



## Demand Management in WY UCRB Stakeholder Engagement

### **Focus Group 3: Demand Management conserved consumptive use: *Irrigation* (remembering that DM would be a voluntary, compensated and temporary program)**

1. What methods of reducing consumptive use would you or others be willing to implement in existing operations? (Keeping in mind that increasing irrigation efficiency often has no connection to reducing consumptive use, and can sometimes increase CU.)
  - a. You and your operation
  - b. Neighbors in your local watershed and their operations
  - c. Irrigators in your region
2. What volume of water ordinarily put to consumptive use do you think the methods undertaken would conserve?
  - a. In your operation
  - b. In your local watershed
  - c. In your region
  - d. Do you need more information to answer these questions? What kind of information?
3. How should the price for saved water be determined?
  - a. Individual private negotiations, a set price, group negotiations, other means?
  - b. Do you need more information to answer this question? What kind of information?
4. Would you participate in a DM program that paid you for the amount of water that was actually proven to be saved and conveyed to a specific point in the system? (This is a different risk profile than in the System Conservation Pilot Program, where producers were paid based on estimates of what would be saved, rather than actual consumptive use savings in that year.)
5. Would you and others in your local watershed be able to join together to propose methods of reducing consumptive use that could potentially be adopted there?
  - a. How many water users would adopt methods arrived at that way? Any chance all would adopt?
  - b. What would be the price that would spur adoption?
    - i. Could everyone in the watershed agree upon a price?
  - c. Do you need more information to answer these questions? What kind of information?
6. What considerations would affect your decision to adopt any measure to reduce consumptive use? Of the possible considerations below (and any more you would like to add), could you rank them as to which are the most important? Please also discuss what type of information if any you need to better assess each of these considerations.
  - a. Impact on water rights
    - i. Does the DM policy requirement that any reduction in consumptive use be “temporary” provide you sufficient assurance that your legal water right will not be affected?

- ii. Is there additional assurance you would need regarding water rights in order to adopt any proposed measure for reducing consumptive use?
  - iii. Impacts on other water rights.
- b. Impact on your agricultural operation
  - i. Do you have sufficient data or experience with soils and productivity issues in your operation to assess potential impact on your operation?
  - ii. Can you estimate both implementation costs and lost profit sufficiently to determine what you would need to be paid per unit of reduced consumptive use in order to undertake reduction methods?
- c. Economic impact
  - i. Can you assess the potential economic impact of various levels of reduced consumptive use on your local watershed, your community, your region?
  - ii. Can you foresee positive economic impacts?
- d. Are there other considerations affecting your/others' decision regarding participation in a DM program that should be added here?
  - i. Is there information that would help in assessing the weight of these other considerations?