

THE national Clean Water Act provides for states to assess nonpoint sources of water pollution from a wide range of land-use activities, and to develop Best Management Practices that will meet state and national water quality objectives.

This document is aimed at the broad and growing audience of people interested in improved management of livestock

grazing on western riparian areas and adjacent uplands. Its purpose is to provide general insight into the problems and opportunities. A follow-up EPA publication will provide livestock owners, land managers, state regulatory personnel and others detailed technical guidance for developing grazing strategies to restore and protect riparian areas.



CONTENTS

FUNCTIONS and values of western riparian areas;

CAUSES and effects of riparian area degradation;

CASE studies representative of the problems and opportunities for improving livestock grazing on riparian areas;

COMMON denominators and practical rules of thumb for developing riparian grazing strategies;

SOCIAL, economic and institutional obstacles to widespread application of proven riparian grazing technology;

OPPORTUNITIES for cooperative efforts to enhance the social, economic and environmental benefits from western riparian areas.