Pilot Project

Project Objective: Develop and evaluate a hydrodynamic and sediment transport model on a study reach of the Elk River.

Study reach includes vicinity of North and South Fork Elk River confluence



Tasks

- 1. Evaluate and process existing flow, sediment and cross-section data for use in hydrodynamic/sediment transport model.
- 2. Describe, sample and analyze sediment composition of bed, bank and floodplain; analyze particle size of existing suspended sediment samples.
- 3. Generate topographic surface integrating 2002 cross-section data LIDAR data.
- 4. Develop and calibrate hydrodynamic/sediment transport model
- 5. Evaluate and compare model predictions to observed conditions:
 - Depositional patterns (spatial pattern and rate) observed in cross sections
 - Observed suspended sediment concentrations
 - Bed material grain size
- 6. Evaluate effects of reduced sediment loads to the study reach

Existing Data

- Monitoring stations on North Fork and South Fork: stage, discharge, suspended sediment concentrations (SSC) at 10 min steps, SSC sand fraction.
- Monitoring station on the mainstem at steel bridge (HRC station 166): stage, discharge, SSC at 15 minute steps.
- Cross sections surveyed in 2002.
- LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data acquired in 2005 by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.



Additional Data Collected

- Observations of channel sediment storage and roughness characteristics.
- Bulk sampling of channel bed, bank, and floodplain sediment deposits.
- Sediment cores of channel bed material.
- Laboratory analysis to determine grain size distribution and bulk density of channel bed, bank, and floodplain sediment.





North Fork Elk River

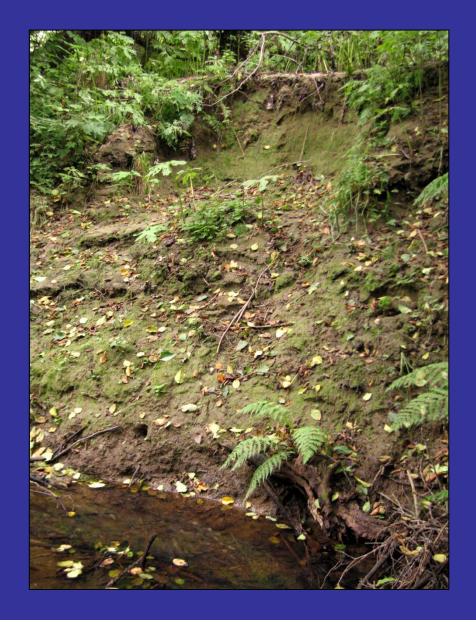








South Fork Elk River









Mainstem Elk River





Bank sample, South Fork



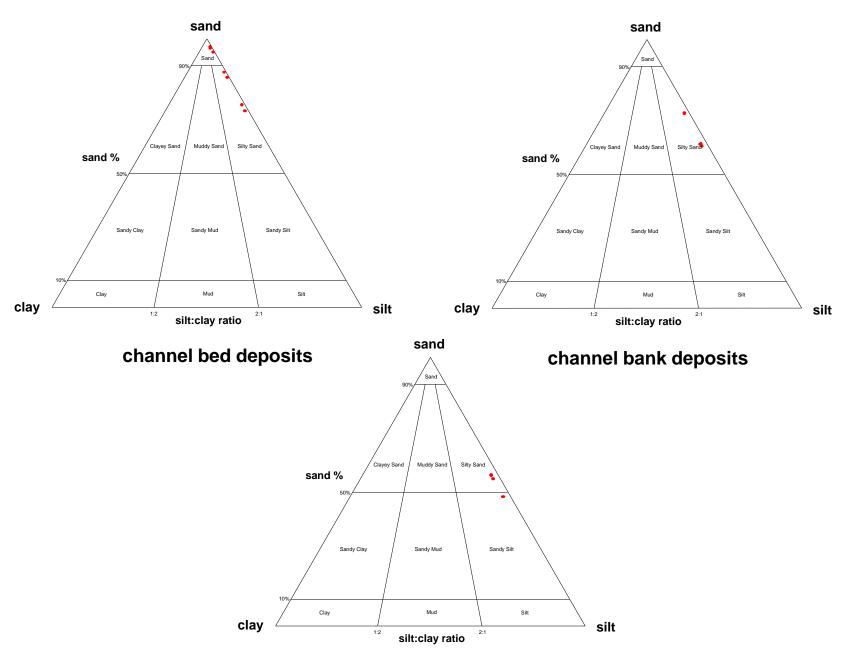
Channel bed sample and core, North Fork



Channel bed sample, South Fork



Channel bed sample and core, mainstem



floodplain deposits

