



Creeks and Communities:

A Continuing Strategy for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian
Restoration and Management

Creeks and Communities Network

Accomplishments FY2010

(October 2009 – September 2010)

“Achieving Healthy Streams Through Bringing People Together”

PREPARED BY
THE RIPARIAN SERVICE TEAM
NOVEMBER 2010

Creeks and Communities Network

The interagency Creeks and Communities strategy is a joint effort of Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Forest Service, in cooperation with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The strategy is implemented by the Creeks and Communities Network which includes the Riparian Service Team, State Riparian Teams and Agency Coordinators, with personnel from federal and state agencies, universities, industry and conservation interests, and the private sector.

Operating Philosophy

- Increase the capacity of the Network to effectively implement the Creeks and Communities strategy to help individuals, communities, and institutions understand riparian-wetland function, and to confront and resolve complex and contentious issues regarding riparian-wetland resources, in a way that is relevant to people's needs.
- Bring communities of people together to create a common vision for productive and sustainable riparian-wetland conditions, and assist in the development of collaborative management and monitoring plans to achieve this vision.
- Incorporate fundamental concepts from both the biophysical and social dimensions of riparian-wetland management to achieve positive results for resources and communities.
- Ensure program effectiveness through evaluation and adaptation.

Program Goal and Objectives

Goal: To develop a critical mass of people who interact with and manage riparian-wetland resources based on shared knowledge of sustainable and productive systems.

Objective: Provide individuals and groups of diverse interests and backgrounds with the tools to develop a shared understanding of riparian-wetland function, and assist in developing solutions to management challenges stemming from issues in both the resource and human dimensions.

Objective: Create awareness and understanding of, and interest in, this strategy and invite participation across multiple scales.

Objective: Ensure consistency and effectiveness through activities focusing on program management and accountability.

Riparian Service Team

- **Steve Smith**, Team Leader
- **Carol Connolly**, Public Affairs Specialist
- **Susan Holtzman**, Team Coordinator
- **Janice Staats**, Hydrologist
- **Laura Van Riper**, Ph.D., Social Scientist
- **Sandy Wyman**, Rangeland Management Specialist
- **Mark Gonzalez**, Ph.D., Ecologist/Soils Scientist
- **Adjunct Team Members** with specialized skills in Ecology, Fisheries, Wildlife, Hydrology, Forestry, Rangelands, and Conflict Management

Agency Program Coordinators

- **Gordon Toeves**, Washington, DC, and **BLM State Office Riparian Coordinators**
- **Ralph Giffen and Rick Swanson**, Washington, DC, and **Forest Service Regional Riparian Coordinators**
- **Dennis Thompson**, Washington, DC, **Bruce Newton**, **Gene Fults**, West National Technology Support Center, and **NRCS State Riparian Coordinators**

State and Provincial Team Coordinators

- AZ **Dave Smith**, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Flagstaff
- BC **Cori Barraclough**, Aqua-Tex Scientific Consulting Ltd.
- BC **Patrick Lucey**, Aqua-Tex Scientific Consulting Ltd.
- CA **Dave Weixelman**, USDA Forest Service Pacific SW Region
- CO **Jay Thompson**, BLM Colorado State Office
- ID **Bryce Bohn**, BLM Idaho State Office
- MT **Mike Philbin**, BLM Montana State Office
- NM **John Sherman**, BLM New Mexico State Office
- NV **Sherm Swanson**, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Reno
- OR E **Jim Eisner**, BLM Prineville Field Office
- OR W **Vacant**
- TX **Russell Castro**, NRCS Texas State Office
- UT **Justin Jimenez**, BLM Utah State Office
- UT **Mark Petersen**, Utah Farm Bureau
- WA E **Vacant**
- WA W **Vacant**
- WY **Mark Gorges**, BLM Wyoming State Office

CONSULTING AND ADVISORY SERVICES

Service Trips – Riparian Service Team

The Creeks and Communities strategy represents an innovative and adaptive approach aimed at building capacity of land managers and stakeholders to address complex and often contentious issues inherent in managing riparian resources. Service trips are a combination of training and place-based problem solving efforts that are designed to deal with the technical dimensions of riparian related issues while at the same time recognizing and addressing the social context within which these issues exist.

- Malheur National Forest/Grant County – OR
 - Over the years, issues of livestock grazing and fish habitat have been at the core of conflict in the John Day community leading to continuous litigation, strained relationships and overall lack of trust between the various interests. The NRST had been working to encourage action by both the Malheur National Forest and the Grant County Court toward initiating a collaboration approach to deal with this long-standing conflict. A situation assessment was conducted to inform decisions on moving forward with efforts to begin creating a shift in community relationships and how they address issues surrounding public (and private) land grazing. In 2009, a riparian workshop was sponsored by the Prairie City RD to examine previous assessment results, current conditions, and livestock grazing options. Later, the NRST provided input to a draft allotment NEPA document. In addition, a community stakeholder meeting was held to examine people's willingness to work collaboratively on riparian grazing and fish habitat issues into the future. In 2010, the NRST led assessment of fen areas, provided review and advice on grazing strategies, and a literature review and synthesis for allotment NEPA. The NRST spent two field days with forest staff and a third day with staff and stakeholders examining riparian condition, recovery processes, and the effects of livestock grazing.
- Ranching Heritage Alliance (RHA) /Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest – AZ
 - The RHA was formed by a group of permittees concerned about increasing conflict relative to livestock grazing on the National Forest. Working closely with University of AZ Cooperative Extension, the Forest Service and USFWS, they organized with the objective of being proactive through creating learning opportunities and inviting dialog among diverse interests to develop novel solutions to resource issues through collaboration. A riparian grazing course in 2008 led the RHA to ask the NRST for assistance in this process and to help further education in the technical aspects of riparian management. Activities in 2009 included a consensus building workshop, training in riparian assessment, followed by a riparian monitoring workshop. In 2010, the NRST provided a review of the Multiple Indicator Monitoring protocol, helped establish monitoring sites and collect baseline data.
- Ruby Mountains RD, Humboldt-Toiyabe NF - NV
 - The NRST, NV State Riparian Team, and the Forest Service initiated development of a proposal for a collaborative effort to address riparian assessment and management in the Ruby Mountains District in support of the allotment NEPA process. A community meeting was held to introduce the Creeks and Communities approach and discuss to idea of trying it on a pilot area within the District. In 2009, a PFC/Aerial Photography workshop was conducted along with an additional stakeholder meeting to talk more about the process that would be employed. In early 2010, the NRST met with Forest leadership regarding assistance and overall commitment to the project followed by a pre-work session with the interdisciplinary team in preparation for doing riparian assessments during the field season. A situation assessment was also completed involving more than 40 stakeholder conversations; a report was sent to all who participated. A community workshop was conducted followed by riparian assessments with stakeholder participation. The assessment results are being documented and a post-assessment community workshop is planned for FY2011 to review and discuss them.

- Malheur Resource Area, Vale District BLM - OR
 - The NRST was asked to assist agency personnel and stakeholders address existing conflict surrounding issues involving management of riparian resources on the Keeney Creek allotment. Meetings were held with all the parties to gain insights into the nature of the conflict. The NRST facilitated a community workshop hosted by the Malheur County Natural Resources Committee that brought people together to create a respectful environment, develop best outcomes, and also focus on learning about riparian function as a common foundation for dealing with the disagreements about riparian condition. Next, riparian assessments, with all interests involved, were conducted on select riparian areas on the allotment with assistance from the NRST. This resulted in increased understanding of goals and objectives and contributed to some resolution of issues. The team recommended that they follow-up with monitoring as they adjust livestock management.
- Pinedale BLM Field Office - WY
 - The NRST was asked to provide assistance to the Pinedale BLM Field Office in their effort to complete riparian assessments as part of the allotment NEPA process in the North LaBarge Unit. Focus is on assuring assessment quality and building understanding of assessment results and the implications for livestock grazing management. Additional information was gathered and the NRST submitted a proposal for a multi-phased approach that would address the technical issues involved and advance stakeholder engagement. The NRST participated with the WY Riparian Team in conducting a PFC training course, and once the Field Office Manager position is filled, they will revisit moving forward with the team's proposal.

BLM National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) Learning Lab

The NRST has entered into an agreement with the NLCS and BLM's National Partnership Office to provide a 'Learning Lab' in order to build capacity for collaborative problem solving on NLCS units using the Creeks and Communities approach. Individuals on NLCS units are being mentored in the multi-phased framework while dealing with an actual riparian issue (learning by doing).

- Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument – MT
 - There has been long standing disagreement with some of the Monument users on the condition and appropriate use of the riparian resources. The NRST conducted a situation assessment and prepared a written report that was shared with all those participating. This was followed by a community workshop for the purpose of creating a climate for current and future work that enables managers and the many involved publics to engage more effectively. The workshops resulted in several agreed upon action items and planning began for future community workshops and riparian assessment on the Upper Missouri River. In addition, the NRST was asked to provide facilitation and conflict management assistance for an interagency stakeholder meeting on water flows and Cottonwood regeneration. In 2010, the team brought together the BLM interdisciplinary team and several scientists who have studied the river extensively, to begin planning and preparing for the logistically complex assessment effort. Community workshops were also held to explain the purpose and process and the opportunity for involvement. Extensive assessments were completed by the local interdisciplinary team and the NRST, with stakeholders participating. A follow-up visit was made to validate the riparian vegetation and begin discussions on a monitoring strategy. Post-assessment community workshops are planned in FY2011.
- Canyon of the Ancients National Monument - CO
 - The NRST was asked to coach BLM and FS interdisciplinary teams with assessment of the intermittent, interrupted and flashy systems characteristic of the southwest. In addition, stakeholder involvement was important in advancing understanding of agency management direction. Initial planning for workshops and field site visits was completed. These were scheduled for September

2009, but had to be postponed. Planning and preparation resumed in 2010 and activities rescheduled for October.

Working Landscapes Alliance

The NRST, at times, partners with Sustainable Northwest, a Portland-based non-profit, and others in the private sector to provide assistance and support to rangeland and ranching dependent communities through an approach that identifies and addresses ecological, social and economic dimensions and applies the Creeks and Communities principles and practices. The intent is to focus on several geographic areas over a period of time to affect positive results for resources and communities.

- Sprague Valley, Klamath Basin - OR
 - Work continues with the tribes, agencies, landowners, and OR State University, expanding riparian monitoring (greenline, cross sections and woody regeneration) to numerous sites along the Sprague and Wood Rivers and initiating steps at developing a riparian classification as part of the monitoring effort.
- Wallowa-Whitman National Forest – OR
 - Conducted a meeting of Forest Service personnel and interested stakeholders to review and discuss the results of riparian assessments completed in 2009.
- Three Rivers Alliance - CO
 - The Three Rivers Alliance is a landowner-based non-profit organization focused on promoting incentives and education for improving wildlife habitat and range conditions on private land in the Republican River Basin. In 2009, a situation assessment led to a consensus building workshop with community stakeholders to explore the role this newly formed group might best fill to deal with the emerging issues of water use and supply associated with the Ogallala aquifer. In 2010, the WLA facilitated and participated in a conference call with group members and affiliates in the Republican River Basin regarding interest and ideas about moving forward in the collaborative development of a comprehensive watershed plan to guide restoration prioritization and investment.
- Nueces River Authority – TX
 - Through success in securing grants, the Nueces River Authority has implemented a program to develop a ‘Riparian Network’ of landowners throughout the watershed interested in learning about and managing their riparian resources in a more informed manner to ensure sustainable conditions. Riparian function workshops were conducted with members of the Texas Riparian Team, on multiple landowner properties. Capacity building focused on landowners and technical specialists in NRCS, Texas Parks & Wildlife, and University Extension.
- Crook County Natural Resources Planning Committee – OR
 - The WLA is participating in community activities addressing allocation of the water behind Bowman Dam in the Prineville reservoir, the condition of the Crooked River, and reintroduction of steelhead. A situation assessment was completed with report sent to stakeholders and a community meeting was held to discuss findings and a community workshop regarding water management relative to power and fish production. A current issue surrounds the release of a draft instream flow report and how this too can be addressed in a more collaborative manner given the implications to community interests.
- Deschutes River Conservancy - OR

- Continue to provide expertise to the Board of Directors and partners relative to water issues and conservation projects within the Basin.
- Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition
 - WLA is part of the Range and Ranching Working Group focusing on policy to facilitate sustainable rangelands and ranching. Activities include conference call participation, document review, and annual meeting attendance.
- Community Workshops - TX
 - Several non-profit organizations sponsored and hosted three 1-day workshops to introduce the concepts of riparian function and its relationship to supporting a variety of values and interests; the San Geronimo Nature Center, Helotes Creek Nature Center, and the San Antonio River Road Neighborhood Association.

Review and Advice – Riparian Service Team

- British Columbia Report: State of Stream Channels, Fish Habitats, and their Adjacent Riparian Areas – Resource Stewardship Monitoring for Evaluating the Effectiveness of Riparian Management
- BLM Alternative Dispute Field Guide
- Advanced Collaborative Governance Pilot Training Course, BLM WO ADR
- BLM Aquatic/Riparian Database Development, BLM WO and NOC
- Ram Mountain Grazing Allotment EA, MT BLM
- Nueces River Authority Trust Grant Proposal, Nueces River Authority
- Defining BLM's Social Science Needs, WO BLM
- Survey: A Guide to Fuels Management in Riparian Areas of the Interior West, FS RMRS
- Hollows Litigation, ID BLM
- Development of a Headcut Prioritization Matrix, NV BLM
- Summit-Logan Allotment EA, Malheur NF
- North Fork Big Lost River Rangeland Monitoring Plan, Salmon-Challis NF
- Bryce Valley, Paria River Watershed Assessment Report, Utah NRCS
- Lower San Pedro Riparian Acquisition Management Conflict, Tucson FO BLM
- Lower Colorado River Partnership Draft Plan, Yuma FO BLM
- Land Health Standards and PFC, WO BLM
- BLM Range Program Outreach Issue Paper, WO BLM
- Riparian Ecological Site Description Development, NRCS
- FS Draft Rangeland Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring Handbook, FS
- National Science Foundation Grant Proposal, Isaak Walton League
- Resource Management Plan, New Mexico SO BLM
- Sustainable Natural Resources Journal Draft Article, Oregon State University
- Redd Trampling Model Journal Article, WO Rangelands
- Riparian Response to Instream Flow - Monitoring, FS Teams
- Graduate Research Paper - Groundwater on the Shenyenne National Grasslands
- Graduate Research Paper – Soil Properties Affected by Oil Well Access Road Reclamation
- Grand River Cooperative Grazing Association Monitoring Plan, Dakota Prairie National Grasslands
- Riparian Assessment and Monitoring Plan, Dakota Prairie National Grasslands

Assistance to State Teams – Riparian Service Team

Arizona – Assisted with PFC training in Safford

California – Provided assistance with PFC training on the Inyo NF; provided advice estimating trend

Colorado – Provided coaching with assistance to the Canyon of the Ancients National Monument (see NLCS)

Nevada – Coaching and assistance implementing a collaborative process for range NEPA, Ruby Mtns RD, H-T NF

New Mexico – Addressed questions relative to heavily altered sites encountered during 2009 training; provided assistance and review comments for PFC training in Silver City

Oregon – Assistance doing PFC assessments, Prineville BLM; grazing training in Ontario; PFC in Baker City

Texas – Assisted Texas Team with riparian workshops in a variety of locations; reviewed team products

Utah – Provided assistance and advice with PFC training and field site visits, Price FO; MIM training in Richfield

Wyoming – Provided assistance and feedback during PFC training at Pinedale FO; MIM training at Rock Springs; planning FY11 work to support riparian assessments in the North LaBarge Unit for allotment NEPA

Other Projects – Riparian Service Team

- Creeks and Communities Network Biennial Meeting (March 2010)
 - These biennial events are both developmental and working meetings designed to increase and enhance the ability of the Network to be effective in both managing and implementing the Creeks and Communities strategy. This forum serves a learning network of individuals and organizations and provides time and opportunities for both relationship building and information sharing. The agenda was prepared with input from the Network and included a mix of venues covering both riparian technical issues and the human and social dimensions of managing resources. The group provided valuable feedback on several emerging issues. A meeting report was produced and a 2-year Network work plan was finalized.
- 4th National Conference on Grazing Lands: Creeks and Communities Session
 - A series of three presentations were given involving NRST assistance with proactive livestock producers, agency personnel, university extension, sharing their experiences and approaches to collaborative problem solving.
- Ephemeral Channel Assessment
 - Field personnel from a variety of geographic regions have been asking for guidance relative to understanding and assessing ephemeral channels. The NRST proposed, and met with the Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health team to discuss, the possible development and incorporation of such guidance into the next revision (Version 5) of TR-1734-6 Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health.
- Deschutes National Forest Fen Assessment, OR
 - Assisted Forest staff with evaluation of fens and in particular, development and characterization of peatlands and adjacent soils.
- Riparian Ecology Course Development
 - A pilot session of the Riparian Ecology course was held in 2009. In 2010, a course evaluation was completed and a decision made to postpone further development due to other priority projects.
- BLM Riparian Program, Creeks & Communities, Riparian Data Management Survey
 - In 2009, the NRST participated with the BLM WO and the National Operation Center to design, conduct and analyze the results of a BLM State and Field Office survey as a starting point for aligning national priorities and fostering integration and support of BLM programs and initiatives. In 2010, the NRST completed the synthesis report outlining findings and recommendations, to serve as the basis for an action plan. The report was submitted to the BLM WO with a draft Informational Bulletin that finalized and distributed to Centers, and State and Field Offices.

- Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) TR Development
 - Work was initiated by BLM WO, NOC, NRST and ID BLM to update and convert the current MIM Idaho Technical Bulletin 2008-1 into a 1737 series Technical Reference. An extensive review process began in FY2009 with incorporation of comments, administrative and policy review, examination by statistical experts, and continuation of field application and adaptation. In 2010, authors incorporated review comments and completed additional field testing. Coordination with the National Operations Center is ongoing relative to writing and editing, layout, printing, and management of the data base, and distribution.
- Streambank Alteration Review Team Proposal
 - After researching options and conferring with possible team members, a proposal was drafted and sent to select BLM and FS program managers proposing establishment of a team to address the concept of streambank alteration. The intent is to build upon the work and recommendations of the University of Idaho Stubble Height Review Team, and to ultimately provide more clarity, understanding and guidance to agency personnel and stakeholders. Current faculty at the University of Idaho are willing to lead this effort, however, to date, this proposal has not been acted upon by agency managers.
- Lotic and Lentic PFC PowerPoint Presentations
 - Compilation and completion of standardized lotic and lentic PowerPoint presentations, with notes pages for each, posted on the Creeks and Communities website for use by the Network.
- PFC Assessment Pre-work Guidance
 - Initiated development of guidance for accomplishing necessary and adequate pre-work prior to doing actual on-the-round assessments. An instructional memo was developed along with a handout on delineating stream reaches. Additional work will be done on providing stratification guidance for both riparian assessment and monitoring, including visual examples and workshop exercises.
- Headcut Guidance, FS STREAM Team
 - The NRST asked the STREAM Team to develop guidance on headcut assessment and treatment at the urging of the Creeks and Communities Network and agency field offices. Coordination and review are ongoing and will continue into FY2010.
- Riparian Grasses Field Guide
 - Initiated and led by the University of Wyoming, current efforts are focused on contributing to the inclusion of ecological information for each species.
- Alaska Grasses Field Guide
 - The NRST is assisting with this multi-agency funded project to collect, photograph, and provide ecological information for the grass species included.

TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

Training and Workshops - Riparian Service Team

- Consensus Institute I
 - Hosted by the BLM National Training Center and sponsored by the BLM National Landscape Conservation System and Community Partnership Office, this workshop focused on confronting and managing conflict and engaged people in learning basic process tools for developing consensus in a highly charged, experiential training approach. Attendance included a diverse mix of agency and community stakeholders from a number of western states and Washington, D.C.

- SRM High School Youth Forum Riparian Workshop, CO
 - Conducted a half-day introductory riparian workshop for SRM High School students attending the annual meeting of SRM. Learning evaluations are done as follow-up and provided to the team.
- Grazing Workshop, WY
 - Participated with a riparian grazing presentation as part of a producer oriented grazing workshop sponsored by the local SWCD, NRCS, BLM, University of WY Extension, and WY Department of Agriculture, in Marbleton.
- Wallowa-Whitman/Umatilla NF Range Workshop, OR
 - Covered aspects of riparian monitoring as part of the annual Range Workshop in northeast Oregon.
- Region 4 Forest Service Interdisciplinary Workshop, UT
 - Presented an introductory overview of the Multiple Indicator Monitoring protocol.
- Crook County Natural Resources Education Program
 - The NRST served as visiting instructors at Crook County High School. Students from the fish, wildlife and natural resources classes learned the Multiple Indicator Monitoring protocol in preparation for summer field work. Instruction and coaching were provided to summer field crews from Crook County and Redmond High Schools doing riparian monitoring on portions of the Crooked River Wild & Scenic River. This activity is a component of the Crook County Natural Resources Education Program.
- Oregon State University Rangeland Watershed Class
 - Provided classroom presentations and field site visits to help students learn about riparian function and recovery, along with a discussion of management implications.
- Grazing Management for Riparian-Wetland Areas Training
 - Ontario, OR - The NRST and OR State Team conducted a 3-day riparian grazing workshop co-sponsored by the Treasure Valley Community College, OSU Extension, BLM, and Forest Service.
 - Sherman County, OR - Conducted a one-day introductory workshop designed for landowners and sponsored by the local SWCD and watershed council.
- Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) Training
 - Oregon – Overview and field training for Prineville BLM managers and staff.
 - Idaho – Interagency session sponsored and hosted by the Salmon-Challis National Forest.
 - Utah - The Utah Riparian Team hosted an interagency training session in Richfield.
 - Oregon – Vale District BLM sponsored MIM implementation training.
 - Wyoming – The Wyoming Riparian Team hosted an interagency session in Rock Springs.
 - Region 6 FS – Provided overview of the MIM protocol and context for application.

CREATE AWARENESS, UNDERSTANDING, AND INTEREST

Briefings, Meetings, Presentations, Key Contacts – Riparian Service Team

- Ochoco National Forest Leadership Team
- Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Federal Lands Roundtable
- Idaho BLM State Leadership Team
- Congress on Western Rangelands
- SRM Annual Meeting
- BLM Riparian Lead Meeting
- BLM Range Lead Meeting

- Rangeland Management for Line Officers
- Program Director for New Zealand Nature Institute
- National Institute of Agricultural Technology, Argentina
- Partnering with Communities: National Workshop on Federal Community Based Programs
- OR/WA BLM Soil, Water, Riparian Meeting
- Conference for Environmental Conflict Resolution (DOI Solicitor FACA application examples)
- Social Science Activities Supported by NRST
- BLM Annual OMB-CEQ ECR Report: Creeks & Communities Activities
- America's Great Outdoors Task Force: collaborative decision making, science in schools
- Outreach to Diverse and Underserved Communities; C&C approach for program delivery
- BLM Director and Deputy Director
- BLM Assistant Director for Natural Resources and Planning
- BLM Division Chief and Staff – Rangelands, Riparian, Invasive Plants
- BLM Division Chief and Staff – Soil, Water, Air
- BLM Wildlife and Fisheries Staff
- BLM Public Affairs Office
- BLM National Landscape Conservation System Division Chief and Staff
 - BLM Partnership and Community Stewardship Office
 - BLM Wilderness/Wild and Scenic River Program
 - BLM Environmental Education Program
- BLM Collaborative Stakeholder Engagement and ADR Program
- BLM National Operations Center
- BLM National Training Center
- DOI Partnership Office
- FS Associate Chief for National Forest Systems
- FS WO/RO Range Directors/Program Managers
- FS WO/RO Watershed, Fish and Wildlife Staff
- FS Aquatic Ecology Unit
- FS STREAM Team
- FS National Partnership Office
- NRCS WO Rangelands
- NRCS West National Technical Support Center
- NRCS Central National Technical Support Center
- USFWS WO and Regional Staff
- ARS Jornada Experimental Range
- Indicators of Rangeland Health Instructor Team
- National Cattlemen's Beef Association
- Sustainable Northwest
- Quivira Coalition
- Boone and Crockett Club
- Oregon Natural Desert Association
- U.S. Institute for Conflict Resolution

Requests for Information / Referrals – Riparian Service Team

Summary – In addition to work listed above, the NRST responded to approximately 50 requests for information, advice, or assistance from a variety of sources, both national and international. Inquiries included questions about Creeks and Communities approach as well as riparian assessment, monitoring, restoration, adaptive management, and sources of information. At least 15 referrals were made to help people find the assistance and information they need.

Products to Market and Implement the Strategy – Riparian Service Team

NRST/Creeks and Communities Website
Creeks and Communities Network Directory
Full Stream Ahead Bi-monthly Newsletter
Place-based Problem Solving Case Studies
Creeks and Communities Handouts and PowerPoint Presentations

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Planning and Coordination

NRST Coordination Calls and Work Planning Meetings – weekly and quarterly
BLM WO-220 and FS Rangelands Conference Calls – weekly
BLM Riparian Program Conference Calls – quarterly
BLM Range Program Conference Calls – monthly
BLM and FS Fish, Wildlife, Watershed, Soils Program Coordination
BLM National Landscape Conservation System Coordination
BLM and FS Partnership Office Program Coordination
BLM Collaborative Stakeholder Engagement and ADR Program Coordination
BLM National Operations Center Planning and Coordination
BLM National Training Center Planning and Coordination
BLM and FS Budget and Staffing Coordination
BLM/FS Interagency Cooperative Agreement
NRCS West National Technical Support Center Coordination
USFWS WO and Regional Office Communication
Creeks and Communities Network Development/Support to State Teams Planning and Coordination
Creeks and Communities Network Biennial Meeting Planning and Coordination
ID/IQ Contract for Creeks and Communities Administration and Tracking

Reporting

FY2010 Riparian Coordination Network Accomplishment Report
FY2009 Monthly NRST Updates
FY2010 BLM Report to OMB-CEQ on use of ADR approaches

Evaluation

A Joint Venture Agreement was entered into with Oregon State University as principle investigator for another OMB approved program evaluation. The primary focus this second evaluation is to ascertain the effectiveness of the changes implemented since the first evaluation and subsequent revision of the Creeks and Communities strategic plan, in 2002. In 2010, the OMB approval package was submitted and approved. Also, the evaluation survey design and interview questions were finalized, and case studies determined; interviews and case study development was initiated. The survey work, interviews, and case study development will continue into 2011. A final evaluation report is also expected in 2011.

Leveraging Resources

Over half of the work activities were accomplished through leveraging NRST operating budget with contribution of outside funding.

Recognition

Writing Women Back Into History

Laura Van Riper, Ph.D., NRST Social Scientist was recognized during Women's History Month as an individual in a select group of women who are working in nontraditional occupations in the BLM. Working as an applied social scientist, a non-traditional specialist on an interdisciplinary team, Laura is helping build awareness across agency programs regarding the importance of incorporating a social science/conflict resolution perspective in traditional agency decision-making.

Klamath Basin Restoration

The NRST was recognized by Sustainable Northwest, a non-profit organization in Portland, Oregon, for their grass roots efforts in the Klamath Basin. Over the past decade, the NRST, within the Working Landscapes Alliance, established productive working relationships with many entities in the basin facilitating increased awareness and understanding that has fostered improved management and restoration of riparian resources. Employing the Creeks and Communities approach, many community meetings, workshops and field visits were conducted working with landowners, agencies, tribes, and the science community, to bring about improved relationships and agreement in support of restoration goals.

2010 DOI Partners in Conservation Award

In a ceremony September 30, in Washington D.C., Bob Abbey, Director of BLM recognized the team for their significant efforts in fostering a collaborative and partnership culture within and across Departmental organizations including building capacity for collaboration and partnerships and promoting internal coordination.

State Riparian Team Activities

ALASKA

- Participated in the Biennial Creeks and Communities Network Meeting
- Continued coordination with other federal agencies, state and local government, organizations and institutions relative to opportunities for Creeks and Communities activities

ARIZONA

- Participated in the Biennial Creeks and Communities Network Meeting
- Conducted 2-day PFC training in Safford with assistance from NRST
- Wetland Plant Identification Workshop in conjunction with SRM Arizona Section Meeting in Greer – instructors were USFWS, University of AZ Extension, and Forest Service Research
- Assisted NRST with Multiple Indicator Monitoring training and field application sponsored by the Ranching Heritage Alliance in Sprinerville, Arizona
- Developed FY2010-2011 Work Plan, reported 2010 State Team accomplishments

CALIFORNIA

- Participated in the Biennial Creeks and Communities Network Meeting
- PFC Training for the Pala Indian Reservation, Pala, CA
- PFC Fen Assessment, Plumas NF, Quincy, CA
- PFC Training, Inyo NF, Bishop, CA

- Assisted NRST in fen assessment on the Malheur National Forest
- Developed FY2010-2011 Work Plan, reported 2010 State Team accomplishments

CANADA

- Participated in the Biennial Creeks and Communities Network Meeting; gave an evening presentation on the water/energy nexus in sustainable development with examples from the U.S. and Canada
- Continued with efforts to foster interest in the Creeks and Communities/Riparian Service Team/Network concepts and model in British Columbia, working with Provincial government and non-governmental organizations

COLORADO

- Participated in the Biennial Creeks and Communities Network Meeting Outreach for State Team activities through diverse state network mailing list
- Conducted PFC workshop in Grand Junction (June, 33 participants)
- Conducted PFC workshop in Denver (July, 35 participants)
- Added new team member – Range Management Specialist from Arapho-Roosevelt NF
- Developed FY2010-2011 Work Plan, reported 2010 State Team accomplishments

IDAHO

- Participated in the Biennial Creeks and Communities Network Meeting
- Updated and disseminated the announcement brochure advertising opportunities and services provided by the Idaho Riparian Team
- Taught a PFC workshop at the University of Idaho, in Moscow
- Assisted the California State Team with PFC training on the Inyo National Forest, Bishop
- Assisted the Oregon State Team with PFC training in Baker City
- Contributed to NRST evaluation of Riparian Ecology Course
- Supported the process of MIM Technical Reference development.
- Recruited two new members for the Idaho cadre; a soil scientist and hydrologist from the Forest Service
- Taught a class on riparian function and PFC assessment to environmental engineering students at Boise State University
- Assisted two field units in the migration of their legacy PFC data into the new national riparian database
- Assisting the NRST with the development of a procedural document on lotic environment stratification and how to use it for PFC assessments and determining DMA locations
- Developed FY2010-2011 Work Plan, reported 2010 State Team accomplishments

MONTANA

- Participated the Biennial Creeks and Communities Network Meeting
- Updated statewide riparian-wetland contact lists and the State Riparian Team flyer and riparian information CD
- Maintained the Montana Riparian Team link on the NRCS website which introduces the Creeks and Communities Strategy, PFC, and gives contact information.
- Participated on the Montana Wetlands Council
- Provided assistance for wetland and riparian mapping through the Montana Wetland and Riparian Mapping Center
- Provided assistance for the Kids on the Yellowstone Program
- Added new team member – fisheries biologist with restoration skills
- Led and participated with NRST in the Upper Missouri River assessment effort
- Developed FY2010-2011 Work Plan, reported 2010 State Team accomplishments

NEVADA

- Participated in the Biennial Creeks and Communities Network Meeting, and conducted annual Nevada Team meeting and coordination and planning calls
- Through securing a NV Dept. of Environmental Protection grant, the Nevada Team is able to continue teaching in many different venues, working to bring many diverse agencies and interests together to foster effective and broadly supported riparian and watershed management
- PFC workshops were conducted at Squaw Valley Ranch, Carson City, and Owyhee. PFC training in Nevada and with the CA State Team has resulted in the EPA's making PFC a centerpiece of their efforts to improve rangeland water quality, especially on tribal lands throughout the southwest
- Ongoing participation with the NRST on multi-phased assistance for the pilot project of the Ruby Mountains Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest community meetings riparian assessments
- Participated in development and broadcast of a webinar linking PFC and water quality at the request and sponsorship of the Citizen Monitoring Coordinator for California Water Resources Control Boards' Water Quality Monitoring Collection Network; available at <https://waterboards.webex.com/waterboards/ldr.php?AT=pb&SP=MC&rID=40394437&rKey=19324b284dac62a2>
- Contributed to NRST evaluation of Riparian Ecology Course
- Presentations:
 - Riparian functionality concepts to the Plumas County Planning Commission, as foundational for incorporating into the Plumas County General Plan
 - PFC and riparian grazing concepts to the California Pacific Section Society for Range Management
 - Riparian Hot Season Grazing: Good, Bad & the Ugly for the Cattlemen's College at the Nevada Cattlemen's Association annual meeting
 - Concepts of riparian PFC to the Clear Creek Watershed Council
 - PFC Assessment as a Tool to Inform Land Managers Regarding Priorities for Addressing Water Quality
 - River Areas, Bank Erosion and PFC Assessment to a meeting of the Nevada Division of Forestry, South Fork Reservoir State Park
 - Watershed Hydrology of Pacific Northwest Rangelands, Sustainable Rangelands Watershed Stewardship, WERA 1011, Caldwell Research and Extension Center
- Nevada Youth Range Camp sponsored by University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Nevada Section SRM, and Nevada Wildlife Federation
- Nevada Range School; principles of PFC and riparian grazing management
- Society for Range Management High School Youth Forum Riparian Workshop at the annual meeting in Denver, CO
- Participation on the Cottonwood Ranch Holistic Management Team, Carson River Coalition and Water Quality Working Group, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service State Technical Committee
- Continued work with South Fork of the Humboldt River Indian Reservation tribal members and various private landowners to foster a collaborative restoration effort.
- Continuation of a program evaluation assessing the effectiveness of the Nevada Creeks and Communities Team and their activities implementing the Creeks and Communities strategy
- Developed FY2010-2011 Work Plan, reported 2010 State Team accomplishments

NEW MEXICO

- Participated in the Biennial Creeks and Communities Network Meeting Held annual planning meeting in Socorro in November 2008 to determine activities for 2009
- Actively seeking new team members from the Forest Service.
- Conducted PFC training in Ruidoso in May
- Continues to maintain a poster at NM State Parks in Albuquerque and coordinate with New Mexico Riparian Council

- Developed FY2010-2011 Work Plan, reported 2010 State Team accomplishments

OREGON

- Participated in the Biennial Creeks and Communities Network Meeting
- Active search for new State Team members
- Oregon State University Rangeland Watershed class field tour
- Society for Range Management High School Youth Forum Riparian Workshop
- Developed FY2010-2011 Work Plan, reported 2010 State Team accomplishments

TEXAS

- Participated in the Biennial Creeks and Communities Network Meeting
- McKinney PFC Workshop, Nov 19
- Texas Riparian Team PFC Workshop in Temple, Aug 10-13
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept, Oct 16
- NRCS PFC, Nov 19-20
- Tonk Creek Landowners Workshop – 4/30/09 – Spenser, Creswell
- Riparian Presentations:
 - Menard Soil and Water Conservation District, Oct 1
 - Lower Colorado River Authority Landowner Seminar, Oct 9
 - Texas Master Naturalists Conf, Oct 29
 - Texas Chapter, The Wildlife Society, Feb 27
 - Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Expo, March 7
 - Texas Master Naturalists Chapter Meeting, March 23
 - San Geronimo Landowners, May 7
 - South Concho River Landowner Assoc, May 16
 - Texas A&M Univ. Senior Range Class Field Trip, May 20
 - St. Luke Episcopal Church Stewardship Conf, July 29
- On-site assistance and landowner consultations:
 - HEB Camp, Frio River, Oct 19
 - TJ Moore, Guadalupe River Oct 31
 - Ranch Consultation, North Llano River, Feb 17
 - Huckstead, Spring Creek, Jun 23
 - Behringer, Pedernales River, July 1
 - Lower Colorado River Authority Property, Aug 4
 - City of Arlington – Johnson Creek
- Landowner Workshops with Nueces River Authority
 - San Pedro Ranch, Oct 17
 - Rancho Real, Oct 18
 - Annandale Ranch, Oct 19
 - Utopia workshop, Oct 21
 - River Tree workshop, May 2
 - Dos Chimineas Ranch, May 4
 - Mayan Ranch, May 5
 - Choya Ranch, May 6
 - Burns Ranch, May 7
- Remarkable Riparian Brochure
- Remarkable Riparian Field Guide
- Distribution of Riparian Notes
- Developed FY2010-2011 Work Plan, reported 2010 State Team accomplishments

UTAH

- Participated in the Biennial Creeks and Communities Network Meeting
- Annual planning meeting conducted; Team Leader, team members, agency coordinators participated, fostering communication and coordination of agency and non-agency riparian programs; briefing opportunities identified, training and service trip site visits discussed for 2010 field season; focus on enhancing areas of expertise related to PFC and MIM training components; recommendations for additional members
- Submitted and awarded Challenge Cost Share proposal to assist in providing funding for Utah Riparian Team Co-coordinator position and recruited new team member - NRCS Range Specialist
- The Utah Riparian Service Team brochure was professionally printed for distribution. The e-mail outreach contact list was updated and outreach and marketing information was shared at training session, workshops, meetings, and during assistance trips.
- Utah Riparian Team Coordinator presented multiple indicator monitoring information to the Rich County CRM Group, Utah Grazing Improvement Program and private landowners.
- The Utah Riparian Service Team participated in an assessment of the Sevier River as part of an interdisciplinary team assessing stream and riparian condition in the middle and lower Sevier River watershed applying both Stream Visual Assessment Protocol Version 2 (SVAP2) and Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessment method with the use of low-level video and high resolution aerial photography. This project facilitated tying together a major river system in Utah with an interagency, interdisciplinary assessment, assisting with overall coordination efforts and the ability of managers to efficiently identify and prioritize restoration projects. In addition, this project provided a unique opportunity to apply visual assessment techniques in an accelerated fashion through the use of video and photographic images.
- Co-sponsored, organized and facilitated Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) training in Richfield; 25 participants from BLM, USFS, NRCS, consultants, Utah Association of Conservation Districts, and Yosemite National Park.
- Conducted a 2-day training session on the Process for Assessing Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) of Riparian-Wetland Areas in Price, with members of the NRST participating and evaluating; 26 participants with attendees from BLM, USFS, NRCS, private consultants, Utah Association of Conservation Districts, Utah State Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.
- Coordinated with the NRST, Price BLM Field Office, and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to follow the Price PFC training with a PFC implementation effort assessing the condition of two complex riparian-wetland areas and provide recommendations for future management.
- Developed FY2010-2011 Work Plan, reported 2010 State Team accomplishments

WYOMING

- Participated in the Biennial Creeks and Communities Network Meeting
- Conducted PFC training in Pinedale; worked with NRST to plan FY11 assistance to the Pinedale FO
- Provided assistance to various BLM Field Offices in the Rock Springs District
- Hosted MIM training in Rock Springs
- Developed FY2010-2011 Work Plan, reported 2010 State Team accomplishments