Subject: : Fly Fishing Locations
Topic: : Riparian Zones
Re: Riparian Zones
Author: : barbless
Date: : 2013/3/28 12:27:52
URL:

Chaz, I think that to do it at the scale required to achieve the results that I have in mind, a lot of money will be needed. And labor, and time.

With the utmost respect for the efforts of Trout Unlimited, riparian restoration in this country is needed for more than just a select few hundred miles of trout stream watershed.

To provide only one trenchant example, I doubt that the Chesapeake Bay- the largest estuary in the US- will ever be restored to health without a comprehensive riparian restoration effort that includes the Shenandoah-Potomac-Anacostia, Susquehanna, and Delaware watersheds to the river drainages of eastern Maryland, pretty near from their headwaters to the bay.

What would we get in return? The untold wealth of a sustainable protein source that doesn't require fertilizers, pesticides, or massive tracts of land and labor to cultivate. And a revived commercial fishing industry.

What if we don't do it? We get the continuing decline of the Bay, along with increasingly expensive and inadequate management of the decline; the loss of the resource, which will become more and more difficult, costly, and time-consuming to recover the more the process is delayed; and perhaps eventually an antibiotic-resistant bacteria epidemic. Or pandemic.

http://articles.chicagotribune.com/20 ... biotic-resistant-bacteria

Yes, I realize that thus far these problems are primarily confined to hospitals. But if we humans persist in "maintaining" so many miles of our watercourses as little more than *de facto* culture media for microbes- while simultaneously abusing the priceless tool of antibiotics for "prophylactic" purposes to support the dense animal populations in CAFOs- I think it's naive to expect that the situation won't grow more perilous.

I do take your point that the practical implementation of soil conservation, plantings, mycelial bedding, and stream restoration requires relatively little in the way of expensive equipment or technical knowledge. Maybe that partially explains why large-scale efforts have been so systematically deprived of funding. Erosion control and riparian buffer zones aren't new, exciting, digital, remote controlled, ten zillion gigabytes per microsec. The labor doesn't require "advanced degrees". It's an exercise in humility instead of hubris.