

Full Stream Ahead

Riparian Highlights for the Month of January 2003

The beginning of each year always brings new opportunities and ideas for solving old problems and I am very optimistic about the future of the cooperative riparian restoration strategy. The Riparian Coordination Network has demonstrated significant accomplishments since the initiative was formalized in the spring of 1996, creating a solid foundation on which to grow and expand. There are several things coming up in the next few months that I feel will result in a better understanding of the program and the additional support needed to make significant progress. Capitalizing on the positive atmosphere for public and private sector partnerships, the National Riparian Service Team will present the recently published Progress Report and the Revised Strategic Plan to key Departmental and Agency people in Washington D.C. during the month of March. In April, similar briefings will be given to other agencies, conservation, industry and user groups, Congressional Staffs, and members of Congress. Beyond building awareness of this effort, we will also be working hard to expand and diversify the network by encouraging increased participation from individuals and groups of both traditional and non-traditional partners. The NRST wants to sincerely thank you for all your good work over the last calendar year.

Wayne

New Documents

As part of an overall need for communication, marketing and guidance products relative to the strategy for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Restoration and Management (ACRRM), a Progress Report and a Revised Strategic Plan have been completed. The development of these documents has been discussed in previous issues of the newsletter and we can now report that they are ready for distribution throughout the Riparian Coordination Network and beyond. The NRST is preparing to do this within the next month. Following is a short description of both documents:

Progress Report - This document provides an explanation of the strategy, and serves as a condensed history. It illustrates the scope of the work and summarizes accomplishments to date, with specific examples featured in the appendices. It also describes the operating framework that distinguishes this approach, and the program evaluation process with findings that are serving to identify future needs and direction. One section articulates the alignment with, and relevancy to agency strategic plans and government performance. Finally, it is an affirmation of how this work is providing a model of how government can function in response to citizen desires and that many of the solutions to resource problems lie in the human and social dimensions.

Revised Strategy – This document reflects the evolution of the original strategy for implementing an approach that integrates both the biophysical and the social dimensions of resource issues. With the growing recognition of the need for functioning watersheds at the landscape scale, efforts are directed toward building individual, institutional, and community capacity to accomplish that goal. The emphasis described comes from the experience of the people implementing this strategy, combined with feedback from a variety of interests, as well as results from formal evaluation processes. This document discusses the findings to date and outlines activities designed to improve overall effectiveness. It also serves to guide operational planning and continued program evaluation. Described is a national level approach for facilitating coordinated and cooperative grassroots restoration and management at the watershed scale. This strategy continues to provide a model for applying collaborative principles in a way that is responsive to public expectations and desires.

NOTE: Many of you participated in the creation of these documents. They are the result of various activities designed to evaluate the situation and identify barriers and opportunities relative to the effectiveness of this effort. Beginning with a strategic planning meeting in December of 2000, followed by purposefully designed workshops in both Reno and Ogden, the contributions of the Network members and others have proven invaluable for ensuring these documents, especially the revised strategy, are congruent with the results of the program evaluation process. It can sometimes seem that focus

group work is a bit disjointed or chaotic and yet the collective statements that ensued from the workshops provided tremendous insight that was used in the formation of the documents.

Program Meetings in Washington DC

In early January several members of the National Riparian Service Team traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with agency program managers for the ACRRM strategy. Federal agencies are undergoing workforce restructuring activities and the NRST was part of an inventory and review process as they are connected to, but not located in, the national offices. Mission, scope and scale of work, team structure and location, and of course budget, were part of the discussion. Program administration was also a topic and we still have quite a way to go for seamless government. It was helpful to have the 2 new documents in hand as well as a continuing OMB approved program evaluation process in place. There is a growing awareness within the agencies of the need for approaches that are oriented toward the social component relative to resource issues. Overall there is positive support for continuing the strategy and for expanding and diversifying the network of individuals and organizations implementing it.

Another aspect of the D.C. trip involved early preparation for re-initiating the strategy. The feedback received during the planning process, a change of administration and agency personnel, and the adaptations characterized in the revised strategy document are all driving the need to expand the awareness of and involvement in this approach. A Communication/Marketing Plan is being developed to guide this effort. We will be reporting more on this in the months to come.

Personnel Changes throughout the Network

This section is designed to let the network know of the ongoing personnel changes. If there is a change that you want the network to know about please email the info to Carol_Connolly@or.blm.gov.

Sandy Wyman has accepted the Rangeland Management Specialist Position on the National Riparian Service Team in Prineville, Oregon. She started November 4, 2002. Sandy moved from the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Bozeman, Montana where she was the Rangeland Management Specialist for the Columbia Basin Resource Technical Team and a past member of the NRCS Northern Plains Region Intermountain Riparian/Wetland Resource Technical Team.

Sandy had been an employee for the NRCS for almost fifteen years. She started specializing in riparian area management in 1992 as the Coordinator of the East River Riparian Area Demonstration Project in eastern South Dakota. She is now a BLM employee in her new position.

Sandy had the opportunity to work with the NRST for the past seven years as a PFC State Cadre member in Colorado and Montana and recently has coordinated training in Montana. She was also a member of the Grazing Management on Riparian Areas Training Cadre.

Sandy is looking forward to the opportunity to work full time with the rest of the NRST, State Cadres and all those who have an interest in promoting sound management of riparian-wetland areas.

You can contact Sandy at: (541) 416-6886 or Sandra_Wyman@or.blm.gov

Since September 2002, **Tim Sullivan** is the BLM National Soil & Riparian Program Leader

Marc Whisler, Montana BLM Riparian Coordinator has moved to work in Lacey, WA for the Fish & Wildlife Service.

Dr. Alma Winward retired from the Forest Service in January 2003

Upcoming Training

Nominations are now being accepted for a 3-day course titled ***Grazing Management for Riparian-Wetland Areas***. The curriculum, created by the interagency National Riparian Service Team (NRST), is designed to increase awareness and understanding of the tools, concepts, and thought processes needed to develop and implement successful riparian grazing management strategies. This course is intended to compliment the Interagency Technical Reference 1737-14 of the same title.

The 3 day training will be offered at 3 locations in FY03. Consideration will be given to nominations from six broad geographic areas of the western States (Northwest, Southwest, Great Basin, Sierra Nevada/Central Valley, Northern Rockies/Intermountain, and Southern Rockies/Colorado Plateau). In the event nominations are submitted for each area, those not selected this year will receive first priority for scheduling the following year.

Please note specific course information below:

COURSE OBJECTIVES: By understanding tools, concepts, and thought processes, attendees will be able to work with other individuals, groups, and agencies to develop and implement successful grazing management strategies. Given an actual livestock operation situation, participants will provide grazing management alternatives to achieve riparian objectives.

TARGET AUDIENCE: Those users, permittees, agency personnel and others who are involved with planning, managing, or evaluating riparian grazing systems.

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR THE THREE DAY TRAINING:

1. Ability to provide 3 to 4 interdisciplinary teams for the training. Additional weight will be given to interagency makeup of teams, as well as permittee participation, either as team members, or from a learning or information sharing standpoint.
2. Ability to submit an exercise relative to an actual livestock operation. It is important that the livestock operation has riparian and upland resources typical of a large geographic area. Additional weight will be given to multiple allotments within an operation, multiple jurisdictions, including private lands, within an operation, and/or multiple operators with common allotments.
3. Ability to provide the following:
 - Description of existing management boundaries, improvements, and maps
 - Land Use Plan material as it relates to the proposed exercise operation
 - Climate, soils, hydrology, and vegetation data/information
 - Inventory and/or monitoring data
 - Slides or videos representing landscapes, riparian areas, etc. of the operation

COURSE LOCATION: The courses will be held at the field locations of the selected nominees.

SUBMISSION OF NOMINATIONS: Each nomination must address the selection criteria outlined above. Include a **brief description** of the actual livestock operation situation to be used for the training exercise, a **proposed location**, and **preferred dates** (with alternatives, if possible).

Please send nominations by March 28, 2003 to: Susan Holtzman, NRST Coordinator
USDA Forest Service
PO Box 3623
Portland, OR 98208
skholtzman@fs.fed.us
Fax (503) 808-2469

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please give Susan a call at (503) 808-2987.

Recognitions

WINWARD RECEIVES W. R. CHAPLINE RESEARCH AWARD from Society for Range Management

Dr. Alma H. Winward, received the W. R. Chapline Research Award at the Society for Range Management's 56th Annual Meeting held in Casper, Wyoming, February 2-6, 2003. The W.R. Chapline Research Award is presented by the Society for Range Management (SRM) to recognize exceptional research accomplishments in range science and associated disciplines.

Dr. Winward's outstanding accomplishments span 35 years. His contributions have not been limited to any one focus area, but include notable accomplishments in all of the following areas: conducting range research, teaching rangeland management, practicing rangeland ecology, and implementing applied technology in furtherance of sound management.

Dr. Winward--quiet, soft-spoken, and unassuming--defers his doctorate title to simply being called "Al". He approached his work as the Rangeland Ecologist with the Forest Service in Ogden with an unmatched reverence and passion. Al has authored almost 100 scientific and technical articles on such topics as sagebrush taxa and ecological relationships, ecosystem inventory and analysis, rangeland shrub genetics and variations, plant community and habitat types, and grazing effects on rangelands.

He has helped establish over 100 reference areas in the Intermountain area to monitor short- and long-term management effects. Al was instrumental in developing the first riparian vegetation classifications in the West. He developed the Riparian Greenline, Riparian Cross Section, and Woody Plant Species Regeneration interagency monitoring procedures in use nationally.

Dr. Winward's expertise and practical applications in sagebrush, wildland shrub, riparian, aspen, and tall-forb ecosystems are of West-wide renown. He is one of the foremost authorities on the taxonomy and ecology of sagebrush; that expertise has earned him the title of "Mr. Sagebrush" or "*Artemesia* Al" from his colleagues and students.

Perhaps no other individual has made greater contributions in so many areas of the science and art of rangeland management in the western United States -- benefiting wildlife, fisheries, watersheds, and livestock operations -- than Al Winward.