

Full Stream Ahead

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

April 2003

Planning for Implementation of the Revised Strategy

As mentioned in previous issues, the Riparian Coordination Network meeting will be a working session relative to implementation of the revised strategic plan for the ACRRM initiative. The NRST is in the planning phase for a working meeting with Cadre Coordinators, scheduled for the last week in May. The purpose of this meeting is to jointly plan the agenda for the November workshop. Part of the work accomplished this month involved the development of a draft format to serve as a starting point for the group. There will be more on strategy implementation in the May issue of Full Stream Ahead.

Funding Strategies

One of the strategies or actions listed under Objective 3 in the revised strategic plan document is to expand efforts to leverage resources. One way to do this is to seek funding, other than operational dollars, to be applied toward implementing the activities of the ACRRM approach. The NRST asked Helene Aarons, Grants and Partnerships Coordinator, BLM CO State Office, to assist them in thinking through some options for acquiring and managing funds from outside sources. There are many organizations that would support the mission, goals, and objectives of the Creeks and Communities strategy. One of the first steps is to research these organizations, starting locally, and begin forming relationships with those who would be most likely to contribute. At a minimum, some sort of concept paper will be needed and eventually a detailed proposal. One aspect of this effort that needs to be considered when searching for possible donors/partners, is that this approach does not usually involve actual restoration project work as much as it is people spending their time working with other people in a way that is designed to lead to action being taken on the ground.

Laying a Foundation for Providing Assistance

Stemming from the results of the program evaluation work done by Laura Van Riper, one of the adaptations that the NRST is beginning to incorporate is an expansion of the degree of pre-work done prior to setting up and conducting a service trip. The team is placing

increased emphasis on applying ways to ensure the up-front participation of diverse stakeholders. Additional focus is going to be placed on helping groups manage conflict, and assist in obtaining the resources needed to implement changes on the ground. Many situations will require multiple interventions including follow-up activities to help groups address and overcome barriers. This month, interviews were done as part of the pre-work for designing the format and content needed to fulfill a specific request for services. These interviews are a first step in forming relationships. They are very informal and done in a setting that is comfortable to the interviewee. People are asked to talk about their view of the situation and their concerns. Other aspects include exploring potential outcomes, strategies, and additional possibilities.

Klamath Tribe Water Resources Task Force Meeting

This was an activity focused on providing some fundamental information to build on in providing future assistance relative to management and restoration of riparian resources. An introduction to stream processes, how streams function during periods of droughts and floods, and the relationship of that information to restoration and management decisions, was presented. Phases of an approach utilized in bringing together people who are affected by the consequences of these decisions was also outlined for the group; 1) initial investigation and creation of an environment conducive to bringing together the involved people, 2) a workshop where people learn about stream function and the relationship of function to restoration options, 3) specific consultations to evaluate conditions and begin formulating possible activities, 4) developing specific plans and determining financial resource needs and availability.

PNW SRM/OR AFS Workshop

Several members of the NRST assisted in a workshop that was jointly sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Section of the Society for Range Management and the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. The theme was “Rangelands and Rainbows: Finding Common Ground for Fish and Livestock.” Presentations included basic fish biology and habitat needs, as well as cattle behavior and riparian grazing strategies. A great talk was given by Carol Evans, a fisheries biologist with the BLM in Elko, Nevada, who presented many examples of stream/fish habitat recovery under various grazing treatments with lots of good before and after photos. The workshop concluded with a field tour of Bear Creek with Wayne Elmore.

Photo Point Monitoring Documents

Many of you have DRAFT copies of Fred Hall’s photo monitoring documents as they have been out for several years. The final publications are now available and include:

Ground-Based Photographic Monitoring (PNW-GTR-503 May 2001), and
Photo Point Monitoring Handbook, Part A Field Procedures (NW-GTR-526 March 2002)

Susan Holtzman has a supply of these on hand and will be glad to mail you copies if you just send her an e-mail message with your request. Be sure to include your mailing address. Susan's e-mail address is skholtzman@fs.fed.us.

NRST Personnel News

The NRST has hired Cyndie Hice as a SCEP Information Technology Specialist. Cyndie primary duties will be to develop a database for the NRST and refresh our outdated website.

Former NRST Soil Scientist, Cindy Correll, has accepted the position of Wildlife, Watershed, and Range Staff Officer on the Cibola NF in Albuquerque.