















# THE STATE OF AQUATIC HABITAT IN THE UNITED STATES

The unimpacted continuum of conditions can be disrupted by changes to hydrology (due to damming, loss of riparian wetlands and floodplains, and channelization) and pollution (nutrients, suspended solids, and toxins). Unfortunately, most streams in the United States are impacted to some degree. Approximately 46 % of stream and river miles are in poor biological condition, largely due to nutrient pollution, leading to a phenomenon known as eutrophication caused by excess anthropogenic discharges of nitrogen and phosphorus (USEPA 2017). The greatest impacts to physical condition of stream and riverine systems in the United States are not due to in-stream impairments, but rather to poor riparian vegetative cover and riparian disturbance; further highlighting the vital role that riparian zones serve to aquatic systems.

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