

Full Stream Ahead

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

March/April 2004

Grazing Management for Riparian-Wetland Areas Train the Trainers a Success

The NRST hosted a Grazing Management for Riparian-Wetland Areas Train the Trainers Workshop at the BLM Training Center in Phoenix, AZ March 2-3. The primary goal of the workshop was to expand the network of available instructors across the west.

Twenty eight people, from extension, USFS, BLM, and private consultants, including Rangeland Management Specialists, Hydrologists, Wildlife Biologists, Watershed & Riparian Specialist, Social Scientists, and Natural Resource Specialists attended the two day session to receive an overview of the course materials and power point presentations used in the three day workshops held at locally sponsored sites throughout the west. This was the first step in expanding our trainer base.

The workshop provided an opportunity for input into improvement of the course. An unexpected bonus was the development of a Grazing Management for Riparian-Wetland Areas list serv to continue communication among all trainers. Eric Peterson, University Extension Educator, Pinedale, WY graciously volunteered to set up the list serv. Email Eric at eric@uwyo.edu to join the list serv.

Tri-State Range Short Course

The Tri-State Range Short Course was held in Baker City, OR March 9-11. This years theme was *Plant-Herbivore Interactions* and was taught by Dr. Fred Provenza, Professor, Department of Forest, Range, and Wildlife Sciences, Utah State University. The relationships among soils, plants, herbivores, people, and the management of ecosystems was discussed. Principles of behavior as they pertain to food and habitat selection, and implications for enhancing dispersion of grazing across landscapes, thereby changing traditional patterns of use for managing riparian areas; for controlling weeds and maintaining fire breaks; for minimizing damage to economically valuable crops by wild and domestic herbivores; for enhancing and maintaining biodiversity; and for reducing losses in animals from toxic plants and "hard" introductions into unfamiliar environments were discussed. Behavioral principles and processes, exploring avenues for research, and discussing implications for managing dynamic systems, including current issues in production agriculture (feedlots, pastures, rangelands), ecosystem restoration (riparian areas, control of invasive species), wildlife damage management (food and habitat preferences), biodiversity, and conservation biology were highlights of the course. BEHAVE (Behavioral Education for Human, Animal, Vegetation & Ecosystem Management) is an initiative developed to inspire people to master and apply

behavioral principles in managing ecosystems. For more information on plant-herbivore interactions and the BEHAVE Program go to <http://www.behave.net>.

Washington Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) Briefing

Members of the NRST had the opportunity to brief the Washington CRM Task Force on April 15 in Moses Lake, WA. The CRM group invited the NRST to brief them about what the Creeks and Communities Strategy is all about and to discuss the opportunities for CRM and C&C participation in riparian-wetland resource management. This is a very energetic group who was very interested in the C&C strategy and how we could work together. CRM is a consensus building initiative that helps local communities work together to solve their resource problems.

Stockmanship School at Lander, WY

A Low-stress Stockmanship school was held in Lander, WY April 19-21. Tom Abernathy, Rancher, Abernathy Ranch, graciously hosted the field portion of the school as well as provided the livestock used to provide hands-on training in the Bud Williams principles and techniques of low-stress livestock handling.

Tim Westfall, Rangeland Management Specialist, USFS, Wells, NV, Steve Leonard, Grazing Management Specialist and Ecologist, Cowdance Consulting, Lloyd Bradshaw, Consultant, and Joe Fife, Rocky Mountain Range Riders provided the training to 48 permittees, extension, state and federal employees.



Tim Westfall demonstrating low stress movement technique.

Livestock handling effects ranching operations through marketing, weight gain, reproduction, health, range utilization, labor, and relationships.

Stress is one of the great hidden costs in the livestock industry. The good news is that making changes in our attitudes can lead to benefits economically and relationally without any associated capital or direct costs. You just have to be willing to invest your time to learn.

The principles and techniques can be used with success on any livestock species in any type of terrain or climate on any size herd. They can be applied on foot, horseback, or four-wheeler.

The school emphasized watching what the animal is doing and making the response that gets the desired result.

Animals are not forced to do something, which will seem a little slower at first, but will result in quicker results in the long-term.

Participants gained knowledge and skills in the following areas:

- Step-by Step Training Approach
- Flight and Pressure Zones
- How To Start Movement
- How to Keep Movement Going
- How To Turn Movement
- How to Place Animals on the Range Without Fences
- Sorting
- Working in Corrals
- How to Speed and Slow Down Movement

Crook County Natural Resources Planning Committee Community Workshop

Prineville, Oregon, and the surrounding area, has been rapidly developing over the past several years and growth will continue. Livability is enhanced by the good climate and the nearby lakes, rivers, and streams. Wise management of the water resources is a key to continuing development, agriculture, and recreation. The Crook County Natural Resources Planning Committee recently sponsored a workshop as a step toward fostering sustainable management and enhancement of these resources. Specifically, the workshop was to help people understand, at a basic level, how streams function and how they have and will eventually again be affected by droughts and floods. Other topics included some of the rules and regulations currently in place, actions by local planners and developers, and some common-sense ways for people to take care of these valuable resources. One outcome of the session is that now, when anyone buys property with a stream running through it, the realtors give the buyers a packet of information on caring for that resource.

National Park Service Vital Signs Workshop

The National Park Service is developing a system for long-term ecological monitoring of land under their jurisdiction. The process involves nationwide eco-region workshops for the purpose of creating a network of stakeholders to develop lists of potential monitoring questions along with pertinent vital signs or indicators. Steve Leonard, representing the NRST, participated with a group of regional experts to provide both riparian and shrub-step expertise for the NPS Upper Columbia Basin Inventory and Monitoring Network.

Washington Conservation Corps

For the past several years, the NRST has been asked to participate in the pre-season training for crew supervisors and some crew members of the Washington Conservation Corps. This is a group administered by the WA Department of Ecology to work on habitat and water quality restoration projects throughout the state. This year John Anderson, adjunct team member, provided the group with a four hour multi-media training on the concepts of stream function and what that means in terms of restoration design, techniques, and successful habitat improvement. He talked about how fish respond to stream function and had presentations of horse and helicopter placement of large wood. He rounded out his session by giving the group a sense of the connection of communities, watersheds, fisheries, and the work they will be accomplishing for all.

Network Conference Calls

The NRST hosted conference calls with agency riparian coordinators and cadre members from each state in the network during the week of April 5th. The primary purpose of the call was to follow-up after the November meeting and visit individually with each state regarding specific NRST assistance requests outlined in state work plans. Some of the planned NRST activities that were requested by multiple states are highlighted below.

- The NRST is currently focused on a broad marketing campaign designed to promote the new Creeks & Communities strategy. Part of that campaign includes the distribution of network work plans to key agency leaders. In addition, the NRST is working with a number of state cadres to schedule state-wide briefings targeting BLM, USFS and NRCS leadership.
- The NRST is working to develop a new Creeks & Communities Train-the-Trainers course integrating both the bio-physical and social aspects of riparian management. This may include the creation of a 'roving' Train-the-Trainers that would be brought to each state and customized to meet specific needs. Look for this valuable training opportunity in 2005!
- The existing Riparian-Grazing Trainer network has been expanded following the March Train-the-Trainers workshop in Phoenix, AZ. The NRST is currently in the process of accepting course sponsors for the 2004 season.
- Several states are planning to sponsor the Creeks & Communities for Managers/Community Leaders Workshop offered by the NRST.
- In an effort to increase accountability, the NRST is working to develop an effective and consistent method for reporting network accomplishments. Part of this effort involves a continuing focus on program evaluation.
- Finally, the NRST is working to establish new mechanisms, including the creation of funded position details, for financing and accomplishing network activities.

During the winter months the NRST also participated in the following:

Sprague River Valley Community Workshop – Although much work has been done in the Sprague and larger Klamath Basin to restore the health of the lands and water, there is still much to do. People want increased understanding and involvement of the many processes and activities that are occurring around them. Pre-session interviews helped to develop a deeper understanding of the situation and ensure the workshop was attended by individuals from the community, federal and state agencies, and tribes. This locally sponsored Creeks and Communities workshop helped build relationships among these key players who are now engaged in crafting innovative ways to get increased participation as well as pulling together resources in unique ways to help this community move forward.

Joint Ventures: Partners in Stewardship National Conference – Convened by a consortium of Federal agencies, this conference was attended by a broad cross-section of participants from federal, state and local government, the business community, tribes, non-governmental organizations and the educational and scientific communities. Laura Van Riper, NRST Social Scientist, designed and led an interactive panel discussion that included an environmental activist from Colorado, and a rancher from Wyoming. Laura, along with Wayne Elmore, described the evolution of the Creeks and Communities approach providing insights into why this strategy works, recommended changes for enhancing effectiveness, and barriers to this and other partnership building approaches posed by bureaucratic structure. Coming from traditionally opposing viewpoints, the other panel participants gave testimony to changed and now more compatible perspectives stemming from their experience with the principles and concepts of the Creeks and Communities approach.

The 2nd National Conference on Grazing Lands – This conference is an effort of the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, with the Society for Range Management and a number of sponsoring organizations for the purpose of heightening the awareness of the economic and environmental benefits of grazing lands. Cooperators and attendees come from the public sector (natural resource agencies and entities) and from the private sector (agriculture and natural resource entities, industry and conservation organizations). The NRST was represented by Sandy Wyman (Range Management Specialist) and Jimmy Eisner (Fisheries Biologist) who both presented papers and posters having to do with approaches for successfully engaging people in the development and implementation of livestock grazing strategies compatible with riparian-wetland areas.

Quivira Coalition 3rd Annual Conference – This year's theme was *Ranching in Nature's Image...Fostering Social and Environmental Health in the West*. Wayne Elmore participated as a plenary speaker with several others, presenting nature's keystone principles and how people can adapt to them. Through visuals and description he gave the group a foundation of understanding about what constitutes riparian health and what that means in terms of sustainability. This also formed the basis for Steve Leonard and Sandy Wyman who later gave a follow-up short-course on grazing management for riparian-wetland areas. Steve McWilliams, New Mexico Cadre Coordinator, also participated with a display of the Creeks and Communities poster and handout materials.

Umatilla & Wallowa-Whitman NF Range Workshop – Erv Cowley (Idaho Cadre Coordinator and BLM Riparian Coordinator) spent the first day of an all week session, helping people from the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests work with their monitoring data collected from the previous field season. He began with a refresher of Rosgen stream classification as well as the greenline vegetation monitoring method. The remainder of his time was spent assisting them with scoring their data and then with data interpretation relative to stream recovery and management implications.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Call for Participants in Monitoring the Vegetation Resources in Riparian Areas – Prineville, OR

We are once again fortunate to have Alma Winward, Retired Forest Service Ecologist, available to provide training on his methodology of Monitoring the Vegetation Resources in Riparian Areas. This course is intended to compliment General Technical Report RMRS-GTR-47 of the same title and will include time for riparian plant species identification training. The three day course will be held in Prineville, OR July 27-29, 2004. Please email the following information to Carol Connolly, carol_connolly@or.blm.gov by July 12, if you are interested in attending the course. Register early as this course tends to fill up fast! There is no tuition, but you are responsible for your own travel and per diem.

Name:

Title:

Agency/Affiliation:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Fax:

Area of Expertise/Discipline:

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

Requests are now being accepted from field offices interested in sponsoring a 3-day course titled **Grazing Management for Riparian-Wetland Areas**. This course is intended to compliment Interagency Technical Reference 1737-14 of the same title. The curriculum, created by the Riparian Coordination Network, is designed to increase awareness and understanding of the tools, concepts, and thought processes needed to develop and implement successful riparian grazing management strategies for the purpose of “*Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Restoration and Management*” throughout the west.

Please note the specific course information below:

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,

participants will design, in a collaborative setting, grazing management alternatives to achieve riparian objectives.

TARGET AUDIENCE: Those users, permittees, agency personnel and others who are involved with planning, managing, or evaluating riparian grazing systems.

CRITERIA FOR THE THREE DAY TRAINING:

1. Provide a mix of individuals to comprise 3 to 4 interdisciplinary teams including agency and non-agency personnel.
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
 - Inventory and monitoring data
 - Slides, photos or videos representing landscapes, riparian areas, etc. of the operation

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

SUBMISSION OF REQUESTS: Each sponsorship request must address the criteria outlined above. Include the following:

- 1) **brief description** of the actual livestock operation situation
- 2) **proposed location**, and
- 3) **preferred dates** (with alternatives, if possible).

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 scheduling next year.

Please send request to: Susan Holtzman, NRST Coordinator
USDA Forest Service
PO Box 3623
Portland, OR 97208
skholtzman@fs.fed.us
Fax (503) 808-2469

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please give Susan a call at (503) 808-2987. The full course outline and request letter can be downloaded from <http://www.or.blm.gov/nrst/index.htm>.

Call for Sponsorship - Monitoring the Vegetation Resources in Riparian Areas

Requests are now being accepted from field offices interested in sponsoring a 2-3-day course titled **Monitoring the Vegetation Resources in Riparian Areas**. This course is intended to compliment General Technical Report RMRS-GTR-47 of the same title.

The curriculum created and taught by Dr. Alma Winward, Retired Forest Service Ecologist, with assistance from the NRST, is designed to increase awareness and understanding of his methodology on three sampling methods used to inventory and monitor the vegetation resources in riparian areas:

1. **vegetation cross-section method** evaluates the health of vegetation across the valley floor.
2. **greenline method** provides a measurement of the streamside vegetation.
3. **woody species regeneration method** measures the density and age class structure of any shrub or tree species may be present in the sampling area.

Together these three sampling procedures can provide an evaluation of the health of all the vegetation in a given riparian area. Extra time may be scheduled for riparian plant species identification if desired.

TARGET AUDIENCE: Those users, permittees, agency personnel and others who are involved with monitoring or evaluating riparian systems.

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

SUBMISSION OF REQUESTS: Each sponsorship request should include the following:

1. **availability of classroom and field sites with diverse riparian vegetation (preferably close to town to decrease travel time).**
2. **requesting extra riparian plant species identification training,**
3. **preferred dates** (with alternatives, if possible).

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 scheduling next year.

Please send request to: Susan Holtzman, NRST Coordinator
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Training in the Social Dimension (continued)

Two additional training sessions that have been rated very highly by folks in the USFS Partnership group:

- (1) The Cispus Workshop – <http://www.reo.gov/cispus>
- (2) The RC&D Coordinators Training Program - <http://www.nedc.nrcs.usda.gov/catalog/rcanddlearn.html>

State Cadre Training Schedule

Colorado Cadre

**Cadre Coordinator: Jay Thompson
Phone: 303-239-3724**

Training Date:

**June 22-23, 2004
July 13-14-2004
July 27-28, 2004**

Training Location:

**Denver/Castle Rock, CO
Durango, CO
Steamboat Springs, CO**

Idaho Cadre

**Cadre Coordinator: Ervin Crowley
Phone: 208-373-3810**

Training Date:

**May 12-13, 2004
June 3, 2004
June 16-17, 2004
July 21-22, 2004
Oct. 2004**

Training Location:

**Univ of Idaho-Extension Office Marsing, ID
Lion's Den- Jordan Valley, OR
McCall, ID
Driggs, ID
Univ of Idaho- Moscow, ID**

Nevada Cadre

**Cadre Coordinator: Sherman Swanson
Phone: 775-784-4057**

PFC and Riparian Grazing

Training Date:

May 24-28, 2004

Training Location:

Elko, NV

New Mexico Cadre

**Cadre Coordinator: Steve McWilliams
Phone: 505-344-9155**

Training Date:

**May 11-12, 2004
Sept. 14-15, 2004**

Training Location:

**Truth or Consequences, NM
Ghost Ranch/Santa Fe, NM**

Oregon Cadre

**Cadre Coordinator: Jim Eisner
Phone: 541-416-6753**

**Training Date:
May 20-21, 2004**

**Training Location:
Junction City, OR**

Utah Cadre

**Cadre Coordinator: Steve Smith
Phone: 435-865-3231**

**Training Date:
July 21-22, 2004
Sept 17-18, 2004**

**Training Location:
Heber City, UT
Vernal, UT**

Wyoming Cadre

**Cadre Coordinator: Mark Gorges
Phone: 307-775-6082**

**Training Date:
May 11-12, 2004
June 22-23, 2004**

**Training Location:
Scottsbluff, NE
Cody, WY**



The NM Cadre building on earlier sessions at Carlsbad, NM and Uvalde, Texas continues to spread the news of Accelerated Cooperative Riparian Restoration Management in west Texas and New Mexico.

New Mexico Cadre will hold its third session for the year in northern New Mexico in September. Previously the Cadre held a sessions at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas on March 22 & 23, and in T or C, New Mexico on May 11 & 12.