

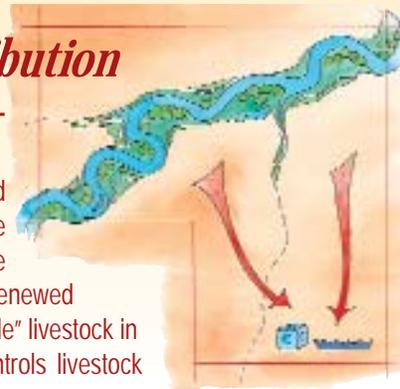
# On The Range, Out in the Pasture

## Successful Riparian Management

### *The First Step - Improving Livestock Distribution*

A first step in any riparian grazing strategy is to improve livestock distribution - to better balance out the grazing load over the landscape.

There is no textbook approach to this. Good distribution requires imagination, trial and sometimes error. The most common option is to place attractants in the uplands away from the riparian areas. Things like salt, minerals, watering sites, oilers, rubbing posts and alternate choices for shade and shelter will help draw animals away from riparian areas. There is renewed interest in animal placement where the stockman employs special herding techniques to "settle" livestock in more lightly-used upland areas. Electric fencing is a low cost and effective tool that controls livestock movement and timing of use especially during high risk periods such as early spring.



#### Where is it Effective?

Animal attractants and herding are most effective where there is little variation in topography, elevation and vegetation types. Distribution tools will be less effective with grazing periods of one month or longer and with season-long, continuous use.

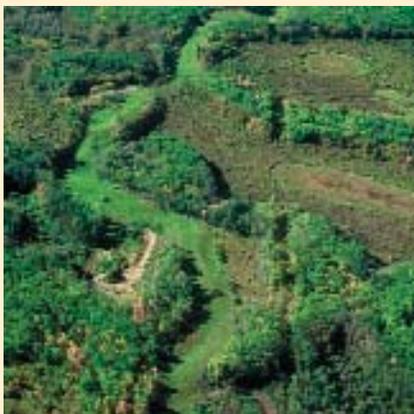
These tools are an incremental step towards tackling riparian management concerns. They are often best combined with other management actions.

#### Practices to Avoid!

*Salt blocks (plus minerals, oilers and rubbing posts) placed by the water encourage livestock to camp there and don't provide an incentive for better distribution. Moving salt away from water supplies is one of the easiest and cheapest changes available to start managing riparian areas better.*



#### Practices that Work!



*Roads and trails may funnel livestock to sensitive riparian areas. Drove trails that avoid riparian areas and link upland pastures are useful distribution tools. The Tulliby Lake Stockmen's Association uses a combination of drove trails, dugouts and salting to improve livestock distribution and riparian management on 17,000 acres of forest and riparian rangelands north of Marwayne.*



*Off-stream watering sites, permanent or portable, in the uplands, can draw livestock pressure away from riparian areas and achieve better use of upland pastures.*



*Providing feed and shelter away from riparian areas avoids heavy use and damage to woody vegetation, plus it reduces manure buildup and possible water contamination.*



*A forested buffer between upland pastures and shorelines, coupled with off-site water, can reduce pressure on wetlands and lakes.*