

Tools, Strategies, and Issues from State and Provincial Fish and Wildlife Agencies

IFC Members

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Instream Flows

*for Riverine Resource
Stewardship*
Revised Edition





Integrated Approaches to Riverine Resource Stewardship



Case Studies, Science, Law, People, and Policy



UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln



Case Studies, Science, Law, People, and Policy



Policy Issues Often Trump Science

Ongoing “tug of war” between
science and policy

International Instream Flow Program Initiative

A Status Report of State and Provincial Fish and Wildlife Agency
Instream Flow Activities and Strategies for the Future

Final Report for Multi-State Conservation Grant Project WY M-7-T

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Instream Flow Council
www.instreamflowcouncil.org



IIFPI

initiated 2006-2009 to:

- Identify trends and opportunities to help state and provincial fish and wildlife management agencies develop, maintain, or improve their ability to participate in water management decisions:
- Identify trends in fish and wildlife agencies' flow management activities; and
- Develop potential strategies that agencies (and others) could use to better manage water resources for benefit of fish and wildlife.

IFC Principles for Riverine Resource Stewardship

IFC Principles for Riverine Resource Stewardship

1. Recognize and promote state and provincial stewardship responsibility as the basis for an advocacy role in conserving riverine resources for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.
2. Recognize the limitations and opportunities imposed by legal and institutional factors. Work within them and through appropriate channels to expand them.
3. Always search for opportunities to maintain or restore natural ecosystem functions and processes in any increment.
4. Involve the public by providing information and seeking their input to develop a successful instream flow program and quantify appropriate instream flow strategies.
5. Use an interdisciplinary approach to quantify instream flow needs that address the five riverine components (hydrology, biology, geomorphology, water quality, and connectivity).
6. Seek to maintain or restore the seasonal pattern of the intra-annual (magnitude, duration, timing, rate of change) and inter-annual variability (frequency) to maintain or restore the natural ecological function of riverine resources.
7. Follow a systematic, problem-solving process to address specific water management applications within the context of riverine resource management goals.
8. Use assessment tools and strategies appropriate to the unique needs of each instream flow situation.
9. Document the rationale behind decisions to address, or not address, any of the eight ecosystem resource components in developing instream flow prescriptions.
10. Use monitoring or adaptive management to address uncertainty and learn from experience in appropriate settings.

IFC Principles

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- Use of interdisciplinary approach to quantify instream flow needs that address the five riverine components (hydrology, biology, geomorphology, water quality, and connectivity).

IFC Principles

- Document the rationale behind decisions to address, or not address, any of the eight ecosystem resource components in developing flow prescriptions.
- Use monitoring or adaptive management to address uncertainty from experience in appropriate settings.

Policy Adjustments?

- Where have you experienced the greatest improvement (increased certainty?) in performing your agency's role in riverine stewardship?
- Where is uncertainty greatest?

Suggested Actions

- What specific actions do speakers suggest that may be helpful to other agencies or attendees at this workshop for reducing their agencies' riverine stewardship capabilities?