

Introduction



This is the same riparian area, separated by a fence and a world of different management.

The overgrazed side represents a failure to treat riparian areas with care and thought. There are many reasons for this failure:

- ◆ past grazing management concentrated on upland areas, to determine levels of sustainable use and fix problems;
- ◆ it is easy to overlook riparian areas because of their relatively small size;
- ◆ riparian areas can seem to be hard to manage due to their small size and irregular configuration;
- ◆ even in drought and in an overgrazed situation they still appear green and lush, disguising problems; and
- ◆ without insight into their productive nature and how livestock are attracted to them, riparian areas can lose their value.



Riparian areas are too important, too productive and too valuable to go unrecognized and unmanaged.

