



## **River Characteristic: Clay Banks**

### Description

Banks are the ground bordering a channel above the streambed and below the level of rooted vegetation that often has a gradient steeper than 45° and exhibits a distinct break in slope from the stream bottom; the portion of the channel cross section that restricts lateral movement of water during normal streamflow. Clay banks are predominantly composed of natural earthy material which is plastic when wet, and consist essentially of hydrated silicates of aluminum, less than 4µm.

### General Condition of Feature

No data available.

### Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need

In the literature examined for species habitat information, clay banks were not mentioned.

### Associated Threats

#### *MODIFICATION OF NATURAL PROCESSES*

- Altered hydrologic regimes

### Conservation Actions Needed (Threats addressed)

#### *LAND, WATER & SPECIES MANAGEMENT*

- Maintain or rehabilitate river to original flow paths and hydrologic functions, i.e., seasonal flooding, connect meanders, throughflow, wetlands (altered hydrologic regimes)

#### *LAW & POLICY*

- Encourage sound water withdrawal practices that take into account all species needs (altered hydrologic regimes)
- Manage or modify lake-level controls and water releases of dams to mimic natural river conditions (altered hydrologic regimes)
- Protect and rehabilitate groundwater recharge by requiring that all development-related runoff be captured by infiltration basins (altered hydrologic regimes)
- Remove dams to rehabilitate natural hydrology (altered hydrologic regimes)

### Research and Survey Needs

- Determine the importance of clay banks in individual watersheds and its condition
- Determine the species that require this habitat (e.g., amphibians and reptiles, snails, crayfish)
- Inventory additional threats to clay banks
- Develop conservation actions to address any additional threats
- Expand the list of research studies that need to be addressed
- Expand the list of monitoring studies that need to be addressed
- Model hydrologic flows for each watershed

### Monitoring

- Erosion sites
- Riparian modifications
- Shoreline modification