

Instream Lease Program Update

April 20, 2012

**Dwight French
Water Right Services Division**



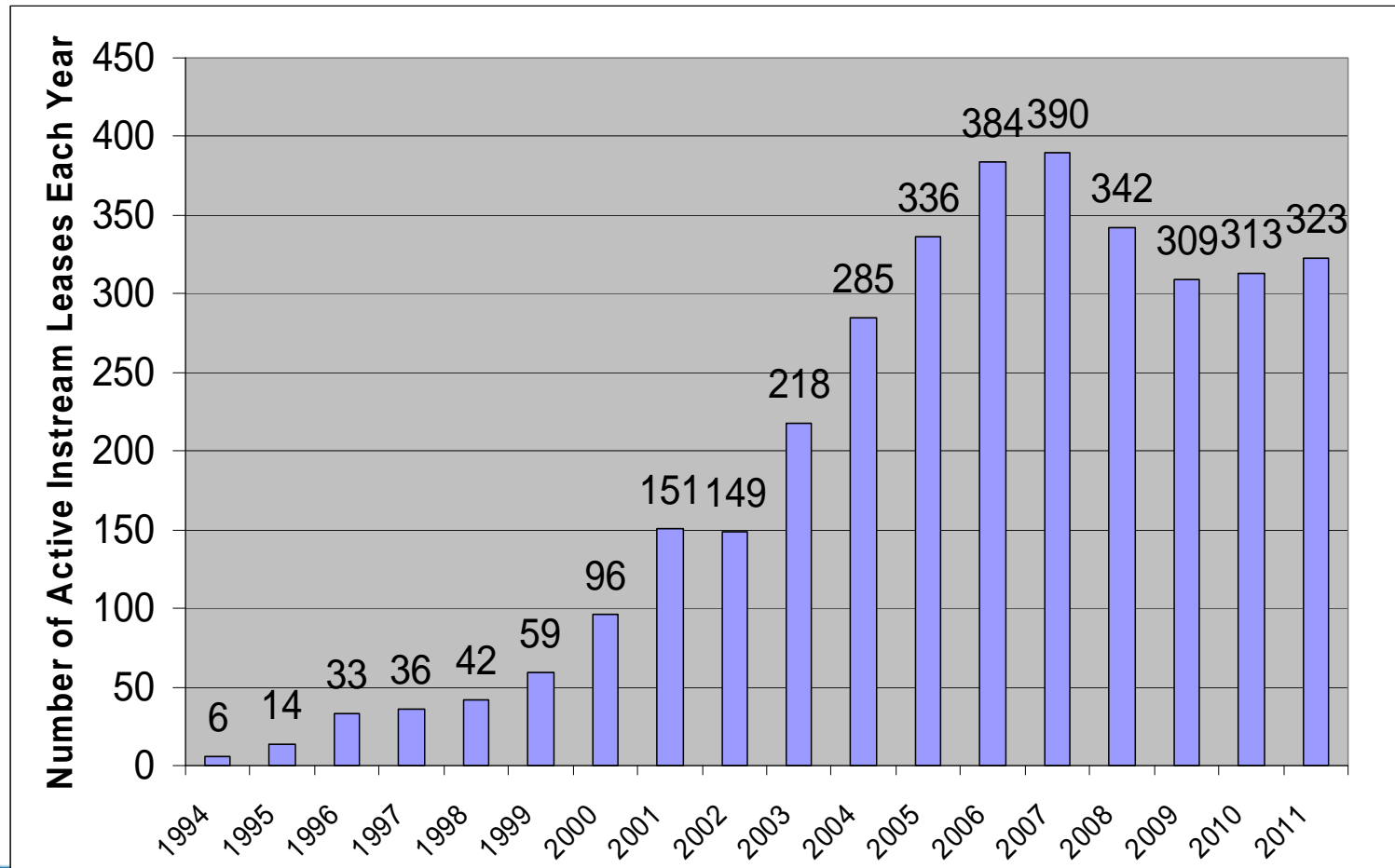
History

- Instream Lease: Part of Instream Water Right Act of 1987
- First lease submitted: 1994
- Split Season Leases: 2001 Legislation
- Current 5 year average: 335

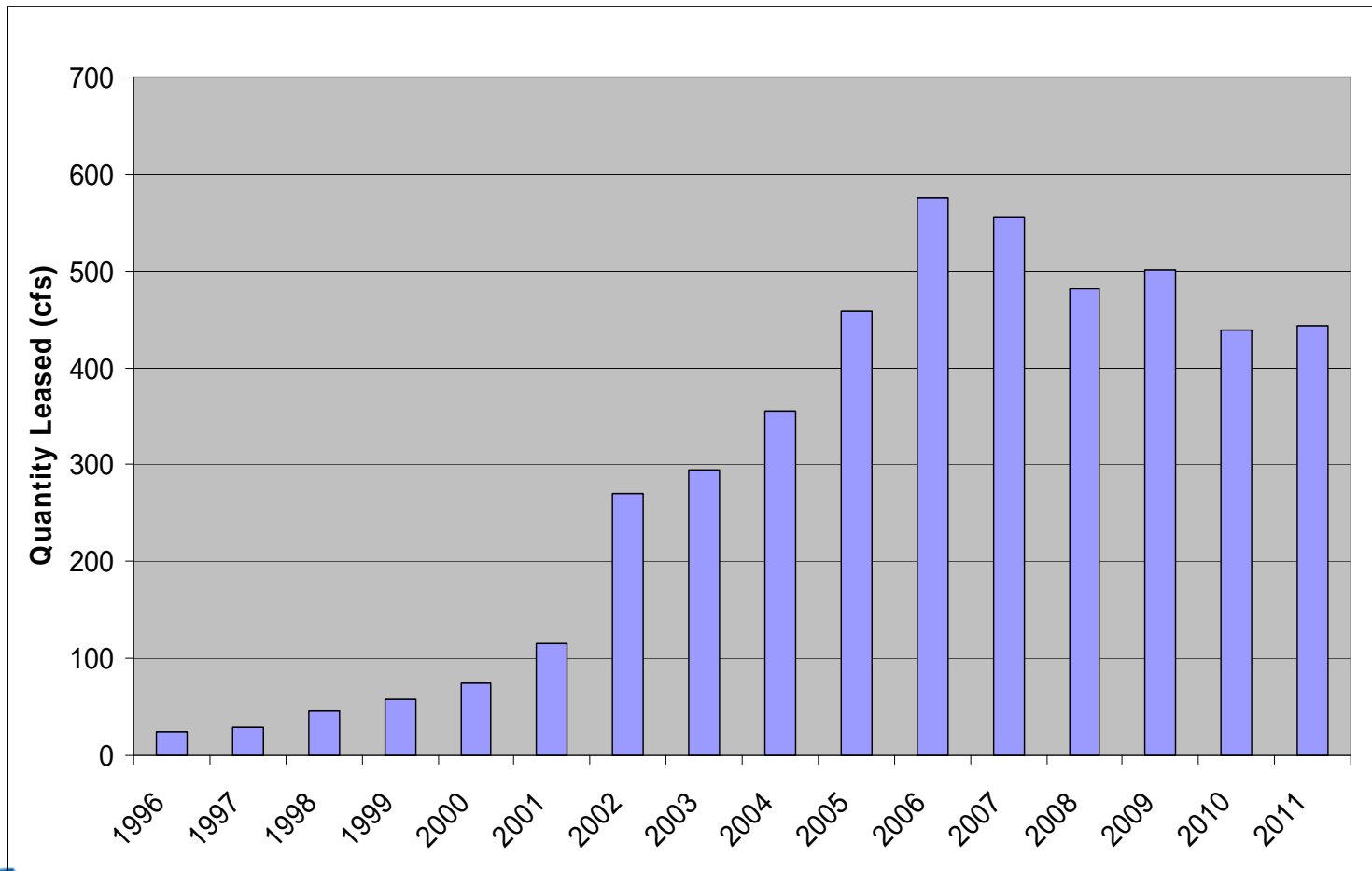


Instream Lease Activity per Year

(Applications)



Quantity of Water Leased Instream per Year



Reviewing Lease Applications

- 30-45 days
- No injury to other water rights
- No enlargement of the water right
- Watermaster involvement before lease submitted
- Can be modified or revoked if injury or enlargement occurs.



Injury and Enlargement

- Survey identified two cases of injury:
(water rights were still being exercised)
Both leases were terminated.
- One instance of enlargement:
Department identified that the creek was losing surface water to groundwater. After investigation and study, subsequent leases incorporated 50% loss factor.



Split Season Leasing

- 14 S-S leases submitted
- Program sunsets 1/2/2014
- WRD working with stakeholders to fine tune a concept for 2013 session to remove or extend the sunset.
- Expect report to WRC in November of 2012.



Related Actions in the IWRS



**Recommended Action 10.A
Increase Water-Use Efficiency
and Water Conservation**

**Recommended Action 11.B.
Develop Additional Instream
Protections**



End

