

Appendix 1-B

Riparian Five Year Monitoring and Evaluation Report

[Special Note: This Report was developed under the 2008 Planning Rule, which is no longer in effect. Some of the terms used in the Report, such as desired conditions, species of interest or concern, etc, were derived from the Rule. While the Rule, including the language, is longer in effect, the information presented in this Report is still valid.]

Excerpted from:

Riparian Notes

Note Number 22, May, 2007

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...The Main Thing

When it comes to sorting out the priorities in life, my Mom gives some good advice. This advice applies equally well to riparian priorities and other natural resource issues:

“The Main Thing, is to keep the Main Thing, the Main Thing”

As important as riparian and creek values are, they are not the Main Thing. The Main Thing in riparian areas is not so much the diverse values that we appreciate, but the physical functions which produce those values. The definition which summarizes the function of creek and riparian areas comes from the PFC (Proper Functioning Condition) assessment technique:

A properly functioning riparian area can be described as having adequate vegetation, landform or large woody debris to: dissipate the energy of floodwater; reduce erosion; stabilize banks; trap sediment; develop floodplains; provide flood-water retention; provide ground-water recharge; and provide water storage in banks and floodplains.

When adequate vegetation, landform and large logs are present in a riparian area to produce the physical functions described above, the values we desire will be maintained or restored according to the natural potential for the site. Mom’s advice is good for life in general, and good for riparian areas. [Appendix 1-B Author’s note: and it is good outside of Texas.]