

An aerial photograph of a river delta, likely the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. The image shows a complex network of levees forming a grid pattern, with numerous meandering channels and oxbow lakes. The water is a dark, rich green color, contrasting with the lighter green of the surrounding land. The overall scene depicts a highly managed and intricate waterway system.

Nevada Creeks and Communities Team Accomplishments in 2008-9

Sherman Swanson
Coordinator

An aerial photograph of a lush green landscape with a prominent, winding creek that meanders through the terrain. The vegetation is dense and vibrant green, and the creek's path is clearly defined by its darker, more saturated color. The overall scene is a natural, undisturbed environment.

NV Creeks and Communities Team Most Active Teachers

Sherm Swanson,

Kent McAdoo,

Gary McCuin,

Bob Boyd & Barbara Drake,

Paul Blackburn & Desi Zamudio,

Bill Dragt & Chuck Petersen,

Dan Gralian & Jerry Annis,

Pat Coffin & Carol Evans,

Range w/wildlife, hydro, so

Wildlife and range

Range and economics

Hydrology

Soils

Range

Ranch management

Fisheries

Accomplishments

- Two-day PFC Classes (6):
 - Pine Valley, Bridgeport,
 - Bishop (w/CA), Nixon,
 - Elko, & Ely,
- Grazing Management for Riparian Wetland Areas
 - Winnemucca,
- Short talks (32):
 - NRES 295, Hohhot China, NYRC x 2,
 - LIFE, RMS, EPA/Tribes x 2,
 - Elko x 3, Portland AFS x2, HSYF x 2,
 - Nixon, GLCI x 2, SRM x 3,
 - Reno x 8, Lovelock, Lee,
 - Yomba,

Accomplishments

- Posters (6) - Hohhot x 4, NAES, & NvCA
- Publications (7):
 - JAWRA, IRC x4,
 - Progressive Rancher, Living on the Land,
- Funded projects (4):
 - NDEP-319h, CSREES,
 - USFS, EPA
- Ongoing Coordination:
 - CRC, EPA-Tribes,
 - SRM-WRC, Shoesole Holistic Mgmt. Team
- Soil Mapping and correlation with ESDs

Impacts

valuations 4.5/5 (between successful and very successful) - overall average
from two biggest classes

The significant comments were:

- 1.) “the field experience/hands-on application” (41 responder
- 2.) “the teamwork experience”;
- 3.) “caliber of the teaching team”;
- 4.) “effective teachers”; and
- 5.) “building good networking”.

Impacts

- Many people report they are using the information on the ground:
 - Private landowners
 - The BLM uses PFC as an everyday tool.
- And some key people report that PFC classes and Range Management School have led to better working relationships in Nevada between agencies and landowners.

Successes/failures & what worked and what didn't work

- PFC to “measure” agencies objectives, rather than to select monitoring locations and methods for objectives
- PFC for fire closures (one level above pre-fire rating to graze again).
- PFC often done with incomplete teams.
 - “There are only so many soil scientists and Hydrologists”.
 - ID teams are weakened by staffing and financing,

Successes/failures & what worked and what didn't work

- Stream survey (GAWS) compliments PFC and often provides the long-term data for fisheries streams.
- Success in the use of PFC for broad-scale assessment across the State.

What we would do the same or differently

- Same

- Teach classes in lotic and lentic PFC,
- Teach Grazing for Riparian Wetland Areas as needed
- Get the word out to many different people who need this approach
- Move forward with collaborations

Differently

- Teach skills needed by disciplinary members of ID teams
- Teach follow-up classes,
- Teach more restoration,
- Use active management case studies,
- Resist information overload,
 - Don't stay late without warning,
 - Slides with reference lists,
 - Fewer but better trainings (no PFC recalls)

Our biggest challenges

- Acting as a full Team with more participation by some who are less active

How we are changing as a Team and How is our process, changing?

- We are becoming more inclusive
- We have added the Creeks and Communities process to classes, but
- Classes are still our major venue for engagement.

How to advance the Creeks and Communities Strategy

- The Ruby Mountains Pilot Project and the South Fork Project are opportunities for us to advance our strategy of facilitating active restoration through a Creeks and Communities process.

Classes planned for 20010

Squaw Valley Ranch

Carson City

Jiggs

Owyhee

Eureka (PFC and Grazing Management/Monitoring)

Collaborations planned

Ruby Mountains

South Fork of the Humboldt River

