















































































Delaware River Watershed Initative (DRWI)

5 1/2 times the size of State of Delaware

DRWI GOAL: Protect watershed capacity to produce sufficient clean water to maintain human use § ecosystem functions

Challenges:

- Polluted Stormwater & Agricultural Runoff from precipitation
- Erosion Impacts from High Runoff Volume in Paved Suburban/Urban areas
- Forested Headwater Streams being fragmented and developed
- Prior conservation was ad-hoc, providing little measurable collective impact





















- Delaware River Watershed

Encouraging aligned priorities for

- Land protection
- Ag and stormwater restoration
- Complementary strategies
- Impact assessment
- 50+ conservation nonprofits



























































Overview of Presentation

- Background on watershed and Gulf of Mexico hypoxia
- Goals of interagency cooperation on nutrient reduction and progress to date
- Innovative practices with significant Nitrogen and Phosphorus reductions will need to be widely adopted to reach aggressive goals
- > Thoughts for the future

















ypoxia Task Force Goals-2015 Update

- Retained original goal of reducing the areal extent of the Gulf of Mexico hypoxic zone to less than 5,000 km2; extended attainment from 2015 to 2035
- Established interim target of a 20 percent nutrient load reduction by the year 2025
- Despite current efforts, recent nutrient loadings to the Gulf are essentially unchanged



How to Overcome Gap Between Current Practices and Goal

- Not nearly enough funding for voluntary incentive-based programs to reach goals
- Regulation not a near-term solution
- Must find win-wins that reduce nutrients and benefit producers to reach widespread adoption of practices that significantly (20-60%) reduce nutrients



Cover Crops

Can reduce nutrient losses during non-growing season in the range of 20%-60%

- Builds soil health and productivity Prevents erosion and reduces need for fertilizers
- Large potential for adoption but currently estimated at
- less than 2% of cropland in MS Basin
- Education, technical assistance and infrastructure needed to boost adoption
- Avoidance of risks and elimination of policy barriers also needed
- Perennial crops could offer year-round "cover" and even greater benefits





Drainage Water Mangement

- Opportunity to manage water flows with new drainage systems replacing old tile drains
- Can reduce water and Nitrogen leaving field 20-60%
 Combined with other practices (e.g. wood chip
- bioreactors, wetlands) can further limit N losses



Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast

- Decision support tool utilizing weather forecasting products to improve short-term fertilizer/manure application decisions
- Science based approach validated with on-farm data
- · Leads to reduction of applied nutrients into waterbodies
- State working groups (multiagency, academic, industry) guide efforts including maintaining websites and conducting outreach
- Runoff Risk concept (modeling & delivery) expected to continually evolve





Future-Looking Perspectives

- Need to find ways to overcome barriers to winwin solutions that can be widely-adopted voluntarily without incentives
- Stakeholders should be informed of impacts and solutions from local (e.g. drinking water) to state to regional levels (e.g. Gulf hypoxia)
- Climate change is likely to make attainment of goals even more challenging
- New modeling tools and research may help lead to additional innovative solutions

































- Decades of fighting, mistrust, misrepresentation and miscommunication
- Multiple failed plans and processes that did not represent or include all interests
- Frustration by the Yakama Nation, NGO's, state, local and federal agencies, and irrigation districts







Yakima Basin Integrated Plan > Outcome: 30 year strategy over 10-year

- phases (1st phase underway) to address water supply for instream and out-ofstream demands: 1. Reservoir Fish passage
- 2. Fish habitat protection and enhancement
- 3. Modifying existing structures and operations
- 4. Surface water storage
- Market-based reallocation 6.
- Groundwater storage
- Enhanced water conservation

\$3 billion projects:

- Provide reliable water for existing agricultu Restore all native salmon and steelhead to historic locations
- Address all interests equally



River Inter-Tribal Fish Co

Columbia **River Treaty** Treaty came into force in 1964, no end date No fish passage at dams Twin goals: optimize hydropower coordinate flood control With 10 year notice, Treaty may be terminated in 2024 Tribes not consulted, no fish US Corps of E & wildlife coordination ١ Other dan

US B





Columbia River Treaty and its effects on Columbia Basin tribes

- > Tribes were not consulted, they did not provide prior and informed consent on Treaty.
- Tribes were forced to make substantial sacrifices to cultural, health, social. religious and ecosystem resources for development and continued operation of the hydropower system.





Regional Recommendation: Three Purposes

- Maintain coordinated flood risk management and protect public safety and region's economy.
- Maintain coordinated hydropower operations and a reliable, economically sustainable hydropower system.
- Modernize the Treaty to further ensure a more comprehensive ecosystem-based function approach throughout the Columbia River Basin watershed.



Regional Recommendation: Additional Elements

- Meet regional needs for irrigation, municipal and industrial use, in-stream flows, navigation and recreation.
- Incorporate new or formalized mechanisms or provisions into Treaty that allow for adaptation and flexibility to address changes.
- Adapt the Treaty to future changes in climate



Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Ecosystem-based management approach

- Restore and preserve tribal natural and cultural resources
- Restore spring freshets
- Restore fish passage to all historic locations (structural)
- Minimize draw downs at upper reservoirs
- Reconnect and restore floodplains
- Pursue coordinated flood risk management after 2024 that provides for an acceptable level of flood risk.



Lessons Learned

- Relationship building takes time but results in meaningful action, support and trust
- Broader visions can identify shared interests and goals between opposing parties
- > All interests must agree to give and take for the common vision
- Coalitions within communities are most effective when built from the bottom up
- As sovereign nations, tribes play an integral role and must be consulted and included early on in any process
- A coalition of tribes (or other entities) has a much stronger voice

Lessons Learned
 Create forums, workshops and conferences that include all interests, especially if in opposition, in order to gain broader knowledge of the issues and potential ways to work together
 Future of Our Salmon conferences, Transboundary conferences, etc.
 Universities Consortium on Columbia River Governance (5 universities)
 International Columbia River Basin Forum (created by tribes & First Nations)
 Create a youth component/network/caucus in future processes in order to engage, inform, and mentor and allow the next generation to become advocates, conduct research and ultimately lead.

Healthy Floodplains, Living Rivers





CENTER FOR	2017 National Watershed & Stormwater Conference
PROTECTION	Thanks for Joining Us for Session 1 The State of Our Watersheds
The next 2 online webcasts will be: Celebrating 25 Years of the Center for Watershed Protection,	
LOOKING BACK and LOOKING FORWARD	
Begins at	
1 PM Eastern	
12 PM Central	
11 AM Mountain	
10 AM Pacific	
Innovation in Practice – Integrated Water Resources	
Management and Implementation	
Begins at	
1:30 PM Eastern	
12:30 PM Central	
11:30 AM Mountain	
10:30 AM Pacific	
Just keep your connection to the conference open (don't leave	
Adobe Connect) and we'll see you then!	
····· , ··· , ·· , ··· , ··· , ··· , ··	