



Creeks and Communities:

A Continuing Strategy for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian
Restoration and Management

Riparian Coordination Network

Accomplishments FY2007

(October 2006 – September 2007)

“Achieving Healthy Streams Through Bringing People Together”

PREPARED BY
THE RIPARIAN SERVICE TEAM
NOVEMBER 2007

Riparian Coordination Network

The interagency Creeks and Communities strategy is a joint effort of Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Forest Service, in cooperation with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). It is implemented by the Riparian Coordination Network which includes the Riparian Service Team, Agency Riparian Program Coordinators, and State Cadres with personnel from federal and state agencies, universities, industry and conservation interests, and the private sector.

Operating Philosophy

- Increase the capacity of the Riparian Coordination 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, in a way that is relevant to people's needs.
- 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.

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 the attributes and processes that constitute sustainability.

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.

Riparian Service Team

- **Ronald Wiley**, Team Leader
- **Carol Connolly**, Public Affairs Specialist
- **Susan Holtzman**, Team Coordinator
- **Janice Staats**, Hydrologist
- **Laura Van Riper**, Social Scientist
- **Sandy Wyman**, Rangeland Management Specialist
- **Adjunct Team Members** with specialized skills in Ecology, Fisheries, Hydrology, Rangelands, and Conflict Management

Agency Program Coordinators

- **John Christensen**, Washington, DC, and **BLM State Office Riparian Coordinators**
- **Ralph Giffen and Rick Swanson**, Washington, DC, and **Forest Service Regional Riparian Coordinators**
- **Dennis Thompson**, Washington, DC, **Bruce Newton**, **Gene Fults**, West National Technology support Center, and **NRCS State Riparian Coordinators**

State and Provincial Team Coordinators

- AZ **Dave Smith**, Flagstaff US Fish and Wildlife Service
- BC **Cori Barraclough**, Aqua-Tex Scientific Consulting Ltd.
- BC **Patrick Lucey**, Aqua-Tex Scientific Consulting Ltd.
- CA **Randy Gould, Crispin Holland**, USDA Forest Service Pacific SW Region
- CA **Bill Cunningham**, NRCS California State Office
- CA **Lenore Thomas**, BLM California State Office
- CO **Jay Thompson**, BLM Colorado State Office
- ID **Steve Smith**, BLM Idaho State Office
- MT **Mike Philbin**, BLM Montana State Office
- NM **Steve McWilliams**, private citizen
- NV **Sherman Swanson**, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
- OR E **Jim Eisner**, BLM Prineville Field Office
- OR W **Chris Massingill**, Mainstream Consulting
- TX **Steve Nelle**, NRCS San Angelo
- UT **Tom Mendenhall, Justin Jimenez**, BLM Utah State Office
- UT **Mark Petersen**, Utah Farm Bureau
- WA E **Vacant**
- WA W **Vacant**
- WY **Mark Gorges**, BLM Wyoming State Office

CONSULTING AND ADVISORY SERVICES

Service Trips – Riparian Service Team

Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge, Stevens County, Washington

This was a request of the Portland, OR Regional Office of the USFWS regarding planning decisions which terminated the annual grazing program on the refuge and prompted a lawsuit from the County and livestock interests which was ongoing. The NRST was asked to review the science used to assess management actions relative to refuge objectives, review the FWS work from a scientific perspective, and from the team's knowledge and experience outline any other options. In addition, the NRST process was to help build/rebuild relationships within the community. This was a multi-phased assignment involving the following:

- **Phase I: Situation Assessment** – The NRST interviewed a broad spectrum of involved or interested parties to learn about the situation, the different perspectives, potential opportunities, an approach to move forward and the people who should be involved in subsequent steps. A report was prepared documenting the findings and information and was provided to everyone who participated in the interviews and others who were interested.
- **Phase II: Community Workshop** – Bringing together the affected interests, the workshop was designed to provide a forum for open and respectful learning and discussion about the riparian and grazing issues on the refuge, and also to develop a common understanding and vocabulary about riparian function and the assessment process (Proper Functioning Condition, or PFC) used by the NRST in evaluating streams. Parts of two days of the workshop were conducted in the field, to allow the community group to further their understanding of the PFC process and also to look at short sections of streams that had been discussed in the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). The NRST was also able to make some initial judgments about field conditions and their relation to the CCP/HMP process. A report was created documenting this workshop entitled Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge Community Workshop Report and was mailed to interested parties.
- **Phase III: Community Meeting** - In the initial planning for this work, the NRST intended to do extensive field work as part of the needed review of both the science and its role in the decision process used by the FWS that led to the elimination of the annual economic grazing program in the CCP/HMP. However, two elements caused that approach to change. First, the decision on the lawsuit sustained the legal framework by which the decision had been made. Second, it had become evident that the legal elements of National Wildlife Refuge management on the LPO were a much more compelling factor in eliminating the annual grazing program than was the science that was cited to support that decision. At that point, it became a moot question as to whether or not there were other meaningful economic grazing management alternatives on the LPO. Phase III evolved into a close-out for the NRST, FWS and community with an open meeting during which the NRST reported its findings to the assembled group. The findings and conclusions are included in a report entitled Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge Assignment Conclusions, also mailed to all participants and interested parties.

Thomas Creek, Lake County, Oregon

This was a follow-up assignment stemming from assistance in 2006 when the Oregon State Riparian Team and the NRST went to Lake County where a diverse group representing the Lake County SWCD, Fremont-Winema National Forest, J-Spear and other ranches, SE OR Resource Advisory Council, several Watershed Councils, Lake County Resources Initiative, Ducks Unlimited and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board had asked for advice in developing a common vision for stream restoration supported by options designed to minimize risk and maximize investment. The final field day last fall was spent looking at restoration options on a section of Thomas Creek that originates on the National Forest and runs through the valley near the town of Lakeview, finally entering into Goose Lake where Ducks Unlimited has been working to improve habitat conditions. One of the recommendations that came out of the discussion was for the Watershed Council to reach out to all the landowners/managers on Thomas

Creek to gauge their interest in moving from a project by project approach, toward restoration based more on a systems approach. In February of 2007, the NRST helped facilitate a meeting of stakeholders convened by the Watershed Council Coordinators which resulted in a commitment to move forward with a follow-up workshop and field trip that would begin at the headwaters with various stops along the way, ending at Goose Lake.

In the summer, the team again assisted the group, first in reviewing riparian function and the kind of recovery possible with different types of restoration techniques and then as they proceeded on to the field sites for the opportunity for everyone to get a sense of Thomas Creek as a whole. The group found that restoration efforts at either end of Thomas Creek have been proceeding through some successful partnerships and landowner commitment. However, much of the system through the flat valley bottom has been substantially altered, with many straightened stretches and diversions. While some improvement projects have been undertaken here, conditions are confounded by the number and tenure of landowners. Both of these create a very complex situation that will require some difficult decisions for restoration. Although there were no concrete next steps determined at this time, there was some support expressed for a watershed analysis. There was also the recognition of the importance of involving all landowners in every step of the process, right from the first conversation of restoration through all the decision points. The team will be following up with the Watershed Council as they continue their efforts on Thomas Creek.

Salt Creek, Canyonlands National Park, Utah

This request resulted from a 2001 assessment by the NRST and NSTC of portions of Salt Creek both closed and open to vehicle traffic. The closed portions were on an upward trend but vehicle use of the open segments was preventing recovery. Salt Creek supports the longest duration surface water and the most extensive riparian community in the Park other than the Green and Colorado rivers. It is also the site of a jeep route to the spectacular Angel Arch. A 3.5 mile section of the jeep route below Peekaboo camp remains open to vehicles and the unimproved jeep route crosses the creek many times and runs in the stream bed for part of its length. Due to several flood events there is now a section of the channel that is incised six to eight feet, to bedrock in some locations, and 30 to 40 feet wide. This section is currently impassable to vehicles, but the Park is considering alternatives for re-establishing and maintaining vehicle access and investigating management options for the road. The US Army Corps of Engineers and the Utah Department of Natural Resources have permitting authority on actions affecting the stream channel and waters of the US. Depending on the outcome of the current lawsuit (RS 2477), San Juan County and the state of Utah may become involved in management of the road. An environmental group, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, and several off-road vehicle groups including the Utah Shared Access Alliance and the Blue Ribbon Coalition, have been involved in past litigation and continue to be very interested. Other organizations and park visitors are also interested. This road section provides access to a vehicle campsite, the trailhead for the upper section of the canyon, and to a major tributary, Horse Canyon. Vehicle access on the currently closed section of the canyon may also become an issue if the county and state gain ownership of a highway right-of-way on this section. This issue has National Park Service-wide significance because of a previous court ruling that the currently closed road section violated the NPS Organic Act, and because of the ongoing RS 2477 litigation and possible outcomes.

In order to maintain vehicle access to the 3.5 mile section of Salt Creek canyon with the least impacts to the stream and riparian system, the Park was asking for information (techniques, plans, designs, etc. as necessary) on management actions at a sufficient level of detail that they can be implemented on the ground. They were willing to consider solutions such as culverts, bridges, erosion control techniques, low water crossings, berms, geotextiles, stream restoration techniques, etc. Because of the nature of the expertise needed for this assignment, the NRST requested the services of BLM's Senior Hydrologist and asked that he represent our team and work together with the Manager of the Forest Service San Dimas Technology and Development Center who has extensive experience in these types of systems. Together, with other staff assistants, they provided the Park Service with several alternatives to this complex situation.

Working Landscapes Alliance (WLA)

The NRST is part of a developing partnership with Sustainable Northwest, a Portland-based non-profit, and others in an effort to provide assistance and support to rangeland and ranching dependent communities through an approach that identifies and addresses ecological, social and economic dimensions and applies the Creeks and Communities principles and practices. The primary focus is in three geographic areas:

Sprague Valley, Klamath Basin, OR

Over the past several years, the WLA has established productive working relationships with many entities in the basin. Their primary focus has been to facilitate increased understanding that leads to improved management and restoration of riparian resources. This has been in the form of community meetings, workshops and field visits as well as working with agencies and the science community to foster understanding of the WLA's approach and recommendations. This year the WLA activities in the region shifted to include several other activities including:

- Upper Sprague Watershed Assessment – Initial review and participation on the Community Assessment Team and a smaller workgroup called the Assessment Review Team involving writing several parts of the assessment.
- Review of NFWF grant application for WLA (SNW Ranchland Program)
- Shasta Valley Creeks and Communities Workshop, Yreka, CA - This was part of a series of ongoing efforts being initiated by the Shasta Valley RCD and CA Game and Fish and ranchers to address concerns with the Incidental Take Permit process and restoration activities relative to recovery of Coho salmon.
- Klamath Basin Watershed Conference – Attended and facilitated small working groups
- Sprague River Watershed Science Meeting
- Klamath Flycatchers - presentation
- Working Landscapes Alliance Partners Meeting – Review, evaluation, and planning for continued work in the Klamath Basin
- Compiling monitoring data (greenline, cross sections and woody regeneration) from Yainix Ranch for submission to Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the Tribes

Malta, Montana

- Matador Ranch Creeks and Communities Workshop – Over the past several years, WLA has worked with the TNC and the community of ranchers who have now established the Ranchers Stewardship Alliance (501c3) to support their commitment to life-long learning as a fundamental part of increasing their ability to adapt to the many changes affecting their livelihoods. This was the first time they have focused on riparian resources and would like continued support to better understand and manage their prairie environment. The American Prairie Foundation also participated and provided some field sites.

John Day, OR

- Meeting with BLM Partnership and Collaborative Stewardship Coordinators, Sustainable Northwest and the Sonoran Institute – John Day/Grant County is one of several pilot areas selected by the BLM and these NGO's for providing assistance through building capacity for community collaborative stewardship. Activity is ongoing relative to some of the forestry issues and the opportunity exists to expand that effort to ranching and others.
- Grant County Court, John Day, Oregon – Presentation of riparian conditions and suggestions for an approach to begin creating a shift in community relationships and how they address issues surrounding public (and private) land grazing.
- Little Canyon Mountain OHV Planning – Provided assistance with facilitation of public meetings.

Mentoring

Mentoring is an emphasis area for the NRST and following are specific actions taken in fulfilling the team's commitment to this:

- Consensus Institute I
 - This session was a capstone activity for the FY2006 Learning Lab (mentoring) effort by the team and was focused on principles and skills for dealing with change and managing conflict. This also led to follow-up mentoring several groups who began applying the processes to address their issues and needs.
- WestCAN
 - Participation in FS, BLM, Sonoran Institute, National Forest Foundation Western Collaboration Assistance Network as BLM mentor to assist the effectiveness of collaborative efforts. Presently working with NM BLM on collaborative Salt Cedar eradication and management program.

- Learning Lab Pilot Evaluation
 - The team reviewed the post-learning lab evaluations from their FY2006 effort and discussed various aspects of implementing the pilot in order to make adaptations for mentoring in FY2007.
- Individual mentoring:
 - Rosy Mazaika (BLM OR) – Assisted the team with the situation assessment on the Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge assignment.
 - Travis Haby (BLM NSTC) – Experience and help evaluate the Riparian Grazing Training held in Washington.
 - Judith Dyess (FS Region 3) – Participated with the team during the FS Region 5 PFC and Fen Checklist training.
 - Sherm Swanson (University of Nevada – Reno) – Accompanied the WLA for the Matador Ranch Workshop in Montana.

Ongoing Participation – Riparian Service Team

BLM National Monitoring Strategy Task Groups (Air/Water, Soil/Vegetation)
 FS Riparian Inventory and Monitoring Technical Guide
 Interagency Cooperative Conservation Team (ICCT) Training and Development Task Group
 Interagency Cooperative Conservation Team (ICCT) Measurement/Monitoring Task Group
 BLM Socio-Economic Assessment Working Group
 FS Social Benefits/Measures Working Group
 SRM Watershed/Riparian and Wildlife Committees
 SRM Rangelands Steering Committee
 OSU Rangeland Department Advisory Committee

Assistance to State Teams – Riparian Service Team

California – Support for Agency Coordinators, team member recruitment, Truckee workshop
 Idaho – Assistance with lentic PFC training
 Montana – Letter of support for team member
 Nevada – Incorporation of collaborative techniques into activities
 Oregon - Assistance with training sponsorship and letter of support for team members
 Texas – Assistance with development of State Riparian Team
 Utah – Arch Canyon and review of a functional method used by an external party
 Wyoming – Editing and submission of articles for Water Efficiency, Erosion Control, and Storm Water magazines

Review and Advice – Riparian Service Team

Stream Visual Assessment Protocol (SVAP) (NRCS WNTSC)
 Catlin Riparian Assessment revised version (BLM WO Riparian)
 Nueces River Authority grant application (outreach, education, formation of Riparian Network)
 Montana’s Non-Point Source Mgmt Plan for 2007-20012 – references to PFC (BLM MT)
 Holding onto the Green Zone - Riparian curriculum for BLM WO
 U.S. Lotic Wetland Health Assessment for Streams and Small Rivers
 Paper for Rangelands on Cooperative Monitoring (NV Dept of Ag)

Lower Crooked River Watershed Assessment – Riparian/wetland assessment component
 Lower Crooked River NRCS project to evaluate the watershed planning process
 Ochoco Lumber Company restoration plan (Crooked River Watershed Council)
 Draft IM for Implementation of Stubble Height as an indicator (BLM WO)
 Kemmerer RMP PFC as minimum standard – Policy questioned by WY Dept of Ag (WY BLM)
 Lentic Prioritization Guide – BLM Idaho State Office
 AMS text on desired conditions/mgmt opportunities relative to draft EIS for the John Day LRMP
 Best available science supporting recommendations for buffer widths paper (WSU)
 BPA restoration project proposal for Bridge Creek, near Mitchell, Oregon (OR BLM)
 Hoof action, frost heaving, abnormal hydrologic heaving (Custer National Forest)
 Use of rock in stream/riparian restoration (Crooked River Watershed Council)
 Oregon State University Rangeland Resources Department Head candidates (OSU)
 FS Region 5 Fen Assessment Checklist (FS Region 5)
 Jarbidge Fish Survey methodology for integration with PFC (BLM WO Fisheries)
 Options for addressing conflicts over conditions/management (Upper Missouri R Nat'l Mnmt)
 NTC course Non-profit/Sustainable Funding – Input to collaboration module (WO BLM)
 Field Guide: ID/use of common riparian woody plants: Intermountain/PNW Regions (NRCS)
 Grazing Response Index (BLM WO Range)
 Grazing planning for sagebrush site improvement (OR BLM)

Review and Advice – State Riparian Teams

COLORADO

Review of strategic plan for the San Juan Watershed Woody Invasives Initiative

Other Projects – Riparian Service Team

- TR-1737-20 Grazing Management Processes and Strategies for Riparian-Wetland Areas
 - This technical reference is an update TR-14 Grazing Management for Riparian-Wetland Areas, featuring the most current information in support of operators and land managers developing successful grazing management strategies across a wide array of land types.
- Greenline Clarification
 - A “greenline” clarification document is being developed as a follow-up activity from the work done at Logan, Utah, by the riparian vegetation monitoring group relative to method comparison and application.
- Vegetation Consistency Guidance
 - Because of differences in interpretation that have surfaced over time, the NRST has convened a working group to establish guidance on answering PFC Checklist items relative to plants and plant communities in order to facilitate consistency in both teaching and applying the PFC assessment method.
- Forest Service STREAM Team – Headcut Guidance
 - The NRST asked the STREAM Team to develop guidance on headcut assessment and treatment at the urging of the Creeks and Communities Network and agency field offices. Coordination and review are ongoing and will continue into FY2008.
- PFC Database Development Working Group

- The NRST convened a group of field level and WO resource and database personnel to examine the feasibility of developing a database for PFC assessment data in both the BLM and FS. Ongoing coordination within and between agency IT and resource program leads.
- DOI Adaptive Management Technical Guide
 - Served as part of a writing team 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 evaluation adaptive management. Received recognition with an award from the Deputy Secretary DOI.
- Creeks and Communities Network Biennial Meeting (March 08)
 - Planning, scheduling and program preparation in FY2007. These are both developmental and working meetings designed to increase and enhance the ability of the Network to be effective in both managing and implementing the Creeks and Communities strategy.
- NTC Course Development
 - A survey to ascertain interest and need led to the formation of design team to create two courses that will be offered and coordinated through the BLM National Training Center – Riparian Ecology and Riparian Vegetation Monitoring.
- Riparian Grasses Field Guide
 - The NRST is assisting with the development of a field guide for riparian grasses initiated by the University of Wyoming.
- Land Health Service Team/Coordination Network
 - The NRST was asked to assist with developing the concept of a Land Health Service Team/Coordination Network based on incorporating some of the principles and practices proven effective in the Creeks and Communities strategy. The team produced an initial concept paper and will be participating in efforts of the BLM WO and NOC to further develop this approach.
- Creeks and Communities Implementation Desk Guide
 - Initial draft of a product designed for use by new and established Network members. It includes sections on strategy orientation and outreach, specific guidance for Agency and State Team Coordinators and State Team members. Also included is a variety of references as well as Train-the-Trainers material.
- Progress Report 2
 - Initial planning for a document that will outline the second 5 years (FY2002-2006) of the Creeks and Communities Strategy.
- Additional projects:
 - Evaluating the consequences of reducing riparian function information in workshops
 - An evaluation of and subsequent changes to the riparian grazing training
 - Capability/Potential panel selection and presentation preparation for Network meeting
 - Update of paper on Tamarisk as it relates to PFC
 - Participation on Bear Creek working group focusing on creating interpretive material

Service Trips – State Riparian Teams

IDAHO

- Assistance to numerous BLM field units with lotic and lentic PFC assessments, riparian-wetland monitoring (Multiple Indicator Method), and problem solving.

NEVADA

- Participated in Shoesole Team Meeting (Cottonwood and Hubbard-Vinyard ranches) where PFC and riparian management were featured.
- Consulted with Plumas County regarding carbon sequestration through wet meadow restoration.
- Met with Reno and city consultants regarding wetland restoration on Steamboat Creek.

OREGON

- As a follow-up to the PFC workshop in Redmond, provided information and expertise relative to a grazing allotment.

TEXAS

- Interdisciplinary Team (NRCS) providing advice on severe gravel mining impacts on Bear Creek, Kimble County, April 2007.

UTAH

- Assistance to Monticello BLM Field Office with PFC assessment of Arch Canyon in response to a petition from SUWA to close the canyon to ATV use.

WYOMING

- Assisted specialists from Kemmerer BLM Field Office with a re-evaluation of PFC condition on the Smith Fork Allotment along with Wyoming Game and Fish and Western Watersheds personnel.
- Assisted specialists from Worland BLM Field Office with re-evaluation of PFC condition on a number of sites in north central Wyoming.

<p>Training and Workshops that integrate the biophysical and social dimensions of riparian-wetland management</p>
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Training and Workshops - Riparian Service Team

- Reynolds High School Natural Resources Academy, Dixie Meadow Ranch, Oregon
 - Reynolds High School Natural Resources Academy is located in urban Portland, Oregon. The Breese family in rural Prineville, Oregon hosted a group of students and teachers to learn about ranching, rangeland and timberland management, using their property as an outdoor classroom. The team helped teach concepts about watershed and riparian function, soils, and grazing management.
- PFC Training in Kerrville and Corsicana, Texas
 - This training was sponsored by the NRCS, TNC and GLCI. The team also met with Texas NRCS personnel to discuss future coordination as they are interesting in building their capacity to provide training and assistance relative to riparian resources.
- WA Department of Ecology, Washington Conservation Corps Training, Washington
 - The WA Conservation Corps is a part of the national AmeriCorps program. Each year crew supervisors and members are trained in riparian function as foundational knowledge in support of the project work they do throughout the state.
- SRM High School Youth Forum Riparian Workshop, Nevada
 - The team was asked to repeat the half-day introductory workshop they had conducted previously and then work with the Forum leader to develop a follow-up evaluation.
- BLM Conservation Learning Network Workshop II, Idaho
 - Participated as instructor cadre to present use of PFC assessment data relative to watershed restoration/prioritization.

- Riparian Workshops, University of Idaho
 - Provided instruction for a special set of classes focusing on the technical and social aspect of riparian restoration and management offered through the Rangeland and Natural Resources Department.
- Grazing Management for Riparian-Wetland Areas, Washington
 - Training was sponsored by the Lincoln County SWCD, Washington Department of Ecology, and Washington State University Cooperative Extension. Close to half of the participants were ranchers wanting to learn proactive approaches to managing their riparian resources that receive a fair amount of public and regulatory scrutiny..
- Lentic PFC, Idaho
 - There is a growing interest in lentic areas so this session led by the Idaho State Team with assistance from NSTC and the NRST, was well attended. Trainees from BLM, ID Dept of Game&Fish, and the local SWCD had an opportunity to assess and discuss the attributes and processes relative to a variety of lentic types including lacustrine and palustrine. Another session is planned for FY2008.
- Winward Vegetation Monitoring and Sagebrush Workshop, Oregon
 - In this session sponsored by the Burns District BLM, Dr. Alma Winward led a group of people from ARS, BLM, FS, NRCS and OSU Extension thru the three protocols he developed for monitoring riparian vegetation. The workshop also included a day devoted to learning the identification and ecology of the sagebrush in that region.
- Spokane BLM District Office, Washington
 - The District personnel received refresher training in PFC, riparian vegetation monitoring and the use of their assessment and interpretation data.
- Indicators of Rangeland Health Field Day, Oregon
 - Team members gave BLM field personnel an overview of the 3-day course on Interpreting Indicators for Rangeland Health (TR 1734-6).
- Aerial Photography and PFC, Alaska
 - The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Alaska State Office and Fairbanks District Office requested and sponsored the BLM National Training Center (NTC) training course 1737-12 Using Aerial Photography to Assess PFC, August 7-9, 2007 in Fairbanks. Instructors were a mix of remote sensing and riparian specialists. Participants included a great mix of interagency/interdisciplinary BLM, Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Alaska Game & Fish, Fairbanks Soil & Water Conservation District, The Nature Conservancy, Tanana Valley Watershed Association, and Chickaloon Village –soil scientists, biologists, hydrologists, vegetation, and remote sensing specialists.
- FS Region 5 PFC Training and Fen Checklist Field Day, California
 - Region 5 of the US Forest Service sponsored a Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessment method training session on the Tahoe National Forest. Interdisciplinary teams on National Forests within the area covered by the Sierra-Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (Framework) are using PFC as part of range allotment analysis. The course was designed to support this effort and facilitate the appropriate use of the methodology. Both lotic and lentic PFC information was presented, as well as the latest on Region 5's draft *User Guide to Assessing Proper Functioning Condition for Fen Areas in the Sierra Nevada and Southern Cascade Ranges, CA* (Weixelman, D. 2007), which highlights the attributes and processes specific to fens.

Training and Workshops – State Riparian Teams

ALASKA

- Sponsored the PFC/Aerial Photo training at Fairbanks

ARIZONA

- PFC training in Gallup with the New Mexico State Team

CALIFORNIA

- PFC training in Chico with assistance from NV State Team
- PFC and field trial of current draft version of fen checklist training sessions in Truckee with the NRST.

CANADA

- Two 1-day Creeks and Communities Workshops in Saanich for staff, city council, public and landowners and incorporation of PFC concepts into the integrated stormwater management plan for the municipality

COLORADO

- PFC – Boulder (18), Gunnison (20), and Grandby (23)
- Revision of all State Team Power Point presentations
Review of strategic plan for the San Juan Watershed Woody Invasives Initiative

IDAHO

- Lotic PFC – University of Idaho at Moscow, and Twin Falls
- Lentic PFC – Meridian and Challis
- “Monitoring Streambanks and Riparian Vegetation – Multiple Indicators” protocol revision, 5 training sessions and numerous service trips on this protocol.
- Design team member for courses in Riparian Ecology and Riparian Vegetation Monitoring

MONTANA

- Lotic PFC – Bitterroot Valley, Corvallis sponsored by Bitterroot Water Forum and Bitterroot Chapter of Trout Unlimited
- Lotic PFC – Upper Clark Fork Valley, Deerlodge

NEVADA

- PFC – Reese River Restoration, Yomba Tribe
- PFC – Mesquite, Elko and Deep Springs College
- NV Range Management School (Pioche, Winnemucca) – incorporation of C&C/PFC
- Learning Lab participation with NRST/Working Landscapes Alliance with training in Malta, MT for the South Phillips Co Ranchers Stewardship Alliance
- Participation in working groups and teams – Capability and Potential, Riparian Grazing Training, and Riparian Ecology and Riparian Monitoring course development

NEW MEXICO

- Creeks & Communities workshop at Sul Ross University, Alpine, TX, including some attendance from TX Parks & Wildlife, NRCS and city officials along with the students
- Three day workshop in Gallup, NM with the Arizona State Team and participants from many Federal and State agencies and Tribes

OREGON

- PFC Workshops – Richland (24), Redmond (15), Paisley (13)
- Learning Lab participation with NRST on assignments in Yreka, CA (Shasta River) and Colville, WA (Little Pend Orielle National Wildlife Refuge)

TEXAS

- PFC Workshops for NRCS and diverse partners, Oct 2006, Kerrville and Corsicana (NRST)
- PFC Workshop for NRCS and others, April, 2007, Alpine (with NM Riparian Cadre)
- PFC Workshop for NRCS, June 2007, Coleman (Texas Riparian Team)

WYOMING

- PFC training in Kemmerer (2-day) and Worland (1-day)
- Introduction to PFC session for community college students in Rawlins

Worked with NRST to get White Valley/Green Valley and stream model designs onto the Creeks and Communities website

Published article on Natural Stream Functions and Restoration in Stormwater – The Journal for Surface Water Quality Professionals

Contribution as part of core team for development of the Creeks and Communities Desk Guide

Request for Information / Referrals – Riparian Service Team

Summary - Responded to approximately 45 requests for information or assistance from a variety of sources, both national and international. Inquiries included the Creeks and Communities approach as well as questions on general context and specifics of adaptive management, assessment, monitoring and restoration. At least 20 referrals were also made for additional information and assistance.

CREATE AWARENESS, UNDERSTANDING, AND INTEREST

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

- Learning Lab Pilot briefings, Washington, DC
 - During FY 2006, the NRST was selected by the FS National Partnership Office as the pilot “Learning Lab” designed to provide people within and outside government an opportunity for experiential learning of a particular collaborative approach as a way to build capacity for cooperative conservation. In FY2007 key individuals were briefed on this mentoring effort including Deputy Secretary of Interior Lynn Scarlett and staff, BLM Deputy Director Henri Bisson and staff, and Forest Service Associate Deputy Chief Gloria Manning and staff.
- Washington, DC Agency Program Integration and Coordination Meetings
 - BLM – Deputy Director Henri Bisson, DAD for Renewable Resources and Planning, key staff for National Landscape Conservation System, Healthy Lands Initiative, Recreation, Forestry, Energy, Range, Watershed, Wildlife, Fisheries and Botany
 - USFS – Key staff in Rangelands, Director Watershed, Fisheries and Wildlife and staff
 - NRCS – Dennis Thompson, National Rangeland Ecologist
 - USFWS – Coordinator for the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, the Farm Conservation Program, Partners for Fish & Wildlife and key staff in the Division of Fish and Wildlife Management and Habitat Restoration
- Region 1 Director, USFWS
 - Orientation to the Creeks and Communities approach to address issues on the Little Pend Orielle National Wildlife Refuge
- Texas NRCS State Office
 - The team met with key staff interested in establishing a Texas State Riparian Team.

- Sustainable Northwest, Sonoran Institute, BLM Partnership/Collaborative Stewardship Coords.
 - The team met to discuss opportunities to increase their effectiveness through additional coordination and joint projects.
- Coordination on the Riparian Grass Field Guide
 - Alaska - BLM Field Offices in Fairbanks, Glennallen, Anchorage, Campbell Creek Science Center and State Office staff, NRCS Plant Materials Center, and USFWS Fairbanks
- Additional meetings, presentations and key contacts:
 - BLM ORSO and National Public Affairs Meetings
 - BLM Social Science Group Meeting
 - 3rd National Grazing Lands Conference
 - Society for Range Management Annual Meeting
 - The Quivira Coalition Conference
 - CAMNet (Collaborative Adaptive Management Network) Rendevous
 - Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Meeting
 - Spokane, WA Ag Expo and Lincoln Co. SWCD
 - WMI North American Conference
 - Boone and Crockett Club
 - ISSRM Conference
 - Oregon Tribal Environmental Forum
 - FS Range, Botany, Ecology Restoration Meeting
 - BLM Riparian, Soil, Water and Air Program Meeting
 - BLM and FS National Partnership Coordinators
 - Indicators of Rangeland Health Instructor Cadre
 - BLM National Science and Technology Center
 - BLM National Training Center
 - FS STREAM Team
 - US Institute for Conflict Resolution
 - National Association of Conservation Districts
 - National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
 - Western Governors Association
 - National Cattlemen’s Beef Association
 - NRCS West National Technical Support Center

Briefings, Meetings, Presentations, Key Contacts – State Riparian Teams

ALASKA

- Held discussions with other Federal, State and local agencies and organizations, and Native American groups interested in using PFC and working collaboratively

ARIZONA

- Briefing on the use of PFC to the AZ Dept of Water Resources
 - Presentation and discussion at the AZ Water Protection Fund Commission meeting

MONTANA

- Outreach through announcements at various meetings regarding State Team services for training and technical assistance
 - Established a link on the MT NRST website to introduce Creeks and Communities, PFC, and provide the State Team contact information

NEVADA

- SRM Nevada Section tour – discussed riparian management and gully restoration

- NV Youth Range Camp – introductory concepts
- Range and Forest Administration and Policy class, UNR – presentation/lecture
- NV Cattlemen’s Association annual convention – staffed a booth
- Humbolt-Toiyabe National Forest leadership and staff – ongoing discussions

NEW MEXICO

- Outreach to the NM Riparian Council relative to State Team services
- Posters provided at local State Parks in Albuquerque

TEXAS

- Taylor Co Farm Show Seminar – Managing Watersheds and Creeks, Feb 2007
- Cibolo Nature Center – introduction to Riparian Function, March 2007, Boerne
- Women of the Land Conference – Healthy Streams, March 2007, Albany
- Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Assoc – Ranching for Water, July 2007, Kerrville
- Native Plant Society of Texas – introduction to Riparian Vegetation, Aug 2007, San Angelo
- Nueces River Authority – Water Stewardship Conference, Nov 2006, Uvalde

UTAH

- Sanpitch Watershed Local Steering Committee - presentation and on-site advice
- BLM Area Specialist and Managers Workshop (St. George) - presentation
- Utah Watershed Coordinators Workshop (Richfield) - presentation

WYOMING

- Texas A&M Cooperative Extension - handout material and stream table design for Texas Master Naturalist volunteers working in public schools

Products to Market and Implement the Strategy – Riparian Service Team

- Full Stream Ahead newsletter
- NRST website, new format/updating
- Creeks and Communities handouts and power point presentations
- Creeks and Communities accomplishment reports

Products to Market and Implement the Strategy – State Riparian Teams

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Planning and Coordination

- NRST coordination - weekly
- NRST work planning meetings - quarterly
- BLM WO-220 conference calls – weekly
- BLM Riparian Program conference calls – quarterly
- FS Riparian Program conference calls – varied
- FS Range Program conference calls – monthly
- BLM and FS Partnership Office program coordination
- BLM National Science and Technology Center planning and coordination
- BLM National Training Center planning and coordination
- BLM/FS Interagency Budget Cooperative Agreement

Riparian Coordination Network Biennial Meeting (Nov 2007) initial planning
Master Contract for Multiple Disciplines – administration and tracking
BLM WO-220 PART Analysis and Efficiency Study

TEXAS

- NRST met with key people in NRCS State Office about the formation of a Texas Riparian Team, Oct, 2006, Temple
- Texas NRCS Riparian Team – Proposal for Implementation, April 2007
- Texas NRCS Riparian Team formally approved, June 2007

Reporting

FY2006 Riparian Coordination Network Accomplishment Report
FY2007 NRST Program of Work Synopsis
FY2007 Monthly NRST Updates

Evaluation

Planning has been initiated on what will be an OMB approved evaluation of the effectiveness of the changes implemented since the first evaluation and subsequent revision of the strategic plan in 2002. Discussions have included objectives and scope, and effort has also been given to researching options for accomplishment. Initial planning on objectives, form, content and process, including preliminary design and preparation for funding beginning in FY07 was accomplished as well as researching options for University participation.

Leveraging Resources

Over half of the work activities accomplished through leveraging NRST operating budget with contribution of outside funding.