

Operational Impacts - Direct changes in river hydrology, hydraulics, sediment and nutrient availability and/or transport that cascade throughout the ecosystem to alter physical and ecological processes, vegetation communities, which directly affect fish and wildlife communities. Operational impacts can also occur within reservoirs as a result of fluctuating water levels which cause shoreline erosion. Operational impacts are expressed over time and will continue for the life of the hydropower system operation.

Secondary Wildlife Losses - The indirect changes in ecosystem functions directly attributable to the on-going operation of the hydropower system, such as food web alterations, contaminant concentrations in reservoir sediments, and other systemic changes stemming from the construction, inundation, and/or operation of the hydropower system. Secondary losses also include the changes in human land uses within the historic floodplain enabled by dam operations. All of these changes cause direct reductions in wildlife communities and/or their habitats.