



How much have we changed things?

Riparian health can often be linked directly to current management or the effects of previous management. The degree to which banks and shorelines have been structurally altered or their vegetation has been changed or modified is an important measure. Because water is the driver of riparian systems, determining the degree of flow or level manipulation is important.



Shoreline or fence line contrasts help us understand that changes have happened to riparian areas. Both are measures of how much we have changed the vegetation or structurally altered the bank or shore.



What ruler do we use for measurement?

Most of the characteristics rated in health evaluation are based on measurements using your eyes and your judgment. The eye is a remarkable measuring device. It may seem imprecise, but with training and practice, the methods are repeatable and reasonably accurate. Extreme precision is not the goal for health evaluation since it is not an attempt to determine an absolute value, but rather, a broad impression of riparian condition.

