



Full Stream Ahead

January/February 2011

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

Dear Colleagues and friends,

Welcome to another edition of Full Stream ahead! As you gear up for a busy 2011 field season, please take a moment to look at the articles in this issue.



As some of you may be aware, there has been some great riparian work occurring in the Lone Star State for quite some time now. Sky Lewey, Resource Protection and Education Director for the Nueces River Authority, has been instrumental in applying the principles and practices of the Creeks and Communities strategy. Included in this issue is an article by Steve Nelle, NRCS Wildlife Biologist on the Texas State Riparian Team, on those efforts. His story of the landowner education network in the Nueces River Basin is an interesting and inspiring read (with some great photos as well – see if you can recognize any familiar faces!)

Many of you may also know that a core team has been assembled to initiate a revision of TR-1737-15, A User Guide to Assessing Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) and the Supporting Science for Lotic Areas. This issue of Full Stream Ahead provides additional information on the nature of the revisions and the revision process. I am excited about getting this effort underway, and know that it is important to many of you as well.

In addition, a number of State Riparian Teams have already scheduled some of the courses to be offered this year. A listing is provided along with contact information for the course coordinators. Finally, please remember to share your ideas and accomplishments with the network by submitting articles for publication in future issues of Full Stream Ahead.

Thanks for all you do and if any of you ever need us to provide letters of support or telephone calls on your behalf for your work in Creeks and Communities, please let us know. I can be reached at 541-416-6703 or steven_smith@blm.gov.

Sincerely,

Steve

Revision of TR 1737-15 A User Guide to Assessing Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) and the Supporting Science for Lotic Areas

The process of revising TR 1737-15 A User Guide to Assessing Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) and the Supporting Science for Lotic Areas was recently initiated with establishment of a core team and a meeting held to begin the process. TR-15 was published in 1998 as an expansion of the first PFC technical reference for use on lotic systems; TR-1737-9 (1993) Process for Assessing Proper Functioning Condition (PFC). The development of TR-15 came about from needs identified through the growing application of the PFC assessment method; a more detailed written explanation was required as the use of PFC was increasing. In addition, there was a need to provide more information in support of the network of individuals teaching PFC through the west-wide, interagency initiative to accelerate cooperative riparian restoration and management. Since 1998, TR-15 has been used extensively, and through that use a number of lessons have been learned and insights gained into how the document could be improved to facilitate increased understanding of important concepts and incorporate some of the most recent information on riparian-wetland areas applicable to PFC.

The revision process is being led by Melissa Dickard, Aquatic Ecologist/Riparian and Fisheries Lead at the BLM National Operations Center. The core team is comprised of individuals, some of who were part of the original PFC method development, some who participated in the development of TR-15 and others who are new to this process but familiar with PFC. Core team members include:

- Steve Smith, Team Leader, Range/Riparian Specialist, National Riparian Service Team
- Janice Staats, Hydrologist, National Riparian Service Team
- Mark Gonzalez, Riparian Ecologist (Soils), National Riparian Service Team
- Steve Leonard, Riparian Ecologist/Grazing Management Specialist, Cowdance Consulting
- Wayne Elmore, Riparian Specialist, Full Stream Consulting
- Dave Smith, Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Dave Weixelman, Range Ecologist, Region 5 Forest Service

At their initial meeting, the core team reviewed a comprehensive list of comments and suggestions received over the past several years. The discussion that followed led to some determinations regarding the nature of revisions to be made and to the revision process.

TR-1737-15 Version 2:

- The number and title of the TR will remain the same with 'Version 2' added, similar to the approach used for updates to TR-1734-6 Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health
- PFC assessments completed prior to TR-15 V.2 are in no way invalidated by the revision
- PFC is, and always has been an 'expert-driven' protocol to be completed by a qualified interdisciplinary team; a more in depth description of skills required will be added
- Additional clarification will be provided on the context for use of PFC assessments
- Instructions relative to completing PFC assessments will be further developed to include additional emphasis on aspects such as pre-work and reach stratification
- The revision will be very similar relative to the attributes addressed on the current checklist; however, there will be an expanded explanation of their purpose
- There will be additional photos illustrating individual attributes and processes on a variety of riparian systems

- Guidance will also be provided for dealing with situations where the interdisciplinary team agrees that an attribute is not a clear 'no' or a clear 'yes'
- Further explanation and guidance will be given on determining reach potential and how the concept of potential is used in the assessment process
- Additional examples of completed assessment forms will be included that illustrate adequate documentation of the interdisciplinary team's rationale relative to the attributes and processes and the summary determination
- An assessment report template will be provided, with a completed example that incorporates the PFC assessment forms as an appendix
- An expanded discussion will also be included on how PFC fits into a series of steps necessary for managing riparian resources and how PFC assessment results can be used to inform management and monitoring decisions

Revision/Review Process and Timeline:

The revision team will be writing and working on the above items through the end of 2011. There will be a number of draft versions and review periods before the TR is finalized. At this time, the plan is to have a first draft ready for a technical review in spring of 2012. Comments will then be incorporated and another draft distributed for a more broad review later in 2012. A final document could be ready for printing in spring of 2013.

The core team is committed to keeping people apprised through periodic emails, articles, and one on one communication. A number of individuals have already expressed interest in the TR revision and a willingness to serve in a review capacity. Others have taken time to provide additional comments and suggestions. If you are interested in review or have ideas, comments, or questions, the revision team would like to hear from you. You can contact Melissa Dickard at mdickard@blm.gov, 303-236-0473, or Janice Staats at janice_staats@blm.gov, 541-416-6891 or if you would like to talk with other members of the revision team, Melissa or Janice can provide their contact information.

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@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.

FY2011 Riparian Training Schedule (as of March 30, 2011)

Below is a list of training opportunities for 2011. This list will be updated throughout the season as the schedule changes. It is important to know that formats and content vary depending on the objectives of each session. To learn more, please contact the individual course coordinators.

California

PFC – Bishop August 24-25, 2011

Contact: Dick McCleery, 209-256-4280, back40@volvano.net

Colorado

PFC – Fort Collins June 14-15, 2011

PFC – Alamosa July 19-20, 2011

MIM – Montrose September 12-16, 2011

Contact: Jay Thompson, 303-239-3724, jay_thompson@blm.gov

Idaho

MIM – Challis June 20-24, 2011

Contact: Peggy Redick, 208-879-6209, peggy_redick@blm.gov

MIM – Twin Falls TBD

Contact: Bryce Bohn, 208-373-3829, bryce_bohn@blm.gov

Montana

MIM – Miles City August 2-5, 2011

Contact: Mike Philbin, 406-896-5041, mike_philbin@blm.gov

Nevada

RGM – Eureka May 9-13, 2011

PFC – Ely June 1-2, 2011

MIM – Elko June 27 – July 1, 2011

PFC – Gerlach TBD

PFC – Caliente TBD

Contact: Sherm Swanson, 775-784-4057, sswanson@cabnr.unr.edu

Oregon

MIM – Prineville July 19-22, 2011

Contact: Steve Gibson, 541-416-6573, sgibson@fs.fed.us

RGM – Enterprise September 13-15, 2011

Contact: Sandy Wyman, 541-416-6886, sandra_wyman@blm.gov

Utah

MIM – Rich County Week of August 15, 2011

PFC – Salt Lake City September 20-21, 2011

Contact: Justin Jimenez, 801-539-4073, justin_jimenez@blm.gov or Mark Petersen, 801-233-3014, mmpetersen@fbfs.com

PFC = Proper Functioning Condition Assessment

MIM = Multiple Indicator Monitoring of Stream Channels and Streamside Vegetation

RGM = Riparian Grazing Management

“Healthy Streams Through Bringing People Together”

Documents Available - Check the list below for items you may want!

The National Riparian Service Team has a number of documents and a DVD that would serve you better if they were in your hands rather than a warehouse. If you would like to have any of the documents listed below, please email janice_staats@blm.gov and provide the title(s), quantity, your phone number and mailing address:

- Adair, S., M.L. Dereske, J. Doyle, A. Edwards, S. Jacobson, R. Jemison, L. Lewis, W. Melgin, C. Napper, T. Ratcliff, and T. Warhol. 2002. **Management and techniques for riparian restorations, roads field guide volume I.** USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station Gen. Tech. Report RMRS-GTR-102 Vol. I. Available electronically at www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr102_1.pdf.
- Adair, S., M.L. Dereske, J. Doyle, A. Edwards, S. Jacobson, R. Jemison, L. Lewis, W. Melgin, C. Napper, T. Ratcliff, and T. Warhol. 2002. **Management and techniques for riparian restorations, roads field guide volume II.** USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station Gen. Tech. Report RMRS-GTR-102 Vol. II. Available electronically at www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr102_2.pdf.
- Carr, M. 2006. **Wildland waters - people power: the social side of watershed restoration.** USDA Forest Service FS-848. Available electronically at <http://www.fs.fed.us/wildlandwaters/>.
- Lewis, L. 2000. **Soil bioengineering, an alternative for roadside management, a practical guide.** USDA Forest Service, San Dimas Technology and Development Center 0077 1801, San Dimas, CA. Available electronically to Forest Service and BLM personnel at http://fswweb.mtdc.wo.fs.fed.us/php/library_card.php?p_num=0077%201801.
- National Riparian Service Team. 2000. **An overview of riparian soils DVD.** [Please note that the phone number and website listed in the more information tab have been changed.]
- National Riparian Service Team. 2008. **A progress report on the Creeks & Communities strategy.** Bureau of Land Management, National Operations Center, Denver, CO. 65 pp. Available electronically at <http://www.blm.gov/or/programs/nrst/creeks.php>.



The National Riparian Service Team can be contacted at:

NRST
3050 NE 3rd Street
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(541) 416-6700
Email: nrst@blm.gov
<http://www.blm.gov/or/programs/nrst/>

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