

LOWLAND & MOUNTAINOUS: Protected Forest Lands Upstream of Urban Areas

Common Problems for this WMU scenario:

- Encroachment by rural residential development into intact areas outside of urban growth boundaries result in loss of forest cover and increased overland flow and peak flows in streams
- Higher potential for downstream flooding, and sediment export due to steep slopes, higher precipitation and rain-on-snow areas
- Extensive channelization in lower watershed in urban areas is typically present, resulting in higher velocity flows and erosion

Understanding implications of watershed integrity:

Water flow processes are relatively intact for upper and mid watershed. Restoration of aquatic habitat will have a higher likelihood of success, even in areas of higher degradation in lower watershed – yellow AUs.

General Management Recommendations

Upper Watershed (Green AUs prioritized for Protection)

• Maintain protected status and employ forestry practices that maximize cover and minimizes roads and erosion

Lower Watershed (Yellow AU prioritized for Restoration):

• Restore reach scale water flow processes (e.g. reconnect stream to floodplain)



Click here to review other potential management strategies.

Click here to consider other WDFW and Ecology guidance.