

RIPARIAN CHALLENGE

Entry Format and Criteria for Evaluation

The Riparian Challenge was established as an annual event to encourage continued on-the-ground accomplishments in riparian habitat management in states encompassed by the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society. Entries must document riparian habitat management efforts where resource values will be or have been improved within a watershed. Examples of these resource values include, but are not limited to:

- Streambank stability
- Water quality
- Vegetative diversity
- Stream flows
- Subsurface water supplies
- Aquatic/fish habitat
- Terrestrial wildlife habitat
- Forage production
- Recreation/aesthetic qualities
- Education

Entries must be type written and must not exceed 4 pages of text (not including photographs and maps). Land use plans, research projects, handbooks or technical guidelines are not eligible. These are products that are not actually on-the-ground accomplishments or achievements. Electronic submissions are strongly encouraged. If submitting hard copies, please submit four complete copies (including photographs). Include the following information on the first page of each entry:

- a) Agency Name (BLM)
- b) Name of BLM Field Office or Resource Area and State
- c) Mailing Address
- d) Primary contact person
- e) Phone number
- f) E-mail address
- g) 1-3 other contacts familiar with the project and telephone numbers
- h) Project plan or name
- i) Date the plan was initiated and date project was or will be completed

Each typed entry should accurately describe the project, including background and objectives. Include photographs or scanned images (no slides) adequate to describe the project. Maps can also be included. The following questions should be answered within the text of each entry

- Which resource values were improved?
- Which species of wildlife will benefit from the project?
- Does the project address habitat for threatened or endangered species?

- How many stream miles and/or acres of riparian habitat were improved?
- Did the project involve an interdisciplinary process? Who was involved?
- Did the project involve multi-agency cooperation? Federal government, state government, private landowners, corporations, conservation groups, etc.

Winners will be selected for the Best BLM Field Office or Resource Area. Winners will be selected on the basis of total points received from the judges for all projects/plans submitted by an office. Points will be awarded based on the resource protection afforded by each project/plan. Small projects are important and valuable; a number of small projects within a field office, resource area or district can equal the point total of an extensive multi-resource cooperative management effort. Awards for the Best BLM State Office may be made based on the entries received from the subordinate field offices. The Riparian, Watersheds and Habitat Committee of the Western Division of AFS will make selections.