

AGENCY BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

Discussion Outline

AGENCY BREAK OUT SESSION - TWO HOURS

We suggest that your group consider the following topics for discussion, set priorities for the most important issues to discuss, allocate an amount of time for discussion of each item, and designate a facilitator. In previous training courses, we have discovered that unless discussion times are actively monitored, overly long discussions at the beginning of the session can preclude discussion of important items later in the agenda.

Important: Please have one person in the group take careful notes of the discussion, so that these notes/conclusions can be transmitted to all participants in the session.

Agency National Perspective

What is happening in the national arena for the agency regarding water and water rights issues (e.g., funding, national priorities, etc.)?

Water Rights Status for the Agency

- What reserved water rights are held by the agency? (refer to tables in notebook)
- What work has been done to quantify, adjudicate, and protect our reserved water rights?
- Do we need to educate field personnel about what reserved water rights we have?
- Where have we established water rights by working through the Alaska water rights system?
- Where do we lack water rights on constructed facilities?
- Do we have a system for systematically tracking water rights owned by the agency?

Delegation and Accomplishment of Water Rights Work

- Who is responsible for reviewing public notices of water rights filed by other parties for potential impact to federal resources and water rights?
- Who is responsible for drafting and filing protests?
- Who is responsible for ensuring that water facilities in each management unit (e.g. wells, reservoirs, spring developments, wildlife developments) have the appropriate water right?
- Who is responsible for maintaining files on water rights and where are those files located?
- How do we earmark personnel and money for accomplishing high priority work?
- Who is the agency's water rights coordinator for Alaska? Are field personnel aware that this person is available as a resource?

Prioritization of Water Rights Work

- If significant water rights work has not been completed, what is the priority for future work?
 - Establishing water rights on all constructed facilities?
 - Establishing instream flow reservations?
 - Is water rights work in certain management units higher priority than other units because of water development threats?
 - Are there major threats or opportunities that we are not addressing?
- Do we need to develop an agency-wide water rights strategy for Alaska? What priorities should be reflected in that strategy?

Water Rights Guidance and Training

- Do we have sufficient guidance for work in Alaska? Are additional manuals, handbooks, or instruction memorandums needed?
- Do we need more field training or work sessions in order to accomplish water rights work?