

The background of the entire image is a vibrant photograph of a natural habitat. Numerous birds, likely swallows or similar species, are seen perched on the tips of tall, thin grasses. Some birds are in sharp focus, while others are blurred in the background, creating a sense of depth and activity. The sky is a clear, bright blue, and the overall lighting suggests a sunny day. A semi-transparent dark grey box is overlaid on the lower half of the image to contain the text.

IT'S A BIG 'BIRD' YEAR: COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR WESTERN RIVERS, BIRDS AND PEOPLE

ABBY BURK

WESTERN RIVERS REGIONAL PROGRAM MANAGER

Everyone has a river story...



Photo credit: Abby Burk

Our Strategic Priorities



Coasts



Working
Lands



Water



Bird Friendly
Communities



Climate

Our Strategic Priorities



Coasts



Working
Lands



Water



Bird Friendly
Communities



Climate

A line-art illustration of a bird in flight, positioned to the left of the word "Audubon".

Audubon | ROCKIES  **DENVER**
AUDUBON

The Rockies Audubon logo features a stylized bird in flight, rendered in dark blue, positioned to the left of the text "DENVER" and "AUDUBON". "DENVER" is in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font, and "AUDUBON" is in a bold, light blue, sans-serif font.

What is a riparian area?

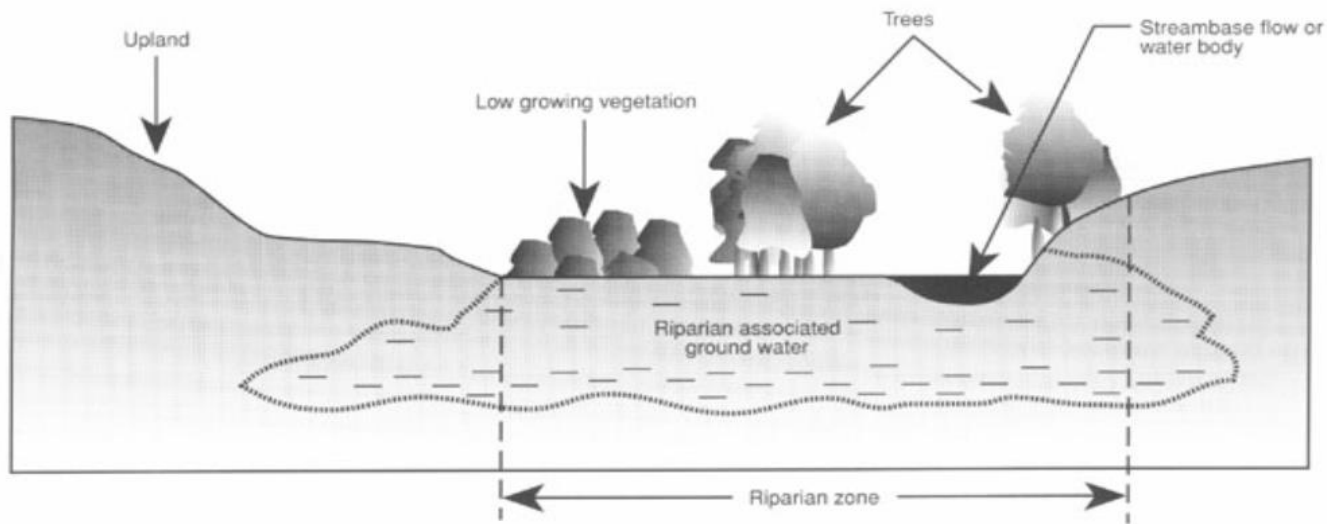


Photo credit: Abby Burk

Why are
riparian areas
important?



Photo credit: Abby Burk



BENEFITS OF RIPARIAN AREAS

PROTECTING LAND, WATER, AND WILDLIFE

COLORADO: 83% believe it is important for states to use funds to protect and restore the health of rivers, lakes, and streams.

*- 2019 Conservation in the West Poll , Colorado
College State of the Rockies*



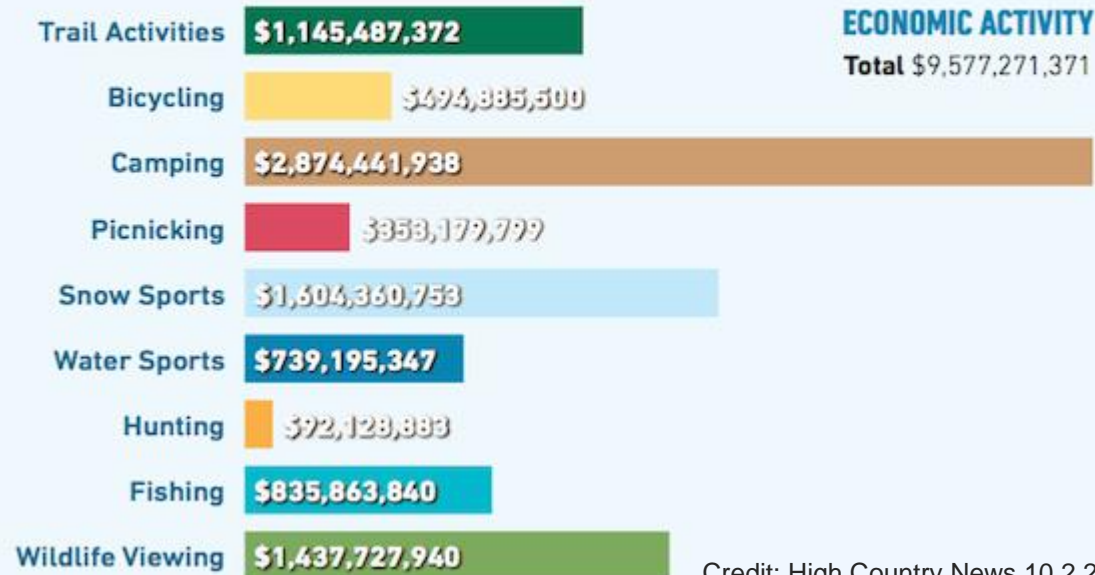
Watersheds – water connects us.

- **Rich common ground across sectors**
 - Healthy flowing rivers
 - Recreation
 - Aesthetic scenery
 - Wildlife
 - Reduced flood risk
 - Wildfire mitigation
 - Clean reliable drinking water
 - Thriving communities and economies.



Rivers are big business too

Colorado Economic Gains of River-Related Recreation by Activity



Credit: High Country News 10.2.2014

- Birds, wildlife and recreation (\$9 billion +).
- Colorado's population could increase to 8.5 million by 2050, an increase of more than 50 percent from 2015.

Birds Need Water

Healthy watersheds and rivers
support all of us



Photo: Evan Barrientos, Audubon Rockies

Q: How do we get lasting riparian restoration wins?

A: PARTNERSHIPS

COLORADO'S WATER PLAN

- Gov. Hickenlooper
- Civic engagement
- Goals and objectives
- Capacity for implementation
- Tools for updates
- Funding





Colorado's Hardworking Rivers

- Colorado River water reaches all four corners of the state.
- Headwater state
- Shows how we are connected.

Final Thoughts...

- Partnerships are key.
- We need as many tools in the toolbox as possible.
- Hydrology and watershed issues are deeply connected to sociology issues



We can achieve great things together.

Thank you

Keep in Touch & See You Down Stream



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