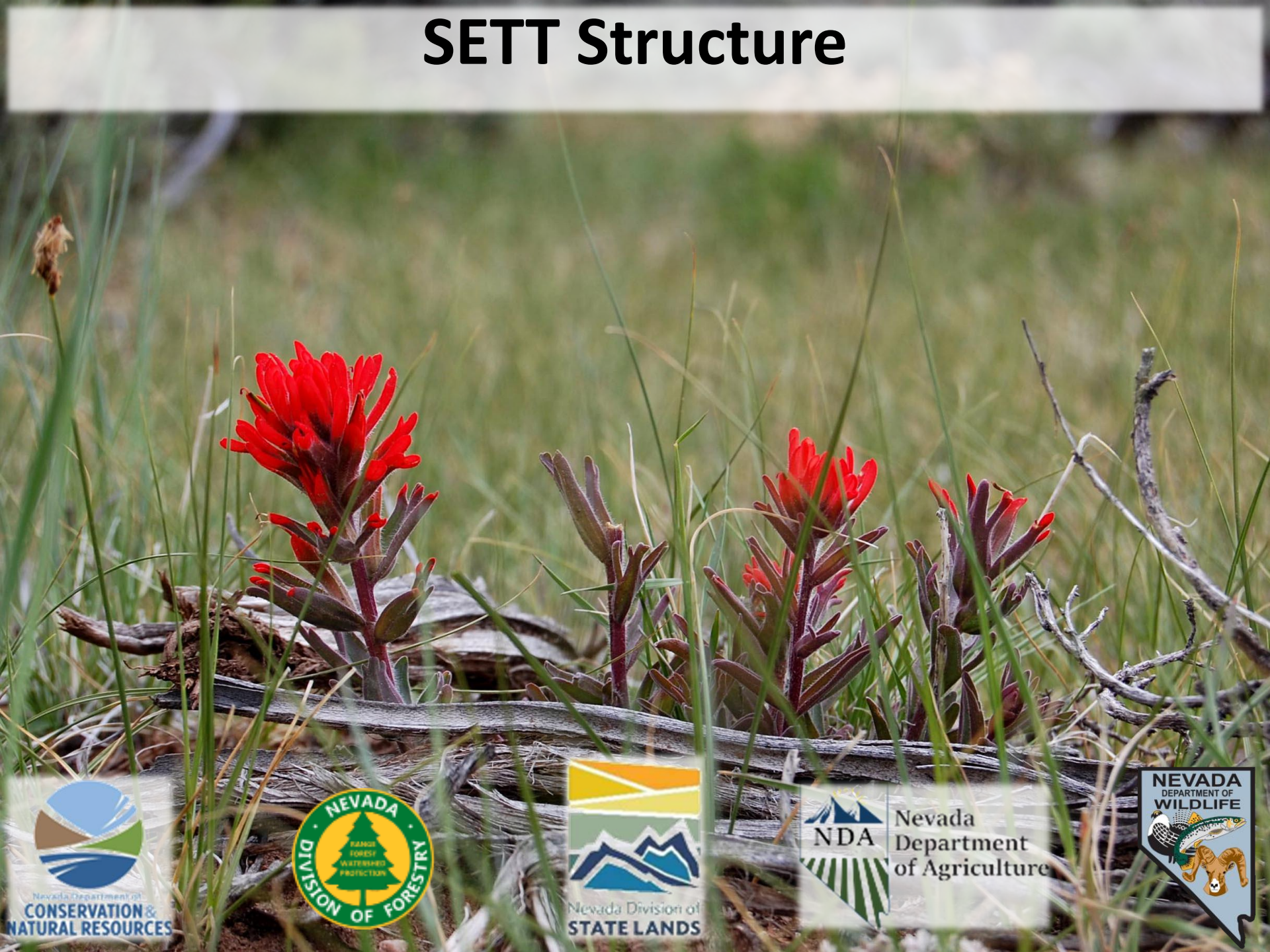
SETT Roles and Responsibilities

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

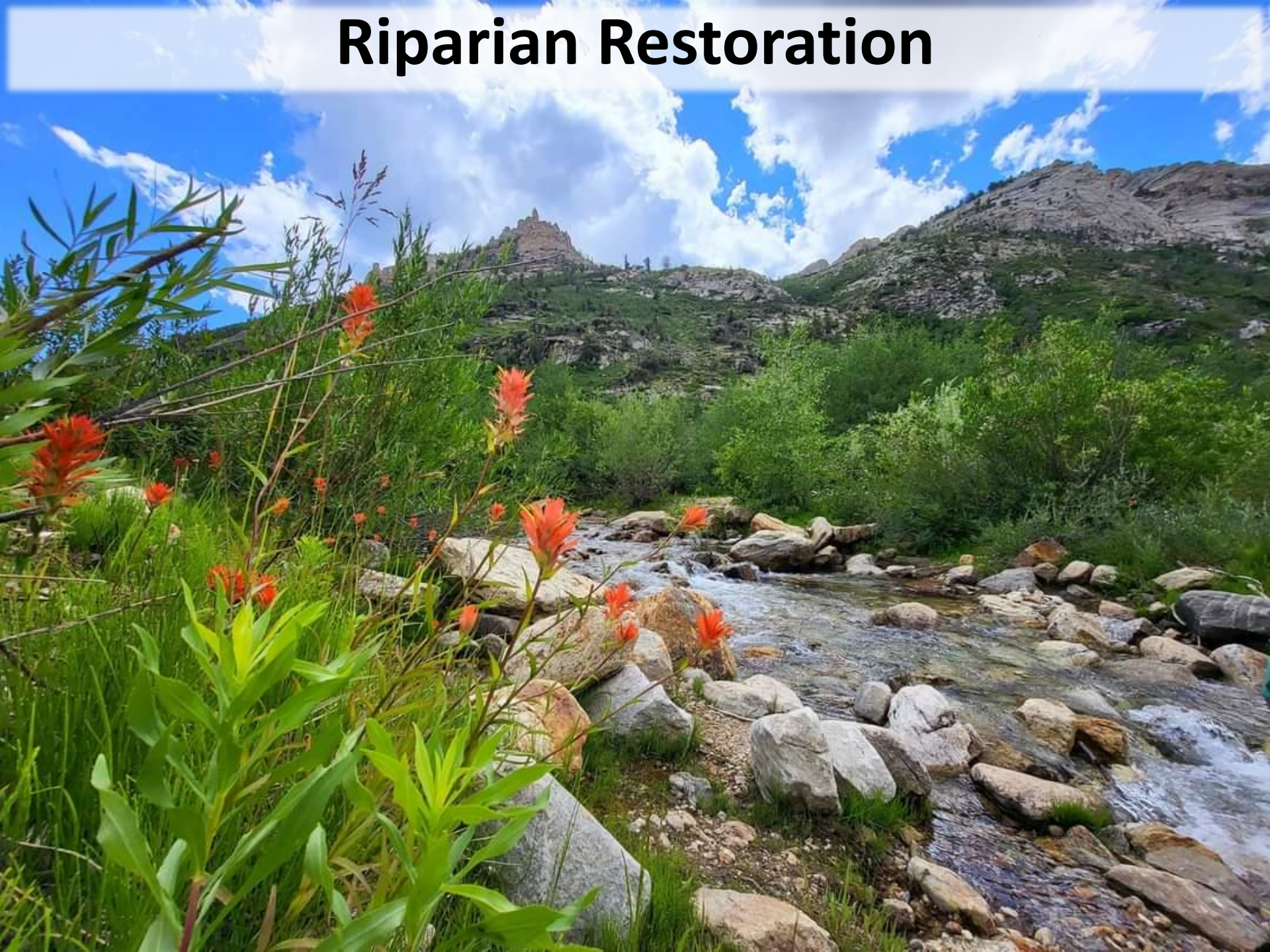
Maintain SEP's online resources:

- 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

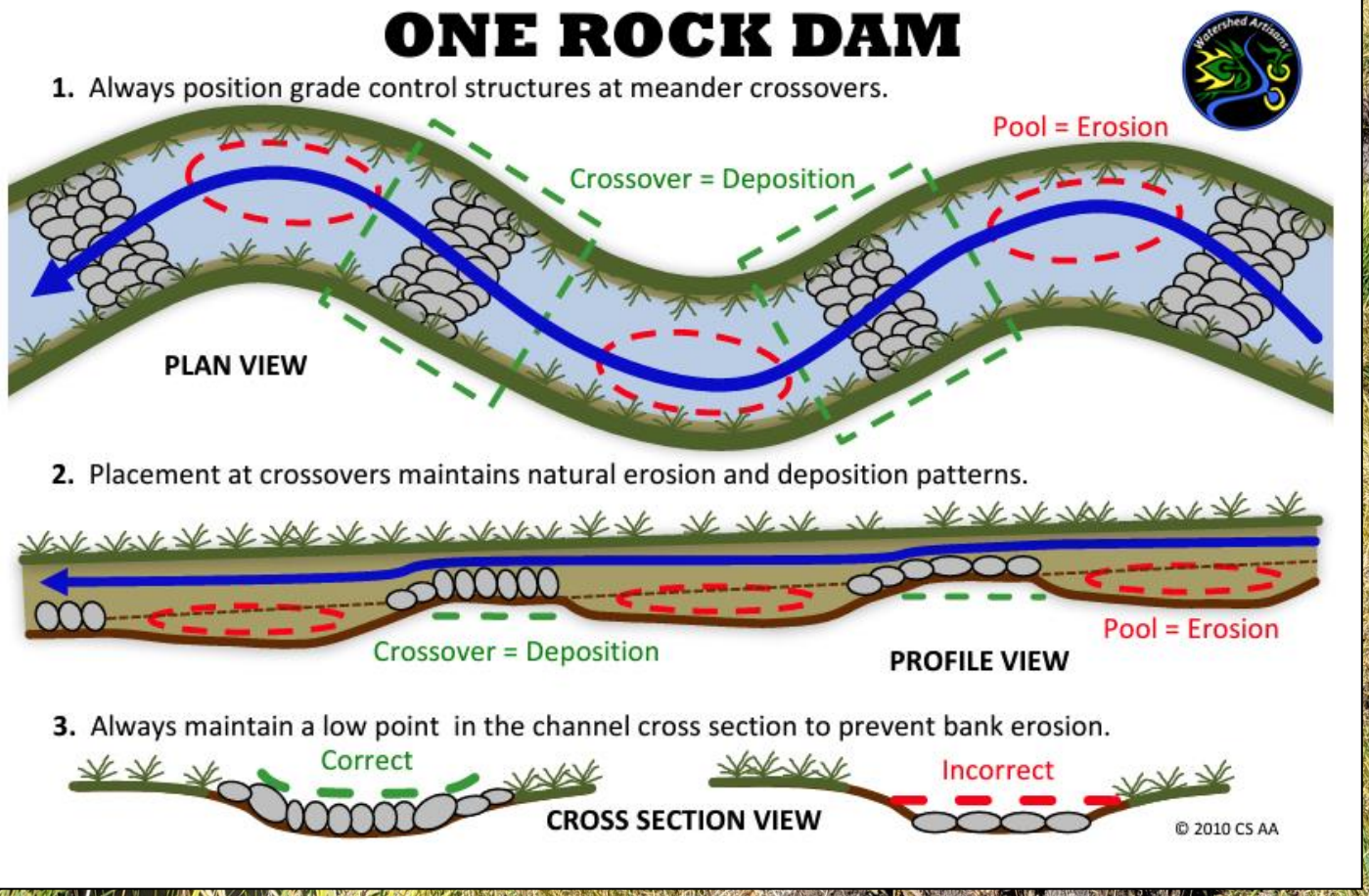
- Learn, and implement, different methods for riparian restoration (ranging from low-cost/low-tech to high-tech)
- Participate in Nevada Creeks and Communities program (lead by Sherm Swanson)
  - Interdisciplinary program that provides riparian management education in NV to landowners, land users, agency 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

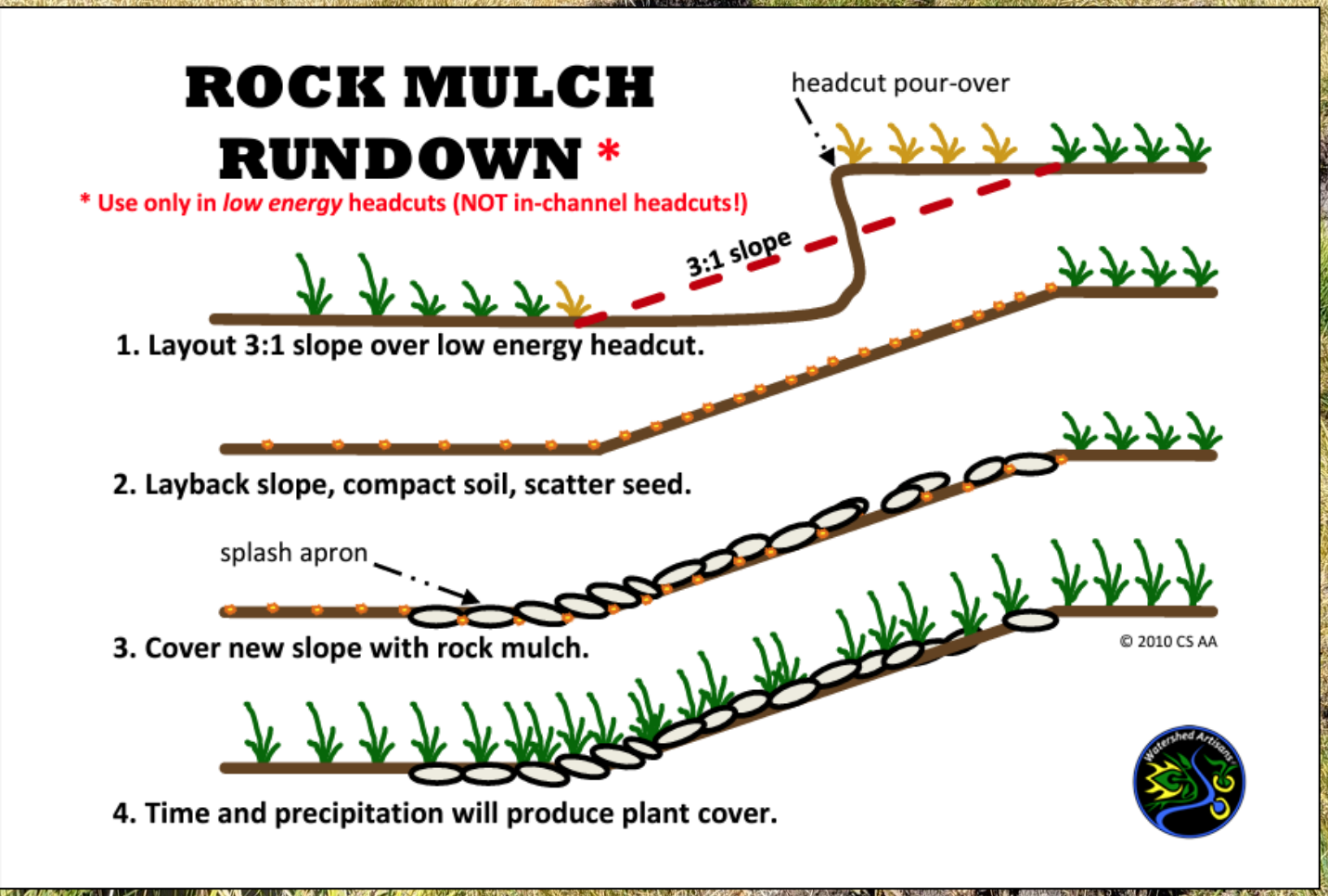
Riparian Restoration - Zeedyk Structures



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

Sponholtz, C. and A.C. Anderson (2013). Erosion Control Field Guide. Quivira Coalition and Watershed Artisans.

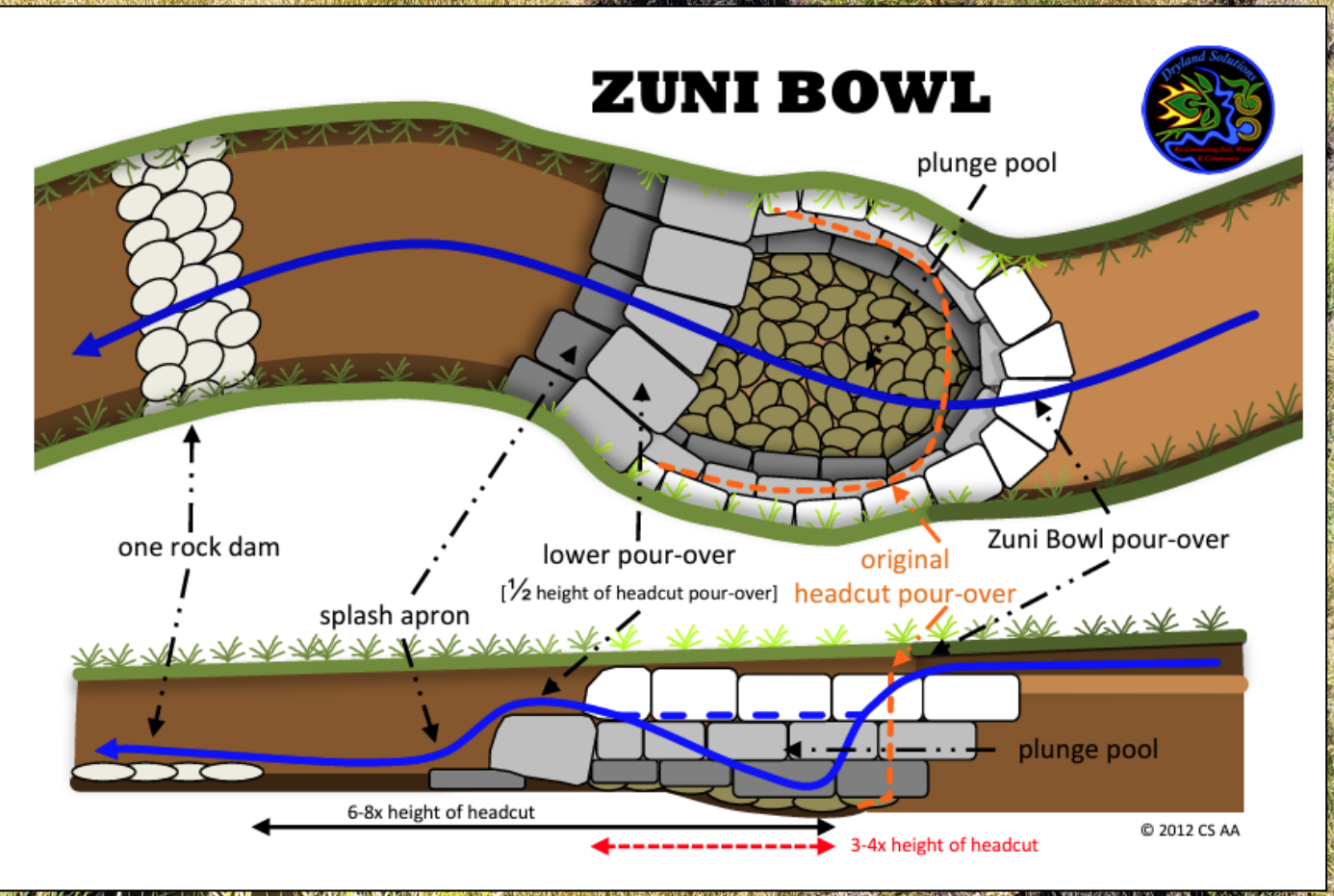
Riparian Restoration - Zeedyk Structures



- 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

Sponholtz, C. and A.C. Anderson (2013). Erosion Control Field Guide. Quivira Coalition and Watershed Artisans.

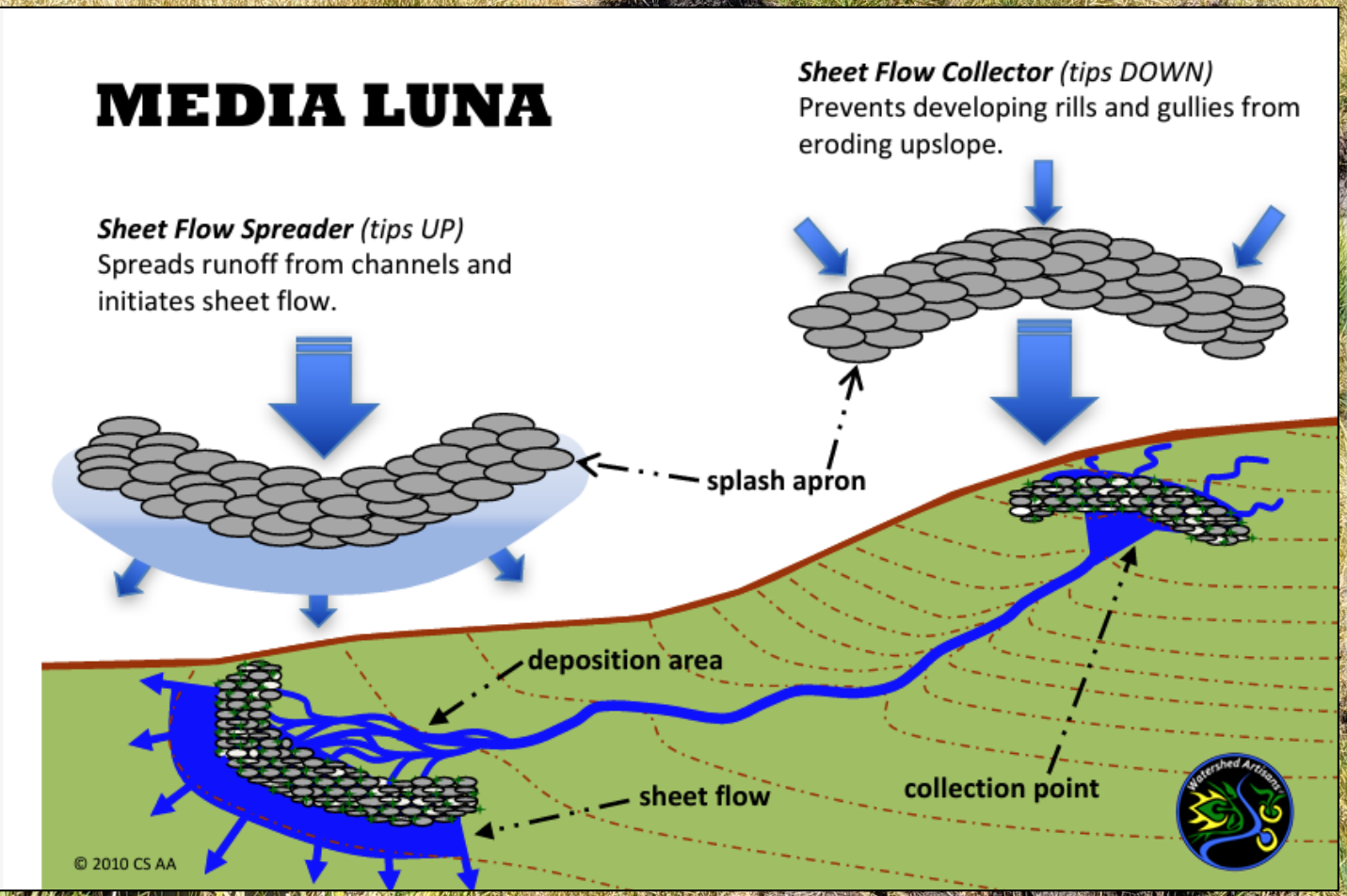
Riparian Restoration - Zeedyk Structures



- 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

Sponholtz, C. and A.C. Anderson (2013). Erosion Control Field Guide. Quivira Coalition and Watershed Artisans.

Riparian Restoration - Zeedyk Structures



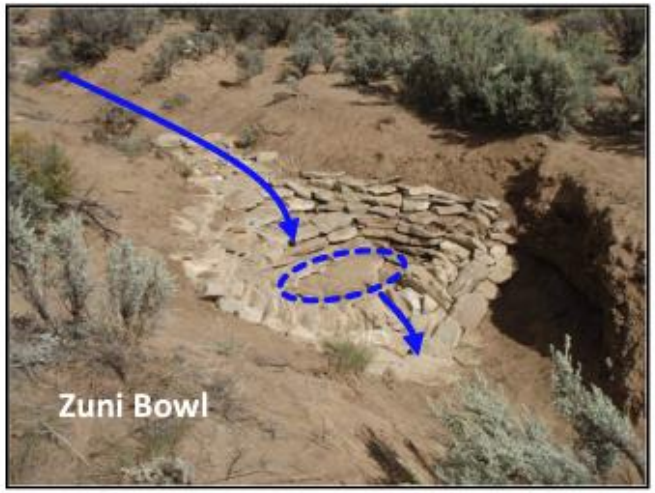
- Sheet flow collectors create stable transition into channel
- Sheet flow spreaders disperse channelized flow and reestablish sheet flow where it once occurred

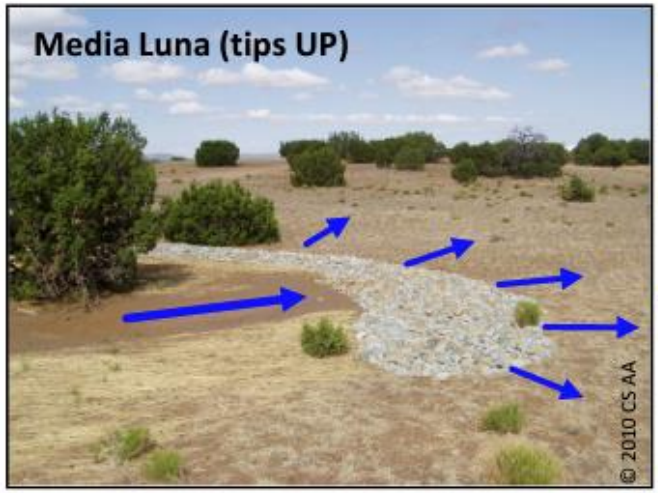
Sponholtz, C. and A.C. Anderson (2013). Erosion Control Field Guide. Quivira Coalition and Watershed Artisans.

Riparian Restoration - Zeedyk Structures

When possible use materials available on-site.

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





For more information visit www.WatershedArtisans.com.com and www.QuiviraCoalition.org

Sponholtz, C. and A.C. Anderson (2013). Erosion Control Field Guide. Quivira Coalition and Watershed Artisans.

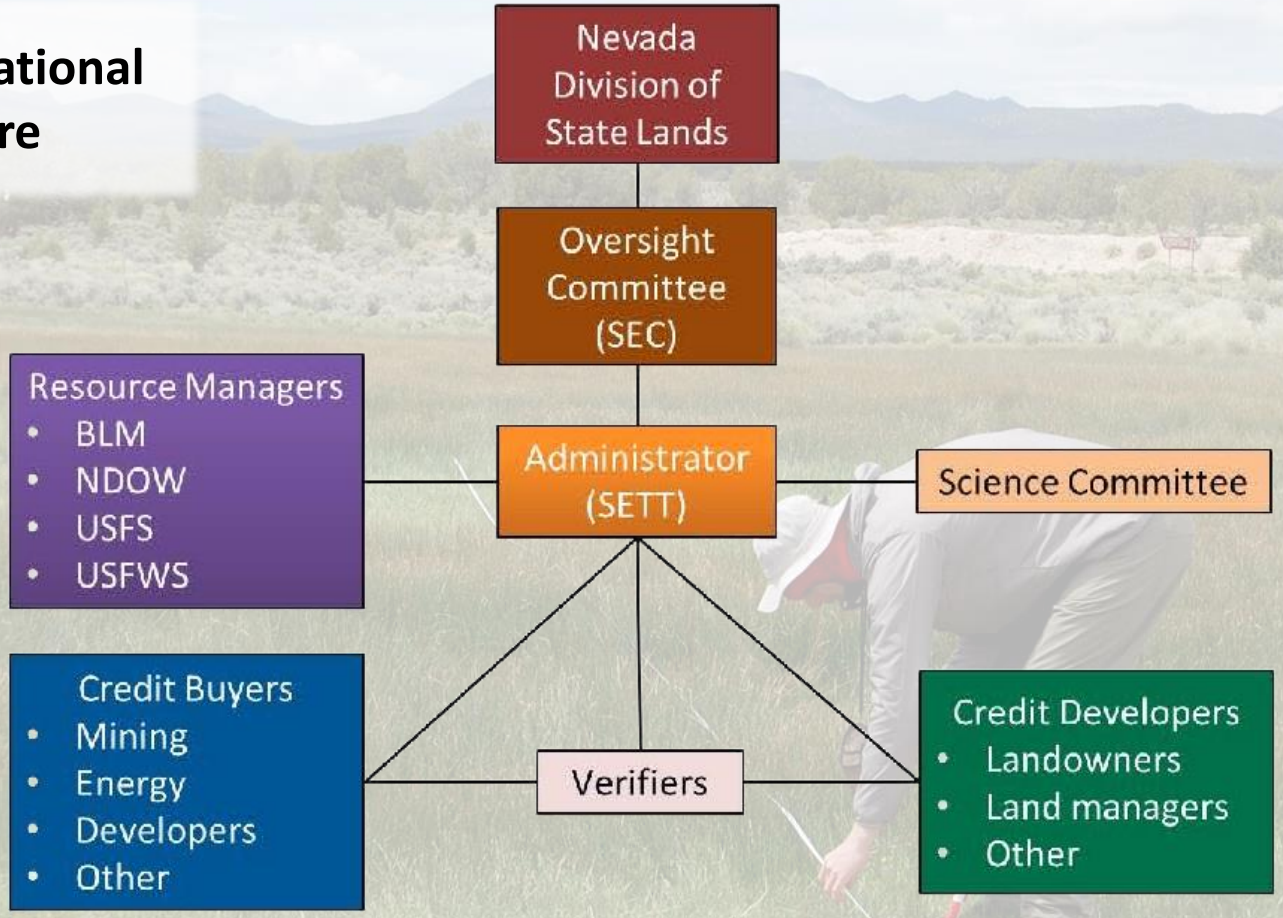
Riparian Restoration – Upcoming Workshop

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

Verifier Training

Verifier Training

SEP Organizational Structure



The Verifier's Role

<u>What is the purpose of a verifier?</u>

- 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

<u>To remain a certified verifier, individuals must:</u>

- 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**

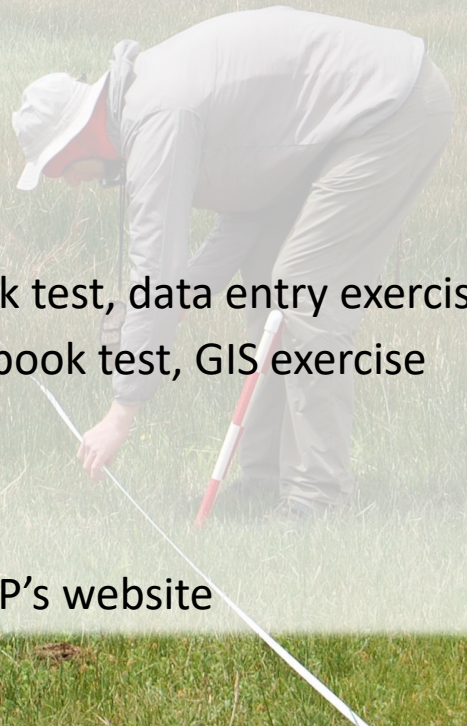
Requirements for Verifier Certification

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



2025 Verifier Certification

- Held 2025 training Jan 28th – 31st
  - 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 28th
- Will post updated list of certified verifiers for 2025 once all tests are graded

Questions?