

Fact Sheet: Landscape hydration- restoring the natural movement of water through the landscapes.

a. Opportunistic spelling

-allow desirable grasses to recover from past grazing. Surface cover significantly reduces the erosion risk when there is more than 30% soil cover. The ideal stocking rate is flexible, and stock numbers should match available feed. Regular monitoring of pastures is necessary to achieve this.



A previously bare, sandy area – recovered after 5 years of using cattle rotation management.

b. Diverting water flow from gully

-earthen embankments aim to lift high flows out of an eroded stream or gully and to revert that flow to the adjacent floodplain. The aim is to optimize water utilization, promote vegetation growth, and enhance ecological health across a wider landscape. Reverting high flows to the floodplain creates similar outcomes/benefits to those described in the definition for leaky weirs, with the additional benefit of encouraging broad areas across the floodplain of vigorous vegetation growth.



Earthen bank designed to divert water from a gully into a series of spreader banks.

c. Spreader banks

-constructed on a 1% downhill grade redirect water from the gully and disperse it across a gently sloping landscape. This technique aids water conservation, promotes soil moisture retention, and contributes to more efficient vegetation growth.

Photo shows spreader banks designed to divert water from a gully over a large flat area.



Spreader banks designed to divert water from a gully over a large flat area.

d. Leaky weirs

-Leaky Weirs are an in-stream or in-gully structures designed to contribute to the re- naturalisation of surface and near surface flow patterns.

Rocks, fallen trees and other natural debris are used to slow the flow of water down a catchment. Leaky Weirs can re-establish wetlands, chains of ponds, pond riffle sequences and/or swampy meadows.

Intended outcomes/benefits include slowing and spreading of flow pulses; raising the alluvial water table; improved water quality; extended flow duration; restored instream, riparian and terrestrial habitat complexity; and improved soil condition.



Widening gully (note exposed tree roots); a suitable site for a leaky weir.

e. Stick contour/timber windrows

-constructed stick contours intercept excessive surface flow before it reaches a watercourse allowing it time to either soak into the soil or to spread out on the slopes, rather than that water concentrating in the gullies and increasing potential for erosion.

Contours are constructed perpendicular to a slope at carefully identified locations within the slope called steps. The banks are designed to consider local conditions such as slope, soil type, catchment size and climate.



Stick contours being constructed from timber killed in the drought- slows water velocity and allows infiltration and improves water quality.

f. Plough/Ripping on the contour

-a valuable tool in erosion control on exposed soils in arid and semi-arid regions. However, it's crucial to consider the unique conditions of each area and adopt these techniques cautiously to achieve the desired outcomes without causing unintended harm.

Ploughing/ripping is designed to capture and use rainfall on moderately sloping land. Ripping should be used cautiously on dispersive soils.



Scalded area being (yeomans) ploughed on the contour- slows water velocity and allows infiltration.