

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 (WGA) in coordinating Federal efforts regarding water issues.



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WestFAST News

November 2013

Executive Order Regarding the Impacts of Climate Change

On 01 November 2013, President Obama released an executive order "to facilitate Federal, State, local, tribal, private-sector, and nonprofit-sector efforts to improve climate preparedness and resilience." Specifically, regarding collaborative efforts with the states, the executive order directs five federal actions.

First, under the executive order, the federal government must "identify opportunities to support and encourage smarter, more climate-resilient investments by States, local communities, and tribes."

Second, it encourages agencies to "consider the recommendations of the State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience."

Third, it establishes the Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience to facilitate "work across agencies and offices, and in partnership with State, local, and tribal governments."

Fourth, it establishes the State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience to "inform Federal efforts to support climate preparedness and resilience." This task force is also intended to "provide useful climate preparedness tools and actionable information for States, local communities, and tribes."

Fifth, it formalizes the development of "Data.gov," a website designed to "work with agencies on identifying, developing, and integrating data and tools relevant to climate issues and decisionmaking."

See this [link](#) for more information.

Reclamation Announces WaterSMART Basin Studies

On 20 November 2013, the US Bureau of Reclamation announced that it is seeking applications from nonfederal entities interested in participating in its WaterSMART Basin Studies program for 2014. Through the Basin Studies program, Reclamation

works with state and local partners to conduct comprehensive water supply and demand studies of river basins in the West.

Entities must contribute at least 50% of the total costs as cash or in-kind services. Reclamation's regional offices will review all letters of interest, and those that are selected for consideration will then work with Reclamation to develop a joint study proposal for evaluation and prioritization by a Reclamation review committee. Entities interested in participating should submit a letter of interest to their respective Reclamation regional office by 20 December 2013. For more information, please see [link](#).

Federal News

11/01: Executive Order - Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change; see [link](#).

11/01: EPA Releases Agency Plans for Adapting to a Changing Climate; see [link](#).

11/01: List of Protected Migratory Bird Species Updated by Service; see [link](#).

11/12: Interior Approves New High-Voltage Interstate Transmission Line Project in Wyoming and Idaho; see [link](#).

11/12: New Report Outlines Science for Improved Management of Forest Ecosystems; see [link](#).

11/13: WaterSMART Funding Available for Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects; see [link](#).

11/13: Secretary Jewell Kicks Off White House Tribal Nations Conference; see [link](#).

11/14: Reclamation Releases Sustainable Energy Strategic Plan; see [link](#).

11/14: U.S.-Russia Twenty-Year Partnership Completes Final Milestone in Converting 20,000 Russian Nuclear Warheads into Fuel for U.S. Electricity; see [link](#).

11/14: Reclamation Releases Sustainable Energy Strategic Plan; see [link](#).

11/14: Funding Opportunity Available to Increase Water Conservation or Improve Water Supply Sustainability; see [link](#).

11/14: EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy Testimony Before House Committee on Science, Space and Technology; see [link](#).

11/14: Certification Gets Conservation Easements on the Ground Faster; see [link](#).

11/15: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Announces No Fish Hatchery Closures This Year, Issues Report Highlighting Ongoing Budget Challenges; see [link](#).

11/15: Obama Administration's National Drought Resilience Partnership to Help Communities Prepare for Drought; see [link](#).

11/18: Settlement Will Result in Completion of Section 7 Consultations for Effects of Seven Pesticides on the California Red-Legged Frog; see [link](#).

11/18: Army Corps of Engineers: Keepers of the Flame; see [link](#).

11/18: Secretary Jewell Announces \$8.7 Million for Conservation, Wildfire Prevention and Recreation Projects in Nevada; see [link](#).

11/19: Status Review Initiated for Vicuña Under the Endangered Species Act; see [link](#).

11/19: Landmark Study Reveals Low National Rate of Frog Abnormalities on Wildlife Refuges; see [link](#).

11/19: Secretary Jewell Offers Keynote Remarks at 150th Anniversary of President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address; see [link](#).

11/19: U.S. Drought Monitor Update for November 19, 2013; see [link](#).

11/20: WaterSMART Basin Study Applicants Sought for 2014; see [link](#).

11/20: EPA Proposes New Guidelines for Greener Federal Purchases; see [link](#).

11/20: EPA Awards \$174 Million to Improve Drinking Water Systems, Reduce Water Pollution across California; see [link](#).

11/20: New Solar Instrument Reaches Orbit; see [link](#).

11/20: U.S. Forest Service Offers New Digital Maps for Mobile Devices; see [link](#).

11/21: New Report Reveals Continuing Coastal Wetlands Losses in U.S.; see [link](#).

11/21: Drought Likely to Persist or Develop in the Southwest, Southeastern U.S. this Winter; see [link](#).

11/22: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Releases Annual List of Candidates for Endangered Species Act Protection; see [link](#).

11/22: Conflict Resolution and Public Participation Center Welcomes Visiting Scholar; see [link](#).

11/25: EPA Appoints New Scientific Integrity Official; see [link](#).

11/25: Natural Resources Conservation Service Provides Flood Recovery Assistance for Colorado; see [link](#).

11/25: Secretary Jewell Signs Historic Agreement with Citizen Potawatomi Nation to Spur Investment, Economic Activity in Indian Country; see [link](#).

State News

11/04: Idaho Plan to Conserve Sage Grouse Acknowledged by BLM, Forest Service; see [link](#).

11/06: Watch a Webinar on Our New Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool; see [link](#).

11/06: WGA Announces New Policy Advisors for Natural Resources, Energy; see [link](#).

11/14: Interior Secretary Jewell Will Join Western Governors at Winter Meeting to Discuss Wildfires; see [link](#).

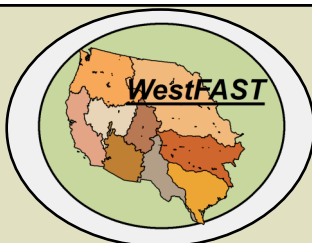
11/15: WGA Announces New Manager of Federal Relations in Washington, D.C.; see [link](#).

11/19: Wildfire Season Never Ends; see [link](#).

11/21: WGA News: Methane Emission Regulation in Colorado, Digital Education in Alaska, Water Plans in Wyoming and Utah; see [link](#).

Upcoming WSWC Meetings & Events

- **April 1-4, 2014:** WSWC Spring Council Meeting and DC Roundtable, Washington DC.
- **July 2014:** WSWC Summer Council Meeting, Montana.
- **TBD:** WSWC Fall Council Meeting, Arizona.



WestFAST News is published monthly. To get an Agency Announcement published or to get added to the WestFAST News distribution list contact:

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