

This presentation premiered at WaterSmart Innovations

watersmartinnovations.com



Rushing Rivers Program: Conservation Savings for Instream Flow

**Water Smart Innovations
Las Vegas – October 6, 2011**

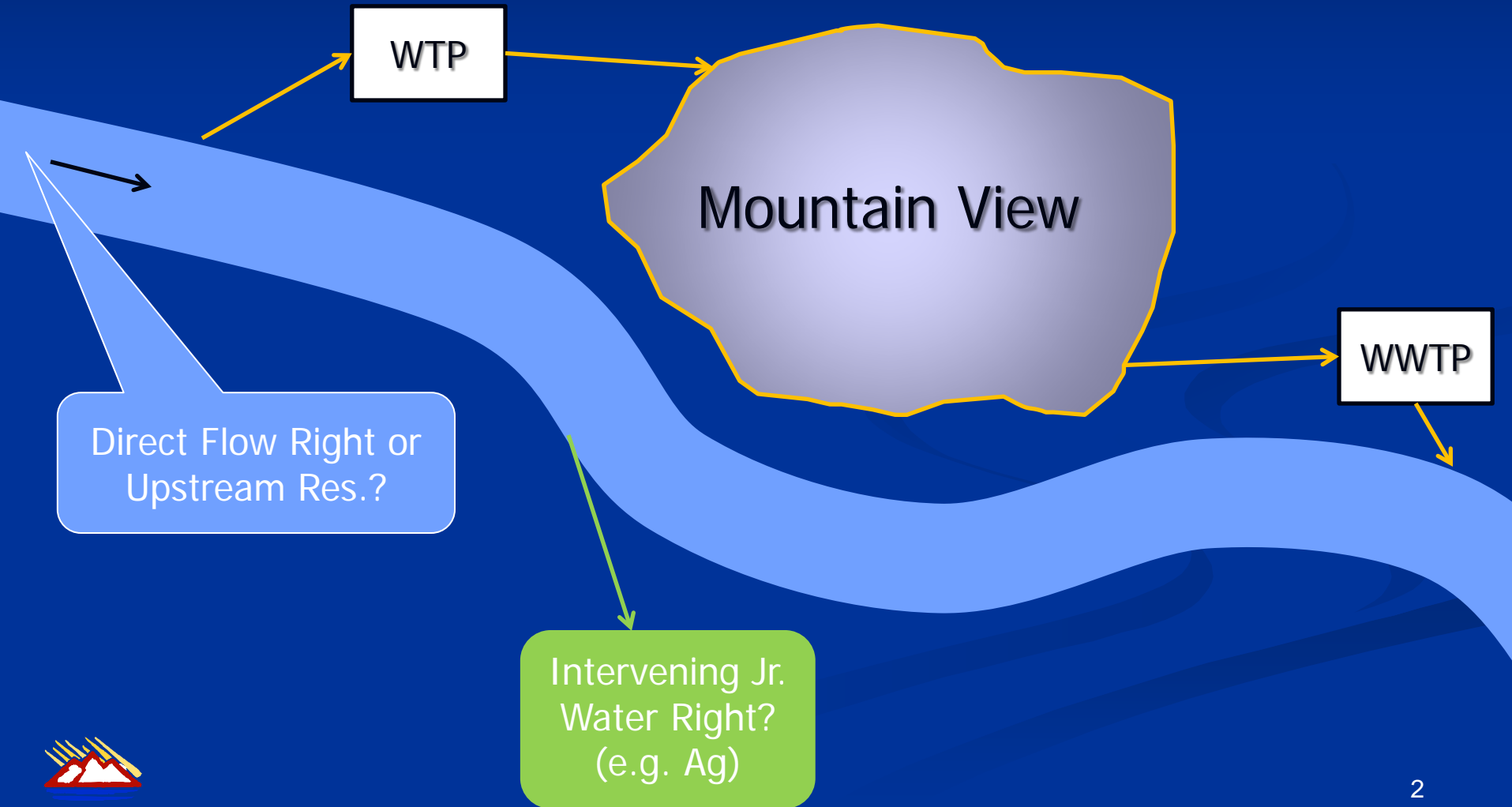
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WESTERN RESOURCE
ADVOCATES

RRP Schematic



RRP Initial Screen

SCREENING CRITERION	WEIGHT
Strength of community connection to the stream	20%
Opportunity for saved water to stay in the stream for a meaningful distance	20%
Strength of physical relationship between municipal diversion and target stream reach	10%
Extent to which conservation savings could result in meaningful streamflow enhancement	15%
Additional factors increasing <u>community's</u> likelihood of embracing program	20%
Additional factors increasing <u>water utility's</u> likelihood of embracing program	10%
Other factors increasing implementation ease	5%

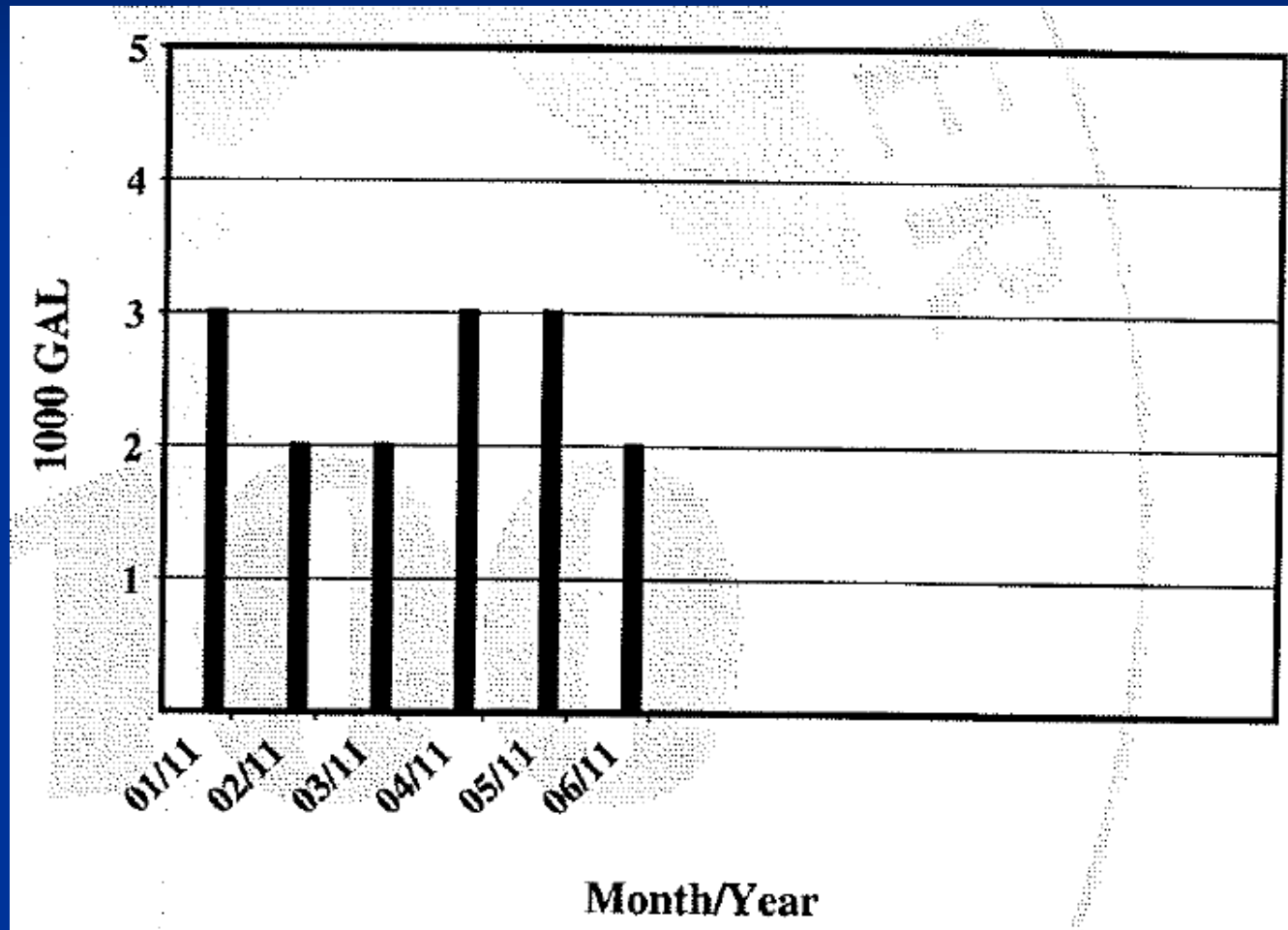


RRP Ranking

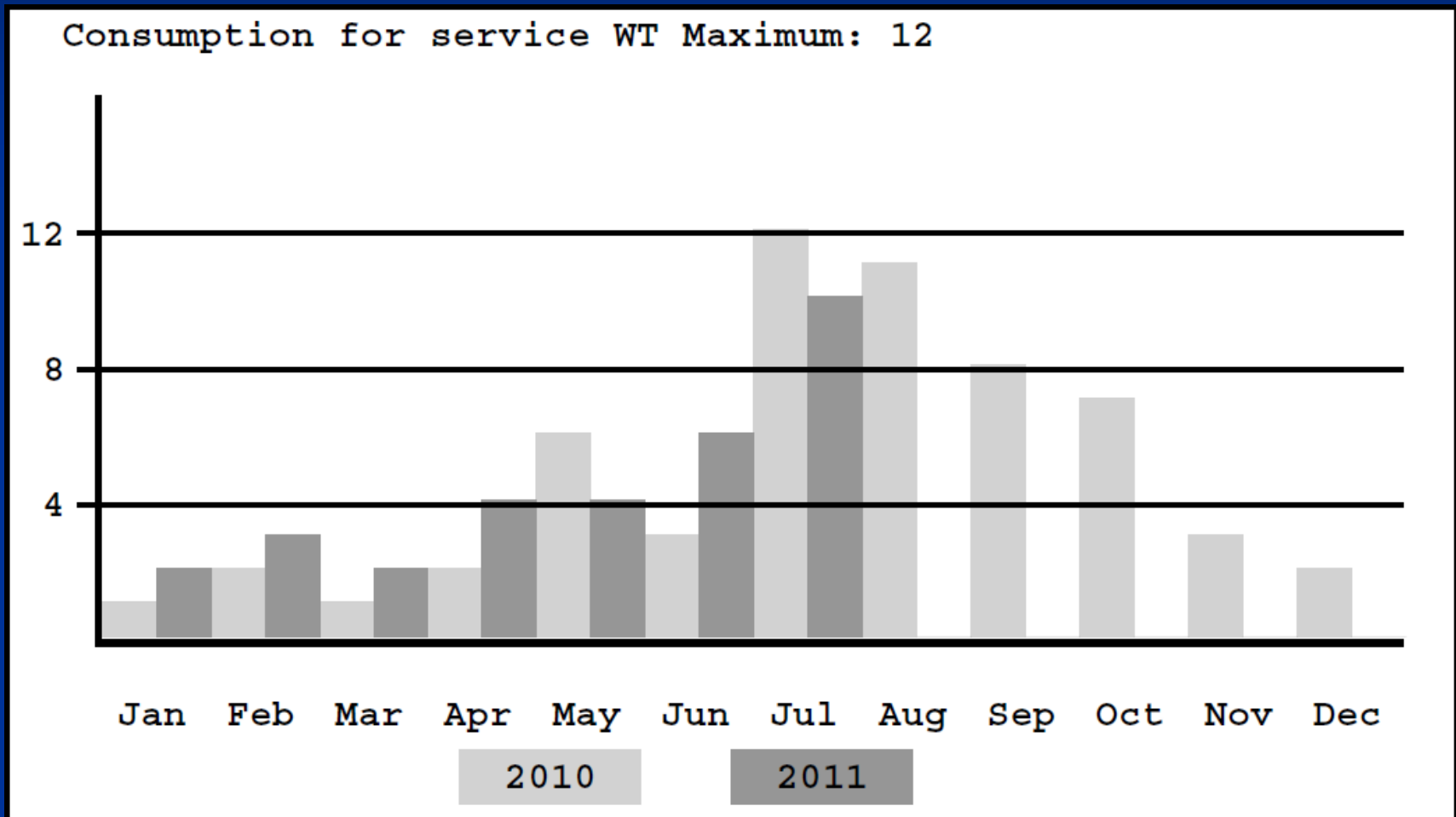
COMMUNITY	SCORE	CRITERION							
		#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8
Pagosa Springs	90%	H	H	M	H	H	H	M	H
Breckenridge	85%	H	H	M	H	M	H	H	M
Winter Park	73%	H	H	L	H	H	M	M	M
Steamboat Spgs	70%	H	H	M	M	H	M	M	M
Glenwood Spgs	60%	M	H	M	L	M	M	H	H
Gunnison	58%	H	H	L	L	L	M	H	H
Crested Butte	55%	M	M	M	L	M	H	H	M
Aspen	55%	H	H	M	L	M	H	L	L
Eagle	48%	M	M	M	L	M	M	M	H
Telluride	35%	H	L	L	L	M	H	L	L



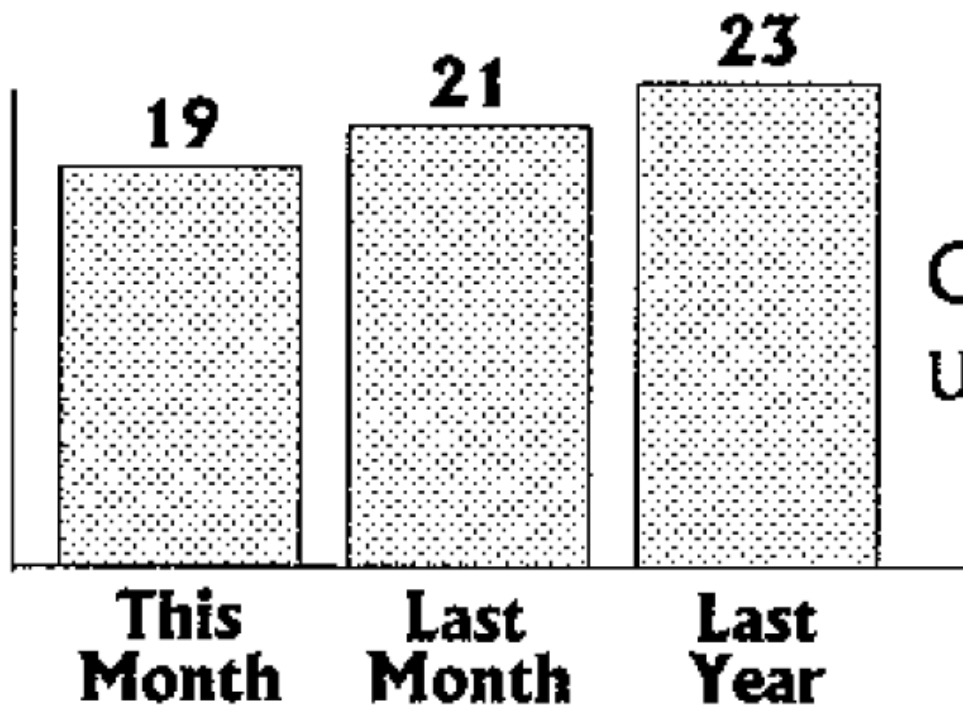
Westminster, CO



Louisville, CO



Greeley, CO

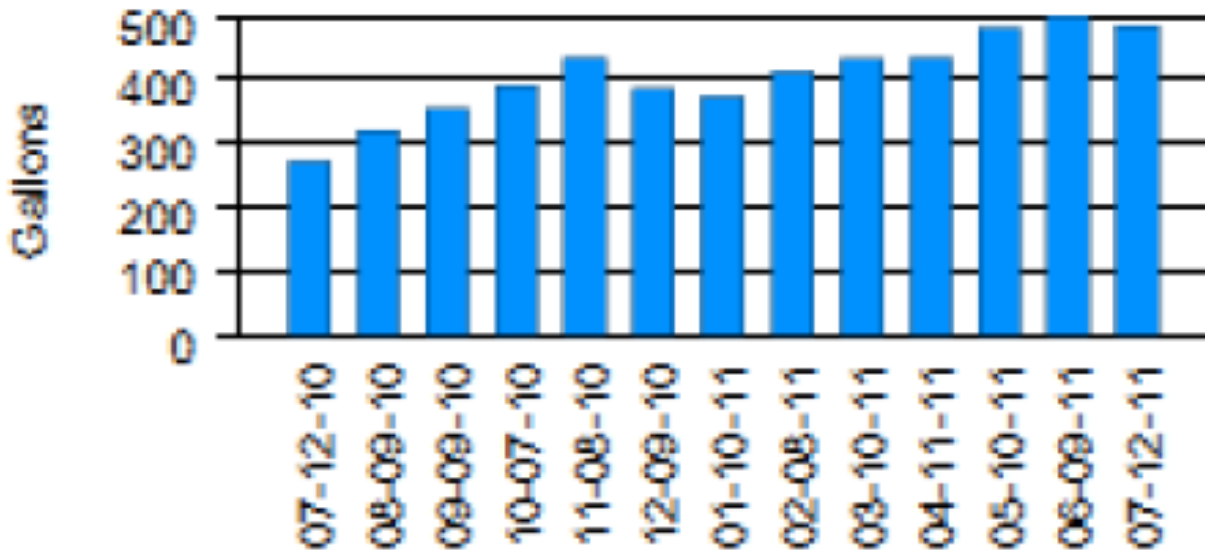


Consumption History
Usage (in thousand gallons)



Denver Water

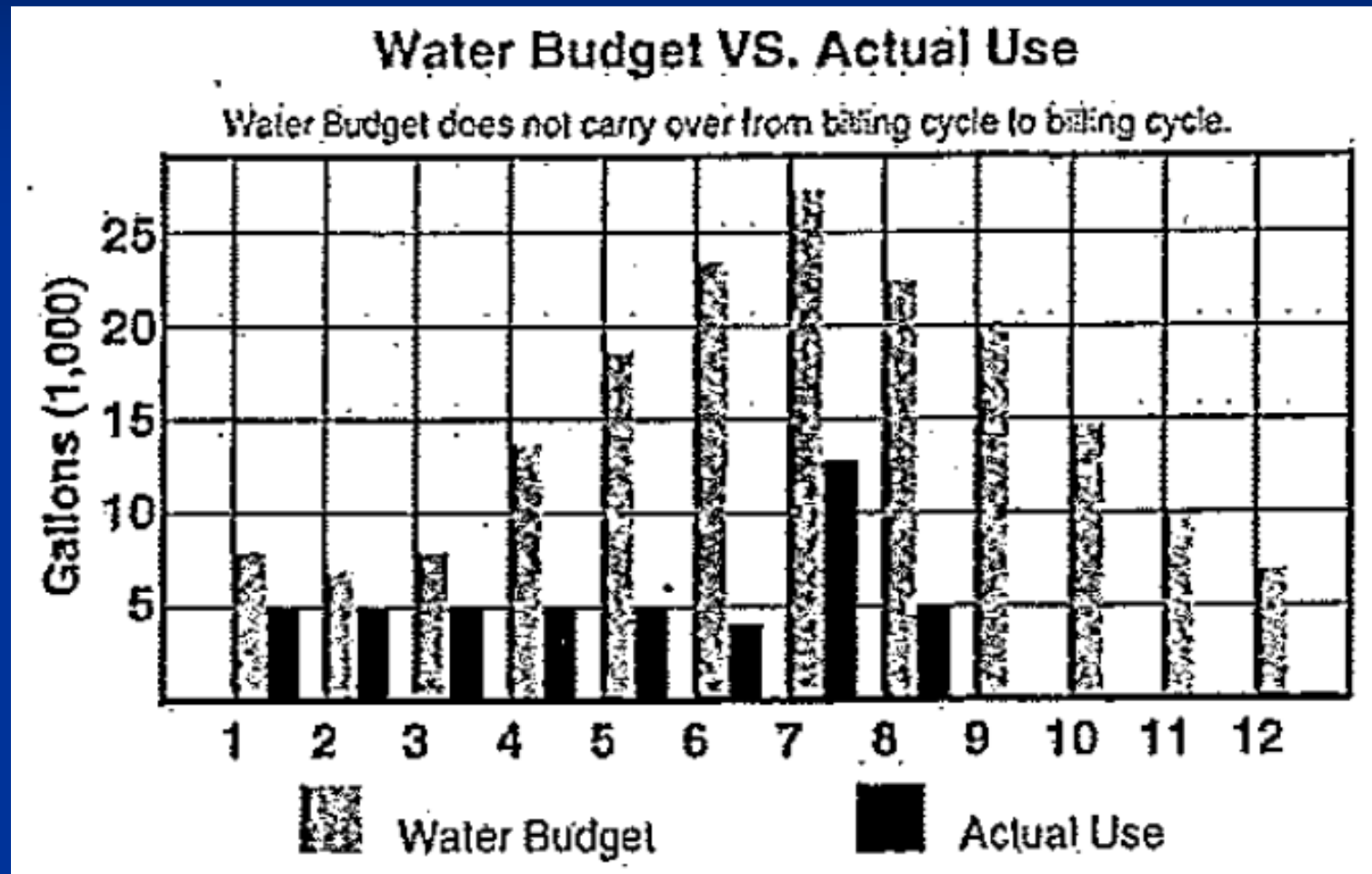
Average Daily Use



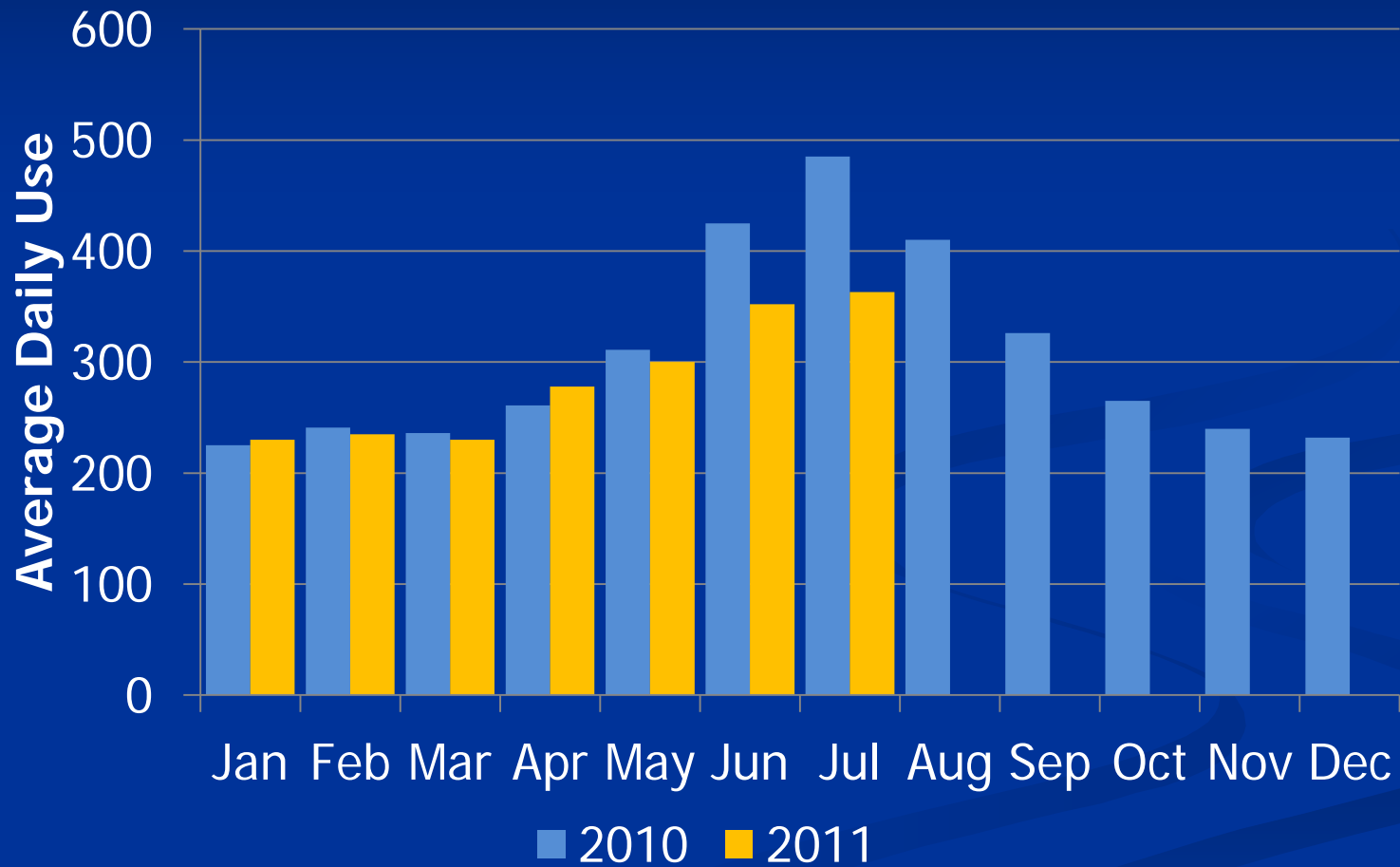
	Jul 2010	Jul 2011
Total gallons used	9,000	16,000
Days in billing period	33	33
Average daily use (gallons)	273	485



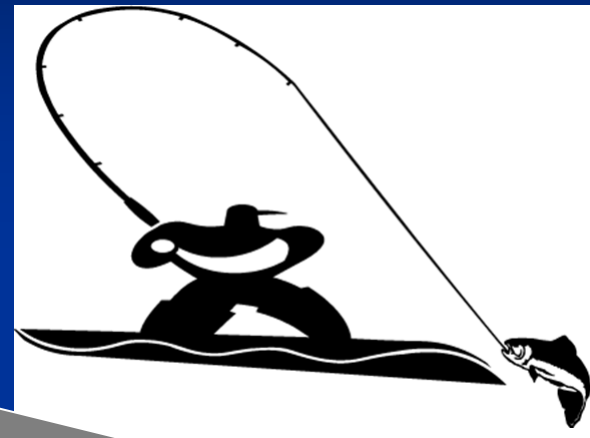
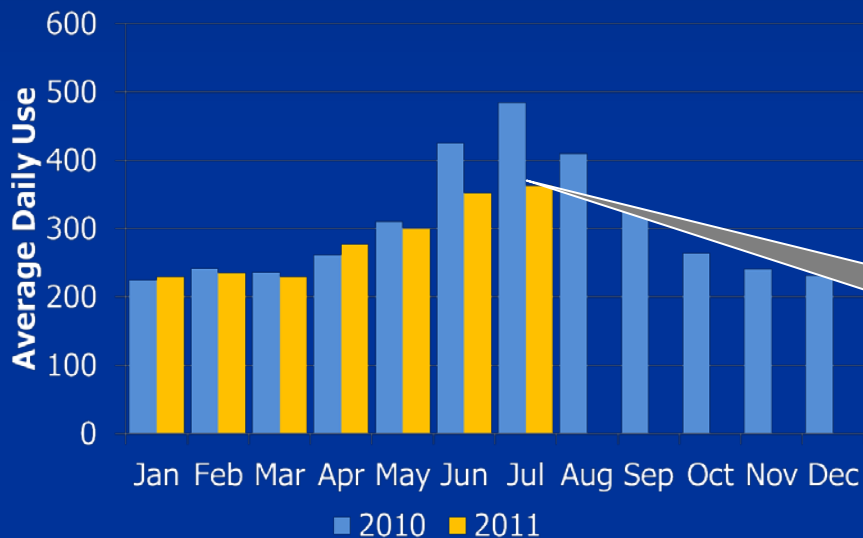
Boulder, CO



Ideal?



Bill Communication



You saved **3,700 gallons** this month by comparison to last year.

Mountain View residents' conservation efforts kept **9,000,000 gallons** more water in the river this month.



Questions & Comments

1-page Handout upfront

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Notes Outline



WRA Water Programs

- Energy-Water
 - The "nexus"
- Smart-Water
 - Municipal water conservation
- River Protection
 - Water rights
 - Warm water endangered fish



Colorado Dynamics

■ Front Range

- Limited in-basin supply
- Large demand
- High cost for water development

■ Western Slope

- Plentiful water
- Old rights
- Low costs

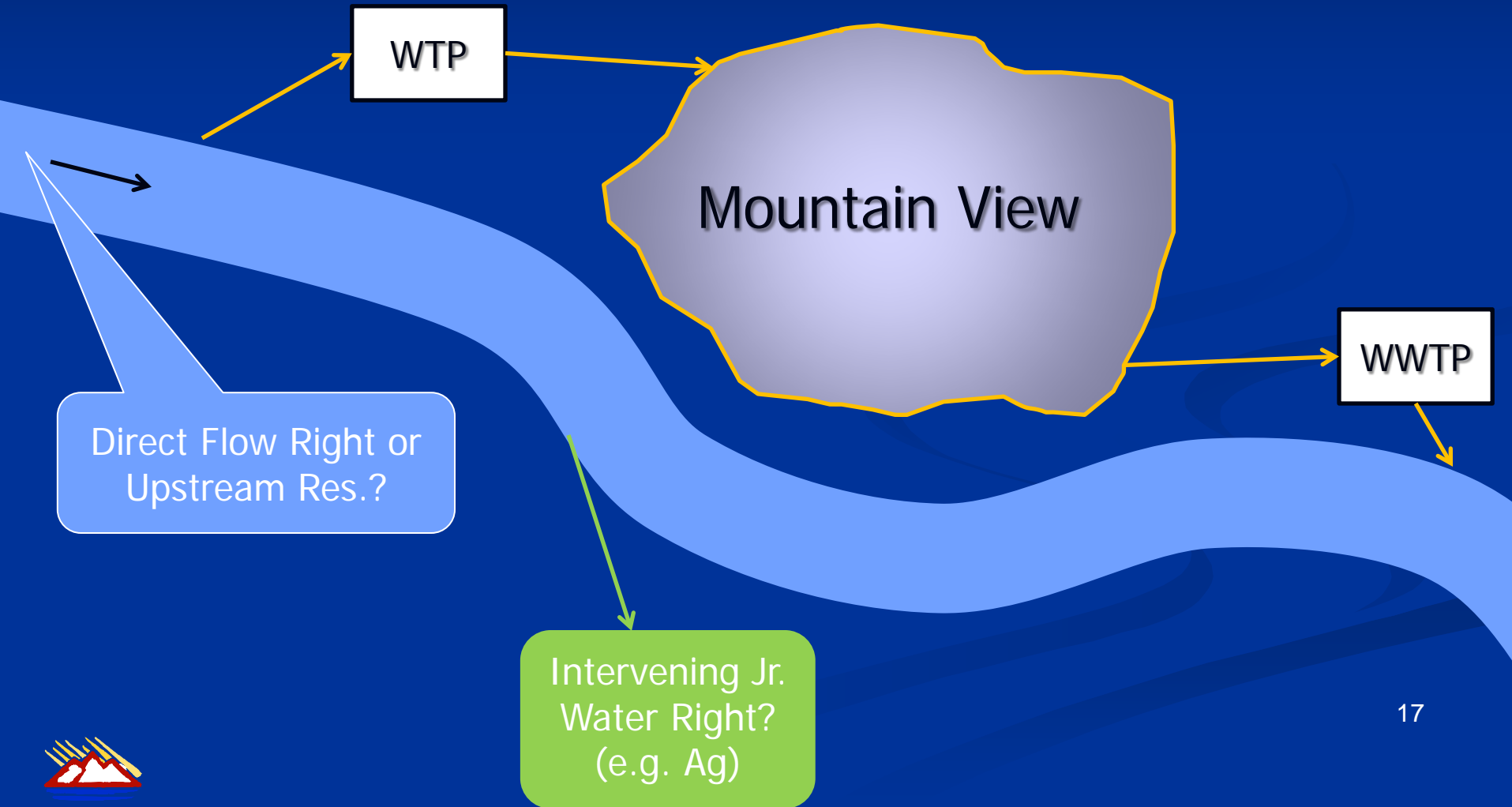


Origination

- Conserve to Enhance – WRRC @ U of A
- Direct “water for water”
 - Link behavior to benefit
 - Answer the “why”
- Call it – Rushing Rivers Program
- Where to do it?



RRP Schematic



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RRP Interviews

■ Hurdles

- Lack of interest
- Revenue impacts
- Limited resources
- Cultural preferences

■ Opportunities

- Drought mitigation tool
- Partnership building

■ Overall support for criteria



RRP Final Screen

- 1st round eliminations
 - e.g. Durango, Craig, Cortez
- Screening modifications
 - Staff support
 - Relevant Example
- H/M/L Application



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RRP Commonalities

- Resort communities
 - Wealthy residents
 - Large demands relative to population
 - High in watershed
 - Are they relevant?



RRP Outreach

- Pagosa Springs and Breckenridge
- Loss of water rights?
 - COLO. REV. STAT. § 37-92-103
- Billing system
 - Bar chart

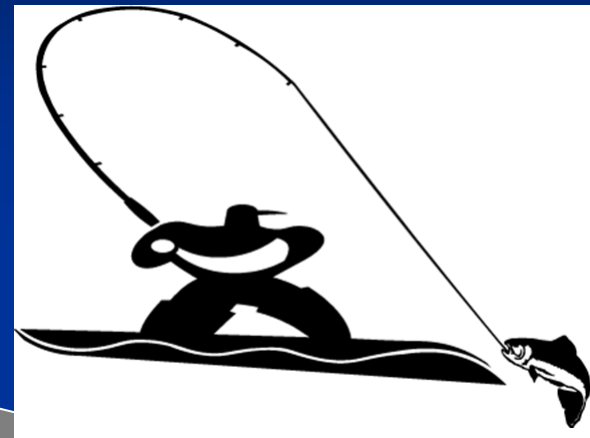
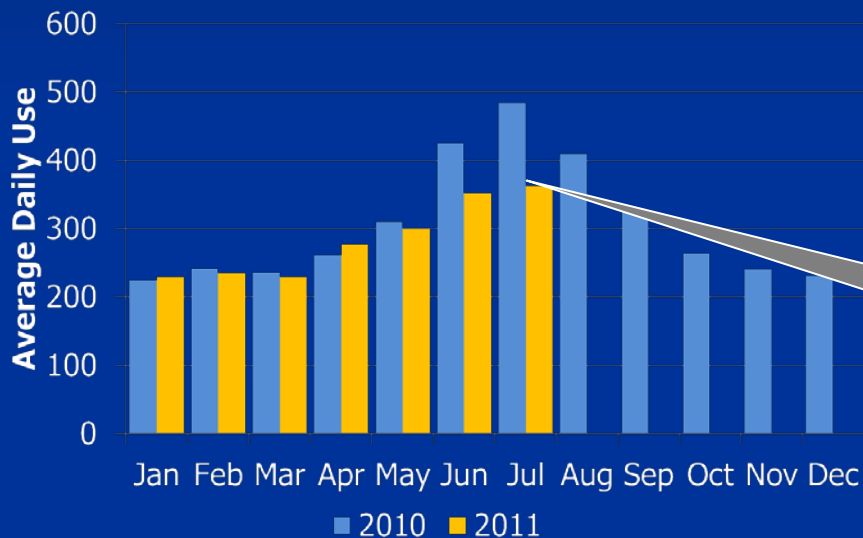


Bar Charts...

- See duplicates above
 - Westminster
 - Louisville
 - Greeley
 - Denver Water
 - Boulder
 - Ideal?



Bill Communication



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Challenges

- Time/Priorities
- Billing software
- Short distances between intake and outfall
 - Legal protection
- Quantity of savings potential v. streamflow
 - cfs
 - Agricultural users



Relevance

- Increasing interest in saving water for something other than growth
 - Healthy rivers = healthy economies
- Empowers customers
- Screens are applicable beyond Western CO

