Proposed Investment in Irrigation Efficiency in Tributaries

Presented by
Dan Haller & Jon Culp
Washington State Department of Ecology
Creating an Open-Enrollment Funding Program through Conservation Districts

- Dedicating fixed program funding from the Columbia River Account
- Program administered through conservation districts and conservation commission
- Fixed program criteria
- Open enrollment, if you meet criteria, you get funded
What are the Policy Ramifications of this Proposal?

**Policy Choice 1:** Accept that conservation projects will primarily meet instream use objectives in RCW 90.90 and few permits would be issued.

**Policy Choice 2:** Be open to “retiming of return flows” potential considered for pilot in CSRIA VRA.

**Policy Choice 3:** Accept that conservation for conservation’s sake is a staple of the program, even if marginal fish benefit is achieved or new permits won’t issue.
Municipal Conservation Policy Discussion

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Municipal Conservation Policy Discussion

- How large is the conservation potential?
- What “public interest” policy should Ecology consider when issuing new permits?
- What legal mechanism would Ecology use to make such decisions?
2007 DOH Water Use Efficiency Rule
- Metering & Reporting
- Leakage Standards
- Individualized conservation goals
- What is DOH seeing? Conservation goals are modest.

2006 Water Supply & Demand Forecast
- >1 million people in Columbia River Basin Counties (OFM)
- 2006 public water system use is about 200,000 ac-ft, or 170 gpcd
- What if 10% was conserved? ≈ 20,000 ac-ft
- Consumptive / Nonconsumptive considerations
Historic Allocation Practice - Reasonable Beneficial Use

New Allocation Practice - What should it be for State funded supply?

Hypothetical Example - What allocation is not detrimental to the public interest?

- Town of Kumquat files 1990 application requesting 500 connections at 600 gpd/ERU
- 2007 Kumquat Water System Plan identifies current use as 500 gpd/ERU
- 2007 Kumquat Water System Plan identifies conservation goal of 400 gpd/ERU
- Kumquat inhouse domestic use is 200 gpd/ERU
- Kumquat only needed 500 connections in 1990 but needs 1000 through 2027
What Legal Mechanism would Ecology use to make such Decisions?

- Case-by-Case evaluations could be done in permit decisions, or covered by policy.
- Rule required if Ecology chose a single number or method.
CSRIA VRA Update

- Public Comments
- Public Meetings
- Schedule of Completion
"Themes" in Public Comments

- Statutory performance standard for mitigation in RCW 90.90.030.
- Market value of water versus $10/ac-ft/year mitigation payment.
- Fate of water saved during recalibration process.
- Pilot projects - who, what, where, how and when?
- Process issues – how will it really work? First VRA growing pains.
Public Meetings on VRA -- Drought Applications due July 1st

CSRIA-sponsored meetings for its membership
- April 22<sup>nd</sup> in Kennewick
- April 24<sup>th</sup> in Brewster

Ecology-sponsored meeting for VRA commenter’s and the public
- May 29<sup>th</sup> in Yakima
- In-depth discussion of comments
Schedule for Completion of the VRA

May 29th: Public comment meeting

June: Final VRA language negotiated

June: Draft funding list provided, including TAG-projects, non-Tag projects, CSRIA pilots

July 1st: Drought applications due

July: Sign VRA

July: Final funding list provided by Ecology

Fall 2008: Negotiate funding contracts, including CSRIA pilot projects

Fall 2008: Finalize BMP process (may include CD’s)

Winter 2008: Begin working on drought permits
Operations Updates

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### Phase 1
- Voluntary outreach successful, only 3 orders issued
- Data on the Columbia River webmap starting in 2009

### Phase 2
- Repeat Phase 1, voluntary outreach
- Move time earlier by a few months to allow greater flexibility for winter installations
- Target another 5-10% of water use
- Data to Columbia River webmap by 2010

#### Table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% of Metered Use</th>
<th># of Water Rights Metered &amp; Reporting</th>
<th>Quantity (cfs)</th>
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<td><strong>Goal</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Current Status</strong></td>
<td>69%</td>
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Columbia River Webmap Update

Phase 1 (2007) Webmap

- Mapped water rights, water right info, aerials, images, metering requirement (Y/N)

Phase 2 (2008) Webmap

- Reporting Module
  - Sum water rights / data over Columbia River pools
  - Trust/Permit water-balance

- Inventory Module
  - Online queries, download and reporting of storage/conservation projects
  - Online storage/conservation project submittal

- County Parcel Data
  - Ownership information, water marketing
  - Participating counties to-date (Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Klickitat)
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<th>File Number</th>
<th>Name of Record</th>
<th>Document Type</th>
<th>Water Right Class</th>
<th>Priority Date</th>
<th>Purposes</th>
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Wenatchee Water Master

- First water master started in April 2008
- Focus in diversions from Bonneville to Canada within 1-mile of the river and areas without existing water masters
- Prioritizing issues identified during mapping of 8000 water rights
Water Master Examples
Water Master Examples
Questions?