



# *Creeks and Communities:*

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A Continuing Strategy for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian  
Restoration and Management

## **Creeks and Communities Network**

### **Accomplishments FY2008**

(October 2007 – September 2008)

*“Achieving Healthy Streams Through Bringing People Together”*

PREPARED BY  
THE RIPARIAN SERVICE TEAM  
NOVEMBER 2008

# Creeks and Communities Network

The interagency Creeks and Communities strategy is a joint effort of Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Forest Service, in cooperation with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). It is implemented by the Creeks and Communities Network which includes the Riparian Service Team, State Riparian Teams and Agency Coordinators, with personnel from federal and state agencies, universities, industry and conservation interests, and the private sector.

## Operating Philosophy

- Increase the capacity of the Network to effectively implement the Creeks and Communities Strategy to help individuals, communities, and institutions understand riparian-wetland function, and to confront and resolve complex and contentious issues regarding riparian-wetland resources, in a way that is relevant to people's needs.
- Bring communities of people together to create a common vision for productive and sustainable riparian-wetland conditions, and assist in the development of collaborative management and monitoring plans to achieve this vision.
- Incorporate fundamental concepts from both the biophysical and social dimensions of riparian-wetland management to achieve positive results for resources and communities.
- Ensure program effectiveness through evaluation and adaptation.

## Program Goal and Objectives

Goal: To develop a critical mass of people who interact with and manage riparian-wetland resources based on shared knowledge of the attributes and processes that constitute sustainability.

Objective: Provide individuals and groups of diverse interests and backgrounds with the tools to develop a shared understanding of riparian-wetland function, and assist in developing solutions to management challenges stemming from issues in both the resource and human dimensions.

Objective: Create awareness and understanding of, and interest in, this strategy and invite participation across multiple scales.

Objective: Ensure consistency and effectiveness through activities focusing on program management and accountability.

## Riparian Service Team

- **Ronald Wiley and John Christensen**, Team Leaders
- **Carol Connolly**, Public Affairs Specialist
- **Susan Holtzman**, Team Coordinator
- **Janice Staats**, Hydrologist
- **Laura Van Riper**, Social Scientist
- **Sandy Wyman**, Rangeland Management Specialist
- **Adjunct Team Members** with specialized skills in Ecology, Fisheries, Wildlife, Hydrology, Forestry, Rangelands, and Conflict Management

## Agency Program Coordinators

- **John Christensen**, Washington, DC, and **BLM State Office Riparian Coordinators**
- **Ralph Giffen and Rick Swanson**, Washington, DC, and **Forest Service Regional Riparian Coordinators**
- **Dennis Thompson**, Washington, DC, **Bruce Newton**, **Gene Fults**, West National Technology support Center, and **NRCS State Riparian Coordinators**

## State and Provincial Team Coordinators

- AZ **Dave Smith**, Flagstaff US Fish and Wildlife Service
- BC **Cori Barraclough**, Aqua-Tex Scientific Consulting Ltd.
- BC **Patrick Lucey**, Aqua-Tex Scientific Consulting Ltd.
- CA **Dave Weixelman**, USDA Forest Service Pacific SW Region
- CA **Vacant**, NRCS California State Office
- CA **Lenore Thomas**, BLM California State Office
- CO **Jay Thompson**, BLM Colorado State Office
- ID **Steve Smith**, BLM Idaho State Office
- MT **Mike Philbin**, BLM Montana State Office
- NM **Steve McWilliams**, private citizen (FS retired)
- NV **Sherm Swanson**, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
- OR E **Jim Eisner**, BLM Prineville Field Office
- OR W **Vacant**
- TX **Russel Castro**, NRCS Texas State Office
- UT **Justin Jimenez**, BLM Utah State Office
- UT **Mark Petersen**, Utah Farm Bureau
- WA E **Vacant**
- WA W **Vacant**
- WY **Mark Gorges**, BLM Wyoming State Office

## CONSULTING AND ADVISORY SERVICES

### Service Trips – Riparian Service Team

The Creeks and Communities strategy represents an innovative and adaptive approach aimed at building capacity of land managers and stakeholders to address complex and often contentious issues inherent in managing riparian resources. Service trips are a combination of training and place-based problem solving efforts that are designed to deal with the technical dimensions of riparian related issues while at the same time recognizing and addressing the social context in which these issues exist.

- Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge, Stevens County, Washington
  - In FY2007 the team received a request from the Portland, OR Regional Office of the USFWS regarding planning decisions which terminated the annual grazing program on the refuge and prompted a lawsuit from the County and livestock interests which was ongoing. The NRST was asked to review the science used to assess management actions relative to refuge objectives, review the FWS work from a scientific perspective, and from the team's knowledge and experience outline any other options. In addition, the NRST process was to help build/rebuild relationships within the community. This was a multi-phased assignment involving the following: (1) a situation assessment, (2) a community workshop, and (3) a community meeting (See FY2007 Accomplishment Report). The final step included capturing the team's conclusions presented during the Phase 3 community meeting, into a final closeout report and meeting with the Deputy Regional Director and several staff members to discuss findings and recommendations.
- McCartney Creek, TNC's Moses Coulee/Breezley Hill Preserve, WA
  - The Nature Conservancy contacted the NRST for assistance in evaluating riparian resources on the Moses Coulee/Breezley Hill Preserve. The NRST conducted a workshop, led an assessment and made recommendations for improvements on McCartney and Douglas creeks with a diverse group of participants; TNC, adjacent landowners, WA Dept Natural Resources, WA Dept Fish & Wildlife, WA Wildlife Commission, Conservation District, Land Trust, BLM and NRCS.
- BLM Eagle Lake FO, Susanville, CA
  - The NRST and specialists from the BLM National Operations Center provided assistance coaching ID Teams while accomplishing assessments for lentic resources in support of grazing allotment NEPA. The NRST also helped to find and secure assistance with hydrology and soils from the local Forest Service unit (Lassen NF). NRST and NOC provided follow-up guidance as the ID Team continued their assessments.
- Antimony Creek Watershed, Dixie NF, UT
  - The NRST was asked by the District Ranger to assist in three ways; development of a collaborative approach to working with stakeholders, assessment of riparian conditions, and beginning work towards addressing any issues and opportunities that arise. In the initial phase, a situation assessment (stakeholder conversations) and report were completed. The second phase included a community workshop and riparian assessment to facilitate collaborative improvement of the watershed, with a report of results and recommendations.
- North Fork Crooked River Follow-up, OR
  - This was a follow-up activity stemming from a multi-phased assistance facilitating community involvement with assessment and management for the Wild and Scenic River. At request of Ochoco NF, the NRST, forest personnel and permittee re-assessed specific reaches to determine extent of improvement and any further actions.

## **BLM National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) Learning Lab**

The NRST has entered into an agreement with the NLCS and BLM's National Partnership Office to provide a 'Learning Lab' in order to build capacity for collaborative problem solving on NLCS units using the Creeks and Communities approach. Individuals on NLCS units are being mentored in the multi-phased framework while dealing with an actual riparian issue (learning by doing).

- Black Rock/High Rock National Conservation Area, NV
  - The NRST has been asked to deal with conflicts over the condition of springs and associated meadows and their use by horses, big horn sheep, livestock and an endangered snail. Work in FY08 included attendance at a meeting of the Resource Advisory Council to learn more about the situation and provide orientation to the NRST approach. A full situation assessment will be done in spring 2009 followed by a workshop in early summer.
- Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, MT
  - There has been long standing disagreement with some of the Monument users on the condition and appropriate use of the riparian resources. The NRST conducted a situation assessment written report shared with all those participating. This was followed by a community workshop for the purpose of creating a climate for current and future work that enables managers and the many involved publics to engage more effectively. Possible assessment work in summer 2009.
- Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, UT
  - Interdisciplinary staff asked for assistance assessing intermittent and flashy southwest systems using the proper functioning condition (PFC) assessment method. The NRST, NOC, and State Riparian Team conducted a workshop and field site visits including key stakeholders. The NRST is communicating with the Monument Manager and staff to determine next steps.

## **Working Landscapes Alliance**

The NRST is part of a developing partnership with Sustainable Northwest, a Portland-based non-profit, and others in the private sector to provide assistance and support to rangeland and ranching dependent communities through an approach that identifies and addresses ecological, social and economic dimensions and applies the Creeks and Communities principles and practices. The intent is to focus on several geographic areas over a period of time to affect positive results for the resources and the communities.

- Sprague Valley, Klamath Basin, OR
  - Over the past several years, the WLA has established productive working relationships with many entities in the basin facilitating increased understanding that leads to improved management and restoration of riparian resources. This has been in the form of community meetings, workshops and field visits as well as working with agencies and the science community to foster understanding of the WLA's approach and recommendations. This year the WLA activities in the region shifted somewhat to include the following:
    - Working Landscapes Alliance Partners Coordination - Conference call for review, evaluation, and planning for continued work in the Klamath Basin.

- Lower Sprague/Lower Williamson Rivers Watershed Assessment – Input to the Klamath Watershed Partnership on initial draft content and revisions based on previous work on the Upper Sprague Watershed Assessment.
  - Coordination meeting with the Bureau of Reclamation, Tribes and Forest Service.
  - Working with the tribes, agencies, landowners, and OR State University, expanding riparian monitoring (greenline, cross sections and woody regeneration) to numerous sites along the Sprague and Wood Rivers. Initiating work on a riparian classification as part of the monitoring effort.
  - Sprague River Station presentation of the concepts and possibilities for riparian resource recovery, management and monitoring.
  - Interviewed by professor from OR State University Department of Geosciences relative to input for a research study designed to investigate the role of collaborative governance in the Upper Klamath Basin.
- Malta, MT – Ranchers Stewardship Alliance
    - Work continues with the Ranchers Stewardship Alliance (RSA) (501c3) to support their commitment to life-long learning as a fundamental aspect of increasing their ability to adapt to the many changes affecting their livelihoods. WLA assistance has primarily been meeting facilitation where RSA, TNC Matador Ranch, the American Prairie Foundation, BLM, NRCS, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Environmental Defense and others are grappling with issues of endangered species and the possible reintroduction of buffalo while still maintaining viable ranching operations and communities.
- John Day, OR – Malheur National Forest and Grant County
    - Over the years, issues of livestock grazing and fish habitat have been at the core of conflict in the John Day community leading to continuous litigation, strained relationships and overall lack of trust between the various interests. The WLA has been working to encourage action by both the Malheur National Forest and the Grant County Court through presentations relative to riparian conditions and suggestions for an approach to begin creating a shift in community relationships and how they address issues surrounding public (and private) land grazing.
      - Meeting with Forest leadership, staff and County Judge regarding results of riparian assessments and possible next steps to address issues.
      - Subsequent meeting convened by County Judge with ranchers, university, and Forest Service participating to address resource issues.
      - Additional meeting convened to discuss options for addressing conflicts surrounding grazing activities through a collaborative problem solving process.
- Uvalde, TX - Nueces River Authority
    - Through success in securing grants, the Nueces RA is implementing a program to develop a ‘Riparian Network’ of landowners throughout the watershed interested in learning about and managing their riparian resources in a more informed manner to ensure sustainable conditions. WLA has conducted spring and fall riparian function workshops as the foundation of this effort. They have also provided review of pertinent references and materials being developed and distributed by the Nueces RA. Besides landowners, capacity building also focuses on specialists in NRCS, Texas Parks & Wildlife and Extension.
- Prineville, OR - Crook County Natural Resources Planning Committee
    - The WLA is participating in several activities this group is working on having to do with allocation of the water behind Bowman Dam in the Prineville reservoir, the condition of the Crooked River, and reintroduction of steelhead.
      - Community workshop regarding introduction of steelhead

- Input to the water sub-committee
- Bowman Dam water allocation situation assessment, report and community meeting
- Deschutes River Conservancy
  - Provided expertise on a field trip to McKay Creek with the Board of Directors and partners relative to a proposed “water rights switch”, habitat, fish passage and land conservation projects.
- Western Stewardship Summit
  - Participated in a panel addressing various approaches to restoration and management of livestock grazing on both public and private lands ranging from permit buyouts, agency collaboration, and rancher led initiatives.
- Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition
  - WLA is part of the working group focusing on policy concepts relative to sustainable rangelands and ranching.

## Ongoing Participation – Riparian Service Team

BLM National Monitoring Strategy Task Groups (Air/Water, Soil/Vegetation)  
 FS Riparian Inventory and Monitoring Technical Guide  
 Interagency Cooperative Conservation Team (ICCT) Training and Development Task Group  
 Interagency Cooperative Conservation Team (ICCT) Measurement/Monitoring Task Group  
 BLM Socio-Economic Assessment Working Group  
 FS Social Benefits/Measures Working Group  
 SRM Watershed/Riparian, Wildlife Habitat, and Rangelands Steering Committees  
 OSU Rangeland Department Advisory Committee

## Assistance to State Teams – Riparian Service Team

California – Meeting with Forest Service Regional and BLM/NRCS State Office leadership relative to supporting Creeks and Communities in CA, mentored new team members, assisted with Jackson PFC workshop

Colorado – Participated in riparian program workshop

Idaho – Participated with the Idaho State Riparian Team during a 2-day PFC workshop in Salmon and an introduction to Multiple Indicator Methods (MIM) for monitoring riparian areas in Mackay

Montana – Assistance with the Big Hole Willow/Riparian Restoration workshops and report

New Mexico – Worked with Agency Coordinator to find support for team member participation

Nevada – Review of grant application, assistance with riparian grazing training and coaching on incorporating collaborative techniques into activities

Oregon - Assistance with recruitment of new team members

Texas – Assistance with development of State Riparian Team work plan, conducted Train the Trainers course, and mentored several team members at other workshops

Utah – Provided information and orientation to new Team Lead, mentored and worked together with team members on Utah service trips.

Wyoming – Provided a draft proposal relative to the WY State Team idea to foster formation of an Alkali Creek Watershed Working Group.

## Review and Advice – Riparian Service Team

- Land Health Standard 4, Water Quality - *Burns BLM FO*
- Forest Service Watershed PART Conceptual Framework – *John Potyondy, STREAM Team*
- Grant Proposal for development of a Boy Scouts Wetlands and Streams Merit Badge – *San Juan Institute for Natural and Cultural Resources, Fort Lewis College, Durango CO*
- Forest response regarding assessment and monitoring methods and application – *FS Region 6 and Malheur NF*
- Streamside planting plan for Ochoco Lumber property – *Watershed Council*
- “Evaluating Grazing Use with Streambank Alteration Protocols: Challenges and Solutions” draft paper – *Brett Roper, FS Aquatic Ecology Unit*
- Briske Rotational Grazing Paper response - *Brett Roper, FS Aquatic Ecology Unit*
- BLM Adaptive Management Learning Lab proposal – *BLM WO Cooperative Stewardship*
- BLM Assessment, Inventory & Monitoring analysis – *BLM WO AIM*
- Input to the BLM Library function, responsibilities and activities task group - *BLM’s National Operations Center (NOC)*
- BLM AWP Directives for ADR/Conflict Prevention – *Paul Politzer, BLM WO*
- BLM Youth Riparian Curriculum – *BLM WO Environmental Education*
- Multiple Indicator Monitoring riparian monitoring course – *MIM course instructors*
- Fen Assessment Checklist, NRST, BLM NOC, FS R5, and CSU review final draft – *FS Region 5*

## Other Projects – Riparian Service Team

- Greenline Clarification
  - A “greenline” clarification document is being developed as a follow-up activity from the work done at Logan, Utah, by the riparian vegetation monitoring group relative to method comparison and application and will support improved consistency.
- Vegetation Consistency Guidance
  - Because of differences in interpretation that have surfaced over time, the NRST has convened a working group to establish guidance on answering PFC Checklist items relative to plants and plant communities in order to facilitate consistency in both teaching and applying the PFC assessment method.
- Headcut Guidance, FS STREAM Team
  - The NRST asked the STREAM Team to develop guidance on headcut assessment and treatment at the urging of the Creeks and Communities Network and agency field offices. Coordination and review are ongoing and will continue into FY2009.
- PFC Database Development Working Group
  - The NRST convened a group of field level and WO resource and database personnel to examine the feasibility of developing a database for PFC assessment data in both the BLM and FS. Ongoing coordination within and between agency IT and resource program leads.
- Riparian Grazing Training Course Evaluation
  - Once the revised technical reference had been used as the basis for instruction for a period of time, and informal evaluation was done relative to course design and delivery. Adjustments were made using input from both the cadre and attendees.
- Tamarisk and Riparian Function v2.0
  - Update of the overview paper regarding Tamarisk and how it affects physical function of riparian areas. Version 2.0 placed on NRST website.

- Riparian Grasses Field Guide
  - Initiated by the University of Wyoming, current efforts are focused on contributing to the inclusion of ecological information for each species and developing a proposal to find support for product completion and publishing
- Creeks and Communities Network Biennial Meeting (March 2008)
  - These are both developmental and working meetings designed to increase and enhance the ability of the Network to be effective in both managing and implementing the Creeks and Communities strategy. It included State Team recognition, reports, national leadership insights, work plan development for FY2008-2009, special issue presentations, breakout sessions in both the natural resource and social dimensions, and networking.
- Capability/Potential Work Group
  - The NRST convened a work group to provide clarification and additional guidance relative to application of the concepts of capability and potential when doing and teaching the PFC assessment method. They became a panel and were part of the presentation on this during the Network Meeting.
- A Guide for Understanding and Implementing Creeks and Communities
  - Informally referred to as the 'Desk Guide', this document should prove useful to people who are both new to the Creeks and Communities strategy and those who have been involved since its inception. It provides further explanation of the principles and practices outlined in the strategy and gives insight into the operating framework established for this approach including an introduction to a variety of tools and methods used in implementation. The first draft was completed and distributed and Network responses received and incorporated in FY08. Completion planned for FY09.
- A Progress Report on the Creeks and Communities Strategy
  - This report covers the 5 years since the strategy revision and provides a description of the Creeks and Communities strategy, a summary of Network activities, detailed case studies conveying the application of the principles and practices that characterize the strategy, and a synopsis of all service trip activities undertaken by the Network from 2003 through 2007. Completion is planned for FY09.
- NTC Course Development - Riparian Ecology and Riparian Vegetation Monitoring
  - Interest and need led to the formation of design teams to create two courses that will be offered and coordinated through the BLM National Training Center. Curriculum design and the development of course materials is underway. Pilot sessions will be offered in 2009.
- BLM Adaptive Management Handbook Working Groups
  - NRST is contributing to the completion of the draft BLM Adaptive Management Handbook through participation on two working groups: 1) monitoring – identifying barriers to implementation and developing solutions, and 2) training – addressing what is needed to build capacity for doing adaptive management.
- Mentoring a Crook County High School Student
  - A student selected a focus on riparian resources for his senior project. Mentoring involved instruction, reading assignments, field application of methods and information, writing, and making presentations.
- Crook County Natural Resources Education Program
  - Initial proposal received and response given relative to NRST contributions in FY 2009.
- Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) TR Development

- After several years of instruction and field application, followed by discussions with BLM WO, NOC, NRST and ID BLM, work is now underway to update and convert the current MIM Idaho Technical Bulletin 2008-1 into a 1737 series Technical Reference scheduled for completion in 2009.

## **Training and Workshops that integrate the biophysical and social dimensions of riparian-wetland management**

### **Training and Workshops - Riparian Service Team**

- Consensus Institute II
  - A follow-up to the 2006 session on managing change and conflict, this second installment focused on learning approaches for recognizing and managing power and stereotypes. Individuals from Oregon, Montana, California, Nevada, and Washington, D.C. attended.
- Reynolds High School Natural Resources Academy, Dixie Meadow Ranch, OR
  - Reynolds High School Natural Resources Academy is located in urban Portland, Oregon. The Breese family in rural Prineville, Oregon annually hosts a group of students and teachers to learn about ranching, rangeland and timberland management, using their property as an outdoor classroom. The team helps teach concepts about watershed and riparian function, soils, and grazing management.
- Harney County SWCD/OR Dept of Agriculture, Burns, OR
  - This training was locally sponsored for the purpose of increasing the understanding of the relationship of riparian function with state administered water quality compliance.
- Cows and Creeks Community Presentations, OR
  - A five community tour was sponsored by Oregon State University Extension to highlight pertinent information relative to water quality and ranching – Klamath Falls, Prineville, La Grande, John Day, and Burns.
- PFC and Riparian Grazing Workshop, Wheeler Co., OR
  - An introductory workshop for landowners and agency personnel sponsored by Oregon State University Extension.
- SRM/AFS Joint Symposium, Western Division AFS Annual Meeting
  - This symposium focused on principles and practices of livestock grazing management that are congruent with fisheries resources.
- Oregon State University Rangeland Watershed Class
  - Provided classroom presentations and field site visits to learn about riparian function and recovery.
- Apache-Sitgreaves NF Riparian Grazing Course, Springerville, AZ
  - Conducted a PFC/Riparian Grazing Management workshop at the request of the University of AZ, the AZ Cattlemen’s Association, the Forest and the Voight allotment permittee. Of the 60 plus attendees, almost half were ranchers. Also follow-up with University of AZ regarding rancher efforts to organize to address issues, and also in regards to participatory research on such efforts.
- Texas Riparian Team Train the Trainers, Temple, TX
  - The NRST provided a Train the Trainer session for the newly formed Texas State Riparian Team. Primarily NRCS, there were several other organizations represented. It included an orientation to the Creeks and Communities strategy and the use and instruction of PFC.

- WA Department of Ecology, Washington Conservation Corps Training, WA
  - The WA Conservation Corps is a part of the national AmeriCorps program. Each year crew supervisors and members are trained in riparian function as foundational knowledge in support of the project work they do throughout the state.
- SRM High School Youth Forum Riparian Workshop, Louisville, KY
  - The team was asked to repeat the half-day introductory workshop they had conducted previously and then work with the Forum leader to develop a follow-up evaluation.

## **State Riparian Team Activities**

### ALASKA

- Continued coordination with other federal agencies, state and local government, organizations and institutions relative to opportunities for Creeks and Communities activities.

### ARIZONA

- Assisted the NRST by providing ESA expertise during the Riparian Grazing training session conducted on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, Springerville, AZ
- assisted in providing expertise on assessment of flashing systems on the NRST assignment for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
- Serving on the Riparian Ecology and Riparian Monitoring course development teams with NRST and BLM National Training Center

### CALIFORNIA

- Participated with the NRST and BLM WO Program Lead in briefings to NRCS, BLM, and Forest Service Leadership in the state relative to understanding a supporting Creeks and Communities
- Conducted briefing for combined annual meeting of CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts and CA Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils, Riverside, (Nov 2008)
- In partnership with the NV State Team, conducted 2-day PFC training for the Owens Valley Indian Water Commission, Bishop, CA, (Nov 2008, 68 people in attendance)
- PFC training in the Jackson Creek watershed near Jackson, CA and subsequently led an interdisciplinary team in completing 17 reaches in the Jackson Creek watershed (June 2008)
- Led a 1-day session for proper functioning condition of fens at Gates Fen, Eldorado National Forest, CA (June 2008, 12 attendees)
- Conducted 1-day training using PFC lentic checklist at Medford, OR (July 2008, 10 attendees); fen located on Siskiyou National Forest, OR
- Participated with NRST and BLM National Operations Center assisting BLM Eagle Lake Field Office coaching a BLM and FS interdisciplinary team in doing PFC for permit renewal
- Planning/coordination conference calls with new Team Leader; search for hydrology and soils expertise

- Completed document titled “Proper Functioning Condition of Fen Areas in the Sierra Nevada and Southern Cascades, CA.” FS Region 5 office has approved funding to print 500 copies by May 1, 2009
- Attended biennial Network Meeting; FY2008-2009 work plan development

## CANADA

- The British Columbia Team reports that BC’s new Water Plan, entitled “Living Water Smart BC” contains several references to elements of PFC and the teachings of the NRST. The new document includes a section called “Nature’s Lessons” including that “Water should be kept on the land as long as possible” (pg. 45) It also makes the commitment that “Government will work with the private sector and support communities to conserve and restore stream function” (pg.57). For the first time stream function is explicitly considered rather than only stream values - a major step forward for BC Government policy. The entire plan can be accessed at [www.livingwatersmart.ca/book.html](http://www.livingwatersmart.ca/book.html).

## COLORADO

- Outreach for State Team activities through diverse state network
- Conducted PFC workshop in Denver (June – 17 participants)
- Conducted PFC workshop in Meeker (July – 22 participants)
- Coordination/instruction with the Wyoming State Team
- Attended biennial Network Meeting; FY2008-2009 work plan development

## IDAHO

- Updated database of interested groups and key contacts, developing new relationships with specific NGO’s (conservation and special interest groups)
- Updated and disseminated the announcement brochure advertising opportunities and services provided by the Idaho Riparian Team
- Numerous service trips were completed to assist BLM and Forest Service units with lotic and lentic PFC assessments, riparian-wetland monitoring (using the MIM protocol), and problem solving
- Conducted a lotic PFC session for the University of Idaho Range Department (Oct 2007- 22 student participants and 6 state employees)
- Conducted a lotic PFC training session (Salmon, ID – 35 participants)
- Assisted in the revision of the “Monitoring Streambanks and Riparian Vegetation -- Multiple Indicators Method (MIM)” protocol
- Conducted 5 MIM training sessions and numerous service trips on this monitoring protocol in 2008 (Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Oregon; different agencies and private individuals, approximately 150 total participants)
- Initiated the process of converting the MIM Technical Bulletin to a national Technical Reference in the 1737 series (scheduled for 2009), assembled a technical review team and started review of the document
- Planning for development of new BLM National Training Center riparian monitoring course to be offered in 2009.
- Attended biennial Network Meeting; participated in panels and presentations; FY2008-2009 work plan development

## MONTANA

- Updated the statewide riparian-wetland contact lists and the State Riparian Team flyer and riparian information CD, both of which include information on the Creeks and Communities Strategy; fifty CDs were produced and distributed at the Willow Ecology and Restoration Workshop
- Maintained a Montana Riparian Team link on the NRCS website which introduces the Creeks and Communities Strategy, PFC, and gives contact information
- Participated in the development of two new publications: “Landowners Guide to Wetlands” and “Landowners Guide to Eastern Montana Wetlands and Grasslands” that provide a wealth of information regarding wetland function, protection, and restoration. The target audience is private landowners.
- Participated on the Montana Wetlands Council
- Hosted a “Willow Ecology and Restoration” workshop; expert panel provided information on riparian ecology and restoration with an emphasis on willows; 50 participants - workshop also contributed to the public information direction found in the states’ “Strategic Framework for Wetland and Riparian Area Conservation and Restoration in Montana 2008-2012”
- Attended biennial Network Meeting; FY2008-2009 work plan development

## NEVADA

- In partnership with the Ca State Team, conducted 2-day PFC training for the Owens Valley Indian Water Commission, Bishop, CA, (Nov 2008, 68 people in attendance)
- Guest lecturer for NRES 295, Principles of Ecohydrology, UNR (Nov 2008)
- Conducted Grazing Management for Riparian Areas 3-day training with NRST, Winnemucca (Oct 2008, 44 participants)
- Conducted 2-day PFC training to a mixed group in Bridgeport, CA (May 2008, 16 participants)
- Conducted 2-day PFC training to a mixed group in Pine Valley, NV (April 2008, 32 participants)
- Information booth at NV Cattlemen’s Association meeting
- Riparian grazing principles segment of NV Range Management School, Tonapah
- Potential and capability working group and panel with NRST
- Taught use of PFC to address water quality to Tribal leaders and EPA staff
- Worked with Humboldt-Toiyabe NF to initiate Creeks and Communities effort on Ruby Mountains RD, followed by grant proposal for funding to facilitate project
- Worked with NRCS to conduct PFC on private land on Humboldt River
- Posters, papers and instruction of PFC concepts at International Rangeland Congress, China
- Presentation to Northeast Nevada Stewardship Group
- Society for Range Management High School Youth Forum Riparian Workshop
- ‘Keeping Water on the Land Longer’ article in Progressive Rancher
- Serving on the Riparian Ecology and Riparian Monitoring course development teams with NRST and BLM National Training Center
- Attended biennial Network Meeting; FY2008-2009 work plan development

## NEW MEXICO

- Added new members from the FS, BLM, and NRCS, and one from USFWS and there is interest from another FS and a private individual to join the state team.
- Held annual planning meeting in Socorro in November 2007 to determine activities for 2008 Conducted PFC training in Clayton in May and discussed lentic and lotic systems particular to the Great Plains of eastern NM
- Continues to maintain a poster at NM State Parks in Albuquerque and coordinate with New Mexico Riparian Council
- Attended biennial Network Meeting; FY2008-2009 work plan development

## OREGON

- Presentation at Riparian Buffer Workshop sponsored by Umatilla County SWCD, in Pendleton
- Conducted PFC training in Burns, July 2008
- Active search for new members
- Society for Range Management High School Youth Forum Riparian Workshop
- Attended biennial Network Meeting; FY2008-2009 work plan development

## TEXAS

- Texas NRCS initiated the formation of a Texas Riparian Team and sponsored a three-day Train-the-Trainer PFC Workshop in Temple for the Texas Riparian Team (Sept 2008)
- Attended biennial Network Meeting; FY2008-2009 work plan development

*Following are briefings, presentations, workshops and technical assistance activities:*

- Briefing to NRCS principle staff on plan for Texas Riparian Team
- Watershed/riparian presentation at the Master Naturalists Conference, Cibolo Nature Center
- Presentation on understanding creeks at the Women of the Land Seminar, Kerr Wildlife Management Area
- Brochure “Your Remarkable Riparian” for Nueces River Authority Network
- Contribute to Nueces River Authority Riparian Plant Book (in progress)
- Pecos River Re-vegetation Project, collaborate with Texas Forest Service, AgriLife Extension and NRCS
- Serve on the Lone Star Healthy Stream Advisory Committee, a multi-disciplinary, multi-group faction that serves in information/advisory role on impaired streams in Texas; made presentation to the committee about PFC in Feb 2008
- NRCS Texas Riparian Team joined the Central Texas Stream Team in an advisory capacity. The Central Texas Stream team has held two workshops for communities, cities and counties in central Texas; one demonstration project in Temple
  - Watershed/Riparian Field Day, Blanco SWCD (75 participants)
  - Riparian–Wildlife Field Day, Kendall SWCD (60 participants)
- HRM of Texas Riparian–Watershed Mgt Field Day, Kiessel Ranch, Burnet Co.
- Nueces Riparian Network Landowner Workshops with NRST (Mirasol Ranch, Rafter 7 Ranch, Fly Ranch, Rio Frio, and a 2-day PFC workshop for agency professionals in Uvalde)

- Restoring Riparian Areas presentation at the Texas Society for Ecological Restoration/Texas Riparian Association Conference, Fort Davis
- PFC training for NRCS Zone 5 employees, Seymour, Texas

*Provided on site assistance to the following:*

- City of Buffalo and Texas Forest Service
- Fish and Wildlife Service – Inks Lake Dam Fish Hatchery
- Weatherford FO on Walnut Creek Site
- EPA Regional Curves site visits and selection.
- Junction FO- South Llano – Ruth James
- Mineral Wells FO – Brazos River – Keith Riney
- Decatur FO – Garrett Creek Ranch
- NRCS/Central Texas Stream Team – City of Salado, local landowners

## UTAH

- Organization and planning meeting with new Team Leader and some new team members
- Drafted team call letter and team brochure
- Attended annual Utah Partners for Conservation and Development meeting
- Attended Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative meeting and field project
- Facilitated and hosted MIM training in Evanston, WY and Rich Co, UT
- Sponsored MIM training in Cedar City, UT
- Participated with NRST on Antimony Creek assignment, Escalante, UT
- Attended Train the Trainer, Temple, TX
- Participated with the NRST assisting the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument evaluate flashy and intermittent systems assessment, Kanab, UT
- Submitted proposal and awarded Challenge Cost Share funds for UT State Team Co-coordinator
- Attended biennial Network Meeting; FY2008-2009 work plan development

## WYOMING

- PFC awareness session (April 2008) for 11 community college students
- Two-day PFC training (June 2008) in Rawlins, WY; 9 participants
- Contacted NOVA and National Geographic offering assistance if they needed information on riparian or wetlands
- Published riparian function and recovery article in Storm Water Magazine
- Assisted NRST with development of the Guide for Understanding and Implementing the Creeks and Communities Strategy
- Attended biennial Network Meeting; FY2008-2009 work plan development

## **Requests for Information / Referrals – Riparian Service Team**

Summary - Responded to approximately 40 requests for information or assistance from a variety of sources, both national and international. Inquiries included the Creeks and Communities approach as well as questions on general context and specifics of adaptive management, assessment, monitoring and restoration. At least 10 referrals were also made for additional information and assistance.

## **CREATE AWARENESS, UNDERSTANDING, AND INTEREST**

### **Briefings, Meetings, Presentations, Key Contacts – Riparian Service Team**

- Great Basin Environmental Program NGO Workshop, Reno, NV
  - Invited poster presentation on Creeks and Communities
- Oregon Natural Desert Association
  - John Day River assessment
- Mid John Day Watershed Council
  - John Day River assessment presentation
- Forest Service Region 3 Rangeland Managers Annual Meeting
  - Invited presentation on Creeks and Communities, NRST, PFC, etc.
- Texas Water Summit
  - Invited presentation on the role of land stewardship for water management.
- SRM BLM Partnership Symposium
  - Invited presentation on Creeks and Communities and the Working Landscapes Alliance
- Forest Service Water Management for Line Officers
  - Invited presentation on the Creeks and Communities approach for dealing with water issues.
- Sonoran Institute
  - Meeting to become familiar with each others efforts/approaches and determine possible interface.
- Oregon State University Restoration Ecology Class
  - Presentations on both the technical aspects of riparian resources coupled with the human/social dimensions that characterize Creeks and Communities.
- Colorado BLM Riparian Coordinators Meeting
  - Invited presentations on Creeks and Communities and update on Tamarisk information.
- Western Collaborative Assistance Network (WestCAN)
  - Participated in conference calls managed by the National Forest Foundation covering; 1) collaborative approach to grazing, and 2) collaborative watershed restoration.
- International Rangeland Congress
  - Pre-conference tour, presentations on Creeks and Communities and riparian management, workshops and field trips.
- AWRA Summer Specialty (Riparian) Conference
  - Presentation of Creeks and Communities approach as a way to build understanding and support for riparian resources.
- Great Plains Riparian Forest Management Summit
  - Presentations on grazing management and strategies and techniques to control invasive species.
- Isaac Walton League of America
  - Coordination between various BLM programs and the IWLA Clean Water Programs.
- Texas NRCS State Office
  - Discussions with key staff on support for the Texas Riparian Team.
- Forest Service Region 5 and CA BLM/NRCS State Office Leadership
  - Briefings with interagency leadership to garner support for Agency Coordinators and State Team members.
- Oregon Cattlemen's Meeting, Federal Lands Roundtable
- Forest Service WO/RO Range Director's Meeting
- PNW/SRM Annual Meeting
- SRM Annual Meeting
- AFS Western Division Meeting
- Wildlife Management Institute's North American Conference
- Boone and Crockett Club
- The Nature Conservancy

- Targeted Grazing Workshop
- USFWS WO and Region 1 Staff
- BLM WO Public Affairs Office
- BLM and FS National Partnership Coordinators
- FS Watershed, Fish and Wildlife Staff
- FS STREAM Team
- FS Aquatic Ecology Unit
- BLM National Operations Center
- BLM WO 220 & 230 Staff
- BLM National Training Center
- Indicators of Rangeland Health Instructor Team
- National Cattlemen’s Beef Association
- NRCS West National Technical Support Center
- The Quivira Coalition
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Sustainable Northwest
- CAMNet (Collaborative Adaptive Management Network)
- U.S. Institute for Conflict Resolution

## **Products to Market and Implement the Strategy – Riparian Service Team**

Full Stream Ahead newsletter  
 Progress Report on Creeks and Communities (draft)  
 Guide for Understanding and Implementing Creeks and Communities (draft)  
 NRST website, new format/updating  
 Creeks and Communities handouts and power point presentations  
 Creeks and Communities accomplishment reports

## **PROGRAM MANAGEMENT**

### **Planning and Coordination**

NRST Coordination Calls - weekly  
 NRST Work Planning Meetings - quarterly  
 BLM WO-220 Conference Calls – weekly  
 BLM Riparian Program Conference Calls – quarterly  
 FS Riparian Program Conference Calls – quarterly  
 FS Range Program Conference Calls – monthly  
 BLM WO 220/230 coordination  
 BLM and FS Partnership Office program coordination  
 BLM National Community Stewardship & Adaptive Management coordination  
 BLM National Operations Center planning and coordination  
 BLM National Training Center planning and coordination  
 BLM and FS budget and staffing coordination  
 BLM/FS Interagency Budget Agreements  
 NRCS and USFWS communication and coordination  
 Creeks and Communities Network Development/Support to State Teams planning  
 Creeks and Communities Network Biennial Meeting planning  
 ID/IQ Contract to provide multiple disciplines – administration and tracking

## **Reporting**

FY2007 Riparian Coordination Network Accomplishment Report  
FY2008 NRST Program of Work Synopsis  
FY2008 Monthly NRST Updates

## **Evaluation**

Planning continued on what will be an OMB approved evaluation of the effectiveness of the changes implemented since the first evaluation and subsequent revision of the strategic plan in 2002. Several meetings were held to discuss objectives and scope, as well as options for accomplishing various aspects of the evaluation. Preliminary work was done on design and preparation for funding. Several Universities were contacted relative to their interest in this project and agency OMB coordinators were consulted. The approval process and actual evaluation will occur in FY09 and FY10.

## **Leveraging Resources**

Over half of the work activities were accomplished through leveraging NRST operating budget with contribution of outside funding.