

# Restoration Agriculture:

From Permaculture to Agroforestry,  
the ecological systems design approach

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**Mark L Shepard**  
**Restoration Agriculture Development**  
**RestorationAg.com**

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761


# TREE CROPS

•••

A PERMANENT  
AGRICULTURE

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by  
J. Russell Smith



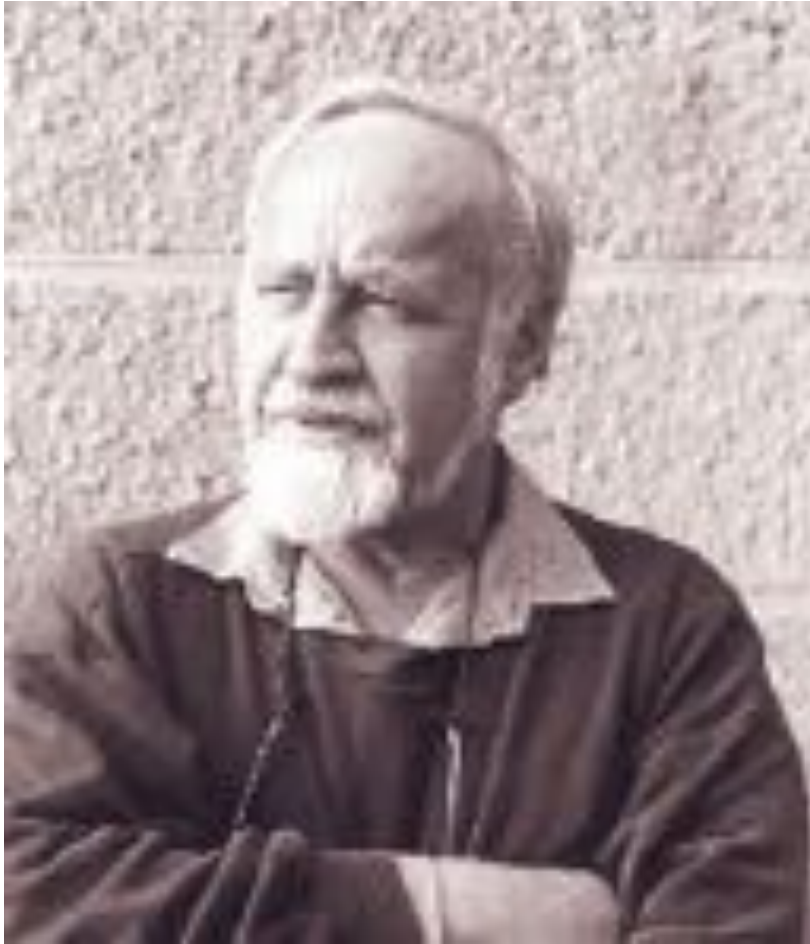
Introduction by  
Wendell Berry

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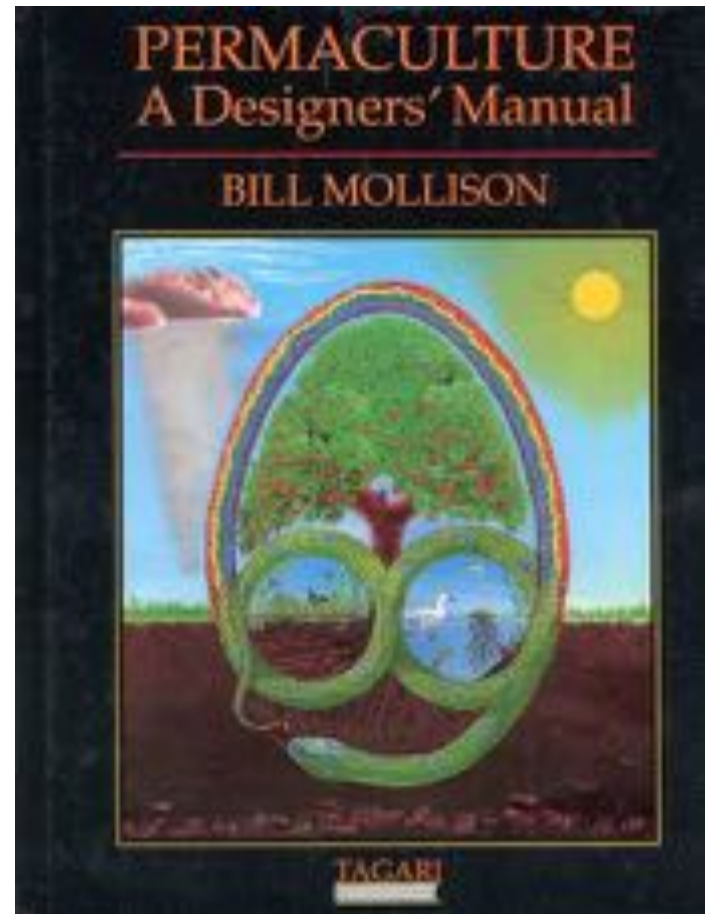
# Permaculture

Wrote the book:

A Designers Manual



Bill Mollison



# PERMA (permanent) (agri) CULTURE

“Permaculture is an ecological design methodology where we create relationships between materials, plants, animals and humans in order to optimize function and yield...

**The aim is to create systems that are ecologically sound and economically viable.**

...which provide for their own needs, do not exploit or pollute and are therefore sustainable in the long term. Much of the design is taken from nature.

**It can be as simple or as sophisticated as you like.”**

- Bill Mollison



Restoration Agriculture:  
Redesigning Agriculture in Nature's Image  
Agricultural Biomimicry

"A fascinating vision for recasting our relationship to nature and the land."

ANNA LAPPÉ, XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



2015 WINNER

...reveals how to sustainably grow perennial food crops that can feed the world without compromising our future.

...is too often overlooked in the quest to get it into our diet. Most people get their calories from "annual" agriculture. Grains, fruits, vegetables, and oils that feed humanity are from annual plants for one season, produce lots of seeds, then die. Rice, corn, wheat, and soybeans are from annual plants. But human cultures have only relied on annual crops as staple food crops for 10,000 years. In addition to requiring annual inputs, annual plants have carried with them another curse. Every single human culture that has relied on annual crops as staple foods in their diet has collapsed. The ancient systems described in this book worked. It is possible for people to grow perennial agricultural ecosystems that actually improve the quality of the environment. This can be done on a backyard, farm or ranch scale and is needed right now — on a global scale.

*Restoration Agriculture* explains how we can have all of the benefits of natural, perennial ecosystems and create agricultural systems that imitate nature in form and function while still providing for our food, building, fuel and many other needs. Using the restoration agriculture system, an oak savanna mimic will produce more than twice the number of edible human calories per acre as an average acre of corn, never needs to be planted again, prevents erosion, creates oil, and can be managed with no fossil fuel inputs. This book, based on real-world practices, presents an alternative to the agricultural system of eradication and offers exciting hope for our future.

**MARK SHEPARD** heads *Forest Agriculture Enterprises* and runs *New Forest Farms*, an 106-acre commercial-scale perennial agricultural ecosystem that was converted from a row-crop grain farm. Trained in mechanical engineering and ecology, Mark has combined these two passions to develop equipment and techniques for the cultivation, harvesting and processing of forest-derived agricultural products for human foods and biofuel production. Mark is a certified permaculture designer and teaches agroforestry and permaculture around the world. He lives with his wife Jen and two sons, Erik and Daniel, in Richland County, Wisconsin.



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Restoration Agriculture  
PERENNIAL PERMACULTURE FOR THE FARM

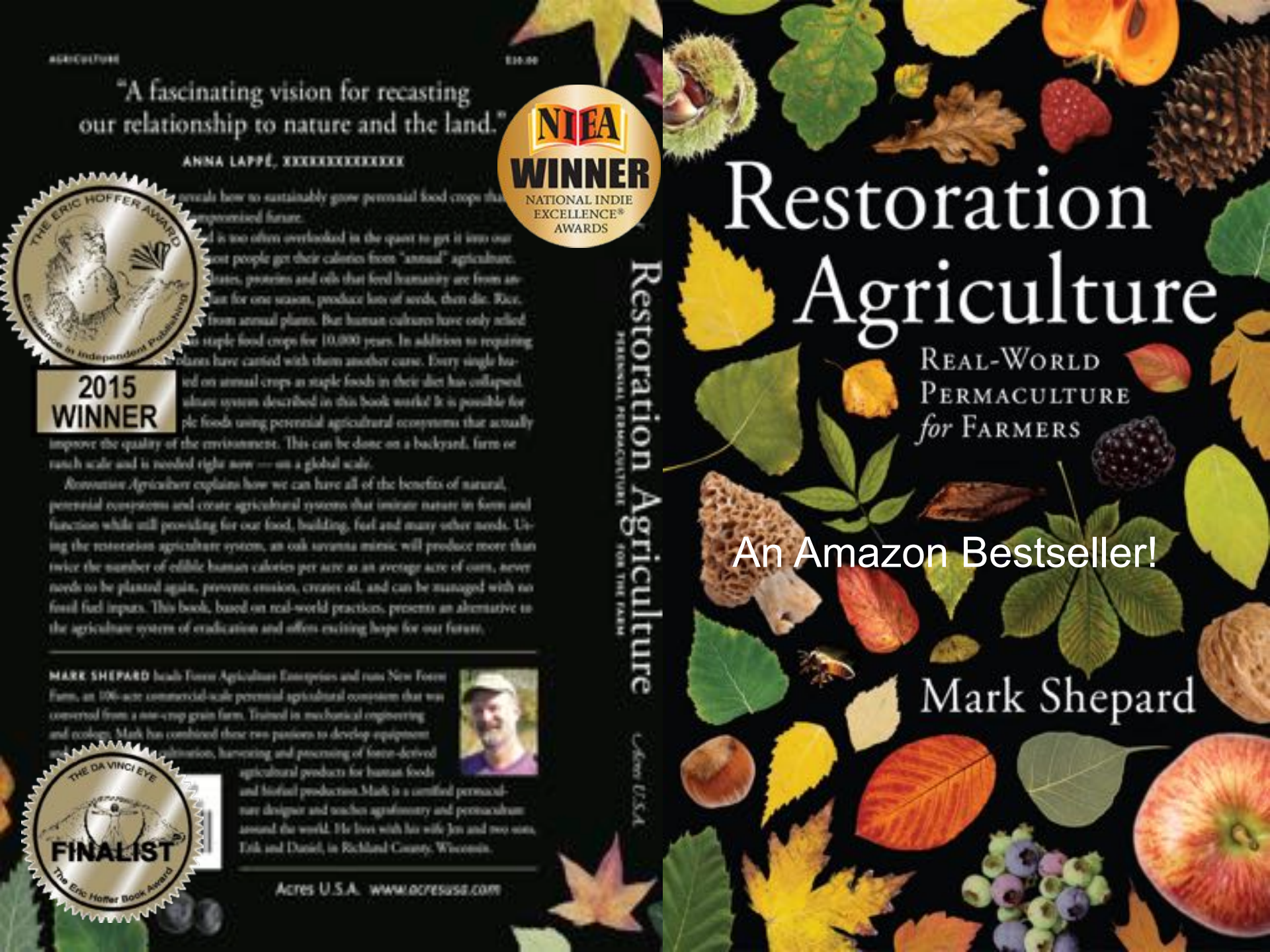
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# Restoration Agriculture

REAL-WORLD PERMACULTURE for FARMERS

An Amazon Bestseller!

Mark Shepard

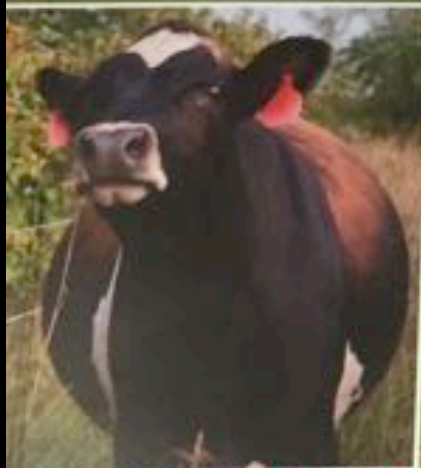




**MARK SHEPARD**

- ◆ Conversion de 42 ha, conçue en **permaculture**
- ◆ Un système hautement productif et rentable
- ◆ Des analyses chiffrées
- ◆ Les outils et techniques pour pratiquer une **agroforesterie** haute en couleurs

# AGRICULTURE DE RÉGÉNÉRATION



Éditions *Imagine Un Colibri*

A photograph of a wooded area with a cow grazing in the background. The scene is filled with trees and dense foliage, with a cow visible in the middle ground. The lighting is natural, suggesting a sunny day. The text is overlaid on the lower portion of the image.

## **The Restoration Agriculture process:**

1) Identify your biome and dominant plant communities

2) Optimize rainfall distribution pattern and prevent runoff

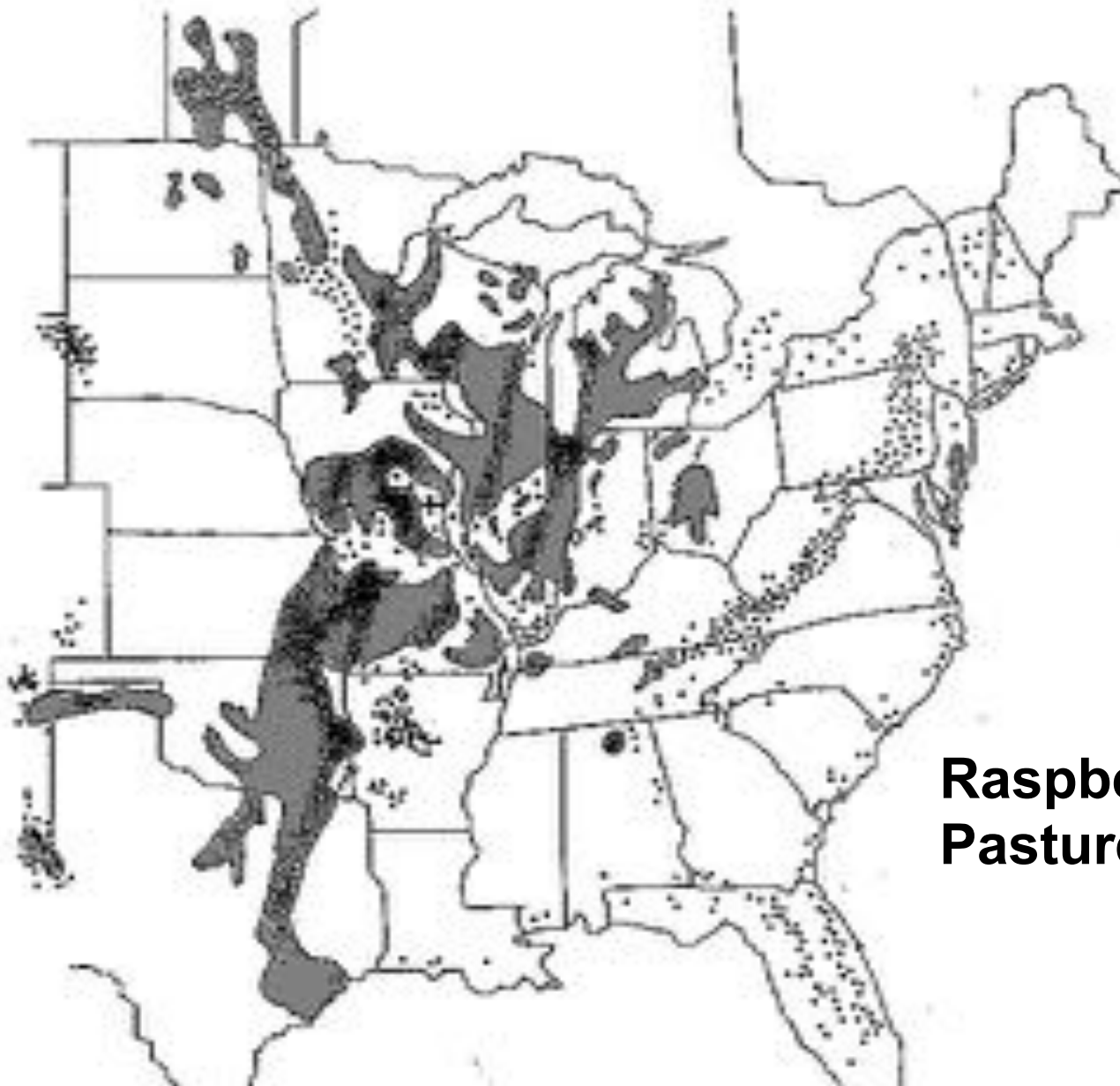
3) Establish woody polycultures using Agroforestry practices  
(Build fences & roads, utilities, pipelines following water management pattern)

4) Manage for complexity



1. Identify biome and plant communities.  
Substitute improved cultivars when possible

# Oak Savanna, Barrens, and Prairie Complexes in Eastern United States



**Fagaceae:**

Oak, Chestnut, Beech

**Apples**

**Hazelnut**

**Prunus:**

plum, cherry,  
peach

**Raspberry, grape, currant**  
**Pasture, animals, fungi**

2) Optimize rainfall distribution pattern  
and prevent runoff

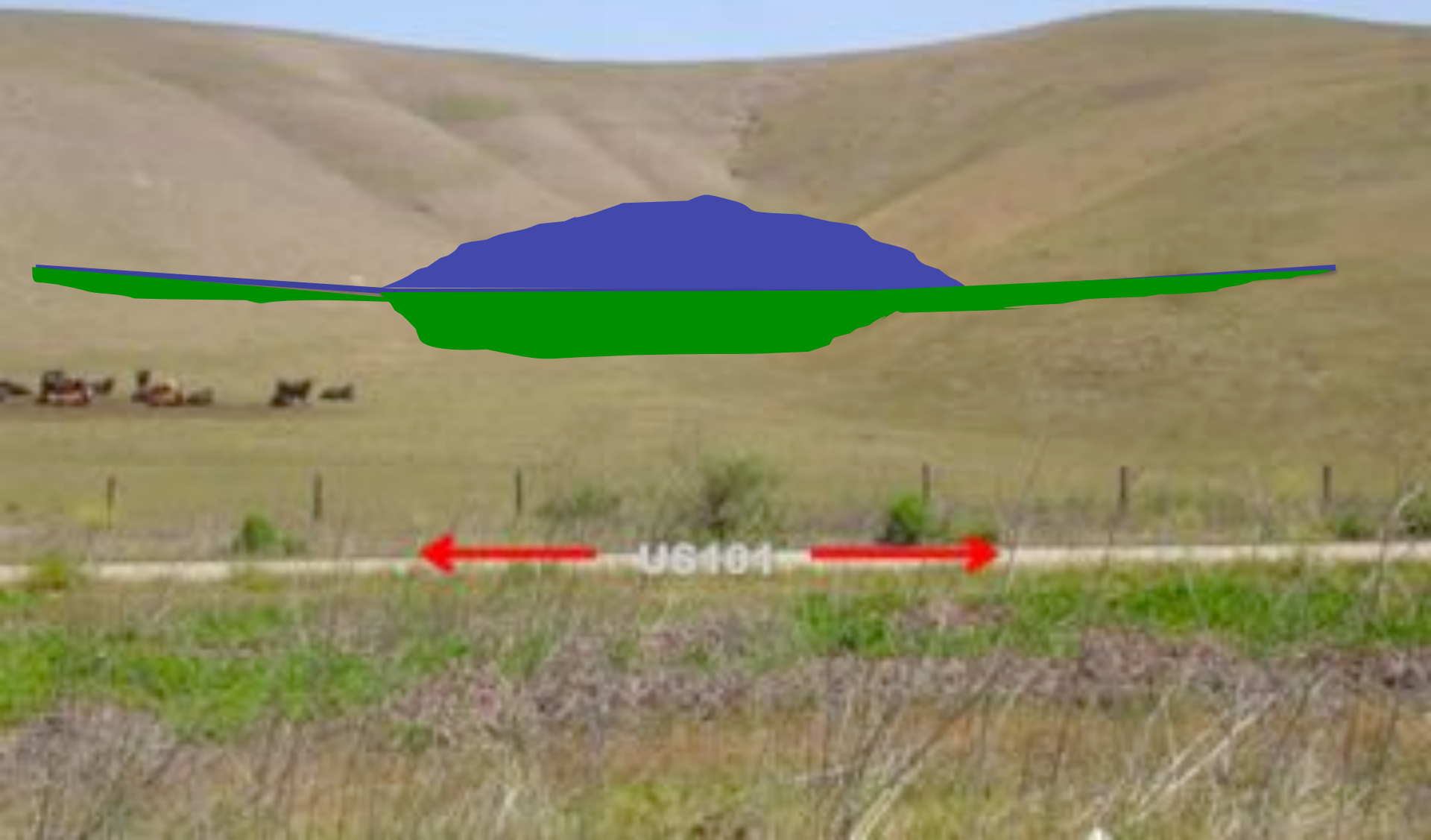


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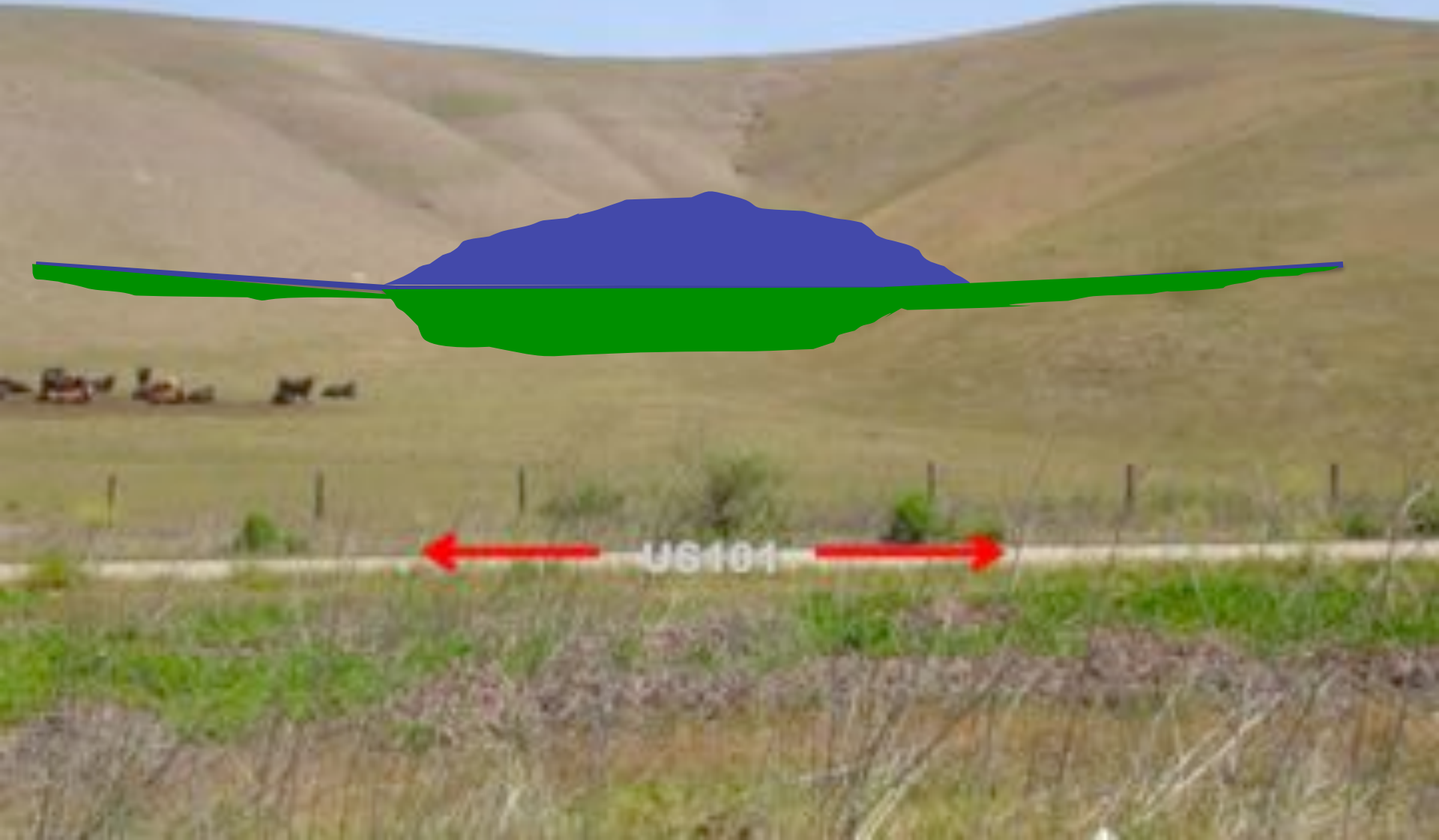
# Current Practice:

Water held low in landscape

Large dams and ponds

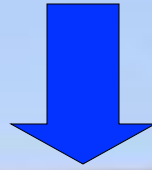


- **Expensive** earthmoving requires precise engineering
- Potential for **catastrophic** system failure
- **Fails** to address the problem of upslope runoff
- **Ignores** agronomic practices



# The Master Line System:

Begin high in the landscape



# Excavate “surge capacity” dugouts

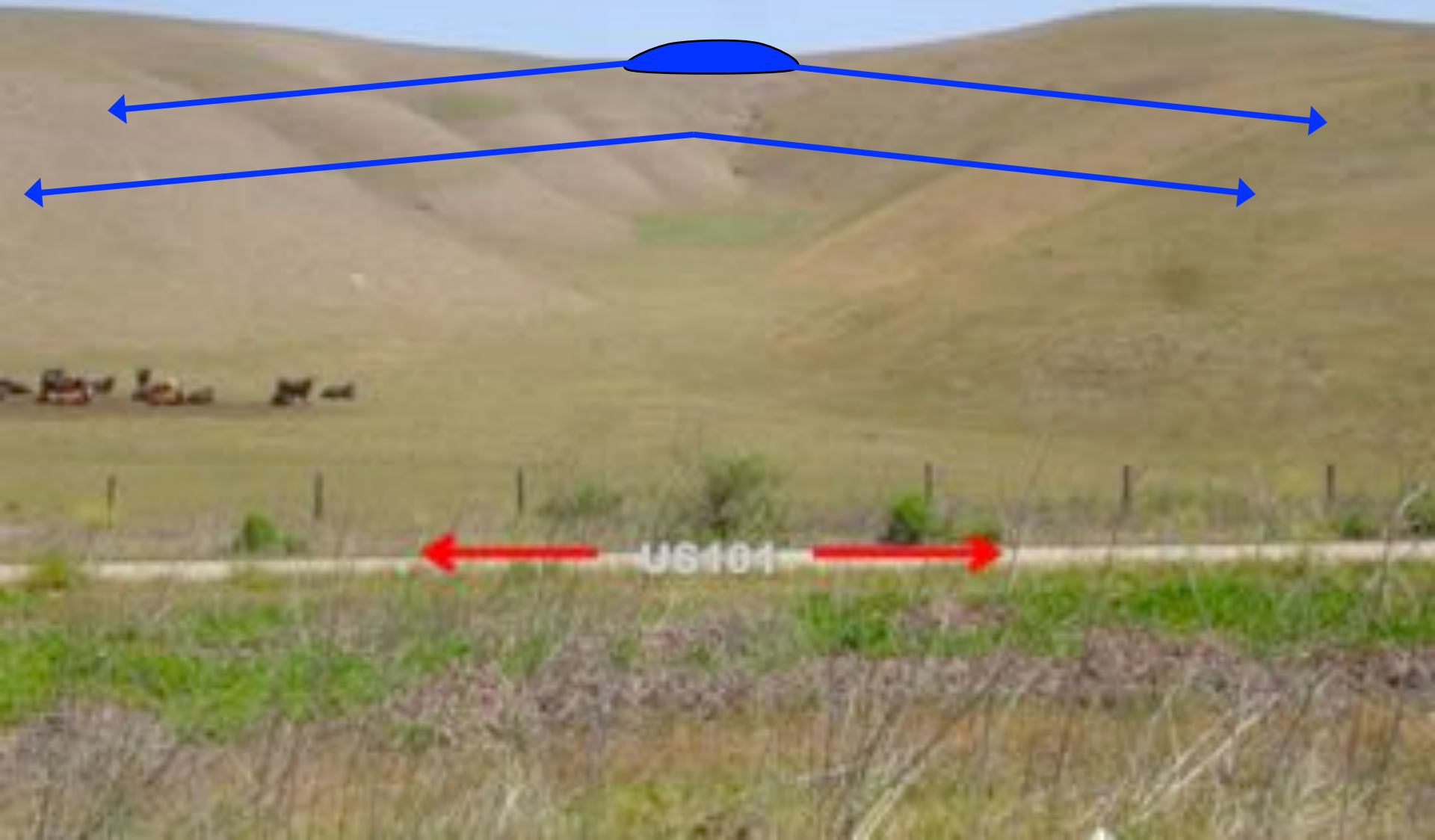




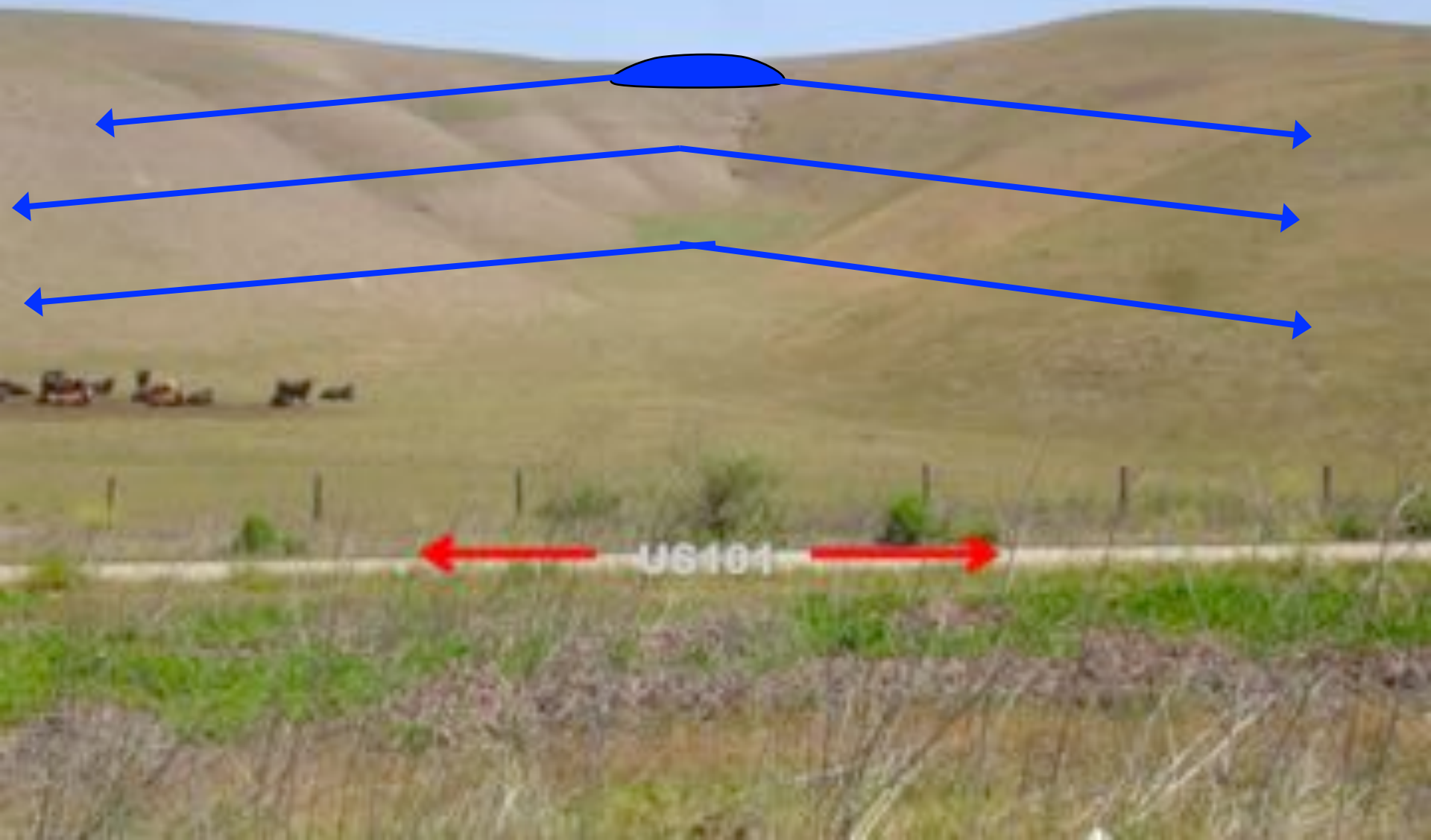
# Change farming pattern to slightly downhill from contour



# Create parallel field edges, swales or terraces

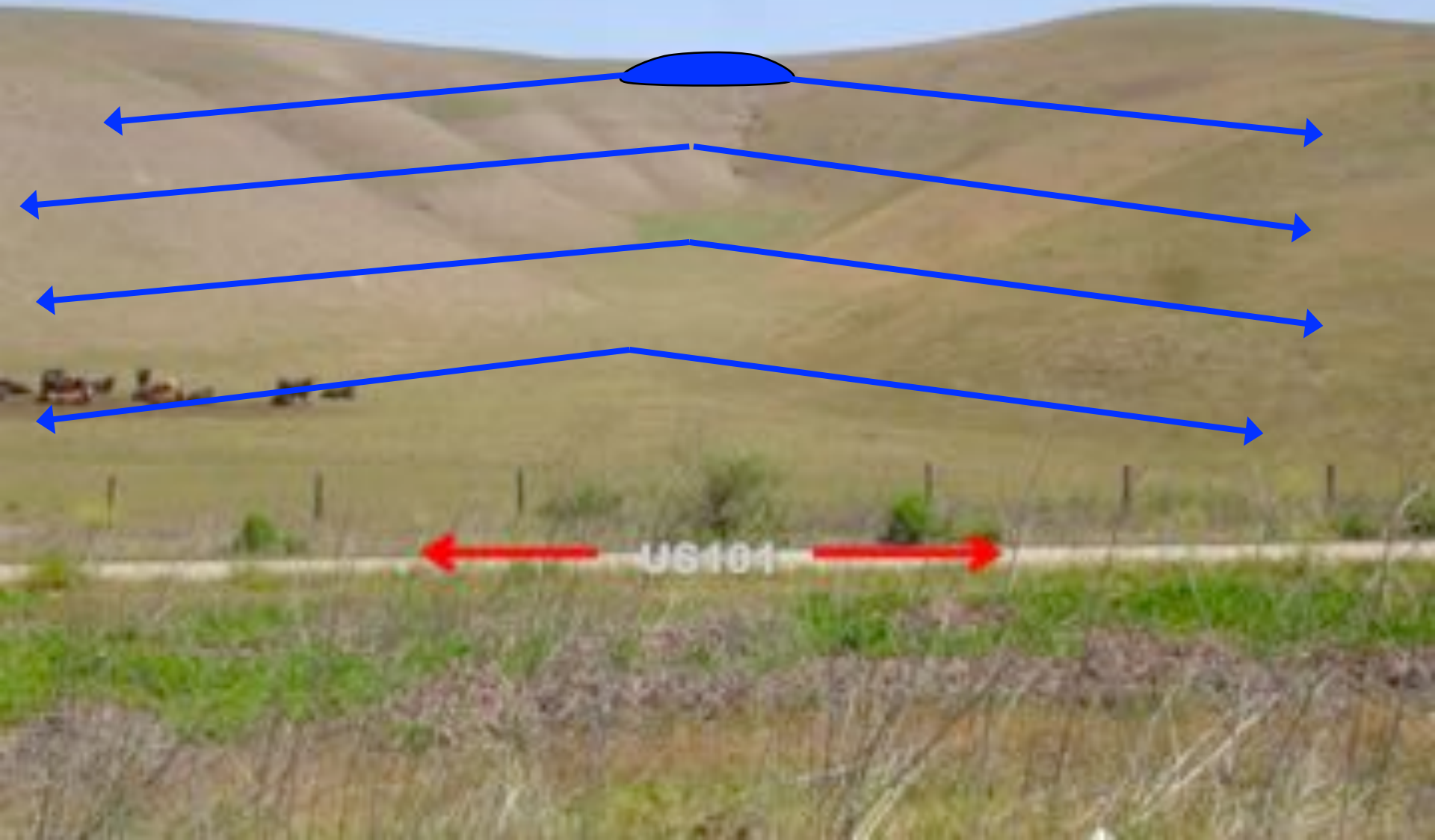


# Repeat parallel field edges



# The Master Line System:

- **Inexpensive** earthmoving requires little engineering & uses common farm equip.
- **Eliminates** potential for catastrophic failure
- Upslope rainfall **evenly** distributed and infiltrated
- Agronomic practices redesigned to **match site conditions**



**20 years of site development**



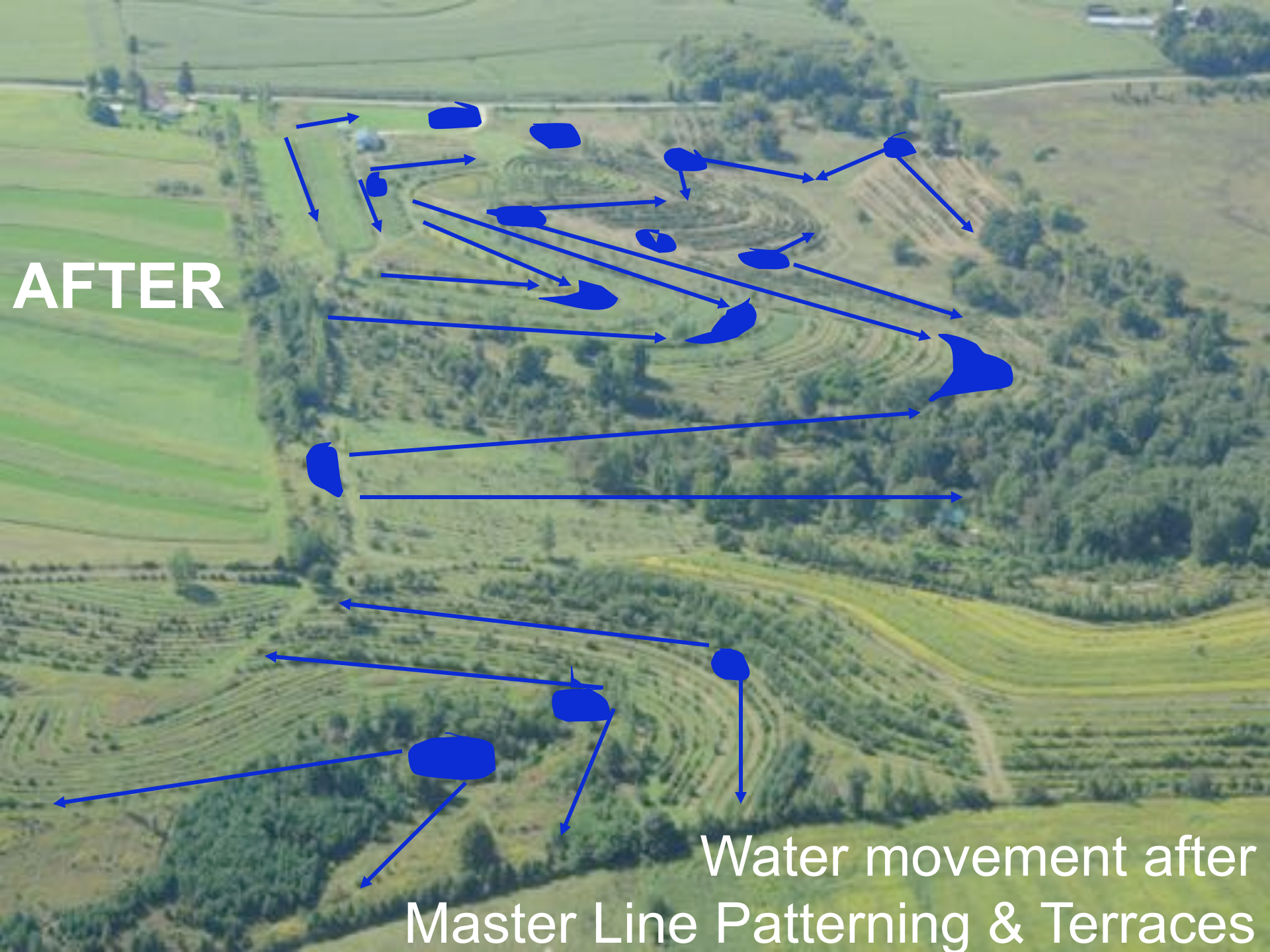
**New Forest Farm  
Wisconsin, USA**



**BEFORE**

Water movement before  
Master Line Patterning & Terraces

**AFTER**



**Water movement after  
Master Line Patterning & Terraces**







**Carbon sequestration?**

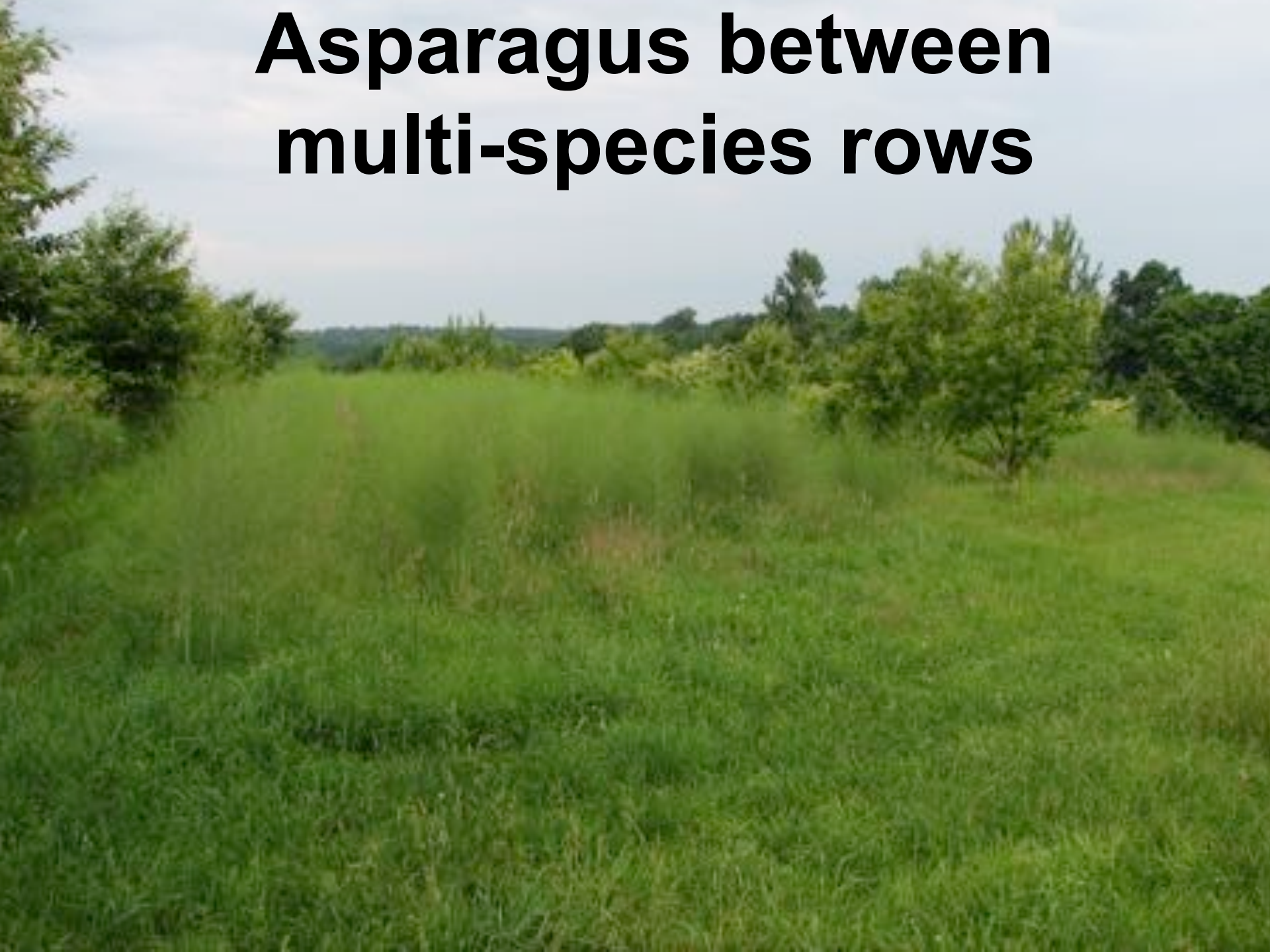
3) Establish woody polycultures using  
Agroforestry practices

# Silvoarable – Alley Cropping

Acorn Squash alleys between Hazelnut rows

The image shows a lush green agricultural field. In the foreground and middle ground, there are rows of hazelnut trees. Between these rows, there are alleys filled with acorn squash plants. The plants are dense and vibrant green. In the background, there is a line of taller trees, possibly a windbreak or a forest edge, under a bright, clear sky. The overall scene depicts a well-maintained silvoarable alley cropping system.

# **Asparagus between multi-species rows**





**Sunflowers for fuel between  
multi-species tree rows**

# The “disturbed” apple orchard:

Grapes on Chestnut over Hazelnut next to Rose behind Apple over Daffodil, Iris and Comfrey and more...





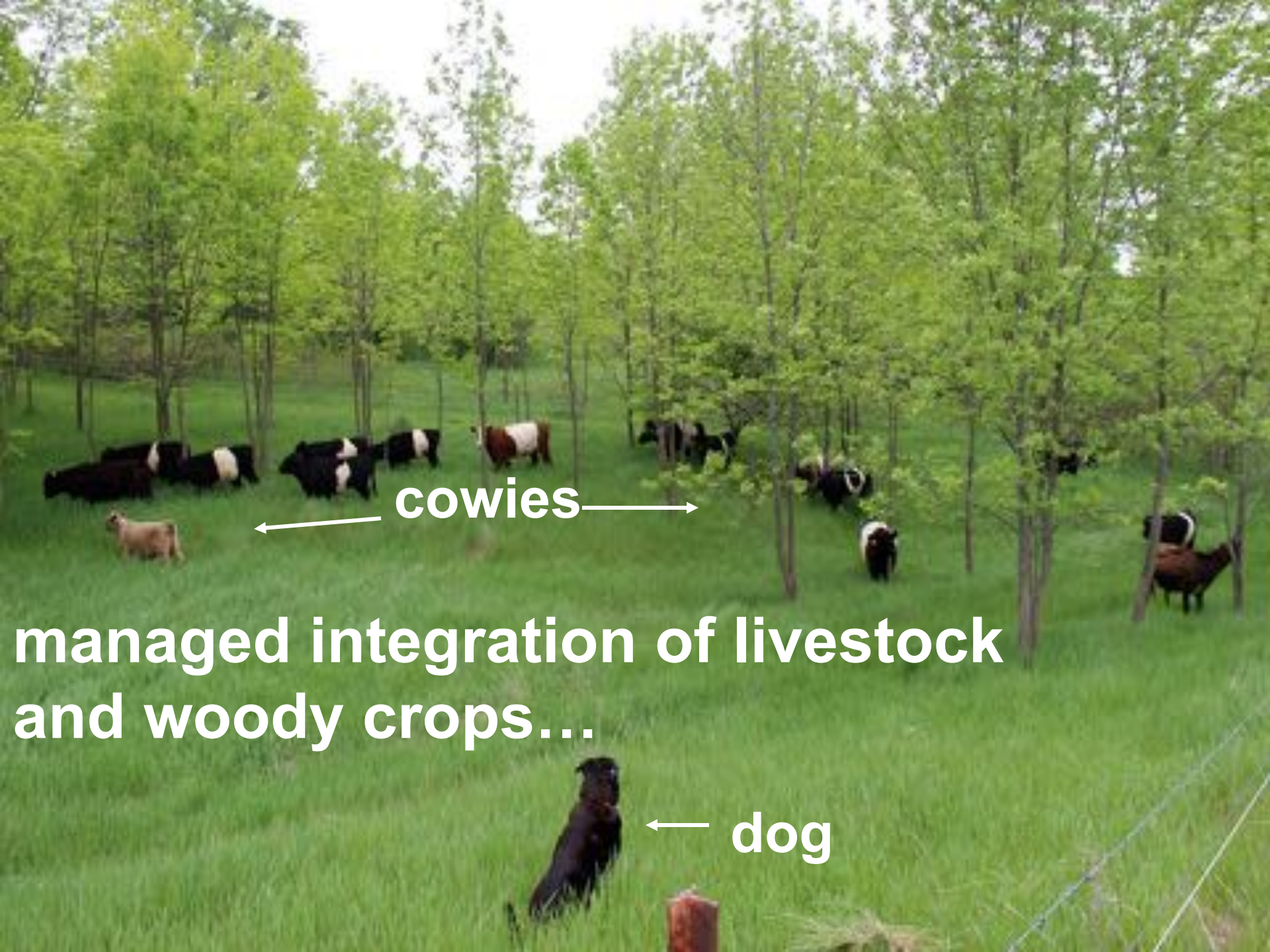


## **Silvopasture**

Walnut, mulberry, cherry  
cattle, hogs & more







← cowies →

managed integration of livestock  
and woody crops...

← dog

# 4) Manage for complexity



# Is this applicable in Europe?



**Fagaceae:**

Oak, Chestnut, Beech

**Apples**

**Hazelnut**

**Prunus:**

plum, cherry, peach

**Raspberry**

**Grape**

**Currant**

**Forage**

**Animals**

**Fungi**

**Juglandaceae Family**

**Pinus Family**

# Silvoarable “Standard”





**13 immediately harvestable crops**



# Restoration Agriculture:

Ecological & Economic Solutions  
of  
Global Significance



May 20, 2016

Mark Shepard  
Restoration Agriculture

Dear Mark:

I am writing to follow-up on my conversation with *[redacted]* and on the synopsis of work prepared by *[redacted]* entitled "Primate Conservation and Food Sovereignty through Restoration Agriculture in Western Uganda."

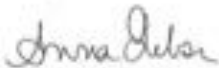
*[redacted]* discovered during your visit with Dr. Peter Appel of our Uganda office, the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) is keenly interested in exploring how we might work together to protect the vital habitats of the Albertine Rift. JGI works with a range of partners in the region and there is great potential to leverage those relationships with this approach to create near-term and long-term systems of sustainability for the people who call the region home.

Specifically, we are interested in exploring work that:

1. Improves and restores important habitat
2. Improves livelihoods
3. Lessens human and wildlife conflict
4. Uses agroforestry to create corridors for chimpanzees and other primates
5. Buttresses small-holder farming
6. Models sustainability and conservation approaches that may be replicated in other landscapes and with other species
7. Demonstrates the power of people working together

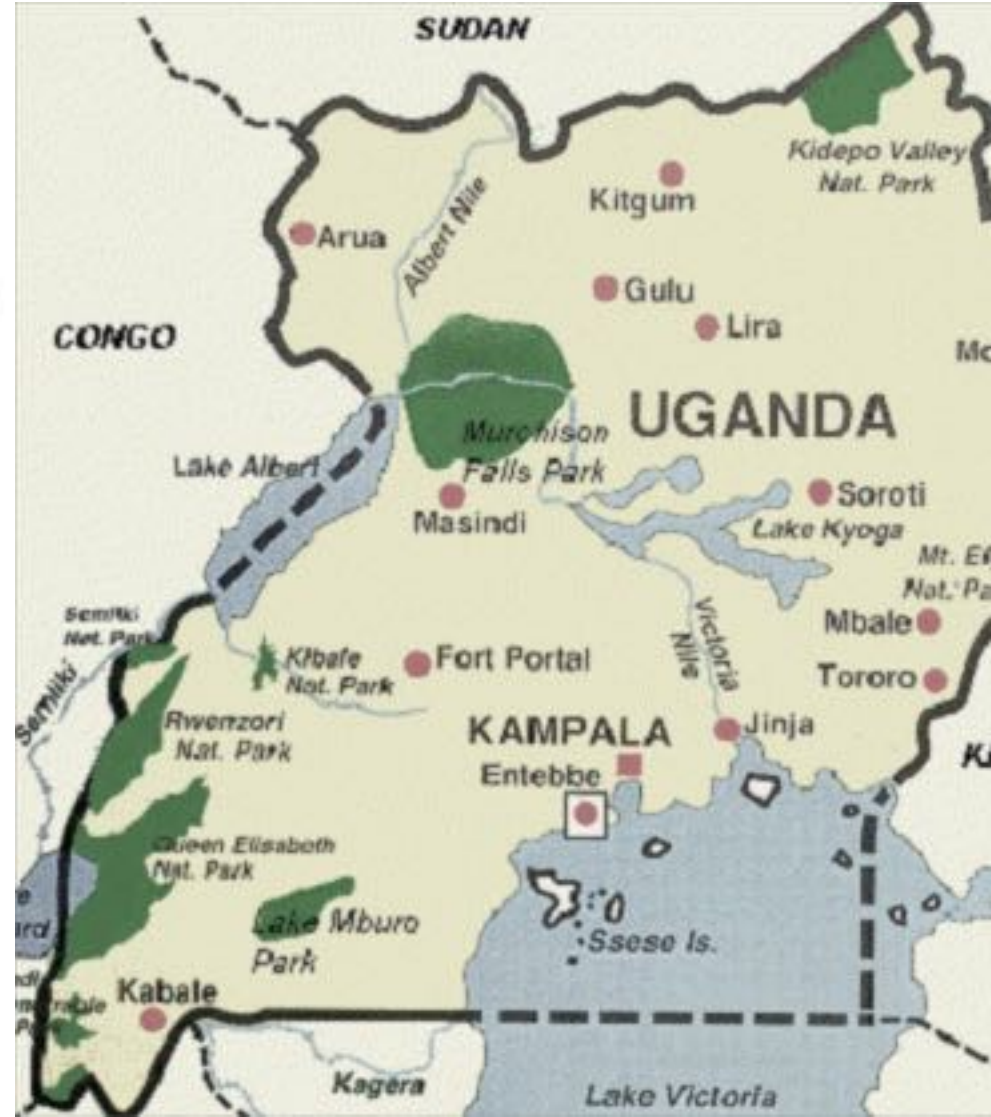
I look forward to our continued exploration of and planning for this work. It has the potential to move the bar on our conservation work across all the critical chimpanzee corridors we seek to protect.

Best regards,



Anna Gibson  
Vice President  
The Jane Goodall Institute

# The "Primate Conservation & Food Sovereignty through Restoration Agriculture" Project





● School farms & plant nursery

● Timbered buffer zone

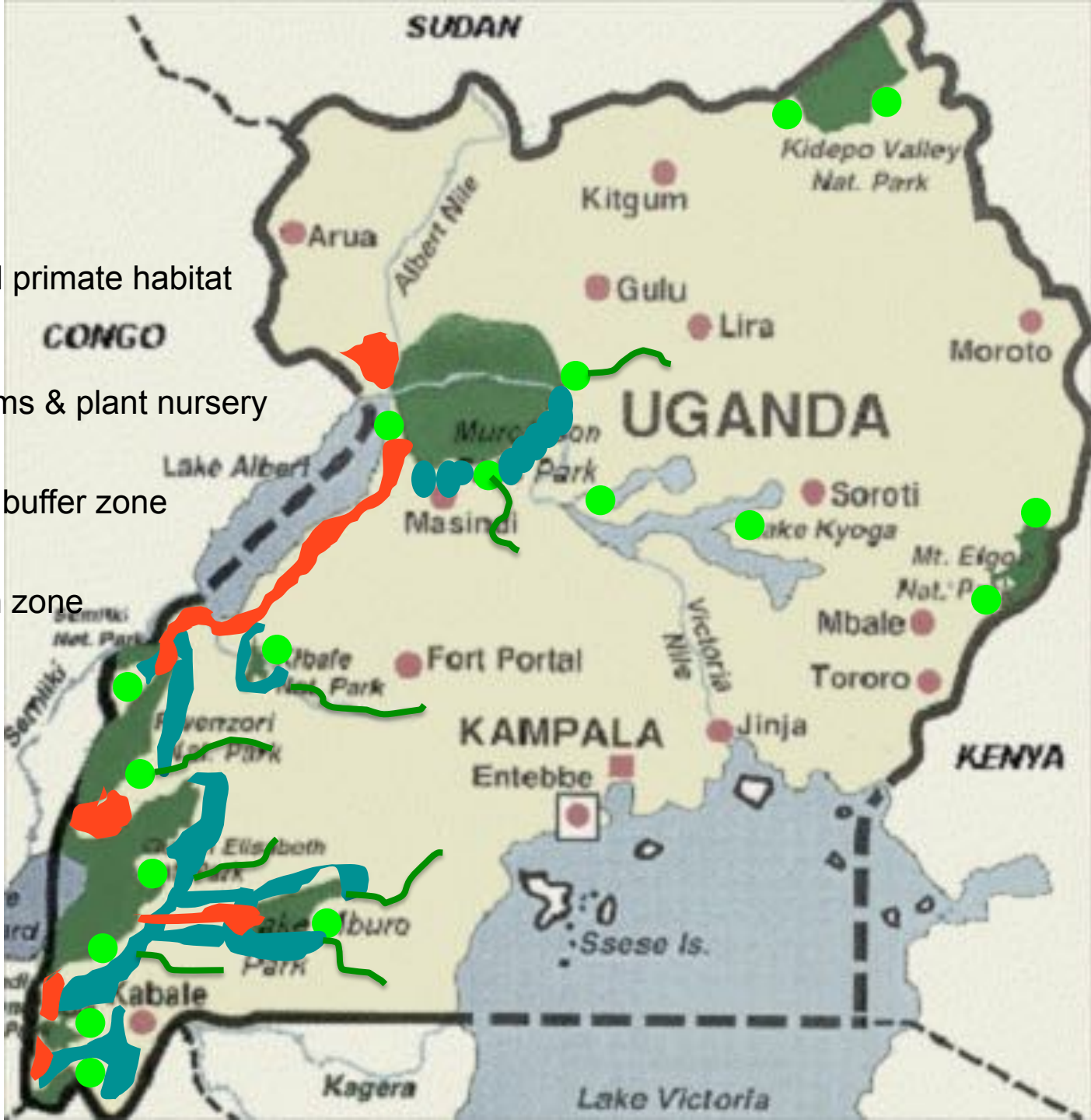
~ Riparian zone

● Enhanced primate habitat

● School farms & plant nursery

● Timbered buffer zone

~ Riparian zone

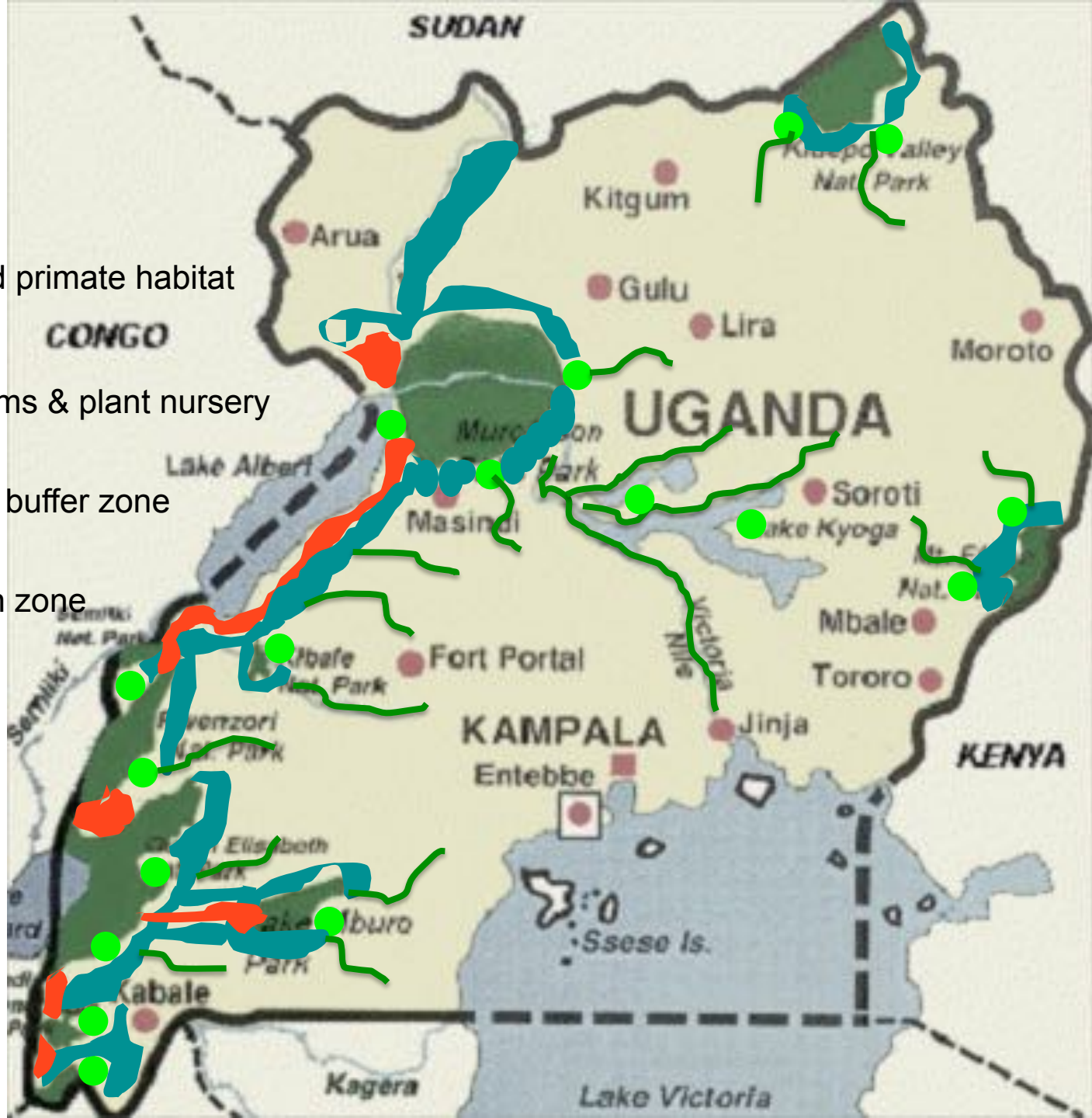


● Enhanced primate habitat

● School farms & plant nursery

● Timbered buffer zone

~ Riparian zone



# Start with schools:

- Education
- Healthy food
- Nodes of diffusion



Jane Goodall Institute has over 130,000  
Roots and Shoots school programs worldwide



**Establishment  
Year**

**Year 3**



# Year 5 Food Security





A man wearing a horizontally striped short-sleeved shirt and dark trousers is walking away from the camera through a lush garden. The garden is filled with various plants, including tall banana trees with large green leaves and dense patches of leafy green vegetables. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. In the bottom left corner, there is white text overlaid on the image.

**Year 5  
Nutritional  
Diversity**



**Year 5  
Economic  
Surplus**

# Year 5 Carbon Sequestration?





**RESTORATION**

**AGRICULTURE**



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Restoration Agriculture PERENNIAL PERMACULTURE FOR THE FARM

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