



Carpe Diem

WESTERN WATER & CLIMATE CHANGE

A PROJECT OF EXLOCO – PATHFINDING IN THE NEW WEST

July 16, 2009

Dear Kimery,

Soon, if not by the time you read this, smoke will again be rising across the West as the new fire season begins. Already the predictable lines are being drawn, with some calling for immediate forest thinning, others vowing to stop any new logging.

All of this smoke is obscuring a fundamental issue: Western public forest lands are the primary source of the water we drink, the water we use to grow the food we eat, the water that keeps fish and wildlife alive and thriving. ***Healthy forests upstream mean more, and cleaner, water downstream.***

At the [Carpe Diem - Western Water & Climate Change](#) Project we've been talking with water managers, ranchers, environmental advocates, tribal leaders and public land managers about what science-based public forest land management should look like in the face of climate change.

Our conclusion: We not only have a pressing need, we have an unprecedented opportunity. The recent changes in elected national and regional leadership, progress in climate change science, evolving work on ecosystem services valuation, and growing consensus among many western water stakeholders have created a crucial window of opportunity. Now is the time to generate water and public land resource management policies that will help us negotiate our way through the effects of climate change.

Over the next six months, the **Carpe Diem Project** will be incubating these initiatives for "water-centric" public land management. Please look on our website for the new policy brief [The Headwaters - Climate Change, Water, and National Forests in the West](#). We welcome your comments and support.

Regards,
Kimery Wiltshire

About the Carpe Diem Project

The [Carpe Diem - Western Water & Climate Change](#) project is a network of experts and decision makers committed to addressing the unprecedented challenge of climate change impacts on western water resources. By linking leaders and incubating new initiatives and approaches, the Project seeks sustainable water management practices and policies that provide security for people, ecosystems, industry and food production, incorporating state-of-the-art climate change science and the needs of all stakeholders.

The Project is led by a team of western water and policy experts and a diverse advisor group. Support for the Project is provided by foundations, western water and public agencies, individuals and corporations. Launched in Fall 2007, the Project is housed at [Exloco](#), a nonprofit organization that incubates new solutions to sustainability challenges in the western United States.

Please join supporters of Exloco's Carpe Diem project - your tax-deductible contribution will provide the critical support needed for this pioneering work. www.exloco.org/support