

## Managing Grazing in Riparian Areas

This Factsheet answers the following question “How do I manage livestock in riparian areas?”

### Livestock and Riparian Areas



When considering livestock management in riparian areas you need to consider a few things. Riparian areas naturally attract livestock and wildlife. They provide everything any animal could ask for. This includes water, forage and shelter. Regardless of where you are in British Columbia, water is the primary factor that determines the grazing patterns of your livestock. Forage is another important factor that determines how your livestock graze. The importance of this factor varies depending on the grazing season. In the hot, dry summer months and in the fall the forage found in your riparian area may be only green forage available on your range or dry land pasture. During these periods and continuing into the winter livestock browsing on shrubs and small trees may also occur if your riparian area has a woody plant component. In most cases light to moderate browsing is appropriate. If heavy browsing occurs, particularly if it is repeated, you may be negatively impacting your riparian area.

### How do I know if I have a problem?



If your riparian area looks like the picture on the left, you may be negatively impacting both your livestock and forage production systems as well as the wildlife and water quality values of your land.

### Yes I Have a Problem, Now What?

After determining you have a problem, what tools are available to solve it? There are various tools available that vary from passive to intensive management. Before employing a tool, it is important to consider that not all tools will be effective in all cases. Each riparian area is distinctive and thus requires unique solutions. Solutions may consist of one tool or a combination of many. It may also require a significant amount of time to repair your riparian area. Be patient, results will happen with consistent good management.

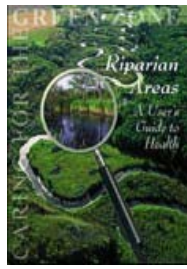
### Tools

As a part of Riparian Factsheet series, a group of factsheets describing various tools have been developed. The titles of these factsheets are:

1. Livestock Distribution in Riparian Areas
2. Timing, Duration and Frequency of Grazing
3. Seasonal Considerations for Grazing Management
4. Riparian Pasture Design
5. Monitoring

## Further Information

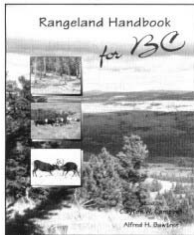
To learn more about this topic please refer to the following documents:



1. Caring for the Greenzone. Available online: <http://www.cowsandfish.org/greenzone.html>
2. Riparian Areas: A User's Guide to Health. Available online: <http://www.cowsandfish.org/usersguide.html>.



3. Management Techniques in Riparian Areas. Available online: <http://www-a.blm.gov/riparian/tech.htm>
4. Grazing Management for Riparian-Wetland: Available online: <http://www-a.blm.gov/riparian/tech.htm>.



5. Rangeland Handbook for BC. Available online: <http://www.cattlemen.bc.ca/handbook.htm>

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