grasses, flooding and stream channel erosion increased.

In the early 1960s, five ranchers began a range rehabilitation program on their privately owned land with technical assistance and cost-sharing under the Great Plains Conservation Program. They removed brush, reseeded grasses and implemented a variety of improved grazing strategies on about half the 74,000-acre watershed. Livestock forage increased. Soil erosion and sedimentation of downstream municipal water supply reservoirs decreased.

By 1970, springs that had been dry for decades began to flow again on all five ranches. West Rocky Creek began to flow year-round, yielding from 150–4000 gallons per minute during the severe 1984 drought. Riparian vegetation re-established. Streambanks and the stream channel stabilized. Fish and riparian dependent wildlife re-established.

Improving the productivity of the West Rocky Creek watershed produced significant downstream economic benefits to the city of San Angelo. The quantity and quality of water yielded to water supply reservoirs increased. Reduced sedimentation increased the economic life of reservoirs and decreased water treatment costs. Flooding reduced in severity.

Removing brush, reseeding grasses and good grazing management restored this site to near-pristine appearance and productivity. Continued good grazing management is required to keep it that way.

This nearby site received the same brush removal and reseeding treatments, but was improperly grazed. An improved grazing strategy is required to prevent the site from deteriorating further and eventually becoming reinfested with brush.

Overgrazing and fire suppression created conditions that encouraged thick infestations of juniper and mesquite in the West Rocky Creek drainage.

■ The dramatic decline in the productivity of the West Rocky Creek watershed resulted in largest part from poor livestock grazing practices, notably continuous, year-long, heavy grazing.

■ Extensive, costly brush removal and grass reseeding were required in addition to improved grazing practices in order to repair the damaged watershed and restore streamflows and riparian areas.

■ Proper grazing management is essential to maintain the improved condition and protect the substantial investment in restoring the watershed's productivity.

■ Restoring diverse, more productive upland and riparian plant communities benefitted livestock, fish and wildlife, and downstream water users.

■ Technical assistance with private and public cost-sharing were essential to finance high cost watershed improvements. The economic and environmental benefits extended far beyond the private lands that were restored in productivity.