



Full Stream Ahead

July/August 2007

News and Highlights of Creeks and Communities: A Continuing Strategy for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Restoration

Consensus Institute II December 4-6, 2007 Prineville, Oregon

A number of people have accompanied the National Riparian Service Team on a variety of service trips involving several phases of assistance. They expressed the desire for more in-depth understanding of the approaches used when working with groups in different situations. A decision was made to initiate the Consensus Institute last fall, starting with the first workshop in a series that introduces some basic processes and focuses on managing change and conflict, and seeking consensus and community. The December 2007 workshop is aimed at learning capacity building approaches for managing power and stereotypes. Future offerings would address such topics as scarcity, diversity and fostering civility. Here is a description of the modules participants will experience in the upcoming workshop:

MANAGING POWER:

Nothing makes people more uncomfortable than the management of the power struggles that exist in every environment. The subject is often too threatening to even confront. It is more likely to be avoided. Yet this basic instinct and behavior underlies most conflicts. This module allows the participant to experience others needs, and their own needs, for power and control over others and events. The participants will experience power experientially and visually, and it's impacts on them. The participants are introduced to the emotion spectrum concept, and how conflicts rise from increasing emotional states. They will use the process to experience how to develop a movement to equity and empowerment in their own environments –fostering that inner motivation inside themselves and others. The concepts of personal power and position power, and the importance of perception are explored. They will recapture and embrace their own personal power, and learn how to use it wisely.

MANAGING STEREOTYPES:

Many conflicts result from changes that threaten individuals and groups, resulting in negative stereotyping. These negative stereotypes rise from fears of the group and individuals being stereotyped. The participant learns how to allow people to experience and acknowledge their stereotypes, while learning the devastating impact they have on thoughts, behaviors and results. The participants experience the notion of the self-fulfilling prophecy and the potential of possibility thinking. This process moves people beyond the notion of positive thinking to the notion of balanced thinking, acknowledging the worst and the best outcomes, and the power of developing the situation potential using both.

Attending the session last fall is not a prerequisite to attending this next session, so if you would like to participate, please contact Laura Van Riper, Social Scientist on the Riparian Service Team at 541-416-6702 or laura_van_riper@or.blm.gov by October 19th.

Hands on Training Aids

Submitted by Dennis Doncaster, Wyoming State Riparian Team

Like many scientific pursuits, ecological maintenance and restoration has gathered a lexicon of concepts and terminology that both help internal communication and isolate those who are unfamiliar with the thought process. Fortunately many of the concepts and processes we deal with are common experience and can be reproduced in miniature using portable and inexpensive devices. Almost every child has played in a mud puddle and watched water flow down a gutter. So people are familiar with many of the base concepts of hydrology. All that is needed is to bridge the gap between that experience and the wider world.

Gutters and Buckets

The ability of a water catchment to capture, retain, and slowly release pulses of water, sometimes referred to as capacitance, is key to the process of ecological maintenance and recovery. It can be illustrated using long and complicated lectures that discuss infiltration, residence times, water table levels, and water storage capacities, but it can also be easily demonstrated and related to common experience using a device made out of two pieces of rain gutter and kitchen scratcher pads. For instructions and pictures visit the NRST website at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/programs/nrst/training.php>

Stream Tables

The best part of a stream table is the invitation to play. People are naturally drawn to water and the fun of being able to manipulate a stream channel and watch the consequences provide a great opportunity for learning and explanation. Concepts of erosion and deposition, channel stability, water tables, and vegetation reinforcement of the soils can be observed in real time. There are commercial models available but they can also be cobbled together for much less. For instructions and pictures visit the NRST website at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/programs/nrst/training.php>

Laura Van Riper Honored

A year ago last summer, Laura Van Riper, Social Scientist on the National Riparian Service Team, was part of a writing team of DOI agency personnel tasked with developing the Department's Adaptive Management Technical Guide. The Guide is now completed and Laura with other members of the DOI Adaptive Management Working Group and writing teams were recently honored by Deputy Secretary Lynn Scarlett. The intent of this effort was to produce a guidebook for both practitioners and managers that would define adaptive management, identify conditions for its implementation, determine measures for success, and serve as a framework for implementing and evaluating adaptive management. Laura contributed to Chapter 1 – What is Adaptive Management, and Chapter 2 – When Should I Use Adaptive Management, and provided review for all chapters. From this effort, she will now be participating in the BLM development of a field guide that addresses implementation of adaptive management through NEPA, ESA, BLM planning and permitting.

Full Stream Ahead

Is there something you would like to see in a future issue of *Full Stream Ahead*? If so, send an email to nrst@or.blm.gov. The NRST utilizes this newsletter to share highlights, news and hot topics that pertain to the Creeks and Communities Strategy. This newsletter is for the entire network and we encourage you to send in ideas, questions and articles for us to publicize. The deadline for submission for the September/October issue is November 2.

Riparian Vegetation Monitoring and Sagebrush Workshop

The Burns District BLM hosted a riparian vegetation monitoring workshop sponsored by Oregon BLM. The workshop was conducted by Alma Winward, Riparian and Rangeland Ecologist, and Sandy Wyman, Rangeland Management Specialist. In spite of the nearby Egley Fire Complex, a small group of students gained very individualized training from Alma, refining their plant community identification and monitoring techniques. For the final day Winward exchanged the computer chip in his head from riparian to upland to lead a discussion with an audience of ARS, NRCS, FS, BLM, and OSU Extension focusing on sagebrush identification and ecology. One of the primary learning points from visiting several sites on the Northern Great Basin Experimental Range was distinguishing low sagebrush (*Artemisia arbuscula* subsp. *arbuscula*) from early sagebrush (*Artemisia longiloba*).

2008 Creeks & Communities Network Conference

The 2008 biennial Creeks & Communities Network Meeting dates have been changed to **March 4-6, 2008**. This date change is due to the new Bureau approval requirements. We anticipate that approval may not come until early October, which would not have given us adequate time to arrange facilities, speakers, and travel for the November 2007 dates. The location will be determined based on the approval. This will be a working meeting designed to increase and enhance the ability of the Creeks & Communities Network to effectively implement the Creeks & Communities strategy. A portion of the meeting will be set aside for finalizing FY2008-2009 state work plans. For more information, contact Carol Connolly at carol_connolly@or.blm.gov or (541) 416-6892.

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“Healthy Streams Through Bringing People Together”