



# American Fisheries Society

## *Western Division*

### **AFS Western Division Riparian, Watersheds and Habitat Committee 2005 Riparian Challenge**

### **Riparian, Watersheds and Habitat Committee Report 2005**

#### **Committee:**

Riparian, Watersheds and Habitat Committee Chair                      David Zafft

#### **Subcommittee:**

Riparian Challenge Committee Chair    Hilda Sexauer

The mission of the Riparian, Watershed and Habitat Committee is to coordinate and promote scientific understanding and management of riparian zones, their watersheds, and fish habitat, among and between AFS members, scientific organizations, the public, policy makers, agencies and other relevant stakeholders.

The Committee expanded the Riparian Challenge for another year to include other agencies that are implementing improvements to the riparian and watershed ecosystems.

#### **The Riparian Challenge subcommittee Charge**

- Annually solicit nominees for the Division's Riparian Challenge Award from the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management and other agencies.

#### **Riparian Challenge Committee:**

Hilda Sexauer, Wyoming Game and Fish Department	Committee Chair
Tom Mendenhall, Bureau of Land Management	Committee Member
David Zafft, Wyoming Game and Fish Department	Committee Member

The Riparian Challenge Committee is in charge of annually soliciting nominees for the Division's Riparian Challenge Award. In an attempt to recognize other agencies besides the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management we have incorporated a third category again this year that includes other agencies or groups that are striving to improve riparian and watershed habitats.

The subcommittee was responsible for soliciting submissions from the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and other agencies or industries, ordering plaques and making award presentations at the Western Division's annual business meeting.

The committee began soliciting nominations on October 10, 2004. The Riparian Challenge entry form and criteria were posted on the Western Division's website, the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter website, *The Tributary*, and *The Angler*. These forms were also sent to Dave Lentz for distribution to all Western Division AFS members. Letters were sent to one Washington, DC representative from the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management announcing the solicitation for the 2005 Riparian Challenge. This information was forwarded by the Washington, DC representative to the appropriate National Forests and Field Offices. The deadline for entries was April 15, 2005 but was extended to May 5, 2005 due to a lack of entries.

The committee members used the 2004 judging form. Three committee members independently judged each of the 9 submissions (2 BLM, 3 FS and 4 other). The final ranking from the three judges were averaged to select the winner for each category.

This year we selected a recipient from the following categories:

- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service
- Other: This category includes all submissions besides those entered by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management

The 2005 Award of Excellence in Riparian Management was awarded to three entities. The recipients of the award were contacted during last week of July or first week of August, 2005. On August 24, 2005, a letter announcing the winners was sent to the Washington, DC representative for the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

The winner of the Western Division's Award of Excellence in Riparian Management for the Bureau of Land Management went to the Carlsbad Field Office for the Delaware River project and the Forest Service award went to the Mapleton Ranger District of the Siuslaw National Forest for the Karnowsky Creek Riparian Restoration project. We awarded the Entiat Water Resource Inventory Area Plan submitted by the Entiat Water Resource Inventory Unit for the Other Category.

The winning projects can be viewed on the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter. The Committee will present representatives from the winning offices with the award at the Annual Western Division's Business Luncheon in Anchorage, Alaska on September 13, 2005.

The Committee Chair prepared and mailed letters thanking each entrant for participating in the Riparian Challenge and announcing the winning entries. We also informed the entrants that the winning projects would be posted on the websites and hopefully announced in *Fisheries*.

### 2005 Activities

Date	Activity/Report/Item
07 October 2004	The Committees first call for entries for the 2005 Riparian Challenge Award. Entry Form and Criteria for Evaluation for the 2005 Riparian Challenge award posted on the Western Division's and Colorado-Wyoming chapter's websites, the Western Division's newsletter <i>Tributary</i> and the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter newsletter <i>The Angler</i> .
07, October 2004	Letters submitted by mail and email to Dave Cross, National Fisheries Program Leader, Forest Service. Entry Form and Criteria for Evaluation submitted for distribution to National Forests.
10 October 2004	Letter submitted by mail and email to Richard Bulavinetz, Fisheries Biologist, Bureau of Land Management. Entry Form and Criteria for Evaluation submitted for distribution to Field Offices.
October 2004 – May 2005	Responding to questions from potential entrants
22 March 2005	Final Call for Riparian Challenge Entries. Sent to Dave Cross and Richard Bulavinetz to disburse appropriately.
05 May 2005	Deadline for Riparian Challenge submissions
July 2005	Finalized the winner for each category
July and August 2005	Contacted winners by email and phone
26 August 2005	Letter submitted to Dave Cross (FS), Richard Bulavinetz (BLM) and Sarah Walker (Entiat Water Resource) announcing the winners
September 2005	Winning projects posted on the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter website
11 September 2005	Committee Report at the Western Division's Business Meeting
13 September 2005	Present representatives from each agency with the award at the Western Division's Business Luncheon