## **Existing Condition**



- The Existing Condition formed rapidly as a result of widespread upland soil erosion and storage in valley bottoms of the Mid-Atlantic Region
- The depth of legacy sediment stored in valley bottoms predominantly was established by the height of ubiquitous dams
- Streambank erosion of legacy sediment represents a significant sediment and nutrient source in some watersheds where channels are incised
- High quality, naturally formed, and indigenous aquatic resources are buried under legacy sediment and impaired in our modern environment

## **Natural Condition**



- The Natural Condition formed under long-term geologic and climatic processes and represents truly indigenous aquatic resources in the Mid-Atlantic Region
- The indigenous aquatic resources are natural and stable ecosystems that function as nutrient and sediment sinks
- The Natural Condition represents the best future condition and restoration goal, and is considered to be a reference condition

## Floodplain and Riparian Wetland Restoration BMP Conceptual Design

Existing Condition Proposed Restoration



## **Floodplain and Riparian Wetland Restoration BMP**

- The BMP is an ecological restoration and management strategy in accordance with USEPA's Principles for the Ecological Restoration of Aquatic Resources (2000).
- Restoration and management actions are proposed to re-establish natural stream, wetland, floodplain and riparian condition and function.
- Implementing the practice will target legacy sediment.
- Monitoring at future implementation sites is necessary to quantify and document the BMP benefits.
- Understanding and recognizing the role that legacy sediment plays in modern environmental conditions and impairments will improve aquatic resource restoration strategies in the Mid-Atlantic Region.