

SRM Section News

Watershed/Riparian Committee Contributes to 2005 SRM National Meeting

The SRM Watershed/Riparian Committee strives to develop symposia and technical sessions on state-of-the-art watershed and riparian topics for SRM Annual Meetings. For the 2005 Annual Meeting, the committee representatives decided to focus their efforts on interacting with the national High School Youth Forum (HSYF) delegates. Twenty-four high school youths from 12 states participated at the 2005 convention. Carol Engle spoke at the HSYF Professional Interaction Program on Monday night. Ms Engle spoke on careers available within the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, the kind of education needed, and her range background and motivation to work in resource management. After 6 speakers, a roundtable was conducted with the students asking probing questions of each of the speakers on different areas of resource interests.

During the Wednesday HSYF meeting, a 2-hour riparian workshop was conducted by Wayne Elmore, Janice Staats, and Jimmy Eisner. Wayne Elmore, retired team leader for the Interagency National Riparian Service Team, spoke at the beginning and end of the presentation. Wayne used the Bear Creek riparian recovery example and several other “before and after” slide sets to talk about important attributes and processes needed for riparian-wetland function. He engaged the students by asking them to predict what the “after” slide would look like, on the basis of seeing the “before” slide and hearing what grazing management changes had occurred. Jim Eisner, fisheries biologist for the

Deschutes Resource Area-Prineville District BLM and a member of the National Riparian Service Team, discussed the multiple uses of riparian areas by people and wildlife. Janice Staats, hydrologist on the National Riparian Service Team, used the definition of Proper Functioning Condition to build the awareness that there are different types of streams, and that adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody material is needed to dissipate stream energy. The students interacted with the speakers by offering comments and questions throughout the presentations. Slides allowed the students to see riparian areas in several forms of proper functioning and functional-at-risk conditions and gave them the ability to discuss the various management practices that benefit riparian areas. The students’ questions centered on information presented by the group; these questions indicated that the students were thinking into the future and beyond the presentation. Each of the speakers felt that both the students and the presenters had benefited by their interactions.

The SRM Watershed/Riparian Committee is active and engaged. If you are interested in participating we invite you to join us at our annual committee meeting held on Sunday at the SRM Annual Meeting. The 2006 SRM gathering will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia.

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