

# Streamside Forests & Riparian Buffers

**U**nder natural conditions, streamside forests act as riparian buffers and protect streams.

## Riparian buffers benefit streams by:

- Providing shade and keeping water cool
- Filtering sediments and contaminants from runoff
- Stabilizing stream banks with vegetation
- Reducing erosion from uncontrolled runoff
- Providing riparian wildlife habitat
- Protecting fish habitat
- Maintaining aquatic food webs

Riparian Corridor Photo credit of  
Dave Walsh, U.S. Forest Service



*Shared Streams is a national riparian conservation  
program of the American Forest Foundation*