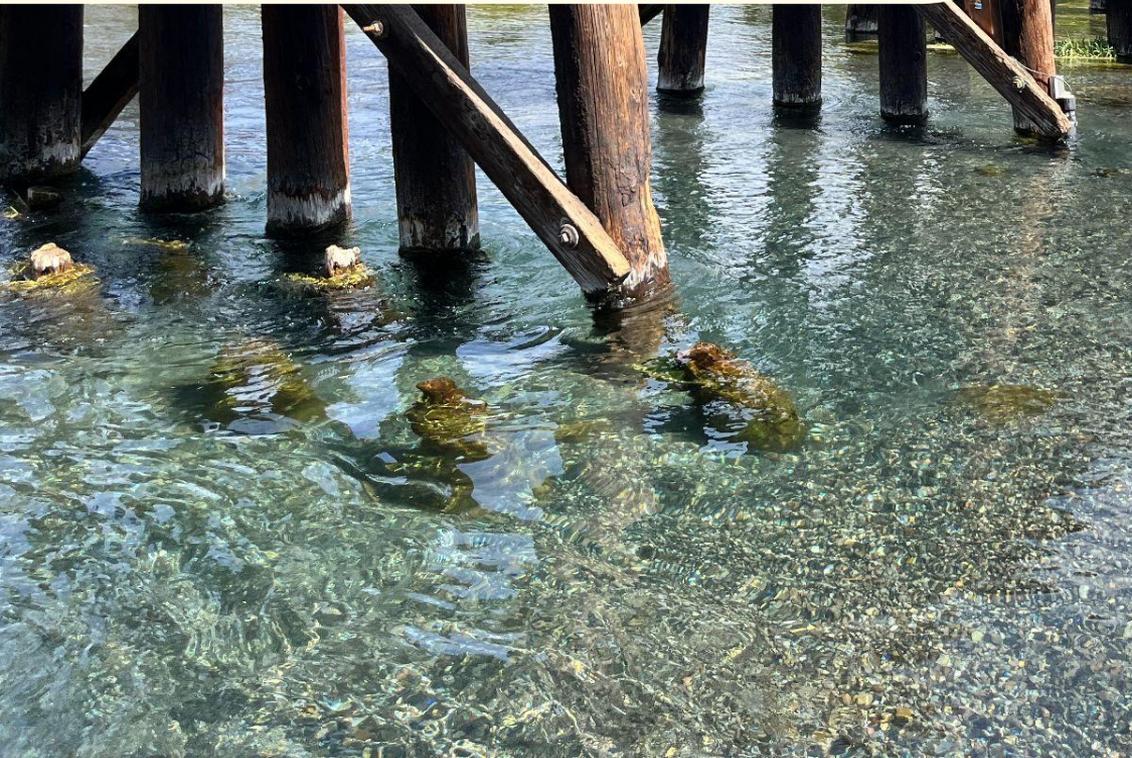

Revisiting Henry's Fork Watershed Council Endorsements

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HFWC co-facilitator

February 10, 2026

WIRE Intent

Watershed Integrity Review & Evaluation



How It Worked

HFWC consensus-based endorsement process and procedure created in 1994 to “ensure resource initiatives are well coordinated and help maintain watershed integrity.”

Opportunity to put HFWC founding funds (sourced from fines paid to IDEQ in 1993) towards endorsed projects.

WIRE Process

Watershed Integrity Review & Evaluation

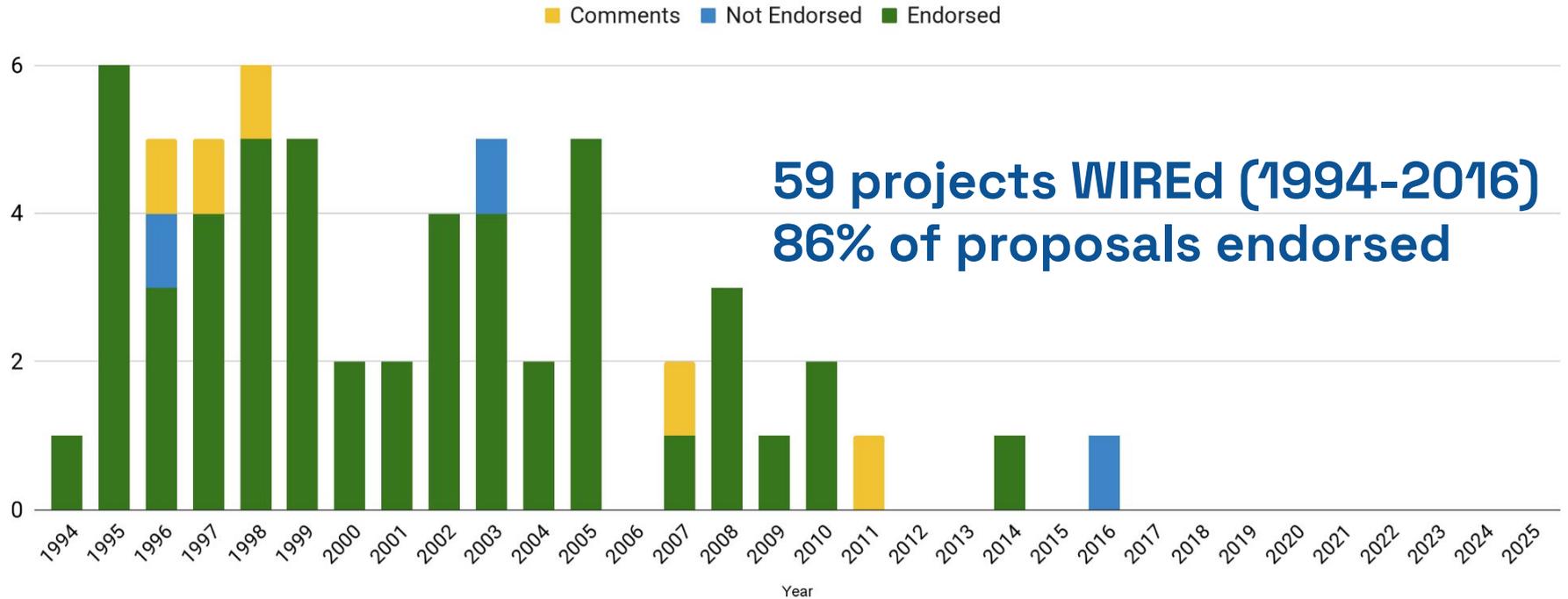
How It Worked

Stage 1: Applicant submits cover sheet with brief summary of project, resource problems addressed, timeline, etc.

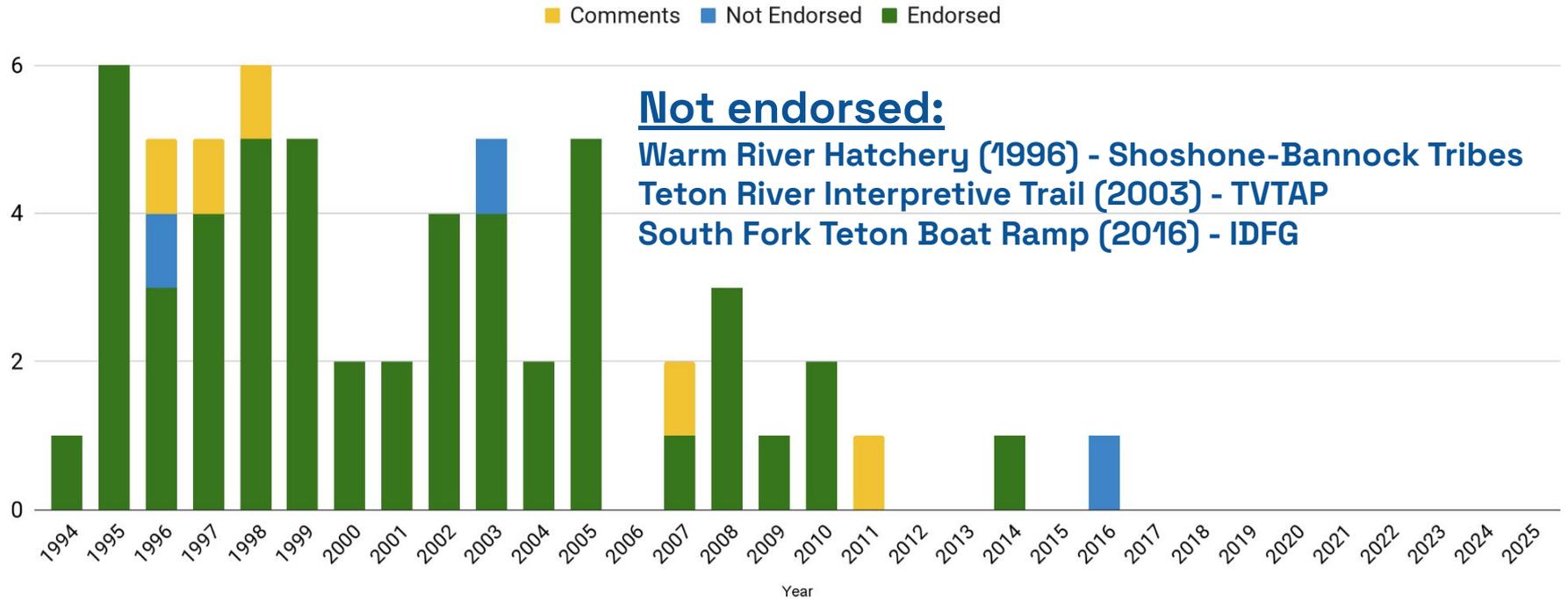
Stage 2: Proposal presented at a Council meeting for consideration. Attendees use WIRE checklist to review proposal in groups.

Stage 3: If consensus is reached, proposal is endorsed.

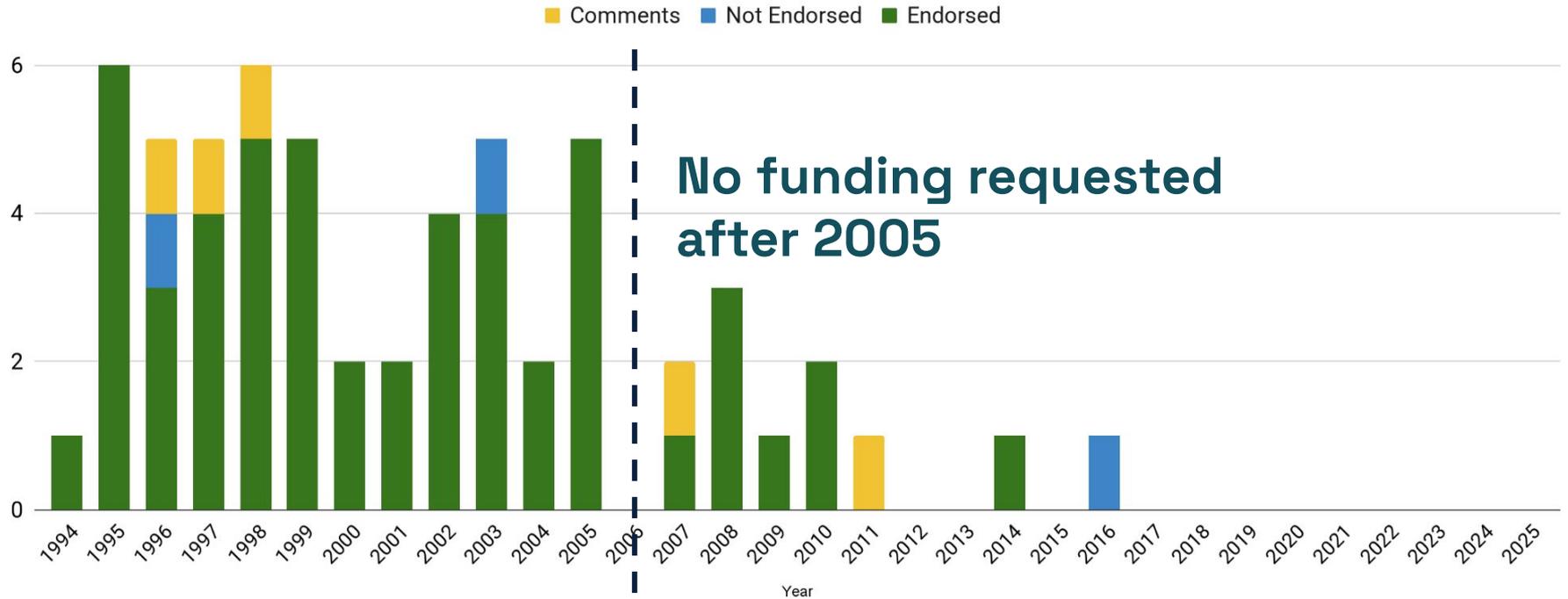
WIRE Proposal History



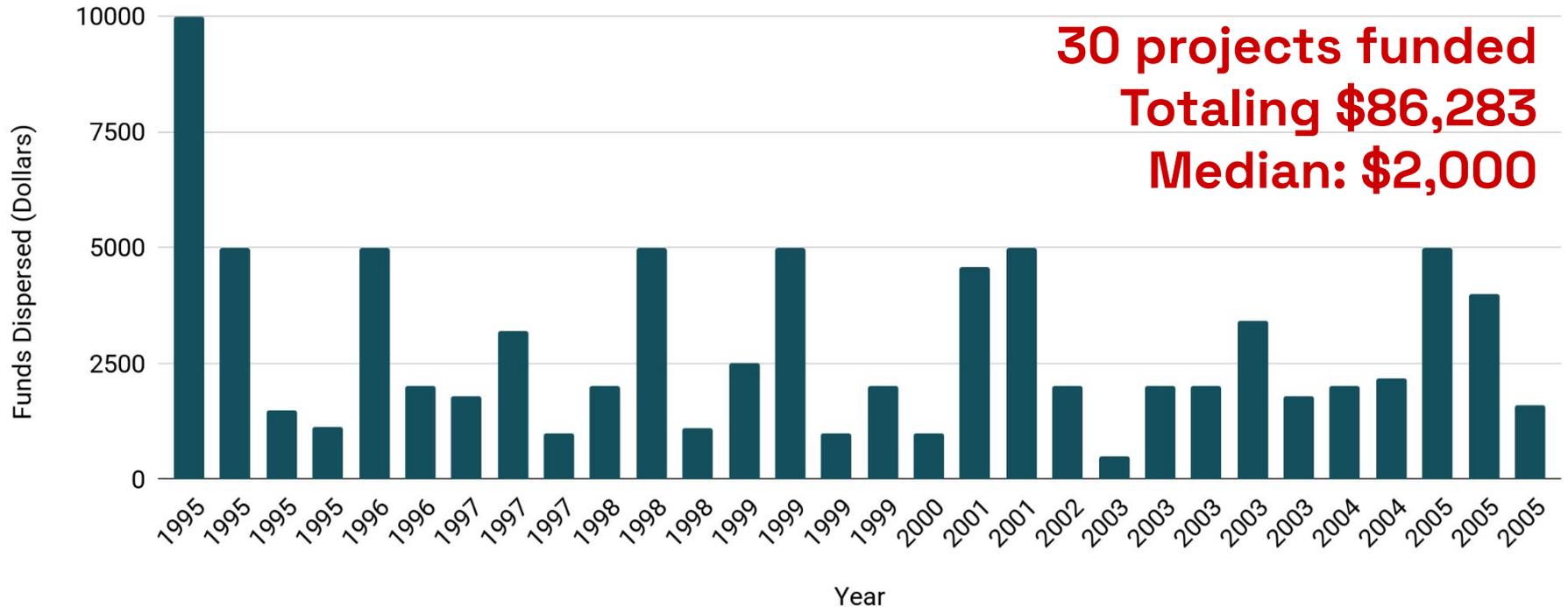
WIRE Proposal History



WIRE Proposal History



WIRE Funding History



WIRED Projects

13% Riparian Restoration

13% Education/Outreach

13% Fish

11% Ag & Irrigation
Infrastructure

11% Streamflow/water
management

39% other



Proposal sponsors



Federal Agency

23% of WIRE proposals

Most proposals (53%) within this category were submitted by the U.S. Forest Service. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation came in second with 20% of proposals within this category.

Others: USGS, USFWS, NPS, INEEL



NGOs

23% of WIRE proposals

Most proposals (36%) within this category were submitted by Friends of the Teton River. The Henry's Fork Foundation came in at 29% and Teton Regional Land Trust at 21%.

Others: Teton Valley Trails & Pathways and the Trumpeter Swan Society.



State Agency

16% of WIRE proposals

Yellowstone Soil Conservation District and Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game each contributed 22% of proposals within this category.

Others: IDPR, IDL, IDWB, IDWR, and Clark SCD.



Others

Remaining 38%

Large range of groups: university researchers, agricultural producers and irrigation entities, counties and cities, Tribes, hydropower, and working groups.

Reviving WIRE

potential pinch points



WIRE Checklist

The checklist includes 10 major categories of criteria to critique proposed projects and ensure they “maintain watershed quality.”

How to apply the WIRE checklist during group discussion is assumed, not specified.

Original intent: proposals must meet all 10 criteria categories for endorsement

Risk: WIRE gridlock

Reviving WIRE

potential pinch points



Defining Consensus

Consensus was required for endorsement, but consensus is not defined in the WIRE process and procedure.

Original Intent: Consensus means something everyone can live with. Conditions for endorsement were allowed.

Risk: Singular sinking

Questions:

Does a HFWC endorsement have value?

Is the WIRE process worth reviving?