

Meeting the Challenge

WAPAC recommendations

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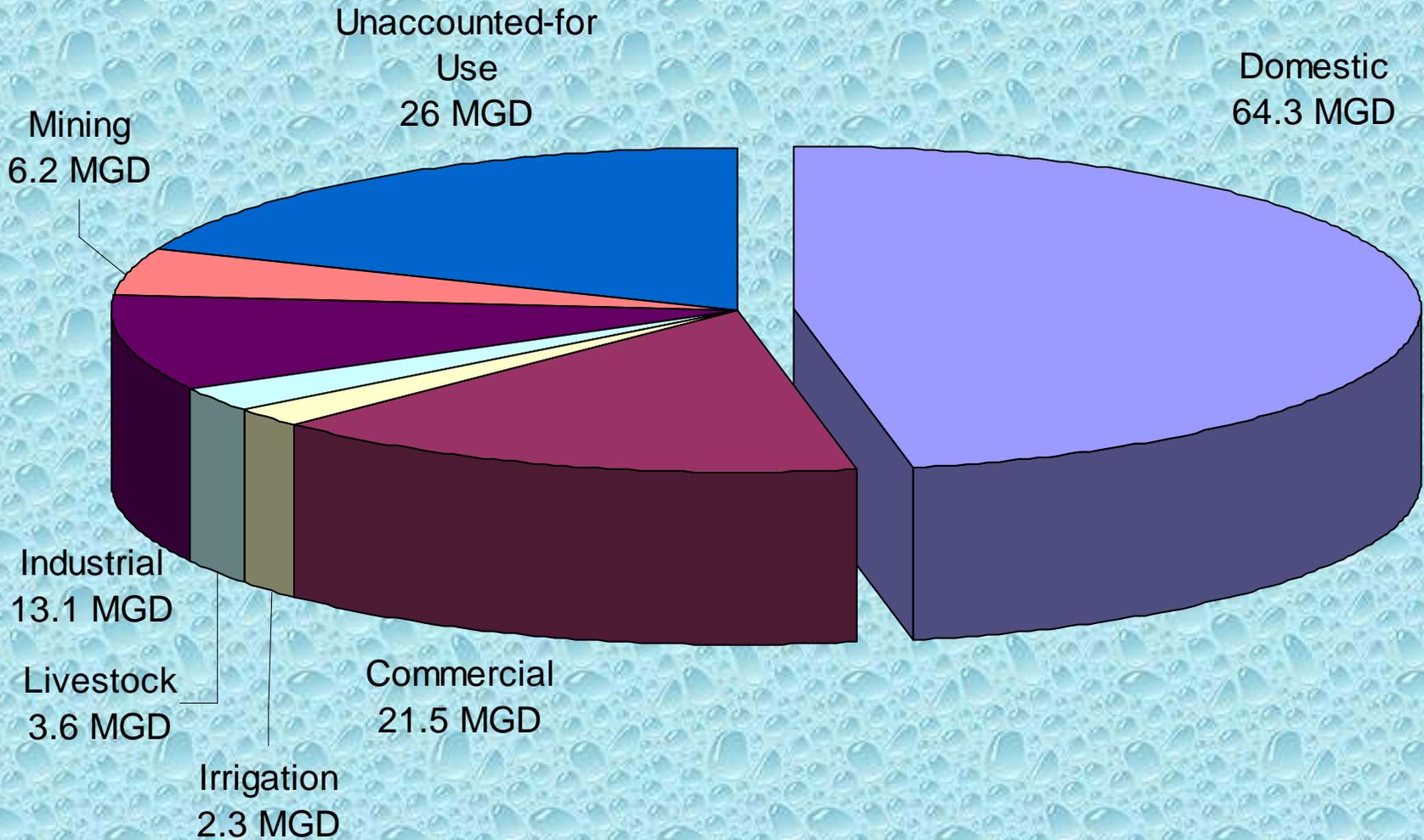
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Water-Use Perceptions

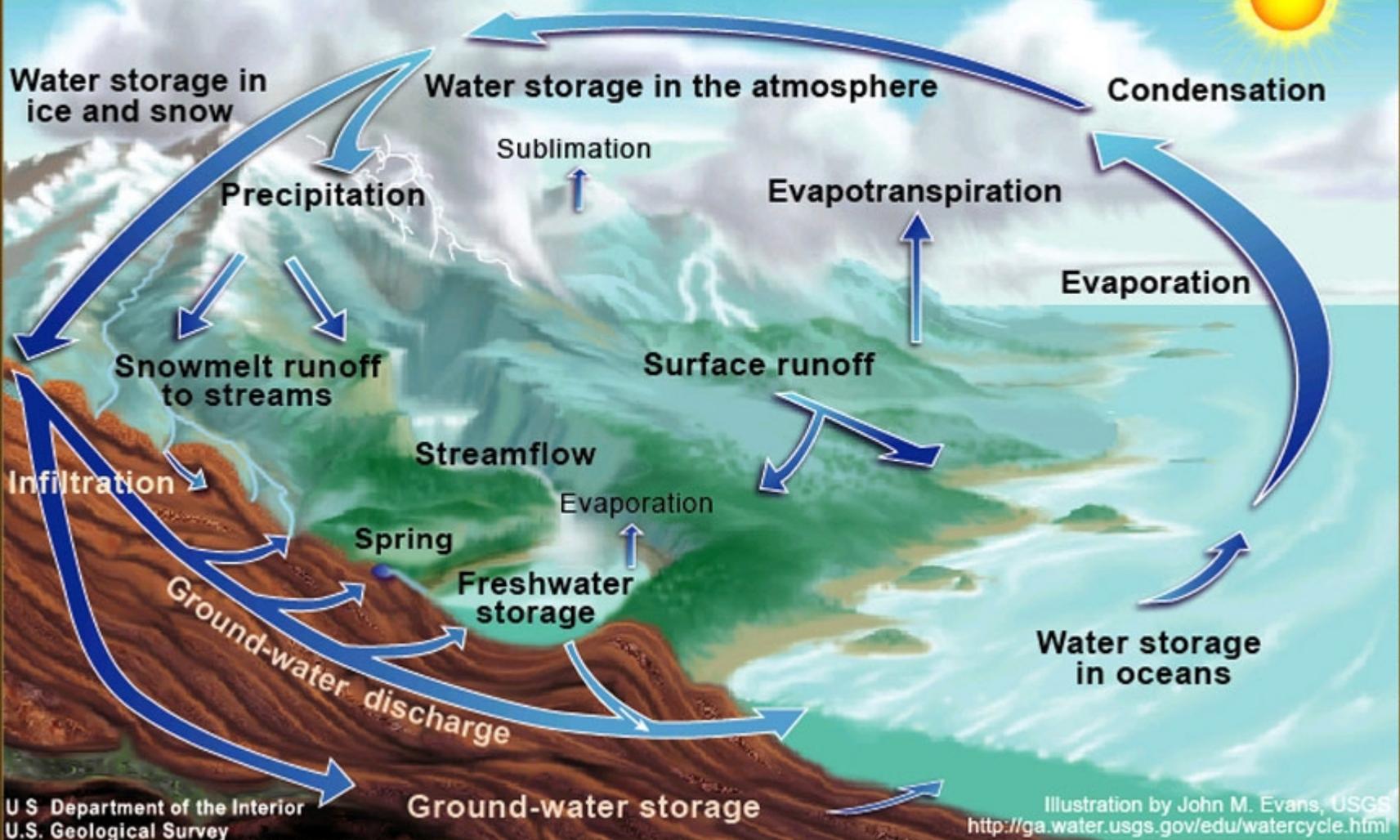


Total Withdrawals by Water-Use Category - Rhode Island 1995



Data from: Estimated Use of Water in the United States in 1995, USGS Circular 1200

The Water Cycle



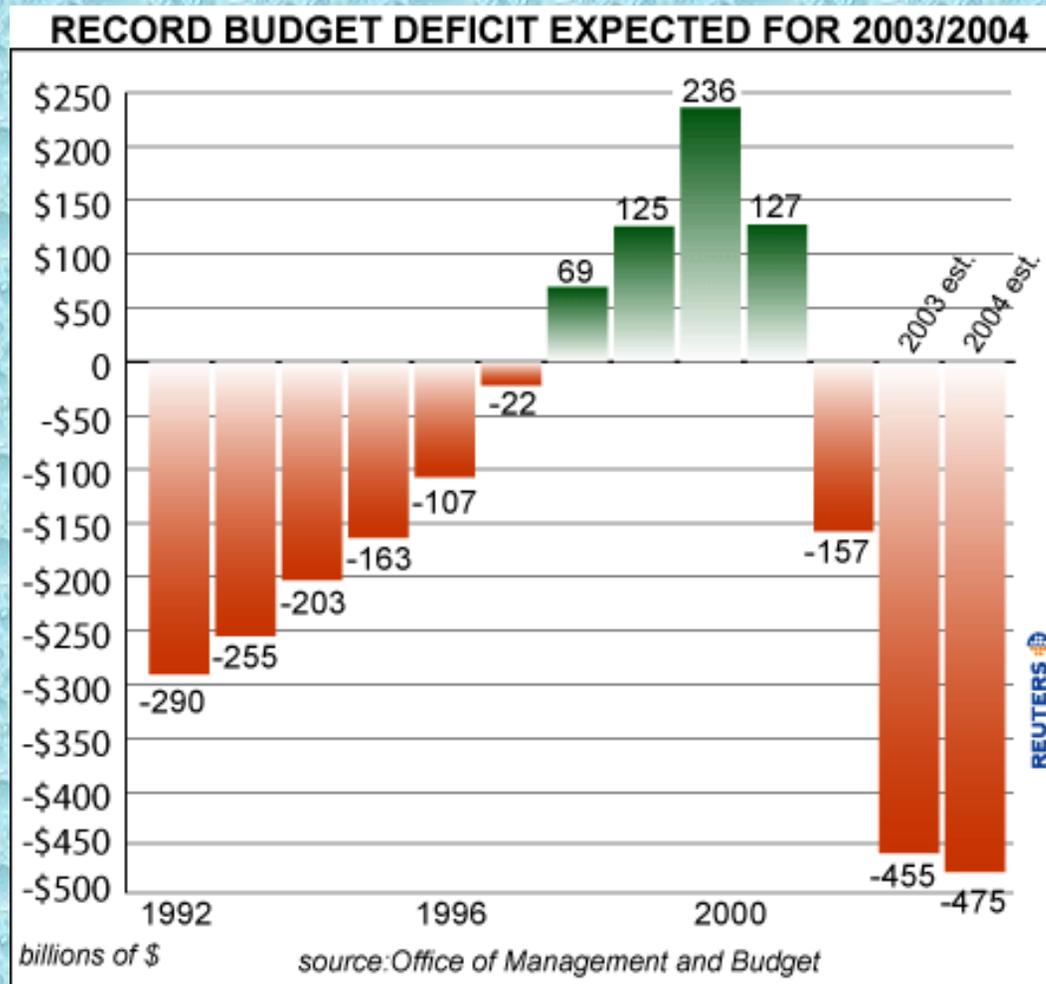
Meeting the Challenge

- Requires high-quality water resources data
- Requires development of water resource management policies and procedures
- Requires education of general public, legislators, and government officials

Long-Term Goal - Balancing the Hydrologic Budget

- Determine acceptable level of environmental impact
- Determine acceptable frequency of use restrictions (ie 1 in 4 years)
- Determine withdrawal capacity within environmental impact and frequency restrictions

Not so simple!



Moving Forward

- Recognition of potential crisis, in 1999 Water Resources Board named as sole authority to devise a fair and equitable allocation of water resources
- The WRB, in turn, formed the Water Allocation Program Advisory Committee (WAPAC)

WAPAC

- WAPAC charged with developing recommendations for program development and implementation
- Included 10 sub-committees with representation from all sectors

WAPAC sub-committees

- Education & Public Relations
- Water Rates
- Integrated Water/Wastewater
- Impact Analysis, Priority Uses
- Out-of-Basin Transfers
- Stream Flow Standards
- Joint Advocacy/Funding/Reporting
- Water Rights & Regulatory Authority
- Water-Use Reporting
- Water Registration (merged with Water-use reporting)

WAPAC Recommendations adopted by WRB

- Adopt a priority water use policy
- Create a water management system using a watershed approach
- Expand the water use data reporting system
- Establish a water allocation program implementation team
- Establish a separate WRB/DEM/USGS Partnership to be known as the Streamflow working group
- Develop an Education and Outreach Program

Approach

- Decisions must be data driven
- Solution: WAPAC recommendation #3 – Expand water use data reporting system
 - How much is being used?
 - Where is it being used?
 - What is it being used for?
 - How much is available?

Expand Water-Use Reporting System

- Major suppliers – report monthly withdrawal data
- Major suppliers – evaluate feasibility of quarterly reporting of use by category (ie domestic, commercial, etc)
- Self-suppliers and minor public suppliers – voluntary reporting of water use
- Maintain and expand the Stream Gage Network
- Continue additional information gathering (basin studies, safe yield, build out, etc)

Significant Outcomes

- 88% of all water use will be captured through monthly reporting by major suppliers
- Expanded stream gaging network is providing data at over 20 sites
- Additional data gathering
 - *Water-use studies*
 - *State-wide build-out analysis*

Next Steps

- **The easy work is done!**
Framework is in place to gather needed information.
- **Now for the hard part!**
Reaching consensus on sustainable water resource development goals and developing data-driven implementation programs.