

# Full Stream Ahead

## News and highlights from Creeks and Communities: A Continuing Strategy for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Restoration and Management

July 2003

### Catlow Conservation Working Group, Burns, OR

In 1997 a Conservation Agreement was signed for the purpose of improving and enhancing habitat for the Catlow Basin redband trout and the Catlow tui chub, while maintaining a viable ranch grazing program on private land and providing for multiple use resource management on public land. Members of the Catlow Conservation Working Group include the Roaring Springs Ranch, BLM - Burns District, USFWS – Ecological Services Division and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Other participants include Oregon State University, Isaak Walton League, Sierra Club, and Oregon Trout. In 1998, as part of the effort to accelerate riparian restoration, the primary habitat streams that flow off of Steens Mountain on the east side of Catlow Valley, were evaluated using the Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessment method and improved management implemented.

The original 5-year timeframe for the Conservation Agreement had concluded, and the cooperators asked the NRST to help them re-assess their riparian areas as part of evaluating the success of restoration and management efforts, and to facilitate development of a new Conservation Agreement. The service trip began with a half day refresher and orientation on the PFC method, the Conservation Agreement, and the management efforts to date. The group then spent the next 2 days re-assessing stream segments that were previously found to be functioning-at-risk and/or lacked participant consensus. Besides the specific attributes and processes being evaluated, discussions dealt with perceptions in 'rate of recovery' relative to potential and capability - multiple use management versus no management. The group also evaluated ecological progress and discussed future management opportunities. They found that most of the sites assessed were now in properly functioning condition, affirming the effectiveness of the management strategies employed. Through monitoring and adaptive management, the working group is committed to maintaining an upward trend on their riparian areas and the aquatic habitat.

## **Riparian Workshop 2003**

The 2003 Riparian Network Workshop will be held at the BLM National Training Center (NTC) in Phoenix, Arizona. The hotel listed below is within walking distance to NTC. Shuttle service from the airport to the hotel is available from [Super Shuttle](#).

There is no fee to attend the workshop, however, travelers are responsible for their own travel costs and arrangements. If you plan on attending please email [Carol Connolly](#).

A block of rooms for NRST has been reserved at the following hotel:

Four Points by Sheraton Phoenix MetroCenter Hotel  
10220 North Metro Parkway East  
Phoenix, AZ 85051

Phone: (602) 997-5900

Reservations must be made by November 3, 2003

## **Teton Science School, Jackson, WY**

Last year the NRST conducted a community workshop sponsored by the Teton Science School and the local SWCD, as a forum to begin to bring various interests together to collectively address the many issues they have regarding riparian resources. The Teton Science School is also starting a series of lectures and field trips for the same purpose. The team was called because they wanted a presentation that illustrated the relationship of watershed and riparian function, with the values that people desire. The team greatly appreciated Bryce Bohn, Forest Hydrologist, Bighorn NF, representing them and giving the presentation. It sounds like he will be invited back to help on projects in the future. Bryce's award winning – well at least top quality – performance bodes well for the NRST's efforts to increase the involvement of Network members into assignments which have been typically covered by full time Team members. Way to go Bryce and congratulations on your new position. Just remember to save some time for the NRST as you will be hearing from us!

*Bryce is currently the Hydrologist on the Bitterroot National Forest in Montana.*

## **BLM National Science Advisory Board Field Trip**

The BLM's National Science Advisory Board spent the last week in July on a review trip in Oregon. The first two days were on the west side of the state and the third day was in central Oregon, on the Prineville District. Wayne Elmore represented the NRST covering watershed and aquatic resources. Topics

covered that day were effects of fire and fire suppression, sage grouse, wetland bird genetics, amphibian decline, integrated weed control, juniper management, and riparian recovery. Wayne gave the Board some suggestions for needed research relative to riparian areas including; 1) the processes that occur when water moves into, and out of, the ground water aquifer, tied to ecological condition, site potential substrate, current vegetation species, plant root and organic biomass, and geomorphology, and 2) the relationship between winter ground water temperature, riparian condition, stream temperature, and flow. This information would help in understanding rate and time of water storage, and factors for improving late season flows and aquifer recharge. It would also help sell the importance and benefit of riparian areas that are in good condition.

### **Yainix Ranch**

The Yainix ranch is located in Oregon near the confluence of the Sycan and Sprague Rivers in the Klamath Basin. The owners, in partnership with Sustainable Northwest, a non-profit organization, are working to develop a ***working lands conservation easement*** and a ***conservation investment model (LLC)***, to provide incentives/financial support to ranchers seeking to transition to more sustainable approaches of ranch management. The goal is to come up with easement conditions that are not too restrictive to allow opportunities to experiment, learn from the land, and modify management practices, and yet will still give funders assurance that they are “buying” conservation impact. The intention is for these products to serve as templates for application on lands in other areas in the northwest.

Together with individuals from several federal and state agencies, and the Klamath Tribe, members of the NRST were asked to provide input for the development of the ranch restoration and management plan, and also the necessary monitoring strategy. The owners are very committed to seeking advice and guidance from key partners and the larger community. This underscores the need to create a common vision for both the riparian areas and the uplands among all those involved. Collectively developing understanding and agreement will build the ownership required for successful outcomes. Follow-up activities will address this, and include community workshops and dialogue on restoration obstacles and opportunities.

### **Riparian Roads: Restoration and Management Techniques**

The National Riparian Roads Team has collected information from site visits to several eco-regions, restoration literature reviews, and through collective experience to produce a two-volume field guide (published by the Rocky Mountain Research Station) that presents information in a practical, user-friendly format to help resource managers and professions protect and restore riparian areas near roads.

Volume I covers: riparian area considerations; monitoring; planning projects; laws and regulations; Forest Service road maintenance levels; construction methods and sequencing; controlled public access; road relocation and realignment; temporary erosion control; and outsloping.

Volume II highlights field techniques such as: retaining walls; revegetation; invasive species; soil bioengineering and biotechnical stabilization; landslide mitigation; ditch treatments; roadway dips; culverts; energy dissipaters and debris racks; bridges; surfacing techniques; stream channel modification structures; log jam complexes; wildlife and fish passages; beaver pond structures; and wetland maintenance.

For your copy of *Management and Techniques for Riparian Restoration: Roads Field Guide, Volumes I and II*, request General Technical Report RMRS-GTR-102 from the Rocky Mountain Research Station at <http://www.fs.fed.us/rm>. For information about the National Riparian Roads Team, contact Lisa Lewis at [L3Lewis@or.blm.gov](mailto:L3Lewis@or.blm.gov).

### **Colville NF Assignment - July 15-16, 2003**

The relationships between people on interdisciplinary teams are important because "people solve natural resource issues." In April we received a request from the Newport and Sullivan Lake Ranger Districts on the Colville National Forest to help them with their interdisciplinary team's working relationships. July 15-16, 2003, members of the NRST and Washington Cadre worked together to assist folks from the Forest, Kalispell Tribe, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. We talked to them about how and why we look at streams the way we do, starting with getting a common vision of what the potential is, and any capability issues involved. We then moved into what the attributes and processes are that the sites need to function in order to build the habitat that everyone is concerned about. Because of our discussions, the interdisciplinary team that will be updating allotment management plans is scheduling a field meeting to determine the potential of a contentious site. It was a very enjoyable trip, and we took note of a shrub that is a stabilizer in that part of the world - *Spirea*.