



## **Carpe Diem - Western Water & Climate Change**

Project Summary

October 2007

### **Goals & Outcomes**

A \$9 billion new-dams/infrastructure bond measure proposed for California's February 2008 ballot; a permanent drought forecast for the Southwest by 2050; high water temperatures restricting trout fishing in Montana; nuclear-powered desalination plants on the drawing board: climate change is rapidly re-shaping water quality, supply, quantity and flow in the West.

The West's old, multi-billion dollar water delivery and storage infrastructure was designed to take advantage of historic weather patterns - large snow packs and high spring run-off. Climate change, natural disasters such as drought, earthquakes and flooding, and potential terrorist acts, along with increased competition for water, require fundamental changes - on both a political and policy level - in how water is managed. This rapidly evolving playing field brings opportunities for developing the path towards environmental, social and economic sustainability and equity.

Building on and connecting current work, Exloco's year-long **Carpe Diem: Western Water & Climate Change** project will create the strategic framework needed by the progressive western water community to effectively address the impacts of climate change on their river basins and state.

#### **A. Project Goals**

1. Analyze situation: Conduct a west-wide situational analysis of the intersection between western water and the impacts of climate change.
2. Engage leadership: Establish an engaged network of western water advocates, public agencies, elected officials, corporate leaders, policy makers and scientists.
3. Develop strategies: Create and develop the "first step" set of sequenced strategies for possible ways to move forward.
4. Identify capacity: Identify sequencing steps, expertise and investment needs for capacity to implement specific projects and strategies.

#### **B. Project Outcomes**

1. A West-wide situation analysis examining trends, opportunities, threat levels, capacity and gaps.
2. A compendium of the current best science on western climate projections and identification of the current gaps in research on impacts and adaptation.
3. A forum of an engaged and networked group of diverse leaders representing key constituencies who dialogue across sections and advocate for change in their field and work.

4. A “first step” set of strategies for creating policy changes on the regional, state and national level, with sequencing for a 1-5 year horizon.
5. A “first step” set of strategies for instituting market-based solutions, with sequencing for a 1-5 year horizon.
6. An engaged group of individual and institutional philanthropists who are educated about the issues and able to provide support going forward for implementing specific strategies.
7. A common knowledge base including an on-line community forum with current information, resources, links, tools, discussion groups and member directory.

#### **Current Status**

With start-up funding from the Bullitt Foundation and individual donors, the Project is being launched in Fall 2007 with full operations starting in 2008. The project will conclude at the end of 2008.

The Project’s first convening takes place in Seattle on November 30th, 2007. Three additional convenings over the next year are planned (Phoenix, Denver and San Francisco.)

#### **Project Team**

The Project Team guides and advises the Project. The founding Team members: **Sarah Bates Van de Wetering**, Western Progress; **Ned Farquhar**, Natural Resources Defense Council; **Doug Kenney**, University of Colorado, Boulder; **Steve Malloch**, Project Associate; **Bill Mitchell**, Alki Fund/Tides Foundation; **Fran Spivy Weber**, California States Water Resources Board; **Jennifer Sokolove**, Compton Foundation; **Steve Whitney**, Bullitt Foundation; **Kimery Wiltshire**, Project Lead.

#### **Advisory Group**

An Advisory Group, representing decision makers from key constituencies, will be developed in Fall 2007.

#### **Management & Budget**

The project is led by Kimery Wiltshire, President & CEO of Exloco. Steve Malloch, a water attorney and hydrologist, is the Project Associate.

Budget: \$240,700 (1/1/07 - 6/30/07). The project budget for 7/1/08 - 12/31/08 is yet to be developed. Full project funding is being requested from foundations, public agencies, corporations and individual donors.

#### **About Exloco**

Exloco incubates new campaigns and initiatives, developing solutions to environmental sustainability challenges in the western United States. Exloco 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. Working through a diverse knowledge base and extensive network, Exloco creates new strategies, campaigns, alliances and ways of doing business.

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