



WestFAST on the Web: <http://www.westgov.org/wswc/WestFAST.htm>

Western States Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST)

The Western States Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST) is a collaboration between 12 Federal agencies with water management responsibilities in the West (Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Energy, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration). WestFAST was established to support the Western States Water Council (WSWC), and the Western Governors Association in coordinating Federal efforts regarding water resources.

WestFAST began as an agreement between nine federal agencies in 2008. In 2010, that number grew to eleven when the Department of Energy (DOE) and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) joined the WestFAST team. In 2012, the Department of Defense joined to provide collaboration for the many DOD facilities in the West. These twelve federal agencies form a dynamic, flexible team that provides the opportunity for interaction initiated by WSWC, individual states, or the federal government. These agencies have also continued to support a federal liaison stationed in the WSWC's office responsible for coordinating efforts among the agencies with the WSWC. The WestFAST collaboration has provided excellent opportunities for cross-agency discussions and leveraging of shared knowledge.

The federal agencies that make up WestFAST all have unique roles within western water management. WestFAST provides a means for those agencies to collaborate in a way that they may not otherwise be able. The WestFAST team stresses collaboration in the following areas:

1. Climate Change
2. Water Availability, Water Use, and Water Reuse
3. Water Quality

Some specific areas of collaboration that WestFAST is involved in include:

1. The development of the Water Use Data Exchange
2. Supporting the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)
3. Providing Communication on the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) and WaterSMART
4. Promoting Federal and State collaboration in the Colorado River Basin

By identifying ways that the federal agencies can collaborate in these areas, WestFAST will not only mimic the WSWC's goals and the WGA's goals, but will also help promote the individual agency goals.

The WestFAST chair is Jean Thomas (USFS). Dwane Young is the Federal Liaison to the WSWC.