

Western States Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST) is a collaboration between 12 Federal agencies with water management responsibilities in the West. WestFAST was established to support the Western States Water Council (WSWC) and the Western Governors' Association (WGA) in coordinating Federal efforts regarding water issues.



Membership:

Becky Fulkerson (Chair),

Reclamation rfulkerson@usbr.gov

Roger Gorke, (Vice Chair), EPA

Gorke.roger@epa.gov

Chris Savage, Forest Service

csavage@fs.fed.us

Gimbel, Jennifer, Reclamation

jgimbel@usbr.gov

John D'Antonio, USACE

John.R.D'Antonio@usace.army.mil

Pixie Hamilton, USGS

pahamilt@usgs.gov

Lee Koss, BLM

lkoss@blm.gov

Andrew Hautzinger, FWS

Andrew.Hautzinger@fws.gov

Mike Strobel, NRCS

michael.strobel@por.usda.gov

Roger Pulwarty, NOAA

Roger.pulwarty@noaa.gov

Brad Doorn, NASA

bradley.doorn@nasa.gov

Craig Zamuda, DOE

Craig.Zamuda@Hq.Doe.Gov

Marc Kodack, DOD

marc.d.kodack.civ@mail.mil

Eric Stevens, Federal Liaison

ericstevens@wswc.utah.gov

WestFAST News

March 2014

White House Launches Climate Data Initiative

As part of President Obama's Climate Action Plan, the Whitehouse launched an ambitious new effort, bringing together extensive open government data and design competitions with commitments from the private sector to develop data-driven planning and resilience tools for local communities.

As part of this effort, data from NOAA, NASA, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Department of Defense, and other Federal agencies will be featured on climate.data.gov, a new section within data.gov that opened on March 19, 2014. The first batch of climate data focuses on coastal flooding and sea level rise. NOAA and NASA will also be announcing an innovation challenge calling on researchers and developers to create data-driven simulations to help plan for the future and to educate the public about the vulnerability of their own communities.

These and other Federal efforts will be amplified by a number of ambitious private commitments. For example, Esri, the company that produces the ArcGIS software used by thousands of city and regional planning experts, will be partnering with 12 cities across the country to create free and open "maps and apps" to help state and local governments plan for climate change impacts. Google will donate one petabyte—that's 1,000 terabytes—of cloud storage for climate data, as well as 50 million hours of high-performance computing with the Google Earth Engine platform. The company is challenging the global innovation community to build a high-resolution global terrain model to help communities build resilience to anticipated climate impacts.

For more information on this climate data initiative, follow this [link](#) to the Whitehouse Blog. See also the Google blog, following this [link](#). The WSWG issued a press release regarding this announcement; see this [link](#).

FEMA Hosts America's PrepareAthon

According to FEMA, despite an increase in weather-related disasters, nearly 70 percent of Americans have not participated in a pre-

paredness drill or exercise, aside from a fire drill, at their workplace, school, or home in the past two years (2012 FEMA National Survey). FEMA has seen that communities are better prepared to withstand an emergency and recover more quickly when everyone is involved. In an effort to continue building resilience, the federal government is announcing the America's PrepareAthon, which is a community-based campaign to increase emergency preparedness at the grassroots level in support of Presidential Policy Directive (PPD-8), National Preparedness.

The first America's PrepareAthon national day of action is April 30, 2014. It will focus on preparing organizations and individuals for tornadoes, hurricanes, flooding, and wild fires. America's PrepareAthon! events and activities will be held across the country twice a year to organize community days of action and encourage individuals to discuss, practice, and train for relevant hazards. The national days of action will be held in the spring and fall, and this year, the national days of action will be April 30, 2014 and September 30, 2014.

America's PrepareAthon will leverage the resources of the Ready Campaign and the experience of members of the National Preparedness Community to continue to increase awareness of disasters and to encourage members of the public to know the corresponding protective actions.

For questions, please visit the FEMA PrepareAthon [website](#) or email FEMA at PrepareAthon@fema.dhs.gov.

EPA & Corps Release Draft Rule on Jurisdiction

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) jointly released a proposed rule to clarify jurisdictional waters to be protected under the Clean Water Act. The EPA Administrator, Gina McCarthy, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Jo Ellen Darcy, signed the proposed rule on March 25 and March 24, respectively. Then EPA submitted it for publication in the Federal Register (FR) and public review.

See this [link](#) for more information.

Federal News

03/03: Department of the Interior and Salton Sea Authority Sign Joint Memorandum of Understanding; see [link](#).

03/03: \$44.3 Million in Additional Funds Made Available to Bureau of Reclamation; see [link](#).

03/03: NOAA's Newest Weather Model Provides Clearer, Faster Forecast of Severe Weather; see [link](#).

03/04: President's \$1 Billion Reclamation Budget for FY 2015 Underscores Water & Power as Economic Drivers in the West; see [link](#).

03/04: President Proposes \$1.1 Billion for BLM in Fiscal Year 2015; see [link](#).

03/04: President Requests \$1.5 Billion in Fiscal Year 2015 for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; see [link](#).

03/04: President's 2015 Budget Proposes \$1.1 Billion for the USGS; see [link](#).

03/04: President Proposes \$11.9 Billion FY2015 Budget for Interior; see [link](#).

03/04: U.S. Drought Monitor Update for March 4, 2014; see [link](#).

03/05: Lowell Pimley Named Acting Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner; see [link](#).

03/05: Service Announces 2014 Expansion of Hunting, Fishing Opportunities in National Wildlife Refuge System; see [link](#).

03/05: Historic Agreement Reached on Upper Klamath Basin Water; see [link](#).

03/06: NASA Radar Demonstrates Ability to Foresee Sinkholes; see [link](#).

03/06: Kathryn Sullivan Confirmed as NOAA Administrator; see [link](#).

03/06: Global Undiscovered Copper Resources Estimated at 3.5 Billion Metric Tons; see [link](#).

03/06: 2011 Oklahoma Induced Earthquake May Have Triggered Larger Quake; see [link](#).

03/06: Secretary Jewell Lauds President's Intent to Nominate Estevan López to Serve as Commissioner of Bureau of Reclamation; see [link](#).

03/07: International Visitor Leadership Program Sponsors UNESCO Visit to IWR; see [link](#).

03/11: Secretary Jewell Underscores Administration Support for California During Historic Drought; see [link](#).

03/12: Secretary Jewell Joins Point Arena Community to Celebrate Monument Designation; see [link](#).

03/12: Reclamation Veteran Jennifer Gimbel to Serve as Deputy Commissioner for External and Intergovernmental Affairs; see [link](#).

03/13: NOAA: \$5.5 Billion FY 2015 Budget Request Promotes Environmental Intelligence; see [link](#).

03/14: BLM Seeks Public Interest for Solar Energy Development in the Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone; see [link](#).

03/14: Secretary Jewell Announces \$3.2 Million in Grant Awards For 21 Tribal Energy and Mineral Development Projects; see [link](#).

03/15: Secretary Jewell Highlights Power of Community-Driven Conservation in Visit to Montana Ranch, Calls for Full Funding of Land and Water Conservation Fund; see [link](#).

03/18: USDA Helps Landowners Conserve Wetlands, Enhance Wildlife Habitat; see [link](#).

03/18: U.S. Drought Monitor Update for March 18, 2014; see [link](#).

03/19: Climate Data Initiative Launches with Strong Public and Private Sector Commitments; see [link](#).

03/19: Interior Announces More Than \$100 Million in Purchase Offers to Nearly 16,000 Landowners with Fractionated Interests at Pine Ridge Reservation; see [link](#).

03/19: North Atlantic May Be a New Route for Spread of Avian Flu to North America; see [link](#).

03/20: NOAA Predicts Moderate Flood Potential in Midwest, Elevated Risk of Ice Jams; California and Southwest Stuck with Drought; see [link](#).

03/21: Bureau of Reclamation Releases Funding Opportunity Announcement of WaterSMART Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Feasibility Studies; see [link](#).

03/21: Voluntary Conservation Effort Promotes Improved Lesser Prairie-Chicken Habitat; see [link](#).

03/24: Conservation Organizations Join Forces to Support Conservation in the Prairies; see [link](#).

03/25: EPA and Army Corps of Engineers Clarify Protection for Nation's Streams and Wetlands: Agriculture's Exemptions and Exclusions from Clean Water Act Expanded by Proposal; see [link](#).

03/25: First Images Available from NASA-JAXA Global Rain and Snowfall Satellite; see [link](#).

03/25: New Utah Maps and Road Provider; see [link](#).

03/25: U.S. Drought Monitor Update for March 25, 2014; see [link](#).

03/26: Migratory Bird Conservation Commission Approves \$61 Million to Conserve 205,000 Acres of North American Wetlands; see [link](#).

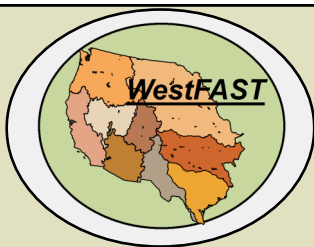
03/27: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Lists Lesser Prairie-Chicken as Threatened Species and Finalizes Special Rule Endorsing Landmark State Conservation Plan; see [link](#).

03/27: Scientists Study Effects of Water Released Across U.S.-Mexico Border; see [link](#).

03/27: United States and Mexico Celebrate Partnership for Historic Release of Colorado River Water to Delta, Benefitting Both Nations; see [link](#).

Upcoming WSWC Meetings & Events

- **April 1-4, 2014:** [WSWC Spring Council Meeting and DC Roundtable](#), Washington DC (Crystal Gateway Marriott).
- **July 14-18, 2014:** [WSWC Summer Council Meeting](#), Helena, Montana (Holiday Inn Downtown).



WestFAST News is published monthly. To get an Agency Announcement published or to get added to the WestFAST News distribution list contact:

Eric Stevens, WestFAST Federal Liaison

Email: ericstevens@wswc.utah.gov

Phone: 801-685-2555

Check out the WestFAST Web Site: <http://www.westernstateswater.org/westfast>