

## Lesson Plan 12.

### Setting Project Priorities

#### Goals/Overview:

Explain how to prioritize future water quality improvement projects.

#### Learning Objectives:

1. Understand how to balance multiple factors in decision making.
2. Gain ability to estimate potential sediment delivery to waterways from erosion sites.

#### Introduction/Hook:

- With well-organized priorities and time, progress is planned and made incrementally toward completing water quality improvements. Having a plan with multiple options makes the impossible seem possible.

#### Materials/Speakers:

- Review [Ranch Goals—Worksheet 2](#), [Pasture Assessment—Worksheet 4](#), and [Stream Assessment—Worksheet 5](#) forms.
- Invited speaker and facilitator of discussion would be someone with knowledge in rangeland and watershed management or conservation planning from UCCE, NRCS, RCD, or other relevant organization.
- Instructional video: “[Sediment Delivery Inventory and Monitoring](#)” (28 minutes).
- Have the entire [RWQP Template](#) available in case anyone still needs one.
- Provide handouts of publication [Sediment Delivery Inventory and Monitoring \(#8014\)](#).
- Have extra copies of [Future Water Quality Projects—Worksheet 7](#) available so each participant has one.
- Provide attendees handouts of pertinent resources.

#### Time Allocated:

Allow 45 to 60 minutes (30 minutes for presentation and 15 minutes for questions/discussion).

#### Procedures/Activities/Strategies/Questions:

- Open with a brief story or anecdote, welcome newcomers, and ask for outstanding questions or concerns.
- Review ranch goals and assessment worksheets to encourage participants to refer to their completed forms to identify and prioritize projects.
- Present video: “[Sediment Delivery Inventory and Monitoring](#).”
- Review the multiple measurement tools available to help prioritize eroding areas for potential fixes. Remind participants to balance the potential water quality improvement with the immediate cost, long-term maintenance, and benefits to ranch operations.
- Note the priority for the individual ranch of each potential problem area listed and efforts to implement new practices, including contacting professionals or applying for grant funding.
- Discuss participants’ priorities for erosion control and other water quality projects on their ranches, and have them explain some of their choices.
- Complete the Session Evaluation Form (appendix A).

#### Conclusion/Self-assessment:

- How did the Goals and Stream/Pasture Assessment forms help to review ranch conditions and set priorities for future projects?
- Did setting priorities help in making the laundry list of potential future projects easier to start implementing? For example, ranchers might work on the most important projects first, or group projects into those that can be done with

ranch resources and those for which a rancher will seek cost-share or technical assistance.

### Resources:

Bush, L. 2006. Grazing handbook: A Guide for Resource Managers in Coastal California. Santa Rosa: Sonoma Resource Conservation District. <https://carangeland.org/images/GrazingHandbook.pdf>

Lewis, D. J., K. W. Tate, and J. M. Harper. 2000. Sediment Delivery Inventory and Monitoring. Oakland: UC Agriculture and Natural Resources Publication 8014. <https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8014.pdf>

### Next Steps/Future Lessons:

- Ask attendees to measure the volume of sediment that could erode from a few unstable potential erosion sites at individual ranches to compare which site is most important for preventing sediment delivery to waterways.