

March 2020



WestFAST News

682 East Vine Street / Suite 7 / Murray, UT 84107 / (801) 685-2555/ www.westernstateswater.org/westfast

Chair – Patrick Lambert; Federal Liaison – Deborah Lawler

Interior’s Fish and Wildlife Service Establishes Procedures to Provide Landowners Clarity on Wetland Easements

USDOI/FWS 03/09/20. As part of its continuing effort to be a good neighbor, provide transparency to landowners and reduce regulatory burdens, the Department of the Interior’s U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has issued internal guidance encouraging Service personnel and landowners to work together to ensure wetland easements are protected from drainage without needlessly restricting landowner activities on the remainder of their properties. In addition, the Service is providing landowners opportunities for an administrative appeals process to resolve questions about compliance and help avoid unnecessary legal actions.

“I credit the leadership of Senators Hoeven and Cramer in recently bringing this issue to light. Today’s announcement is our next step to provide better government services to the American people and further minimize conflict between farmers and protecting waterfowl,” said Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt. “By working collaboratively and cooperatively with landowners, we can better achieve our mutual wildlife conservation goals.”

“Under President Trump and Secretary Bernhardt’s leadership, the Fish and Wildlife Service supports an effective and transparent government. This starts with open communication and responding to the public’s concerns of overly burdensome policies,” said Service Director Aurelia Skipwith. “This

guidance will greatly improve clarity for landowners and will offer a clear process to help settle potential compliance concerns in a fair and timely manner.”

This action comes on the heels of a recent announcement by the Department regarding the Service’s modernization efforts to map older wetland easements on refuges, ensuring clarity and providing a consistent, fair and timely process by which landowners can appeal the boundary should they choose.

There are over 28,000 wetland easements in the Prairie Pothole Region of North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and Montana protecting over 1.5 million acres of important wetland areas. This area provides crucial breeding habitat for waterfowl, with roughly half of the North American continental waterfowl production occurring here. Agricultural producers and other landowners support easements that protect wetland areas from drainage to provide wildlife habitat while allowing the land to continue to be farmed.

“Defending private property owners from an intrusive federal government is one of my highest priorities. North Dakota landowners deserve the right to appeal assertions of wrongdoing and be provided safe harbor while the administrative process proceeds. This new Order also allows landowners to seek outside scientific expertise without fearing legal retribution,” said Senator Kevin Cramer (R-ND). “I thank Secretary Bernhardt and Director Skipwith for building on their recent Directors Order and moving forward with this effort to protect our landowners’ rights. I

look forward to working with them on its implementation.”

“This appeals process is an important step toward protecting landowners’ property rights,” said Senator John Hoeven (R-ND). “We appreciate the Administration for continuing to work with us to address our concerns with the FWS’s wetlands easements. A collaborative approach that ensures due process for farmers, ranchers and other landowners will allow for good environmental stewardship without the burden of costly litigation, and we will continue our efforts to ensure the new appeals process achieves these goals.”

Refuge managers are responsible for administering the Service’s easement program, including maintaining communication with landowners, answering questions regarding easement provisions and monitoring or inspecting them for compliance. It is estimated that fewer than one percent of all easements in the Prairie Pothole Region are out of compliance during any given year. Many of these infractions are minor and are easily resolved with simple communications and negotiations with the landowner.

Landowners who have wetland easements with the Service often seek clarity and certainty before investing in expensive drain-tile systems. To help landowners understand where they can place drain tile without violating the terms of their easement, the Service is employing a methodology that uses the best available science. Working together in good faith, the Service is clarifying that it will not pursue legal action when landowners adhere to Service-provided setback recommendations.

[BLM Alaska seeks public comment on Red Devil Mine proposed cleanup plan](#)

BLM 03/09/20. The Bureau of Land Management released a proposed plan to address remaining contamination at the abandoned Red Devil mine, an historical mercury mine site located along the Kuskokwim River in southwest Alaska. The BLM’s proposed plan, which includes preferred cleanup methods and associated costs, represents a major step forward in the process. The plan outlines the

steps BLM proposes to take to address contamination at the site in a way that is protective of human health and the environment.

“The BLM takes seriously our obligations at this site,” said BLM Alaska State Director Chad Padgett. “The methods we’re proposing were developed in close coordination with the EPA, and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation concurs with our preferred alternative. This has been a long time coming, and we’re looking forward to getting started on the next phase of cleanup.”

The proposed plan is available for public review. The BLM will hold public meetings for the communities in the middle and lower Kuskokwim region during the comment period; a current meeting schedule is available on the Red Devil Mine cleanup website. During each meeting, the BLM’s experts will summarize work completed to date and describe the preferred cleanup alternative. Comments from the potentially affected communities will be accepted March 1 through April 30, 2020. After reviewing and considering the comments, the BLM will develop a record of decision on the cleanup plan for the Red Devil Mine.

Additional information about the Red Devil Mine project can be found at <https://www.blm.gov/alaska/red-devil-mine>. There will also be a link to submit comments via email and a mailing address. To schedule a public meeting, contact Public Affairs Specialist Maureen Clark at 907-267-1420.

[BLM seeks comments on Pumpkin Creek management](#)

BLM 03/09/20. The BLM is gathering public comments as part of the preparation of an environmental assessment to identify management issues and develop alternative management scenarios for approximately 19,498 acres of public lands in the Pumpkin Creek area located about 17 miles south of Miles City.

The WESTERN STATES FEDERAL AGENCY SUPPORT TEAM (WestFAST) is a collaboration between 12 Federal agencies with water management responsibilities in the West, including: BLM, DOD, EPA, FWS, NASA, NOAA, NPS, NRCS, Reclamation, USACE, USFS, and USGS. WestFAST was established to support the Western States Water Council and the Western Governors’ Association in coordinating Federal efforts regarding water issues.

The 15-day scoping period will end on March 23, 2020.

The environmental assessment will identify proposed management actions consistent with the Miles City Approved Resource Management Plan, as amended (ARMP), including: potential terms and conditions for livestock grazing on the Pumpkin Creek area and other actions to meet ARMP objectives such as; meeting Land Health Standards and providing for a diversity of recreation opportunities and benefits.

If the Preferred Alternative in the EA provides for issuance of one or more grazing authorizations, BLM will provide a Notice of Available Forage, take applications, and randomly select one or more qualified applicant(s), who by applying, would agree to manage livestock according to the terms and conditions identified in the Preferred Alternative.

The Miles City Field Office anticipates issuing a new decision to implement the Preferred Alternative regarding management of the Pumpkin Creek area prior to Dec. 1, 2020.

The Scoping Notice, other relevant information and a venue for comments is available on the ePlanning web page dedicated to this project. Go to: <https://go.usa.gov/xdsBS>. The NEPA number is DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2020-0040-EA.

Comments may also be hand-delivered or mailed to: BLM Miles City Field Office, Attn: Christina Stuart, 111 Garryowen Road, Miles City, MT 59301.

Public comments are most useful when they are specific and cite relevant issues. Persons providing comments are advised that before including their address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information, that their entire comment – including personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While those commenting can ask in their comments to withhold identifying information from public review, the BLM cannot guarantee that they will be able to do so.

For more information contact BLM Project Manager Christina Stuart at (406) 233-2815.

[NOAA launches new approach to accelerate innovation and new science in weather modeling - Partnership will make weather and climate modeling code public](#)

NOAA 03/11/20. NOAA is accelerating the advancement of numerical weather prediction — the backbone of life-saving weather and water forecasts in the U.S. — by sharing the first batch of computer code behind National Weather Service models with the scientific community.

Today, NOAA released the first version of user-friendly code for medium-range weather prediction in an open, collaborative development environment. This new approach of collaborating across the Weather Enterprise is an effort to engage the community to improve NOAA models using the Unified Forecast System offsite (UFS).

Sharing this code will enable academic and industry researchers to help NOAA accelerate the transition of research innovations into operations. This UFS code is being developed by a broad community and is openly available to the public, with documentation and support for users. In February 2019, NOAA and NCAR announced a partnership to design a common modeling infrastructure, marking NOAA's shift toward community modeling.

“Sharing NOAA’s model code with the broader scientific community will help us accelerate model advancements — with the ultimate goal of co-creating the best operational numerical prediction system in the world,” said Neil Jacobs, Ph.D., acting NOAA administrator. “We invite researchers and modelers around the world to download and work with the code, so together we can advance numerical weather prediction to improve life-saving forecasts and warnings.”

The WESTERN STATES FEDERAL AGENCY SUPPORT TEAM (WestFAST) is a collaboration between 12 Federal agencies with water management responsibilities in the West, including: BLM, DOD, EPA, FWS, NASA, NOAA, NPS, NRCS, Reclamation, USACE, USFS, and USGS. WestFAST was established to support the Western States Water Council and the Western Governors’ Association in coordinating Federal efforts regarding water issues.

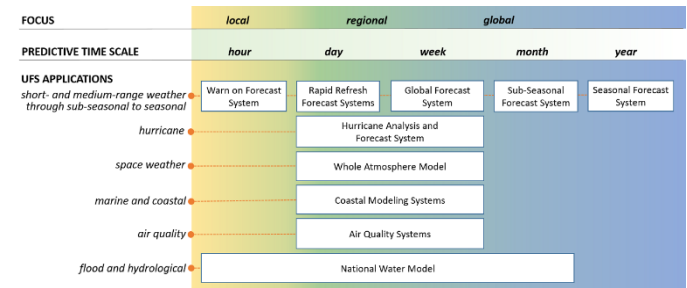
The success of UFS will be bolstered by NOAA’s Earth Prediction Innovation Center (EPIC), made possible by Congressional authorization in 2019. EPIC will ensure that the UFS efforts are facilitating research and development in the research modeling community whose efforts can then be targeted to make improvements in operational forecasts.

“At the National Weather Service, we are excited about this first step to make operational model codes available to scientists and students around the world, knowing that they will help advance our unified forecast system that will provide the basis for all of our weather, water and climate forecasts,” said Louis W. Uccellini, Ph.D., director of NOAA’s National Weather Service.

UFS will enable NOAA to simplify its production suite of forecasting models from many independent systems, each of which has to be improved and maintained separately, to a single seamless modeling system with fewer, more comprehensive applications. UFS applications, which each provide guidance for a particular forecast, span local to global domains and predictive time scales from sub-hourly analyses to seasonal predictions.

The first release of a UFS application is the UFS Medium-Range Weather Application version 1.0, which targets predictions of global atmospheric behavior out to two weeks. The software is now distributed and maintained through GitHub [link](#), and the release of additional applications are planned in the coming year. NOAA will host workshops and provide supportive documentation alongside the applications to facilitate its use by the broader community. Collaborating researchers can use the application in real-time and promising research code will be considered for inclusion in future versions of the operational model. Future releases of model code will enable the research community to continue to advance them for operational use. NOAA and the modeling

community also worked together to ensure the code is ready for use by students at the graduate level.



UFS configurations that support particular forecast requirements are called applications. Each application combines a numerical model, data assimilation, post-processing, workflow, and other elements. (NOAA)

On the heels of a major supercomputer upgrade announced in February and an upgrade to its Global Forecast System last summer, NOAA is pressing forward with this next step in the effort to build a true community weather forecast model and improve forecast accuracy to save lives and protect property nationwide.

[USDA Seeks Proposals for On-Farm Conservation and Soil Health Test Projects](#)

NRCS 03/12/20. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting proposals through May 11 for On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials (On-Farm Trials), now in its second year. On-Farm Trials, part of the agency’s Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) program, help support the adoption and evaluation of innovative conservation approaches on agricultural land.

“NRCS has achieved tremendous success seeking innovative technologies and approaches to enhance conservation for agricultural producers and forest landowners for nearly 20 years,” said NRCS Chief Matthew Lohr. “The 2018 Farm Bill enhanced CIG by strengthening its demonstration component,

The WESTERN STATES FEDERAL AGENCY SUPPORT TEAM (WestFAST) is a collaboration between 12 Federal agencies with water management responsibilities in the West, including: BLM, DOD, EPA, FWS, NASA, NOAA, NPS, NRCS, Reclamation, USACE, USFS, and USGS. WestFAST was established to support the Western States Water Council and the Western Governors’ Association in coordinating Federal efforts regarding water issues.

allowing the agency to work with producers and partners to discover new conservation approaches and tools or enhance existing ones.”

NRCS will invest up to \$25 million on On-Farm Trials in 2020. This total includes up to \$10 million for the Soil Health Demonstration Trials (SHD) priority.

On-Farm Trials funding is designed to offer, through partners, technical and financial assistance to producers to help compensate for any risks associated with implementation of new conservation practices, systems and approaches. In addition, the trials require evaluation of the innovative conservation practices, systems and approaches at the farm level, including environmental, financial and social, (to the extent possible) impacts of carrying them out.

Visit the [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) website and view the On-Farms Trials funding announcement.

NRCS is seeking proposals that address at least one of the following four On-Farm Trial main priorities:

- Irrigation Management Technologies;
- Precision Agriculture Technologies and Strategies;
- Management Technologies and Strategies; and
- Soil Health Demonstration Trials.

NRCS will accept proposals from the following eligible entities:

- Private entities whose primary business is related to agriculture;
- Non-government organizations with experience working with agricultural producers; and
- Non-Federal government agencies.

This is the second funding opportunity for On-Farm Trials, authorized through the 2018 Farm Bill. In 2019, NRCS funded 16 On-Farm Trials projects.

The On-Farm Trials component is distinct from the national CIG competitive grants funding, which is used to support early pilot projects or demonstrations of promising conservation approaches and technologies and is not typically provided directly to producers.

For more information, please visit the [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) funding opportunity for 2020 or visit NRCS’s On-Farm Trials webpage.

[USDA Stands Up New Team to Better Serve Beginning Farmers and Ranchers](#)

NRCS 03/16/20. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is standing up a new team of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) staff that will lead a department-wide effort focused on serving beginning farmers and ranchers.

“More than a quarter of producers are beginning farmers,” said USDA Deputy Secretary Stephen Censky. “We need to support the next generation of agricultural producers who we will soon rely upon to grow our nation’s food and fiber.”

To institutionalize support for beginning farmers and ranchers and to build upon prior agency work, the 2018 Farm Bill directed USDA to create a national coordinator position in the agency and state-level coordinators for four of its agencies – Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Risk Management Agency (RMA), and Rural Development (RD).

Sarah Campbell was selected as the national coordinator to lead USDA’s efforts. A beginning farmer herself, Campbell held previous positions with USDA and has a wealth of experience working

The WESTERN STATES FEDERAL AGENCY SUPPORT TEAM (WestFAST) is a collaboration between 12 Federal agencies with water management responsibilities in the West, including: BLM, DOD, EPA, FWS, NASA, NOAA, NPS, NRCS, Reclamation, USACE, USFS, and USGS. WestFAST was established to support the Western States Water Council and the Western Governors’ Association in coordinating Federal efforts regarding water issues.

on issues impacting beginning farmers and ranchers. She recently served as acting director of customer experience for the Farm Production and Conservation Business Center, where she led the piloting of innovative, customer-centric initiatives.

In her new role, she will work closely with the state coordinators to develop goals and create plans to increase beginning farmer participation and access to programs while coordinating nationwide efforts on beginning farmers and ranchers.

“We know starting a new farm business is extremely challenging, and we know our customers value and benefit from being able to work directly with our field employees, especially beginning farmers,” Campbell said. “These new coordinators will be a key resource at the local level and will help beginning farmers get the support they need. I look forward to working with them.”

Each state coordinator will receive training and develop tailored beginning farmer outreach plans for their state. Coordinators will help field employees better reach and serve beginning farmers and ranchers and will also be available to assist beginning farmers who need help navigating the variety of resources USDA has to offer.

More on Beginning Farmers

Twenty seven percent of farmers were categorized as new and beginning producers, with 10 years or less of experience in agriculture, according to the 2017 Census of Agriculture.

USDA offers a variety of farm loan, risk management, disaster assistance, and conservation programs to support farmers, including beginning farmers and ranchers. Additionally, a number of these programs have provisions specifically for beginning farmers, including targeted funding for loans and conservation programs as well as waivers and exemptions.

More Information

Learn more about USDA’s resources for beginning farmers as well as more information on the national and state-level coordinators at newfarmers.usda.gov and farmers.gov. For more information on available programs in your area, contact your local USDA service center.

[Enhanced Funding Option through USDA Partnership Program Aims to Increase Flexibility and Delivery of Conservation Innovation](#)

NRCS 03/17/20. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will invest up to \$50 million in fiscal year 2020 to fund a unique, partner-led approach to addressing natural resource concerns at local, regional, and landscape scales.

Through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program’s (RCPP) Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA), NRCS is authorized to fund up to 15 projects where partners will be given greater liberty to manage an RCPP project and the associated relationships with participating producers and landowners.

“We’re excited to co-invest with partners in ways that more fully leverage the flexibilities of the RCPP program,” said Matthew Lohr, Chief of NRCS. “These alternative funding arrangements allow partners to propose solutions to conservation challenges that might be a little more out of the box than we’ve been able to try before. It’s an opportunity for our partners to step up and deliver conservation in new and perhaps more efficient and effective ways.”

NRCS will execute AFAs through agreements with eligible lead partners. Lead partners will be responsible for contracting directly with eligible producers and landowners to implement conservation activities on the ground.

The WESTERN STATES FEDERAL AGENCY SUPPORT TEAM (WestFAST) is a collaboration between 12 Federal agencies with water management responsibilities in the West, including: BLM, DOD, EPA, FWS, NASA, NOAA, NPS, NRCS, Reclamation, USACE, USFS, and USGS. WestFAST was established to support the Western States Water Council and the Western Governors’ Association in coordinating Federal efforts regarding water issues.

NRCS is looking for AFA project proposals now through May 18. Proposals must be submitted through the RCPP portal at <https://nrcs-sites.secure.force.com/>. Information about this request for proposals is available on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov/).

More about Alternative Funding Arrangements

While AFA projects were authorized under the 2014 Farm Bill, the 2018 Farm Bill enhanced the AFA provision and authorized NRCS to award up to 15 AFA projects annually. Through AFAs, approved project partners can work directly with farmers, ranchers and private forest landowners to carry out RCPP projects, as opposed to implementing projects through NRCS producer contracts and landowner easements.

The Farm Bill statute highlights some project types that may be particularly suited to AFAs:

Projects that use innovative approaches to leverage the federal investment in conservation;

Projects that deploy a pay-for-performance conservation approach; and,

Projects that seek large-scale infrastructure investment that generate conservation benefits for agricultural producers and nonindustrial private forest owners.

Farmers, ranchers and private forest landowners access RCPP through partner entities, like conservation districts, producer associations, water districts, state or local governments, American Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, and nongovernmental organizations.

RCPP projects range from a minimum of \$250,000 to a maximum of \$10 million.

For more information on the RCPP program and how to apply, visit the RCPP web page.

[USDA Seeks Public Comment on More Revised Conservation Practice Standards](#)

NRCS 03/27/20. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is seeking public comment on proposed revisions to 49 national conservation practice standards through a posting in the Federal Register. The proposed revisions posted this week with the public comment period closing April 23, 2020.

The 49 updated national conservation practice standards offsite link image include:

- 12 agronomic practices for water quality and erosion control
- Two aquaculture practices
- Three forestry practices
- Six practices affecting waterways
- Five drainage-related practices
- Seven livestock-related practices
- Three energy and air quality practices
- Eight water conservation practices
- Three farm traffic-related practices

The 2018 Farm Bill required NRCS to review all 169 existing national conservation practices to seek opportunities to increase flexibility and incorporate new technologies to help the nation's farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners better protect natural resources on their working lands.

“NRCS is committed to efficiently and effectively implementing the Farm Bill and delivering on our promise to America's farmers, ranchers and forest landowners,” NRCS Chief Matthew Lohr said. “We are taking a close look at our conservation practice standards to make sure they make sense – both for farmers and for natural resources.”

As part of its review, NRCS wanted to ensure, as much as possible, that the standards used to carry out the conservation practices are relevant to local

The WESTERN STATES FEDERAL AGENCY SUPPORT TEAM (WestFAST) is a collaboration between 12 Federal agencies with water management responsibilities in the West, including: BLM, DOD, EPA, FWS, NASA, NOAA, NPS, NRCS, Reclamation, USACE, USFS, and USGS. WestFAST was established to support the Western States Water Council and the Western Governors' Association in coordinating Federal efforts regarding water issues.

agricultural, forestry and natural resource needs, including specialty crops, native and managed pollinators, bioenergy crop production and forestry. NRCS plans to seek public comment on additional conservation practice standards through the Federal Register process throughout 2020.

Improvements to the 49 revised conservation practice standards include expanding and updating their scope to incorporate new technology and increase flexibility, enhancing water conservation practices such as irrigation, and addressing wildlife issues.

NRCS's conservation practices offer guidelines for planning, installing, operating, and maintaining conservation practices used by farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners nationwide.

NRCS helps the nation's farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners plan and carry out conservation practices to protect natural resources on their operations. Farm Bill conservation programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program help producers cover the costs to plan and implement these conservation practices.

Submitting Comments

NRCS is encouraging agricultural producers, landowners, organizations, tribes, and others that use its conservation practices to comment on these revised conservation practice standards. NRCS will use public comments to further enhance its conservation practice standards. NRCS sought the public's input for 13 other conservation practice standards in October 2019. This followed the March 11, 2019, announcement that the agency was commencing review of the practice standards in the National Handbook of Conservation Practices.

Copies of the proposed revisions to the 49 conservation practice standards are available through <http://regulations.gov> by accessing docket

number NRCS-2020-0001. The proposed revised standards can also be downloaded or printed here.

When submitting comments, please include the volume, date and page number of this issue of the Federal Register. Comments can be submitted using several methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for docket number NRCS-2020-0001. Follow instructions for submitting comments.

Mail or Hand Delivery: Mr. Bill Reck, National Environmental Engineer, Conservation Engineering Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS, 1400 Independence Ave., South Building, Room 6136, Washington, D.C. 20250.

For more information on how NRCS is implementing the 2018 Farm Bill, visit NRCS's Federal Register Notices webpage or farmers.gov/farbill.

Upcoming Meetings

[Western Governors Association 2020 Annual Meeting](#)

Medora, ND
June 29-July 2, 2020

[WSWC Summer \(193rd\) Meetings](#)

Cody, WY
July 22-24, 2020

WSWC Fall (194th) Meetings

El Paso, TX
October 2020

Upcoming Events

[WestFAST Webinar: Leveraging Watershed Restoration to Improve Source Water Protection and Reduce the Risk of Wildland Fire,](#)

April 29, 2020, 10AM Mountain

The WESTERN STATES FEDERAL AGENCY SUPPORT TEAM (WestFAST) is a collaboration between 12 Federal agencies with water management responsibilities in the West, including: BLM, DOD, EPA, FWS, NASA, NOAA, NPS, NRCS, Reclamation, USACE, USFS, and USGS. WestFAST was established to support the Western States Water Council and the Western Governors' Association in coordinating Federal efforts regarding water issues.

[Annual Sub-seasonal-to-Seasonal \(S2S\) Workshop](#)
San Diego, CA
May 18-20, 2020

[The Second Colorado River Basin Data and Modeling Roundtable](#)

Albuquerque, NM
May 27-28, 2020

[Metadata Training Workshop: Albuquerque](#)

Albuquerque, NM
May 28, 2020

Other Federal News

NOAA 03/02/20. [NOAA's DSCOVR Satellite is Operating Again](#)

NOAA 03/02/20. [Temperature and precipitation outlooks for March 2020](#)

NRCS 03/02/20. [USDA Announces 2020 EQIP Signup](#) (Washington)

NRCS 03/02/20. [April 3 Deadline Announced for Greater Spokane and Palouse River Watershed Projects](#) (Washington)

NRCS 03/02/20. [USDA to Invest \\$56 Million in 2020 to Help Farmers Improve Water Quality – Oregon gets 5 new projects](#)

NRCS 03/02/20. [NRCS Announces 2020 Deadline for Conservation Assistance Funding](#) (Texas)

EPA 03/03/20. [EPA Publishes “Story Map” Illustrating Progress and Continued Efforts to Protect America’s Waters](#)

NRCS 03/03/20. [Financial assistance available to Oregon farmers through Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#)

NRCS 03/04/20. [USDA Sets March 20 Application Cutoff for CSP Renewals](#) (Nebraska)

NRCS 03/04/20. [NRCS Announces 2020 Sign-up Available for Partnership Led Conservation Program](#) (Texas)

NRCS 03/05/20. [USDA Invests More than \\$2M in Oregon to Improve Forest Health](#)

USBR 03/05/20. [Reclamation announces Yakima basin water supply – March forecast](#)

NOAA 03/06/20. [RISA Principal Investigator co-authors “The Law and Science of Climate Change Attribution”](#)

NOAA 03/06/20. [Winter was the 6th hottest on record for U.S. February was wetter and warmer than average](#)

NRCS 03/06/20. [Six Rivers’ Little Jones Creek Project Receives Joint Chiefs’ Funding](#) (California)

USBR 03/06/20. [Truckee Canal repair plan addresses long-term operation](#)

USBR 03/06/20. [Reclamation issues snowmelt forecast for North Platte River Basin](#)

NOAA 03/09/20. [February 2020 was a month of precipitation extremes for the United States](#)

NRCS 03/09/20. [Apply by April 10 for Fiscal Year 2020 EQIP and AMA Funding](#) (Nevada)

EPA 03/10/20. [City of Morro Bay Receives \\$62 Million EPA Water Infrastructure Loan. Loan will Finance Replacement of Wastewater Treatment Plant](#)

NOAA 03/10/20. [U.S. spring extremes: coldest and warmest first day of spring](#)

NRCS 03/10/20. [USDA Invests Over \\$1 Million in California Through Joint Chiefs’ Partnership](#)

NRCS 03/10/20. [NRCS Accepting Applications to Assist Farmers and Ranchers](#) (Colorado)

USDOJ/USBR 03/10/20. [Interior Combating the Spread of Invasive Mussels throughout the Lower Colorado River Basin](#)

The WESTERN STATES FEDERAL AGENCY SUPPORT TEAM (WestFAST) is a collaboration between 12 Federal agencies with water management responsibilities in the West, including: BLM, DOD, EPA, FWS, NASA, NOAA, NPS, NRCS, Reclamation, USACE, USFS, and USGS. WestFAST was established to support the Western States Water Council and the Western Governors’ Association in coordinating Federal efforts regarding water issues.

USBR 03/10/20. [Reclamation announces planned Flushing Flow downstream of Boysen Dam](#)

USBR 03/10/20. [Reclamation issues snowmelt forecast for Bighorn River Basin](#)

USBR 03/10/20. [Reclamation announces temporary fluctuation of North Platte River flow downstream of Gray Reef Dam](#)

NOAA 03/11/20. [NOAA launches new approach to accelerate innovation and new science in weather modeling. Partnership will make weather and climate modeling code public](#)

NRCS 03/11/20. [NRCS Announces Sign-up for Agricultural Conservation Easement Program \(Idaho\)](#)

NRCS 03/11/20. [NRCS Invites Proposals for 2020 Conservation Innovation Grant \(California\)](#)

NRCS 03/11/20. [2020 Conservation Easement Applications for Agricultural Lands and Wetlands Due by April 10 \(California\)](#)

BLM 03/12/20. [Senator Wash North Shore Campground closed due to flooding from recent rains](#)

EPA 03/12/20. [EPA Awards State of New Mexico Nearly \\$670,000 to Manage Water Pollution](#)

NOAA 03/12/20. [March 2020 ENSO update: puzzle time](#)

NPS 03/12/20. [Joshua Tree National Park Flash Floods March 2020](#)

NRCS 03/12/20. [Oregon NRCS is Now Accepting Proposals for this Year's Conservation Innovation Grants](#)

USACE 03/12/20. [Corps seeks public comment on water system improvements in Power-Teton County, Montana](#)

USBR 03/12/20. [Reclamation awards \\$7.5 million for communities to prepare and respond to drought.](#)

[Communities in California, New Mexico and Utah will receive funding](#)

USDOI 03/12/20. [Interior Celebrates One Year Anniversary of Historic Conservation Law](#)

NOAA 03/13/20. [Earth just had its 2nd-hottest February on record](#)

USBR 03/13/20. [Rain in Lower Colorado River Basin forces cutback in releases from Davis, Parker dams](#)

NASA 03/16/20. [Greenland, Antarctica Melting Six Times Faster Than in the 1990s](#)

NOAA 03/16/20. [Winter and February 2020 end as second warmest on record for the globe](#)

USBR 03/16/20. [Reclamation provides \\$2.8 million for watershed group development and restoration planning. Watershed groups in Alaska and Hawaii receive their first funding, joining other groups in California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and Wyoming](#)

EPA 03/17/20. [Mandy Gunasekara Sworn in as EPA Chief of Staff](#)

NPS 03/17/20. [Water Conservation Measures Initiated at Grand Canyon](#)

NRCS 03/17/20. [April 17 Sign-up Deadline for Toppenish to Teanaway Conservation Project \(Washington\)](#)

NRCS 03/17/20. [Oregon NRCS announces application cut-off for agricultural and wetland conservation easements](#)

NRCS 03/17/20. [NRCS Accepting Applications for Conservation Easement Program](#)

USACE 03/17/20. [Brazos River Fort Bend flood risk management feasibility study recommends no federal action](#)

NASA 03/18/20. [GRACE, GRACE-FO Satellite Data Track Ice Loss at the Poles](#)

The WESTERN STATES FEDERAL AGENCY SUPPORT TEAM (WestFAST) is a collaboration between 12 Federal agencies with water management responsibilities in the West, including: BLM, DOD, EPA, FWS, NASA, NOAA, NPS, NRCS, Reclamation, USACE, USFS, and USGS. WestFAST was established to support the Western States Water Council and the Western Governors' Association in coordinating Federal efforts regarding water issues.

NRCS 03/18/20. [USDA NRCS Invests in Four Local Watershed Projects to Protect Communities and Natural Resources in Kansas](#)

NWS 03/18/20. [Greater than the Sum of its Parts... The NWS National Blend of Models](#)

USACE 03/18/20. [Reduced releases from Gavins Point expected Friday](#)

EPA 03/19/20. [EPA Awards \\$65,463 to Texas General Land Office to Monitor Water Quality at Beaches](#)

NRCS 03/19/20. [USDA Extends Deadline for Input on Regional Conservation Partnership Program Interim Final Rule](#)

NOAA 03/19/20. [U.S. Spring Outlook forecasts another year of widespread river flooding. Above-average temperatures expected from coast to coast](#)

NOAA 03/19/20. [U.S. flood and climate outlook for spring 2020](#)

NASA 03/20/20. [Carrying Water for his Community. Carl McClellan, Navajo Nation](#)

NOAA 03/20/20. [NOAA seeks partnership to help develop world's best weather model](#)

NRCS 03/20/20. [Colorado NRCS Announces NEW ACEP-ALE Cut-Off Dates](#)

NOAA 03/20/20. [Weather research visionary and leader returns as NOAA NSSL's director](#)

USBR 03/20/20. [Reclamation announces earlier than normal releases from Guernsey Reservoir](#)

USBR 03/23/20. [Reclamation streamlines process for transferring facilities to local water users](#)

NRCS 03/24/20. [USDA Funding Available for Colorado Landowners to Help Protect Wetlands and Wildlife Habitat - Applications into the ACEP Wetlands Reserve Easement Program Accepted until Friday, April 24, 2020.](#)

BLM 03/24/20. [Bureau of Land Management initiates public scoping for Sonoran Desert National Monument grazing amendment](#)

EPA 03/24/20. [EPA Celebrates America's Farmers and Ranchers on National Agriculture Day](#)

USACE 03/25/20. [Corps closes final Platte River breach on the Ames Diking District Levee System](#)

NOAA 03/24/20. [Unexceptional Arctic sea ice maximum in 2020](#)

NOAA 03/26/20. [Grading the 2019-2020 Winter Outlook](#)

NRCS 03/26/20. [USDA Continues Conservation Planning and Programs for America's Farmers and Ranchers](#)

The WESTERN STATES FEDERAL AGENCY SUPPORT TEAM (WestFAST) is a collaboration between 12 Federal agencies with water management responsibilities in the West, including: BLM, DOD, EPA, FWS, NASA, NOAA, NPS, NRCS, Reclamation, USACE, USFS, and USGS. WestFAST was established to support the Western States Water Council and the Western Governors' Association in coordinating Federal efforts regarding water issues.