

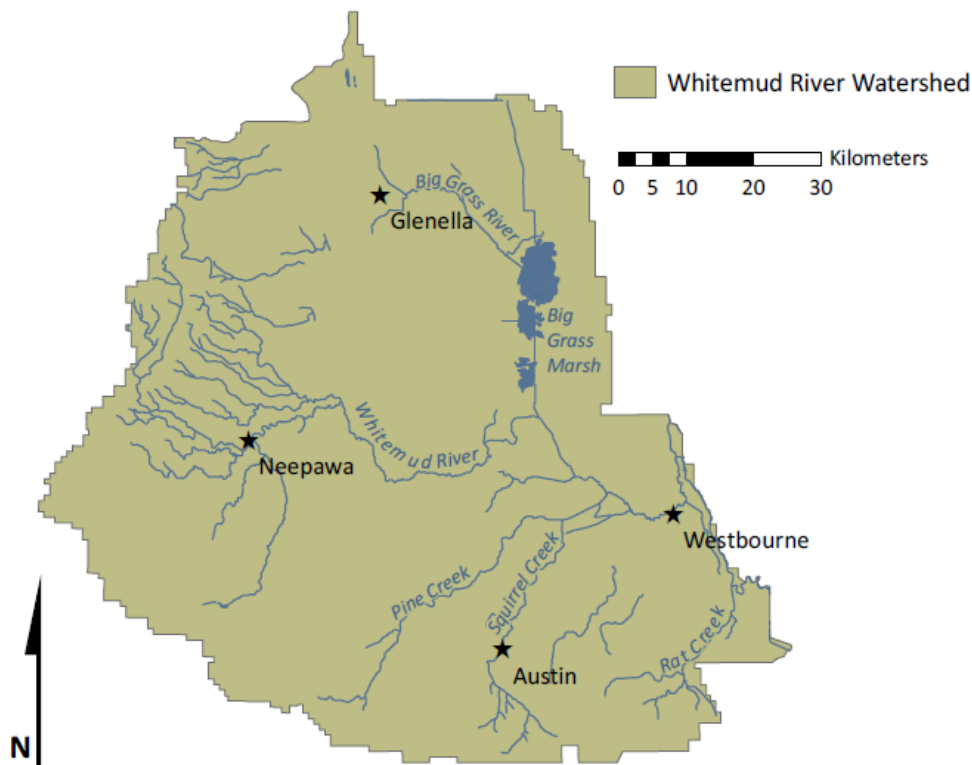
# Whitemud River Integrated Watershed Management Plan

## Public Consultation Summary

### INTRODUCTION

In January 2009, the Province of Manitoba designated the Whitemud Watershed Conservation District (WWCD) as the Watershed Planning Authority for the Whitemud River Watershed. This designation granted the WWCD the authority to create an integrated watershed management plan (IWMP) for the Whitemud River Watershed.

Early in the planning process, the WWCD formed a Project Management Team<sup>i</sup> to guide development of the Whitemud River IWMP. One of the first steps in the development of the plan was to hold public meetings to discuss what watershed residents value within the planning area. Four public meetings were held in April 2010: Neepawa (April 7), Glenella (April 8), Austin (April 13), and Westbourne (April 15). The discussions from these meetings are reported in this document and will provide direction to the WWCD on the scope and priorities of the integrated watershed management plan.



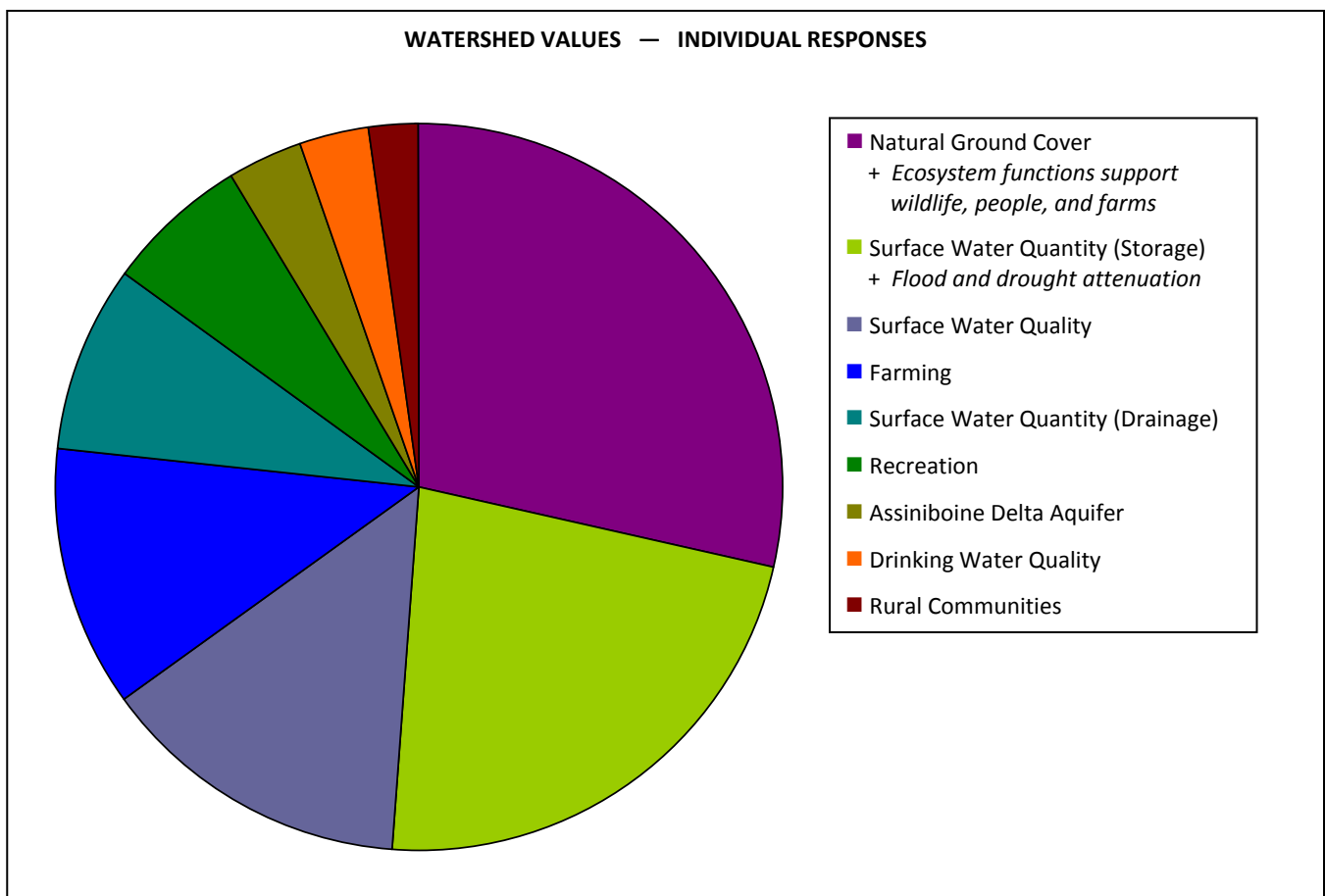
<sup>i</sup> Project Management Team Members: Bud Birch (Watershed Resident), Arnold Coutts (RM of Westbourne, WWCD Board), Gerond Davidson (RM of Langford, WWCD Board), Ray Drayson (RM of Langford, WWCD Board), Wes Pankratz (Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation), Chris Reynolds (WWCD Manager), Robert Rodgers (WWCD Board), Curtis Sims (Watershed Resident), Cathy Smith (Watershed Resident), Suzanne Smith (Manitoba Water Stewardship)

At each public meeting, participants were asked to complete a worksheet to describe what they value in the Whitemud River Watershed. They were then encouraged to identify threats to those values and suggest potential solutions. Participants then participated in small group discussions about the values identified by each individual. The groups discussed and evaluated the effectiveness of suggested solutions, and used a large map to identify areas of importance and potential project sites. All of the comments (individual and group) were collected and compiled verbatim, and are attached to this document.

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS

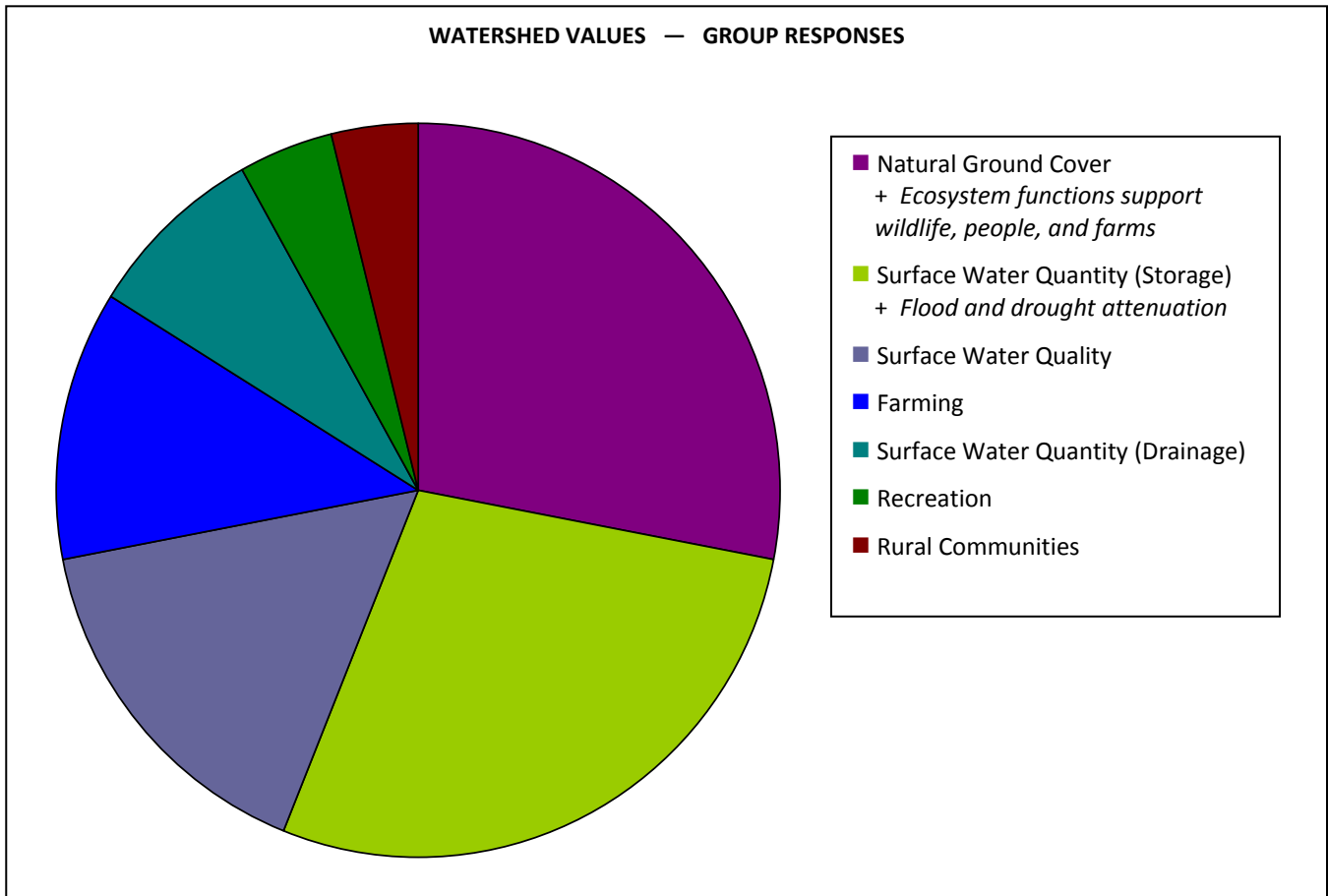
Total attendance at the public consultation meetings was 76<sup>ii</sup> (20 in Neepawa, 12 in Glenella, 23 in Austin, and 21 in Westbourne).

The PMT collected 57 completed worksheets at the public meetings. The watershed values identified by participants are displayed below according to frequency (note: this is not a prioritized list).



<sup>ii</sup> The 76 public consultation participants represents less than one percent of the population of the watershed.

Participants were divided into groups to discuss their watershed values, threats, and solutions. Watershed values identified by the groups are displayed below according to frequency.



## SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Natural ground cover and surface water quantity (storage) were the most common watershed values among public meeting participants. The majority of participants related their watershed values to conserving water and land resources to decrease agricultural flooding, thereby supporting the local agriculture economy and rural communities.

However, priorities varied across the watershed.

- In the north and west portions of the watershed, residents are primarily interested in coordinated surface water management (draining and retention) to mitigate flooding downstream of the Riding Mountain escarpment and to conserve wetlands for wildlife and recreation.
- In the south-east portion of the watershed, residents expressed concern over land use change in the watershed and the resulting impacts on natural ground cover and water use. The recent and rapid conversion to potato production in the south east portion of the watershed was of particular concern for some residents.

- Near the mouth of the Whitemud River at Lake Manitoba, residents were primarily concerned with large volumes of accumulated surface water. Agricultural flooding is of primary concern.

Resident and group responses in their entirety are included in the following pages.

Value	Threat	S1	S2	Threat	S1	S2	Threat	S1	S2
Water quality, stream bank erosion control, especially within boundaries of communities such as Neepawa, Gladstone		Farm management change regarding zero-minimum till - reducing water erosion problems							
Maintain current crown land. Have to protect land base as it was purchased by crown after destroyed by private sector.		Sustainable land management - forage buffer zones along waterways	Proper drainage management ; continue to build on previous 30+ years of efforts by WWCD						
Sustainable Land Management	Polluted water			Changing land use to destroy threatened areas					
Clean water, rivers, lakes -- Lake Irwin & Upper Boggy Creek									
Protected special fragile areas -- Langford Community pasture									
Water conservation → storage									

Value	Threat	S1	S2	Threat	S1	S2	Threat	S1	S2
Water retention to control spring runoff & heavy summer rains									
To plan for next 100 years, providing continued drainage of existing farmland. Improving existing economy by incorporating retention areas to allow drainage waters to settle and reduce nitrate and phosphorus before water moves downstream and into our lakes. This method will improve water quality and health of individuals and the watershed as a whole.	Financial Costs	Possible sectionalization of watershed to achieve financial cost		Educational requirements to change individual attitudes			Time restraints		
Removal of bush and breaking of land on erosion prone land									
	Silt in drains	Incentives for farmers to leave bush and land in its native form	More shale traps						

Value	Threat	S1	S2	Threat	S1	S2	Threat	S1	S2
Loss of natural habitat (tourism)	Loss of wildlife (and fish) habitat	Shoot bulldozer operators	Conservation agreements						
I wish to protect our water in the rivers, creeks and streams. No longer can anyone swim in the rivers or creeks, such as Whitemud River.	Large feed lots			Field spray					
We are lucky to have this water supply by our farms. We hope to keep it pure.	Don't take too many trees out (land clearing)			Don't let oil or gas get in the creeks					
Farmers	Pretty old								
Water quality	Fertilizers and sprays, over-irrigating	Restrictions close to water areas							
Retaining bush	Too much clear cutting	Reduce taxes on bush land							
Drinking water	Pollution from animal and human waste	Land and water testing (regularly) to make sure everything stays as natural and clean as possible							
Animal wildlife habitat	Construction	Do not clear trees and valuable land							
Safe farm land	Overuse of pesticides	Use least pesticides as possible							

Value	Threat	S1	S2	Threat	S1	S2	Threat	S1	S2
Conservation of Big Valley	ATVs ripping up land	Restrict ATVs from Big Valley							
Brookdale Creek -- headwaters north and west of Brookdale, drains into Lake Irwin	Brookdale sewage lagoons	Provincial monitoring	Move Brookdale	Water table dropping/aquifer levels	Provincial water licensing	Drought proofing	Clearing/draining land and trees	Provincial licensing strictly controlled	Municipal land use policy
Make all water areas known, conserve wet areas	Large farms	Common sense		Draining wet areas	Conservation corridors	Preserve wet areas	Tree clearing	Plant shelterbelts	Leave wooded areas
Surface water, too much or lack of (water quality, soil degradation)	Excessive drainage on the landscape	Education	ALUS-type program	Removal of trees	Education				
As a municipal councillor (Ward 4, Lansdowne), the roads in the areas west of Arden flood over annually, leaving several homes isolated during up to two weeks in spring. No access for ambulance or fire services. Dangerous.	Large bridges have been replaced by smaller culverts. Not allowed to rectify this.	In some cases, larger or more culverts.	In some cases, water storage could be created in flood plains.	Increasing upstream drainage on Eden Creek and Whitemud River.	More water storage wherever possible.	Would like to see water storage in both flood plains in area just west of the Arden Ridge.	Water that historically reached us over a 2-3 week period now takes 2 or 3 days.	See threat two.	
Natural groundcover. Especially in areas of light soil.	Need for additional arable acres.	Some type of compensation for cover.	Increase programs to mitigate impacts and reinstate cover.	Lessening value attached to this, be it intrinsic, visual, etc.	Increase in public awareness and education.	Showcase cause and effects.			



Value	Threat	S1	S2	Threat	S1	S2	Threat	S1	S2
Water retention	There is too much farm drainage.	Have incentives for farmers to retain sloughs.		Increased drainage causes excessive erosion. Could decrease the supply of water to the aquifer.	Decrease the assessment on marginal land.	Pay farmers to retain or improve sloughs.			
I value making a living from my land through agriculture; specifically, raising cattle.	Excess water from upstream flooding pastures	Enforce drainage licensing	Hold water back	Raising land values (potatoes and grain)	incentive programming to retain bush and native cover	Don't allow clearing and levelling marginal land	Lack of water/drought	Water retention	improve native vegetation - reclamation
Make land owners who remove, destroy trees on municipal roads force owners replant trees and their costs. Include on property taxes.		Fire on crown and private need permissions or permits.							
Government have a memorandum all land owners new or established retain, keep no. of acres leave in natural state.		Retain bush for wild life.	Water retention, trees, grass for wildlife, food, shelter.	Every acre opened up increases flows. Wet years floods. I know what we experienced 15 years 5 floods. Thousands dollars lost.					
Quality drinking water for human consumption (animals).									

Value	Threat	S1	S2	Threat	S1	S2	Threat	S1	S2
Retain water why it's there. Culvert	Upstream control.	Proper drainage before installing more culverts or drains.	Leave Alonsa area water where it is. This costs extra to rate payers to drain into Waldersee drain.						
Habitat for wildlife	Land clearing	No land clearing on crown lands	Purchase more wildlife lands						
Water for recreation	More dams remaining in rivers								
Clean drinking water	Old unsealed wells and manure management	Close and seal old wells							
Controlled drainage	Beaver dams	Put a bigger bounty on beavers	Clean ditches	Plugged ditches	Clean ditch with back hoe instead of mowing				
Clean water	Use of septic fields	Go back to injector system							
Leave bush for habitat	Should have restrictions to leave bush	Have permits to remove and have incentives to leave it							
Water retention									
Rural community	Injector Ban	Return to injector sewage system							
Migratory birds flight paths	Drainage	Licensing drainage	Water retention, education	Canadian dollar	Pegging the dollar for long term stability				

Value	Threat	S1	S2	Threat	S1	S2	Threat	S1	S2	
Sustainable agriculture with a balance of natural capital	Deforestation	EG&S payments	Government regulation, e.g.. RM	Excessive pothole drainage	Stronger enforcement	Education	Lack of drain maintenance	Continued funding	Education of urbanites (re. need for improved drainage)	
Ability to effectively drain productive farmland esp. nuisance water accumulation as compared to permanent slough and such for wildlife	Excessive government regulation. Water stewardship bureaucracy	Less intervention on smaller basic works	Better coordinated systems for bigger projects	Contrary, but lack of geographic distance related coordinated plans.	More clearly identifying "nuisance" water drainage to preserve productive land from true deeper water for wildlife with separate approvals. I.e., more sophisticated definition and approach.		Veto power over improvement how far down the line?			
The land and water and the ability to have a productive agriculture	Overland flooding	water retention wherever possible	Controlled runoff	The ability to maintain the drainage system	maintain government funding at adequate levels	More landowner input into maintenance	The removal of natural cover	ALUS type program	Moratorium on removal of natural cover	Education of urbanites
Aquifer - sand hill preservation	Land clearing	education		Grain prices			Drainage			
Drainage	Flooding water coming in too fast	some place upgrade drainage ditches	Try to hold water back							
A great potential value for recreation and wildlife is Jackson Lake	Low water levels	Studies aimed at keeping the water level at highest optimal level		People destroying the shoreline and habitat	Identify people resistant and strategies		Potential chemical pollution	Close monitoring of the situation	Further farming setbacks if required	

Value	Threat	S1	S2	Threat	S1	S2	Threat	S1	S2
Conservation of soils and land and water within this area	soil erosion	minimal till	leaving shelterbelts intact	Removal of shelterbelts			Drainage on flatter lands	Less drainage	
We need dams									
Wetlands left for Ag. And to protect for the dry years. Also to recharge the ground water	drainage	put in dams to hold water		pollution	wetlands clean				
Pine Creek and its riparian areas - presently its drying because of overuse of the recharge sources (irrigation)	uncontrolled irrigation	Control irrigation - especially unlicensed		Livestock	provide incentives to fence riparian areas				
Soil conservation, keeping cover on lighter soils, trees, grass, leaving land too bare, water retention	removing trees, shelter belts	water retention	dams, etc.	draining wetlands					

Value	Threat	S1	S2	Threat	S1	S2	Threat	S1	S2
The ability to hold water back in the Squirrel Creek Basin and release it slower into the Whitemud River. Flooding of campgrounds along Whitemud River	Flooding of campgrounds along Whitemud	small dam projects to slow the flow		Lowering water table in out area	Retain as much water as we can				
Drainage on farm	Too much drainage								
Wildlife	Too many trees bulldozed								
High quality ground water	Irrigation	retention of surface runoff	monitoring draw (not a watershed issue)						
Retention of surface water runoff	No natural or manmade retention systems	Small dam systems							
Farms									
Water quality									
Conservation									
Wildlife habitat	Clearing natural habitat	Supervision							
Water retention	Not enough control of drainage	Supervision							
Block plantings									
Small dams									

Value	Threat	S1	S2	Threat	S1	S2	Threat	S1	S2
Water resource for agricultural production - rural residents	lack of maintenance - natural and man-made	Defined ownership of land near water courses = responsibility	maintain watercourse channels						
Drought protection - water retention	complete watercourse planning - Back dam/reservoir	PFRA and other planning agencies work together	support shared programming for construction						
Drainage of excess water	no coordinated federal/provincial/municipal/land owner communications	one department responsible for all licensing and permits	detailed surveys available to interested parties - library						
To live along side the river for recreation i.e. boating, skidoing, for commercial fishing (Whitemud River)	Too many drainage ditches to the west of Westbourne	more control of spring runoff to the west and the south west (McGregor area)		danger of too much flooding, erosion	slow down water runoff		not enough input to resolving the problem by watershed and government	loss of wildlife habitat	
whitetail deer habitat	aging woodlots not being renewed	landowners being aware of the agro woodlot program	wildlife crown lands having a harvest plan	winter food sources	commercially viable crops that also provide for wildlife	zero tillage	heavily grazed wooded pastures		
to protect farmland and buildings from overland flooding. Using water for irrigation	uncontrolled drainage	integrated drainage plan							

Value	Threat	S1	S2	Threat	S1	S2	Threat	S1	S2
quality of water passing by my home in all seasons	production - upstream (industry)	managing more closely waste disposal							
excessive water in spring with runoff control of spring runoff	spring field runoff	spring field runoff - control ditching							
What is being dumped in the Whitemud?	human waste in river								
beautiful river useful for canoeing, boating, fishing, skidooning, hunting	threats to flooding local housing in towns	diversion of river direct to lake		flooding on farmland	stop draining all farmland into Whitemud upstream		flooding causing erosion to river banks	same as threat 1	
After living alongside the river for 6 years, access to waterfowl and recreation is outstanding!	Erosion!!!	less direct drainage into the river	back filling river bank that has already gone						
Water. I do not want anymore drainage. I am in the cattle business and I need lots of grass. No water = no grass.	no more ditches								

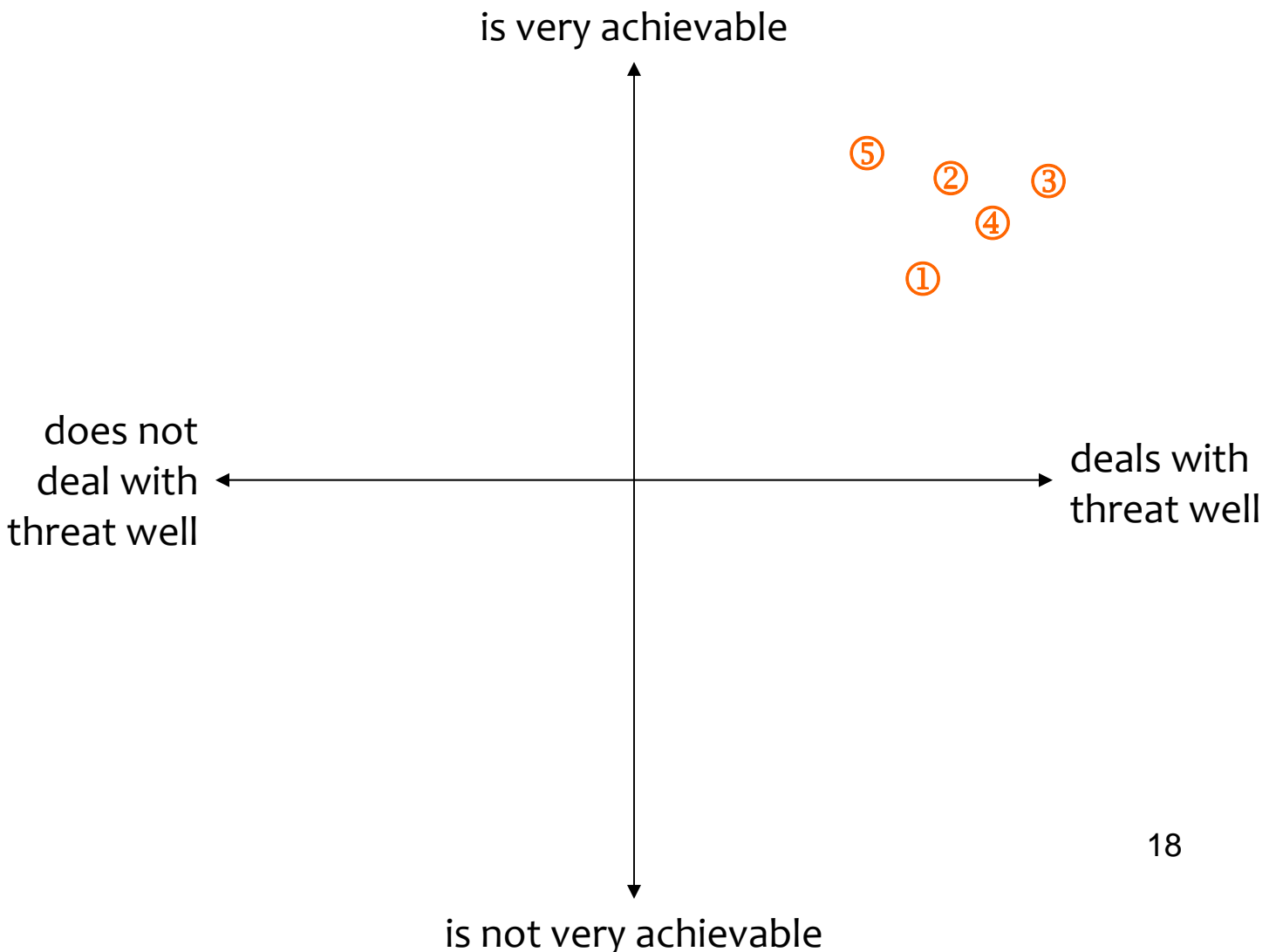
Value	Threat	S1	S2	Threat	S1	S2	Threat	S1	S2
Maintaining balance between agriculture & natural areas. Healthy riparian areas	too much habitat being lost. Some landowners don't feel that bush & sloughs & riparian areas are important.	keep soil from eroding	pay for EG&S	economic development trumps watershed philosophy	education and extension				
Sustainable agricultural system	overland flooding; inadequate drainage maintenance	water retention -- control runoff	adequate provincial funding, more local funding						
Natural cover	removal of trees and sloughs	ALUS-type program	tax relief on natural areas						
Shelter belts (trees)	erosion	more shelter belts							
Flood control	water levels	retaining ponds							
wildlife									
river bank and trees	ice in spring with high water	get ice moving in spring							
on farm shelterbelts	trees being bulldozed								
on farm drainage	too many drains								
wildlife	lose of bush for wildlife								
Lake Irwin	Government mismanagement	listen to the local people	Use carrot rather than the stick						



Value	Threat	S1	S2	Threat	S1	S2	Threat	S1	S2
Assiniboine Delta Aquifer	Lack of clear and accurate monitoring	Federal government stopped monitoring streams a number of years ago	There is no long term record on flows						
Ag land	Drain maintenance	More funding for drain maintenance	Need more cooperation between government departments						
Farms	Wind erosion	Costs							
Bush land	Too much clearing								
Good quality water	Sprays & fertilizations - feed lots								
Drainage, Big Grass Marsh, flooding over land	[Flooding] damage to land	Draining to Lake Manitoba							

# CLEAN WATER – NUTRIENT LOADING

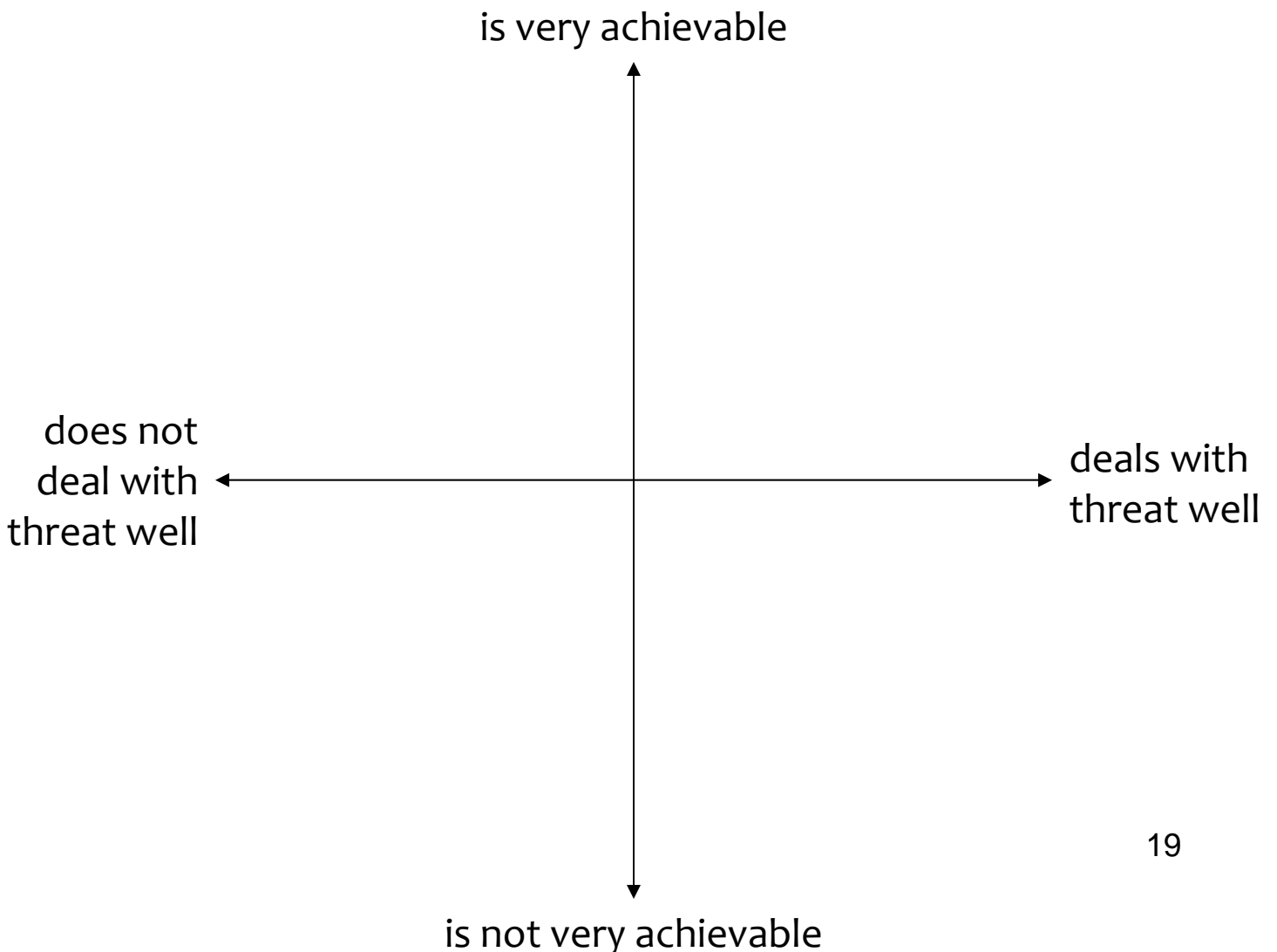
1. Some livestock operations along waterways should be moved back (pay 100% to do this because it is a public interest)
2. Stream bank fencing
3. Grassed waterways
4. Maintain forages/stubble
5. Protect natural vegetation (areas in Assiniboine Delta Aquifer and Riding Mountain)



## SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT

Rural economy, unfair regulation, changing sandy and fragile lands to potatoes, grain farms need drainage

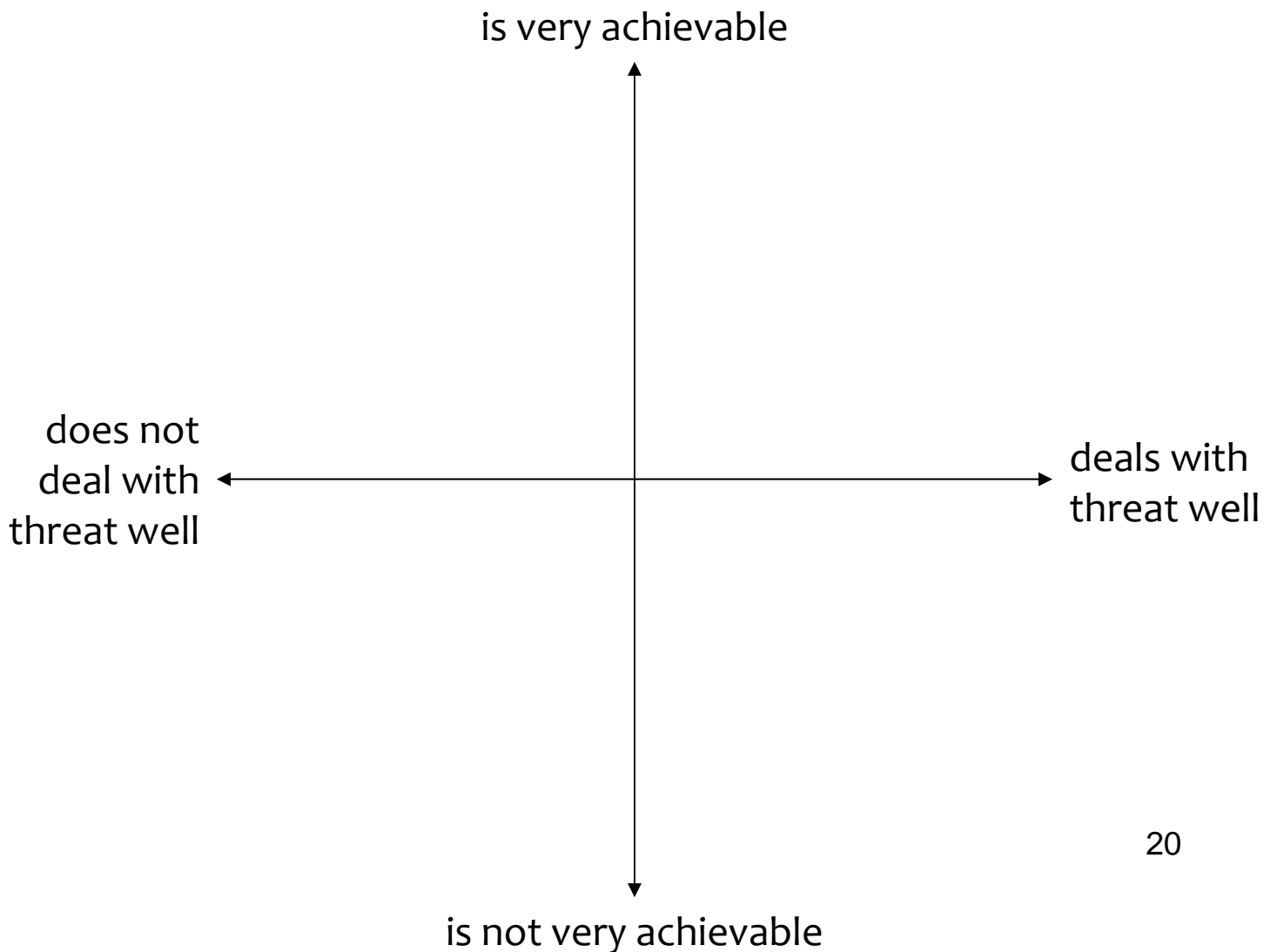
1. Planned drainage plan
2. Being well managed
3. Residue management, zero till



Neepawa 1  
STORAGE OF WATER

Group Responses

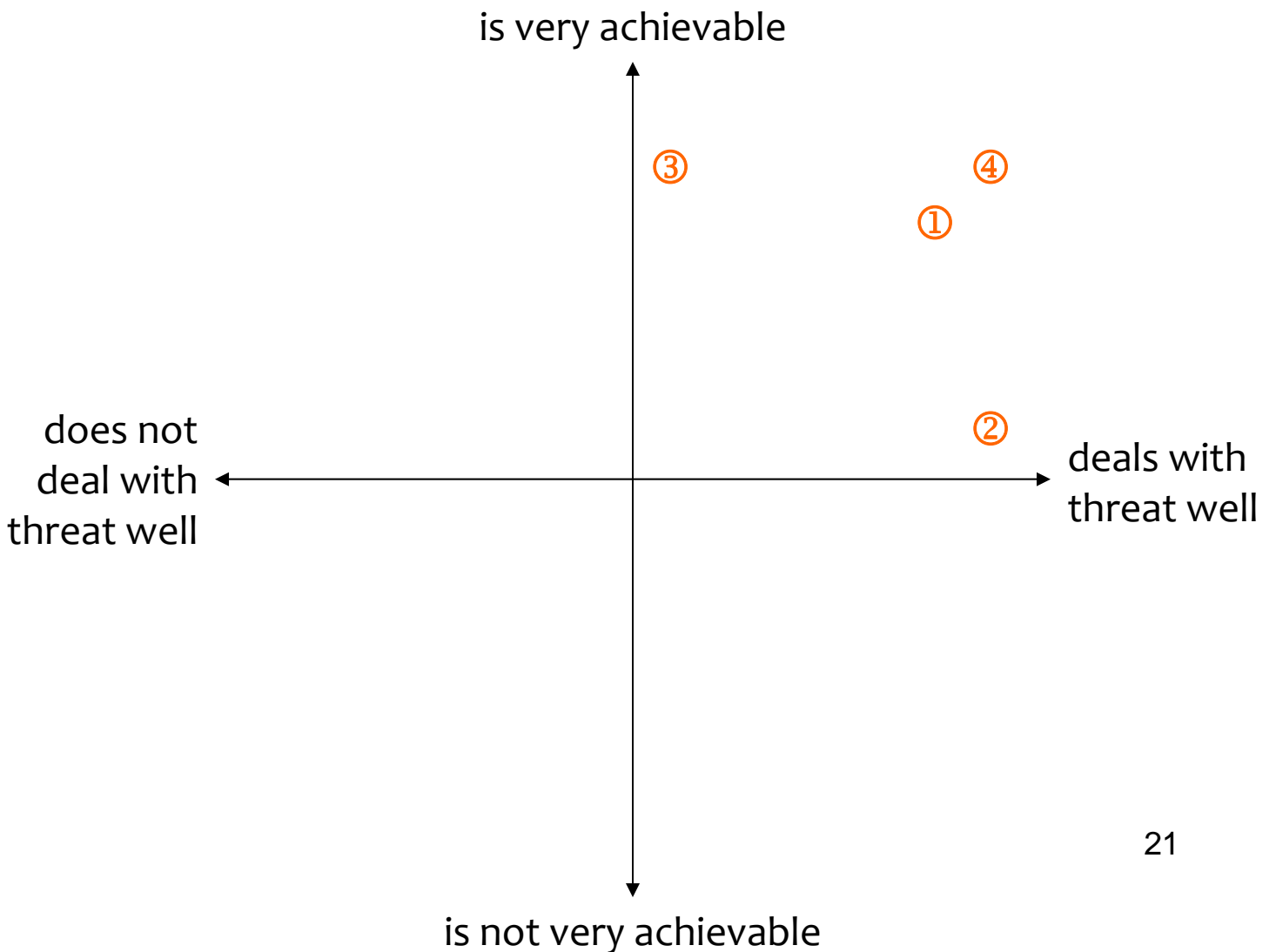
1. Easements
2. Big Grass Marsh needs a multi-use plan
3. Expand Abbot and Rose Lake ridge and swale topographic area storage area
4. Replicate Stony Creek
5. Riparian assessment \$\$ moved to CDs



# Neepawa 2 WATER QUALITY & QUANTITY

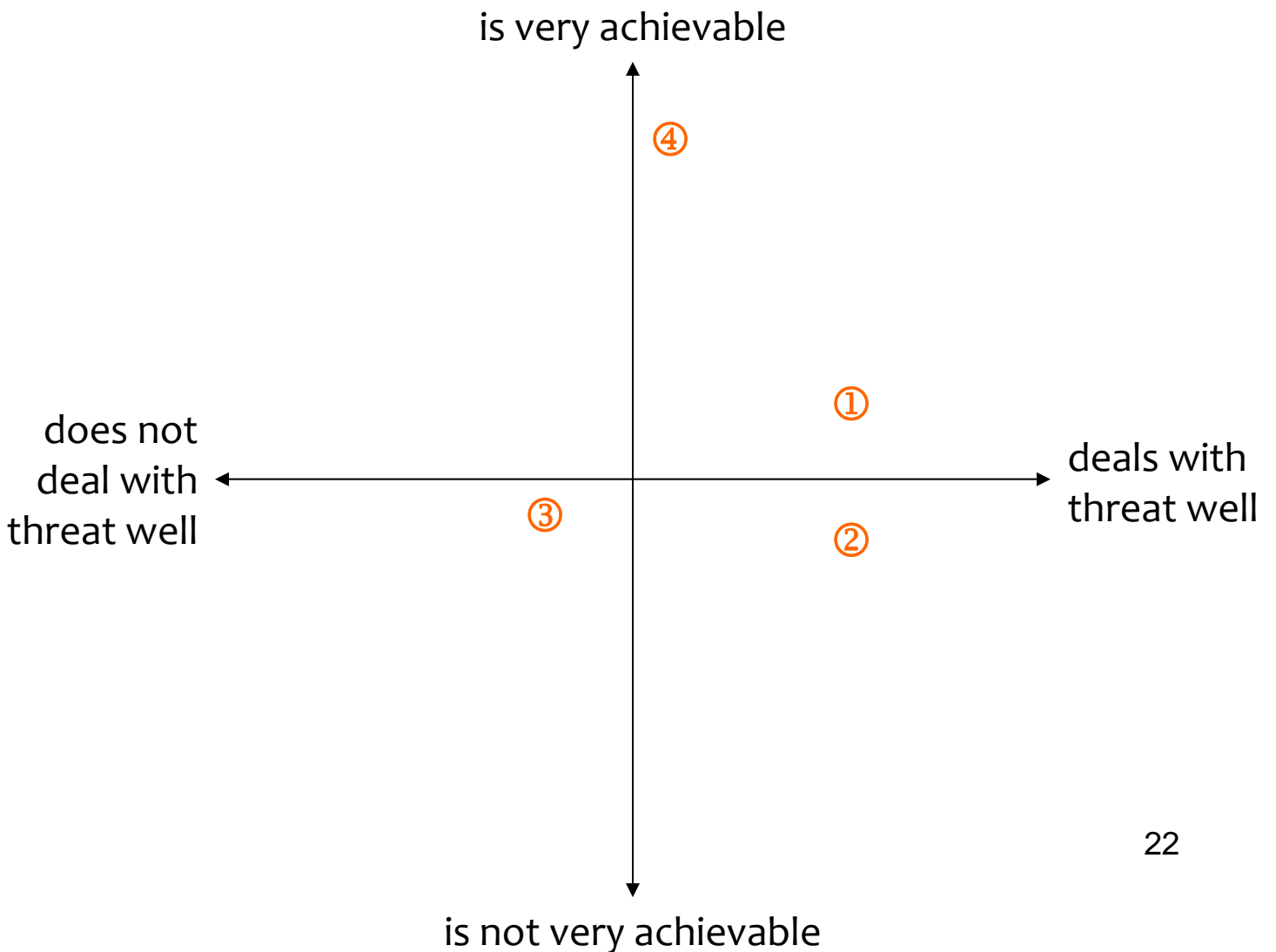
## Group Responses

1. Buffer zones along waterways
2. Retention sites
3. Licensing
4. Testing



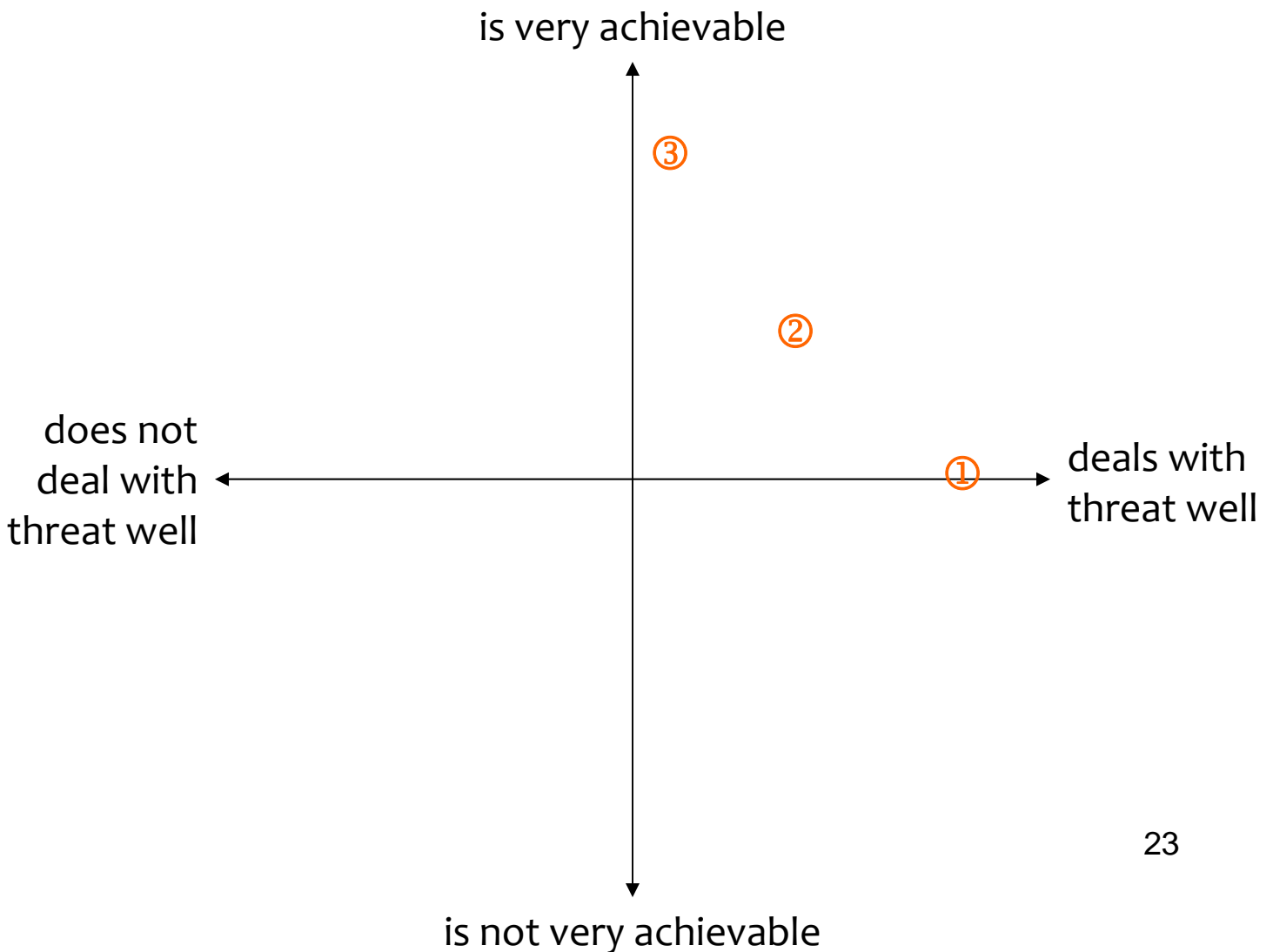
HABITAT – BUSH & GROUND COVER

1. Conservation agreements
2. Reclamation
3. Land use policies
4. Education/extension



# NATURAL GROUND COVER & WATER RETENTION

1. Regulation of ground cover removal
2. Compensation for retention of water and ground cover
3. Increase in public awareness
4. Restrict licenses in certain areas
5. Change: land assessments rising with specialty crops act as reverse incentive



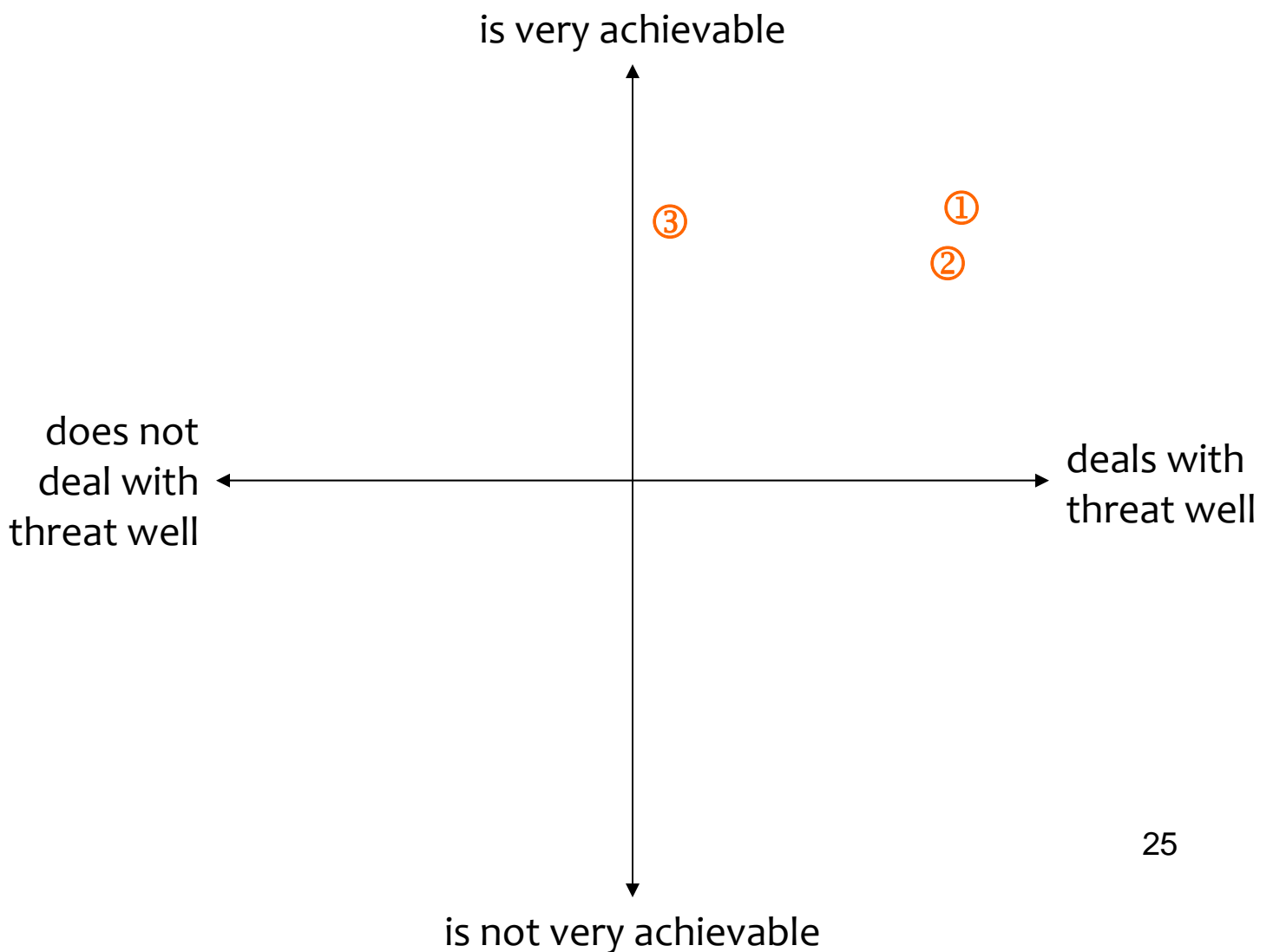
# Neepawa 3 SURFACE WATER QUALITY

1. Slow rate of runoff
2. More natural cover
3. Water retention
4. Public awareness
5. Back flooding
6. ALUS-type program
7. Lower taxes on potholes, etc.
8. Incentives

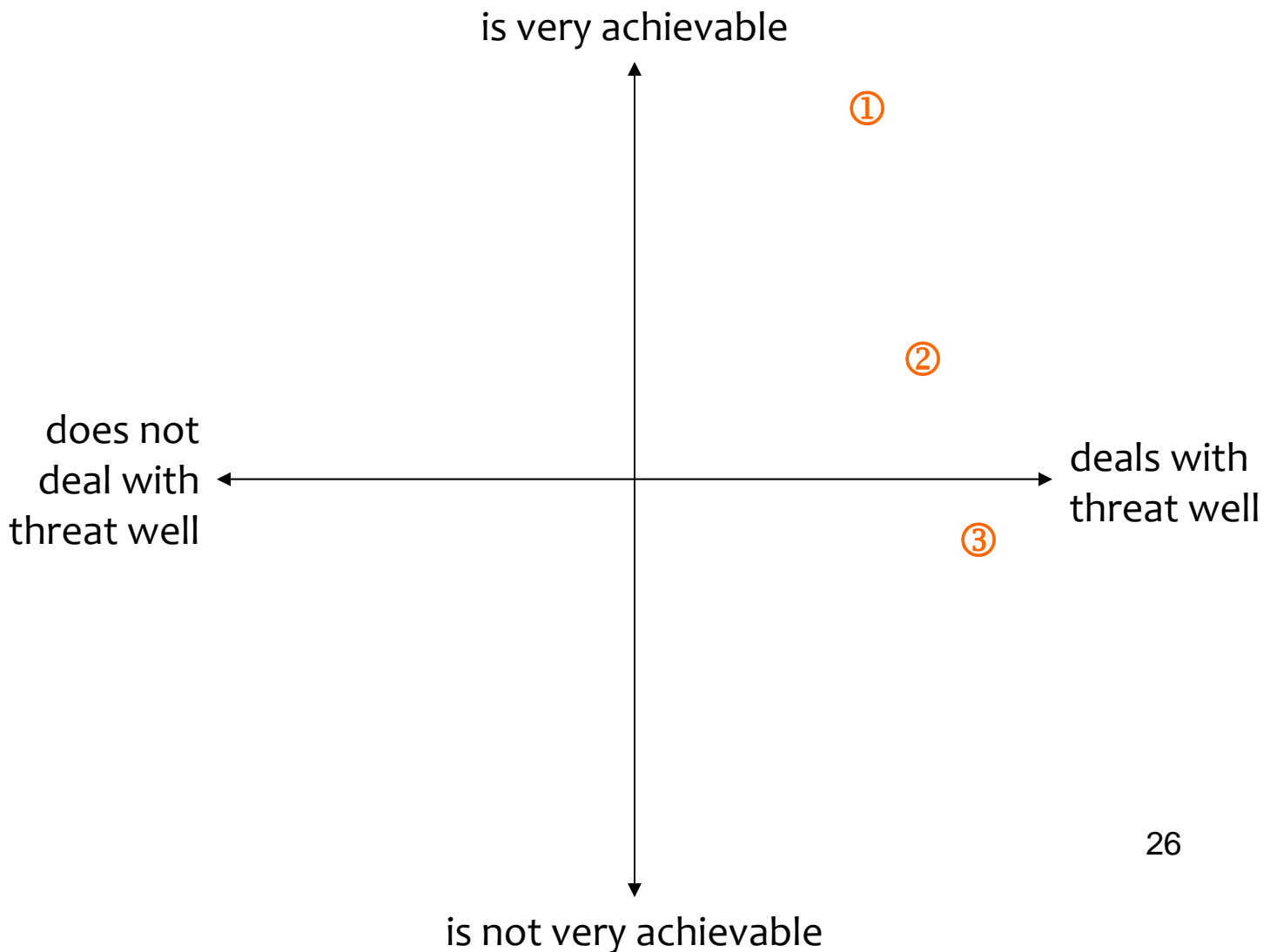




1. Conservation agreements
2. Land use policy – restrict clearing – permits
3. Enforcement & penalties



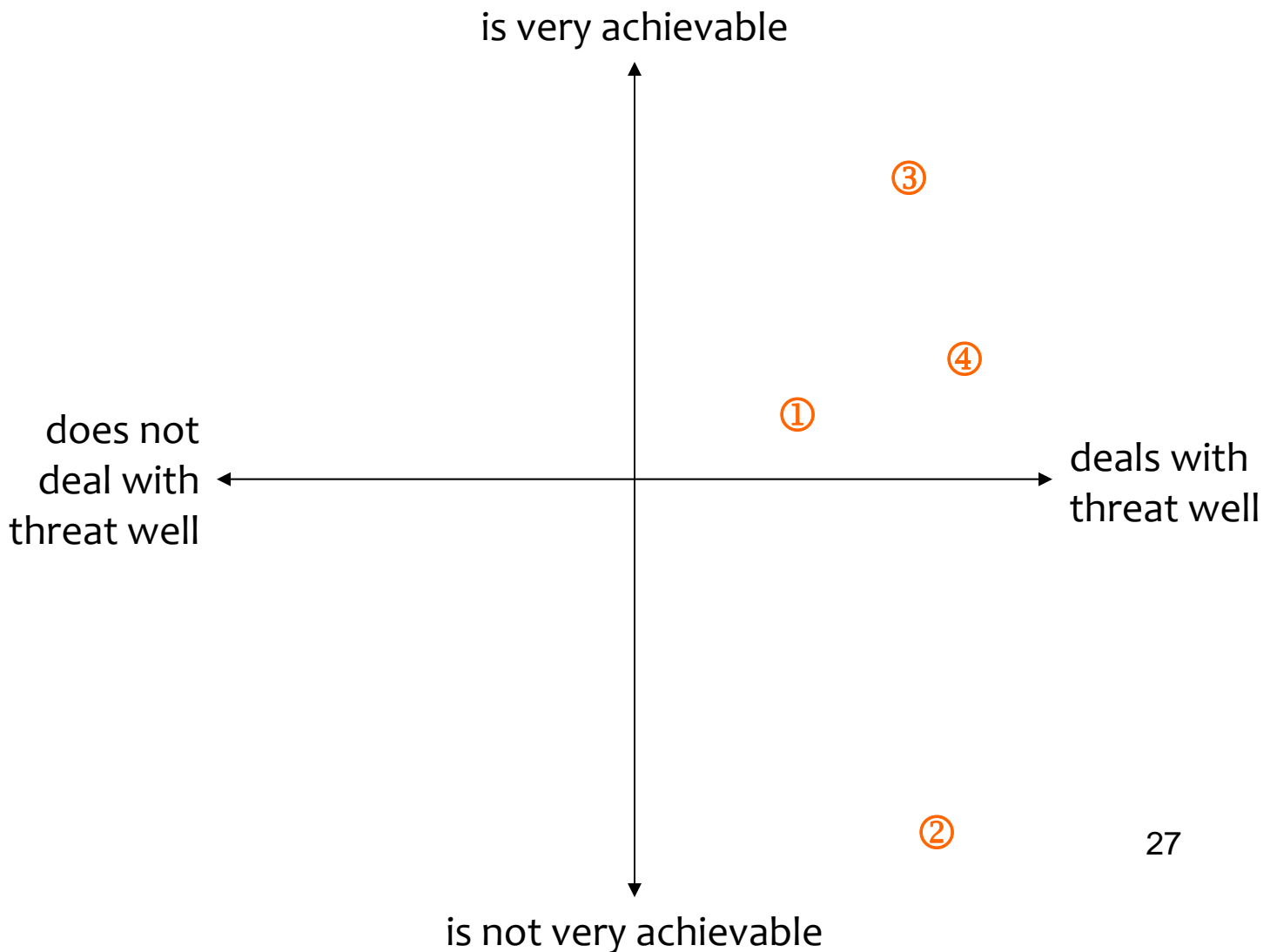
1. Increase urban awareness through education
2. Retain wildlife habitat by recognition with signage  
+ tax incentives  
+ government programs
3. Ejector ban on site by site basis



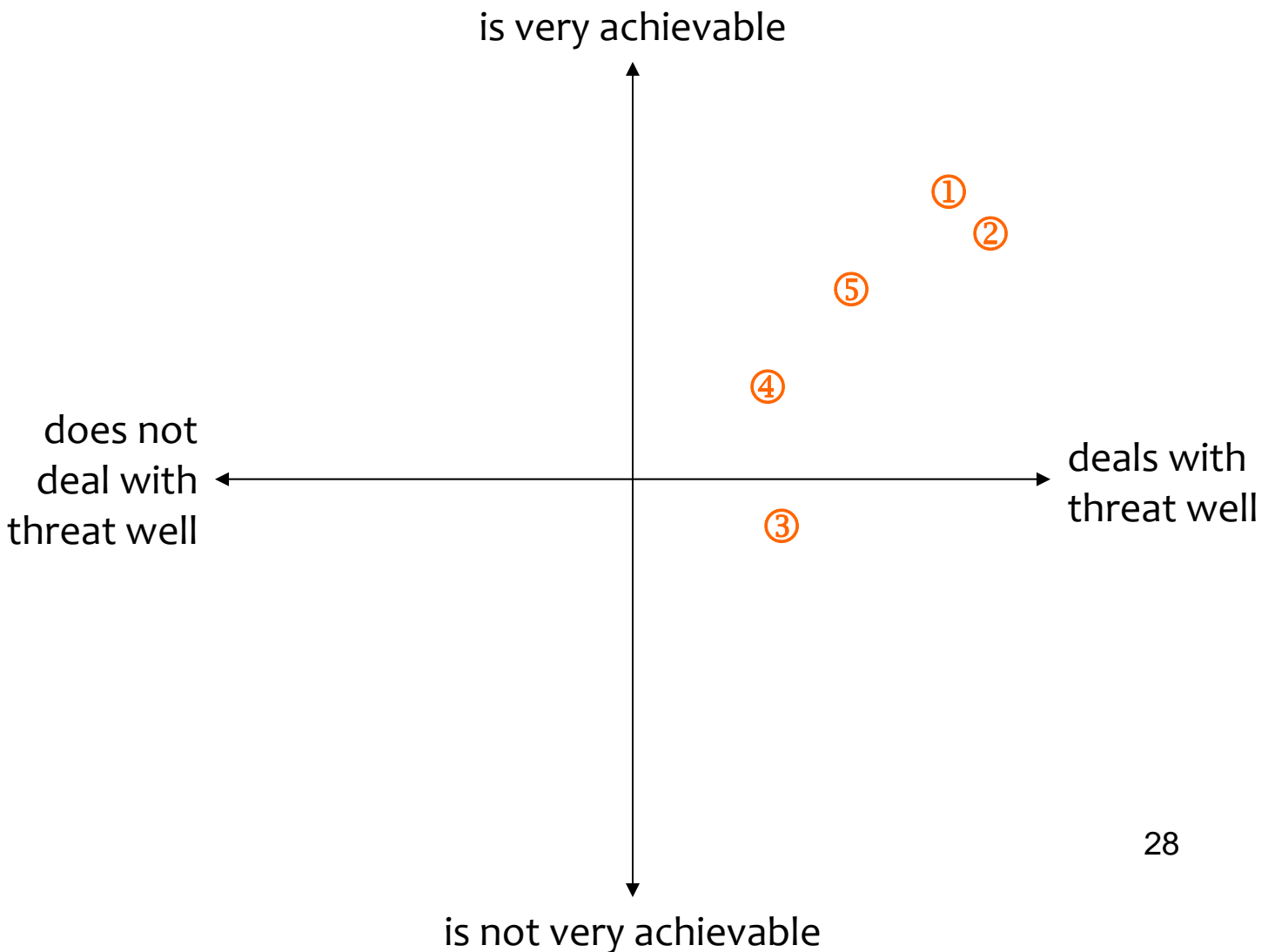
# Glenella 2

## DRAINAGE & WATER RETENTION

1. Controlled drainage
2. Federal funding for drainage problems released from parks
3. Awareness and education
4. Targeted water storage areas



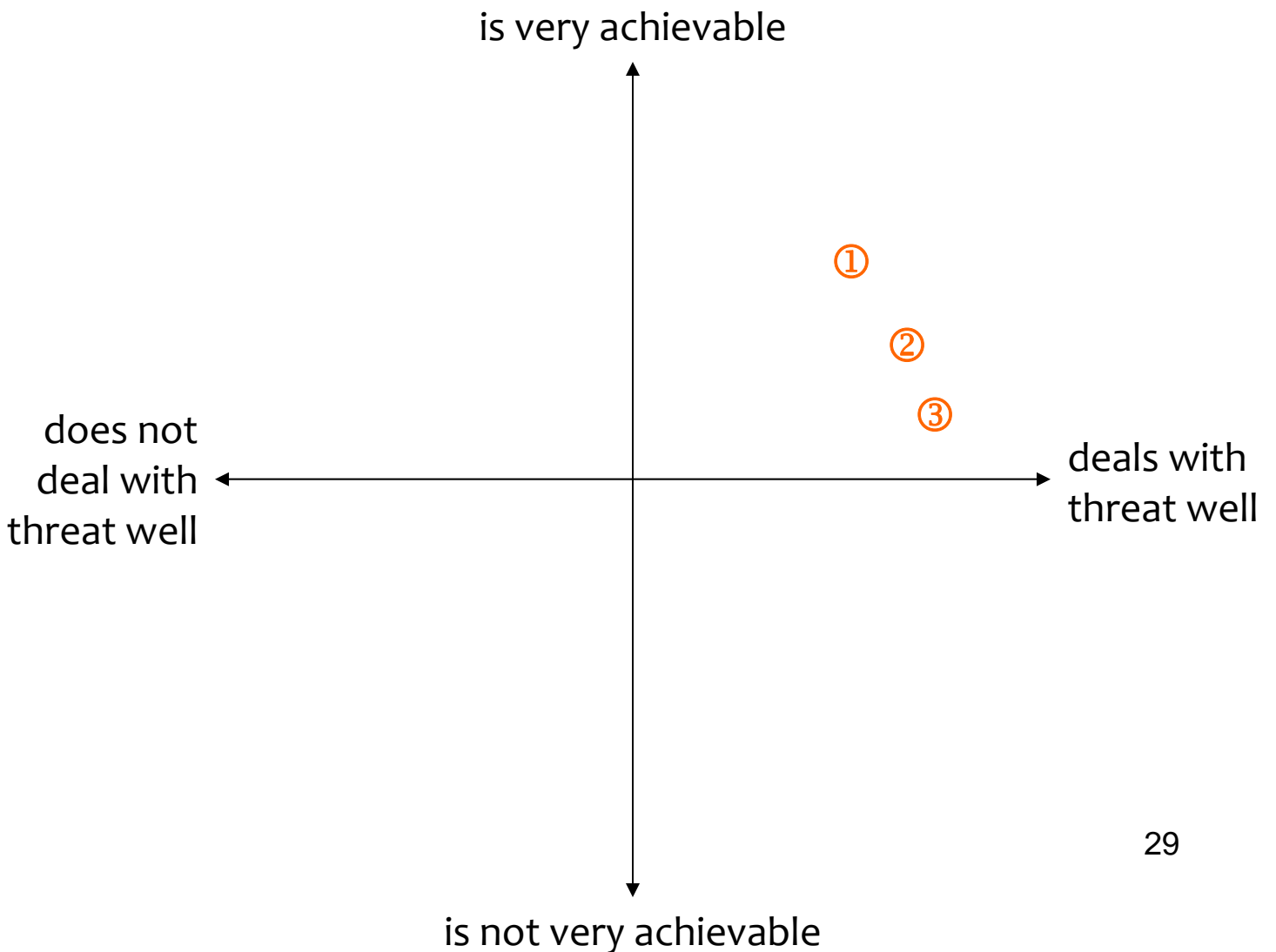
1. Drainage system (maintenance)
2. Soil conservation (education)
3. Shelter belts
4. Recharge areas
5. education



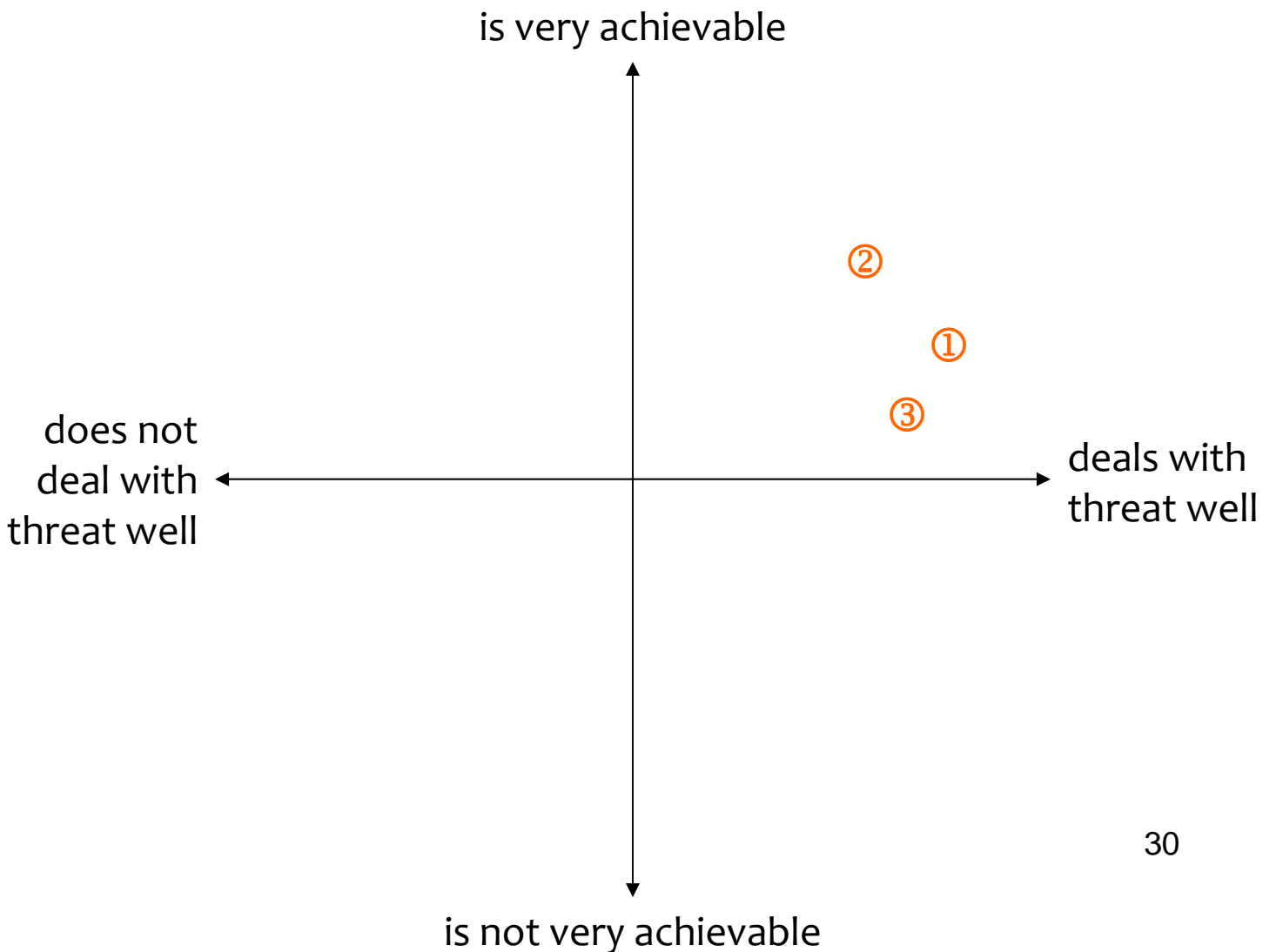
Austin 1  
NATURAL COVER

Group Responses

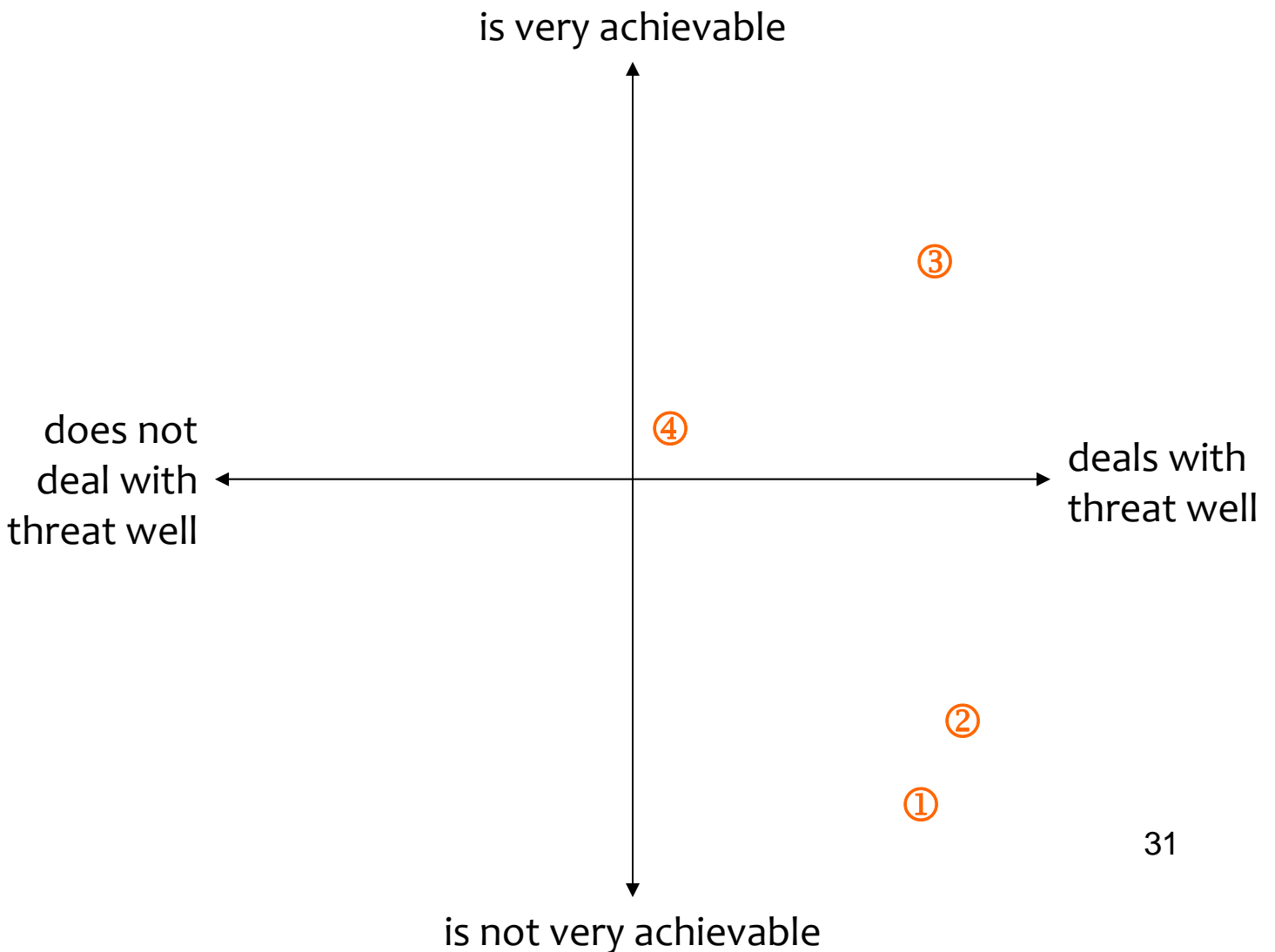
1. EG&S program
2. Education
3. Incentives



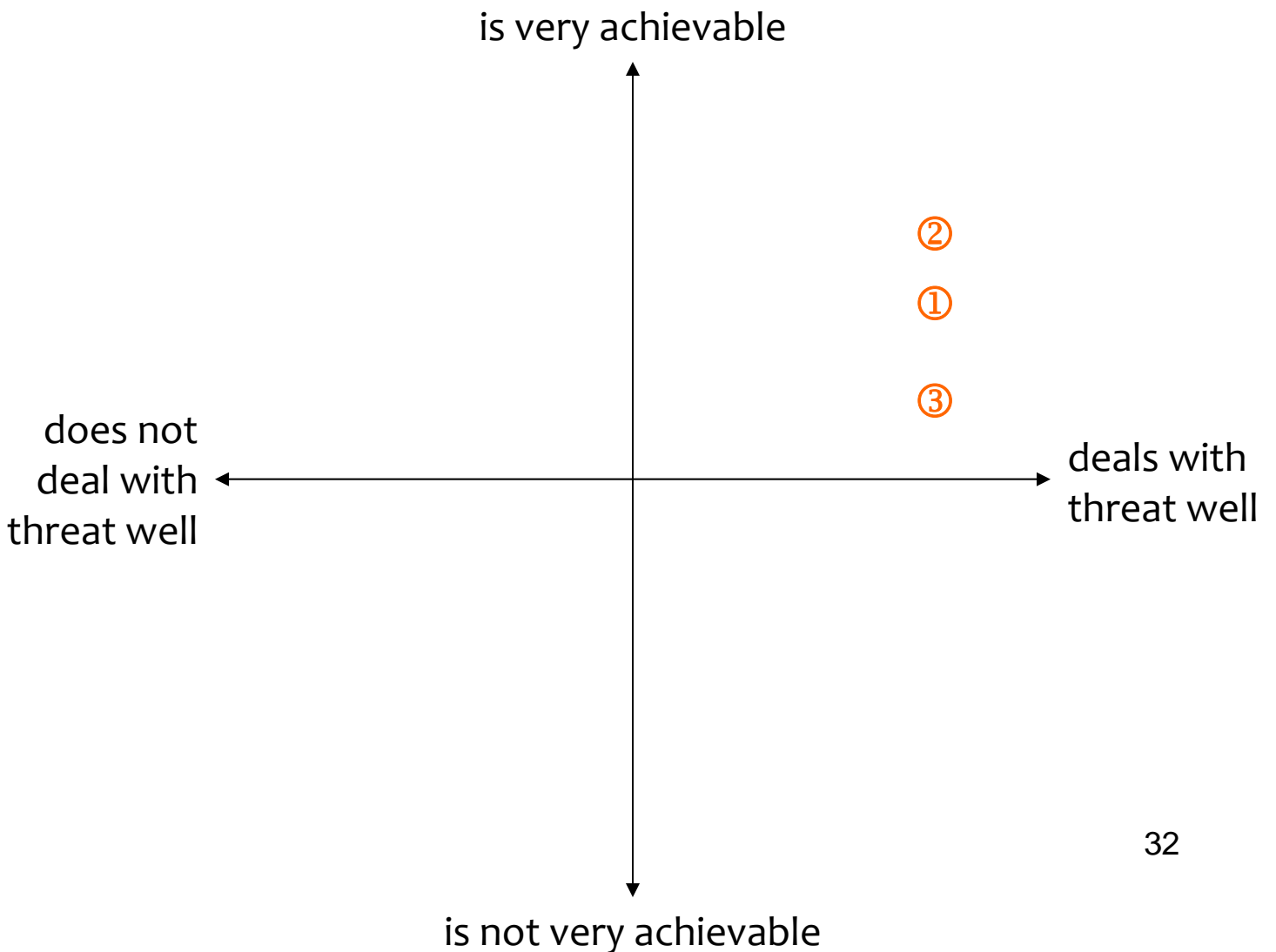
1. Adequate funding
2. Producer participation
3. Controlled runoff



1. Removal of shelterbelts only where pivot wheels run (irrigators)
2. Incentives
3. More education
4. Carbon credits

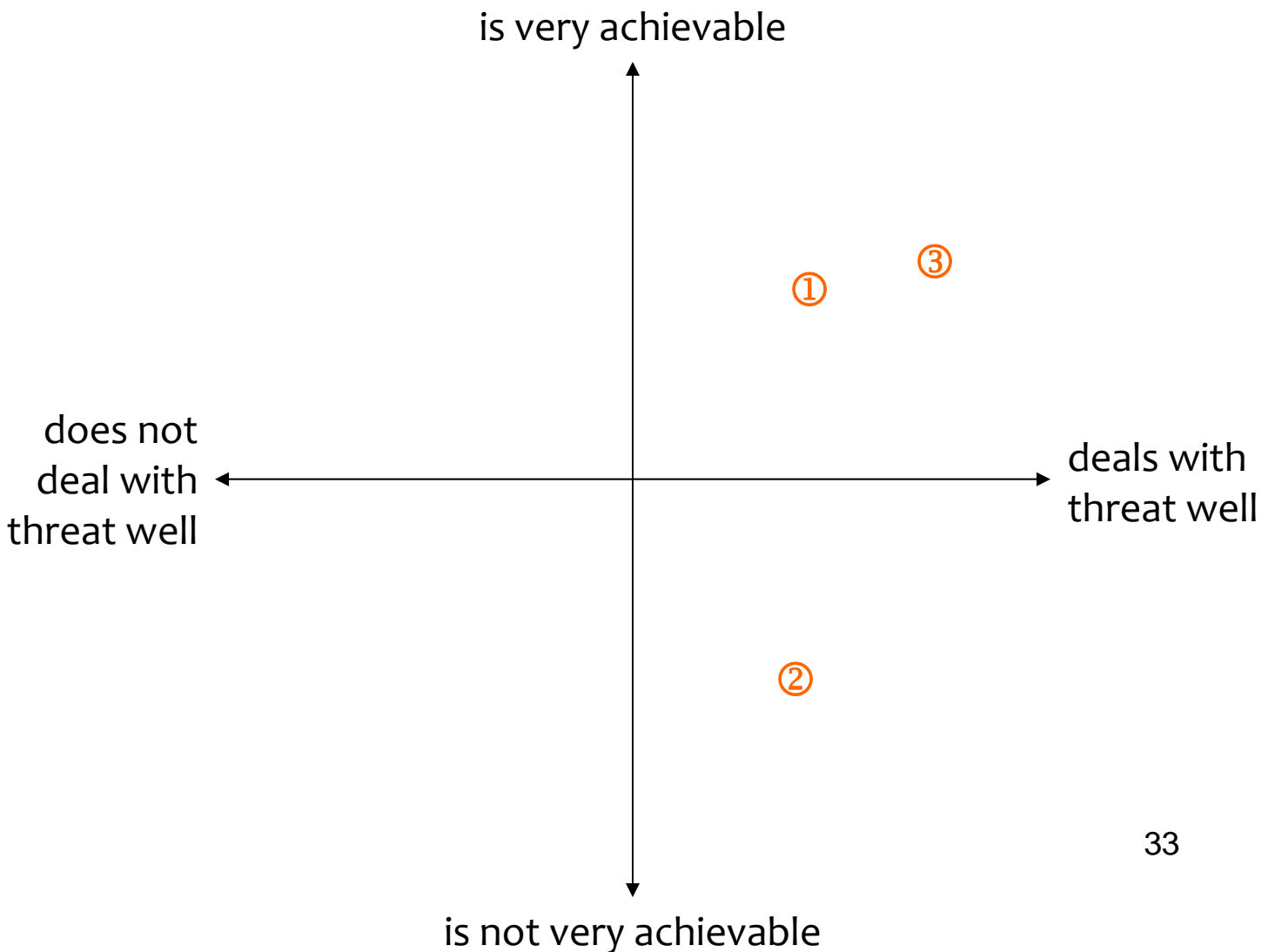


1. More dams
2. Minimal till
3. Less drainage



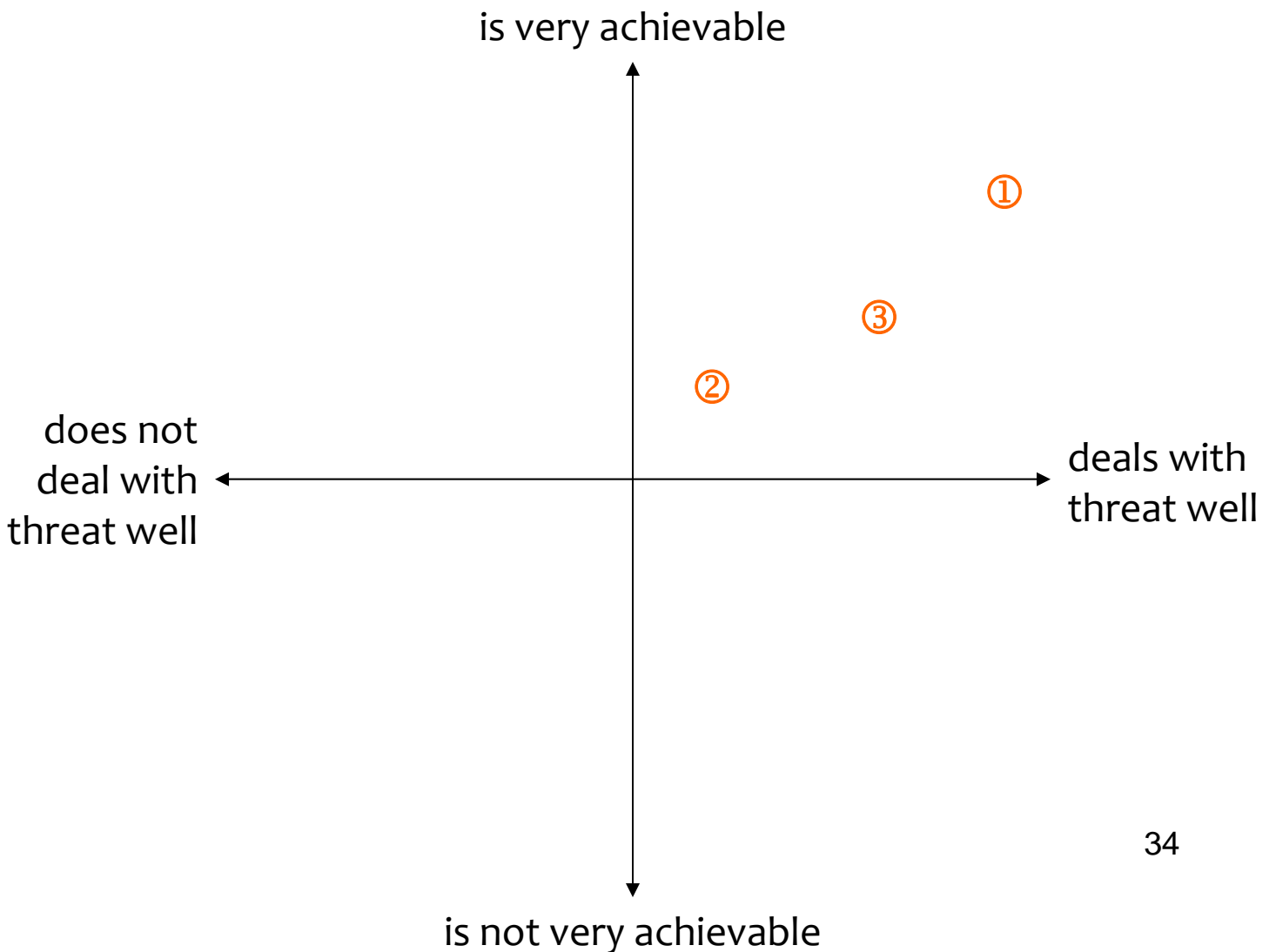


1. Too much bush clearing without authorization
2. Retain 20 acres per quarter section for wildlife
3. Retain sloughs where possible for wildlife



# WATER RETENTION – REDUCE DRAINAGE

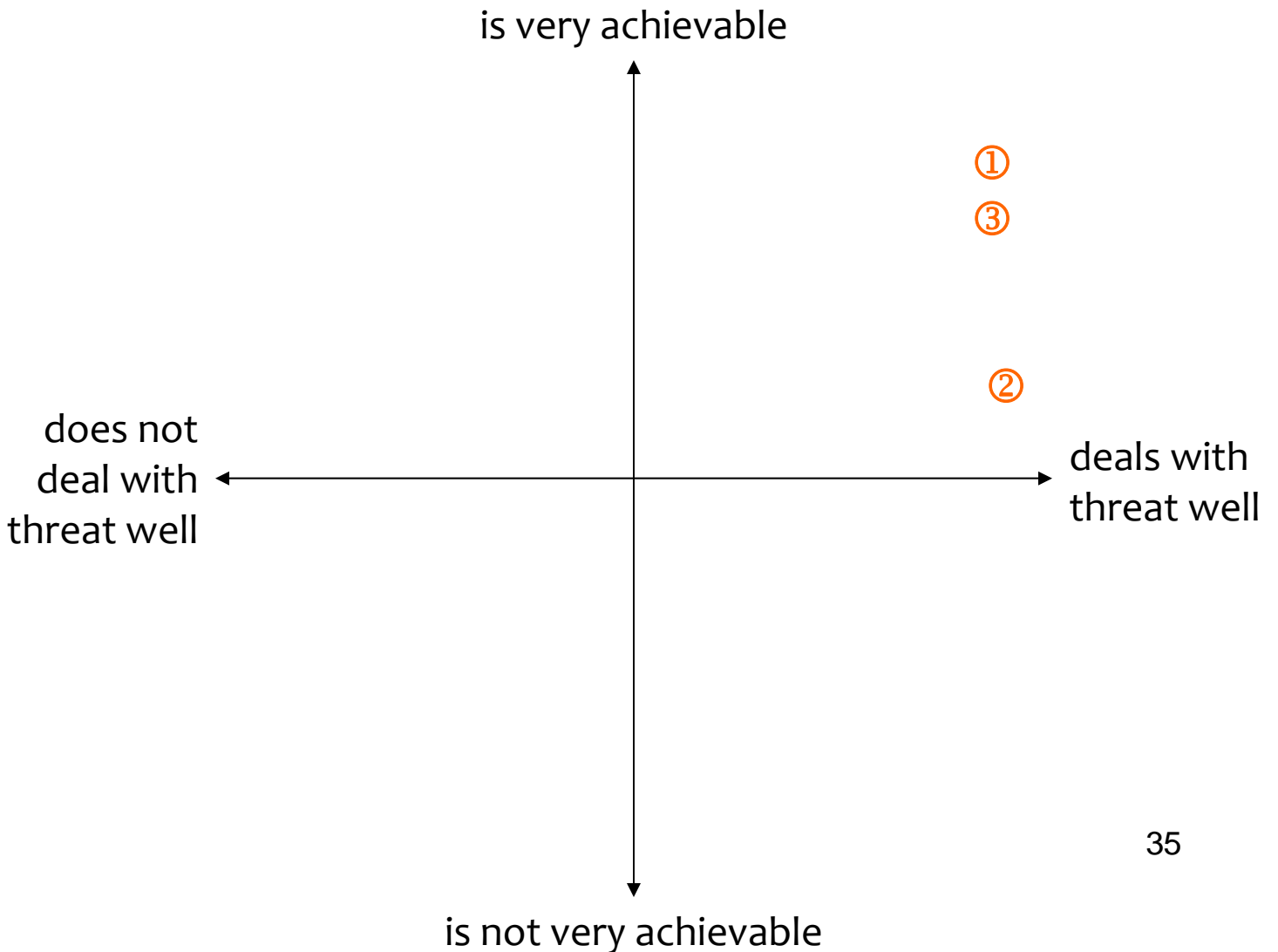
1. Stiffer penalties for unauthorized drains
2. Check feasibility of small dams
3. Incentives to keep wetlands out of production



# Westbourne 1 WATER QUALITY

## Group Responses

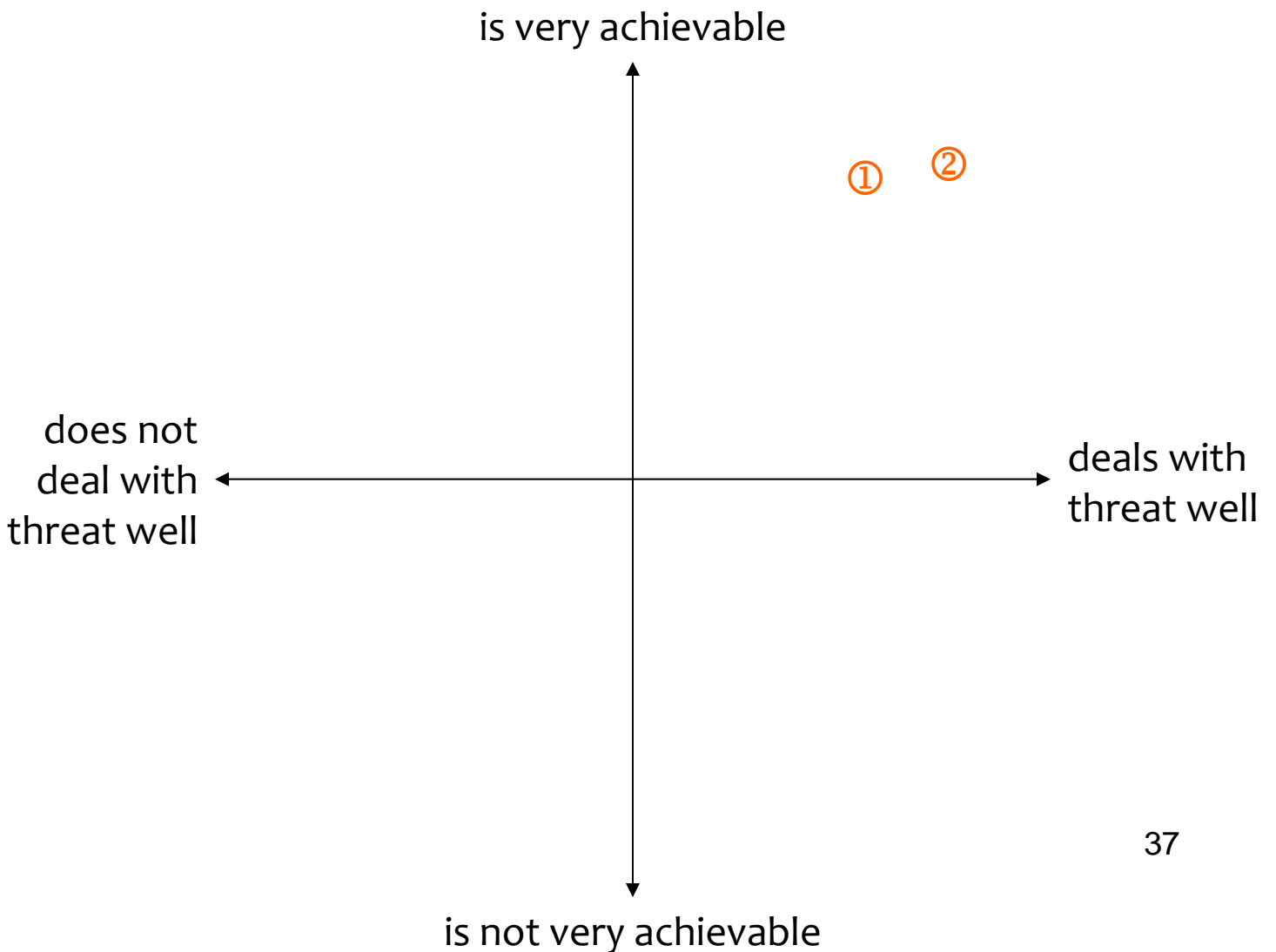
1. No pumping raw sewage into river
2. Watercourse maintenance
3. Off-stream water systems for livestock



1. Water control
2. Retain potholes and tree cover
3. More funding for ALUS-type programs



1. Quantity and quality
2. Preventing erosion



1. Zero assessment
2. Target EG&S
3. Education

