

# **Janice Staats**

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Hydrology is the study of the interrelationships and interactions between water and its environment. As a hydrologist, my role in riparian function workshops is to work with the widest possible diversity of stakeholders with different interests, values, knowledge, experience, genders, and perspectives to build an understanding of the interaction of soil, water, and vegetation in riparian areas. We explain the Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessment method as a way to build a common understanding of riparian-wetland resources, and I often present the hydrology section and erosion/deposition section of the PFC assessment checklist. My hope is that individuals and groups will use what they learn to manage riparian areas and meet the needs of both the resource and communities.

I began my career in natural resources when I was still in college working seasonally for the USDA Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. My college advisor was very good at helping me get a summer job. He knew the importance of gaining some experience since getting federal jobs was difficult at best in the 1980s. I was excited when after spending a couple summers working as a Forestry Technician to get my first Hydrologic Technician position, and I've been working with surface water ever since.

My first permanent Hydrologist job was with U.S. Geological Survey in Albany, NY. I worked for one year on the stream gaging network in the Catskill Mountains of New York which is part of the municipal watershed of New York City.

I became a USDA Forest Service Hydrologist and worked on the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire, Challis National Forest in Idaho, and Dixie National Forest in Utah. Since October 1996, I have been working on the National Riparian Service Team stationed in Prineville, Oregon, implementing the Creeks & Communities Strategy (see <http://www.blm.gov/or/programs/nrst/files/121902Final.pdf>).

What motivates me: Aquatic habitats, water, and riparian areas are important to me for many reasons. One practical reason is I see fish as an important food resource for humans. I was recently in San Diego, CA and a sign at San Diego Bay states “Fish from the bay may contain chemicals believed to cause cancer and birth defects. Eating these fish may be a risk for some people.” It broke my heart to see that sign, and I'm working to participate in situations where mutual learning and problem solving can take place by people that listen to each other with respect to improve the health of our planet, as well as my own health.

Interests: growing my own food, hiking in the summer, snowshoeing in the winter, and reading all kinds of books.