

 **Water Issues in Washington**
Washington Policy Center
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Kathleen Collins
Capitol Strategies Consulting
Washington Water Policy Alliance

- * Backlog - 7,000 total applications
 - * 1,200 are transfer/changes, 5,700 new
 - * About 500 more filed each year
 - * Bulk of backlog - 4,000 - are 10 to 20 years old
 - * Most basins have 50 to 70 pending
 - * A few have lots more - Yakima - 900 and Whatcom - 700

* Facts and Figures

- * Permit staffing fluctuated - processing pace remained even
- * Average 7 decisions per staff per year
- * With reduction to 40 now about 5 ½ per staff per year

* Processing and staffing

- * Retain basic structure - property right, seniority

- * Modernize

 - * Transfers and changes

 - * Relinquishment - look back period

 - * Information system

*** Modernize don't Undo**

- * Ecology - Less do and more review
 - * Use private consultants
- * Applicant - Do preparation
 - * Save time, more cost
- * Information on what's needed early, then stick to it
- * Appeals - streamline
 - * Complaints early, Pay fee to appeal

*** Reform who does what how**

* Land use

* Exempt wells

* Banking and reclaimed

* Funding

*** Issues old and new**

* We never know the worth of water till the well is dry - Thomas Fuller

* Water flows uphill towards money.
~Anonymous, saying in the American West,
quoted by Ivan Doig in Marc Reisner, Cadillac
Desert, 1986

* **A drop of wisdom**

* *Once during prohibition, I was forced to live for days on nothing but food and water - WC Fields*

* Remember - water is necessary for everything - even whiskey

* **And finally**