cottonwood
Populus trichocarpa



Western Red Cedar
Thuja plicata

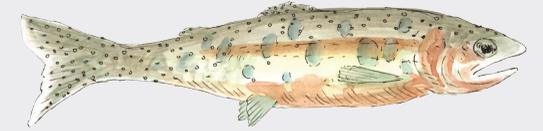


Wild rose
Rosa woodsii



Redosier Dogwood
Cornus stolonifera

Idaho's state fish, flower and tree



Cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki*): These fish are found in cold, clear waters and are recognized by distinctive red-orange slash mark under the jaw. Three subspecies are found in Idaho, including westslope cutthroat trout in north Idaho. Riparian buffers support cutthroat trout.

Syringa (*Philadelphus lewisii*): Also called mock-orange, this woody shrub grows to 10 feet tall with showy clusters of white, fragrant flowers. Can be found in some riparian areas.



Western white pine (*Pinus monticola*): Tall pines of the Northern Rockies prized for straight trunk and commercial value. Needles are 3 to 5 inches long in bunches of five; cones are 5 to 15 inches long; and bark is brownish gray. Can be found in some riparian areas.

