

Banks and Shores

Riparian Foundations

Banks and shores resistant to stream horsepower and wave action form the foundation of a stable riparian area.

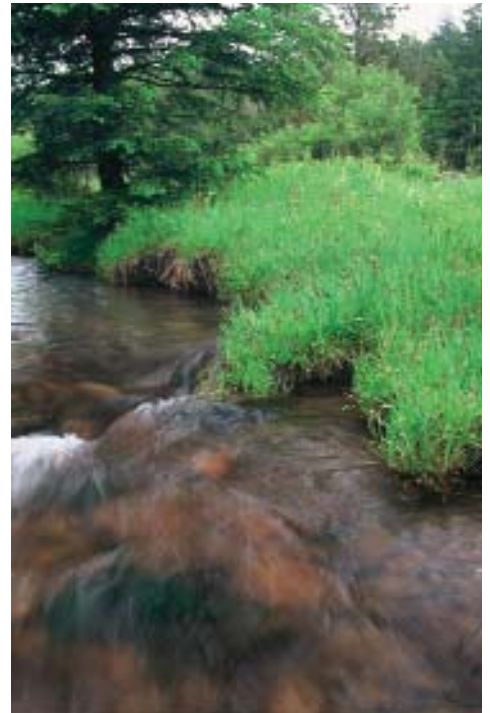
- ◆ Deeper, narrower streams flow through valleys where soils are finer in texture.
- ◆ Finer soils are more cohesive; they bind better than those composed of coarse gravel and rocks.
- ◆ Soil types and shoreline stability are linked to vegetation cover - its health, diversity and abundance. Continuous livestock use of banks and shores leads to a crumbling of the foundation.
- ◆ Shoreline trampling and streambank collapse occur with high livestock use of riparian areas.
- ◆ High livestock use can also alter, reduce or eliminate bank vegetation.

Stream channels and shorelines reflect the history and use of riparian areas.

- ◆ A wide, flat channel with low banks may not be what a stream wants to be; these features may represent our influence on the stream.

Changes in channel shape, to wider, shallower forms, can take years, decades and even generations to stabilize and evolve back to narrow, deep channels again.

- ◆ Healing takes revegetation, sediment deposition and bank rebuilding.



A good foundation is built with careful vegetation management.



Hoof power can't be underestimated. Cattle exert about 10 times the weight or pressure per unit area as a D9 cat with a blade. The foundation can't withstand this pressure for prolonged periods.

Banks and shores: build a good foundation for riparian areas and for your place.