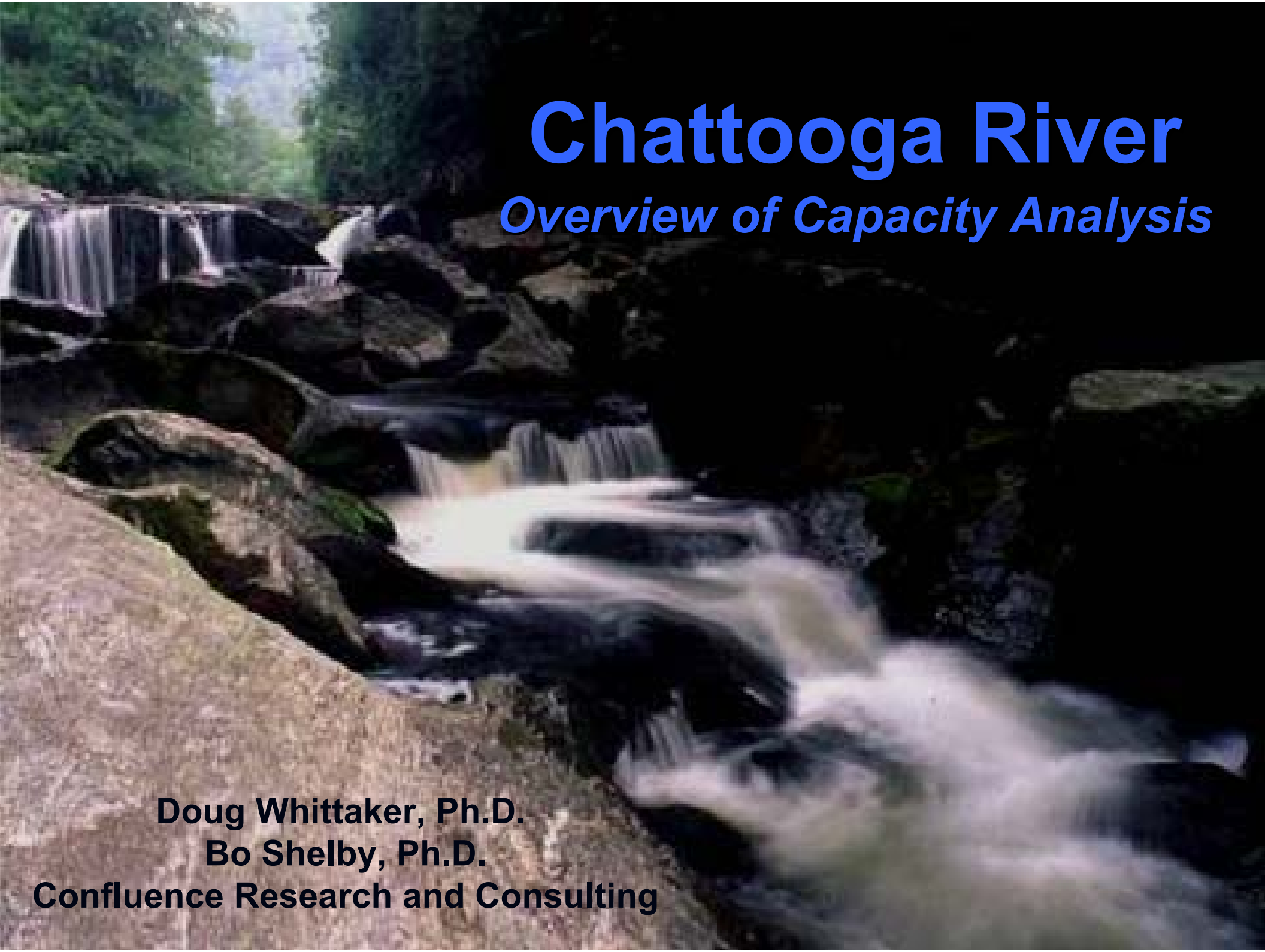

# Chattooga River

## *Overview of Capacity Analysis*

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**Bo Shelby, Ph.D.**
**Confluence Research and Consulting**

# Overview Presentation

- Our role…
  - General advice (last fall)
  - Overview of options (this spring)
  - Integrate information (later)
- Analysis objectives
- Capacity concepts
- “Big picture” information needs

# Analysis Objectives

# Appeal Response

- Multi-faceted document
- Beyond scope to interpret…rec. reading
- For this analysis…provides some direction
- 1. Do a capacity analysis
- 2. Consider all uses…including boating

# Assumptions and Constraints

- Consistency with FS policy
- Don’t pre-judge potential actions
- Minimize impacts from analyses
- Transparency about methods / findings
- Involve affected parties (why we’re here)

# Analysis Plan Objectives

- Review information needs
- Describe potential “elements”
- Estimate costs & challenges
- FS to review & choose among options
- Mission: as much information…

# Capacity Concepts

# Recreation capacity principles

- Any use creates some impact
- Impact not necessarily damage
- Focus on indicators and standards
- Link actions to standards
- Manage by design, not by default

# Information Needs

# 1. “Decision Environment”

- Appeal response – some guidance
- Question: what else?
    - History of original boating ban
    - Capacities on other W&S rivers

# 2. Use Information

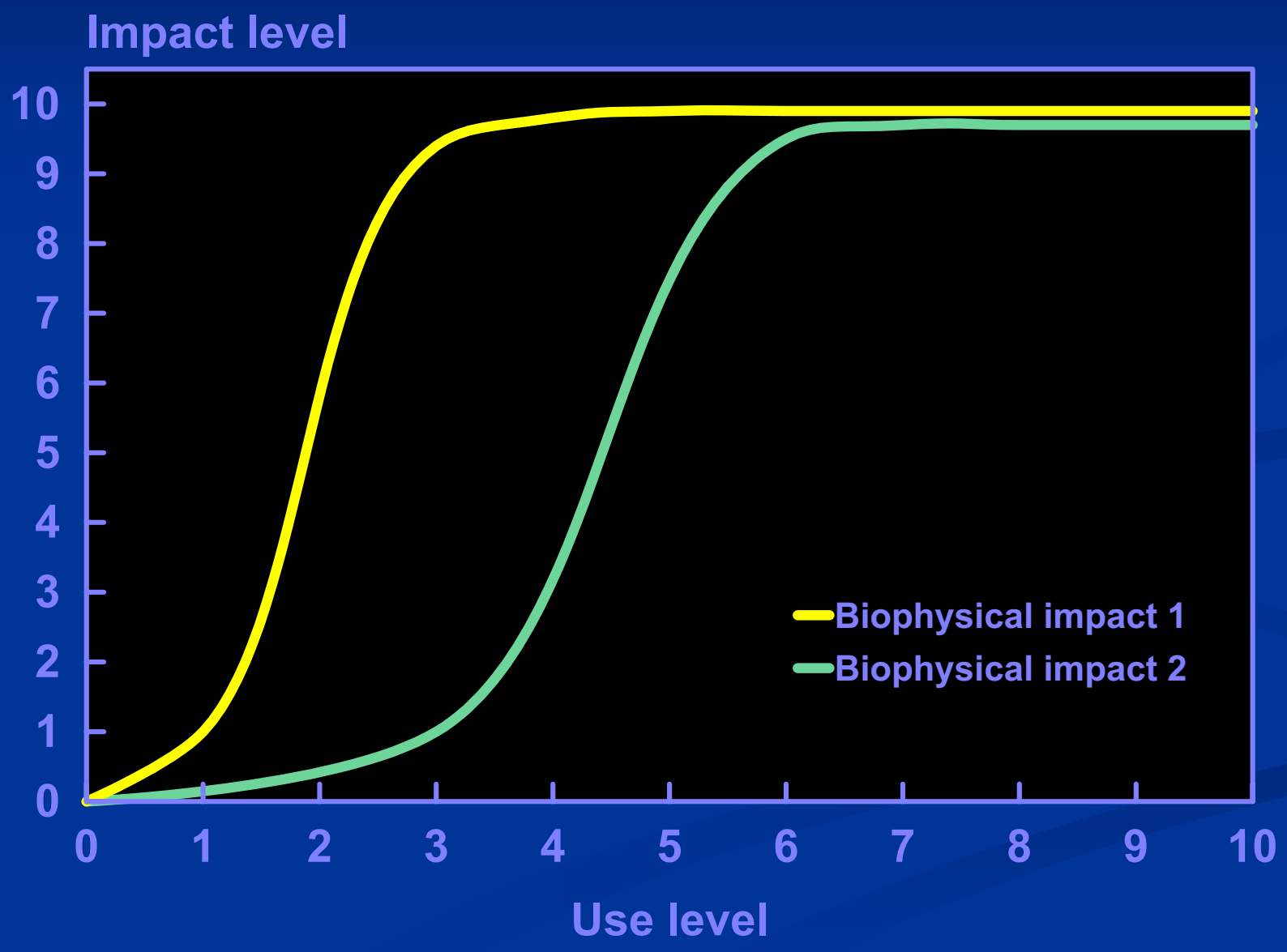
# 3. Impact Information

- Current and potential
- Social and biophysical

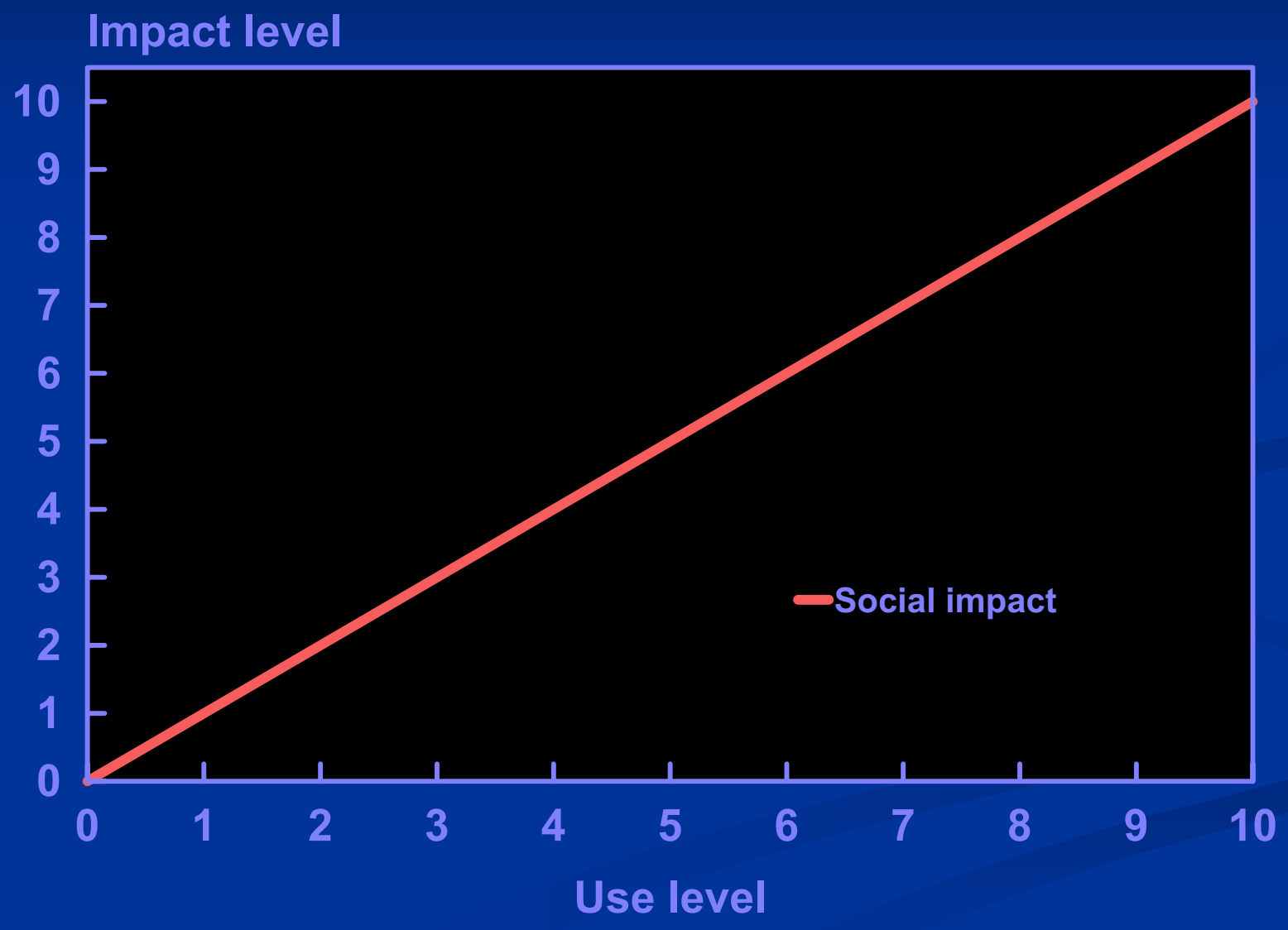
# Some impacts and tolerances

| | Impact | Tolerance |
|---|---|---|
| Litter | 15 to 20% | 5% |
| Waste | 15 to 25% | 5% |
| Fishing comp | 20 to 30% | 25 to 35% |
| Upper floaters | 4 | 5 |
| Lower floaters | 5 | 5 |

# Use vs. biophysical impacts



# Use vs. social impacts



# 4. Management Action Acceptability

- Urge to focus on actions is strong…
- What's appropriate & effective?
- Categories of actions:
  - Development / maintenance
  - Education
  - Regulation
  - Use limits

# 5. Flow-related Information

# Evaluating fishing flows

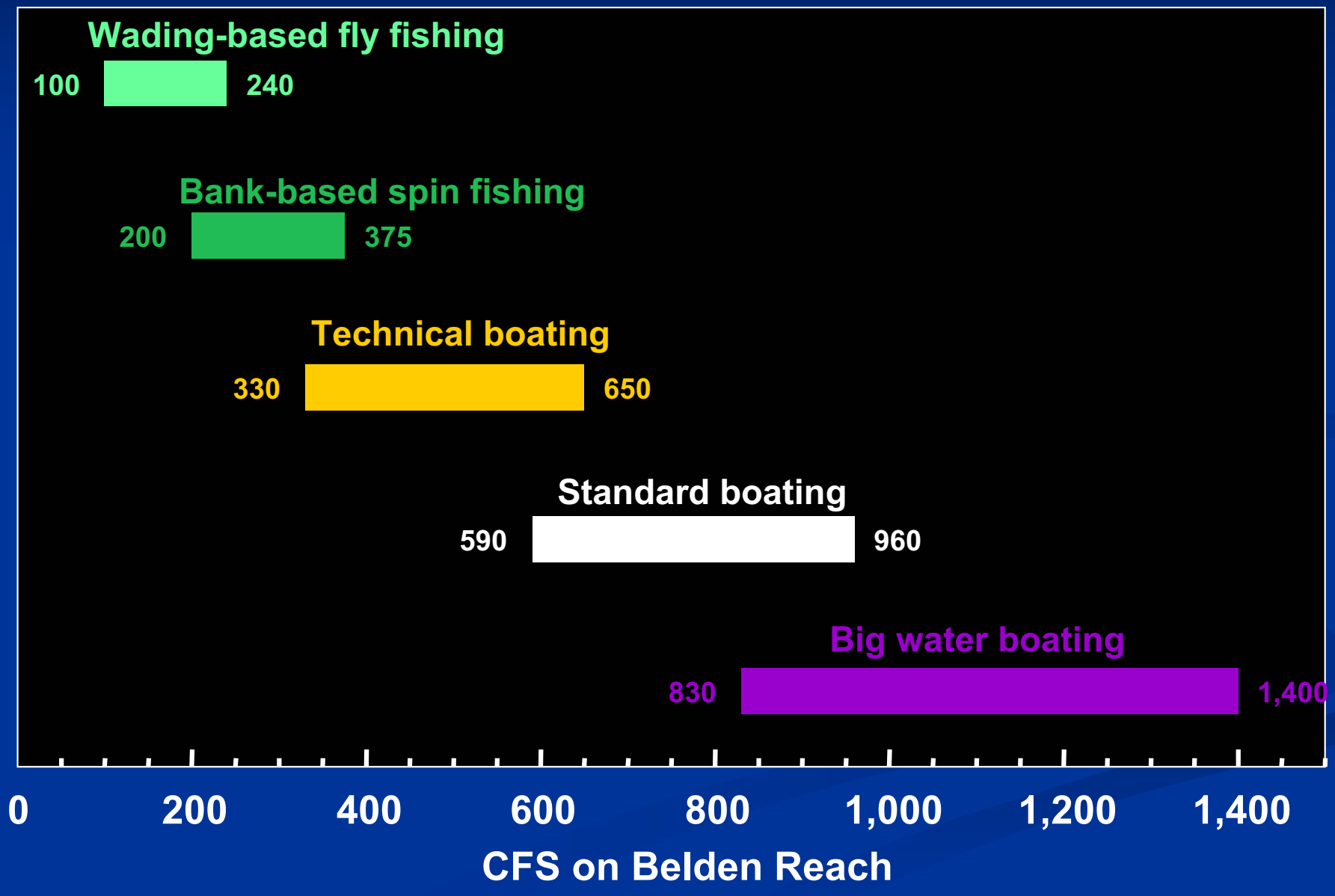
- Depends on type of fishing
- Key: access to fishable water
- Tackle / technique choices
- Location choices

# Evaluating boating runs and flows

**Flow evaluations by type of boating (tech vs. challenge)**

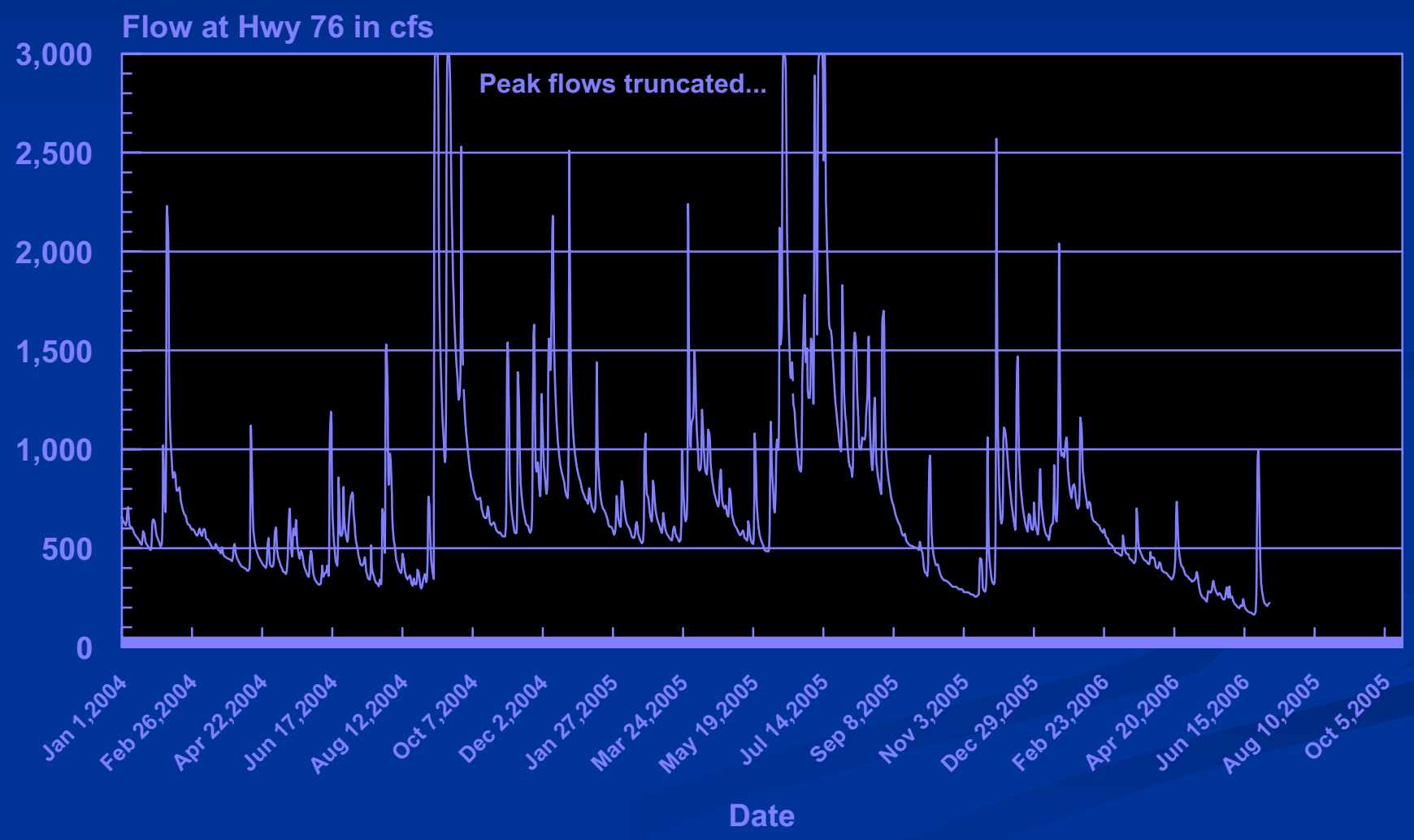
**Comparisons with other rivers**

# Example acceptable ranges for opportunities



# Integrate with hydrology information

## Mean daily flows 2004-2006



# A phased approach

- Phase 1 – every topic
- Phase 2 – need more precision?
- Phase 1 informs / refines Phase 2

# Focus groups and surveys

# Public Boating Trials

Onward…