

# LOWLAND: Suburban Residential/ Open Space *Upstream of* Urban Areas

#### Common Problems for this WMU scenario:

- Alteration of hydro-periods from forest loss and impervious cover (potential for more extreme high and low flow events)
- Loss of wetlands and floodplains (surface storage); especially in impacted areas of urban development
- Reduced stream/wetland biodiversity and habitat fragmentation

## Understanding implications of watershed integrity:

Water flow processes are relatively intact for upper and mid watershed, and are relatively important for these processes. This suggests these areas should be high priorities for protection.

Lower watershed AUs are relatively more degraded, however are also relatively important for flow processes (yellow AUs). Intact upper AUs suggest that restoration actions in the lower watershed whould have a higher likelihood of success.

## General Management Recommendations

#### **Upper Watershed (Green AUs prioritized for Protection)**

- Protect existing forest cover (acquisition, easements)
- Cluster new development, minimize impervious cover
- Apply LID to new and redevelopment where feasible

#### Lower Watershed (Yellow AU prioritized for Restoration):

- Retrofit existing urban areas (stormwater retrofits + reforest)
- Restore water flow process alteration (see submodel results to assess)
- Habitat restoration at site/reach scale OK

# Bear/Evans Creek (WRIA 8)



