

Breaking New Ground

Georgia's Education and Training
Certification Requirements for Persons
Involved with Land Disturbing Activity

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SEDIMENT TRANSPORT



**GA stream following
1/2" of rain
June 26, 2001**

References

- Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act of 1975
 - O.C.G.A. 12-7-19
 - *Education and training requirements; required programs; instructor qualifications; expiration of certification*
 - O.C.G.A. 12-7-20
 - *Creation of Stakeholder Advisory Board; responsibilities; procedures*
- Rules of State Soil and Water Conservation Commission
 - Rule 600-8-1
 - *Education and Training Requirements for Persons Involved with Land Disturbing Activity*

Introduction

In 2003, HB285 amended the Georgia Erosion and Sediment Control Act of 1975

- Created a certification program for individuals involved in land disturbing in Georgia
- Outlined course levels
- Established a Trainer/Instructor program with minimum eligibility requirements
- Created a Stakeholder Advisory Board for oversight

Who must be certified?

After December 31, 2006 all persons involved in land development, design, review, permitting, construction, monitoring, inspection or any land-disturbing activity shall meet the education and training certification requirements, dependent on their level of involvement with the process as developed by the Commission in consultation with EPD and the Stakeholder Advisory Board.

O.C.G.A. 12-7-19(a)



Key Players

GA Soil & Water Conservation Commission

- Non-regulatory agency charged by law to provide information, education and technical assistance to Georgia citizens to better protect the state's land and water resources.
- Charged with developing and administering the certification program in consultation with EPD and SAB.

Key Players

Stakeholder Advisory Board

- Established by O.C.G.A. 12-7-20
- Members Appointed by the Governor representing 13 stakeholder groups
- Responsible for working with EPD and the Commission to establish, evaluate and maintain the certification program

Key Players

Stakeholder Advisory Board

- EPD
- SWCC
- SWCDs
- DOT
- Municipal governments
- County governments
- Public utilities
- Engineering and design community
- Construction community
- Development community
- Environmental community
- E&SC Overview Council
- Educators

GEORGIA SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

EDUCATION
STAKEHOLDER
ADVISORY BOARD

TRAIN THE TRAINER COURSE

REQUIRED COURSES

LEVEL 1A
FUNDAMENTAL SEMINAR

CONTRACTORS
BUILDERS
SITE SUPERINTENDENTS
GRADING & UTILITY
CONTRACTORS
DEVELOPERS
MONITORING CONSULTANTS

1 DAY COURSE W/ EXAM

TESTING/CERTIFICATION

LEVEL 1B
**ADVANCED FUNDAMENTAL
SEMINAR**

REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT
INSPECTORS

NON-REGULATORY
INSPECTORS PERFORMING
REGULATORY INSPECTIONS

2 DAY COURSE W/ EXAM

TESTING/CERTIFICATION

LEVEL 2
**INTRODUCTION TO DESIGN
SEMINAR**

DESIGN PROFESSIONALS
PLAN REVIEWERS

2 DAY COURSE W/ EXAM

TESTING/CERTIFICATION

Level IA: Fundamentals Seminar

- Who Should Attend: Individuals on-site

Builders, developers, utility contractors, monitoring consultants, site superintendents, landscape installers, graders, etc.

- Class Length: One day

- Examination: One hour with 50 Questions

Successful completion of Level IA requirements
awards *Certified Personnel* status

Level IA, IB and II Examinations

- An applicant who fails the examination may retake it within one year without attending the course again
- All examinations are timed and open course material
- Passing score of 70% required on all exams
- Applicant who fails the exam twice must take the appropriate course again
- All exams will be proctored by approved proctors
- Instructors must notify the Commission 30 days prior to the examination date

Level IA, IB and II

Revocation of Certification

- Grounds for revocation:
 - Fraud or false statements on application
 - Violation of rules
 - Misrepresentation of certification
 - Assisting others in misrepresentation of certification
- Individual will be notified of date and time
Commission Board will consider revocation
- Individual may be present when Commission Board considers revocation

Trainers/Instructor Guidelines

Level I Eligibility Requirements

- Education and Experience
 - Education: Four-year college degree
 - Experience: Five years in the field of erosion and sediment control
- OR
- Experience Only
 - Ten years total experience in erosion and sediment control
- Approval by Conservation Commission and Stakeholder Advisory Board
- Successful completion of *Level I Trainer and Instructor Seminar*

Re-certification Guidelines

- All certifications are valid for 3 years
- Certification will be extended or renewed by attending at least 4 hours of continuing education courses as established by Commission
- Additional guidance will be issued by Fall 2006

Proctor Program

- Proctors are hired and paid by approved instructors to administer examinations.
- Responsibilities include receiving exams from Commission, giving exam instructions, collecting exam materials and returning exams to the Commission.
- Approved proctors must complete a three hour training session and complete an application.
- Trainers will be provided with a list of approved proctors.

Total Certifications Issued

As of May 11, 2007

Course Level	IA	IB	II
Total GSWCC Certifications	1,236	501	738
Total 3 rd Party Certifications	35,423	1,920	2,460
Total Certifications	36,659	2,421	3,198

HB 463 –Changes to Erosion Control Program as of Monday....

- Clarifies that certification is required for persons on sites 1 acre and larger or within a common development
- Clarifies that LIA projects are subject to the same BMP's as private projects
- Requires SWCD and GSWCC to conduct semi-annual reviews of LIA's and requires EPD to revoke LIA status after 90 day compliance period
- Requires that primary, secondary and tertiary permittees have certified persons onsite
- Sub-contractors shall attend a 2 hour awareness course (no exam) in lieu of Level 1A course if working under a certified general permittee
- Certified trainers would be allowed to administer certification tests .

Impacts of Erosion and Sedimentation

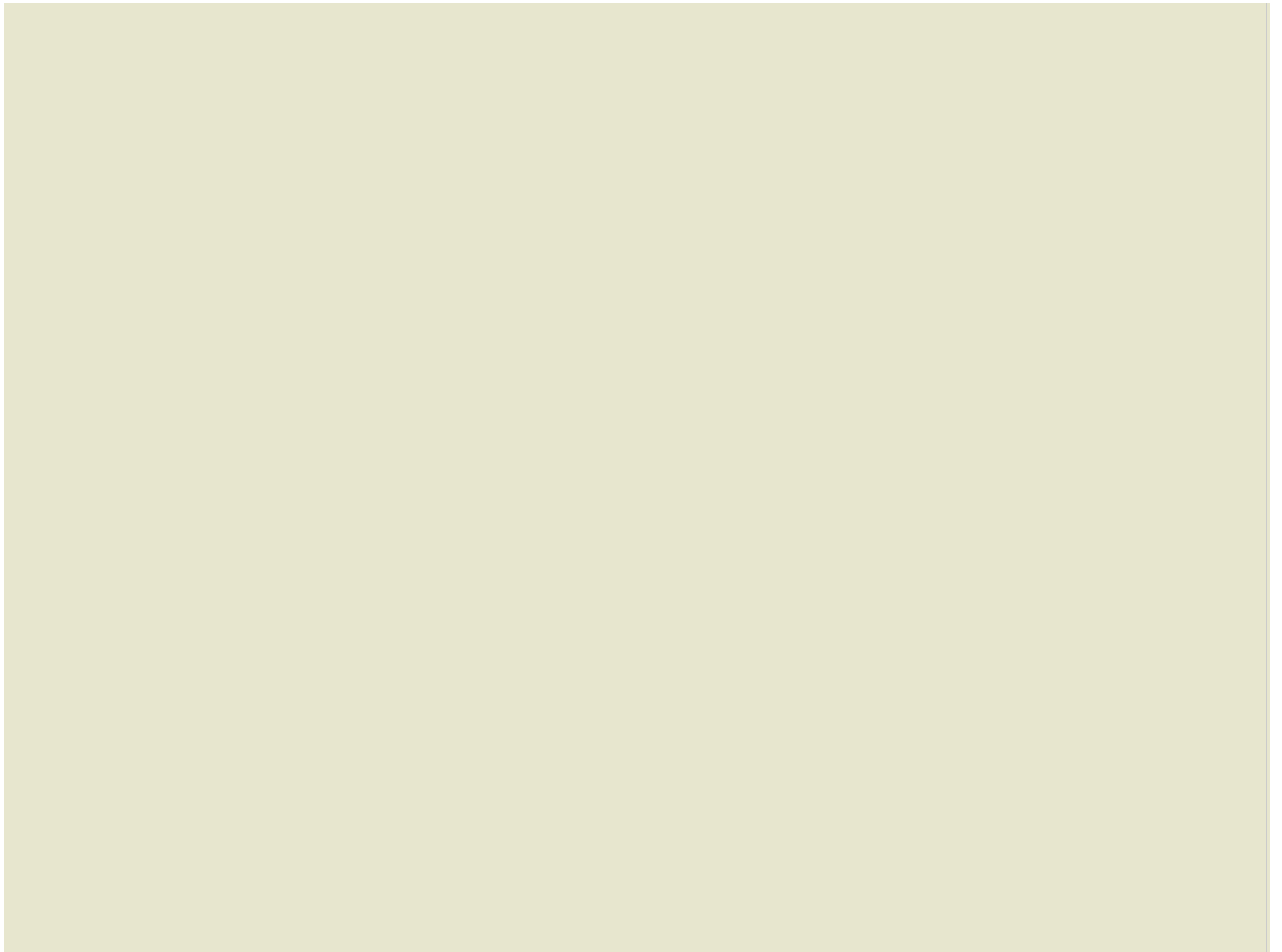
1. Loss of soil productivity
2. Adverse effects on other water resource facilities
3. Loss of reservoir storage capacity
4. Flood impacts
5. Recreational impacts
6. Deterioration of water quality

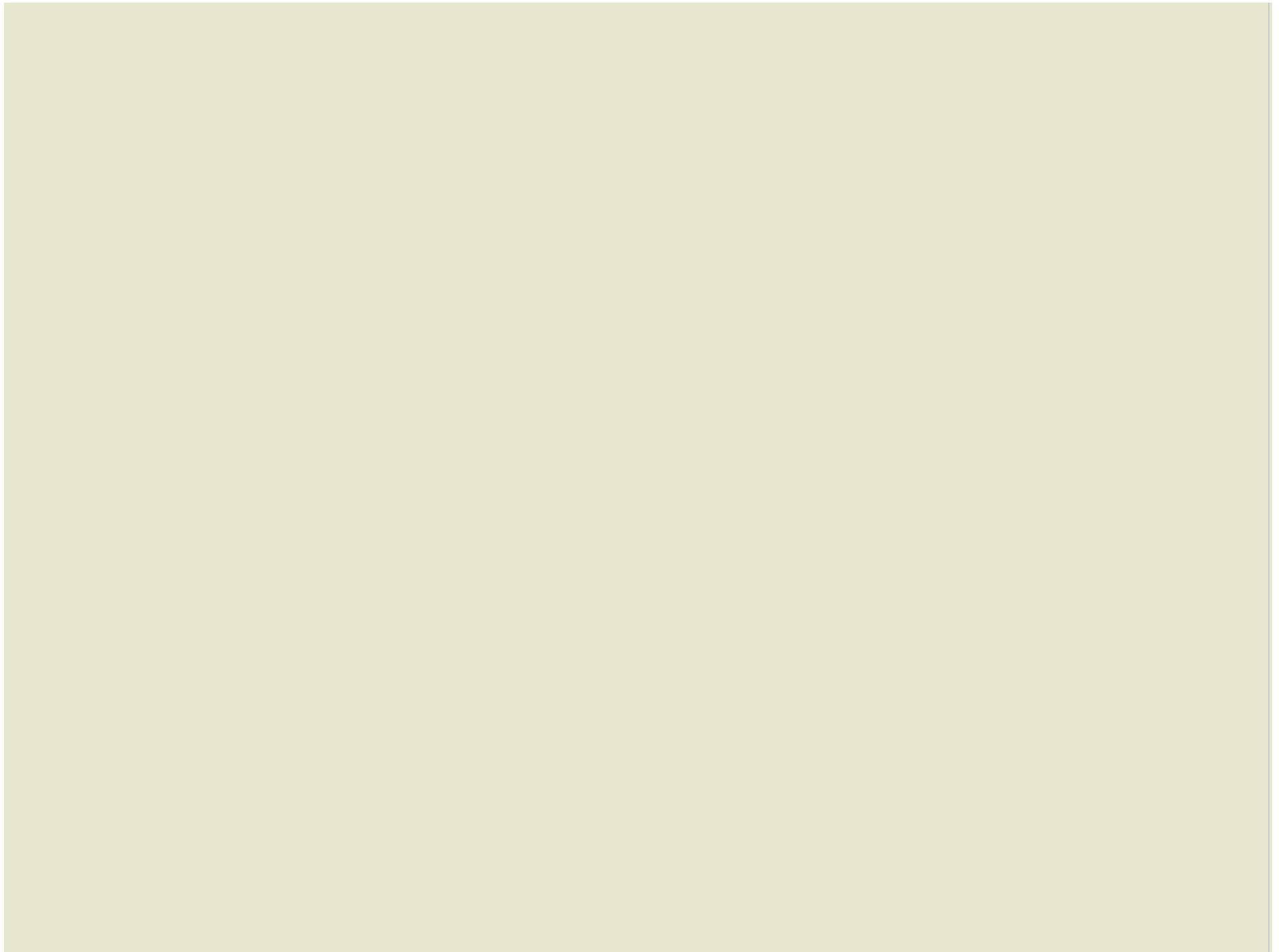
Increased maintenance costs for stormwater management systems

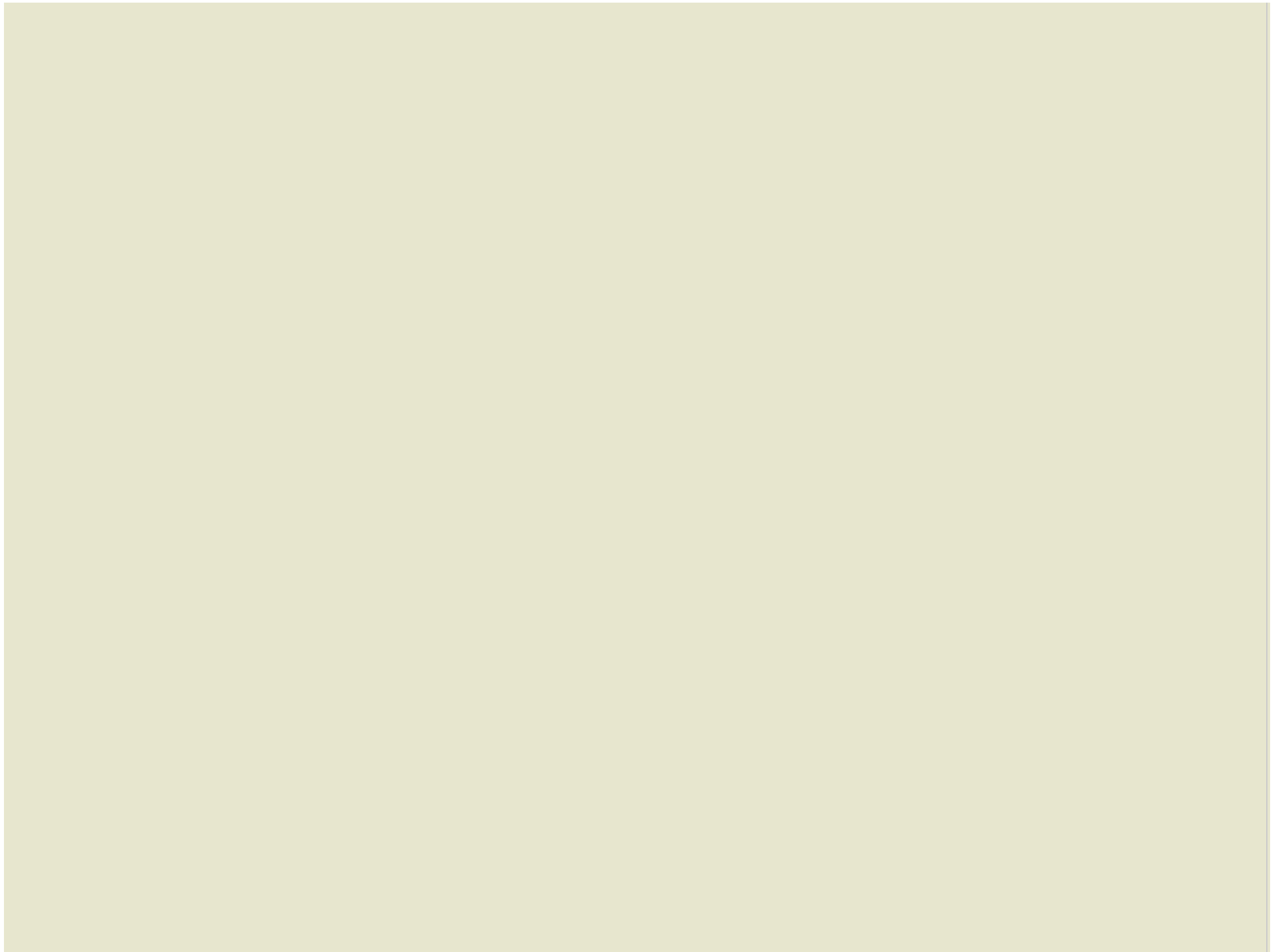


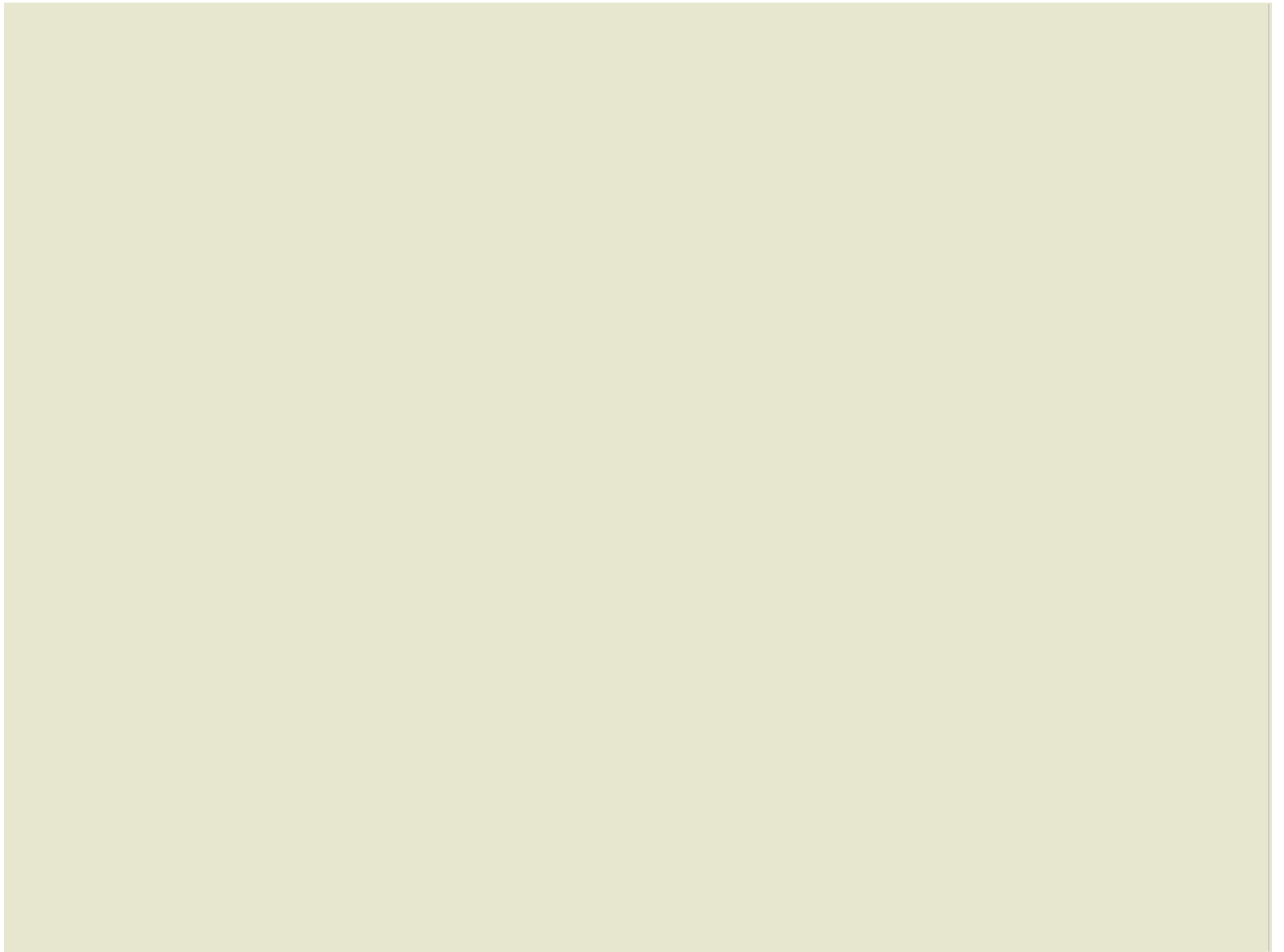


Decreased Recreational Value

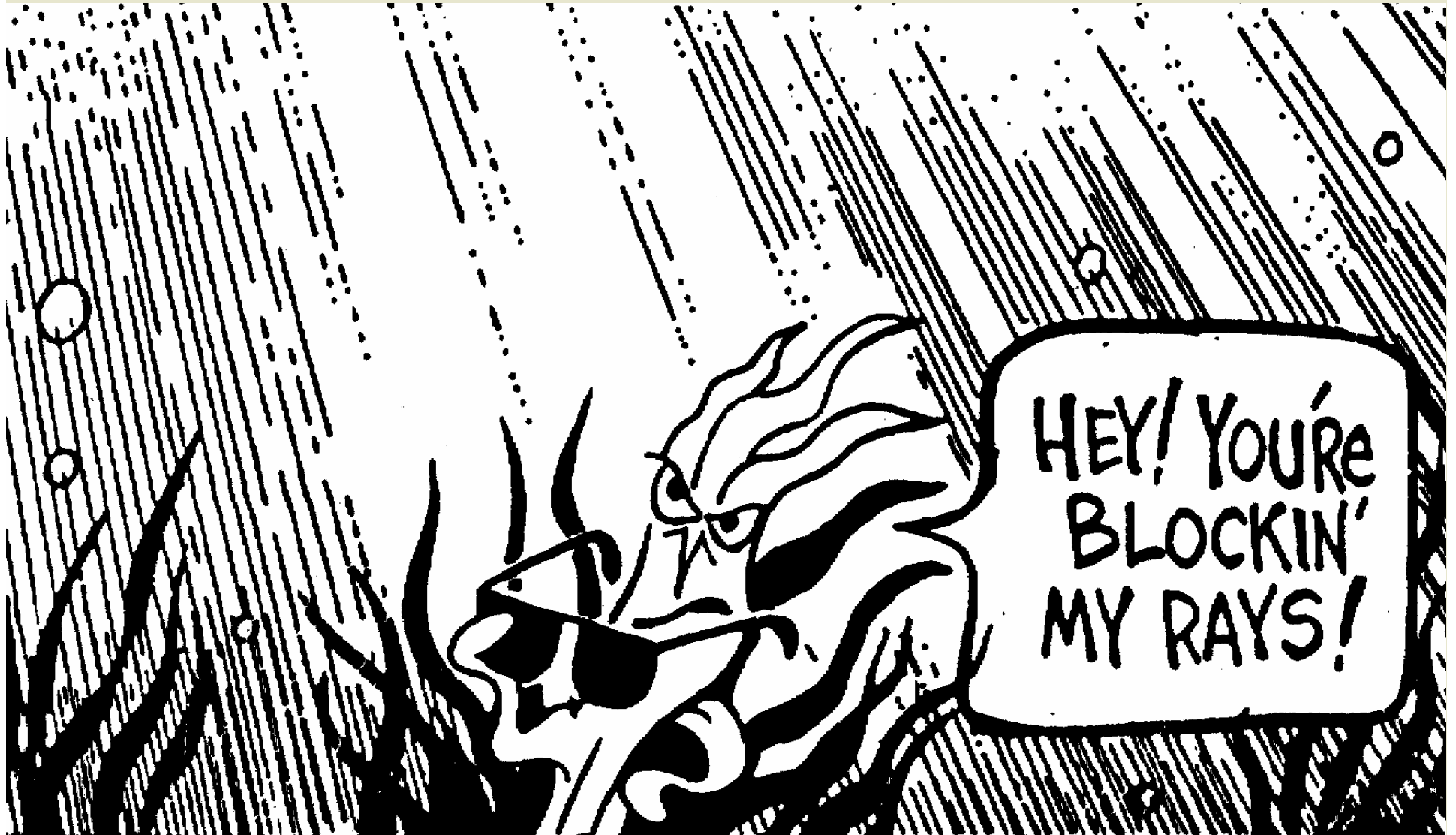








Screens Out Sunlight = Decline in Plant Growth





ECOSYSTEM

Sedimentation Disrupts The Ecosystem







Questions?