



Where Does the  
Inventory Fit in  
the Big Picture??

**Building  
the Group**

**Determining  
Objectives**

**Setting  
Goals**

**Problem  
Statements**

**Vision  
Mission**

**I N V E N T O R Y**

# Why Inventory

- Assists with ‘Ground Truthing’ suspected causes and sources
- Helps verify perceived problems and uncover unseen problems
- Target objectives to get the ‘best bang for the buck’
- Can help stakeholders understand actual problems more clearly through education

# INVENTORY

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graph LR; A((INVENTORY)) --- B((Formulate & Evaluate Alternatives)); B --- C((Analyze Resources)); C --- D((Obtain Technical Assistance)); D --- E((Make Decisions)); E --- F((Target & Prioritize Actions));
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# A Real Life Example



A local group made the decision to deal with Streambank Erosion as the primary water quality problem.

Streambank Erosion was chosen based on a stakeholder discussion of historically identified problems.

# The Inventory

After securing grant funds for streambank erosion issues, an Inventory was conducted.

## The Watershed

Coordinator and two Regional Watershed Conservationists walked the streams and drove the watershed.



# General Observations

- Sediment and Nutrient loads appeared to be the biggest water quality impairment.
- Bank erosion was observed, but appeared to be contributing a minor load.
- Volume and velocity of water flow might be contributing to the bank erosion.



# Upstream Observations

- Cropland erosion rates were high
- Gully erosion on all land uses
- Few buffers, filters, or riparian areas on all land uses
- Poor livestock management (overgrazing, no alternative water sources)



# Conclusions

- While highly visible, bank erosion was not the biggest contributor to water quality problems!
- Other land use decisions may be affecting the volume and velocity of flow, adding to bank erosion problem.
- Implementing buffers, conservation tillage, and prescribed grazing may result in greater load reductions than streambank stabilization.

# Lessons Learned

- The Inventory disproved assumed water quality problems and revealed unknown problems.
- The Inventory helped re-allocate resources to get the ‘best bang for the buck’ - grant money was refocused from streambank restoration to cost-share for BMPs in the headwaters of the watershed.