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**From:** Gary Young <[gyoung@bluemtnranch.com](mailto:gyoung@bluemtnranch.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2024 1:16 PM  
**To:** WRD\_DL\_rule-coordinator  
**Subject:** Water protection, enhancement, regeneration, resilience

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [gyoung@bluemtnranch.com](mailto:gyoung@bluemtnranch.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Start by acknowledging no real difference between “ground water” and “surface water”. The sooner we do the better off we will be. If they are not connected then the water table is too low and raising should be the goal.

Thanks,

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John Wesley Powell suggested all political boundaries should be based on watersheds.

I believe we need policies and rules that encourage aquifer recharge and large natural filtration basins/floodplains in any available area, beginning at and prioritizing the higher elevations of our watersheds, leaving the maximum opportunities for more retention at each successively lower level.

Gravity and erosion will tend toward rapid and concentrated drainage of watersheds. Thankfully beaver and buffalo helped brake this process until they were considered more valuable skinned. Hooved grazing animals, constantly moving, herd trained by predators or otherwise, leave in their wake a lightly tilled and manured stubble, not excessively harvested, ideal for enhancing grass production and cover. Man-made means for spreading, retention and recharge are merely modern extension of the beaver's eco-knowledge.

Artificial waterway channelization, for various purposes of convenience, has been way overdone. Compared to the 19th century, we have very little healthy functioning floodplain where waterways are constantly changing course, spreading and slowing the water, recharging our aquifers.

I believe we need policies and rules that tend against rapid channelization and encourage the slowing and spreading of early spring thaw, as high in watersheds as possible. We can no longer depend on or expect a slow melt off of winter snow pack.

<https://www.bluemtnranch.com/water-concerns>

Book recommendation: “Call of the Reed Warbler” by Charles Massy

Is it too late to regenerate the earth? Call of the Reed Warbler shows the way forward for the future of our food supply, our Australian landscape and our planet. This ground-breaking book will change the way we think of, farm and grow food. Author and radical farmer Charles Massy explores transformative and regenerative agriculture and the vital

connection between our soil and our health. It is a story of how a grassroots revolution – a true underground insurgency – can save the planet, help turn climate change around, and build healthy people and healthy communities, pivoting significantly on our relationship with growing and consuming food.

Using his personal experience as a touchstone – from an unknowing, chemical-using farmer with dead soils to a radical ecologist farmer carefully regenerating a 2000-hectare property to a state of natural health – Massy tells the real story behind industrial agriculture and the global profit-obsessed corporations driving it. He shows – through evocative stories – how innovative farmers are finding a new way and interweaves his own local landscape, its seasons and biological richness.

At stake is not only a revolution in human health and our communities but the very survival of the planet. For farmer, backyard gardener, food buyer, health worker, policy maker and public leader alike, *Call of the Reed Warbler* offers a tangible path forward for the future of our food supply, our Australian landscape and our earth. It comprises a powerful and moving paean of hope.

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Sent from my iPad