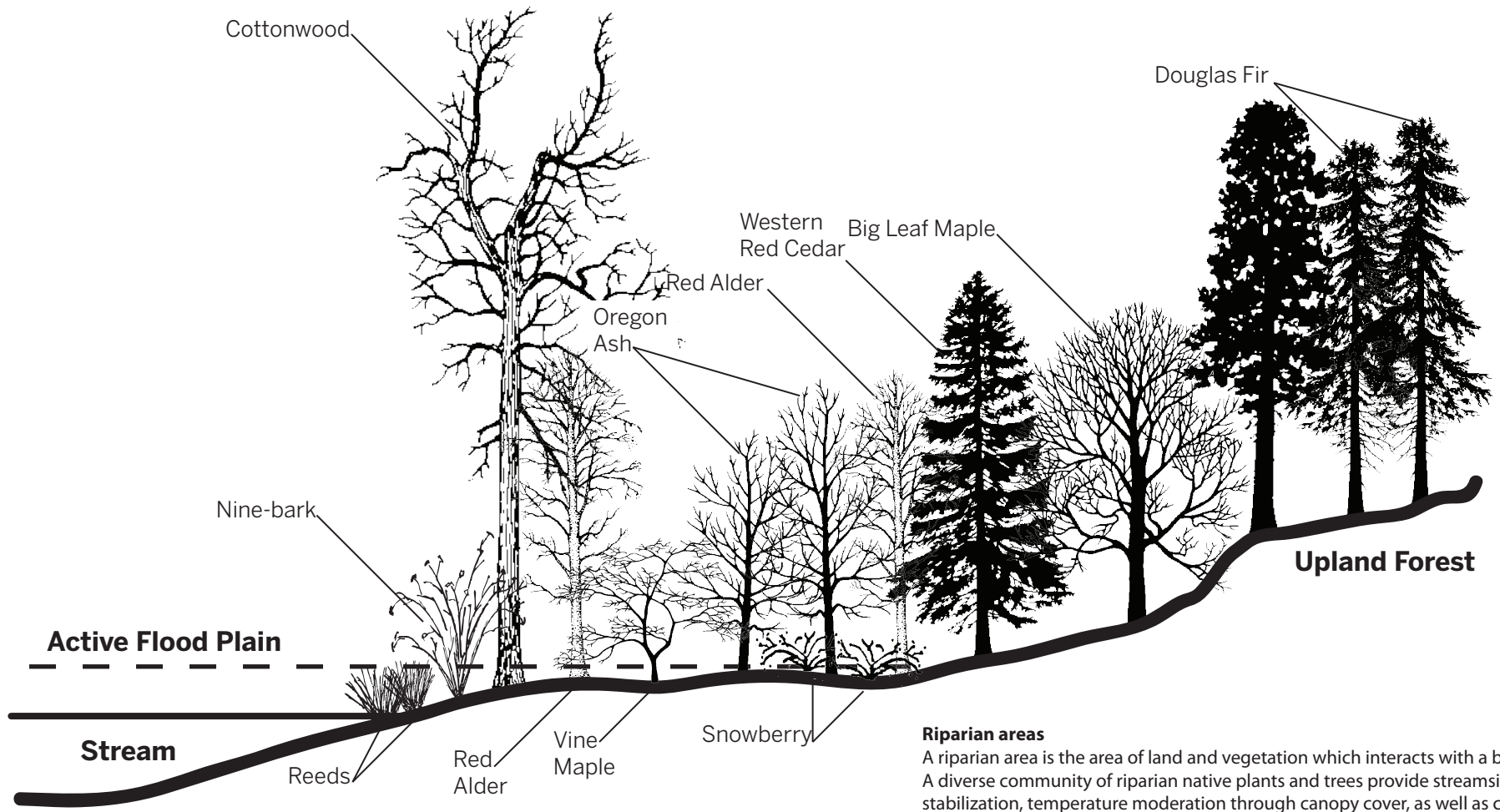




Riparian Area

Riparian Profile example



Riparian areas

A riparian area is the area of land and vegetation which interacts with a body of water. A diverse community of riparian native plants and trees provide streamside stabilization, temperature moderation through canopy cover, as well as cover for aquatic and terrestrial animals. Further, riparian vegetation slows water velocities, limits water contamination, and filters and collects sediment and debris that can kill fish and destroy spawning areas.

Indicator species

Trees and shrubs have different preferred conditions. Some trees/plants require areas of disturbance (flooding, fire, etc), while some trees/plants require wet conditions and others prefer drier conditions. Due to this, certain plants and trees are typically found in specific locations, such as along the water's edge in an area of disturbance (cottonwood) or more predominately on south facing slopes (Garry Oak), etc.