
MISSION STATEMENT
HEALTHY STREAMS THROUGH BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

**RIPARIAN
COORDINATION
NETWORK**

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS
FY1998**

(October 1997 - September 1998)

PREPARED BY
THE NATIONAL RIPARIAN SERVICE TEAM
OCTOBER 1998

USDI, Bureau of Land Management • USDA, Forest Service *In Partnership With* USDA, Natural
Resources Conservation Service



Table of Contents

Training and Information Sharing

Training Sessions

NRST3

State Cadres..... 5

Briefings, Presentations, and Key Contacts

NRST6

State Cadres.....7

Riparian Coordination Network Development7

NRST Support to State Cadres.....8

Training Materials8

Publications/Articles/Interviews 8

Consulting and Advisory Services

NRST9

State Cadres.....11

Program Review

Program Review.....11

Program Coordination11

Appendix A

Relationship to GPRA and Agency Strategic Plans.....A-1

TRAINING AND INFORMATION SHARING

Training Sessions - National Riparian Service Team (NRST) with selected summaries

Creel, Chihuahua, Mexico

International Model Forestry Program sponsored this class which included participants from Bosque Modelo Chihuahua, federal, state, & local government representatives, university officials, and townspeople. Technical references 1737-9 and 1737-11 were translated into Spanish and used during the training. The attendees got an understanding of the potential of their streams if they can manage the uses occurring within the riparian areas and their watersheds.

Society for Range Management, PFC Workshop, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico

The NRST presented half-day riparian assessment workshop and provided both English and Spanish translations of the training materials.

Columbia Basin Workshop, Concurrent Session on Riparian Management, WA

USDA Forest Service Program Managers, Humboldt-Toiyabe NF, NV

Rangeland/Watershed Class Field Trip, Oregon State University

The NRST regularly assists university efforts by providing both classroom and field instruction and giving students access to materials and expertise.

Vale District BLM & Malheur/Owyhee Watershed Council, Vale, OR

NRCS/University of California Cooperative Extension, Glenn County, Willows, CA

This session involved a good mix of landowners and agency personnel. They were able to look at and evaluate field sites that had undergone voluntary management changes several years prior to the workshop and describe the attributes and processes of the recovery.

British Columbia, Canada

A 3-day PFC class (Squamish) and a 1 day PFC briefing (Victoria) was sponsored by the BC Ministry of Environment. Participants included BC Ministries of Environment, Municipal Affairs, and Forests, Office of Auditor General of BC, First Nations, University of BC, University of Victoria, Department of Fisheries & Oceans (federal), Squamish City, District of Saanich, CRD Water Capital Regional District (Victoria's municipal water supply), and several private consulting firms. They were very interested in how an understanding of the PFC Assessment can help them in their management of municipal watersheds and urban streams as well as wildland settings.

Western Region Extension Specialists PFC Training, NV

Cooperative Extension plays an important educational role in resource management, and their involvement with the state cadre greatly enhances the program.

Oregon Extension Agents, State Agencies, and NRCS, OR

This session was designed to strengthen the accelerated cooperative approach for riparian restoration through bringing those entities together who have key roles in implementing the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. It was very successful in laying the foundation for the use of a common language and methodology across a broad landscape.

Riparian Ecology Class, Fisheries & Wildlife Department, Oregon State University

Riparian & Rangeland Workshop, Washington Cattlemen's Association, Ritzville, WA

This workshop was sponsored by the WA Cattlemen's Association and jointly presented with members of the WA Cadre using a local ranch for field sites.

Quivira Coalition, NM

The purpose of this coalition is to teach ranchers, environmentalists, public land managers, and members of the public that ecologically healthy rangeland and economically robust ranches can be compatible. Their mission is to define issues of grazing conflict and to articulate a new position based on common interests and common sense. With all the groups above attending, this session served to provide tools toward accomplishing those goals.

Society of Wetlands Scientists Annual Meeting PFC & Willow Workshops, AK

As part of the pre-activities to their annual meeting, the SWS asked the NRST to do a workshop introducing the PFC assessment and concepts along with having Dr. Alma Winward teach a special segment on willow identification and ecology.

Interagency Grazing Management for Riparian Areas Training (3 sessions OR/WY/ID)

This curriculum was designed to complement the recently revised Technical Reference, Grazing Management for Riparian-Wetland Areas (TR-1737-14), with the intent to further the awareness and understanding of the tools, concepts, and thought processes needed to develop and implement successful riparian grazing management strategies.

NRCS & Kansas State Interagency Riparian Technical Team, KS

This group of people were interested in adopting a standard assessment procedure for Kansas and wanted to learn about PFC.

Training Sessions - State Cadres

ARIZONA

Safford
Heber

CALIFORNIA

Arroyo Grande (*Los Padres NF*)
Amador
Eldorado
Coalinga (*Arroyo Passajaro Watershed CRM*)
Jamestown
Quincy (2)
Cleveland NF
Sequoia NF
Scott River

COLORADO

Burlington (*NRCS*)
Limon (*NRCS*)
Gunnison
Grand Junction

IDAHO

University of Idaho
Bruneau
Challis
Burley
Soda Springs
Idaho Falls
Sandpoint
Weiser

MONTANA

Great Falls
Townsend
Hamilton
Dillon

NEVADA

Stateline
Reno
Minden

NEW MEXICO

Alamogordo
White Sands Missile Range
Santa Fe

OREGON

Vale District BLM
Madras
Medford
Baker City
Eugene
Lakeview
Elgin
Lone Rock
Lorella
Long Creek
Crane
Condon
Bly (*Gerber WEST Group*)

UTAH

Monticello
Beaver
Provo

WASHINGTON

Ellensburg

WYOMING

Thermopolis (*Shoshone NF*)
Rawlins
Pinedale
Spearfish, SD

NRST - Briefings, Presentation, and Key Contacts

AGENCIES

USDA Forest Service Soils and Fisheries Program Managers
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Oregon BLM/Region 10 EPA/Oregon DEQ
International Model Forestry Program
OR/WA BLM & USDA Forest Service R6 Executive Leadership Team
Arizona BLM Riparian Coordinators
USDA Forest Service State & Private Cooperative Forestry Program
NRCS Plant Materials Centers
Oregon BLM Hydrologist & Fisheries Meeting
Policy Advisor NMFS
NRCS Western Region Board of Directors
National Biological Service
FS Deputy Regional Forester's Leadership Team Meeting
FS R6 Natural Resources Department
Bonneville Power Administration

COMMUNITY, CONSERVATION, AND INDUSTRY INTERESTS

Colorado Riparian Association
Washington/Idaho Cattlemen's Association Meeting, Coeur d' Alene, ID
Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Willow Creek Watershed Council, OR
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Society of American Foresters
Wildlife Stewards, OR
The Wildlife Society
NW Ag News Radio
Plenary Speech, AWRA/SRM Rangeland Mgmt & Water Resources Conference, NV
The Atlantic Monthly Magazine
American Rivers National Staff
Crook County Watershed Council, OR
North Fork Gunnison River Improvement Association including a radio interview, Hotchkiss, CO
Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission
Malheur/Owyhee Watershed Council
Sierra Club
Keynote Address, Peaks to Prairies Watershed Stewardship Conference, SD
Trout Unlimited (Speech at National Meeting)

WASHINGTON OFFICE/NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Forest Service, BLM, NRCS National Staff for Watershed, Range, Fish & Wildlife, and Forests
Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of Interior, Washington, DC
Bob Armstrong, Assistant Secretary Interior, Washington, DC
Pat Shea, Director, USDI BLM
Mike Dombeck, USDA Forest Service Chief, Washington, DC
Senator Gordon Smith's Staff
Congressional Staffers from members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources
Committee; House Resources Committee, and House Resources Subcommittee on
Parks & Public Lands

State Cadres - Briefings, Presentations, and Key Contacts

CALIFORNIA

Silver Creek CRMP, Fresno

IDAHO

Idaho Department of Lands Range Management Staff, Sandpoint
Natural Resource Classes, Kansas State University, Emporia, KS
Bear River Basin Area Group

NEVADA

Nevada BLM State Management Team
Washoe-Storey Conservation District
Nevada Youth Range Camp
NRCS Bioengineering/Fluvial Geomorphology Course
University of Nevada Reno courses in Principles of Environmental & Resource
Sciences and Small Watersheds

NEW MEXICO

Forest Service Range Managers and Permittees, Silver City
New Mexico Cattle Growers Association
Lincoln National Forest Permittees Association
Sacramento Grazing Association
Reggie Fletcher, USFS Southwestern Regional Riparian Coordinator
New Mexico Riparian Council
Quivira Coalition

OREGON

North Fork John Day Watershed Council, Oregon Cattlemen, DEQ,
& GWEB, Long Creek
Crook Co Stock Growers, Prineville

WASHINGTON

Inland Northwest Land Trust Harrington Ranch
Omak Middle School "Creek Day"

Riparian Coordination Network Development

Identified state riparian contacts for NRCS Western Region and Great Plains Region.

NRST Support to State Cadres

Western States PFC Cadre Workshop

This workshop was an essential step in the continuation and evolution of the Approach to Accelerate Cooperative Riparian Restoration. Each cadre shared what had worked well for them and what had not. They were able to exchange many good ideas as well as newly developed teaching aids. A great deal of effort went into the review of a draft PFC Users Guide, a product that all cadre's are anxious to begin using. Group discussion helped work through areas of difficulty as well as surfacing suggestions for moving the program forward.

Assisted state training cadres by attending 8 of their sessions to provide support, quality control, and assist in teaching.

Arizona (3)

Colorado (1)

New Mexico (1)

Nevada (2)

Washington (1)

Development of the Washington Cadre

Training Materials

Reviewed 1st draft of TR 1737-15 A User Guide to Assess Proper Functioning Condition & Supporting Science for Lotic Areas

Development of Biological Soil Crust Training curriculum

Draft Technical Reference on Biological Soil Crusts

High Desert Museum: Development of natural resource education curriculum for the Great Basin, and riparian display review

Contributed to the Aurora Project, a CD showing the most up-to-date technology for an educational CD

Contributed to a riparian display for the Smithsonian Museum of American History

Oregon Field Guide PBS TV show on Bear Creek recovery

Publications/Articles/Interviews

TR-1737-15 Interagency User's Guide to PFC

Full Stream Ahead Newsletter to Riparian Coordination Network

21 Years, Range Magazine Spring 1998 Issue

21 Years: The Ever-changing Bear Creek, A Visual History of Riparian Zone

Restoration, River Voices Vol 9 No 1 Spring 1998 (River Network)

Development of Riparian Ground Water Recharge Study paper with Dr. Bob Beschta

Development of a "biotic analog" to PFC

The Oregonian

The Central Oregonian

Cascade Cattlemen News

Capital Press News Weekly

Drover's Journal

CONSULTING AND ADVISORY SERVICES

NRST (with selected summaries)

Burnt River PFC Assessment, OR

In cooperation with NRCS, Range Extension OSU, Oregon Cattlemen, W-W National Forest, and the local Irrigation District. Private landowners are voluntarily allowing access to their lands for this assessment.

Riparian Regrowth Study, Burns District BLM & Ag Research Service, OR

South Steens Grazing Allotment Review, Burns District BLM, OR

Assisted Burns District, Roaring Springs Ranch, DEQ, and EPA through review of South Steens AMP, Catlow Redband Trout and Catlow Tui Chub Conservation Agreement and Strategy, South Steens Water Quality Management Plan, and South Steens TMDL (DEQ). Issues include Clean Water Act, sensitive species (Catlow Redband Trout [petitioned] and Catlow Tui Chub), and Wild & Scenic River (Donner und Blitzen River). Area is of regional and national importance in that both the Conservation Agreement, water quality management plan, and TMDL are essentially precedent setting prototypes.

Sycan-ZX CRM, OR

Current assistance includes facilitation and advice in developing complex grazing strategies involving multiple and varied land bases.

OR Governor's Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team, OR

Established by Oregon SB 924, this team serves as an independent scientific peer review panel to the state agencies responsible for developing and implementing the Oregon Coastal Salmon Restoration Initiative and other fish habitat and watershed improvement projects. The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds is a national precedent setting approach, the results of which will have implications for many other states.

Warner Mountains/Modoc Washoe Stewardship Group Follow-up, Alturas, CA

Science Sounding Board for NW Forest Plan Effectiveness Monitoring

Regional Implementation Support Team (RIST) of the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICBEMP)

Developing a conceptual proposal for monitoring of Riparian Management Objectives (RMOs). Part of regional strategy for efficiently meeting water resource responsibilities in OR/WA BLM.

Review of a "prototype" Biological Opinion for USFWS using PFC in development of terms and conditions in relation to livestock grazing/listed fish interactions

Participating in ongoing interagency dialogue regarding water issues, including monitoring tied to various related laws, regulations, policies, and initiatives.
Ochoco Lumber Site Assessment, OR

Goose Creek Allotment Working Group, Burley Field Office Snake River Resource Area
BLM, Burley, ID

In this situation, the NRST was asked to come and reassess some riparian areas that had been done under contract. The results were the cause of both internal and external disagreement thus an outside opinion was sought.

Malheur River Grazing Plan, OR

Bridge Creek Woodward Properties, OR

Ochoco Creek Flood Assessment, Prineville, OR

The last weekend in May brought flooding to the town of Prineville, OR. As a result of this event, the City of Prineville and Crook County requested technical assistance from the NRST to lead a post flood assessment involving 8 miles of Ochoco Creek. This was a cooperative effort including personnel from BLM, Forest Service, ODF&W, COE, and the FEMA Team stationed in Prineville. Local officials were provided with a range of alternatives to consider for managing in a way that will lessen the impact of future flood events.

Escalante-Grand Staircase National Monument Grazing Management Plan, UT

Burns District BLM PFC, OR

Assisted the Burns BLM Interdisciplinary Team initiating 450 miles of PFC assessments.

Big Sandy & Smith Fork Allotments, Rock Springs District BLM, WY

Upper Williamson River, Klamath County Watershed Council Upper Williamson Working Group, OR

Smith Creek PFC Assessment 2nd opinion, Desatoya Mountains, Carson City District BLM, NV

Wildlife Conservation Society neotropical bird habitat relationship to riparian condition study

McCoy Creek/Dark Canyon, OR

Co-author with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality a presentation for conference on "Agriculture and Water Quality in the Pacific Northwest". Presentation describes integration of PFC and the biometrics of water quality parameters.

McKay Creek restoration project review, Prineville Ranger District, Ochoco NF, OR

Pine Creek CRMP, Lassen County, CA

State Cadres Consulting & Advisory Services

Idaho

*Idaho Department of Lands, Castle Creek
Sawtooth National Forest, Burley Ranger District, several grazing allotments
Blackfoot River (40+ miles), PFC assessment (cadre core team members). The Idaho Department
of Lands and Soil Conservation Commission are using the PFC Assessment as a part of their
assessment process on private and state lands.*

PROGRAM REVIEW

Program Review

BLM National Riparian Program Review

Program Coordination

USDA Forest Service Region 6 Program Coordination Meeting, Portland, Oregon

NRCS Headquarters, Institutes, Riparian Teams, Range Teams

PFC for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds

Range, Soil, Water, Riparian & Air Programs, BLM Coordination Meeting

Appendix A

Government Performance Results Act (GPRA), BLM/FS/NRCS Strategic Plans, and the Interagency Strategy for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Restoration and Management

The intent of the GPRA is to provide for the establishment of strategic planning and performance measurement to improve the confidence of the American people in the capability of the Federal Government, by systematically holding Federal agencies accountable for achieving program results. This involves the development of agency strategic plans which contain a comprehensive mission statement, general goals and objectives, and a description of how goals and objectives are to be achieved.

The GPRA also requires development and submission of performance plans and reports. Established performance goals are to be expressed in an objective, measurable form, along with describing the processes, skills, technology, human, financial, and other resources required. Performance indicators are to be used in measuring or assessing relevant outputs, service levels, and outcomes, providing a basis for comparing actual program results with established performance goals.

Tiering from the DOI and USDA (Natural Resources and Environment) strategies, the BLM, FS, and NRCS have developed strategic plans according to the above criteria. All three plans represent an integration of agency programs, requiring new ways of evaluating progress across social, economic, and natural resource systems. Each plan illustrates a renewed focus on results, quality service, and customer satisfaction. In order to improve accountability with stakeholders and the American public, effective articulation of program goals and performance is necessary. Linked to strategic goals, and the more specific objectives tied to those goals, performance is measured in terms of **outputs** (*activities* or *efforts*, tabulated or recorded in quantitative or qualitative manner) and **outcomes** (the *results* of an activity compared to its intended purpose).

Upon examination of the 3 agency's strategic plans, common themes emerge beginning with the mission statements and extending through the goals and objectives. Paramount is the focus on a healthy, diverse, and productive land base, both public and private, the essence of which is sustainable systems for present and future generations. Woven throughout is the relationship of people and the land - one of interdependence and harmony. Illustrated is recognition of the importance of strong collaborative partnerships in the creation of a shared vision for natural resource conservation. Expectations involve working effectively and efficiently to provide multiple benefits for people within the capabilities of ecosystems. Agencies are actively seeking ways to leverage interests and resources, sharing skills and information. Budgets and processes are becoming aligned with missions. Management initiatives reflect the direction of the National Performance Review (NPR) under Reinvention which emphasizes a back to basics approach, cutting red tape, putting customers first, and empowering employees to get results.

The Interagency Strategy for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Restoration and Management outlines one approach the BLM, FS, and NRCS are employing to achieve the desired outcomes stated in the agency's goals and objectives. It is founded on the recognition that environmental and economic well-being is dependent on sustaining these systems. Because these systems often pass through or are shared by numerous landowners, a collaborative approach applied at the ground level is necessary for success. It is a common sense approach, promoting a common language, in an effort to create a shared vision. Focus is on identifying those opportunities where there is a high probability for positive change with a reasonable investment. It is designed to

compliment and blend with ongoing efforts in all three agencies, advancing consistency and efficiency. Most importantly, this approach is designed to target and address the major barrier to achieving healthy riparian systems - the polarity created by strongly held values and interests.

A diverse network of people are advancing the goals of **achieving riparian restoration through collaboration and reducing process**. They act as a catalyst to encourage relationships, build trust, and create a common vision, serving a broad, internal and external customer base. The extensive outreach and interaction is helping to increase understanding and foster agreement while providing opportunities for integrating knowledge and sharing expertise.

Outputs are illustrated through accomplishments in three major areas:

- training and information sharing
- consulting and advisory services
- review and evaluation services

Outcomes, or the results of the activities accomplished, are expressed in terms of the steps necessary for implementing management practices that ensure restoration and maintenance of riparian health:

People of diverse values coming together and reaching agreement through:

- establishment and use of common terms and definitions
- focusing on physical function as a common first step for riparian assessment
- recognizing the importance of considering riparian areas in a watershed context
- understanding the attributes that constitute sustainable riparian systems

The ultimate outcome will be a measure of the physical and biological indicators of riparian health, in both a spacial and temporal context. In the interim, it is important to evaluate the manner and extent to which a program is achieving intended objectives. It is an ongoing effort to assess the effectiveness of the outputs in meeting the aligned goals of this approach and those outlined in BLM/FS/NRCS strategic plans.