



Carpe Diem

WESTERN WATER & CLIMATE CHANGE

A PROJECT OF EXLOCO – PATHFINDING IN THE NEW WEST

August 26, 2008

Dear Kimery,

Welcome to the second 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.

Confluence at the Headwaters

While much attention has focused on large mainstem rivers in the West, policy responses to climate change will increasingly need to look upstream to the tributaries, and to the land and water management practices that impact these critical waterways.

We've all seen the grim pictures of polar bears on melting Arctic icepack, read the scary predications for Colorado basin water supply and know about the rapid changes happening to ecosystems. But what does climate change mean on the ground for local communities in the West? For the outfitter trying to figure out how many rafting days they'll have, the rancher getting ready to order seed for next year, the developer looking for water to build new homes?

NGO, community and business leaders in the Upper Clark Fork Basin are coming together at the [Headwaters Summit](#) on Sept. 15-17 in Missoula to explore opportunities for partnerships and to talk about priorities for taking the next steps in addressing climate change impacts on Northern Rockies headwaters streams and the communities who depend upon them.

Two new reports provide background for the conference:

- ["Low Flows, Hot Trout"](#) deals with the Clark Fork River basin and was prepared by the Clark Fork Coalition in partnership with the National Wildlife Federation. It contains compelling stories from individuals living, working and recreating in the river basin, describing how changes in snowpack, runoff and stream temperatures will limit their economic, recreational and other opportunities.
- ["Trout in Trouble"](#) covers some of the same likely impacts over the larger western landscape, including focused sections on individual river basins at high risk for losing coldwater fish habitat. The report comes from the Natural Resources Defense Council and Montana Trout Unlimited.

Both reports highlight the vulnerability of headwaters streams, where small changes in flows and flow patterns can have dramatic impacts on the fish, wildlife and plant species dependent on them. **The early registration deadline for the Summit is September 2.**

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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