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Act 138 defined the *River Corridor Protection Area (RCPA)* to be synonymous with the “Fluvial Erosion Hazard Area,” a term previously used by the Agency in its floodway determinations. The RCPA defines the minimal space required to accommodate the meander geometry (i.e., belt width) and stable slope of a river in dynamic equilibrium.

The *River Corridor* (a concept established by Act 110) includes the River Corridor Protection Area plus additional space for the provision of a riparian vegetated buffer. In its development of the river corridor, the Rivers Program has added 50 feet to each side of the River Corridor Protection Area to provide for a vegetated buffer at the equilibrium stage.

Acts 110 and 138 both direct the agency to create River Corridor maps. The Rivers Program is developing a statewide river corridor base map and related procedures. The Agency is directed by statute to provide river corridor maps to all municipalities, to include designated flood hazard areas, river corridor protection areas, and riparian buffers. A *Flood Resilient Communities Program* is to be established that creates incentives for towns to adopt bylaws to protect river corridor and floodplains.

Given the importance of riparian vegetation in maintaining streams in their least erosive, equilibrium condition (i.e., fundamental in minimizing fluvial erosion hazards, sediment and nutrient loading, and degradation of aquatic habitat), the River Corridor should serve as the basis for the agencies regulatory actions under the new state floodplain rule .

The ANR supports statutory changes (H. 676) that would give the state the authority to regulate municipally-exempt activities (i.e., State-owned and -operated institutions and facilities) in *River Corridors* as part of the State Floodplain Rules.