

Brief overview: US and EU water policy frameworks



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Structure of presentation

- **Ecologic and water**
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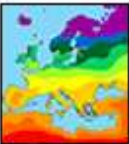







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Ecologic and water

- **EU Water Framework Directive (WFD)**
- **Economics of WFD and integrated water management**
- **Public participation and the WFD**
- **Institutional and policy analysis**
- **Policy integration (water & other issues)**
- **Capacity building activities**

Key issues in water policy

- **Water quality**
- **Water quantity (droughts and floods)**
- **Water prices**
- **Hydromorphology**
- **Ecosystems and ecosystem services**

U.S. water policy: key turning point

“Today, the rivers of this country serve as little more than sewers to the seas. Wastes from cities and towns, from farms and forests, from mining and manufacturing, foul the streams, poison the estuaries, threaten the life of the ocean depths.”

U.S. Senator Edmund Muskie
November 2, 1971

US water policy: Clean Water Act (1972)

- **Authorised Environmental Protection Agency to set water quality standards**
- **Key tools: 1) funding for local wastewater treatment and 2) national wastewater discharge permitting system**
- **Successful at reducing point-source pollution**
- **Pollution from nonpoint sources remains a problem (was not addressed in the Act)**
- **As of 2000: 40% of rivers, 45% of lakes, and 50% of estuaries assessed were not clean enough to support uses such as fishing and swimming***

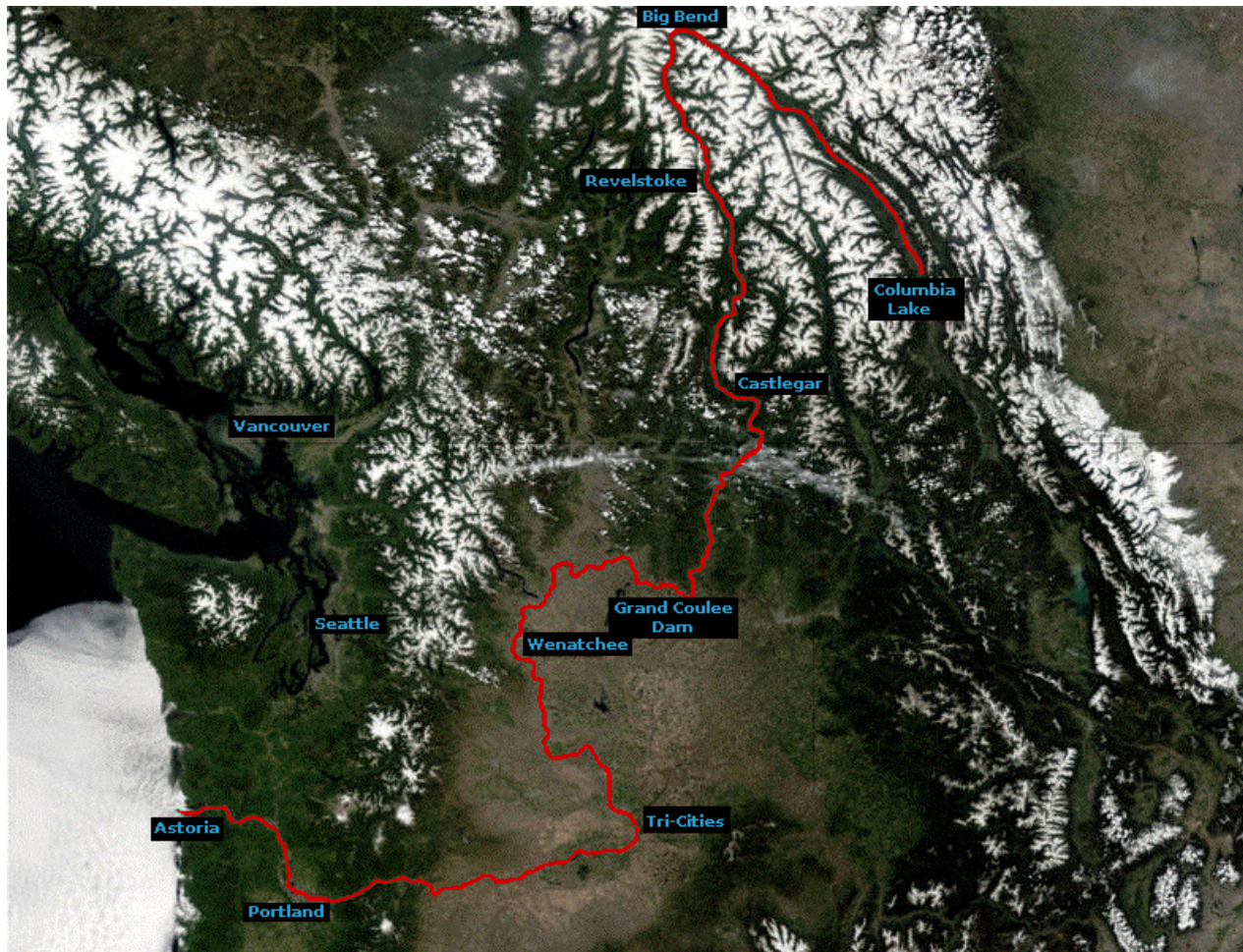
*Source: EPA. 2000 National Water Quality Inventory (<http://www.epa.gov/305b/2000report/>)

US water policy: multi-jurisdictional

**„state and federal agencies,
local governments, tribes,
special purpose districts, and
citizens all need to work
together“***

*Source: Washington State Department of Ecology
(http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/nonpoint/nps_plan.html)

U.S. Case: Columbia River Basin



- 7 U.S. states, 1 Canadian province, 13 Indian reservations
- 211 dams (largest hydropower generator in U.S.)
- Hanford Nuclear Reservation „most polluted place in western hemisphere“
- Hanford Reach „a biological treasure“
- Salmon – several species threatened or endangered

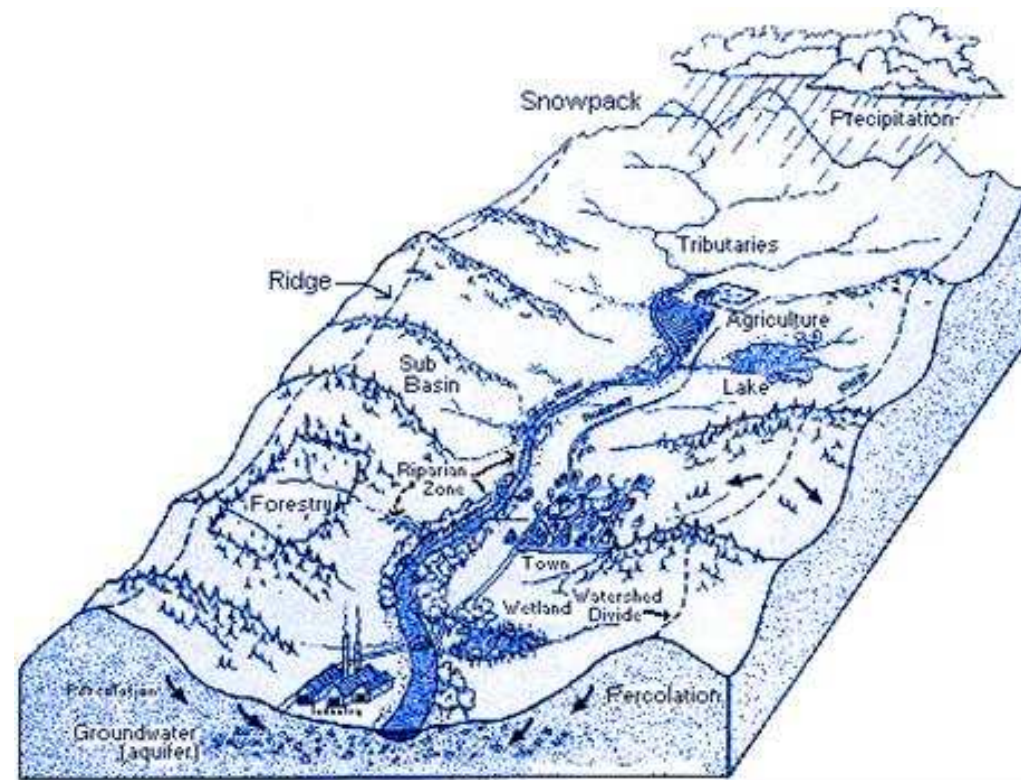


Columbia River at Hanford Reach



Integrated Water Resource Management

“A participatory planning and implementation process to determine how to meet society’s long-term water needs while maintaining essential ecological services and economic benefits.”



Integrated Water Resource Management

- **Watershed-level management of water resources**
- **Optimizing supply – assessing supply and effects of use**
- **Demand management – including cost recovery**
- **Equitable access – participatory/transparent governance**
- **Integrated policy frameworks**
- **Intersectoral approaches to decision making**

Source: USAID, http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/environment/water/what_is_iwrm.html

The European Water Framework Directive

- **Re-orders European water legislation**
- **Sets (sustainable) environmental objectives**
- **Imposes the Integrated River Basin (Water Shed) Management Approach**
- **Thus affects administrative structures and**
- **Reduces the importance of frontiers in the EU**
- **Introduces/reinforces the use of socio-economic concepts in water resource management (cost recovery, polluter pays, etc.)**
- **Reinforces the principle of public involvement**

WFD: public participation

- **Public participation throughout the process**
- **Stakeholders in industry and business**
- **Civil society, NGOs**
- **Agriculture**
- **Water companies**

Good practices in public participation

- **History and experience**
- **Communication and openness**
- **Active and early involvement**
- **Emerging water governance structures**

Source: Ecologic Brief: *Public Participation in European River Management*

Concept of *social learning*

Improved interaction of groups and individuals, which leads not only to a better exchange of information, but also to the creation of shared „new knowledge“

- Most successful if designed for a specific regional context
- Requires an open discussion on techniques to support active involvement
- Most impactful where water governance is open to change
- Mutual trust among stakeholders is key
- Benefits from active participatory processes targeting multiple levels of governance and organisation

Thank you.



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