CREEKS AND COMMUNITIES

A Strategy For
Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Restoration and Management

THE MISSION

The mission of ***Achieving Healthy Streams Through Bringing People Together*** involves addressing one of the major barriers to cooperative restoration and management of riparian-wetland areas, the polarity and gridlock resulting from strongly held values and interests. Success is dependent upon people reaching agreement and then taking action relative to this important resource.

THE GOAL

The goal is to develop a critical mass of people who will interact with and manage riparian-wetland resources based on shared knowledge of the attributes and processes that constitute sustainability. This goal is fundamental to facilitating the improvement of riparian-wetland resources over a large geographic area throughout the coming decades.

BECOMING INVOLVED

There are several ways you can become involved in and benefit from this strategy:

- Attend or sponsor training on riparian function, management, and monitoring
- Request consulting and advisory services for riparian-wetland resource issues
- Help raise awareness and interest in your local area
- Promote application of the concepts and principles of this strategy
- Become a member of a state/provincial cadre

For specific contact information, see the handout provided.

www.or.blm.gov/nrst

THE STRATEGY

The strategy involves an extensive outreach and community-based training and assistance program that provides for respectful learning environments. It also involves working directly with people on the land, in their location, focusing on their issues, and promoting and fostering locally led cooperative activities that benefit both resources and dependent communities. The strategy is based on the following premise:

"Restoration will not happen by regulation, changes in law, more money, or any of the normal bureaucratic approaches. It will only occur through the integration of ecological, economic, and social factors, and the participation of affected interests."

The strategy provides an operating framework for:

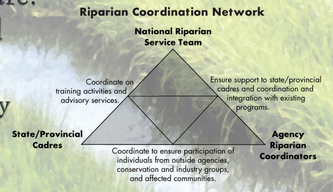
- Encouraging relationships
- Building trust
- Creating a common vision

Working with people of varying backgrounds is an important part of the strategy. A critical step is asking them to temporarily put aside their values and interests, and first focus on the physical attributes and processes that produce benefits, such as clean water and good quality forage and habitat. One of the principal tools used to do this is the Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessment method. PFC has proven effective for:

- Providing common terms, definitions, and concepts
- Building understanding among diverse stakeholders

THE RIPARIAN COORDINATION NETWORK

The Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service, in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, are leading the implementation of the strategy by supporting the efforts of a diverse network of individuals and organizations. The objectives of the Riparian Coordination Network are:



- Creating awareness and understanding of, and interest in, the strategy and encouraging participation
- Providing individuals and groups of diverse interests and backgrounds with the tools to develop a shared understanding of riparian-wetland function
- Assisting in developing solutions to management challenges stemming from issues in both the resource and human dimensions
- Ensuring consistency and effectiveness through planning, executing, reporting, and evaluating the activities of the strategy