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## Mark K. Briggs, Riparian Ecosystem Recovery in Arid Lands: Strategies & References

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**Mark K. Briggs, Riparian Ecosystem Recovery in Arid Lands: Strategies & References**

the step by step process for handling groundwater and soil contamination studies and litigation. Mr. Bois and Mr. Luther have detailed information in such a manner that the book provides a valuable reference source for novices, as well as experts in the field.

*Jacqueline G. Brill*

**MARK K. BRIGGS, RIPARIAN ECOSYSTEM RECOVERY IN ARID LANDS: STRATEGIES & REFERENCES**, University of Arizona Press, Phoenix, Arizona (1996); 220pp; \$45.00; ISBN 0-8165-1644-8, hardcover.

This guidebook deals with the technical aspects of riparian ecosystem recovery. However, as the author states, it is written so that those who do not have a background in natural resources can utilize the information. A wide variety of people, including developers, public officials, landowners, educators and students, will find this book to be a good resource for understanding and overcoming the decline of the riparian ecosystem in arid lands.

Chapter one gives an overview and explains how riparian ecosystems have changed over the years. The author explains some strategies for recovering different areas, and emphasizes the importance of evaluating site conditions and matching appropriate strategies to the specific needs of the site.

The remainder of the book focuses on the details of site evaluation. It discusses some issues to consider before making decisions to prevent damage to these delicate areas, or to return those which are damaged to a viable state. The author makes it very clear that what is good for one area will not necessarily provide the appropriate solution for all areas—each situation is unique. To illustrate his point, Briggs presents case studies, explains issues, and describes recovery plans in specific situations. This approach shows the reader how to apply different strategies to different situations.

Briggs also discusses how to evaluate damaged riparian areas from the watershed perspective. He gives the reader insight into taking advantage of aerial photographs and documented information, and provides information on where to obtain these materials. A chapter is devoted to evaluating the effects of land use activities within the immediate riparian environment and how to determine if these land uses, such as livestock grazing, and recreation, are causing the decline of the riparian ecosystem.

The factors influencing natural recovery in riparian ecosystems are discussed in great detail and some successful plans are explained. Briggs next discusses the importance of water availability for successful riparian recovery plans. This chapter explains groundwater decline, and emphasizes the importance of comparing past and present groundwater conditions in order to develop realistic recovery objectives and strategies.

Drainage of riparian ecosystems is discussed in terms of channel dynamics, strategies for evaluating channel stability and how to develop recovery projects along unstable alluvial stream channels. The

last factor effecting recovery is soil salinity and its effects on plant growth. Briggs also provides information on how to obtain soil surveys and what information can be obtained from these surveys. This chapter includes a table of soil salinity tolerances of selected plant species.

Once all of these factors are delineated and the reader has a better understanding of them, Briggs devotes a chapter to developing a site specific recovery plan. He stresses the importance of developing project objectives, investigating the local, state, and federal permit requirements, community involvement, and post project evaluation and monitoring of the recovery effort.

This guidebook is easy to understand and provides information that could be readily applied to any reader's specific area of interest. The author provides guidance throughout the book on how and where to obtain critical diagnostic information. In addition, he includes informative charts, graphs, diagrams and a useful glossary. Finally, an extensive bibliography (part of which is arranged to present background literature by state, and by agency) makes it easier to access additional information on specific aspects of riparian ecosystem recovery.

*Tracy Rogers*

**GEORGE COLE, WATER BOUNDARIES**, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York (1997); \$55.00; 193pp; ISBN 0-471-17929-9, hardcover.

*Water Boundaries* presents a technical explanation of the accepted theories and techniques for locating legally defensible water boundaries. It includes mathematical equations and applications, as well as diagrams, charts and maps. In Cole's words, this treatise is an attempt "to provide a comprehensive overview of both the legal and technical aspects of the unique and specialized area of water boundaries." It is intended to be helpful to surveyors, attorneys involved with water boundary issues, public land managers, title and real estate professionals and others dealing with land planning, land development, offshore mineral extraction.

The text focuses primarily on coastal land boundaries, although there is some reference to river and lake boundaries. Cole explains that the surfaces of most water bodies are constantly changing due to tides and/or meteorological conditions. Also, the shoreline in many areas is subject to erosion and accretion caused by waves and currents. Therefore, water boundaries must be considered as four dimensional, including both height and time—dimensions not considered when determining land boundaries.

The information is divided into eleven chapters. Each chapter discusses a different type of geographic water body or type of boundary ownership. The first two chapters distinguish tidal sovereign from non-tidal sovereign water boundaries. Tidal sovereign boundaries are held under the generally accepted practice that the individual states hold title on behalf of the public to most of the submerged lands under navigable waters within their respective boundaries by virtue of the