

Demand Management

Developed by:



With support from:

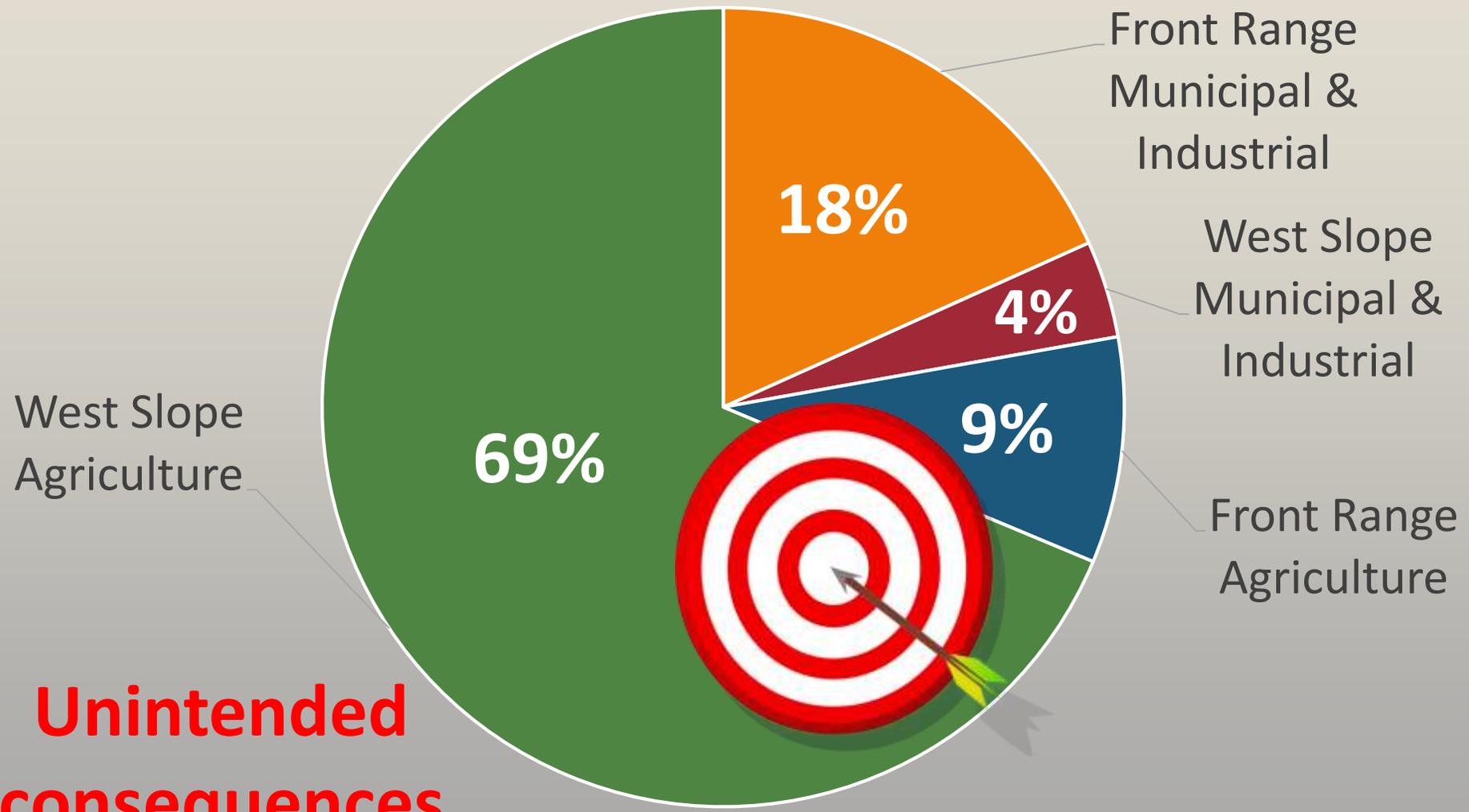


Presented by:
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Williams, Turner & Holmes, PC

Depletions from the Colorado River

Multiple Demands on Water

Unintended consequences



Demand Management Framework

1. Temporary
2. Voluntary
3. Compensated

But why?

The goal of **Temporary, Voluntary, & Compensated** is to avoid the unintended consequences



Junior Rights Curtailed First

- Critical storage for Grand Valley, Uncompahgre Valley and other West Slope water users are all post-compact
- Front Range junior water uses

More Buy & Dry of Ag Lands

- Front Range municipalities have junior rights but deep pockets
- Significant reduction in late-season return flows
- *Temporary* demand management avoids *permanent* buy and dry

To Plan or Not To Plan

Proactive

control our own destiny

- **Avoid** a compact call
- **Voluntary** actions to use less water
- **Planning** ahead gives some certainty
- **Cooperation, negotiation**
- Manage risk level within all of Colorado and Upper Basin
- Efficiently manage our priorities as a Basin

- VS -

Reactive

wait until crisis occurs

- **Wait** for a compact call
- **Mandatory** curtailment by priority
- High level of **uncertainty**
- **Litigation**
- Increased risk of federalization of Upper Basin
- **Inefficient** allocation of natural and economic resources



500,000 AF Demand Management Pool in Powell

- Negotiated between Upper & Lower Basins
- Used only for managing Compact Compliance
- Managed by Upper Basin
- Filled with saved water from Demand Management efforts

CWCB Investigating Demand Management Feasibility

- **What** are the Colorado & Upper Basin issues?
- **How** should a DM program be operated in CO?
 - Policy, legal, economic, and equity considerations
- **Who** are the water users & stakeholders and **how** to involve them?

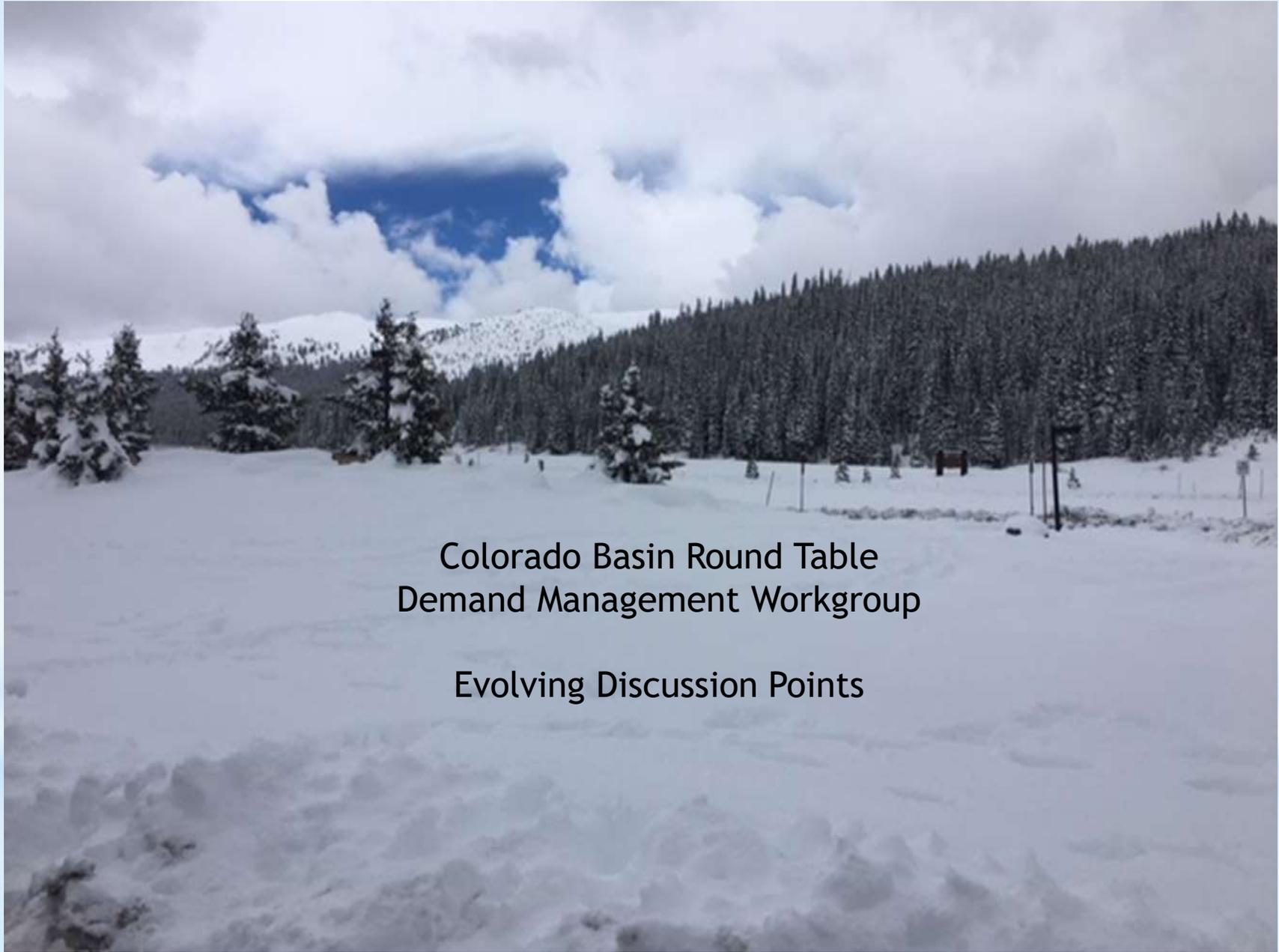
CBRT Demand Management Work Group

- **Goal:** Inform Basinwide/Statewide discussions
- Educate & involve Colorado Stakeholders
- Preserve West Slope agriculture

What
Now?

Who is
doing
what?





Colorado Basin Round Table
Demand Management Workgroup

Evolving Discussion Points



A demand management program has to support existing and future productive agriculture and not unfairly impact rural communities. Avoiding permanent “buy and dry” is of paramount importance in the Colorado River basin.

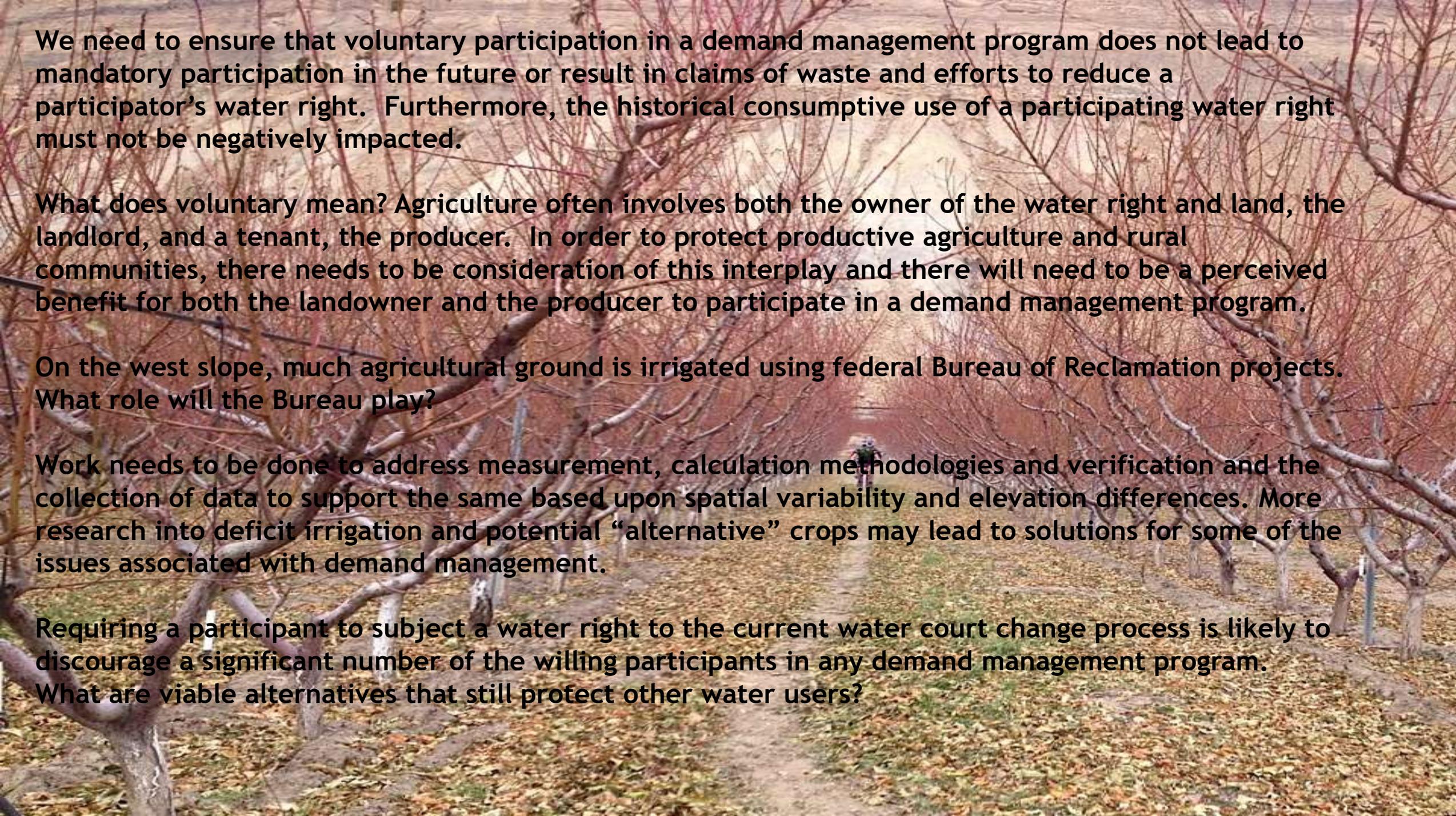
A demand management program must be “equitable” between the west slope and the east slope and between the west slope basins and within a basin - between municipal uses and agricultural uses and industrial uses (to be sure burden not on agriculture alone) and across elevations and geographies (to be sure burden not on lower elevations alone). We need to avoid concentrated impacts. The Colorado River Basin Roundtable should try to reach a consensus as to what it believes “equitable” to mean.

Market-based mechanisms under a demand management program must consider all costs associated with a reduction in water use and not just strive to minimize compensation. A “one price fits all” compensation plan will not work.

There can be ancillary benefits to a demand management program that we should not lose sight of and which may play a role in implementation and funding decisions.

We cannot lose sight of the secondary economic and community impacts demand management may have at local/regional/statewide levels. Can rural communities be protected from concentrated areas of full fallow without trampling on property rights? Do local governments with land use authority have a role to play in demand management?

The Colorado River basin does not want a successful temporary and voluntary demand management program to pave the way for continued future development that does not adequately address the water scarcity issues facing the basin.



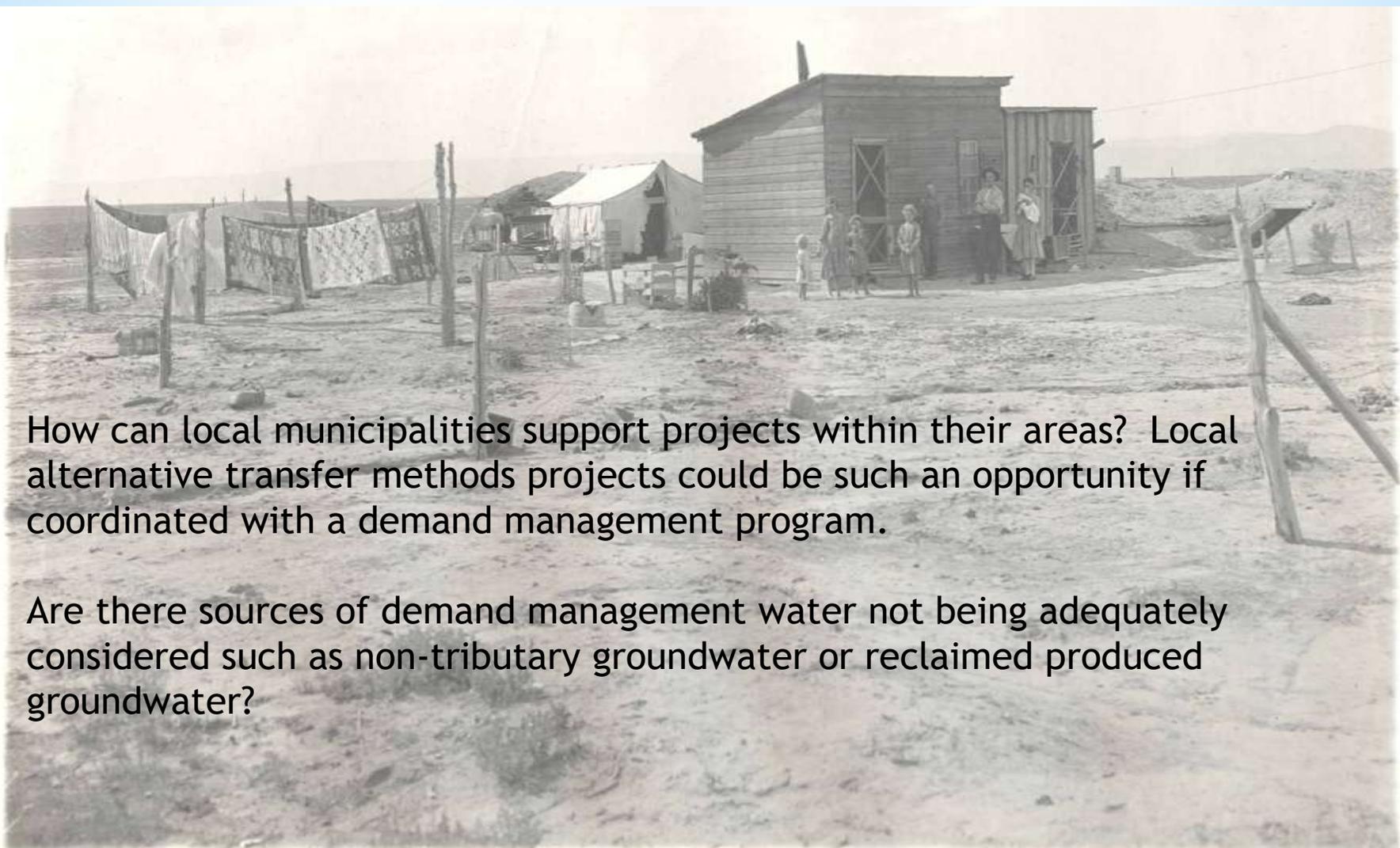
We need to ensure that voluntary participation in a demand management program does not lead to mandatory participation in the future or result in claims of waste and efforts to reduce a participator's water right. Furthermore, the historical consumptive use of a participating water right must not be negatively impacted.

What does voluntary mean? Agriculture often involves both the owner of the water right and land, the landlord, and a tenant, the producer. In order to protect productive agriculture and rural communities, there needs to be consideration of this interplay and there will need to be a perceived benefit for both the landowner and the producer to participate in a demand management program.

On the west slope, much agricultural ground is irrigated using federal Bureau of Reclamation projects. What role will the Bureau play?

Work needs to be done to address measurement, calculation methodologies and verification and the collection of data to support the same based upon spatial variability and elevation differences. More research into deficit irrigation and potential "alternative" crops may lead to solutions for some of the issues associated with demand management.

Requiring a participant to subject a water right to the current water court change process is likely to discourage a significant number of the willing participants in any demand management program. What are viable alternatives that still protect other water users?



How can local municipalities support projects within their areas? Local alternative transfer methods projects could be such an opportunity if coordinated with a demand management program.

Are there sources of demand management water not being adequately considered such as non-tributary groundwater or reclaimed produced groundwater?

No. 102. Waiting for water. Residence of B. B. Freeman, in Sec. 16, T. 2 N., R. 3 W., Ute M. Mr. Freeman and family have been waiting nearly six years, having moved into this cabin in 1908. H.T.C. Aug. 21, 1913.

What should we add to the list?





Questions?

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