THE FUTURE ON TAP

A SAFE DEPENDABLE WATER SUPPLY FOR ALL OKLAHOMANS

OCWP Instream Flow Advisory Group

Continuing the Dialogue per the OCWP Priority Recommendations

John Rehring ▪ Carollo Engineers

Governor's Water Conference ▪ October 22, 2013

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US Army Corps of Engineers

State of Oklahoma
OWRB
WATER RESOURCES BOARD
the water agency

Instream Flow Advisory Group: Background and History

Priority Recommendations

- Water Project & Infrastructure Funding
- Regional Planning Groups
- Excess & Surplus Water
- Instream/Environmental Flows
- State/Tribal Water Consultation & Resolution
- Water Conservation, Efficiency, Recycling & Reuse
- Water Supply Reliability
- Water Quality & Quantity Monitoring

Supporting Recommendations & Initiatives

- Nonpoint Source Pollution
- Maximizing & Developing Reservoir Storage
- Water Management & Administration
- Dam Safety & Floodplain Management
- Water Quality Management
- Navigation
- Interstate Water Issues
- Source Water Protection
- Water Emergency/Drought Planning
- Water Supply Augmentation
- Water Related Research
- Agricultural Water Research
- Climate & Weather Impacts on Water Management

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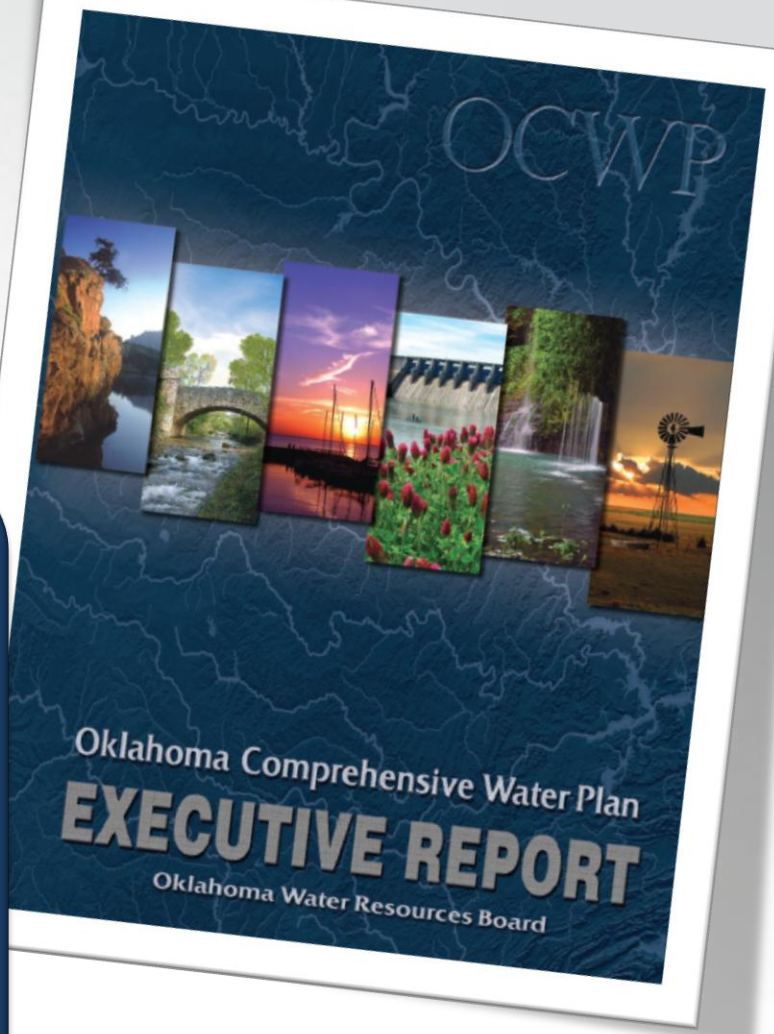
Instream Flow Advisory Group: Background and History

"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."



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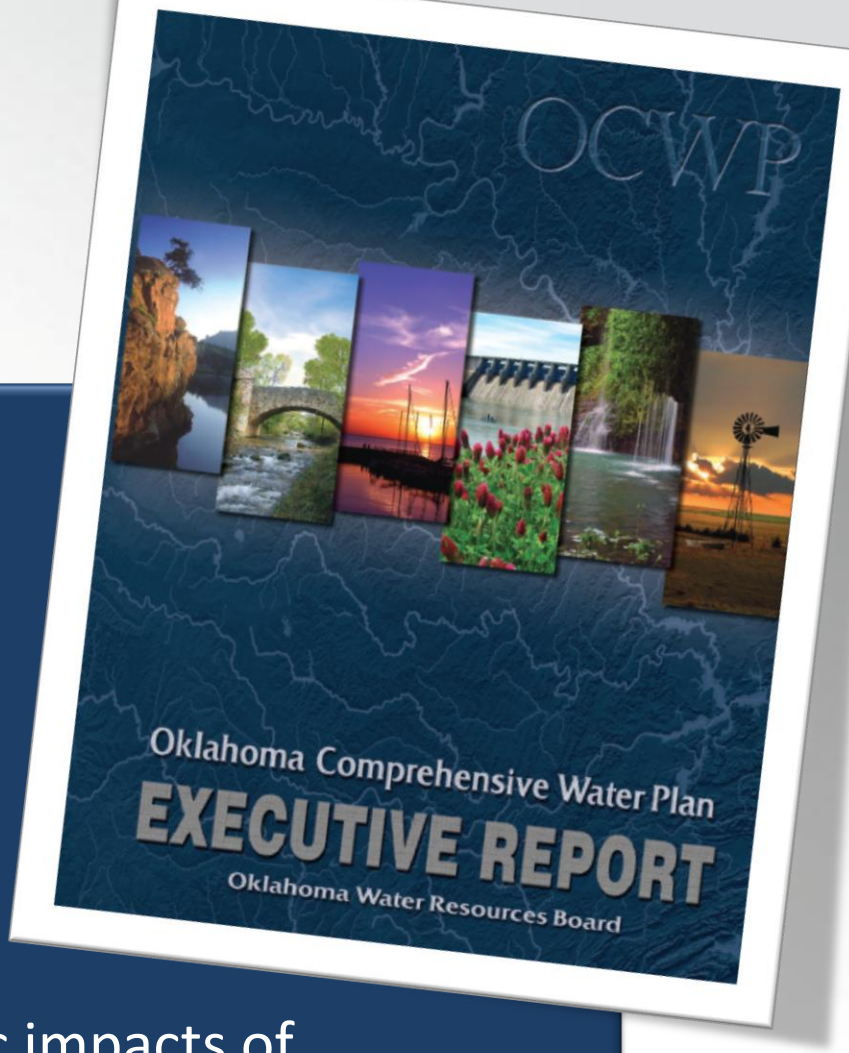
OCWP Workgroup:
Path Forward for Assessing Instream Flow



1. Address the legal and policy questions.
2. 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.

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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
- At Large

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

Key ISF Issues Identified by the Advisory Group

Certainty	• Future water supply needs
Purpose and Goals	• Define goals and need
Costs and Benefits	• Consumptive and Nonconsumptive uses
Human needs	• Acceptable environmental impacts
Multiple Goals	• Healthy economy and healthy environment
Priorities	• ISF vs. current and future consumptive rights

Work Group Dialogue

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Examples of Issues Identified by the Instream Flow Advisory Group

Potential Benefits

- Healthy ecosystems and streams
- Fewer ESA / T&E species issues
- Recreation and tourism opportunities and economic benefits
- Permits, streamflows, and lake levels become more reliable for all users/uses

Potential Concerns

- Consumptive use rights partly/fully not met
- More GW use / conflicts between SW & GW permits
- "Artificial shortages" for consumptive users
- Perception of wasting water – allowing more to flow out of state
- Economic impacts of reduced water availability for consumptive users

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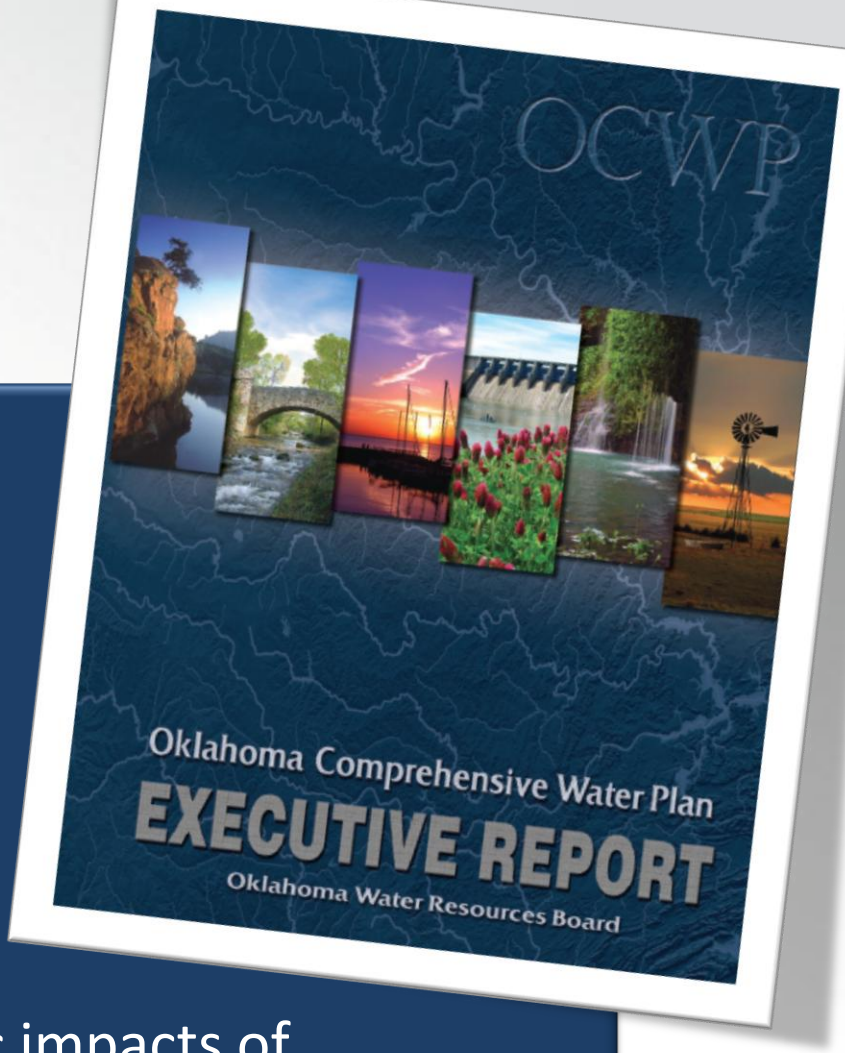
OCWP Workgroup:
Path Forward for Assessing Instream Flow



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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?

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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
Baron Fork ISF History

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

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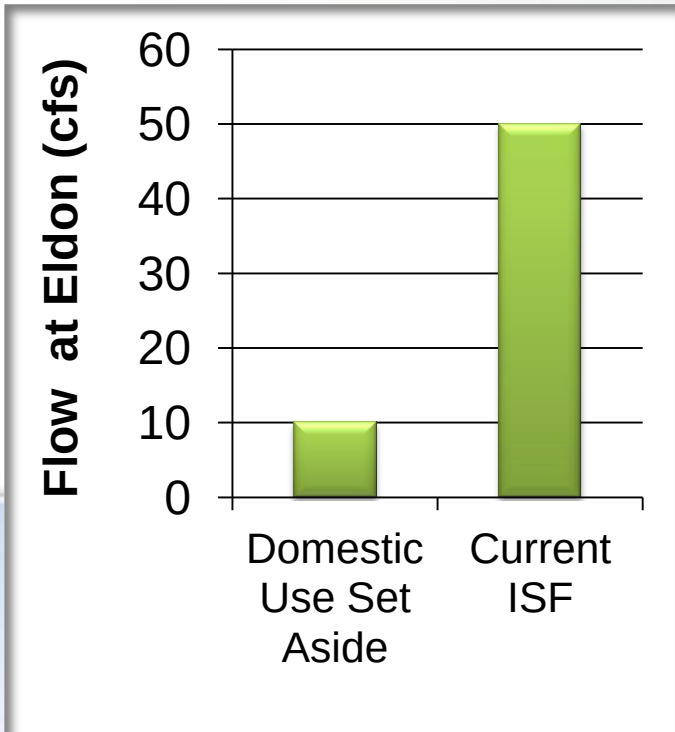
What Can We Learn from the Baron Fork ISF?

- "De facto pilot test" of ISFs in Oklahoma
- Science and policy work interactively
  - OWRB settled on 50 cfs as trigger for suspending permitted withdrawals
- Some potential for implications on consumptive users (e.g., Adair County #5)
- Updated Baron Fork analyses *(CH2M Hill 2013)*
  - Other states' approaches suggest 30-100 cfs ISF goal
  - Domestic use set asides don't meet ISF goals in the Baron Fork



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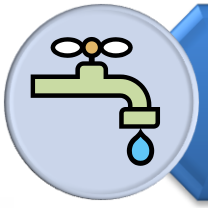
Some Themes are Emerging through the Dialogue



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

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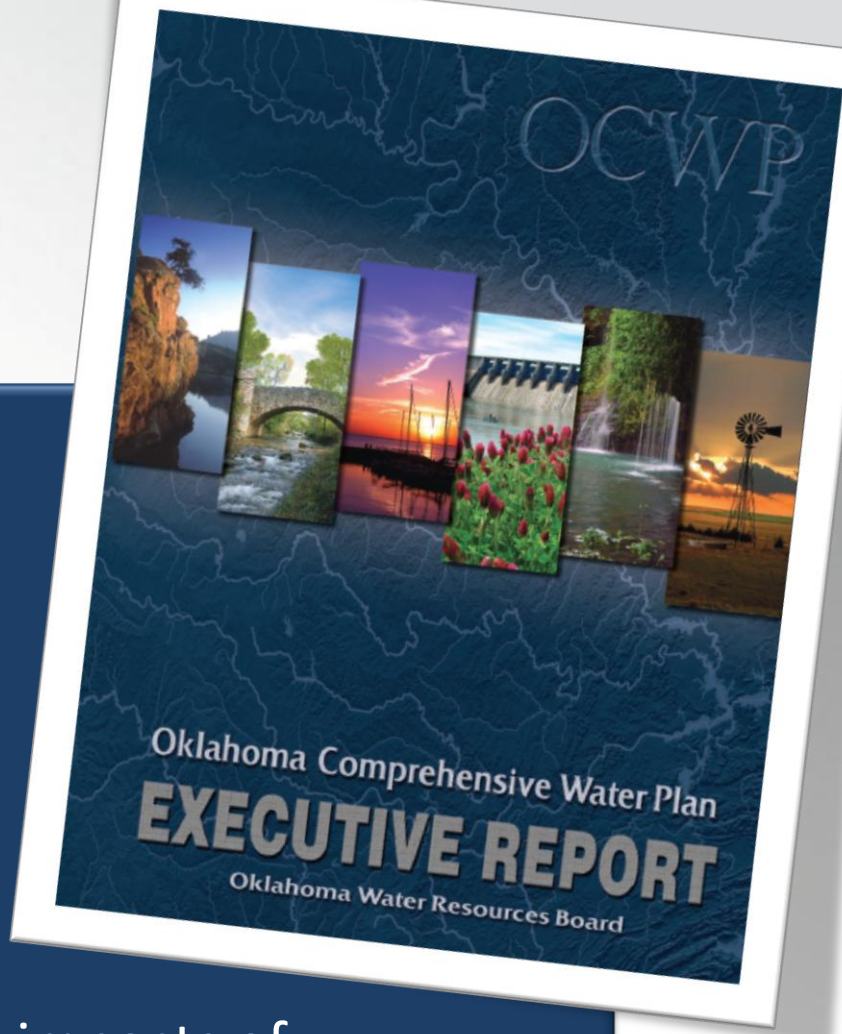
OCWP Workgroup:
Path Forward for Assessing Instream Flow



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Next Steps: Consider an Approach for a Pilot Study in a Scenic River Basin

Scenic River Basin Pilot Study

Where

- Which basin(s) should be studied?

How

- Methods for setting flow goals

What

- Parameters to measure
- Metrics that will answer the questions and assess positive and negative effects

Next ISF Advisory Group Meeting:

Early 2014

http://www.owrb.ok.gov/supply/ocwp/instreamflow.php

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OCWP Instream Flow Advisory Group

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