



*Food and Agriculture Priorities for
the Next Administration*

National Press Club
Washington, D.C.
September 13, 2016

Western Land and Water Challenges



Dan Keppen
Executive Director



San Luis Reservoir
Los Banos , California August 4, 2016



About the Alliance





SO WHAT CAN
Washington do to protect
against drought and
ensure we have clean
drinking water?

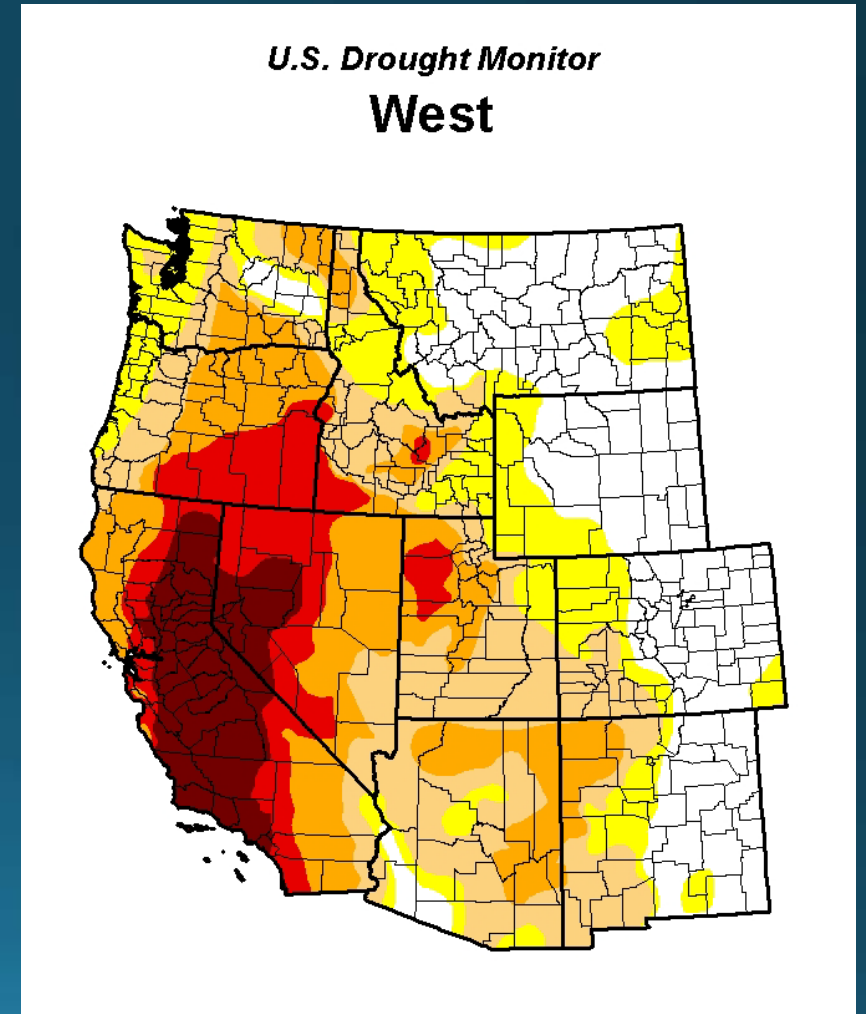
Our respondents weren't
impressed with how the
2016 presidential
candidates have proposed
addressing these issues. In
fact, they haven't heard
much at all.

*"It would be nice to have it
even mentioned."*

**Dan Keppen, executive
director of the Family
Farm Alliance.**

Stressors to Agricultural Water

- Drought
- Urban Development
- Aesthetics / Recreation
- Environmental Demands

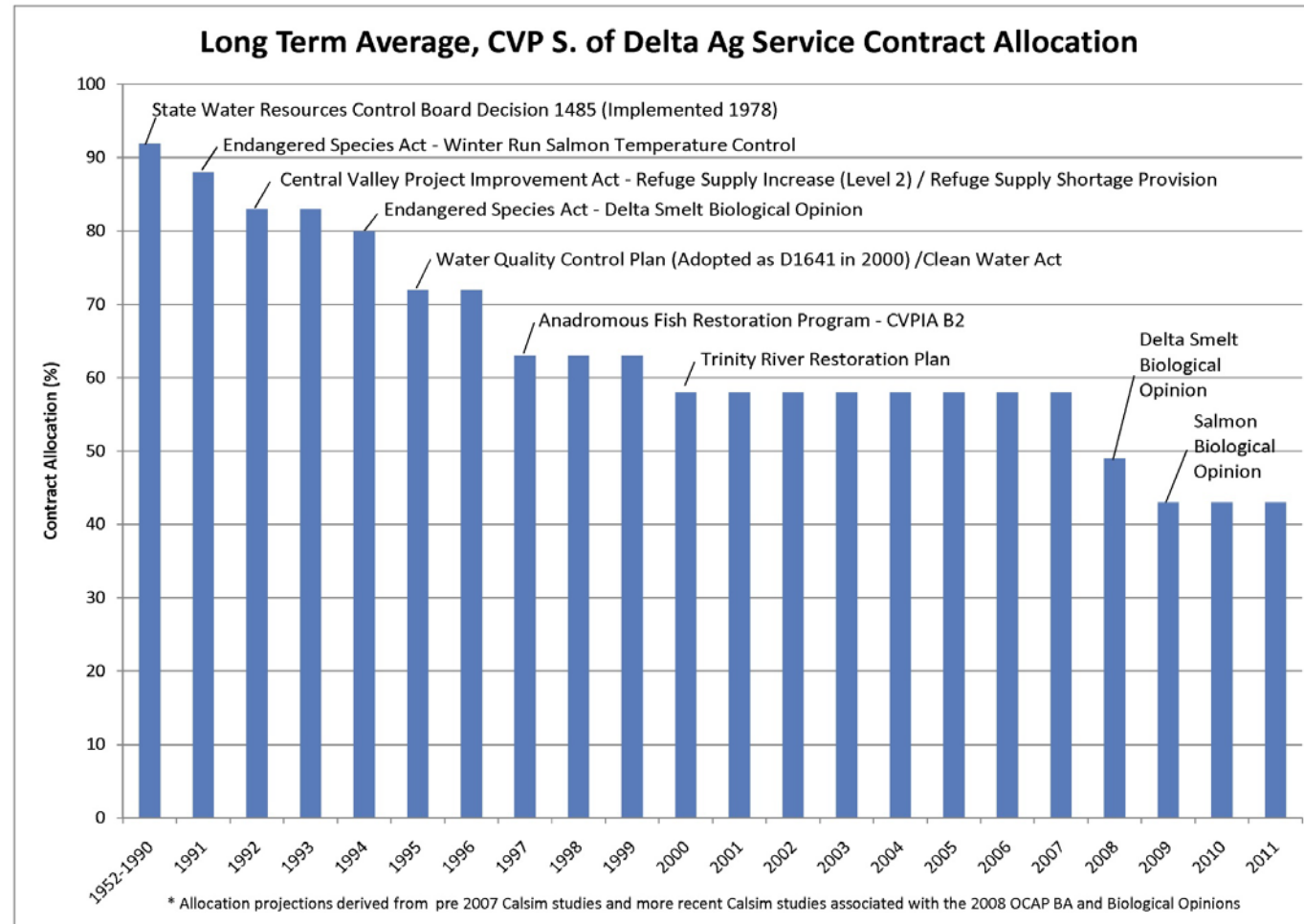


2015 Farm Water Drought Impacts to California Agriculture

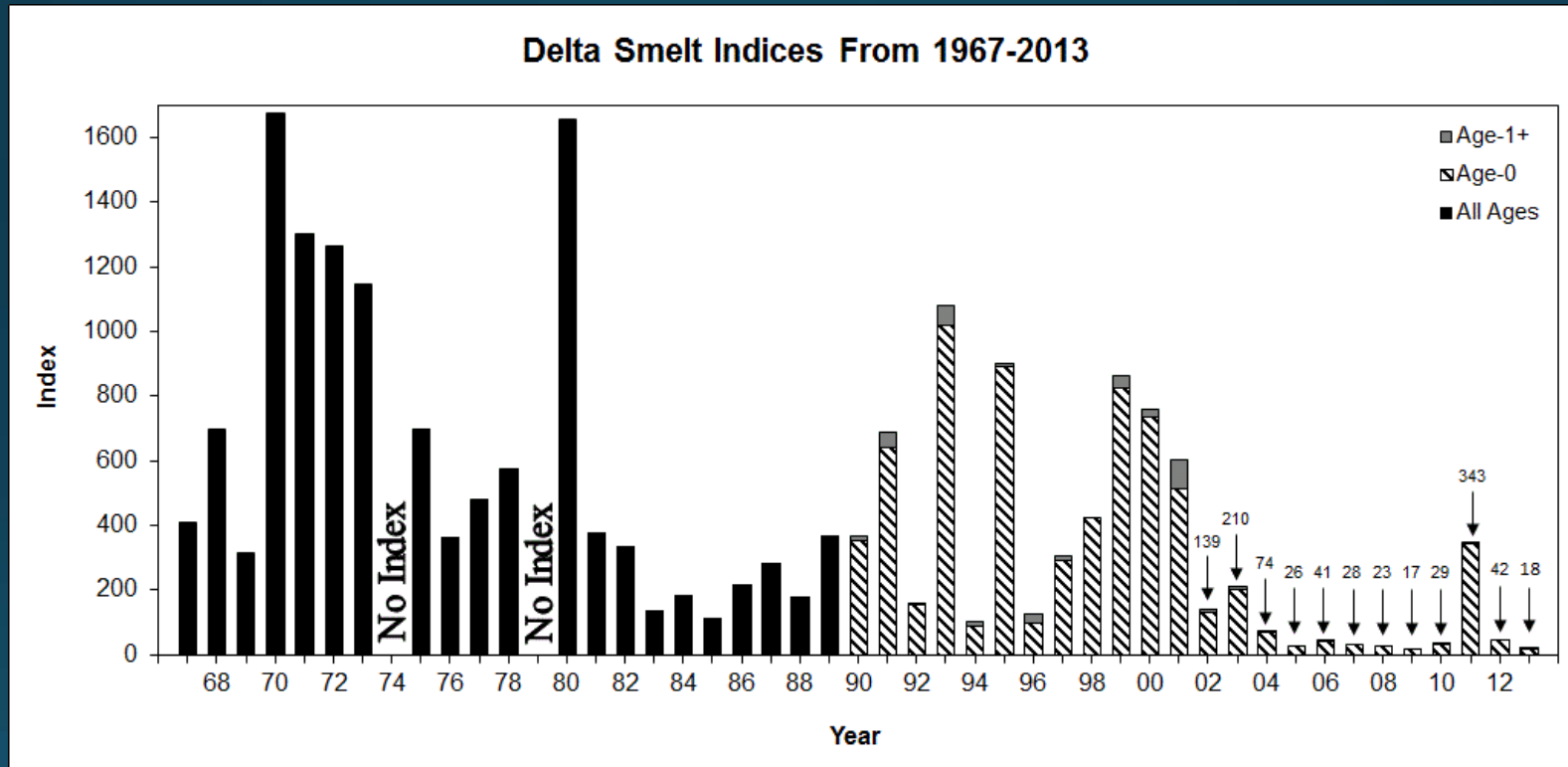
- 21,000 Lost Jobs = \$2.7 Billion in Lost Economic Activity
- 15% Increased Prices to Consumers
- \$2 Billion Direct Farm Losses
- 542,000 Acres of Farmland Fallowed



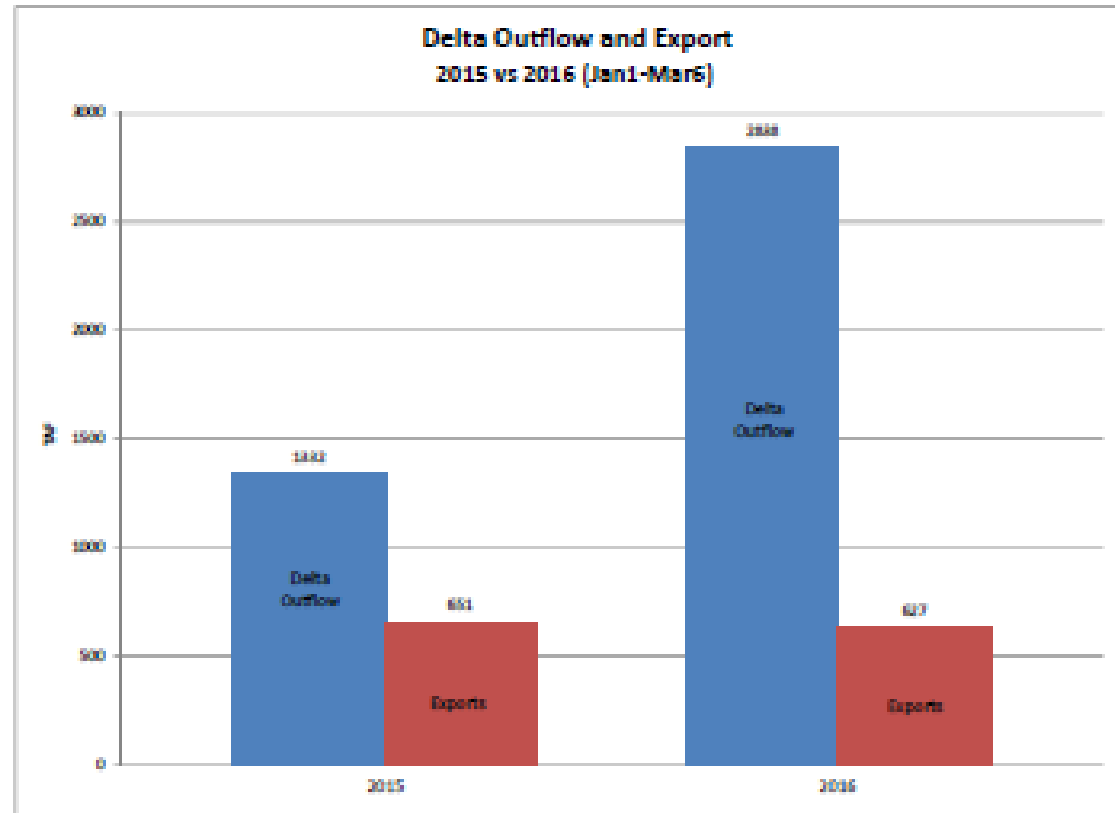
Death by two dozen regulatory cuts



How have delta smelt populations responded?



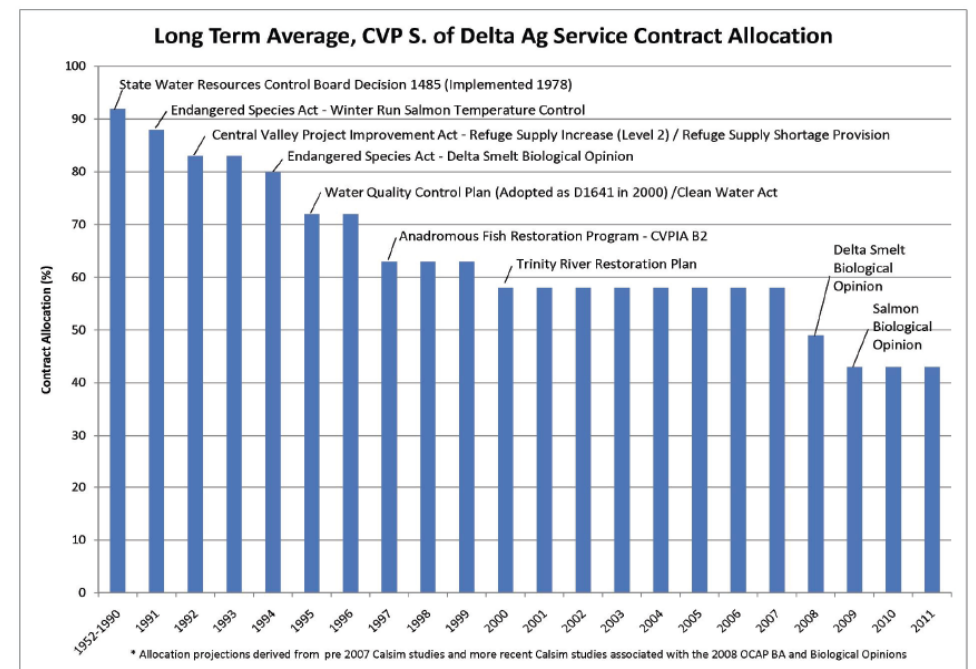
REGULATORY DROUGHT: A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words



T. Boardman, SLOMWA
4/1/2016

What the new Administration can do

- Improve ESA implementation re: transparency and species recovery
- Require fish and wildlife agencies to inject some reality, set priorities and be accountable in their effort to manage the environmental share of the water pie



WGA ESA Initiative Common Themes

- Incentivizing Proactive Voluntary Conservation
- The Role of State and Local Governments in Species Conservation and ESA Implementation
- Landscape Level Conservation and Ecosystem Management
- Investment in Science and Measurable Outcomes:
- Listing, Recovery and Delisting Process of the ESA Law and Policy Recommendations



What the new Administration can do

- Encourage accurate measurement & portrayal of water use & beneficial use data.
- Find ways to streamline regulatory hurdles assist in developing new storage projects & other necessary infrastructure improvements.



What the new Administration can do

- Provide additional funding to support programs that provide incentive-driven cost share money for new water conservation projects.



What the new Administration can do

- Protect and respect water rights
- Provide alternative financing mechanisms to give water users tools to address aging and insufficient water infrastructure needs

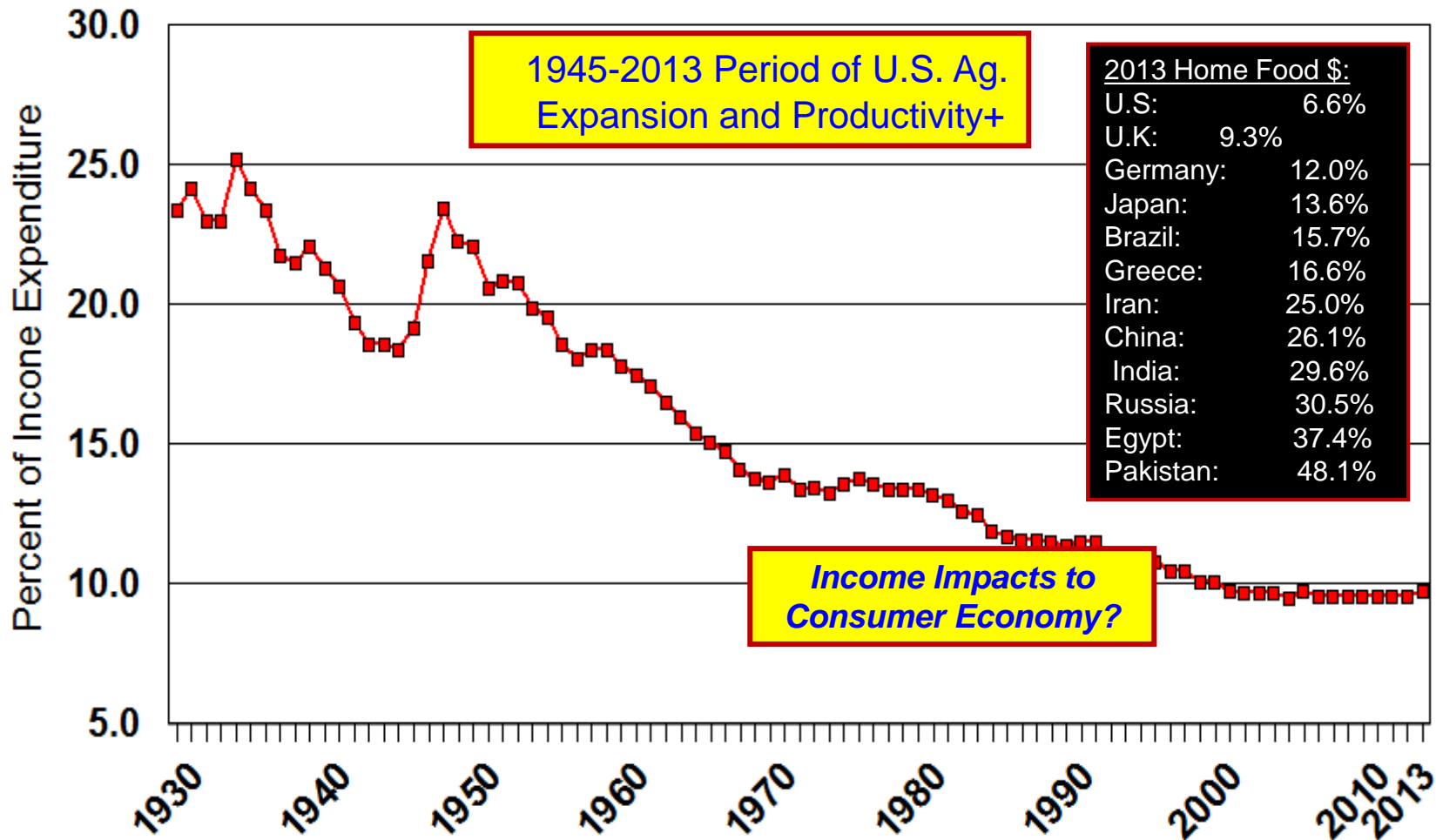


What the new Administration can do

Underscore the Economic Significance of Agriculture

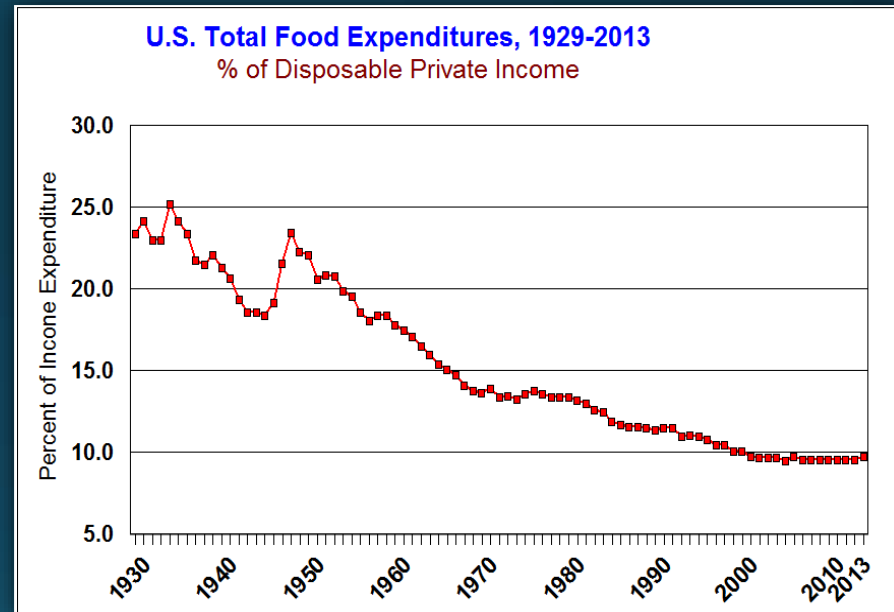
U.S. Total Food Expenditures, 1929-2013

% of Disposable Private Income

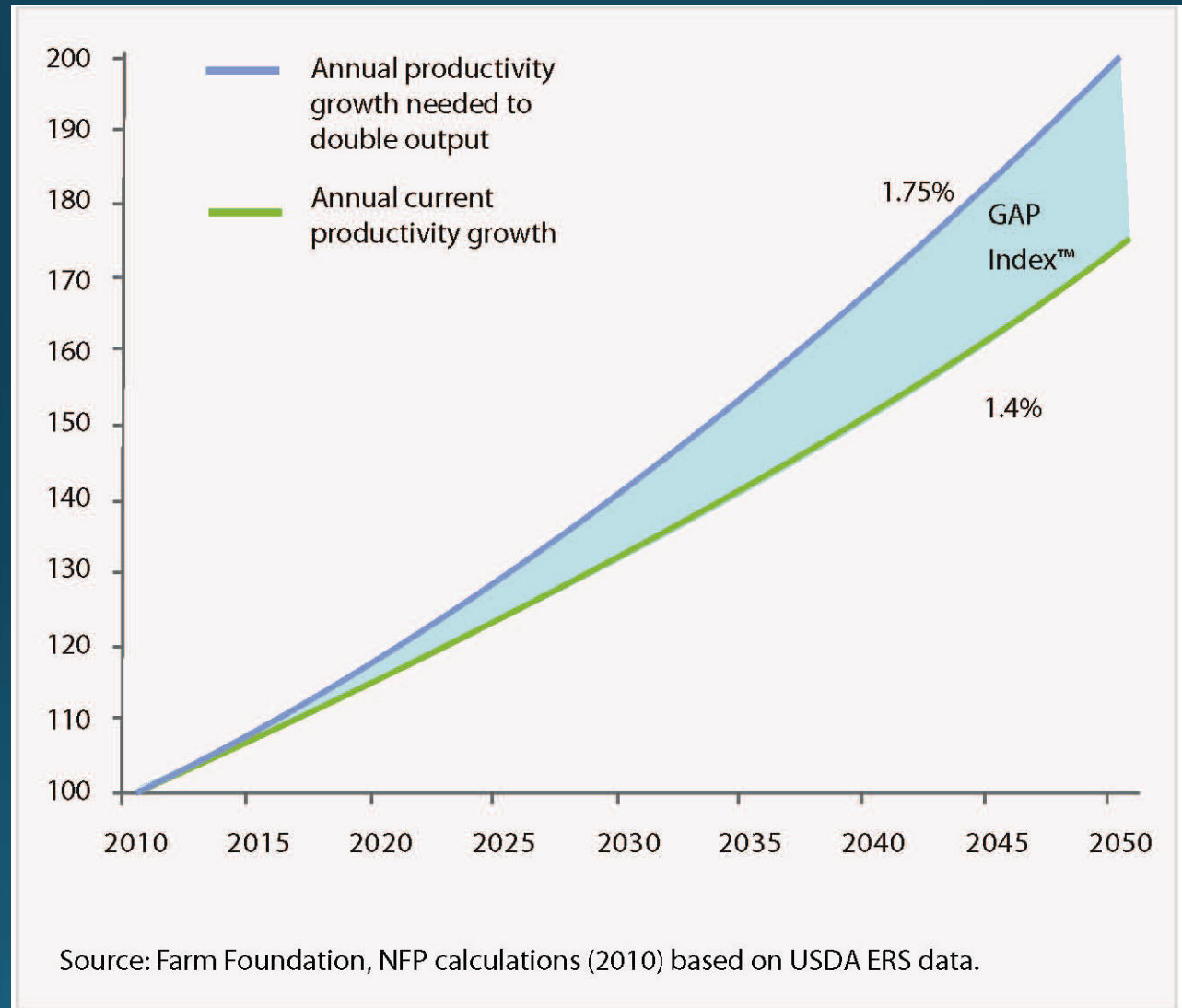


Other Ways to Improve Decision Making

- Bring the question of U.S. food security into the economic analysis of irrigation projects.
- Make sure the issue is recognized by decision makers.



The World Food Supply “GAP”



A New Paradigm

- We would like to see water policy officials run another scenario: one that assumes that irrigated acreage will not be diminished, and may, in fact, need to be expanded.



Concerns

- We cannot continue to downplay or ignore the negative implications of reallocating more agricultural water supplies from Western watersheds to meet new urban and environmental water demands.



Disconnects



Op-Ed: Rural America Is Back In Business

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7, 2016 —

By: Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack

“....it's good news that in all corners of rural America, we're seeing real, positive change take hold for the first time in the years since the Great Recession.”

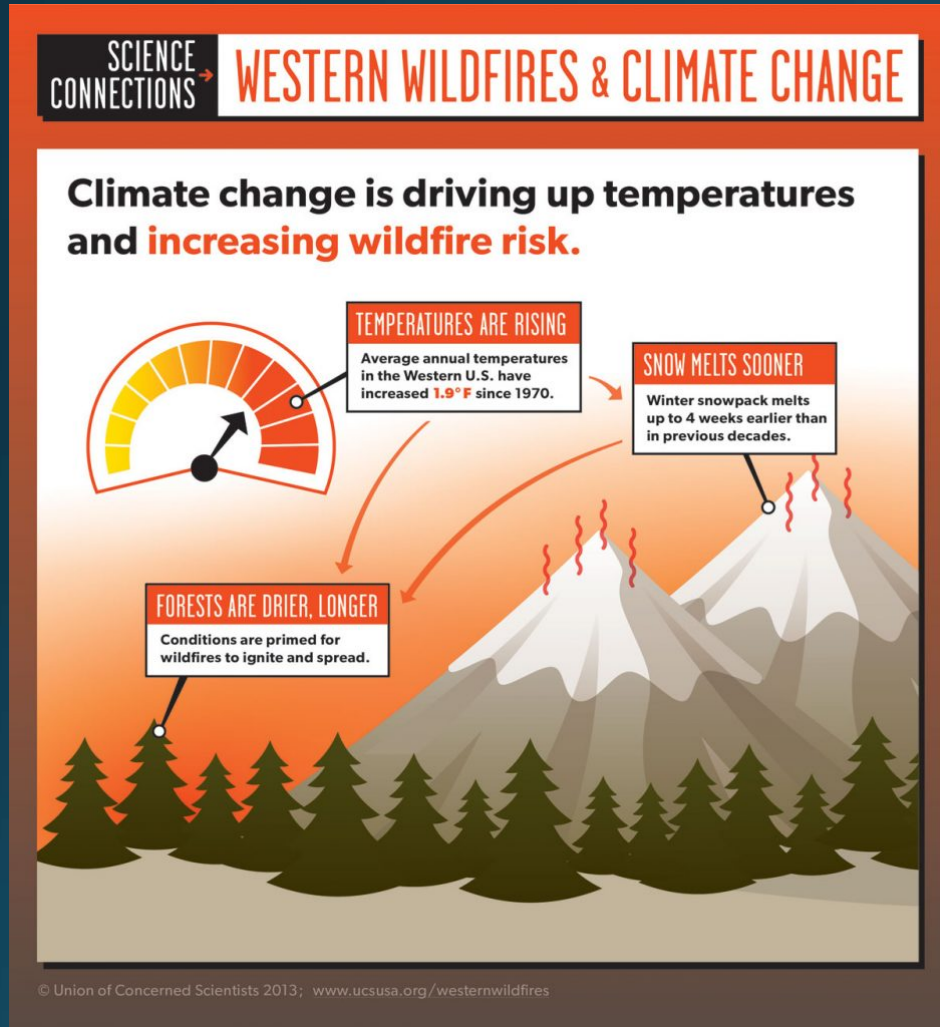
The Oregonian

**Extreme poverty in rural Oregon persists
amid broader recovery**

September 2, 2016
Oregonian – Front Page



Disconnects



Disconnects



Central Valley Regulatory Drought
Journal Article
Published in 2015

Disconnects



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"....it's good news that in all corners of rural America, we're seeing real, positive change take hold for the first time in the years since the Great Recession."

Reactions

“Wow, oh wow; are you kidding me? Clearly he hasn't visited "our" rural areas of multiple food bank deliveries to many "prosperous" people he's encountered.”

Fresno County, California

“Imagine how much worse it could have been from the double digit unemployment, overwhelming need for social support, billions of lost economic activity, ignored socio-environmental damage and broken dreams, with absolutely no benefit for fish species? Apparently we’re not rural enough.”

Los Banos, California

“He doesn't have a land loan an equipment loan and an operating loan trying to make a profit to feed a family and repay loans with very little or no water to grow a crop.”

Yuma, Arizona

Conclusion

- The new Administration must clearly understand the importance of Western irrigated agriculture and the implications associated with drying up land currently producing food in the West.
- We'll do our best to advocate towards that end.

