

Looking At My Riparian Area

Do I Have a Problem?

Often, a riparian area will change so slowly and over such a prolonged period of time, that we may not notice what has happened to it. Here are some obvious signs to watch for that may indicate management problems in your riparian areas:



- declining forage production
- change in plant species to drier, upland forms



- willows have mushroom appearance
- trees and shrubs hedged, severely browsed
- all trees and tall shrubs are old
- no young woody plants
- no trees or shrubs



- reduction in bank or shoreline vegetation
- many bare soil spots
- increased sediment on stream bottom



- undesirable or noxious weed invasion
- poor plant vigour, little or no litter carryover, few desirable forage plants



- streambank shear damage by hoof action
- active bank erosion from exposed soils
- bank caving



- water quality problems, algae blooms
- changes in water quantity, lower water tables, intermittent flow

If you have a significant number of these signs in your riparian areas you might think about some management changes.

