



WestFAST on the Web: <https://westernstateswater.org/westfast/>

Western States Federal Agency Support Team (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 coordination 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 13 Federal agencies with water management responsibilities in the West: Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Energy, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

WestFAST works closely with the Western States Water Council (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 thirteen WestFAST federal agencies form a dynamic, flexible team that provides the opportunity for interaction initiated by WSWC, individual states, or the federal government.

These agencies support a federal liaison stationed in the WSWC's office responsible for coordinating efforts among the agencies with the WSWC. The WestFAST collaboration has provided excellent opportunities for cross-agency discussions and leveraging of shared knowledge.

The federal agencies that make up WestFAST all have unique roles within western water management. WestFAST provides a means for those agencies to collaborate in ways that may not otherwise take place. The WestFAST team stresses collaboration in the following areas:

1. Climate Change
2. Water Availability, Water Use, and Water Reuse
3. Water Quality

Additional areas of collaboration include:

1. The development of the Water Data Exchange (WaDE) Program
2. Supporting the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)
3. Providing communication on federal funding opportunities.
4. Promoting Federal and State collaboration in the Colorado River Basin