

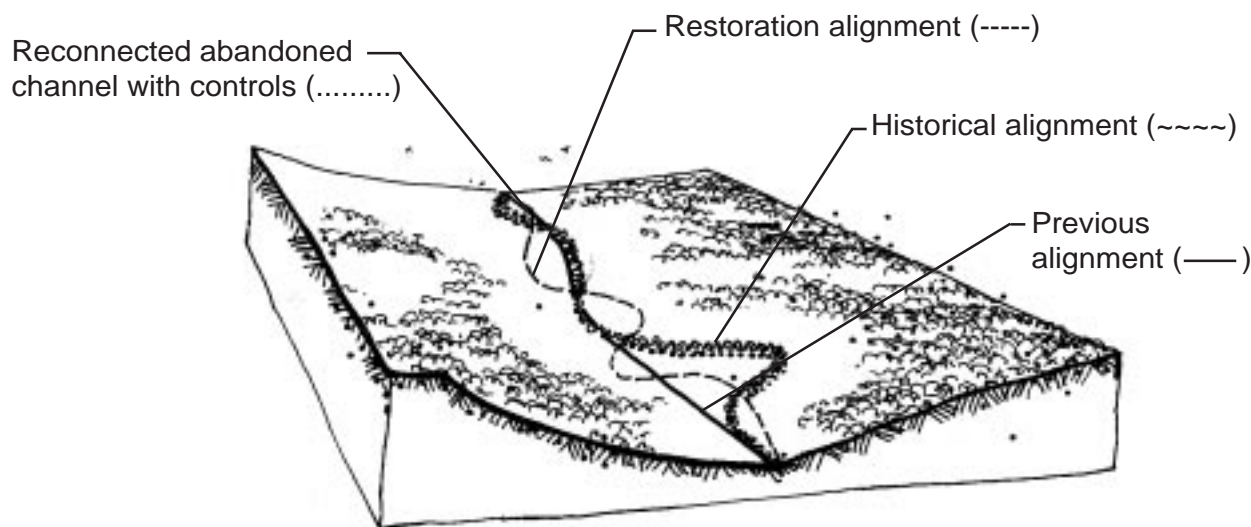
PRIMARY USE: Improve habitat for aquatic plants and animals, and contribute to food web dynamics.
ADDITIONAL USES: Minimize bank erosion.

MAINTENANCE OF HYDRAULIC CONNECTIONS

What is it? Maintenance of hydraulic connections refers to the realignment of stream channels to assure that ecological functions are maintained in channel bendways and other off channel water bodies.

Purpose

Use of this practice will assure that flows are maintained through the channel bendway and loss of aquatic habitat area and diversity is prevented. Recreation value can be increased if connection channels are deep enough for use by small boats or canoes.



**Channel Alignment Possibilities
Perspective View**

Limitations

Not all streams will provide sufficient flows to maintain satisfactory hydraulic connections to the bendway. Sedimentation can require extensive maintenance.

Materials

Natural materials on site.

Installation

Determine the flow requirements for the bendway to assure restoration of its aquatic and riparian functions. Consider local drainage to the bendway and the cutoff channels which could be impaired by changes brought about from hydraulic connections. Also consider water rights when planning for flow alterations.