



About Carpe Diem West

Carpe Diem West is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that engages a broad-based network of experts, advocates, decision makers and scientists to address the unprecedented impacts the growing climate crisis is having on water in the American West.

Most western water leaders are thinking about climate change. But that's not enough. Navigating the challenges of climate change requires that leaders from across the spectrum think about the big picture together. Carpe Diem West provides a place for them to do that.

Carpe Diem West focuses on water security. In our view, water security means ensuring adequate water of sufficient quality and timing to support all uses – for our communities, the food we grow, our economy and our environment – and that there will be an equitable means of sharing shortages when there is not enough water to go around.

Carpe Diem West pursues water security by creating links between leaders, by integrating state-of-the-art climate-change science with the needs of a range of stakeholders, by incubating new initiatives, and by promoting sustainable management practices and policies that emerge from the stakeholder process.

While Carpe Diem West works to identify and incubate ideas for policy and management changes, we do not prescribe solutions. Instead, we use the collective wisdom of our leadership network to develop a vision, goals, and a plan for common action.

Carpe Diem West provides a convening and communications framework where stakeholders and leaders with differing backgrounds and interests can together forge pragmatic, science-based responses to the dilemmas presented by the growing climate crisis. This process has produced the wide-ranging stakeholder network that informs and guides all of Carpe Diem West's work.

Carpe Diem West is currently working on five lead projects: the *Healthy Headwaters Project*, the *Colorado River Futures Project*, the *Water, Energy, and Climate Change Project*, the *Public Health, Water, and Climate Change Project*, and the *Carpe Diem West Academy*.

www.carpediemwest.org



About Carpe Diem West's Healthy Headwaters Project

Carpe Diem West's Healthy Headwaters Project links upstream land managers, downstream water users, water managers, and conservation advocates around the issue of water security, creating a constituency for new measures to protect our vital headwaters.

The source of most of the American West's water lies in high-elevation public and private-land watersheds. Communities large and small around the West rely on these watersheds as "natural infrastructure" that delivers clean, reliable supplies of water at the times they need it. But many of these landscapes are highly vulnerable to impacts from increased risk of wildfire and invasive species, decreased snowpack, altered timing of runoff, development, and large-scale changes in vegetation - many of which are compounded by the effects of a changing climate. These changes, coupled with existing stresses and past management legacies, threaten the ability of many watersheds to continue providing reliable water supplies over the long term.

Through its network of municipalities, utilities, conservationists, scientists, and land management agencies, Carpe Diem West's Healthy Headwaters Project promotes policy and management changes that improve the climate resiliency of these watersheds, including everything from forest thinning to wilderness protection. Resilient watersheds not only enhance water security for cities, but also produce multiple co-benefits, including fish and wildlife habitat and carbon sequestration.

While many constituencies are already devoted to working toward the health of western forests, the current trend by urban consumers, conservationists, farmers, sportsmen, foresters, water agencies, and land managers to develop effective partnerships around the principle of water security is a new phenomenon. Carpe Diem West's job is to connect them, to tell the stories of successful headwaters protection partnerships, to identify the elements that have led to their success, and to help export these models, and the lessons learned in creating them, to other communities and watersheds.

For more information:

Matt Clifford, Policy Director
matt@carpediemwest.org
415.332.2112