



# Holistic Land Management

United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resource Conservation Service



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

# Definition of Holistic

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Ho.lis.tic

*Adjective*

## PHILOSOPHY

Characterized by comprehension of the parts of something as intimately interconnected and explicable only by reference to the whole.

**WHAT DOES THAT**



**EVEN MEAN?**

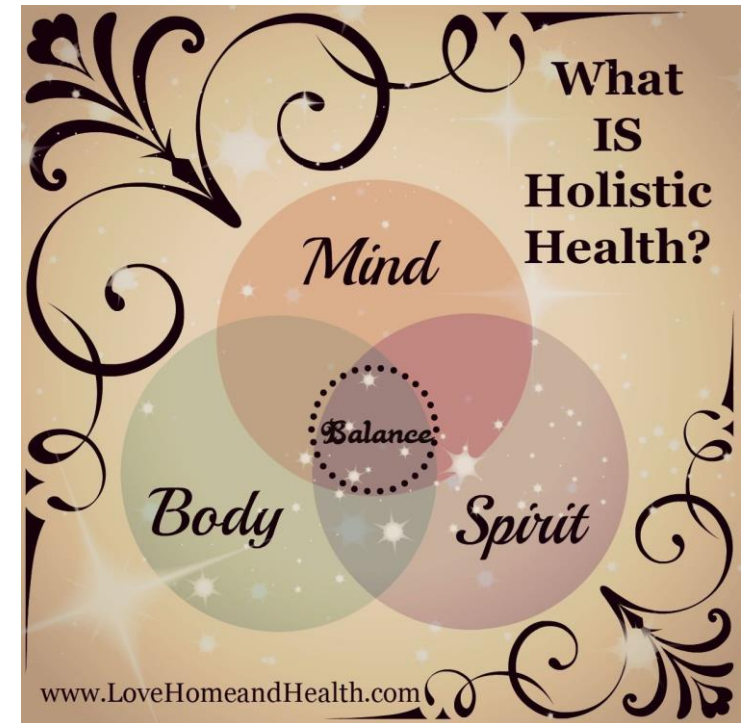
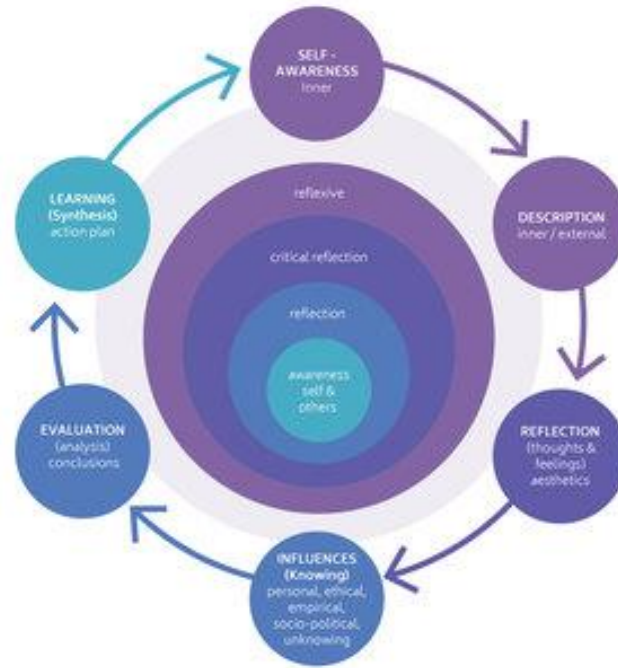
# Overview

What is “Holistic”?

What is Holistic Land Management?

How do you apply it to the land?

What are the NRCS steps of Conservation Planning?



HOLISTIC



# Holistic Land Management

**WHAT DOES THAT**



**EVEN MEAN?**



Example in Holistic  
Management

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What do you do?



# NO FOOD – WHAT TO DO?

## **Option 1:**

Go to Store  
Buy Something

## **Option 2:**

Ignore Empty Fridge  
Go to restaurant!

## **Option 3:**

Make List  
Go to Store

## **Option 4:**

Plan a menu  
Inventory Resources  
Plan Day to Go Shopping

## **Option 5:**

Inventory resources  
Identify roles  
Develop Vision for Short and Long Term  
Food Intake  
Develop a Plan  
Implement Plan and Evaluate Results



Land Management Issue?

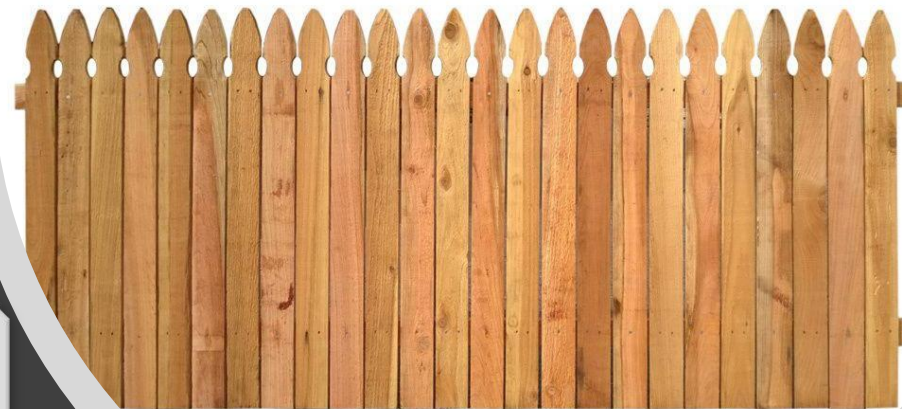
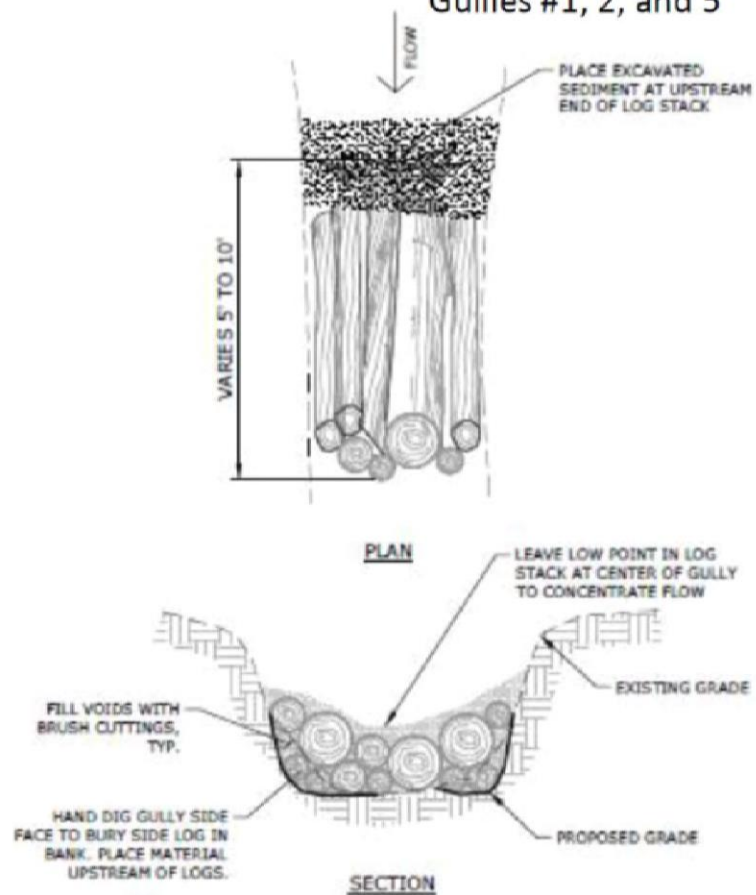
What do you do?

# Project Design & Construction



## Log Stack

### Gullies #1, 2, and 5





Holistic  
Management  
Grazing  
Savory





Source: Holistic Management International

# Framework of Holistic Management

Holistic Goal  
Setting &  
Decision Testing

Holistic Financial  
Planning

Holistic Marketing  
& Business  
Planning

## Components of Holistic Management

Change the way you make decisions

Define the Whole:  
What are you managing?

Forming a Holistic Goal/Identify Holistic Context

Develop sense of ownership

Four Ecosystem Processes (Water, Community, Minerals, Energy)

Tools (Money & Labor, Human Creativity, Fire, Rest, Grazing, Animal Impact, Living Organism, Technology)

Test Decisions – Make Sound Decisions – Economically and Environmentally – ASK THE WHY?

Monitor – Monitor - Monitor





## NRCS Nine-Step Conservation Planning

GOAL – Develop and implement plans that protect, conserve, and enhance natural resources within in a social and economic perspective.



# STEP 1 - IDENTIFY

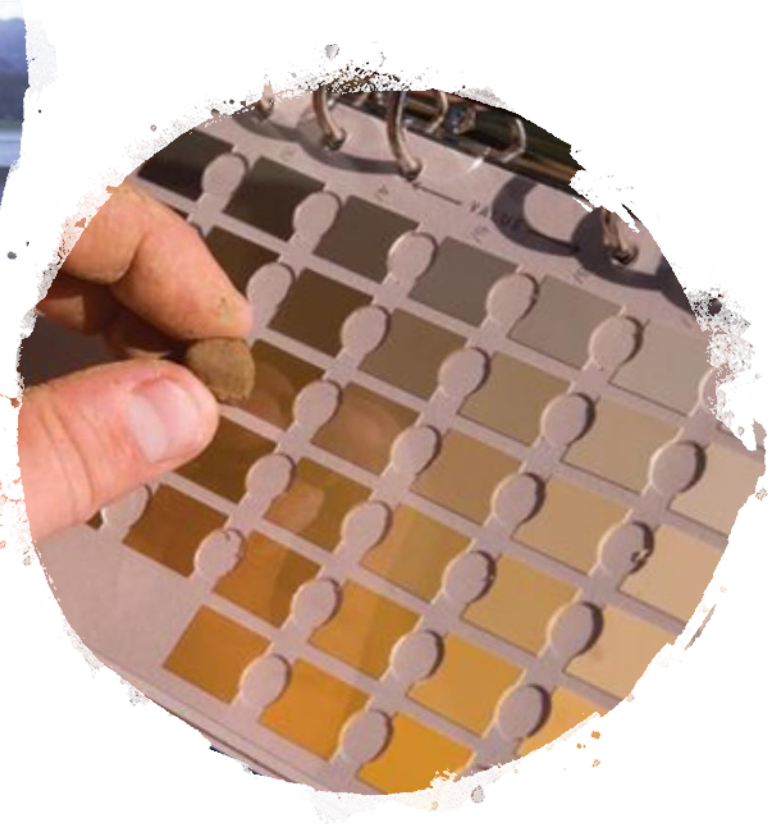
Current issues and other problems as they arise with the landowner/manager



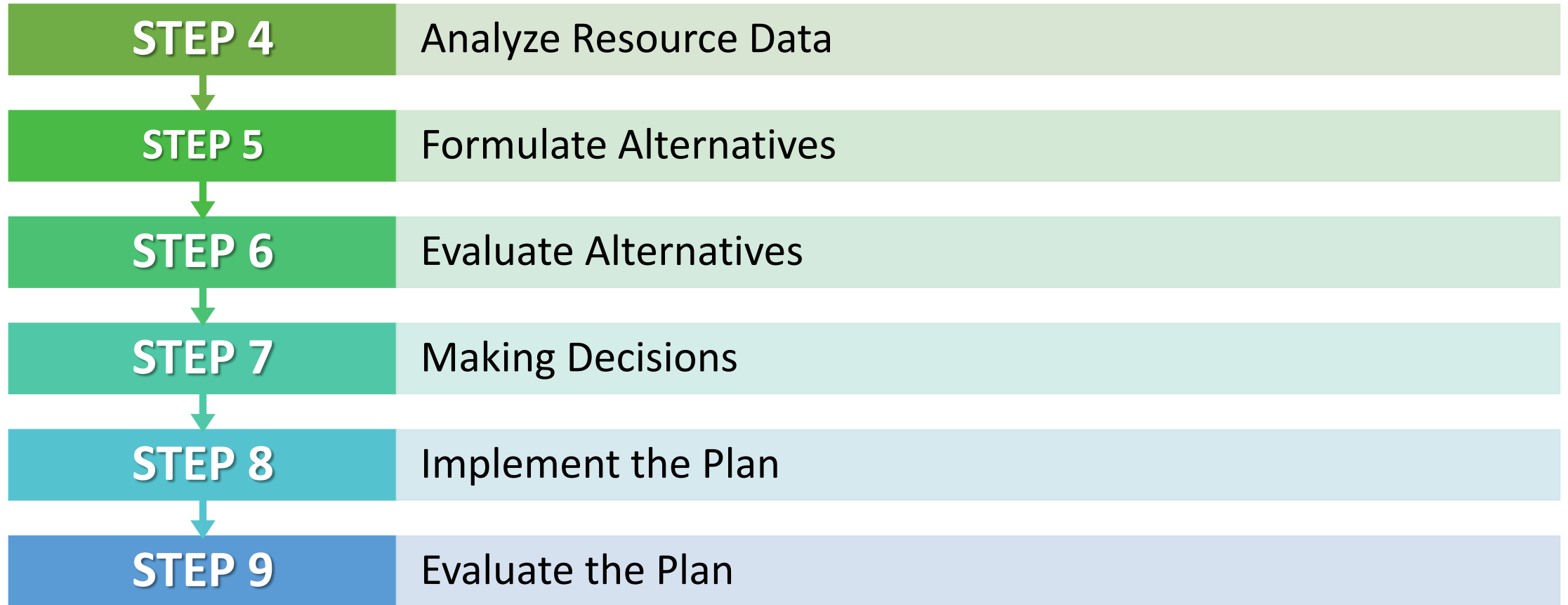
## STEP 2: DETERMINE OBJECTIVES

What needs, values, and resources used for the client?





# STEP 3: Inventory Resources



# NRCS 9 STEPS OF CONSERVATION PLANNING

Questions?

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We need to stop  
just pulling people  
out of the river.

We need to go  
upstream and *find*  
*out why they're*  
*falling in.*

-Desmond Tutu