

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Support and Investment in Reclamation's River Restoration Programs

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Bureau of Reclamation

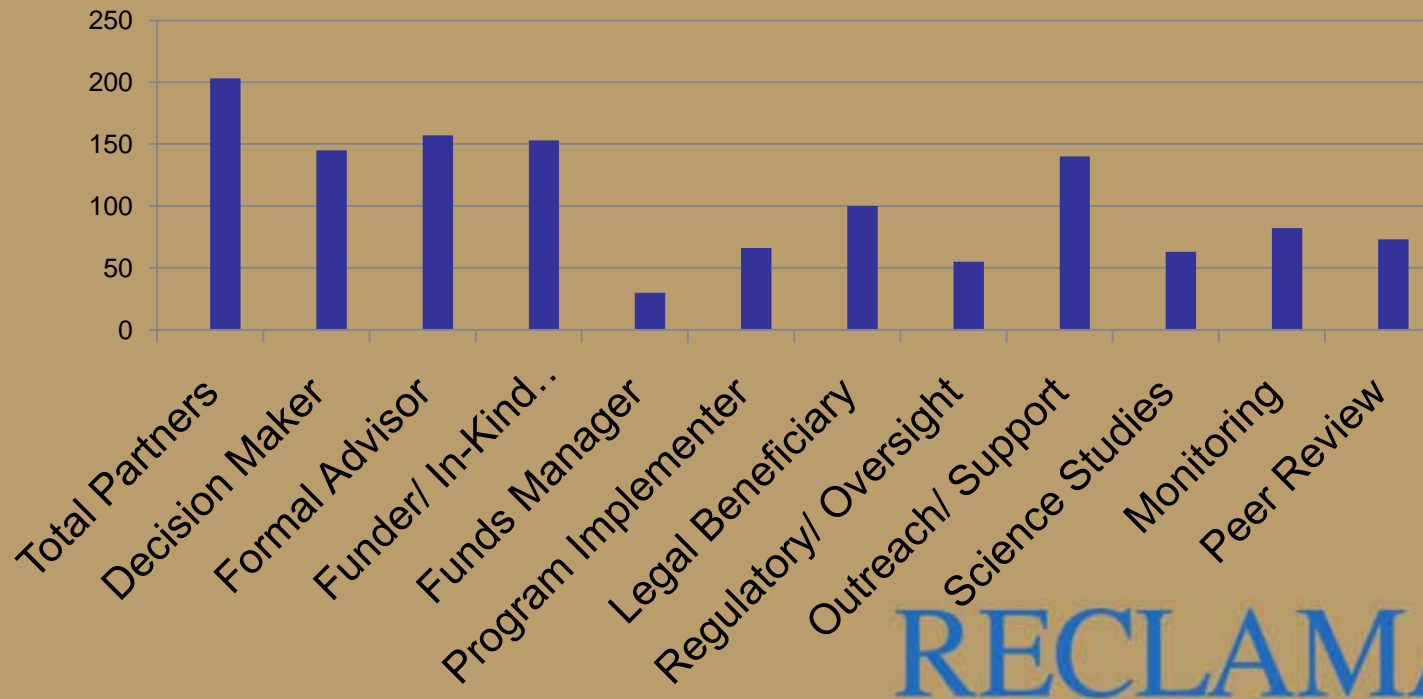
“Show me the money”



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Participation in Reclamation's 16 River Restoration Programs

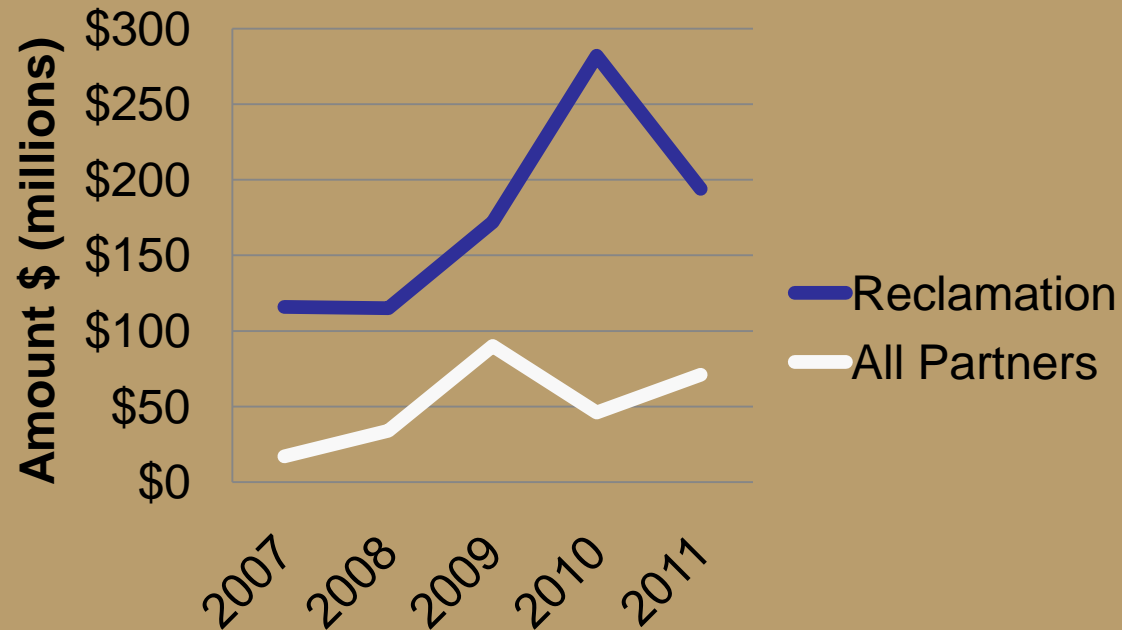
- > 200 Partners (avg 12-13 per Program)
- Most are genuine “partners”—decision-making
- 50% receive legal benefits
- Many assist with outreach
- Not many “implement” (contractors, universities)



Reclamation's Budget for River Restoration

- Increase from \$116 to \$194 million (\$78 million) from 2007 to 2011
- High of \$282 million in 2010
- Partner funding \$17-\$71 million, high of \$90 million in 2009

Total Spending on Reclamation's 16 Restoration Programs 2007-2011



Ratio of Partners' Funding Compared to Reclamation's Funding 2007-2011

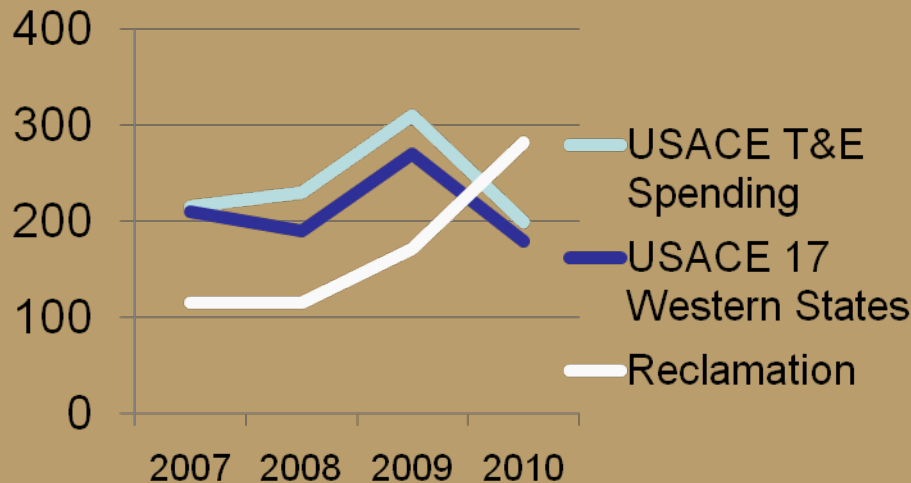
- Increasing support over time
- 15% to 37%, with high of 52%

Partners' Ratio of Funding 2007-2011

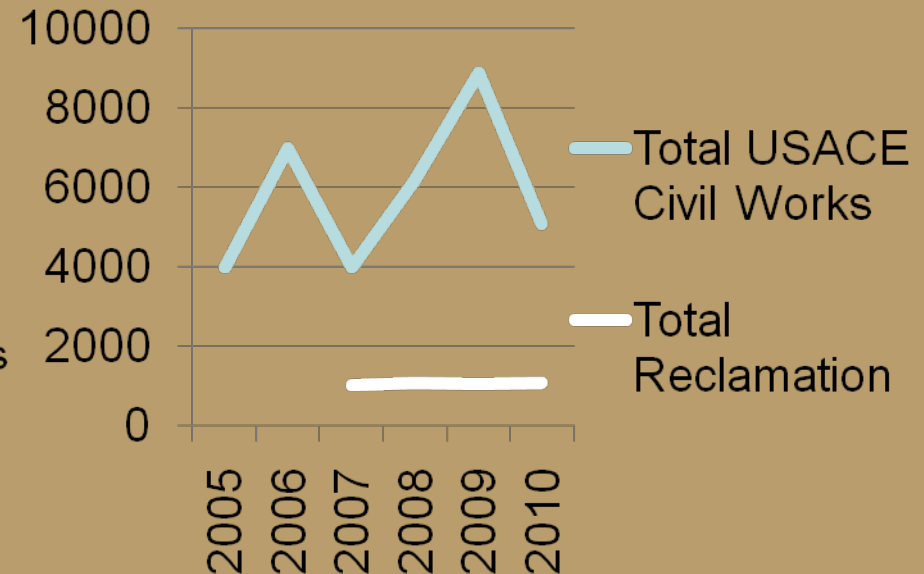


Army Corps of Engineers' Spending

USACE and Reclamation River Restoration Spending (Millions)



Total Spending USACE (Civil Works) and Reclamation (Millions)



Source: Jim Henderson, USACE; Debra Burrell, Reclamation

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Maintaining Public and Political Support and Investment

How do programs maintain public and political support and investment for river restoration Programs?

Not Recommendations

1. Dedicated Information & Education (I&E) programs and local representation
2. Broad Participation
3. Frequent trips and updates on progress to members of Congress
4. Consistent and continuous messages on compliance with ESA while allowing deliveries of water and power to continue
5. Open houses and field trips

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Maintaining Public and Political Support and Investment

How do programs maintain public and political support and investment for river restoration Programs?

- Dedicated Information & Education (I&E) programs and local representation
 - *open houses, tours, press releases, videos, tribal meetings, and consultation with the committees*
 - *prepare an annual report*
 - *maintain a website*
 - *maintain and staff program office*

Maintaining Public and Political Support and Investment

How do programs maintain public and political support and investment for river restoration Programs?

- Broad Participation
 - *stakeholder and public meetings and workshops to solicit input and engage a broad spectrum of public, political, and special interest groups in the programs*
 - *continuous outreach to landowners, general public, and all parties to gain understanding, acceptance and support*
 - *The governing committee represents majority/all of the stakeholders*

Maintaining Public and Political Support and Investment

How do programs maintain public and political support and investment for river restoration Programs?

- Frequent trips and updates on progress to members of Congress
- *Non-federal participants make annual trip to D.C. each year coordinated by the States and the Water Development group and Tribes. The group informs many members of the House and Senate and their staff of our activities, and provide information in the form of pamphlets, leaflets, and one-on-one meetings.*

Maintaining Public and Political Support and Investment

How do programs maintain public and political support and investment for river restoration Programs?

Consistent and continuous messages on compliance with ESA while allowing deliveries of water and power to continue

- *threat of individual Endangered Species Act consultations on their water related projects has maintained strong support for the Program*
- *program legislation provided many protections for "third parties." Clear, consistent messaging on how we are going to protect these downstream landowners and irrigation districts is key in keeping public and political support*

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Maintaining Public and Political Support and Investment

What are some challenges to maintaining support and investment?

1. Difficult to support programs in tough economic times and with diminishing budgets and increased expectations
2. Ongoing litigation or regulatory hurdles
3. Partners not completely supporting the programs and undermining the activities
4. Changes in membership of the committees
5. Changing scales and objectives
6. Working on fish that are not considered 'useful' or 'beneficial'

Maintaining Public and Political Support and Investment

What are some challenges to maintaining support and investment?

Difficult to support programs in tough economic times and with diminishing budgets and increased expectations

- *funding is capped by a prior year's Appropriations Bill, getting additional funds remains an open question*
- *maintaining funding is challenging with budget reductions of 15% or more*
- *concern with other federal agencies concerning spending \$\$ on a Reclamation project when they have a significant O&M backlog.*
- *in this political climate it has been and will be increasingly difficult to generate support for ESA-driven activities.*

Maintaining Public and Political Support and Investment

What are some challenges to maintaining support and investment?

Ongoing litigation or regulatory hurdles

- *ongoing litigation on the BiOp is a continuing challenge that bleeds time, effort, and resources away from implementation*
- *success of the program hinges on the ability to control or eliminate nonnative fishes, which typically requires use of piscicides (rotenone)...its use is very controversial*

Maintaining Public and Political Support and Investment

What are some challenges to maintaining support and investment?

Partners not completely supporting the programs and undermining the activities

- *some states are not especially supportive of the program ... program threatens navigation interests in those states and may somehow diminish ability for flood control.*
- *Governors, legislators, and others continue to promote actions that undermine the Program such as blocking Congressional funding for the program*
- *constantly struggling to meet expectations of the third parties while working to implement the program*
- *some partners feel program is a make-work program*
- *individual partners have their own self-interest...often unwilling to work with other partners*

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Maintaining Public and Political Support and Investment

What are some challenges to maintaining support and investment?

Changes in membership of the committees

- *changes in partner agencies, such as Board, Tribal, state, and federal elections, means that we continually educate partners on the purpose and need for the program*

Maintaining Public and Political Support and Investment

What are some challenges to maintaining support and investment?

Changing scales and objectives

- *shift from site-specific to reach-scale project planning has increased complexity and cost. ...effort is dependent on landowner support for 5--10 years and landowners want guaranteed support for a projects life span and they grow weary of the intrusions onto their land*
- *expectations change and our focus and activities change to address the new challenge*

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Maintaining Public and Political Support and Investment

What are some challenges to maintaining support and investment?

Working on fish that are not considered 'useful' or 'beneficial'

- *working with fish that were once viewed as "trash fish or rough fish" can be difficult. The fact that these fish aren't seen as "beneficial" to many people and there will likely never be an industry for fishing for them or eating them, even once they are recovered, is a problem*

Other Considerations

Jobs?

Accountability?

Costs?

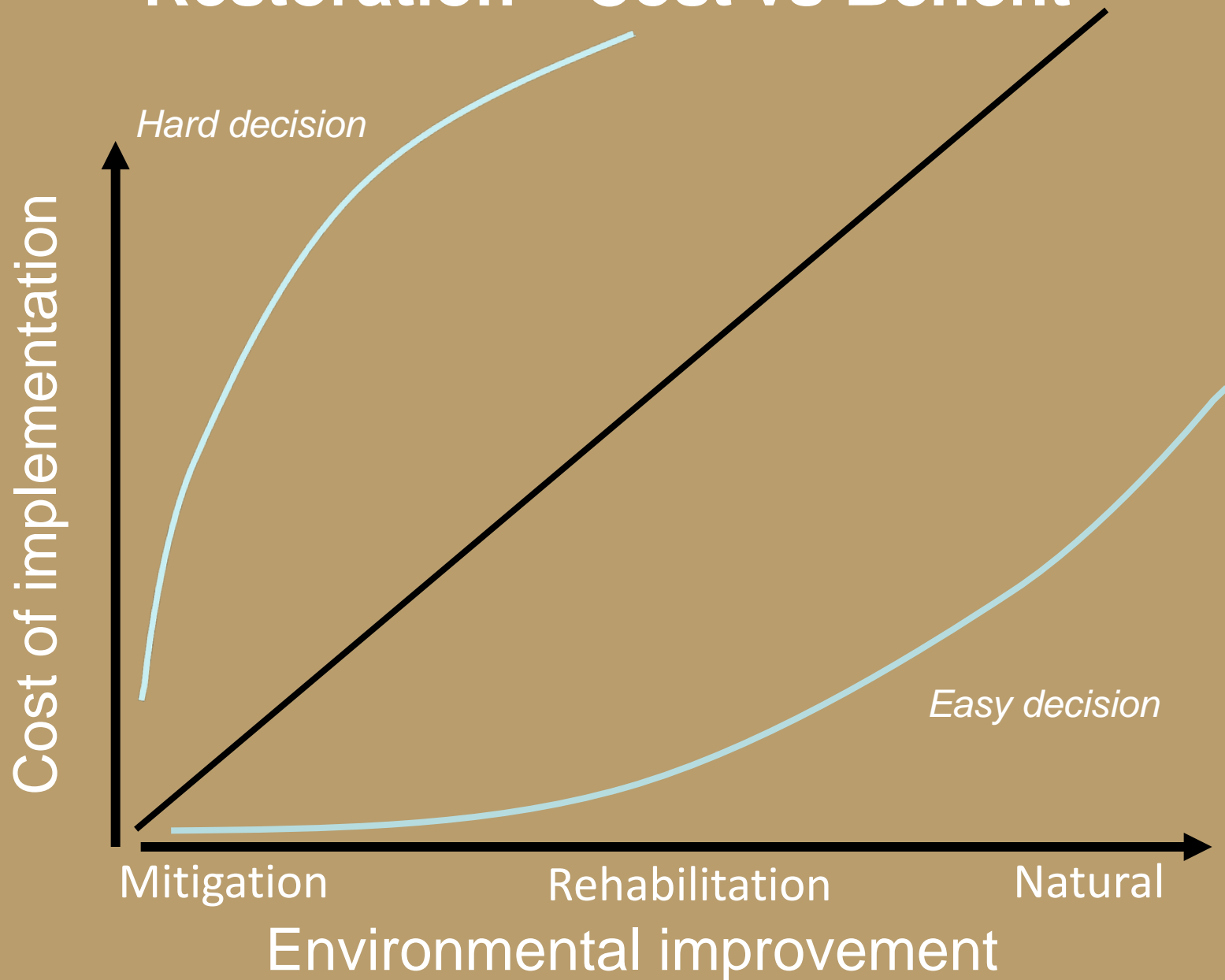
Who pays?

Synergism?



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Restoration—Cost vs Benefit



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Important Intangibles

- **Staff and Partners**
 - Devoted
 - Technically capable
 - Team workers
 - Communication
 - “Can do”
- **Good Legal Advice**
- **Contracting and Financial Assistance Capability**
- **Belief in Work and Program**

THANK YOU

- **Questions??**

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