

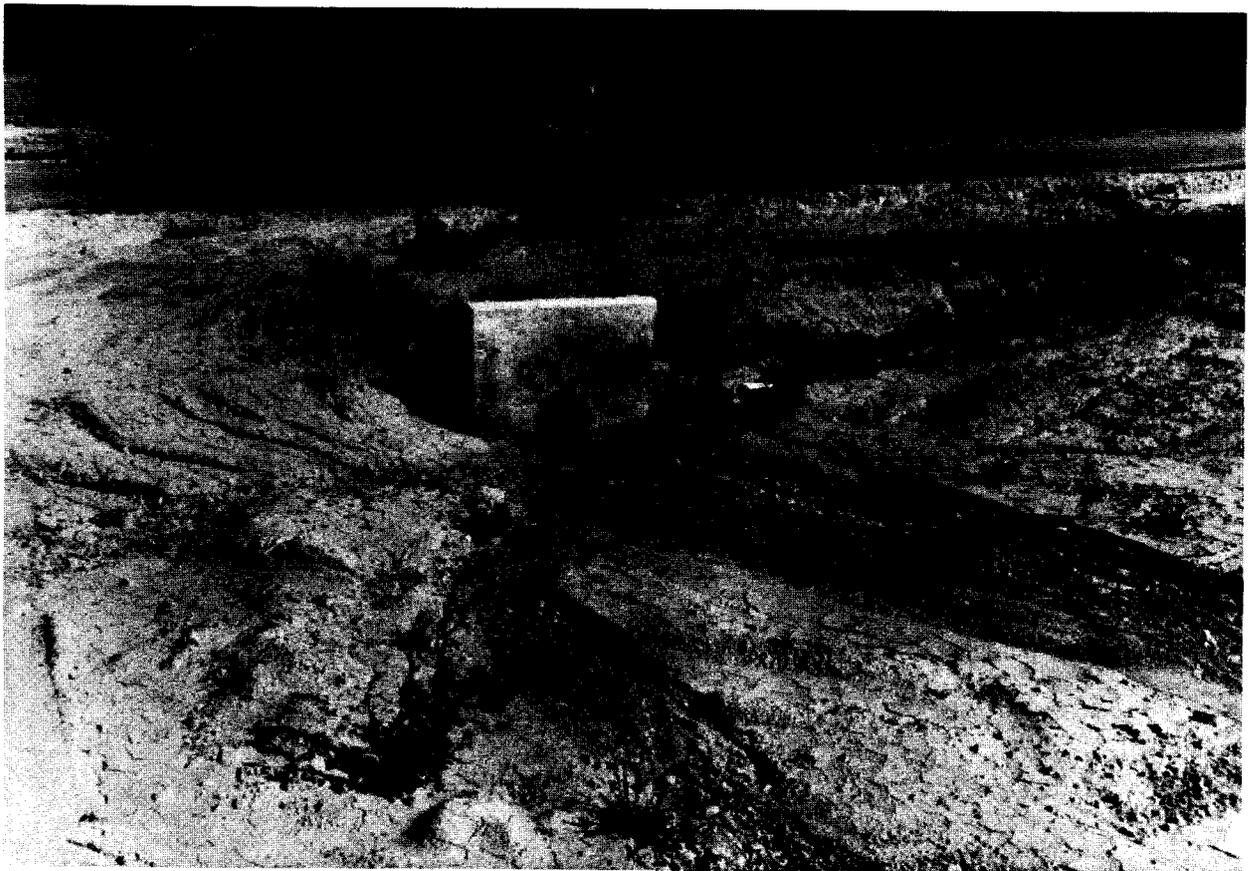
Sediment

The second part of the problem is damage to land and water below the eroded area. Misplaced soil, known as sediment, covers other areas and clogs streams and lakes. The removal of sediment is costly and never ending if the erosion above is not reduced and controlled.

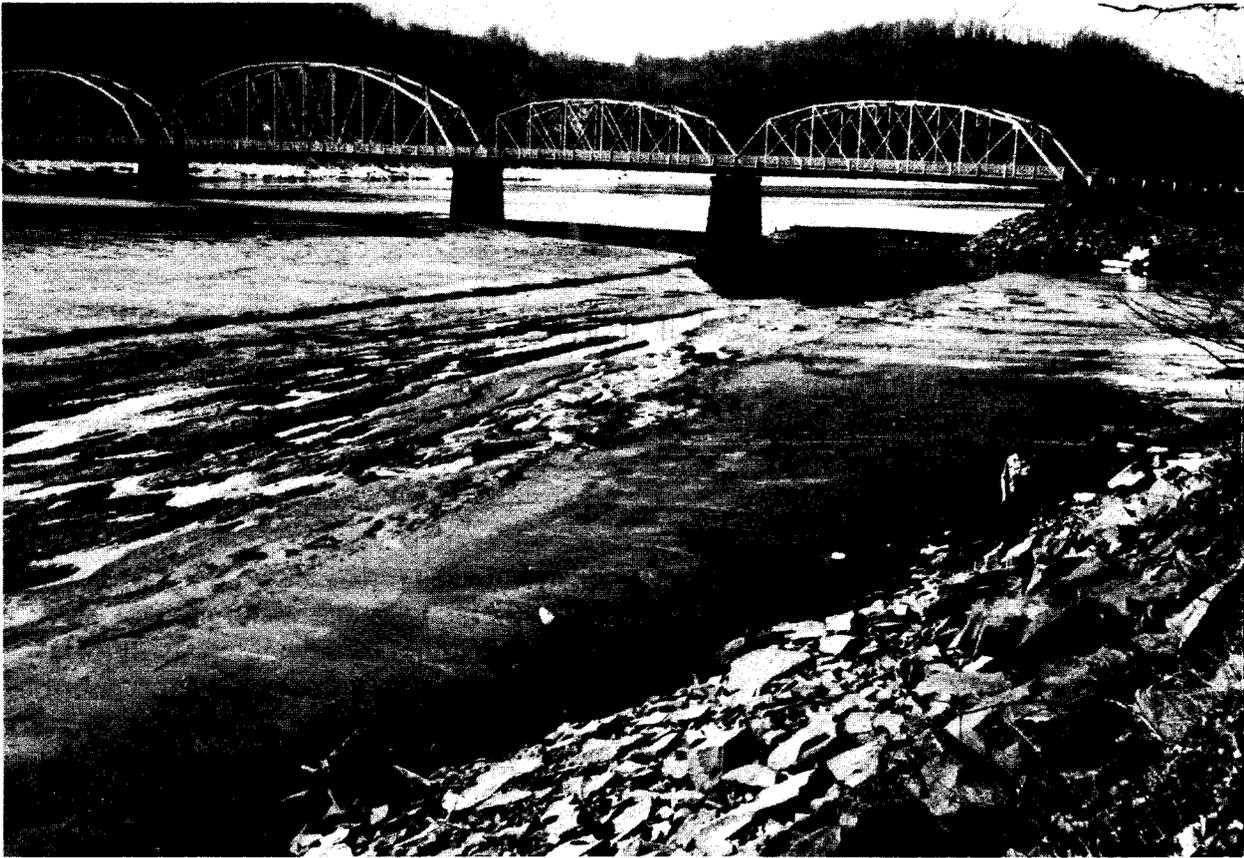
Sediment damages lawns, roads, recreation areas, and buildings. It reduces the capacity of ditches, drains, and culverts. It

pollutes streams and rivers, causing increased flooding, higher costs for purifying drinking water, and the death of fish and other aquatic life. It can carry pesticides and affect the aesthetic appearance of the environment.

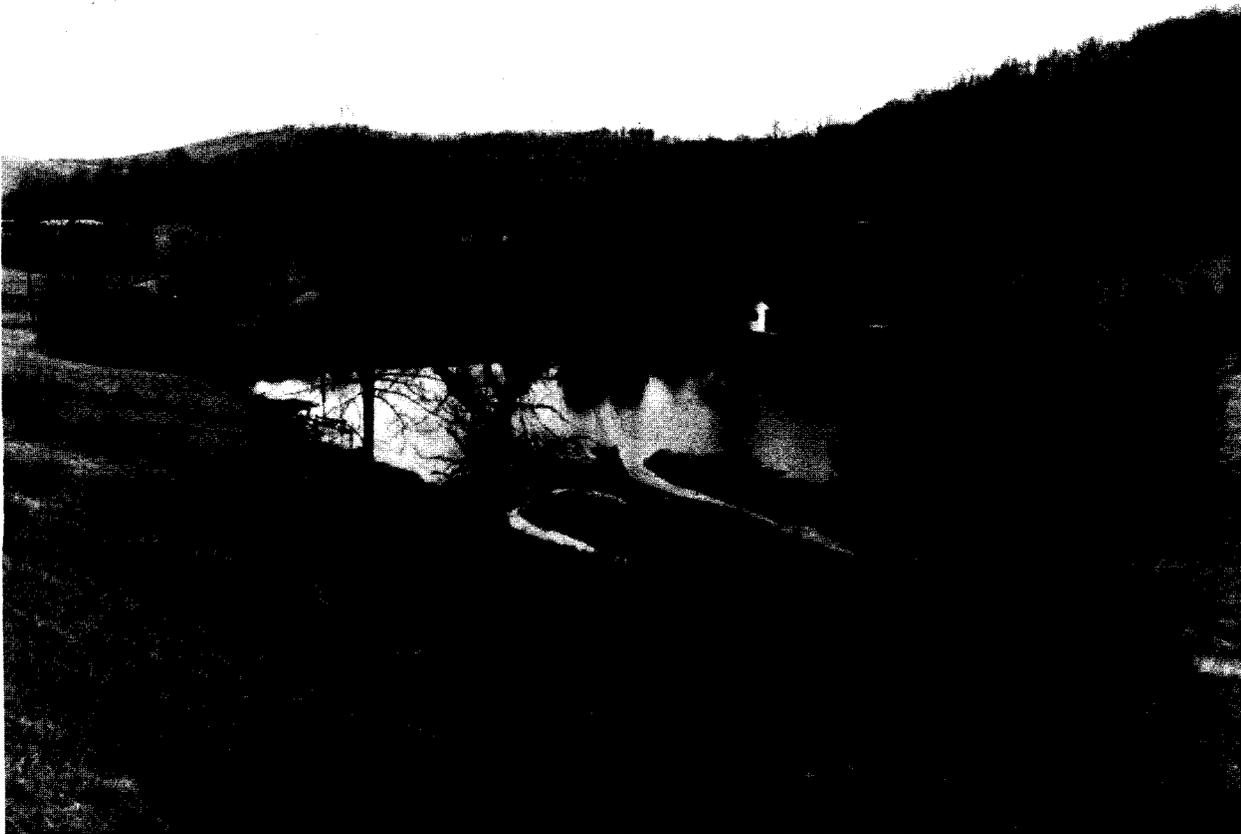
Sediment fills ponds, lakes, and reservoirs and depletes valuable water storage capacity that could otherwise be used for recreation, water supply, and flood control.



The capacity of this inlet has been reduced by sediment.



This lake (above) and pond (below) are in the process of being destroyed by sediment.





The left channel under this railroad bridge was totally closed by sediment in less than 10 years.

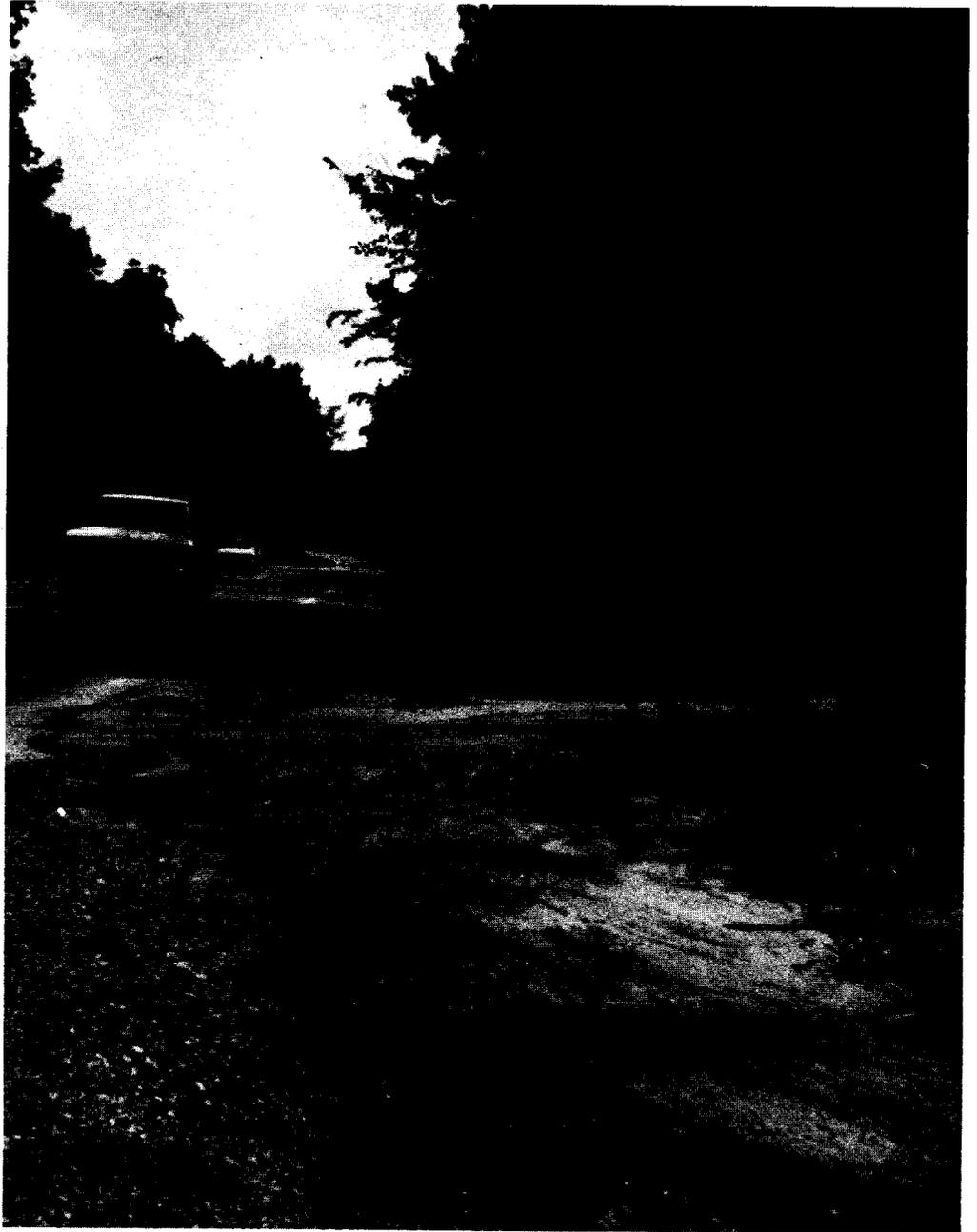




Accumulation of sediment restricts navigable waterways and fills locks, bays, and harbors. These areas have to be dredged periodically in order to maintain their use.



*This is a road ditch
being filled from a
nearby construction
site.*



In terms of volume, sediment is the major water pollutant in West Virginia. Attached to sediment can be harmful bacteria, nematodes and other disease-causing agents.

The two-headed problem of erosion and sediment can be beaten with a two-headed answer — (Proper Planning and Installing Effective Measures).



Intensive development, leading to disturbance of soil, may include housing, motels, highways, and factories. Solutions to erosion and sedimentation are needed both during and after construction.