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## Terminology for Fluvial Sediment<sup>1</sup>

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### 1. Scope

1.1 These terms are to be used by persons involved in collecting, reporting, and interpreting information pertaining to sedimentation and hydrologic processes as they apply in the development, use, control, and conservation of water and land resources.

### 2. Terminology

#### 2.1 Definitions:

**accelerated erosion**—erosion at a rate greater than geologic or natural erosion.

DISCUSSION—Accelerated erosion is usually associated with anthropogenic activities and usually reduces plant cover and increases runoff.

**accretion**—a process of sediment accumulation.

**aggradation**—the geologic process by which stream beds, flood plains, and the bottoms of other water bodies are raised in elevation by the deposition of material eroded and transported by water from other areas.

**alluvial deposit**—sediment deposited by the action of moving water.

**alluviation**—the process of accumulating sediment deposits at places where the flow is retarded.

**alluvium**—a general term for all fluvial deposits resulting directly or indirectly from the sediment transport of (modern) streams, thus including the sediments laid down in riverbeds, flood plains, lakes, fans, and estuaries.

**armoring**—the formation of a resistant layer of relatively large particles by erosion of the finer particles.

**avulsion**—a sudden, natural change of a stream channel, so that the water flows elsewhere than in its previous course.

**bag sampler**—a sampler that utilizes a collapsible bag as the sample collection container.

**base flow**—stream flow that is sustained by ground water and other delayed sources.

**bed-load**—material moving on or near the stream bed by rolling, sliding, and skipping.

**bed-load discharge**—the quantity of bed-load passing a cross section of a stream in a unit of time.

**bed-load sampler**—a device for sampling the bed-load.

**bed material**—the sediment mixture of which the stream bed is composed.

**bed-material discharge**—that part of the total sediment discharge composed of grain sizes occurring in appreciable quantities in the bed material.

**bed-material load**—that part of the total load which is composed of particle sizes present in appreciable quantities in the shifting portions of the stream bed.

**boulder size (fluvial sediment)**—larger than 256 mm in diameter.

**braided river**—a wide- and shallow-river where the flow passes through a number of small interlaced channels separated by bars or shoals.

**channel**—a natural or artificial waterway that periodically or continuously contains moving water.

**clay size (fluvial sediment)**—0.00024 to 0.004 mm in diameter.

**cobble size (fluvial sediment)**—64 to 256 mm in diameter.

**cohesive sediments**—that material whose resistance to initial movement or erosion depends upon the strength of the bond between particles.

**colloids (fluvial sediment)**—smaller than 0.00024 mm in diameter.

**colluvial deposits**—that material accumulated along valley margins by mass movements from the adjacent hillsides.

**composite sample**—a sample formed by combining two or more individual samples or representative portions of the samples.

<sup>1</sup> This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D19 on Water and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D19.07 on Sediments, Geomorphology, and Open-Channel Flow.

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