



Purpose

- **Provide information to clarify concepts**
- **Explain WGFD responsibilities**
- **Discuss past, present and future actions.**
- **Not to discuss the merits of instream flows or the instream flow law.**

Important Concepts

- Instream flow for maintaining fisheries is a beneficial use of water.

Wyoming Constitution

Article 1, Section 41

Water being essential to industrial prosperity, of limited amount, and easy diversion, its control must be in the state, which, in providing for its use shall equally guard all the various interests involved.

Instream Flow Benefits

- **Esthetic / Quality of Life**
- **Economic - tourism**
- **Legal tool to keep state control**

Important Concepts

- Instream flow for maintaining fisheries is a beneficial use of water.
- **Fish don't own instream flow rights, people do.**

Important Concepts

- Instream flow for maintaining fisheries is a beneficial use of water.
- Fish don't own instream flow rights, people do.
- **Instream flow definition**

Instream Flow Definition

- Any water in any stream at any time.
Water Management
- Water administered by the Board of Control.
Water Right

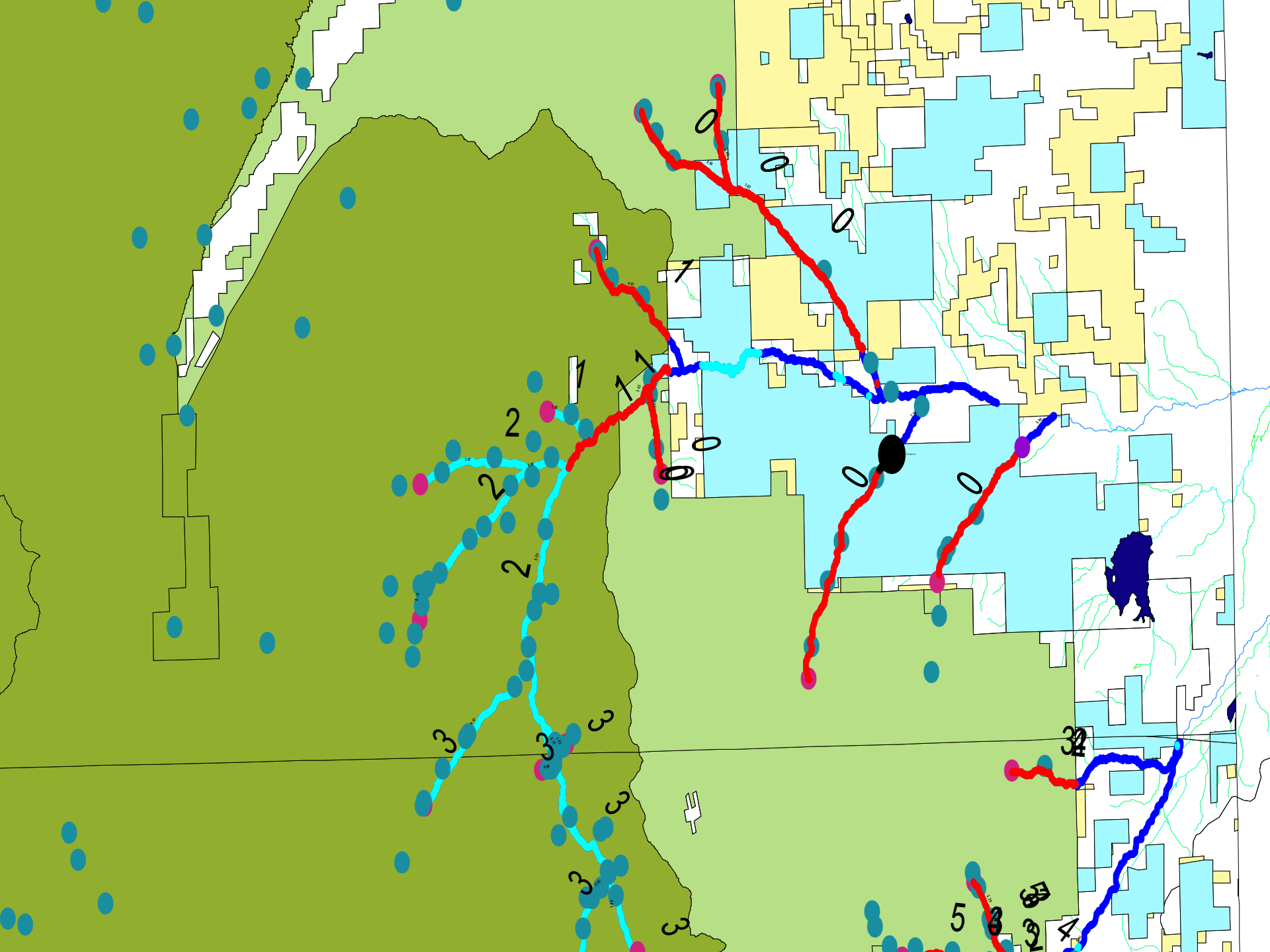


Important Concepts

- Instream flow for maintaining fisheries is a beneficial use of water.
- Fish don't own instream flow rights, people do.
- Instream flow definition
- **Instream flow strategies**

Instream Flow Strategies

- **Maintain** existing flow patterns and fishery habitat
- Public lands issue
- Does not require finding additional water
- **Restore** or improve flow patterns and fishery habitat
- Private property issue
- Requires finding new water or reallocating existing supplies



Important Concepts

- Instream flow for maintaining fisheries is a beneficial use of water.
- People own instream flow rights, fish don't
- Instream flow definition
- Instream flow strategies
- **IF rights are junior**





Important Concepts

- Instream flow for maintaining fisheries is a beneficial use of water.
- People own instream flow rights, fish don't
- Instream flow definition
- Instream flow strategies
- IF rights are junior
- **More difficult to acquire than other kinds of water rights.**

Process

- Field studies (WGF)
- Application (WWDC)
- Feasibility Study (WWDC)
- Public Hearing (SEO)
- Decision (SEO)
- Adjudication (Board of Control)

A scenic landscape featuring a river flowing over rocks, surrounded by lush greenery and a large mountain in the background. The river is in the foreground, with water splashing over several large, light-colored boulders. The banks are covered in dense green bushes and grass. In the background, a large, rugged mountain with patches of snow or light-colored rock rises against a clear blue sky. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

How Much?

Instream Flow

```
graph TD; A[Instream Flow] --> B[Science]; A --> C[ ]; A --> D[ ]; B --> E[Hydrology]; B --> F[Biology]; B --> G[Geomorphology]; B --> H[Connectivity]; B --> I[Water Quality];
```

Science

Hydrology

Biology

Geomorphology

Connectivity

Water Quality

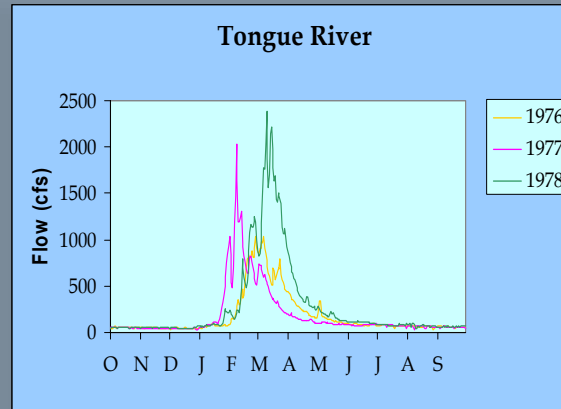
Geomorphology



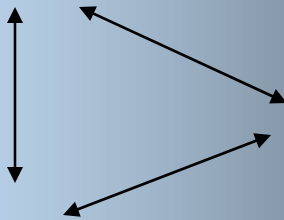
Biology



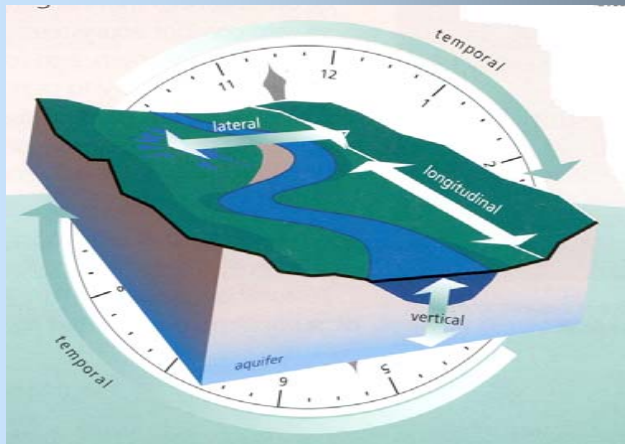
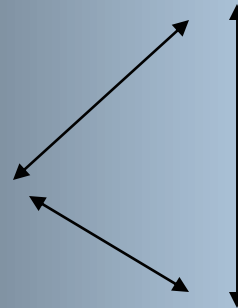
Hydrology



Connectivity



Water Quality



Instream Flow

```
graph TD; IF[Instream Flow] --> S[Science]; IF --> PI[Public Involvement]; IF --> EmptyBox[ ]; S --> H[Hydrology]; S --> B[Biology]; S --> G[Geomorphology]; S --> C[Connectivity]; S --> WQ[Water Quality]; PI --> I[Input (Hearings)]; PI --> E[Education (Meetings)]; PI --> A[Activism (IF Initiative)];
```

Science

Hydrology

Biology

Geomorphology

Connectivity

Water Quality

Public Involvement

Input
(Hearings)

Education
(Meetings)

Activism
(IF Initiative)



Instream Flow

Science

Hydrology

Biology

Geomorphology

Connectivity

Water Quality

Public Involvement

Input
(Hearings)

Education
(Meetings)

Activism
(IF Initiative)

Legal / Institutional

Constitution

Wyoming Statutes

Chapter 41
(ISF Law)

Chapter 23
(WGF Authority)

Mission

Federal Laws
(ESA, CWA, NEPA)

W.S. 41-3-1001

Water flowing in any stream may be appropriated for instream flows to maintain or improve existing fisheries and declared a beneficial use of water

W.S. 23-1-103

**The Wyoming Game & Fish Commission
has the sole responsibility for providing
“...an adequate and flexible system for
the control, propagation, management,
protection and regulation of all
Wyoming wildlife”.**

Fish Division Mission

As stewards of Wyoming's aquatic resources, we are committed to conservation and enhancement of all aquatic wildlife and their habitats for future generations through scientific resource management and informed public participation. We will use an integrated program of protection, regulation, propagation, restoration, and control to provide diverse, quality fisheries resources and angling opportunities. Our efforts will balance the productive capacity of habitats with public desires.

Federal Laws

- Clean Water Act (TMDL's, 404 permits)
- Organic Act
- Endangered Species Act

Instream Flow

