

GIS Applications for Strategic Targeting of Riparian Conservation Easement Buffer Zones

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Riparian buffer zones have been shown to improve water quality as it is related to non-point source pollution. An economic mechanism available to put riparian buffer zones onto private lands is the conservation easement. Through the use of GIS it is possible to strategically target riparian lands where conservation easement buffer zones stand to make the largest improvements to surface water quality by reducing non-point source pollution. This poster will present the conservation easement as an economic mechanism providing a means for establishing riparian buffer zones, present research findings concerning the effectiveness of buffer zones on water quality, and discuss applications of GIS for strategic targeting of private lands for riparian conservation easement buffer zones.

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Philip Dennis earned undergraduate degrees in Accounting and Spanish from the University of Idaho. Upon completion of his undergraduate degrees he worked for the Defense Contract Audit Agency as a contract auditor. He returned to the University of Idaho to pursue M.S. and PhD degrees in the Water Resources program, Law, Management, and Policy option. His research focus is corporate disclosure and reporting of water resources in sustainability reports.

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