

# BOOK REVIEW

**An Introduction to Erosion Control. 2nd Ed.** By Bill Zeedyk and Jan-Willem Jansens. March 2006. A Joint Publication from Earth Works Institute, The Quivira Coalition, and Zeedyk Ecological Consulting. 24 p. Book free from: The Quivira Coalition, 1413 Second Street, Suite #1, Santa Fe, NM 87505. Phone 505-820-2544 or print from the website at [www.quiviracoalition.org](http://www.quiviracoalition.org).

This book provides a general description of some simple erosion control techniques for rangeland watersheds. It is not an engineering design manual.

The book is an illustrated field guide showing both the problem of soil erosion on rangelands and some simple solutions. It is well-suited as a handout for field tour discussions with general contractors, volunteers, project managers, and government officials with limited engineering background who might not have training in soil erosion processes or remedies. It provides a good introduction to some basic techniques for reducing soil loss by water.

There are five sections to the book: 1) An Introduction to Erosion Control, 2) Landscape Degradation Processes, 3) General Soil Healing Techniques, 4) Healing Techniques for Gullies and Headcuts, and 5) Not Recommended.

The book, in a 5- × 8-inch format, is easy to carry to the field with 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.

On the inside of the back cover is a simple table labeled “When to Use What.” It gives the Technique, the page where it is discussed, and “When to Use.” 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.

Of special note is the section titled “Not Recommended.” It has simple drawings and a good discussion of where the techniques will not work and why they might actually increase soil erosion.

Although most of the descriptions and discussion refer to arid and semiarid rangelands in the southwestern United States, the concepts are applicable to many parts of the world.

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

