

On January 10, Governor Jared Polis (D) gave his State of the State address. He talked about agricultural exports and volatile commodities markets, the damaging trade war, and increasingly serious water shortages, which are make life harder. “The lifeblood of our agriculture industry is water – which is why we must commit to a bipartisan and sustainable funding source for the Colorado Water Plan. Governor Hickenlooper, along with the leadership of John Stulp, did extraordinary work bringing together a coalition of Coloradans from all corners of our state to create the Water Plan. Now we’re going to do our part by implementing it. We will also partner with organizations like the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union’s Co-Op Development Center and others to reduce barriers to employee ownership and grow wages in the agriculture sector. And we’ll work with the Rural Colorado Venture Capital Fund to expand access to capital and help the next generation of farmers thrive.”

He also talked about climate change and protecting Colorado’s way of life. “Climate change is a scientific reality. It’s real. There’s no pretending otherwise for farmers and ranchers who are facing historic water shortages. There’s no pretending otherwise for the 46,000 women and men who work in Colorado’s ski industry and see their jobs threatened by decreased snowpack. And there will be no pretending otherwise in this administration. We’re going to confront this challenge head-on – not only because we must, but because we want to take advantage of the huge opportunities associated with being a leader in the growing green-energy economy. I launched my campaign for Governor in Pueblo at an all-solar coffee-roasting small business, just 10 miles from the Vestas Wind Turbine factory, which employs 800 Coloradans today. I did so to demonstrate that our commitment to reaching 100% renewable energy by 2040 is not just about climate change. It’s about saving money for consumers with cheaper energy, and it’s about making sure the good-paying green jobs of the future are created right here in Colorado.”

Concerning the oil and gas industry, he said: “And just as we stand up for workers and good jobs, so too must we stand up for our communities – and their right to have a voice when it comes to industrial activities within their borders. It’s time for us to take meaningful action to address the conflicts between oil-and-gas drilling operations and the neighborhoods they impact, and to make sure that all of our communities have clean air and water.” [www.colorado.gov/governor/sites/default/files/2019\\_state\\_of\\_the\\_state.pdf](http://www.colorado.gov/governor/sites/default/files/2019_state_of_the_state.pdf).

## **Idaho**

On January 7, Governor Brad Little (R) gave his State of the State address. “You all know water is Idaho’s lifeblood, and we’ve made great strides in protecting it. Under the leadership of the Water Resource Board, we have doubled our goal of refilling and replenishing our critically important Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, adding more water this year than was removed. While this is an impressive accomplishment, this must be an ongoing effort. Regardless of the water year, we must focus on expanding the water infrastructure across our state.”

Governor Little also talked about public lands as one of Idaho’s greatest assets, and the importance of collaboration to addressing many challenges, while protecting important industries for the economy and quality of life for all Idahoans. He continued: “Wildfire is a part of living in the West. Several factors contribute to the increasing frequency of catastrophic wildfires. These fires threaten public safety and pump millions of tons of pollutants into the air, harming the health of our citizens. They damage wildlife habitat and contaminate our pristine waters. They disrupt our economy and cost taxpayers millions of dollars every year. One of those threats is the buildup of fuels on our public lands closest to where we live, work, and play. A few weeks ago, I signed a first-of-its-kind agreement between Idaho and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This collaborative agreement will reduce wildfire risk, improve forest health and enhance wildlife habitat, by actively managing more acres of federal forests. The new ‘shared stewardship’ approach unifies land management activities that are now disjointed across federal, state, and privately-owned tracts. We’ll use all the tools available to us to reduce fuels around communities, including timber harvest, prescribed burns, and other activities. We’re already seeing a return on our investment in the Good Neighbor Authority, a program that utilizes state employees and contracting processes for restoration work on federal lands. Idaho is leading the country in our fresh, collaborative approach to land management. Other states have already reached out to Idaho for the Shared Stewardship blueprint we created with the Feds. In addition, there are now over 300 ranchers and farmers who are members of nine rangeland fire protection associations across southern Idaho. The initial attack and intel they provide on more than 9 million acres of Idaho’s rangeland have given Idaho

significantly improved chances against the devastation of large wildfires. I want to carry over this successful wildland firefighting model to Idaho's forestlands by expanding the initial attack capabilities of our loggers." <https://gov.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/74/2019/01/2019-sos.pdf>.

## **Nevada**

On January 16, Governor Steve Sisolak (D) said: "We are all lucky to live in the most beautiful state in the country. Hands down. But to keep it that way, we need to recognize the serious environmental threats facing our state. Let me be clear, I will not spend a single second debating the reality of climate change. It is real, and it is irresponsible to ignore the science that proves it – and the lives it has already upended, especially across the West. As Governor, I am committed to making Nevada a clean energy leader – not only to combat the effects of climate change for future generations, but also for the abundance of green-collar jobs we can create right now." [http://gov.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/govnew.nv.gov/Content/News/Press/2019/Sisolak\\_SOTS.pdf](http://gov.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/govnew.nv.gov/Content/News/Press/2019/Sisolak_SOTS.pdf).

## **New Mexico**

On January 16, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham (D) announced her intention to join the U.S. Climate Alliance, a bipartisan group of governors committed to upholding the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. "I will sign an executive order committing us to those goals in the very near future. And I will direct each state agency to participate in developing a comprehensive climate plan for New Mexico that responds to the threat of a warming planet by reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas pollution."

She also set infrastructure as one of her priorities: "Let us also take the time in this session to recognize our infrastructure needs – and to act with the sense of urgency the situation demands.... We have improvements to make to our water systems, our dams, our school buildings, broadband internet in our rural communities – all of these items need our attention, right now. We have a chance to transform our infrastructure to promote and leverage serious economic development while we address critical community needs. I call on you to work with me in expanding and fast-tracking these investments. Infrastructure is the bedrock of our communities and our state. It is the foundation of the diversified economic growth we all envision. We must make these critical investments in safer communities and a stronger economy." <https://www.governor.state.nm.us/2019/01/16/gov-lujan-grisham-outlines-priorities-for-legislative-session-in-first-state-of-the-state-address/>.

## **North Dakota**

On January 3, Governor Doug Burgum (R) talked about the current relative abundance of resources across the globe, including access to clean water. As one of his administration's top priorities, he proposed a new Legacy Fund for infrastructure needs, with "nearly \$1.5 billion for roads, essential water projects, and airport infrastructure, as well as the \$174 million for technology investments.... By investing \$55 million into an infrastructure revolving loan fund, we can leverage an estimated \$370 million in borrowing power. Imagine a source of super low-interest loans for local political subdivisions to support everything from street paving and sewer replacement to flood control projects and water treatment plants. With an additional \$25 million investment in the school construction revolving loan fund – leveraging \$165 million – we can drive a total of \$535 million in construction. <https://www.governor.nd.gov/sites/governor/files/documents/2019%20State%20of%20the%20State%20Final%20Copy.pdf>.

## **Oregon**

Governor Kate Brown (D) delivered her second inaugural address on January 14. "It's an incredible honor to serve Oregon for four more years. Today is a little bittersweet for me, as this ceremony marks my final four years as governor.... While we tackle today's pressing fiscal challenges, we also must address the challenges of our future. Today, we stand at a turning point, with an opportunity to put Oregon on a better path forward. Our young people deserve to inherit an Oregon as beautiful and bountiful as the one we cherish today. It is extremely painful to watch the effects of climate change on our communities. The Rogue Valley was covered in smoke for over eight weeks last summer. Ninety percent of our state is in drought. And last year was the warmest year in Oregon since 1895. Wildfires have increased in intensity and severity in the past decade, threatening our culture, our communities, and our economy. Oregon must continue to pursue solutions that will reduce harmful emissions while creating good jobs and building a clean energy economy....

The time is now. Our future is in front of us. We have to turn the corner and make it a reality. Together we can build a better Oregon.” <https://www.oregon.gov/gov/media/Pages/speeches/Governor-Kate-Brown-Inaugural-Address-2019.aspx>.

## **South Dakota**

On January 7, Governor Kristi Noem (R) gave her State of the State address, noting that South Dakota is in good shape. “But in order to preserve and extend this prosperity forward for today’s working families and to the next generation, we must come together on solutions to the problems on the near and distant horizons.” She added that “...there will be issues that arise during my tenure as governor that will require the strength and resolve of our first responders, our military and our law enforcement. I know that they will be up to the task. I know that they are training and preparing right now, even today, for the unexpected as well as the expected. One of those issues that we do expect, is the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline through South Dakota. Let me be very clear on this: I want the construction of this pipeline to be safe, clean and efficient. We will make sure that people, water and the environment are protected. My administration will work with the tribes, the companies, and as necessary, law enforcement, to make this as uneventful as possible. <https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/5677622/Noem-State-of-the-State.pdf>.

## **Washington**

On January 15, Governor Jay Inslee’s (D) State of the State address prioritized the imminent threat of climate change. “In just the past few years, our state experienced record-high temperatures, record-low snowpack in some locations, higher ocean temperatures and high acidity in our waters. Historic wildfires blackened our air so much that we had the worst air quality in the world. Not China, not India. Washington state. The smoke shut down outdoor pools in Wenatchee, and impacted all of us, forcing kids and older adults to stay inside to protect their health. Scientists say if we don’t act now, this will become the norm – a permanent degradation of what we love, our magnificent state. I don’t know of any other issue that touches the heart of things so many of us care about: our jobs, our health, our safety and our children’s future. But this doesn’t have to be our future. Science affirms the necessity of action – this day.” [https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2019 State of the state Final.pdf?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2019%20State%20of%20the%20state%20Final.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).

## **Wyoming**

On January 9, Governor Mark Gordon (R) said in his State of the State address: “Wyoming is a headwater state. Wyoming has some of the cleanest water and cleanest air in the nation. Our heritage of wildlife, unparalleled vistas and open space, make us the envy of the world. These are important and special assets for Wyoming that inspire tourism and just plain make Wyoming communities nicer places to live.” He talked about the 15-year history of the Wyoming Wildlife Natural Resource Trust, which has contributed \$58M toward projects that have leveraged matching funds. “This Fund has facilitated energy development and made our wildlife populations stronger by controlling invasive species, improving irrigation diversions, and mitigating erosion throughout Wyoming.” <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5QDlu63DmCiY1AwRnBsM3VuQlJtc01YWkVYUDVfEhNVW14/view>.