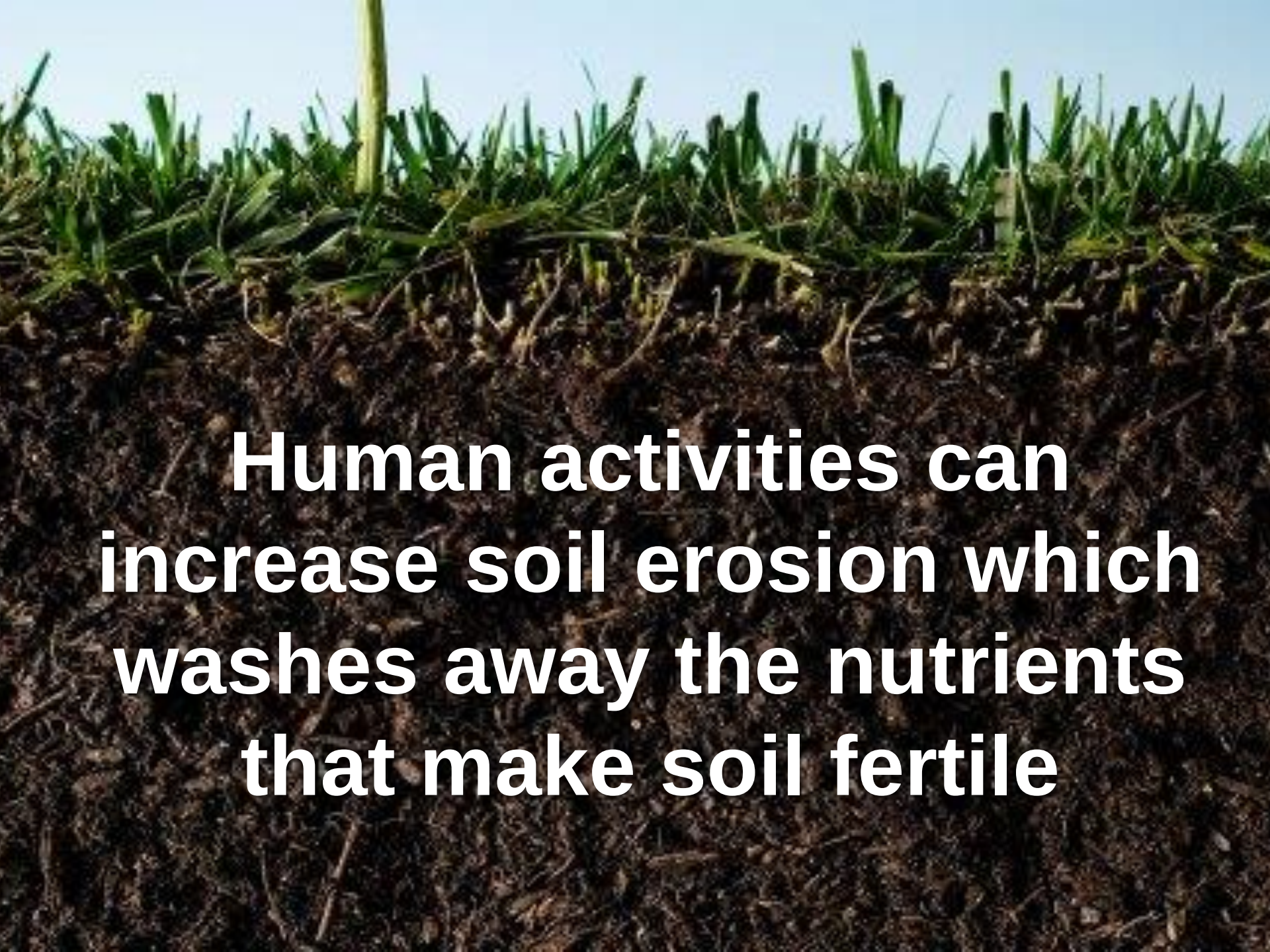
Human Impact on Soil


Human activities can increase soil erosion which washes away the nutrients that make soil fertile

Human Activities that Increase Soil Erosion:

- Developing land for agriculture
- Cutting down forests (deforestation) for logging or land development (business, industry, homes, etc.)
- Overgrazing by cattle or livestock

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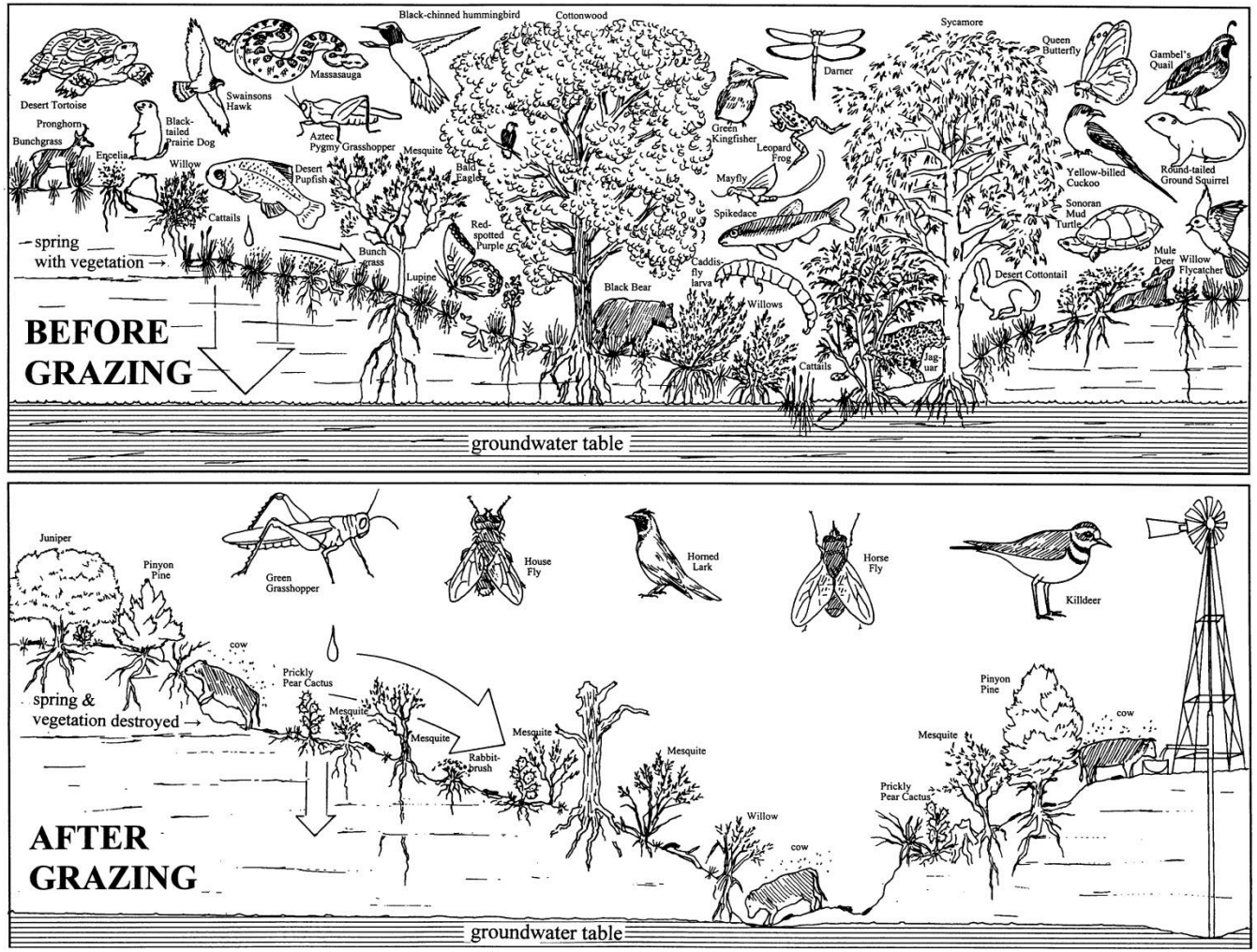
How does overgrazing impact the soil?



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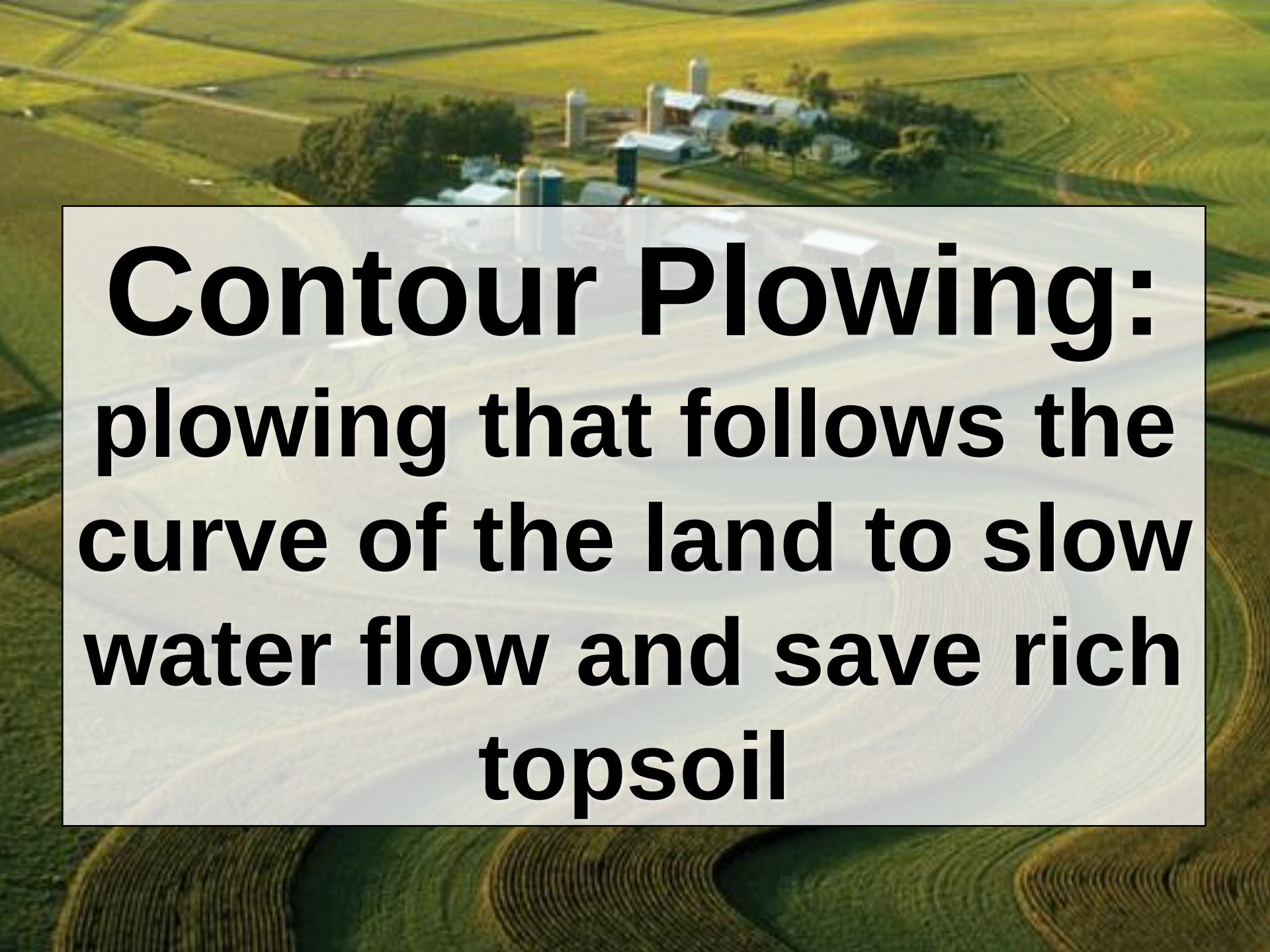
Human activities can also increase pollutants that get into soil.

Soil Conservation

Nature is Speaking: I am Soil

Terracing:

make sloping land into a number of level flat areas resembling a series of steps.



Contour Plowing: plowing that follows the curve of the land to slow water flow and save rich topsoil

Strip Planting:

alternates strips of plants to reduce erosion by creating natural dams for water

No-Till Farming:

way of growing plants from year to year without disturbing the soil

Crop Rotation:

changing of crops in a sequence; it protects soil and decreases the population level of pests

Cover Crop:

crop planted mainly to manage soil erosion, soil fertility, soil quality, water, weeds, pests, and diseases

Wind Break:

one or more rows of trees or shrubs planted to provide shelter from wind erosion

Mulching:

a layer of material put on the soil's surface to maintain moisture and health of the soil, and reduce weeds

Which land use diagram below best illustrates soil conservation? Why?