

# *Big Wood - The Floodplain Builder*

The roots of trees and shrubs stabilize streambanks and shorelines. Logs that fall into the stream channel assist in the development of broader floodplains which provide forage for livestock, habitat for wildlife and recreation sites. Flooding behind logs and other woody debris helps recharge the floodplain with water and nutrients.



*When the deep, binding roots of shrubs and trees are absent, shallow-rooted grasses cannot withstand erosion forces...*

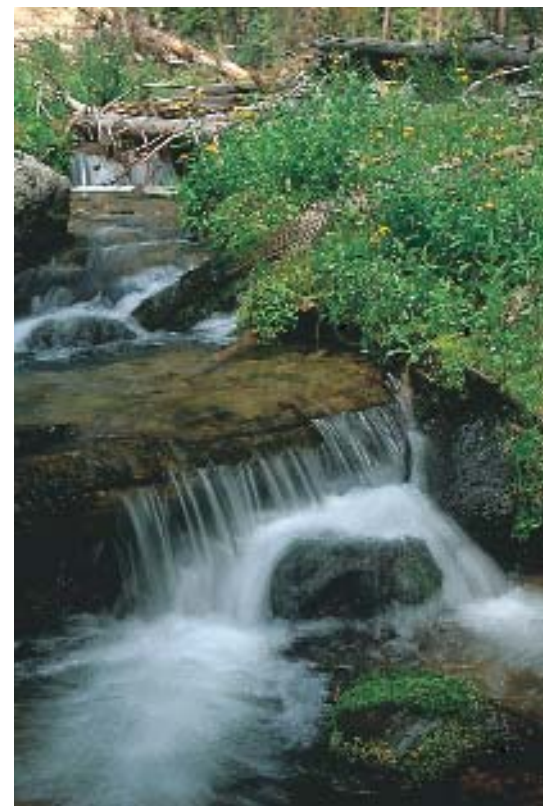


*"Big wood" dissipates stream horsepower and wave action, aids in channel development and forms important aquatic habitat.*



*but add a deep-rooted shrub like willow and the streambank starts to recover. Woody vegetation adds reinforcement to stream banks.*

*Wood is good!*



*As trees are incorporated into stream channels they modify slope and reduce stream horsepower.*