First Organizational Meeting- Room 12, 4PM January 9

Each week we will read recent papers dealing with current topics in stream ecology. We will read and discuss 3 or 4 papers each week (~30 min per paper with a 10 min break). Over the course of the semester, each person is responsible for leading the discussion of several papers (some from the list we will provide at the first meeting and some later papers of your choosing). **Everyone is expected to read all papers for each class.** When reading each paper, you should think of relevant discussion questions and comments. *Stream Ecology* by Dave Allan provides background information.

The discussion leader is expected to prepare a single-page handout (2-sided if necessary) that provides an overview of the paper being discussed. Make enough handouts so that each member of the class will get one and send a WORD file of your summary before the seminar to the listserv. The handout overview includes the complete citation, objectives of the work, brief methods description, results with key figure or table reproduced, conclusion and the significance of the research. The handout can serve as the basis for the discussion. Remember that we all will have read the paper, so the discussion leader will not need to summarize the paper, but rather pose questions and lead a discussion of it. The discussion leader will begin with a brief (< 5 min) overview of his/her thoughts on the paper. Focus on questions like: What is the scientific or policy context for this paper? Where does this paper fit into the big picture of stream ecology? Were the methods adequate to answer the questions/test the hypotheses being addressed? Were the methods innovative? How applicable are the findings to other streams? How do the results contribute to the field of ecology? How could these finding be used to improve management or policy?

We will select papers to read for the first series of class sessions from several types of journals. For the final sessions, each student will choose one paper, and one paper jointly with another class member, and be prepared to lead the discussion of the paper you selected. Remember it is not important that every paper selected be considered outstanding, reading some diverse types of papers is an important learning experience. This selection option is your chance to have the entire group talk about a topic or paper that you think is exciting. Hand in your suggested paper citations by 30 January.