



Mountain streams

WHAT IS A MOUNTAIN STREAM?

- A watercourse, intermittent or permanent, located at an altitude and fed by natural water sources. Its waters are clear, cold and rich in oxygen.

WHY ARE MOUNTAIN STREAMS IMPORTANT?

- They feed all other watercourses downstream and affect the water quality of all watercourses to which they are connected.
- Through their riparian strips, they maintain good water quality by regulating water temperature and limiting sedimentation.
- They are sources of drinking water.
- They provide habitat for several species of salamander, including the spring salamander, a species designated as vulnerable in Quebec. Salamanders are sensitive to water quality and temperature because they breathe through their skin.

ASSOCIATED SPECIES

- Spring salamander*
- Northern dusky salamander
- Northern two-lined salamander
- Allegheny mountain dusky salamander*

*Species in a precarious situation

HOW TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY WHEN MANAGING YOUR FOREST?

- Avoid adding sediment to watercourses.
- Maintain the riparian strip to prevent the watercourse temperature from rising.
- Consult a professional for proper forest road planning.



Maintain a forested riparian buffer strip. Consult municipal by-laws for permitted widths and harvesting rates.



For frequent crossings, avoid fording*. Use bridges and culverts instead. Inspect and maintain these and the entire forest road network. Keep them in good condition.



No new roads in the riparian buffer strip. If possible, build roads beyond 60 m from a permanent watercourse and 30 m from an intermittent watercourse.



Avoid altering drainage and creating ruts by planning work when the soil's load-bearing capacity is at its maximum, i.e. in dry periods or when the ground is frozen.



Avoid adding sediment when building roads or skidding trails. No machinery closer than 10 m.



Reroute ditches away from the watercourse and towards vegetation at least 20 m upstream.

* To ford: to cross a watercourse, where it is not deep.

Other measures are recommended in the *Guide des saines pratiques d'intervention en forêt privée* (in French). For references and more information, please visit: foretprivee.ca/biodiversite



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