

Full Stream Ahead

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

June 2003

NRST to Washington, DC

On June 9th, several members of the NRST traveled to Washington, DC to give briefings. Most included a short presentation highlighting the original strategy for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Restoration and Management, summarizing key results of the program evaluation process, and explaining the emphasis outlined in Creeks and Communities, the revised strategic plan document. The team met with the following:

Rebecca Watson, USDI Secretary of Land and Minerals - Discussion focused on how this approach is one way of implementing the Secretary's 4 C's; Communication, Cooperation, and Collaboration, all for Conservation, and how the notion of keeping water on the land longer would fit into policy development relative to addressing long term water supplies.

Jean-Mari Peltier, Special Agriculture Counsel to the Administrator of EPA, and Roberta Parry from EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Water. They were very receptive to the Creeks and Communities approach and the discussion here dealt with how the concepts and services of the strategy could be used in the accomplishment of EPA goals and programs. The team also put forth the importance of focusing on trend and indicators of trend and on helping people achieve results and monitor. They felt this concept was appropriate relative to the TMDL development and implementation process. They expressed interest in the interagency MOA and will also provide the team with regional EPA contacts to add to the Riparian Coordination Network mailing list.

Eugene Lamb, Water Policy Advisor for NACD, and Laura McNichol, Government Affairs Grassroots Coordinator. They were pleased with the Creeks and Communities approach and would like to be an active partner at the local level. Because their emphasis is locally led conservation, they were very receptive to the idea of sponsoring activities within communities. They advised that a good contact source is the State Associations of NACD employees. Besides the April 2003 article in the Buffer Notes newsletter, they offered to do a feature story in their national newsletter, News & Views.

Elena Daly, BLM Director for the National Land Conservation System. The team has already provided assistance on several NLC areas and confirmed that they are available to continue doing so, where needed. At Elena's request, the team submitted an abstract to participate in the upcoming national Joint Ventures Partnership Conference to be held this November, in Los Angeles. She asked us to plan some sort of panel format that included people the team has worked with so multiple viewpoints and perspectives are given.

Bruce Knight, Chief of NRCS, Mack Gray, USDA Deputy Under Secretary (Conservation), and Larry Clark, Deputy Chief for Science and Technology. Team members were able to give a short update on the interagency strategy and then relay some of the messages that field people wanted to have expressed, including the importance of program endorsement, NRCS participation within the NRST and the Riparian Coordination Network, and how the Creeks and Communities approach is complimentary to implementing many of the NRCS conservation programs.

Macro-invertebrate and PFC Correlation Study

The BLM has initiated a project with specific objectives to 1) compare the results of PFC assessments to a measure of ecosystem health based on aquatic macro-invertebrate assemblages, and 2) determine if plot-level assessments can be scaled up to characterize the biological conditions of landscapes or regions. The overall goal is to build on the strength of assessing physical processes by adding a biological component to increase the ability to measure and manage the resources. Data from Objective 1 will provide information on the degree to which PFC results can be used to infer biological health of stream and riparian systems. Data from Objective 2 will provide information on how well plot-level assessments characterize larger landscapes and should provide a measure of the amount of error associated with extrapolation and an idea of the number of plots that should be sampled. The PFC data will come from field units for streams that are at PFC, functional-at-risk, and non-functional. The aquatic vertebrate samples will be done by both field unit people and a centralized crew based out of the BugLab in Logan, UT.

Riparian-Wetland PFC Training in Logan, UT

As a precursor to the Macro/PFC correlation study, the National Riparian Service Team (NRST) was asked to teach a PFC session for the individuals who would be doing both the field work and the data interpretation. Since there were relatively few people associated with the study, there was room for another 20 people to attend. This was very timely as Steve Smith, Range Management Specialist with the Forest Service in Cedar City had agreed to serve as the Utah Cadre Coordinator and was available to help get the cadre members involved and teach too. There was a diverse group of attendees from the FS, BLM, NRCS, University Extension, UT Division of Wildlife, UT Division of Water Quality, and the UT Farm Bureau. Several consultants also attended.

Washington State Cadre Meeting

On June 18th, members of the Washington State Cadre and NRST met at the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge near Olympia, to discuss the implementation of the Creeks & Communities strategy, as well as attendance at the Riparian Coordination Network meeting in November. Don Nelson (Washington State University), who helps facilitate the Consensus Associates' Workshops for Sustainability, led the group through a similar process. Some key points emerged including the importance of agency support for involvement and finding the individuals who can and will commit to conducting activities. Several people from state agencies and the private sector also attended and would like to team up with the federal agency members. There was some discussion about forming 2 cadres, one for the west side of the state and one for the east.

Everyone was grateful for the way Andrea Mann has kept the information flowing via her mailing list, and asked to her please continue.

Agency Riparian Coordinators play a key role in support of state cadres, and the NRST will be asking them to help set up briefings with the Forest Service Regional Forester, the BLM State Director, and the NRCS Washington State Conservationist. Several people from the cadre are interested in integrating the Creeks & Communities strategy into Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP) in the state. Chuck Perry requested that the NRST give a presentation this fall, at a meeting of the CRMP task group. Cadre members mentioned that it was good to meet with the NRST and focus on their situation and issues. This type of meeting with each cadre would be very useful, in addition to the November Riparian Coordination Network meeting. Input from the meeting was assembled in the form of collective statements and distributed to the participants.

Green Mountain Common Allotment

Members of the NRST, including Wayne Elmore and Steve Leonard, met with the Green Mountain Common Allotment Working Group, June 17-19 in Lander, Wyoming. The purpose of this initial meeting was to begin to confront, and develop solutions for, the conflicts and issues that are preventing the work group from moving ahead to improve the management, and ultimately condition, of the Green Mountain Common Allotment near Jeffery City, WY. Success is dependent upon doing this while respecting the cultures, customs, and economies of the community.

Facilitators Bob Chadwick (Consensus Associates) and Mike Lunn (Solutions for Sustainability) led the working group through a consensus building process that creates the basis for a course of action from the collective input. The group was also introduced to some effective listening techniques. A set of goals and objectives previously set by the group, were also reviewed. On the second day, the group went on a field trip covering part of the allotment, in order to discuss riparian area condition and potential. The dialogue also included possible practices and management strategies that could be implemented to improve both the riparian and upland areas. The last day included a discussion of potential training, practices and solutions that could address long-term sustainability of the allotment, as well as short-term practices aimed at getting the permittees through this grazing season. There was also a discussion on wild horse needs and management, recreation needs, soils and geology, and grazing management.

The working group has started to build a foundation for effective interaction. The facilitators will provide a report and learning manual to the members. Training in the following areas is recommended and has been requested by the group:

- ✓ PFC
- ✓ grazing management for riparian areas
- ✓ holistic resource management (farm and ranch planning)
- ✓ low-stress livestock handling
- ✓ use of low moisture supplements for livestock distribution
- ✓ monitoring

Riparian-Wetland Soils - Information Available

- A riparian-wetland soil power point presentation on a CD Rom.
- “An Overview of Riparian Soils” on VHS tape and DVD.
- Technical reference 1737-19, Riparian-Wetland Soils has been completed! The book is currently at the printers and will be available for distribution in October 2003. The purpose of this publication is to further the understanding and appreciation of riparian-wetland soils. Specifically, it explores the relationship of these soils to hydrology, vegetation, and erosion-deposition, which is important information for assessing the condition of both lotic and lentic riparian-wetland areas. The Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service, working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, cooperatively developed the information presented.

The first section of this publication examines basic soil concepts and land forming processes. While those who have studied soils may commonly understand these concepts and processes, they may be helpful to others who are less familiar with this subject and fundamental for understanding the riparian-wetland soil chapters. The last section presents examples of how soils information can be interpreted and applied in understanding, managing, and protecting riparian-wetland soils.

For information on these soil products, contact Lisa Lewis by email L3Lewis@or.blm.gov or by phone (541) 416-6788.

Riparian Workshop 2003

The 2003 Riparian Network Workshop will be held at the BLM National Training Center (NTC) in Phoenix, Arizona. The hotel listed below is within walking distance to NTC. Shuttle service from the airport to the hotel is available from [Super Shuttle](#).

There is no fee to attend the workshop, however, travelers are responsible for their own travel costs and arrangements. If you plan on attending please email [Carol Connolly](#).

A block of rooms for NRST has been reserved at the following hotel:

Four Points by Sheraton Phoenix MetroCenter Hotel
10220 North Metro Parkway East
Phoenix, AZ 85051

Phone: (602) 997-5900

Reservations must be made by November 3, 2003