



Creeks and Communities:

*A Continuing Strategy for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian
Restoration and Management*

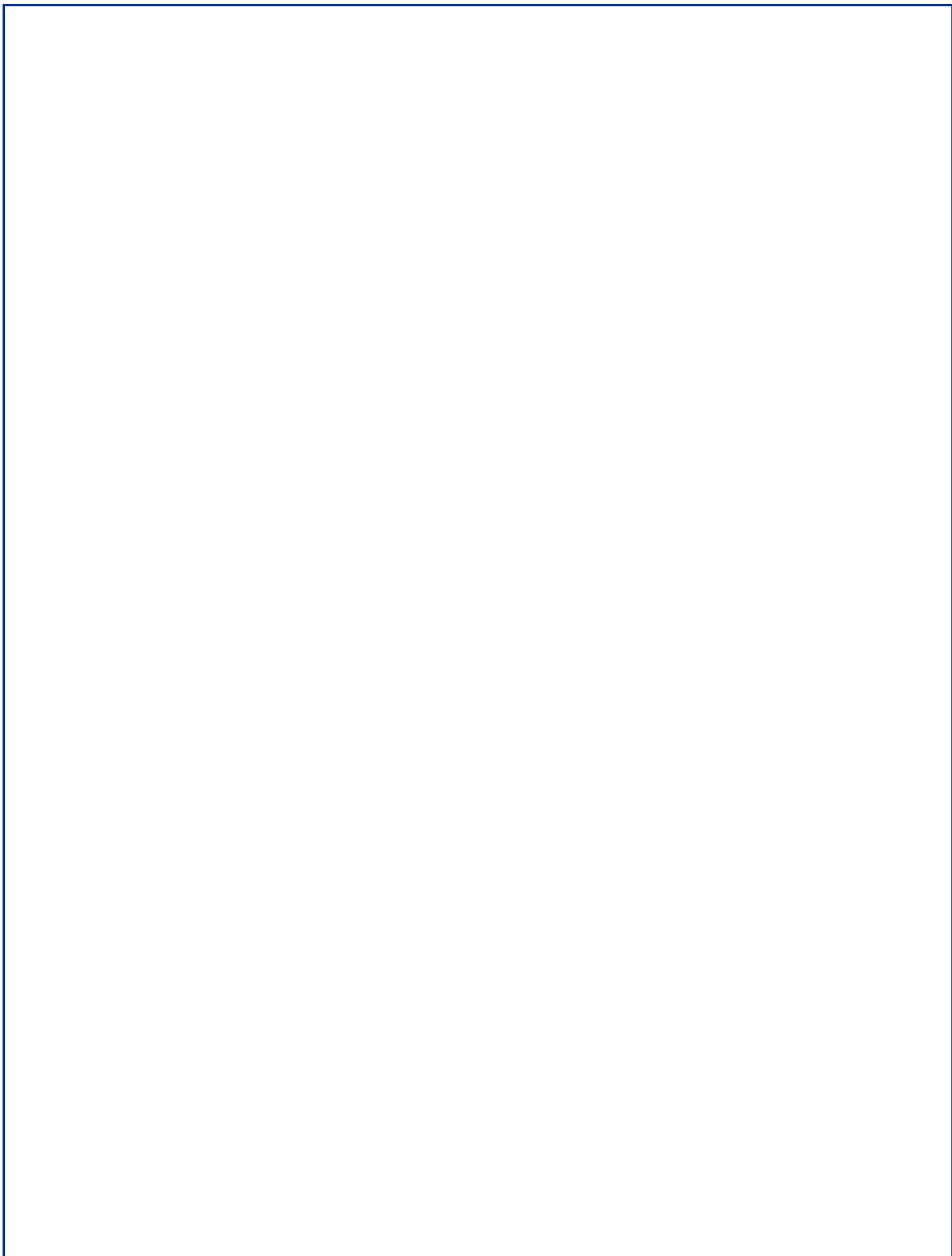
Creeks and Communities Network Annual Accomplishments FY 2013



by

THE NATIONAL RIPARIAN SERVICE TEAM

NOVEMBER 2013



Creeks and Communities Network

The interagency Creeks and Communities Strategy is a joint effort of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), USDA Forest Service (FS), in cooperation with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The strategy is implemented by the Creeks and Communities Network which includes the National Riparian Service Team (NRST), 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 Creeks and Communities 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.
- 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.

Creeks and Communities 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.

National Riparian Service Team

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

Agency Program Coordinators

- **Craig Goodwin, Carol Spurrier, BLM, Washington, DC**
- **BLM State Office Riparian Program Leads**
 - AK, **Matt Varner**
 - AZ, **Bill Wells/Aaron Wilkerson**
 - CA, **Karl Stein/Christina Lund**
 - CO, **Jay Thompson**
 - ID, **Bryce Bohn**
 - MT, **Mike Philbin**
 - NM, **John Sherman**
 - NV, **Sarah Peterson**
 - OR/WA, **Al Doelker**
 - UT, **Justin Jimenez**
 - WY, **Dennis Saville/Mark Goertel**
- **Ric Lopez, Barbara Schrader, and Rick Swanson, FS, Washington, DC**
- **Forest Service Regional Office Riparian Program Managers**
 - Northern Region, **Bruce Sims/Mary Manning**
 - Rocky Mountain Region, **Bonnie Houghton**
 - Southwest Region, **Judith Dyess/Roy Jemison**
 - Intermountain Region, **Terry Padilla/Greg Bevenger**
 - Pacific Southwest Region, **Anne Yost**
 - Pacific Northwest Region, **Tom Hilken/Trish Carroll**
 - Southern Region, **Suzanne Krieger/Michael Crump**
 - Eastern Region, **Ted Geier**
 - Alaska Region, **John Lane/Barbara Schrader**
- **Dana Larsen, NRCS, Washington, DC; Bruce Newton, Shaun McKinney, and Gene Fults, NRCS, West National Technology Support Center**
- **NRCS State Riparian Coordinators**
 - AK, **Calvin Steele**
 - AZ, **Byron Lambeth/Stu Tuttle**
 - CA, **Steve Hill**
 - CO, **Eugene Backhaus**
 - ID, **Brendan Brazee**
 - KS, **Jon Ungerer**
 - MT, **Pete Husby**
 - ND, **Craig Stange**
 - NM, **John Tunberg**
 - NV, **Patti Novak-Echenique**
 - OR, **Bob Gillaspay**
 - SD, **Sanley Boltz/Jerry Jasmer**
 - TX, **Susan Baggett**
 - UT, **Shane Green**
 - WA, **Tim Dring**
 - WY, **Brian Jensen**

State and Provincial Team Coordinators

- Arizona **Dave Smith**, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Flagstaff
- British Columbia **Cori Barraclough & Patrick Lucey**, Aqua-Tex Scientific Consulting Ltd.
- California **Vacant**
- Colorado **Jay Thompson**, BLM Colorado State Office
- Idaho **Bryce Bohn**, BLM Idaho State Office
- Montana **Mike Philbin**, BLM Montana State Office
- New Mexico **John Sherman**, BLM New Mexico State Office
- Nevada **Sherm Swanson**, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Reno
- Oregon **Jim Eisner**, BLM Prineville Field Office
- Texas **Russell Castro**, NRCS Texas State Office
- Utah **Justin Jimenez**, BLM Utah State Office, and **Mark Petersen**, Consultant
- Washington State **Tip Hudson**, Washington State University Extension, Ellensburg, WA
- Wyoming **Vacant**



CONSULTING AND ADVISORY SERVICES

Place-Based Assistance – National 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. Place-based assistance can include multiple phases involving training and problem solving efforts designed to address both the technical and social dimensions of riparian related issues.

Place-Based Assistance Projects

- **Klamath National Forest, Salmon/Scott River Ranger District, CA**
 - The NRST received a request to assist the district in bringing various interested parties together to address perceived grazing impacts to riparian resources within wilderness areas. A situation assessment was completed in June 2013, and a report outlining findings and recommended NRST-led activities was sent to participants. One important finding was a NRST-led collaborative approach to these issues was not appropriate at this time. Another was specialists and managers within the district and forest could improve how they coordinate and share information and resources among themselves and with their regulatory partners – namely the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) and the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS).
 - In September 2013, the NRST led a three-day coaching workshop with Forest Service specialists, managers and NCRWQCB and NMFS representatives. The purpose was to coach participants in range and riparian related interdisciplinary project work in support of allotment planning and management. Central to this was creating a shared understanding of the district's range program, including existing legal/policy requirements and the current collection and use of monitoring data; as well as ensuring compliance with NEPA, and the standards set forth in existing forest plans, allotment management plans, annual operating instructions, NMFS biological opinions and the NCRWQCB waiver for forest grazing. The intent was to apply the integrated riparian management process to one specific allotment as a model for addressing similar issues in other geographical and organizational areas.
 - The NRST also provided site specific recommendations for addressing a large headcut within a wilderness area.
- **Central Idaho Rangelands Network (CIRN) & the Salmon-Challis National Forest, ID**
 - The NRST is preparing to act on a forthcoming request from CIRN and the Salmon Challis National Forest, in partnership with Sustainable Northwest (SNW) and the Salmon Valley Stewardship (SVS), to engage in a pilot project involving a cooperative approach to the assessment, management and monitoring of riparian areas within grazing allotments. CIRN is a network of ranchers and conservationists interested in fostering innovative approaches to land and grazing management on both their private lands and public allotments. A situation assessment will occur in spring 2014 to help chart the course for NRST involvement in the area.

Place-Based Assistance on BLM National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) Units

In 2008, the NRST entered into an agreement with the NLCS and BLM's National Partnership Office to provide assistance leading to the collaborative resolution of riparian issues and conflicts 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 – a 'learning by doing' approach.

- **Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument (UMRBNM), MT**

- Some monument users have had long-standing disagreement with staff of the UMRBNM regarding the condition and management of riparian areas along the Upper Missouri River (UMR). In 2008, the NRST conducted a situation assessment and a community workshop to enable managers and the public to work together more effectively. The workshop resulted in several action items and planning began for completing a riparian assessment on the UMR.
- In 2009, at the request of the monument, the NRST provided facilitation and conflict management assistance for an interagency stakeholder meeting on flow regulation opportunities and cottonwood regeneration.
- In 2010, the NRST brought together the monument interdisciplinary (ID) team and several scientists who have studied the river extensively to begin planning for a comprehensive Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessment on the UMR. Community workshops were held to explain the purpose for the assessment and how public/stakeholders could participate. This large-scale assessment was completed for the 149-mile reach within the UMRBNM in 2010 by the NRST and the monument ID team, and included public/stakeholder participation. A follow-up field review was done later that summer after flows receded to validate previous conclusions and to begin discussions on developing a monitoring approach.
- The NRST developed and led post-assessment community workshops in 2011 to present the assessment results. A planning meeting was held to design a monitoring approach; this led to the development of a vegetation monitoring protocol specifically designed for the UMR based on an existing accepted BLM protocol – Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) of Stream Channels and Streamside Vegetation. Because the NRST staff co-authored the MIM protocol, the NRST co-lead the development and drafting of this customized monitoring approach with the monument hydrologist. The protocol was tested on stratified reaches during the 2011 field season and further refined.
- In 2012, the NRST provided additional input to the final draft of the PFC assessment report. The NRST continued work with the monument ID team to further refine the Upper Missouri monitoring protocol, and coached the monument ID team in establishing monitoring sites, conducting monitoring, and interpreting data.
- In 2013, the NRST coached and assisted the monument ID team in collecting monitoring data at a larger variety of riparian complex types. Additional details on the monitoring protocol used are described in the next section.



- **San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA), AZ**

- As part of an effort to begin working with stakeholders in a more collaborative way, the BLM in Arizona requested assistance from the NRST concerning the management of the San Pedro River through the SPRNCA. Beginning in 2011, the NRST has worked closely with local BLM managers, specialists, partners and other interested stakeholders to implement an integrated technical and social approach focused on understanding how riparian conditions within the SPRNCA have changed since designation, and what the BLM and larger community can do to insure management will achieve Congressional direction to “conserve, protect and enhance the riparian area” into the future.
- The NRST conducted a situation assessment in March, 2011. The Team used the findings to design the following activities that extended through April, 2012: 1) a meeting with stakeholders to discuss the situation assessment findings and recommended next steps, 2) a two-day workshop where technical specialists from BLM and partner agencies and organizations reviewed existing information and identified data and knowledge gaps (and associated community workshop), 3) community-based riparian workshops to help participants gain a better understanding of riparian function and its relationship to important values, 4) development of a comprehensive, reach-based report defining the potential and capability of the San Pedro River followed by a technical review meeting open to the public (and associated community workshop), 5) a four-day Proper Functioning Condition for Resource Professionals training course, 6) a one-day pre-assessment community workshop introducing the PFC assessment protocol, 7) Ten days conducting PFC assessments, with agency and stakeholder participation (joint fact-finding) along approximately 51 miles of the San Pedro River.
- In 2013, the NRST finalized the PFC assessment report and presented findings and recommendations during two community workshops attended by a diverse audience of stakeholders, as well as individual meetings with various agencies and organizations. Project debriefings were held with local managers and the ID team, as well as with the Arizona State Director (and staff).
- Also in 2013, the NRST reviewed the results of a wetland (lentic) assessment conducted on the St. David Cienega within SPRNCA using a method called the Springs Ecosystem Assessment Protocol. A report of findings and recommendations was completed by the NRST and sent to BLM managers, staff and the Community Watershed Alliance of the Middle San Pedro Valley to help inform decisions on future assessments and monitoring efforts, and protocols.



Other Projects/Involvement – National Riparian Service Team

- **Revision of TR 1737-15 Riparian Area Management - A User Guide to Assessing PFC and the Supporting Science for Lotic Areas**
This revision is led by the BLM National Operations Center (NOC). A core planning and writing team was established in 2011 that includes several members of the NRST and the Creeks and Communities Network. A widespread interagency technical review and a separate usability review were completed in 2012 and 2013. The draft revision was completed in 2013 and is being edited by BLM's National Operations Center publications staff. Projected publication date is FY 2014.
- **Field Guide: Vegetation Monitoring Protocol for the Upper Missouri River, MT**
This sampling protocol is based on Technical Reference 1737-23 Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) of Stream Channels and Streamside Vegetation (Burton et al. 2011) and modified for application on the UMRBNM. This effort is the result of State and local BLM, NRST, and USGS input and decisions to address monitoring needs. It is authored by the NRST and the monument hydrologist. Field testing and refinement occurred in 2012 with implementation and coaching in 2013. This field guide is a comprehensive, stepwise instruction reference for conducting vegetation monitoring procedures. Although specific to the UMR, the basic approach can be used on other large river systems and has been used by the Bridger-Teton National Forest for large river systems. Preparations are being made to finalize this protocol in early 2014.
- **Community Proper Functioning Condition Riparian Booklet**
The Creeks and Communities Network has a long-standing need for a non-technical counterpart to the riparian PFC technical references. This booklet will be used in conjunction with community workshops on riparian function to help public, stakeholders, and others with a non-technical background to understand important riparian functions. A draft has been initiated and peer reviewed with final edits and publishing scheduled to be completed in 2014.
- **SRM Symposium Panel/Special Issue of Rangelands**
The NRST organized and led a panel titled "*Women as Collaborative Leaders on U.S. Rangelands*" during the 2013 SRM symposium: "*Women as Change Agents in the World's Rangelands*." Four women ranchers from OR, NV, ID, and UT participated and offered their experiences. Symposium proceedings are being published in a special December 2013 issue of Rangelands. An additional article of the panel presentation has been drafted for future publication.
- **SRM Symposium on Lentic Areas**
The NRST was involved with the development of the symposium and gave a presentation on lentic PFC.
- **Riparian Grasses Field Guide**
The NRST and a University of Wyoming Professor Emeritus are co-authoring a Riparian Grasses Field Guide. This work entails collection, photography, taxonomy, and ecological descriptions of species for the western United States.
- **BLM/DOI Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution (CADR)**
The NRST serves on the oversight committee for development of a BLM-CADR strategic plan and serves on the DOI-CADR facilitation roster.

- **Sagebrush Ecosystem Council and Landowner Collaborative, NV**

As a member of the DOI-CADR roster, the NRST co-led a consensus building workshop for the newly formed Sagebrush Ecosystem Council - a group of diverse representatives appointed by the Nevada Governor as part of the State's overall strategy to address concerns regarding the Greater Sage-grouse and focus on the health and vibrancy of this important ecosystem.

Central to NV's Sagebrush Strategy is the reliance on local, landowner-led, collaborative efforts for on-the-ground implementation. The Stewardship Alliance of Northeast Elko County (SANE), a newly formed landowner-led collaborative, has also been working with the NRST to develop activities designed to build collaborative capacity within their group and across the state.

- **Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition**

The NRST participated in the annual meeting of western rural and local, regional and national organizations to promote balanced conservation-based approaches to the ecological and economic problems facing the west. The NRST is also providing input to the Working Lands Group focusing on policy to facilitate sustainable rangelands, ranching, and public lands grazing. Activities include conference call participation, document review, and annual meeting attendance.

- **Five-Star Watershed Stewardship Program, WA**

Participated in the development of this education, communication and certification program sponsored by the Agriculture Center of Excellence located at Walla Walla College in partnership with university extension, Washington Cattlemen's Association, NRCS, and landowners. The NRST was a presenter at the first Five-Star course in Walla Walla, WA.

- **BLM Aquatic Core Indicator Development Working Group**

The NRST is serving on the core development working group responsible for providing ongoing and extensive input for the development of aquatic and riparian core indicators, information needs, and measures. This project is part of BLM's Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring (AIM) initiative.

- **Escalante River Restoration Workshop, UT**

In cooperation with the Utah State Team, BLM Utah State Office, Kanab Field Office and the Escalante River Restoration Partnership, the NRST helped plan and present a workshop focused on restoration and management relative to tamarisk and Russian olive control/removal, treatment options, stream function, livestock grazing, wildlife, and monitoring.

- **Owyhee Initiative Science Guides, ID**

The NRST co-authored a Riparian Use Extension Bulletin (in review) as part of a series of educational reference bulletins designed to summarize scientific information relevant to land management in the Great Basin for use in decision making and evaluation. This is in partnership with University of Idaho and University of Nevada at Reno.

- **Multiple Indicator Monitoring Greenline Rules Repeatability Study**

NRST specialists led and completed a study examining the repeatability/user variability of applying the greenline rules from the Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) of Stream Channels and Streamside Vegetation protocol (Burton et al. 2011). This study involved five streams, seven teams, with 2,800 samples collected. Draft results indicate good repeatability for consistently locating the greenline using the MIM rules. Results will be finalized in 2014 and published in 2015.

- **Oregon Dept. of Agriculture/Oregon Cattlemen's Association Water Quality Coordination, OR**
 The NRST is participating in and contributing to regional meetings and workshops addressing water quality standards, measures and best management practices for livestock grazing. The NRST serves as a technical reviewer on proposed assessment tools for measuring progress in small watersheds and reviewed the development of surrogate monitoring parameters for water quality using streamside vegetation.
- **Creeks and Communities Agency Coordinators Desk Guide**
 The desk guide is designed to provide new agency Creeks and Communities coordinators with an overview of the strategy and what role they fill. To be finalized in 2014.
- **Grazing and Riparian Monitoring Input and Coaching, Prineville District Office, OR**
 The NRST provided riparian grazing management technical expertise and information in support of NEPA for permit reissuance. The NRST also provided field coaching of riparian monitoring techniques.
- **Riparian Complex Ecological Site Descriptions (ESDs) Development, UT**
 The NRST serves on a core group for the development of unity and site concepts of riparian complex ESDs. Field testing will occur in FY 2014.
- **National Conference on Grazing Lands (NCGL)**
 The NRST provided materials for the BLM booth; provided communication, developed booth posters, and assisted with the booth at the NCGL conference.
- **Society for Range Management Annual Meeting**
 In 2013, the NRST provided materials for FS and BLM booths; provided communication, information management and website support to the Watershed/Riparian committee; and participated in the Wildlife Habitat and Membership committees.
- **Tamarisk Coalition & Cross-Watershed Network**
 Coordinated ways to integrate with the Creeks and Communities program/network.
- **Riparian Electronic Bookcase**
 Continued efforts to collect hard copies of technical riparian-wetland literature and related documents and to scan and/or acquire electronically for inclusion in a riparian electronic bookcase.
- **Idaho BLM Monitoring Pilot**
 The NRST is assisting in exploring the development of a centralized, statewide aquatic-riparian monitoring approach for Idaho BLM lands.
- **TR-1737-16 Revision (TR 1737-16 v.2) Riparian Area Management: Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) Assessment for Lentic Areas**
 The NRST initiated coordination with the BLM NOC to develop a revision plan. Several NRST members will co-author this technical reference.
- **BLM Program Coordination/Integration**
 The NRST is contributing to an effort aimed at establishing roles and priorities for integrating programs that address water, riparian-wetland, and aquatic resources.
- **Northwest Interagency Coordination Center Assistance**
 The NRST provided management and staffing to the Regional Fire Management Media Desk.

Review and Advice – National Riparian Service Team

- Draft BLM Riparian Program Strategy outline
- Ephemeral Channel Assessment, v.5 TR-1734-6 Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health
- Malheur National Forest, OR – Provided the NRST Summit Fire Report from 1999 to the Forest Hydrologist.
- Forest Service National Riparian Vegetation Monitoring Core Protocol – Provided detailed review comments
- NRCS Draft Riparian Complex ESDs for Lotic Riparian Complex Guidance
- Highway 75 Proposal, Big Wood River, Idaho
- Management of Riparian Areas, Texas River Systems Institute, Texas
- Forest Service Water Quality Best Management Practices (BMP) Implementation Direction
- BLM Draft Water Quality Management Manual
- Streambank Alteration ‘Targets’ in RMP’s, Colorado
- Jones Canyon Fish Passage Project, Oregon
- Environmental Protection Agency Research Proposal Review - Development of Leading Indicators of Ecosystem Function for BMP Effectiveness, Water Quality Standards, Biological Criteria, and Total Maximum Daily Load’s (TMDL); NRST submitted a letter of support.
- Livestock Access to Water literature review
- Dixie National Forest Riparian Forest Plan desired conditions and riparian standards
- Forest Service Remote Sensing Application Center Advisory Group – Provided input to development of remote sensing tools for riparian assessment and mapping.
- Beaver River Restoration Project, BLM Cedar City Field Office, UT – Provided field review of restoration plan and offered suggestions for monitoring
- Coaching specialists on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands in the establishment of Designated Monitoring Areas and implementation of MIM on National Grasslands streams, North and South Dakota

TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

Training and Workshops – National Riparian Service Team

High quality training is unquestionably a foundation for successful riparian restoration and management. Training provided by the NRST and the Creeks and Communities Network has increased understanding of how riparian-wetland areas function, how to apply innovative and effective management strategies, how to monitor stream channels and streamside vegetation, and how to effectively engage people and manage conflict. This knowledge is fundamental for managing for resilient streams and wetlands and protecting water resources. ***More than 200 people attended NRST led training sessions in 2013.***

- **Proper Functioning Condition for Resource Professionals** (four- day sessions): This course was successfully piloted with four sessions in 2012 and course development is close to completion. One session was held in 2013 for 32 participants.
 - **Arizona** – Interagency participation, Prescott National Forest sponsor
- **Multiple Indicator Monitoring of Stream Channels and Streamside Vegetation:** Four training sessions and one coaching assistance trip were completed in 2013 for a total of approximately 110 participants.

- o **Wyoming** – Four-day course sponsored by Black Hills National Forest at Newcastle
 - o **Idaho** – Four-day course sponsored by the Caribou-Targhee National Forest at Pocatello
 - o **South Dakota** – MIM coaching for the Wind Caves National Park
 - o **Montana** – Three-day course sponsored by BLM MT State Office at Lewistown
 - o **Utah** – Four-day course sponsored by the interagency Utah Riparian Team at Beaver
 - o Technical support to BLM and Forest Service field units regarding data management
- **Grazing Management Processes and Strategies for Riparian-Wetland Areas:** Two sessions were held in 2013 for a total of 68 participants.
 - o **Washington State** – Conducted a three-day workshop sponsored by the Colville NF and the Stephens County Conservation District.
 - o **Colorado** – Conducted three-day workshop sponsored by the BLM Gunnison Field Office.
 - **Consensus Institute:** No modules were held in 2013.
 - **Resolving Riparian Conflicts:** The idea for this pilot course was initiated in 2013 and a preliminary course development task list has been assembled. This training will be an in depth course on blending the technical and social dimensions and teach participants how to effectively manage conflict and focus on building collaborative capacity among interdisciplinary team members, line officers and stakeholders.



CREATE AWARENESS, UNDERSTANDING, AND INTEREST

Products for Outreach and Strategy Implementation

- NRST/Creeks and Communities Website
- Creeks and Communities Network Directory
- Full Stream Ahead (FSA) Quarterly Newsletter
- Place-based Problem Solving Case Studies
- Creeks and Communities Handouts and PowerPoint Presentations
- Exploring development of a list-serv for the Creeks and Communities Network

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

- DOI Collaborative Action & Dispute Resolution Staff
- DOI Office of Policy Analysis Staff
- FS Deputy Chief for National Forest Systems Briefing
- Oregon Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting – Public Lands Roundtable
- BLM Division of Forest, Rangeland, Riparian & Plant Conservation
- FS Range and Vegetation Ecology Staff
- FS Regions 4 and 6 Range and Aquatics Staff
- FS & BLM meetings at annual Society for Range Management Meeting

Requests for Information/Referrals – National Riparian Service Team

Summary – In addition to work listed above, the *NRST responded to more than 60 requests for information, advice, or assistance from a variety of sources, both national and international*. Inquiries included questions about the Creeks and Communities approach as well as riparian assessment, monitoring, restoration, adaptive management, and further information sources. Thirteen referrals were made to help people find the assistance and information they needed.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Work Planning, Operations and Coordination

NRST Coordination Calls and Work Planning Meetings
Creeks and Communities Network Coordination and Support
BLM WO-220 and FS Rangelands Management & Vegetation Ecology Conference Calls, Work Plans, Budget and Staffing Coordination
BLM/FS Interagency Agreement for Transfer of Funds Process
IDIQ Contract for Creeks and Communities Professional Services
BLM Riparian, Range and Fisheries Program Conference Calls
BLM and FS Fish, Wildlife, Watershed, Soils Program Coordination
BLM National Landscape Conservation System Coordination
BLM and FS Partnership Office Program Coordination
BLM Collaboration and ADR Program Coordination
BLM National Operations Center Planning and Coordination
BLM National Training Center Planning and Coordination
DOI Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution Coordination
BLM Socioeconomic Coordination
NRCS WO Rangelands and West National Technical Support Center Coordination
Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

Program Evaluation

A Joint Venture Agreement was entered into with Oregon State University as principle investigator for a second Office of Management & Budget (OMB) approved program evaluation. The primary focus of this evaluation was to ascertain the effectiveness of the changes implemented since the first evaluation and

subsequent revision of the Creeks and Communities strategic plan, in 2002. The OMB approval package was submitted and approved in 2010; the evaluation survey design and interview questions were finalized, and case studies determined. Interviews, case study development and data analysis occurred during 2010 and 2011, and the final evaluation report was completed in 2012. The results of the evaluation coupled with the experiences and insights gained through strategy implementation informed the 2013 revision of the Creeks and Communities strategic plan.

Strategic Planning

In 2012, the NRST received the final report from an OBM approved program evaluation of Creeks and Communities activities covering 2003-2010. Evaluation findings and the team's experience served to inform the revision of the Creeks and Communities strategic plan. With participation and input of the Creeks and Communities Network, ***a draft strategy revision was completed in 2013*** and is undergoing professional editing. The document is scheduled for publication in early 2014.

Leveraging Resources

Over half of the team's activities were accomplished through leveraging the NRST operating budget with additional funding contributions from other sources.

Reporting

FY2013 Creeks & Communities Network Accomplishment Report
FY2013 Periodic NRST Updates

STATE RIPARIAN TEAM ACTIVITIES

Arizona

- Assisted with Riparian Restoration on Private and Tribal lands workshop in Cottonwood (June).
- Assisted the NRST with instruction of PFC for Professionals in Prescott (September).

California

- No activities in FY 2013.

Canada

- Conducted PFC assessments on 15 kilometers of streams in Shawnigan Watershed (Vancouver Island).
- Developed repeat photography smartphone app for use in riparian monitoring (in beta).
- Developed smartphone app for recording in-field PFC data with photos (in beta).
- Taught an introductory PFC workshop for University of Victoria graduate students in Environmental Studies (September).

- Continued with domestic and international efforts that incorporate the concepts of PFC into projects addressing 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 Network concepts and model in British Columbia, working with Provincial government, non-governmental organizations, and youth education.

Colorado

- Revised and updated training presentations (March).
- Conducted a PFC workshop in Denver (June, 26 participants).
- Sponsored a Riparian Grazing workshop (June, 35 participants).
- Conducted a PFC workshop in Carbondale (August, 29 participants).

Idaho

- Sponsored a MIM workshop in Pocatello (May).
- Provided coaching using MIM to three BLM Field Offices (Challis, Owyhee, and Burley).

Montana

- Participated on the Montana Wetlands Council.
- Provided assistance for wetland and riparian mapping through the Montana Wetland and Riparian Mapping Center.
- Sponsored MIM workshop in Lewistown (August, 16 participants).
- Conducted three introductory PFC trainings (Dillion, Glasgow, and South Dakota).
- Led the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument riparian monitoring project.

Nevada

- Conducted a two-day field workshop for Carson City BLM Field Office aimed at skill building and consistency in lotic and lentic PFC assessments (June, 9 participants).
- Conducted a two-day PFC workshop in Elko (July, 27 participants).
- Conducted a two-day PFC workshop in Ely (August, 18 participants).
- Conducted a three-day PFC workshop in Owyhee sponsored by Duck Valley Tribe (August, 16 participants).
- Conducted PFC assessments on 12 reaches of South Fork Humboldt River at the request of the Te-Moak Band of the Western Shoshone Tribe.
- Conducted a half-day PFC workshop for Nevada Range Camp (28 participants).
- Taught Creeks & Communities unit to University of Nevada Reno Range/Forest Policy and Administration class (21 students).
- Taught Riparian Grazing management to University of Nevada Reno Principles of Range Management class (8 students).
- Contributed to the paper - Kozlowski, D., S. Swanson, R. Hall, D. Heggem. 2013. Linking changes in management and riparian physical functionality to water quality and aquatic habitat: a case study of Maggie Creek, NV. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C. EPA/600/R-13/133.
- Contributed to the paper - Dalldorf, K.N, S.R. Swanson, and D.E. Kozlowski. 2013. Influence of Livestock Grazing Strategies on Riparian Response to Wildfire in Northern Nevada. Rangeland Ecology & Management 66:1, pages 34-42. DOI10.2111/REM-D-11-00065.1.
- Contributed to a draft article about Bank Erosion Hazard Index on the Sequoia National Forest.
- Displayed a conference poster on pond and plug hydrology.

New Mexico

- A MIM workshop in Taos (June) had to be postponed to FY 2014 due to the majority of participants being called away on wildfire duties.

Oregon

- No activities in FY 2013.

Texas

- Conducted the following one-day PFC Workshops:
 - o Uvalde Nueces River Authority
 - o Pearsall Nueces River Authority
 - o Blanco River Texas Parks and Wildlife Department & Nature Conservancy
 - o Miller Creek Texas Parks and Wildlife Department & Nature Conservancy
 - o Port Lavaca Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust
 - o Spring Branch Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust
 - o Seguin Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust
 - o Kerr WMA Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust
 - o Lockhart Texas Water Resources Institute
 - o Edna Lavaca-Navidad River Authority
 - o Leon River Texas Water Resources Institute
 - o Seguin Texas Water Resources Institute
- Provided the following riparian presentations:
 - o Batesville Soil and Water Conservation District
 - o Kerrville Native Plant Society of Texas
 - o Bandera Central Texas Conservation Partnership
 - o Boerne Holistic Management International
 - o Hudspeth Riv. Ranch Holistic Management International
 - o San Antonio Southwestern Stream Restoration Conference
 - o Aledo Holistic Management International
 - o Johnson City Pedernales Wildlife Management Association
 - o Knickerbocker Concho Valley Native Plant Society
- Provided the following on-site riparian assistance:
 - o Brown Ranch, Real County
 - o Bowers Ranch, Bandera County
 - o Herd Ranch, Menard County
 - o Paint Creek Ranch, Edwards County
 - o Browning Ranch, Blanco County
 - o Kaffie Ranch, Llano County



Utah

- Held a Utah Riparian Team meeting to foster communication and coordination for agency and non-agency riparian programs. Discussed (1) implementation of and communication about the updated Creeks and Community Strategy, (2) improving expertise related to PFC instruction, MIM implementation training, and riparian restoration workshops, (3) briefing opportunities, (4) a call letter and team brochure, (5) planning for training and assistance trip site visits, (6) funding opportunities for private team members and travel costs for entire team, (7) riparian ESD development, and (8) riparian monitoring and restoration projects (Range Creek, San Rafael River, Provo River, Three Creeks Allotment, and Birch Creek) . The meeting also included a very informative presentation by Dr. Joe Wheaton and Jeremy Christensen on "Partnering with Beaver for Riparian Restoration.
- Participated in the 2013 Northern and the Southern Region Utah Partners for Conservation and Development Watershed Restoration Initiative meeting.
- Attended and presented at the 2013 Utah Watershed Coordinators Council meeting and shared information regarding the Utah Riparian Team and associated Creeks and Communities activities.
- Conducted a four-day PFC training session in Vernal. This session included a day to assist the local BLM Vernal Field Office in using PFC on reaches of specific concern (July, 34 participants from BLM, Forest Service, NRCS, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah State University, Lincoln County, Conservation Districts, permittees and private landowners).
- Sponsored and organized a five-day MIM training in Beaver (July, 25 participants from BLM, Forest Service, Utah Department of Water Quality, Conservation Districts, Smithsfork Grazing Association, permittees and ranchers).
- After previous field trips and coordination with an interagency group, a Utah Riparian Service Team member (NRCS employee) finished collecting data in Rich County for the development of four riparian ESDs. Work is ongoing with an interagency group (NRCS, BLM, Forest Service, etc.) to discuss the riparian ESD concepts and development.
- Assisted the BLM Salt Lake Field Office with Lentic PFC training and site assessments on springs in the Deep Creek Watershed near the Nevada/Utah state line (August).
- Organized and facilitated post fire MIM implementation training (June). This implementation training established and collected post fire monitoring data and updated baseline condition information for three locations on BLM and private lands associated with the Range Creek allotment grazing proposal.
- Submitted proposal and awarded funding from the NRST to assist in providing funding for Utah Riparian Team Co-coordinator position. Worked with the NRST to utilize existing contract to ensure work was contractually documented and funds were transferred.
- Worked to ensure all known collected MIM data that the Utah Riparian Team has been involved with collecting is updated to meet new data analysis module requirements.

Washington

- Colville National Forest sponsored a riparian grazing workshop conducted by the NRST with a focus on water quality risk management (June, 35 participants).

Wyoming

- Conducted PFC training in Rawlins (June, 19 participants).
- Black Hills National Forest sponsored a MIM workshop in Newcastle (July, 37 participants).