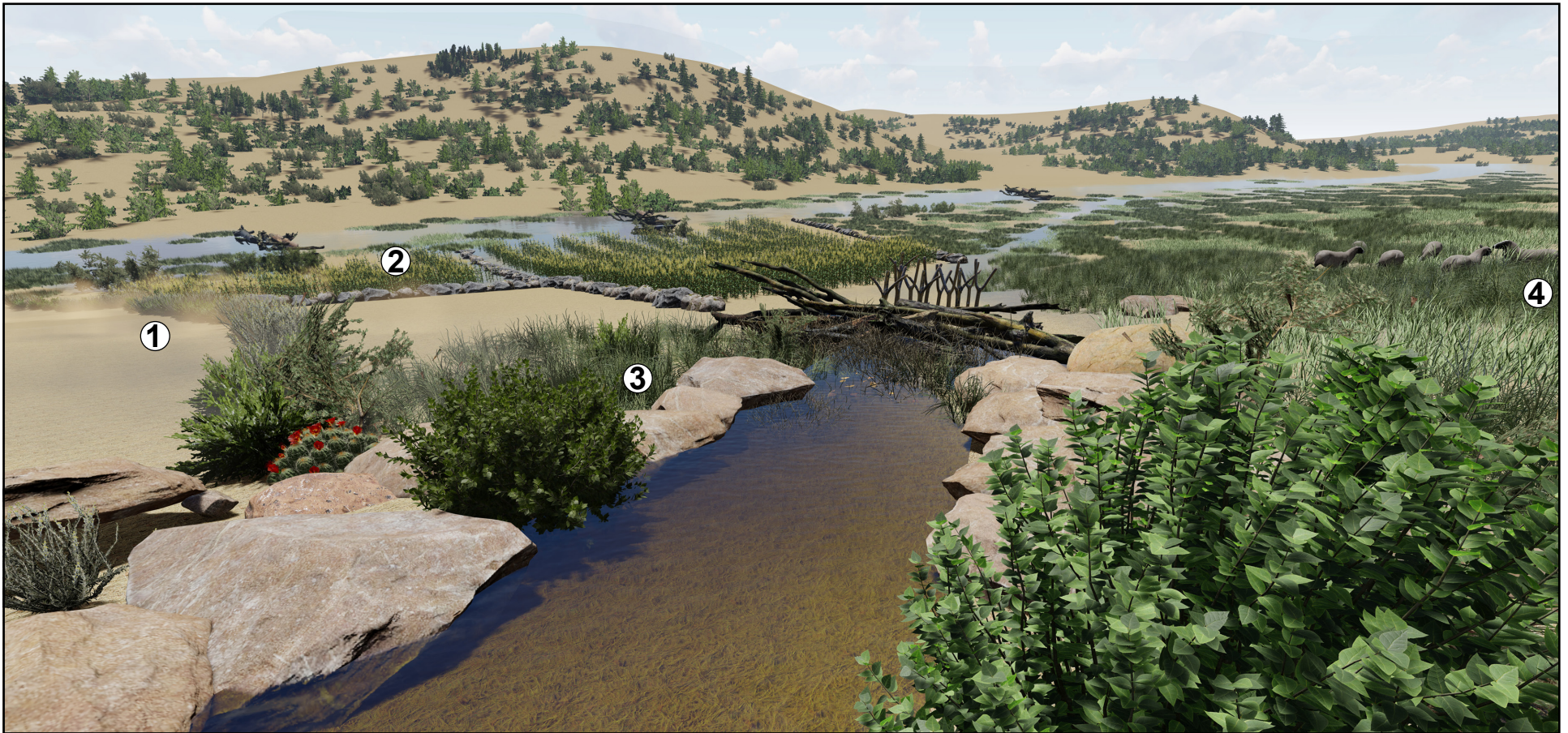




Traditional Indigenous Network Effects:

1. Aeolian soil capture 2. Renewed soil for cultivation plots 3. Restored riparian corridor 4. Grassland rejuvenation

My model envisions a traditional brush dam system and its rejuvenating effects on the landscape. It's important to rethink our conception of dams. We know them as concrete walls which impound all water flow. Traditional damming instead mimics natural processes, central to ecological design. With brush dams, the soil runoff and water pools behind the brush dams, spreads to the side of them, and some water and soil seeps through the dam to continue on through the stream bed to the next dam, which repeats the process of stalling and redirecting the water-soil mix.

Traditional brush dams allow the ephemeral stream in times of flooding, seen here, to act more like healthy rivers by slowing down and dispersing the water and rich soil runoff. A healthy stream has bank and bed vegetation to slow down water and soil runoff, which allows infiltration and the feeding of riparian plant life through sequestered nutrient-rich sediment. This riparian zone restoration is the genesis for the grassland restoration next to the stream, seen on the right, where the soil also begins to heal and allow for native grass communities.