

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

A Message from Steve Smith New Team Lead of the National Riparian Service Team



Dear colleagues and friends,

I am both humbled and excited at the opportunity to lead the National Riparian Service Team (NRST) and to help advance the Creeks and Communities Strategy into the future. Since its origin in 1996, the NRST and the Riparian Coordination Network have been enormously successful in helping to “fix the creeks” in the Western United States and beyond. This success is a credit to the talent and dedication of the members of the NRST, the state teams, and the many network partners.

It has been an honor to be involved with this effort since its inception. The Riparian Coordination Network now referred to as the Creeks and Communities Network, is a large and far-reaching group of agency and non-agency individuals with varying levels of involvement in Creeks and Communities. Having used network contacts many times in the past, I can attest to the effectiveness of this kind of organization. Over the years, I have had the privilege of meeting many outstanding professionals, and we have developed some great friendships. As the new NRST Lead, I look forward to continuing our work together and to making many new friends.

By way of introduction, I would like to briefly share with you my background and a few personal thoughts. I graduated from Utah State University with a B.S. in Environmental Studies/Forestry in 1990, continuing there in graduate studies in Range Science. I started my federal career as a range technician with the Humboldt National Forest in Ely, Nevada. I then moved on to a range conservationist position with Sawtooth National Forest in Burley, Idaho. After some great years in Idaho, I ventured east to accept a supervisory rangeland management specialist position with the Black Hills National Forest in Spearfish, South Dakota, where I managed the district range, wildlife, watershed, botany, and noxious weed programs. My next career move took me to the Dixie National Forest in Cedar City, Utah, where I served as district range program manager. After 16 years with the Forest Service, I moved to the Idaho BLM State Office in Boise, where I have served as state lead for the riparian and rangeland monitoring programs for the past 3 years.

Riparian ecology, monitoring, and management has always been my primary passion, and throughout my career I have continuously sought out opportunities to learn, study, practice, and teach riparian concepts. I can fondly recall being asked to participate in the “Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Restoration and Management” effort back in 1996, attending the first meetings of the network and becoming a charter member of the Idaho Riparian Training Cadre. At the time, I had no idea that over the past 13 years the NRST, the agency coordinators, and the state riparian teams would accomplish so much in the riparian-wetland arena. As a network, our impressive list of collective accomplishments is clear evidence of that.

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Because I believe so strongly in this mission, I have been continuously engaged in the Creeks and Communities Strategy (and its precursor) since its establishment and have always found a way to devote time to this worthwhile endeavor. As a member of the network, I have had the opportunity to be a member of the very active state riparian teams in Idaho, South Dakota/Wyoming, and Utah. In addition, I served as team lead of both the Utah Riparian Team and the Idaho Riparian Team. This background has provided me with a wide variety of perspectives and challenges related to riparian issues and the implementation of Creeks and Communities. These are valuable experiences that that I will bring with me in serving as NRST Lead.

Because successful endeavors can almost always be traced to the pioneering work of those who came before, I am a firm believer that we should seek to understand and appreciate the work of our predecessors, build on their accomplishments, and use that foundation to help move in new directions to meet the new challenges of the day. That being said, I am grateful for the work of my friends and predecessors in this position; firstly, Wayne Elmore, without whose vision the NRST and the strategy would have never materialized, and Ron Wiley for successfully embracing new challenges and so admirably moving this important work forward. I certainly have some large shoes to fill. However, with your commitment and support, I promise to work hard and do everything possible to help ensure the continued success of the NRST, the network, and the Creeks and Communities Strategy. In addition, I intend to “probe the frontiers of innovation and creativity” for new ways to implement the strategy in order to meet future demands (as some of you may have heard me say).

As the arid west becomes more developed, we will face even greater demands on our water and riparian resources. Riparian issues will continue to be among the most important of our land use challenges. While we have made great strides, there is still much more to do – especially as societal demands on these resources intensify. I would like to emphasize the fact that I believe the NRST and the Creeks and Communities Network are uniquely organized to address both present and future challenges in a coordinated and effective way.

In closing, I want you to know that I place a high value on the word “Service” in the title “National Riparian Service Team.” Therefore, in our service to the agencies and the public, please know that I value your expertise and welcome your input. If there is anything the Team or I can do to help, feel free anytime to pick up the phone, send an email, or drop by. I can be reached at 541-416-6703 or steven_smith@blm.gov. Again, I am honored for this opportunity to serve as the NRST Lead and I look forward to working with you into the future.

Sincerely,

Steve

Consensus Institute 2008

The third installment of the Consensus Institute will be held in Prineville, December 2-4. In the first Institute, participants learned about conflict generators and some basic processes for managing change and conflict in an effort to build consensus and community. The second module was aimed at learning approaches for recognizing and managing power and stereotypes, and the third session will introduce participants to the skills, attitudes and understanding needed to manage behaviors and conflicts that result from moving from an environment of plenty to one of scarcity. If you would like more information or wish to register for this session, please contact Laura Van Riper, Laura_van_riper@or.blm.gov, (541) 416-6702.

The BLM National Landscape Conservation System and the National Riparian Service Team Partner to host Collaborative Learning Labs in 2008-2009

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) and Community Partnership Office are engaged with the National Riparian Service Team (NRST) in a Collaboration Learning Lab Pilot for fiscal years 2008-2009. For this learning lab pilot the NRST is providing skill and knowledge acquired over ten successful years of fostering community involvement and collaborative resource management to build organizational and community capacity for cooperative conservation. By exposing individuals to the best practices of working collaboratively, this effort is congruent with BLM's desire to manage conflict and promote joint fact finding in support of community-based decision making as the way of doing business.

Designed to build the capacity of both BLM employees and their stakeholders and allow the opportunity to participate in the process of applying collaborative problem solving principles to natural resource issues, the learning lab is helping to de-mystify the collaborative process by providing real life experiences, while at the same time increasing confidence through working side-by-side with an experienced team of practitioners. Participants are building individual skills and core competencies for engaging in collaborative, community-based stewardship both within and outside government, and learning first-hand what incentives bring communities of interest and place "to the table" and what incentives keep them there.

A multi-phased approach is employed for each community situation. It is an adaptive and flexible process whereby an evaluation takes place after each phase, forming the basis for determining if additional steps are needed and what those might be. The first phase is the situation assessment where NRST members meet face-to-face with different stakeholders to discuss their perceptions, concerns and needs about a situation. Depending on the level and nature of the conflict and issues identified during the discussions, additional phases are designed to build relationships between stakeholders and create a common understanding of riparian function and a vision for what is possible on the ground – including management options and monitoring approaches.

To qualify as a learning lab, NLCS units are asked to: (1) identify a riparian issue that could foster a collaborative approach relative to the management of this riparian issue; and (2) secure commitment from the unit leadership to support the collaborative process during and after the pilot. There are currently two pilot sites; Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument (MT), and the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area (NV), and a possible third in development; Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (UT). Activities will occur during FY 08-09, and an evaluation will be completed at the end of each pilot in order to improve future iterations of the lab and to share lessons learned Bureau wide.

Western American Fisheries Society Bovines and Waterways Symposium

Members of the Creeks and Communities Network and the Society for Range Management (SRM Watershed/Riparian Committee) provided an all day symposia at the Western Division American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting in Portland, OR, May 5, 2008. It was organized by Jimmy Eisner, Fisheries Biologist, BLM Prineville, OR, and part-time NRST member who also served as the chair of the SRM Watershed/Riparian Committee. A diverse group of presenters provided an excellent overview of livestock grazing management systems, tools and techniques, monitoring, riparian ecological sites and state and transition models, use of low-stress herding and supplement placement to affect livestock distribution and behavior, mining, trout habitat improvement with livestock grazing, remote sensing methods to measure riparian condition, revegetation following channel reconstruction, and effects of grazing management strategies on burned and unburned riparian areas in central and northern Nevada Great Basin.

Colorado BLM Riparian Coordinators Meeting with Tamarisk Bio-control Tour

Jay Thompson, Colorado Riparian Team Leader, held a meeting for the Colorado BLM Riparian Coordinators May 14-16, 2008 in Grand Junction, CO. Jay tries to host a meeting every couple years to provide the opportunity for information exchange concerning riparian-wetland area project and management successes and failures. John Christensen, BLM Riparian Program Lead and Sandy Wyman, Rangeland Management Specialist, National Riparian Service Team (NRST) were invited to provide information regarding BLM's Riparian Program and budget, Multiple Indicator Methods (MIM), Integrated Pest Management, and an overview of National Riparian Service Team and use of Proper Functioning Condition assessment.

One highlight was to hear from each of the Field Office Riparian Coordinators regarding implementation of their programs and associated problems. A variety of projects were provided as examples of riparian-wetland recovery actions taking place throughout Colorado BLM lands. OHV use, weeds, mining impacts, travel management, and database management are a few of the concerns that folks in Colorado are dealing with.

Another highlight was the opportunity to see the "Weed Raft" used by the Grand Junction Field Office to spray weeds near stream edges, into the floodplain area, and beyond. Sparky Taber, BLM Weed Coordinator, Grand Junction, explained the 16 foot raft design and features including a 2 hose sprayer (each with its own motor), aluminum frame, self contained unit, custom trailer with rollers to assist with loading, 3 person operation (1 to run the motors and 2 to spray), and conveyance for back pack sprayers.



Sparky Taber, BLM Weed Coordinator, explaining the components of the Weed Raft.



The leaf beetle on defoliated tamarisk.

The group also toured the Colorado Insectary in Palisade, run by the Colorado Department of Agriculture. Here they are testing various bio-control agents for Tamarisk, Russian knapweed, Russian olive, and others. Dr. Dan Bean, Colorado Department of Agriculture's Insect Division, gave a tour of the facility as well as tamarisk bio-control sites on the Colorado River. The leaf beetle (*Diorhabda elongata*) is from China and is host specific to tamarisk. Collections from Utah and Nevada have had viable populations; at least 50,000 beetles is considered a viable population that can withstand predation from spiders, ants, and weather conditions. There are currently viable populations within Colorado, but an APHIS permit is required to ship them out of state.

An overview paper "Saltcedar (*Tamarix*)" is available that addresses the physical function issues surrounding Saltcedar in riparian-wetland areas. It is available by emailing Wyman at swyman@or.blm.gov. Also check out the Colorado Department of Agriculture Bio-control site at: <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/Agriculture-Main/CDAG/1167928159775>.

Riparian Ecology and Riparian Monitoring Course Development

The National Riparian Service Team is leading the development of two training courses, 1) Riparian Ecology and (2) Riparian Monitoring, through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) National Training Center (NTC). An interdisciplinary group of individuals from the BLM, Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, (NRCS) Fish & Wildlife Service, University Extension and the private sector, are developing the week long pilot courses scheduled for 2009. During their second meeting, the design team set the following timeline for the pilot sessions:

The Riparian Ecology Pilot Course - May 18-22, 2009 in Albuquerque, NM. This course will enable practitioners to apply an understanding of the attributes and processes of riparian areas to improve the effectiveness of assessments, management recommendations and decisions, and monitoring.

Riparian Monitoring Pilot Course - October 5-9, 2009 in Reno, NV. This course provides a foundation for critical thinking about riparian objectives and the measurement of vegetation and channel characteristics. Participants will use case study examples of the repeatable collection, analysis and use of data for management interpretations in addition to gaining hands on field experience.

Multiple Indicator Method (MIM)

Steve Smith and Tim Burton conducted a MIM course hosted by the Tonto National Forest, in Phoenix, AZ October 7-9, 2008, to test the appropriateness of using the protocol on southwest riparian areas. The design team for the NTC Riparian Ecology and Riparian Monitoring Courses also attended the workshop to provide comment and review of the methodology, as it is one of the parameters that will be addressed in the NTC Riparian Monitoring Course. Currently, the course reference for MIM is the fifth update of the BLM Idaho Bulletin; however, this session was timely as Burton and Smith are in the process of developing a MIM Technical Reference and wanted to ensure that the methodology was suitable to a variety of regions. Due to increasing requests for MIM training from throughout the west, the decision was made to work with the BLM National Operations Center to create a peer reviewed technical reference that will be part of the 1737 series. This reference will be reviewed by individuals from the BLM, Forest Service, NRCS, Fish & Wildlife Service, University Extension, and the private sector and will provide for monitoring short- and long-term parameters that can be accomplished during one field visit. Publishing is planned for sometime in 2009. For more information regarding MIM training or development of the technical reference, contact Steve Smith at (541) 416-6703 or Steven_Smith@blm.gov

Great Plains Riparian Forest Summit

A diverse group of land managers and agency personnel from North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and Colorado including Soil Water Conservation Districts, County Commissioners, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Forest Service, and Universities, met in Sioux Falls, SD, September 9-11, 2008, for the Great Plains Riparian Forest Summit. The Summit was sponsored by the USDA National Agroforestry Center in partnership with several professional societies, agencies and universities. The agenda covered historical information about Great Plains riparian and stream systems including management, ecological site descriptions and state and transition model development, forestry issues and restoration. Discussion at the end of the summit regarding next steps revealed enthusiastic interest in developing a Great Plains Riparian Group to facilitate education and action strategies for this region's riparian resources.

Go to http://www.unl.edu/nac/Riparian_Summit.htm to view the summit presentations.

Coaching PFC Assessments

One service that the Creeks and Communities Network can provide is to coach field unit interdisciplinary teams who have attended a PFC training and want to gain more experience by doing PFC assessments with experienced practitioners. The National Riparian Service Team recently had an experience with this and want to share what we learned from it.

The team received a request from BLM Eagle Lake Field Office in California for Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessment *coaching assistance* on both lotic and lentic areas. Coaches included:

- Don Prichard, Fisheries Biologist, BLM National Operations Center, Denver CO
- Bill Ypsilantis, Soils Scientist, BLM National Operations Center, Denver, CO
- Sandy Wyman, Range Management Specialist, National Riparian Service Team, Prineville OR
- Janice Staats, Hydrologist, National Riparian Service Team, Prineville OR
- Dick McCleery, RC&D Director, NRCS, CA Riparian Team
- Scott Lusk, Range Management Specialist, Plumas National Forest, CA Riparian Team

Due to limited soil/water expertise within that Field Office, they also requested assistance in finding soil/water expertise to participate as a member of an allotment PFC assessment interdisciplinary team (ID Team). In order to properly conduct PFC assessments, the protocol requires an interdisciplinary team made up of specialists in vegetation, soils, and hydrology. A biologist also needs to be involved because of the high fish and wildlife values associated with riparian-wetland areas. The Field Office and NRST helped make arrangements with Lassen National Forest soil and water specialists to participate as members of the ID Team during 3 days of coaching and for an additional 7 days (over several weeks) to perform any additional needed PFC assessments within the allotment. This was a great example of BLM and Forest Service working together to achieve their goals. The Forest Service is providing two employees to help the BLM complete PFC assessment on this allotment for NEPA analyses and wild horse management issues. In return, Forest Service was provided a training opportunity. It was an example whereby both agencies benefited by helping each other achieve needed work and training.

As coaches we felt it was important that the interdisciplinary team/participants understand that conducting PFC assessment is much different than attending a training session to learn the process, so we communicated before the coaching week the following information:

IDT members who do PFC should be familiar with riparian-wetland systems and trained in the PFC protocol. For those few who have not been to a PFC training session, it will be critical that they read Technical Reference (TR) 1737-15 Lotic User Guide and TR 1737-16 Lentic User Guide **before** the coaching week in order to become familiar with the assessment method.

PFC is a synthesis tool. A step in doing PFC assessment is reviewing references and existing files for pertinent information before going to the field. Eagle Lake Field Office IDT members all need to search for and become familiar with resource information concerning the allotment prior to the coaching week. This information is used to help assess functionality as well as establish potential and capability of each reach/site assessed. Some examples of existing files or information that are useful:

- Several years of aerial photographs for comparison,
- Geology maps, soil survey, information on major landforms,
- Nearest weather stations or stream gages,
- Previous assessment, inventory, or monitoring data and interpretations/results concerning soil, water, vegetation, biology,
- Information on any relic areas (exclosures, preserves, etc.),
- Historic photos, survey notes, and/or documents that indicate historic condition,
- Species lists (animals and plants),
- Watershed assessment documents,
- National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps.

At times, much can be learned checking other agency files for the assessment area, such as CA Department of Fish & Game. At the beginning of each PFC assessment in the field, we will be asking the IDT to summarize what they learned during their review.

Stratification - To perform a lotic (running water) PFC assessment, a starting point and ending point have to be identified on the ground. To perform a lentic (standing water) PFC assessment, the entire lentic area must be examined. Through stratification, which involves using aerial photographs and topographic maps, land areas and water segments can be delineated into assessment units. Lotic PFC reaches should be based on observable differences in landform, geology, geomorphology, fluvial processes, major soil and/or vegetation Changes, and hydrologic changes, as well as changes in management or ownership. The IDT should identify Assessment reaches or riparian-wetland areas in the office prior to the coaching week, which we will later field verify.

Management goals - The IDT needs to come prepared knowing what the current management goals and objectives for the allotment are (Resource Management Plan, Allotment Management Plan, Annual Operating Instructions, other), and be prepared to discuss new objectives for the permit NEPA document based on the results of the 2008 PFC assessments.

Mike Kuyper, BLM Eagle Lake Field Office Rangeland Management Specialist coordinated the opportunity, and compiled the existing information needed to conduct a PFC assessment. At the start of each field site he shared what he found with the group and invited everyone to look at the aerial photographs and point points photographs. We learned it was important to keep emphasizing the need for this step at each site. We visited several lotic and lentic sites. The Field Office took responsibility for taking notes and documenting the whole groups remarks as we discussed the PFC checklist items and final ratings.

We received feedback from the participants that the three days of coaching was well spent. Not only did people gained experience and improve their skills, PFC assessments that will be used for Range National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) projects were completed, which is *learning by doing* at its best.



The interdisciplinary team assessing a lentic site.



Janice Staats, Hydrologist, NRST, providing explanation to the group.



The PFC assessments will aid in determining and documenting wild horse impacts to riparian-wetland areas.

“Healthy Streams Through Bringing People Together”

International Rangeland and Grassland Congress Hohhot, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region of China June 23 – July 5, 2008

The International Rangeland Congress occurs every three years alternating to different countries. This year it was held jointly with the International Grassland Congress in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region of China, celebrating grasslands of that area. More than 1000 people from over 70 countries attended a variety of activities and events including pre- and post-conference tours. The congress theme was “Multifunctional grasslands and rangelands in a changing world” chosen because these important systems not only support animal husbandry, but also provide for environmental protection, tourism, and energy production. Therefore, the grassland is an imperative part of our ever –changing world” (Gavin W. Sheath, President of the International Grassland Congress).

Sherm Swanson, Nevada Riparian Team Leader, University of Nevada – Reno Extension Range Specialist and Sandy Wyman, Rangeland Management Specialist, NRST attended the congress and co-authored the following four papers:

The Creeks and Communities Strategy - Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Restoration. (Sandra Wyman, Sherman Swanson, and Laura Van Riper)

Assessing the Physical Functioning of Riparian Systems with an Eye Toward Management. (Sherman Swanson and Sandra Wyman)

Grazing Management Processes and Strategies for Riparian Wetland Areas. (Sandra Wyman and Sherman Swanson)

The Cottonwood Ranch Riparian Management Case Study. (Sherman Swanson, Kent McAdoo, Agee Smith, and Sandra Wyman)



As a consequence of networking during the Congress, Swanson was asked to provide an overview of PFC for the President and his staff of the University of Inner Mongolia during the Congress.

Swanson and Wyman attended a pre-congress tour of the Gansu Province. The Tianzhu Tibetan Autonomous County of the Gansu Province is comprised of steppe, mountain meadow, shrub steppe, open forest steppe, and alpine meadow rangeland. It is home to 49 families. Over 90% of the grassland suffers from severe long term drought and overgrazing but they are working with the families in developing rotation grazing, rest, and total livestock exclusion. Tianzhu White Yaks are a rare species that do particularly well in low temperature – high altitude climates. They provide nutritious organic meat and the community is striving towards a sustainable industry that will maintain or improve economic, social and ecologic conditions.

There was also discussion of water rights and flood irrigation. Inner Mongolia wants water from the Gansu Province. They are holding water in a reservoir so they can use it in the very arid environments of the Gansu Province. This sounds very similar to the water rights/usage conflicts in the United States. The area supports the production of truck vegetables, wheat, corn, barley for beer, and produces wine in the desert country.



The Tianzhu white yak is a critical component of the life and economy of the Tianzhu community. The local university is working with yak farmers to improve grazing management to reduce erosion and improve plant community composition. This high elevation rangeland has been grazed the same way for centuries and, as in the United States, change takes time.

Springerville, AZ, Grazing Management Processes and Strategies for Riparian-Wetlands Area Course, and Formation of the Ranchers Heritage Alliance

A *Grazing Management Processes and Strategies for Riparian-Wetland Areas* Course, requested by the University of Arizona, was held in Springerville, AZ, June 3-5, 2008. Session instructors were Sandy Wyman (NRST), Mike Lunn (Sustainable Solutions), Dave Smith (USFWS), Bryce Bohn (Forest Service), Floyd Reed (rangeland consultant) and Mike Borman (OR State University). Cory Parsons, OR State University Extension, attended as a mentoree in preparation for assisting with future grazing courses. Participants were from throughout Arizona and New Mexico and of the 70 attendees, close to 30 were from the ranching community. Others were from the Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, AZ Department of State Lands, AZ Game & Fish, University Extension, and Tribes, providing the interdisciplinary/interagency diversity desired for this course. Pre-course discussions with a diverse group of potential attendees provided valuable information in designing the session that best fit local needs. The proper functioning condition assessment (PFC) seemed to be a primary concern for the ranching industry so more time was spent explaining the assessment and how the information is used in the planning process. It was evident by the end of the session that future needs included additional training in PFC and riparian monitoring.

The group wanted to continue building relationships and working on issues in a collaborative manner. Consequently, they initiated a group they are calling the Ranchers Heritage Alliance. The alliance has met several times to determine steps that would be beneficial toward building their skills in social and collaborative processes to improve communications between permittees, federal agencies, and other interested participants in public lands management. Since the June grazing session, they have sponsored a Ranchers 101 workshop and plan to meet in December to discuss the development of a workshop scheduled for February to help build collaborative skills along with other riparian related natural resource training. The University of Arizona, Forest Service, Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Riparian Service Team are assisting the group.

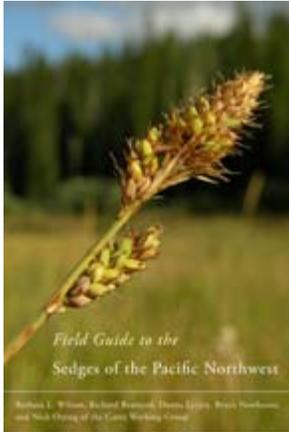


Each team developed management alternatives and monitoring recommendations of a situation of their choice.

Key component of the Riparian Grazing Course is on the ground evaluation of the allotment. Individuals broke into groups to look at the land together and discuss the attributes and processes needed for this riparian area to function properly.



Field Guide to the Sedges of the Pacific Northwest (by OSU Press)



By Barbara L. Wilson, Richard Brainerd, Danny Lytjen, Bruce Newhouse, and Nick Otting of the *Carex* Working Group

2008. 6 x 9 inches. 432 pages. Keys. 650 color photographs. Line drawings. Glossary. References. Index. ISBN 978-0-87071-197-8. Paperback, \$35.00.

Field Guide to the Sedges of the Pacific Northwest is an illustrated guide to all 163 species, subspecies, and varieties in the genus *Carex* that occur in Oregon and Washington. Most of these species are found throughout the Pacific Northwest and California (and is applicable throughout the Intermountain West as well).

Sedges can be challenging to identify, with differences between species based on small, technical characters. This comprehensive guide contains identification keys, descriptions, more than 650 color photographs, and distribution maps for each species, providing users with helpful tools and tips for identifying the plants in this challenging group. Information about sedge ecology, habitat, management and restoration, ethnobotanical uses, and propagation enhances the guide's utility.

The *Field Guide* provides an invaluable resource for botanists, land managers, restoration ecologists, and plant enthusiasts. And, as the genus *Carex* becomes increasingly important amongst landscapers, nurseries, and gardeners, the guide will serve as a handy tool for choosing Northwest natives for the garden.

The *Carex* Working Group is made up of Oregon botanists fascinated by sedges and other difficult-to-identify plant groups. The CWG came together in 1993 to map the distribution of Oregon's sedges and incorporated in 2002. In addition to writing about and photographing sedges, the CWG contracts with public agencies and private companies to do plant inventories, plant identification workshops, and taxonomic research on plants of the western U.S. The CWG is currently developing a Field Guide to Willows.

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.

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