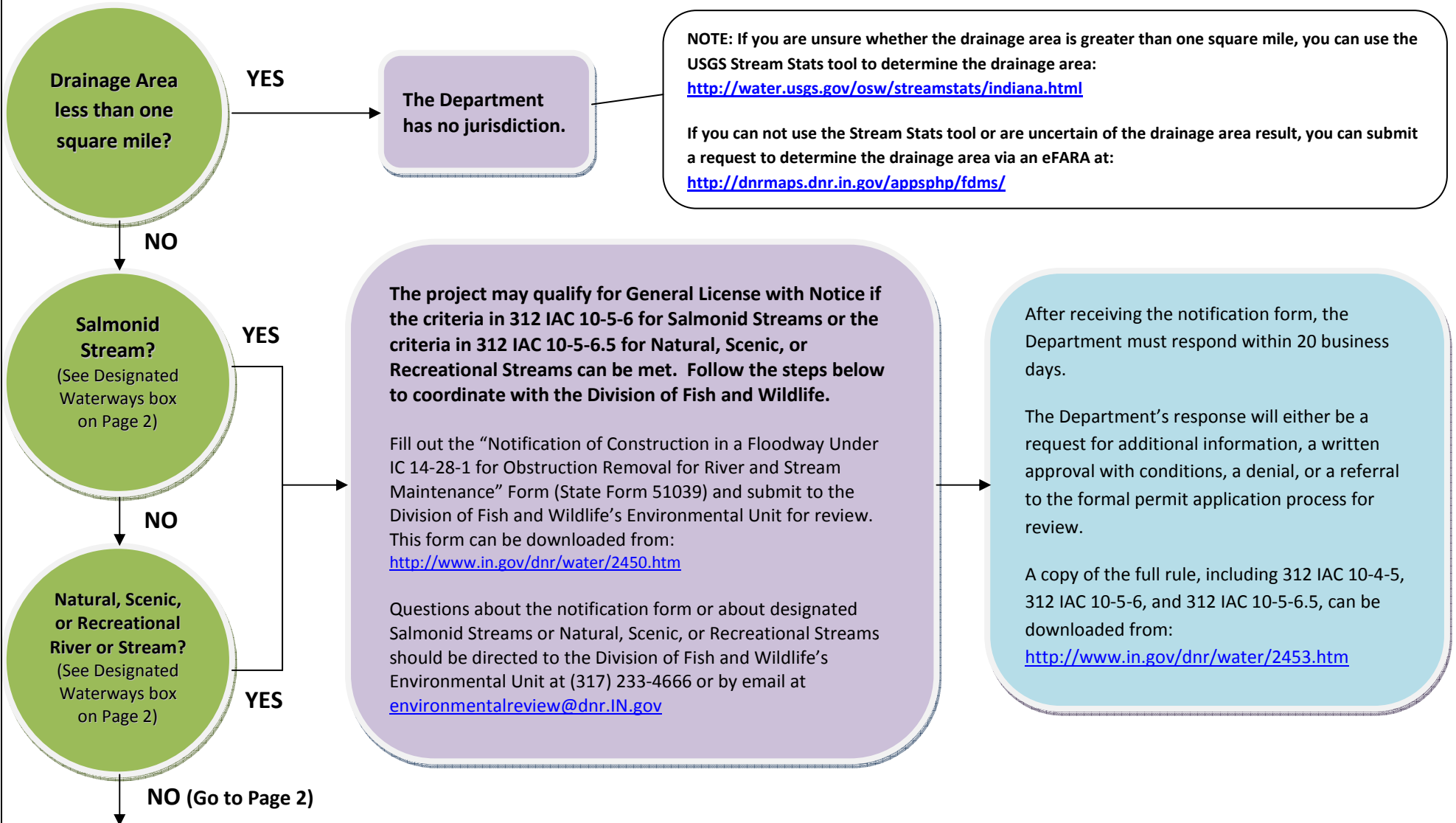




# Regulatory Guide for Removal of a Logjam or a Mass of Wood Debris from a Floodway



This document should be used as a reference to determine whether or not a logjam or mass of wood debris (see definitions on Page 2) can be removed without prior written notification and approval from the Department, with written notification to the Department, or if a formal permit application needs to be submitted for review. **This document is not in reference to removal of a sandbar from beneath a bridge.** Generally, the Department does not have funds available to assist in the removal of a logjam or mass of wood debris. Permission from the landowner is needed if working on property other than your own. If you have any questions about this document, please contact the Division of Water's Technical Services Section at (877) 928-3755, Option 1.



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**For projects along streams with an upstream drainage area of one square mile or greater and not along one of the designated waterways listed below, if the project meets the conditions in IC 14-28-1-22 (b) (6) (C) through (I), no correspondence with the Department is required:**

IC 14-28-1-22 (b) (6)

- (C) Except as otherwise provided in Indiana law, free logs or affixed logs that are crossways in the channel must be cut, relocated, and removed from the floodplain. Logs may be maintained in the floodplain if properly anchored or otherwise secured so as to resist flotation or dislodging by the flow of water and placement in an area that is not a wetland. Logs must be removed and secured with a minimum of damage to vegetation.
- (D) Isolated or single logs that are embedded, lodged, or rooted in the channel, and that do not span the channel or cause flow problems, must not be removed unless the logs are either of the following:
- (i) Associated with or in close proximity to larger obstructions.
  - (ii) Posing a hazard to navigation.
- (E) A leaning or severely damaged tree that is in immediate danger of falling into the waterway may be cut and removed if the tree is associated with or in close proximity to an obstruction. The root system and stump of the tree must be left in place.
- (F) To the extent practicable, the construction of access roads must be minimized, and should not result in the elevation of the floodplain.
- (G) To the extent practicable, work should be performed exclusively from one (1) side of a waterway. Crossing the bed of a waterway is prohibited.
- (H) To prevent the flow of sediment laden water back into the waterway, appropriate sediment control measures must be installed.
- (I) Within fifteen (15) days, all bare and disturbed areas must be revegetated with a mixture of grasses and legumes. Tall fescue must not be used under this subdivision, except that low endophyte tall fescue may be used in the bottom of the waterway and on side slopes.

**If the project cannot meet the criteria above, a formal permit application review is required. A permit application form and additional information about the permit application process can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/water/2455.htm>**

### Designated Waterways:

- 1. SALMONID STREAMS are as follows and in:** <http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/T03270/A00020.PDF>  
327 IAC 2-1.5-5 (3) Where natural temperatures will permit, surface waters shall be capable of supporting put-and-take trout fishing. All waters capable of supporting the natural reproduction of trout shall be so maintained. The following waters are designated as salmonid waters and shall be capable of supporting a salmonid fishery:
- (A) Trail Creek and its tributaries downstream to Lake Michigan.
  - (B) East Branch of the Little Calumet River and its tributaries downstream to Lake Michigan via Burns Ditch.
  - (C) Salt Creek above its confluence with the Little Calumet River.
  - (D) Kintzele Ditch (Black Ditch) from Beverly Drive downstream to Lake Michigan.
  - (E) The Galena River and its tributaries in LaPorte County.
  - (F) The St. Joseph River and its tributaries in St. Joseph County from the Twin Branch Dam in Mishawaka downstream to the Indiana/Michigan state line.
  - (G) The Indiana portion of the open waters of Lake Michigan.
  - (H) Those waters designated by the Indiana department of natural resources for put-and-take trout fishing. (Refer to <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3622.htm> for listing of put-and-take trout fishing locations.)
- 2. NATURAL, SCENIC, or RECREATIONAL RIVER or STREAM listing:**
- a) Blue River – Harrison, Crawford and Washington Counties
  - b) Cedar Creek – Allen and DeKalb Counties
  - c) Wildcat Creek – Tippecanoe and Carroll Counties
- Further details can be found in 312 IAC 7-2, at: [www.in.gov/legislative/iac/T03120/A00070.PDF](http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/T03120/A00070.PDF)

### Definitions

**312 IAC 10-2-26 "Logjam" defined:**

"Logjam" means an accumulation of lodged trees, root wads, or other debris that impedes the ordinary flow of water through a waterway. The term does not include the development of sandbars, sedimentation, or accumulations of stone or gravel.

Logjams are evidenced by a blockage that does any of the following:

- (1) Traverses the waterway.
- (2) Causes upstream ponding.
- (3) Results in significant bank erosion.

**312 IAC 10-2-29.5 "Mass of wood debris" defined:**

"Mass of wood debris" means an accumulation of lodged trees or other wood debris that is any of the following:

- (1) Causing or threatening to cause flooding on a road or private property.
- (2) Impeding navigation by a boat.
- (3) Reducing the capacity of a waterway to transport water.