In August 1986 the cutbank had been stabilized by vegetation. The stream channel had narrowed as vegetation filtered out and stabilized sediment from upstream erosion. (Reduced numbers of juniper in the background are the result of efforts to improve upland ecological condition.)

riparian areas immediately downstream. In some areas one to two feet of sediment from upstream were deposited within the restoring riparian area.

The resulting improvement in water quality and general habitat conditions allowed rainbow trout to be re-established in this reach of Bear Creek.

By 1989, the licensed amount of forage had increased to 354 AUMs, nearly five times the amount previously grazed from the area. The livestock permittee reportedly reduced his annual cost of hay by $10,000.

- The principal management objective for the riparian area was to protect streambanks against erosion by high flows during spring runoff and during high-intensity summer thunderstorms.

- The grazing system was designed to improve the riparian area and stream by improving both riparian and upland vegetation.

- By grazing pastures containing riparian areas early, livestock were less inclined to concentrate on riparian vegetation and better utilized adjacent upland forage.

- Improvements in upland vegetation were required for full recovery of the riparian area and for the increase in livestock forage.

- This early season riparian grazing system worked well on this site's sandy loam soils. It might not work as well or at all under different climatic or streamflow conditions, or on soils with high moisture content which are susceptible to shearing and compaction by livestock trampling.