
Watershed Improvements in Drainage Districts

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Needs and Potential Conflicts

EEP must provide watershed improvements (such as restoration, enhancement, & BMPs) in Crisp Creek and Cow Swamp, (both within drainage districts)

- EEP improves water quality and habitat
 - often by restoring streams and wetlands

- Drainage Commissions provide for land drainage
 - often by straightening/deepening streams, and maintenance (mowing, desnagging)

Suggested approach

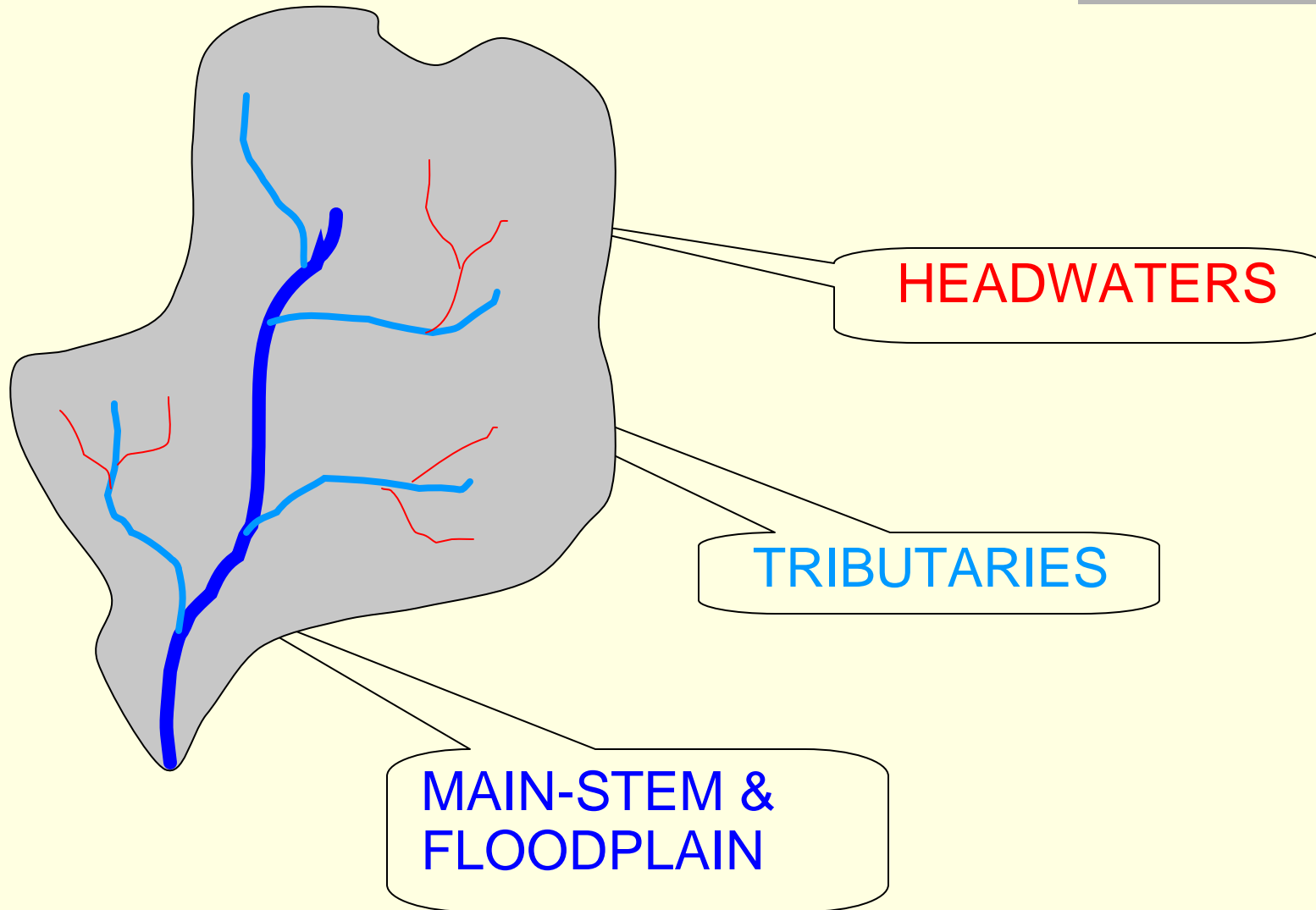
Overall Goal:

Find ways to meet EEP needs for watershed improvement without interfering with drainage commission and landowner requirements

Suggested approach

- EEP, stakeholders subcommittee and consultants work with drainage commissions (and others)
- Develop ways to cooperatively provide financial incentives
- Explore feasibility of improvement projects that won't cause conflicts
 - general approaches (what type of projects could work?)
 - proper landscape position (where should they go?)
 - test feasibility (modeling and demonstration projects)

Generic Watershed



Possible types of projects

TRIBUTARIES

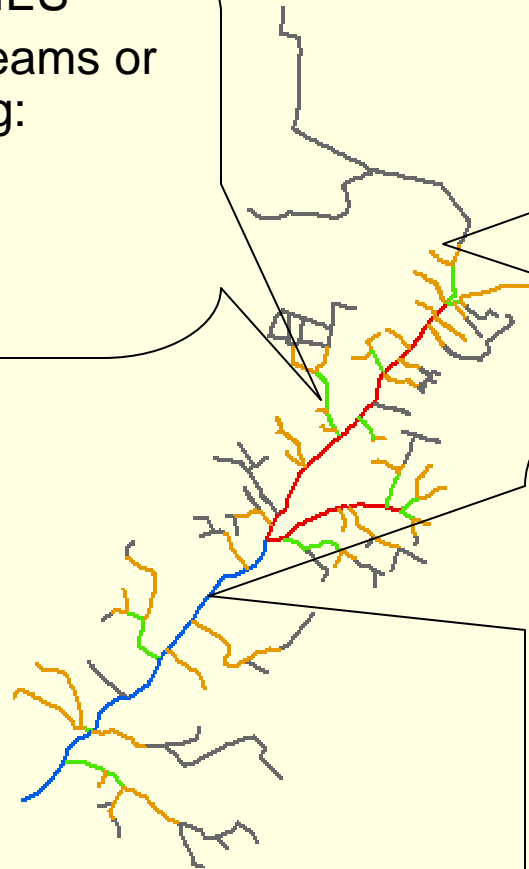
Restore tributary streams or floodplains, providing:

- high-flow storage
- sediment removal
- nutrient removal

HEADWATERS

Restore headwater streams, providing:

- storm-flow storage
- reduced downstream flows
- improved habitat



MAIN-STEM & FLOODPLAIN

Restore flood bench in channel
Restore historic floodplain where possible

- route tributaries to floodplain, not directly to main-stem
- provide high-flow storage for main-stem

Crisp Creek Watershed

Possible types of projects (continued)

- Improved BMPs
 - agricultural BMPs
 - routing road ditches to floodplains rather than directly to streams
- Selected buffer planting / revegetation
- Other suggestions?

Suggested process - Crisp Creek

- Form a stakeholder subcommittee to help with this and other issues
- Identify representatives of drainage commission (and other groups, agencies)
- Identify cooperative opportunities to maximize financial incentives for restoration, enhancement and BMP projects

Suggested process - Crisp Creek

(continued)

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- Discuss potential restoration approaches and conduct feasibility study
 - develop hydrologic model for testing possible projects
 - what types of projects are feasible?
 - where can they be done?

 - Construct a demonstration project in Crisp Creek

 - Monitor demonstration project / refine approach / begin process in other watersheds

Suggested process - Crisp Creek

(review)

- Form Subcommittee
- Identify drainage commission representatives
- Maximize financial incentives for EEP projects
- Discuss potential restoration approaches / conduct feasibility study
- Demonstration project in Crisp Creek
- Monitor / refine / move forward

Discussion
