



Creeks and Communities:

A Continuing Strategy for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian
Restoration and Management

Riparian Coordination Network

Accomplishments FY2004

(October 2003 – September 2004)

“Achieving Healthy Streams Through Bringing People Together”

PREPARED BY
THE RIPARIAN SERVICE TEAM
JANUARY 2005

Riparian Coordination 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 Riparian Coordination Network which includes the Riparian Service Team, Agency Riparian Program Coordinators, and State Cadres with personnel from federal and state agencies, universities, industry and conservation interests, and the private sector.

Operating Philosophy

- Increase the capacity of the Riparian Coordination Network to effectively implement the Creeks & 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**, Team Leader
- **Carol Connolly**, Public Affairs Specialist
- **Cyndie Hice**, SCEP Information Technology Specialist
- **Susan Holtzman**, Team Coordinator
- **Lisa Lewis**, Soils Scientist
- **Janice Staats**, Hydrologist
- **Laura Van Riper**, Social Scientist
- **Sandy Wyman**, Rangeland Management Specialist
- **Adjunct Members** with specialized skills in Ecology, Fisheries, Hydrology, Rangelands, and Conflict Management

Agency Riparian Program Coordinators

- **John Christensen**, Washington, DC, and **BLM State Office Riparian Coordinators**
- **Rick Swanson**, Washington, DC, and **Forest Service Regional Riparian Coordinators**
- **Dennis Thompson**, Washington, DC, and **NRCS State Riparian Coordinators**

State/Provincial Cadre 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 **Randy Gould**, USDA Forest Service Pacific SW Region
- CA **Bill Cunningham**, NRCS California State Office
- CA **Lenore Thomas**, BLM California State Office
- CO **Jay Thompson**, BLM Colorado State Office
- ID **Ervin Cowley**, BLM Idaho State Office
- MT **Mike Philbin**, BLM Montana State Office
- NM **Steve McWilliams**, private citizen
- NV **Sherman Swanson**, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
- OR E **Jim Eisner**, BLM Prineville Field Office
- OR W **Chris Massingill**, Mainstream Consulting
- UT **Steve Smith**, Cedar City Ranger District, Dixie National Forest
- WA E **Vacant**
- WA W **Vacant**
- WY **Mark Gorges**, BLM Wyoming State Office

CONSULTING AND ADVISORY SERVICES

Service Trips – Riparian Service Team

- Madera, Chihuahua, Mexico
 - The NRST was fortunate to be asked to hold a Creeks & Communities workshop in Madera which was attended by people from six indigenous communities, a high school ecology class and a number of organizations. The session was supported by USFWS, and non-profit organizations Pronatura, Fuerza Ambiental and the Sierra Madre Alliance.
 - The team also did a Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessment on 3 miles of Sirupa Creek as the basis for setting restoration objectives and developing management strategies.
- Alleghany National Forest Oil, Gas, & Minerals (OGM) Restoration Sites, Warren, Pennsylvania
 - The team provided soil bioengineering and biotechnical engineering training in addition to addressing slope stabilization needs on eroding oil and gas drilling sites.
- Tiller Ranger District, Umpqua National Forest, Oregon
 - The Forest Service and the South Umpqua Grazing Association asked the team to work with them to resolve long standing disagreements concerning the application and interpretation of Proper Functioning Condition assessment results. At the core, key issues were potential and capability.
- Drews Valley Ranch, Lakeview, Oregon
 - This large property was covered by a conservation easement to protect it from development. Working with the State and NRCS, assistance included riparian assessment as well as input toward the management and monitoring needs.
- Green Mountain Commons, Lander, Wyoming
 - Follow-up activities from prior work with people involved with the Green Mountain Commons Allotment included meeting facilitation, training, and coordination.
- North Fork Crooked River Wild & Scenic River, Prineville, Oregon
 - The NRST worked with the Ochoco National Forest and the Crook County Natural Resources Planning Committee in developing and implementing a community-based assessment, management and monitoring. Activities included interviews, meetings, workshops, the actual assessment, and a community meeting regarding results and next steps.
- National Park Service Vital Signs Monitoring Workshop, Moscow, Idaho
 - A part of a series of nation-wide ecoregion workshops to develop potential monitoring questions and pertinent vital signs or indicators, the team provided expertise in both riparian-wetland resources and shrub-step ecosystems.
- Scott River Watershed, Etna, California
 - At the request of the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District, the team was asked to assess the results of improvement projects accomplished since 1994 on the main stem Scott River and several tributaries. Findings were presented at the Scott River Watershed Council quarterly forum.
- Malheur National Forest, John Day, Oregon ONDA II, ONDA III
 - The team provided expertise relative to plaintiffs claims in ONDA II and ONDA III lawsuits, including field visits, depositions, and consultation with staff and Counsel.

- Section 8 Review, Soldier Meadows Allotment, Winnemucca, Nevada
 - Participated as a member of an interagency, interdisciplinary team in a review process that was requested by a permittee due to disagreement with the BLM regarding a proposed grazing plan.
- Spokane County Conservation District, Spokane, Washington
 - The Spokane Conservation District used Proper Functioning Condition assessments in a pilot project for updating Shoreline Management Plans. The team was asked to provide training and give field assistance to the crews as well as follow-up on quality control.
- Yamsey Ranch Assistance, Oregon
 - The team participated in a return visit to review the results of restoration and management efforts.
- GI Ranch Assistance, Oregon
 - Working with the permittee, staff and District Ranger, the team was able to help them reach agreement on current conditions and future management options.
- Swamp Creek, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Enterprise, Oregon
 - The team was asked to assist the Wallowa Valley Ranger District and the larger community relative to restoration activities on Swamp Creek. Through a participatory assessment process followed by a facilitated working meeting, the group was able to document the findings and develop further strategies and actions.
- Challis Experimental Stewardship Group, Salmon-Challis National Forest, Idaho
 - The team was asked to help the group with their understanding of riparian conditions relative to management and monitoring as a foundation for developing and adaptive strategy. Discussions included use of standard and guidelines, the selection of monitoring sites along with a demonstration of the Multiple Indicator Monitoring protocol.
- Rattray Allotment, BLM Prineville, Oregon
 - Provided expertise as a condition of a settlement agreement relative to a lawsuit.
- Jackson County, Oregon Producers Bear Creek Tour, Prineville, Oregon
 - Provided information on and examples of livestock grazing that is compatible with riparian restoration.

Ongoing Participation – Riparian Service Team

Stubble Height Working Group

Crook County Natural Resources Planning Committee, Prineville, Oregon

Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team (IMST), Oregon

Pacfish/Infish Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring (included one field review in FY2004)

Assistance to State Cadres – Riparian Service Team

Nevada Riparian and Range Management Course, Elko, Nevada

Oregon Chapter American Fisheries Society (AFS), Sun River, Oregon

Mexico Train-the-Trainers preparation

Review and Advice

BLM Price District Riparian Report

BLM WO-220 Public Rangelands Agenda

BLM Draft Planning Handbook
Bank Alteration Draft (Henderson et. al.)
BLM WO Off-site Mitigation memo
Western States Agricultural Research Education (WSARE) grant evaluating effects of grazing permittee monitoring

Other Projects

- PFC Related Research
 - Convened people interested in doing PFC and desired condition related research. In addition to agency personnel, participants included individuals from Oregon State University, Fort Lewis College - Colorado, Aqua-Tex Scientific Consulting Ltd. – British Columbia, and Bowling Green State University – Ohio.
- Riparian Vegetation Monitoring
 - Convened riparian vegetation monitoring protocol developers from several agencies and universities to improve communication and explore options for increased coordination - Logan, Utah.
- TR-20 Grazing Management for Riparian-Wetland Areas
 - Initiated development of TR-20 Grazing Management for Riparian-Wetland Areas as an update and expansion of TR-14 of the same title. This document is used as the principle reference in the training course of the same name.

Service Trips – State Riparian Cadres

COLORADO

Reevaluated riparian assessments done 4-5 yrs ago on several sites in NW Colorado to determine changes.

OREGON

Participated with the NRST on the Swamp Creek assignment, Wallowa-Whitman NF.

UTAH

At the request of Farm Bureau, livestock operator and Forest Service, provided input and management recommendations on several riparian-wetland areas.

WYOMING

Assisted Cody BLM office with field evaluations.

Request for Information / Referrals

Summary - Responded to 43 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. Referrals were also made for additional information and assistance.

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

Riparian Service Team

- Creeks & Communities Workshop, Beatty, Oregon
 - Sponsored by Sustainable Northwest, this workshop was one of many activities involving landowners, agencies, extension, tribes and others in the upper Sprague River Watershed
- Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region (R6) Range Workshop, Pendleton, Oregon
 - Assistance in monitoring method review and data interpretation
- The Quivira Coalition 4th Annual Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico
 - Pre-conference workshop on Grazing Management for Riparian Areas
- Riparian Grazing Tele-Presentation, Adams County Cattlemen, Washington
 - A combination of on-site visual presentation with off-site commentary
- Riparian Grazing Train-the-Trainer, Phoenix, Arizona
 - This session was one step in expanding the numbers, diversity and capability of the cadre
- Riparian Grazing Training, Sheridan, Montana
 - Sponsored by the Ruby Valley Conservation District and the Ruby Watershed Council
- Washington Conservation Corps (WCC), Port Orchard, Washington
 - Sponsored by the WA Department of Ecology, the WCC does project work statewide for water quality and habitat improvement
- Oregon State University Rangeland Watershed Class
 - This yearly session includes a mix of classroom instruction and field visits
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Board of Directors Field Day, Lakeview, Oregon
 - This group funds projects in support of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds
- Winward Riparian Vegetation Monitoring, Prineville, Oregon
 - Instruction in greenline, cross-section and woody recruitment protocols
- Rosgen Riparian Grazing Course, Helena, Montana
 - Incorporating fluvial geomorphology with grazing management concepts
- Creeks & Communities Workshop, Prineville, Oregon
 - Sponsored by the Crook County Natural Resources Planning Committee

State Riparian Cadres

ARIZONA

Safford - Sponsored by BLM Safford in preparation for Rangeland Standard and Guideline evaluations

CALIFORNIA

Clovis - Part of Teach the River program for educators, sponsored by Forest Service
San Luis Obispo - Watershed Management class at Cal-Poly,

COLORADO

Red Feather Lakes - Red Feather Lakes School
Denver
Durango
Streamboat Springs
Grand Junction - Mesa State College,

IDAHO

Moscow - University of Idaho
Marsing
Jordan Valley
McCall
Driggs

MONTANA

Sheridan - Riparian Grazing Training with the NRST

NEW MEXICO

Alpine, Texas - Sponsored by Sul Ross State University
Truth or Consequences

NEVADA

Reno - Small Watershed Hydrology class, UNR
Winnemucca - NE Nevada Resource Advisory Council
Elko – PFC, Riparian Grazing and Monitoring course
La Vegas

OREGON EASTSIDE

Oregon Chapter American Fisheries Society (AFS), Sun River, Oregon

OREGON WESTSIDE

Finley Wildlife Refuge near Junction City
Long Tom Council and Army Corps of Engineers Staff

UTAH

Heber
Vernal – PFC plus assessment and management dialogue with local watershed coalition on Ashley Creek
Utah State University Range Science graduate students

WYOMING

Lander - Grazing Management Training with NRST
Cody
Gering, Nebraska

CREATE AWARENESS, UNDERSTANDING, AND INTEREST

Briefings, Presentations, and Key Contacts – Riparian Service Team

Washington NRCS Leadership, Spokane, Washington
Washington Cooperative Resource Management (CRM) Committee Meeting, Moses Lake, Washington
Oregon/Washington BLM, Forest Service, NRCS, Fish & Wildlife Service Managers, Portland, Oregon
Colorado NRCS Leadership, Denver, Colorado
Colorado BLM Leadership, Denver, Colorado
Mary Vasse, National Forest Foundation, Portland, Oregon
Sustainable Northwest and Fondo Mexicano para la conservacion de al naturaleza, Prineville, Oregon
Joint Ventures Partnership Conference, Los Angeles, California
2nd Annual National Conference on Grazing Lands, Nashville, Tennessee
Deschutes Resource Conservancy Workshop, Terrebonne, Oregon
American Water Resources Association (AWRA) Riparian Conference, Olympic Valley, California
COE/FS/BLM Partnership Coordination Meeting, Portland, Oregon
Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition, Ely, Nevada
Plains & Prairie Forestry Association Conference, Bismark, North Dakota
Oregon and Regional US Fish & Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon
Jefferson County Oregon Soil & Water Conservation District
Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI), Rapid City, South Dakota
PACFISH/INFISH Effectiveness Monitoring Group
Agricultural Research Service, Burns, Oregon
CWEST Science and Advisory Board, Corvallis, OR
Victor Ponce, San Diego State University,
Texas A&M Cooperative Extension
Forest Service Partnership Program
BLM Community Stewardship Group
BLM Alternative Dispute Resolution/Collaborative Action Group
BLM Social Sciences Group
Klamath Falls Watershed Conference, Klamath Falls, Oregon
Gayle Gordon, BLM Western Governor's Association, NACD and NACO Representative
Bill Dean, BLM Wildlife Investigator Series, Environmental Education Programs
Environmental Conflict Resolution Conference, Reno, Nevada
UCOWR-NIWR Conference, Portland, Oregon
Pacific Northwest Society for Range Management, Spokane, Washington
Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Eagle Crest, Oregon
Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, Utah
Tri-State Range Short Course, Baker City, Oregon
Wildlife Management Institute North American Conference, Spokane, Washington
State of the Deschutes Conference, Kahneeta, Oregon
Soil Water Conservation Society Conference, St. Paul, Minnesota
BLM National Public Affairs Meeting, Portland, Oregon
Beaver Management Workshop, John Day, Oregon
Fire Information Management Instruction, Redmond, Oregon

Briefings, Presentations, and Key Contacts – State Riparian Cadres

CALIFORNIA

CalFed Watershed Group
Sacramento River Watershed Program
Deputy Regional Forester, Pacific Southwest Region (R5) Forest Service

COLORADO

NRCS
Colorado Division of Wildlife
Colorado Watershed Network
Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest
Pike-San Isabel National Forest

IDAHO

Soil Conservation Districts

MONTANA

Northern Region (R1), Forest Service
Bank Alteration Monitoring Group

NEW MEXICO

The Quivira Coalition
New Mexico Riparian Council
Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas

OREGON EASTSIDE

Madras Farm Fair
Willow Creek Watershed Council
Trout Creek Watershed Council
OPB Radio Ag Minutes Program

OREGON WESTSIDE

Rickreall Watershed Council Annual Celebration, Dallas, Oregon
Oregon State University Cooperative Extension (watershed education grant)

UTAH

Database of groups and key contacts for targeted marketing
BLM
Forest Service
NRCS, Utah State Range Conservationist
Farm Bureau Annual Meeting
Utah Section Society for Range Management Annual Meeting
Utah State University Cooperative Extension

WYOMING

Forest Service

Products to Market and Implement the Strategy

Full Stream Ahead newsletter
Wildlands Water article preparation
Concept draft of Westside Cascade PFC Addendum TR1737-15, course work visuals
Large Woody Material PowerPoint

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Planning and Coordination

Riparian Coordination Network Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona.
Development of Riparian Coordination Network work plans
NRST work plan narrative and work plan tables
Weekly Riparian Service Team staff conference calls - coordination
Quarterly team meetings – work planning and team building
Increase in pre-work situation assessments and follow-up
Emphasis on adaptive management and monitoring within service activities
Coordination with agency program staff
Updated WO/NRST Task List
BLM WO-220 weekly conference calls
BLM WO-220 Staff Retreat, Annapolis, Maryland
Coordination Meeting - Riparian Service Team, Stream Team, and Aquatic Ecology Unit, Wash.DC
WFW monthly conference calls
Forest Service Washington Office WFW Staff Retreat, Arlington, VA
Forest Service Washington Office Rangelands conference calls
Forest Service Washington Office Rangelands Staff Retreat, Denver, Colorado
State Cadre/NRST conference calls
Increased communication with FS Regional and National Partnership Coordinators
BLM Collaborative Stewardship Team Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona
BLM/Forest Service Memorandum of Understanding signed for Creeks & Communities
Interagency Budget cooperative Agreement
Oregon State Office BLM General Management Evaluation

Reporting

NRST Program of Work Synopsis
FY2004 Accomplishments and FY2005 Planned Accomplishments Synopsis
FY2004 Riparian Coordination Network Accomplishment Report

Evaluation

Coordination with BLM WO on need for renewal of OMB clearance.

Leveraging Resources

Approximately 1/3 of activities accomplished with some contribution of outside funding.