Practical Implementation of the HDFA Guidelines within

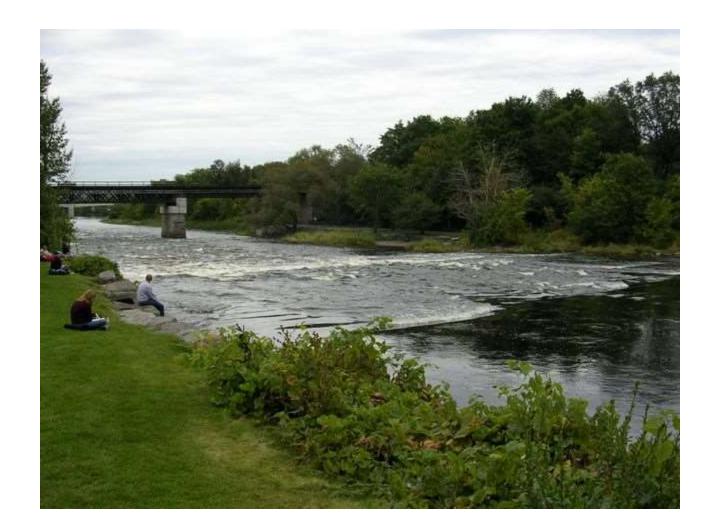
Eastern Ontario



Provincial **EIS** Policy Statement **Fish Habitat** Under the Planning Act **"Surface Water** Feature" Ontario.ca/PPS



Rivers...



Streams...



Swales?



PPS - Surface water feature

Water-related features on the earth's surface (including headwaters) rivers, stream channels, inland lakes, seepage areas, recharge/discharge areas, springs, wetlands, and associated riparian lands that can be defined by their soil moisture, soil type, vegetation or topographic characteristics.

Headwater Features



Evaluation, Classification and Management of Headwater Drainage Features Guidelines January 2014





Headwater Features...

Per the guideline...

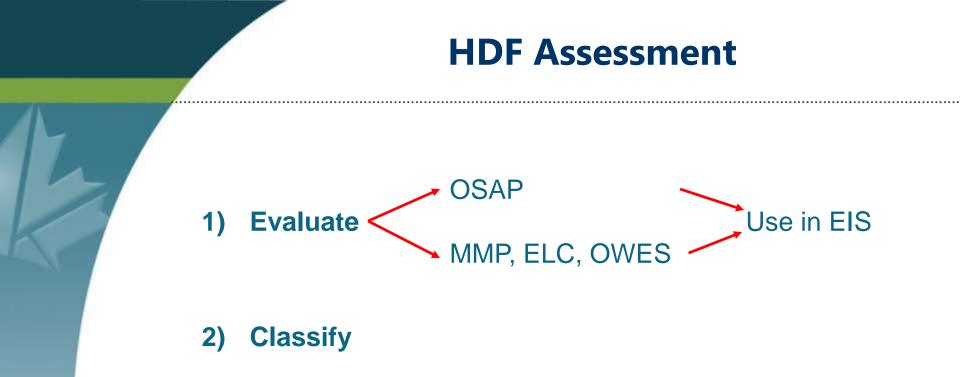
Non-permanently flowing drainage features that may not have defined bed or banks; they are first-order and zeroorder intermittent and ephemeral channels, swales and connected headwater wetlands

Identifying HDFs...

Per the guideline...

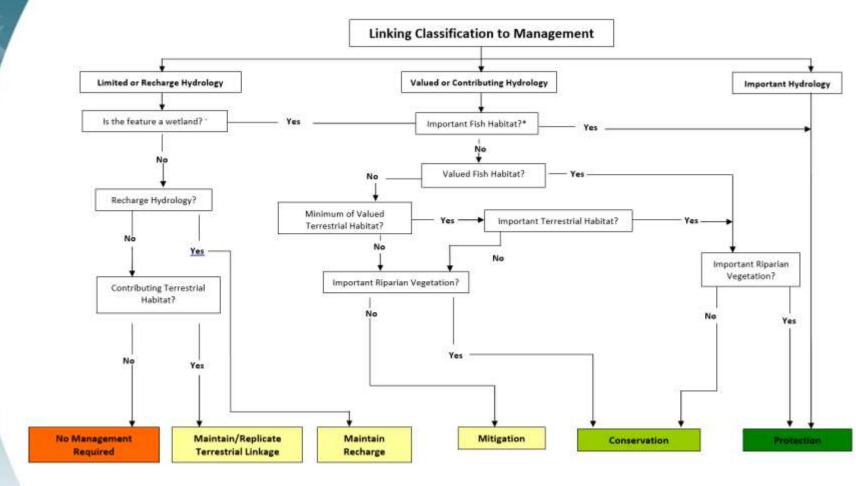
- part of the drainage network (aerial photography, and/or ArcHydro analysis), OR...
- groundwater seepage area or spring, OR...
- a connected headwater wetland (a surface outlet connects to downstream), BUT ...
- **NOT** a mapped or known perennially flowing stream.





3) Provide MANAGEMENT Before EIS

Management Recommendations



Classification – 1) Hydrology

Important

Perennial

- complex form
- clearly defined bed and banks
- erosion/sedimentation
- sorted substrate

Valued

Intermittent

- dry by July
- some substrate sorting and channel form

Contributing

Ephemeral

- only spring freshet or during rains
- limited substrate sorting and channel form

Limited

Dry/Standing Water

- may have ill-defined channels as a relic of past flows
- groundwater recharge









Classification – 2) Riparian

- Important Functions
 - dominated by forest or thicket/scrubland communities or wetland

Valued Functions

dominated by meadow and there are no important riparian functions.

Contributing Functions

dominated by lawn and there are no important or valued riparian functions

Limited Functions

 dominated by cropped land or no vegetation, and there are no important, valued or contributing riparian functions

Classification – 4) Terrestrial

- Important Functions
 - wetlands with breeding amphibians
- Valued Functions
 - no breeding amphibians are present BUT...
 - only general amphibian habitat
- Contributing Functions
 - wetland habitat occurs within the corridor, OR
 - provides movement opportunities for non-amphibian species
- Limited Functions
 - no terrestrial habitat

Classification – 3) Fish

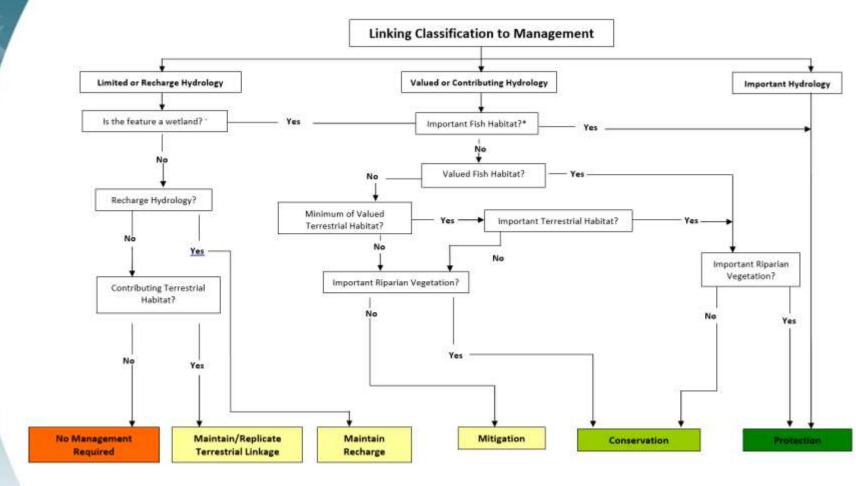
Important Functions

- fish are present year round or fish spawning/rearing
- SAR habitat

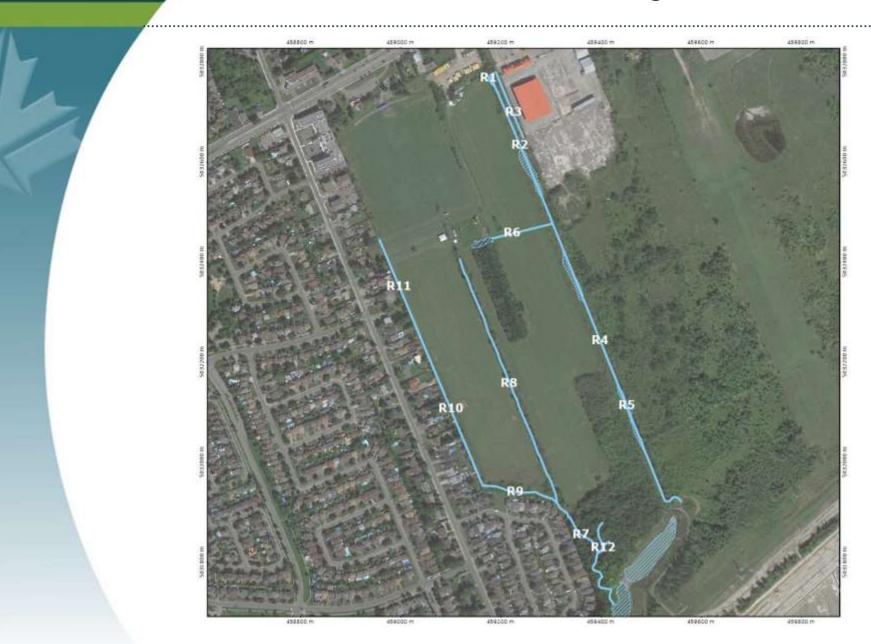
Valued Functions

- fish present in spring only or...
- suitable habitat identified for feeding, cover, refuge, migration
- contributing habitat for SAR
- Contributing Functions
 - allochthonous transport to downstream habitat

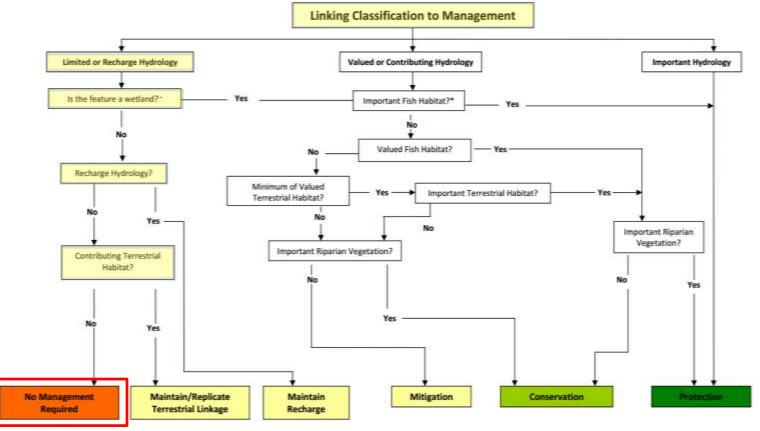
Management Recommendations



Case Study



R1 R3 R6

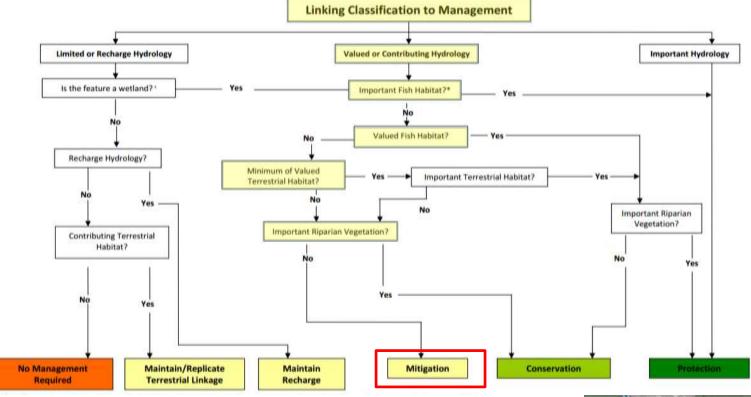


- 1. Provide Limited Hydrology;
- 2. Are not wetlands;
- Are unlikely to provide recharge hydrology (poorly drained clay soils); and
- 4. Are not Contributing Terrestrial Habitat.

... No Management Required







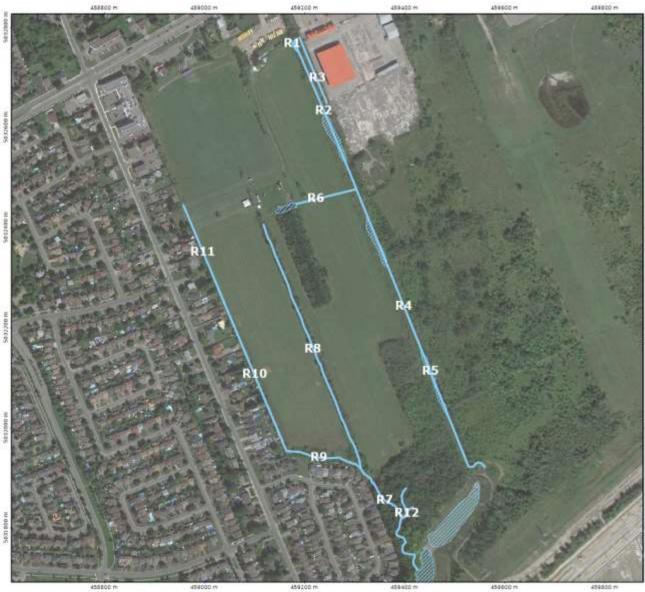
- 1. Provide Contributing Hydrology;
- 2. Do not provide Important Fish Habitat;
- 3. Do not provide Valued Fish Habitat;
- 4. Do not provide a minimum of Valued Terrestrial Habitat; and
- 5. Do not provide Important Riparian Vegetation

... Mitigation



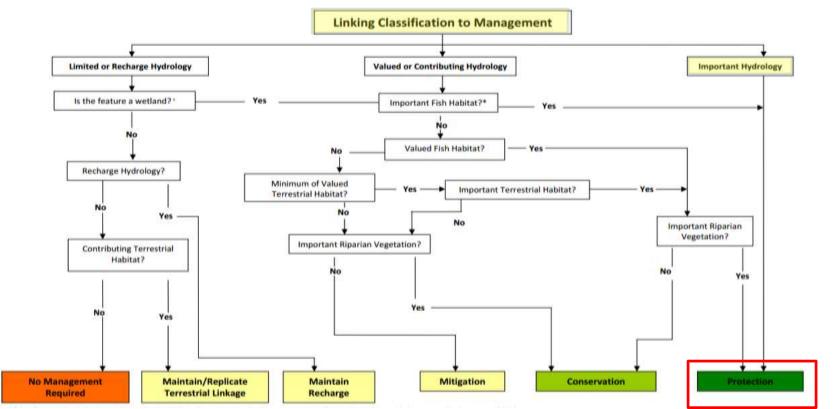


Same again...





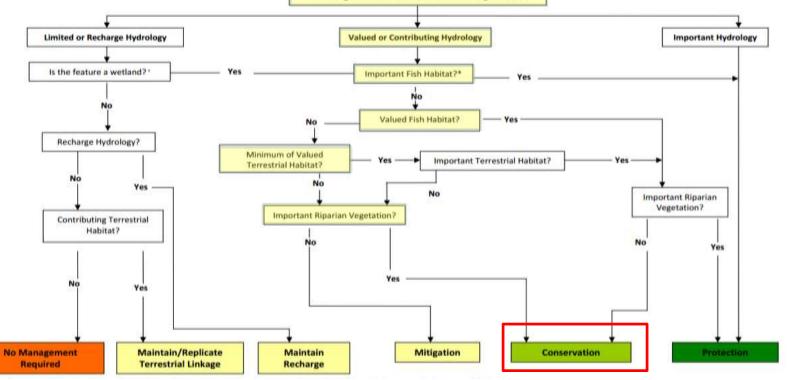








Linking Classification to Management



• Questions?