

Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and
Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management
Office of Communications

Working as One to Serve Central Oregon

News and Information
For Immediate Release
March 30, 2004

Contact: Virginia Gibbons
(541) 416-6647

***Community Workshop on the North Fork Crooked Wild
and Scenic River***

PRINEVILLE-Enjoying the beauty of the Wild and Scenic designated portion of the North Fork Crooked River is easy to do. This section of the North Fork is located on the Ochoco National Forest in the general vicinity of Big Summit Prairie. The headwaters begin at Williams Prairie, in a remote and idyllic setting. As the river meanders its way through the pine trees and mountain meadows, it provides a natural balm to the eye and soul.

Beyond its natural beauty, the North Fork provides habitat for wildlife and water for stock, among other resource values. It serves as an indicator of the health of the watershed. What is it telling us? How do our actions, or lack thereof, affect this dynamic and life-producing system? Do we contribute to, or take away from, the river's health? To what degree do we value the river? Is it important enough that we look for ways to ensure its long-term vitality, so that future generations may also have the opportunity to care for it?

If you value the North Fork Crooked River, you are invited to attend a free 2-day workshop where people will come together to build a common understanding of the river's riparian resources. This session is part of a proactive effort initiated by the Ochoco National Forest to assess riparian conditions on the North Fork Crooked River, a designated Wild & Scenic River. The National Riparian Service Team has been asked to assist and will be conducting this community workshop where agency personnel, landowners, and other interested individuals will work together to improve riparian resources.

The interagency National Riparian Service Team is a group of specialists stationed in Prineville whose charge is to facilitate cooperative riparian restoration and management across the west. Their "Creeks and Communities Strategy" focuses on problem solving and fostering management at the ground level, by the people most affected, such as ranchers, landowners, watershed councils, tribes, environmental organizations and state, county and federal land management agencies. Wayne Elmore, a nationally recognized Riparian Specialist, and other members of the team will facilitate and instruct this workshop.

-more-

add one

“Working with the National Riparian Service Team provides us with a unique opportunity to fully incorporate citizens and stakeholders in the development of a common vision for the river. This work will set the stage for creating and maintaining productive, healthy and sustainable conditions on the North Fork for years to come,” said Ochoco National Forest Supervisor Larry Timchak.

The workshop will provide an interactive and respectful environment where people of diverse backgrounds and interests will:

- Learn a common vocabulary and understanding of important stream and riparian processes and how those relate to restoring and sustaining riparian values.
- Explore strategies for restoring ecosystems and sustaining healthy communities, agriculture, and economies.
- Learn new ways to work together.

Date and Time of Workshop: May 14-15, 2004 (Friday-Saturday), 8:30 am – 4:30 pm.

May 14: Crook County Library Claudia Broughton Room, 175 NW Meadow Lakes Drive, Prineville, OR. Please park at the south end of the parking lot, or the lot across the street to allow library patrons easy access to the building. Lunch is not provided.

May 15: The second day of the workshop will be spent out on a creek applying the concepts presented the previous day. Participants should meet at the Ochoco National Forest parking lot, 3160 NE 3rd Street in Prineville. Attendees should wear field clothes and bring sack lunches.

Sign-up: Please contact Carol Connolly at 541-416-6892 or Janice Staats at jstaats@fs.fed.us by April 30, 2004 and provide your name, address, phone and e-mail, affiliation or interest and if you have a multi-passenger vehicle that may be used to transport workshop participants (travel includes gravel roads).

The Community Workshop is one of several activities associated with the North Fork Crooked River Assessment. For additional information and photos, visit our website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/projects/units/paulina/northfork/index.shtml>

-end-