

# CONFLUENCE

## CARPE DIEM PROJECT NEWS

DECEMBER 2009: NORTHWEST BY SOUTHWEST



**Carpe Diem**  
WESTERN WATER & CLIMATE CHANGE  
A PROJECT OF EXLOCO - PATHFINDING IN THE NEW WEST

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Call it a big tent, call it strange bedfellows, the fact is, the current water and climate change crisis in the American West cannot be resolved without an innovative, multifaceted approach. This month, we ask two water experts with very different regional and institutional standpoints to tell us something about how this region-wide problem looks to them. **Steve Whitney**, Program Officer for the **Bullitt Foundation** in Seattle and a Project Team member, sees things from the heart of the Pacific Northwest and the perspective of an environmental activist. **Rick Holmes**, a Project Adviser, is with the **Southern Nevada Water Authority**, which is responsible for the water needs of a growing population in a place and time of dwindling water resources. Since this is a Carpe Diem Project newsletter we were also interested in hearing how our participants view us.



Kimery Wiltshire  
Director, Carpe Diem Project

### AN INTERVIEW WITH STEVE WHITNEY

#### Reform is Inevitable



"The fact that our system of water management leads to dry riverbeds every summer tells me something's not right."

**Q: In the Pacific Northwest, what major impacts is climate change having on water resources, and what do you expect looking ahead?**

**A:** First of all, the Pacific Northwest is a very diverse region, with areas lying east of the Cascade Range affected somewhat differently than areas to the West. [Read more.](#)

### AN INTERVIEW WITH RICK HOLMES

#### Managing Scarcity



"Most of the reliable water supplies in the West are already allocated. The issue now is how scarcity is to be shared."

**In Southern Nevada, what major impacts is climate change having on water resources, and what do you expect looking ahead?**

**A:** Ninety percent of our water comes from the Colorado River. Climate change has created a huge expansion of uncertainty about future conditions in the Colorado Basin, and that system was already highly variable. [Read more.](#)

The **Carpe Diem - Western Water & Climate Change Project** is a network of experts and decision makers dedicated to addressing the unprecedented challenge that the impacts of climate change on water resources pose for the western United States. The Project is housed at **Exloco**, a nonprofit organization with expertise in spotlighting critical issues and facilitating strategic thinking.