



Creeks and Communities:

A Continuing Strategy for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian
Restoration and Management

Riparian Coordination Network

Accomplishments FY2005

(October 2004 – September 2005)

“Achieving Healthy Streams Through Bringing People Together”

PREPARED BY
THE RIPARIAN SERVICE TEAM
JANUARY 2006

Riparian Coordination Network

The interagency Creeks and Communities strategy is a joint effort of Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Forest Service, in cooperation with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). It is implemented by the Riparian Coordination Network which includes the Riparian Service Team, Agency Riparian Program Coordinators, and State Cadres with personnel from federal and state agencies, universities, industry and conservation interests, and the private sector.

Operating Philosophy

- Increase the capacity of the Riparian Coordination Network to effectively implement the Creeks & Communities Strategy to help individuals, communities, and institutions understand riparian-wetland function, and to confront and resolve complex and contentious issues regarding riparian-wetland resources, in a way that is relevant to people's needs.
- Bring communities of people together to create a common vision for productive and sustainable riparian-wetland conditions, and assist in the development of collaborative management and monitoring plans to achieve this vision.
- Incorporate fundamental concepts from both the biophysical and social dimensions of riparian-wetland management to achieve positive results for resources and communities.
- Ensure program effectiveness through evaluation and adaptation.

Program Goal and Objectives

Goal: To develop a critical mass of people who interact with and manage riparian-wetland resources based on shared knowledge of the attributes and processes that constitute sustainability.

Objective: Provide individuals and groups of diverse interests and backgrounds with the tools to develop a shared understanding of riparian-wetland function, and assist in developing solutions to management challenges stemming from issues in both the resource and human dimensions.

Objective: Create awareness and understanding of, and interest in, this strategy and invite participation across multiple scales.

Objective: Ensure consistency and effectiveness through activities focusing on program management and accountability.

Riparian Service Team

- **Ronald Wiley**, Team Leader
- **Carol Connolly**, Public Affairs Specialist
- **Cyndie Hice**, SCEP Information Technology Specialist
- **Susan Holtzman**, Team Coordinator
- **Lisa Lewis**, Soils Scientist
- **Janice Staats**, Hydrologist
- **Laura Van Riper**, Social Scientist
- **Sandy Wyman**, Rangeland Management Specialist
- **Adjunct Members** with specialized skills in Ecology, Fisheries, Hydrology, Rangelands, and Conflict Management

Agency Riparian Program Coordinators

- **John Christensen**, Washington, DC, and **BLM State Office Riparian Coordinators**
- **Rick Swanson**, Washington, DC, and **Forest Service Regional Riparian Coordinators**
- **Dennis Thompson**, Washington, DC, and **NRCS State Riparian Coordinators**

State/Provincial Cadre Coordinators

- AZ **Dave Smith**, Flagstaff US Fish and Wildlife Service
- BC **Cori Barraclough**, Aqua-Tex Scientific Consulting Ltd.
- BC **Patrick Lucey**, Aqua-Tex Scientific Consulting Ltd.
- CA **Randy Gould**, USDA Forest Service Pacific SW Region
- CA **Bill Cunningham**, NRCS California State Office
- CA **Lenore Thomas**, BLM California State Office
- CO **Jay Thompson**, BLM Colorado State Office
- ID **Ervin Cowley**, BLM Idaho State Office
- MT **Mike Philbin**, BLM Montana State Office
- NM **Steve McWilliams**, private citizen
- NV **Sherman Swanson**, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
- OR E **Jim Eisner**, BLM Prineville Field Office
- OR W **Chris Massingill**, Mainstream Consulting
- TX **Steve Nelle**, NRCS
- UT **Steve Smith**, Cedar City Ranger District, Dixie National Forest
- WA E **Vacant**
- WA W **Vacant**
- WY **Mark Gorges**, BLM Wyoming State Office

CONSULTING AND ADVISORY SERVICES

Service Trips – Riparian Service Team

- Forrest and Oxbow Ranch Properties, Middle Fork John Day River, Oregon
 - The team was asked by the Bonneville Power Administration and the Warm Springs Tribe to review draft management plans, assess the riparian resources and make recommendations for these 2 recent acquisitions with the intent of providing habitat and maintaining agricultural practices.
- North Fork Crooked River Wild & Scenic River, Ochoco National Forest, Prineville, Oregon
 - Continuation of activities in support of the Forest Service, BLM and the community towards collectively developing management and monitoring strategies based on the assessment results. Findings were captured in a final report of the field activities and then reviewed and discussed in the community meeting. An assignment review and evaluation followed.
- Malheur National Forest Litigation, John Day, Oregon
 - Continued advice and assistance to Forest staff relative to ONDA II and III lawsuits.
- “Turning the Table” TNC Matador Ranch, Malta, Montana
 - The gathering was hosted by the South Phillips County Rancher Stewardship Alliance and The Nature Conservancy’s Matador Ranch. The purpose was to bring people associated with innovative efforts in the west to share experiences and ideas and collectively explore how conservation collaborations can strengthen economies and revitalize family ranching and communities. Besides networking and sharing the Creeks and Communities approach, the team provided facilitation and assisted with writing the meeting proceedings.
- Upper Sprague River Watershed, Klamath Basin, Oregon
 - The NRST is providing assistance as part of the Working Landscapes Alliance in conjunction with Sustainable Northwest, a Portland based non-profit, Klamath Basin Ecosystem Foundation, a local non-profit, people from federal and state agencies in the area, the tribes, cooperative extension and many landowners in an effort to develop interest in, and capacity for, long-term restoration in the watershed. Ongoing activities range from listening sessions to community workshops and field days involving on-the-ground assessments, restoration planning and monitoring.
- Heritage Park Landslide, Olympia, Washington
 - Participated with people from several state agencies and engineering firms to assess status of a persistent hillslope failure on the Capital campus as the basis for treatment recommendations.
- Martin Basin, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Winnemucca, Nevada
 - The Forest Service was working on the first of a series of EIS’s for permit renewal. This process had generated disagreement and concern in the state among federal and state agencies, ranchers and others. The team was asked to convene and assist the various interests confront the areas of conflict and work towards resolution. A community meeting was followed later with time in the field at several locations addressing specific issues.
- Northeast Nevada Stewardship Group, Elko, Nevada
 - The team was invited to participate with members of DOI 4 C’s group to learn about the culture and operation of this group and several subsets of this group and identify barriers to their success particularly as they relate to the role of government.
- Wyoming Field Days, Rock Springs, Lander, and Rawlins, Wyoming
 - This activity was designed to; 1) help people get re-grounded in the context of the Proper Functioning Condition method both for assessment and as a communication tool, 2) reinforce various aspects of doing assessments, and 3) foster consistency and quality control.

- Sioux River Ranger District, Custer National Forest, Camp Cook, South Dakota
 - The team was asked to conduct a series of field days to facilitate discussion of Proper Functioning Condition assessments and livestock management on low discharge, spring dominated streams. Discussions included ways to merge or use in concert, criteria from both the lotic and lentic checklists to better understand these systems as well as recommendation for grazing management that would be compatible with riparian function.

- South Fork Crooked River, Prineville BLM District, Prineville, Oregon
 - Conflicting opinions on site potential and restoration and management activities, coupled with strained working relationships between various agency personnel, landowners and interested publics, formed the basis for the team's assistance. Interviews (stakeholder conversations), an orientation to help the group evaluate stream reaches using the same thought process, followed with site visits, helped diffuse key points of disagreement.

- Alamosa Wildlife Refuge, Alamosa, Colorado
 - The team was asked by the refuge staff to provide assistance with riparian assessment and make specific recommendations for restoration on portions of the Rio Grande. Prior to the service trip scheduled for FY06, a situation assessment was completed in order to be able to design it in a manner that will most effectively address the issues identified.

Ongoing Participation – Riparian Service Team

Stubble Height Working Group
 Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team (IMST), Oregon
 Pacfish/Infish Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring
 BLM's National Monitoring Strategy Group
 WSDOT Soil Bioengineering Research Project
 Applied Geomorphology Consortium

Assistance to State Cadres – Riparian Service Team

British Columbia Cadre – PFC training in Victoria, field site classes including PFC assessments with students from the University of Victoria.
 Utah Cadre – Lehi...evening session on riparian grazing followed by 2-day PFC training.
 Utah Cadre – Monticello...challenging field sites, intermittent/interrupted systems, PFC training

Review and Advice

Fred Hall's publication draft "30 Years on Emigrant Creek"
 Wy'East RC&D grant proposal for a Consensus Institute
 Rock Springs BLM Draft Reclamation Checklist
 FS Region 6 and OR/WA BLM monitoring guidance
 Draft document outlining a coordinated strategy from the Sagebrush Network
 Malheur National Forest monitoring strategy
 Cumulative Watershed Effects Workshop research papers
 Member of team for CA BLM Riparian, Soil, Water, Air Program Review
 BLM's Guidelines for Collaboration
 Dillon MT BLM Proposed RMP Final EIS protest letters
 Tonto National Forest Riparian website
 Montana Water Center website

Other Projects

- TR-20 Grazing Management for Riparian-Wetland Areas
 - Meeting of principle authors, continued re-writes and a preliminary review by a writer/editor. Project scheduled for completion in FY2006.
- Riparian Vegetation Monitoring
 - Completed the report that was generated from the FY2004 meeting in Logan, Utah, of the principle method developers.
- Wildland Waters Publication
 - Working with the Forest Service publication coordinator and the writer/editor providing background material, composition and editing for an issue featuring the principles of collaboration and collaborative efforts relative to water resources. (2006 Issue)
- PFC Checklist Item #11
 - Development of additional guidance for determining adequate vegetation present on various stream types.
- Bear Creek Study
 - Re-measurement and documentation of various parameters as part of a continuing quantitative record of recovery processes and results over time.
- Learning Lab Pilot – Forest Service Partnership Office
 - Stemming from the “Centers of Excellence” concept, the learning lab pilot is designed to provide opportunities for agency employees and community members to mentor with a group that has a proven record of success. NRST submitted a proposal to be considered for the pilot and was selected. Implementation will occur in FY 2006.
- Working Landscapes Alliance
 - The NRST is part of a developing partnership with Sustainable Northwest, a Portland-based non-profit, and others in an effort to provide assistance and support to rangeland and ranching dependent communities through an approach that identifies and addresses ecological, social and economic dimensions.

Service Trips – State Riparian Cadres

CALIFORNIA

- Provided training to Monterey County landowners, Dorrance Ranch personnel and made recommendations on reducing erosion and improving grazing practices.
- Oversight on PFC done in Ansel Adams and John Muir Wilderness Areas and explained to pack station owners how functionality concepts and methods are used to evaluate wilderness meadows.

COLORADO

- Worked with NRST to set up the Alamosa Wildlife Refuge service trip.

MEXICO

- Workshops, management plan and restoration projects with the people who use the land in Penitas, municipality of Madera. All lands are ejidos (community use) and this is the first time the people have agreed to protect the creek.

MONTANA

- Participated with the NRST on the Custer National Forest service trip.

NEVADA

- Participated with the NRST on the Martin Basin service trips

NEW MEXICO

- Consultation for riparian assessment on the Valles Caldera National Preserve

OREGON

- PFC reassessment of Shurtz Creek at request of OR Cattlemens and Malheur National Forest
- Participated with the NRST on the South Fork Crooked River assignment

TEXAS

- Advised Browning Ranch in Blanco County on incorporating riparian assessment with their long-term monitoring.

UTAH

- At the request of NRCS State Office, participated in field review of Santa Clara River to assess flood damage to private land and discuss impact and role of woody debris in stream systems.
- At the request of the Dixie National Forest, participated in field review of flood impacts on both public and private lands in the Enterprise area and provide management recommendations. The area received a 150-250 year flood event in 2005.
- Worked with BLM's Monticello Field Office on applying PFC to intermittent streams and systems with tamarisk.
- Assessed effectiveness of several restoration sites, Monticello BLM.

WYOMING

- Co-lead and participation with the NRST in the Wyoming Field Days...Rock Springs, Lander, Rawlins.

Request for Information / Referrals

Summary - Responded to approximately 25 requests for information or assistance from a variety of sources, both national and international. Inquiries included the Creeks and Communities approach as well as questions on general context and specifics of adaptive management, assessment, monitoring and restoration. Referrals were also made for additional information and assistance.

Training and Workshops that integrate the biophysical and social dimensions of riparian-wetland management

Riparian Service Team

- Advancing the Fundamental Sciences Conference, San Diego, California
 - The NRST offered a workshop focused on building capacity for incorporating technical information into collaborative decision making.
- Proper Functioning Condition assessment training and an introduction to Grazing Management for Riparian-Wetland Areas, San Angelo, Texas
 - Sponsored by the San Angelo Office of NRCS

- Rangelands for Managers, Region 6 Forest Service, Redmond, Oregon
 - Participated as part of the cadre covering ESA, adaptive management and monitoring.
- Train-the-Trainer for Mexico, Big Bend State Park, Texas
 - This session was a step toward development of a cadre of people in Mexico who can join forces to hold workshops and assist with restoration using the concepts and principles embodied in the Creeks and Communities approach.
- Cows and Fish III, Prineville and Beatty, Oregon
 - Sponsored by Oregon State University, the NRST presented information to a mix of agency people, ranchers and others about achieving livestock grazing that is compatible with aquatic habitat, adaptive management and monitoring.
- Society for Range Management High School Youth Forum, Ft. Worth, Texas
 - Members of the team conducted a workshop on both the technical and social aspects of riparian resources that both stimulated and challenged the students.
- Oregon State University Rangeland Watershed Class
 - This yearly session includes a mix of classroom instruction and field visits.
- Winward Riparian Vegetation Monitoring, Beatty, Oregon
 - Sponsored by the Klamath Tribes, instruction covered greenline, cross-section and woody recruitment protocols.
- Grazing Management for Riparian-Wetland Areas, Willows, CA
 - Sponsored by the Mendocino National Forest

State Riparian Cadres

CALIFORNIA

San Diego – Watershed Management Council pre-conference workshop

CANADA

Victoria BC

COLORADO

Sterling

Woodland Park

Grand Junction

Grand Junction – Mesa State College

IDAHO

Moscow – University of Idaho

Pocatello

Burley

Mountain Home

MEXICO - Chihuahua

Nerochach

Aguatos

Tucheachi

MONTANA

Lewistown

NEVADA

Provided training to crews doing PFC as part of watershed analysis based on PFC assessment to identify remediation needs and opportunities for Washoe county and the cities of Reno and Sparks.

NEW MEXICO

Alpine, Texas – Sul Ros University

OREGON EASTSIDE

Willow Creek

Burns

TEXAS

San Angelo, sponsored NRST

Big Bend State Park, Train the Trainer for Mexico

Alpine with the NM Cadre

Denton, Texas Riparian Association Workshop

Waco, Native Prairie Association Workshop

UTAH

Richfield, Utah Section Society for Range Management

Lehi

Monticello

WYOMING

Hill City, South Dakota

Pinedale

CREATE AWARENESS, UNDERSTANDING, AND INTEREST

Briefings, Presentations, and Key Contacts – Riparian Service Team

FS Region 3 Regional Forester and AZ BLM State Director, Phoenix, AZ

FS WO Range Program staff with Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief for NFS, Washington, DC

FS Region 4 Leadership Team Meeting

FS Region 2 Leadership Team Meeting

FS Partnership Program

BLM Partnership program

BLM Adaptive Management and Community Stewardship Group

BLM Alternative Dispute Resolution/Collaborative Action Group

BLM Social Sciences and Planning Group

NRCS National Range Program staff

NRCS West and Central Technical Centers staff

NRCS Utah State Office leadership and staff

Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) Coordinators

CA Assoc. of Conservation Districts and CA GLCI, Paso Robles, CA

FS Aquatic Ecology Unit, Ogden, Utah

FS STREAM Team, Ft. Collins, Colorado

BLM National Science and Technology Center
Agricultural Research Service, Burns, Oregon
Northeast Nevada Stewardship Group, Elko, Nevada
Boies and Cottonwood Ranches, Wells, Nevada
Klamath Basin Ecosystem Foundation, Klamath Falls, Oregon
Hatfield Working Group, Klamath Basin, Oregon
Oregon Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting, Redmond, OR
Jeff Eisenberg, Public Lands Council and National Cattlemen's Beef Association
Cynthia Moses Nedd, BLM Western Governor's Association, NACD and NACO Representative
Environmental Conflict Resolution Conference, Tucson, Arizona
Whitehouse Conference on Cooperative Conservation, St. Louis, Missouri
Herman Karl, MIT-USGS Science Impact Collaborative (MUSIC), DOI 4 C's
Karl Hess, USFWS, DOI 4 C's, Whitehouse Conference on Cooperative Conservation
Larry Fisher, US Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution
Gregg Walker, Oregon State University, Sociologist
Dave Rosgen, Wildland Hydrology, Inc.
Pacific Northwest Society for Range Management, Ontario, Oregon
Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, Ft. Worth, Texas
Tri-State Range Short Course, Boise Idaho
US Fish & Wildlife Service, Oregon State Office, Portland, Oregon
Association of State Wetland Managers Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
Western Forestry and Conservation Association

Briefings, Presentations, and Key Contacts – State Riparian Cadres

CALIFORNIA

Lead contact for CALFED Watershed Program
Various Forest Service personnel for Cadre recruitment

COLORADO

Added 2 additional Forest Service personnel to the Colorado Cadre

IDAHO

FS Region 4 Management Team

MEXICO

FIRCO, a Federal agency with a "Micro Watershed" program for local communities
INE, the National Ecology Institute in Mexico
US Fish & Wildlife Service
Fuerza Ambiental, a non-profit organization facilitating a Community Action Plan

MONTANA

Developed key contact lists for BLM, FS, NRCS, MT-DEQ, MT-DNRC, MT-NHP, MT-FWP, MT-Wetland Legacy, MT-DOT, MT Watershed Groups (44), and the MT Wetland Council. Also added 2 additional cadre members, FS and BLM.

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico Riparian Council

TEXAS

Neuces River Authority Water Stewardship Conference, Uvalde
HRM Field Day, San Pedro Ranch
Natural Resource Field Day (Extension), San Angelo
Texas Wildlife Association Conference, San Antonio
Coleman, McCullough County Range Field, Jensen Ranch

UTAH

Society for Range Management symposium, Ft. Worth, Texas
Grazing Permit Administration Workshop for southern Utah National Forests
NRCS State Leadership Team
FS Region 4 Leadership Team
Ten BLM Field Offices and one National Monument
Utah State BLM Program Managers or Fish, Riparian, Wildlife, Botany and Range
BLM National Aquatic Monitoring Center
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Washington Office Riparian and Wetland Program Manager
Utah BLM State Office Branch Chief

Products to Market and Implement the Strategy

NRST

Full Stream Ahead newsletter and NRST website
Creeks and Communities power point presentations and handouts

IDAHO

Monitoring Streambanks and Riparian Vegetation – Multiple Indicators (Cowley-Burton)

MEXICO

Draft translation of TR-15, User's Guide to Assessing Proper Functioning Condition of Riparian-Wetland Areas

MONTANA

Developed a CD and distributed to over 40 individuals and groups. It will also be on the website of the Montana Watercourse, a MSU educational organization. Also developed a new flyer describing the "Creeks and Communities" strategy and the PFC tool.

NEVADA

Two Cooperative Extension fact sheets were published related to PFC and Creeks and Communities approaches. Incorporating concepts into the newest revision of the Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook.

TEXAS

C&C and PFC materials included in the Texas Riparian Association exhibit, articles in 4 issues of TX TNC newsletter, 8 issues of Riparian Notes electronic distribution through list-serve, and articles in Texas Parks & Wildlife, The Cattleman, and Texas Wildlife.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Planning and Coordination

NRST coordination - weekly
NRST work planning meetings - quarterly
BLM WO-220 conference calls – weekly
BLM Riparian Program conference calls – quarterly
FS Riparian Program conference calls – varied
FS Range Program conference calls – monthly
NRST/WO Program Contacts coordination meeting – annually – May 2005
NRST/WO Program Contacts Action Plan (task and status list), updated June 2005
BLM Remotely Assigned Positions Review
FS Stream Team and Aquatic Ecology Unit
FS Watershed, Fish, Wildlife Work Planning Meeting, Washington, DC
BLM and FS Partnership Office program coordination
BLM National Science and Technology Center
BLM National Aquatic Monitoring Center
NRST/New Mexico Cadre coordination conference call
NRST/Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, California Cadre Coordinator planning meeting
BLM/FS Interagency Budget Cooperative Agreement
Riparian Coordination Network Biennial Meeting planning
Riparian Coordination Network development planning
Master Contract for Multiple Disciplines – preparation, solicitation and selection

Reporting

NRST Program of Work Synopsis
FY2004 Accomplishments and FY2005 Planned Accomplishments Synopsis
FY2004 Riparian Coordination Network Accomplishment Report

Evaluation

Coordination with BLM WO on NRST need for renewal of OMB clearance for next phase of evaluation.

Leveraging Resources

Approximately 1/3 of activities accomplished with some contribution of outside funding.