

Sarah Stalcup  
*Riparian Area Multiple Indicator Monitoring*

My project was collecting baseline data to improve riparian areas along the Big Dominguez Creek on the Uncompahgre Plateau, and then altering the livestock grazing patterns. The hypothesis for this experiment was: If grazing patterns are altered in a riparian area, then the area's potential natural community and overall health will recover. The experiment was done by selecting two reaches along the Big Dominguez Creek and monitoring them. Stubble height, woody species age, height, and use class, percent composition, and cover were monitored on the green-lines of the channel. The substrate (% fines) of the channel, pool depth, and pool frequency were also measured along with the green-line to green-line width. This was done to determine the channel's health and room for improvement. The results of the experiment were that the area was in good condition, but did have much room for improvement.