



Benthic macro-invertebrate populations were reduced during the harvest phase of this study in areas where riparian clearcutting occurred because of reduced leaf litter input and retention, and increased erosion, transport, and deposition of sand in the benthos. However, these results are not consistent with those from some other studies. Also, the harvest-associated trophic changes at Carnation Creek have not reduced the size or abundance of coho smolts produced from the watershed. The wide variation evident in the literature on the responses of aquatic communities to riparian clearcutting suggests the strong influence of site-specific conditions, including stream size, hydraulic characteristics, gradient, channel and canopy type, and other circumstances.