



Full Stream Ahead

Fall 2013

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



A message from
Steve Smith, National Riparian
Service Team Leader

Welcome to the 2013 fall edition of Full Stream Ahead!

As we start into the first days of winter, hopefully you can all reflect back on an enjoyable and productive field season and were successful in advancing your knowledge of our remarkable riparian areas in some way. I know the National Riparian Service Team (NRST) and many folks in the Creeks and Communities (C & C) network we worked with this past year will admit that they did. The C & C network accomplished a lot of great work in FY 2013, as evidenced by our network accomplishment report recently released. If you haven't had a chance to review the report and a look at the cool photos, it is available on the [NRST website](#).

In this issue of our network newsletter, among other things, you will find a brief report of our work with the scenic Klamath National Forest in northern California (during which we happened to pick the worst weather day of the season!), reports from two riparian grazing courses held this past year, and a short article introducing Tip Hudson, our newest state riparian team coordinator (Washington state).

You may recall that in the spring 2013 edition of Full Stream Ahead, I summarized some key highlights of the updated Creeks and Communities Strategy with an emphasis on some changes that affect the C & C network. By way of update, the strategy is now being professionally edited, and we will share it on a widespread basis when finalized sometime this year.

Finally, I want to offer a standing invitation for folks to submit articles for future editions of Full Stream Ahead. I know many of you are doing some innovative and interesting work, so don't hesitate to share your experiences with the network. Please know that we always welcome your feedback, and the NRST is just a phone call or email away. As always, I can be reached at 541-416-6703 or sjsmith@blm.gov

Sincerely,

Steve

Creeks and Communities On-Site Assistance - Klamath National Forest, Salmon/Scott River Ranger District

In fall 2011, the Salmon/Scott River District Ranger requested NRST assistance to work with the Forest Service (FS) and other interested parties to address concerns related to perceived grazing impacts to riparian resources within designated wilderness areas. To determine if and how the NRST might assist the District, a situation assessment was conducted in June 2013. The purpose of a situation assessment is to provide the team with a more in-depth understanding of the range of perspectives, concerns and opportunities within the area. Informal discussions (typically face-to-face) were held with over 45 people. A report documenting findings and NRST recommended next steps was developed and distributed to all participants in July 2013.

One important finding of the situation assessment was that prospects for an NRST-led, collaborative approach to addressing grazing conflicts on the Salmon/Scott River Ranger District was not appropriate at this time. Thus, the NRST decided to host a coaching workshop for Forest Service specialists and managers, as well as some of their key regulatory partners. The workshop occurred September 24-26th, and the purpose was to provide coaching in range and riparian related interdisciplinary (ID) project work in support of allotment planning and management.

Participants reviewed district's grazing management program as related to the Big Meadows Allotment and discussed: (1) assessment, management and/or monitoring efforts; (2) documentation and communication among relevant parties; and (3) coordination and information sharing among Forest Service employees and with key regulatory agencies. Some of the key discussion points included understanding the Integrated Riparian Management Process (IRMP), riparian function and condition, effective and efficient monitoring, and grazing management. In order to promote transparency and continued dialogue between the district and other interested parties, copies of the workshop report will be sent to all workshop participants and situation assessment participants who did not attend the September workshop.



Full Stream Ahead

Is there something you would like to see in a future issue of *Full Stream Ahead*? If so, send an email to cconnoll@blm.gov. The NRST utilizes this newsletter to share highlights, news and hot topics that pertain to the Creeks and Communities Strategy. This newsletter is for the entire network and we encourage you to send in ideas, questions and articles for us to publicize. For the next edition, all submissions must be received by January 10, 2014

C & C Mission: Empower landowners, managers, specialist/practitioners and stakeholders to work together to achieve sustainable riparian resources by providing guidance, information, tools, training, coaching and problem solving assistance.

Colville Riparian Grazing Workshop

The C&C Riparian Grazing Team provided a three-day training course in Colville, WA, June 11-13, 2013. The training was requested and sponsored by the Colville National Forest and was also sponsored by the Stephens County Conservation District. Thirty-three people including Forest Service, NRCS, livestock permittees and conservation district employees attended the course. Trainers included Sandy Wyman, Floyd Reed, Tip Hudson, Cory Parsons, Sherm Swanson, Chad Krause from the C&C Network, Chad Atkins and Ben Rau, WA Dept. of Ecology (DOE), and Phyllis Barney, Assistant State Attorney General, WA.

Participants were split into teams to develop options, alternatives, and monitoring needs. The 3-day format included almost 2 days in the field. The teams provided informal presentations to the group.



Two generations of ranching family Ted Wishon (on left) with sons George and Jake listen to the GRI process along with USFS Rangeland Management Specialist Chase Bolyard.



Chad Krause, BLM Hydrologist and newest member of the C&C Riparian Grazing Team on left and Travis Fletcher, USFS Range Program Lead for the Colville National Forest.

Chad Krause is a mentoree for the C&C Riparian Grazing Team and presented the physical function and developing goals and objectives section. This was Chad's first grazing course and he did a great job and was extremely valuable during the field portions of the course. This was an excellent opportunity for an agency person to gain valuable experience in various parts of the West and provide their knowledge and experience to a diverse group of people.

Although the Team provides a core set of subjects, the course was tailored to incorporate local needs. There was excellent discussion on how to manage grazing in Washington given Washington DOE's riparian grazing requirements based on interpretation of current state water quality laws. Course emphases were on livestock management and monitoring for their operation, and as a component of that, show progress in physical function improvement of streams. Presentations by DOE and the Asst. Attorney General outlined current WA State law regarding water quality requirements and were met with considerable questions and comments. There is continued debate on fecal coliform contamination due to livestock. There is a continued need for science backed data to help livestock managers achieve water quality laws.

New Washington State Riparian Team Leader



The C & C Network would like to welcome Tip Hudson as the Washington State Riparian Team Lead. Tip is the Regional Range & Livestock Extension Specialist for Washington State University in Ellensburg, WA. Tip has been instrumental in providing education opportunities including Proper Functioning Condition, riparian grazing management and water quality risk management, and monitoring for Washington land and livestock managers throughout the state. Tip can be reached at 509-962-7507 or HUDSONT@WSU.EDU if you would like to welcome Tip to the Network or if you have helpful tips and information for Tip as he develops the Washington Team. Thanks Tip!!

We are still looking for Riparian Team Leads for Arizona, California, and Wyoming. Please contact Steve Smith, NRST Team Leader at 541-416-6703 or sjsmith@blm.gov if you are interested in serving in this rewarding capacity.

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Gunnison, CO Riparian Grazing Course

The C&C Riparian Grazing Team was requested by Gay Austin, Gunnison BLM, to provide a riparian grazing course at Gunnison, CO June 25-27, 2013. The Gates Foundation and BLM sponsored the course. Sandy Wyman, Cory Parsons, Floyd Reed from the C&C Network and Russ Japuntich, Gunnison BLM Wildlife Biologist, were the course instructors. The course was attended by 34 people and included livestock producers, BLM, NRCS, FS, Conservation District, and private consultants.

Although the riparian grazing course contains a core set of principles, emphasis for the Gunnison course surrounded Gunnison sage grouse (GSG) habitat; especially riparian habitat and grazing options. Russ Japuntich presented information about the ESA consultation process and habitat requirements for the GSG. There was discussion on the use of the Grazing Response Index (GRI) to document current year use and to guide livestock managers with the next years grazing management to allow for plant recovery and growth. GSG nesting habitat requirements includes the maintenance of a minimum 4" stubble height of riparian vegetation grazing use criteria during the nesting period.



ID Teams evaluating riparian condition.



Tom Roy, Ranch Manager, Agriculture Cows assessing riparian vegetation condition.

A Field Guide to Colorado's Wetland Plants: Identification, Ecology, and Conservation

A Field Guide to Colorado's Wetland Plants: Identification, Ecology, and Conservation is a guide that allows professionals and amateurs alike to identify most vascular plant species they are likely to encounter in Colorado's wetlands. The primary goal is to combine current available wetland information in an easy-to-use resource to not only identify wetland plants, but to apply that knowledge towards proactive conservation and protection of one of Colorado's most valuable resources. The Guide assists with identifying a wetland plant, wetland indicator status, classification, conservation status, rarity, and ecology. Books may be ordered at: <http://www.cnhp.colostate.edu/cwic/ident/fieldGuide.aspx>

Plant Field Guides

The NRST has a supply of the following riparian plant field guides:

Field Guide to Intermountain Sedges

Field Guide to Intermountain Rushes

Field Guide to the Willows of East-Central Idaho

Field Guide for the Identification and Use of Common Riparian Woody Plants of the Intermountain West and Pacific Northwest Regions

Contact Sandy Wyman at (541)416-6886 or swyman@blm.gov to order copies.

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Hydrology Training Opportunities

These two training opportunities would help anyone wanting to learn more about hydrology and apply the knowledge to assessment, monitoring, and adaptive management:

Stream Dynamics and Channel Design for Reclamation - December 9-13, 2013 in Phoenix, AZ, sponsored by BLM National Training Center. Tuition costs \$750 for Non-BLM attendees. The instructor is Jim Fogg, retired BLM Hydrologist, now of Lowclouds Consulting.

This course provides an overview of stream restoration that involves hydrology, fluvial geomorphology, quantitative analysis, basic river hydraulics, and sediment transport. *This course is intended for participants that have a basic understanding of stream assessment, classification, and natural channel design principles.*

For more information, contact Jolene Robertson at jtrobert@blm.gov 602-906-5561.

Sediment Transport in Stream Assessment and Design - July 28 - August 1, 2014 in Logan, UT. Tuition costs \$1850 (\$1600 early bird special if registered before June 1st). Instructors are Peter Wilcock (Professor, Geography and Environmental Engineering, Johns Hopkins University), Tyler Allred (Allred Restoration), and Patrick Belmont (Professor, Watershed Science, Utah State University).

This course is intended for those who wish to understand and apply the principles of sediment transport to alluvial channel assessment and design. Principles of open channel flow and sediment transport are combined with watershed-scale, hydrologic and sediment source analysis to place channel assessment and design in the appropriate context. Tools for estimating sediment supply at the watershed to reach level are applied in class exercises. Threshold and alluvial channel design methods are presented along with guidelines for assessing and incorporating uncertainty. The course balances advance reading, lecture, field work, and hands-on exercises for estimating sediment supply, calculating sediment transport rates, and forecasting channel response to water and sediment supply. *This course is intended for participants who are familiar with basic principles of river geomorphology.*

For more information, see Utah State University's Intermountain Center for River Rehabilitation and Restoration website <http://cnr.usu.edu/icrrr/>.

Collaborative Problem Solving Webinar Available

The Forest Service National Partnership Office and the National Forest Foundation sponsored a Partnership Peer-learning Session June 13, 2013 on "Collaborative Problem Solving Principles and Techniques." You can access the online session recording at the National Forest Foundation website: <http://www.nationalforests.org/conserve/peer/collaboration>. We recommend the webinar to anyone looking to learn more about being a part of a collaborative group. Caelan McGee, and Kimberly Caringer from the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution are the presenters. *The session covered the basic principles of Interest Based Negotiation, process design for collaborative problem solving, and some specific tools and techniques for collaboration and public engagement such as the use of situation assessments and operating protocols.* The webinar lasts 1 hour and 20 minutes.

For an additional opportunity for training, see the attached flyer on the "Human-side of Restoration". The training is very appropriate to C & C efforts.



The National Riparian Service Team can be contacted at:

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Prineville, OR 97754
(541) 416-6700
<http://www.blm.gov/or/programs/nrst/>

The *Human-Side* of *Restoration* webinar series



Colorado State University



Series launch
Tues. Dec. 10th,
10:30 – 12 (MST)

Join fellow managers and researchers to discuss:

-  How social science can improve ecological, economic, and social outcomes of restoration.
-  Ethical and social questions that arise from defining desired future conditions.
-  The difference between public perceptions and social acceptance.
-  Methods for informing restoration with local and traditional knowledge
-  And much more!



Month	Webinar topic
Dec., 2013	Series launch
Feb., 2014	Political-social landscapes
Mar., 2014	Collaboration
May, 2014	Values and perceptions
Sept., 2014	Different ways of knowing
Oct., 2014	The restoration economy

Register online at
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2V8LN9X>