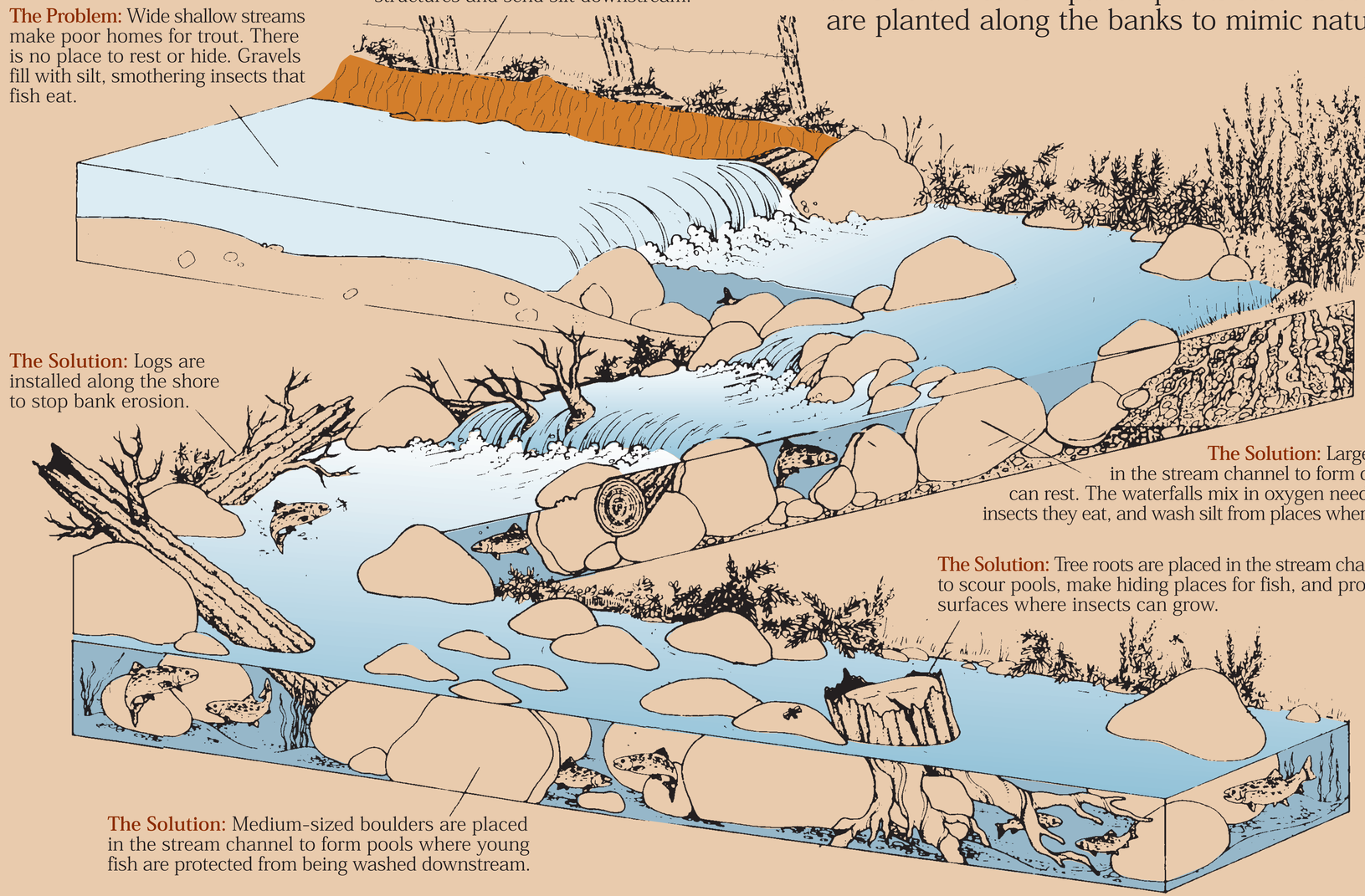
A Stream Recovers

Many natural and human-related activities cause streamside vegetation and the streams themselves to become damaged or unhealthy. Floods, fires, landslides, and windstorms are but a few of the natural causes. Human-related activities include road building, gravel extraction, mining, grazing, timber harvesting, recreational activities, and subdivision development.

The Bureau of Land Management is working to reduce and prevent human-related problems and restore previously damaged riparian areas. This involves limiting camping, reducing the amount of livestock and sheep grazing in riparian areas, and improving the stream channel to speed up the natural recovery processes. Materials such as boulders, logs, and tree roots are used within the stream course, while willows and other riparian plants such as sedges, and reeds are planted along the banks to mimic natural conditions.



Heavy equipment was used to move boulders, shape banks, and transplant willows.
~Photo courtesy of Aquahab, Durango, CO.

Cunningham Creek has been impacted by years of recreation use, grazing, and mining. In 2002, the Bureau of Land Management and the Colorado Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation began to stabilize and restore this creek.

Denver Regional Office

© Interpretive Design LLC, Durango, CO