

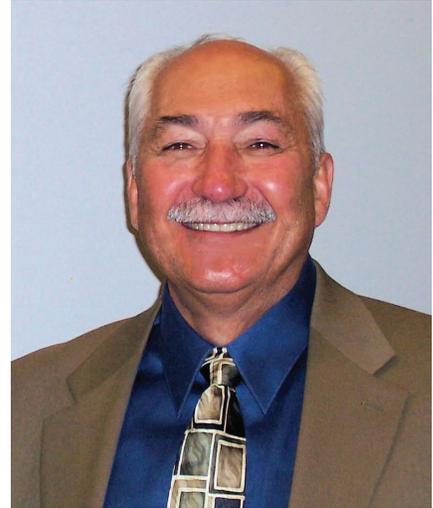
Conservation Connection

Donald R. Glaser Named Mid-Pacific Regional Director

The Mid-Pacific Region welcomes Donald R. Glaser as Reclamation’s new Regional Director. Commissioner Robert W. Johnson made the announcement during an “All Hands” meeting in May 2008.

Mr. Glaser takes the place of Regional Director Kirk Rogers. Kirk Rogers retired in August 2007.

Mr. Glaser’s experiences are varied and include 20 years with the Bureau of Reclamation in several positions throughout the west and in Washington, D.C., including Assistant Commissioner for Resources Management and Deputy Commissioner.



Donald Glaser

“We used to say wise water usage was something everyone could do. Now it’s something that everyone must do. It’s the small, everyday decisions that add up to big water savings.”

—Don Glaser on Water Conservation

He has spent the past seven years managing non-profit organizations engaged in water education, open space preservation, and fish and wildlife conservation and restoration. Before that, he was a water resource consultant, the Executive Directive for the President’s Commission on Western Water Policy, and the State Director for the Bureau of Land Management in Colorado.

“Reclamation is fortunate to be able to bring Don Glaser back home to Reclamation,” said Commissioner Johnson. “Don’s experience with Reclamation, along with his accomplishments since leaving, make him the ideal person to fill this important position as part of the Reclamation leadership team.”

Commissioner Johnson continued, saying, “I have every confidence that Don will help make the Mid-Pacific Region responsive to its customers and effective in carrying out Reclamation’s mission. It’s a great pleasure for me personally to name Don to one of our top leadership positions.”

Mr. Glaser was born in Long Beach, California, and graduated from Santa Barbara High School. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Economics from Eastern Montana College (now known as Montana State University - Billings). 

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Mark Your Calendars:

2009 Drought Water Bank
 Following consecutive dry years, 2009 could be one of the most severe drought years in California's recorded history. Water supplies in major reservoirs and many groundwater basins are already well below average (see page 7). As a result, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is implementing a Drought Water Bank for 2009.

Agencies that foresee a need for additional water in 2009 should express their interest to DWR no later than October 15, 2008. Prospective sellers should contact DWR by November 1, 2008. Contact Teresa Geimer, Drought Water Bank Coordinator, at 916-651-7194 or email at tgeimer@water.ca.gov.

Revised Criteria
 The purpose of the Criteria is to promote the highest level of water-use efficiency reasonably achievable by Contractors using best available cost-effective, technology and Best Management Practices.

The *Standard Criteria for Evaluating Water Management Plans* (Criteria) were developed by the Bureau of Reclamation in response to the Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992 (CVPIA) and in accordance with the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982. Section 3405(e) of the CVPIA requires that the Criteria be reviewed at least every three years and be revised if necessary.

Please visit <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/watershare/index.html> to view the 2008 revised Criteria

5th Biennial CALFED Science Conference 2008
 October 22-24
 Sacramento, CA
 Visit <http://www.science.calwater.ca.gov/conferences>

WaterSmart Innovations Conference and Exposition
 The premier event for show-casing new water-efficiency technology.
 October 8-10
 South Point Hotel and Casino
 Las Vegas, Nevada
<http://www.watersmartinnovations.com>

Irrigation Show 2008
 November 2-3
 Anaheim Convention Center
<http://www.irrigation.org>

San Joaquin River Restoration Tour
 November 12-13
 Explores challenges associated with restoration of the San Joaquin River.
 Water Education Foundation
 Call (916) 444-4240 or visit www.water-ed.org/tours.asp

Water: H₂O=Life Exhibit
 Celebrate water at the San Diego Natural History Museum. The only venue on the West Coast is open through November 30.
 Visit their website for more information:
<http://www.sdnhm.org/exhibits/water/index.html>

WELCOME TO THE
 11TH ANNUAL
Salmon Festival
 AMERICAN RIVER
 October 11-12, 2008
 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 Wild Salmon BBQ & Food Booths
 •
 Children's Activities
 •
 Education
 •
 Recreation
 •
 Arts
 •
 Culture
 •
 Entertainment
 At Nimbus Fish Hatchery and Lake Natoma State Park



What is in a Good Incentive Package for Water Use Efficiency- A Farmer's Perspective

By Larry Gilbert, Imperial Valley Farmer



Aerial view of the Imperial Valley

There is a lot of exciting technology available for stretching our precious water resources so we can do more with our limited supplies. Some of those measures pertain to conserving water on farms. Farms are a fertile field for water conservation because farms use a lot of water in converting sunlight to the food we eat.

The best conservation measures are useless unless they are implemented. To be implemented on farms they need to make economic sense to the farmer because farms are in a very competitive business. The reality is that sometimes the economics of water conservation may benefit the larger community, but don't necessarily benefit the farmer.

That's where incentives come into the picture. If the larger community can offer some kind of effective incentive and get farmers to adopt measures that allow them to produce just as much or more food with less water, it can be a "win-win" situation.

Farmers have to make a profit. Usually when farmers makes a decent profit, they will plow a lot of it back into their farm, making improvements and increasing the productivity of their land. Their hope is not just to earn a living from the land, but someday to retire and live off the income it will provide, and eventually to pass a valuable asset on to their children.

Maintaining and increasing the productivity of his land is extremely important to the farmer. Any conservation measure that a farmer implements needs to at least maintain the land's productivity, and preferably increase it.

As to profitability, farmers will measure the potential profits of a conservation measure against their own farm's profitability. They will look at implementing a new conservation measure like adding a new crop, or increasing the acreage of the crops they farms. To them it's an additional enterprise. *(Continued on Page 5)*

Water for America—The New Initiative That Incorporates Two of Reclamation's Successful Water Conservation Programs

With much of the West experiencing moderate to extreme drought conditions, water supply is at the forefront of everyone's mind, including homeowners, recreationists, and law-makers alike. State and Federal governments are taking critical steps to help ease water supply strains in the face of shortages, population growth, and competition between urban use, farms, and the environment. To help mitigate the water challenges in the West, Reclamation unveiled its multi-agency plan to secure critical water supplies-- the Water for America Initiative.

The Water for America Initiative was presented to the public in July of 2008 and implementation is due to begin in October of 2009. The new initiative is meant to "help communities meet increasing demands on limited water supplies through collaborative projects, water conservation technologies, and expanded information sharing."

To meet its goals, the Water for America Initiative includes three strategies for water management planning: Plan for Our Nation's Water Future; Expand, Protect, and Conserve Our Nation's Water Resources; and Enhance Our Nation's Water Knowledge. *(Continued on Page 7)*



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Mill Creek Restoration Project

by Warren Mitchell, RVIT Fish and Wildlife Biologist

The Round Valley Indian Tribes (RVIT) is a federally recognized Confederation of Tribes which is uniquely located in the coastal range of northern California. The RVIT is essentially surrounded by the three major river systems of the Eel River, Middle Fork Eel River, and the North Fork Eel River. Today the reservation is approximately 30,000 acres. Within this acreage, the tribe has stewardship responsibilities over a wide range of fish and wildlife species, several of which are found on the federal and state endangered species lists. One stream in particular, Mill Creek, has been the focus of an eight year restoration effort.



New saplings are manually watered using temporary above-grade irrigation lines.

Mill Creek was once a healthy stream system used by large numbers of salmonoid species. Today, only a small remnant of the original numbers of salmon and steelhead return to Mill Creek. Mill Creek, like so many other inland streams throughout northern California, faces a variety of problems such as bank erosion, increased channel width & braiding, loss of riparian vegetation, increased water temperatures, and a decrease in aquatic insects.

In 2001, RVIT initiated an ambitious multi-year, multi-agency, stream restoration project to repair nearly 2.5 miles of Mill Creek back to conditions capable of supporting the myriad of life associated with a healthy stream system. For the past six consecutive years, the Mill Creek Stream Restoration Project (SRP) has been aggressively repairing the riparian corridor to restore fish and wildlife habitats and the ecological functionality of the stream. In the past, partnerships and grant monies from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Services, National Marine Fisheries Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, California Department of Fish and Game, and Fish America Foundation have been pooled together and have resulted in a very successful project to date. Approximately \$1.5 million dollars have been received over the last six years from these agencies. Various other entities, in the community have also contributed volunteer time and labor on the project.



Riparian vegetation after one year.

In 2007, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) became involved with the Mill Creek SRP. Through the Emergency Drought Relief Act, Reclamation was able to provide essential funding which enabled RVIT to continue trucking water to the Mill Creek project area and expand the existing planting regime, helping to preserve the work that had been previously completed. As the drought carries over into 2008, additional assistance by the Reclamation continues to play a pivotal role in the restoration and reclamation of Tribal resources with Round Valley.

Restoring the riparian corridor is a slow process and it will take several years and even decades to become fully functional in terms of providing ecological benefits associated with a riparian corridor.

To date, we have seen an increase in the amount of time that surface water continues to flow through the project during the summer months, as well as an earlier return of surface water flow in the fall months. With the increased quality of the in-stream habitat, salmon and steelhead are spawning and producing fry. Bank stability is also improving and habitat conditions are developing and the project area is starting to resemble a stream once again. 💧



Confessions from a Water Junkie

By Anna Sutton, Water Conservation Specialist

Utilities, especially water, are a commodity many of us take for granted. We expect when we flip a switch, the light will come on or if we turn a handle, water will flow out the faucet. But you also expect feedback from these companies so we can judge just how much flipping that switch or turning that handle actually costs. While most of California has been metered for years, if you are still billed on a flat-rate system you do not have that feedback.

For those hesitant about switching to metered water, there can be many benefits. Metering will encourage efficient water use among customers because meters allow customers to pay for what they actually use. Customers then can directly benefit from efficient water use measures they choose to implement. In addition to directly benefiting the customer, meters can help detect water leaks in the distribution network, thus providing a basis for the reduction of non-revenue water and provide more equitable charges for water service. Water meters are a proven technology that help ensure customers enjoy a high quality and reliable water source for decades to come. So with this in mind, I decided to take the plunge.



Anna's new water meter

After living in my house for three years on a flat-rate system, I requested to be placed on a meter. The process was simple and the service personnel were extremely helpful. I haven't received my first bill yet, but my current conservation tactics should guarantee to save me money over the flat-rate. During the next few months, I plan on making personal water-saving changes that I can now track, thanks to my meter. I hope to share my experience in future issue of the *Conservation Connection*.

If you'd like more information on ways to conserve water around the house, you may want to consider taking "The 20 Gallon Challenge" at www.20gallonchallenge.com. The link provides lists of conservation techniques and associates an estimated water savings. Pick a practice and watch the savings add up! 💧

(What is in a Good Incentive Package for Water Use Efficiency- A Farmer's Perspective, from Page 3)

The next ingredient I call the hassle factor. To illustrate this, would you get up at 1:32 a.m. every Saturday and Sunday to wash your clothes for an hour if it would save you 10% on your electric bill, or 25%, or even 50%? A new conservation measure should not be a migraine producer or complicate life, and it's far better if it makes the farmer's life easier.

Will it fit in with their other farm activities in the skills that are required and times or seasons in which they are needed, or is this just one more job he must learn and perform himself? Does it need their attention at the same time they are overloaded with their crucial planting or harvesting work? And even if it just requires they to miss the opening days of deer hunting season you may have a serious problem on your hands.

Once the scientists and engineers have the conservation measure designed so it can pass these tests, how do you get the farmer's interest, and how do you convince him to implement it?

Demonstrate the practice on a commercial farm. Find a willing, well respected farmer who will implement it on the farm. The farm should be typical of those where you hope the measure will be implemented. Make sure you document everything that is involved when the conservation measure is utilized. Include all the labor and management and other inputs. It is important that the demonstrating farmers operate it with their own labor and management. Let it become part of their regular operation, and find out what they will do when the new wears off and the paint fades. ***(Continued on Page 6)***



THE QUAGGA ARE COMING, THE QUAGGA ARE COMING!

Quagga mussels are freshwater, bivalve mollusks that typically have a dark and white, zebra-like pattern on their shells and grow to approximately 1 inch in diameter. They are an invasive species that are becoming common in bodies of water east of the 100th Meridian. These tiny mussels are native to Russia and Ukraine. Quagga mussels are filter feeders that will eat microscopic plants and animals that form the base of the food web. They consume large quantities of plankton, the same food eaten by small fish, and can alter the delicate balance of the food chain in a lake. They also absorb high amounts of pollutants, such as including botulism, which can kill the wildlife that eat them.

Quagga mussel

Quagga larva, which can be as small as a speck of dust, can infiltrate the water within the boats or attach to the boat hull. Mussels can then attach themselves to docks, seawalls, and buoys and begin to spawn. A single mussel can spawn 40,000 eggs. In the warm waters of California a mussel can spawn six times a year. There are approximately 20 reservoirs in Southern California that are experiencing problems with quagga mussels.

Water districts should begin thinking of a plan to prevent mussels from clogging their distribution system and disrupting service to its customers.

The following organizations have web sites which will provide the latest information on the mussels.

- **California State Department of Fish and Game** (<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/quaggamussel/>)
- **100th Meridian Initiative** (<http://100thmeridian.org>)

(What is in a Good Incentive Package, from Page 5)

Disseminate the information about the conservation measure to other prospective area farmers. Schedule field days to show it off and demonstrate it. Develop spreadsheets to analyze it and a PowerPoint presentation with pictures, diagrams, and charts to explain the details. Have the project out in open view where other farmers can watch it in operation!

An effective incentive could be as simple as subsidizing the purchase price or initial cost of implementing the conservation measure. An example of this is subsidizing the cost of fluorescent light bulbs that replace incandescent bulbs. People won't shell out some of their own money for the bulbs unless they plan to install and use them. And once they're in place they automatically conserve electricity. Sometimes it's not that simple. Purchasing the equipment may not ensure that it will be used. So the incentive may have to deal with the operation and/or maintenance of the conservation measure.

That brings me to my last point. If the incentive involves a performance agreement, be sure that you know what will be required and how to effectively measure the results on which payments will be based.

You may need some field testing over time to be sure you have a working combination, so don't make long term agreements until you are sure what the conservation measure works and the job that you want done will be accomplished.

Can this whole concept work? I am confident it can, enough so, that I am working with numerous others to develop and refine a very large ag-to-urban water transfer, in which I hope to eventually be a participant. Must it be done carefully and thoroughly? Absolutely! Is it worth the effort? Let's all hope so. Because without this type of transfer, which can provide effective incentives, we will be bypassing some of the most fruitful opportunities for conservation. 💧

Larry Gilbert grew up on a farm in Imperial Valley, and he earned a BS in Agronomy from Cal Poly, Pomona. He has spent the ensuing four decades farming field crops in Imperial Valley and developed an interest in water use and conservation early in his farming career. He developed his own ETO-based irrigation scheduling program to help with irrigation timing and improve the water use efficiency on his own fields. He has been active in water conservation and transfer issues involving the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) for the last 25 years.



Key Reservoir Storage As of 09/09/2008 (All amounts are in thousands of acre-feet)					
Reservoir	Storage Capacity	15 Year Average	WY 2007	WY 2008	% of 15 Year Average
Trinity	2,448	1,674	1,475	1,157	69
Shasta	4,552	2,690	1,910	1,404	52
Oroville (SWP)	3,538	2,146	1,578	1,105	51
Folsom	977	535	328	274	51
New Melones	2,420	1,562	1,446	1,103	71
Millerton	520	240	198	201	84

(Water for America, from Page 3)

The second strategy, “Expand, Protect, and Conserve Our Nation’s Water Resources” will encompass two of Reclamation’s most successful water conservation programs: The Water Conservation Field Services Program (WCFSP) and Water 2025. Through these programs, Reclamation will continue partnering to increase water use efficiency, conservation efforts, and improve water management through grants and technical assistance. Under the new initiative, some aspects of these two grant programs will change, while others will remain the same. Below is a summary of how the Water for America Initiative will modify Water 2025 grants and the WCFSP.

Challenge Grants: Under the Water for America Initiative, the Water 2025 Challenge Grant Program will become the Water for America Challenge Grant Program. The Water for America Challenge Grant Program will encompass the Water Marketing and Efficiency Grants and System Optimization Review Grants (SORs), in addition to adding two new grant opportunities. Additional grants opportunities include Advanced Water Treatment Grants for pilot and demonstration projects that test the viability of advanced water treatment technologies and Species of Concern Grants. The Species of Concern Grants are designed to benefit federally listed species, and help to prevent the decline of candidate species.

Applications for Challenge Grants will be accepted under four different funding opportunities. Challenge grants will remain cost-shared programs where Reclamation can fund up to 50% of total project costs, not to exceed \$300,000. Competition for Challenge Grants will be Reclamation-wide, encompassing all 17 Western States that Reclamation serves and will focus on large-scale water conservation efforts.

WCFSP- Developed in 1996, the WCFSP is a regionally and locally administered program, designed to provide technical and financial assistance for water management planning, implementation, demonstration projects, and education. Although the WCFSP will be under the umbrella of the Water for America Initiative, administration and grant competition will remain at the regional and local levels. However, beginning in Fiscal Year 2009, the WCFSP will incorporate Reclamation-wide selection criteria which emphasizes water conservation planning and efficiency improvements. In addition to the Reclamation-wide selection criteria, each WCFSP funding announcement will include other criteria developed at the regional or local level to account for local water conservation priorities and goals.

The WCFSP will also remain a 50% cost-shared program. Funding for the WCFSP will be capped at \$100,000 per grant; however, some of Reclamation’s regions may choose to limit funding to a lesser amount to effectively meet local needs.

Despite the modifications, the core goals of Challenge Grants and WCFSP remain the same: stretch existing water supplies while improving water management and efficiency. Grant programs have been instrumental in transforming water conservation efforts throughout the West, and under the Water for America Initiative, these programs will continue to be a major catalyst for efficiency implementation measures to help decrease water demands and improve water supply reliability.

To learn more about the Water for America Initiative, please visit <http://www.usbr.gov/wfa/>. 



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Address Correction Requested

