

Water Harvesting from Low-Standard Rural Roads. By Bill Zeedyk. April 2006. A Joint Publication from The Quivira Coalition, and Zeedyk Ecological Consulting LLC, The Rio Puerco Management Committee–Watershed Initiative, and the New Mexico Environment Department—Surface Water Quality Bureau. 46 p. Book free from: The Quivira Coalition, 1413 Second Street, Suite #1, Santa Fe, NM 87505. Phone 505-820-2544. (S&H charge of \$4 for the first copy and \$2 for each additional copy in the same order.)

This book addresses the construction and maintenance of unpaved rural roads including strategies, techniques, and practices for dealing with problems frequently encountered by land owners, land managers, and maintenance personnel.

There are nine major sections to the book: 1) Assessing Needs and Opportunities; 2) Reading the Landscape: Geology, Topography, Hydrology, and Soils; 3) Reading the Roadway; 4) Road System Planning and Management Strategies and Practices; 5) Treatments; 6) Survey and Design: Placing Treatments on the Ground; 7) Monitoring: Are Maintenance Practices Effective? 8) Streams, Wetlands, Springs and Cieneegas; 9) Tools and Equipment; and 9) Getting the Job Done. Included are 5 Appendices covering Glossary, Weights and Measures, Permits and Clearances, Recommended Reading, and Maintenance Treatments.

Although the term “water harvesting” is in the book title, the majority of the information relates to rural road maintenance. It is not an engineering design manual but does provide sufficient information that would allow the reader to assess and rectify poor rural roads.

There are numerous simple figures, illustrations, and photos which illustrate the points in the text. The concepts are easy to follow and understand with a single reading. The entire book can be read in less than an hour. The photos are in color, showing various aspects of field sites and installation procedures. The photos are supplemented with good simple line drawings depicting various construction concepts.

Included in the book are descriptions for ways of managing roads to reduce off-site erosion and ways to restore damaged areas. The author makes frequent reference to managing the runoff water, or water harvesting, for some beneficial use.

Of special note is Appendix E: Maintenance Treatments. It is a simple table showing: Treatment Type, Where/When Used, Purpose and Conditions of Use, and Cautions. It takes you directly to the best technique to remedy a specific problem without having to go through the entire publication to find what you want.

Gary Frasier, Editor-in-Chief, *Rangelands*. ♦

