



# **PROPER FUNCTIONING CONDITION (PFC) WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT EVALUATION**

*National Riparian Service Team*

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USDI, Bureau of Land Management • USDA, Forest Service

*In Partnership With* USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

*National Riparian Service Team*

The National Riparian Service Team is in the process of conducting a program evaluation of the Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) Workshops that are held each year in various western states as part of an interagency strategy for accelerating cooperative riparian restoration and management. We are interested in obtaining feedback regarding your satisfaction with the workshop(s) you attended, and your opinion regarding its effectiveness. Knowing who is participating in the PFC workshops, and how participants view these workshops is vital to instructors, coordinators, program managers and others who are charged with implementing this program.

As a PFC workshop participant, you are being asked to help evaluate the success of this program. Your name was drawn randomly from a list of all PFC workshop participants. To ensure the results of this study truly represent the people who have attended the various workshops, it is important that each questionnaire be completed and returned.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have about this study. Please write, call (406) 243-4128 or email me at [Laura167@msn.com](mailto:Laura167@msn.com). Thank you very much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Laura Van Riper  
NRST Program Evaluator

The Privacy Act of 1974 and the regulations at 43 CFR 2.48(d) provide that we furnish you the following information:

Your participation in this survey is voluntary. There are no penalties for not answering some or all of the questions. Your cooperation is extremely important, since each interviewed person will represent many others who will not be surveyed. An identification label used on mailout questionnaires is for mailing purposes only. We will summarize the results to the answers you provide. We will keep your answers, name, and address confidential to the extent permissible by law. We will not use the information beyond the purposes of this study.

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 requires us to inform you that:

- BLM will use the comments you provide to improve the NRST and the extended riparian network.
- Your response is voluntary, and there is no effect for not providing the information.
- You do not have to respond to this or any other Federal-agency sponsored information collection which does not display a valid OMB control number.

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Public reporting burden for this survey is estimated to average 25 minutes per respondent, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data, and completing and reviewing the survey. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspects of this survey to: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau Clearance Officer (WO-630) (1004-0195), 1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 401LS, Washington, DC 20240.

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**YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE  
PROPER FUNCTIONING CONDITION (PFC) WORKSHOP**

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**1. Who provided the instruction at the PFC workshop(s) that you attended?  
(Check *all* that apply)**

- 27% The National Riparian Service Team
- 43% State Training Cadre
- 17% Combination
- 20% I don't know

**2. Please indicate which state(s) the event was held in:**

- 31% Oregon
- 29% Idaho
- 11% Colorado
- 10% Washington
- 5% Montana
- 5% New Mexico
- 3% Wyoming
- 1% South Dakota

**3. Please indicate which year(s) you participated (Check *all* that apply):**

- 23% 1996
- 32% 1997
- 30% 1998
- 26% 1999
- 5% 2000

**4. What was your primary reason for attending the session? (Check one)**

- 1% to address a specific problem at a particular location
- 43% to learn more about riparian areas and their function
- 0% to learn more about the riparian areas where I live
- 6% to learn how to assess the condition of a riparian area on my property
- 25% to better understand the tools that government agencies use to assess riparian areas
- 13% to fulfill a job requirement
- 13% other

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## CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

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5. Please rate your satisfaction with the following attributes of the instructors who presented the PFC workshop. Please circle the appropriate number.

		<b>E D</b>	<b>SWD</b>	<b>SLD</b>	<b>SLS</b>	<b>SWS</b>	<b>ES</b>
	<b>SCALE*</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
	<i>(MEAN)</i>						
Knowledge	<i>(5.28)</i>	1%	1%	1%	12%	37%	<u>48%</u>
Availability	<i>(5.15)</i>	0%	2%	2%	15%	<u>42%</u>	39%
Ability/willingness to participate in a two-way exchange of ideas	<i>(5.27)</i>	0%	2%	7%	7%	32%	<u>53%</u>
Professionalism	<i>(5.41)</i>	0%	1%	2%	11%	29%	<u>57%</u>

\*ED = extremely dissatisfied, SWD = somewhat dissatisfied, SLD = slightly dissatisfied, SLS = slightly satisfied, SWS = somewhat satisfied, ES = extremely satisfied

6. Please indicate whether you agree with the following statements about the State Cadre/NRST. Please circle the appropriate number.

		SDA	SWDA	SLDA	SLA	SWA	SA	DK
	SCALE <sup>8</sup>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	(MEAN)							
Their outreach efforts are effective	(5.13)	0%	2%	4%	10%	31%	<u>34%</u>	20%
They are committed to providing quality conservation education	(5.55)	0%	2%	0%	4%	25%	<u>62%</u>	6%
They are committed to working cooperatively	(5.45)	0%	1%	4%	4%	28%	<u>55%</u>	9%

\* SDA = strongly disagree, SWDA = somewhat disagree, SLDA = slightly disagree, SLA = slightly agree, SWA = somewhat agree, SA = strongly agree, DK = don't know

7. Please indicate whether you agree with the following statements regarding the PFC workshop(s) that you attended. Please circle the appropriate

number.

		SDA	SWDA	SLDA	SLA	SWA	SA
	SCALE*	1	2	3	4	5	6
	(MEAN)						
The event was structured in a way that enabled me to participate	(5.32)	0%	2%	3%	8%	34%	<u>53%</u>
My input and interests were valued and respected during this process	(5.13)	1%	3%	1%	15%	38%	<u>42%</u>
The State Cadre/NRST does a good job of targeting information to its audience	(5.11)	0%	1%	4%	13%	<u>45%</u>	37%
The PFC method was understandable	(5.09)	0%	4%	4%	12%	<u>43%</u>	38%
PFC is a good tool for assessing riparian areas	(4.64)	3%	6%	9%	17%	<u>38%</u>	27%
PFC is a good tool for developing a common language between people with diverse interests	(4.86)	2%	2%	6%	21%	<u>38%</u>	32%
The State Cadre/NRST provides technically accurate information	(5.17)	1%	2%	4%	12%	36%	<u>46%</u>

		SDA	SWDA	SLDA	SLA	SWA	SA
	SCALE*	1	2	3	4	5	6
	(MEAN)						
The PFC workshop met my needs	(4.75)	2%	4%	6%	20%	<u>39%</u>	28%

\* SDA = strongly disagree, SWDA = somewhat disagree, SLDA = slightly disagree, SLA = slightly agree, SWA = somewhat agree, SA = strongly agree, DK = don't know

8. Please use this space to make any further comments or recommendations concerning your satisfaction with the State Cadre/NRST and/or the PFC training workshops.

#### PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

We have identified six (6) objectives of the PFC Workshop. Each objective is identified below, and a series of 4 questions are asked.

- 9a. Before participating in a PFC workshop, did you understand the relationship between the attributes and processes of the hydrology, vegetation and soil/landform within a riparian area?

78% Yes  
22% No

- 9b. Do you feel that the PFC workshop increased your understanding of the relationship between the attributes and processes of the hydrology, vegetation and soil/landform within a riparian area? [If you answered No skip to Q 10a]

86% Yes  
14% No

9c. **How often do you find yourself using the information regarding the relationship between the attributes and processes of the hydrology, vegetation and soil/landform within a riparian area that was presented in the workshop?**

5% never  
6% once per year or less  
38% a few times per year  
22% monthly  
22% weekly  
6% daily

9d. **If your answer to 9c was never, please explain why:**

10a. **Before participating in a PFC workshop, did you know how to determine a functionality rating for the existing condition of a riparian area using the PFC checklist?**

16% Yes  
84% No

10b. **Do you feel that the PFC workshop increased your knowledge of how to determine a functionality rating for the existing condition of a riparian area? *[If you answered No skip to Q 11a]***

91% Yes  
9% No

10c. **How often do you find yourself using the information on how to determine a functionality rating for the existing condition of a riparian area that was presented in the workshop?**

19% never  
13% once per year or less  
39% a few times per year  
19% monthly  
7% weekly  
3% daily

10d. **If your answer to 10c was never, please explain why:**

11a. **Before participating in a PFC workshop, did you know how to determine the minimum conditions required for a riparian area to function properly relative to its potential and capability?**

**36%** Yes  
**64%** No

11b. **Do you feel that the PFC workshop increased your knowledge of how to determine the minimum conditions required for a riparian area to function properly relative to its potential and capability? [If you answered No skip to Q 12a]**

**92%** Yes  
**8%** No

11c. **How often do you find yourself using the information on how to determine the minimum conditions required for a riparian area to function properly relative to its potential and capability that was presented in the workshop?**

**14%** never  
**17%** once per year or less  
**38%** a few times per year  
**21%** monthly  
**8%** weekly  
**2%** daily

11d. **If your answer to 11c was never, please explain why:**

12a. **Before participating in a PFC workshop, did you know how to design monitoring strategies to assess progress toward the maintenance of proper functioning**

**condition?**

**38%** Yes  
**62%** No

12b. **Do you feel that the PFC workshop increased your knowledge of how to design monitoring strategies to assess progress toward the maintenance of proper functioning condition? [If you answered No skip to Q 13a]**

**80%** Yes  
**20%** No

12c. **How often do you find yourself using the information on how to design a monitoring strategy to assess progress toward the maintenance of proper functioning condition that was presented in the workshop?**

**19%** never  
**18%** once per year or less  
**42%** a few times per year  
**14%** monthly  
**6%** weekly  
**2%** daily

12d. **If your answer to 12c was never, please explain why:**

13a. **Before participating in a PFC workshop, did you understand why a journey level, interdisciplinary team is needed to adequately determine a functionality rating for a riparian area?**

**59%** Yes  
**41%** No

13b. **Do you feel that the PFC workshop increased your understanding of why a journey level, interdisciplinary team is needed to adequately determine a functionality rating**

for a riparian area? *[If you answered No skip to Q 14a]*

78% Yes  
22% No

13c. **How often do you find yourself using the information regarding why a journey level, interdisciplinary team is needed to adequately determine a functionality rating for a riparian area that was presented in the workshop?**

15% never  
24% once per year or less  
35% a few times per year  
13% monthly  
5% weekly  
2% daily

13d. **If your answer to 13c was never, please explain why:**

14a. **Before participating in a PFC workshop, did you understand the relationship between riparian function and the attainment of specific values (e.g., wildlife habitat, forage, water quantity/quality)?**

83% Yes  
17% No

14b. **Do you feel that the PFC workshop increased your understanding of the relationship between riparian function and the attainment of specific values?** *[If you answered No skip to Q 15]*

79% Yes  
21% No

14c. **How often do you find yourself using the information regarding the relationship between riparian function and the attainment of specific values that was presented**

**in the workshop?**

- 5% never
- 11% once per year or less
- 39% a few times per year
- 25% monthly
- 17% weekly
- 4% daily

14d. **If your answer to 14c was never, please explain why:**

15. **Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the statements below. Circle the appropriate number.**

		SDA	SWDA	SLDA	SLA	SWA	SA
	<b>SCALE*</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
	<i>(MEAN)</i>						
It is important to understand how historical and current social, economic and political factors impact riparian areas	<i>(5.51)</i>	2%	0%	1%	6%	22%	<u>69%</u>
It is important to cooperatively manage watersheds	<i>(5.64)</i>	2%	0%	0%	6%	15%	<u>78%</u>
A focus on riparian function makes it possible to discuss watershed issues with people who have	<i>(5.14)</i>	2%	0%	3%	15%	37%	<u>43%</u>

		SDA	SWDA	SLDA	SLA	SWA	SA
	SCALE*	1	2	3	4	5	6
	(MEAN)						
diverse interests and differing levels of knowledge							
A focus on riparian function makes it possible to develop a common vision/goals with people who values riparian areas for different reasons	(5.03)	2%	1%	3%	16%	<u>45%</u>	34%
After participating in the PFC workshop, I am more willing to cooperate with others	(4.19)	9%	8%	9%	23%	<u>30%</u>	21%
The PFC workshops have increased local cooperation within my area	(3.61)	10%	13%	11%	<u>41%</u>	17%	6%

\* SDA = strongly disagree, SWDA = somewhat disagree, SLDA = slightly disagree, SLA = slightly agree, SWA = somewhat agree, SA = strongly agree, DK = don't know

16. **Please identify and explain specific occasions or projects where you found yourself using the skills/information that were presented in the PFC workshop(s) that you attended:**

**Use of the PFC method in a watershed context has four identifiable steps: (1) conduct a PFC assessment with a journey-level, interdisciplinary team; (2)**

cooperatively design and impement a plan to restore an area to ‘Proper Functioning Condition’;(3) cooperatively design and implement a plan to manage for specific riparian values, while maintaining the ‘Proper Functioning Condition’ of an area; and (4) use the PFC checklist to guide the development of a cooperative monitoring plan.

17. Have you participated in the in a PFC assessment that was conducted by a journey-level, interdisciplinary team?

49% Yes 51% No

18. Have you participated in the design/implementation of cooperative restoration plans (plans designed to restore an area to ‘Proper Functioning Condition’)?

50% Yes 50% No

19. Have you participated in the design/implementation of cooperative management plans (plans designed to manage for specific riparian values, once an area is in ‘Proper Functioning Condition’)?

40% Yes 60% No

20. Have you participated in the design/implementation of cooperative monitoring plans using the PFC checklist?

25% Yes 75% No

21. In your opinion, what factors present the most serious barriers to cooperative riparian restoration and management using the PFC method? Please rate each individual item from extremely serious to not at all serious. Circle the appropriate number.

		ES	SWS	SLS	NS	DK
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	<b>SCALE*</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
	<i>(MEAN)</i>					
Lack of communication and/or trust	<b>(2.11)</b>	<u>36%</u>	34%	18%	9%	4%
Personality differences	<b>(2.77)</b>	9%	32%	<u>37%</u>	16%	6%
Technical and scientific issues	<b>(2.86)</b>	8%	27%	<u>40%</u>	22%	4%
Conflicting objectives	<b>(2.09)</b>	33%	<u>36%</u>	21%	7%	3%
Public opposition	<b>(2.88)</b>	12%	25%	<u>34%</u>	22%	8%
Fundamental differences that separate stakeholders	<b>(2.20)</b>	28%	<u>40%</u>	21%	6%	5%
Power imbalances	<b>(2.87)</b>	13%	<u>31%</u>	27%	11%	17%
Lack of process management or interpersonal skills	<b>(2.86)</b>	9%	26%	<u>43%</u>	15%	7%
Resistance to cooperative management styles	<b>(2.67)</b>	11%	32%	<u>41%</u>	12%	4%
Difficulty securing the involvement of all stakeholders	<b>(2.26)</b>	23%	<u>43%</u>	24%	7%	4%
Intergroup attitudes and stereotypes	<b>(2.46)</b>	16%	<u>39%</u>	32%	9%	4%
Polarization arising from traditional process	<b>(2.58)</b>	17%	<u>34%</u>	31%	9%	9%
Politics	<b>(2.34)</b>	<u>31%</u>	28%	25%	9%	7%
Limited understanding of PFC method for watershed management	<b>(2.59)</b>	11%	<u>41%</u>	29%	16%	4%
Lack of ownership in PFC process	<b>(2.49)</b>	22%	<u>33%</u>	29%	10%	7%

		<b>ES</b>	<b>SWS</b>	<b>SLS</b>	<b>NS</b>	<b>DK</b>
	<b>SCALE*</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
	<i>(MEAN)</i>					
Conflicting agency goals and missions	<i>(2.51)</i>	16%	<u>40%</u>	24%	16%	4%
Agency culture and norms	<i>(2.72)</i>	9%	<u>37%</u>	34%	14%	6%
Lack of agency support to cooperative watershed management	<i>(2.79)</i>	16%	24%	<u>31%</u>	23%	6%
Resource constraints (e.g., funding, experienced workforce)	<i>(2.05)</i>	36%	<u>38%</u>	17%	4%	5%
Government policies and procedures	<i>(2.66)</i>	16%	30%	<u>32%</u>	15%	7%
Differing decision-making authority among participants	<i>(2.73)</i>	12%	29%	<u>42%</u>	9%	8%

\*ES = extremely serious, SWS = somewhat serious, SLS = slightly serious, NS = not at all serious, DK = don't know

**OTHERS?**

22. **Please use this space to make any further comments or recommendations regarding the effectiveness of the PFC workshop(s) or the PFC assessment method:**

SOME INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

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**In order to make comparisons between the many kinds of people who participate in PFC training sessions, we would like some general information about you. Included are some standard demographic questions commonly used in this type of survey. Remember, all information is confidential and will not be identified with your name.**

		NI	SI	SWI	VI	EI
	SCALE*	1	2	3	4	5
	(MEAN)					
23. How important is riparian restoration/ management to you personally?	(4.34)	0 %	3 %	8%	41%	<u>48%</u>
24. How important is it to you that you are involved in the decision making process regarding the restoration/management of riparian areas?	(3.78)	6 %	4 %	21%	<u>42%</u>	27%
25. How important is it to you that all of the interested parties are involved in the decision making process regarding the restoration/ management of riparian areas?	(4.00)	1 %	4 %	18%	<u>50%</u>	28%

\* NI = not at all important, SI = slightly important, SWI = somewhat important, VI = very important, EI = extremely important

26. **Which categories best describe your interests as they relate to riparian areas. (Check *all* that apply)**

**69%** water quality  
**60%** vegetation  
**58%** hydrology  
**55%** ecology  
**54%** wildlife  
**53%** range management  
**48%** fish biology  
**46%** agriculture  
**45%** cooperative watershed management  
**44%** biology  
**44%** soil  
**33%** protection  
**30%** recreation  
**25%** forestry  
**19%** fire/fuels  
**16%** community development  
**15%** engineering  
**11%** geology  
**10%** wilderness  
**10%** other  
**3%** realty

27. **If you are affiliated with specific conservation/agricultural/watershed organizations, please list them:**

28. **What is your age?**

**5%** 20s  
**19%** 30s  
**47%** 40s  
**26%** 50s  
**1%** 60s  
**1%** 70s

29. **What is your gender?**

**71%** male  
**29%** female

30. **Are you presently:**

**98%** Employed

- 1% Unemployed
- 1% Retired
- 0% Full-time homemaker
- 0% Student

31. **If you are employed, what is your occupation?**

**TITLE:**

**KIND OF WORK:**

**KIND OF COMPANY OR BUSINESS:**

32. **If you are a government employee, who are you employed by?**

- 79% Federal government
- 18% State government
- 3% Local government
- 0% Tribal government

**NAME OF AGENCY/TRIBE:**

33. **Which type of area best describes where you grew up?**

- 22% farm or ranch
- 12% in the country, but not farm/ranch
- 15% in a small town (2,500 or less people)
- 22% in a town or small city (2,500 to 25,000 people)
- 15% in a city (25,000 to 100,000 people)
- 7% in a suburb of a large city
- 9% in a large city (over 100,000 people)

34. **Which type of area best describes where you live now?**

- 12% farm or ranch
- 21% in the country, but not farm/ranch
- 16% in a small town (2,500 or less people)
- 23% in a town or small city (2,500 to 25,000 people)
- 14% in a city (25,000 to 100,000 people)
- 3% in a suburb of a large city
- 12% in a large city (over 100,000 people)

35. **What is the highest level of education you have completed?**

- 0% Eighth grade or less
- 0% Some high school
- 1% High school graduate or GED
- 2% Trade school, some college
- 46% College graduate
- 21% Some graduate school
- 30% Master, PhD, or Professional Degree

36. **In what ethnic group would you place yourself?**

- 1% Hispanic or Latino
- 99% Not Hispanic or Latino

37. **What is your race? (mark one or more)**

- 3% American Indian or Alaska Native
- 0% Black or African American
- 91% White
- 1% Asian
- 0% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

38. **What was your total household income (before taxes) in 1999?**

- 0% Less than \$10,000
- 0% \$10,000 to \$19,999
- 5% \$20,000 to \$29,999
- 14% \$30,000 to \$39,999
- 28% \$40,000 to \$49,999
- 21% \$50,000 to \$59,999
- 12% \$60,000 to \$69,999
- 10% \$70,000 to \$79,999
- 0% \$80,000 to \$89,999
- 9% over \$90,000

**ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS?**

Please return the survey by October 8, 2001. To return the completed survey, please fold the back cover over and attach with a staple or tape.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.**

A summary of the results of this survey will be posted on the NRST website (<http://www.or.blm.gov/NRST>).

Laura Van Riper  
Bureau of Land Management  
P.O. Box 550  
3050 N.E. Third Street  
Prineville, OR 97754

Laura Van Riper  
NRST Program Evaluator  
School of Forestry  
University of Montana  
Missoula, MT 59812

Laura Van Riper  
NRST Program Evaluator  
School of Forestry  
University of Montana  
Missoula, MT 59812

RESPONDENT'S  
MAILING ADDRESS