

Global Warming and America's Watersheds





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.

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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





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.



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 many

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

Effects of Changed Timing







Warmer Streams



Increased Competition



Water Storage and Capture



Southwest Rivers





Loss of Perennial Streams









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



More Intense Storms and Flooding





More Scouring and Pollution





Anticipating Greater Extremes







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Vulnerable To Sea Level Rise





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Turbidity and Submerged Aquatic Vegetation




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





Monitoring and Managing for Temperature Change



Greater Focus on Stream Corridor Connections



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Saving Energy by Saving Water



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 + 15,000 sewage treatment plants



54 Sources: US EPA, Alliance to Save Energy, Pacific Institute & NRDC

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.





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... 58

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









Don Elder, President, River Network





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







Supply-side emphasis

"Must sell more water to generate more revenue!"



Demand-side emphasis

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



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







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





Imagine for a moment that

Some day we will all have easy access to treated drinking water <u>and 1-2 other</u> 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



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

How would we use it?

Highest quality water





- 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
 - All outdoor
 - Most industrial



Other uses of other sources of water



















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

Don Elder, President, River Network



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