



WSWC

Western States Water Council

Federal and State Coordination on Water Policy, Water Resources, and Water Quality

The Western States Water Council (WSWC) and the
Western States Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST)

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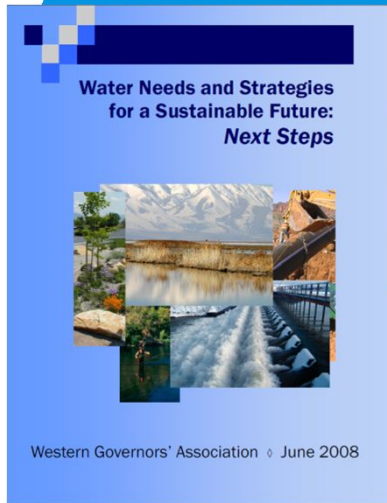
National Water Quality Monitoring Conference



What is the WSWC?

- * Affiliate of the Western Governors' Association
- * Created in 1965 and consists of appointed representatives from 18 of the western states
- * Purposes include:
 1. Promote effective cooperation among the western states on water management and water resources
 2. Promote state prerogatives while accommodating federal interests
 3. Provide a forum for the exchange of views/perspectives
 4. Provide analysis of federal /state developments to assist member states in evaluating the potential impacts





What is WestFAST?

- * 2008 Governors' 'Next Steps' report suggested formation of a federal team to assist the coordination and implementation of the recommendations of the report
- * WestFAST is a collaboration of 12 Federal agencies with water management interests in the West
- * These 12 agencies fund a liaison position to work in the WSWC office



Who makes up WestFAST?

* Senior-level staff from the following agencies:

- Dept. of Energy
- NASA
- EPA
- Forest Service
- NRCS
- NOAA
- Army Corps of Engineers
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- BLM
- USGS
- Reclamation
- Department of Defense



Areas of Interest for WSWC and WestFAST

- * **Key areas of interest for the WSWC and WestFAST:**
 - * Climate Variability
 - * Drought
 - * Water Planning, Water Resources, and Infrastructure
 - * Water Quality
 - * Resolving Indian Water Rights Issues
 - * Endangered Species
 - * Energy and Water

Key Accomplishments in 2011

- * WestFAST made progress on six of the recommendations from the *Next Steps Report*.
- * WestFAST kicked-off the Water Use Data Exchange project.
- * WestFAST gave 21 presentations at the 3 WSWC meetings.
- * WestFAST hosted a ½-day workshop on data management for the WSWC.
- * The WestFAST Newsletter is now received by 126 federal, state, and private sector recipients.
- * USACE continued to provide support for a liaison to the Kansas State Water Office.

WestFAST Work Plan for 2012

- * The 2012 WestFAST Work Plan is focusing on a number of recommendations from the 2008 Next Steps Report. Some highlights include:
 1. 'Principles of Collaboration' Document
 2. Supporting the Water Use Data Exchange
 3. Colorado River Basin Coordination
- *The WestFAST work plan is available at:*
<http://www.westgov.org/wswc/westfast/workplan/index.htm>



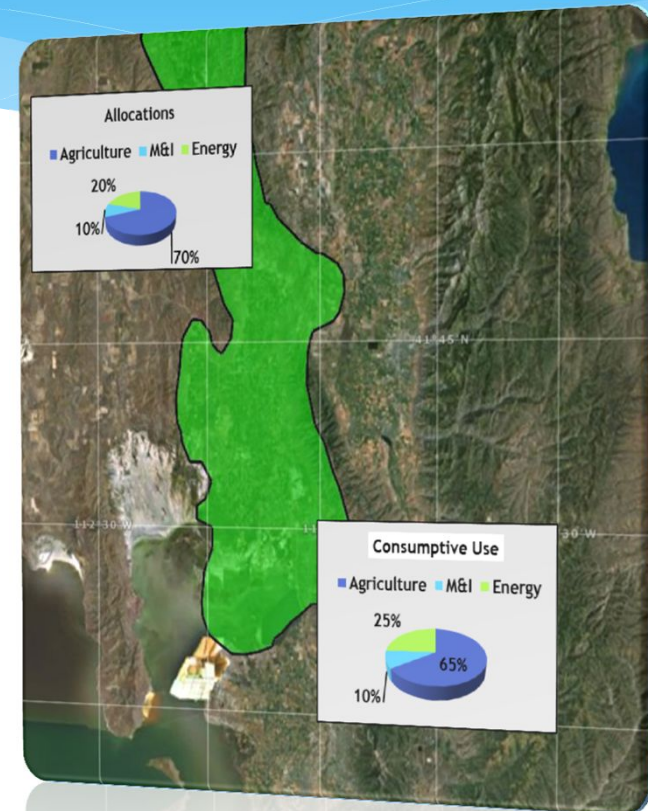
Principles of Collaboration

- * WestFAST will prepare a document that will:
 1. Describe the best practices that federal agencies can take in order to better engage the states.
 2. Provide case-studies of what has worked.
 3. Gather information from existing federal outreach and communication programs.
- * This document will be posted to the WestFAST Web Site once it's completed.

Water use Data Exchange

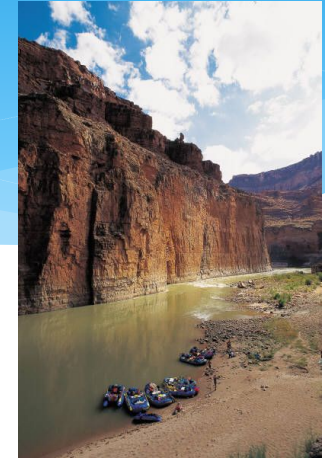
- * The Water Use Data Exchange is a project that will focus on better enabling the western states to share water use, water allocation, and water planning data with one another and with the Federal Government. It will also seek to improve the sharing of Federal data that supports state water planning efforts.

See: <http://westgov.org/wswc/wateruse/>



Colorado River Basin Coordination

- * Numerous federal efforts are underway in the Colorado River Basin.
- * WestFAST is in a unique position to provide a focal point for collaboration.
- * WestFAST will host a 'Colorado River Basin Forum' in Boulder, CO to bring together the various federal entities that are doing research in the basin.



Areas of Opportunity

- * Promote collaboration on data, particularly the Water Census.
- * Engaging in efforts related to the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) and Climate Science Centers (CSCs).
- * Working with the Council on a 'Shared Water Vision'

Some Final Thoughts

- * WestFAST is entering its 4th year. Some observations:
 - * We see an improvement in collaboration at senior level, but not so much at the staff level.
 - * Information from the federal agencies doesn't always get communicated in the same way to the various departments within a state.
- * We see an opportunity to better facilitate communication among all the interested parties.

For More Information

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WSWC Web Site: <http://www.westgov.org/wswc/>

WestFAST Web Site: <http://www.westgov.org/wswc/WestFAST.htm>