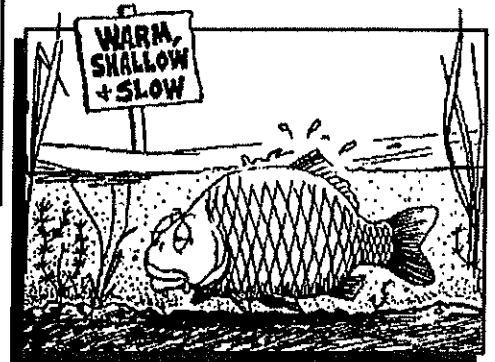
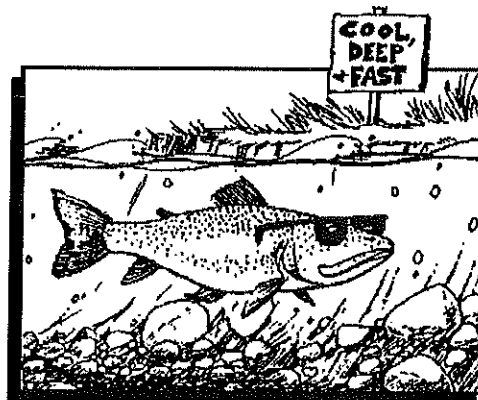


SEDIMENTS *continued*

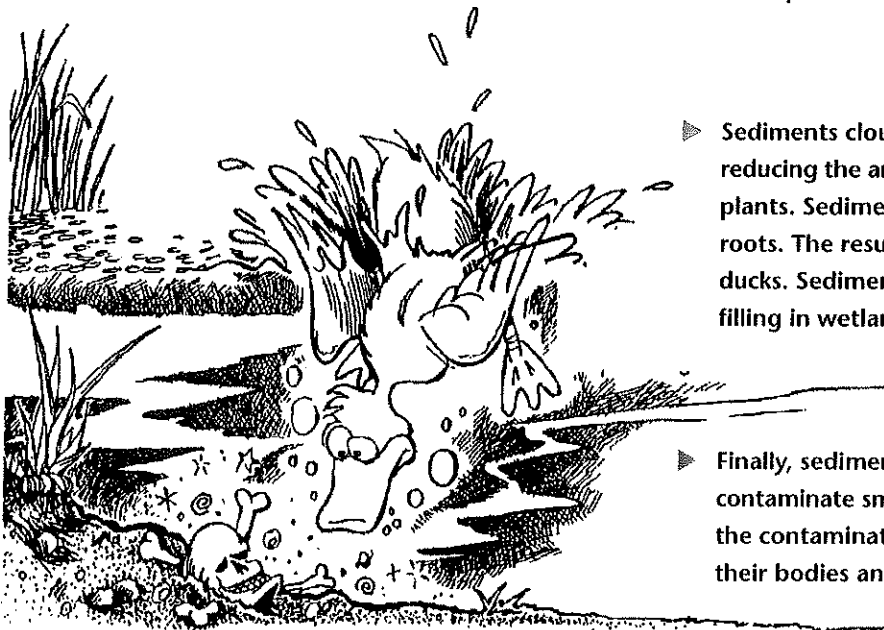
- ▶ Muddy or "murky" water contains millions of abrasive soil particles. In moving water these particles can "scour" aquatic plants and animals, removing them from their habitat.



- ▶ Sediment deposits cause streams to become shallower and wider, increasing flooding problems. The shallow water is also heated more efficiently by the sun. This causes water temperatures to rise. Over time, cold water fish such as trout are replaced by warm water fish such as carp.



- ▶ Sediments reduce visibility and increase the chances of propellers, rudders and keels running aground or hitting underwater hazards. Swimmers are also affected. Silted swimming areas are undesirable and can be dangerous if deep holes are filled with loose sediment.



- ▶ Sediments cloud the water and cover plant leaves, reducing the amount of sunlight reaching desirable aquatic plants. Sediments also create soft, unstable beds for plant roots. The result is a decrease in food plants available to ducks. Sediment deposits also harm duck populations by filling in wetlands used for breeding.

- ▶ Finally, sediments carry and store toxic materials that can contaminate small organisms. When fish and waterfowl eat the contaminated organisms, the toxins can accumulate in their bodies and cause illnesses, birth defects and death.