New Partnerships, Markets, & Infrastructure for Water

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Our water infrastructure needs are significant

• $335 and $298 billion needed to update drinking and wastewater infrastructure;

• Lots of people manage that infrastructure, making it difficult to change; and

• To pay for this is a significant burden on families.
Dirty water is wasted water

• “Wastewater” is looking to be “resource recovery”

• Nitrates in groundwater drive communities to look for surface water sources to drink

Timing of water availability matters

• Too much water in the Winter and Spring

• Not enough water in the Summer and Fall
Public-private partnerships can help

**West Coast Infrastructure Exchange**
- Aggregating small projects to attract financing
- Educating private and public partners
- Motivations for cost-effective design and operations
- Helping reduce regulatory and investment risk

**Green Infrastructure investments**
- Drinking water source protection
- Water quality trading
- Linking health and the outdoors
Green Infrastructure is

Wastewater infrastructure
Tualatin River, Oregon

Restoration for compliance, converting...

Cooling Towers

35 miles of restoration
Additional instream flow

FROM THIS...

$60 - $150 million

...TO THIS

$6 million

Source: The Freshwater Trust
Summer, 2004
Summer, 2007
Summer, 2010
Three keys to success

Environmental Markets

- **CLEAR DEMAND**: Law/regulation, businesses, or funders that are on board
- **CLEAR RISK**: Someone in charge if something goes wrong
- **CLEAR PATH**: Approved standards and protocols for measuring environmental benefits and implementing projects
Green Infrastructure is

Drinking water infrastructure
CHANGE IT: MAKING THE BUSINESS CASE

Present value of investment over 20 years, USD millions

Most optimistic scenario (Portland, Maine; USA)

- Gray infrastructure upgrade (membrane filtration) $155 M
- Green infrastructure investments $44 M

71% savings

Green infrastructure is Health infrastructure
Healthy environments

November 14 the **Wingspread Declaration on Health and Nature** will be released with 27 other leaders from health and conservation at the World Parks Congress & APHA
Water finance trends to watch

- Better ability to aggregate small projects for private finance
- Financing for performance
- Expanding state & federal definitions for green infrastructure
- Healthcare paying attention to water and climate
- Higher resolution data, increasing the ability to target performance
Changing the world begins with changing how we think about conservation

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