

# **GUIDELINES for DEBRIS REMOVAL from** **CREEKS**

**March 2002**

A Construction in a Floodway Permit or a Logjam Exemption is **NOT** required if these simple guidelines are followed. These guidelines do **NOT** authorize trespassing.

- ◆ **Use only hand-held tools** such as chainsaws, axes, hand-saws, etc. in the stream channel.
- ◆ If motorized, vehicular equipment such as small tractor, backhoe, bulldozer, log skidder, four-wheel drive truck, etc. is proposed for use in the stream channel, anywhere below the top of the banks, then the project does **not** qualify under these guidelines and a ***Notification of Construction in a Floodway Under IC 14-28-1 for Obstruction Removal for River and Stream Maintenance*** form must be completed and submitted to :

Division of Water, Environmental Unit  
Department of Natural Resources  
402 W. Washington Street, Room W264  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2641  
Telephone: (317) 232-4160 or toll free 1-877-928-3755

- ◆ **DO NOT** grub (pull out) trees or tree stumps from the bank. Leaving the stumps holds the bank from eroding.
- ◆ **NO EARTH-MOVING** should occur. Do not remove sand bars or other soil, sediment, sand, or gravel from the creek. These provide habitat for fish and other aquatic species.
- ◆ All trees, brush, and debris that are causing severe obstruction to flow and are proposed for removal, shall be removed from the channel so as not to float downstream during a flood and create another blockage.
- ◆ Fallen trees and debris may be dragged from the stream using cables, winches, and vehicles, provided the vehicles are not used below the top of the banks.
- ◆ Some brush and fallen trees in a creek provide food, shelter, and other benefits to fish and wildlife. Leave as much as possible in a **NATURAL CONDITION**, untouched by humans.