



The Western States Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST) is a collaboration between 11 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.

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WestFAST News

February 2011

BLM and USFWS Host Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative Stakeholder Meeting

February 17, 2011

The Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hosted a Great Basin LCC stakeholder meeting in Salt Lake City, UT.

The Great Basin LCC covers parts of five states, including most of Nevada. The LCC will provide “a range of scientific and technical support tools for landscape-scale conservation design to a wide array of managers. These tools will help managers identify and target biological objectives for native species and habitats in the face of climate change and other stressors.”

The LCCs are collaborative efforts facilitated by the Department of the Interior and led by a steering committee in each LCC. The steering committees are made up of representatives from federal and state agencies as well as academia and non-governmental organizations.

The stakeholder meeting was focused on eliciting feedback from the community on the priorities of the LCC, methods and tools for further collaboration, and identifying candidates to fill vacancies on the steering committee. Water needs and water science emerged as key concerns for the Great Basin LCC opening up the possibility for further collaboration with WestFAST and the WSWC.

For more information on the Great Basin LCC see: http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/prog/Great_Basin_LCC.html

For more information on LCCs in general see: <http://www.fws.gov/science/shc/lcc.html>



DOI Announces WaterSMART Clearinghouse

February 1, 2011

The U.S. Department of the Interior released a new web site that will function as a WaterSMART Clearinghouse. This site will provide a central location for water resource managers to find and share web sites related to water sustainability.

The clearinghouse allows for searches by topic, state, river basin, or tribal area. The community can also suggest new content to be added to the site.

WaterSMART was created by Secretarial Order under the authority of the Secure Water Act. It focuses on: “improving water conservation and helping water-resource managers make sound decisions about water use. The Program provides leadership by identifying strategies to ensure that this and future generations will have sufficient supplies of clean water for drinking, economic activities, recreation, and ecosystem health. Additionally, the Program identifies adaptive measures to address climate change and its impact on future water demands.”

The WaterSMART Clearinghouse is available at: <http://www.doi.gov/watersmart/html/index.php>

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is also sponsoring a number of programs related to the WaterSMART initiative. For more information on Reclamation’s initiatives related to WaterSMART see: <http://www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART/index.html>

NOAA Holds NIDIS partner meeting/ WGA-WSWC Releases Drought Report

February 2011

NOAA hosted a meeting for the Upper Colorado River Basin National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) pilot on February 24th in Boulder, CO. This meeting brought together representatives from state, federal, academic, and non-governmental organizations. The focus of the meeting was to provide an update on the efforts of the participating organizations to coordinate and collaborate on drought predictions and drought related information in the Upper Colorado.

The NIDIS pilot continues to make progress on providing a portal for sharing drought related information and providing a forum for scientists to discuss methods for predicting and mitigating drought impacts. For more information on the NIDIS program see: <http://www.drought.gov>.

In January, the Western Governors' Association (WGA) and the WSWC released a report entitled, *Improving Drought Preparedness in the West*. It summarizes findings and sets forth recommendations that emerged from a series of workshops that the WGA and the WSWC convened over the last two years to identify key ways of improving drought preparedness. Recommendations from the report include strengthening NIDIS as well as fully funding the USGS streamgaging program and the NRCS SNOTEL program. The report is available at: http://www.westgov.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=231&Itemid=84.

Army Corps of Engineers Water Planning Summaries Available On-line

February 2011

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has posted the water planning summaries that it collected from all 50 states as part of its "Building Strong Collaborative Relationships for a Sustainable Water Resources Future" initiative, which was prepared as a means to identify and leverage opportunities for collaborative efforts regarding water priorities between states, tribes, and federal water resource agencies. The summaries are available at: <http://www.building-collaboration-for-water.org/>

Agency Announcements

February 2, 2011: EPA announced their intent to regulate Perchlorate in drinking water, see: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/adpress.nsf/3881d73f4d4aaa0b85257359003f5348/6348845793f4c5d8525782b004d81ae!OpenDocument>

February 8, 2011: USGS has completed the High Flow Event study on Glen Canyon Dam, see: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1366/>

February 8, 2011: USGS released a draft global change science strategy, see: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2011/1033/>

February 8, 2011: EPA released a draft study plan for Hydrologic Fracturing, see: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/02ad90b136fc21ef85256eba00436459/d3483ab445ae61418525775900603e79!OpenDocument&TableRow=2.1#2>

February 10, 2011: EPA announced an advanced notice of public rulemaking for the San Francisco Bay Delta, see: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/7559BD24641A0C4F852578320076CFBC>

Upcoming Meetings/Events

- **Week of March 7, 2011:** WSWC will be in DC for Agency and Congressional meetings.
- **March 21-23, 2011:** WSWC and CA Department of Water Resources will co-sponsor a state-federal climate workshop in San Diego, CA
- **April 5-7, 2011:** NASA will host: Evapotranspiration: An Essential Observation for Climate Understanding and Efficient Water Management Workshop, Silver Spring, MD
- **April 11-12, 2011:** NASA will host: Global Drought Monitoring Workshop, Silver Spring, MD
- **April 13-15, 2011:** Spring WSWC meeting, Santa Fe, NM
- **June 29-July 1, 2011:** Summer Western Governors' Association Meeting, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
- **July 27-29, 2011:** Summer WSWC meeting, Oregon
- **August 23-25, 2011:** Native American Rights Fund (NARF)/WSWC Indian Water Rights Symposium, Billings, MT



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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