

## POCKETBOOK Economics

The preceding case studies and similar projects throughout the West demonstrate that protecting and restoring riparian areas need not be a zero-sum game where gains to fish, wildlife and

associated uplands. In some cases reductions in grazing may be unavoidable to restore severely damaged riparian areas or protect extremely vulnerable ones. But even in most of these latter instances, the eventual payoff is likely to include

Given understanding of the problem and the technology for solving it, livestock operators who can afford to make investments in long-term productivity are likely to do so out of enlightened self-interest like any other business person. Unless they are in

the livestock business for philanthropic purposes, however, cash flow and assurance of future dividends will be important considerations in their investment strategies.

Many livestock operators, no matter how well intended, simply cannot afford to change their present grazing strategies if that change requires lost revenue or additional time or money.

A successful program for achieving the private and public benefits of improved riparian management will be responsive to both situations. It will include innovative approaches to attract long-term private and public investments in enhanced productivity, and to offset or mitigate politically untenable short-term social and economic costs.

### TECHNOLOGY Transfer by Demonstration

Small scale, "postage stamp," demonstration projects have proven value for demonstrating the techniques and benefits of improved riparian management. They have helped overcome the inertia of tradition and other resistance to change in many areas, and should be strategically targeted on new market areas. However, the emphasis must now shift from micro demonstration projects to full-scale application focused on economic units and complete watersheds. This is the intent of Congressionally authorized appropriations under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.



water quality come at the expense of livestock grazing. In many cases there can be a net gain in livestock forage.

In some cases this can occur concurrently with riparian restoration through improved management of riparian areas and

disproportionately large increases in future livestock forage production.

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