

Full Stream Ahead

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

January/February 2005

Marketing at Society for Range Management – February 8, 2005

Steve Smith on the Utah Riparian Team had a good idea to “market” the Creeks and Communities Strategy at the 2005 Society for Range Management (SRM) Annual Meeting in Fort Worth, Texas. He submitted an abstract, and gave a 20 minute presentation during the Riparian Areas and Wetlands Technical Session on February 8, 2005. He talked about the Riparian Coordination Network, what we do, how we do it, and invited participation from SRM members in implementing the Strategy. He gave both a national perspective on the Strategy, as well as the perspective from a State Team Coordinator as to what has been, and can be accomplished combining both the technical and social side of riparian-wetland management. Thanks Steve for a job well done!

2005 Society for Range Management Annual Meeting High School Youth Forum - February 9, 2005

The SRM Watershed/Riparian Committee strives to develop symposium and technical sessions surrounding state-of-the-art watershed and riparian topics at SRM annual meetings. For the 2005 Annual Meeting, the committee representatives decided to focus their efforts on interacting with the national High School Youth Forum delegates, and asked Wayne Elmore, Janice Staats, and Jimmy Eisner, all members of the committee, to present a 2 hour riparian workshop to the students. Twenty-four high school youth from 12 states participated at the 2005 convention. Wayne Elmore, retired Team Leader for the interagency National Riparian Service Team, spoke at the beginning and end of the workshop. Wayne used the Bear Creek riparian recovery example and several other “before and after” slide sets to talk about important attributes and processes needed for riparian-wetland function. He engaged the students by asking them to predict what the “after” slide would look like, after seeing the “before” slide and hearing what the grazing management change had been. Janice Staats, Hydrologist on the National Riparian Service Team used the definition of Proper Functioning Condition to build awareness that there are different types of streams, and adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody material is needed to dissipate stream energy. Jim Eisner, Fisheries Biologist for the Deschutes Resource Area-Prineville District BLM and member of the National Riparian Service Team, discussed the multiple uses of riparian areas by people and wildlife. The students interacted with the speakers in the form of comments and questions throughout the presentations. Slides offered the students the ability to discuss the various management practices that benefit riparian areas and allowed them to see examples of proper functioning and functional-at-risk streams. The student’s questions addressed information presented by the group, and indicated that they were

thinking into the future and beyond the presentation. Each of the speakers felt that both the students and the presenters had benefited by their interactions.

Armored Water Access Points/Crossings

One management tool used to decrease streambank trampling along riparian areas is armored water access points or crossings. It is recommended to construct these points as narrow as possible. These points may or may not be installed in conjunction with livestock exclusion fence. Crossings may be as small as 4' x 8' (Figure 1). **This does not mean that all access points should be built to this size.** Wider sites may be needed if management determines that the site can be used for livestock access and as a crossing (Figure 2). Smaller access points decrease the opportunity or desire for livestock to loaf in the watering area which decreases the potential for excessive trampling or grazing. As with any recommended tool, it is necessary to make adjustments for the specific situation. There are areas where water access points may not be the best tool to use to provide livestock water. See http://www.or.blm.gov/nrst/Reference/Reference_Materials.htm Livestock Water Access and Ford Stream Crossings for more information or contact Sandy Wyman at (541)416-6886 or swyman@or.blm.gov.



Figure 1



Figure 2.

Call for Sponsorship - Grazing Management for Riparian-Wetland Areas Training

Requests are now being accepted from agency field offices and organizations interested in sponsoring a 3-day course titled **Grazing Management for Riparian-Wetland Areas**. The curriculum, designed by the Riparian Coordination Network, complements the Interagency Technical Reference 1737-14 of the same title. The intent of these courses is to facilitate the application of the principles and practices of riparian compatible livestock grazing by establishing a foundation of understanding upon which people can collectively address opportunities and solve problems. Attendees learn to develop riparian resource objectives and design grazing management strategies that are practical and foster sustainable conditions. Collaborative planning, focused monitoring, and adaptive management are emphasized, along with success through operator commitment.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: By understanding tools, concepts, and thought processes, attendees will be able to work with other individuals, groups, and agencies to develop and implement successful grazing management strategies. Given an actual livestock operation situation, and using a collaborative approach, participants design grazing management alternatives to achieve riparian objectives.

INSTRUCTORS: The instructor cadre is comprised of individuals from federal and state agencies, universities, and the private sector, including Range Management Specialists, Ecologists, Fisheries Biologists, Soil Scientists, Wildlife Biologists, Water Quality Specialists, Social Scientists, and Hydrologists.

TARGET AUDIENCE: Agency personnel, livestock managers, and others who are involved with planning, managing, or evaluating riparian grazing systems.

CRITERIA FOR SPONSORSHIP: To host the 3-day session, sponsors must be able to:

1. Provide a mix of people to form 3 to 4 teams comprised of agency and non-agency individuals of various disciplines, backgrounds, and interests. Of particular importance are those individuals who have direct responsibility for management of livestock. This involves a certain amount of outreach and communication to achieve.
2. Select a management situation involving an actual livestock operation for the training exercise. It is important that the livestock operation has riparian and upland resources typical of a large geographic area. It is also beneficial to have multiple allotments and multiple jurisdictions including private lands or multiple operators with common allotments.
3. Submit the following information:
 - Description of existing management boundaries, improvements, and maps
 - Land Use Plan material as it relates to the proposed exercise
 - Climate, soils, hydrology, and vegetation data/information
 - Historic use and condition (fire history, plant communities, etc.)
 - Assessment, inventory and monitoring data
 - Slides, photos or videos of the operation representing landscapes, riparian areas, etc.

COURSE LOCATION: The course will be held at the field location of the sponsor group.

COST: The average cost of sponsorship is \$5000 which covers a portion of non-federal instructor cadre expenses. This could be shared by multiple sponsors using operating dollars, educational grants, tuition, or a combination of these. Training materials are provided.

SUBMISSION OF REQUESTS: Each submission must: (1) address the ability of the requesting group to meet the sponsorship criteria outlined above, (2) provide a brief description of the actual livestock operation, (3) state the proposed location for the course, and (4) give preferred dates, with alternatives. **Please complete the submission form** that can be downloaded from the following website: <http://www.or.blm.gov/nrst/training.htm> **and send to:**

Sandy Wyman, Rangeland Management Specialist
National Riparian Service Team
3050 NE 3rd St.
Prineville, OR 97754
swyman@or.blm.gov
Fax (541)416-6798

The course outline is also located at the same website.

In the event there are more requests submitted than can be scheduled within the year, those not selected for the current year will receive first priority for the following year. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please give Sandy a call at (541) 416-6886. If Sandy cannot be reached, call Susan Holtzman at (503) 808-2987.

2006 Riparian Coordination Network Conference

The 2006 Riparian Network Conference will be held November 8-9, 2005 at the Silver Legacy Hotel in Reno, NV. Please mark your calendars for this event. More information to follow.