

A Timeline of Western Governors Working Together

- 1895 Trans-Mississippi Congressⁱ convened in the fall of 1895 with the goal of organizing an exposition. Supporters “hoped an exposition could prove that the people and cities west of the Mississippi were not second-class entities which many smug Easterners considered them to be”. Governors of the 24 states and territories lying west of the Mississippi River appointed delegates as did business and community leaders.
- 1898 TransMississippi & International Exposition held in Omaha, Nebraska, from June 1 – November 1, 1898.
- 1907 Public land convention held in Denver, Colorado, June 18-20, 1907. Governor of Colorado invited the governors and their representatives of Arizona, California, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Oregon, Nevada, Oklahoma, New Mexico, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming and Washington to discuss public land management. It is possible that this meeting served as the impetus for the creation of the Western Governors’ Conference.
- 1908 President Roosevelt organizes Governors' Conference on the Conservation of Natural Resources held at the White House.
- 1915 The first references to official Western Governors’ Conference meetings appear in Utah Governor Spry’s (1909-1916) correspondence. (Utah State Archives and Records Service Series 226 -- Reel 26, Box 12, Folder 9.) The conference was in Seattle on May 15-25, 1915. Similar references found in the archived papers of WY Gov. Joseph M. Carey.
- 1933 The Council of State Governments was founded. CSG serves the executive, judicial and legislative branches of state government through leadership education, research and information services.
- 1947 The Western Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments (CSG) was organized and convened its first meeting in San Francisco. The name has changed from the Western Regional Conference to the Western Legislative Conference to CSG-WEST, which focuses exclusively on western state legislatures and the legislative process
- 1950 Western Regional Higher Education Compact approved by the western governors conference meeting at Denver, Colorado, on November 10, 1950.
- 1953 The Western Regional Education Compact creates the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.
- 1966 Western governors, legislators, educators and private business leaders established the Federation of Rocky Mountain States. The Federation works on a number of

issues including agriculture and rolling back federal trucking regulations that discriminated against long-hauls characterizing commerce in the Rocky Mountain West. (Members include eight states: UT, ID, MT, WY, CO, NM, and AZ)

- 1965 The Western States Water Council, an organization consisting of representatives appointed by the governors of 18 western states, created through adoption of a resolution at the Western Governors' Conference.
- 1968 The National Endowment of the Arts first grant for regional arts programming goes to the Federation of Rocky Mountain States for an audience development project. The Federation of Rocky Mountain States selected the Utah Civic Ballet as its official ballet company in 1968. The name "Ballet West" was chosen to reflect the regional status of the company.
- 1975 Western Governors' Regional Energy Policy Office formed.
- 1977 Three interstate agencies (Western Interstate Nuclear Board--WINB; Western Governors' Regional Energy Policy Office --WGREPO; and Federation of Rocky Mountain States--FRMS) integrated into a unified energy resources policy office. It was named the Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB). The board was expanded to include developments in regulation of all energy fields. Emphasis is placed on state federal relations and the review and monitoring of federal and state energy policies.
- 1978 Western governors formed the Western Governors' Policy Office (WESTPO) to deal with the "fast track" development of coal, synfuel and other energy projects and the intergovernmental aspects of the proposed deployment of the MX missile along the Utah-Nevada border.
- late 1970s Western governors, environmentalists, and leaders of coal mining, transportation and coal using industries in the U.S., Japan, South Korea and Taiwan established the Western Coal Export Task Force to explore the feasibility, costs and benefits of exporting western coal to Pacific Rim markets.
- 1984 Western Governors' Association formed through a merger of the Western Governors Conference and the Western Governors Policy Office.
- 1997 Western Governors create the Western Regional Air Partnership as the successor to the Grand Canyon Visibility Transport Commission. The Commission made over 70 recommendations in June 1996 for improving visibility in 16 national parks and wilderness areas on the Colorado Plateau.
- 1997 The Western Drought Coordination Council (WDCC), formed by the Western Governors' Association in 1997 through a memorandum of understanding with key federal agencies.

1996

Western Governors create the Western Governors University.

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ⁱ “The Trans-Mississippi Congress is composed of the leading and representative men of all classes, professions, and business interests of the states and territories lying west of the Mississippi River, who assemble at stated periods to discuss measures for promoting the Commercial and material welfare of the region they represent, and recommend such measures as their judgment dictates to the National Government, the states and the people for adoption. It is representative in its capacity, its membership being secured through operations of Section Six (6) of its plan of organization, reading as follows:

"Six. The basis of representation shall be as follows:

The Governor of any state or territory may appoint the delegates; the Mayor of each city one delegate, and additional delegate for each five thousand inhabitants; provided, however, that no City shall have more than ten delegates; each County may appoint one delegate through its Executive officer; every business organization one delegate, and an additional delegate from every fifty members, provided, however, that no such organization shall be entitled to more than ten delegates."

It is advisory in character, and its discussions are mainly on any subject, national or local, bearing upon the welfare of its constituency. This region embraces nineteen states and five territories, or more briefly, twenty-four states and territories, and embraces two thirds of the area, one third of the population, and one half the wealth of this great republic."

Source: A History of the TransMississippi & International Exposition by: John Wakefield May 1903
<http://www.omaha.lib.ne.us/transmiss/secretary/table.html>