Little Plover River
Current Opportunity

• Knowledge
  – UW-SP studies
  – Irrigation research
  – WGNHS/USGS model
  – M. Kniffin dissertation

• Publicity

• Mitigation actions

• Dedicated & motivated partners
Little Plover River Watershed Enhancement Project

• Improve watershed health (esp. fishery)
  – Increase river flow
  – Enhance habitat

• Find voluntary solutions

• Implement soon
Project Elements

- Targets (short- & long-term)
- Prioritization strategy
  - Short-term
  - Long-term
- Project implementation
- Monitoring
Flow Restoration
Plover Water Use

- Annual pumping distribution
- Seasonal optimization
- Conservation
- Leak reduction

(WGNHS & USGS)
Transient Water Use

Water use, 2013-14 (WGNHS & USGS)

Total pumping (mgd)

- 2013
  - Ag irrigation
  - Ag non-irrigation
  - Industrial
  - Municipal

- 2014
  - Wells 1 & 2
  - Well 3

- Wells 1 & 2
- Well 3
- Wells 1 & 2
- Well 3
Conservation

- Residential per capita use ~ 50 gal/cap/day
- Reduce summer demand?
Retire Some Irrigated Land
Agricultural Water Use

- Deficit irrigation
- Crop rotation based on location relative to stream & flow/weather conditions
- Other strategies?
- NRCS RCPP program to engage growers
Flood Reduction

- Runoff floods road & neighborhood
- Infiltrate to groundwater?
- Win-win
  - Relieve recurring problem
  - Small recharge benefit
- Public education
Restoration Strategy

• Evaluate potential flow improvements
• Compare with goals
• Revise / add measures
• Implement projects
  – Prioritize high-benefit projects that are feasible soon
  – Pursue longer-term, more difficult ideas as necessary
Habitat Improvement
Wetland Restoration

- Retire irrigated land in historic wetland
- Fill ditches
- Predict more baseflow in headwater stream with brook trout
Riparian Forest Management

Removal of Woody Streambank Vegetation to Improve Trout Habitat

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Thank You

- Village of Plover
- WPVGA
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- USGS
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