Susan Kaderka, Director, National Wildlife Federation's Gulf States Office

Don Elder, President, River Network

## Global Warming and America's Watersheds



# National Wildlife Federation and the River Network 



This presentation represents the beginning of a joint training effort by River Network and the National Wildlife Federation.

Last summer, the National Wildlife Federation, developed training materials for the Climate Project, which is Al Gore's project to train 1,000 community leaders around the country to spread the word on climate change by learning to present the slide show featured in the documentary An Inconvenient Truth. To date, the people trained through the climate project have given more than 5,000 presentations and reached more than 250,000 people.

National Wildlife Federation has been very inspired by this training model for mobilizing grassroots action and over the past six months or so have been developing customized slide presentations and presentation guides for targeted groups-hunters and anglers, birders, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

This presentation is intended for river conservationists. It is designed to be adapted and presented by River Network and NWF members who want to carry the word about global warming's impact on rivers, streams and watersheds to their own state and local constituents.

I want to stress that this is beta test of this slide show-this is the first time we are presenting it-so as I go through this, I'd like you to jot down any thoughts you have about additions or deletions of changes in emphasis. I'll be asking for feedback during the question/answer period.

# Intergovernmental Panel <br> on Climate Change 2007 



Four degrees (F) warmer

So lets take a look at what scientists are telling us is likely to happen.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is a United Nations committee of more than 2,000 scientists and economists who have been assessing the extent of global warming, its causes and its consequences since 1988.

In all the IPCCC has released 4 reports-1990, 1995, 2001, and most recently, 2007. Each one of them establishing with greater certainty the fact of global warming and the role of human activity in causing it.

Its most recent report concluded that average global temperatures will almost certainly increase by 5 degrees Fahrenheit over the next century and that sea levels will rise from 10 to 23 inches.
(This sea level rise estimate does not take into account any melting of the ice on Greenland or the Antarctic peninsula because the data on that phenomenon are new (over the past two years or so) and scientists are not agreed on what it means, so they chose not to factor it in to the 2007 report. There are many scientists, however, who think sea level rise will be much worse because of ice that is now on land either melting or breaking off and sliding into the ocean.

The IPCC concluded that water resource issues were among the key concerns for the U.S. and that is what I want to concentrate on today



## Earlier Snow Melt 25 Days Since the 1940s



## The Spring 'Pulse'



On of the ways this earlier snow melt is being tracked and measured is by monitoring the spring pulse-which is the time of initial high flow in the spring that marks the transition between lower winter flows and higher spring flows.

The ecology of the lower lying areas of these mountains-the fish and wildlife and plant life-have adapted over millennia to abundant Spring flows occurring at the same times each year.

# Since the 1940's - 25 Days Earlier 


(1948-2000)
Blue = Earlier Timing of Pulse
Red $=$ Later Timing of Pulse
Scripps Institute

Now we see that this spring pulse is coming earlier in the year.

Researchers at the Scripps Institute found that the timing of snowmelt runoff has advanced for man!

On average the run-off "pulse" (particular few days in the Spring when the winter snow begins to th

## Effects of Changed Timing



## Fish Spawning



## Drier Summers



## Warmer Streams



## Increased Competition



## Water Storage and Capture



## Southwest Rivers




## Loss of Perennial Streams



## Drier Vegetative Communities



## Fiercer Water Competition



# Questions? <br>  

Susan Kaderka, Director, National Wildlife Federation’s
Gulf States Regional Office


# More Intense Storms and Flooding 




# More Scouring and Pollution 




## Anticipating Greater Extremes



## Wet Season Flooding




# Warmer Water Temperatures 



## Coastal Rivers



## Vulnerable To Sea Level Rise



## Harder Shorelines



## Storm Surges and Saltwater Intrusion



## Turbidity and Submerged Aquatic Vegetation



## Larger Hypoxic Zones



## Solutions

- Regulatory
- Voluntary
- Incentive-based


## Improved Forest Management



## Riparian Restoration



## Stream Course Restoration



## In-stream Flow Protection



## Increased Water Use Efficiency



## Smarter Flood Plain Management



## Wetlands Restoration



## Water Quality Protection



Controlling pollution and invasive speciếs

# Monitoring and Managing for Temperature Change 



## Greater Focus on Stream Corridor Connections



# Susan R. Kaderka, Regional Executive Director Gulf States Natural Resource Center National Wildlife Federation 

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# Questions? <br>  

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## Saving Energy by Saving Water



River Network
October 2007

## Saving Energy by Saving Water

- Savings potential surprising, substantial
- Quicker, cheaper and more reliable results than most potential strategies
- Only environmental impacts are positive



## Perspective:

- In five minutes, a hot water faucet uses as much energy as a 60-watt bulb uses in 14 hours.

Source: US EPA

## Municipal water/sewer plant energy use

- U.S. annual total* $=75$ billion kilowatt hours per year
- $3 \%$ of total U.S. consumption of electricity
- Equal to entire residential electricity demand of California
- More than entire energyintensive pulp/paper and petroleum sectors combined
- Public bill = Already \$4B/yr. Increasing.
* 60,000 drinking water treatment plants +


Sources: US EPA, Alliance to Save Energy, Pacific Institute \& NRDC 15,000 sewage treatment plants

## Other water-related energy use includes...

- Groundwater pumping
- Interbasin transfers
- Pumping water to drinking water treatment plants and from there to homes
- Heating water in homes, businesses and institutions
- Heating and cooling water in industries
- Pumping water to sewage treatment plants and discharge points
- Etc.


Year 2001
Source: U.S. Energy
So, total residential energy use for water heating is far more than for indoor and Information Administration outdoor residential lighting combined.

## Public water treatment + residential water heating = about 180 billion kWh/year in U.S. today



Does not include:

- Energy used by the more than 60\% of homes that heat with gas instead of electricity.
- Energy used for pumping water uphill and between basins
- Any commercial or industrial use of energy to pump, treat, heat and cool water
- Any agricultural energy use to pump water
- Etc...

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# We estimate total current U.S. water-related energy use to be at least 300 billion kWh per year.* 

* Includes energy other than electricity in approximate kWh equivalent.


## Easily achievable water use reductions could allow us to

- Retire hundreds of dirty power plants much sooner
- Give us cleaner, healthier air to breathe
- Significantly advance overall effort to reduce greenhouse gas reductions
- Keep much more water in streams and lakes where it belongs




## Total withdrawals (BGD)


$\begin{array}{lllllllllll}1950 & 1955 & 1960 & 1965 & 1970 & 1975 & 1980 & 1985 & 1990 & 1995 & 2000\end{array}$

## U.S. per capita withdrawals

1,190 in 1950, 1,940 in 1975, 1,430 in 2000


## Questions?

Don Elder, President, River Network


# Saving Water <br> A comprehensive, integrated approach 



## Conservation = Reducing Waste

- Does not have to mean hardship
- Does mean changing some habits



Encourage and reward stewardship

Penalize or prohibit profligate waste


## Nationwide survey of water utilities

38\% have

conservationoriented rates

| $\square$ Inverted Block |
| :--- |
| $\square$ Seasonal |
| $\square$ Uniform Block |
| $\square$ Declining Block |
| $\square$ Other |

Source: Adapted from the 2002 RFC Water and Wastewater Rate Survey; 148 systems surveyed

## Rate structures that are not conservation oriented

Declining block


Uniform block

|  | \$3.00 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |
|  | \$2.50 |  |
|  | \$2.00 |  |
|  | \$1.50 |  |
|  | \$1.00 |  |
|  | \$0.50 |  |
|  | \$0.00 | H111111 |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | Usage (thousand gallons per month) 68 |

## Conservation-oriented rate structures

Inverted block

Seasonal



## Supply-side emphasis

"Must sell more water to generate more revenue!"

Revenue - Expenses = Margin


## Demand-side emphasis

"It's at least as good to reduce demand as it is to increase supply!"

> Revenue - Expenses = Margin


$$
\begin{aligned}
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## Efficiency = Getting more performance out of every drop used

- No hardship at all
- Saves resources and money
- Payback periods quick
- Tremendous existing potential


## Homes

- Toilets
- Faucets
- Showerheads
- Washing machines
- Dishwashers
- Hot water heaters*
* Tankless models save little or no water, but save a lot of energy


## EPA Labeling Program

- Helps consumers ensure they are buying highperforming water-efficient devices
- Perform as well or better than water-wasting devices
- http://epa.gov/watersense/


## Businesses \& Institutions

- Efficiency potential usually as great or greater than residential
- Payback periods faster (because multiple users)
- Financing easier


## U.S. Industrial Water Use (BGD)



## U.S. Irrigation (BGD)



## U.S. Irrigation in 2000



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## Advancing Efficiency

- Education
- Standards
- Requirements
- Phase-outs
- Incentives
- Retrofit programs (utility-sponsored)


## Efficiency potential

(above and beyond conservation potential)

- U.S. Water efficiency potential: At least 25\% (conservative estimate)
- Could achieve half this potential in next 10 years, most of rest in next 15
- So, with conservation and efficiency, we could reduce our urban water use by 35\% or more within 25 years


## Efficiency



Conservation

Efficiency


# Imagine for a moment that 

Some day we will all have easy access to treated drinking water and 1-2 other sources of water...

## Many home systems for rainwater

 harvest- Small to large scale
- Simple to very sophisticated



## Seattle's King Center

- 1600 employees
- Rainwater harvesting meets >60\% of entire facility's water needs
- Saves >1.4 million gallons of drinking water per year
- Also keeps runoff from entering storm sewers




## Many potential of treated "wastewater"



## San Antonio wastewater recycling

- Already has large-scale reuse program
- Primarily commercial and industrial purposes today, served by 80 miles of delivery pipeline
- Source is cheaper and more reliable
- Already reducing demand on Edwards Aquifer and region's rivers by 29 million gallons per day


Dos Rios recycled water outfall
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For more info: http://www.saws.org/our_water/recycling/

## San Antonio wastewater recycling program

- City committed in 1996 to major expansion
- Now building a 64-mile pipeline around entire city for broader delivery
- Also capturing gases in the process and generating power with it


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So, we can easily imagine that some day we will all have easy access to treated drinking water and 1-2 other sources of water.

How would we use it?

## Highest quality water



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- Drinking, cooking and bathing account for less than $1 / 3$ of indoor residential water use
- Almost all other uses could be met as well with captured rainwater or other sources
- Other residential

Residential Indoor Water Use


- All outdoor
- Most industrial


## Other uses of other sources of water



Reuse
(Stormwater + Wastewater)



## Questions?



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