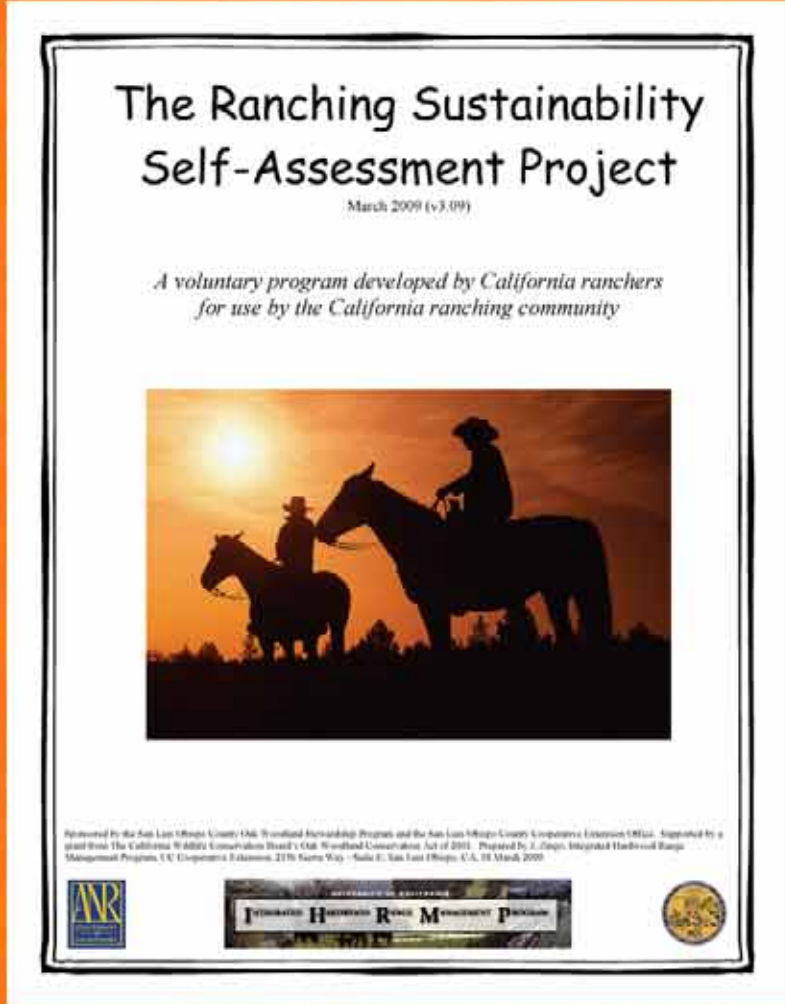


Ranching Sustainability Analysis Environmental



"That land is a community is the basic concept of ecology, but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics." – ALDO LEOPOLD, A Sand County Almanac, 1949



Category: Forage Management

Do you leave the proper amount of RDM?



Score = 2

- Ground nearly bare



Score = 9

- Standing and matted "old feed" in amounts appropriate to such things as slope, soil type, and rainfall.

Benefits:

- Improve forage
- Reduce invasive plants
- Retain soil organics & moisture
- Minimize erosion
- Improve water quality (filtration effect)



Category: Water Quality

Do you implement practices that stabilize stream banks?



Score = 2

- Stream bank unstable



Score = 8

- Stream bank stabilized after 6 years
- Change in grazing practices allowed vegetation to become established (see the obvious willow growth)

Benefits:

- Improve water quality (minimize sedimentation)
- Reduce erosion and loss of good soil
- Increase grazing
- Good for wildlife and biodiversity



Category: Wildlife / Biodiversity

Do you provide wildlife with their basic needs: food, water, cover, space, and protection?



Score = 2

- Minimal habitat structure
- No water or limited access



Score = 8

Important elements here include:

- Vegetative structure
- Forage and browse for herbivores
- Dead wood as cover and insectivore habitat
- Accessible water sources

Benefits:

- Diversify income through hunting and other recreational potential
- Improve public relations

