



Creeks and Communities:

A Continuing Strategy for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian
Restoration and Management

Creeks and Communities Network

Accomplishments FY2011

(October 2010 – September 2011)

“Achieving Healthy Streams Through Bringing People Together”

PREPARED BY
THE RIPARIAN SERVICE TEAM
NOVEMBER 2011

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). The strategy 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 sustainable and productive systems.

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

- **Steve Smith**, Team Leader
- **Carol Connolly**, Public Affairs Specialist
- **Mark Gonzalez**, Ph.D., Ecologist/Soils Scientist
- **Susan Holtzman**, Team Coordinator
- **Janice Staats**, Hydrologist
- **Laura Van Riper**, Ph.D., 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

- **Gordon Toevs/Craig Goodwin**, Washington, DC, and **BLM State Office Riparian Coordinators**
- **Ralph Giffen/Ric Lopez**, 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**, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Flagstaff
- BC **Cori Barraclough**, Aqua-Tex Scientific Consulting Ltd.
- BC **Patrick Lucey**, Aqua-Tex Scientific Consulting Ltd.
- CA **Dave Weixelman/Dick McCleery**, USDA Forest Service, and NRCS retired
- CO **Jay Thompson**, BLM Colorado State Office
- ID **Bryce Bohn**, BLM Idaho State Office
- MT **Mike Philbin**, BLM Montana State Office
- NM **John Sherman**, BLM New Mexico State Office
- NV **Sherm Swanson**, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Reno
- OR E **Jim Eisner**, BLM Prineville Field Office
- OR W **Vacant**
- TX **Russell 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 Gortel**, 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. Multi-phased assistance includes service trips are a combination of training and place-based problem solving efforts designed to deal with the technical dimensions of riparian related issues while at the same time recognizing and addressing the social context within which these issues exist.

- Malheur National Forest/Grant County – OR
 - 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 NRST had been working to encourage action by both the Malheur National Forest and the Grant County Court toward initiating a collaboration approach to deal with this long-standing conflict. A situation assessment was conducted to inform decisions on moving forward with efforts to begin creating a shift in community relationships and how they address issues surrounding public (and private) land grazing.
 - In 2009, a riparian workshop was sponsored by the Prairie City RD to examine previous assessment results, current conditions, and livestock grazing options. Later, the NRST provided input to a draft allotment NEPA document. In addition, a community stakeholder meeting was held to examine people's willingness to work collaboratively on riparian grazing and fish habitat issues into the future.
 - In 2010, the NRST led assessment of fen areas, provided review and advice on grazing strategies, and a literature review and synthesis for allotment NEPA. The NRST spent two field days with forest staff and a third day with staff and stakeholders examining riparian condition, recovery processes, and the effects of livestock grazing.
 - In 2011, the NRST planned and facilitated a staff and line officer meeting to help them address internal conflict and relationships issues holding back their efforts to solve problems on the forest. Additional assistance included review of the draft forest monitoring plan and site selection for PFC for Resource Professionals to be conducted in 2012. PFC assessments are also planned for FY2012.
- Ranching Heritage Alliance (RHA) /Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest – AZ
 - The RHA was formed by a group of permittees concerned about increasing conflict relative to livestock grazing on the National Forest. Working closely with University of AZ Cooperative Extension, the Forest Service and USFWS, they organized with the objective of being proactive through creating learning opportunities and inviting dialog among diverse interests to develop novel solutions to resource issues through collaboration.
 - A riparian grazing course in 2008 led the RHA to ask the NRST for assistance in this process and to help further education in the technical aspects of riparian management.
 - Activities in 2009 included a consensus building workshop, training in riparian assessment, followed by a riparian monitoring workshop.
 - In 2010, the NRST provided a review of the Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) protocol, helped establish monitoring sites and collect baseline data.
 - During FY2011, the team provided facilitation assistance for a meeting of agency personnel and stakeholders to discuss the consequences and needed actions caused by the large Wallow fire. Additional monitoring assistance applying the MIM protocol and using MIM data was postponed until October 2011 due to the workload brought about by the Wallow fire.
- Ruby Mountains Ranger District, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest - NV
 - The NRST, NV State Riparian Team, and the Forest Service initiated development of a proposal for a collaborative effort to address riparian assessment and management on the Ruby Mountains District in

- support of the allotment NEPA process. A community meeting was held to introduce the Creeks and Communities approach and discuss to idea of trying it on a pilot area within the District.
- In 2009, a PFC/Aerial Photography workshop was conducted along with an additional stakeholder meeting to talk more about the process that would be employed.
 - In early 2010, the NRST met with Forest leadership regarding assistance and overall commitment to the project followed by a pre-work session with the interdisciplinary team in preparation for doing riparian assessments during the field season. A situation assessment was also completed involving more than 40 stakeholder conversations; a report was sent to all who participated. A community workshop was conducted followed by riparian assessments with stakeholder participation and coaching for the Forest and District staff and Ranger.
 - Assessment results were documented in FY2011 and presented and discussed during a post-assessment community workshop where a decision was made to continue working on a second area of the Ruby Mountains RD. Another community workshop was later held to discuss initiation of this effort. In late summer a pre-assessment community workshop was conducted and the NRST, members of the State Team, UNR Extension, District Rangers and the Forest Supervisor also met to discuss issues surrounding the forest's Condition Assessment Matrices Protocol. This meeting was followed by 2 weeks of assisting and coaching staff in conducting additional riparian assessments. A forest decision space meeting is planned for FY2012 and will determine any future NRST assistance.
- Vale BLM Field Office - OR
 - As follow-up to assistance in 2010, the NRST developed and provided additional information relative to riparian assessments conducted on the Keeny Creek Allotment with agency staff and stakeholders.
 - Rio Puerco BLM Field Office - NM
 - The Rio Puerco Field Office inquired about NRST assistance with restoration projects initiated by the active partners group for the Rio Puerco watershed. The NRST first conducted a situation assessment to better understand the range of issues; however, changes in staff along with efforts of the District Manager precluded the need for NRST assistance.
 - Pinedale BLM Field Office - WY
 - The NRST was asked to provide assistance to the Pinedale BLM Field Office in their effort to complete riparian assessments as part of the allotment NEPA process in the North LaBarge Unit. The focus is on assuring assessment quality and building understanding of assessment results and the implications for livestock grazing management. Additional information was gathered and the NRST submitted a proposal for a multi-phased approach that would address the technical issues involved and advance stakeholder engagement.
 - In 2010, the NRST participated with the WY Riparian Team in conducting a PFC training course, and once the Field Office Manager position was filled they moved forward with the proposal to initiate a Creeks and Communities Project in FY2011.
 - In April 2011, the team conducted a situation assessment to better understand the full range of issues and perspectives – a report was sent to all participants. In May, the team worked with the Pinedale PFC ID team and other staff to accomplish the necessary pre-work for PFC assessments. This was followed by a pre-assessment community workshop in July to introduce the process and invite participation. The team also conducted an information session for Sublette County staff and supervisors. In August, the team assisted the local ID team in doing PFC assessments along with SCCD staff and permittees participating. A follow-up report of NRST recommendations was sent to BLM staff and managers. A post-assessment community workshop will be held in FY2012.
 - Kemmerer BLM Field Office - WY
 - The Kemmerer FO has asked for NRST assistance in meeting the requirements set forth in a settlement agreement concerning management of the Smithsfork allotment. In addition to a significant monitoring workload there are long standing issues involving efforts to improve livestock

management. For FY2012, the team has initially committed to reviewing current documentation and providing feedback on a draft FO implementation plan relative to the settlement agreement.

BLM National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) Partnership

The NRST has entered into an agreement with the NLCS and BLM's National Partnership Office to provide assistance in building 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 – a learning by doing approach.

- 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. In fall of 2008, the NRST conducted a situation assessment and prepared a written report that was 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. The workshops resulted in several agreed upon action items and planning began for future community workshops and riparian assessment on the Upper Missouri River.
 - In 2009, the NRST was asked to provide facilitation and conflict management assistance for an interagency stakeholder meeting on water flows and Cottonwood regeneration.
 - In 2010, the team brought together the BLM interdisciplinary team and several scientists who have studied the river extensively, to begin planning and preparing for the complex PFC assessment effort on the Upper Missouri River. Community workshops were also held to explain the purpose and process and the opportunity for involvement. Extensive assessments were completed by the local interdisciplinary team and the NRST, with stakeholders participating. A follow-up visit was made to validate the riparian vegetation and begin discussions on a monitoring strategy.
 - Post-assessment community workshops were conducted in FY2011 to review and discuss the assessment results. This was followed by a meeting to begin planning a monitoring strategy which led to the development of a modified MIM Field Guide geared toward use on a big river system. The monitoring methods were then tested on stratified reaches during the field season and further refined. Additional monitoring assistance is planned for FY2012 and additional community workshops regarding the monitoring effort.
- Canyon of the Ancients National Monument - CO
 - The NRST was asked to coach BLM and FS interdisciplinary teams with assessment of the intermittent, interrupted and flashy systems characteristic of the southwest. In addition, stakeholder involvement was important in advancing understanding of agency management direction. Planning for workshops and field site visits began in 2009 and resumed in 2010. Initial activities took place in October 2010 followed by a second trip in the spring 2011, led by the CO Riparian Team, to provide additional assessment coaching on a specific riparian system.
- Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument - UT
 - There are a number of agencies and organizations actively working to combat the invasion of tamarisk and Russian olive on the Escalante River. A number of these entities are seeking to improve cooperation and coordination through a formal Partnership Agreement. At the Monument's request, the NRST reviewed and provided comment on the draft agreement and restoration plan.
- Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Areas - NV
 - The NRST reviewed and provided comment on a Citizen's Springs Inventory Protocol, one of the follow-up activities from the team's 2009 workshop focusing on springs. The team also provided information to update the new NCA manager concerning previous activities.

- San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) - AZ
 - Declining surface water flows and groundwater are significant issues in the San Pedro River and local, regional and national interests are not in agreement as to why and what actions and level of effort are needed. Numerous agencies and organizations are involved. Many studies and projects have been conducted but not well coordinated. Significant amounts of data exist but have not been organized and analyzed in a manner that contributes to identifying short and long-term management actions. In addition, there is no current comprehensive plan for the SPRNCA. In fall of 2010, the NRST was asked to assist in bringing stakeholders together to deal with scientific and social perspectives to support a shared strategy. A situation assessment was conducted the spring of 2011 and a report sent to all participants. A meeting of agency personnel and stakeholders was then conducted to review the findings of the situation assessment and to collectively agree on next steps. The NRST then planned and facilitated a meeting of many technical experts for the purpose of sharing key information on the SPRNCA. This information is currently being synthesized and compiled to help develop an understanding of capability and potential to support next steps, including PFC for Professionals training, PFC assessments and pre and post assessment briefings and community workshops scheduled for FY2012.
- BLM's National Landscape Conservation System Summit
 - The NRST was asked to participate in the 10th Anniversary celebration conference and stakeholder workshop. At the conference, the Secretary signed an Executive Order including a mandate to manage these special areas in a collaborative manner. This was followed by an array of internal and external speakers. The second day involved BLM and partner focus groups examining topics such as integration of science and management, building and sustaining partnerships, connecting with local communities, and youth education. BLM staff and managers compiled the input and provided a report out on the final day with group assignments moving forward. The NRST submitted a draft proposal to BLM WO for establishment of a National Collaborative Service Team.

Other

- Nueces River Authority – TX
 - Over the past several years, the NRST and the Texas Riparian Team have assisted the Nueces River Authority implement 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. Riparian function workshops were conducted on multiple landowner properties. Capacity building focused on landowners and technical specialists in NRCS, Texas Parks & Wildlife, and University Extension. In FY2011, the NRST has provided guidance to the Outreach and Education Director in designing the capstone activity – Remarkable Riparian Summit in early FY2012. Team members will be speaking at the plenary session and helping facilitate focus groups. The NRST and Texas Riparian Team are also conducting a pre-conference workshop and riparian assessments of several reaches of the Nueces River.
- Wallowa-Whitman/Umatilla National Forest Range Program - OR
 - For the past two years, the NRST has participated in the annual range personnel meetings providing expertise and advice on monitoring in particular. In 2011, the team assisted staff during site visits on three Ranger Districts to discuss monitoring objectives, site selection criteria, PIBO requirements and the MIM protocol. The team also conducted a riparian grazing workshop.
- Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition

- Participated in the annual meeting of western rural and local, regional and national organizations to promote balanced conservation-based approaches to the ecological and economic problems facing the west. The NRST is also providing input to the Working Lands Working Group focusing on policy to facilitate sustainable rangelands, ranching, and public lands grazing. Activities include conference call participation, document review, and annual meeting attendance.
- Crook County Natural Resources Planning Committee – OR
 - The NRST has participated in community activities addressing allocation of the water behind Bowman Dam in the Prineville reservoir, the condition of the Crooked River, and reintroduction of steelhead. Recently the issue of instream flow has come to the forefront with a number of organizations involved. The release of a draft instream flow report caused concern given the implications to community interests. The County Judge has asked that the NRST be available for consultation on this issue. A workshop was conducted for Prineville community leaders to help them better understand the issues relating to the riparian resources in the County.
- Crook County Natural Resources Education Program – OR
 - Over the past two years, the NRST has served as visiting instructors to the Crook County High School's natural resources education classes introducing the basics of riparian assessment and monitoring. The team coordinated and participated with BLM managers and staff and the natural resource science teacher to initiate new working relationships and 2011 activity planning. The local economy is heavily dependent on natural resources and the culture is shaped from this relationship. Many of the youth have experienced the effects of resource centered conflict on the social fabric. In 2011, the team led a Consensus Institute for the students providing them with an experiential process for confronting and managing conflict. The students later followed up with written feedback of thoughts and feelings of their participation and what they learned.
- Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, MT
 - Assisted in the planning and gave presentations in the Watershed/Riparian Committee symposium on lentic resources. Presented the Creeks and Communities Strategy at the Agency Accomplishments symposium. Supported the Network members conducting the High School Youth Forum Riparian Workshop and provided support to the Watershed/Riparian Committee Chair.

Review and Advice – Riparian Service Team

- Dakota Prairie Grasslands Assessment and Monitoring Plan
- Advanced Collaborative Governance Pilot Training Course, BLM WO ADR
- BLM Aquatic/Riparian Database Development, Aquatic Data Standards, BLM WO and NOC
- Yosemite National Park Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) Report
- Interagency Ecological Site Description Handbook
- Riparian Ecological Site Description Development, NRCS
- Forest Service Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Protocol
- Eco-friendly Designs for Springs/Seeps
- Spring Restoration Workshop Proposal
- Colorado State University Faculty Tenure – External Reviewer
- Bitter and Kilpecker Creeks Presentation, Wyoming State Team
- Lanes Balance Lesson Plan, Texas State Team
- Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) data, Region 3 Forest Service
- Meadow Headcut Repair Plan, Ochoco National Forest
- Sevier River SVAP and PFC AWRA Paper, UT NRCS
- Research Proposal: Enhancing the institutional capacity of BOR to manage water conflicts in the west

- EPA Draft Article: Using Watershed Function as a Leading Indicator for Water Quality

Other Projects – Riparian Service Team

- Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) Technical Reference Development
 - After an extensive review process that began in FY2009, and incorporation of comments, followed by administrative and policy review, examination by statistical experts, and continuation of field application and adaptation, work was finalized by BLM WO, NOC, NRST and ID BLM to update and convert the Idaho Technical Bulletin 2008-1 into TR 1737-23 Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) of Stream Channels and Streamside Vegetation. Coordination with the National Operations Center is ongoing relative to distribution and data management.
- Streambank Alteration Review Team Proposal
 - After researching options and conferring with possible team members, the NRST submitted a proposal to select BLM and FS program managers proposing the commissioning of a University to establish a team to address the concept of streambank alteration. The intent was, and still is to build upon the work and recommendations of the University of Idaho Stubble Height Review Team, and to ultimately provide more clarity, understanding and guidance to agency personnel and stakeholders. A number of discussions have occurred with people showing interest, but to date this proposal has not been acted upon.
- Field Guide: Modified MIM Protocol for the Upper Missouri River
 - This sampling protocol modifies Technical Reference 1737-23 Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) of Stream Channels and Streamside Vegetation (2011) for application on the Upper Missouri River in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. It is designed to be used with 1737-23; however, customized electronic data entry and data modules were built for this modified protocol. It is the result of state and local BLM, NRST, and USGS input and decisions to address monitoring needs.
- TR 1737-12 PFC/Aerial Photography Technical Reference Review and Course Development
 - There has been a need to update this TR based on new technology and interest from field units. The NRST participated in the review process with NOC and NTC, provided input on alternatives for moving forward with TR revision and accommodating Alaska BLM in sponsoring the original TR-12 course and prepared for videotaping to capture the course curriculum before revision.
- Stratification Guidance
 - The NRST is developing guidance on stratification of landscapes, watersheds, stream reaches, and sub-reach units within a watershed context for riparian assessment and monitoring.
- TR 1737-15 A User Guide to Assessing PFC and the Supporting Science for Lotic Areas Revision
 - The process for TR-15 revision is being led by the BLM National Operations Center. A core team was established and NRST and Network members are a part of that team. An initial core team meeting was held in FY2011 and multiple communications were sent to agency program leads. A broad solicitation was sent to ascertain interest in technical review. Assigned writing is currently underway and a second core team coordination meeting is scheduled for early in FY2012.
- Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) for Resource Professionals
 - The NRST initiated and is leading the development of a 4-day curriculum to improve the understanding and application of the PFC method. Course modules will cover pre-work, advanced techniques for quantification, trend indicators, a field practicum, and summarizing, reporting and communicating assessment results. Sessions will begin in FY2012.
- Riparian Pioneers Series

- Initiated interviews for a series of articles that will feature individuals who have had a great influence on development and implantation of scientific concepts and tools for understanding and managing riparian resources.
- Ephemeral Channel Assessment
 - Field personnel from a variety of geographic regions have been asking for guidance relative to understanding and assessing ephemeral channels. The NRST proposed, and met with the Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health team to discuss the possible development and incorporation of such guidance into the next revision (Version 5) of TR-1734-6 Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health. Team members are currently reviewing the latest draft.
- 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 FY2012.
- Riparian Grasses Field Guide
 - Initiated and led by the University of Wyoming, current efforts are focused on developing the ecological attributes portion of the plant descriptions.
- Alaska Grasses Field Guide
 - The NRST is assisting with this multi-agency funded project to collect, photograph, and provide ecological information for the grass species included; review of the first draft was completed.

TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

Training and Workshops - Riparian Service Team

- Consensus Institute
 - The NRST and the National Landscape Conservation System co-sponsored and conducted the diversity module, a concentrated 3-day workshop where people learned basic process tools for managing conflict and developing consensus in a highly experiential training approach.
 - Participated in and provided support to the module focusing on scarcity hosted by the BLM National Training Center.
 - Provided a consensus institute training session for the Crook County High School natural resource science classes.
- Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) Training
 - Idaho – Interagency coaching session sponsored by the Challis BLM Field Office.
 - Nevada - The Nevada C&C Riparian Team hosted an interagency training session in Elko.
 - Oregon – Coaching session for Ochoco National Forest interdisciplinary staff.
 - Montana – MT BLM State Office and MT Riparian Team sponsored a course at Miles City.
 - Colorado – Training sponsored by the CO Riparian Team at Delta.
- Grazing Management for Riparian-Wetland Areas
 - Assisted the Nevada Riparian Team in conduction a riparian grazing course in Ely, Nevada attended by over 60 people, many of whom were ranchers/permittees.
 - Conducted a riparian grazing workshop with the Oregon Riparian Team sponsored by the Wallowa County Stockgrowers, OR State University Extension, Wallowa Resources, Eagle Cap RC&D, The Nature Conservancy and the Forest Service.

CREATE AWARENESS, UNDERSTANDING, AND INTEREST

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

- CA BLM Soil, Water, Air & Fisheries Program
- OR/WA BLM Range Program
- Public Lands Council
- Oregon Cattlemen’s Association
- Idaho Cattle Association
- Society for Range Management (Parent Society)
- PNW Section SRM
- Colorado Section SRM
- Sustainable Northwest
- U.S. Institute for Conflict Resolution
- The Nature Conservancy
- Washington State University
- Oregon State University
- University of Idaho

Requests for Information / Referrals – Riparian Service Team

Summary – In addition to work listed above, the NRST responded to approximately 55 requests for information, advice, or assistance from a variety of sources, both national and international. Inquiries included questions about Creeks and Communities approach as well as riparian assessment, monitoring, restoration, adaptive management, and sources of information. More than 15 referrals were made to help people find the assistance and information they need.

Products for Outreach and Strategy Implementation

NRST/Creeks and Communities Website
Creeks and Communities Network Directory
Full Stream Ahead Bi-Monthly Newsletter
Place-based Problem Solving Case Studies
Creeks and Communities Handouts and PowerPoint Presentations

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Planning and Coordination

NRST Coordination Calls and Work Planning Meetings
BLM WO-220 and FS Rangelands Conference Calls, Work Plans, Budget and Staffing Coordination
BLM/FS Interagency Agreement for Transfer of Funds Process
ID/IQ Contract for Creeks and Communities Administration and Tracking
BLM Riparian, Range and Fisheries Program Conference Calls
BLM and FS Fish, Wildlife, Watershed, Soils Program Coordination
BLM National Landscape Conservation System Coordination
BLM and FS Partnership Office Program Coordination
BLM Collaborative Stakeholder Engagement and ADR Program Coordination
BLM National Operations Center Planning and Coordination

BLM National Training Center Planning and Coordination
DOI Partnership Office
DOI Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution
NRCS WO Rangelands and West National Technical Support Center Coordination
USFWS WO and Regional Office Communication
Creeks and Communities Network Development/Support to State Teams Planning and Coordination
Creeks and Communities Network Biennial Meeting Planning and Coordination

Reporting

FY2011 Riparian Coordination Network Accomplishment Report
FY2011 Monthly NRST Updates
FY2011 BLM Annual OMB-CEQ ECR Report: Creeks & Communities Activities

Evaluation

A Joint Venture Agreement was entered into with Oregon State University as principle investigator for another OMB approved program evaluation. The primary focus this second evaluation is to ascertain the effectiveness of the changes implemented since the first evaluation and subsequent revision of the Creeks and Communities strategic plan, in 2002. In 2010, the OMB approval package was submitted and approved. Also, the evaluation survey design and interview questions were finalized, and case studies determined; interviews and case study development was initiated. The survey work, interviews, and case study development occurred in 2011 as did the analysis and completion of the evaluation report.

Leveraging Resources

Over half of the team's activities were accomplished through leveraging the NRST operating budget with some funding contribution from other sources.

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 NRST with Multiple Indicator Monitoring training and field application sponsored by the Ranching Heritage Alliance in Sprinerville, Arizona.

CALIFORNIA

- PFC Coaching for the Plumas NF interdisciplinary team, permittees, Trout Unlimited and others, Graegle, CA (25 attendees)
- PFC for fens training for Plumas NF staff and permittees at Lake Davis.
- PFC Training for the Bishop Paiute Tribe with 23 attendance including representatives of UCCE, NRCS, FS, BLM and 20 participants from Tribes in California, Arizona and Oklahoma, Bishop, CA.
- Distributed announcement for FY2012 PFC training sponsored by CA BLM.

- Gave presentation of PFC assessment for fens in CA at the Forest Service Regional Range Program Meeting.
- Conducted MIM training for University of California, Davis graduate students as part of a UC Davis study researching the relationship between livestock effects measured with MIM and water quality readings in the Sierra Nevada range.
- As follow-up to the Bishop training, assisted with inspection of conditions in Pasture Canyon, Hopi Indian Reservation near Tuba City, AZ; future assistance is expected to develop a watershed plan for 20 tribal farmers managing riparian areas.
- New State Team Leader (retired NRCS) and new member (NRCS in Riverside).

CANADA

- Continuing with domestic and international efforts that incorporate the concepts of PFC into projects addressing the water/energy nexus in sustainable development with examples from the U.S. and Canada.
- Continuing with efforts to foster interest in the Creeks and Communities/Riparian Service Team/Network concepts and model in British Columbia, working with Provincial government and non-governmental organizations and youth education.

COLORADO

- Conducted PFC workshop in Fort Collins (June, 32 participants).
- Conducted PFC workshop in Alamosa (July, 33 participants).
- Sponsored MIM workshop in Delta (September, 21 participants).
- Canyon of the Ancients National Monument, Dolores, CO
 - *October 2009* - Assisted the NRST with a one-day PFC workshop and 2-day field session with staff and interested public with a focus on helping staff and public better understand the potential of riparian areas in local intermittent and interrupted stream segments.
 - *May 2011* - Led the assistance provided during a 4-day field workshop with NRST, key Monument staff to evaluate the riparian potential of Squaw Canyon, determine the effect of tamarisk on riparian functioning, and estimate the effects of livestock grazing in Squaw Canyon.
- Piceance Creek PFC Reconnaissance and Assessment, Meeker, CO
 - *September 2011* - Members of the CO Riparian Team worked with two consultants in the Creeks & Communities Network to conduct a reconnaissance and PFC assessment along Piceance Creek. A landowner requested and sponsored the 3-day assessment to provide a forum for ranchers, energy companies, local agencies and NGOs to exchange information, learn about PFC and cooperatively assess riparian condition and develop potential management options.
- Addition of an instructor trainee - new team member – Hydrologist from San Juan NF

IDAHO

- Conducted three 3-day MIM training sessions to both BLM and FS employees in Twin Falls, Shoshone, and Stanley (53 participants).
- Provided a 2-day lotic PFC training to 16 students at the University of Idaho.
- Conducted a lentic PFC training to 12 people from the Marsing BLM Field Office.
- Assisted the NRST in conducting a riparian grazing course in Enterprise, OR.

MONTANA

- Maintained the Montana Riparian Team link on the NRCS website which introduces the Creeks and Communities Strategy, PFC, and gives contact information; updated the State Riparian Team flyer.
- Participated on the Montana Wetlands Council; panel discussion regarding assessments and using data to inform decision making.

- Provided assistance for wetland and riparian mapping through the Montana Wetland and Riparian Mapping Center.
- Provided assistance for the Kids on the Yellowstone Program.
- Provided leaderships and participation working with the NRST on the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument effort.
- Hosted a 4-day MIM interagency training session at Miles City.
- Conducted seven PFC 'lite' sessions (Miles City, Dillon, Butte, Malta, Glasgow, Havre, South Dakota).

NEVADA

- Nevada Team meeting and coordination and planning calls.
- Through securing a NV Dept. of Environmental Protection grant, the Nevada Team is able to continue teaching in many different venues, working to bring many diverse agencies and interests together to foster effective and broadly supported riparian and watershed management:
 - PFC workshops were conducted at Lovelock, Pahrump, and Ely; assisted CA Riparian Team with session in Bishop and coaching in Graegle
 - Conducted riparian grazing training in Eureka
 - Hosted MIM training in Elko
- Ongoing participation with the NRST on multi-phased assistance for the pilot project of the Ruby Mountains Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest community meetings riparian assessments.
- Presented at Grazing and Conservation of Aridland Aquatic Species – Are Exclosures the Best Strategy workshop sponsored by UT Division of Wildlife Resources BLM, USGS, and USFS.
- Nevada Youth Range Camp sponsored by University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Nevada Section SRM, and Nevada Wildlife Federation.
- Nevada Range School; principles of PFC and riparian grazing management.
- Society for Range Management High School Youth Forum Riparian Workshop at the annual meeting in Billings, MT.
- Participation on the Cottonwood Ranch Holistic Management Team, Carson River Coalition and Water Quality Working Group, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service State Technical Committee
- Continued work with South Fork of the Humboldt River Indian Reservation tribal members and various private landowners to foster a collaborative restoration effort.
- Continuation of a program evaluation assessing the effectiveness of the Nevada Creeks and Communities Team and their activities implementing the Creeks and Communities strategy.

NEW MEXICO

- Conducted PFC training in Jemez Springs (August)

OREGON

- Led and provided instruction for the Society for Range Management High School Youth Forum Riparian Workshop
- Provided instruction for the High Desert Youth Range Camp sponsored by USDA Ag Research Service, OSU and others where students learned basic watershed concepts and methods that land managers use to evaluate stream and riparian condition.
- Conducted a riparian grazing workshop with NRST in Enterprise sponsored by the Wallowa County Stockgrowers, OR State University Extension, Wallowa Resources, Eagle Cap RC&D, The Nature Conservancy and the Forest Service.

TEXAS

- Riparian Presentations
 - TCU Riparian Workshop – DFW Area Units of Government and Consultants - 150 attendees – 10/12-13/11

- Cedar Creek Watershed Partnership - Kaufman– Landowners Workshop – Engineering and Riparian Health – 50 attendees – 2/11/11
- Elm Fork Chapter – TMNA – Denton – Riparian Workshop – 40 attendees – 3/17/11
- Guadalupe Basin Environmental Flows Stakeholder Committee; January 2011 – 40 People
- Colorado Basin Environmental Flows Stakeholder Committee; February, 2011 – 30 People
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept Training; Alpine; June, 2011 – 15 people
- Bass Brigade Youth Camp, Coleman; July 2011; 30 people
- LANDS Teacher Education Camp; June 2011; 30 people
- Riparian Training (includes field visit)
 - Nueces River Authority – 4 Riparian Workshops – 120 attendees – Oct 2010
 - Nueces River Authority 4 full day workshops – May, 2011, approx 120 people
 - Plum Creek Watershed Partnership – Lockhart - 1 Riparian Workshop – 50 attendees – 10/4/10
 - Lampasas River Watershed Partnership – 2 Riparian Workshops – 70 attendees – 10/28-29/10
 - Texas Wildlife Association - San Antonio – 1 Riparian Workshop – 40 attendees – 02/16/11 (this was actually Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society)
 - Highland Lakes – TMNA –Marble Falls Riparian Workshop – 20 attendees – 4/14/11
 - Plum Creek Watershed Partnership – San Marcos - 1 Riparian Workshop – 125 attendees – 05/02/11
 - Lampasas River Watershed Partnership – 2 Riparian Workshops – 70 attendees – 04/26-27/11
 - Salado Riparian Workshop – 45 attendees – 07/07/11
 - Mill Creek Riparian Workshop – Sand County – Water as a Crop– Navarro County – 25 attendees – 09/08/11
 - Lampasas River Watershed Partnership – 2 Riparian Workshops – 70 attendees – 09/27-28/11
 - Texas Master Naturalists State Conference – 3 hour workshop; Oct 2010. 50 people
 - City of Del Rio San Felipe Creek Riparian Workshop; full day; Feb 2011, 15 people
 - Independence Creek Riparian workshop; Nature Conservancy; full day. March 2011. 25 people
 - Harvey Creek Riparian Workshop; full day. April 2011, 20 people (Texas Organization of Wildlife Management Associations)
 - Kerrville Nature Center mini workshop. May 2011, 35 people
 - 4 full days of training for NRCS employees in West and Central TX – total 120 people
- On Site Assistance
 - SARA – San Antonio - Reviewed stream restoration and site visit – 02/15/11
 - Bear Creek, Kimble Co with TPWD and landowner April 2011
 - South Llano River , Kimble Co with TPWD and landowners, June 2011
 - Colorado River, San Saba Co with NRCS and landowner, July 2011
- Other Outreach
 - Published in Texas Wildlife, the official publication of Texas Wildlife Association – “Remarkable Nueces Riparian Network” highlighting 3 years of landowner workshops in Nueces Basin; circulation 5500.

UTAH

- Annual planning meeting conducted; Team Leader, team members, agency coordinators participated, fostering communication and coordination of agency and non-agency riparian programs; updated and shared agency contact list; briefing opportunities identified, training and service trip site visits discussed for 2011 field season; focus on enhancing areas of expertise related to PFC and MIM training components; recommendations for additional members.
- Distributed the Utah Riparian Service Team brochure and did outreach and marketing during each training and service trip.
- Utah Riparian Team Coordinator presented Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) information to Rich County landowners and permittees Group, Utah Grazing Improvement Program and private landowners.

- Utah Riparian Team Coordinators attended Utah Partners for Conservation and Development, Watershed Restoration Initiative meetings and shared information regarding the Utah Riparian Team and associated Creeks and Communities activities.
- Recruited a new Region 4 Forest Service Agency Coordinator and member to the Utah Riparian Service Team.
- Attended and presented at the November 2010 Utah Society of Range Management meeting in Logan.
- Organized and facilitated MIM training in Rich County; participants included USFS, NRCS, BLM and private personnel; established and collected baseline monitoring for five new locations on private land associated with the Three Creeks allotment consolidation proposal; NRCS team members will manage and summarize monitoring data.
- Provided a PFC short course for local permittees and landowners in Randolph.
- Conducted a 2-day (classroom and field) PFC session in Salt Lake City attended by 18 participants from BLM, USFS, NRCS, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah State Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, permittees and private landowners.
- Previously, the UT Riparian Service Team participated in an assessment of portions of the Sevier River as part of an interdisciplinary team both Stream Visual Assessment Protocol Version 2 (SVAP2) and Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessment with the use of low-level video and high resolution aerial photography; the project facilitated tying together a major river system in Utah with an interagency, interdisciplinary assessment, assisting with overall coordination efforts and the ability of managers to efficiently identify and prioritize restoration projects and provided a unique opportunity to apply visual assessment techniques in an accelerated fashion through the use of video and photographic images; a team member has now drafted a Sevier River Assessment Report that will be distributed to for review in the near future.
- Organized and hosted a Riparian Ecological Site field tour; viewed and discussed riparian ecological sites in southern Utah.
- In coordination with the NRST and the Escalante River Watershed partnership, planned the Escalante River Restoration Management Workshop which will be conducted in 2012; training focus is treatment and removal of non-native woody vegetation and restoration of native vegetation; classroom followed by field application session at Russian olive and tamarisk removal demonstration project sites on the Escalante River and tributaries; discussions will include woody species invasive control plans, physical functions of river systems, Russian olive and tamarisk removal, riparian restoration management (vegetation, livestock, and wildlife) following non-native vegetation removal/treatment, non-native woody vegetation treatment alternatives, pre and post treatment monitoring, adaptive management, and integrated weed management plans.

WASHINGTON

- NRCS and WSU Extension partnered to conduct a 2-day PFC training session for the Colville Tribe.
- WSU Extension secured a grant for multiple riparian grazing training sessions in FY2012.

WYOMING

- Worked with NRST on assistance to Pinedale BLM FO regarding controversy surrounding riparian assessments on the North LaBarge planning unit; community workshop followed by PFC assessments.
- Conducted a Creeks & Communities workshop in Lander for school educators in cooperation with the Isaac Walton League.