

Riparian Inventory & Assessments

Boulder County, Colorado



A comprehensive assessment of over 20 miles of riparian corridors was a critical step toward their preservation.

In order to protect riparian ecosystems, one must first understand how they function and how landscape dynamics impact stream stability, habitat quality, and vegetation communities.

With that in mind, Boulder County Parks and Open Space selected Biohabitats to perform an inventory and assessment of over 20 miles of riparian corridors and develop a strategic, priority-based approach to guide their protection and enhancement.

Biohabitats compiled existing information, including GIS mapping, and developed an assessment methodology based on the Bureau of Land Management Proper Functioning Condition Standard. After dividing the 20 miles of streams into 50

reaches, Biohabitats visited and assessed each reach over a two-week period. At each reach, Biohabitats gathered data to complete a customized assessment form designed specifically for the project. Biohabitats also took photographs and recorded GPS coordinates at each reach.

Based on the results of the assessment, Biohabitats prioritized reaches and produced a report. Armed with this information, Boulder County Parks and Open Space has an important baseline to assist in making informed decisions about near-term restoration, management actions, and future planning opportunities.

SERVICES

Inventory & Assessments
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*conservation planning
ecological restoration
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