RIPARIAN PROPER FUNCTIONING CONDITION ASSESSMENT

https://naes.unr.edu/swanson/Extension/PFCTeam.aspx

Cooperative Riparian Stewardship

Floods Happen and Streams Build Floodplains to Flood

Cooperative riparian stewardship

Creeks and Communities Team

Do we have the wisdom to manage our power?

Creeks and Communities Team

The Initiative for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Stewardship

Created in 1996

BLM, USFS in partnership with NRCS

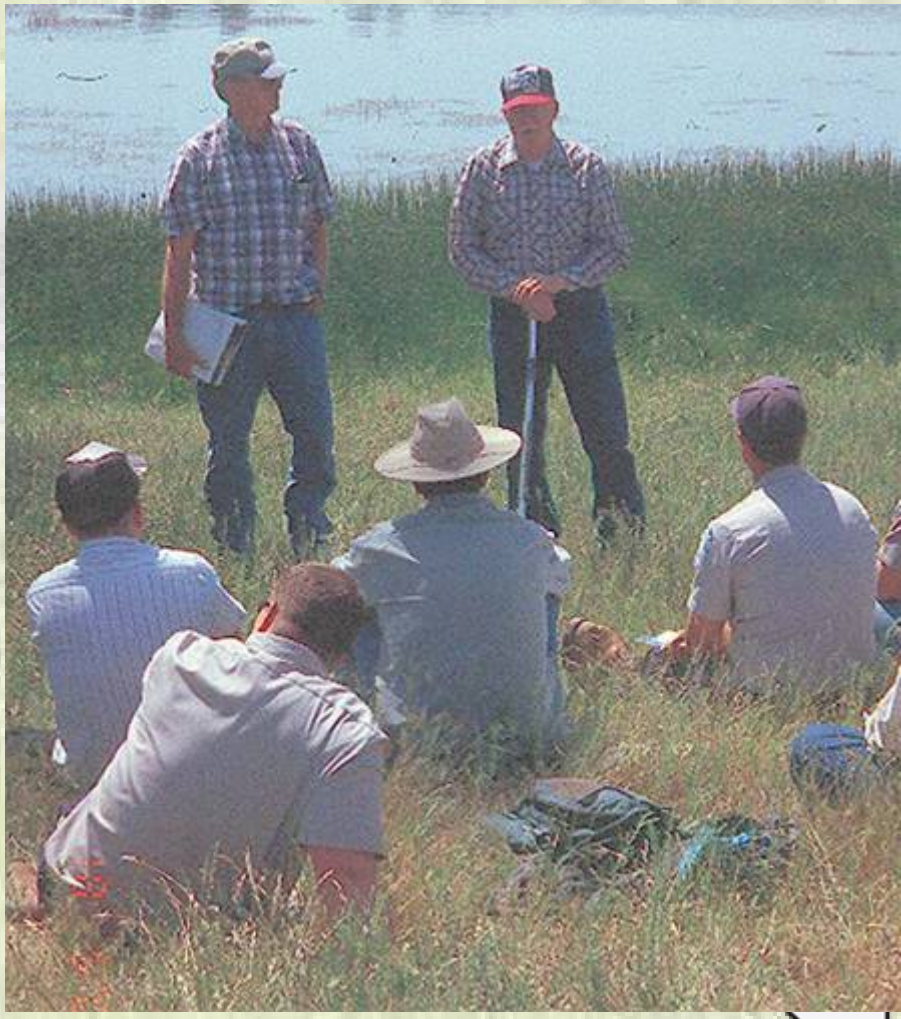
Creeks and Communities Team

Increase awareness and shared understanding of riparian function and sustainability across a large number of diverse people.

Creeks and Communities Team

Program Implementation

- **Riparian Coordination Network**
- Proper Functioning Condition Method (PFC)
- Community-Based Training
- Service Trips



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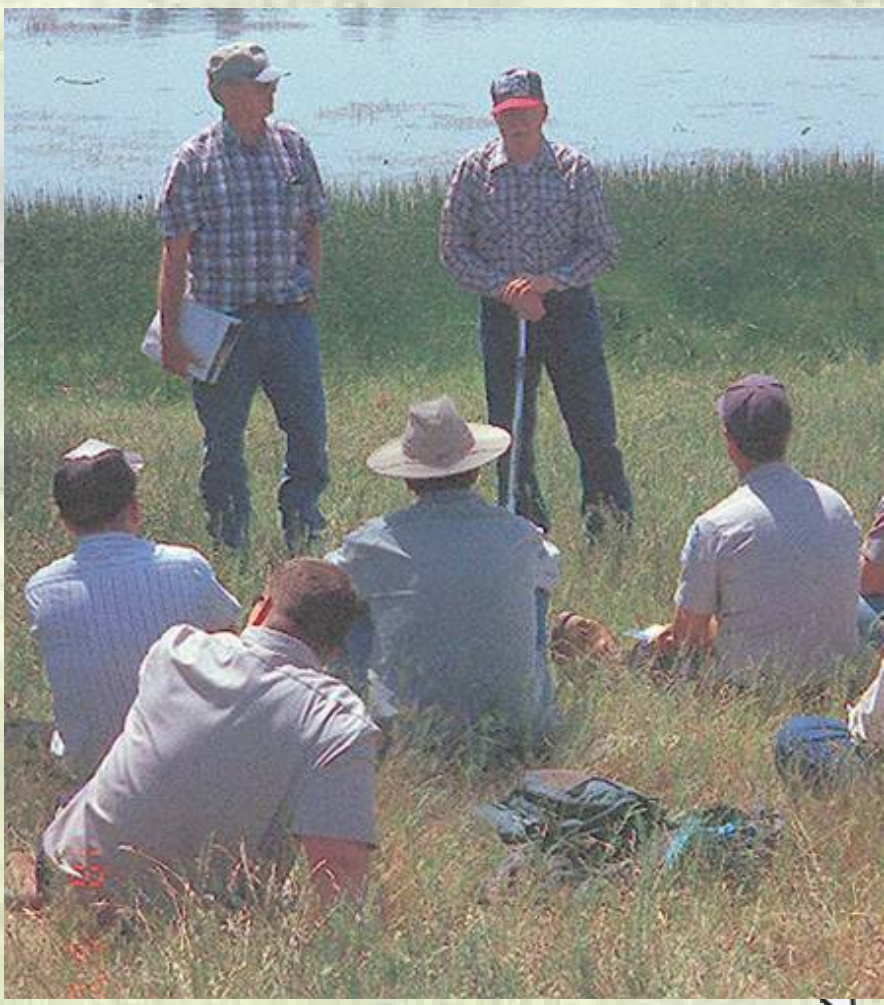

P.F.C.

Assessment Method

& On-The Ground Condition

Communication Tool

Physical functions support stakeholder interests

Creeks and Communities Team

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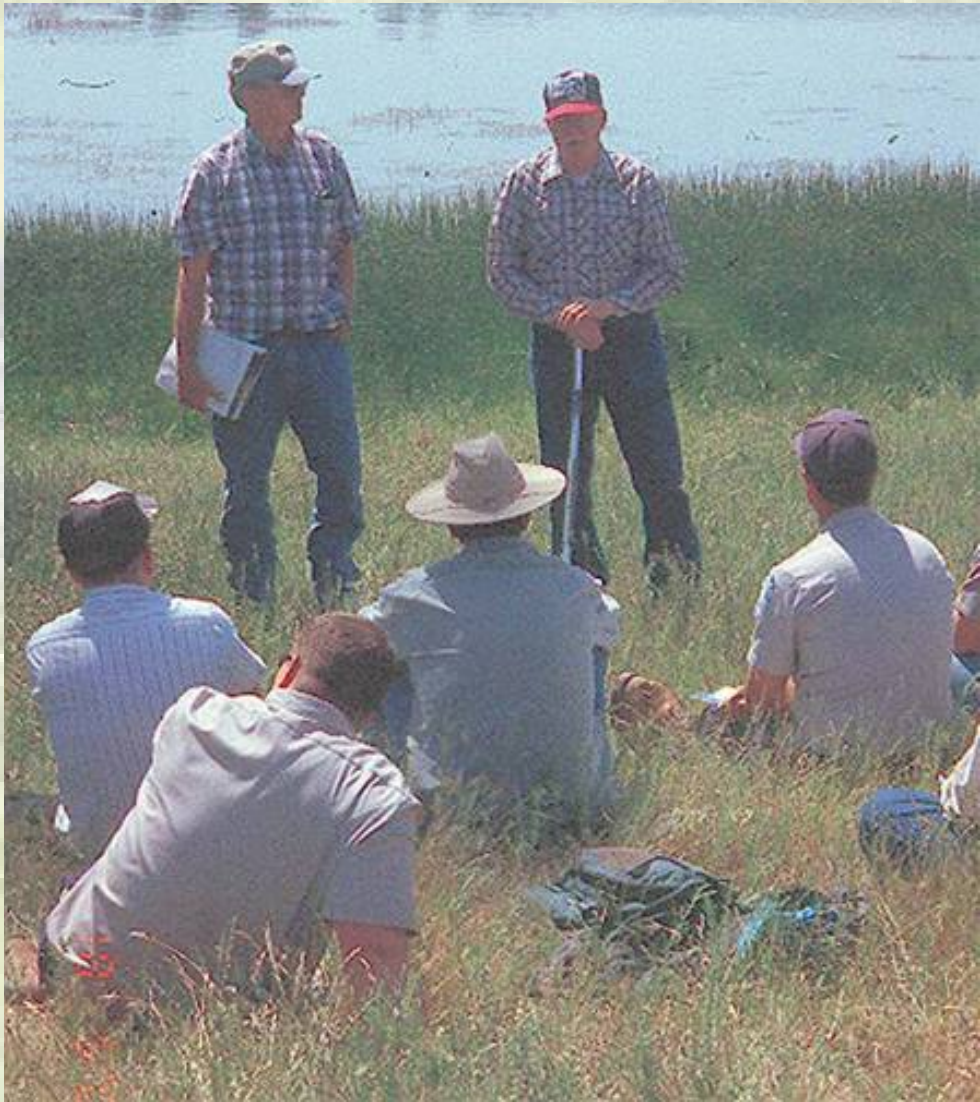
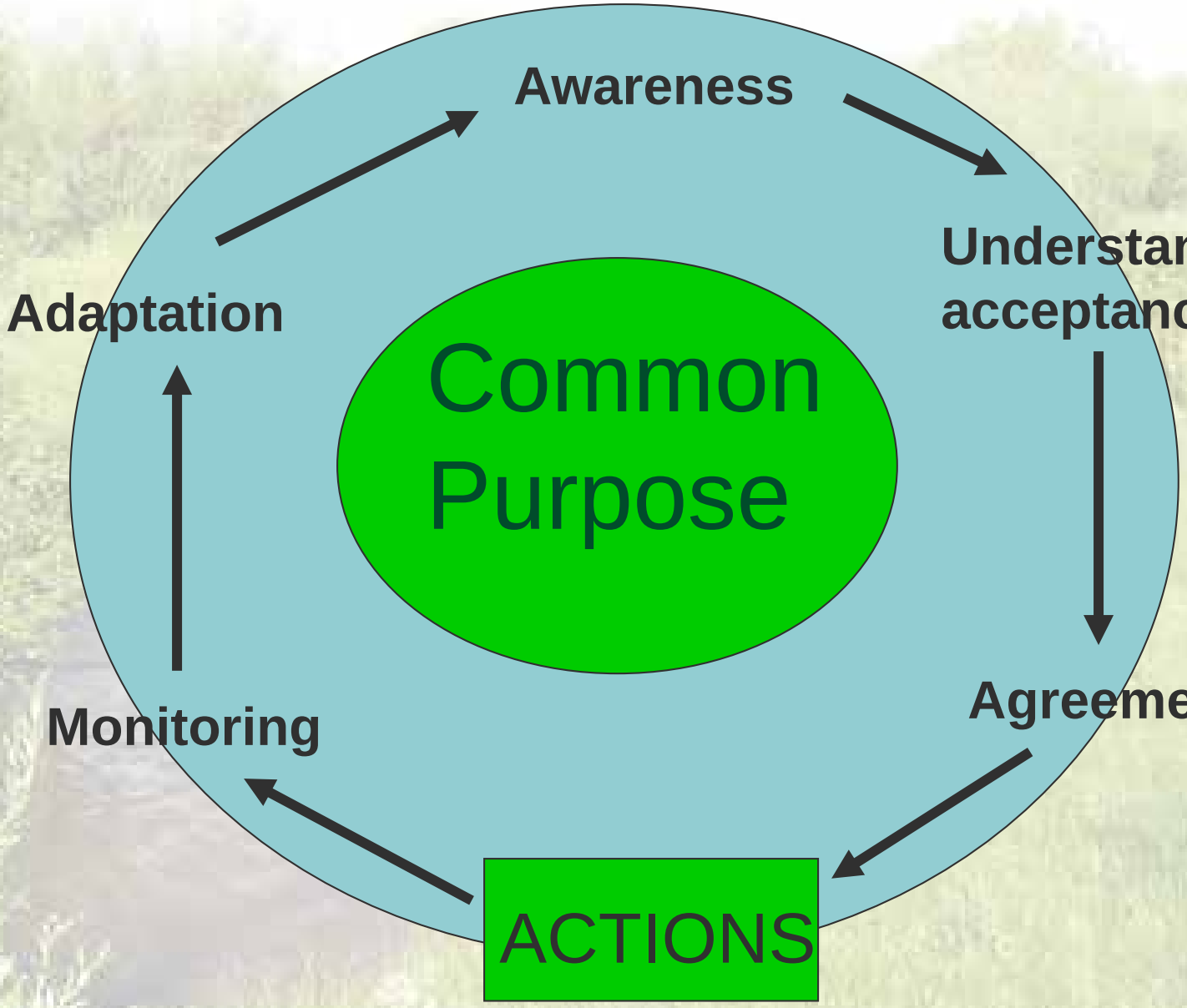




Creeks and Communities Team

Good Science is Important, *and seldom enough*

Conflicting Science – Multiple truths

"Good Science" changes over time.

Science from somewhere else.

Socio/Political factors important

Creeks and Communities Team

Useful Scientific Information

Understandable to stakeholders with a range of scientific backgrounds

Seen by all parties as legitimate and valid (believable), relevant and trusted

Used to identify the costs/benefits and risks/tradeoffs of alternatives, not to make the decision

Creeks and Communities Team

Information Age

Our society is literally awash today in data, information & knowledge (science). And yet in many places our creeks are failing to produce the values they offer when healthy.

What is often lacking is fully understanding what it all means, and then having the wisdom to apply what we know in ways that best meet the needs of people and the ecosystem.

Dee Hock 1999

Although there is an important role for science and technical information, natural resource issues are not simply scientific or technical decisions, they are public policy decisions.

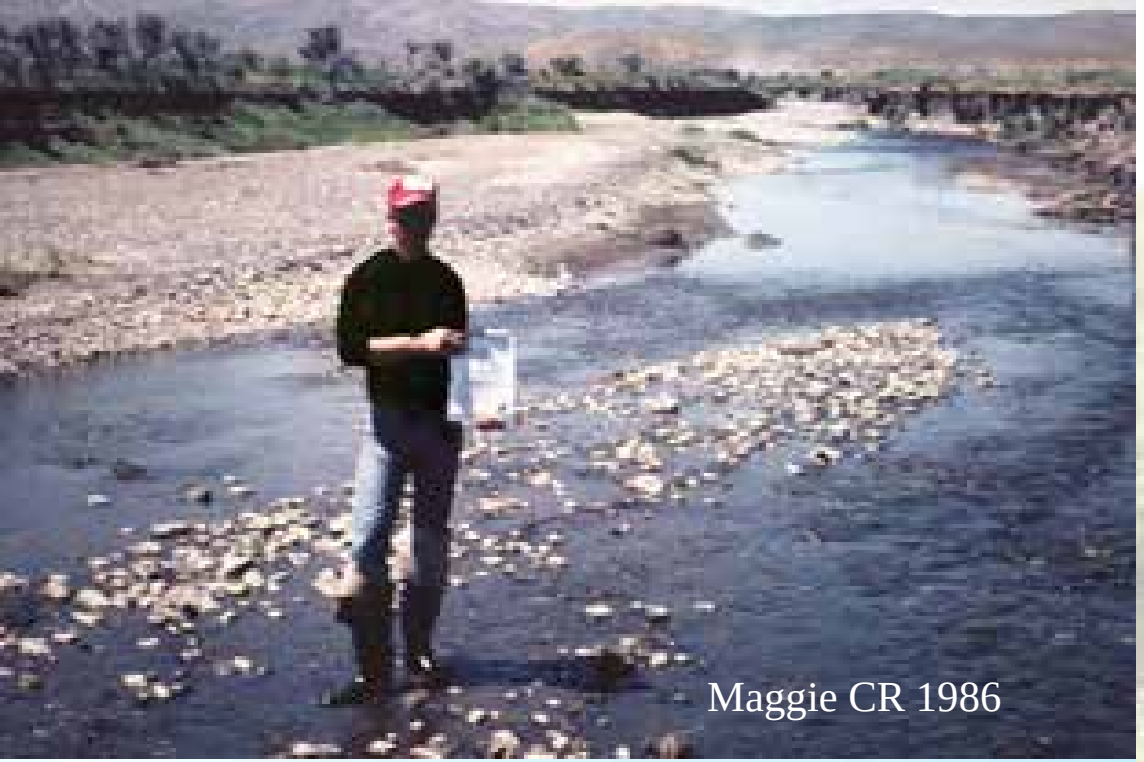
Laura Van Riper – Social Scientist, National Riparian Service Team

Creeks and Communities Team

Information does not resolve social conflicts, people do.

“(Duane 1997)

Creeks and Communities Team


Maggie CR 1986


Maggie Cr. 2006

Creeks & Communities

By focusing on stream health, we help to create a **common vision** of what is possible and what is needed for management and/or restoration

Creeks and Communities Team

If you bring together the right people, in constructive ways, with good information, they will produce:

- Better decisions
- Improved relationships
- Sustainable communities and landscapes

Creeks and Communities Team

Working Together for Creeks and Communities

- Bring affected interests together
- Create learning environments, build relationships/trust
- Build community information base
- Empower people

Bring Affected Interests Together – Who?

- Have an interest or concern (self-identified)
- May be needed to implement the outcome
- May try to undermine the effort

Creeks and Communities Team

Create Learning Environments

- Safe atmosphere
- Explain basic ecological processes in a way everyone can understand.
- Listen to everyone for new possibilities and approaches

Integrating Science into Collaborative Decision-Making

Joint Fact Finding

Structure the conversation

Empower People (Community & Individuals) to Create Change

Improved relationships

Trust

Technical know how & support

Financial support

Communities of People with a Shared Vision

Cooperative riparian stewardship

Creeks and Communities Team