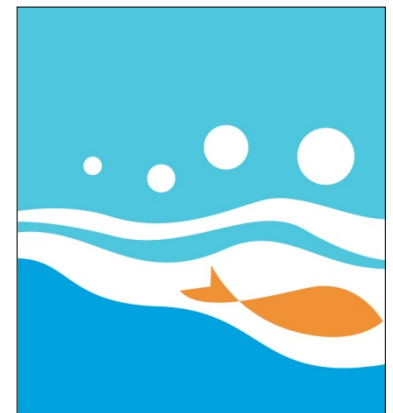


Can Water Efficiency Improve Stream Flows?

A joint project of:
Alliance for Water Efficiency
Environmental Law Institute
American Rivers



What westwide cases tell us

1. External drivers often prompt action
2. Cooperation multiplies benefits and success
3. Funding is one key to success
4. Water efficiency is just one part of package
5. Scale and location are site-specific



Case studies

- Deschutes River, OR- role of nonprofit
- Grand Valley, CO-modernizing irrigation
- Manastash Creek, WA-agricultural efficiencies
- Cedar River, WA-Long term conservation
- N Blackfoot River, MT-individual efforts
- Russian River, CA-more natural flows



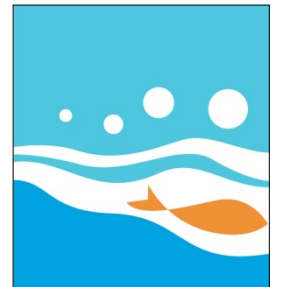
Legal setting

- Law of the river is a framework
- Federal influence and management are significant
- Each state's prior appropriation law differs
- Assessment is needed case by case



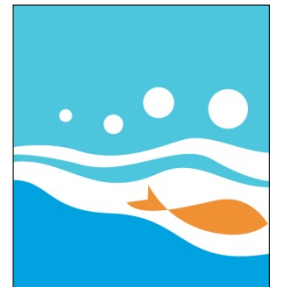
Practical challenges

- Attitude, trust, willingness counteract obstacles
- Partnerships and leadership are key
- Actual law and perception of it differ
- External drivers not required
- Money not the only factor
- Timing and location, not just volume, matter



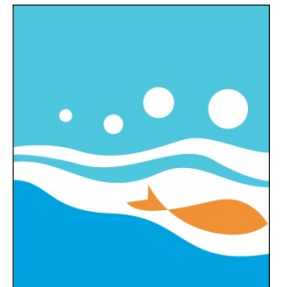
Approaches to partnership

- Farmer and nonprofit
- Community with direct river connection
- Modernizing agricultural district
- Nonprofit catalyst
- Three-way trades
- Multiple watershed partners



Setting the stage

- Major legal or policy changes not necessary
- Start with connecting existing state programs
- Pilot projects show possibilities
- Upcoming ESA hot spots matter
- Dialogue goes a long way



Water efficiency can help watersheds

- Identified streamflow stretch & need
- Follow the drop: water from efficiency when & where needed
- Willing partners, local champion
- Locally tailored approach
- Creative funding
- Defined legal path
- Short term efforts
- Report online at www.a4we.org

