



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

“Keeping our Eye on the Prize”

A message from
Steve Smith, NRST Team Leader



Dear colleagues and friends,

I trust that you all enjoyed a happy holiday season and the college bowl games turned out as well as you hoped. As we look ahead to the new year, as humans have done for hundreds of years, we think about how we might improve our lives via our “New Year’s Resolutions.” It is interesting to note that the tradition of establishing New Year’s Resolutions can be traced back to early Rome – some 150 years B.C. Regardless, I think it’s healthy for us to maintain this tradition because it is a way for us to keep hope alive – the promise of a new day – that

things can change for the better. As I look to the new year, among other things, I am thinking about the importance of keeping focus on the big picture and avoid becoming distracted by the tidewater spray of detail we are exposed to – in other words, keeping our eye on the prize. You may recall that in the last issue I mentioned the importance of passion; as a follow up to that message, I want to say a few words about focusing on the “big picture.”

Today’s world is characterized by almost overwhelming complexity – our workloads are growing in almost every way imaginable. We are continuously bombarded with information overload and required to implement a growing number of new administrative processes. New and different players that we need to coordinate with are being continually added to the mix; and yet we still only have 5,840 waking hours per year – no more than the early Romans had when they were making their (much simpler) New Year’s Resolutions. Sometimes, it seems like the swirling cyclone of complexity is sure to overtake us. At that point, I try to step back, shift into neutral and think about our ultimate goal – i.e. the prize. Being charged with implementing the Creeks and Communities Strategy, quite simply, we are expected to achieve riparian restoration. We accomplish this by blending the technical and social elements together as we work to address riparian-wetland issues. Many things we do relative to Creeks and Communities (and a lot of other land management work for that matter) are really only means to an end – not to say they are not important – it’s just that they do not represent the ultimate goal. At the end of the day, for riparian management and restoration work, we can only be considered successful if riparian areas are functional and productive (or moving towards that) and if human values are being addressed! That’s “the prize!” From my perspective, the work activities we engage in, therefore, should be designed to help achieve this goal (in at least some way); if they don’t, perhaps we should re-evaluate what we are spending our time on.

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Shifting into neutral and remembering this – especially when we are being overwhelmed with complexity, really helps us refocus and is very liberating – try it.

Speaking of “keeping our eye on the prize,” I want to remind you of our upcoming network meeting which, we hope, will help you to shift into neutral, think about some fundamental aspects of our work with riparian areas and people, and refocus on “the prize.” If you have not already done so, please make arrangements to attend the biennial Creeks and Communities Network Meeting to be held March 2-4 in Reno, Nevada. You will find meeting details in this newsletter.

In closing, I would challenge all of us (including myself) to avoid becoming Mitch Robbins (Billy Crystal's character from the movie *City Slickers*). You may recall that, as the two were riding the range, Curly (played by Jack Palance) responded to Mitch's seemingly trivial complaints by commenting: “You city folk, you worry about a lot of *junk* don't you.” From that statement I would guess that Curly was more of a big picture guy, and although he didn't live much longer after that, I bet he experienced much more happiness than Mitch! Keeping our eye on the prize forces us to avoid worrying about the trivial and directs us to put even the most important details in the proper perspective.

As always, 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.

Thanks for reading and I'll see you in Reno.

Sincerely,

Steve

2010 Creeks & Communities Network Conference

The 2010 biennial Creeks and Communities Network conference/meeting will be held **March 2-4, 2009** at the Silver Legacy Hotel in Reno, Nevada. This will be a working meeting designed to increase and enhance the ability of the Creeks and Communities Network to effectively implement the Creeks and Communities strategy. A portion of the meeting will be set aside for finalizing State Riparian Team FY2010-2011 work plans. Room reservations can be made by calling the group reservation department at 1-800-687-8733; request **group code NRST310** for a special \$59 per night rate. **This rate is good until January 29.** For more information, contact Carol Connolly at carol_connolly@blm.gov or (541) 416-6892. A draft agenda begins on page 6 of this newsletter.

2010 Consensus Institute – Conflict Module

The National Riparian Service Team, in partnership with the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System and Community Partnership Office, is sponsoring the 2010 Consensus Institute scheduled for February 17-19 at the BLM National Training Center in Phoenix, Arizona. This is a concentrated 2 ½ day workshop where people will learn basic process tools for developing consensus in a highly experiential training approach. Participants will learn by doing and, at the conclusion of the session, will be capable of working within their own groups and communities to apply the lessons learned and build consensus. Following the session, the instructors will be available to assist participants as they design and conduct workshops or meetings in their own communities.

The Conflict Module is the first in a series of four (conflict, power, scarcity and diversity). During this session, participants will learn about managing conflicts caused by our rapidly changing natural, political and social environments, using their own situations and experiences as learning pathways. Participants will be exposed to the basic consensus building process, as well as some of the basic tenets underlying that process. This includes an Introduction to the following: a circular meeting format, a process for life-long learning, the power of worst and best outcomes, the pathway from beliefs and behaviors to strategies and actions, the role of the facilitator and recorder in consensus building and empowering others, and the importance of fostering the type of listening with respect that is critical to resolving issues. Participants will also become acquainted with conducting situation assessments as a means for convening groups of people around addressing difficult and complex issues.

For additional information about the Consensus Institute or to register, please contact Laura Van Riper at (541) 416-6702 or Laura_Van_Riper@blm.gov. Hotel information will be provided upon registration. There is no cost associated with the session, except for the price of a catered lunch each day. In an effort to accommodate return travel, the session will begin at 8:00 am and end at 1:00 pm on Friday 2/19; Wednesday and Thursday will run from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

NRST/Creeks and Communities Website

For the past six months, the NRST has been busy re-designing and updating the NRST/Creeks and Communities website (<http://www.blm.gov/or/programs/nrst/index.php>). The goal is to provide an informative and useful site for people unfamiliar with the Creeks and Communities strategy and for the Creeks and Communities Network, the people who implement the strategy. Please take some time to explore the site knowing that changes are ongoing and information is being added weekly. We hope you like it and, most of all hope that you will find it useful. If there is something you would like to see included on the website, please contact Carol Connolly at carol_connolly@or.blm.gov or (541) 416-6892. The site includes the following:

NRST Home - An overview of the Creeks and Communities Strategy and a Network Directory

Activities/Services - This section includes Trainings & Workshops, Coaching & Mentoring and the NRST Request for Services.

Reference Materials - Need a form or reference document? Find it here, plus many other useful publications and handouts.

2010 Creeks & Communities Network Meeting – Current information regarding the March 2-4, 2010 Creeks & Communities Network Meeting in Reno, NV

Creeks & Communities Workshop at the National Conference on Grazing Lands

The National Conference on Grazing Lands (NCGL), held in December every three years, is sponsored by the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) and the Society for Range Management (SRM). GLCI is a nationwide consortium of individuals and organizations working together to maintain and improve the management and the health of the Nation's grazing lands, mostly private but also public. GLCI, in partnership with SRM, organized this year's conference to provide a forum to demonstrate, and discuss the social, economic and ecological benefits of grazing. Implementation of the Creeks and Communities strategy has resulted in the National Riparian Service Team's affiliation with a number of situations where individuals have taken a proactive approach in order to achieve these kinds of benefits. Sandy Wyman, Range Management Specialist on the team, designed a workshop to share a sample of these efforts featuring ranchers, University Extension, US Forest Service, and the Nueces River Authority. Workshop objectives were to: (1) describe the interagency strategy and the approaches and tools used, (2) introduce three examples of communities that are working together to build relationships, increase understanding, and maintain or enhance riparian-wetland conditions, and (3) discuss ongoing assistance with these communities and other examples in the west. Presentations included the following:

Creeks & Communities: Bringing Communities Together in a Collaborative Setting for Economic and Ecological Benefits of Riparian-Wetland Areas (Sandy Wyman, Range Management Specialist; Laura Van Riper, Social Scientist – National Riparian Service Team)

Your Remarkable Riparian – Upper Neuces River Basin, Texas (Sky Jones-Lewey, Nueces River Authority; Daniel & Crissy Boone and Scott Petty, producers)

Ranching Heritage Alliance – Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, Arizona (Wink Crigler, rancher/permittee; Jeff Rivera, Forest Service District Ranger; George Ruyle, University of Arizona Extension)

Swamp Creek Restoration – Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Oregon (John William, Oregon State University Extension; Teresa Smergut, Forest Service Range Management Specialist; Rod Childers, rancher/permittee)

Collaborative Adaptive Management to Help Communities Maintain or Improve Riparian-Wetland Areas (Sandy Wyman, Range Management Specialist; Laura Van Riper, Social Scientist – National Riparian Service Team)

Society for Range Management High School Youth Forum Presentation

For the past several years, the High School Youth Forum (HSYF) coordinators have requested a riparian workshop for their delegates attending the annual meeting of the Society for Range Management (SRM). Once again they are asking for a 2-hour session at the upcoming meeting to be held in Denver, Feb. 8-11, 2010. The riparian workshop for the HSYF would be scheduled for Wednesday morning (February 10). There may also be an opportunity to include a discussion of riparian function and management during the HSYF ecological tour the previous Monday (February 8). The workshops have been well received in the past with positive feedback from the students thanks to instructors from the Creeks and Communities Network. Please let Jimmy Eisner know if you are interested in participating/assisting with the HSYF workshop and tour in 2010. You can reach Jimmy at (541) 416-6753 or jimmy_eisner@blm.gov for more information.

“Healthy Streams Through Bringing People Together”

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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DRAFT Agenda - 1/15/2010 update

**Creeks and Communities Biennial Network Meeting
March 2-4, 2010 • Silver Legacy • Reno, NV**

Theme: Creeks and Communities - Serving the needs of agencies and communities

Objectives:

- Diversify the Creeks and Communities Network and enhance skills
- Foster accountability and support for Creeks and Communities
- Facilitate coordination and learning among Network members

Tuesday, March 2, 2009

7:30 a.m.	Registration Welcome and Introductions	Steve Smith, NRST Team Leader Laura Van Riper, NRST Social Scientist Mike Lunn, Facilitator
10:30- 11:00	BREAK NRST Report	
	NRST & National Landscape Conservation Service (NLCS) Partnership	Susan Holtzman, NRST Team Coordinator Laura Van Riper, NRST Social Scientist Laura Van Riper, NRST Social Scientist
11:45-1:00	Lunch State Riparian Team Reports – NV, UT & CA	State Riparian Team Leads
1:45-2:15	BREAK	
2:15 - 3:20	The Cows and Fish Process: Working with producers and communities on riparian awareness.	Sandy Wyman, NRST Rangeland Management Specialist Norine Ambrose, Program Manager, Cows and Fish, Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society Mike Lunn, Facilitator
3:30 – 4:30	Agency Leadership Panel Natural Resources Conservation Service U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service U.S. Forest Service Bureau of Land Management	
6:30 PM	Canadian Team Presentation: TBD (optional)	Patrick Lucey and Cori Barraclough, Aqua-Tex Scientific

“Healthy Streams Through Bringing People Together”

Wednesday, March 3, 2009

8:00	State Riparian Team Reports – WY, MT, & NM Integration of the Social Dimension	State Riparian Team Leads Laura Van Riper, NRST Social Scientist
10:00 – 10:30	BREAK	
	Using the Creeks & Communities Contract Ranching Heritage Alliance Case Study	Carol Connolly Sandy Wyman, NRST Rangeland Management Specialist George Ruyle, University of Arizona (Invited) Wink Crigler, X Diamond Ranch, Arizona Carey Dobson, Timberline Ranch, Arizona (Invited) Judith Dyess, U.S. Forest Service, R3 Jeff Rivera, District Ranger, Springerville, AZ Dave Smith, Arizona State Team Lead, USFWS
	BLM Riparian Activities	Agency Representative
12:15 – 1:30	LUNCH	
	State Riparian Team Reports - Canada, AZ, & OR	State Riparian Team Leads
2:15 - 2:45	BREAK	
	Updating Riparian Guidance: A Facilitated Discussion	BLM Riparian Program BLM National Operations Center National Riparian Service Team
4:00 pm.	State Riparian Team Work Plans	State Riparian Team Leads

Thursday, March 4, 2009

8:00	State Riparian Team Reports – TX, ID, & CO U.S. Forest Service Riparian Activities Natural Resources Conservation Service Riparian Activities	State Riparian Team Leads Agency Representative Agency Representative
9:30 - 10:00	BREAK	
	Engaging Private Landowners: Nueces Case Study U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Riparian Activities Holding on to the Green Zone: A Youth Program for the Study and Stewardship of Community Riparian Areas	Janice Staats, NRST Hydrologist Sky Lewey, Nueces River Authority, Texas Agency Representative Janice Staats, NRST Hydrologist Betsy Wooster, BLM's Environmental Education and Volunteer Specialist Brian Wachs, Crook County High School Science Teacher, OR
11:50 - 1:00	LUNCH Monitoring Riparian Systems	Steve Smith, NRST Team Leader Ervin Cowley, Riparian Management Services Tim Burton, Riparian Management Services Jo Christensen, Missoula Field Office, BLM
2:20 – 2:45	BREAK Monitoring Riparian Systems (continued)	
4:30 - 5:00	Closeout	Mike Lunn, Facilitator Laura Van Riper, NRST Social Scientist Steve Smith, NRST Team Leader

“Healthy Streams Through Bringing People Together”