

WESTFAST UPDATE

ROGER GORKE (EPA), WESTFAST CHAIR

HEATHER HOFMAN (USDA), FEDERAL LIAISON OFFICER

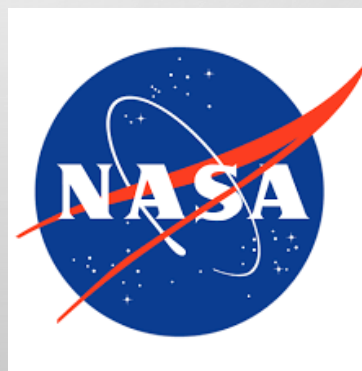
SEPTEMBER 2021



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.



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION





MEMBERSHIP AND EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

- 22 MEMBERS
- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
 - ROGER GORKE (EPA-OW), CHRIS CARLSON (USDA-FS), AND WESTFAST LIAISON – HEATHER HOFMAN (USDA-NRCS)

WESTFAST MEMBERSHIP

- **CHRIS CARLSON (USFS, WESTFAST VICE CHAIR)** 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, WESTFAST LIASION OFFICER)** NATURAL RESOURCES SPECIALIST NATIONAL WATER AND CLIMATE CENTER
- **KEVIN WERNER (NOAA)** 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)** WATER MANAGER UNITED STATES AIR FORCE 1690 AIR FORCE PENTAGON WASHINGTON
- **YONTZ, TRAVIS (BOR)** MANAGEMENT ANALYST
- **ESRALEW, RACHEL (FWS)** REGIONAL HYDROLOGIST USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM: NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM, PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION (CA, NV, KLAMATH BASIN)
- **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
- **CUTILLO, PAULA (BLM)** SENIOR WATER RESOURCES SPECIALIST, DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION, AQUATICS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
- **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
- **TIMOTHY MCHALE (USGS)** SENIOR SCIENCE ADVISOR, WATER MISSION AREA
- **ROGER GORKE (EPA, WESTFAST CHAIR)** SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR, OFFICE OF WATER
- **BRAD DOORN (NASA)** PROGRAM MANAGER, WATER RESOURCES
- **FORREST MELTON (NASA)** 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 STATE/FEDERAL RELATIONSHIPS
- WATER PLANNING SUPPORT, DROUGHT RESILIENCE (IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL EFFORTS), WILDFIRE AND WATER RESOURCES
- MAINTAINING COMMUNICATION FROM STATE PARTNERS TO WESTFAST TO WESTFAST AGENCY PRINCIPALS – MAKING CONNECTIONS

STATE WATER PLANNING LISTENING SESSIONS: USE OF FEDERAL ASSETS IN STATE WATER PLANNING

- INITIAL SURVEY SENT TO FIVE STATES IN AUGUST
- TO DATE, TWO STATES HAVE RESPONDED
- NEXT STEPS:
 - SCHEDULE LISTENING SESSIONS WITH STATES
 - IDENTIFY KEY STAFF TO ATTEND LISTENING SESSIONS
 - IDENTIFY FOLLOW UP NEEDS AND ACTIONS

DROUGHT

- The **2021 SOUTHWEST DROUGHT VIRTUAL FORUM** will assemble states, tribes, stakeholders, decision-makers, and drought experts for a cross cutting dialogue on long-term implications of drought in the Southwestern United States, response and relief efforts across levels of government and sectors, with the goal of supporting communities and building long-term drought resilience in the region.
 - SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2021
 - SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2021
 - REGISTER AT: WWW.SOUTHWESTDROUGHTFORUM.COM

WATER RESOURCES AND WILDFIRE IN THE WEST

WEBINAR AND PANEL DISCUSSION SERIES

- TOPIC 1 – WHY DOES IT MATTER?: WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT RECOGNIZING THE IMPACTS ON WATER RESOURCES PRE AND POST FIRE
- TOPIC 2 – WHERE ARE WE NOW?: FIRE HAS BEEN OVER SUPPRESSED AND UNDERREPRESENTED ON THE LANDSCAPE.
 - WHAT DRIVES FOREST MANAGEMENT PRE FIRE?
 - FIRES ARE EXPANDING, ARE MORE EXTREME AND BURNED AREAS ARE MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL.
 - BURNED AREA EMERGENCY RESPONSE (BAER) PROGRAM - POST FIRE MAPPING EFFORTS: BURNED AREA REFLECTANCE CLASSIFICATION (BARC), ETC. STATE-LEVEL PROGRAMS
 - FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES SCOPE IS LIMITED TO FEDERAL RESOURCES (POST FIRE)
- TOPIC 3 – WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

WESTFAST SPECIAL TOPIC WEBINAR SERIES

- **OCTOBER 20, 2021, 10 AM MDT - DROUGHTS AND WILDFIRES BE DAMMED: HOW BEAVERS HELP BUILD LANDSCAPE-SCALE CLIMATE RESILIENCE**
- **SEPTEMBER 8, 2021, THE NEW DROUGHT.GOV: ADVANCING DROUGHT RESILIENCE THROUGH INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION**
- **AUGUST 8, 2021, WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT**
- **JULY 21, 10 AM MT - FOREST RESILIENCE BOND - EPA WATER FINANCE CENTER**
- **JUNE 23, 10 AM MT - SECURE WATER ACT REPORT – RECLAMATION**



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

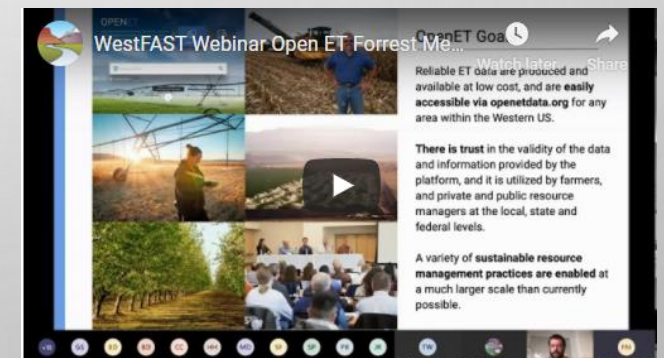
[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

[Learn more about Teams](#) | [Meeting options](#)

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



NEW WESTFAST LEADERSHIP – JULY 2021

WestFAST Vice Chair



Christopher Carlson
USFS, Program Lead
Watershed and Aquatic
Ecology Research

WestFAST Chair



Roger Gorke
EPA, Senior Policy Advisor
Office of Water

Federal Liaison



Heather Hofman
NRCS Nat. Resource Specialist
Nat. Water Climate Center



Western States Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST)

A 12 Agency Collaboration Platform since 2008

MEMBERS

ABOUT US

CONTACT US



What We Do

WestFAST supports a continued commitment on the part of Federal and State organizations to work with local, Tribal, and other stakeholders to improve the effectiveness of collaboration and seek solutions to water issues in the Western States.

About WestFAST

The Western States Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST) was formally organized in 2008 in response to the Western Governors' Association's recommendation to facilitate correlation of federal activities and to develop and enhance collaborative partnerships among state and federal agencies working on priority water-resource issues. Today, WestFAST is a collaboration of twelve Federal agencies with water management responsibilities in the West.

WestFAST works closely with the Western States Water Council striving to accomplish effective cooperation among western states, and their partners, in the understanding, conservation, development and management of water resources. The twelve WestFAST federal agencies form a dynamic, flexible team that provides the opportunity for interaction initiated by WSWC, individual states, or the federal government.

[Fact Sheet](#)

Why WestFAST?

Formally organized in 2008, the Western States Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST) supports the Western States Water Council Association (WSWC) and the Western Governor's Association (WGA) through coordination of Federal activities, and partnerships among state and federal agencies working on priority water issues. Today, WestFAST is a collaboration of twelve Federal agencies with water management responsibilities in the West.

WestFAST works closely with the WSWC, an organization consisting of representatives appointed by the governors of 18 western states

striving to accomplish effective cooperation among western states, and their partners, in the conservation, development, and management of water resources. The twelve WestFAST federal agencies form a dynamic, flexible team that provides the opportunity for interaction initiated by WSWC, individual states, or the federal government.

The federal agencies that make up WestFAST all have unique roles within western water management. WestFAST provides a means for those agencies to collaborate among themselves and with partner states in a way they may not otherwise be able.

- Provide excellent opportunities for cross-agency discussions and leveraging of shared knowledge.
- Formulate and promote new concepts and practices to improve the planning and execution of Federal and State water policies and programs to better preserve and manage water in the West.
- Identify and promote the most efficient and productive cooperation and collaboration practices between state and federal agencies



Past Webinars

- 17 MAR** THE SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA WATER SUPPLY ACTION PLAN EVENT DETAIL
Wednesday
- 17 FEB** WESTFAST WEBINAR: THE RECLAMATION FUND EVENT DETAIL
Wednesday
- 20 JAN** M4: NEXT GENERATION AI-BASED NRCS WATER SUPPLY FORECASTING SYSTEM EVENT DETAIL
Wednesday

Monthly Newsletters

WestFAST February Newsletter
Mar 1, 2021

Reclamation investing \$15.4 million to help communities mitigate drought and climate change impacts in Western United States; Earth just had its 7th-warmest January on record; and more. Download it here: FEBRUARY 2021 WestFAST.

[Read More](#)

WestFAST Federal-State Collaboration: Report and Review
Feb 20, 2019

This report is a primer on Federal/State positions on collaboration for use by those interacting in the issues of water resources in the West. You can download the report here: Review of Policies, Perspectives, and Expectations for Federal/State Collaboration in...

[Read More](#)

QUESTIONS

