



Ranch Water Quality Planning Short Course

joint program of:



Center for Range
and Forested Ecosystems

- U.C. Cooperative Extension
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

PURPOSE

- Acquaint landowners with water quality regulations and nonpoint source pollution.
- Help landowners review and document their resources, goals and management practices in a Letter of Intent and a Ranch Water Quality Management Plan.
- Provide assistance with the development of management plans.

OBJECTIVES

- Acquaint landowners with water quality regulations and assessments that can affect their farm & ranch operations.
- Complete a Letter of Intent for your ranch.
- Write a water quality plan for your ranch.
- Learn to monitor indicators of water quality.

TASKS

- Document current or existing practices that protect water quality.
- Learn what non point source pollution is and complete a non-point source self assessment of your ranch.
- Develop water quality protection goals based on your assessment.
- Select management practices that can be applied to improve water quality protection.
- Develop a field monitoring program that will allow you to document positive and negative changes that result from management and natural causes.

PRODUCTS

- Computer generated Letter of Intent
- Ranch Water Quality "Fill-in-the-blanks" Plan

COOPERATORS

- Range Management Advisory
- State Board of Forestry
- California Cattlemen's Association
- California Farm Bureau Federation
- Resource Conservation Districts
- State Water Resources Control Board
- California Woolgrowers Association

California Rangeland Water Quality Management Plan

Three Levels of Planning

- Letter of Intent
- Nonpoint Source Plan
- Recognized Nonpoint Source Plan

Letter of Intent

- Evaluation of water quality status
- Existing & planned management practices
- Monitoring program

Ranch Nonpoint Source Plan

- Resource inventory
- Non-point source self-assessment
- Statement of goals
- Existing & planned management practices
- Monitoring program

Recognized Ranch Nonpoint Source Plan

- Resource inventory
- Non-point source self-assessment
- Statement of goals
- Existing & planned management practices
- Monitoring program
- Plan submitted to RWQCB for review/approval

Water Quality Issues Minimal

- No or minor water quality issues
- Letter of Intent recommended
- Filing with RCD or other local organization unnecessary but recommended

Water Quality Issues

(State Assessment or 303d list)

- Nonpoint Source Plan recommended
- Recommend filing Letter of Intent with RWQCB designated organization

Water Quality Issues (TMDL or ESU)

- Nonpoint Source Plan recommended
- Letter of Intent filed with RWQCB-designated organization
- Recommend filing Ranch Nonpoint Source Plan