

# Water Storage Ponds

Kabul, Afghanistan  
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This watershed rehabilitation and restoration training was prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) team of Jon Fripp (Civil Engineer – USDA/NRCS), Melvin Westbrook (Director USDA-NRCS/IPD), Otto Gonzalez (International Agricultural Development Specialist - USDA Foreign Agricultural Service), Clark Fleege, (Nursery Manager, USDA Forest Service, and George Hernandez (Forester - USDA Forest Service), Rich Weber (Civil Engineer – USDA/NRCS) in consultation with Lief Christenson, (USA CJTF101 Water Resources Coordinator, Afghanistan). Contact Jon Fripp at [jon.fripp@ftw.usda.gov](mailto:jon.fripp@ftw.usda.gov) or Otto Gonzalez at [Otto.Gonzalez@fas.usda.gov](mailto:Otto.Gonzalez@fas.usda.gov) for more information on this workshop.

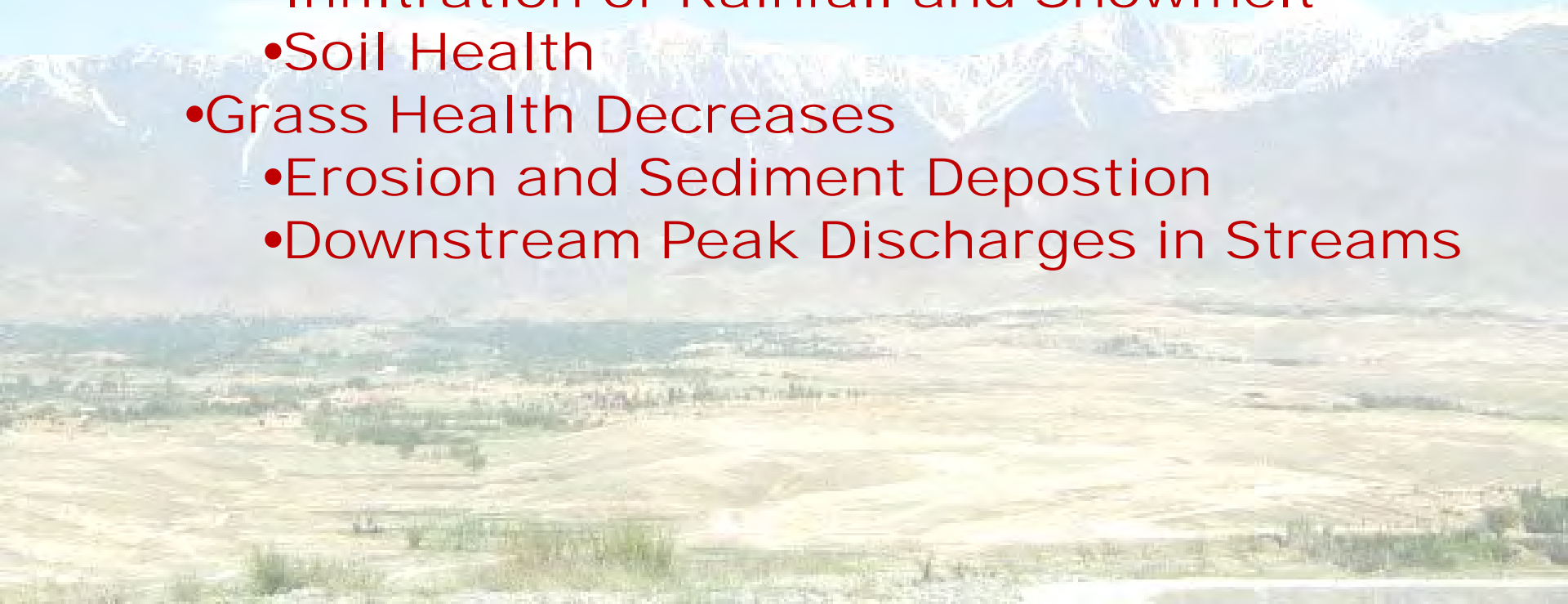
# Module Topics:

- Purpose of Ponds
- Types of Ponds
- Pond Design Issues
- Field Exercise



# Purpose of Ponds

- Provide Source of Drinking Water for Livestock
  - Improves Grazing Distribution
  - Increases Health of Grass
  - Increases Animal Production
  - Grass Health Increases
    - Infiltration of Rainfall and Snowmelt
    - Soil Health
  - Grass Health Decreases
    - Erosion and Sediment Deposition
    - Downstream Peak Discharges in Streams



# Three Types of Ponds

Embankment Ponds

Pit Ponds – Surface Runoff

Pit Ponds – Groundwater  
Source



# Pit Ponds

- Pond is Excavated
- Excavation is Placed as "Spoil"
- Water Comes From –
  - Surface Runoff
  - Bottom of Pond is Below Groundwater Table





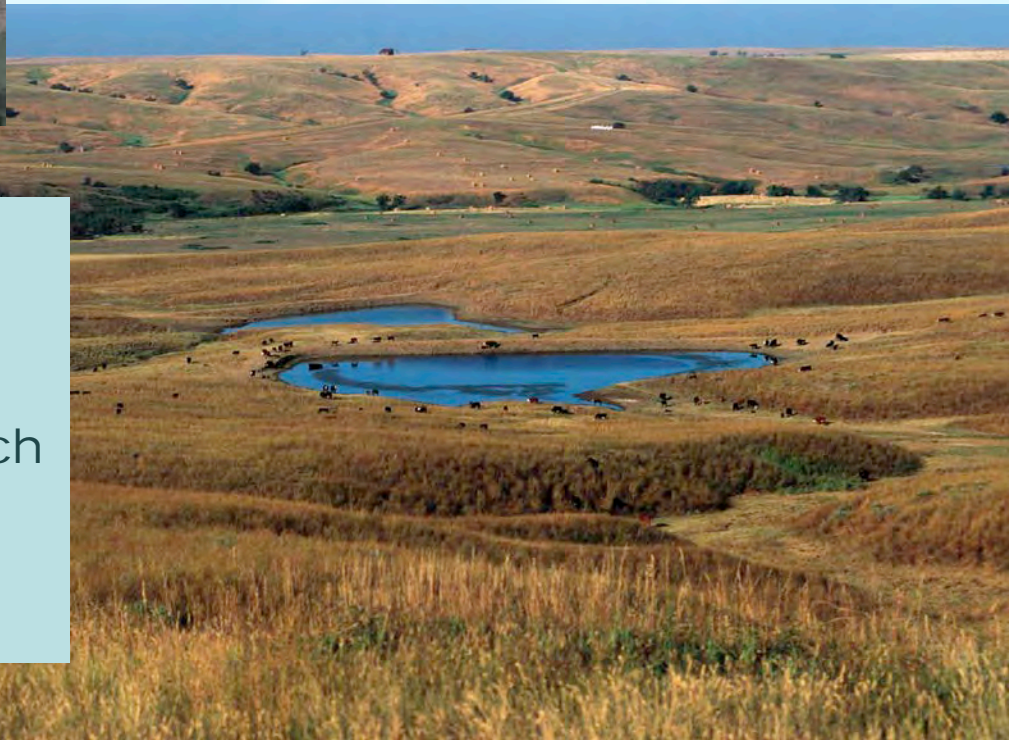
# Embankment Ponds



Installed on Streams to  
Capture Surface Flow

Installed on Streams to  
Capture Surface Flow

- Subject to Failure
- Risk Downstream Due to Breach
- Design Requires Knowledge of Watershed Hydrology, Soils, Drainage Area, etc.



# Considerations:

- Embankment Ponds are Complex
- Embankment Ponds Require Maintenance
- Embankment Ponds can Fail
  
- Pit Ponds are Simple
- Pit Ponds Only Fail by Silting up
- Pit Ponds Cannot Create a Downstream Hazard
  
- ALL Ponds are for supplying LIVESTOCK water
- Should not be relied to supply safe drinking Water for human consumption

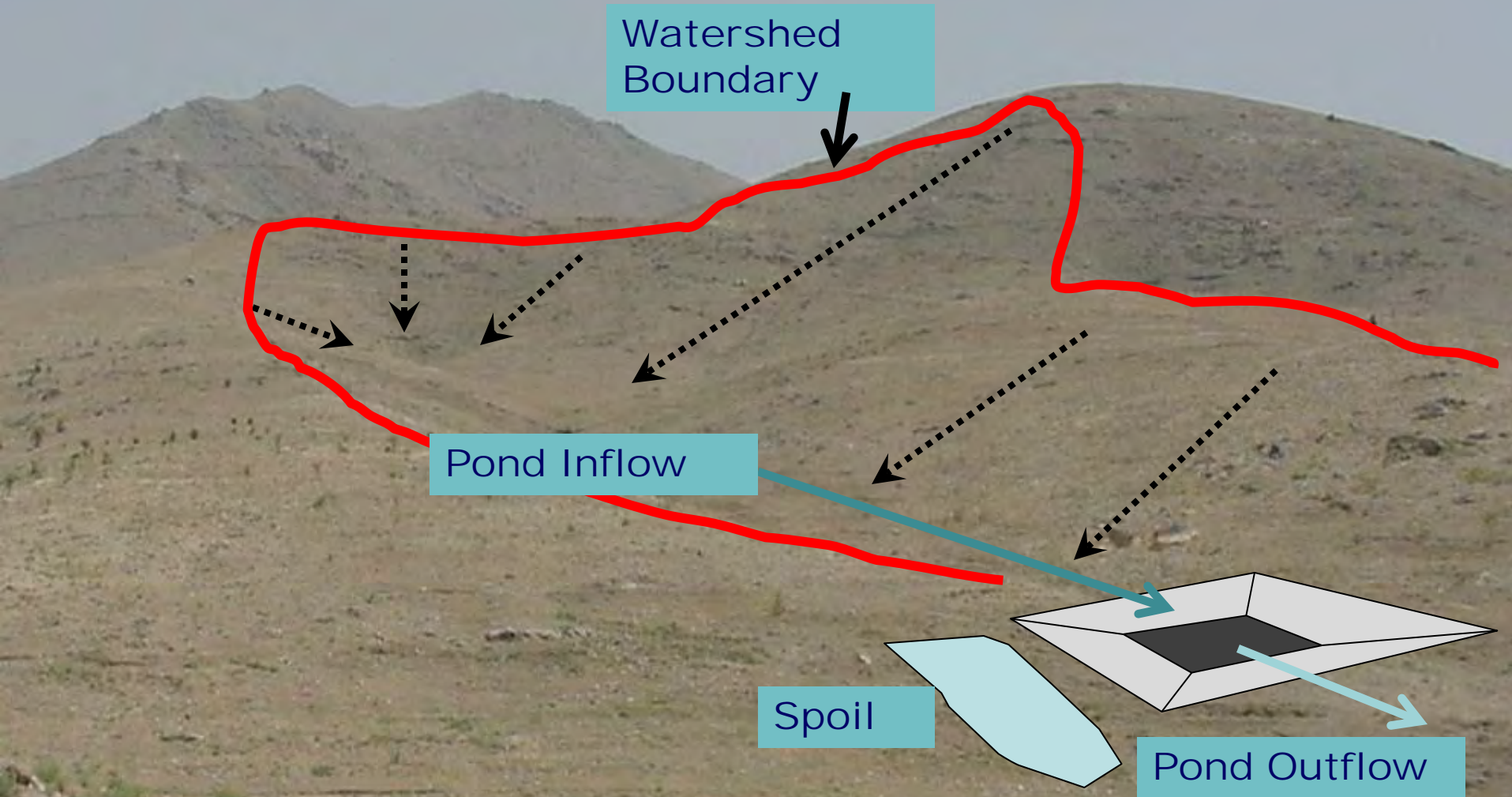


# Pit Ponds

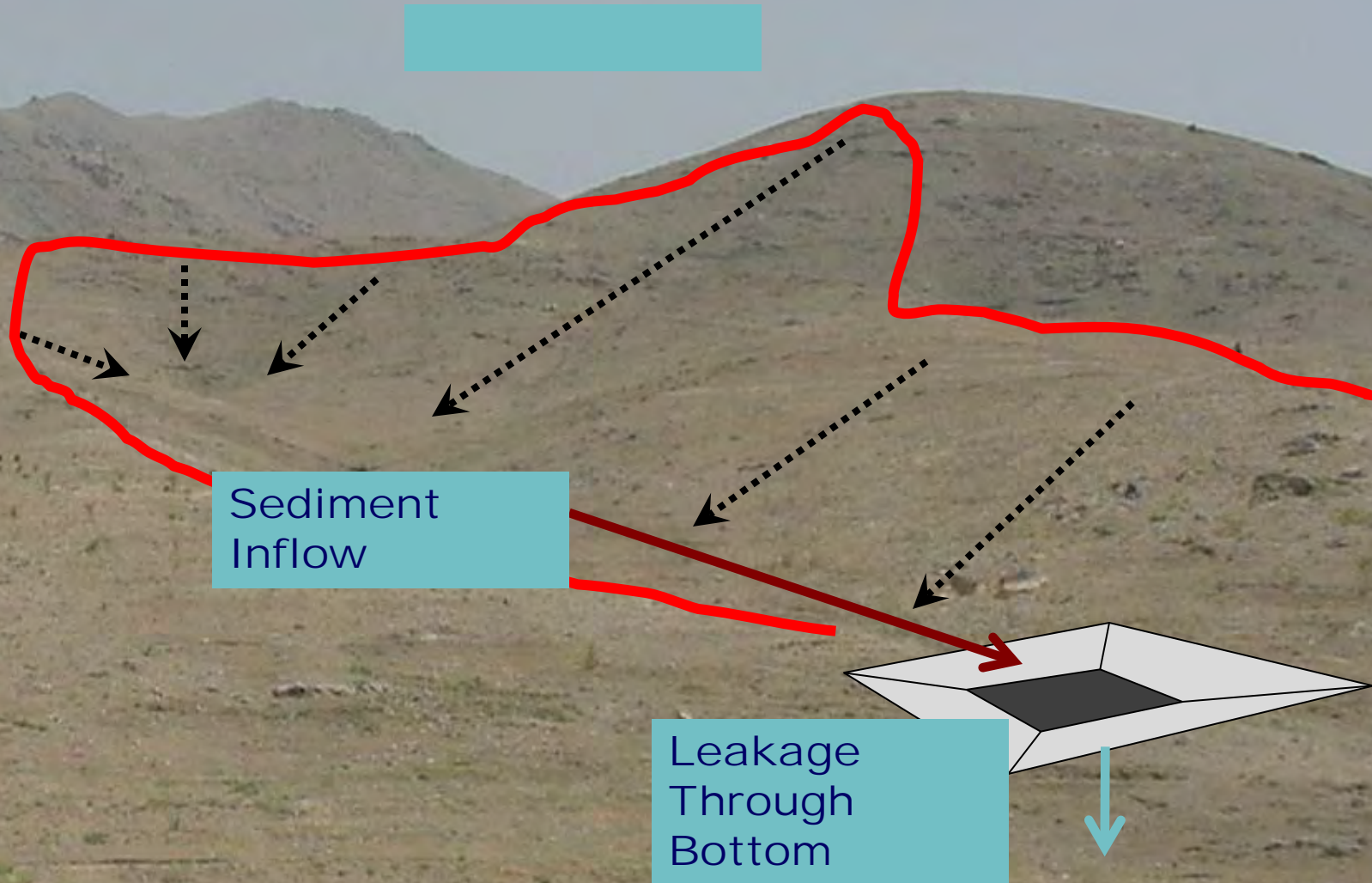




# Pit Ponds



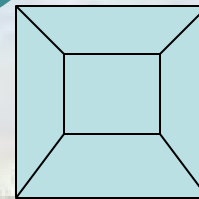
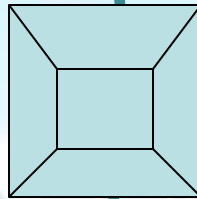
# What Can Possibly Go Wrong With This?



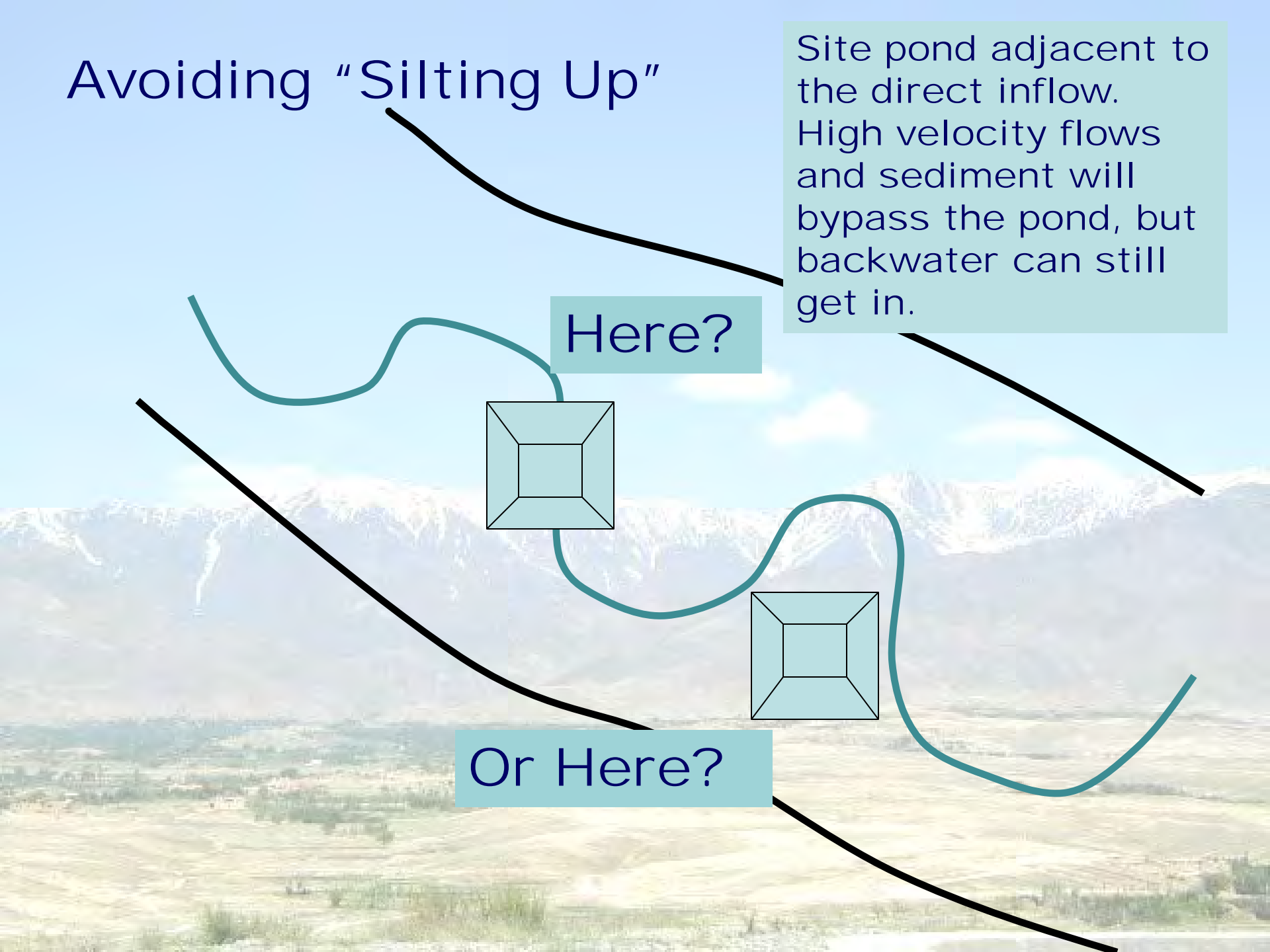
# Avoiding "Silting Up"

Site pond adjacent to the direct inflow. High velocity flows and sediment will bypass the pond, but backwater can still get in.

Here?



Or Here?





# Preventing Leakage



## Soil Investigation

- Clays will hold water
- Sands and Gravels Will Leak

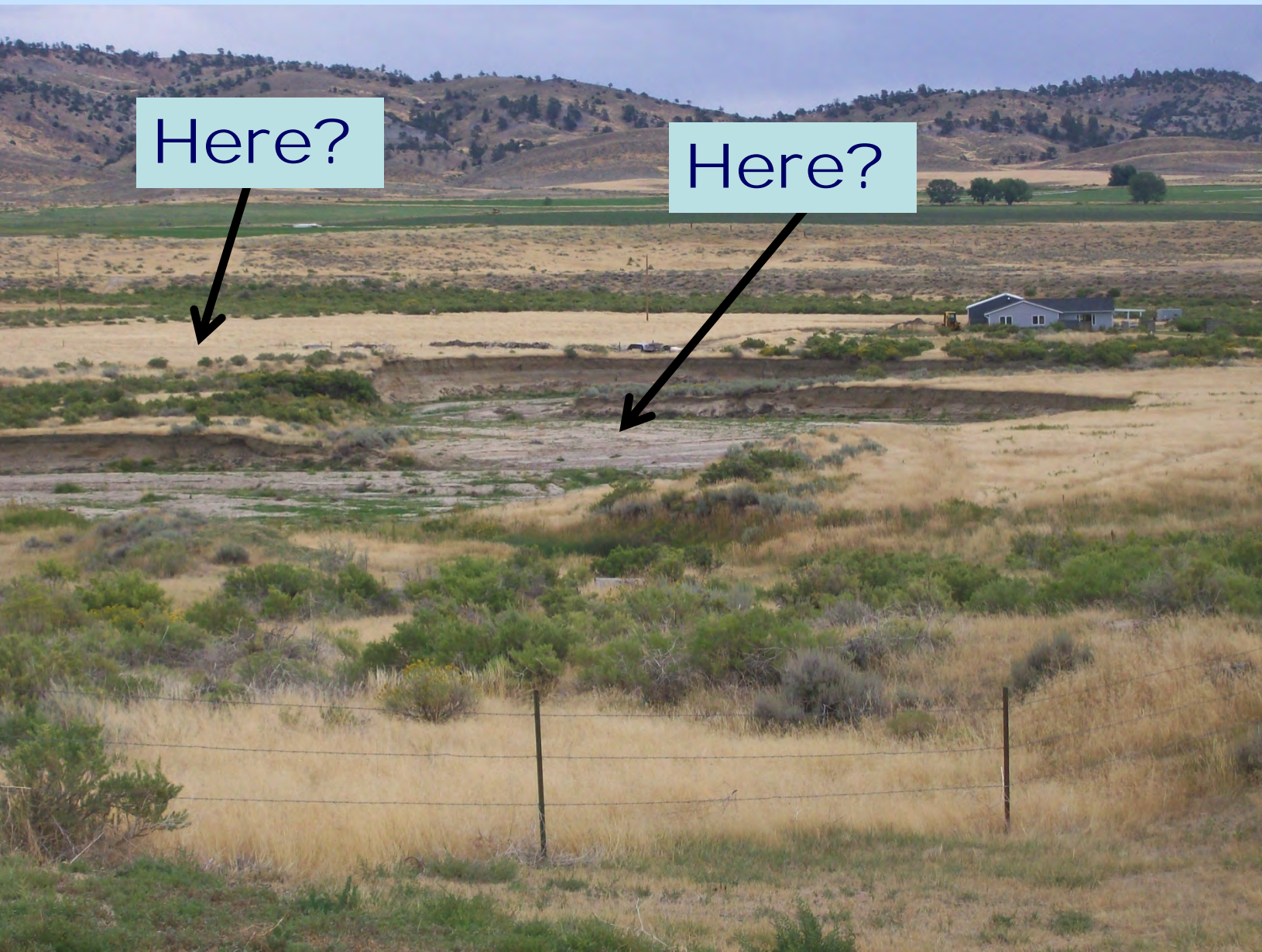




# Groundwater Ponds

- Leakage is not an issue
- We want groundwater to “leak” in
- Look for Floodplain Sites in the  
Transition Zone
- Look for wet sites on the  
Collection Zone
- Look for High Groundwater Table
- Usually Associated with Sandy,  
Gravelly Soils
- Site Pond Well Away From Direct  
Stream Flow

# Groundwater Pond Sites





# Groundwater Pond Sites

Here?

Maybe-

- If there is a high groundwater table





# Groundwater Pond Sites

Why put a pond here?





# Pit Pond Sites

Pond Site?

Groundwater





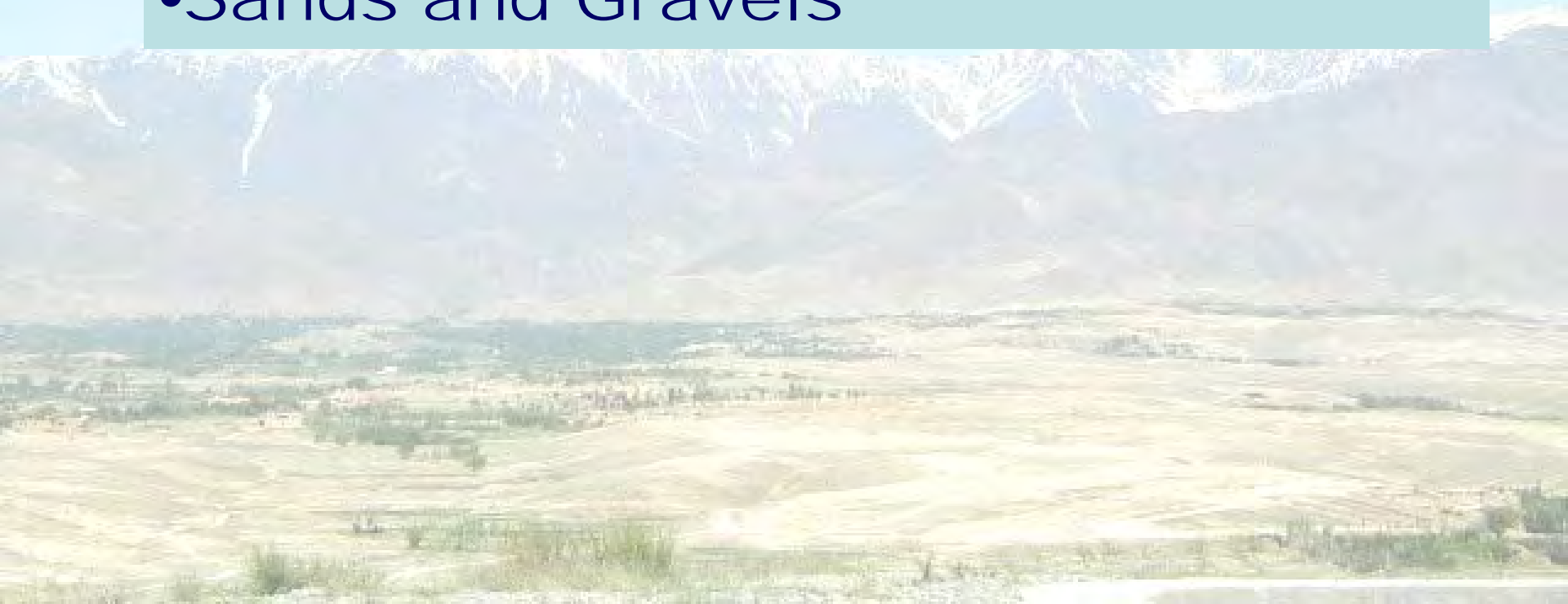
# Soil Types

## Surface Runoff Pond

- Clays and Silts

## Groundwater Pond

- Sands and Gravels



# Pit Pond Design, Layout, and Construction

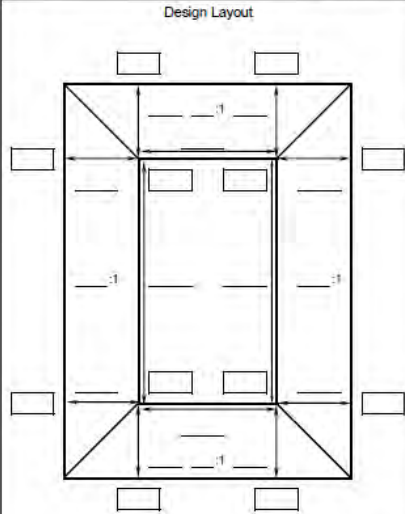
Handy forms are available

We need to make decisions about –

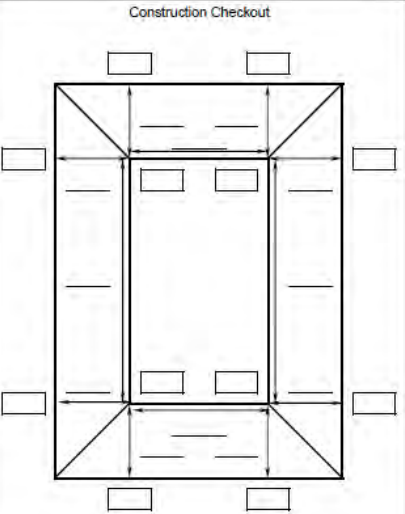
- How long
- How wide
- How deep
- How much earth to move

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Legal Desc. \_\_\_\_\_ KS-ENG-6 Page 2

Design Layout



Construction Checkout



	Backsight (BS)	Height of Instrument (HI)	Foresight (FS) or Grade Rod	Elevation or Planned Elevation
BM				
Top of Dam				
ASW				
PSW				
Design Bottom				

	Backsight (BS)	Height of Instrument (HI)	Foresight (FS)	Elevation
BM				
Top of Dam				
ASW				
PSW				
Bottom Check				

Auxiliary Spillway (ASW), Principal Spillway (PSW)

Bench Mark (BM) Elevation \_\_\_\_\_ Description \_\_\_\_\_

## Excavation Volume Computations

Total of Top Lengths (L) \_\_\_\_\_ feet      Total of Top Widths (W) \_\_\_\_\_ feet

Top Area = (Average Top L \_\_\_\_\_ feet) x (Average Top W \_\_\_\_\_ feet) = \_\_\_\_\_ sq ft

Bottom Area = (Average Bottom L \_\_\_\_\_ feet) x (Average Bottom W \_\_\_\_\_ feet) = \_\_\_\_\_ sq ft

4 x Median Area = \_\_\_\_\_

(Avg. Top L + Avg. Bottom L \_\_\_\_\_ feet) x (Avg. Top W + Avg. Bot. W \_\_\_\_\_ feet) = \_\_\_\_\_ sq ft

Average Depth = \_\_\_\_\_ feet = Average of 4 Bottom Corner Cuts      Sum of Areas = \_\_\_\_\_ sq ft

Excavation Volume =  $\frac{\text{Average Depth} \times \text{Sum of Areas}}{162}$  = \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ cubic yards





# Fillable Form second page

Name Ali Momeni Legal Desc. Afghanistan

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Design Layout	Construction Checkout																																																												
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Backsight (BS)</th> <th>Height of Instrument (HI)</th> <th>Foresight (FS) or Grade Rod</th> <th>Elevation or Planned Elevation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BM</td> <td>3.2</td> <td>103.2</td> <td></td> <td>100.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Top of Dam</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>ASW</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>PSW</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Design Bottom</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>11.2</td> <td>92.0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Backsight (BS)	Height of Instrument (HI)	Foresight (FS) or Grade Rod	Elevation or Planned Elevation	BM	3.2	103.2		100.0	Top of Dam					ASW					PSW					Design Bottom			11.2	92.0	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Backsight (BS)</th> <th>Height of Instrument (HI)</th> <th>Foresight (FS)</th> <th>Elevation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BM</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>100.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Top of Dam</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>ASW</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>PSW</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bottom Check</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Backsight (BS)	Height of Instrument (HI)	Foresight (FS)	Elevation	BM				100.0	Top of Dam					ASW					PSW					Bottom Check				
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Auxiliary Spillway (ASW), Principal Spillway (PSW)

Bench Mark (BM) Elevation 100.0 Description Pit pond adjacent to ephemeral stream channel

## Excavation Volume Computations

Total of Top Lengths (L) 266.1 feet      Total of Top Widths (W) 177.2 feet

Top Area = (Average Top L 133.05 feet) x (Average Top W 88.6 feet) = 11,788 sq ft

Bottom Area = (Average Bottom L 60.0 feet) x (Average Bottom W 40.0 feet) = 2,400 sq ft

4 x Median Area =  
 (Avg. Top L + Avg. Bottom L 193.1 feet) x (Avg. Top W + Avg. Bot. W 128.6 feet) = 24,826 sq ft

Average Depth = 8.1 feet = Average of 4 Bottom Corner Cuts      Sum of Areas = 39,014 sq ft

Excavation Volume =  $\frac{\text{Average Depth} \times \text{Sum of Areas}}{162} = \frac{316,017}{162} = \underline{1,951}$  cubic yards

# Toe Staking

## Toe Stake Pit Pond

Sta.	B.S.	H.I.	F.S.	Elev.
B.M.	3.2	103.2		100.0
Pond Bottom			11.2	92
Right Toe			2.8	
Right Toe			3.3	
Left Toe			4.1	
Left Toe			4.0	
End Toe			2.7	
End Toe			2.6	
Ramp Toe			4.3	
Ramp Toe			4.4	

Toe Distances are from bottom flags at corners

Date: 5/1/2011

Weather: Hot, Dusty

Survey Party: Spc Bailey, MSgt. Snorkel

Painted Boulder NW of Pond

Planned Bottom Elevation

C 8.4 @ 25.4 (3:1)

C 7.9 @ 23.7 (3:1)

C 7.1 @ 21.3 (3:1)

C 7.2 @ 21.6 (3:1)

C 8.5 @ 25.5 (3:1)

C 8.6 @ 25.8 (3:1)

C 6.9 @ 41.4 (6:1)

C 6.8 @ 20.4 (6:1)

# Considerations

- Depth – A practical limit is 8 feet
- Shape – They don't have to be square, but you can stake out and measure a square one easier
- Size – Site limitations may dictate size more than the volume of water needed
- Construction – Local hand labor. Need to get local estimates for cubic yards per day per laborer
- Slopes – 6:1 for watering access slopes for cattle, 3:1 on remainder of slopes.



# Field Exercise

