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# Some Considerations Regarding Water Right Permitting in Idaho

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## Idaho Perspectives – Two New Considerations for Municipal Water Rights

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1. Conjunctive Administration is Coming
2. Other water users provide out-of-the-box opportunities for municipalities



# Prediction...

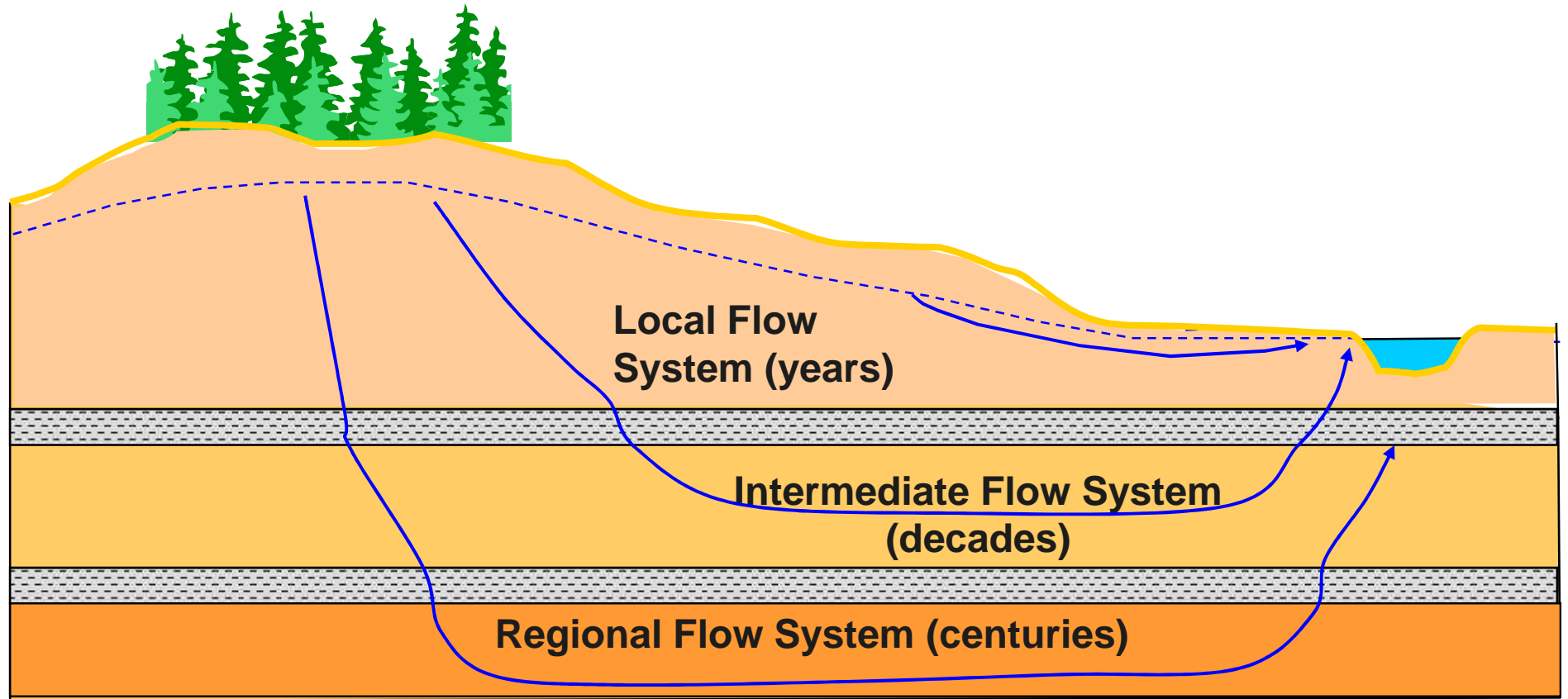
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Relative to water delivery in many basins in Idaho...

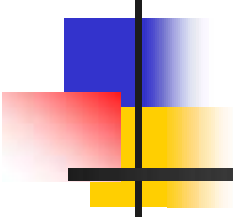
# Change

is coming  
between now and 2020

# Ground Water Flow Systems



Why consider conjunctive relationships between ground water and surface water?



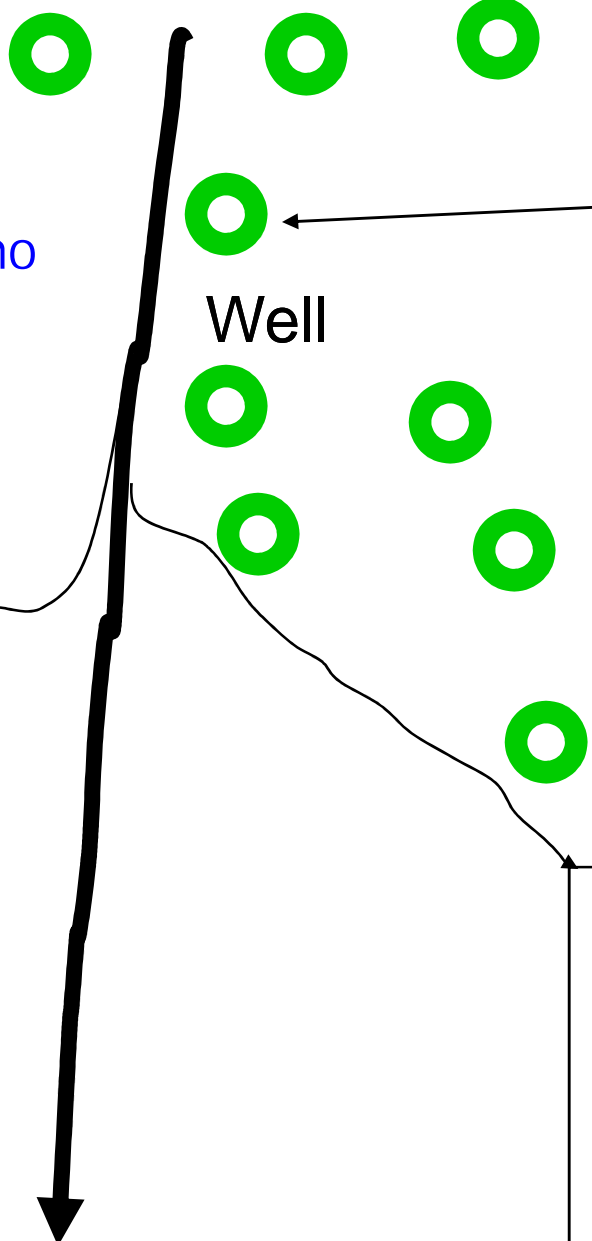
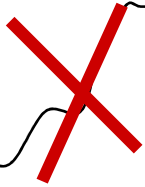
In Idaho the appropriation doctrine  
is used for the delivery both  
surface water rights and ground  
water rights—

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“first in time is first in right”

Administered by a State of Idaho  
Water District  
which hires a Watermaster

Mr. Black  
Irrigation of  
60 acres  
1.2 cfs  
6/17/1887



Mrs. Clark  
Irrigation of  
500 acres  
10.0 cfs  
6/16/1982

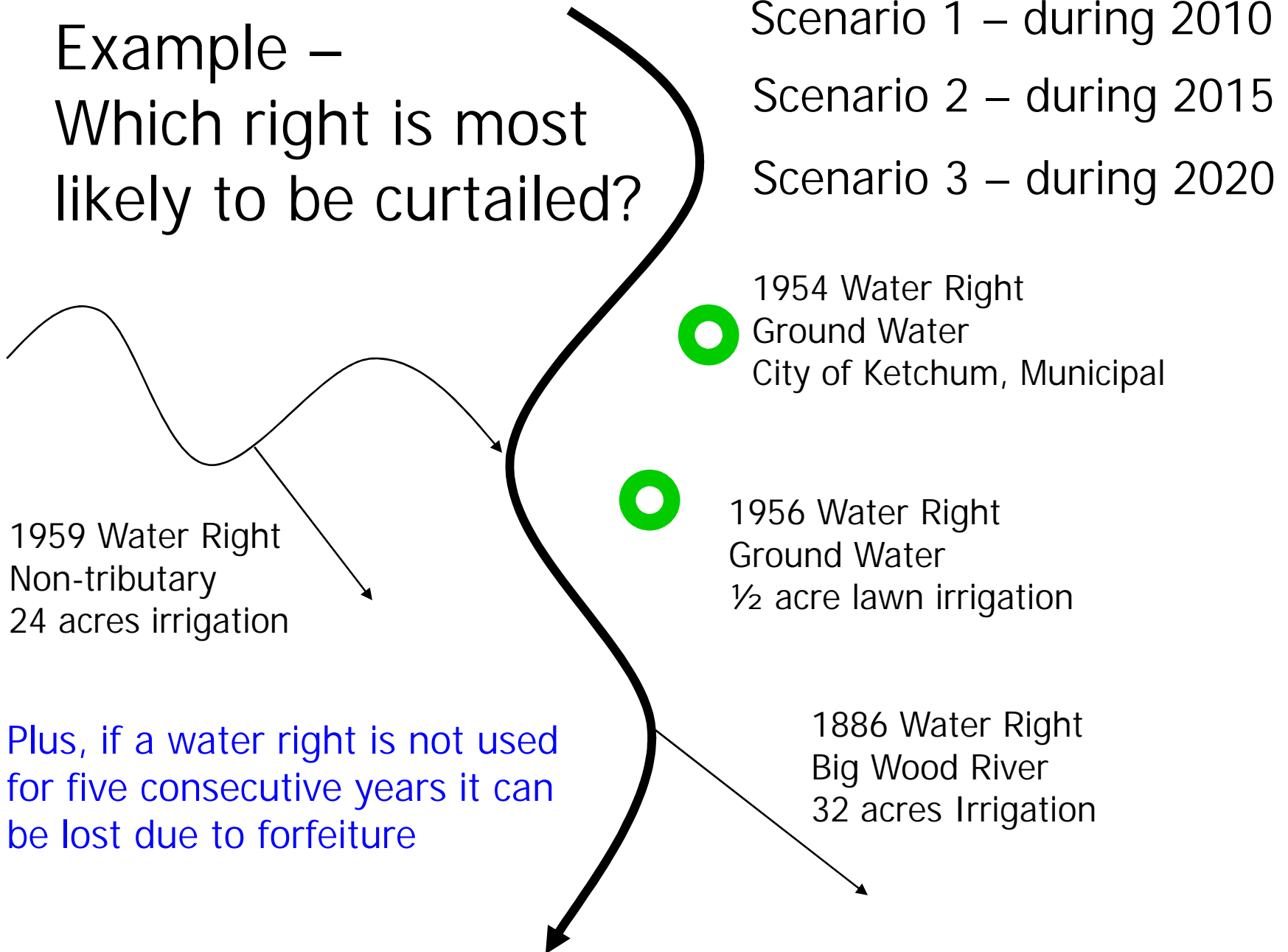
Mrs. Adams  
Irrigation of  
50 acres  
1.0 cfs  
6/16/1887

1 miner's inch = .02 cubic feet per second = 9 gallons per minute

# Example – Which right is most likely to be curtailed?

- Scenario 1 – during 2010
- Scenario 2 – during 2015
- Scenario 3 – during 2020

1959 Water Right  
Non-tributary  
24 acres irrigation



1954 Water Right  
Ground Water  
City of Ketchum, Municipal

1956 Water Right  
Ground Water  
½ acre lawn irrigation

Plus, if a water right is not used  
for five consecutive years it can  
be lost due to forfeiture

1886 Water Right  
Big Wood River  
32 acres Irrigation



## Automation

If irrigation uses can be automated so diversions are limited to only the amounts needed, water supplies can be made available to other water users such as municipalities.

The municipal user needs to provide an incentive to the irrigation user – and make a business case for change.





Thank You