

# Introduction



*This is the same riparian area, separated by a fence and a world of different management.*

The overgrazed side represents a failure to treat riparian areas with care and thought. There are many reasons for this failure:

- ◆ past grazing management concentrated on upland areas, to determine levels of sustainable use and fix problems;
- ◆ it is easy to overlook riparian areas because of their relatively small size;
- ◆ riparian areas can seem to be hard to manage due to their small size and irregular configuration;
- ◆ even in drought and in an overgrazed situation they still appear green and lush, disguising problems; and
- ◆ without insight into their productive nature and how livestock are attracted to them, riparian areas can lose their value.



*Riparian areas are too important, too productive and too valuable to go unrecognized and unmanaged.*

