

Full Stream Ahead

News and highlights from Creeks and Communities: A Continuing Strategy for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Restoration and Management

May 2003

Updates from the National Riparian Service Team

May was an eventful month for the National Riparian Service Team starting with the 5/3/03 retirement of Team Leader **Wayne Elmore**, with 35 years of federal service (see feature article). No, we have not seen the last of him. He is still going to be implementing the Creeks and Communities strategy through a contract to work on those aspects of the program that he feels can best serve to ensure its success. He will be working at the national, regional, state and local levels to build awareness of and garner support for the program. He is continuing to participate in select service trips with the NRST and will assist in the priority effort of network development for implementing the revised strategic plan. A retirement celebration was held on May 31st. Wayne was honored with the presence of approximately 130 family members, friends, and colleagues, numerous gifts and commendations.

Ron Wiley, the team's Aquatic Biologist, has accepted a long-term detail as Acting Team Leader. The NRST is developing a multi-year work plan for implementing the revised strategy and working with our WO agency program contacts to foster support for participation and integration.

Laura Van Riper, the team's SCEP student, graduated with a PhD from the University of Montana on May 17th. She has since been converted to a full-time employee on the team and has relocated to central Oregon. Laura did her graduate study evaluating the effectiveness of the strategy for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Restoration and Management. Many of the adaptations in the revised strategy are supported by her research results. Under continuing OMB approval, she will design and implement a second phase of evaluation. Other work includes development of pre and post intervention protocols and the creation of performance measures that are indicative of the nature of this effort. She will also assist with network development activities.

Lisa Lewis, the team's Soil Scientist was selected to attend the Soils Science Institute. This intense 4-week course held on the campus of Washington State University was an opportunity to advance professional skills while interacting with colleagues from around the country.

Pleasantview Allotment Assistance

Other activities included a follow-up field visit to the **Pleasantview Allotment** near Pocatello, Idaho, where the team was asked to assist in making management recommendations designed to facilitate an upward trend in the condition of the riparian areas and dry canyon bottom lands. The working group wanted an agreed upon course of action that addressed the issues and concerns of the Pleasantview Livestock and Grazing Association, Idaho Conservation League, Western Watersheds Project, and the BLM.

Grazing Management for Riparian Areas Workshop a Success

The riparian grazing cadre taught a 2-day version of **Grazing Management for Riparian- Wetland Areas** in beautiful Enterprise, Oregon. The objective of this course is to build an understanding of the tools, concepts, and thought processes relative to livestock grazing in riparian areas so that attendees will be able to work with other individuals, groups, and agencies to develop and implement successful grazing management strategies. John Williams, OSU Extension Agent, Wallowa County did a great job of bringing together 44 people from diverse disciplines and backgrounds for this training that included permittees, USFS, NRCS, US FWS, The Nature Conservancy, DEQ, Soil and Water Conservation District, OSU Extension and students, NOAA Fisheries and other interested public. The workshop was sponsored by OSU Extension Service, Forest Service, Wallowa County Stock Growers and the Wallowa County SWCD.

NRST/Cadre Coordinator Meeting

The NRST asked the Cadre Coordinators to meet with them in Prineville during the last week in May to help plan the Riparian Coordination Network workshop scheduled for **November 18-20, 2003**, at the BLM National Training Center in Phoenix, Arizona. The purpose of the November workshop is to review the goal and objectives outlined in the Creeks and Communities revised strategy document, and to develop FY2004/2005 work plans for implementation in each state and British Columbia. The outcome of our May working meeting was an agreement on content and the agenda for the November workshop, as well as a template for work plan development. Shortly, a notice with additional details, will go out to the network (NRST, Agency Riparian Coordinators, State/Provincial Cadres).