

Riparian Site Selection Criteria and Methodology

Mario Sullivan presented the site selection criteria the Riparian Assessment Team will be using. The overall goal of the team is to identify sites that are a scientifically meaningful representation of the entire river system.

There are three broad categories for the selection process: land in agricultural production, land not in agricultural production, and sites that are used for multiple purposes (public access, fishing, agricultural production). The following are the criteria for selection.

Agricultural production

- Access/permission for the assessment
- Most potential for positive change - highly impacted site

Remaining sites

- Volunteer sites - land may be fallow or currently in a conservation easement or involved in a project to improve the site
- Public access points - USFS, CPW Fishing access, River Edge West project sites
- Existing restoration sites

The criteria for the assessments will incorporate:

- Usage Type
 - Disturbed or non-disturbed
 - Agriculture
 - Public Access
 - Conservation Easement
 - Multiple Use
- Geomorphology
 - Each reach was defined using geomorphology, but within each reach there are some variations
 - Erosion
 - Site stability
 - Deeply incised stream - preferred over a wide floodplain area
 - Wide floodplain with good riparian connectivity
 - Rosgen Stream Classification
- Volunteer Sites
 - Established plans for assessing or improving the riparian area
 - Planned financial allotment for improvements
- Native vs. Non-Native Vegetation
 - Primarily Tamarisk and Russian Olive

Sites will be selected using aerial imagery to look for channel and floodplain width as well as the type of vegetation, word of mouth, and the well identified public access points.