



Full Stream Ahead

November/December 2007

News and Highlights of Creeks and Communities: A Continuing Strategy for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Restoration

Biennial Creeks & Communities Network Meeting March 4-6, 2008 ♦ Silver Legacy Hotel ♦ Reno, Nevada

The Creeks & Communities (C&C) strategy is a continuation of the interagency effort titled 'Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Restoration and Management, initiated in 1996 by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and US Forest Service (FS) in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The strategy rests on the belief that,

"Restoration will not happen through regulation, changes in the law, more money, or any of the normal bureaucratic approaches. It will only occur through the integration of ecological, economic and social factors, and the participation of affected interests. Since riparian-wetland areas often pass through or are shared by numerous landowners, a collaborative approach, applied at the ground level in a watershed context is...[critical] to successful restoration and future management."

The National Riparian Service Team (NRST) leads a biennial C&C Network Meeting in support of advancing the implementation of the C&C strategy. These are working meetings designed to increase and enhance the ability of the Network to be effective in both managing and implementing the initiative to meet participating agencies' goals. The agenda reflects the strategy's emphasis of blending aspects of both resource and social science in order to craft an effective approach for working with individuals, communities and institutions to accelerate cooperative riparian restoration and management. Participants will learn ways to maximize the application of the C&C framework for effectively integrating science and the social dimension in support of collaborative problem-solving and adaptive management. Several sessions are designed to strengthen understanding and consistency in both teaching and using the foundation tool – Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessment method. Additional segments are aimed at furthering the Network's ability to apply collaborative principles and practices, including case study examples demonstrating the larger context of how these have been used. Finally, Network members will share their past experiences, complete work plans for FY2008-2009, and present their emphasis for the coming two years. Expanding and diversifying the Network is an ongoing emphasis and people are encouraged to invite a guest to the meeting (e.g., a potential new Network member, a manager, community member). Exhibit space will also be provided.

Registration - Please contact Carol Connolly at (541) 416-6892 or carol_connolly@or.blm.gov with any questions, to R.S.V.P., or to request exhibit space. There is no registration fee.

Lodging – Room reservations can be made by calling the group reservation department of the Silver Legacy Hotel (1-800-687-8733) and request group code NRST308 prior to **February 3** for a special rate of \$59 per night.

Network Meeting Outline

Tuesday 3/4/08 (8:00am – 5:00pm)

Welcome/Logistics

Ron Wiley (NRST Lead); Carol Connolly (NRST Public Affairs and Network Meeting Coordinator)

Introductions/Grounding

Mike Lunn (Solutions for Sustainability LLC)

State and Province Team Reports/Recognition

State and Province Team Leads, Ron Wiley (NRST Lead)

Washington Office Agency Program Leads

BLM, Forest Service, NRCS, USFWS

Wednesday 3/5/08 (8:00am - 5:00pm)

Potential and Capability in the Context of PFC Assessments

Janice Staats (NRST Hydrologist) and Network panel

Breakout Sessions

Group 1 – PFC Hydrology, Lead: Janice Staats (NRST Hydrologist)

Group 2 – PFC Vegetation, Lead: Sandy Wyman (NRST Range Management Specialist)

Group 3 – PFC Erosion/Deposition, Lead: Ron Wiley (NRST Lead)

Group 4 – C&C Working with People, Lead: Mike Lunn (Solutions for Sustainability LLC)

Breakout Session Wrap-up

Breakout Session Leads

Application of PFC – The Assessment and the Results

Steve Smith (ID State Team Lead and ID BLM Agency Coordinator)

State and Province Work Plan Development

State Teams and British Columbia Lead

Thursday 3/6/08 (8:00am-5:00pm)

Greenline Clarification Discussion

Erv Cowley (Former ID State Team Lead and ID BLM Coordinator – retired)

Multiple Indicator Method (MIM) Discussion

Tim Burton (BLM ID State Fisheries Program Lead)

Case Studies Panel Discussion - North Fork Crooked River and Swamp Creek

Mike Lunn (Solutions for Sustainability LLC)

FY2008-2009 Work Plan Presentations

State and Province Team Leads, Ron Wiley (NRST Lead)

Closeout

Ron Wiley (NRST Lead), Mike Lunn (Solutions for Sustainability LLC)

Consensus Institute 2007

The second installment of the Consensus Institute was held in Prineville, Oregon, December 4-6, 2007. Over 45 individuals from Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Colorado, California, and Washington DC attended the session. A range of interests and organizations were represented, including; Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, State Wildlife Departments, University Extension, environmental, ranching, Counties, school districts, US Fish & Wildlife Service, private facilitators, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the NRCS. This important session was co-sponsored and co-funded by the National Riparian Service Team, the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests, Prineville BLM, and the Crook County Natural Resource Planning Committee. A third installment is being planned for sometime in 2008.

In the first Institute, November 2006, participants learned about conflict generators and some basic processes for managing change and conflict in an effort to build consensus and community. The December 2007 session was aimed at learning approaches for recognizing and managing power and stereotypes.

Managing Power: This module allowed the participant to experience others needs, and their own needs, for power and control over others and events. The concepts of personal power and position power, and the importance of perception, were explored both experientially and visually, and participants gained an understanding of the impact of power on them. Participants were introduced to the emotion spectrum concept, and how conflicts arise from increasing emotional states. They used the consensus building process to develop a movement toward equity and empowerment in their own environments – fostering that inner motivation inside themselves and others.

Managing Stereotypes: Many conflicts result from changes that threaten individuals and groups, resulting in negative stereotyping. These negative stereotypes rise from fears of the group and individuals being stereotyped. During this session, participants learned how to allow people to experience and acknowledge their stereotypes, while learning the devastating impact they have on thoughts, behaviors and results. Participants experienced the notion of the self-fulfilling prophecy and the potential of possibility thinking, a process that moves people beyond the notion of positive thinking to one of balanced thinking, acknowledging the worst and the best outcomes, and the power of developing the situation potential using both.

Performing PFC Assessments with Stakeholder Participation

One of the main underpinnings of the Creeks and Communities strategy is to foster cooperative riparian-wetland restoration and management across a diverse range of individuals through facilitating a common vision and use of a common vocabulary. When dealing with public land issues, this often requires the involvement of various stakeholders. The National Riparian Service Team advocates using joint fact-finding techniques to help level the playing field, create common understanding, and build relationships among stakeholders and technical experts whenever possible. One way to do this is to invite stakeholders to participate with an agency interdisciplinary team (IDT) in conducting Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessments. To enhance this effort, an orientation to the concepts and principles of PFC prior to the field assessment is also recommended.

In order for PFC assessments to be valid, they must be conducted by a journey-level IDT. Thus, even though stakeholders may accompany the IDT and engage in on-site discussions about resource condition, it is the agency appointed IDT that is responsible for completing the checklist and assigning the final condition rating. Stakeholders do not become IDT members as a result of their participation. That said, it is important that stakeholders are involved in discussions and feel that their concerns are being addressed. IDT members engage stakeholders in dialogue about what they are seeing and why they are making certain calls. If there is disagreement, IDT members attempt to resolve the matter. If unsuccessful, the disagreement would be noted in the PFC checklist. In instances where agreement

Why Information is Not Enough to Change Behavior

The ultimate purpose of the Creeks and Communities strategy is to affect change in behavior across a diverse range of individuals in support of restoration and improved management of riparian-wetland resources. A variety of barriers exist to deter individuals from engaging in sustainable behavior. These include lack of knowledge, cultural practices, social interactions, human feelings, structural (or organizational) norms, and a variety of material constraints such as lack of money and time. Thus, information campaigns, which are typically focused on changing attitudes by enhancing knowledge or demonstrating the financial advantages of particular activity, are often not enough to motivate individuals or groups to change their behaviors on the ground.

A large component of the Creeks and Communities strategy implementation involves presenting riparian function and management information to diverse audiences through training sessions, problem solving workshops, briefings and facilitated discussions both in a classroom setting and in the field. In order to ensure effectiveness, it is critical that the human and social dimensions of behavior are understood and incorporated within this approach. The human dimension is focused on creating effective learning environments whereby individual knowledge, skills and abilities can be developed. The social dimension is focused on creation of environments where networks, trust and relationships that are conducive to collaborative problem solving and collective action, can be developed.

The dualism created by the labels 'human and social' or 'individual and group' does not exist in reality. In order to be effective in terms of influencing individual and group behaviors, attention must be paid to both the micro and the macro scales. In order to maximize an individual's ability to acquire and internalize ideas, a safe group environment must exist. In other words, any people problems must be dealt with first. On the same token, when trying to maximize a group's ability to collectively resolve issues, individual knowledge, skills and abilities must be recognized and harnessed. This will typically not occur until relationships and trust exists between individual group members. Thus, when looking to change behavior among a diverse group of adults, individual learning and group process are two sides of the same coin – you cannot have one without the other.

A key component of success within the Creeks and Communities strategy is the creation of learning environments where information is presented in such a way that resonates with people and they voluntarily choose to accept it. When creating an effective learning environment, it is important to draw on the meanings, perspectives, experiences and emotions of individual participants and foster inter-group dialogue. Rather than simply being told to do something, it is through introspection, activity and interaction with others that individuals are better able to take the information presented and 'make it their own' or see how it fits in their situation. In order for individuals to engage in the evolutionary and sometimes painful process of learning, they must feel that they are in a safe and respectful environment – one that is characterized by open communication and the latitude to make mistakes. Creating this type of environment requires the use of facilitation tools and techniques that go beyond the mere presentation of information by a knowledgeable instructor.

This excerpt has been taken from the chapter entitled "Creeks and Communities: The Human and Social Dimensions" in the Desk Guide, which will be published fall 2008. Draft copies will be available for review at the 2008 Network Meeting.

Full Stream Ahead

Is there something you would like to see in a future issue of *Full Stream Ahead*? If so, send an email to nrst@or.blm.gov. The NRST utilizes this newsletter to share highlights, news and hot topics that pertain to the Creeks and Communities Strategy. This newsletter is for the entire network and we encourage you to send in ideas, questions and articles for us to publicize. The deadline for submission for the January/February issue is March 7, 2008.

Riparian Ecology and Riparian Monitoring Course Development

The BLM National Training Center (NTC) and the National Riparian Service Team (NRST) convened a design team in Boise, ID Nov. 26-30 to initiate the development of a *Riparian Ecology course (1737-7)* and a *Riparian Monitoring course (1737-8)*. This effort stems from identification by the Creeks and Communities Network for the need to build more broad-based understanding of ecological processes and the relationship between the physical and biological components of riparian areas. Working through NTC will result in an official training venue for riparian monitoring expanding on past efforts of offering Winward's methodology, Multiple Indicator Methods (MIM), and other components that make up a valid monitoring plan.

Jim Fogg is the NTC representative overseeing the development of both courses, with assistance from Carol Schumacher, Program Analyst. The design team is comprised of individuals from BLM, USFS, NRCS and University Extension, in order to ensure these courses provide training content pertinent to all, and also allow for reduction or elimination of tuition costs once offered. A draft outline for both courses has been developed and the design team will now move forward with lesson plan development. A pilot course for *Riparian Monitoring* is planned for September, 2008, and a pilot *Riparian Ecology course* will be offered the following year.

Steve Smith, Idaho BLM State Rangeland Management Specialist and Idaho State Creeks and Communities Team Leader will lead the *Riparian Monitoring course* development and training. The working objectives of this course are to:

- Expose students to a range of methods for measuring stream channel and riparian vegetation for assessing trends toward a desired condition, for compliance with regulations, and to help inform management decisions.
- Discuss how to determine appropriate monitoring methods to use (or what combination of methods) for the issues or questions that are being addressed.
- Provide opportunities for students to gain experience using some of the methods in the field.

Sandy Wyman, NRST, will lead development and training of the *Riparian Ecology course*. The working objectives of this course are to:

- Identify landscape scale patterns of climate and geologic parent material leading to identification of patterns of water flow and sediment supply.
- Recognize the range of biological and physical functions of riparian wetland ecosystems (ecosystem services and values) and the processes that govern them across the broad range of geomorphic settings.
- Describe site potentials in various settings in relation to geomorphology, soils, vegetation, and fish and wildlife habitat.
- Identify how to apply ecological principles and classifications in the development of realistic objectives tied to ecological potential and management actions.

Contact Sandy Wyman swyman@or.blm.gov if you are interested in participating in the development of either of these courses.

Salt Cedar (Tamarisk) Version 2.0

There is much discussion about saltcedar and its affect on riparian and stream systems. The spread of saltcedar throughout the west has become such a cause for concern that the *Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Demonstration Act H.R. 2720* was passed in 2006 in support of:

1. Assessing the extent of the infestation by saltcedar and Russian olive trees in the western United States;
2. Demonstrating strategic solutions for –
 - A. .The long-term management of saltcedar and Russian olive trees; and
 - B. The reestablishment of native vegetation; and
3. Assessing economic means to dispose of biomass created as a result of removal of salt cedar and Russian olive trees.”

A theme throughout all of the literature is that there is still much information needed to really determine the positive and negative effects of saltcedar in perennial, intermittent and ephemeral systems in the western United States. Should saltcedar be removed from dry washes or are they better off with saltcedar? Is a mixed stand of riparian vegetation that includes salt cedar detrimental to the functionality of a riparian system? Further research could address these and other questions. *Tamarix* removal is only one element toward restoration of native riparian vegetation; in certain settings even its removal may have negative ecological effects in the absence of active restoration following removal (Merritt et al. 2006). In the end, each system’s attributes and processes should be considered based on its potential and capability. With limited resources this is critical to ensuring riparian improvement will be based on physical functionality and more likely to meet societal needs.

An update of an overview paper on Tamarisk will be posted on the NRST website and will replace the previous version initially presented at the Creeks and Communities Network Meeting in 2005. Since that time new research has been published regarding water yield and restoration effects. The paper addresses five questions:

1. Will saltcedar control result in significant and measurable increases in water yield?
2. Is saltcedar inferior wildlife habitat compared to the vegetation likely to replace it following control and revegetation?
3. What methods are used to control saltcedar, and what are the costs and benefits associated with different methods?
4. What vegetation types are likely to replace saltcedar, and under what conditions is restoration or
5. Revegetation likely to succeed or fail?
6. How does saltcedar affect the physical functionality of a riparian-wetland area?

Merritt, D.M., M.L. Scott, and B.J. Johnson. 2006. Riparian vegetation response to control of invasive plant species: restoration or retrogression. The 2006 tamarisk research conference: current status and future directions, Ft. Collins, CO.

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