



American Fisheries Society

Western Division

AFS Western Division Riparian, Watersheds and Habitat Committee **- 2010 Riparian Challenge Entry Format and Evaluation Criteria -**

The Riparian Challenge was established as an annual event to encourage continued on-the-ground accomplishments in riparian habitat management in the region encompassed by the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society. Entries must document riparian habitat management efforts where resource values will be or have been improved within a watershed. Examples of these resource values include, but are not limited to:

- Streambank stability
- Water quality
- Vegetative diversity and recovery
- Stream flows
- Subsurface water supplies
- Aquatic/fish habitat
- Terrestrial wildlife habitat
- Forage production
- Recreation/aesthetic qualities
- Education

Entries must be type written and must not exceed 4 pages of text. An additional 3 pages may be used for photographs and maps. Land use plans, research projects, handbooks or technical guidelines are not eligible. These are products that are not actually on-the-ground accomplishments or achievements. Projects must also be completed; projects in planning do not qualify. All entries must be submitted as electronic Adobe pdf documents (preferable) or Microsoft Word documents. To reduce file sizes, please compress photographs within Microsoft Word prior to emailing or converting to pdf files. Hard copies will not be accepted. Directions for submitting entries are included below. Include the following information on the first page of each entry (not included in page total):

- 1) Project Title
- 2) Agency name or private industry
- 3) Name of BLM Field Office or Resource Area or name of USFS Ranger District and National Forest
- 4) Primary contact person, phone number, and email address
- 5) 1-3 other contacts familiar with the project and telephone numbers
- 6) Date the plan was initiated and date project was or will be completed

Each typed entry should accurately describe the project, including background, objectives and results. Include photographs or scanned images (no slides) adequate to describe the project. Maps can also be included. The entry should be completed according to the following format. Point values are in parentheses.

- 1) Correct entry of information on first page (8 points)
- 2) Project title (2 points)
- 3) Project location (2 points)

- 4) Project need and the goals and objectives related to addressing the project need (10 points)
- 5) Participants who participated in the project (3 points)
- 6) Project scope – tasks completed to achieve the project goals and objectives (65 points)
 - a. What species of fish and wildlife were affected?
 - b. Which resource values were improved?
 - c. Does the project address habitat for threatened or endangered species?
 - d. How many stream miles and/or acres of riparian habitat were improved?
 - e. Did the project involve an interdisciplinary process? Who was involved?
 - f. Did the project involve multi-agency cooperation? Federal government, state government, private landowners, corporations, conservation groups, etc.
- 7) Monitoring plan components (5 points)
- 8) Plan for information dissemination to the public (5 points)

Winners will be selected in the following categories (depending on the number of submissions).

BLM

- Best Resource Area or Field Office

Forest Service

- Best Ranger District

Other

- Best Riparian Project

Winners will be selected on the basis of total points received from the judges for all projects/plans submitted by an office. Points will be awarded based on the resource protection afforded by each project/plan. Small projects are important and valuable; a number of small projects within a field office, resource area or district can equal the point total of an extensive multi-resource cooperative management effort. The Riparian, Watersheds and Habitat Committee of the Western Division of AFS will make selections.

Completed entries should be submitted to the Western Division Riparian Committee Chair at the email address listed below and **must be received by March 15, 2010**. Entries with file sizes less than 5 mb may be emailed to Troy Brandt at tbrandt@riverdesigngroup.net. Entries exceeding 5 mb may also be posted to a dedicated ftp site or saved to a CD and mailed to the address below. Contact Troy Brandt for directions to access the ftp site. The high scorer in each agency/entity category will be declared the winner. Scoring sheets will be made available upon request.

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