

**Elwah River Restoration**

Sediment Deposition and River Structures

**Vocabulary Notes**

**Meander:**

**Thalweg:**

**Cut-bank:**

**Point-Bar:**

**Braided Stream:**

**Oxbow Lake:**

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**Vocabulary Terms**

* **Meander**: When the floodplain is becomes sufficiently level rivers meander. As the river strikes an area of slightly more resistant material, it is deflected. This causes the thalweg of the river to strike the banks at angles and at higher velocity, cutting into the outside turn, while depositing material on the inside turn.
* **Thalweg**: Line of fastest water velocity in a river. Thalwegs strike the cut-bank in a river meander
* **Cut-bank**: The outside curve of a river meander, where erosion is greatest due to the higher stream velocities, causing cutting on the bank and sometimes forming a small cliff
* **Point-bar**: The inside-curve of a river meander, where stream velocity is slow and deposition of sediment is greater.
* **Braided Stream**: When a fast flowing river from high gradient encounters a broad, flat valley that is overloaded in erodible sediment, it will begin to spread out into multiple channels that are interconnected. These channels constantly migrate across the flood of the valley, as they meander through the sediment.
* **Oxbow Lake**: When two meander curves meet, they circumvent the meander, and straighten the flow of the river. The abandoned channel can become disconnected from the river by sediment to form a lake. These lakes eventually fill in with sediment.



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**Reflection Journal 1**

What are some features you have noticed along river banks? Have you ever seen a beach along a river? Where do you think that beach came from?

What questions do you have about river banks?



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**Reflection Journal 2**

How do you think sediment deposits and sediment structures benefit the river ecosystem?

What questions do you have about river sediments, sediment structures and/or banks? How could you find answers to your questions?