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## TROUT UNLIMITED'S WESTERN WATER PROJECT<sup>AFS</sup>

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In 1998, Trout Unlimited initiated its Western Water Project in two states, Colorado and Montana, in order to squarely address the problem of dewatered streams. Since then this experiment has paid off with steady progress in both creating additional tools for instream flow protection, and with on-the-ground projects to protect and enhance streamflows. Now five years later, the Western Water Project operates in six states with an additional federal issues staffer in Washington, D.C. Trout Unlimited is beginning to see region-wide results that are grounded in the specifics of each state. Just as the relative success of various "Tools for Instream Flow Protection" presented today are necessarily specific to particular river basins and tributaries, each Western state has its own politics, culture, and laws governing

water. One of the strengths of the Western Water Project is its ability to share knowledge across state boundaries, and gain a perspective on the uniqueness of state-based water law and politics. This presentation will compare and contrast the relative progress among the Intermountain West states, focusing on how other states compare to Montana's streamflow protection efforts. This presentation will attempt to integrate this AFS Meetings' prior presentations in the context of a broader, west-wide view, and set the stage for specific, Montana examples of streamflow protection that will follow. Inviting discussion, this presentation will conclude with suggestions on how Montana may be able to incorporate some of the progressive elements of streamflow protection that exists in other Western states.