

## **Technical Rule Addendum No. 2**

2. Watershed effects produced by timber harvest and other activities may include one or more of the following:

- Sediment
- Water temperature
- Organic debris
- Chemical contamination
- Peak flow
- **Low flow**

### **f. Low Flow Effects**

Forest harvesting has generally been shown to initially increase summer and early fall stream flows and annual water yields due to reduced evapotranspiration and interception loss. Longer term decreases in summer low flows may occur due to high rates of water use by rapidly growing conifer and/or hardwood stands. Low flow CWEs can be caused by multiple forest harvest operations in a watershed, but usually the impacts can be considered positive since higher summer discharge levels promote an increase in available aquatic habitat in watercourse channels. A larger concern for CWEs exists during summer low flow conditions, particularly during an extended drought, when the influence of multiple water drafting sites on streamflow can adversely impact aquatic species, predominantly in relatively small headwater basins. Depending on the timing of drafting and the number of drafting sites in a drainage network, the changes in streamflow they cause may significantly impact the aquatic resources in the watershed.