



National Riparian Service Team

P.O. Box 550, Prineville, Oregon 97754 (541) 416-6700 FAX (541) 416-6798

August 28, 2006

Reply Refer To: 1040(BLM)/2526(FS)/180(NRCS)

SUBJECT: Call for Sponsorship - Grazing Management for Riparian-Wetland Areas Training

TO: BLM/FS/NRCS/CES Field Offices

Requests are now being accepted on an ongoing basis from agency field offices and organizations interested in sponsoring a 3-day course titled **Grazing Management for Riparian-Wetland Areas**. The curriculum, designed by the Riparian Coordination Network, complements the Interagency Technical Reference 1737-20 titled *Grazing Management Processes and Strategies for Riparian-Wetland Areas*. The intent of these courses is to facilitate the application of the principles and practices of riparian compatible livestock grazing by establishing a foundation of understanding upon which people can collectively address opportunities and solve problems. Attendees learn to develop riparian resource objectives and design grazing management strategies that are practical and foster sustainable conditions. Collaborative planning, focused monitoring, and adaptive management are emphasized, along with success through operator commitment.

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, and using a collaborative approach, participants design grazing management alternatives to achieve riparian objectives.

INSTRUCTORS: The instructor cadre is comprised of individuals from federal and state agencies, universities, and the private sector, including Range Management Specialists, Ecologists, Fisheries Biologists, Soil Scientists, Wildlife Biologists, Water Quality Specialists, Social Scientists, and Hydrologists.

TARGET AUDIENCE: Agency personnel, livestock managers, and others who are involved with planning, managing, or evaluating riparian grazing systems.

CRITERIA FOR SPONSORSHIP: To host the 3-day session, sponsors must be able to:

1. Provide a mix of people to form 3 to 4 teams comprised of agency and non-agency individuals of various disciplines, backgrounds, and interests. Of particular importance are those individuals who have direct responsibility for management of livestock. This involves a certain amount of outreach and communication to achieve.

2. Select a management situation involving an actual livestock operation for the training exercise. It is important that the livestock operation has riparian and upland resources typical of a large geographic area. It is also beneficial to have multiple allotments and multiple jurisdictions including private lands or multiple operators with common allotments.

3. Submit the following information:

- Description of existing management boundaries, improvements, and maps
- Land Use Plan material as it relates to the proposed exercise
- Climate, soils, hydrology, and vegetation data/information
- Historic use and condition (fire history, plant communities, etc.)
- Assessment, inventory and monitoring data
- Slides, photos or videos of the operation representing landscapes, riparian areas, etc.

COURSE LOCATION: The course will be held at the field location of the sponsor group.

COST: The average cost of sponsorship is \$5000 which covers a portion of non-federal instructor cadre expenses. This could be shared by multiple sponsors using operating dollars, educational grants, tuition, or a combination of these. Training materials are provided.

SUBMISSION OF REQUESTS: Each submission must: (1) address the ability of the requesting group to meet the sponsorship criteria outlined above, (2) provide a brief description of the actual livestock operation, (3) state the proposed location for the course, and (4) give preferred dates, with alternatives.

Please complete the attached form and send to:

Sandy Wyman, Rangeland Management Specialist
National Riparian Service Team
3050 NE 3rd St.
Prineville, OR 97754
swyman@or.blm.gov
Fax (541)416-6798

In the event there are more requests submitted than can be scheduled within the year, those not selected for the current year will receive first priority for the following year. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please give Sandy a call at (541) 416-6886. If Sandy cannot be reached, call Susan Holtzman at (503) 808-2987.

RON WILEY, Team Leader
National Riparian Service Team

Enclosures

Request to Sponsor

Grazing Management for Riparian-Wetland Areas Training

Date of Request:

Requesting Field Office/Organization:

Principal Contact/Contact Information:

1. Please address the **ability to meet** the following criteria:

a) Provide a mix of people to form 3 to 4 teams comprised of agency and non-agency individuals of various disciplines, backgrounds, and interests. Of particular importance are those individuals who have direct responsibility for management of livestock.

b) Select a management situation involving an actual livestock operation for the training exercise. It is important that the livestock operation has riparian and upland resources typical of a large geographic area. It is also beneficial to have multiple allotments and multiple jurisdictions including private lands or multiple operators with common allotments. *(See #2 below to provide a brief description.)*

c) Submit the following information if selected:

- Description of existing management boundaries, improvements, and maps
- Land Use Plan material as it relates to the proposed exercise
- Climate, soils, hydrology, and vegetation data/information
- Historic use and condition (fire history, plant communities, etc.)
- Assessment, inventory and monitoring data
- Slides, photos or videos of the operation representing landscapes, riparian areas, etc.

2. Provide a brief description of the actual livestock operation you are proposing for the class exercise. As a minimum include:

- Description of allotment/ranch, including goals
- Kind, class, and number of livestock
- Grazing plan/strategy
- Time or use limitations
- Key issues for management consideration

3. What is the proposed location for the training? Give the location for the classroom portion as well as the field location, including approximate driving distance and time.

4. Please give preferred dates for the course, with at least one alternative.

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GRAZING MANAGEMENT FOR RIPARIAN-WETLAND AREAS

The course was developed to follow the format of Technical Reference 1737-20. However, much information will be presented in a different format or additional material will be included by instructors.

NOTE: It is recommended that this training course take place with an interdisciplinary group of trainees. Maximum benefit will be derived if trainees are from various agencies, special interest groups and land owners.

Day 1 (Classroom)

Introduction

- A. Review of course format
- B. Overview of course
- C. Training Materials and Reference Review
- D. Grounding/Expectations of course

Developing Grazing Management Plans in a Collaborative Setting

- A. Why is this important?
- B. Benefits of collaborative planning
- C. How do you develop a plan in a collaborative setting
- D. Examples of collaborative plans.

Before Developing a Grazing Management Plan

- A. PFC
 - 1. Physical Characteristics
 - 2. Vegetation Changes Related to Livestock Grazing
 - 3. Transition zone
- B. Long term sustainability
- C. Ability to use without abuse
- D. Key plant species identification
- E. Writing Good Objectives
 - 1. Achievable
 - 2. Measurable
 - 3. Class Exercise

Overview of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (Optional)

- a. Incorporating Endangered Species Act (ESA)

Grazing Management Principles and Concepts

- A. Livestock Behavior
- B. Forage Selectivity

Management Tools and Techniques Common to All Grazing Strategies

- a. Techniques that Attract Livestock Away from Riparian-wetland areas
- b. Herd Management and Animal Husbandry Practices
- c. Techniques that Exclude or Promote Avoidance of Riparian-wetland Areas

Key Grazing Management Strategies

- 1. Timing, Duration, and Frequency of Grazing
- 2. Distributions of Livestock
- 3. Stocking Rates

4. Utilization Levels and Patterns
5. Pasture Design

Grazing Management Treatments

- A. Winter (Dormant-Season)
- B. Spring Grazing
- C. Hot-Season Grazing
- D. Deferment Until the Late Season (Fall Grazing)
- E. Grazing Passive, Continuous Grazing; Spring-Summer, Summer-Fall, or Season-Long Grazing
- F. Spring and Fall Grazing
- G. Deferred and Rotational Deferred Grazing
- H. Rest-Rotation grazing (Rotational Stocking)
- I. Short Duration Grazing
- J. High-Intensity-Low Frequency Grazing
- K. High-Intensity, Short-Duration Grazing
- L. Rest.
- M. Riparian Pasture

Monitoring

- A. General
- B. Short-Term Monitoring
 - a. Implementation
 - b. Seasonal, Annual, and Cyclic Events
 - c. Utilization and Stubble Height
 - d. Bank Trampling
- C. Long-Term Monitoring
- D. Overview of Methods
 1. Monitoring the Vegetation Resources in Riparian Areas - Winward
 2. Multiple Indicator Monitoring – Cowley/Burton
 3. Grazing Response Index – USFS Region 2

Day 2 (Field)

Planning assignment group exercise in a field setting.

- A. Form teams
- B. Review PFC assessments, management history, etc.
- C. Other observations to understand the management situation

Group Exercise

- A. Each group will discuss proposed management alternatives and monitoring needs.

Day 3 (Classroom)

Funding

- A. Program requirements of Agencies and Private Groups

Developing Grazing Management Plans in a Collaborative Setting

- A. Why is this important?
- B. Benefits of collaborative planning
- C. How do you develop a plan in a collaborative setting
- D. Examples of collaborative plans.

Group Exercise – continued

- B. Develop group plans
- C. Each team will give a brief presentation followed by open discussion at the field site.
 - 1.Goal(s) based on the issues
 - 2.Objective(s) including what, which direction, how much, where, and when,
 - 3.Selected management alternative including livestock management, infrastructure, sequence of steps, etc.
 - 4.Monitoring method(s)

Course Evaluation and Wrap-up.