

**Western Governors' Association
2013 Winter Meeting
December 11-12, 2013**

**Mandarin Oriental Hotel
Las Vegas, Nevada**

Agenda

Please note times and locations are subject to change

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

2:15 – 2:30 p.m. **Welcoming Remarks** – Governor Brian Sandoval and Governor John Hickenlooper

2:30 – 3:00 p.m. **Keynote Session I**
Oriental Ballroom *The Health of the Nation's Forests and Rangelands*
Secretary Tom Vilsack, USDA (invited)

3:00 – 4:15 p.m. **Plenary Session I**
Oriental Ballroom *Combatting Western Wildfires – Shared Resources, New Technologies and New Policies*
Western Governors are working together to advance policies that will improve forest and rangeland health. These include Good Neighbor Authority, stewardship contracting and designation of emergency areas. In addition, several Governors are putting in place new policies regarding insurance requirements and building codes in the wildland-urban interface.

Secretary Vilsack (invited) and Secretary Jewell (invited) will join the Governors to discuss better ways to reduce wildfire threat, combat wildfires and recover after the fires are extinguished.

5:00 – 6:00 p.m. **Reception for All Attendees**
Mandarin Bar – 23rd Floor

Thursday, December 12, 2013

9:45 – 10:15 a.m. **Keynote Session II**
Oriental Ballroom *Accelerating Adoption of Green Transportation Vehicles*

Secretary Ernie Moniz, USDOE (invited)

The Administration and many western states are aggressively working to expand the use of vehicles that run on fuels other than gasoline. The challenges are significant but the potential rewards for improved air quality and reduced dependence on foreign oil are promising.

10:15 – 11:30 a.m.

Oriental Ballroom

Plenary Session II

Cross Border Trade and Seasonal and Skilled Worker Visas

While immigration reform and border security have gotten the lion's share of the media's attention, Governors have continued to focus on improving cross border movement of goods and getting the workers needed to fill labor shortages in a secure, timely and efficient way. The Governors will discuss current efforts and obstacles to improve trade and fill worker shortages.

**11:45 a.m. – 12:15
p.m.**

**Closing Press Conference / Public Launch of Crucial
Habitat Assessment Tool**