

Full Stream Ahead

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

May/June 2004

State and Regional Briefings

The 2004-2005 plan of work for the Riparian Coordination Network includes agency briefings at the State and Regional level in an effort to familiarize leadership and staff with the Creeks and Communities strategy and examine ways to increase institutional support and ensure program effectiveness. These were preceded by National level briefings in 2003 with the completed revision of the strategic plan.

Oregon/Washington

On May 21, 2004, members of the National Riparian Service Team (NRST) and Oregon State Riparian Team and Agency Riparian Coordinators, briefed representatives from OR/WA BLM State Office, Region 6 Forest Service (OR/WA), OR State Office of NRCS (WA State NRCS briefing was in March) and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Specific objectives included providing an overview of how this work began, along with the original strategy, results of the program evaluation, and the revised strategy. The work was described through local examples of implementation activities and some of the outcomes. The group had a good discussion on agency program integration and specific needs for strategy implementation. It was especially constructive to have 4 agencies together and each provided some helpful suggestions.

Colorado

Jay Thompson, working as both Colorado Riparian Cadre Coordinator, and BLM Colorado State Office Riparian Program Manager, coordinated briefings with agency leaders in Colorado. Thanks go to Jeff Burwell for setting up a briefing with the NRCS. Ron Wiley, Janice Staats, Jay Thompson, and Harvey Sprock met with the NRCS State Conservationist, riparian related staff, and District Conservationists in Lakewood, CO, Tuesday, June 15, 2004. Ron, Janice, and Jay met with the Colorado BLM State Leadership Team in Kremmling, CO, Wednesday, June 16, 2004. The Rocky Mountain Region of the Forest Service was not able to schedule a briefing. We gave a 30 minute PowerPoint presentation that described who we are (Riparian Coordination Network), what we are doing (Creeks & Communities Strategy), and what we need from the agencies for successful implementation. Then we had approximately 30-45 minutes for feedback and discussion. The following advice and discussion items from both briefings are really pertinent to all the states:

- Suggested the Cadre brief the state agency and EPA who are involved with 303(d) listed streams.

- Suggested briefing and working with Resource Conservation Districts or Soil & Water Conservation Districts.
- Suggested NRST stay active in Society for Range Management (SRM) and to work with the agency liaisons to SRM.
- NRCS is reorganizing Technical Centers, and NRST should be ready to work with those folks once they are up and running.
- Would like to see more disciplines attend riparian function training from State and Federal agencies, such as Realty, Oil & Gas, and Recreation.
- Would like to see Oil & Gas Industry people attend riparian function training.
- Had suggestions for people and positions that could potentially join the Cadre.
- An idea came up about a potential service trip.
- Would like to see us help the Agency Riparian Coordinators get success stories documented so the information is available for different audiences on riparian-wetland improvements.

Scott River Assessment, Etna CA, April 12-15, 2004

Janice Staats, Wayne Elmore, John Anderson, Randy Gould, and Jason Gritzner

Siskiyou Resource Conservation District (SRCD) requested an assessment of riparian improvement projects they have accomplished since 1994 on the main stem Scott River, and an assessment of some selected tributaries, with ideas for future stream and river improvement projects. The Scott River watershed drains approximately 520,617 acres, and the main stem is 58 miles long. Janice Staats and two adjunct Riparian Service Team members Wayne Elmore and John Anderson, along with California Riparian Team members Randy Gould and Jason Gritzner toured the Scott River watershed with members of the SRCD, Scott River Watershed Council, NRCS, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and landowners April 12-14, 2004. The SRCD did a great job of getting us historical and background information on the area, and organized the tour so we were able to get a good look at the processes going on in the watershed.

We presented our findings to about 32 people at the Scott River Watershed Council Quarterly Forum on April 15, 2004. This was the one year anniversary for the Quarterly Forum. Presentations were made covering what the streams and river in the Scott River watershed need for physical function, key riparian-wetland vegetation, how large woody material functions in streams and rivers, and recommendations addressing the uplands, tributaries, and main stem river, for turning the water"shed" back into a "catchment".

Large Woody Material Processing PowerPoint

John Anderson, Cold Stream Consulting, has created a PowerPoint presentation about large woody material processing that can be used during riparian function workshops. You can view it or download it from <http://www.or.blm.gov/nrst/training.htm>. The photos John used are from the Western Oregon Cascades and British Columbia. If large woody material is required for function in your area, but it does not look like Western Oregon, you can check out the PowerPoint and make a similar presentation using your own photographs. John has used this PowerPoint in riparian function workshops and has helped participants gain a better understanding of how large woody material functions to dissipate stream energy, capture

bedload, aid floodplain development, and stabilize streambanks. Check it out, and please share presentations you create with the rest of the network through either Cyndie Hice or Janice Staats. We could all use more examples and photos of this subject.

Spokane, WA, Shorelines Assessment Workshop, May 4-6, 2004

Janice Staats, Wayne Elmore, and John Anderson

The Spokane County Conservation District is using PFC Assessments in a pilot project for updating Shoreline Management Plans as part of Washington's Shoreline Management Act (SMA). The SMA was adopted by the public in a 1972 referendum "to prevent the inherent harm in an uncoordinated and piecemeal development of the state's shorelines." Cities and counties are the primary regulators. Washington Department of Ecology provides technical assistance, and reviews local programs and permit decisions. In July 2003, new shoreline legislation was passed which established a new schedule for updating Shoreline Management Plans (SMP) and a biennial appropriation of \$2 million to fund local SMP development. New rules are being used by cities and counties as they update plans that regulate development and use of shorelines along rivers and larger streams, along lakes over 20 acres, and along marine waterfronts. The Spokane River Basin is the first in the state that will be assessed using PFC, followed by updating the SMP's.

The Spokane County Conservation District requested a workshop on the use of Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) Assessments in preparation for their basin assessment. It was a three day workshop, one day in the classroom, and two in the field assessing a variety of sites. Field sites ranged from small streams that require herbaceous riparian-wetland vegetation to function, to the Spokane River which is largely controlled by the landform. The Conservation District has a good interdisciplinary team for the assessments. Communication from the assessment team to planners is going to be critical, and a step in the right direction is that City and County planners and two community activists attended the workshop. John Anderson will be following up with the Conservation District assisting with quality assurance activities.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Workshop

The OWEB Board reviews and determines funding for many projects put forth by watershed councils in Oregon. Hugh Barrett, BLM representative on the Board, arranged for a half day workshop to help strengthen their knowledge of watershed components, functions, and processes. Participants also received background and information necessary to communicate basic watershed principles to their constituents, and to better evaluate the appropriateness of project proposals, as well as ensure leadership in OWEB program development. Assisting Hugh with the "watershed school" were Dr John Buckhouse (OSU), Wayne Elmore (NRST), and Darren Brumback (OR Cadre).

Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition

The Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project was initiated by the BLM to restore thousands of acres of land with the goals to: maintain healthy native plant communities,;

improve degraded plan communities, retain soil productivity; maintain and improve riparian areas; and protect fish and wildlife habitat. The Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition, a non-profit organization, was formed to bring many diverse interests together in a partnership to support the project. Based in Ely, they recently held their Fifth Annual Workshop and Field Tour. Wayne Elmore, representing the Creeks and Communities Riparian Coordination Network, provided the group with a presentation explaining and illustrating riparian area health.

Plains & Prairie Forestry Association Conference

The theme for this annual conference held in Bismark, ND, was The Forests of Lewis and Clark. Wayne Elmore was asked to give 2 presentations and provide interpretation during the field trip to undeveloped portions of the Missouri River. The first presentation, "Riparian Buffers – Function Then and Now" he contrasted function of riparian buffers under the regime witnessed by Lewis and Clark as compared to present day using a set of historical photos to illustrate the changes. The second presentation, "Hydrology Changes Impacting Riparian Forests" addressed how main stem reservoir changes have affected riparian forests and what options are left to present day managers. The conference was a diverse group of natural resource personnel from across the Great Plains and the Canadian Prairie Provinces.

Riparian PFC and Grazing Management for Riparian Areas Training – Elko, NV

Members of the Nevada Cadre held another week long course covering riparian assessment using the PFC method, and grazing principles for riparian areas. Members of the National Riparian Service Team helped with the instruction. Approximately 70 people of diverse backgrounds and affiliations attended all or part of the course offerings that included both classroom instruction and field exercises. Feed back has been positive and interest has been expressed in sponsoring it in other locations next year.

Program Evaluation for Creeks and Communities

The first, formal OMB approved program evaluation, was done covering the time period 1996-2001. Findings guided the revision of the strategic plan in 2002. We plan to do a comprehensive program evaluation at 5 year intervals so the next one will cover 2002-2006. A subset of the overall evaluation will be the assessment of individual Riparian Coordination Network activities such as service trips and workshops. Agency policy states that Federal employees are not to administer surveys to more than 10 non-Federal employees unless the format and questions have been approved by OMB. In the past we've dealt mostly with Federal personnel and now that we are diversifying our participant base this rule applies to much of our work. Unfortunately, we do not have a current OMB approved evaluation form for Network activities at this time and we will not have one completed for this field season. Because of our current workload we have recently decided to postpone this task until 2005-2006. We apologize for any inconvenience. One way to get participant feedback regarding satisfaction with training sessions and possible improvements is through one-on-one conversations with diverse participants. Overall, the less formal--the better.

Upcoming Training

Colorado Cadre

**Cadre Coordinator: Jay Thompson
Phone: 303-239-3724**

**Training Date:
July 27-28, 2004**

**Training Location:
Steamboat Springs, CO**

Idaho Cadre

**Cadre Coordinator: Ervin Crowley
Phone: 208-373-3810**

**Training Date:
July 21-22, 2004
Oct. 2004**

**Training Location:
Driggs, ID
Univ of Idaho- Moscow, ID**

New Mexico Cadre

**Cadre Coordinator: Steve McWilliams
Phone: 505-344-9155**

**Training Date:
Sept. 14-15, 2004**

**Training Location:
Ghost Ranch/Santa Fe, NM**

Oregon Cadre

**Cadre Coordinator: Jim Eisner
Phone: 541-416-6753**

**Training Date:
July 27-28, 2004**

**Training Location:
Junction City, OR**

Utah Cadre

**Cadre Coordinator: Steve Smith
Phone: 435-865-3231**

**Training Date:
July 21-22, 2004
Sept 17-18, 2004**

**Training Location:
Heber City, UT
Vernal, UT**