Riparian vegetation of the Cache La Poudre Watershed: functions, values, threats, and conservation

David Merritt
USDA Forest Service Watershed, Fish, and Wildlife Program
Ecosystem services
- Clean water supply
- Irrigation water
- Productive fisheries-Food
- Recreation
- Aesthetics
- Wildlife habitat
- Biodiversity
- ...

...
Biological connectivity
Hydrologic and hydraulic processes: moisture and natural disturbance
**Stressors and Human Influences**

- Water extraction-diversion
- Invasive species
- Altering disturbance regimes
- Pests and disease
- Livestock grazing
- Home building-development
- Agriculture
- Oil and natural gas development
- Mining
- Road building
- Legacy of development
Filling the Gap
Western Resource Advocates, Trout Unlimited, and the Colorado Environmental Coalition

1. Acceptable planned projects

2. Conservation

3. Reuse

4. Agriculture-Urban Cooperation

“Protecting Colorado’s rivers, streams, and lakes is an integral part of any future water development strategy”
Rivers and all creatures that inhabit the water are here for the wise to contemplate and fools to ignore. – D. Orth