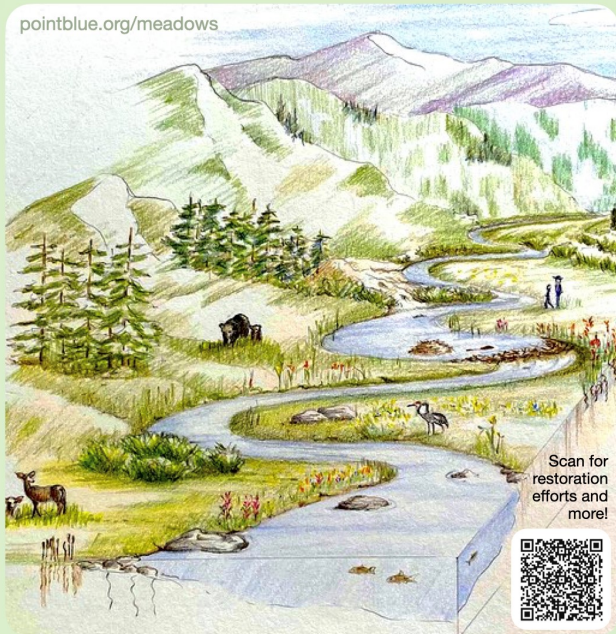


How Healthy Is That Meadow?

How many indicators of health or distress can you spot in the meadows you visit?

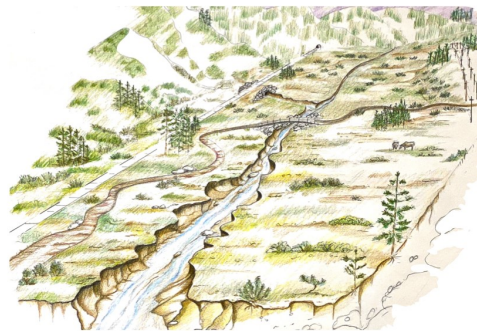
Healthy Meadows

Nursery for biodiversity



Unhealthy Meadows

- Straighter, channelized streams with steep, eroded banks
- Water table is low
- Plant and animal diversity and abundance is low
- Drier soils that emit more carbon than they store and that don't store water



Clean, Cool Water

- Slow-moving, snaking, and spread-out water is stored and available year-round, even in drought years
- Water is filtered and kept cool in a healthy meadow
- Meadows recharge and maintain ample groundwater

Spongy, Wet Soil

- Healthy wet meadows store large amounts of carbon below ground
- A wide diversity of plants, microbes, and animals are supported by and help to create healthy meadow soil
- Spongy soil soaks up and stores water, reducing flood danger

Bountiful Biodiversity

- You will see high plant, animal, and microbe diversity and abundance
- Healthy meadows harbor many endangered species, like Willow Flycatcher and Cascades frog
- Healthy wet meadows provide refugia from drought, fire, and climate change

