



# Full Stream Ahead

Spring 2014

## 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 spring 2014 edition of *Full Stream Ahead*!

As we embark on another field season I hope you are all looking forward to a productive year and have plentiful opportunities to spend some time in our remarkable riparian areas. I for one have had cabin fever now for quite some time and can't wait to get my feet wet!

It has been oft repeated by many that the only constant in life is change (other than death and taxes as they say). So it is with the National Riparian Service Team as the last remaining original member of the NRST, Janice Staats, rides into the sunset of retirement. Janice began her tenure as team hydrologist in 1996 and she has been an integral part of many significant Creeks and Communities projects over her 17 years as a member of the NRST. Without question, the success of Creeks and Communities would not be what it is without Janice's consistent hard work, attention to detail, and excellent communication abilities. Those who have had the pleasure to work with Janice know and appreciate her professionalism and even demeanor. I am excited for Janice as she enjoys other new and fun endeavors but it goes without saying (I will say it anyway) that she will be sorely missed by us all.

Please take a moment to read Janice's message to the network about her career and working with all of you fine people and don't forget to send her well wishes on the next chapter of her life.

This edition as it is full of great information and opportunities. As always, I want to offer a standing invitation 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 input and questions 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](mailto:sjsmith@blm.gov).

Sincerely,

*Steve*

## ***Retirement Announcement***



I will be retiring from the Forest Service at the end of June 2014. Working with the Creeks and Communities Network since October 1996 has been the highlight of my career. Communities of practice are groups of people who share a passion for something they do, and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly. That is how I see the Creeks and Communities Network. We share a passion for helping people understand riparian-wetland function and riparian management possibilities. I definitely learned how to do my job better from interacting with all of you, and I thank you for that. My best memories are from all the travel and field work, and the people I met, in many parts of the United States as

well as Chihuahua, Mexico and British Columbia, Canada. I can hardly believe I was in my 30s when I moved to Prineville, Oregon, and here it is almost 18 years later. It goes by fast, so enjoy as much as you can. Take care.



*Janice Staats*

---

## ***Creeks & Communities Network Virtual Meetings***

Given the current travel limitations, the National Riparian Service Team has decided to host two virtual network meetings per year in lieu of the traditional biennial meetings. We used the Meeting Sphere platform with good success for our meeting this past December, and plan to continue that format in the future.

We will host one meeting in April for all network members and one in November for Creeks & Communities Network (CCN) leadership. The April meeting is scheduled for Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> from 9-12 Pacific Time. State Team leads, NRST, NOC and DC representatives will have about five minutes to present a summary of upcoming activities and focus areas.

In addition to the two regularly scheduled CCN meetings, there are also opportunities to host virtual meetings covering more specific topics as a way to move the topical team concept forward. Please contact Laura Van Riper at 541-416-6702 or [lvanripe@blm.gov](mailto:lvanripe@blm.gov) if you have questions or are interested in hosting a topical meeting.

---

## ***Agency Coordinator Desk Guide***

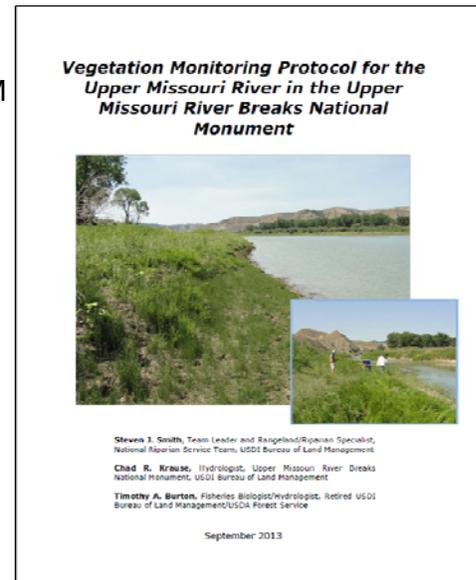
We are pleased to announce the publication of the *Creeks and Communities Agency Coordinator Desk Guide*. At the February 2013 Network Meeting, network guidance was identified as a high priority project, starting with guidance for Agency Coordinators. Agency Coordinators are BLM, Forest Service, and NRCS riparian and other program leads at the national and regional/state levels who provide program and budget support to the Network, coordinate across programs within their agency, coordinate across agency boundaries, and bring Network resources to meet on-the-ground needs of field units. The *Desk Guide* explains the Agency Coordinator roles and responsibilities, and benefits from participating in the Creeks and Communities Network. It can be downloaded from the NRST website. <http://www.blm.gov/or/programs/nrst/publications.php>

## ***Vegetation Monitoring Protocol for the Upper Missouri River in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument***

Following completion of a PFC assessment of the Upper Missouri River in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument (UMRBNM) in 2010, BLM resource specialists, USGS cottonwood specialists, members of the National Riparian Service Team and private contractors assembled to build upon the existing riparian monitoring plan for the river. This effort utilized existing monitoring information and the findings of the PFC assessment as a basis for an updated monitoring approach. A decision was made to use the *Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) of Streambanks and Streamside Vegetation* protocol (TR 1737-23) with modifications for plant communities along the Upper Missouri River. The purpose of this monitoring effort is to understand the impacts of livestock and wildlife on plant communities and track noxious weed populations - two key management considerations on the river. Since MIM is an approved BLM riparian monitoring protocol and extensively used, modifying the MIM protocol was a logical approach and provided a consistent and easily adopted method.

A draft vegetation monitoring protocol was created from the MIM protocol by NRST Team Leader and MIM co-author Steve Smith and Monument Hydrologist Chad Krause in 2011. Accompanied by other monument specialists, the protocol was field tested in 2011 to determine if the stratification approach, sampling design and monitoring configuration were appropriate for the various sites on the river. Following testing, the field protocol was refined and implementation began in 2012 and 2103.

The Vegetation Monitoring Protocol has been finalized; however, this will be a living document and refinements will be made over time as necessary to accommodate lessons learned. Although it is tailored and written specifically for the Upper Missouri River, it is anticipated that this approach and most of the protocol can be useful for sampling riparian vegetation on other large rivers. In addition, the approach for sampling floodplains can be modified to for floodplains and similar riparian settings. Those interested in this protocol should be aware that the standard MIM Excel data modules were modified specifically for this application on the Upper Missouri River. The protocol is available at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/programs/nrst/files/missouri-veg.pdf>



## ***Managing by Network Online Training Course***

The Managing by Networks training course, hosted by the Partnership and Community Collaboration Academy, is now in its 6<sup>th</sup> year. This distance learning course focuses on strengthening the partnership and community collaboration of BLM, NPS, USFS and USFWS managers, specialists and front-line supervisors. Participants also include representatives from other public agencies.

A series of seventeen webinars features collaborative leadership, consensus building, entrepreneurship, ethics, evaluation, fundraising and donations, managing agreements, negotiation, partner cultural awareness and partnership management among other topics. Instructors bring to light 22 professional competencies and the communication and management skills to support best practices.

Participants learn the principles and techniques of Managing by Network through peer-learning, case studies, interactive exercises and facilitated discussion. Participants demonstrate how to apply best practices to their current partnerships and community collaboration responsibilities.

BLM, NPS, USFWS and USFS fund the full tuition costs of selected participants, which is \$1200 per participant. Preference is given to employees whose position responsibilities require the coordination and partnership with federal, state or local public agencies, nonprofits, associations and or businesses. A limited number of reserved seats and scholarships are also available for representatives of other public agencies and nonprofits.

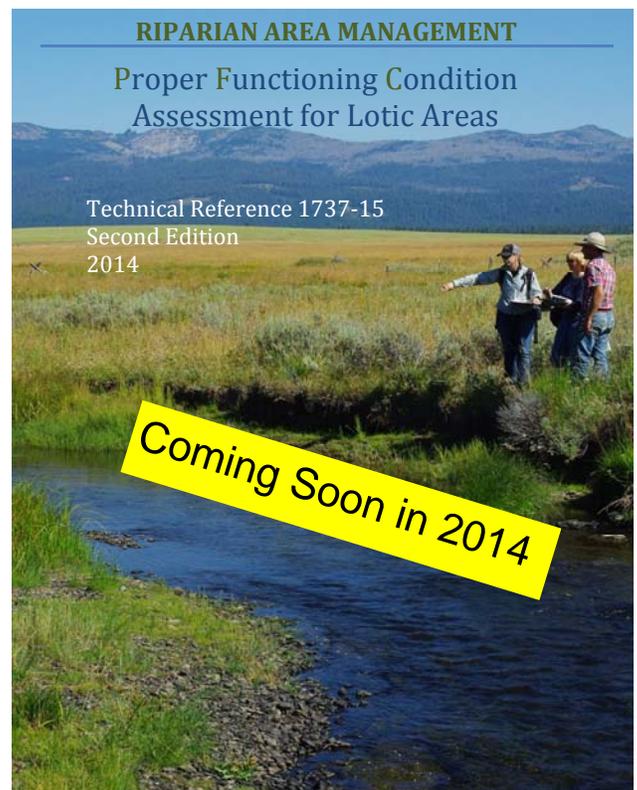
Eighty participants are selected each year for this Academy course. Participants attend the Academy in seminar size groups of 15-20 participants to encourage discussion. Each participant joins a seminar group that best fits their weekly schedule. Two hour webinars are hosted twice daily on Wednesdays and Thursdays, every other week. See <http://www.partnership-academy.net/managingbynetwork> for more information, or contact Laura Van Riper at 541-416-6702 or [lvanripe@blm.gov](mailto:lvanripe@blm.gov)

---

## ***Update on TR 1737-15 Second Edition***

A User Guide to Assessing Proper Functioning Condition and the Supporting Science for Lotic Areas (TR 1737-15 Version 2) is one step closer to completion. The draft has been edited and is back in the hands of the authors to do final edits. It will be published later this year.

A big thank you goes out to Melissa Dickard, BLM Aquatic Ecologist, National Operations Center for the great job she has been doing as work team leader of the nine authors. Linda Hill, BLM Editor and Janine Koselak, BLM Visual Information Specialist have also done a great deal of fine work on this project to date. . Great job by all three ladies!



## ***OSU Desert Watershed Management Field Trip and Riparian Training***

The Oregon State University (OSU) Desert Watershed Management Field Trip was held in Prineville, OR (January 24-25) at the Central Oregon Community College and Dixie Meadow Ranch. This annual field trip is sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Section Society for Range Management and OSU. For many of the 30 students, this was the first time they were able to experience a range operation and discuss riparian and upland resource issues in the field. Course instructors and presenters included: Carlos Ochoa and Mike Borman (OSU



OSU students discuss what they learned during the close out of the field tour.

professors), John Buckhouse (OSU emeritus), John and Lynne Breese (Dixie Meadow Ranch), Hugh Barrett (retired BLM), Sandy Wyman (NRST), Carrie Gordon (USFS), Jim David (USFS), and Tim DeBoodt (OSU Extension).

Sandy Wyman was asked to provide a follow-up lecture on riparian function and grazing management at OSU on Feb. 24.



Jim David, USFS Soil Scientist, explains soil development

## ***Riparian Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD) Link Available Online***

All of the ESD sessions presented in Orlando are now on the ESD page of the SRM website and can be found through this link: <http://rangelands.org/ESD/index.shtml>

Also included next to each recorded session is a link to the corresponding Certified Professional in Range Management CEU documentation form, which may be submitted to SRM for credit after viewing the courses in their entirety. One symposia of particular interest is the "Unifying Concepts of Riparian ESD's." This session reviewed the unity and concepts, similar to those developed and agreed upon by the BLM, USFS, and NRCS, that are currently being developed by an interagency specialist group. If you have any questions on any of the recorded files please contact Kelly Fogarty, SRM Washington, D.C. Liaison at [kelly@wssdc.com](mailto:kelly@wssdc.com).

### ***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](mailto: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 **August 1, 2014**

## ***Riparian Grazing Course***

The C&C Riparian Grazing Team conducted a “Principles and Practices of Riparian Compatible Livestock Grazing: Opportunities and Problem Solving” workshop in Escalante, UT (March 5-6). The course was requested by The Nature Conservancy, BLM, and the Canyonlands Conservation District with funding provided by the NRST and the Walton Family Foundation. It was attended by 57 people from the following organizations: BLM, USFS, NRCS, conservation district, Utah Division of Water Quality, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, landowners, and non-profits.

The multi-disciplinary team of instructors included:

- Sandy Wyman, Rangeland Management Specialist, NRST;
- Floyd Reed, Retired Rangeland Management Specialist, USFS;
- Janice Staats, National Riparian Service Team, Hydrologist;
- Mark Petersen, Retired NRCS & Farm Bureau; and
- Justin Jimenez, Fisheries Biologist, BLM & UT Riparian Team Lead.



Justin Jimenez, Fisheries Biologist, leading a discussion with his team during grazing field exercise. In the background, notice the PVC pipe water gap that floats during high flows to allow debris to travel downstream unimpeded.



Janice Staats, NRST Hydrologist, with 2 of her past supervisors: Chris Butler (l) and Greg Bevenger (r).

The course objectives were to build an understanding of the tools, and concepts relative to livestock grazing in riparian areas so that participants are better able to work with other individuals, groups, and agencies to develop and implement successful grazing management strategies. Participants learned to develop riparian resource objectives and design grazing management strategies that are practical and foster sustainable conditions.

Collaborative planning, focused monitoring, and adaptive management were emphasized, along with success through operator commitment. Because participants were

given an actual livestock operation to analyze, they learned how to best provide grazing management alternatives to achieve riparian objectives. This was the last Riparian Grazing Course that Janice Staats will instruct as a US Forest Service employee and member of the NRST. She had the opportunity to see 2 previous supervisors, Chris Butler and Greg Bevenger, US Forest Service Hydrologists at this training.



***The National Riparian Service Team can be contacted at:***

NRST  
3050 NE 3rd Street  
Prineville, OR 97754  
(541) 416-6700  
nrst@blm.gov  
<http://www.blm.gov/or/programs/nrst/>

## ***Hydrology Training Opportunities***

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

**Utah State University's Intermountain Center for River Rehabilitation and Restoration - Sediment Transport in Stream Assessment and Design** - July 28 - August 1, 2014 in Logan, UT. Tuition costs \$1850 (\$1600 earlybird 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 are familiar with the basic principles of river geomorphology and 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.

For more information, see <http://cnr.usu.edu/icrrr/>.

**U.S. Geological Survey, Geomorphic Analysis of Fluvial Systems** - May 5-9, 2014 in Portland, Oregon. Instructors are USGS research scientists Faith Fitzpatrick, Jonathon Friedman, Allen Gellis, and Jim O'Connor, with retired USDA employee and now with Cardno-ENTRIX, Andrew Simon.

This class is designed to familiarize students from a wide variety of backgrounds (engineering, ecology, geology, chemistry, water resources, etc.) with the general principles and concepts of fluvial geomorphology, channel form and equilibrium, bankfull, hydraulics, sediment transport, sediment budgets, sediment sourcing, and how geomorphic processes affect aquatic stream health. A combination of both lecture and field application are provided and are taught at a level that benefits those that need to round out their understanding of river behavior. The course fee includes instructional software and class materials. Lodging, transportation, and meals are not included.

For more information on how to register and costs, contact Allen Gellis ([agellis@usgs.gov](mailto:agellis@usgs.gov)).

**Portland State University Environmental Professional Program – River Restoration Professional Certificate Program.** This program is a series of 5 core professional short courses and 2 electives of your choice. Instructors are prominent practicing professionals.

The training program focuses on (1) understanding the natural processes and functions of streams, (2) learning state-of-the-art best practices that enhance river function and value while working with natural processes, (3) integrating your discipline and expertise into the collaborative restoration planning team, (4) integrating the regulatory, social, and economic aspects of a project, and (5) effectively staying in compliance, on budget, and on schedule over the working life of a project.

For more information, see <http://www.epp.esr.pdx.edu/rffieldinst.html>.

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Stream Habitat Measurement Techniques.** This course will be held March 23-27, 2015 at the USFWS National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia. The instructors are Alan Temple, Gary Schetrompf, and Dave Smith.

The purpose of this course is to provide the knowledge and skills required to participate in studies measuring and assessing physical attributes of streams. Classroom presentations (approximately 45%) are integrated with ample hands-on field activities (approximately 55%). Attributes characterized, measured, or identified include stream regional setting (ecoregion, watershed, hydrologic unit, and physiographic province), basin geomorphic properties, land cover types, hydrology, channel dimensions and roughness, channel structure and pattern, mesohabitat types, discharge, velocity, depth, substrate type and embeddedness, cover, bank condition, and riparian vegetation. Participants will learn to operate land surveying equipment. The target audience is personnel with minimal experience. There is no tuition for USFWS, BLM and NPS employees.

For more information, see <http://training.fws.gov/nctcweb/catalog/CourseDetail.aspx?CourseCodeLong=FWS-CSP3200>.

## Creeks and Communities Network 2014 Riparian Training Schedule

Below is a list of upcoming interagency training opportunities for 2014. It is important to know that formats and content vary somewhat depending on the objectives of each session. This list will be updated periodically throughout the season. To learn more please contact the individual course coordinators.

### Colorado

PFC – Boulder	June 24-25, 2014	<i>Jay Thompson, 303-239-3724, <a href="mailto:jmthomps@blm.gov">jmthomps@blm.gov</a></i>
PFC – Durango	July 22-23, 2014	
PFCP – TBD	September 8-12, 2014	<i>Mark Gonzalez, 541-416-6705, <a href="mailto:mgonzale@blm.gov">mgonzale@blm.gov</a> or Jay Thompson, 303-239-3724, <a href="mailto:jmthomps@blm.gov">jmthomps@blm.gov</a></i>

### New Mexico

MIM – Taos	May 5-9, 2014	<i>Steve Smith, 541-416-6703, <a href="mailto:sjsmith@blm.gov">sjsmith@blm.gov</a>, or John Sherman, 505-954-2182, <a href="mailto:jssherma@blm.gov">jssherma@blm.gov</a></i>
------------	---------------	---

### Nevada

PFC – Las Vegas, NV	March 18-20, 2014	<i>Sherm Swanson, 775-784-4057, <a href="mailto:sswanson@cabnr.unr.edu">sswanson@cabnr.unr.edu</a></i>
PFC – Fallon, NV	June 26-27, 2014	
PFC – Elko, NV	July 22-23, 2014	
PFC – Lee, NV	Sept. 11-12, 2014	
MIM – Reno, NV	May 19-23, 2014	<i>Mark Gonzalez, 541-416-6705, <a href="mailto:mgonzale@blm.gov">mgonzale@blm.gov</a>, or Sherm Swanson, 775-784-4057, <a href="mailto:sswanson@cabnr.unr.edu">sswanson@cabnr.unr.edu</a></i>

### North Dakota/South Dakota

MIM – Dakota Prairie Grasslands, Lemmon, SD	June 9-13, 2014	<i>Mark Gonzalez, 541-416-6705, <a href="mailto:mgonzale@blm.gov">mgonzale@blm.gov</a>, or Paul Drayton, 605-374-3592, <a href="mailto:pdrayton@fs.fed.us">pdrayton@fs.fed.us</a></i>
---	-----------------	---

### Utah

Lentic PFC – TBD	August 5-7, 2014	<i>Mark Gonzalez, 541-416-6705, <a href="mailto:mgonzale@blm.gov">mgonzale@blm.gov</a>, or Justin Jimenez, 801-539-4073, <a href="mailto:jjimenez@blm.gov">jjimenez@blm.gov</a></i>
------------------	------------------	---

### Washington

RGM – Tonasket	May 19-23, 2014	<i>Sandy Wyman, 541-416-6886, <a href="mailto:swyman@blm.gov">swyman@blm.gov</a>, or Tip Hudson, 509-962-7507, <a href="mailto:tipton.hudson@co.kittitas.wa.us">tipton.hudson@co.kittitas.wa.us</a></i>
----------------	-----------------	---

**PFC** = Proper Functioning Condition Assessment (2-day format)

**PFCP** = PFC for Resource Professionals (4-day format)

**MIM** = Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) of Stream Channels and Streamside Vegetation

**RGM** = Riparian Grazing Management

**National Riparian Service Team/Creeks & Communities:** <http://www.blm.gov/or/programs/nrst/index/php>

*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.*