

# SETT Roles and Responsibilities

## State Lands Representative



# SETT Structure



# SETT Structure

- Multidisciplinary team put in place to implement the Nevada Conservation Credit System
- Composed of representatives from three different State Agencies:
  - Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
    - Director's Office - Program Manager
    - Division of Forestry - Team Member
    - Division of State Lands - Team Member
  - Nevada Department of Agriculture - Team Member
  - Nevada Department of Wildlife - Team Member



# General Responsibilities of the State Lands Team Member



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- Credit Projects
- Debit Projects
- Administrative Duties
- Riparian Restoration
- Verifier Training
- Other shared duties among the team

# Credit and Debit Project Involvement



# Credit and Debit Project Involvement

- Primarily work with proponents who have both debit and credit projects for internal transfers
- Take on other credit and debit projects as-needed to help balance the SETT's workload
- Requires a comprehensive understanding of both credit and debit processes, the HQT, and GIS in general



# Credit and Debit Project Involvement

- Credit Projects
  - Conduct credit site validation
    - Provide initial estimate of property's credit potential
    - Helps determine whether it would be worth the investment to enroll
  - Conduct pre-field QA (ensure accuracy of the initial desktop HQT analysis)
  - Conduct post-field QA (ensure accuracy of the post-fieldwork HQT analysis and calculator)
  - Assist with drafting of a management plan
  - Issue credits once management plan is finalized and signed
  - Log Transactions/Transfers, and assist with paperwork
  - Review annual monitoring reports and discuss any concerns that have been noted
  - Conduct site visits
    - Initial project site visit (prior to enrollment when possible)
    - 5-year visits
    - Visits to help troubleshoot issues that arise (e.g., erosion into a valuable meadow, assistance with aspects of annual monitoring, re-running transects, etc.)



# Credit and Debit Project Involvement

- Debit Projects
  - Attend cooperating agency meetings during project planning phase (discussing project aspects, NEPA timelines, project siting to reduce impacts, etc.)
  - Provide relevant comments on NEPA documents during the administrative and public comment periods
  - Enter projects into the CCS upon NOI being filed
  - Provide initial debit estimate to proponents
  - Conduct pre-field QA
  - Conduct full desktop analysis if proponent opts out of field verification
    - Assume that GRSG habitat quality is 100%
    - Beneficial for small-impact projects where the cost of fieldwork would outweigh the cost of offsetting the maximum possible debit amount
  - Conduct post-field QA for projects that choose to have field verification completed
  - Issue final debit estimate upon finalization of NEPA
  - Log Transactions/Transfers, and assist with paperwork
  - Work with proponents on reclamation (haven't reached this point with any projects yet)

# Administrative Duties



# Administrative Duties

- Draft/or revise NRS/NACs in compliance with Nevada's Administrative Rule Making Procedural Guide
  - Language preparation
  - NV small business input solicitation
  - Public workshops and hearings
    - Open-meeting law compliance
      - Meeting notice
      - Posting of meeting materials in advance
      - Timely posting of minutes after meetings
  - Public input incorporation
  - Regulation filing and archiving

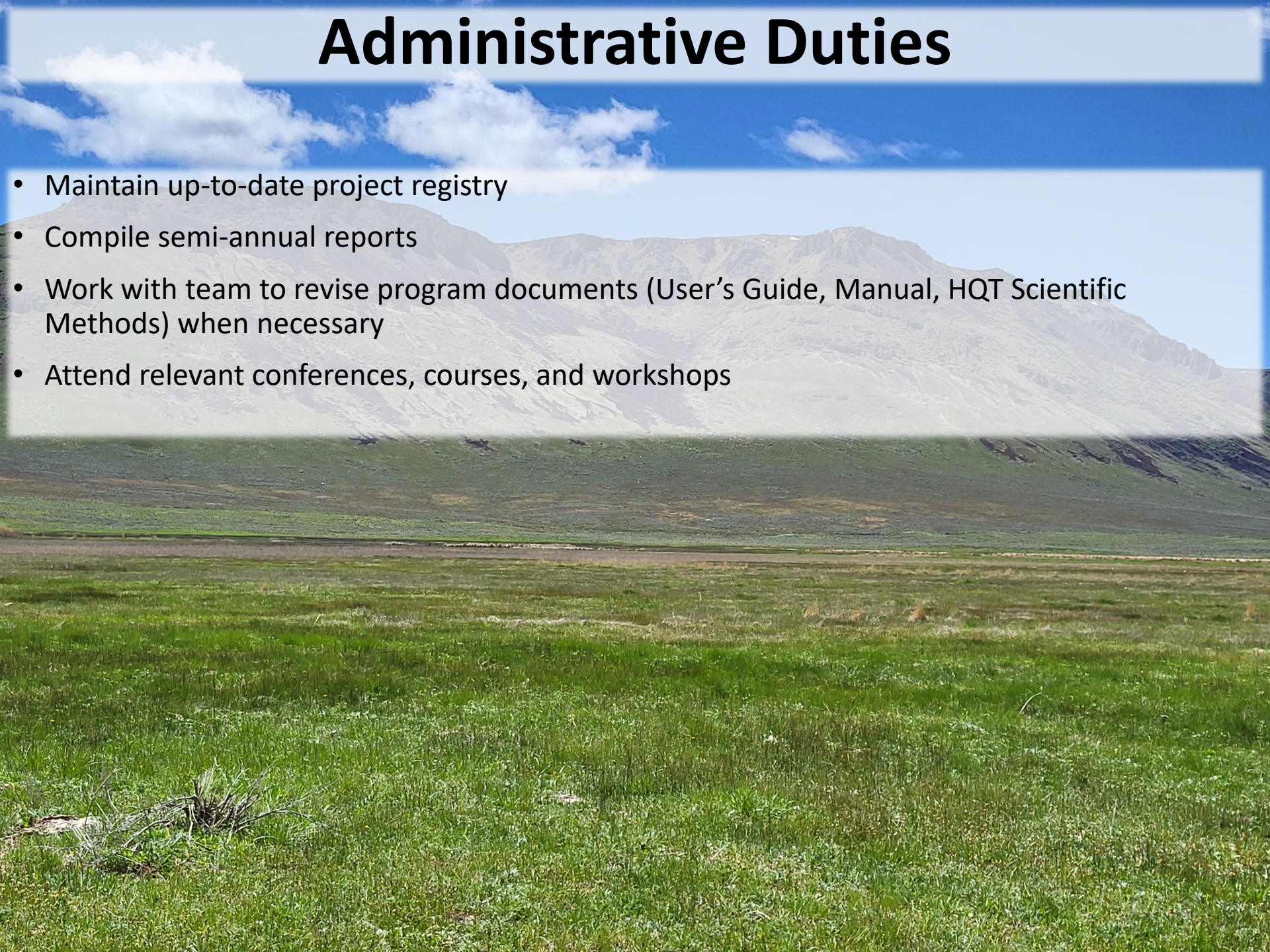
# Administrative Duties

Maintain SEP's online resources:

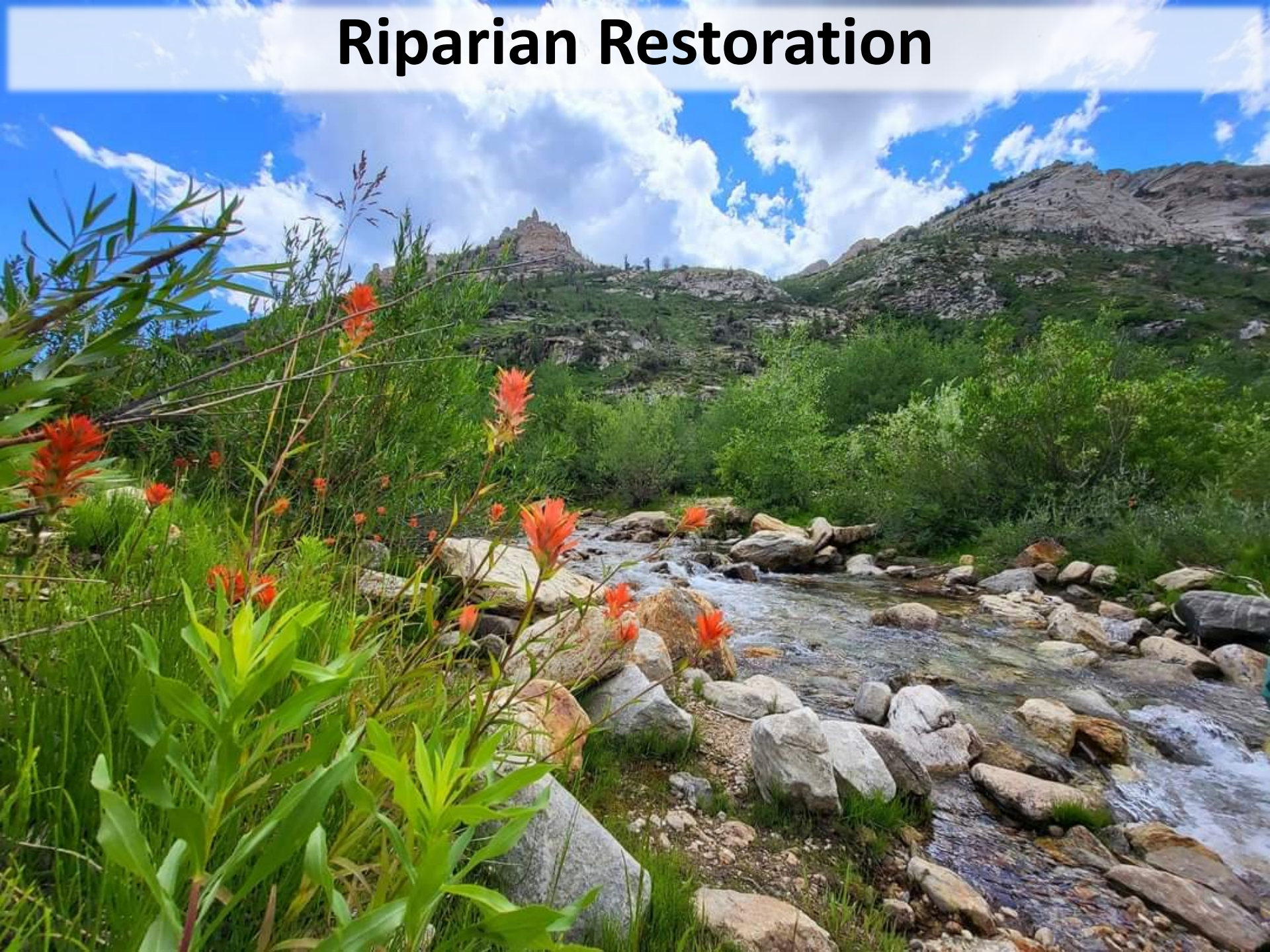
- Main SEP website
  - Ensure most-current version of program documents are available
  - Post SEC meeting materials in compliance with open-meeting law
  - Review documents and ensure ADA compliance before making publicly available
  - Rectify broken links
  - Etc.
- Update SEP's interactive web map
  - Add new projects
  - Update debit project mitigation status and outstanding balances
  - Update credit project balances available for purchase

# Administrative Duties

- Maintain up-to-date project registry
- Compile semi-annual reports
- Work with team to revise program documents (User's Guide, Manual, HQT Scientific Methods) when necessary
- Attend relevant conferences, courses, and workshops



# Riparian Restoration



# Riparian Restoration

- Learn, and implement, different methods for riparian restoration (ranging from low-cost/low-tech to high-tech)
- Participate in Nevada Creeks and Communities program (lead by Sherm Swanson)
  - Interdisciplinary program that provides riparian management education in NV to landowners, land users, agency personnel, and other interested parties
    - Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) classes
    - Integrated riparian management classes
    - Collaborative restoration workshops
- Communicate with landowners about, and assist with, riparian restoration when issues arise



# Riparian Restoration - Example





# Riparian Restoration - Example

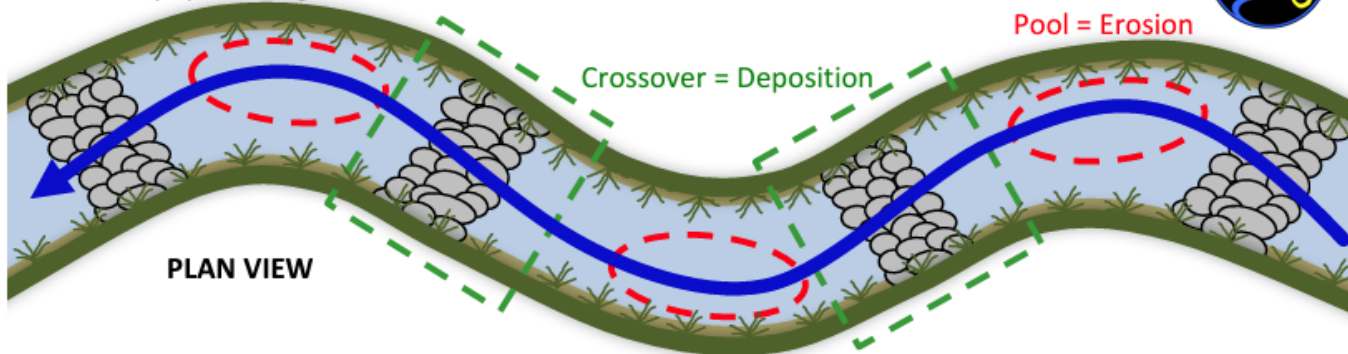
- Riparian degradation issues were identified on a credit proponent's property
- Conducted collaborative site visit (2 days)
  - Assess issues
  - Brainstorm ideas
  - Make a plan for restoration in 2025
- Working to help locate a contractor for larger-scale efforts
- Assisting with grant opportunities to minimize cost burden
- Investigating feasibility and potential for beaver reintroduction to the property
- Creeks and Communities and the SETT will hold a 2-day workshop in May to implement low-cost/low-tech restoration:
  - Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs) where beavers may be reintroduced
  - Willow planting to help stabilize banks
  - Zeedyk structures to restore various headcuts

# Riparian Restoration - Zeedyk Structures

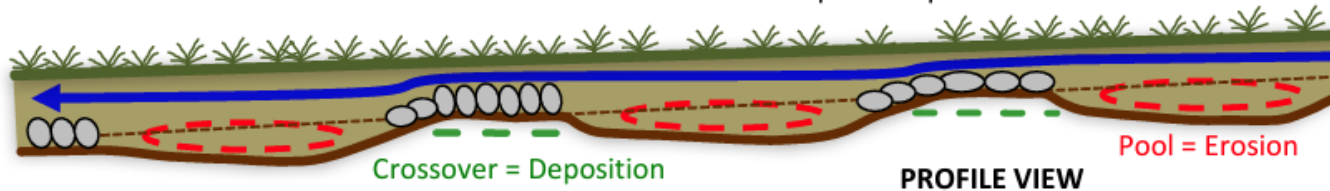
## ONE ROCK DAM



1. Always position grade control structures at meander crossovers.



2. Placement at crossovers maintains natural erosion and deposition patterns.



3. Always maintain a low point in the channel cross section to prevent bank erosion.



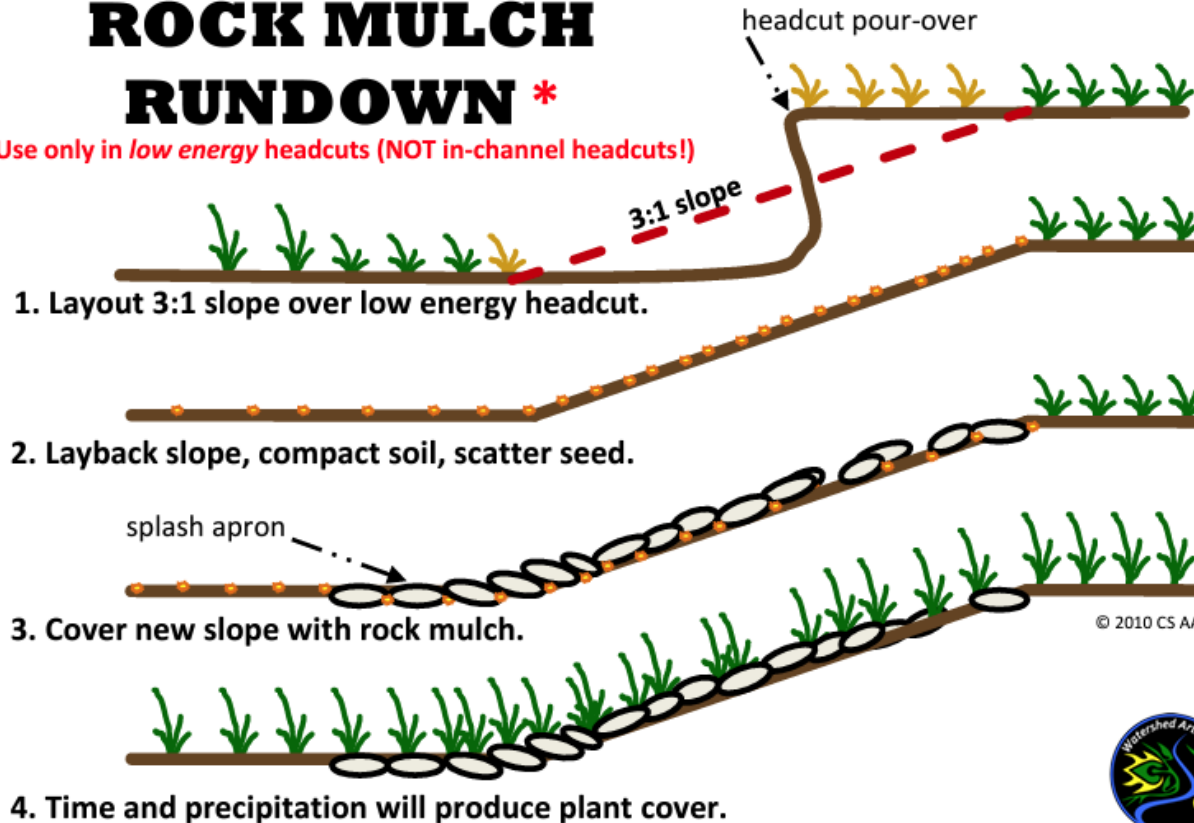
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- Single layer of rock
- Slows flow of water
- Recruits riparian vegetation to stabilize
- Captures sediment
- Raises bed level over time

# Riparian Restoration - Zeedyk Structures

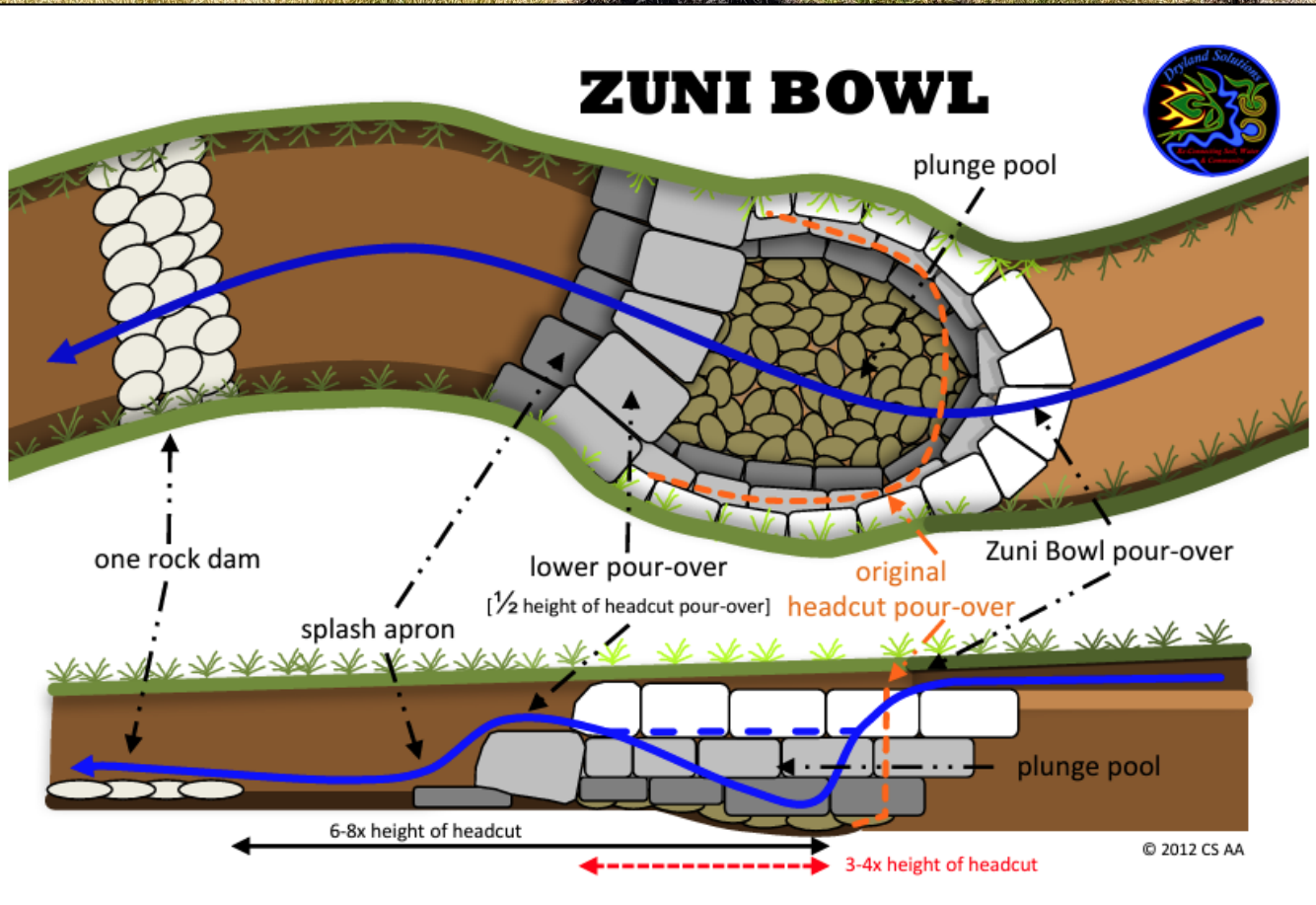
## ROCK MULCH RUNDOWN \*

\* Use only in low energy headcuts (NOT in-channel headcuts!)



- Headcut has been laid back and covered with single layer of rock
- Slows runoff
- Increases soil moisture
- Recruits vegetation
- Prevents headcut from migrating further upstream
- Intended for low-energy headcuts

# Riparian Restoration - Zeedyk Structures



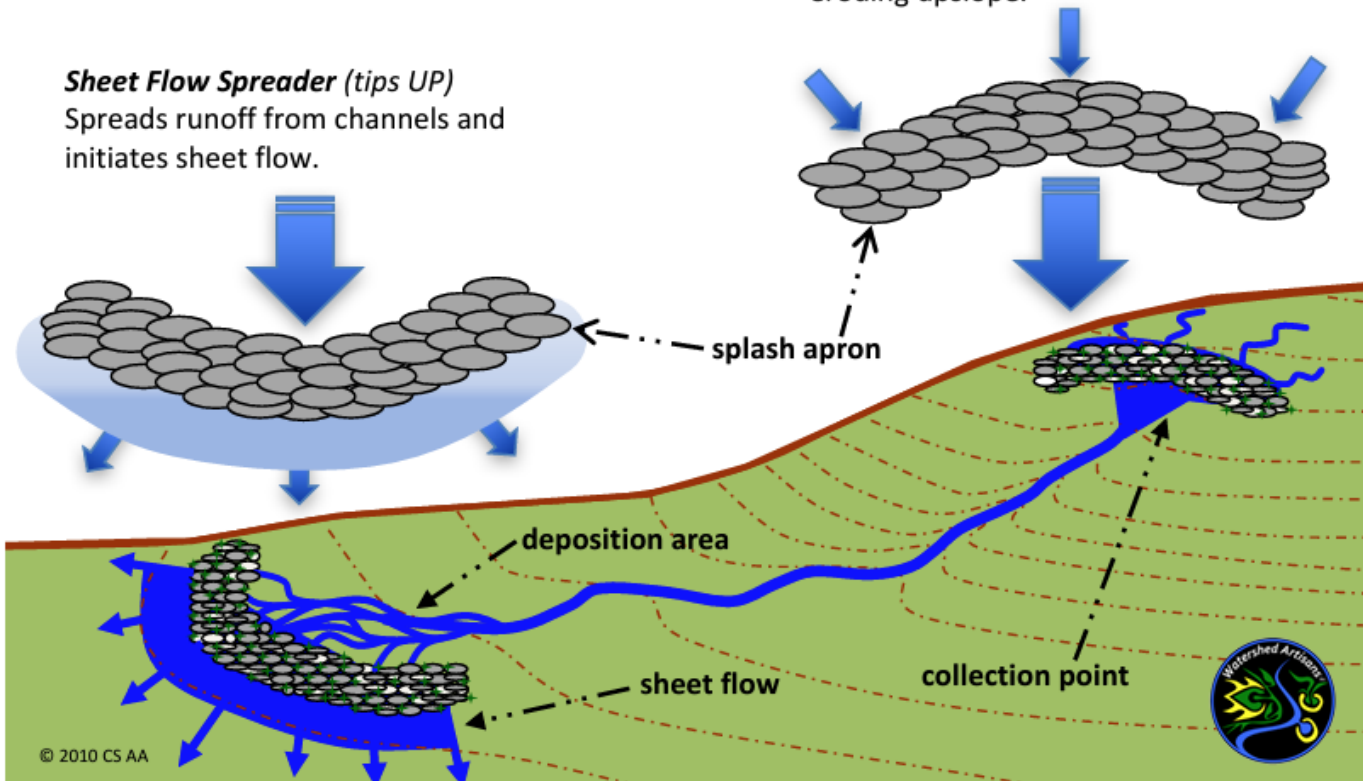
- Can be used for high-energy headcuts
- Rock-lined step falls and plunge pools
- Prevents headcuts from migrating further upstream
- Dissipate energy of falling water at the pour-over and at the channel bed
- Converts single cascade into series of smaller steps
- Maintain soil moisture on face of headcut, which allows establishment of protective vegetation

# Riparian Restoration - Zeedyk Structures

## MEDIA LUNA

**Sheet Flow Spreader (tips UP)**  
Spreads runoff from channels and initiates sheet flow.

**Sheet Flow Collector (tips DOWN)**  
Prevents developing rills and gullies from eroding upslope.



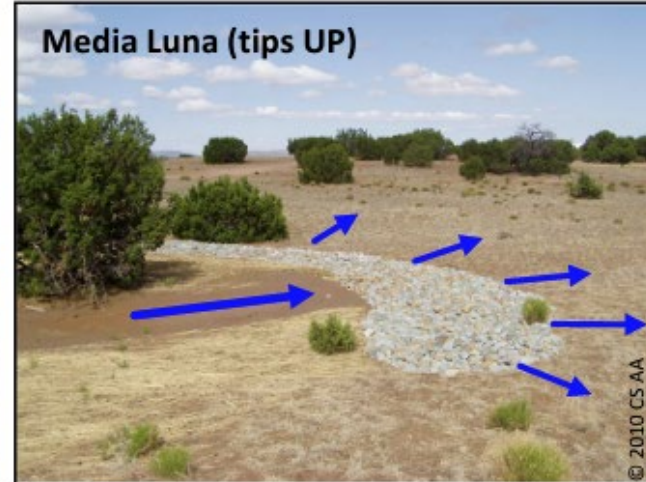
- Sheet flow collectors create stable transition into channel
- Sheet flow spreaders disperse channelized flow and reestablish sheet flow where it once occurred

# Riparian Restoration - Zeedyk Structures

**When possible use materials available on-site.**

**NOTE:** Many types of rock can be used to build these structures.

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For more information visit [www.WatershedArtisans.com](http://www.WatershedArtisans.com)  
and [www.QuiviraCoalition.org](http://www.QuiviraCoalition.org)

# Riparian Restoration – Upcoming Workshop

- Workshop will be held on-site May 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>
- All interested parties are welcome to attend!
  - BYO Shovel and Gloves



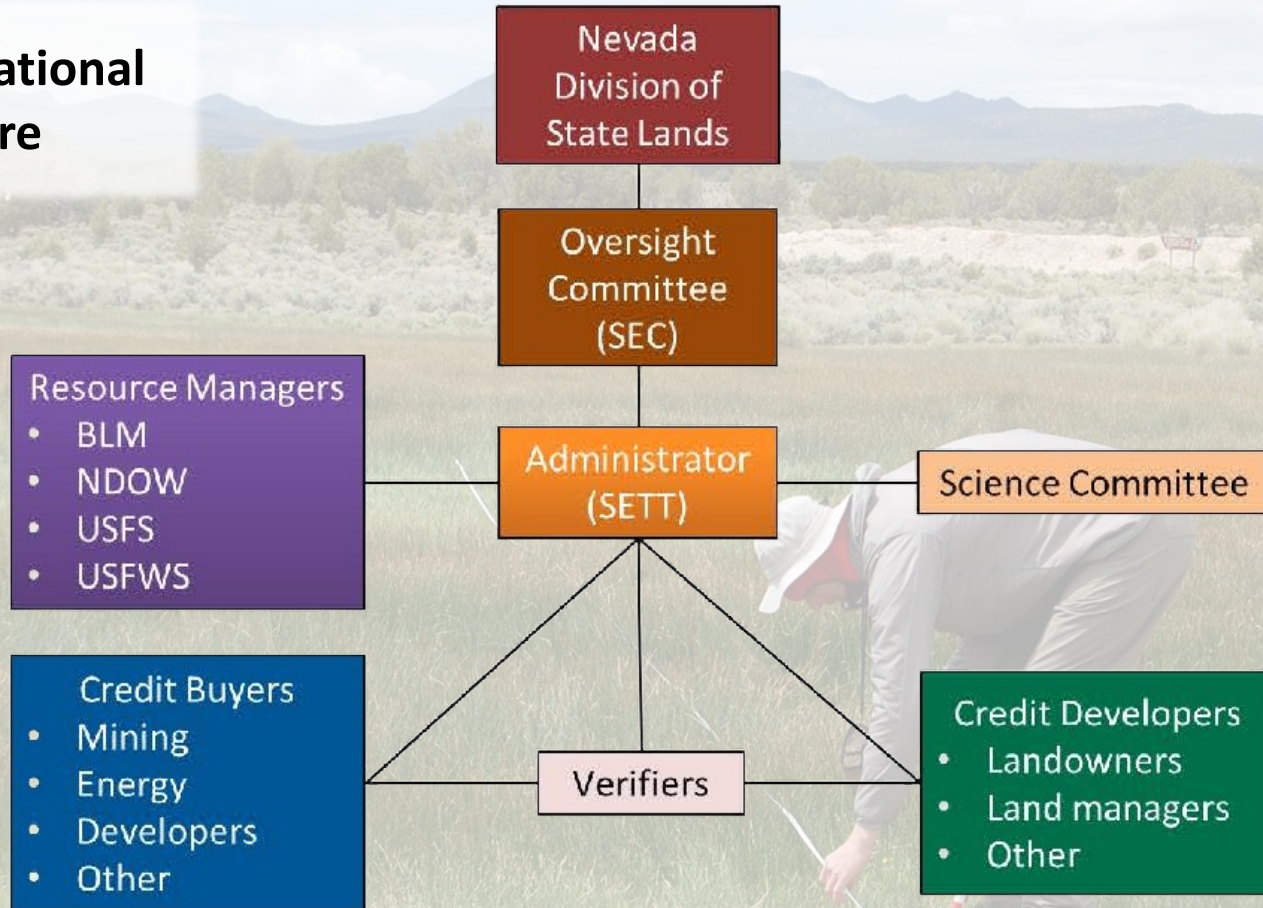
# Verifier Training





# Verifier Training

## SEP Organizational Structure



# The Verifier's Role

## What is the purpose of a verifier?

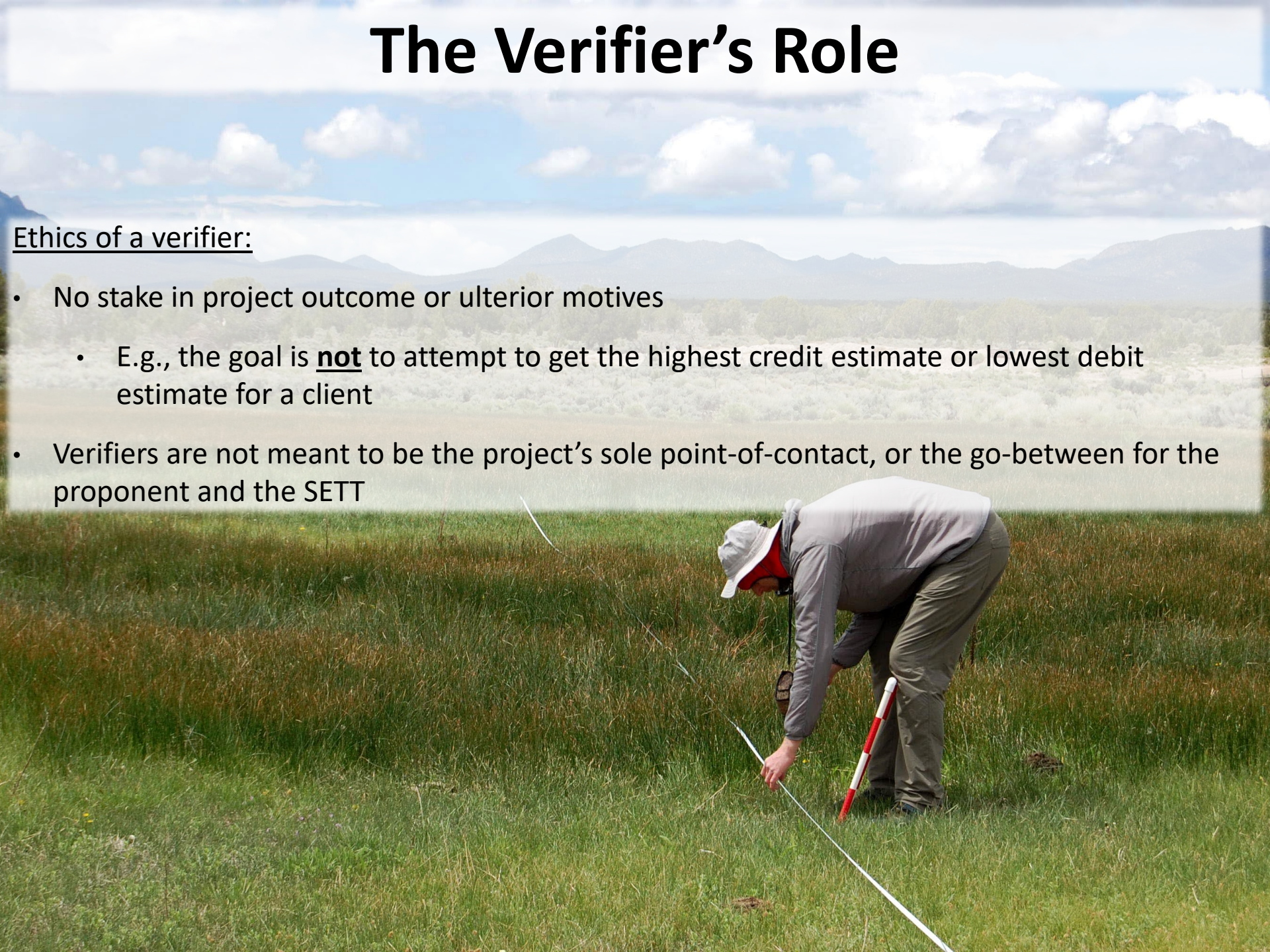
- To be an **impartial**, third party
- To objectively assess project conditions (both in GIS and on-the-ground) and assist with paperwork during the pre- and post-field processes
- May be hired by credit proponents to assist with management plan development and annual monitoring (certification not required for these aspects though)



# The Verifier's Role

## Ethics of a verifier:

- No stake in project outcome or ulterior motives
  - E.g., the goal is **not** to attempt to get the highest credit estimate or lowest debit estimate for a client
- Verifiers are not meant to be the project's sole point-of-contact, or the go-between for the proponent and the SETT



# Requirements for Verifier Certification

To become a certified verifier for the Conservation Credit System, interested parties must:

- Take the in-person training
- Pass the verifier tests (closed-book and take-home)
- Field verifiers working on Credit Projects must also attend PFC training within first year as a verifier



# Requirements for Verifier Certification

To remain a certified verifier, individuals must:

- Participate in yearly 1-day refresher course that will be offered online
  - If they have worked as a verifier on a project, no test(s) required
  - If they have not worked as a verifier on any projects, test(s) must be retaken
  - If they miss the refresher course, they will not be re-certified for the year, and will need to attend the in-person training the following year
- Field verifiers working on Credit Projects must attend PFC training every 5 years
- **All verifiers must re-take the in-person training and pass the tests every 5 years**

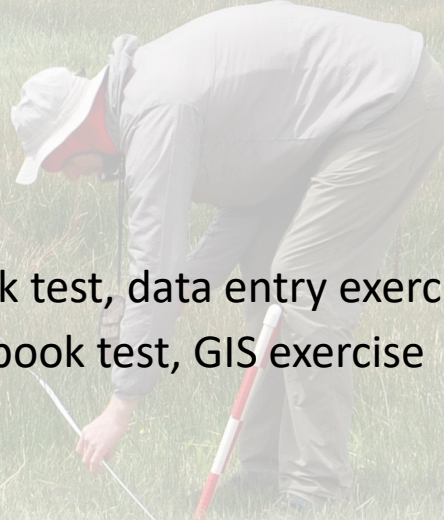


# Requirements for Verifier Certification

## What verifier training and the tests provide:

- A thorough understanding of the CCS, its complexities, and a verifier's role within it (including expectations)
- The ability to carry out SEP protocols, implement the CCS's tools, understand their outputs, and provide guidance to clients
- The opportunity to be a project manager if the following commitments are met:
  - Obtain certification in either Field or Desktop Verification (many have both)
  - Possess a holistic understanding of all aspects of the program
  - Maintain ample connection to all project components and sign off on the completeness and accuracy of the final submission
  - Accept responsibility for project management in its entirety (this includes the field, GIS, and HQT calculator components)

# Verifier Certification Duties

- Organize training
    - Set date
    - Communicate pertinent info to potential attendees
    - Track/respond to RSVP's and update verifier records
    - Ensure proper accommodations are available
  - Prepare training materials
    - Presentations
    - GIS Demos
    - Print all required classroom materials
    - Gather all required field demo materials
  - Create tests and answer keys
    - Field Certification: Closed-book test, open-book test, data entry exercise
    - Desktop Certification: Closed-book test, open-book test, GIS exercise
  - Administer and Grade tests
  - Issue certification letters
  - Maintain updated list of certified verifiers on the SEP's website
- 
- A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, white pants, and a white cap is bent over in a grassy field, using a surveying instrument. The background shows a vast, open landscape with low mountains under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

# 2025 Verifier Certification

- Held 2025 training Jan 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Three days of in-person, thorough training for all verifiers, certified or new
  - Closed-book test on last day
- 61 attendees seeking certification attended in-person training
- 22 attended for informational purposes (2 in-person, 20 virtually)
- We have graded closed-book tests
- Open-book tests due on Feb 28<sup>th</sup>
- Will post updated list of certified verifiers for 2025 once all tests are graded





**Questions?**

