



## *Is water removed and are flows/levels manipulated?*

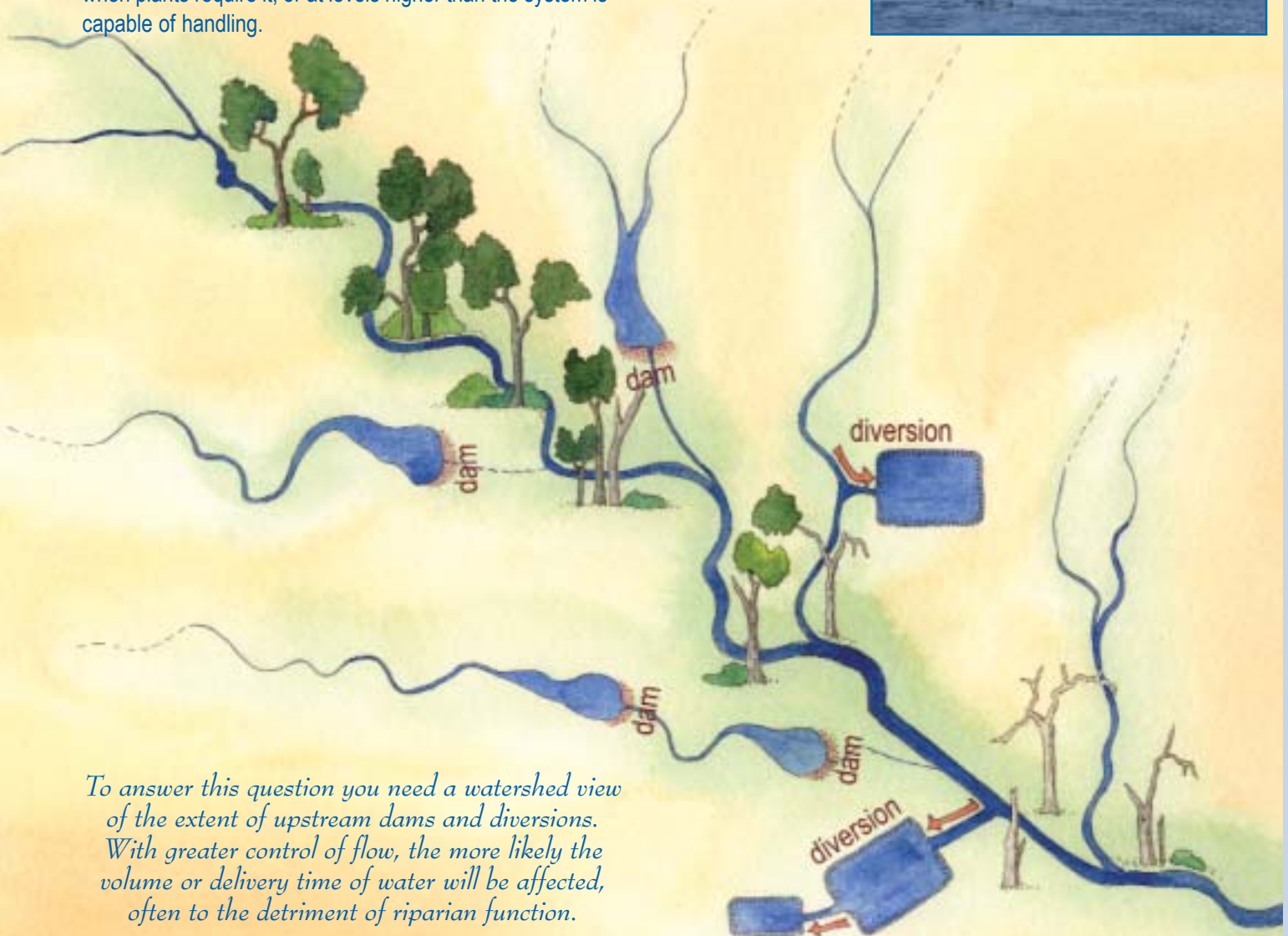
Riparian areas are built and maintained by water. Proper functioning depends on a regular supply of water. The degree to which water is removed or added directly affects riparian health. Dewatering a riparian system, during the critical growing season affects:

- ♦ the maintenance and persistence of riparian plant communities;
- ♦ the stability of banks and shorelines;
- ♦ fish and wildlife habitat; and,
- ♦ forage production and the maintenance of shelter.

Riparian areas are adapted to, and depend on, the volume and timing of annual peak flows and levels. The degree to which upstream reaches and tributaries are controlled by dams or diversions influences and affects delivery of water to downstream areas. Water may arrive at times other than when plants require it, or at levels higher than the system is capable of handling.



*Significant changes to water flows and levels affects riparian vegetation and riparian health*



*To answer this question you need a watershed view of the extent of upstream dams and diversions. With greater control of flow, the more likely the volume or delivery time of water will be affected, often to the detriment of riparian function.*