

**Stream temperature and streamside cover 14-17 years after clearcutting  
along small forested streams, western Oregon**

1 **Abstract**

2 Stream temperatures were monitored on seven low-elevation western Oregon streams  
3 immediately after clearcut harvesting and 14-17 years later in two studies that examined buffer  
4 designs. One study on four streams used no-tree buffers with all trees next to the stream  
5 harvested within the clearcut units. The second study on three streams examined partial buffers  
6 designed to shade the stream only from direct sun. Streams with no-tree buffers in clearcuts 90 or  
7 180 m long mostly exhibited significantly less warming 16-17 years after harvest than 1-5 years  
8 after harvest. Streams with partial buffers had originally shown slight response to harvest, and  
9 14-15 years after harvest temperature trends were not different from pre-harvest trends. Percent  
10 cover and estimated radiation 14-17 years after harvesting were mostly similar in harvested and  
11 uncut areas. The exceptions were areas close to the streams that were cleared by beavers (*Castor*  
12 *canadensis*), where streams were wide resulting in canopy openings, and where gravel bars with  
13 minimal plant development occurred. Planted conifers in no-tree riparian areas provided less  
14 shade than hardwoods and were mostly suppressed by hardwoods or damaged by beavers.

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16 Key words: buffer design, riparian areas, beavers, partial buffers, cover development

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18

## 19 **Introduction**

20 Current forest management practices in many states require retention of trees and  
21 other vegetation (often termed buffers, streamside management zones, or riparian  
22 management areas) along streams to mitigate harvest effects on riparian environments  
23 and stream temperatures. Implementation of buffers described in Oregon rules (Oregon  
24 Department of Forestry, 2009) in most cases results in a “no-harvest” zone (buffer)  
25 around streams presumably wide enough to limit warming of streams to 0.3°C above pre-  
26 harvest temperatures.

27 Trees in riparian areas provide important inputs into the stream system.  
28 Structurally important woody debris, detritus from foliage, and root systems that stabilize  
29 banks are provided by bankside trees; buffers minimize stream disturbance during  
30 harvesting. Many riparian areas along streams in western Oregon below 600 m elevation  
31 are dominated by hardwoods, especially red alder (*Alnus rubra* Bong.). Red alder is a  
32 fast-growing species in early years, and adopts a stem form that leans toward openings  
33 providing shade for streams. As such, it is effective in restoring shade in streamside  
34 clearings even though it is known to be a competitor of planted conifers (Newton et al.,  
35 1968). Although red alder can and will provide for coarse woody debris, the logs tend to  
36 be small and short-lived within the stream system, in contrast to most local conifers  
37 (Cederholm et al. 1997; Bilby et al. 1999). These features provide incentives to maintain  
38 both hardwoods and conifers within riparian areas (Connolly and Hall 1999).

39 Regenerating conifers under an overstory can be problematic, especially within  
40 riparian areas. Even shade-tolerant conifers have been shown to have difficulty  
41 establishing and growing in these environments because of slow growth and herbivory

42 (Newton and Cole, 2005). Clearcutting to the edge of a stream can increase the  
43 probability of successful conifer regeneration in these areas where protection from  
44 beavers is provided (Newton and Cole, 2005). Concerns about the stream-warming effect  
45 of clearing to provide site preparation for conifers in riparian areas limit options.

46 In 1993 and 1994, two studies were established in western Oregon to examine the  
47 impacts of buffer designs on stream temperature. Buffers were designed to allow for  
48 openings for conifer regeneration. The first of these studies involved small clearcuts 90  
49 or 180 m on both sides of four streams with no-tree buffers, and Dent (1995) reported  
50 0.11-3.75°C increases in maximum temperatures for 1-3 years after harvest. The second  
51 study used residual tree cover about 12 m wide only on the south side of the stream as a  
52 partial buffer for larger clearcuts comprising 490-790 m of stream length. Zwieniecki  
53 and Newton (1999) found little warming (average approximately 1°C) immediately after  
54 harvest in streams with partial buffers of this kind. These studies were revisited 14-17  
55 years later to compare stream temperature trends with those reported earlier. We also  
56 evaluated cover and radiation to determine if 14-17 years after harvest, levels were  
57 similar in harvested and uncut reaches along the streams.

## 58 **Methods**

### 59 **Both Studies**

60 The original studies examined low-elevation fish-bearing streams located in the  
61 Oregon Coast Range and in western foothills of the Oregon Cascades (Table 1). The  
62 regional climate is Mediterranean, with moderate winter temperatures with heavy  
63 precipitation and moderate to warm summers with little precipitation. Prior to harvest,  
64 riparian areas were dominated by hardwoods, primarily red alder and bigleaf maple (*Acer*

65 *macrophyllum* Pursh), 12-27m tall.

## 66 **No-Tree Buffer Sites**

67 Four streams (Ames, Bark, Buttermilk, and Mosby) were selected as  
68 representatives of forest streams subject to Oregon Department of Forestry (2009) rules  
69 that normally required residual buffers (15 or 21 m wide depending on stream width, both  
70 sides) associated with clearcut harvesting. In each of these streams, a reach at least 1,460  
71 meters long was selected for study of stream warming following clearcut harvesting with  
72 no-tree buffers to evaluate the consequences of removing all tree cover to the streambank.  
73 Layout for the study reach included an 180-m harvested reach, an uncut reach 300-700 m  
74 long, an upper 90-m harvested reach, an uncut reach 100-300 m long, a lower 90-m  
75 harvested reach, and an uncut reach of about 300 m downstream of the lowest harvested  
76 area (Figure 1a).

77 For the original study, harvesting occurred in 1993 with all trees removed to the  
78 streambank, so that the only woody vegetation remaining was shrubs. Stream  
79 temperature recorders (OmniData or Onset Hobo-Temps®; accuracy 0.5°C) were installed  
80 above and at the lower end of the 180-m harvest unit, and above the upper 90-m unit and  
81 below the lower 90-m unit (Figure 1a) beginning the first summer after harvest. Stream  
82 temperatures were monitored starting June or July and continuing through September or  
83 October for five summers. Three years after installation, very little woody cover had  
84 developed along the no-tree buffer clearcut units, and net warming (determined by  
85 difference between stream temperature downstream of harvested units and stream  
86 temperature in uncut reaches upstream of harvested units) of streams was reported (Dent  
87 1995).

88           These streams were revisited during the summers of 2008 and 2009 to evaluate  
89 temperature trends 16 and 17 years after harvest. Thermistors (Onset Tidbit v2; accuracy  
90 0.2°C) were placed in the streams close to the original locations. Cut boundaries were  
91 discernible, and temperatures within 3 m up- and downstream of the boundaries were +-  
92 0.1°C. Temperatures were monitored from mid-June through mid-September.

93           The 180-m unit on Buttermilk was located on a tributary rather than the main  
94 stem. An additional thermistor was placed above the confluence, and data from that  
95 thermistor showed that stream temperatures on the main stem were warmer than those of  
96 the tributary. There were no harvested areas without protective buffers on the main stem  
97 above our study reaches, but there were large areas where most cover had been removed  
98 by beavers (*Castor canadensis*), and several ponds had been formed by beaver dams.

#### 99 **Partial Buffer Sites**

100           Three other streams (Table 1), described by Zwieniecki and Newton (1999), had  
101 been selected in 1994 to evaluate a buffer design that left cover only between the sun and  
102 open water. These streams had clearcuts that extended for 490 m (Cascade Brush), 550  
103 m (North Mill), and 790 m (Scheele), each having a 12-m buffer situated south of open  
104 water to provide shade on the stream continuously between 900-1700 PDT (Figure 1b).  
105 If a stream had an east-west orientation, trees were removed completely on the north side  
106 of the creek. When the stream had a north-south orientation, then some trees were left on  
107 both sides of the creek so that direct radiation from the sun would be intercepted by  
108 vegetation between 900-1700 PDT; this resulted in buffers 9-12 m wide. In the original  
109 study, stream temperature was recorded before harvest (1994) upstream and downstream  
110 from the harvest unit, and for the first year (1995) after harvest from June to September.

111 Stream temperature was also collected 152 m and 304 m downstream from the harvested  
112 unit during the first-year post-harvest to determine whether any heat gained in the unit  
113 would persist downstream. Zwieniecki and Newton (1999) had reported little warming  
114 with these partial buffers in the first year after harvest. Streams were revisited in the  
115 summers of 2008 and 2009, and thermistors placed as close to the original positions as  
116 possible.

### 117 **Vegetation Sampling During Revisit**

118 As part of the original study on the no-tree buffer units, a reforestation study was  
119 established which included planting native conifers within the riparian zone. Newton and  
120 Cole (2005) reported early observations about the planted conifers, noting losses to  
121 beavers and mountain beavers (*Aplodontia rufa*). Due to the loss of seedling  
122 identification and precommercial thinning that had occurred in some areas, exact counts  
123 of planted saplings could not be re-established along no-tree buffer streams. Partial  
124 buffer sites had been planted operationally. Evaluation of streamside plantations near the  
125 streams was the same for both studies for the revisit.

126 For both the partial and no-tree buffer units, sample points (land points)  
127 describing plantation and buffer structure were established 4.6 m from the streambank on  
128 each side of each stream at 15 m intervals only in harvested units. Land points were not  
129 sampled in uncut reaches. At each point, tallies of hardwoods and conifers by species  
130 were made using a 2.3 m<sup>2</sup> ha<sup>-1</sup> (10 BAF) prism. In addition to these land points, sample  
131 points for fisheye photos of canopies and cover estimates (visual and by densiometer)  
132 were established every 30 m centered in midstream for harvested and uncut areas of each  
133 study reach. Fisheye photographs were taken within an hour of dusk or dawn or during

134 overcast conditions. Cover estimates included percent conifer, hardwood, and shrub  
135 cover within 5 m of the point, a visual estimate of hemispherical cover (cover estimate  
136 from horizon to horizon similar to that obtained through fisheye photographs),  
137 densiometer counts in four cardinal directions (Strickler 1959), and percent cover over  
138 the stream by log, herbaceous vegetation, and shrubs 5 m up- and downstream of the  
139 point. All sample points were evaluated in July 2009.

#### 140 **Analysis**

141 Each stream is a case study; hence statistical analyses could not consider streams  
142 as replications. On each stream, we used time series regression to analyze temperature  
143 trends for daily maxima, means, and minima for both studies.

144 For the no-tree buffer sites, time series regressions were developed relating 1) the  
145 temperature below the 180-m harvested unit to the temperature above the 180-m  
146 harvested unit and 2) the temperature below the second 90-m unit to the temperature  
147 above the 180-m unit. In the absence of pre-harvest data, regression time trends were  
148 developed for two periods—the first 5 years after harvest and 16-17 years after harvest.  
149 The Durbin-Watson statistic was used to test for autocorrelation (similarity of  
150 observations as a function of time between the observations), and the Portmanteau Q and  
151 Lagrange multiplier statistics were used to test for heteroscedasticity (variability among  
152 variances). PROC AUTOREG (SAS 2010) was selected for final trends because these  
153 tests indicated both autocorrelation and heteroscedasticity existed in the data sets, and  
154 appropriate lags and GARCH (generalized autoregressive conditional heteroscedasticity)  
155 models were added to the time series models (SAS 2010). The two time periods were  
156 compared by using dummy variables for the different time periods (significance at  $p <$

157 0.05) and by comparing prediction intervals around the regression time trends. Tests for  
158 differences among years within time periods indicated that there were some differences  
159 for years 1-5, but no differences between years 16 and 17. Therefore, years 16 and 17  
160 were used to develop prediction intervals.

161 For the partial-buffer sites, the availability of pre-harvest data allowed for the  
162 development of time series regressions for stream temperature below harvest units  
163 relative to above harvest units for pre-harvest temperatures, temperatures the first year  
164 after harvesting, and temperatures 14-15 years after harvesting. For each stream, a time  
165 series regression was developed using PROC AUTOREG with the temperature at the  
166 thermistor below the harvested unit relative to the temperature of the thermistor above the  
167 harvested unit. Test statistics and comparisons were the same as those described for the  
168 no-tree buffer sites.

169 The relationship between basal area and cover was evaluated from means of  
170 visual estimates of hemispherical cover and in-stream basal area using PROC NLMIXED  
171 SAS 2010), with site being the random effect. For the no-tree buffer sites, means of  
172 cover and basal area were calculated for the 180-m and each 90-m reach and for the uncut  
173 reaches between the harvested reaches. The partial-buffer sites were divided into  
174 harvested and uncut reaches and means calculated for those. Linear, quadratic, power,  
175 exponential, and Chapman-Richards equations were tested. Based on AIC (Akaike's  
176 information criterion) and  $r^2$  values, the Chapman-Richards model was selected as the  
177 best fit model.

178 Radiation was evaluated from the fisheye photos using WinsCanopy® software.  
179 Radiation was estimated daily from June 1 to September 30, 2009 and then averaged over



180 all days and all photo points located within individual harvested and uncut areas.

181 Cover estimates from visual ratings or densiometer south ratings (densiometer  
182 counts when facing south, Strickler 1959) were faster to evaluate than fisheye photos, so  
183 we determined if these visual estimates could substitute for fisheye photos. We used  
184 PROC CORR (SAS 2010) to provide correlations across and within streams for cover  
185 and radiation on July 15, 2009. This date was selected to match timing of stream  
186 sampling for cover estimates and fisheye photos.

187 The relationships between radiation or cover estimates and stream temperature  
188 were examined by using PROC MIXED (SAS 2010) with stream being a random  
189 variable. For these analyses, the maximum change (daily maximum downstream  
190 thermistor – daily maximum upstream thermistor) in stream temperature on July 15, 2009  
191 was calculated for 1) the 180-m units, 2) the uncut below the 180-m unit, 3) the 90-m  
192 harvested, uncut, 90-m harvested reach, and 4) the uncut below the downstream 90-m  
193 unit for the no-tree buffer sites. For the partial-buffer sites, the change was calculated for  
194 1) the harvested unit, 2) the uncut reach 152 m below the harvested unit, and 3) the uncut  
195 reach 152-305 m below the harvested unit. In regressions, maximum change was the  
196 dependent variable and total daily radiation (averaged over the sample points) for July 15,  
197 visual estimates of hemispherical cover, or densiometer south was the independent  
198 variable.

## 199 **Results**

### 200 **Stream temperature trends**

#### 201 **No-Tree Buffer Sites**

202 In the first few years after harvest, streams with no-tree buffers had shown

203 increased daily summer water temperatures immediately below harvest units, especially  
204 through the 180-m units (Dent 1995). Sixteen and 17 years after harvest, the magnitude  
205 of temperature increase through these units appeared to have lessened (Figure 2), but  
206 without pre-harvest data, we could not determine if regressions were similar to pre-  
207 harvest conditions.

208 At Ames Creek, Bark, and Buttermilk, regressions for summer daily means (not  
209 shown) and maxima (Figure 2) indicated higher trends for 1-5 years after harvest than for  
210 16-17 years after harvest for the 180-m unit and for all harvest units. At Mosby Creek,  
211 only the maxima for the 180-m unit were higher. The only difference for minima was at  
212 Buttermilk for all harvest units, with the trend being higher for 1-5 years post harvest  
213 than for 16-17 years post-harvest. Bark and Buttermilk Creeks had significant  
214 differences among the year-to-year regressions immediately post-harvest (years 1-5) for  
215 maxima and means.

#### 216 **Partial-Buffer Sites**

217 Use of time-series regression revealed differences not detected by Zwieniecki and  
218 Newton (1999) which identified significant warming of daily summer means and maxima  
219 (Figure 3) in Scheele Creek and also slight warming in minima the first year after harvest.  
220 The original harvest at Cascade Brush did not lead to changes in mean or minimum  
221 temperatures, but there was a slight increase in daily maxima over some of the range  
222 (Figure 3). North Mill mean temperature was unchanged after harvest, as nearly as we  
223 can tell. Equipment failed in 2009, and North Mill exhibited greater variability than the  
224 other creeks in all years of data (Figure 3), and we were unable to determine a reason.  
225 Recent temperature regressions for daily maxima (Figure 3), daily means, and daily

226 minima from all three streams showed no significant differences from pre-harvest  
227 regressions.

## 228 **Cover development in riparian areas**

### 229 **No-Tree Buffer Sites**

230 Hardwood basal area evaluated from in-stream sample points was greater than  
231 conifer basal area in most no-tree buffer units (Table 2). Uncut reaches indicated that  
232 hardwoods were more dominant than conifers prior to cutting. Despite planting conifers,  
233 hardwoods were dominant in harvested areas 17 years later.

234 Radiation levels on the stream at Ames Creek (Table 3) and estimates of cover  
235 from in-stream observations (Table 4) were similar between harvested and uncut units by  
236 17 years after cutting. At the other streams, radiation and cover levels were similar for  
237 some harvested and uncut units. Where beavers had maintained clearings in harvested  
238 units (Bark all harvested units and Buttermilk 90-m units), these units had higher  
239 radiation and lower cover than some of the uncut areas (Tables 3 & 4).

### 240 **Partial-Buffer Sites**

241 Partial buffers remained dominated by mature red alder, as when established.  
242 Basal area on the harvested side had returned to a level almost identical to the buffered  
243 side (Table 5). Observations indicated that gaps in the buffers did occur, but shrub  
244 species provided cover over the streams in most of these gaps, as indicated by radiation  
245 estimates from the fisheye photos (Table 3) and cover estimates (Table 4). For the  
246 partial-buffer streams, average radiation 15 years after harvesting was similar between  
247 harvested and uncut reaches.

### 248 **Both Studies**

249 Regression analyses of visual estimates of cover and in-stream basal area  
250 indicated a significant relationship ( $r^2 = 0.79$ ) (Figure 4). When an outlier point which  
251 had low basal area but 70% shrub cover was deleted,  $r^2$  increased to 0.86. Once basal  
252 area exceeded  $20 \text{ m}^2 \text{ ha}^{-1}$ , cover estimates were all greater than 60%. Greater than 60%  
253 cover was found with lower basal areas, but not as consistently. For these streams, it  
254 appeared that little gain in tree cover occurred once in-stream basal areas reached that  
255 level.

256 Visual estimates of hemispherical cover and densiometer south were moderately  
257 well-correlated with estimates of radiation from fisheye photographs, with densiometer  
258 south having slightly higher correlations. Combining all streams resulted in  $r$  values of  
259  $-0.77$  for visual hemispherical cover and  $-0.83$  for densiometer south. Looking at streams  
260 individually, the correlations at Scheele were not significant for either cover estimate.  
261 Correlations for the other streams were significant, and  $r$  values ranged from  $-0.40$  to  $-$   
262  $0.83$  for visual hemispherical cover and  $-0.57$  to  $-0.87$  for densiometer south.

263 Regression analyses indicated no significant pattern with radiation, hemispherical  
264 cover, or densiometer south and maximum temperature change. Cover data were not  
265 collected immediately after harvest, so data were only available from 15 or 17 years after  
266 harvesting for this analysis.

## 267 **Discussion**

268 Removal of shade at the stream surface has long been recognized as a causative  
269 force in modification of stream temperature (Greene 1950; Brown 1969; Brown and  
270 Krygier 1970; Beschta and Taylor 1988). Several reports revealed that clearcutting to the  
271 streambank led to elevated stream temperatures (e.g., Burton and Likens 1973; Wilkerson

272 et al. 2006; Quinn and Wright-Stow 2008). These studies were short-term and did not  
273 include monitoring of stream temperature after vegetation may have regrown. Longer  
274 term data from the Alsea Watershed Study in coastal Oregon indicated that stream  
275 temperature increases immediately after harvest decreased as vegetation developed over  
276 the stream (Hale 2008). Brown and Krygier (1970) reported stream temperature  
277 increases of over 12°C after clearcutting to the stream, yarding in the streambed, and  
278 burning in the Needle Branch watershed of the Alsea Watershed Study. Twenty-five  
279 years later, maximum stream temperatures were near pretreatment levels for Needle  
280 Branch (Ice 2008). Forty years after harvest, Needle Branch had the lowest temperatures  
281 of the three watersheds in the study and 96% stream shade (Hale 2008).

282         The 180-m harvested areas and full length of harvested areas from most of the no-  
283 tree buffer streams exhibited decreases in mean and maximum temperature trends 16-17  
284 years after harvesting compared to 1-5 years after harvesting. We cannot determine  
285 whether temperatures had returned to pre-harvest levels in the absence of pre-harvest  
286 data. Our analyses were a reflection only that whatever temperature the units were, the  
287 warming trend had been reduced in time.

288         Although cover and radiation were highly correlated, radiation or cover and  
289 change in the maximum stream temperature were not significantly correlated. The lack  
290 of correlation may be related to cover over most reaches averaging >65% between  
291 thermistors in 2009 and little variability in rate of warming. Dent et al. (2008) reported  
292 that the rate of change for the 7-day moving maximum ranged from -1.6 °C/300m to +3.6  
293 °C/300m for unlogged reaches of headwater streams in the Oregon Coast Range.  
294 Adjusting our data to a similar scale resulted in maximum changes ranging from -1.1

295 °C/300m to 1.9 °C/300m for the 2009 data. Although cover in some of the 90-m  
296 harvested units was less than 65%, our thermistor locations did not allow us to segregate  
297 those units from the uncut areas in between the harvested units. The lowest cover and  
298 highest radiation occurred in the 180-m unit at Bark, which exhibited a decrease in  
299 change in maximum temperature possibly attributable to deep beaver ponds and potential  
300 thermal stratification. The impact of beaver activity on stream temperature could not be  
301 quantified.

302         Aside from cover development, other factors can influence the change in stream  
303 temperature response through time. Stream features, such as width, velocity, channel  
304 morphology, beaver dams, groundwater inputs, and hyporheic exchange all vary in time  
305 and can impact the magnitude of temperature response (McRae and Edwards 1994;  
306 Moore et al. 2005; Gomi et al. 2006; Quinn and Wright-Stow 2008). We did not have  
307 data on these factors from the years immediately post-harvest, so we could not determine  
308 what changes had occurred over time.

309         We noticed considerable year-to-year variation in stream temperature, which  
310 appeared to affect peak temperature 1-2°C independent of treatment. It also clouded any  
311 estimate of gaining or reducing temperature with time. This variation can complicate  
312 determination of harvest effects (Groom et al. 2011), and we found that the year-to-year  
313 variation limited our ability to detect differences when comparing immediately post-  
314 harvest trends to recent trends for the no-tree buffer streams. The two streams with high  
315 levels of beaver activity (Bark and Buttermilk) appeared to have the greatest annual  
316 variability in temperature trends. It is possible that changes in channel morphology  
317 related to beaver dams altered the relationship between the upstream and downstream

318 thermistors. Because we did not collect information on dams, stream cover, or stream  
319 width and depth in the years immediately post-harvest, we cannot determine if beaver  
320 activity accounted for some of the annual variability in stream temperature trends. The  
321 impact of beaver dams on stream temperature is difficult to generalize, because other  
322 factors, such as shading, groundwater, and stream volume, have an influence (McRae and  
323 Edwards 1994).

324         The three streams with partial buffers exhibited small or negligible elevations of  
325 daily maximum or mean temperature in large (490-790-m-long) clearcuts immediately  
326 after harvest. The largest increase over predicted values was 2.6°C for daily maximum  
327 and 0.8° C for daily mean. In British Columbia, Gomi et al. (2006) reported increases of  
328 0.0-0.8°C with 10-m buffers and no significant increases at 30-m width, and Rex et al.  
329 (2012) reported increases of up to 6°C for variable retention buffers. Wilkerson et al.  
330 (2006) reported mean weekly maximum increases of 1.0-1.4°C with 11-m buffers and  
331 negligible increases with 23-m or partially cut buffers in Maine. Recent trends of post-  
332 harvest means and maxima from our three streams showed little difference from pre-  
333 harvest trends, and all streams had shade cover comparable to uncut conditions.  
334 Moreover, despite removal of nearly all cover on the north side of streams, cover of both  
335 sides was nearly identical after 15 years, and partial-buffer units had equal or less  
336 radiation in harvested units compared to uncut.

337         Cover development for both types of buffers returned radiation levels to uncut  
338 conditions in 15 years or less unless gaps in cover south of streams were large.  
339 Hardwoods and shrubs dominated cover, even in harvested areas where conifers had been  
340 planted. Cover development was similar to that reported by Summers (1982) and Andrus

341 and Froehlich (1988) for riparian areas in western Oregon that had been clearcut and  
342 broadcast burned. Ten years after clearcutting, stream shading approached levels typical  
343 of old-growth and second-growth forests (Andrus and Froehlich, 1988), and Summers  
344 (1982) calculated shading would reach 75% of pre-harvest levels by 7 and 17 years for  
345 the western hemlock vegetation zone in the Coast and Cascade Ranges, respectively.  
346 Vegetation development along most of our streams indicated similar rates of growth,  
347 except in areas where beavers removed streamside vegetation (Bark, Buttermilk, and  
348 Ames) or other stream characteristics affected vegetation development (Mosby). Mosby  
349 Creek had been placer-mined in the early 1900's. Flooding, including events during our  
350 study period, had kept cover from developing toward the stream. Mosby was wider than  
351 the other streams (Table 1), with stretches 6-7 m wide. Wide openings between bank-  
352 growing shrubs and sprouts existed even in some of the uncut reaches.

353         Protection from beavers remained a key element in re-establishment of tree cover.  
354 Attempts to minimize beaver activity by installing poultry wire fences to keep animals in  
355 the stream were effective until fences were damaged by floods or falling trees. When  
356 fences failed, beavers damaged or removed trees. Beavers did not damage most of the  
357 large trees in the partial buffers or other large residuals, but we noted less presence of  
358 beavers along those streams. Partial hardwood buffers were largely intact despite loss of  
359 some hardwoods to wind and ice. Although we were not able to re-sample the planted  
360 seedlings on the no-tree buffer streams, we observed that herbivory by beavers was  
361 continuing after 15 years, and this had led to large and perhaps increasing gaps in  
362 plantations and other tree vegetation. We did not have enough thermistors placed along  
363 the stream to see if these openings affected local stream temperatures.



364 Current regulations for protecting cold waters require that forest practices limit  
365 stream temperatures increases to 0.3°C above pre-harvest level. The State of Oregon  
366 (Oregon Department of Forestry, 2009) has established and maintains forest practice  
367 buffer rules that require buffers presumed to meet the temperature standard. Although  
368 this standard was designed to protect cold-water habitat for fish, stream productivity has  
369 been positively tied to photosynthesis (Murphy et al. 1981; Boothroyd et al. 2004;  
370 Kiffney et al. 2004) that is dependent on energy from the sun. Stream productivity in  
371 both no-tree and partial buffers was observed to be nearly twice as high in harvested as in  
372 uncut reaches of these same streams in terms of benthic insect abundance (Walsh 1996;  
373 Newton and Cole 2005). No major changes in relative abundance of six orders of benthic  
374 insects were observed. Ice et al. (2004) pointed out that the rules about stream buffers  
375 were keyed on absolute temperature criteria without regard for what was possible,  
376 presumably by integrating stream productivity with water temperature. They also  
377 identified relevance of using natural warming trends as a basis for numerical criteria.  
378 Discovery of buffer designs that maintain temperature within bounds that allow  
379 productivity is a priority, if indeed that is possible.

## 380 **Conclusions**

381 Streams that had clearcut units to the streambank exhibited increased stream  
382 warming immediately after harvest. Most of these increases had decreased by 16-17  
383 years after harvesting and appeared related to closure of cover over the streams. Streams  
384 with partial buffers exhibited no differences in temperature trends when comparing pre-  
385 harvest to 14-15-year post-harvest trends. Conditions that limit streamside cover  
386 development along the streams led to elevated radiation. Prior evidence from these

387 streams suggest future focus on the interaction of stream buffer design, including  
388 different orientations relative to the sun, and stream productivity to include evaluation of  
389 season-long integration of temperature and productivity trends.

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### Figure Captions

Figure 1. Layout of (a) no-tree buffer study and (b) partial-buffer study. Stars denote thermistor placement.

Figure 2. Daily maxima stream temperatures above and below the 180-m units and above the 180-m and below the lower 90-m units for Ames, Bark, Buttermilk, and Mosby creeks. Symbols are for the first 5 years post-harvest (1993-1997) and lines represent the 95% prediction intervals around time series regressions based on recent years (2008-2009), using the first 5 years post-harvest values.

Figure 3. Daily maxima stream temperatures above and below unit with partial buffer for post-harvest (1995, 2008, and 2009) for Cascade Brush, Scheele, and North Mill. Lines represent the 95% prediction intervals around time series regressions based on pre-harvest data and using post-harvest values. Due to equipment failure, North Mill 2009 is not shown.

Figure 4. Percent hemispherical cover and in-stream basal area relationship for the seven study streams. Outlier denoted by solid circle was deleted from the data set prior to creating regression line. Curve is based on Chapman-Richards model and has been averaged over all of the sites.



**Table Headings.**

Table 1. Stream characteristics for the seven study streams in western Oregon.

Table 2 Basal area ( $\text{m}^2 \text{ha}^{-1}$ ) and standard errors (in parentheses) in 2009 for land points 4.6 m from each side of the stream and from in-stream points for harvested units on the no-tree buffer sites.

Table 3. Total radiation ( $\text{Mj m}^{-2} \text{day}^{-1}$ ), standard errors (in parentheses), and number of sample points (in brackets) for in-stream points within harvested and uncut units averaged over points within a unit and averaged from June 1 - September 30, 2009 for all sites.

Table 4. Mean cover and standard errors (in parentheses) based on visual estimates evaluated at in-stream points July 2009 for each harvested and uncut unit for each stream.

Table 5. Basal area in  $\text{m}^2 \text{ha}^{-1}$  and standard errors (in parentheses) in 2009 for land points 4.6 m from each side of the stream for partial buffer streams.

Table 1. Stream characteristics for the seven study streams in western Oregon.

	Orientation	Gradient (%)	Width (cm)	Depth (cm)	Soils	Montgomery- Buffington (1997) Classification
Ames	NW	4	267	10	clay loam, basalt	pool riffle
Bark	N	2	317	21	silt loam, Eocene sedimentary	dune ripple
Buttermilk	NW	4	254	10	silt loam, Eocene sedimentary	colluvial (tributary) riffle bar (main stem)
Mosby	NW	3	416	13	clay loam, basalt	pool riffle
Cascade Brush	W	4	195	8	clay loam, basalt	step pool
North Mill	W	3	302	15	silt loam, Eocene sedimentary	pool riffle
Scheele	NW	4	276	10	Jory clay loam, basalt	cascade

Table 2. Basal area in  $\text{m}^2 \text{ha}^{-1}$  and standard errors (in parentheses) in 2009 for land points 4.6 m from each side of the stream and from in-stream points for harvested units on the no-tree buffer sites.

		Land		In-stream			
		Clearcut		Clearcut		Uncut	
		Hardwood	Conifer	Hardwood	Conifer	Hardwood	Conifer
		----- $\text{m}^2 \text{ha}^{-1}$ -----					
Ames	180m	10.0 (1.1)	4.1 (0.8)	14.4 (3.1)	1.3 (1.3)	17.9 (2.0)	7.7 (3.4)
	Up 90m	7.1 (4.4)	2.8 (0.8)	10.3 (3.9)	2.3 (2.3)	27.5 (3.5)	4.6 (1.4)
	Low 90m	11.0 (2.5)	1.1 (0.7)	23.0 (5.3)	0 (0)	20.5 (3.9)	3.3 (1.5)
Bark	180m	1.9 (0.6)	2.7 (0.7)	0.7 (0.7)	0.7 (0.7)	24.1 (2.3)	0.4 (1.1)
	Up 90m	8.0 (3.3)	1.1 (0.5)	7.6 (7.6)	0 (0)	20.2 (4.2)	0 (0)
	Low 90m	4.3 (1.2)	0.8 (0.3)	2.8 (2.8)	0 (0)	17.5 (4.4)	0 (0)
Buttermilk	180m	4.1 (1.1)	3.9 (0.8)	5.1 (2.4)	0.5 (0.6)	21.3 (2.6)	1.9 (1.0)
	Up 90m	6.4 (1.7)	2.0 (0.7)	0.8 (0.8)	0.8 (0.8)	17.6 (5.0)	9.2 (4.4)
	Low 90m	5.7 (1.2)	4.1 (0.7)	6.9 (4.4)	1.2 (1.2)	30.0 (3.4)	3.3 (1.3)
Mosby	180m	8.7 (1.3)	2.7 (0.6)	5.6 (2.9)	1.5 (0.8)	11.2 (2.3)	1.5 (1.1)
	Up 90m	13.9 (1.9)	5.6 (1.6)	3.4 (1.2)	1.2 (1.2)	8.5 (2.6)	1.3 (0.8)
	Low 90m	3.0 (1.1)	2.3 (0.9)	0 (0)	1.2 (1.2)	3.2 (1.5)	3.7 (2.3)

<sup>a</sup> 1  $\text{m}^2 \text{ha}^{-1}$  is approximately 4.36  $\text{ft}^2 \text{ac}^{-1}$ .

Table 3. Total radiation ( $\text{Mj m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$ ), standard errors (in parentheses), and number of sample point (in brackets) for in-stream points within harvested and uncut units averaged over points within a unit and averaged from June 1 - September 30, 2009 for seven study streams.

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Ames</b>	<b>Bark</b>	<b>Buttermilk</b>	<b>Mosby</b>
	----- $\text{Mj m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$ -----			
180m	5.12 (1.12) [7]	13.15 (2.12) [7]	2.6 (0.79) [8]	11.12 (2.17) [9]
Uncut1	3.12 (0.25) [28]	6.20 (0.81) [27]	3.52 (0.55) [22]	5.79 (0.45) [9]
Upper 90m	2.85 (0.27) [4]	10.93 (3.59) [3]	10.99 (3.19) [6]	7.52 (0.75) [4]
Uncut2	4.37 (0.37) [10]	3.99 (1.11) [5]	3.75 (0.85) [6]	5.30 (1.41) [7]
Lower 90m	2.86 (0.36) [3]	9.07 (3.34) [5]	6.06 (2.36) [4]	17.38 (1.43) [4]
Uncut3	4.52 (0.50) [11]	7.59 (1.73) [11]	3.97 (0.49) [11]	9.50 (1.39) [10]
	<b>Cascade Brush</b>	<b>North Mill</b>	<b>Scheele</b>	
Partial Buffer	3.56 (0.55) [17]	5.55 (1.07) [18]	3.57 (0.22) [26]	
Uncut to 150m	5.30 (0.72) [6]	6.01 (2.18) [6]	3.25 (0.36) [6]	
Uncut 150m- 300m	5.03 (0.42) [5]	6.36 (1.77) [5]	3.78 (0.52) [5]	

Table 4. Mean cover and standard errors (in parentheses) based on visual estimates evaluated at in-stream points in July 2009 for each harvested and uncut unit for each stream.

Stream	Unit	Hemispherical Cover	Hardwood Cover	Conifer Cover	Shrub Cover	Shrub Cover Over Water
-----%-----						
<b>Ames</b>	180m	79 (9.4)	63 (11.5)	1 (0.7)	53 (11.0)	39 (12.5)
	Uncut1	75 (3.2)	64 (5.2)	8 (3.2)	33 (4.0)	24 (4.5)
	Up 90m	78 (7.5)	52 (19.7)	6 (3.6)	44 (19.0)	39 (20.8)
	Uncut2	75 (3.4)	73 (7.1)	4 (2.3)	8 (2.5)	4 (1.6)
	Low 90m	73 (9.3)	68 (11.3)	0 (0)	18 (13.3)	19 (17.9)
	Uncut3	73 (3.7)	62 (7.7)	2 (1.8)	19 (3.2)	9 (3.2)
<b>Bark</b>	180m	18 (5.7)	12 (7.5)	0 (0)	5 (2.2)	2 (1.4)
	Uncut1	68 (4.2)	60 (6.2)	2 (1.8)	5 (1.1)	1 (0.8)
	Up 90m	38 (10.9)	28 (28.3)	0 (0)	9 (4.1)	2 (0.8)
	Uncut2	75 (2.2)	58 (11.1)	0 (0)	10 (3.5)	1 (0.4)
	Low 90m	40 (2.5)	31 (18.9)	0 (0)	3 (1.5)	1 (1.0)
	Uncut3	62 (12.3)	60 (12.1)	0 (0)	9 (2.5)	2 (1.3)
<b>Buttermilk</b>	180m	93 (5.5)	42 (14.1)	3 (1.3)	70 (12.2)	70 (13.2)
	Uncut1	80 (2.5)	61 (6.0)	.1 (0.1)	30 (6.5)	28 (7.7)
	Up 90m	37 (12.3)	13 (4.0)	0.2 (0.2)	14 (14.1)	15 (15.0)
	Uncut2	74 (5.5)	48 (14.1)	15 (8.2)	30 (13.0)	24 (11.4)
	Low 90m	62 (12.8)	46 (22.7)	3 (2.3)	9 (8.6)	0.3 (0.2)
	Uncut3	86 (1.2)	70 (7.1)	10 (7.5)	16 (6.8)	9 (5.6)
<b>Mosby</b>	180m	41 (9.6)	27 (11.8)	1 (0.6)	16 (6.8)	7 (4.8)
	Uncut1	70 (2.9)	46 (10.1)	0.7 (0.2)	2 (0.5)	0.5 (0.3)
	Up 90m	58 (9.5)	18 (6.3)	0.3 (0.2)	20 (15.2)	12 (11.0)
	Uncut2	69 (7.2)	63 (12.3)	0.2 (0.1)	8 (6.3)	5 (4.2)
	Low 90m	16 (3.1)	13 (12.4)	1 (0.7)	4 (1.4)	0.6 (0.3)
	Uncut3	42 (5.8)	31 (9.9)	4 (3.4)	4 (2.4)	2 (1.5)
<b>Cascade</b>	Cut	74 (3.6)	47 (7.3)	9 (4.1)	39 (5.7)	29 (5.9)
<b>Brush</b>	Uncut	80 (3.4)	79 (2.2)	0.5 (0.3)	13 (4.3)	8 (4.2)
<b>North Mill</b>	Cut	67 (4.6)	54 (7.9)	6 (3.6)	15 (4.4)	11 (3.0)
	Uncut	55 (9.7)	49 (13.3)	0.5 (0.5)	14 (2.7)	7 (1.8)
<b>Scheele</b>	Cut	84 (1.7)	78 (5.3)	0.9 (0.3)	27 (4.9)	15 (4.5)
	Uncut	79 (3.8)	67 (9.6)	5 (4.5)	12 (4.2)	7 (4.0)

Table 5. Basal area in  $\text{m}^2 \text{ha}^{-1}$  and standard errors (in parentheses) in 2009 for land points 4.6 m from each side of the stream for partial buffer streams. Number of sample points for each side was 34 for Cascade Brush, 35 for North Mill, and 51 for Scheele.

	Partial buffer side		No buffer side	
	Hardwood	Conifer	Hardwood	Conifer
	----- $\text{m}^2 \text{ha}^{-1}$ -----			
Cascade Brush	6.5 (0.9)	8.0 (1.0)	8.1 (1.0)	4.7 (0.6)
North Mill	10.3 (1.8)	2.3 (0.5)	10.4 (1.4)	2.0 (0.4)
Scheele	16.0 (1.0)	2.0 (0.3)	14.9 (1.4)	2.6 (0.4)

<sup>a</sup>  $1 \text{ m}^2 \text{ha}^{-1}$  is approximately  $4.36 \text{ ft}^2 \text{ac}^{-1}$ .

Figure 1

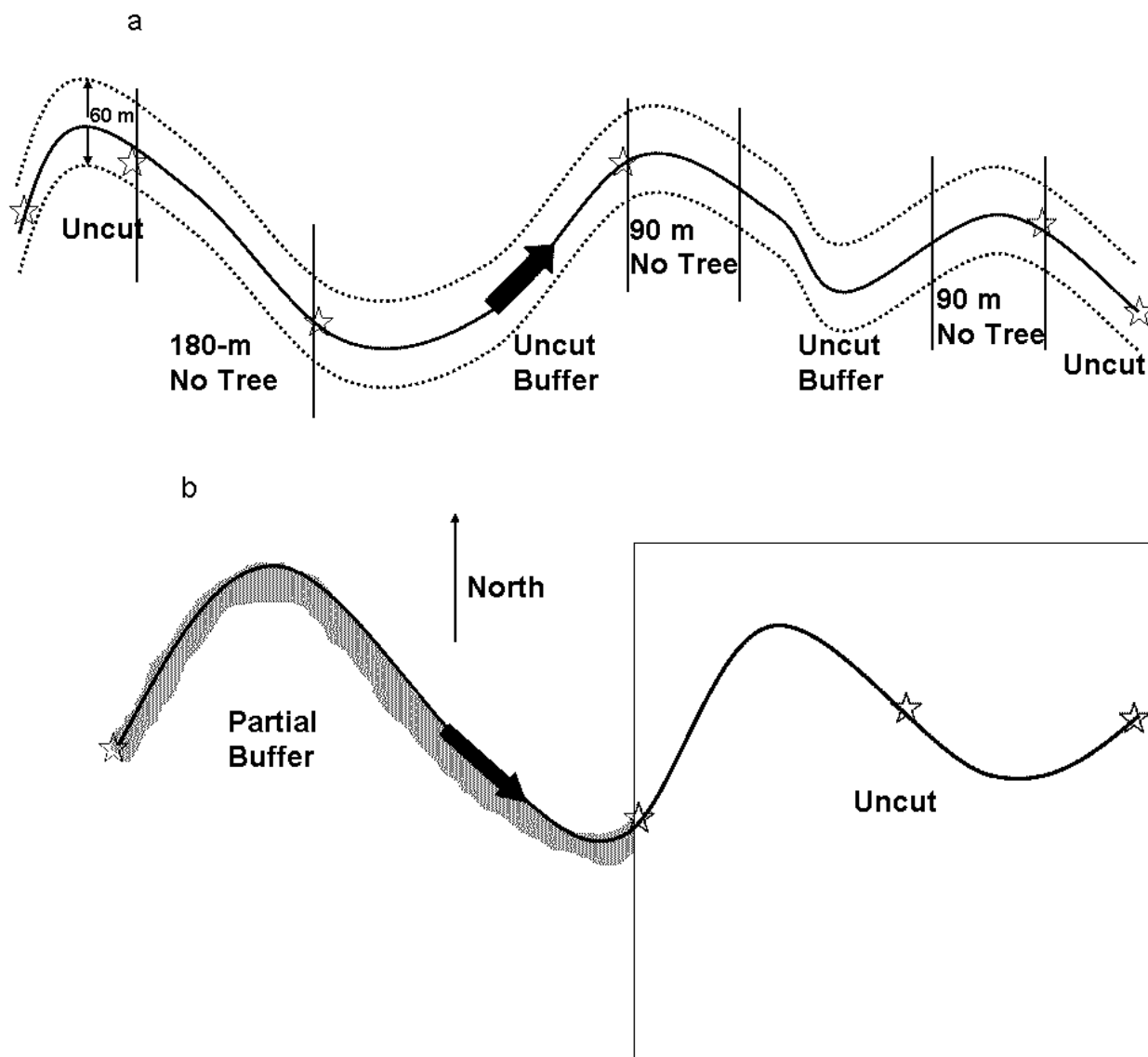


Figure 2

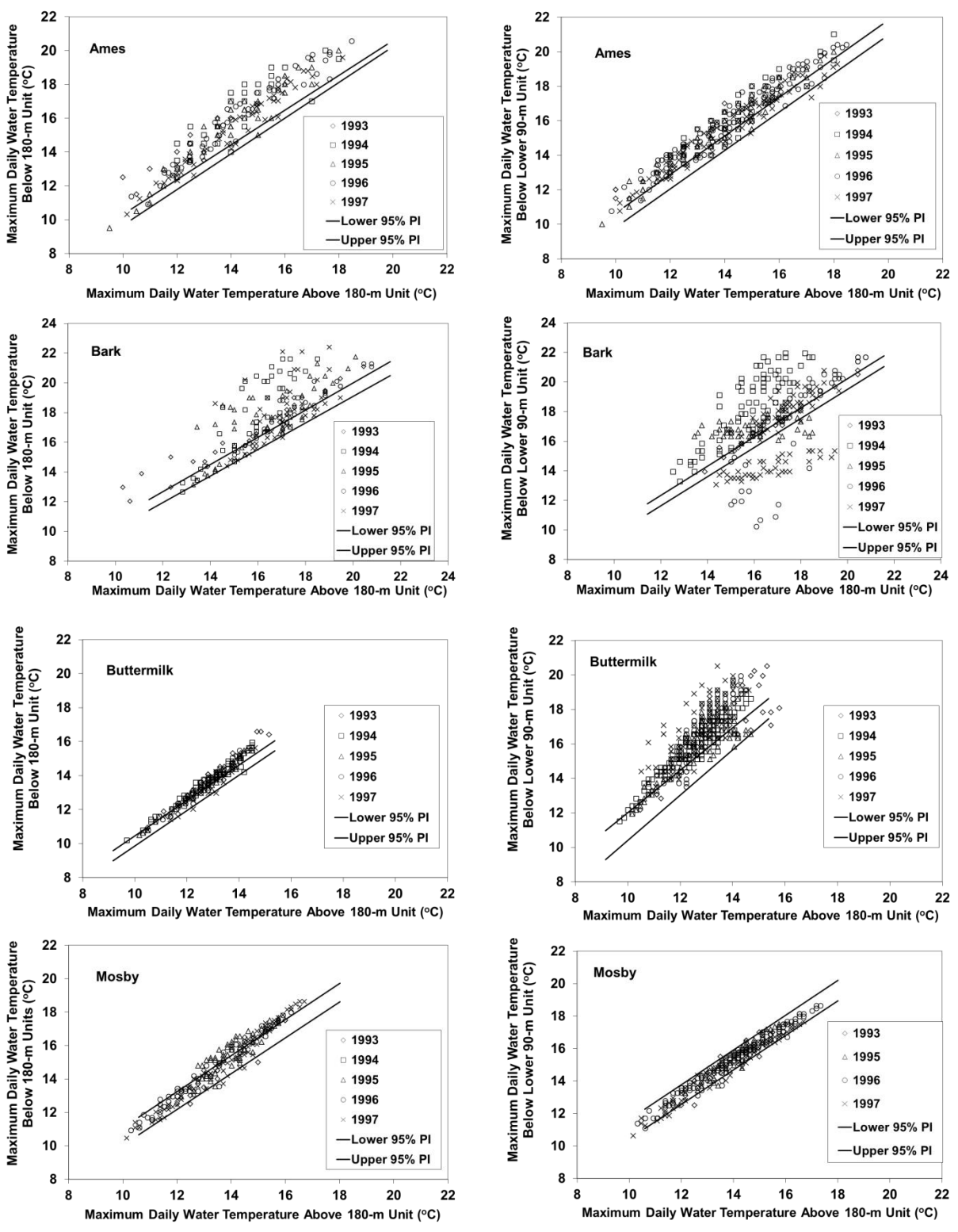




Figure 3

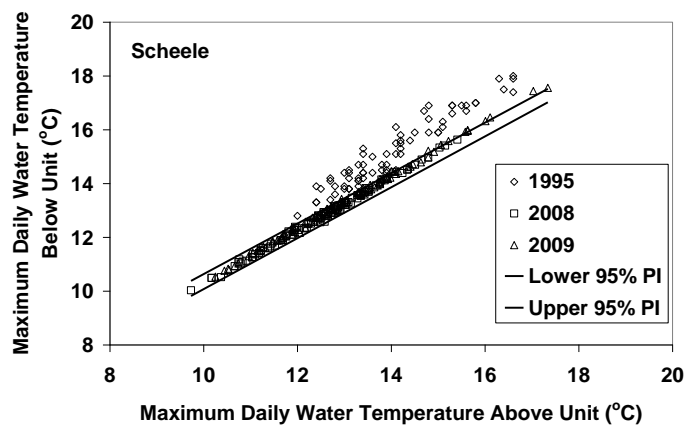
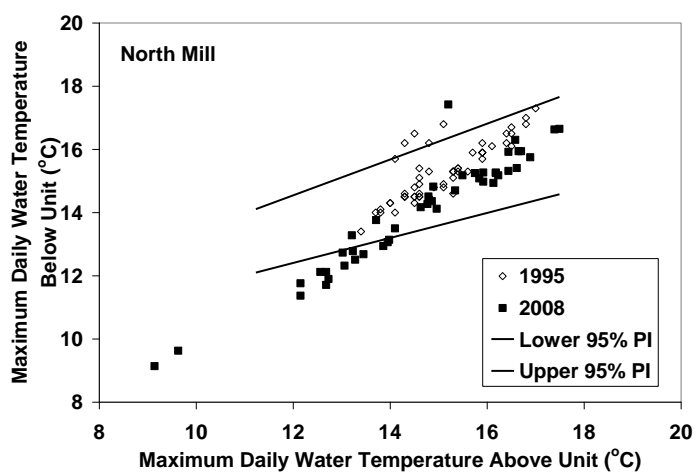
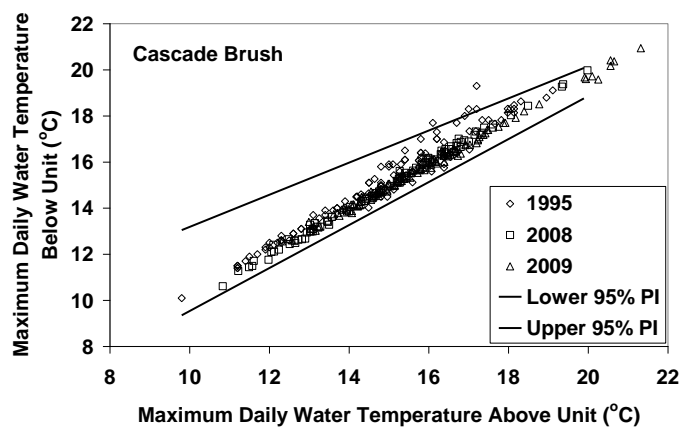


Figure 4

