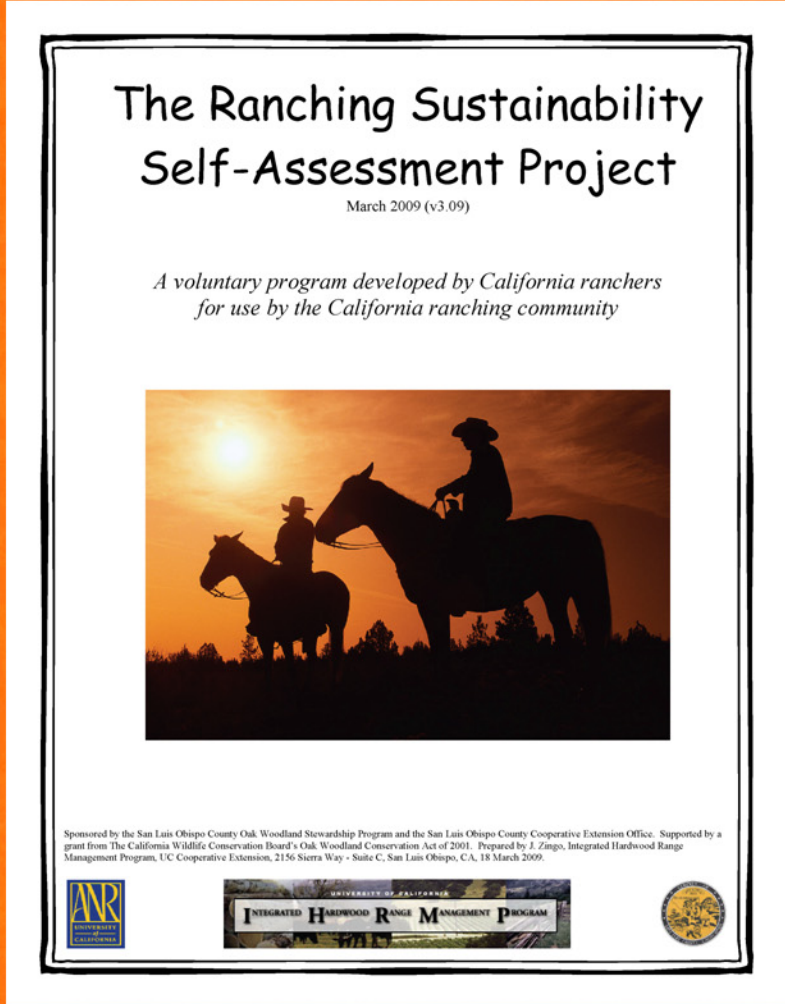


# Ranching Sustainability Analysis Environmental



*"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

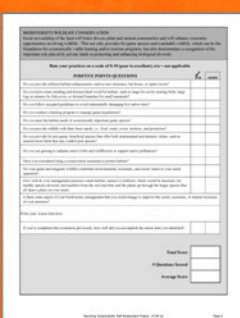


**Score = 8**

- 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

