

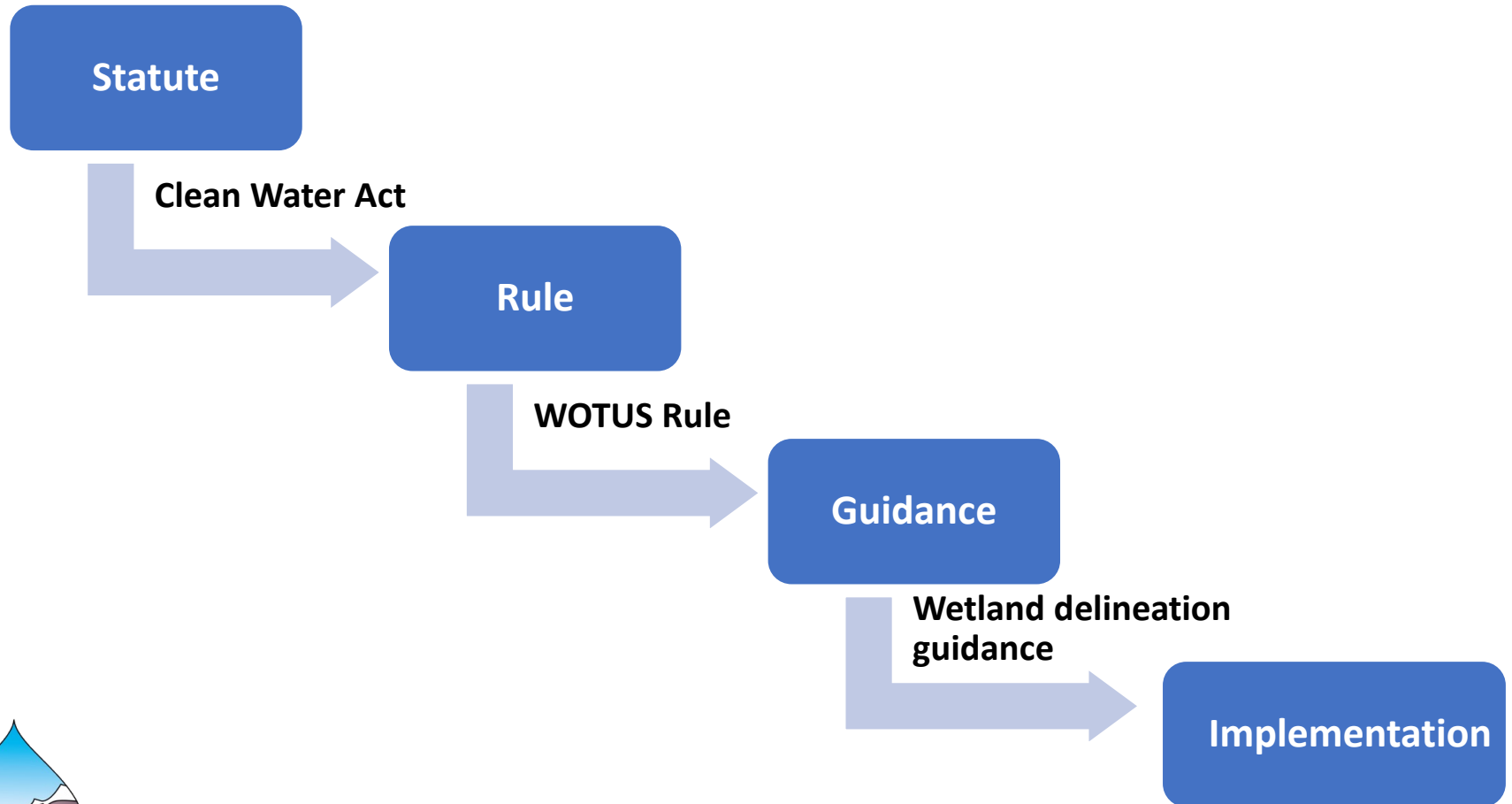


Regional
Classification
Schemes for
WOTUS:
Pre-workshop 1



WESTERN STATES
WATER COUNCIL

The WOTUS challenge



Regulatory Uncertainty

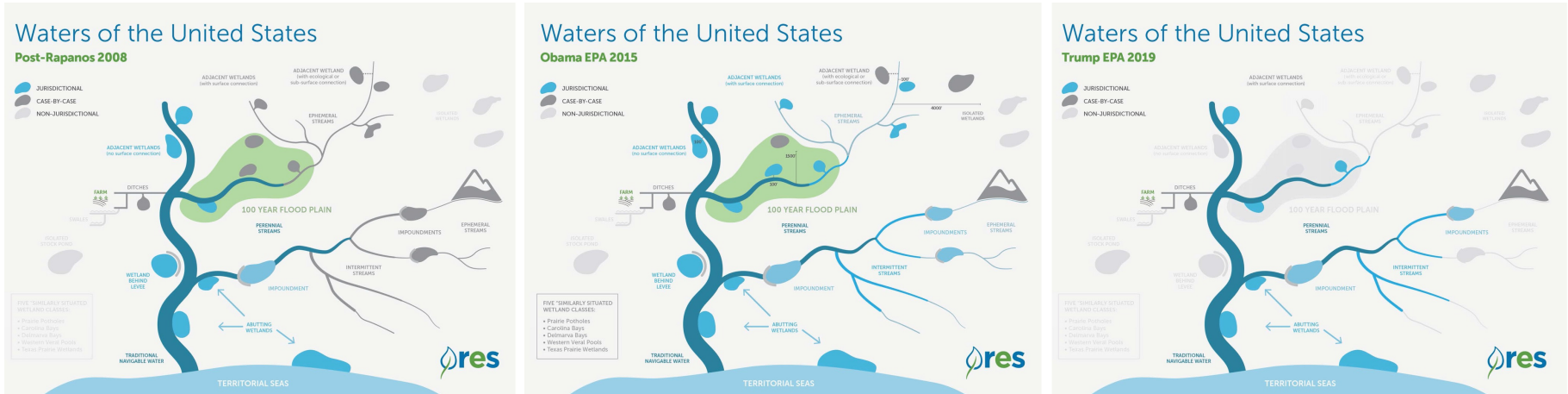
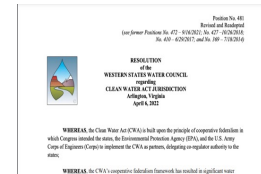


Image source: University of Arkansas. <https://watercurrents.uada.edu/jodie-murray-burns-explains-waters-of-the-united-states-at-multi-basin-meeting/>



Western States Water Council WOTUS Position #481

- Need for a durable rule
- Clarity in rule and in process
- Principles of cooperative federalism
- Recognizes regional differences



.....**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Congress and the Administration should ensure that any federal effort to clarify or define CWA jurisdiction and define Waters of the United States:

- Creates an enduring and broadly supported definition
- Provides for mapping of jurisdictional waters as a joint federal/state/tribal effort employing the best available data and tools, with appropriate provisions and processes for map maintenance.
- Recognizes the need to balance definitional clarity with flexibility in implementation to address the unique landscapes, flow regimes, and legal frameworks in various regions of the Nation and appropriately weighs all factors of science, law, and effective policy to draw jurisdictional conclusions that are appropriate, and that do not impinge on the rights of States.
- Considers a regional approach to the definitions of terms for foundational and any categorical waters in the rule including terms such as “relatively permanent” and “significant nexus” and defines regions building upon existing classification systems based on hydrology, geology, and climate.

10. Provides for mapping of jurisdictional waters as a joint federal/state/tribal effort employing the best available data and tools, with appropriate provisions and processes for map maintenance.

11. Includes an appropriate delay in the effective date of any new rule or otherwise allows for a transition enabling states to take such action as may be necessary to address any gaps in state law, regulation and provision, such as state reliance on the rule to be developed by state agencies, in consultation with states, after the final implementation of the new rule.

12. Recognizes the need to balance definitional clarity with flexibility in implementation to address the unique landscapes, flow regimes, and legal frameworks in various regions of the Nation and appropriately weighs all factors of science, law, and effective policy to draw jurisdictional conclusions that are appropriate, and that do not impinge on the rights of States.

13. Considers a regional approach to the definitions of terms for foundational and any categorical waters in the rule including terms such as “relatively permanent” and “significant nexus” and defines regions building upon existing classification systems based on hydrology, geology, and climate.

14. Provides for the rule development process, representative number of states, an open process, with diverse perspectives and regions to engage actively as an integral way with EPA and Corps and to provide state and tribal officials to be responsible for a proposed rule which requires state input for development of new regulatory language.

WOTUS Regional Concept Workshop Series



WOTUS regional concept pre-workshop 1: Regional classification schemes

- *June 21, 2022, 10:30 am – 1:30 pm
Mountain Time, via Zoom*

WOTUS regional approach pre-workshop 2: Operationalizing regional concepts in western states

- *July 11, 2022, 10:30 am – 1:30 pm
Mountain Time, via Zoom*

WOTUS regional concept policy workshop: Western States Water Council Summer Meeting

- *August 2, 2022, 8:30am – 5:00 pm
Mountain Time, Poulson, MT*

Workshop Series Goals



- **Explore regional classification schemes that could be applied to WOTUS.**
- Explore tools that could be used within a regional context to define WOTUS in western states.
- Provide states and federal partners an opportunity to learn from one another and explore regional concepts in more depth.
- Propose a collaborative process to incorporate regional approaches into the WOTUS rule and implementation
- Prepare a technical white paper *Applicability of regional classification schemes and tools to WOTUS rule and implementation.*

Workshop Tools



Zoom



Interactive Map of regional schemes



LucidSpark whiteboard



PollEverywhere Survey



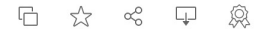
Zoom tools

The screenshot displays the Zoom Webinar interface. At the top, the window title is "Zoom Webinar". A central banner reads "You are in a practice session" with a blue "Start Webinar" button. The main content area shows a stylized landscape with a blue sky, a red rock formation, a purple mountain, and a green field with a winding river. On the right, a "Participants (1)" panel shows "WSWC (Host, me)" with "Unmute" and "More" buttons. A dropdown menu for "More" includes "Rename" and "Change Panelist Appearance". The bottom toolbar contains icons for "Unmute", "Start Video", "Participants", "Chat", "Share Screen", "Polls", "Raise Hand", "Q&A", and "End".



Interactive Map

Regional Classification Systems by [Western States Water Council](#)

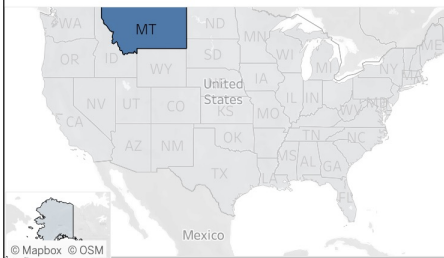


Reset Filters ■

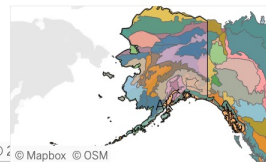
Select a Region or sub-Region of Interest

Type	Name
Streamflow Duration Assessment Methods	Arid West
Assessment Methods	Western Mountains
Wetland Delineation Regions	Arid West

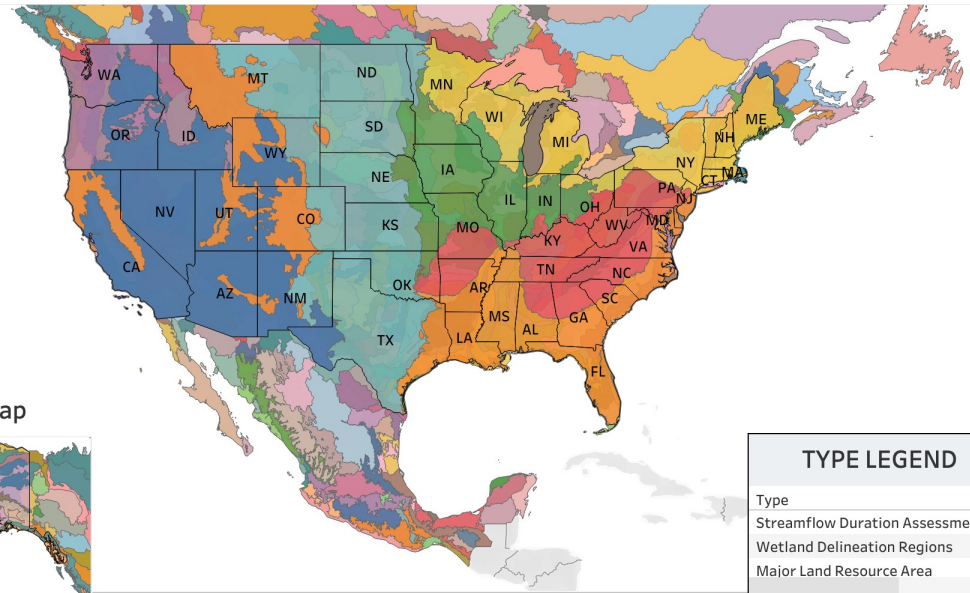
Select a State of Interest



Alaska Map



Country Map



TYPE LEGEND

Type
Streamflow Duration Assessment Methods
Wetland Delineation Regions
Major Land Resource Area



Virtual Whiteboard

Regional Classification S... ☆ 🔗 ☰ 🔍

👤 ⌵ | 💬 | 🗨️ | 📺 | 📹 | [Share](#) | **EG**

Regional Classification Schemes for WOTUS

	EPA Ecoregions	USGS NHD	SDAM regions	USACE Wetland regions	MLRA (USDA)
Applicability to WOTUS					
Opportunities to integrate with other tools					
Specific concerns that could be addressed using scheme					
Suggestions for adaptations to scheme					

Parking Lot Policy Question for August Workshop

← → 🔍 - 21% + ↺



Group Survey

WOTUS Pre-workshop 1: Regional Classification Schemes

Form description

⋮

How important are the following criteria to defining regions for purposes of WOTUS rules and implementation? *

	1 - Not relevant	2	3	4	5 - Most rele
Geology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elevation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Precipitation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hydrography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Thank you!

- WestFAST
 - Heather Hofman, NRCS
 - Roger Gorke, EPA
- Speakers
 - Kim Jones, USGS
 - Brian Topping, EPA
 - Kyle Gordon, USACE
 - Drew Kinney, NRCS
- Western States Water Council Staff
 - Adel Abdullah and Ryan James –
Development of Interactive Map
- All participants!
- Western States Water Council WOTUS workshop planning group
 - Anna Pakenham Stevenson, MT
 - Trevor Baggio, AZ
 - Lauren Discoll, WA
 - Jennifer Carr, NV
 - Jennifer Zygmunt, WY
 - Eric Hargett, WY
 - Shelly Lemon, NM
 - Jeff Cowley, WY
 - Jennifer Verleger, ND
 - Jennifer Wigal, OR
 - Jerry Rigby, ID
 - Tony Willardson, WSWC
 - Michelle Bushman, WSWC
 - Erica Gaddis, WSWC