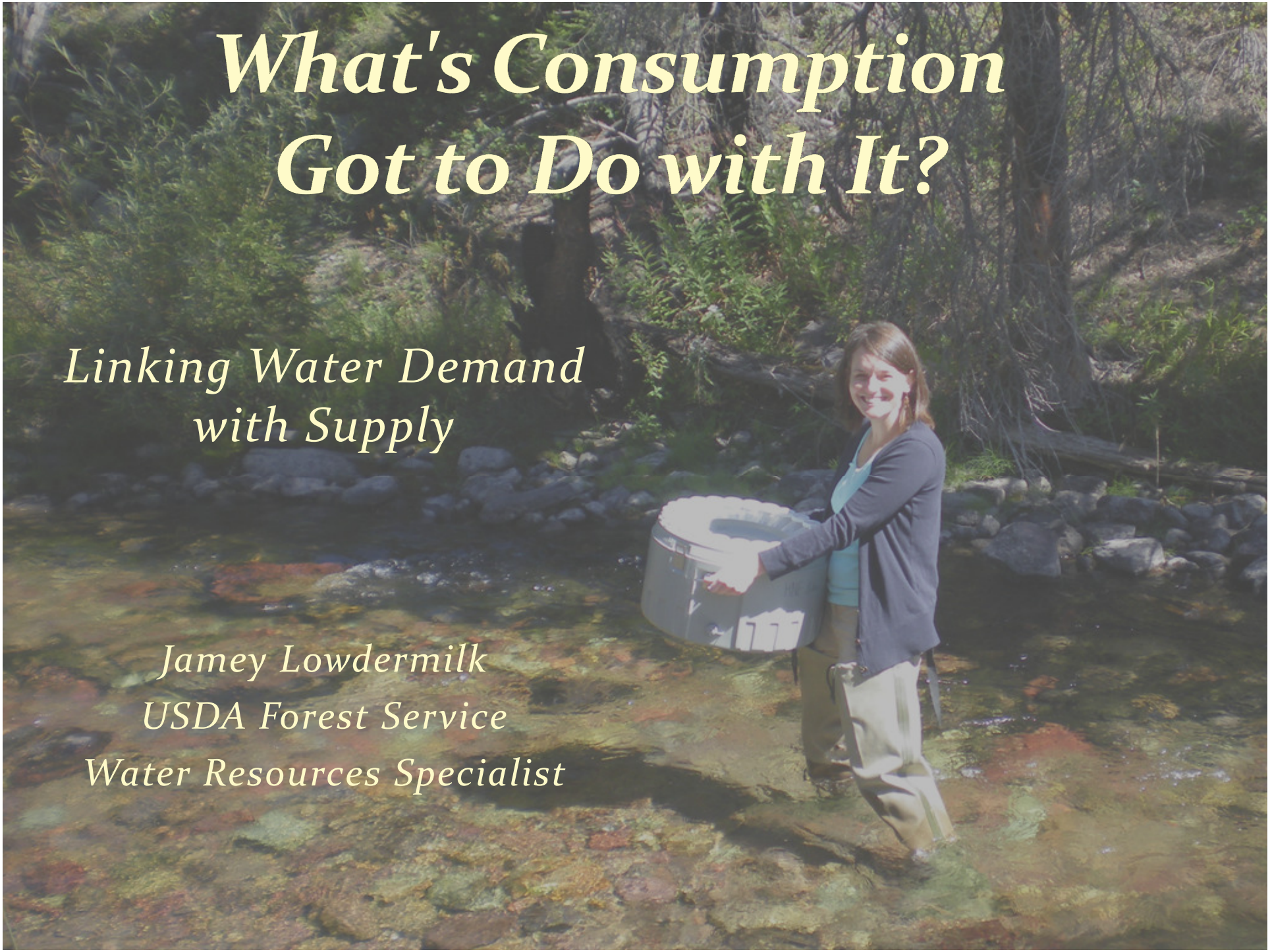
What's Consumption Got to Do with It?

Linking Water Demand with Supply



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Agenda: water

USDA Strategic Plan 2010-2015:

- Protect water resources on National Forest System lands by planning for watershed health
- Increase watershed-based collaborative partnerships … to build community-planning capacity

Emphasis Area designated by Chief Tidwell

Sustainable Operations Footprint Focus Area

National Forests improving infrastructure efficiency and reducing water consumption

Forest Service and Water Supply

National Forest lands and grasslands contain

- 400,000 miles of streams[1]
- 3 million acres of lakes[1]
- aquifer systems[1]

Forest Service

- Manages headwaters for 87% of country's surface supply of drinking water[2]
- Administers 90,000 water rights in cooperation with states[1]
- Supports 200 hydroelectric facilities[1]
- Monitors streamflow, snowpacks, weather, and water quality[1]
- Restores degraded watersheds, streams, and wetlands[1]

Sources: (1) Water, Climate Change, and Forests, Watershed Stewardship for a Changing Climate, PNW-GTR-812, June 2010; (2) USDA Forest Service Strategic Plan FY 2010-2015

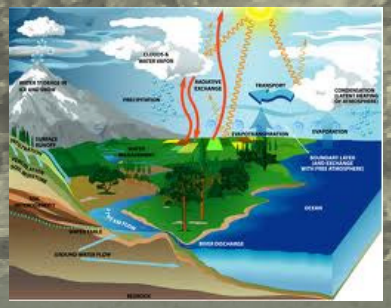
Forest Service and Water Demand

What we know from our 2007 National Environmental Footprint Report:

- Water consumption estimated at 1,002,103,000 gallons
- Associated energy expenditures of $3,063,744
- Water intensity of 29.8 gallons/ gross square foot

What we would like to know:

- Watershed linked with water system analysis –
  - Who are the biggest players?
  - How can we work together?
- Imbedded water picture



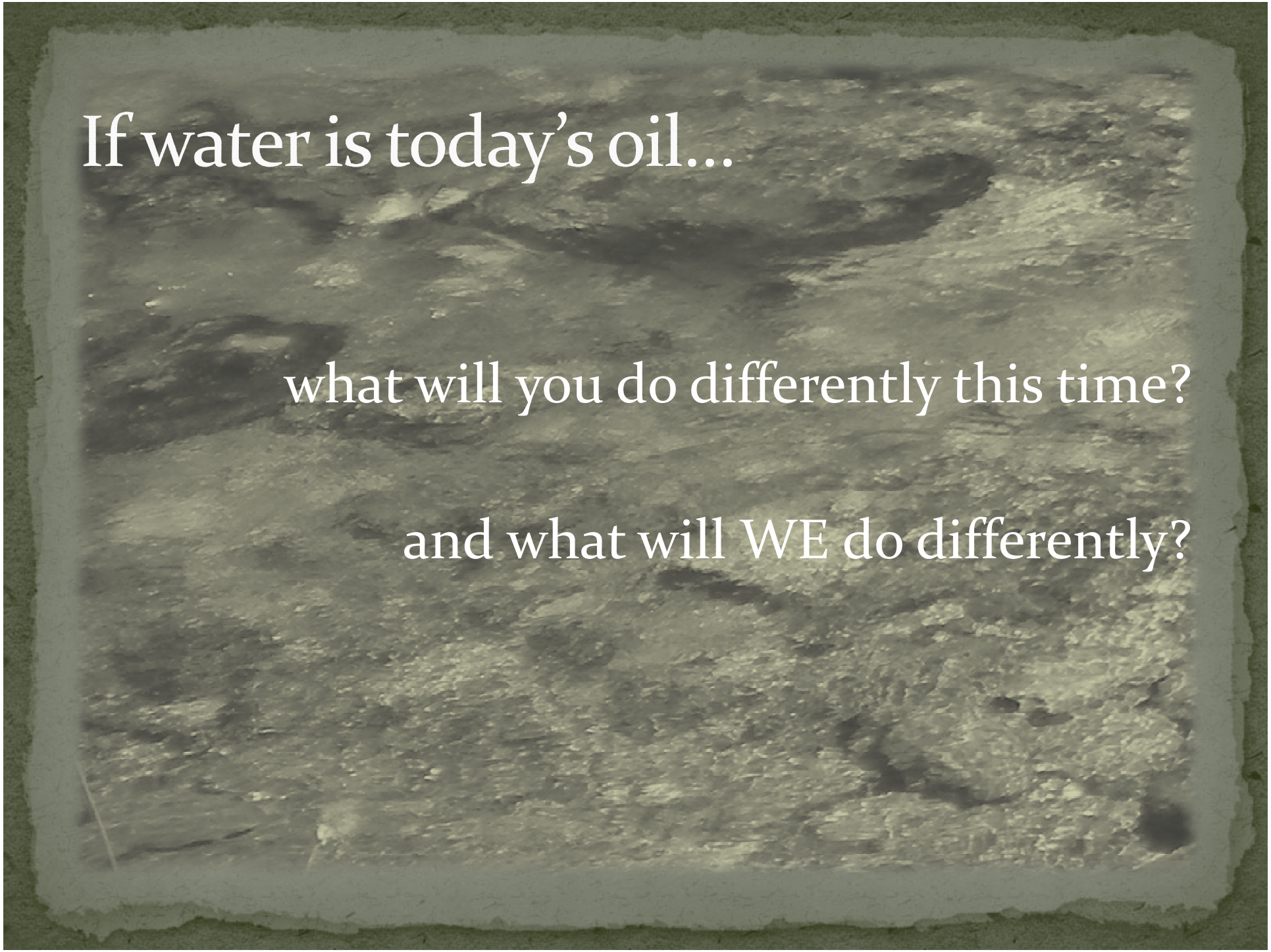
Questions

- How does the Forest Service influence water demand?
- What barriers exist to incorporating demand into our water story?
- How can we illustrate the water system from raindrop to sewer outfall for the Tenmile Watershed incorporating supply and demand?
- Where can we connect supply with demand in our resource management efforts?
- What tools will empower Forest Service managers to address water consumption challenges?

Ideas

- Informal advisory panel to address the consumption piece
- Waterfootprint of the geographic area incorporating the Tenmile watershed on the Helena National Forest and the city of Helena
- General Technical Report on water demand and the Forest Service

- Training modules for Forest Service management focused on water consumption as a component of resource management
- Education materials for student engagement programs


If water is today's oil…
what will you do differently this time?
and what will WE do differently?