

STREAM PERMANENCY KEY

Consider stream flow before using the decision key



Ephemeral:

Streams that are dry within a few days to a few weeks following the spring snowmelt or major rain event.



Intermittent:

Streams that flow for several weeks following spring snowmelt or a major rain event; flow only during wet seasons.



Permanent:

Streams that flow for most of the year; flow may stop during drought conditions.

START HERE

Defined stream bottom is present

NO

EPHEMERAL STREAM

- Defined stream bottom and prominent banks are absent
- Evidence of water flow or "flow path" on the forest floor
- Terrestrial plants grow on the stream bottom
- Aquatic invertebrates are absent

If in doubt, err in favour of an intermittent stream

YES

Prominent banks are present

NO

INTERMITTENT STREAM

- Stream channels with defined stream bottoms
- Prominent banks are absent or not continuous
- Sorted erodible material may be present on stream bottom
- Terrestrial plants may grow on the stream bottom
- Aquatic invertebrates are absent or rare

If in doubt, err in favour of a permanent stream

YES

Prominent banks are continuous

NO

Terrestrial plants are present on stream bottom

NO

Aquatic invertebrates are absent or rare

YES

YES

YES

NO

PERMANENT STREAM

- Stream channels with defined stream bottoms and continuous prominent banks
- Sorted erodible material is common on stream bottom
- Terrestrial plants are absent on stream bottom
- Aquatic invertebrates are common

