

# CONFLUENCE

MARCH 2010: PROTECTING THE SOURCE  
CARPE DIEM PROJECT NEWS



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

Share this news

Support the Project

Contact us

Print this page

By their very nature, watersheds embody the multi-jurisdiction, competing-demand issues Carpe Diem Project members grapple with in so many contexts. As the Project's Headwaters [policy brief](#) points out, most of our water in the West comes from mountain watersheds. For that reason we have made the Healthy Headwaters initiative one of Carpe Diem's three lead initiatives for 2010. This month, we talk about the headwaters and climate change with two Carpe Diem Project members. **Sarah Bates** is a Senior Fellow at the Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy at the University of Montana and a Carpe Diem Project Team member. **Rick Cables** is Regional Forester for the US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region and a Carpe Diem Project Advisor.



Kimery Wiltshire  
Director, Carpe Diem Project

## AN INTERVIEW WITH SARAH BATES

### Back to First Principles



"We need to be more explicit about the fact that land management *is* water management."

**Q: In the Carpe Diem Project Headwaters policy brief that you wrote last summer you said we have a window of opportunity now to make progress toward water and public land resource management policies that integrate the best available science and acknowledge the new challenges posed by climate change and other pressures on public lands and water resources. Do you still feel we have that opportunity? [Read more.](#)**

## AN INTERVIEW WITH RICK CABLES

### Making the Watershed Connection



"A lot of people do not understand that the health of the watershed is critical to water resources. We want to connect the water customers to their watershed."

**Q: You've pointed out the enormous economic value of water that originates in the National Forests of the Rocky Mountain Region. And you've also noted that about three million acres of Forest Service land alone have been affected by the mountain bark beetle. How do you expect the forest damage caused by the beetle to affect efforts not just to maintain but restore the healthy headwaters needed for our water supplies?**

[Read more.](#)

The [Carpe Diem - Western Water & Climate Change Project](#) is a network of over 600 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.