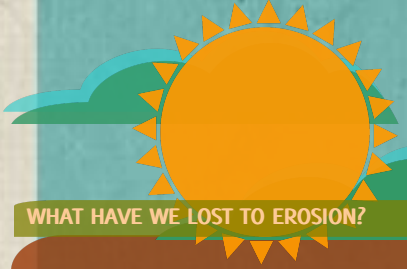


Our New River Watershed



THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR RIVER

Vegetation along a river's bank, often called a riparian buffer, keeps erosion and pollution out of our water. A riparian buffer keeps our water safe enough to swim in, fish from, and use for drinking.



WHAT HAVE WE LOST TO EROSION?

AREA OF SOIL LOST: 704,000 CUBIC YARDS

TOTAL SURFACE AREA LOST: 212 ACRES

WEIGHT OF SOIL LOST: 450,000 TONS

450,000 TONS

EQUIVALENT TO 9 TIMES THE WEIGHT OF THE TITANIC

The Effect of a Riparian Buffer

Removes up to 80% of excessive pesticides, fertilizers, and waste

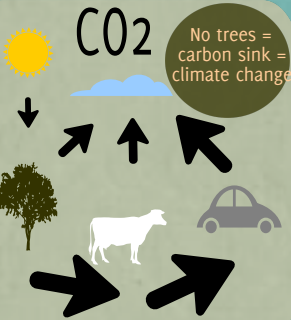
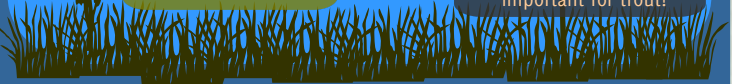
Removes CO₂, slowing Global Warming

Stops serious property damage and loss of land caused by erosion

Provides up to 99% of energy from woody debris and leaf litter necessary for aquatic animals.

Controls flooding by recharging groundwater

Provides shade that keeps the water cold -- extremely important for trout!



Riparian buffers are the most valuable protection a stream system has against outside influences.

- WV Department of Environmental Protection



Cutting Stream Bank Vegetation...

Increases Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Deforestation represents of greenhouse emissions

15%

Disruption of Water Cycles

Imbalance in participation and river flow



Soil Erosion

No trees to anchor stream bank soil.

Animal Species

Harms fragile habitat for animals and plants leading to Extinction



PRACTICES TO AVOID...!

-Removing Streamside Vegetation

-Mowing Up to the Edge of a Stream

-Allowing Livestock to Access the Riparian Zone

-Operating Heavy Equipment in the Riparian Zone



SOURCES:

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