



Full Stream Ahead

January/February 2006

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

A Federal level, interagency initiative of the BLM and USFS in partnership with NRCS

The Creeks and Communities approach is a model for incorporating scientific and technical information into collaborative processes. It is based on the belief that since riparian-wetland areas often pass through or are shared by numerous landowners, a collaborative approach, applied at the ground level in a watershed context is the only avenue to successful restoration and management. Designed to foster grass roots action across the landscape, this effort facilitates the ability to confront and resolve the complex and contentious problems surrounding these resources. The overriding goal is to increase awareness and create a shared understanding of riparian-wetland function and the attributes and processes that support the sustainable production of values, and to do this among a large number of diverse people so they can work together more effectively.

People Power

Look for the winter issue of **Wildland Waters** due out in March 2006, featuring the importance of the social dimension in successful watershed restoration, **Wildland Waters**, a periodic publication of the USDA Forest Service, highlights news, views, and current technological and public policy information on local, national, and international water issues. Each edition is devoted to a single topic with the intent of promoting understanding of and developing collaborative solutions to water issues. Karen Solari, Watershed Coordinator, State & Private Forestry, Cooperative Forestry Staff in Washington, D.C., asked the team to contribute to an edition that illustrates the importance of a cooperative approach to watershed restoration and management, and also gives insight into fundamental principles and practices of collaboration. Laura Van Riper, NRST Social Scientist, and Janice Staats, NRST Hydrologist, provided Mary Carr, Technical Publications Editor, a compliment of general information along with specific aspects of the Creeks and Communities approach. Other efforts and case studies are also included in this upcoming issue. The **Wildland Waters** publication reaches over 20,000 people and is distributed to USDA Forest Service offices, State Foresters, National Association of Conservation District members, and EPA offices. A person can receive a notice when new issues become available for download on an electronic mailing list. To subscribe go to the website; <http://www.fs.fed.us/wildlandwaters/>.

NRST visits Alaska

Lee Koss, Alaska BLM Riparian Coordinator, requested that the NRST introduce the Creeks and Communities Strategy at the Alaska Section American Water Resources Association (AWRA) and Interagency Restoration Committee of Alaska (IRCA) Joint Conference in Anchorage, the week of January 22, 2006. Don Prichard gave a presentation on the Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessment method, and Janice Staats presented Creeks and Communities. Additional members of the Riparian Coordination Network that participated were Ann Puffer who gave a presentation on *Integrating Assessments for Prioritizing Restoration within a Watershed*, and Lee Koss who spoke on *Nome Creek Restoration of Placer Mined Gravels*. Lee also set up two briefings about Creeks and Communities with interested state and federal level personnel as well as various watershed councils and other interested groups.

A few items of interest for the Riparian Coordination Network from this work trip:

There are more watershed councils being formed in Alaska. The first ever Alaska Statewide Watershed Council Forum was held February 21-23, 2006 in Juneau to provide an opportunity for networking.

Peter Tschaplinski from British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Range gave a presentation on *Protocol for Evaluating the Condition of Streams and Riparian Management Areas*. This protocol is designed to look at timber harvest areas to determine whether implementation of the practices and standards included in the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) are achieving the desired result of protecting fish values by maintaining channel and riparian functions. The protocol is somewhat similar to the PFC assessment described in TR-1737-15, but it has a different definition of "Proper Functioning Condition." There are 15 questions to answer yes or no. Some of the main ones are habitat related such as #5 which asks; Are all aspects of the aquatic habitat sufficiently connected to allow for normal, unimpeded movements of fish, organic debris, and sediment?
http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/frep/3_indicators.html (click on Riparian Protocol under Fish/Riparian).

Forest Service T.E.A.M.S. member Brian Baird introduced Enterprise Teams through a presentation about the restoration of Resurrection Creek on the Chugach National Forest. T.E.A.M.S. can provide any government or state agency with restoration assistance from planning, design, and NEPA to contract administration and implementation. For more information check their website;
<http://www.fs.fed.us/teams..>

Lee Koss has also requested to have the *Using Aerial Photographs to Assess PFC* training session in Fairbanks sometime during fall of 2006. This course is coordinated by the BLM National Training Center and is delivered at field locations upon request. <http://www.ntc.blm.gov>.

Sioux Ranger District, Custer National Forest Service Trip August 9-11, 2005

Mark Nienow, Custer National Forest Hydrologist requested that the NRST conduct a series of field days to facilitate discussion of Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessments and livestock management on low discharge, spring dominated streams. Janice Staats, Sandy Wyman, Steve Leonard, and Wayne Elmore traveled to Buffalo, South Dakota August 9-11, 2005 (yes, just in time for the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally).

The riparian-wetland areas we visited in Montana and South Dakota exhibited both lotic (running water) and lentic (standing water) attributes and processes. When assessing riparian-wetland areas that exhibit attributes and processes that are both lotic and lentic in nature, it is appropriate to take the important attributes and processes from each, and create a checklist form unique to those types of situations. We recommended not changing the wording of the checklist items, but rather selecting which checklist items from the lotic and lentic checklists are important.

During our field discussions, we identified a consistency issue with how the vegetation checklist items are taught by the NRST and the State Riparian Teams. The NRST has been putting more emphasis on the progression from riparian-wetland species being present (lotic item 7) to the development of community types (lotic item 9) to having enough of the community types present to have adequate riparian-wetland vegetative cover (lotic item 11). Others have not put the emphasis on community types because lotic item 9 is worded "Streambank vegetation is comprised of those *plants* or plant communities that have root masses capable of withstanding high streamflow events" (emphasis added). Janice Staats will take the lead to get an interdisciplinary work group together to address the issue, so you will hear more on that in the future.

Another service trip is being planned for 2006 to reach out to a larger community of people in NW South Dakota/SE Montana, and help create a common vocabulary and a common vision for riparian-wetland areas.

Mr. Smith goes to Boise

In case you have not heard, Steve Smith (formerly the Utah State Team Coordinator), has officially reported for duty at the BLM Idaho State Office as a Rangeland Management Specialist. Steve will take over the duties as the new Idaho State Team Coordinator. The former State Coordinator, Erv Cowley, has retired but remains an active member of the State Team. Steve's new email is steve_j_smith@blm.gov and his phone is 208-373-3810.

"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe." John Muir

SRM Symposium on Riparian Monitoring

The Society for Range Management (SRM) Watershed/Riparian Committee and Resource Assessment and Monitoring Committee co-sponsored a symposium at the 59th Annual Meeting in Vancouver, B.C. titled *Riparian Monitoring: Quantitative Methods* British Columbia. The symposium was organized by Sherm Swanson, University of Nevada at Reno. Topics included; reasons to monitor riparian areas, adaptive livestock management and the need for monitoring, what to monitor and why relative to stream function to desired future condition, greenline monitoring, Pacfish/Infish Biological Opinion (PIBO) riparian vegetation monitoring, riparian classification and ecological status, monitoring streambanks and riparian vegetation – multiple indicators, monitoring water quality and fish habitat, neotropical riparian obligate birds as indicators of riparian wildlife habitat management, University of Idaho Stubble Height Report and resulting agency policies, and additional BLM policies on monitoring.

SRM Symposium - Grazing, Riparian, Cold Water Fish: Is Beneficial Coexistence Possible?

The SRM Wildlife Habitat Committee also sponsored a symposium at the Vancouver, B.C. meeting. Organized by Wendell Gilgert, NRCS, it focused on examining the relationship of riparian and associated cold water fish habitats and the management of those resources with a particular emphasis on prescriptive livestock grazing where time and intensity of use is closely managed. Recent research was presented by Colorado, Montana, and Oregon State University researchers and augmented with observational case studies.

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Riparian Roads and Restoration CD

The Riparian Roads and Restoration CD is now available and can be ordered from Greg Napper by phone at (909) 599-1267 ext. 290, or by email at gnapper@fs.fed.us. The CD contains presentations developed by the National Riparian Roads Team that address minimizing impacts on riparian/wetland areas and restoring or improving riparian wetland ecosystem health. The CD was produced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service San Dimas Technology and Development Center in partnership with the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Coordinated Federal Lands Highway Technology Implementation Program. CD and online production was done through the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. The presentations are also available on the web at <http://www.fsl.orst.edu/geowater/RRR/>.

Website of Interest

Google Alert is a handy tool for following newspaper activity around topics that you may be interested in.

For example, you can tell Google to search all newspapers everyday for the key phrase "Riparian." Every day Google will e-mail you one message containing the day's activity. It sure beats the historical practice of reviewing the pile of news clippings or doing individual searches. <http://www.google.com/alerts>

Books Available

Collier, M., R.H. Webb, and J.C. Schmidt. 1996. Dams and rivers: primer on the downstream effects of dams. USGS Circular 1126.
Two copies available. Be the first to contact Janice Staats at 541-416-6891 or janice_staats@or.blm.gov and they will be yours.

Gillilan D.M. and T.C. Brown. 1997. Instream flow protection: seeking a balance in western water use. Island Press.
One copy available. Be the first to contact Janice Staats at 541-416-6891 or janice_staats@or.blm.gov and it will be yours.

Rosgen, D. and L. Silvey. 1998. Field guide for stream classification. Wildland Hydrology.
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Identifying Bankfull Elevation

Those who teach the hydrology section of PFC during Creeks & Communities Workshops will be interested in John Buffington's 2/1/2006 paper on Identifying Bankfull Elevation. It is posted on the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership website at:

<http://www.pnamp.org/web/Workgroups/meetings.cfmstrWGShort=WM&meeting=all>.

Luna Leopold Website

Luna Leopold passed away February 23rd. In his honor, the Gilbert Club at UC Berkeley posted a website that has many of his classic and more recent papers available to download as pdfs (he published for 68 years, so there are currently 182 of them). Luna was considered one of the most influential watershed geomorphologists of our time.
<http://eps.berkeley.edu/people/lunaleopold/>

"Water is the most critical resource issue of our lifetime and our children's lifetime. The health of our waters is the principal measure of how we live on the land." Luna Leopold