

○ WestFAST | ○ 2020



## *Western States Federal Agency Support Team*

*WestFAST supports a continued commitment on the part of Federal and State organizations; working with local, Tribal, and other stakeholders; to improve the effectiveness of collaboration in seeking solutions to water issues in the Western States.*

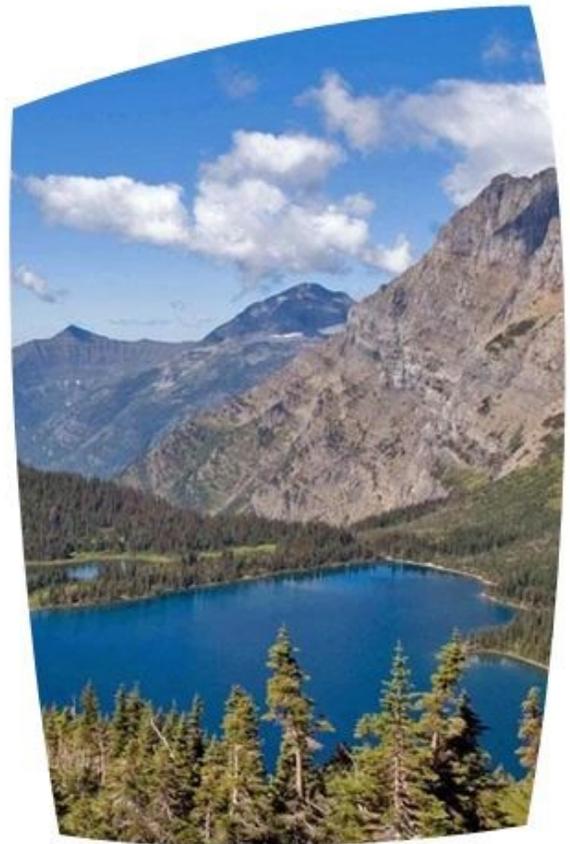
### **Why WestFAST?**

Formally organized in 2008, the Western States Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST) supports the Western States Water Council (WSWC) and the Western Governor's Association (WGA) through coordination of Federal activities, and to develop and enhance collaborative partnerships among state and federal agencies working on priority water issues. Today, WestFAST is a collaboration of twelve Federal agencies with water management responsibilities in the West.

WestFAST works closely with the WSWC, an organization consisting of representatives appointed by the governors of 18 western states

striving to accomplish effective cooperation among western states, and their partners, in the conservation, development, and management of water resources. The twelve WestFAST federal agencies form a dynamic, flexible team that provides the opportunity for interaction initiated by WSWC, individual states, or the federal government.

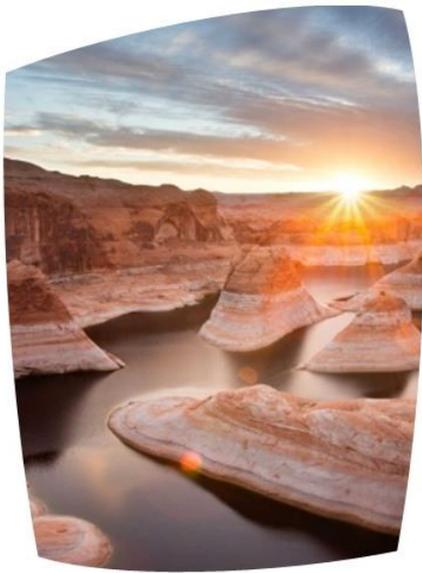
The federal agencies that make up WestFAST all have unique roles within western water management. WestFAST provides a means for those agencies to collaborate among themselves and with partner states in a way they may not otherwise be able.



#### **Priority activities of WestFAST with the WGA, the WSWC and local partners**

- *Provide excellent opportunities for cross-agency discussions and leveraging of shared knowledge.*
- *Formulate and promote new concepts and practices to improve the planning and execution of Federal and State water policies and programs to better preserve and manage water in the West.*
- *Identify and promote the most efficient and productive cooperation and collaboration practices between state and federal agencies*





# Our State Partners and the Western States Water Council

*“WestFAST has been a great success and the concept of WestFAST has made the Western States Water Council a greater success.”*

*-Hal Simpson, past WSWC Chair and Colorado State Engineer-*

As states continue to carry out their traditional role with regard to water allocation and management, the challenges are increasing. With changing and increasing demands on limited water resources, combined with a new and changing overlay of federal laws and regulations, the WSWC and our western water-resource management partners view the importance of cooperative efforts and exchanges by and among states as being likewise magnified. Concerning Federal and State collaboration the Western Governors’ Association has declared that “Developing optimal solutions to [water resource] challenges... will require an integrated approach and greater partner-ships among state, local and federal agencies.”

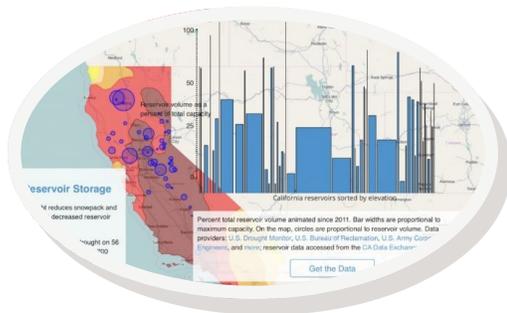
## WestFAST facilitates collaboration

### Forecast Based Water Management

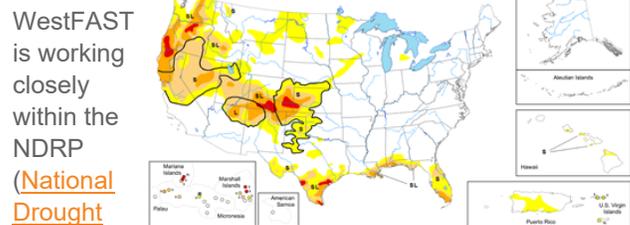
WestFast facilitates inter-agency coordination with Western States to provide information and tools toward understanding and forecasting water availability. The [2019 Presidential Memorandum on Promoting the Reliable Supply and Delivery of Wa-ter in the West](#) recognizes the critical nature of water in the west in terms of national security, community sustainability, and economic resilience.

### Drought

WestFAST member agencies strive to improve services related to drought in the areas of monitoring and information dissemination, projection tools and deci-sion support system development, and the develop-ment of resiliency and response plans among others.



Moreover, this order recognizes that effectively addressing this challenge requires the integrated capabilities of multiple Federal agencies. WestFAST



WestFAST is working closely within the NDRP ([National Drought Resilience Partnership](#)) to promote drought resilience in support of and to complement state, regional, tribal, and local drought preparedness, planning and implementation efforts. WestFAST is assisting with mobilization of Federal agencies in western watersheds towards providing improved information and data, emergency and planning assistance, landscape-scale land management improvements and investments in new approaches.

coordinates with Federal, State, and other organizations to assist the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in planning to improve water prediction on subseasonal to seasonal time scales, and integrated those predictions into assessments and forecasts of water supply and use in the west.

**Federal Water Needs** WestFAST and the Western States Water Council formed a Federal Non-Tribal Reserved Water Rights Workgroup to improve understanding of responsibilities of state and federal actors in water allocation and management. The Workgroup is developing a information clearinghouse to support states and federal agencies as they work to address reserved water-right claims. WestFAST co-sponsors regular Workgroup conferences to continue to improve mutual understanding in addressing the challenges and barriers associated with this tasks as well as identify ways to work together.

### WestFAST

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