



The 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 resources.

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Reclamation Funds WaterSMART Grants Throughout the West

May 2, 2012

The Bureau of Reclamation has selected \$32.2 million in WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants and Title XVI Projects and Feasibility Studies to stretch water supplies and conserve energy in the western United States. Since its establishment in 2010, WaterSMART has provided more than \$118 million in competitively-awarded funding to non-federal partners, including tribes, water districts, municipalities, and universities through WaterSMART Grants and the Title XVI Program.

Eight congressionally authorized Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse projects will receive \$20.3 million in funding. In addition, \$943,000 will be provided for the development of eight new feasibility studies that will explore potential water recycling projects. The Title XVI program is focused on identifying and investigating opportunities to reclaim and reuse wastewaters and naturally impaired ground and surface water in the 17 western states and Hawaii. Title XVI projects have the potential to stretch water supplies using time-tested methodologies as well as piloting new concepts. Of the Title XVI funding, seven projects and seven studies are located in California, while one project and one study are in Texas.

The 34 new WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants selected for funding will use \$11 million to conserve water and energy through improvements to existing facilities in 11 states-- California, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. These projects are expected to save 56,826 acre-feet of water annually, which is enough water for more than 227,000 people. Combined with the non-federal cost-share, these projects will complete \$51 million in improvements.

For more information see the [press release](#).



Idaho National Laboratory Hosts Mountain West Water Institute Workshop

Idaho Falls, ID
 May 15-16, 2012

On May 15-16, the Idaho National Laboratory hosted the Mountain West Water Institute (MWWI) Workshop in Idaho Falls, ID. The purpose of the meeting was to focus on the strategies, methods, resources and actions western water stewards are taking to ensure sufficient clean water to meet the needs of the Mountain West now and in the future.

Presenters covered a wide array of topics related to water management in the west. Some highlights include: 1) A discussion on water availability for energy production in the west; 2) The sensitivity of Northern Rockies Glaciers to climate change; 3) Water impacts from energy development in Eastern Montana; 4) The WSWC's Water Use Data Exchange project; 5) A discussion on DOI's Landscape Conservation Cooperatives; and 6) The USFS's Watershed Condition Framework.

Dave Tuthill, former WSWC member, and current founder of Idaho Water Engineering provided a background on western water law and the role it plays in meeting water challenges and increasing demands. Tony Willardson, executive director for the WSWC, provided closing remarks in which he discussed the importance of managing water for an uncertain future.

For more information on MWWI, see the MWWI web site: www.mwwi.org.

Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study Releases New Technical Memorandum

May 17, 2012

The Bureau of Reclamation released a technical memorandum titled “Technical Memorandum C – Quantification of Water Demand Scenarios”. The memorandum updates information published in Interim Report No. 1 - Technical Report C - Water Demand Assessment in June 2011.

With input from a broad range of stakeholders, six scenarios of water demand were developed that incorporate key factors driving future uncertainty. These factors include changes in natural systems including climate change, changes in demographics and land use, changes in technology and economics, and changes in social and governance structures.

The memorandum provides the quantification of these six demand scenarios. The scenarios provide a range of about 13.8 to 16.2 million acre-feet (maf) of Colorado River water demand by 2060. The range changes to about 18.1 to 20.4 maf in 2060 when factoring in Mexico’s allotment and losses such as reservoir evaporation. When comparing the demand scenarios to the median water supply projections that incorporate climate change information, the long-term imbalance in future supply and demand is projected to be greater than 3.5 maf in 2060. See the [news release](#) for more information.

EPA Announces Intention to Revise Regulations to Specify that a NPDES Permit is Not Required for Stormwater Discharge from Logging Roads

May 23, 2012

EPA announced that it intends to revise its stormwater regulations to specify that a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit is not required for stormwater discharge from logging roads. EPA is also requesting comment on potential approaches for addressing stormwater discharges from forest roads and seeks input on examples of successful state, tribal and certification-oriented programs that are based on best management practices.

EPA will consider a full range of potential non-permitting approaches under the Clean Water Act including voluntary programs and further support for state and tribal programs. For more information see the [website](#).

Agency Announcements

May 3, 2012: Genevieve Johnson Selected as Coordinator of Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative, see [news release](#).

May 4, 2012: EPA Releases Draft Permitting Guidance for Using Diesel Fuel in Oil and Gas Hydraulic Fracturing, see [news release](#).

May 4, 2012: Interior Releases Draft Rule Requiring Public Disclosure of Chemicals used in Hydraulic Fracturing on Public and Indian Lands, see [news release](#).

May 8, 2012: USDA Advances Water Quality Conservation Across the U.S., see [news release](#).

May 9, 2012: BLM Issues Updated Guide for Cooperating Agencies, see [news release](#).

May 9, 2012: Updated 2012 Wetland Plant List is Available, see [news release](#).

May 10, 2012: BLM Director Bob Abbey to Retire After 34 Years of Service, see [news release](#).

May 15, 2012: Reclamation Releases Washita Basin Water Supply Study, see [news release](#).

May 16, 2012: USGS Details Effects of Climate Change on Water Availability in 14 Local Basins Nationwide, see [news release](#).

May 16, 2012: Reclamation Releases New Online Application and Other Tools to Expand Public Access to Data on Water Availability in the West, see [news release](#).

May 18, 2012: Funding Opportunities for Applied Science Grants Under the Desert and Southern Rockies LCCs, see [Desert LCC](#) and [Southern Rockies LCC](#) for more information.

May 23, 2012: DOI Secretary Salazar Announces Improvements to Glen Canyon Dam Operations to Restore High Flows and Native Fish in Grand Canyon, see [news release](#).

Upcoming Meetings/Events

- **July 30-Aug 1, 2012:** [Extreme Weather Events Workshop](#) (co-hosted by WSWC and CA DWR), San Diego, CA



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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