

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**Adsorb** - To take up by adsorption.

**Adsorption** - The accumulation of gases, liquids, or solutes on the surface of a solid or liquid.

**Aggradation** - The process by which streams are raised in elevation by the deposition of material eroded and transported from other areas. The opposite of degradation.

**Allochthonous**- Imported from outside the system (stream).

**Alluvial Channel** - A channel developed in sediment transported and deposited by the stream.

**Alluvial Fan** - A fan-shaped deposit of alluvium found where a stream flows out of a mountain stream onto flat terrain at the base of a mountain. The sudden decrease in stream velocity causes deposition.

**Alluvial Features** - Landforms created by rivers, such as floodplains. Sediments are typically round and smooth from water erosion.

**Alluvium** - Sediment transported and deposited by streams.

**Angle of Repose** - The maximum slope at which unconsolidated material remains stable.

**Anthropogenic** - Human caused

**Aquatic Habitat** - The aquatic environment and the immediately surrounding terrestrial environment that meet the necessary biological and physical requirements of fish species during various life stages. Physical attributes of the stream channel and riparian area that are important to the health of all or some life stages of fish, aquatic insects and other stream organisms. Attributes include water quality (temperature, pH), riparian vegetation characteristics (shade, cover, density, species), stream bed sediment characteristics, and pool/riffle spacing.

**Armoring** - Natural armoring is the formation of a resistant layer of relatively large particles resulting from removal of finer particles by erosion. Also, this term is used for placement of large rock (i.e., rip-rap) to protect a stream bank from erosion.

**Artesian Spring** – An artesian spring is created when groundwater in a confined aquifer is pushed out through faults or cracks in the overlying impervious layer on to the surface under pressure. Water from an artesian well or spring is usually cold and free of organic contaminants, making it desirable for drinking.

**Autochthonous**- Originating from within the system (stream).

**Avulsion** - A rapid change in channel direction when a stream suddenly breaks through its banks typically bisects an overextended meander arc (oxbow cutoff).

**Backeddy Scour** - Erosive action of water in streams by excavating and transporting bed and bank materials downstream caused by the swirling of water and the reverse current created when water flows past an obstacle.

**Backwater** - Condition in which the water surface elevation is raised by downstream flow impediments.

**Backwater Effect** - The effect that a dam or other obstruction has in raising the surface of the water upstream from it.

**Bank** - The rising ground bordering a lake or river, or forming the edge of a cut or hollow.

**Bank Erodibility Hazard Index (BEHI)** – An index for predicting erosion potential on selected stream banks, usually associated with a monitoring cross-section for measurement of actual erosion rates over time (Rosgen, 1996).

**Bank Erosion Monitoring Site (BEMS)** - For the purposes of the Stony Clove Creek stream management plan, this is a location where metal rebar rods have been used to permanently locate an actively eroding stream bank. At this site, detailed data have been gathered to document the stream condition. The site is permanently marked to enable future measurements that, when compared to the existing condition, provide information about the stream's change. Measuring change over time is considered '*monitoring*,' and this information provides early warning to stream managers about important but perhaps visually imperceptible changes in the stream.

**Bank Height Ratio** - The ratio of height of bank to bankfull height, used in stream assessment to determine whether a stream is stable-bank height and bankfull height will be the same in a stable stream.

**Bankfull (Bankfull Discharge)** - A field estimate of the channel-forming flow or the flow that over time maintains the form of the channel by transporting the majority of the sediment load. This discharge occurs when water just begins to leave the channel and spread onto the floodplain (FIWG, 1998). Typically recurs every 1-3 years.

**Bankfull Stage** – The elevation at which flooding occurs on a floodplain.

**Bankfull Wetted Area** - Refers to the area of the wetted cross-section measured at bankfull flow.

**Bar (mid-channel, point, side, lateral, transverse, etc.)** - A location within the stream channel in which sediment accumulates occupying a significant portion of the channel.

**Base Flow** - The sustained low flow of a stream, usually resulting from groundwater inflow to the stream channel rather than surface water runoff.

**Bed Material** - The composite mixture of substrate of which a streambed is composed.

**Bed Roughness** - A measure of the irregularity of the streambed as it contributes to flow resistance, commonly expressed as a Manning's "n" value.

**Bedload** – The amount and size of stream bed material or substrate that is mobilized by tractive and erosive forces measured or calculated at a specified discharge and is transported by jumping, rolling or sliding on the bed layer of the stream. Contrast to Suspended Load.

**Bedrock** - the solid rock or geologic surface underlying unconsolidated surface materials (e.g., water, soil, alluvium).

**Belt Width** – The distance between lines drawn tangential to the extreme limits of fully developed meanders.

**Berm** – A mound of earth or other materials, usually linear, constructed along streams, roads, embankments or other areas. Berms are often constructed to protect land from flooding or eroding, or to control water drainage (as along a road-side ditch). Some berms are constructed as a byproduct of a stream management practice whereby stream bed sediment is pushed out of the channel and mounded on (and along the length of) the stream bank - these berms may or may not be constructed for flood control purposes; some are simply piles of excess material. These berms often interfere with other stream processes such as floodplain function, and can exacerbate flood-related erosion or stream instability.

**Bioengineering** - The use of live vegetation, either alone or in combination with harder materials such as rock or (dead) wood, to stabilize soils associated with stream banks or hillslopes. Roots stabilize the soil, while stems, branches and foliage slow high *velocity* water, reducing erosion and encourage deposition of fine *sediment*.

**Boulder** – A large substrate particle that is larger than cobble, usually between 256 - 4096 mm. in size.

**Bridge Scour** - Excessive erosion of the stream banks and bottom below a bridge as a result of the concentration and direction of stream flow.

**Bridge Scour Depth** - The calculated depth at which the streambed and substrate will mobilize and be transported during channel forming flows. Used to determine the safe depth at which to place footings and stable keyways in streambeds that will not erode or be undermined.

**Buffer Zone/Buffer Strip** - An area of permanent vegetation between waterways and adjoining land uses designed to intercept and filter out pollution before it reaches the surface water resource. Typically, activities such as agriculture or construction are restricted in these areas to protect water quality.

**Cascade** – A short, steep drop in streambed elevation often marked by boulders and agitated white water.

**Central Bar** - A bar found in the mid-channel zone, not extending completely across the channel.

**Channel** - An area containing continuously or periodically flowing water that is confined by banks and a streambed.

**Channel Cross-section** - The physical measurements (width and depth) across the channel and floodplain.

**Channel Forming Flow** - See bankfull flow.

**Channel Migration** - Lateral or longitudinal (down-valley) migration of the stream channel within the valley by the process of erosion and deposition.

**Channel Pattern** - The meander geometry of the channel within its active floodplain, readily visible from a top-down view of the channel.

**Channel Profile (or longitudinal profile)** - The plot of the stream bottom elevation (and often the water surface, bankfull and valley elevations) longitudinally along the stream. The change in bottom elevation over distance is called Channel Gradient.

**Channel Scour** - The erosive action of water and sediment that removes and carries away bed and bank material.

**Channel Slope (or Channel Gradient)** - The inclination of the channel bottom, measured as the elevation drop per unit length of channel.

**Channelization** – The modification of a natural river channel; may include deepening, widening, straightening, or altering of the slope, to accelerate conveyance or increase drainage of wet areas. Often referred to as hydromodification.

**Cobble** – Substrate particle that are smaller than boulders and larger than gravels, and are generally 64 - 256 mm. in diameter.

**Colluvial features** – Landforms that are not well developed by the river. Sediments are typically angular and jagged.

**Confluence** - The meeting or junction of two or more streams, each with its own watershed.

**Convergence** – The downstream end of a split channel, where the stream merges back to one channel; the two channels having the same watershed.

**Conveyance** - Continuous transport of water.

**Corridor** - The area of land along a stream between the valley walls including floodplains, riparian areas, and terraces.

**Critical Shear Stress** - The minimum amount of shear stress required to initiate substrate particle motion along the stream bed or banks.

**Cross-section (see also monitoring cross-section)** – In the context of stream assessment surveys, a cross-section is a location on a stream channel where stream morphology is measured perpendicular to the stream flow direction (as if taking a slice through the stream), including width, depth, height of banks and/or terraces, and area of flow.

**Cross-sectional Area** - The area of cross-section below the water surface perpendicular to the direction of flow.

**Cross vane** – A type of rock vane used to provide grade control, to keep the thalweg in the center of the channel, and to protect the bank. A cross vane consists of two rock vanes and one center structure perpendicular to the flow. This center structure sets the invert grade of the streambed. Therefore, this structure can be used to raise the bed and is often used at the head of a riffle to set the elevation of the upstream pool.

**Culvert** – A closed conduit for the free passage of surface drainage water. Culverts are typically used to control water running along and under the road, and to provide a crossing point for water from road side drainage ditches to the stream, as well as for routing tributary streams under the road to join the Stony Clove Creek. Culverts are also used by landowners to route roadside drainage ditch water under their driveways to reduce or prevent erosion.

**Degradation (see also downcutting)** - The process by which streambeds and floodplains are lowered in elevation by eroding downward into the stream bed over time. Often an indicator that the stream's discharge or sediment load is changing, by periodic episodes of bed scouring without filling, or by longer term transport of sediment out of a reach without replacement. A degrading stream will typically show a bank height ratio greater than 1.0. The opposite of Aggradation.

**Demonstration Stream Restoration Project (demonstration project)** – A stream (stability) restoration project that is designed and located to maximize opportunities for

monitoring of project success, public and agency education about different stream restoration techniques, and interagency partnerships funding and cooperation.

**Deposition** - Accumulation of sediment on the channel bed or banks.

**Destabilized (see also instability, unstable)** – Describing a section of stream that has been made unstable, by natural or human activity.

**Discharge (streamflow)** – The amount of water flowing in a stream, measured as a volume per unit time, usually cubic feet per second (cfs).

**Discontinuous floodplains (see also floodplain)** – A series of small floodplains, formed as a series of small benches along stream banks. These floodplain features, typically seen in steeper mountain streams, are not connected sequentially following the valley floor, but still provide the critical floodplain functions of reducing water velocity and enhancing sediment deposition and infiltration (water sinking into the ground rather than running straight to the stream).

**Divergence** – location where a secondary channel splits off from the main channel; the two channels having the same watershed.

**Dominant Channel Materials** – A selected particle size index value, the D50, representing the most prevalent of one of six channel material types or size categories, as determined from a channel material size distribution analysis.

**Dominant Discharge** - A channel forming discharge that, if maintained indefinitely, would produce the same channel geometry as the natural long-term hydrograph. The dominant discharge concept is applicable to stable, alluvial streams (i.e., streams that have the ability to change their shape but are neither aggrading nor degrading).

**Downcutting** – See degradation

**Drainage Basin**--land area where precipitation runs off into streams, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs. It is a land feature that can be identified by tracing a line along the highest elevations between two areas on a map, often a ridge. Large drainage basins, like the area that drains into the Mississippi River contain thousands of smaller drainage basins. Also called a "watershed."

**Drainage Area**- The drainage area of a stream at a specified location is that area, measured in a horizontal plane, which is enclosed by a drainage divide.

**Drainage Density** - The relative density of natural drainage channels in a given area. It is usually expressed in terms of miles of natural drainage or stream channel per square mile of area, and obtained by dividing the total length of stream channels in the area in miles by the area in square miles.

**Dry Ravel** - The downhill movement of soil and debris during dry periods, caused by gravitational forces.

**Dynamic Equilibrium** - The state at which the channel exhibits patterns of erosion and deposition but there is not net change in the input and output of materials. Considered stable, but over time the features and location of the channel within the valley will change.

**Eddy** - A circular current or a current of water running contrary to the main current, usually resulting from an obstruction.

**Effective Discharge** - The discharge that transports the largest fraction of the annual sediment load. The effective discharge results in the average morphologic characteristics of a channel and at which channel maintenance is the most effective.

**Embankment** – A linear structure, usually of earth or gravel, constructed so as to extend above the natural ground surface. Similar to a berm, but usually associated with road fill areas, and extending up the hillside from the road, or from the stream up to the road surface.

**Embeddedness** - The degree to which the coarse channel bed materials (boulders, cobble, gravel, sand) are surrounded or covered by fine sediments, usually measured as percent coverage by finer sediments.

**Entrainment** - One of three distinct processes involved in erosion. The process of lifting or mobilization of a sediment particle by stream flow.

**Entrenchment** – A vertical description of the stream that has eroded downward or was constructed such that it no longer has access to its original floodplain during moderate flow events. Flood flows in an entrenched stream are contained within the stream banks or adjacent terraces. Flood flows in a stream that is not entrenched are spread out over a floodplain.

**Entrenchment Ratio** - The ratio between the flood-prone width and the bankfull width. This ratio is used as a part of Rosgen stream classification system to determine stream type. For example, if this number is less than 1.4, the stream is said to be highly entrenched, if between 1.4 and 2.2 it is mildly entrenched, and greater than 2.2 it is not entrenched. Entrenchment ratio is used with other stream shape data to determine stream type, and define baseline data for future monitoring (Rosgen, 1996).

**Ephemeral Stream** - A water course that is usually dry but sporadically contains stream flow, typically during significant rain or snowmelt events.

**Equilibrium (see also stable)** – The degree to which a stream has achieved a balance in transporting its water and sediment loads over time without aggrading (building up), degrading (cutting down), or migrating laterally (eroding its banks and changing course).

**Erosion** – The wearing away of the land surface by detachment and movement of soil and rock fragments during a flood or storm or over a period of years through the action of water, wind, or other geologic process. In streams, erosion is a natural process, but can be accelerated by poor stream management practices.

**Erosion Potential** – The amount of erosion that may be expected under given climatic, topographic, soil, and cultural conditions.

**Eutrophication** - a process in which the addition of nutrients (primarily nitrogen and phosphorus) to water bodies stimulates algal growth. This is a natural process, but it can be greatly accelerated by human activities.

**Evapotranspiration** - Combination of evaporation from water surfaces and transpiration of water from plant surfaces to the atmosphere.

**Fascines** – A bioengineering method using bundles of small branches of willow or other riparian tree/shrub species, tied together and laid into shallow trenches along a stream to stabilize and revegetate stream bank areas.

**Fill** - Soil or other material placed as part of a construction activity. Often used to raise the ground level of a floodplain or wetland to make it suitable for construction or other human activities.

**Flashy Stream** - A stream or river that is characterized by dramatic fluctuations in flow, in which sharply higher flows in wet weather can be followed a rapid return to pre-rain conditions shortly after the end of the precipitation. The hydrograph of a flashy stream would depict sharp vertical jumps and equally steep vertical declines. Water within a flashy stream's watershed will make its way quickly from the land into the stream and be flushed through the system rapidly. On the other hand, in watersheds supplying a stream that is not flashy, the transport of water will be slowed through absorption into and seepage through soils, containment on the surface in lakes, and retention in the soil as moisture.

**Flood** - The temporary inundation of normally dry land areas resulting from the overflowing of the natural or artificial confines of the stream channel.

**Flood Attenuation** - To lessen the amount, force or severity of high flows.

**Flood Peak** - The highest value of stage or discharge achieved by a flood. Flood crest is equivalent to peak stage.

**Flood Stage** - The gage height at which the stream begins to overflow its banks.

**Floodplain** – A relatively flat alluvial feature adjacent to the stream channel that is formed during the present climate and receives flood flows. The floodplain usually consists of sediment deposited by the stream, in addition to riparian vegetation. The floodplain acts to reduce the velocity of floodwaters, increase infiltration (water sinking into the ground rather than running straight to the stream - this reduces the height of the flood for downstream areas), reduce stream bank erosion and encourage deposition of sediment. Vegetation on floodplains greatly improves their functions.

**Floodplain Bench** - A small level area that forms at the effective discharge stage within an over-wide, entrenched channel.

**Floodplain Connection** - The stream's ability to access the land area adjacent to its active channel during higher flows in order for the stream system to function properly and dissipate energy or velocity.

**Floodplain Drainage** – The use of culvers under bridge approaches to allow overbank flows to pass from the upstream floodplain to the downstream floodplain.

**Flood-Prone Area** - A term coined by Rosgen (1996) to describe the area flooded at flows twice the maximum depth of flow at the effective discharge.

**Floodway** - The stream channel and those parts of the floodplain adjoining the channel that are required to carry and discharge the floodwaters or flood flow of the stream.

**Fluvial** - Relating to a stream or river; produced by stream action.

**Fluvial geomorphology** - The study of the formation of landforms by the action of flowing water.

**Function** - The physical, chemical and biological processes, services and values that occur in an ecosystem (e.g., floodplain, stream, wetland) as a result of their structure and composition.

**Gabions** – Large wire-mesh baskets filled with rock material used to harden or stabilize road embankments and sometimes stream banks.

**Gaging Station (Gage)** - A particular point on a stream of known cross-section where systematic observations of water depth or discharge are obtained.

**Geographic Information System (GIS)** - Desktop software with a graphical user interface that allows loading and querying, analysis and presentation of spatial and tabular data that can be displayed as maps, tables and charts. The maps in the Stony Clove Creek stream management plan were produced with a GIS, and can be updated as new information becomes available.

**Geologic Control** - A local rock formation or clay layer that limits the vertical or lateral movement of a stream at a particular point.

**Geomorphology** - The branch of geology that studies the nature and origin of land forms. The natural forces that shape landforms include water, ice, wind, gravity and time.

**Georeference** - To georeference something means to define its existence in physical space. That is, establishing a relation between raster or vector images to map projections or coordinate systems. This procedure is thus imperative to data modeling in the field of geographic information systems (GIS) and other cartographic methods. When data from different sources need to be combined and then used in a GIS application, it becomes essential to have a common referencing system. This is brought about by using various georeferencing techniques.

**Geotechnical Failure** - Stream bank failure collapse or slippage of a large mass of bank material into the channel caused by stream bank soil and rock properties, including seepage and piping.

**Glide** - Shallow, low gradient stream sections with slow current and fine substrate.

**Global Positioning System (GPS)** - A satellite based positioning system operated by the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). When fully deployed, GPS will provide all-weather, worldwide, 24-hour position and time information. The stream feature inventory completed for the Stony Clove Creek stream management plan used a GPS unit to document the locations of all mapped stream features. This information was added to the GIS to produce the maps.

**Gradient** - The rate of change in (vertical) elevation per unit of horizontal distance.

**Grading** - Term used to denote the variability and distribution of sediments and bed materials. A well-graded material will be sorted by size. A poorly-graded material will consist of a single sediment size or all size materials uniformly mixed.

**Gravel** – Substrate particle that are smaller than cobbles and larger than sands, that and generally measures between 2 - 64 mm. in diameter.

**Hardening** – Any structural revetment that fixes in place an eroding stream bank, embankment or hillside by using hard materials, such as rock, sheet piling or concrete, that does not allow for revegetation or enhancement of aquatic habitat. Rip-rap and stacked rock walls are typically considered to be hardening measures, though some revegetation of these areas is possible.

**Headcut** – A marked change in stream bed slope, as in a step or waterfall, that is unprotected or of greater height than the stream can maintain.

**Headcutting** - The process by which the stream is actively eroding the streambed downward (degrading, incising, downcutting) to a new base level. Because of the resultant high gradient change, this erosional action progresses upstream. Often suggests adjustment to changing stream hydrology or sediment load.

**Headwater**– the uppermost portion or beginnings of a stream.

**Hydraulic** - Relating to the flow or conveyance of water through a channel; movement or action caused by water.

**Hydraulic Gradient** - The change in hydraulic head over some specified distance.

**Hydraulic Jump** - Abrupt, turbulent, noisy transition from super-critical flow to sub-critical flow. Entrain air into the stream.

**Hydraulic Radius** - Cross-sectional area divided by the wetted perimeter.

**Hydrograph** - A graph showing flow, stage, velocity or discharge with respect to time, for a given point in the stream.

**Hydrologic Cycle** - The natural pathway water follows as it changes between liquid, solid, and gaseous states. The cyclic transfer of water vapor from the Earth's surface via evapotranspiration into the atmosphere, from the atmosphere via precipitation back to earth, and through runoff into streams, rivers, and lakes, and ultimately into the oceans.

**Hydrologic Regime** - The sum total of water that occurs in an area on average during a given period.

**Hydrology** - The study of the properties, movement and behavior of water on the land surface and under ground.

**Hydro-morphological Units (HMUs)** – The physical character of a stream shaped by the movement of water through the channel (riffle, rapid, cascade, run, fast run, pool, plunge pool, glide, side arm, riffle, backwater).

**Hydrostatic Pressure** - Force caused by water under pressure.

**Imbricate** - Having regularly arranged, overlapping edges, stack up at an angle, forming an overlapping pattern like fish scales or roof shingles.

**Impairment** - Impact that damages the biological integrity of a water body such that attainment of the designated use is prevented.

**Impervious Surface** - Surfaces, such as roads, parking lots and roofs, whose properties prevent the infiltration of water and increase the amount of stormwater runoff in a watershed.

**Impoundment** - A body of water, such as a pond, lake or reservoir, formed by confining a stream or other surface flow.

**Inboard** – Referring to a roadside ditch that is between the road and adjacent hillside, on the higher or uphill side of the road.

**Incised Channel (Incision)** - A stream that, through degradation, has cut its channel into the bed of the stream valley. See entrenchment and degradation.

**Infiltration** - The downward movement of water through soil or porous rock.

**Instability (see also unstable)** - An imbalance in a stream's capacity to transport sediment and maintain its channel shape, pattern and profile.

**Intermittent Stream** - A stream that flows periodically or seasonally, and is dry part of the year.

**Invasive Plants** – Species that aggressively compete with and replace native species in natural habitats.

**Invert** - The bed of a channel or culvert.

**Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), (see also invasive plants)** – An invasive plant, not native to the Catskill region, that colonizes disturbed or wet areas, especially stream banks, road-side ditches and floodplains. This plant out-competes natives and other beneficial plants, and may contribute to unstable stream conditions.

**Joint Planting** – The insertion of live stakes into the soil, in the spaces or joints, between previously placed rip-rap rocks. When placed properly, the cuttings are capable of rooting and growing.

**Kame Terrace** - A deposit, often sloping down-valley more steeply than the valley floor, formed where a glacial stream ran along the glacier margin. The ice-contact margin of the kame terrace is often slumped and mixed with till.

**Keyed-in** – Refers to tying the ends of a structure into the bank to prevent water from going behind it.

**Keystone Species**- Species with especially far-reaching effects are called keystone species.

**Knick-point** – A usually less erosive material, such as bedrock or a fallen log that creates an abrupt change in the longitudinal profile of a stream and controls the streambed elevation, slowing downstream erosion of the stream channel and the upstream migration of a headcut.

**Lag (Time):** The time it takes a flood wave to move downstream.

**Lateral Migration** - The movement of a channel across its floodplain by bank erosion. The outside banks of meanders move laterally across the valley floor and down the valley.

**Laterally unstable channel** – a channel which prone to short-term, side-to-side migration across a floodplain; symptomatic of undeveloped or depleted riparian vegetation.

**Leaching** – The process by which chemical or mineral materials are removed from a physical matrix (such as soil, or mixed sediment materials) by water running through and creating a solution of those chemicals.

**Left Bank** – The left stream bank as looking or navigating downstream. This is a standard used in stream assessment surveys.

**Live Stake** – Live branch cuttings that are tamped or inserted into the earth to take root and produce vegetative growth

**Macroinvertebrates** - Stream-dwelling arthropods (insects, crustaceans) without a backbone that can be viewed without magnification. Examples include crayfish, leeches, water beetles and the larva of dragonflies, caddisflies, and mayflies. Macroinvertebrates are an important food source for many species of fish.

**Mainstem** - The common outlet or stream, into which all of the tributaries within a watershed feed.

**Manning's "n"** - Manning's n-value is a coefficient used to describe boundary roughness of a channel or pipe. "n" incorporates the roughness of the bed material, vegetation, bends, junctions and other irregularities.

**Mass Wasting/Failure** - Large slope failures associated with downcutting stream channels and undermined support of steep slopes. Contrast to Rotational Failure (global) or Bank Erosion.

**Meander** - Bend or curve in a stream channel.

**Meander Belt** - The area between lines drawn tangential to the extreme limits of fully developed meanders. The meander belt width is the distance between the tangential lines marking the extremes of successive meanders, measured normal to the downvalley progression of the stream. Meander length is the distance between corresponding points in two successive meanders, or twice the distance between crossover or inflection points.

**Meander Width Ratio** - The quantitative expression of confinement (lateral containment of rivers) and is determined by the ratio of belt width/bankfull width.

**Meandering Stream** - A stream characterized by a clearly repeated pattern of meanders as seen from above.

**Mitigation** - To alleviate, or compensate for, the impact of environmental degradation, often through replacement of lost ecological functions or values at a nearby location.

**Monumented** - Refers to a location, usually a cross-section, that is marked with a permanent or semi-permanent marker, or “monument”, to enable future monitoring at the same place.

**Moraine** - A mound or ridge of sediment deposited by a glacier; **lateral moraine**- deposited to the side of a glacier; **terminal moraine**- deposited to the front of a glacier; **ground moraine**- deposited on the land surface.

**Morphology** - The form (dimension, pattern and profile) and structure of the stream channel.

**Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*), (see also invasive plants)** – An *invasive plant*, not native to the Catskill region, that colonizes disturbed or wet areas such as fields, forest edges, stream banks, and roadsides. This plant spreads quickly and forms impenetrable thickets that exclude native species. It impedes succession and out competes other plants for soil nutrients.

**Native Vegetation** - Vegetation indigenous to an area and adapted to local conditions.

**Non-Point Source** - Extensive or disperse source of pollution. Examples include agriculture, lawns, parking lots, roads, and septic systems.

**Nutrient** – The term "nutrients" refers broadly to those chemical elements essential to life on earth, but more specifically to nitrogen and phosphorus in a water pollution context. In a water quality sense nutrients really deal with those elements that are necessary for plant growth, but are likely to be limiting -- that is, where used up or absent, plant growth stops.

**Old Fields** - Cultivated lands that have been abandoned, and are in the process of gradual succession to a forested ecosystem.

**Oxbow** - A cut off and abandoned meander of a river.

**Particle Size Distribution** - See Substrate Analysis.

**Pathogen** – Disease-causing agent, especially microorganisms such as bacteria, protozoa, and viruses.

**Peak Flow** - The highest discharge achieved during a storm event.

**Pebble Count** - Method for determination of the size distribution of channel bed materials.

**Perched** - To stand, sit, or rest on an elevated place or position. If a tributary is perched at its confluence with the mainstem, it may suggest incisement, or a drop in the stream bed elevation, of the mainstem

**Perennial Stream** - A stream that normally contains flowing water at all times regardless of precipitation patterns.

**Pinch Point** - A narrowing can be caused by valley form or infrastructure encroachment.

**Piping** - is caused by groundwater seeping out of the bank face. Grains are detached and entrained by the seepage flow (also termed sapping) and may be transported away from the bank face by surface run-off generated by the seepage, if there is sufficient volume of flow. Piping is especially likely in high banks or banks backed by the valley side, a terrace, or some other high ground. In these locations the high head of water can cause large seepage pressures to occur. Evidence includes: pronounced seep lines, especially along sand layers or lenses in the bank; pipe shaped cavities in the bank; notches in the bank associated with seepage zones and layers; run-out deposits of eroded material on the lower bank. Note that the effects of piping erosion can easily be mistaken for those of wave and vessel force erosion (Hagerty, 1991a,b).

**Planform** - Horizontal stream pattern, including, sinuosity, meander radius, and belt width, as viewed from above. Stream planform can be developed from aerial photographs.

**Point Bar** – A depositional feature with coarse material - usually sand or gravel - caused by a decrease in sediment transport capacity usually located on the inside of a meander bend.

**Point Source** - Source of pollution from a single, well-defined outlet. Examples include wastewater treatment outfalls, combined sewer overflows, and industrial discharge pipes.

**Pool** - Deep, flat, areas in the stream created by scour, with slow currents at low flow. Usually pools occur on the outside of a meander bend between two riffles or the bottom of a step. Pools generally contain fine-grained bed materials, such as sand and silt. Natural streams often consist of a succession of pools and riffles.

**Radius of Curvature** - The radius of curvature ( $r$ ) is the radius of the circle defining the curvature of an individual bend measured between adjacent inflection points. The arc angle is the angle swept out by the radius of curvature between adjacent inflection points. The radius of curvature to width ratio ( $r/w$ ) is a very useful parameter that is often used in

the description and comparison of meander behavior, and in particular, bank erosion rates. The radius of curvature is dependent on the same factors as the meander wavelength and width. Meander bends generally develop a radius of curvature to width ratio ( $r/w$ ) of 1.5 to 4.5, with the majority of bends falling in the 2 to 3 range. The tractive force is also greater in tight bends than in longer radius bends. This was confirmed by Nanson and Hickin (1986) who studied the migration rates in a variety of streams, and found that the erosion rate of meanders increases as the radius of curvature to width ratio ( $r/w$ ) decreased below a value of about 6, and reached a maximum in the  $r/w$  range of 2 to 3.

**Rapids** – A reach of stream that is characterized by small falls and turbulent, high-velocity water.

**Rating Curve** - See stage-discharge relationship.

**Reach** - A section of stream with consistent or distinctive morphological characteristics

**Recurrence Interval** - The interval of time, on average, between occurrences of a hydrologic event of a certain magnitude.

**Reference Site/Reach** - A stable portion of a stream that is used to model restoration on an unstable portion of stream. Stream morphology in the reference reach is documented in detail, and that morphology is used as a blueprint for design of a stream stability restoration project.

**Restoration** - Bring back to a former, natural condition. Alternately, the recovery of biological and hydraulic function such that the biological integrity and health of an ecosystem can be self-sustained over time.

**Return interval** – The expected frequency of occurrence for a given discharge, i.e. 1.5 years.

**Revetment** - A facing of stone, rootwads, cut trees, or other durable material used to protect a stream bank or hillside against erosion.

**Riffle** – A reach of stream that is characterized by shallow, fast-moving water broken by the presence of rocks. Riffles typically occur in areas of increased channel gradient where hydraulic conditions sort transported sediments. Most invertebrates will be found in riffles.

**Right Bank** – The right stream bank as looking or navigating downstream. This is a standard used in stream assessment surveys.

**Riparian** - The area of land along stream channels, within the valley walls, where vegetation and other landuses directly influence stream processes, including flooding behavior, erosion, aquatic habitat condition, and certain water quality parameters.

**Riparian Buffer** - An undisturbed, vegetated strip of land adjacent to a water course.

**Riparian Corridor/Zone** - Area adjacent to a river or stream. "Those areas that are saturated by ground water or intermittently inundated by surface water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support the prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soils." (Beschta 1991)

**Rip-rap** – Broken rock cobbles, or boulders placed on earth surfaces, such as a road embankment or the bank of a stream, for protection against the action of water; materials used for soil erosion control.

**Riverine** - Relating to rivers or streams.

**Road Fill - (see also embankment)** – Typically gravel and sand sized material used to elevate the level of the road, control the road grade, or provide a buffer for the road grade from stream erosion.

**Rock Vanes** - The two most common types of vanes are the single vanes and cross vanes. Rock vanes protect the stream bank by redirecting the thalweg away from the stream bank and towards the center of the channel, and improve in-stream habitat through scour, oxygenation, and cover. Single rock vanes are constructed with large boulders which are oriented upstream with angles off the bank from 20 to 30 degrees, just downstream of the point where the stream flow encounters the stream bank at acute angles. Before installing rock vanes, the designer must first complete a thorough morphological assessment of the stream reach and watershed.

**Rotational Failure** - A form of bank erosion caused by a slip along a curved surface that usually passes above the toe of the bank. Rotational slips can be caused by a variety of factors. The most common mechanism reason for them to occur is erosion at the base of the slope which reduces the support for overlying sediments. Erosion at the base of a slope can be caused by the presence of a stream channel

**Run** - A reach of stream that is characterized by swift flowing water with little surface agitation and no major flow obstructions.

**Runoff** - That portion of rainfall or snowmelt that moves across the land surface into streams and lakes.

**Sand** - Substrate particle that area smaller than gravel and larger than silts, and are generally 0.062 - 2 mm. in diameter.

**Scour** – Erosive action of water in streams by excavating and transporting bed and bank materials downstream.

**Scour Pool** - An area of deeper water created by the scouring action of water. These generally occur downstream of obstructions or along the outside of a meander bend.

**Sediment** - Material such as clay, sand, gravel and cobble that is transported by water from the place of origin (stream banks or hillsides) to the place of deposition (in the stream bed or on the floodplain).

**Sediment Transport Discontinuity** - Any interruption in sedimentation, whatever its cause or length, usually a manifestation of non-deposition and accompanying erosion. A stable stream must be able to consistently transport its sediment load, both in size and type, associated with local deposition and scour.

**Sediment Yield (Sediment Discharge)** - The total sediment (i.e., bed load and suspended sediment load) outflow from a drainage basin in a specific period of time.

**Sedimentation (Siltation)** - The deposition of sediment.

**Shear stress (Shear Velocity/Shear Force)** – The force exerted parallel to (rather than normal to) by flowing water on the bed or banks of a stream. The tractive force that removes material from a stream bank as flow moves over the surface. Shear stress may be estimated as the product of mean flow depth or hydraulic radius, channel slope, and the density of water.

**Side Castings** - Stream bed sediment pushed out of the channel, usually by heavy machinery, and mounded on the stream bank.

**Side Channel** - a secondary channel of the stream.

**Silt** – Substrate particle that area smaller than sand, and are generally measured between 0.0039 - 0.062 mm.

**Sinuosity** - The relative curviness of a stream channel. Quantified as the total stream length divided by valley length, or the ratio of valley slope to channel slope.

**Sluiceway** – chute; an open channel inside a dam designed to collect and divert logs in the stream.

**Slump** – The product or process of mass-wasting when a portion of hillslope slips or collapses downslope, with a backward rotation (also a rotational failure).

**Sorting/Bed Sorting** - Natural separation of stream bed substrate into different size classes due to variability in flow velocities and the differential depositional characteristics of those bed materials.

**Specialist**- Organism that feeds on only one or a few types of food and can live only in a certain habitat.

**Stable Channel (see also equilibrium)** - State in which a stream develops a stable

dimension, pattern and profile such that, over time, channel features are maintained and the stream system neither aggrades nor degrades (Rosgen, 1996)

**Stacked Rock Wall** – A boulder revetment used to line stream banks for stabilization. Stacked rock walls can be constructed on a steeper angle than rip-rap, so they take up less of the stream cross-section, provide a wider road surface, and provide less surface area for solar heating, allowing stream temperature to remain cooler relative to banks lined with rip-rap. These features can be augmented with bioengineering to enhance aquatic habitat and stability functions.

**Stage** - In streams, stage refers to the level or height of the water surface, either at the current condition (i.e., current stage), or referring to another specific water level (i.e., flood stage).

**Stage-Discharge Relationship/Curve** - A graph showing the relation between gage height (or stage) and the amount of water flowing in the channel.

**Step** – A vertical drop formed by boulders, bedrock, or downed trees. Serves as grade control in high gradient streams.

**Step/Pool Morphology** - Steps are vertical drops often formed by large boulders, bedrock knickpoints, downed trees, etc. Deep pools are found at the bottom of each step. Step/pool sequences are found in high gradient streams. The step provides grade control and the pool dissipates energy. The spacing of step pools gets closer as the channel slope increases.

**Stream Bank** - The side slopes of a channel between which the streamflow is normally confined.

**Stream Power** - Measure of energy available to move sediment, or any other particle in a stream channel. It is affected by discharge and slope.

**Stream Profile (or Longitudinal Profile)** - A graph of elevation vs. distance along a stream channel. At a minimum, should include channel invert and water surface. Can also include bankfull, floodplain or terrace elevations.

**Stream Stability (Source: Rosgen, 1996)** - A stream is stable when it maintains its dimension, pattern and profile such that, over time, channel features are maintained and the stream system neither aggrades nor degrades.

**Stream Type** - As defined by Rosgen (1996), one of several categories defined in a stream classification system, based on a set of delineative criteria in which measurements of channel parameters are used to group similar *reaches*.

**Streamflow Regime** - The typical pattern of stream discharge over the course of a year.

**Subaqueous** - Occurring under water.

**Substrate** - Channel bed materials (silt, sand, gravel, cobble, boulders, organic debris,).

**Substrate Analysis** - Any test utilized to determine the size or size distribution of substrate, e.g., core analysis, sieve analysis or pebble count. A Particle Size Distribution is a plot showing the cumulative percent of substrate smaller than a given particle diameter. The percent smaller than a given diameter is denoted by a "D". For example, the median particle diameter, or D50, is larger than 50 percent of channel material as determined by a substrate analysis. Other substrate size indices, such as the D84 (i.e., the particle diameter larger than 84 percent of channel material as determined by a substrate analysis) are often used as indicators of stream power and the ability of the stream to mobilize that particle size during a given discharge event.

**Summer Base-flow** - Stream discharge primarily from groundwater (not from surface runoff). Typically this is the lowest flow of the year, occurring in late summer, or following extended periods of drought.

**Suspended Sediment/Suspended Sediment Load** - The soil particles lifted into and transported within the streamflow for a considerable period of time at the velocity of the flow, free from contact with the stream bed. These materials contribute to turbidity. Contrast to Bedload.

**Target Fish Community** – The desirable composition of fish species in a stream, developed to establish what native fish species were in a stream and at what proportions. This is determined through a comprehensive literature search followed by an assessment by a regional biologist to determine which of the native species would be most common in the stream under natural conditions.

**Terrace (or Floodplain Terrace or Low Terrace)** - A level area in a stream valley, above the active *floodplain*, that was deposited by the stream but has been abandoned as the stream has cut downward into the landscape. These areas may be inundated (submerged) in higher floods, but are typically not at risk in more common floods.

**Thalweg** – Literally means “valley way” and is the deepest point of a cross section. It is the low flow channel of the stream. In stream assessment, this location is used as a reference location for surveys and other measurements, and is most often associated with the deepest point in the stream cross-section.

**Toe** – The break in slope at the foot of a stream bank where it meets the stream bed.

**Tractive Force** - The drag or shear stress on a stream bank or stream bed caused by passing water which tends to pull soil particles along with the stream flow.

**Transport Capacity** - The ability of a stream, for a given flow condition, to transport a

volume (or weight) of sediment material of a specific size per unit time.

**Transverse Bar** – a diagonal bar (see **Bar**).

**Tributary** - A stream that feeds into another stream; usually the tributary is smaller in size than the main stream (also called “*mainstem*”). The location of the joining of the two streams is the confluence.

**Truncated Meander Bend** - A shortened or cut off of a bend in the stream channel usually caused by valley form or infrastructure encroachment.

**Turbidity** - A measure of opacity of a substance; the degree to which light is scattered or absorbed by a fluid. Streams with high turbidity are often referred to as being “turbid”.

**Undercutting** - The process by which the lower portion or "toe" of the stream bank is eaten away by erosion leaving a concave, overhanging section of stream bank. Often occurs on banks at the outside of stream bends.

**Unstable (see also instability)** – Describing a stream that is out of balance in its capacity to transport sediment and maintain its channel shape, pattern and profile over time.

**Velocity** – In streams, the speed at which water is flowing, usually measured in feet per second.

**Vertically unstable channel** – a channel with tends to downcut and abandon its floodplain; symptomatic in a channel where erosion is progressing faster than deposition.

**Wash Load** - The sediment load that because of its fine size has such a small settling velocity it would be held in suspension. It is essentially synonymous with suspended load.

**Water Quality** - A term used to describe the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of water with respect to its suitability for a particular use.

**Watershed** - Area that drains to a common outlet. For a stream, it is all the land that drains to it or its tributaries. Also commonly called Basin, Drainage Basin or Catchment. A Sub-basin or Sub-watershed is a discriminate drainage basin within a larger watershed, typically defined for planning or modeling purposes. The size of a watershed is termed its Drainage Area.

**Weir** - An artificial structure to construct water levels in a stream.

**Wet Ravel** - The downhill movement of soil and debris during wet periods, caused by hydrologic processes of rainsplash and overland flow.

**Wetland** – An area that is saturated by surface water or ground water with vegetation adapted for life under those soil conditions, as in swamps, bogs, fens, and marshes.

**Wetted Area** - The total area submerged by the flow of a stream

**Wetted Perimeter** - The boundary of wetted contact between a stream of flowing water and its containing channel at a given discharge, measured in a direction perpendicular to the flow.

**Winter Base Flow** - Stream discharge primarily from groundwater (not from surface runoff) -see summer base flow- Winter base flow is generally higher due to lower rates of evapo-transpiration during vegetative dormancy.

**Woody Debris** - Any large, relatively stable woody material that intrudes into the stream channel.

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