

## Lesson Plan 10.

# Completed Water Quality Projects

### Goals/Overview:

Understand how to document and evaluate completed projects. Explain the history of stewardship efforts on ranches and encourage critical feedback.

### Learning Objectives:

1. Learn how to evaluate previously completed water quality projects for their success in meeting water quality objectives.
2. Understand the process to complete Worksheet 6, starting with water quality concerns listed for each site, pasture, or similar management area.
3. Understand how to use Completed Projects—Worksheet 6 to catalog previous water quality improvement efforts.
4. Evaluate the short- and long-term effectiveness of specific conservation practices previously completed in the watershed and across California to apply lessons for planning future projects.

### Introduction/Hook:

- Share stories of increased ranch viability and sustainability following implementation of conservation practices and restoration projects. These can be fun conversations, so let attendees tell their stories.

### Materials/Speakers:

- Historical conservation practices evolved into the highly engineered designs used today by the NRCS and RCDs. Discuss common practices mentioned by and familiar to attendees, and how these practices have been improved to increase success and reduce unintended consequences.
- Invited speaker and facilitator of discussion would be someone with knowledge in rangeland and watershed management from UCCE, NRCS, RCD, or other relevant organization.

- Instructional video: “Completed Projects—Worksheet 6” (8 minutes).
- Bring a few extra copies of *RWQP Template*. Provide extra copies of *Completed Projects—Worksheet 6*.

### Time Allocated:

Allow 40 to 60 minutes (20 minutes for presentations and 20 minutes for questions/discussion).

### Procedures/Activities/Strategies/Questions:

- Open with a brief story or anecdote, welcome newcomers, and ask for outstanding questions or concerns.
- Revisit any potential concerns for water quality identified while completing Pasture Assessment—Worksheet 4 and Stream Assessment—Worksheet 5, focusing on those situations where participants have already taken steps to address concerns.
- Present video: “Completed Projects—Worksheet 6.”
- Review the format for Completed Projects—Worksheet 6 and begin filling it out with sites and/or pastures that have received conservation improvements such as watering facilities, cross-fencing, seeding, erosion control, culvert upgrades, and so on.
- Complete the Session Evaluation Form (appendix A).

### Conclusion/Self-assessment:

- Have participants consider their previously completed projects to ascertain if they need more work or maintenance to meet water quality objectives.

**Resources:**

Macon, D. 2002. Grazing for change: Range and watershed management success stories in California. Sacramento: California Cattlemen's Association. [http://www.carangeland.org/images/Grazing\\_for\\_Change.pdf](http://www.carangeland.org/images/Grazing_for_Change.pdf)

Lewis, D., M. Lennox, N. Scolari, L. Prunuske, and C. Epifanio. 2011. A half century of stewardship: A programmatic review of conservation by Marin RCD & partner organizations (1959–2009). Prepared for Marin Resource Conservation District by UC Cooperative Extension. [http://ucanr.org/sites/Grown\\_in\\_Marin/files/138393.pdf](http://ucanr.org/sites/Grown_in_Marin/files/138393.pdf)

**Next Steps/Future Lessons:**

- Consider sites and pastures with water quality concerns that could be improved and management options and practices that could be employed to make improvements.