Oklahoma Instream Flow Advisory Group

Advancing the Dialogue

ERDC Facilitation Webinar – February 4, 2015

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US Army Corps of Engineers

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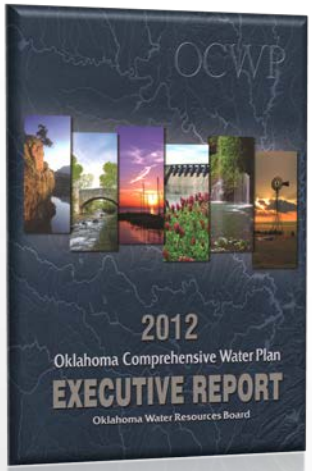
State of Oklahoma OWRB Water Resources Board the water agency

Discussion Overview

- **Project Background**
- **USACE and Facilitators' Roles**
- **Brief Discussion of Water for 2060 Advisory Council Process**
- **Instream Flow Advisory Group**
- **Instream Flow Pilot Study**

Project Background

2012 Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan

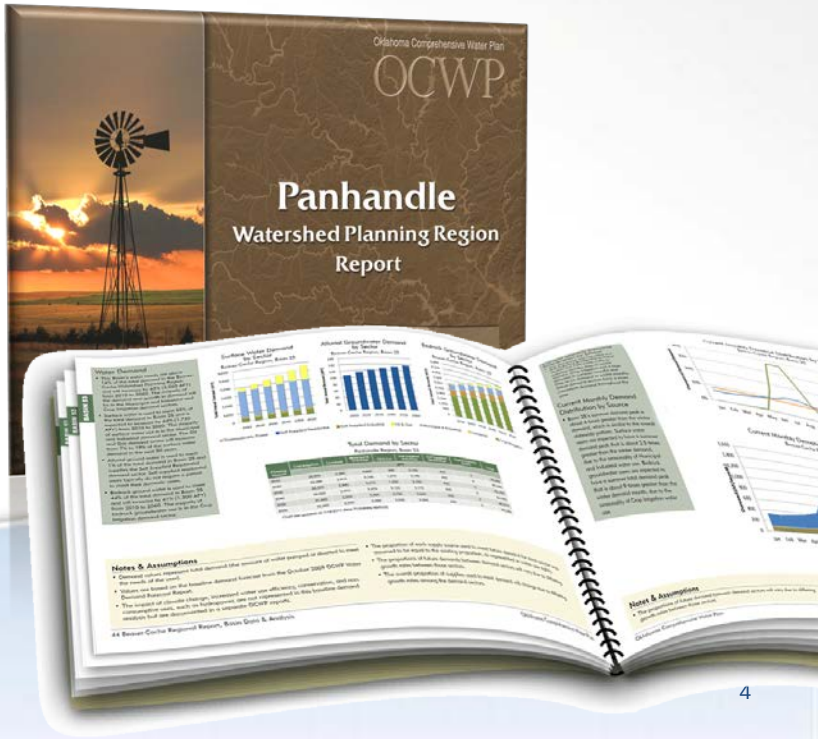


Executive Report:

- Synthesis of OCWP technical studies and results
- Water policy recommendations

13 Watershed Planning Region Reports:

- Results of OCWP technical analyses, including options to address identified local water shortages



OCWP "Big 8" Priority Recommendations

- Infrastructure Financing
- Conservation, Reuse, Recycling
- Monitoring
- Supply Reliability
- Instream Flows
- Excess/Surplus
- State/Tribal Resolution
- Regional Planning

USACE and Facilitators' Roles

Implementation of Two Priority Recommendations Supported by USACE Tulsa District

Conservation, Reuse, Recycling

WATER FOR 2060
EFFICIENCY · CONSERVATION · RECYCLING · REUSE

New 15-Member Advisory Council

Recommend measures to Governor and Legislature to enhance conservation and efficiency in all water use sectors

Instream Flows

Continued Dialogue: 24-Member ISF Advisory Group

Implement "Next Steps" from Initial OCWP ISF Dialogue

ISF Pilot Study in Northeast Oklahoma

USACE and Facilitators' Roles

- USACE providing support via Planning Assistance to States agreement with OWRB
- Organizational Roles

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- Individual Roles

Bryan Taylor

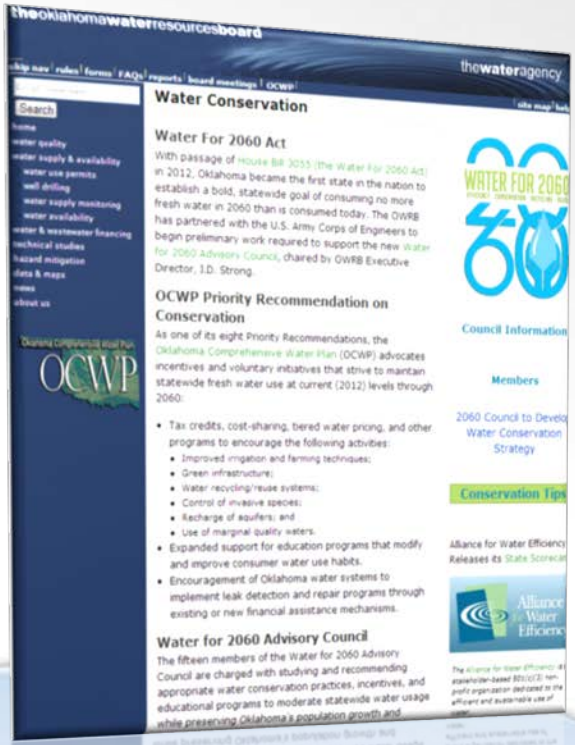
Anna Childers

John Rehring

Water for 2060 Advisory Council

Water for 2060 Goals and Advisory Council Mission

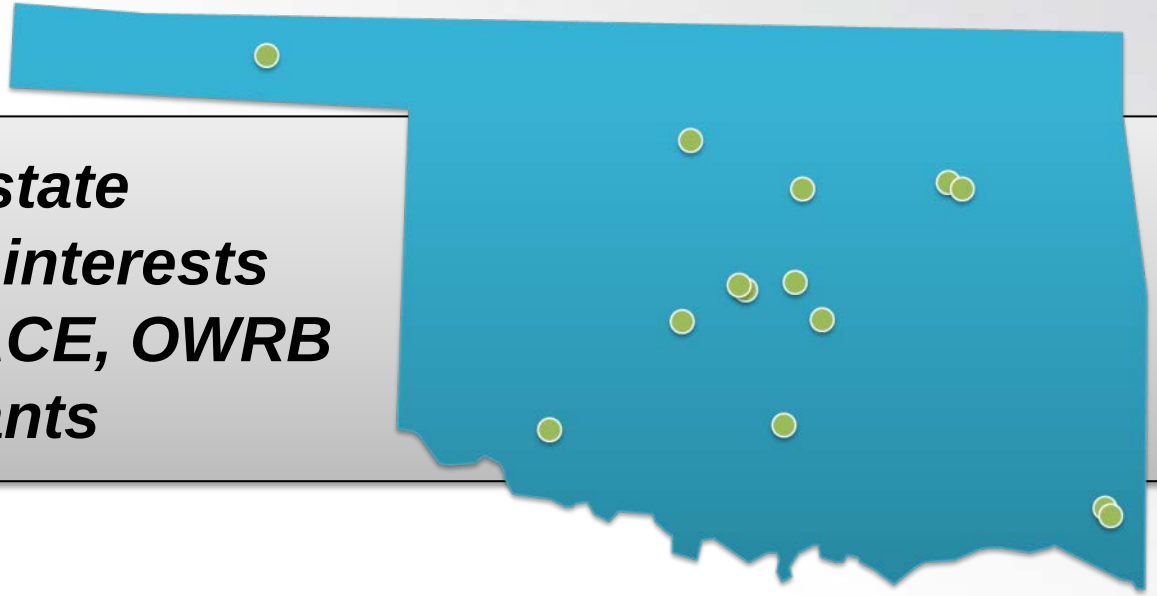
- Water for 2060 Act sets statewide goal of consuming **no more fresh water in 2060** than we consume today.
- Created through passage of HB 3055 in 2012.
- Advisory Council appointed to recommend incentives and voluntary initiatives to the Governor and Legislature in 2015.

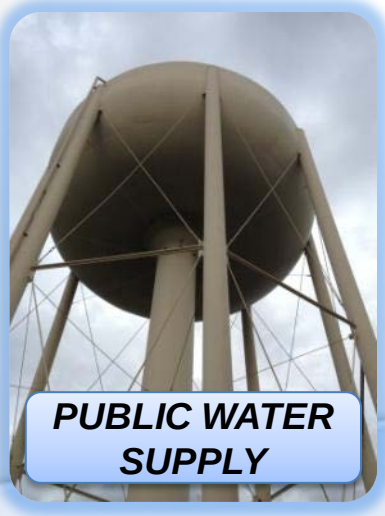


www.owrb.ok.gov/2060

Water for 2060 Advisory Council Members

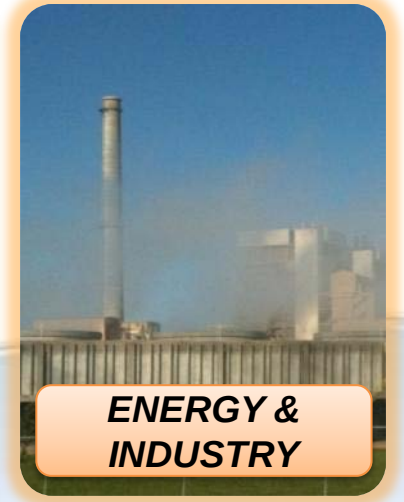
- ***All regions of the state***
- ***Diverse water use interests***
- ***Supported by USACE, OWRB staff, and consultants***





PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

CROP IRRIGATION



ENERGY & INDUSTRY

Facilitation of Advisory Council Recommendations

- **Group dynamics**
- **Engaging the group**
- **Push/pull approach to information sharing and decision making**

Experts and water users – examples of efficiency

Ways to incentivize best practices

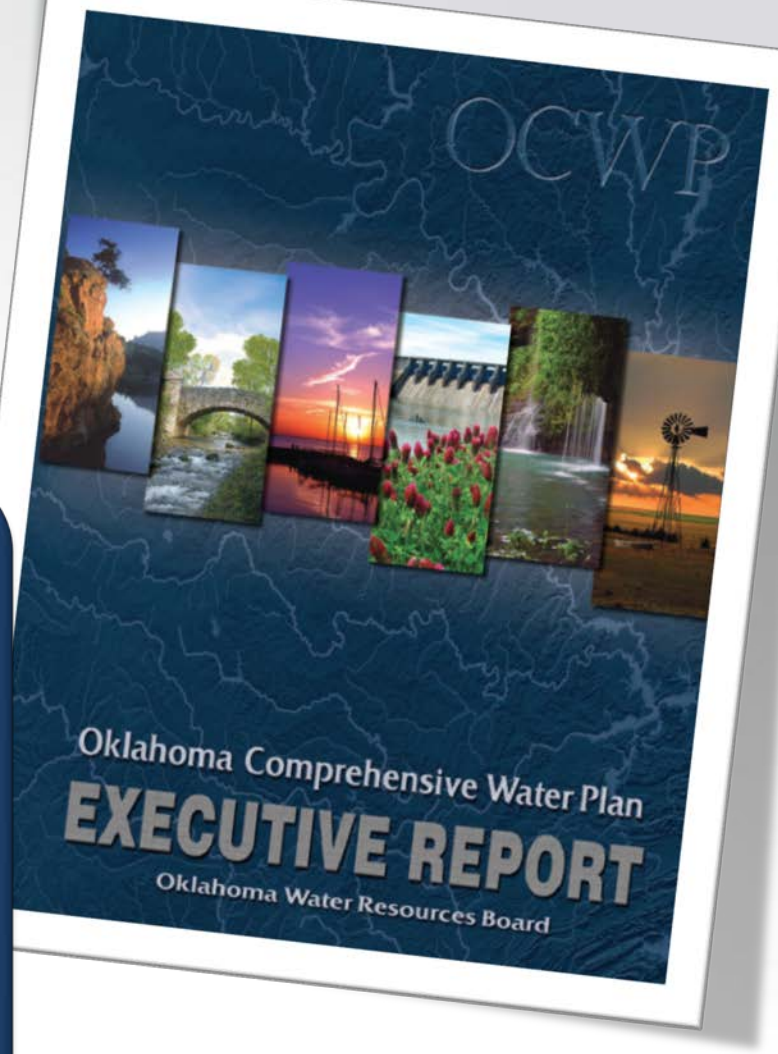
Grouping and organization of recommendations

Buy-in and details of implementation

2015 Advisory Council Report

Instream Flow Advisory Group

Instream Flow Advisory Group: Background and History



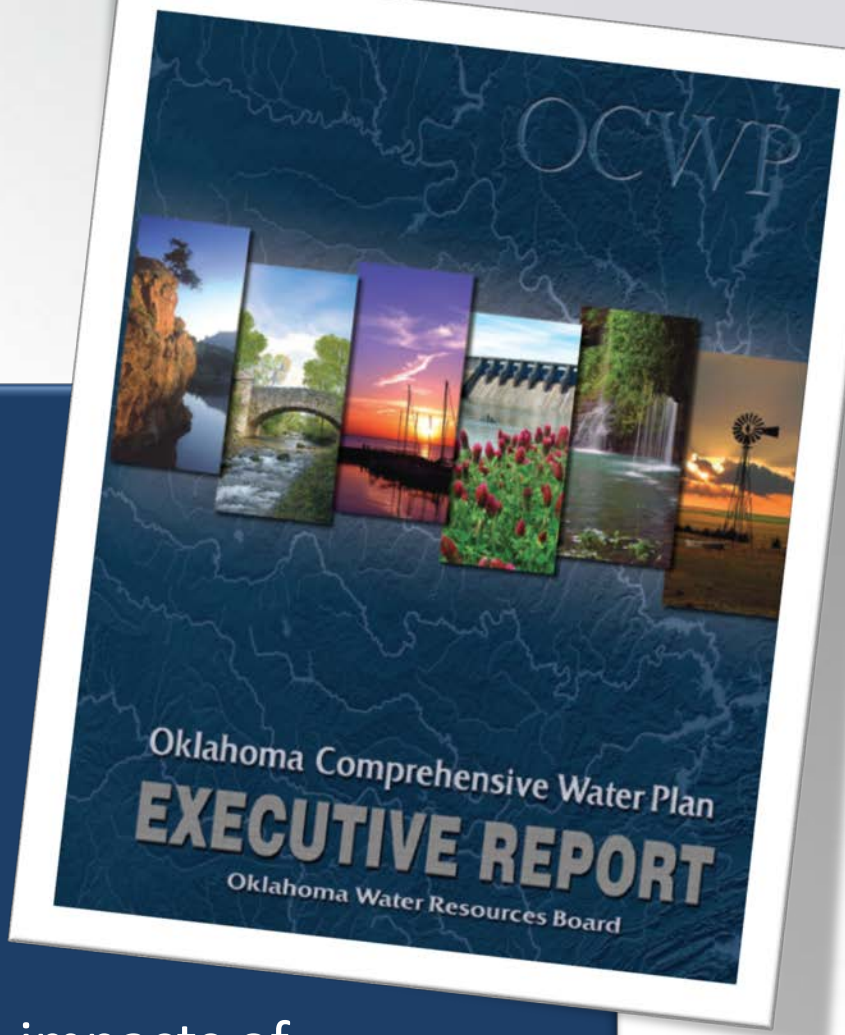
"The process developed by the OCWP Instream Flow Workgroup should be implemented and followed to ascertain the suitability and structure of an instream flow program for Oklahoma, with such process commencing in 2012 and concluding by 2015, as outlined by the Workgroup."

J.D. Strong (Chair) • OWRB	**Tom Creider** • Oklahoma State Parks	**Mark Derichsweiler** • ODEQ	**Tom Elkins** • Cherokee Nation
Mike Fuhr • The Nature Conservancy	**James Gammill** • Oklahoma Rural Water Association	**Bud Ground** • Public Service Company of Oklahoma	**Charlette Hearne** • ORWP
Arnella Karges • State Chamber of Oklahoma	**Michael Kelsey** • Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association	**Mike Mathis** • Continental Resources	**Diane Pedicord** • Oklahoma Municipal League
Marla Peek • Oklahoma Farm Bureau	**Tyler Powell** • Office of the Sec. of Energy & Environment	**Marsha Slaughter** • OKC Water Utilities Trust	**Kevin Stubbs** • US Fish & Wildlife Service
Jeff Tompkins • Bureau of Reclamation	**Brooks Tramell** • Oklahoma Conservation Commission	**Brian Woodard** • Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Assoc.	**Support** • OWRB Staff • CH2M Hill • Carollo Engineers

We need a formal ISF Program in Oklahoma!

Things are fine as-is!

OCWP Workgroup:
Path Forward for Assessing Instream Flow



- Address the legal and policy questions.
- Study other mechanisms for protecting instream flows.
3. Develop a draft methodology for instream flow studies in Oklahoma.
4. Conduct a study on the economic impacts of instream flows in Oklahoma.
5. Perform an instream flow pilot study in a scenic river.
- Preserve the Instream Flow Workgroup.

Clarifying the Questions Helps Define a Path Toward Answers

Authority: Are statutory changes needed?

- Scenic Rivers
- Other watersheds

Purpose, goals, need for ISF?

Do existing programs provide sufficient flow?

- Domestic Use Set Aside
- Interstate Compact compliance
- Recreation/Fish & Wildlife permits
- Endangered Species Act compliance

What would happen (good and bad) if…

- We had an ISF program?
- We didn't have an ISF program?

Instream Flow Advisory Group Workshops: Information & Dialogue

1 Overview

- Workgroup Goals and ISF Issues

2 Supporting Info

- OWRB Stream Water Availability Calculations
- Excess & Surplus Water
- How Do Other States Handle ISFs?

3 Barren Fork ISF History

- OWRB Permitting for Recreation/Fish & Wildlife
- History of the Barren Fork Creek ISF Provisions
- Review of ISF Methods and Application to Barren Fork

Some Themes Emerged through the Dialogue (though not pure consensus…)

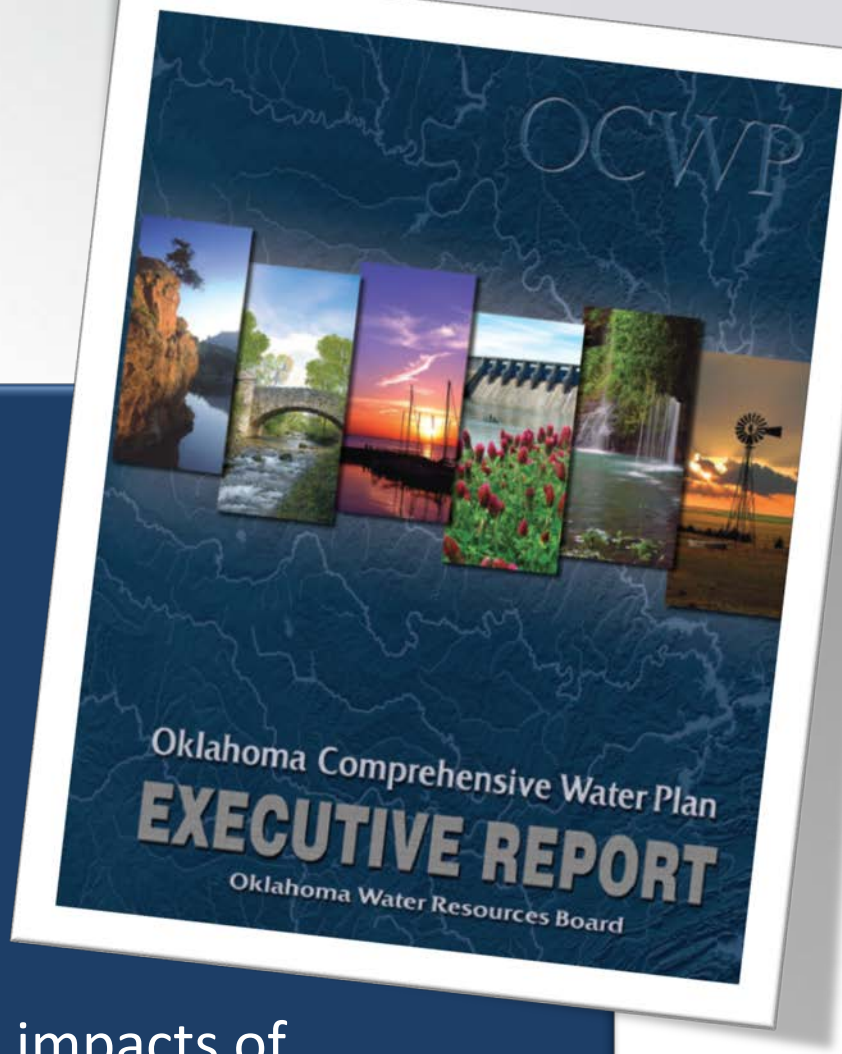
Existing consumptive water rights should have priority

"One size fits all" won't work across Oklahoma

Science supports policy decisions

Our questions can't be answered hypothetically

OCWP Workgroup:
Path Forward for Assessing Instream Flow



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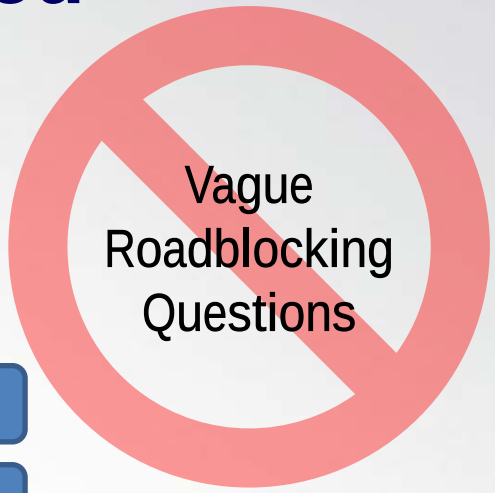
Tools and Strategies Employed to Make Progress



- **Clearly defining the questions**
- **Multiple avenues for input**
  1. **In-person workshops**
  2. **Web-based questionnaire**
  3. **Offline feedback to facilitator**
- **"One size fits all" concerns**

RESULTS of a pilot study would not apply to dissimilar watersheds → **We can design a PROCESS that would reflect local conditions**

- **Both sides agree we can't answer questions in the abstract. We need "real" conditions in a local basin to assess pros and cons.**

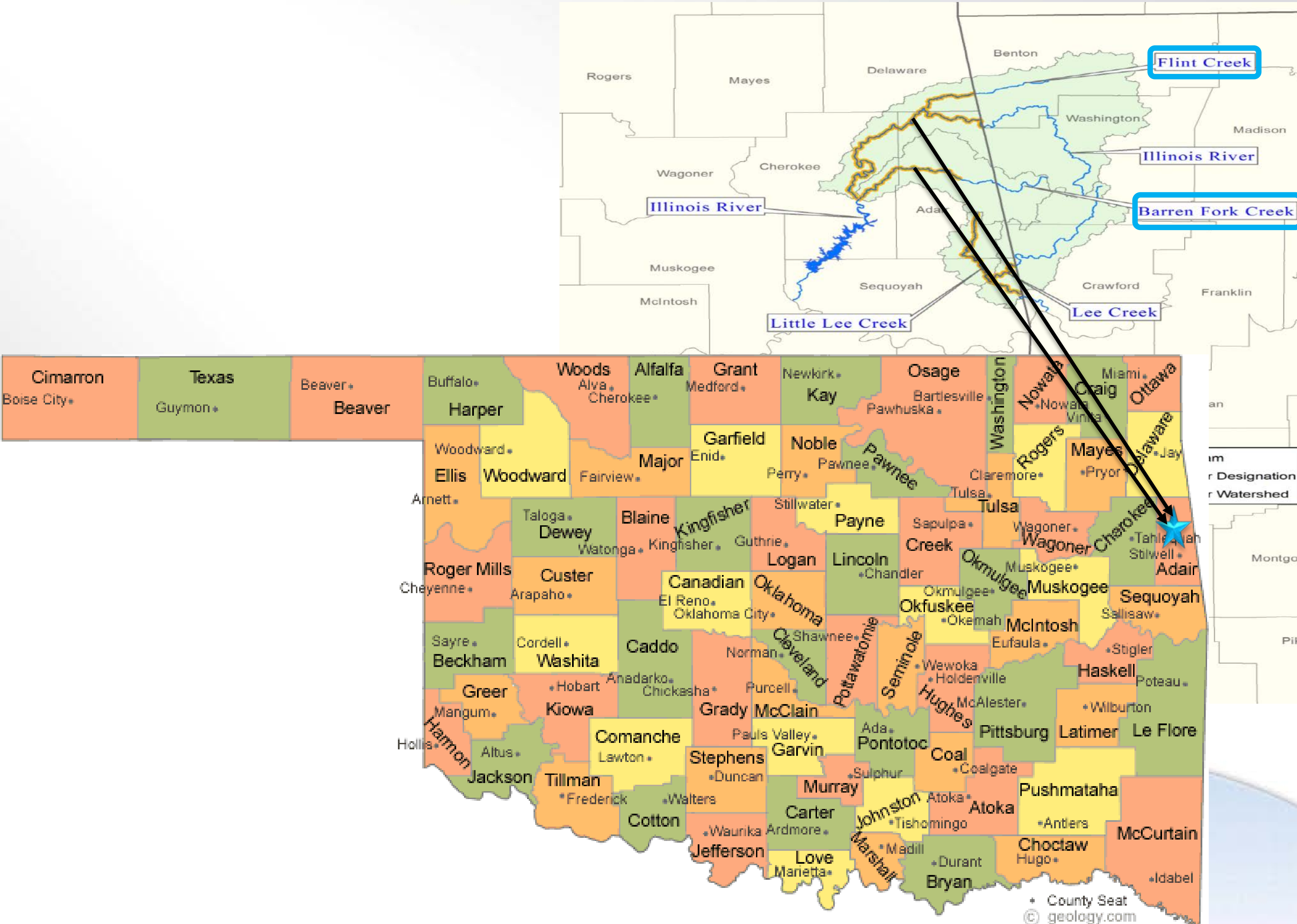
Instream Flow Pilot Study

Shifting from Statewide Dialogue to Local Basin Issues

"Gain a better understanding of the implications of a process to deal with instream flow issues consistent with the overall goal of managing water resources in Oklahoma for multiple uses."

Help to define a conceptual framework and study process that could be used statewide

Develop seasonal instream flow recommendations for the Illinois River Including Barren Fork and Flint Creeks



Flint Creek
Illinois River
Barren Fork Creek
Illinois River
Lee Creek
Little Lee Creek
Rogers
Mayes
Delaware
Benton
Washington
Madison
Wagoner
Cherokee
Adair
Muskogee
Sequoyah
McIntosh
Crawford
Franklin
Designation
Watershed
Montgom
Pike
Cimarron
Boise City
Texas
Guymon
Beaver
Buffalo
Harper
Woods
Alva
Cherokee
Alfalfa
Grant
Medford
Newkirk
Kay
Osage
Bartlesville
Pawhuska
Washington
Nowata
Craig
Vinita
Miami
Ottawa
Woodward
Ellis
Arnett
Fairview
Major
Garfield
Enid
Noble
Perry
Pawnee
Claremore
Rogers
Mayes
Pryor
Delaware
Jay
Taloga
Dewey
Blaine
Watonga
Kingfisher
Guthrie
Logan
Stillwater
Payne
Tulsa
Sapulpa
Creek
Wagoner
Cherokee
Tahlequah
Stilwell
Adair
Roger Mills
Cheyenne
Custer
Arapaho
Canadian
El Reno
Oklahoma City
Oklahoma
Lincoln
Chandler
Okmulgee
Muskogee
Okfuskee
Okemah
Sequoyah
Sallisaw
McIntosh
Eufaula
Sayre
Beckham
Cordell
Washita
Caddo
Anadarko
Chickasha
Norman
Cleveland
Shawnee
Pottawatomie
Seminole
Wewoka
Holdenville
Hughes
McAlester
Haskell
Stigler
Poteau
Greer
Mangum
Hobart
Kiowa
Grady
Purcell
McClain
Pittsburg
Latimer
Wilburton
Le Flore
Harmon
Hollis
Altus
Jackson
Comanche
Lawton
Stephens
Duncan
Pauls Valley
Garvin
Ada
Pontotoc
Coal
Coalgate
Tillman
Frederick
Walters
Cotton
Murray
Sulphur
Carter
Ardmore
Johnston
Tishomingo
Atoka
Pushmataha
Antlers
McCurtain
Jefferson
Waurika
Love
Marietta
Marshall
Madill
Durant
Bryan
Choctaw
Hugo
Idabel
County Seat
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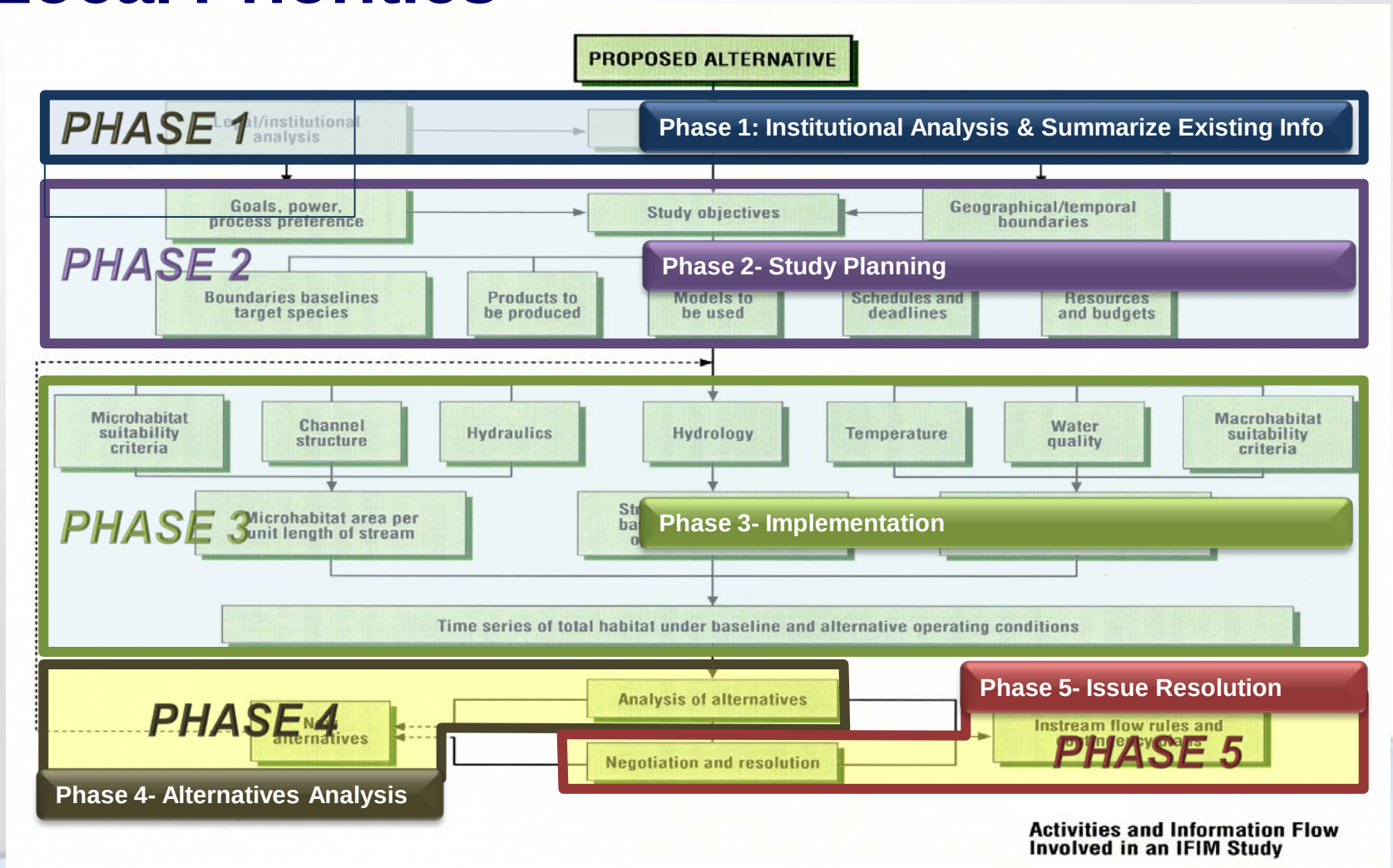
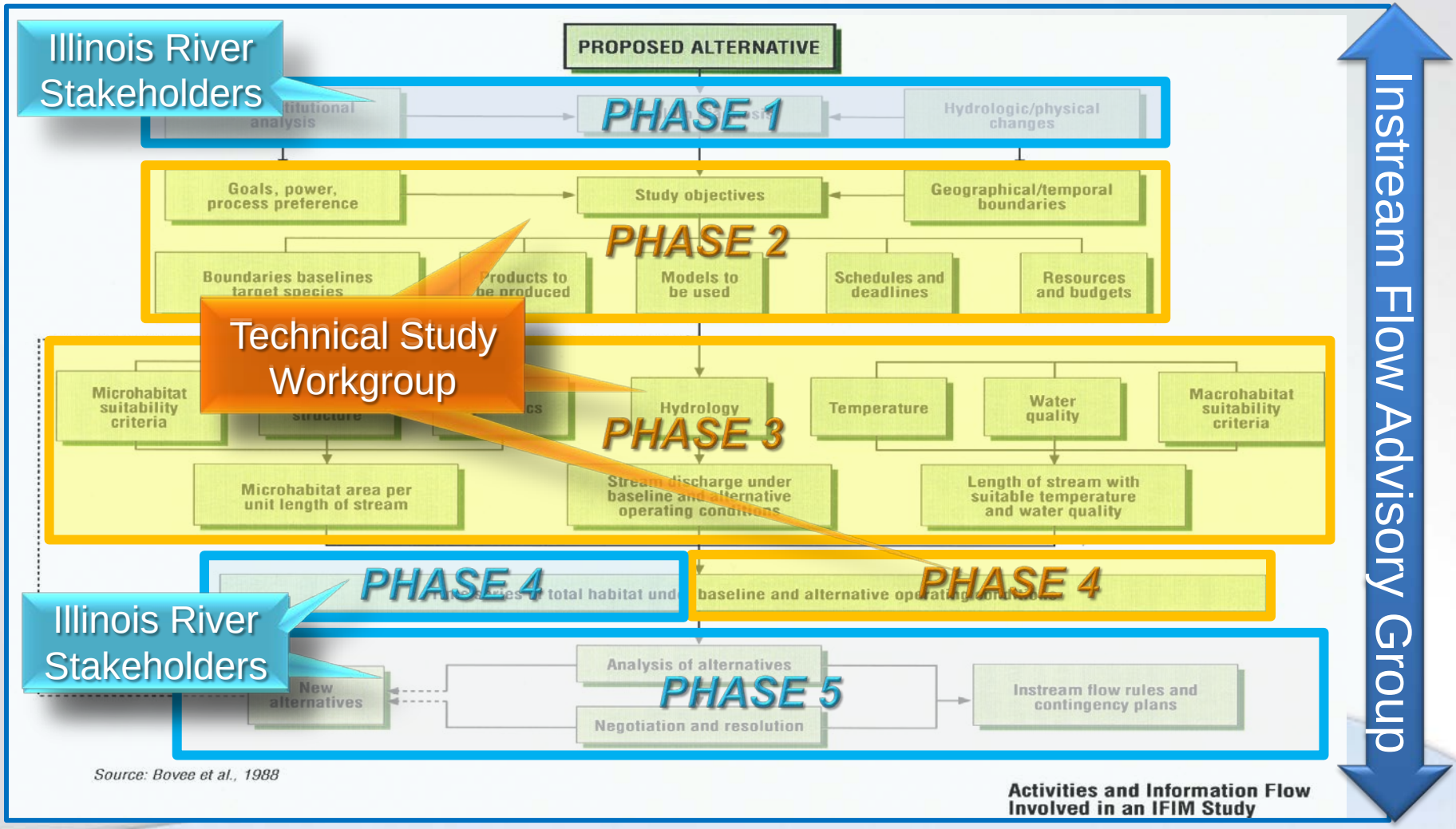
Phased Approach to Answering the Technical Questions and Addressing Local Priorities



Activities and Information Flow Involved in an IFIM Study

Breaking Up the Work and Engaging the Right People



Illinois River Watershed Stakeholders

Planning

- Identify stakeholders and affected parties

Public Meetings

- Conduct outreach to affected parties (stakeholder meetings)
- *Inform & engage & build trust*

Output

- Identify and document concerns and issues of affected parties and provide responses to those issues

Inform

- Outline a preliminary decision process to be used to recommend instream flow criteria

Technical Study Workgroup

Study Plan

- Temporal and Spatial Scales
- Data Gaps
- Methodology
- Schedule
- Budgets

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OWRB
WATER RESOURCES BOARD
the water agency

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OKLAHOMA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

OKLAHOMA
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

OK Scenic Rivers Commission

USGS
science for a changing world

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

The Nature Conservancy

Technical Study Lead
CH2MHILL

Anticipated Results and Next Steps

- Develop seasonal instream flow recommendations for the Illinois River including Baron Fork and Flint creeks.
- The IFIM is not designed to produce the “one best answer”. The best answer is the consensus of the stakeholders.
- All phases of the IFIM include some negotiation:
  - Objectives and scope of the study plan, the layout of the study sites, which simulation options to use, what habitat metrics to include in the analysis etc.
  - Start early!
- Next steps:
  - Develop the Study Plan for a focused data collection to address the issues and concerns
  - Initiate data collection

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