

CONFLUENCE

JULY 2010: CAN ALPHABET SOUP CURE CLIMATE CHANGE?
CARPE DIEM PROJECT NEWS



Carpe Diem

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

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We've all seen the big shift. Our federal government is now taking climate change seriously and initiating programs to respond. Lots and lots of programs. NOAA is establishing a Climate Service. DOI is launching Climate Science Centers. A task force, overseen by CEQ, OSTP, and NOAA, is developing interagency strategy. . . well, you get the picture. Good things are going on, but it can be hard to know where to turn for information.

Fortunately, we have a savvy Carpe Diem Project team member to help us sort through all of this. **Dr. Holly Hartmann** is, among other things, a co-investigator within the Climate Assessment for the Southwest (CLIMAS). We're also including a short backgrounder on some of the information sources and programs underway at the federal level.



Kimery Wiltshire
Director, Carpe Diem Project

A CONVERSATION WITH HOLLY HARTMANN **Beyond the Acronyms**



"It's like a Road Runner cartoon; the agencies have to turn around completely while their feet are still moving in a whirr in the other direction."

Q: At least 14 federal departments and agencies have climate change initiatives and many, many subsidiary entities have their own climate change programs. Where does the western water community turn for needed information?

HH: NOAA is where the climate work really starts, but other agencies are doing a lot. The field is evolving quickly and constantly shifting. There are working groups, pilot programs, informal collaborations. It's hard to get a handle on what's going on. [Read more.](#)

BACKGROUNDER

From Famine to Feast: Federal Climate Programs Proliferate

Not all of the programs that have sprung into life throughout the federal government apply directly to the western water community, but it is worth knowing that the US Global Change Research Program Office is coordinating the climate work of 13 federal agencies. These range from the obvious, such as the Department of Commerce, which houses NOAA, the Department of Interior (Bureau of Reclamation) and the Department of Agriculture (US Forest Service), to the Department of Defense (food and water security) on to the Smithsonian Institution. The website is globalchange.gov, and it is information rich.

NOAA is currently developing its Climate Centers, which will track climate change regionally, and its climate portal at climate.gov is also in the prototype stage. [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.