



# **WRP 2016-2017 PRIORITY: REGIONAL ASSESSMENT**

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*As adopted by Principals at the  
Eighth WRP Principals' Meeting  
August 2016*

## WRP Overview

In 2007, representatives of Federal agencies and State and Tribal leadership in the States of Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah partnered with the Department of Defense to establish the Western Regional Partnership. At the 2015 WRP Principals' Meeting Colorado was included in the WRP Region.

WRP provides a proactive and collaborative framework for senior-policy level Federal, State and Tribal leadership to identify common goals and emerging issues in the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah and to develop solutions that support WRP Partners and protect natural resources, while promoting sustainability, homeland security and military readiness.

The WRP Region includes the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah. These six states are home to 18% of the U.S. population and constitute 19% of the total U.S. land mass. Long range, sustainable planning is essential to accommodate growth, sustain the economic and environmental health of the region and protect public health and safety while at the same time securing the viability of the WRP Partners' missions. To more effectively work together across geopolitical boundaries, common and emerging issues in the WRP region must be identified, along with potential conflicts and solutions.

Within the six-state region, there are:

- Significant amounts of Federally managed lands (Federal land ownership in these states ranges from 34.1% - 84.9%)
- Extensive Training Ranges, Premier Testing Facilities, Unmatched Military Air Space
- Approximately 172 Federally recognized Tribes
- Significant State Trust Landholdings

State	% of Federal Land (not including DoD managed lands)	% of DoD Managed Land	% of Indian Trust Land	Private Land	State Trust Land	Size of State in square miles and ranking by area
<b>Arizona</b>	35.5%	6.6%	27.6%	17.5%	12.7%	114,000; 6 <sup>th</sup> largest state
<b>California</b>	40.2%	4.0%	.5%	50.3%	2.5%	160,000; 3 <sup>rd</sup> largest state
<b>Colorado</b>	38.9%	0.7%	1.1%	54.9%	4.4%	104,100; 8 <sup>th</sup> largest state
<b>Nevada</b>	78.8%	6.1%	1.42%	13.03%	.15%	110,561; 7 <sup>th</sup> largest state
<b>New Mexico</b>	29.7%	4.4%	10.2%	43.9%	11.6%	121, 593; 5 <sup>th</sup> largest state
<b>Utah</b>	63.6%	3.4%	4.5%	21%	7.5%	84,904; 13 <sup>th</sup> largest state

WRP's Charter delineates the mission, goals, and responsibilities of the WRP collaborative process. The membership of the Steering Committee is composed of senior staff members representing WRP Principals; it coordinates with WRP Committee Co-Chairs. WRP

Committees work to better improve regional and interagency cooperation among Federal agencies, Tribal leadership, States, and non-governmental organizations on critical Western regional issues. WRP Committees provide a forum for information exchange, issue identification, problem solving and recommendations across the WRP region. Committees are continually reviewed to maintain a resilient and dynamic organization. The focus of committee actions will be to move from knowledge gathering to collaborative action. Issues of common concern are addressed through the following Committees:

- Energy
- Military Readiness, Homeland Security, Disaster Preparedness and Aviation
- Natural Resources

A GIS Support Group works with the WRP Steering Committee to assist all Committees.

This document outlines the 2016-2017 Strategic Goals for the WRP, guiding the Steering Committee, the three WRP Committees and the GIS Support Group. Each WRP Committee actively supports the WRP's Mission.

## WRP 2016-2017 Priority

### Background:

- The mission of WRP is to provide “*a proactive and collaborative framework for senior-policy level Federal, State and Tribal leadership to identify common goals and emerging issues in the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah and to develop solutions that support WRP Partners and protect natural resources, while promoting sustainability, homeland security and military readiness.*”
- Within the WRP Region, there is considerable state, federal and Tribal lands and various land management processes. This, and the fact that many land use issues are regional in nature, can lead to unintended land use conflicts.
- WRP Partners are resource-constrained (time and money); therefore, WRP will dedicate the next year to conduct a Regional Assessment to better support its Partners. Given the upcoming federal Administration transition, this exercise is especially well-timed to ensure WRP is best supporting its State, Federal and Tribal Partners.
- In 2017, WRP will celebrate its decennial anniversary – a notable milestone, but also an appropriate inflection point to solicit strategic input from Partners to ensure WRP remains focused on the most important issues.
- Since its inception, WRP has been able to support creative collaboration among its Partners. By bringing together diverse Partners, WRP has assisted in Partners identifying and implementing mutually beneficial and innovative solutions that can be implemented in the field without constraining policymakers. WRP’s legacy of success suggests that its structure can lead to more support for its Partners in finding even more complex solutions to yet more difficult challenges.

### WRP 2016-2017 Priority: Regional Assessment

WRP is a forum for information exchange, issue identification, problem solving and recommendations across the WRP region. During the WRP 2016-2017 year, WRP will work to better understand the current priorities of its Partners and the continuing or emerging issues impacting their agencies; and to identify and recommend potential available resources (such as grants, agency actions, planning efforts) to address these issues.

To carry this out:

- WRP will send monthly updates on Partner-related efforts relevant to the WRP Mission (This will consist of information from WRP Steering Committee, WRP Partner and agency news releases, etc.). This will help create greater awareness of current WRP Partner actions.
- The WRP Steering Committee working with Committee Co-Chairs will draft a survey for WRP Partners to identify:
  - Partners’ top three WRP-relevant issues within the region (especially land use issues such as development of renewable energy, ecological goals, priorities

- for large landscape-level conservation, emerging military requirements to meet mission needs, etc.)
- Partners' top three needs (e.g. resources, need to better work across geopolitical boundaries, particular data needs, etc.)
- Significant, publicly announced state and regional planning efforts that are expected to commence in 2017 – 2020 and potential collaboration opportunities with WRP Partners
- Authoritative data layers or web mapping services that would assist with the Partner's efforts and for use in regional planning by WRP Partners
- After survey results are compiled, WRP Committee Co-Chairs will determine which issues can be better explored within their Committee (Energy; Natural Resources; Military Readiness, Homeland Security, Disaster Preparedness and Aviation) and work to:
  - More fully explore survey results on Partners' top issues, needs and available resources (such as grants, agency actions, planning efforts) to address the issues, as well as, identifying recommendations for WRP Principals' consideration at their 2017 meeting for potential future WRP efforts.
  - Compile relevant state and regional planning efforts in a user-friendly format and identify ways WRP Partners can participate.
  - Compile recommendations on data layers/web mapping services to include in the WRP Web Mapping Application to assist WRP Partners with their regional planning efforts

### **Expected Product to be Completed by 2017 WRP Principals' Meeting**

*Note: This effort will be completed subject to the availability of WRP resources and to the extent feasible:*

- Monthly updates of agency efforts relevant to the WRP Mission
  - This will consist of information from WRP Steering Committee, WRP Partner and agency news releases, etc. and assist to create greater awareness of current WRP Partner actions.
- Report with:
  - Survey results, quantitative in nature, of "top" Partner issues and needs within the WRP Region
  - Relevant Committee efforts documenting their exploration of survey results on Partners' top issues and needs
  - Identification of state and regional plans that are planned to commence in 2017-2020
  - Helpful resources that encourage better collaboration among states, federal agencies and tribes within the WRP Region
  - Identification of authoritative GIS data layers or web mapping services supportive of WRP planning efforts and initiatives

- Further recommendations for WRP Principals' consideration at their 2017 meeting on identified gaps and possible focus areas that would lead to possible solutions