GOOD SALMON HABITAT

NOAA FISHERIES

HEALTHY VEGETATION

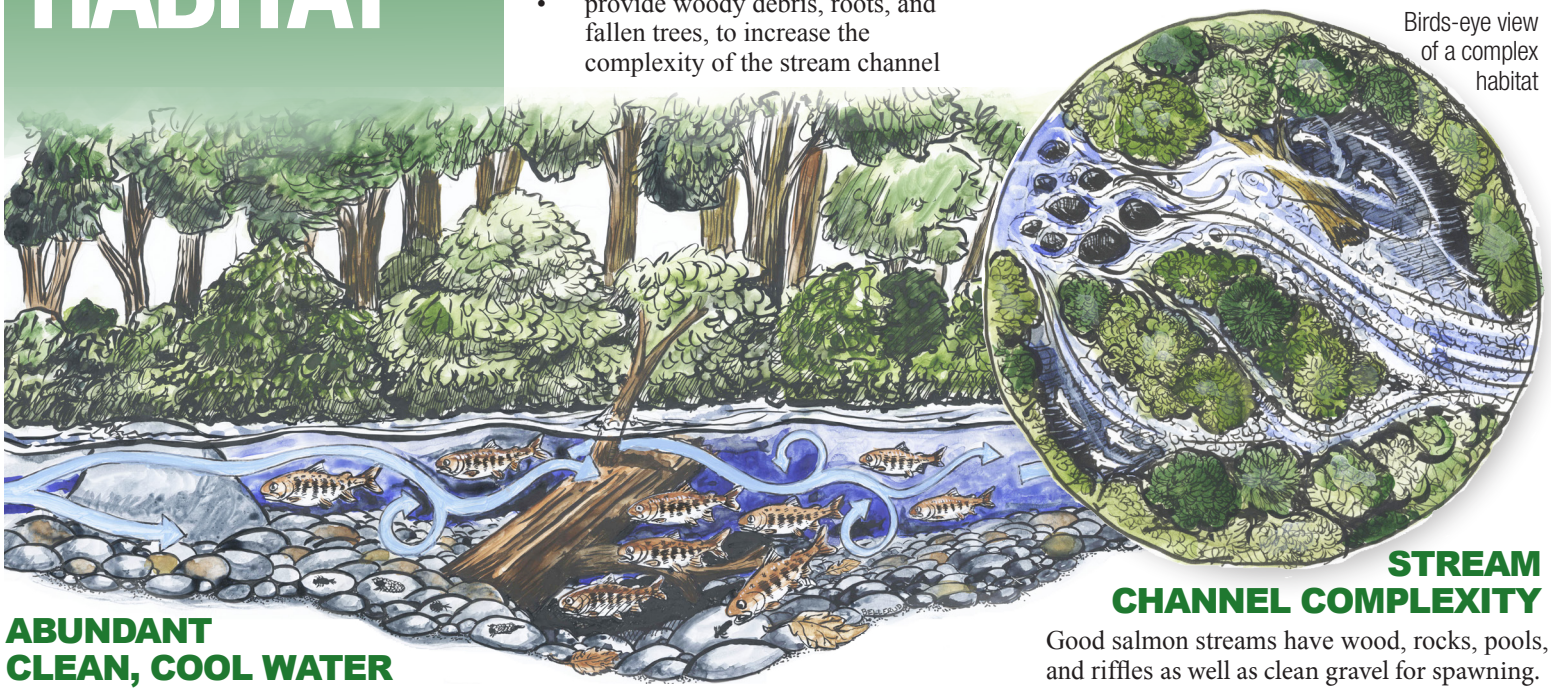
Streamside plants and overhanging branches block the sun and keep things cool.
They also:

- attract insects that salmon eat
- stabilize the banks against erosion and filter run-off from rain
- provide woody debris, roots, and fallen trees, to increase the complexity of the stream channel

GEOGRAPHIC COMPLEXITY

Floodplains and side channels off of the main stream provide:

- refuge from high, harmful flows
- high quality foraging and rearing areas

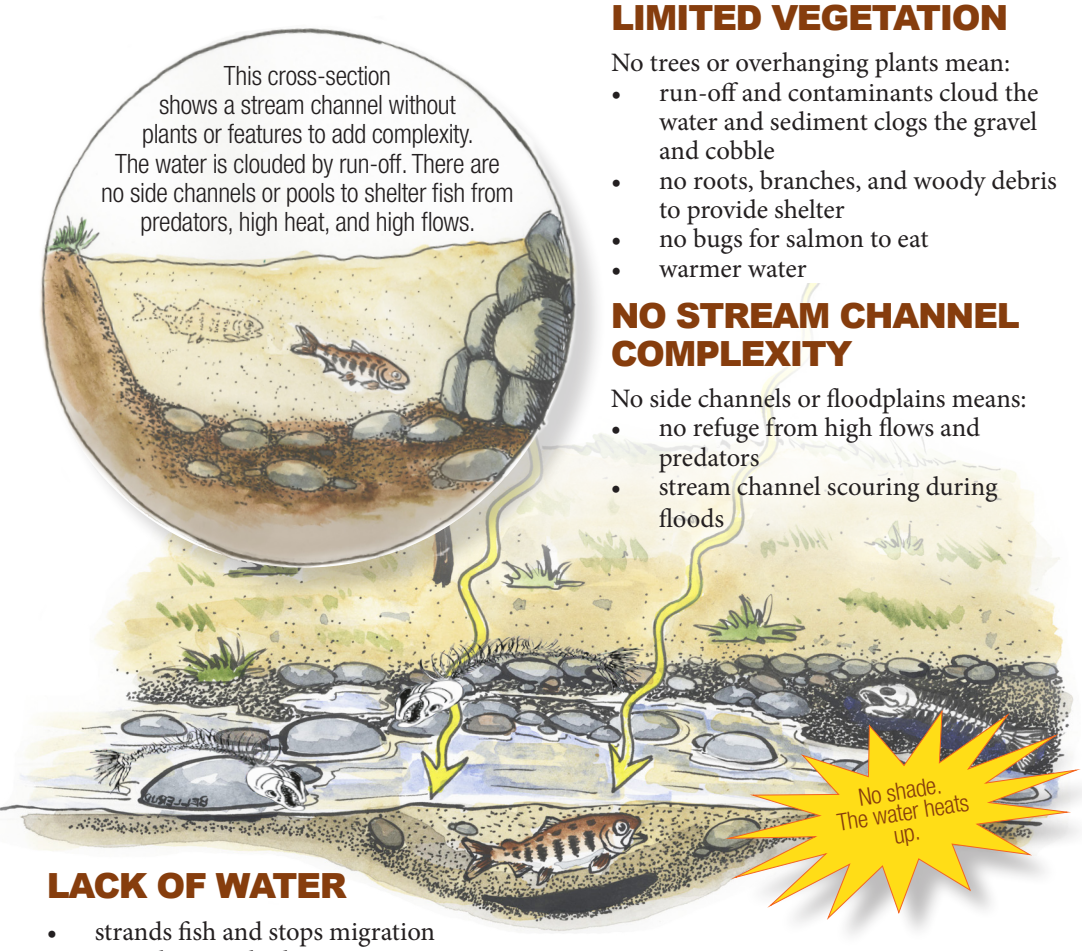


Birds-eye view of a complex habitat

ABUNDANT CLEAN, COOL WATER

STREAM CHANNEL COMPLEXITY

Good salmon streams have wood, rocks, pools, and riffles as well as clean gravel for spawning.



LIMITED VEGETATION

No trees or overhanging plants mean:

- run-off and contaminants cloud the water and sediment clogs the gravel and cobble
- no roots, branches, and woody debris to provide shelter
- no bugs for salmon to eat
- warmer water

NO STREAM CHANNEL COMPLEXITY

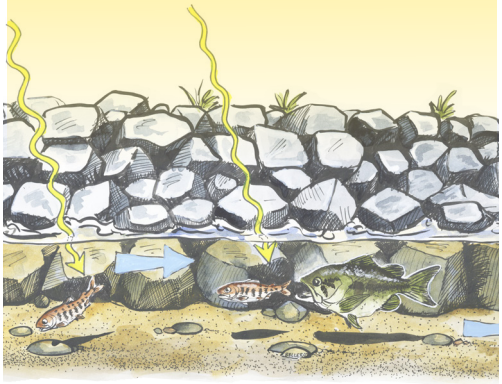
No side channels or floodplains means:

- no refuge from high flows and predators
- stream channel scouring during floods

LACK OF WATER

- strands fish and stops migration
- contributes to higher water temperatures

BAD SALMON HABITAT



INVASIVE SPECIES

- invasive aquatic species eat juvenile fish and compete for food, breeding and rearing habitat
- invasive plants change stream flow and affect migration