

# WESTFAST UPDATE

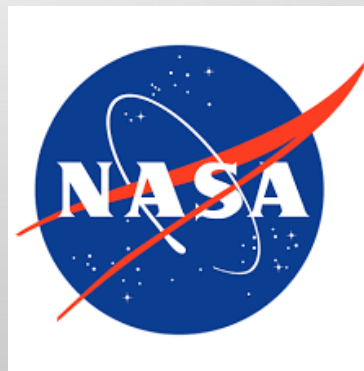
PATRICK LAMBERT, WESTFAST CHAIR

DEBORAH LAWLER, FEDERAL LIAISON OFFICER

OCT, 2020



The 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 (and Western Partners in general) in coordinating Federal efforts regarding water resources.





# MEMBERSHIP AND EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

- 21 MEMBERS
- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
  - PATRICK LAMBERT (USGS) – CHAIR
  - EXECUTIVE COUNCIL – PAT LAMBERT (USGS), KEVIN WERNER (NOAA), AND ROGER GORKE (EPA)
- WESTFAST LIAISON – DEB LAWLER, BOR

# WESTFAST MEMBERSHIP

- **CHRIS CARLSON (USFS)** ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR WATER AND AQUATIC RESOURCES
- **MICHAEL EBERLE (USFS)** MICHAEL NATIONAL WATER USES AND RIGHTS PROGRAM LEADER WASHINGTON OFFICE, WATERSHED, FISH, WILDLIFE, AIR AND RARE PLANTS STAFF
- **MIKE STROBEL (NRCS)** DIRECTOR, NATIONAL WATER AND CLIMATE CENTER
- **HEATHER HOFMAN (NRCS ALTERNATE)** NATURAL RESOURCES SPECIALIST NATIONAL WATER AND CLIMATE CENTER
- **KEVIN WERNER (NOAA, WESTFAST FORMER CHAIR)** DIRECTOR, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH NORTHWEST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER
- **VEVA DEHEZA (NOAA/NIDIS)** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL INTEGRATED DROUGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM
- **ED CLARK (NOAA/NWS)** DIRECTOR, NATIONAL WATER CENTER & DEPUTY DIRECTOR OFFICE OF WATER PREDICTION OFFICE OF HYDROLOGIC DEVELOPMENT
- **MARISSA MCINNIS (DOD)** PROGRAM DIRECTOR, WATER RESOURCES AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE
- **LAUREN DEMPSEY (DOD ALTERNATE)** WATER MANAGER UNITED STATES AIR FORCE 1690 AIR FORCE PENTAGON WASHINGTON
- **STEPHEN BARTELL (DOJ)** ASSISTANT CHIEF, NATURAL RESOURCES SECTION
- **ADA BENAVIDES (USACE)** SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR PLANNING AND POLICY DIVISION HEADQUARTERS
- **BOB BOYD (BLM)** CHIEF, ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING BRANCH NATIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER
- **DEB LAWLER (RECLAMATION FEDERAL LIAISON OFFICER TO WSWC AND WESTFAST)** SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
- **FORREST "ED" HARVEY (NPS)** CHIEF, WATER RESOURCES DIVISION
- **MIKE HIGGINS (USF&WS)** WATER RESOURCES COORDINATOR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM
- **MINDI DALTON (USGS)** DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF PROGRAMMING AND PLANNING WATER MISSION AREA
- **PATRICK LAMBERT (USGS, WESTFAST CHAIR)** INTEGRATED WATER AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENTS (IWAAS) PROGRAM MANAGERS, WATER MISSION AREA
- **MCHALE, TIMOTHY (USGS ALTERNATE)** SENIOR SCIENCE ADVISOR, WATER MISSION AREA
- **ROGER GORKE (EPA)** SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR, OFFICE OF WATER
- **BRAD DOORN (NASA)** PROGRAM MANAGER, WATER RESOURCES
- **FORREST MELTON (NASA ALTERNATE)** ASSOCIATE PROGRAM MANAGER, WATER RESOURCES,

***“... promote and facilitate coordination among federal agencies, and between the states and federal agencies and to help plan and implement collaborative efforts.”***



# WESTFAST PRIORITIES

- CONTINUE TO DEVELOP AND ENHANCE LINES OF COMMUNICATION, AWARENESS OF THE NEED FOR AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROACTIVE COLLABORATION, AND TO DEVELOP EFFECTIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS
- DROUGHT RESILIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE
- FACILITATING WORKPLANS/ACTION PLANS FROM PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM ON WATER IN THE WEST
- MAINTAINING COMMUNICATION FROM STATE PARTNERS TO WESTFAST TO WESTFAST AGENCY PRINCIPALS
- WESTFAST GOVERNANCE AND LIAISON POSITION RECRUITMENT

# EXECUTIVE ORDER ON MODERNIZING AMERICA'S WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Executive departments and agencies (agencies) that engage in water-related matters, including water storage and supply, water quality and restoration activities, water infrastructure, transportation on our rivers and inland waterways, and water forecasting, must work together where they have joint or overlapping responsibilities. This order will ensure that agencies do that more efficiently and effectively to improve our country's water resource management, modernize our water infrastructure, and prioritize the availability of clean, safe, and reliable water supplies.

# INFRASTRUCTURE

## **WESTFAST WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FEDERAL-STATE COLLABORATIVE ACTION NETWORKS (WIFSCAN)**

*Establishing Federal Water Infrastructure Networks that Coordinate Federal Collaboration with States on Water Infrastructure Issues*

2020-2021

### **OVERVIEW**

#### **1. Problem Statement**

Building and maintaining water infrastructure across the United States is a complex undertaking requiring state, federal, tribal, local, and private resources. The Federal Government has a vast array of programs which provide water infrastructure funding and assistance to a broad range of entities. Such programs include Reclamation's WaterSMART Program, the EPA's Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center, NRCS's Conservation Programs, USACE's Planning Assistance to States, NOAA's Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) Program, DOE's Water Security Grand Challenge and many others. The programs are not always easily accessible. Eligibility and applications can be confusing. Some programs are effectively buried under the weight of bureaucracy, and Congress occasionally withdraws funding or authorization from underutilized programs that could be beneficial with a broader mechanism of support. Additionally, some programs from different agencies may be combined to address complex concerns in a watershed or across a region in a more holistic and synergistic way.

States are eligible for most of these programs, and many of the programs have aided States. However, there are barriers to adequately leveraging, and synergistically capitalizing on the multitude of programs spread across numerous Federal agencies. There is no "one-stop-shopping" for assistance with the Federal Government's programs. The wide range of programs are administered within the silo of the specific agency missions. While there are examples of agencies partnering to leverage funding and efficiencies, cross-agency cooperation and collaboration isn't the norm. Consequently, as States address their water infrastructure challenges, they must navigate the morass of federal programs spread across multiple agencies for assistance. Since State staff are not experts on federal programs, it is difficult for States to know what programs are available or applicable to their water infrastructure challenges. State water infrastructure challenges would benefit from assistance from multiple federal agencies, and leveraging multiple federal programs, but States are not currently in the best position to reach out to each of those agencies to coordinate that effort.

<u>FEDERAL AGENCY</u>	<u>Name of Program</u>	<u>Eligible Entities (e.g. States, Tribes, private landowners)</u>	<u>Program Description</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>	<u>Website</u>
USDOJ/USBR	WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants		Funds projects that (1) restore the Klamath River ecosystem; (2) help enhance populations of threatened coho salmon and endangered shortnose and Lost River suckers; and (3) further the fulfillment of the Federal Government's tribal trust responsibilities as they relate to the natural resources in the Klamath River watershed. Reclamation will consider funding potential projects that enhance and restore habitat conditions, improve water-quality conditions, remove fish-passage barriers, reduce entrainment through the installation of fish screens, and result in water conservation efficiencies. FWS, NOAA, NRCS, OWEB, USFS, and Klamath Basin Tribes will help evaluate and rank proposals.	Joshua German jgerman@usbr.gov 303-445-2839 Building 67 (84-51000) P.O. Box 25007 Denver, Colorado 80225	<a href="https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/weeq/index.html">https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/weeq/index.html</a>
USDOJ/USBR	WaterSMART Water Marketing Strategy Grants	irrigation and water districts, tribes, states and other entities with water or power delivery authority.	Reclamation provides 50/50 cost share funding to irrigation and water districts, tribes, states and other entities with water or power delivery authority. Projects conserve and use water more efficiently; increase the production of hydropower; mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future water conflict; and accomplish other benefits that contribute to water availability in the western United States.	Avra Morgan amorgan@usbr.gov 303-445-2906 Building 67 (84-51000) P.O. Box 25007 Denver, Colorado 80225	<a href="https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/weeq/index.html">https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/weeq/index.html</a>
USDOJ/USBR	Drought Response Program	states, tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, or other organizations with water or power delivery authority located in the 17 Western United States and Hawaii.	Reclamation provides assistance to states, tribes, and local governments to conduct planning activities to develop water marketing strategies that establish or expand water markets or water marketing activities between willing participants, in compliance with state and Federal laws.	Darion Mayhorn dmayhorn@usbr.gov 303-445-3121 Building 67 (84-51000) P.O. Box 25007 Denver, Colorado 80225	<a href="https://www.usbr.gov/drought/">https://www.usbr.gov/drought/</a>
USDOJ/USBR	WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects	irrigation and water districts, tribes, states and other entities with water or power delivery authority for small water efficiency improvements	The Bureau of Reclamation's Drought Response Program supports a proactive approach to drought by providing assistance to water managers to: develop and update comprehensive drought plans, and implement projects that will build long-term resiliency to drought. Program areas include contingency planning, resiliency projects, and emergency response actions.	<a href="https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/swep/index.html">https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/swep/index.html</a>	<a href="https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/swep/index.html">https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/swep/index.html</a>
USDOJ/USBR	Desalination	Not Specified	Through the WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects Reclamation provides 50/50 cost share funding to irrigation and water districts, tribes, states and other entities with water or power delivery authority for small water efficiency improvements that have been identified through previous planning efforts. Projects eligible for funding include installation of flow measurement or automation in a specific part of a water delivery system, lining of a section of a canal to address	Amanda Erath aerath@usbr.gov 303-445-2766 Building 67 (84-51000) P.O. Box 25007 Denver, Colorado 80225	<a href="https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/desalination/index.html">https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/desalination/index.html</a> <a href="http://www.grants.gov">www.grants.gov</a> number <a href="https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/desalination/index.html">BOR-DO-19-F008</a>

# WESTFAST SPECIAL TOPIC WEBINAR SERIES

- JULY 29, 2020: EPA'S WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AND INNOVATION ACT (WIFIA) PROGRAM
- AUGUST 25, 2020: UPDATE ON THE WESTERN STATES WATER COUNCIL WATER DATA EXCHANGE (WADE) 2.0
- SEPTEMBER 23, 2020: ENERGY-WATER-EMISSIONS DASHBOARD (JULIAN FULTON, PHD, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES)
- SEPTEMBER 29, 2020: OPEN ET (FORREST MELTON, NASA)
- [WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020, 10:00AM MDT: THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION'S PRIZE COMPETITIONS PROGRAM](#)
- [WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020, 10:00AM MST: THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION'S TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM](#)
- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020, 1:00PM MST: SALINITY IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES



**WestFAST Webinar**

**The Bureau of Reclamation's Prize Competitions Program**  
Wednesday, October 21, 2020, at 10:00AM MDT

Reclamation's Prize Competitions Program is administered by its Research and Development Office. The Program is designed to spur innovation by engaging a community of non-traditional problem-solvers. Competitions can complement traditional research and target Reclamation's most persistent science and technology challenges typically in the areas of infrastructure, water availability, and environment. Competitions use prizes to incentivize solvers to submit solutions and are open to a solver community that includes members of the public, businesses, and other organizations.

In this WestFAST hosted webinar, participants will hear more about the Prize Competitions Program, including an introduction Prize Competitions, an overview of the Program's portfolio of activities, and a summary of the Program's outcomes.

**Presenters**

**Jennifer Beardsley**, Prize Competitions Program Administrator, Research and Development Office, Bureau of Reclamation, Denver, CO

**Webinar Link**

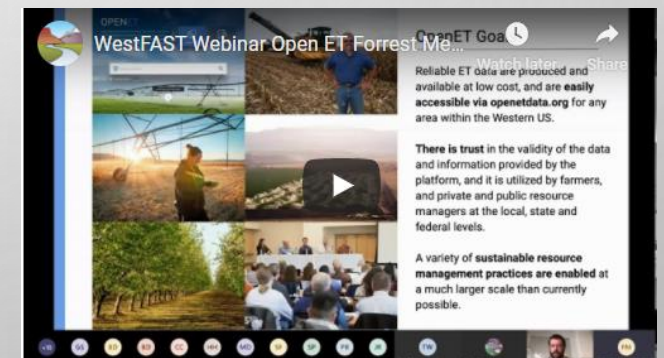
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**Other Logistical Information:** Your computer will need to have audio in order to hear/participate in this webinar. A telephone dial-in option is not available.

**Can't make the webinar?** We'll record it and post it to the WestFAST web page found at <http://www.westernstateswater.org/westfast/westfast-webinars/>

**For additional information,** contact Deborah Lawler, at [dlawler@usbr.gov](mailto:dlawler@usbr.gov).



**WestFAST Webinar Open ET Forrest Me...**

Reliable ET data are produced and available at low cost, and are easily accessible via [openetdata.org](http://openetdata.org) for any area within the Western US.

There is trust in the validity of the data and information provided by the platform, and it is utilized by farmers, and private and public resource managers at the local, state and federal levels.

A variety of sustainable resource management practices are enabled at a much larger scale than currently possible.

# QUESTIONS

