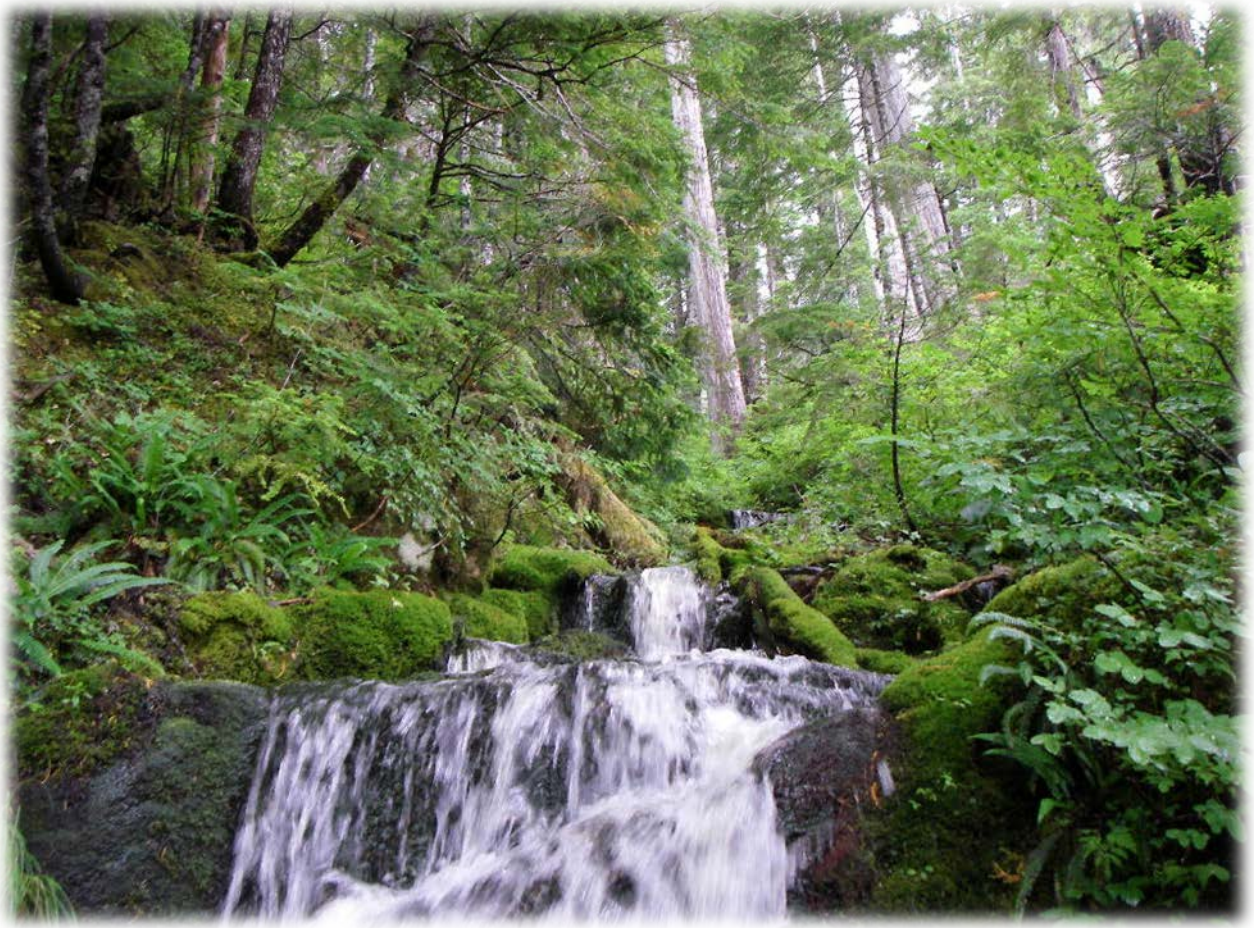
Importance of small streams



Lisa Nordin, MSc., RPBio.

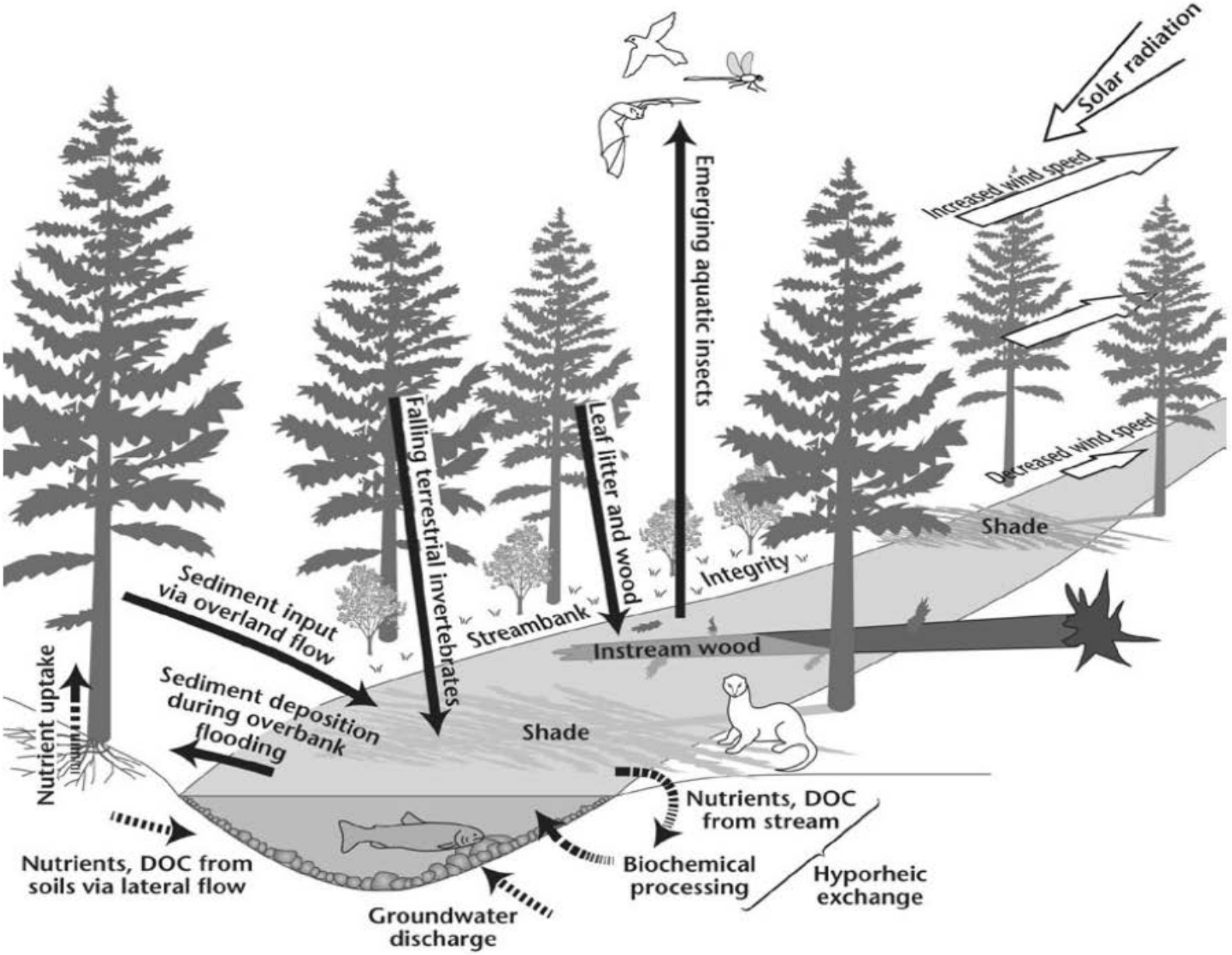
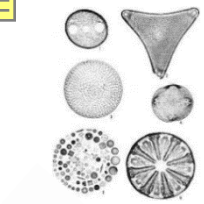
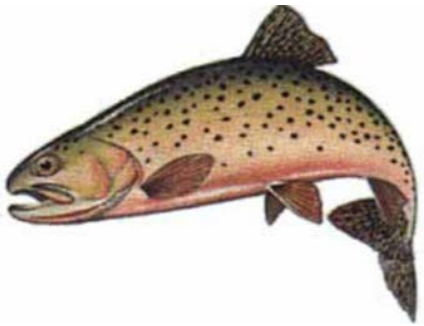
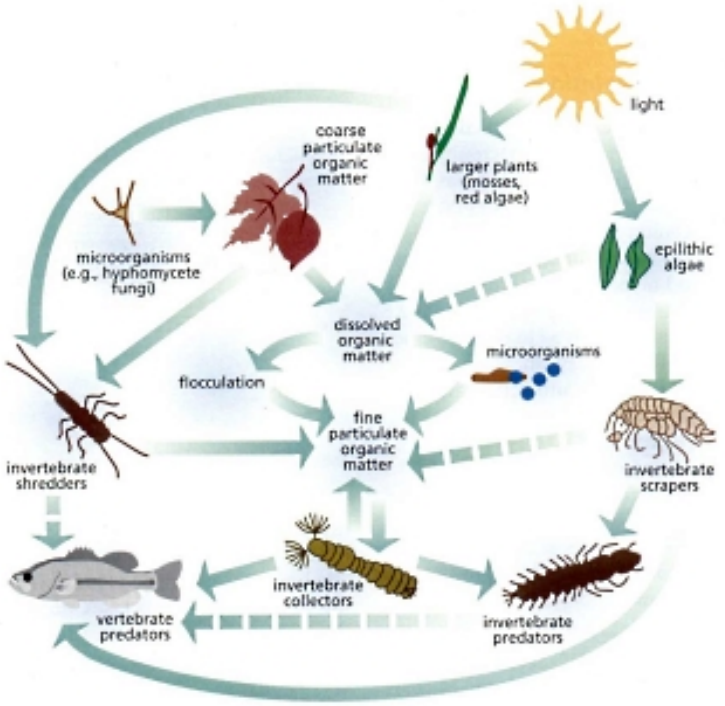


FIGURE 13.1 *A stream reach showing many of the elements and processes that link streams and riparian areas (E. Leinberger, University of British Columbia).*

Site Level / Watershed Level







- Highly productive at site level
- Transport water, nutrients and organic matter including invertebrates to downstream reaches
- Lower gradient reaches important to juvenile fish
- Higher gradient reaches support many unique species that do not co-exist well with fish

Travel and forage corridors

BC Adventure Network

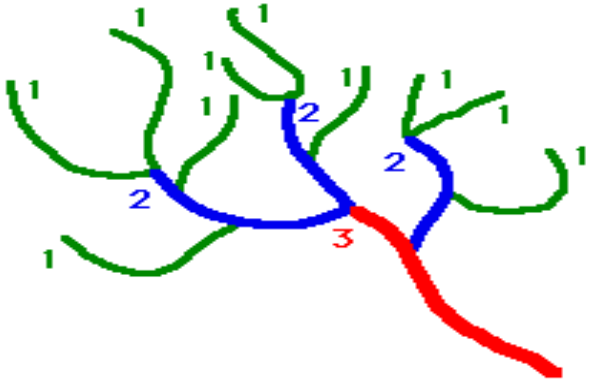
Pinterest- Whistler and BC Wildlife

Roger Patterson 1967

Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society

Fish BC

Lastly……



- Most Abundant
- Most sensitive
- Least buffered
- Consequently, most at risk

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