



Western States Water Council



► 2014: FINALIZING WADE INFRASTRUCTURE COMPONENTS



► FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: NEW STATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR GRANT FUNDING FOR WADE



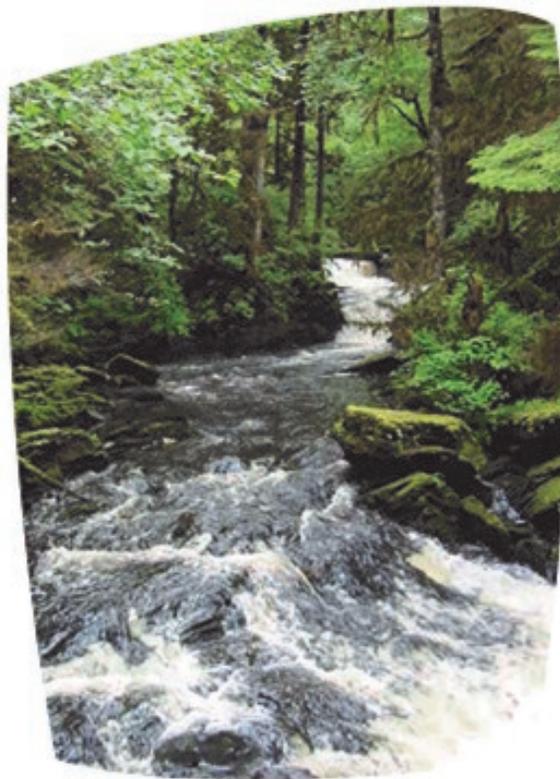
► NEXT STEPS IN 2015—BETA-TESTING THE WADE PORTAL AND GETTING THE STATES “PLUGGED IN”

The Water Data Exchange (WaDE) Program enables western states to share important water data with each other, federal agencies, and the public. It also seeks to improve the sharing of federal water datasets that support state water planning efforts.

2014: WaDE Program Highlights

WaDE is a cooperative effort between the Western States Water Council (WSWC), representing the 18 Western states, the Western Governors’ Association (WGA), the Department of Energy (DOE), and Western Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST). The focus of WaDE is to enable the states to share important water data (water availability estimates, water use by sector, and water allocation data) with each other, federal agencies, and the public. WaDE is also interested in promoting and incorporating shared federal datasets concerning water management (streamgage data, snowpack and stream-flow forecasts, reservoir storage and gage elevations, etc.) to assist the states, and make their water planning efforts easier.

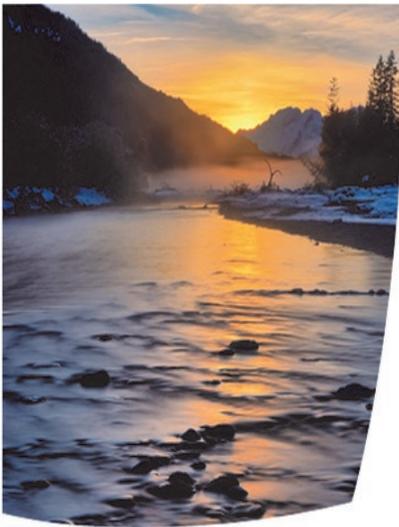
2014 was a busy year for the WaDE program. The databases and IT components that enable the exchange of data were updated with new capabilities, including increased support for geographic information systems (GIS) data. Another addition was made at the behest of WaDE workgroups, for the ability to review methodology and metadata information that is coincident with the data shared by the states, quickly and easily. This capability was integrated into WaDE and is intended to assist with the challenge of finding techniques, spatial, and temporal scales that will allow for a more complete and comparable picture of water in the West, by hydrologic basin boundaries as well as jurisdictional boundaries.



Other notable events for the WaDE program include:

- Development of a “cloud” deployment option for the WaDE application for those states who want to flow data “off-site”.
- Finalization of WaDE infrastructure components (v.0.2), with multiple databases, additional web services, GIS, and methodology information.
- Addition of new grant partnership effort for continued funding for WaDE work, including California, South Dakota, and Nevada.
- Synthesis of survey results gathered from the 18 WSWC member states into a significant publication about their water planning program data and capabilities (see the reverse).
- Participation in a new federal agency-led data-sharing effort—the Open Water Data Initiative (OWDI)—that seeks to publish water-related data using “open data” concepts, strategies, and standards.

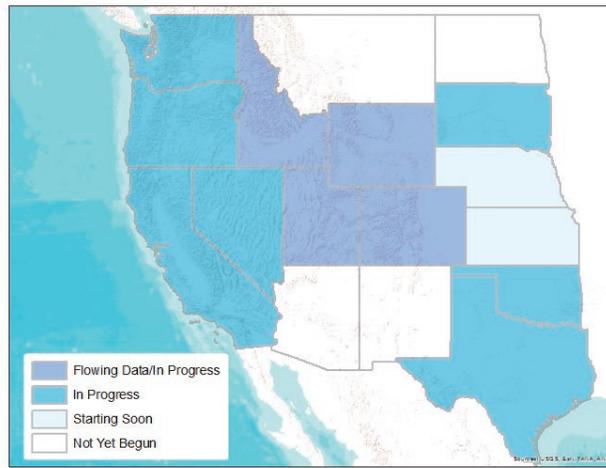




The WaDE Portal: Getting States Plugged In...

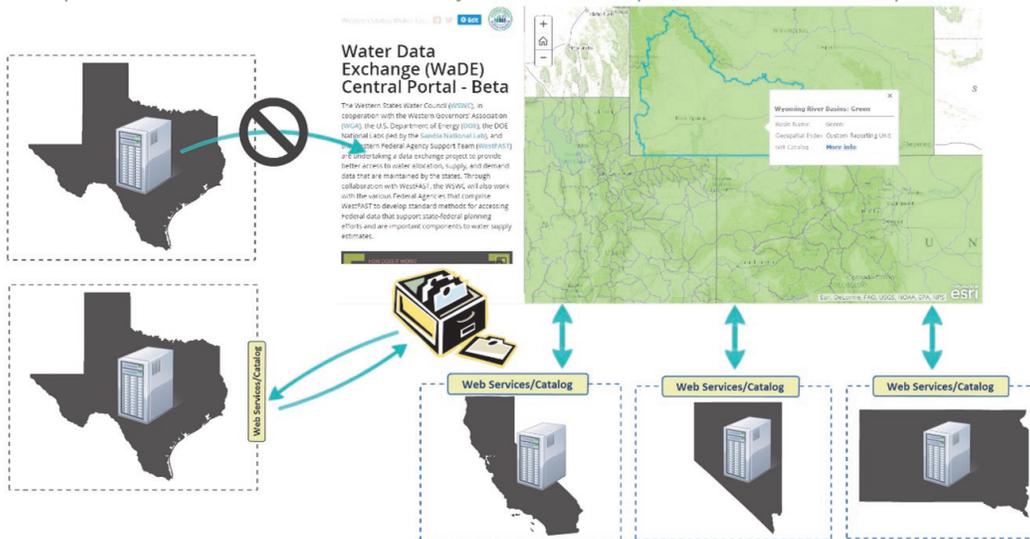
The components that make WaDE work have been built, but the states need to get “plugged in” to the WaDE framework for it to function as envisioned.

Using the WaDE framework, data are not transferred to a central repository, but instead remain within their state’s home IT environment or on a “cloud” application. A listing of the data housed by each state is provided via a “Central Catalog.” Once the desired dataset is identified, the data are retrieved using web services, or the underlying interoperable data that can be automatically downloaded or pulled into models and spreadsheets.



The IT components used to access WaDE-hosted data have undergone revisions and testing to ensure a robust and streamlined interface for users. The installation package and documentation are now available for download for a PostgreSQL (an open-source solution) and for Microsoft’s SQL Server. Step-by-step instructions on mapping and migrating information from the state’s native databases into WaDE are now online for state partners.

Also in 2014, a grant application was submitted via a new (second) grant partnership including California, South Dakota, and Nevada to the National Environmental Information Exchange Network (NEIEN) to facilitate the deployment process and to continue to coordinate the WaDE program. This was awarded to the grant partners and they will now begin the contract phase of to receive grant funds. The first partnership is working to finish their deployments and will soon join Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, and Idaho in sharing data in the WaDE Central Portal (Beta). If you would like to be a beta-tester, please review the registration steps on the WSWC’s WaDE webpage (see below). The map above shows the current status of WSWC’s member states in WaDE, excepting Alaska.



Western State Water Program Capabilities Assessment Survey & Report

In 2012, the WSWC issued a survey designed to inform about the states’ water planning program capabilities—addressing such items as the data gathered, reporting programs, IT systems and programming languages supported—as part of the WaDE program.

After assembling the survey responses from the 18 WSWC member states, the results were compiled into a report that describe the current status of the many state water planning programs, and highlights both the common elements and the challenges that remain before a comparable picture of water in the West may be achieved.



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