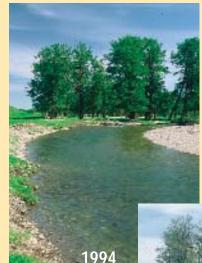
Bar U Ranch

The Bar U Ranch was established in 1882 on Pekisko Creek, south of Longview. The original headquarters, about 320 acres, is now a National

Historic site managed by Parks Canada. The riparian bottomlands of Pekisko Creek have had very heavy use by livestock, through all seasons, for approximately 112 years. In 1994 it appeared all that was left on the site were cottonwoods between 80 and 100 years old with no other age classes or species of woody vegetation. Flooding in 1995 showed the weakness in the system without new woody vegetation to slow streambank erosion. Adequate rest for many riparian systems can be provided with seasonal rest periods and

the pasture can still provide some forage. The Bar U contains a cottonwood forest that requires multiple years of total rest to allow tree and shrub seedlings time to establish and produce enough growth to make them resistant to grazing. The riparian area was fenced in 1997 to provide complete rest from grazing. The uplands continue to be grazed and provisions were made for livestock water from Pekisko Creek. New age classes of poplars appeared, as did other woody species. This showed that the natural capital of plant species was present as seed stock. The system just needed more rest to take the pressure off the "spring" that was held down by grazing. Careful grazing may be possible in the future as recovery levels are achieved.







Rest-rotation, using temporary electric fencing has allowed this fragile area to revegetate.

Butters Ranch

The Butters family ranch west of Cochrane, in the Ghost River watershed. Many years of livestock grazing coupled with beaver activity resulted in most of the woody vegetation, especially willows, to disappear from Robinson Creek. Robinson Creek has streambanks vulnerable to erosion, particularly without the roots of woody plants to hold them together. To allow woody plants to regenerate, Erik Butters has used temporary electric fencing to exclude cattle from the riparian area, while grazing the upland portion of the pasture. He has successfully used this, both for summer and winter grazing, to provide both growing season rest and to eliminate any browsing, trampling or rubbing

during the dormant season. Single strand wire, supported with temporary posts and powered with a 12V battery has been effective for discouraging cattle from accessing the riparian area. The system is very portable, relatively inexpensive and is used elsewhere to provide better control and distribution of livestock in upland pastures. Erik has used portable electric fencing as a way to provide rest and allow woody plants to recover since 1998. Willow regeneration is occurring, but is not yet at the stage that grazing could resume.

