



WDWDD

Black Hills Watershed Collaborative

Challenges

- Poor Riparian Condition
- Lack of Comprehensive Assessment
- Knowledge gaps
- Random acts of restoration- need coordination strategy
- Climate Volatility - precipitation, extended drought

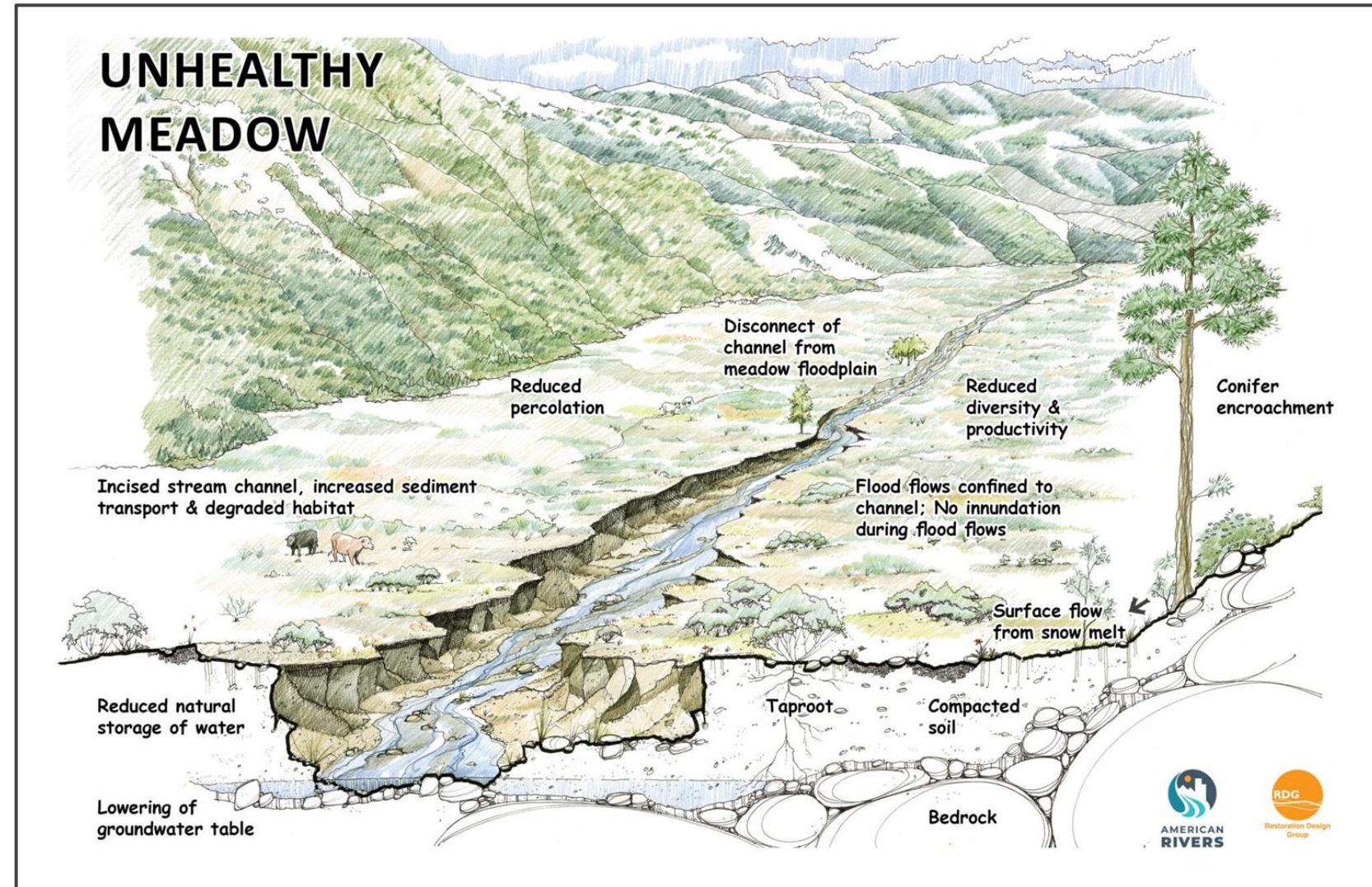


Current Headwaters Condition

- Channel Incision and disconnected floodplains
 - Only 4% of watersheds have riparian and wetland vegetation that is in good condition
- Lack of Aspen Regeneration and increased wildfire risk
- Diminished natural water storage capacity
- Beaver Population Collapse



Broken Systems



What We Know

- Incomplete Data & Assessment Tools
 - USFS Watershed Condition Framework
 - Long term fisheries Data
 - BRAT Modelling
- Anecdotal & local knowledge
- Traditional ecological knowledge
- Momentum
 - Opportunity to unlock more private & public \$
 - Partnership with community foundation
 - Larger grants and funding opportunities



What we need



Assessment: Why Now?

- Identify Areas of Greatest Need
- Identify Areas of Greatest Potential
- Identify Areas of common interest & priority alignment
- Target Projects to take advantage of current **Momentum**
- Agency partners need support





Assessment and Planning Deliverables

- Characterization
 - Physical and biological
- Reach classification
 - condition and reach potential
- **Prioritization framework** — working-group co-built
- 10-year restoration plan — named reaches, methods, fish benefits
- Alignment of management practices and restoration efforts

Delivering Restoration

- Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration (LTPBR)
- Uses simple hands-on methods
- Add Wood, Add Complexity
- Capture sediment
- Slow and Spread Water
- Trigger process that rebuild a healthy riverscape
- Mimic Nature Maintain Self Sustaining



Slowing down water and connecting floodplains benefits us all

- Communities
- Groundwater
- Flood Mitigation
- Fire Breaks and Fire Refuge
- Wildlife
- Cattle



2023

Before



Matt Scott Photos USFS

2025

After



**Building techniques have evolved as the project has grown. We have
Learned how to build better structures that should require less maintenance**

Spring of 2025 Greens Gulch





Riparian Vegetation is recovering and expanding its footprint.





BLACK HILLS AREA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



South Dakota
National Wild
Turkey Federation

Collaboration, Partnership, Synergy

The primary outcome of the assessment is an alignment of partners and stakeholders, enabling scalable solutions.