Station 2: Riparian Ecology

OVERVIEW

Students use scientific tools and their own observations to learn about stream health, and the connections between living and non-living things in a watershed.

LEARNING GOALS

- Students will understand that interactions between fish and forests are complex and changing.
- Students will appreciate the importance of healthy forests for healthy salmon populations, and vice-versa.
- Students will learn how riparian areas provide functions or 'jobs' in the watershed, but only if they are healthy.

VOCABULARY

Riparian, ecology, erosion, stream bank, survey, runoff, canopy, riffle, pool, run

WAYS TO PREPARE YOUR STUDENTS

- Watch Video: How forests, rivers, and salmon were meant to be together (4 mins)
- Explore the Salmon River 360: Virtual Tour
- Watch Video: Welcome to the Riparian Zone (3 mins)

MORE LEARNING RESOURCES
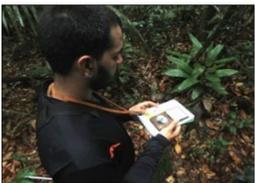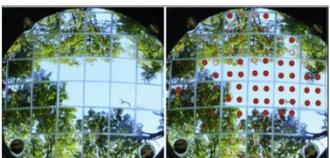
- Measuring Stream Canopy Closure using a Spherical Densiometer (Video)
- Introduction to Riparian Areas (World Salmon Council)
- What are riparian ecosystems?