



SEPTEMBER 2022

# WestFAST News

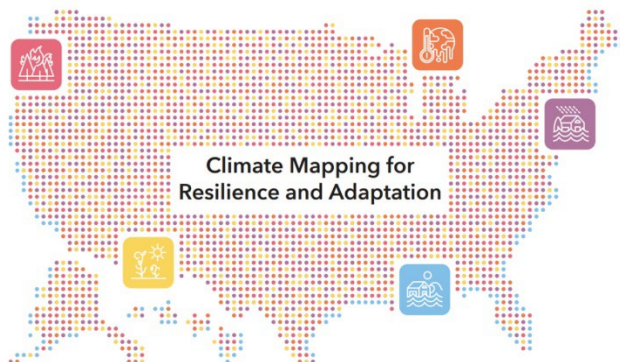
682 East Vine Street / Suite 7 / Murray, UT 84107 / (801) 685-2555/ [www.westernstateswater.org/westfast](http://www.westernstateswater.org/westfast)

Chair – Roger Gorke; Federal Liaison Officer – Heather Hofman

## Biden Administration launches portal to help communities assess exposure to climate hazards

**Focus areas:**

NOAA/DOI 9/8/22



A graphic from the Climate Mapping for Resilience and Adaptation website showing depictions of climate hazards across the United States. (ESRI)

Today, the Biden-Harris Administration in partnership with Department of Commerce’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) jointly launched a new website to help communities across the nation understand the real-time climate-related hazards in their area, analyze projected long-term exposure to those hazards, and identify federal funds to support climate resilience projects for their communities.

The [Climate Mapping for Resilience and Adaptation](https://resilienceclimate.gov/) (CMRA) portal, an easily accessible and interactive geospatial website, will help federal,

state, local and tribal governments as well as non-profit organizations learn about climate hazards impacting their communities.

“From day one, President Biden made a clear commitment to protect our most vulnerable communities from the impacts of climate change,” said Deputy National Climate Advisor Ali Zaidi. “This website is designed as a one-stop shop to equip those on the ground with the tools they need to plan and prepare, and to access federal resources to build greater resilience.”



This screenshot shows components of the Climate Mapping for Resilience and Adaptation website at [resilienceclimate.gov](https://resilienceclimate.gov/). The site was developed by a collaborative interagency group and Esri, a private partner, to provide comprehensive information on climate hazards and support community climate resilience. (ESRI)

CMRA integrates decision-relevant information from across the U.S. government, including climate maps and data; non-climate data such as building code standards, economic justice, and social vulnerability information; and federal grant funding

opportunities. The website's new CMRA Assessment Tool offers information on past, present, and projected future climate conditions to support planners and managers in assessing their exposure to climate-related hazards, including drought, extreme heat, coastal and inland flooding, and wildfire. The site helps users create their own custom climate exposure assessment for specific locations and customize statistics and visual representations of the hazards in their particular area.

The portal also serves as a key tool to aid in the planning and implementation of federal investments, such as the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) (BIL) and [Inflation Reduction Act](#). CMRA supports users in evaluating future climate threats to federally-funded projects. It also provides information on various federal grant programs that can fund climate resilience efforts.

"The climate crisis is hurting our communities and our economy," said U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo. "Addressing climate change and building climate resilience are among the Commerce Department's top priorities. By combining critical climate data and climate-hazard information with the resources to help fund resilience and adaptation projects, CMRA will be an invaluable tool for local communities across America."

CMRA incorporates White House goals for equity and inclusion principles into all information on resilience projects. Prospective grant applicants can use CMRA to ensure their projects have accounted for exposure to current and future climate-related hazards, and that their planned actions reduce exposure and risk in ways that are equitable and inclusive.

"Building climate resilience starts with communities, leaders, and other decision makers understanding their specific climate threats," said NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad, Ph.D. "CMRA provides the public with the same NOAA-powered data that the federal government relies on every day to make sound decisions about climate preparedness. We're honored to host and manage CMRA and believe it can become the first line of defense in protecting people, property, and infrastructure."

The collaborative interagency group developing CMRA includes the White House Domestic Climate Policy Office, Office of Science and Technology Policy, and Council on Environmental Quality; Office of Management and Budget; and members of the White House Climate-Smart Infrastructure Interagency Working Group.

CMRA was developed by [Esri](#), a geographic information system software company, through a contract with NOAA. Development of CMRA was co-funded by NOAA and DOI using 2022 BIL funds. Learn more about [climate resilience and adaptation efforts](#), and explore the CMRA web portal at [resilience.climate.gov](#).

## **Biden-Harris Administration and EPA Announce Delivery of Historic Water Infrastructure Funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to 18 States**

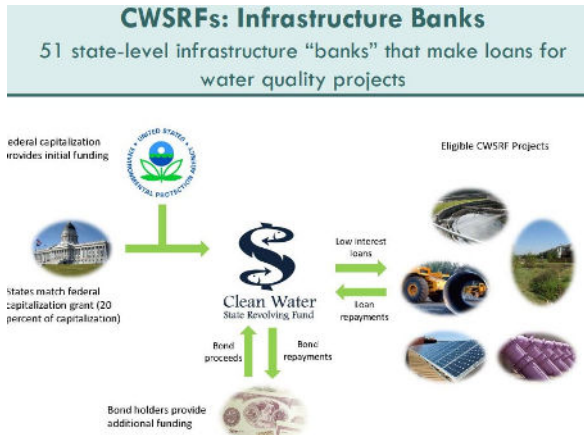
EPA 9/16/22



Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding to the first 18 states across the country for water infrastructure improvements.

President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law allocates more than \$50 billion to EPA toward repairing the nation's essential water infrastructure, which helps communities access clean, safe and reliable drinking water, increase resilience, collect and treat wastewater to protect public health, clean up pollution, and safeguard vital waterways. More than \$1.1 billion in capitalization grants from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law have been issued to 18 states through the State Revolving Funds (SRFs), with additional capitalization grants forthcoming. The grants mark the first significant distribution of water infrastructure funds thanks to the Bipartisan

Infrastructure Law. State allocations were previously announced.



“All communities need access to clean, reliable, safe water,” said **EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan**. “Thanks to President Biden’s leadership and the resources from the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we are repairing aging water infrastructure, replacing lead service lines, cleaning up contaminants, and making our communities more resilient in the face of floods and climate impacts.”

“President Biden has been clear—we cannot leave any community behind as we rebuild America’s infrastructure with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law,” said **White House Infrastructure Coordinator Mitch Landrieu**. “Because of his Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, nearly half of the additional SRF funding will now be grants or forgivable loans, making accessing these critical water resources easier for small, rural and disadvantaged communities.”

EPA’s SRFs are part of President Biden’s [Justice40 initiative](#), which aims to deliver at least 40% of the benefits from certain federal programs to underserved communities. Furthermore, nearly half the funding available through the SRFs thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law must be grants or principal forgiveness loans that remove barriers to investing in essential water infrastructure in underserved communities across rural America and in urban centers.

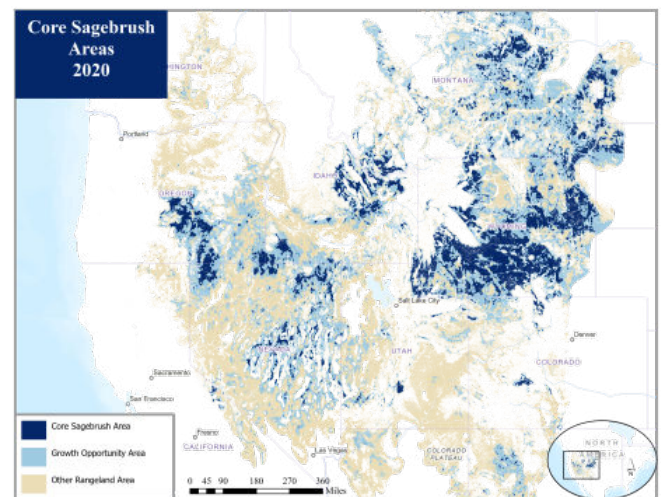
EPA awarded SRF capitalization grants to 18 states, including: Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, New Hampshire, New

Mexico, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and West Virginia. Funding announced today represents FY22 awards for states that have submitted and obtained EPA’s approval of their plans for use of the funding. Capitalization grants will continue to be awarded, on a rolling, state-by-state basis, as more states receive approval throughout FY22; states will also receive awards over the course of the next four years. Once grants are awarded, state programs will begin to deliver the funds as grants and loans to communities across their state.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law presents the largest-ever funding opportunity for investing in water infrastructure. Find out more about Bipartisan Infrastructure Law programs and other programs that help communities manage their water resources on [EPA's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law page](#).

## New Report Offers Path Forward for Interagency Efforts to Revive the West’s Disappearing Sagebrush Ecosystem

USGS/FWS 9/22/22



[Image Details](#)

A report published today by a team of scientists from a dozen organizations provides a product designed to boost efforts by land and wildlife managers to restore and conserve the imperiled sagebrush ecosystem across the full extent of its range, which covers more than 165 million acres.

The report's approach, known as the Sagebrush Conservation Design, provides a roadmap for addressing threats to sagebrush by facilitating cooperative conversations that enable stakeholders to work together. The sheer size of rangeland the new design covers – 13 western states – is unmatched to date by previous efforts.

To develop this report, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies brought together 21 leading scientists with diverse backgrounds and expertise from 12 different federal and state agencies, universities, and non-governmental organizations.

“We are committed to working with stakeholders to find solutions that improve habitat, stop the decline, and help people maintain quality of life and livelihoods,” said **Tony Wasley, Director of the Nevada Department of Wildlife and Chair of the WAFWA Sagebrush Executive Oversight Committee.** “Implementing a strategic, landscape-scale approach will require an unprecedented degree of collaboration. The Sagebrush Conservation Design gives us the tools we need to do exactly that.”

Sagebrush, home to more than 350 species of conservation concern, is being threatened and degraded by invasive annual grasses, wildfire, expanding conifers, climate change and human development. Despite increased investments into the sagebrush ecosystem in recent years, the report found an average of 1.3 million acres of sagebrush have been lost or degraded each year over the last 20 years. “The Sagebrush Conservation Design allows for targeted conservation and monitoring and helps managers and landowners focus finite resources on protecting functioning habitat,” said **Anne Kinsinger, Associate Director for Ecosystems at the U.S. Geological Survey.**

The report's innovative approach is based on remotely sensed data which was used to assess sagebrush habitats across its range, assigning areas to categories according to the status of the sagebrush and perennial grasses. Areas with intact sagebrush and perennial grasses are labeled Core Sagebrush Areas.

The design calls for a ‘Defend and Grow the Core’ approach, flipping the script by focusing first on

these intact Core Sagebrush Areas that are of immediate high value to wildlife, and then growing them by working outward to more degraded areas rather than addressing the worst areas first. Core areas have the potential to provide anchor points and are most likely to maintain their condition as high-quality habitat. These are supplemented by Growth Opportunity Areas, which provide opportunities for improving habitat, but are lower priority given the presence of landscape-scale threats where restoration investments may be necessary.

The report also found that the identified threats to sagebrush habitats are complex, landscape-scale problems, such as invasive annual grasses, wildfire, conifer encroachment, climate change, and a range of other human modifications. These complex problems impact livestock forage, wildlife habitat, carbon storage and other critical ecosystem services provided by sagebrush landscapes.

“The Sagebrush Conservation Design provides a framework for engaging in collaborative conservation on a landscape scale,” stated **Matt Hogan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director for the Mountain-Prairie Region.** “It not only provides a roadmap for conservation but will facilitate conversations about shared goals and values among a wide array of stakeholders so that we can work collectively to achieve conservation success.”

The Sagebrush Conservation Design can inform landscape-scale decisions and provides a starting place for incorporating the local stakeholder input and knowledge necessary to implement site-specific management strategies.

The Open File Report, “[A Sagebrush Conservation Design to Proactively Restore America's Sagebrush Biome](#),” is now available on the U.S. Geological Survey website.

## **Interior Department Announces Next Steps to Address Drought Crisis Gripping the Colorado River Basin**

DOI 9/22/22



As the worsening drought crisis continues to impact communities across the West, senior leaders from the Department of the Interior are outlining new and urgent actions to improve and protect the long-term sustainability of the Colorado River System. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, Deputy Secretary Tommy Beaudreau, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Tanya Trujillo and Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton are attending the Colorado River Symposium in Santa Fe, New Mexico, this week to highlight steps the Department is taking and propose new actions to prevent the System's reservoirs from falling to critically low elevations that would threaten water deliveries and power production.

"The prolonged drought afflicting the West is one of the most significant challenges facing our country. As a 35th generation New Mexican, I have seen firsthand how climate change is exacerbating the drought crisis and putting pressure on the communities who live across Western landscapes," said **Secretary Deb Haaland**. "We must work together to make the tough choices necessary to chart a sustainable future for the Colorado River System on which more than 40 million people depend. As we move forward, we will do so with key guiding principles, including collaboration, equity and transparency. I am committed to bringing every resource to bear to help manage the drought crisis and provide a sustainable water system for families, businesses and our vast and fragile ecosystems."

The actions being discussed this week build on those announced in August 2022 as part of the Bureau of Reclamation's release of the [Colorado River Basin August 2022 24-Month Study](#), which sets the annual operations for Lake Powell and Lake

Mead in 2023. Those previously announced actions specified that Lake Powell will operate in the Lower Elevation Balancing Tier in water year 2023 and Lake Mead will operate in its first-ever Level 2a Shortage Condition in calendar year 2023 requiring reduced allocations and water savings contributions for the Lower Basin States and Mexico.

The Department is focused on the need for continued collaboration and partnerships across the Upper and Lower Basins, with Tribes, and with the country of Mexico. The agency's approach will continue to seek consensus support and will be based on a continued commitment to engage with diverse stakeholders to ensure all communities that rely on the Colorado River will provide contributions toward the solutions. The Department is also preparing for administrative actions necessary to ensure that the Colorado River System can sustainably deliver vital water supplies, power and other services.

#### **Executing on Efforts Already Underway**

During the Symposium, which brings leaders together from across the Basin, the Department leaders are outlining steps that Reclamation is taking to facilitate ongoing efforts to conserve water and protect the System. The severity of this moment requires action now as we chart a more sustainable, resilient and equitable future for the Basin.

Department efforts include:

- Ensuring that the Lower Basin states continue to work on developing voluntary measures and agreements to conserve water and finalizing those agreements as soon as possible. They also highlighted the need for ongoing collaboration with the Upper Basin states to develop additional conservation agreements and operational adjustments.
- Working with the Upper Basin states to support their five-point plan, including:
  - development of their demand management plans
  - reauthorization of System Conservation
  - investment in improved monitoring and reporting infrastructure
  - encouragement of strict water management and administration
  - and development of a 2023 Drought Response Operations plan

- Making unprecedented investments in drought resilience and water management from President Biden’s [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#), the Inflation Reduction Act and existing programs like [WaterSMART](#) as quickly and efficiently as possible.

As we move forward with implementing ongoing efforts, the Department will focus on the strategic investments needed to improve the efficiency of water delivery systems that result in conservation and, ultimately, in reduced demands on the Colorado River's shrinking supplies.

### **Taking Action to Protect the System**

Department leaders will continue to affirm that action must be taken now to reduce water consumption across the Basin in light of critically low water supplies and dire hydrological projections. As the agency moves forward, it will continue to do so by utilizing the best available science, data and technology.

These actions include:

- Initiating an administrative process to address operational realities under the current 2007 Interim Guidelines while we continue to develop alternatives for sustainable and equitable operations under the new guidelines.
- Moving forward with administrative actions needed to authorize a reduction of Glen Canyon Dam releases below seven million acre-feet per year, if needed, to protect critical infrastructure at Glen Canyon Dam.
- Preparing to manage elevations in Lake Powell by implementing emergency drought operations.
- Preparing to take action to make additional reductions in 2023, as needed, through an administrative process to evaluate and adjust triggering elevations and/or increase reduction volumes identified in the 2007 Interim Guidelines Record of Decision.
- Accelerating ongoing maintenance actions and studies of the bypass tubes at Glen Canyon Dam to analyze the feasibility of possible modifications to increase water delivery capacity during low reservoir levels.
- Ensuring that water use determinations for the Lower Basin satisfy appropriate

beneficial use standards during this time of historically low reservoirs, including taking into consideration fundamental human health and safety requirements.

- Assessing how to account for and allocate system losses due to evaporation, seepage, and other losses.

Additionally, as the process for developing new guidelines for Colorado River System operations is underway, Department leaders emphasized the need to develop clear alternatives that can sustain the System and work to provide reliable, sustainable and equitable water and power supplies in the coming decades.

### **Implementing President Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act**

Department leaders outlined the framework under consideration for the funds as part of the Inflation Reduction Act, which includes \$4 billion in funding specifically for water management and conservation efforts in the Colorado River Basin and other areas experiencing similar levels of drought.

The Department will establish, among other funding mechanisms, a two-step process to solicit short-term conservation contributions and longer-term durable system efficiency projects.

Longer-term projects could include initiatives such as canal lining, re-regulating reservoirs, ornamental and non-functional turf removal, salinity projects and other infrastructure or “on the ground” activities. Projects could also be related to aquatic ecosystem restoration and impacts mitigation, crop water efficiency, rotational fallowing, and marginal land idling.

The Bureau of Reclamation will hold listening sessions on September 30, 2022, to hear directly from states, Tribes, water managers, farmers, irrigators and other stakeholders about implementation of this historic funding from the Inflation Reduction Act.

## **[A Landscape Approach to Conservation and Collaboration in the Pacific Northwest](#)**



[Image Details](#) By Jan Peterson, for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Region

The region of Oregon and Washington between the Cascade Range and the Pacific Ocean has a rich diversity of wildlife, topography and land uses. The environmental challenges this region faces are no less diverse.

Climate change, wildfires, development, invasive species, policy issues, and sometimes conflicting goals can all threaten the region's shared natural and cultural resource values.

The Cascades to Coast Landscape Collaborative ([CCLC](#)), convened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Science Applications Program, is dedicated to finding collaborative solutions to these threats. The group's goal is to achieve functioning, resilient ecosystems and working lands across the Pacific Northwest over the long term.

John Mankowski, the Cascades to Coast's partnership facilitator, says collaboration is vital. "It's really the best way to tackle the most vexing conservation challenges we face. Our challenges are increasingly complex and larger than any one entity can handle alone," he says. "They have to do with landscape-scale impacts like climate change, habitat loss and fracturing our landscapes with roads and development. Landscape conservation presents a huge opportunity ... to touch down in people's lives, to address climate change and development impacts, and to create resilient landscapes – all at the same time. Landscape conservation addresses biodiversity, water and air, food and fiber, jobs and livelihoods, and people's identities."



[Image Details](#)

The landscape collaborative's partners include people who represent a cross-section of specialties, interests, industries, and governmental and non-governmental organizations. The leadership team meets monthly and includes three Service employees: Kaitlyn Landfield, science communications coordinator; Alan Yanahan, conservation biologist; and Bill Vogel, wildlife biologist

Partners include Oregon's departments of Fish and Wildlife, Land and Conservation Development, Department of Transportation and Parks and Recreation, the Washington Habitat Connectivity Working Group, and Washington's departments of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife and its State Recreation and Conservation Office.

Also involved are the Chinook Indian Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission, Cowlitz Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation and Yakama Nation.

Non-governmental groups offering their expertise include Conservation Northwest, Audubon Washington, Defenders of Wildlife, Ecotrust, Conservation Biology Institute, Pinchot Institute for Conservation and The Nature Conservancy. Industry partners include the Center for Inclusive Entrepreneurship, David Evans and Associates, Environmental Science Associates, Greenwood Resources, Hampton Lumber, PC Trask and Associates, and Port Blakely.

Agricultural and forest landowners – large and small – are also engaged, as the footprint for the

Cascades to Coast collaborative contains a large number of working farms and forests.

“You have all these people and organizations who have unique experiences, different amounts of resources, different abilities to engage with partners to support conservation projects. This is a way to share resources to get stuff done,” says Jeff Azerrad, environmental planner at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

“No one organization has all the expertise and all the resources to do some of the big work these partnerships are doing. These partnerships, including the CCLC, are doing things that are valued,” he says.



[Image Details](#)

Vicki Finn, conservation coordinator in the Service’s Science Applications program, says that while the Service provides funding, the partnership is very self-directed.

“Once the CCLC decided to focus on maintaining habitat connectivity and working lands, it was a great fit for our agency’s mission. We want working lands to stay working *while* conserving wildlife,” Finn says. “Finding the balance is never easy, but by working together and listening to a wide variety of co-managers and partners, we are finding ways to do both.”

Mankowski says the group reaches a wider circle of 75 to 100 partners through workshops and seminars once or twice a year to better understand and address the region’s priorities.

“The objective is to get ahead of what’s coming in terms of landscape-scale impacts so we don’t have to manage so much by crisis and conflict,”

Mankowski says. “We know that healthy, connected landscapes are essential – for clean water, healthy ecosystems, cultural heritage, vibrant communities and economies, climate resilience, climate mitigation, flood and fire control, outdoor recreation, and a local sense of place. And yet our approaches to these critical issues are too often piecemeal, scattered, isolated and incomplete.

“The CCLC is about bridging divisions. We bring people together across geographies, jurisdictions, sectors, and cultures to re-weave fragmented landscapes and safeguard the ecological, cultural and economic benefits they provide.”

The Cascades to Coast Landscape Collaborative strongly focuses on bringing small farm and forest owners into the conversation. They developed a tool, the [Conservation Program Explorer](#), that allows landowners to easily find incentive programs that apply to their land rather than sifting through countless federal, state, and local government and NGO websites.



[Image Details](#)

Ken Miller, who owns 150 acres of timberland, helped the collaborative understand the needs of small forest landowners like himself. Miller says that to his way of thinking, it compliments the Washington Department of Natural Resources stewardship program. He said DNR foresters previously met with landowners in person to help identify programs that applied to their situation.

“That was pretty darn good customer service because as I worked with them, I learned to trust them. Those days are long gone, so this was a way to get in touch with different interests,” Miller says.

The Cascades to Coast Landscape Collaborative has also developed a web tool for natural and cultural resource practitioners and policymakers, the [Coastal Northwest Landscape Conservation Mapper](#). Launched in 2021, the tool provides spatial information on the conservation values, working lands, and habitat connectivity priorities of the landscape. It's designed to visually highlight landscape conservation opportunities and spark conversations about landscape planning. Finn says Cascades to Coast Landscape Collaborative's ongoing work is vital to meeting the challenges of rapidly transforming ecosystems. "It is hard to keep up," Finn says. "CCLC embraces the challenge recognizing solutions must work for both wildlife *and* people."

In the Pacific Northwest (and across North America), a transformative change in conservation is taking place. People are connecting across private and public lands, and from cities to the wildest places, to reweave the natural and cultural fabric of the larger landscapes that define and sustain our character and quality of life. Conservation is no longer just about remote protected areas, piecemeal conservation, or top-down processes. People are stepping forward in community-grounded ways, through partnerships such as the Cascades to Coast Landscape Collaborative, to embrace and advance something more integrated and dynamic. Individual acts of conservation are being enriched by ecosystem-scale thinking—the scale at which nature and culture function. It is an exciting time.

The Cascades to Coast Landscape Collaborative contributes to the administration's America the Beautiful initiative, which is a decade-long campaign to conserve, connect and restore 30% of our lands and waters by 2030. The effort aims to support locally led and voluntary conservation and restoration efforts across public, private, and Tribal lands and waters to create jobs and strengthen the economy's foundation, tackle the climate and nature crises, and address inequitable access to the outdoors. For more information about the Cascades to Coast Landscape Collaborative, contact John Mankowski ([john@mankowskienvironmental.com](mailto:john@mankowskienvironmental.com)) or Vicki Finn ([vicki\\_finn@fws.gov](mailto:vicki_finn@fws.gov)).

## Upcoming Meetings and Webinars

**WestFAST Webinars:** WestFAST is hosting a series of webinars to discuss the importance of water resources and community engagement related to wildfire prevention, reduction, recovery, and rehabilitation

**WOTUS regional policy workshop follow-up discussion** 10/13/22, virtual

**2022 WSWC Fall (200th) Meetings**  
10/19-21/22, Sulphur, Oklahoma

- **Panel: Abandoned Hardrock Mine Remediation**  
10/19/22. Sulphur, Oklahoma
- **Panel: WOTUS regional discussion**  
10/19/22. Sulphur, Oklahoma

## Other Federal News

EPA 9/1/22. [EPA Awards \\$3.5 Million to Protect Coastal Habitats through a National Estuary Grant Program](#)

NOAA 9/1/22. [Tribal fishery disasters declared in the West; \\$17.4 million allocated](#)

USFS 9/8/22. [USDA Forest Service Chief Randy Moore's statement announcing actions the Forest Service will take to resume its prescribed fire program safely and effectively after completion of its 90-day national review](#)

EPA 9/9/22. [EPA Awards Nearly \\$2 Million to UC Berkeley for Research to Advance Water Management and Security](#)

BLM 9/13/22. [Sep 13, 2022](#)

[BLM Publishes Tribal Co-stewardship Policy, Reaffirms Commitment to Work with Tribes to Manage Public Lands](#)

NPS 9/13/22. [National Park Service issues new policy guidance to strengthen Tribal co-stewardship of national park lands and waters](#)

NRCS 9/14/22. Biden-Harris Administration Announces Historic Investment in Partnerships for 70 Climate-Smart Commodities and Rural Projects

BOR 9/14/22. Watershed groups receive \$3.8 million to collaboratively address water management issues

FWS 9/15/22. Aquatic restoration made easier for federal agencies in California

USGS 9/15/22. USGS Works with Partners in 15 Cities to Improve Urban Waterways

NOAA 9/15/22. NOAA, NFWF award \$2.6 million for largest U.S. marine national monument

NASA 9/20/22. Eyes on the Snow as Water Supplies Dwindle

BOR 9/21/22. Reclamation awards \$10.3 million to 26 Tribes for drought response water projects

ACOE 9/21/22. Evaluation of Climatic and Hydroclimatic Resources to Support the US Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program

BOR 9/22/22. Biden-Harris Administration announces \$20 million funding opportunity for small surface and groundwater storage drought resilience projects

BOR 9/22/22. Reclamation announces funding opportunity for Tribal water projects

BOR 9/23/22. Reclamation awards \$73 million construction contract for continued progress on the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project's San Juan Lateral

FWS 9/23/22. Departments of the Interior and Agriculture Announce Members of Federal Council to Support Hunting, Conservation Efforts

DOI 9/28/22. Federal Partners to Hold First-Ever Tribal Consultations on Alaska Fisheries Protection and Restoration

ACOE 9/28/22. Corps to construct underwater sill to halt saltwater intrusion on Mississippi River

BOR 9/29/22. Reclamation invests \$6.6 million for innovative water and power solutions

BOR 9/29/22. Reclamation invests \$6.6 million for innovative water and power solutions

FWS 9/30/22. Testing Underway for Pilot Project to Return Endangered Salmon to Their Historic Habitat

## People

USGS 9/7/22. Steve Thur named director of NOAA Research

The Western States Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST) is a collaboration between 13 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 in coordinating Federal efforts regarding water resources.