PROTECTION AND RESTORATION PLANS FOR SELECT B-IBI BASINS
The project focused on the identification of stressors affecting freshwater quality and stream health, and recommendations for stream restoration and protection.

Project outcomes
This project focused on 14 streams throughout Puget Sound, and many measures of stream health. Most stream bug communities showed some signs of degradation, likely due to the loss of forest and the increase in urban development in the riparian buffer and the upstream basin. Impaired conditions found at sampling sites, like excess fine sediment, were likely influenced by these large scale factors. Thus, recommendations for restoring and protecting streams highlight the need for protecting forests and limiting the impacts of urban development.

Success stories
This project highlighted the benefits of managing streams at the basin scale. Many stressors affecting stream bugs originate far upstream from sampling sites. This project establishes impairment thresholds and recovery targets for conditions at sampling sites, in the riparian buffer and at the basin scale.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES
The next steps are design and implementation. Basin plans should protect existing forests, allow for trees to mature especially in riparian buffers, and control and treat stormwater runoff from developed areas. Pre- and post-restoration monitoring is critical for developing effective tools and tracking the success of stream restoration and protection.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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Stream bank erosion in Stensland Creek. Erosion is a natural process, but it can be exacerbated by uncontrolled stormwater runoff and lead to excess fine sediment in the creek.

Healthy forests help maintain healthy streams.