

Subject: Carpe Diem - "Tipping Point" Communities



Carpe Diem

WESTERN WATER & CLIMATE CHANGE

A PROJECT OF EXLOCO - PATHFINDING IN THE NEW WEST

July 9, 2008

Dear (Contact First Name),

Welcome to the first in a series of updates from the [Carpe Diem - Western Water & Climate Change](#) project. Over the next few years, the project will continue to build the diverse stakeholder network, track and develop emerging strategies, provide a communications network and research and bring new resources and funding to the issues.

We look forward to your contributions, ideas, comments and recommendations.

Tipping Points - Communities and Ecosystems at Risk

As we come to understand a bit better the water supply uncertainty climate change is bringing, "tipping point" regions, communities and ecosystems - places that will most immediately and severely feel the impacts - are of increasing concern. The **Carpe Diem** project is looking at many of these places in the western United States - assessing probable short-term impacts and identifying possible "balance point" opportunities for philanthropic and other resource investments.

No where is that vulnerability to climate change more apparent than in New Mexico where many areas in the state are already dealing with acute water shortages. A month ago, the **Carpe Diem - Western Water & Climate Change** held its second convening in Albuquerque. The presentations by top scientists and policy makers and the resulting discussions were, to say the least, sobering. As Dave Gutzler, the climatologist from the University of New Mexico stated: *"New Mexico has a small 'water bucket' - most of what has not been developed is in brackish aquifers and will be difficult and expensive to develop. We're starting to see geographic winners and losers in the West among all species including humans."*

New Mexico philanthropic, NGO, policy and business leaders are coming together over the next few months to identify possible responses - and how to move forward proactively in a state with limited public funding and a long history of fights over water. New Mexico is also a national leader on climate change mitigation policy and practices -

they will be putting that experience to use as they craft adaptation strategies to ensure that human communities and ecosystems will have the water needed to survive and thrive.

The Albuquerque convening summary, along with many of the key power point presentations, agenda, participant list and other background material can be found at the **Carpe Diem** project's on line forum <http://www.wiserearth.org/group/carpediem>

Carpe Diem Project On Line Forum

The **Carpe Diem** on-line forum provides a communications resource for the 500+ (and growing) network of key decision makers from around the West and includes information on the project, recent studies, reports and related upcoming conferences.

To add information, post articles, start a discussion group, contact other members, etc., you must first become a member of www.wiserearth.org, and chose "Carpe Diem - Western Water & Climate Change" as your group. You can also just browse the files without becoming a member. <http://www.wiserearth.org/group/carpediem>

Support the Project - Make your investment

Join the foundations, businesses and individuals who have their 'eye on the prize ' - a West where our children and all human beings have access to clean water, where food is still grown and where living rivers thrive. Support Exloco's **Carpe Diem - Western Water & Climate Change** project with your tax-deductible contribution www.exloco.org/invest

About Exloco

New strategies for a healthy and vibrant West

ex·lo·co (ex'loco) adj., beyond the place [Latin]

Exloco incubates new campaigns and initiatives, developing solutions to environmental sustainability challenges in the western United States. We partner with investors - venture philanthropists, social change organizations, progressive public agencies and for-profits - committed to advancing new strategies for a healthy and vibrant West. www.exloco.org

Warm regards,
Kimery Wiltshire

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