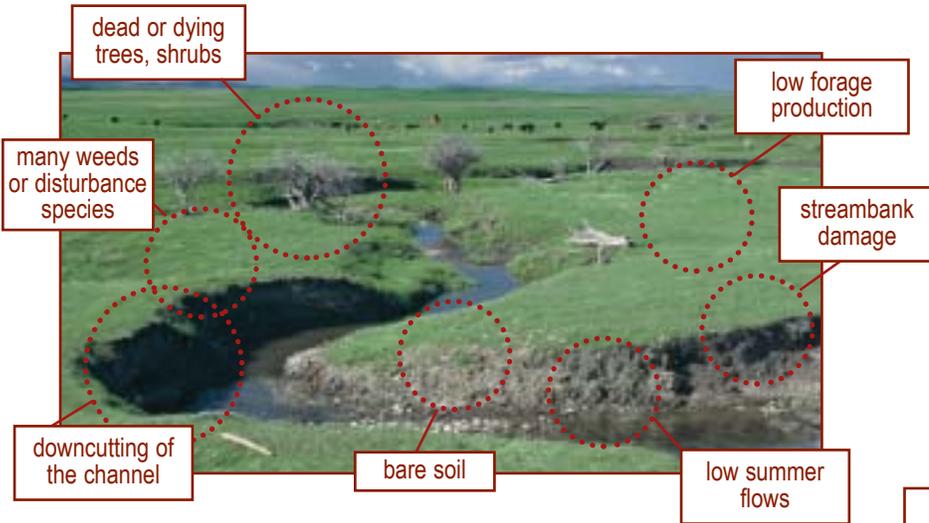




# How do I check the health of my riparian area?

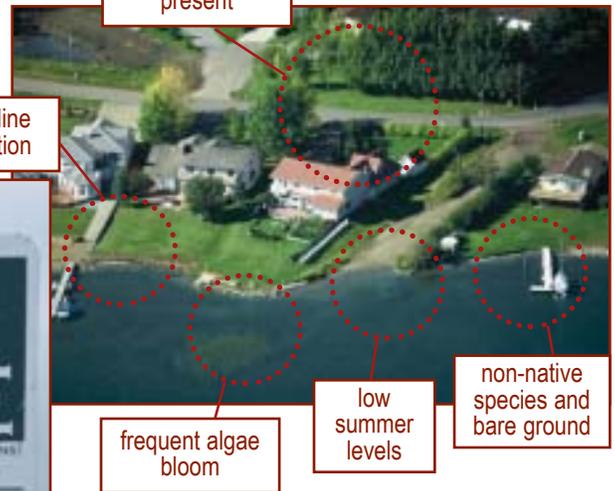
You may have already observed several things on a riparian area with which you are familiar. Some of these observations may concern you. These could be signs that riparian health is declining



Getting an aerial perspective is a good start to checking riparian health. It provides insights on how much change has occurred. The Alberta Conservation Association has developed a videography tool to help lakeshore owners gain an aerial perspective of riparian areas.



*Fish are a good measure of riparian health because they rely on riparian areas for habitat, water quality and maintaining streamflows and lake levels. If fish populations are in decline, riparian health might be one of the issues to resolve.*



## Riparian Health Checklist

To find out if your concerns are valid, first determine what type of riparian area you have. Are you on a river, a stream, a wetland or a lake? You could start with a simple checklist. If you are concerned about a lake or wetland, use our Lakeshore Riparian Health Checklist (Looking at My Lakeshore Fact Sheet); if it is a stream or river, use our Streambank Riparian Health Checklist (Looking at My Streambank Fact Sheet). Checklists help you understand if some of the symptoms are present that indicate declines in riparian health. Checklists don't measure health, but give you a clue as to issues and concerns. A checklist will help you determine if there are enough concerns to go to the next level of health evaluation.