**Report to Address WRP 2017-2018 Priority**

Presented at the 2018 WRP Principals’ Meeting

**ADVANCING REGIONAL STRATEGIES**

A close up of a sign

Description automatically generated

**Western Regional Partnership**

Reliable Outcomes for America's Defense, Energy, Environment,

and Infrastructure in the West



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 and cultural resources, while promoting sustainability, homeland security and military readiness.



wrpinfo.org

Table of Contents

[Introduction 1](#_Toc529602319)

[Executive Summary 4](#_Toc529602320)

[Summary of WRP Committee and WRP Working Group Efforts in 2017-2018 12](#_Toc529602321)

[Energy Committee 12](#_Toc529602322)

[*Federal Activity* 13](#_Toc529602323)

[*Energy Market Trends* 17](#_Toc529602324)

[*Tribal Energy* 19](#_Toc529602325)

[*State Activities* 20](#_Toc529602326)

[Natural Resources Committee 23](#_Toc529602327)

[*Species-Related* 23](#_Toc529602328)

[*Resources for Conservation Efforts (including Land Use Collaboration/Planning)* 31](#_Toc529602329)

[*Water-related* 36](#_Toc529602330)

[Military Readiness, Homeland Security, Disaster Preparedness and Aviation (MRHSD&A) Committee 39](#_Toc529602331)

[*Military-Related* 39](#_Toc529602332)

[*Homeland Security/Disaster Preparedness Related* 44](#_Toc529602333)

[*Airspace Related* 47](#_Toc529602334)

[WRP Working Groups: BLM Planning and Tribal Engagement 50](#_Toc529602335)

[*BLM Planning Temporary Working Group* 50](#_Toc529602336)

[*Tribal Engagement Temporary Working Group* 53](#_Toc529602337)

[Proposed 2018-2019 WRP Priority 54](#_Toc529602338)

**Advancing Regional Strategies**

# *Introduction*

At each WRP Principals’ Meeting, Principals meet to share information, network and formally adopt strategic priorities governing collaborative staff-level efforts for the following year. Based on Principals’ direction, the 2017-2018 WRP Year focused on “*Advancing Regional Priorities*.” This report prepared by WRP Committees (with contractor support) summarizes WRP efforts in 2017-2018 and documents 2018-2019 recommended priorities.

Each of the three WRP Committees (Energy, Military Readiness, Homeland Security, Disaster Preparedness and Aviation (MRHSDP&A) and Natural Resources) were specifically tasked with addressing pertinent items within their purview. The results of the Committees’ efforts and WRP Working Groups are detailed in this report. Information in the report is based on input provided through the Committees and Working Groups. For further information, please contact the [WRP Coordinator](mailto:amyduffy@westernregionalpartnership.org).

*WRP History and Overview of the Region*

In 2007, representatives of Federal agencies and State and Tribal leadership in Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah partnered with the Department of Defense (DoD) to establish the Western Regional Partnership. Colorado was added in 2015.

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 and cultural resources, while promoting sustainability, homeland security and military readiness.

The WRP Region has 18% of the U.S. population, 19% of the U.S. land mass, considerable state, federal and Tribal lands and various land management processes. These factors and the fact that many land use issues are regional means that unintended land use conflicts may result among WRP Partners’ interests.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 |
| Arizona | 35.5% | 6.6% | 27.6% | 17.5% | 12.7% | 114,000; 6th largest state |
| California | 40.2% | 4.0% | .5% | 50.3% | 2.5% | 160,000; 3rd largest state |
| Colorado | 38.9% | 0.7% | 1.1% | 54.9% | 4.4% | 104,100; 8th largest state |
| Nevada | 78.8% | 6.1% | 1.42% | 13.03% | .15% | 110,561; 7th largest state |
| New Mexico | 29.7% | 4.4% | 10.2% | 43.9% | 11.6% | 121, 593; 5th largest state |
| Utah | 63.6% | 3.4% | 4.5% | 21% | 7.5% | 84,904; 13th largest state |

The benefits of participating in WRP include:

* A forum to engage with high-level representatives of states, federal and Tribal entities across WRP Region
* Opportunities to enhance situational awareness of policy and emerging issues
* Enable interagency dialogue for identifying, addressing, and avoiding these potential conflicts
* Recommendations and innovative solutions in the gap between real time problems and long-term policy development
* Access to tools and WRP Deliverables

*WRP Structure*

WRP’s Charter delineates the mission, goals and responsibilities for the Partnership. The Steering Committee (SC) is composed of senior staff members representing WRP Principals; it coordinates with the Co-Chairs of the three WRP Committees:

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

The Committees work to improve regional and interagency cooperation among Federal agencies, Tribal leadership, States, and non-governmental organizations on critical Western regional issues and provide a forum for information exchange, issue identification, problem solving and recommendations.

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

Two working groups were created by the SC acting under the authorization of the Principals: WRP Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Temporary Planning Working Group and the WRP Temporary Engagement Tribal Working Group.

The SC worked over the past year to ensure WRP Activities were meaningful and completed for the 2018 WRP Principals’ Meeting. Specifically, the SC:

* Reviewed the 2017 WRP Principals’ Meeting and evaluated the WRP Survey
* Oversaw Committee activities throughout the year; provided input on individual surveys
* Held three teleconferences and one meeting to keep tabs on activities
* Established two working groups as identified during the 2017 WRP Principals’ Meeting
* Continued to refine WRP’s GIS focus. Terminated (in coordination with the signatory agencies) five dated WRP GIS Working Agreements. Recommended sunsetting the WRP SC Subcommittee on GIS and empowering the WRP GIS Liaisons to work directly with their Committee and the WRP SC; thereby streamlining efforts.
* Shared information/conducted outreach across agencies
* Developed and implemented a Resolution Process to enhance transparency and ensure WRP Priorities are more fully scoped before the Principals’ Meeting. This year, each agency was asked to coordinate with its Principal to identify priorities, recommendations to the Charter, agency updates and recommendations for the 2018 WRP Principals’ Meeting Plenary Sessions.
* Advanced efforts for the 2018 WRP Principals’ Meeting (conducted and analyzed WRP SC survey on key items)
* Developed for Principals’ consideration the WRP 2018-2019 Priority, *Advancing Compatible Planning in the West for America’s Defense, Energy, Environment and Infrastructure through Enhancing Collaboration among Federal, State and Tribal Entities.*

WRP has enjoyed strong leadership throughout its existence, in spite of the inevitable turnaround caused when people change jobs within their organization, go to a different organization or retire. This turnover in WRP Membership will continue, especially given that in four of the six WRP states (CA, CO, NM and NV), new governors were elected in November 2018 as the incumbents were not running for re-election. (In a fifth state, Arizona, the incumbent governor was re-elected.) However, WRP is confident that new, strong leadership will step up to fill the voids created by these changes. WRP continues to identify emerging issues and key policy changes. For example, this past year, much attention has been placed on streamlining the federal permitting processes[[1]](#footnote-1) and DOI Regional Boundary [Map](https://www.doi.gov/employees/reorg/unified-regional-boundaries) (considering 13 unified regional office boundaries across bureaus).

# Executive Summary

At the 2017 WRP Principals’ Meeting, the Principals adopted the priority of “Advancing Regional Priorities.” This decision was based on the previous work of WRP, particularly the previous year’s assessment of the resources and goals of WRP Members.

WRP’s three Committees (Energy, Natural Resources and Military Readiness, Homeland Security, Disaster Preparedness & Aviation) focused on this priority through webinars, conference calls and information sharing regarding their plans and processes, both those in action and those expected in the future. In addition, the SC, with the authorization of the Principals, stood up two temporary working groups to bring together Members to work on issues that did not neatly fit into the Committee structure: the BLM Planning Temporary Working Group and the Tribal Engagement Temporary Working Group. These working groups were able to advance the WRP Mission. The activities of these committees and working groups are provided in some detail in this Report and summarized here.

*Energy Committee*

Energy in the WRP States differs from that in many regions for many reasons: load centers are far removed from generation, requiring long transmission of power from generation to load, while at the same time, the actual and potential generation of renewable energy in the region is growing rapidly. In this context, the Energy Committee held the following webinars:

*Section 368 Energy Corridor Review*

[Section 368](http://corridoreis.anl.gov/documents/docs/Section368_Extract_EnergyPolicyAct.pdf) of the [Energy Policy Act of 2005](http://corridoreis.anl.gov/documents/docs/EnergyPolicyAct2005.pdf) directed the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, and the Interior to designate corridors on federal land in 11 Western States for oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission and distribution facilities. In 2009, BLM and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) designated approximately 6,000 miles of energy corridors, which are now under review (pursuant to 2012 settlement agreement) and a Corridor Study was released in May 2016 to identify potential corridor revisions, deletions or additions to improve the corridor network. This corridor review effort seeks to encourage more efficient and effective use of Section 368 corridors. The need for Section 368 corridors may be impacted by such things as changing generation mix, state and federal policies, decreasing costs of natural gas and renewable energy, and market evolution.

*Energy Market Trends*

The ability to forecast load and adjust supply rapidly has become increasingly important as more variable types of generation, such as wind and solar, represent a greater portion of regional generation. This highlights the need for continued planning and coordination among multiple entities to create additional opportunities for new market structures in the West, such as an Energy Imbalance Market (EIM). An EIM is intended to allow participants such as Balancing Authorities and utilities to ensure generation meets demand with diverse resources across a wider footprint. Some of the trends/unique aspects of the west identified in this webinar included:

* Utilities are interested in pooling resources and finding more efficient and effective ways to deliver power to its customers.
* The cost of transmission remains high
* Long distances between generation and load centers and the high cost of transmission deter a centralized energy market.
* Carbon policies seem to be a focus for some states.
* California passed [SB 100](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB100) requiring 60% renewable energy portfolio by 2030 and a target to serve 100% of retail load with zero-carbon energy by 2045.
* Electric vehicles are more common and easier to charge.

*Tribal Energy*

This webinar highlighted the processes by which energy development occurs on Tribal lands, related policies, current hurdles and recommendations. There is a complex mix of history and laws regulating leasing and development on Tribal lands. Many Tribes have viable renewable energy resources and land for development, but do not have direct or proximate access to connect with the electrical grid system, diminishing Tribes' participation in developing profitable, utility-scale renewable energy.

Some of the trends/unique aspects of the west identified in this webinar included:

* Expansion of regional transmission organizations
* Technology improvements (i.e. microgrids, batteries/storage)
* State regulatory activities
* Much of Indian Country is rural and remote; in some areas it may never be cost effective to run power lines. Other technologies must be considered.
* Additional Federal laws are anticipated to address the continuing challenge of balancing federal role and tribal priorities and authority.

In addition to the webinars, the Energy Committee exchanged information and received news reports about the many energy-related activities happening in the region. Some themes were identified:

* There are significant energy projects and efforts within the WRP region
* Energy programs and policies are evolving at all levels (state, federal and Tribal)
* There is much more focus on all types of energy, both renewable and conventional
* Federal environmental reviews and planning efforts are being streamlined
* Anticipated trends in energy in the WRP Region include:
  + Renewable energy and battery storage costs will continue to decline
  + Renewable and distributed generation projects and energy storage projects will increase
  + Energy efficiency savings will increase, reducing load, but the greater use of electric vehicles over time will increase load
  + Electric grids will continue share resources across larger geographic areas
  + Electric grids will continue to decarbonize
* Early and frequent engagement is key to success and WRP has been helpful with that.

*Natural Resources Committee*

With so much of the WRP Region managed by Federal agencies and hundreds of federally-listed species, the work of the Natural Resources Committee was mainly focused on assisting efforts to preclude or delist species through coordinating conservation efforts. The Committee began by trying to focus on those species that most concern members and through a process of elimination, focused on three (Least Bell’s Vireo, Sonoran Desert Tortoise and Yellow-Billed Cuckoo.) As events have transpired, it has been determined to focus on the last species, as the former two have, though various conservation efforts, become less problematic. Consequently, interested agencies are encouraged to maximize their efforts on the ongoing process that may lead to the delisting of the Yellow-Billed Cuckoo.

Additionally, the Committee held three webinars:

*DoD’s Natural Resource Program*

DoD’s Natural Resources Program invested nearly $340 million in FY2017 to ensure continued access to the approximate 25 million acres of military land, air, and water resources needed to accomplish vital testing, training, and operational activities while simultaneously working to ensure the long-term sustainability of priceless natural heritage.  The Program priorities include:

* Preventing new species listings
* Reducing regulatory mission impacts by improving consultation processes and outcomes and to develop conservation strategies and approaches to enhance mission flexibility
* Facilitating de-listing of species
* Improving internal and external collaboration and coordination
* Aligning Program activities and investments to support mission

The Program is actively engaged in many efforts including the Collaborative Wildlife Protection and Recovery Initiative (CWPRI). CWPRI also includes membership from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Natural Resources Conservation Service, BLM, USFS, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USFWS, Defenders of Wildlife and American Bird Conservancy. Agencies identified priority species, ecosystems or regions where they were already focusing resources and efforts, or where there were existing partnerships or relationships, and the Southwest emerged as an area of opportunity.

*Federal Agency Planning Efforts*

This webinar highlighted the BLM, USFS, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) the National Park Service (NPS). Each of the agencies described in some detail their particular planning process (which are outside the scope of this Executive Summary.) Although there are similarities (notice to the public, opportunities to engage, etc.) there are many differences that interested parties need to be aware of. The agencies are also dealing with how to incorporate into their planning the direction to expedite planning processes including Environmental Impact Statements.

*Water Related*

This webinar focused on 2018 Federal and State water strategies and collaboration.

The Western U.S. is one of the fastest growing regions of the country, and the future growth and prosperity of the western states depend upon the availability of adequate quantities of water of suitable quality. A number of water-related challenges were noted including aging and inadequate infrastructure, growing population in the West, increasingly complex water user conflicts, a constantly evolving regulatory landscape, limited financial resources and political divisions. Recommendations for potential solutions include:

* Even greater State leadership in addressing water problems and involvement in federal decision making
* Support for innovative project and non-project solutions, Integrated Water Resources Management, green infrastructure and stormwater use, water transfers and Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations
* Innovative project financing and cost sharing
* Regulatory reform with reasonable flexibility

DoD sees the military value of strengthening water resource management and the importance of the water-energy nexus. Many efforts are underway including development of a DoD Water Resource Management Strategy, focused on water source preservation, working with Federal partners to gain a better understanding of water scarcity risks (obtain better tools) and expanded outreach with DoD stakeholders.

*Military Readiness, Homeland Security, Disaster Preparedness and Aviation*

*(MRHSD&A) Committee*

The main goals of the WRP MRHSDP&A Committee over the past year were to:

* + Enhance awareness of DoD mission; serve as a forum on compatible land uses near DoD operations
  + Assist WRP Partners’ homeland security/disaster preparedness missions to foster awareness of interdependence among Partners; capture emerging issues, existing tools and recommendations (e.g. disaster recovery, cyber security)
  + Serve as a forum for aviation users sharing information on changes to airspace use (e.g. new technology, integration of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) into the National Airspace System (NAS)

The Committee hosted three webinars in furtherance of these goals:

*DoD Aviation Mission*

The WRP region is important to the military’s ability to train; it has extensive training ranges (air, land and sea), premier testing facilities and unmatched military air space. Seventy-five percent of DoD Special Use Airspace is located within the WRP Region.

Increases in aviation operations and types of users along with changes in land use patterns can impact aviation missions. Most aircraft-related military operations are performed in segregated airspace, designed to accomplish any of several objectives. The airspace used by the military for test and training not only requires a significant amount for its sheer volume, it must also include geographical features that typically can be expected to be encountered by such units. The southwest region provides a unique environment for DoD to conduct its mission.

Among the challenges facing military users of airspace are the evolving military requirements for airspace (in both volume and integration with training assets) and the long process to propose uses of the airspace, which causes lack of continuity across project timelines as uses of surrounding airspace continue to evolve. Additionally, reporting of Special Use Airspace utilization, GPS testing where increased military needs coincide with increased civil dependence, drone flights over military installations, and the complex process for commercial operators of drones in military-controlled airspace.

*Homeland Security/Disaster Preparedness Related*

This webinar featured the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group (RECCWG) liaisons and an opportunity to discuss communication interoperability issues and solutions sets.

Regional RECC Coordinators are located in each of the 10 FEMA regions; they coordinate disaster emergency communications capabilities and requirements during a response, report to the Regional Administrator on emergency issues in the region, and staff the establishment and administration of the RECCWGs.

Within the WRP Region, there are three FEMA Regions: Region VI includes New Mexico; Region VIII includes Colorado and Utah; and Region IX includes Arizona, California and Nevada. Each region faces unique homeland security/disaster response issues. FEMA Region IX responded to fires in California and noted a key issue during disasters is public communications. FEMA Region VI responded to many hurricanes in 2017 (including Hurricane Harvey) and developed several recommendations for consideration. FEMA Region VIII conducts training exercises to simulate the Wasatch Range earthquake and response.

*Airspace Related*

Within the WRP Region there are significant numbers of aviation users (military, commercial, business, and general aviation, etc.) with diverse missions. The region’s interconnected military airspace supports air-to-air, air-to-ground, ground-to-ground and air-to-sea operations. There are various other types of manned flight operations such as government (federal, state, local, Tribal and law enforcement) commercial and general aviation. Significant changes are occurring within the region’s airspace such as: exponential increase in the use of private and commercial unmanned aircraft; implementation of new technology (such as NextGen and commercial space operations); introduction of new aircraft such as the F-35; and an expected increase in passenger aircraft.

*Unmanned Aerial Vehicles*

The Committee hosted a webinar on UAS (also known as unmanned aerial vehicles, remotely piloted vehicles and drones). UAS is an aircraft controlled by an operator on the ground. Unmanned aircraft are currently used for government (federal, including military, state and local, law enforcement), commercial and research purposes. Demand for UAS continues to grow and is expected to be one of the fastest growing segments of aviation. UAS can perform many roles that manned aircraft cannot and these uses will likely increase in the future. Airspace cohabitation is an important national security and public safety issue. UAS can range from micro to 737 airliner size.

There are many efforts underway to develop and conduct UAS mission across the WRP Region as well as evaluate procedures on how to safely integrate UAS into the National Airspace System (NAS). Challenges and Opportunities of UAS in the NAS were noted as well as the USDOT/FAA UAS Integration Pilot Program efforts to support complex commercial drone operations.

*BLM Planning Temporary Working Group*

Within the WRP Region, BLM manages a significant amount of land. This working group of State, BLM and DoD Members, worked over the past year to improve WRP Members’ understanding of the BLM planning processes and proactively address land issues. The primary focus was to enhance coordination with key DoD Members to identify best practices in addressing DoD issues of concern with BLM Resource Management Plan (RMP) efforts in the WRP Region and provide key information on how DoD can best collaborate with BLM. Additionally, the work group engaged the state perspective by identifying opportunities for mutual support to advance common interests associated with BLM and DoD planning.

In July 2018, BLM provided a list of RMPs within the WRP Region, from which DoD members were able to categorize RMPs as those that intersect DoD resources in the near-term, those that intersect but are not near-term, and those that are neither of the above.

Additionally, members of the working group engaged in a number of calls that allowed for exchange of information among the members, leading to a great deal of actionable information and recommendations.

*Tribal Engagement Temporary Working Group*

Within the WRP Region there are 172 Federally Recognized Tribes. The percentage of Indian Trust land within each of the WRP States ranges from 0.5 to 27.6%. This Working Group is intended to promote outreach to Tribes to obtain greater engagement in WRP.

A meeting was held to share information among state, federal and Tribal members and develop recommendations. Some other requests were implemented in conjunction with planning of the 2018 WRP Principals’ Meeting:

* + Include a question relating to Tribal Engagement in the 2018-2019 WRP Priority.
  + Provide for an optional Tribal breakfast and Tribal tour at the WRP Principals’ Meeting.
  + At the conclusion of the WRP Principals’ Meeting, hold a meeting of Tribal Members and Federal and State Liaisons (including those who have policy direction in this area).

It was also recommended that this Working Group continue over the next year to develop tools and strategies to support outreach.

*WRP Strategic Priority for 2018-2019*

In light of the activities of the Committees and Working Groups, the SC recommends that the Principals adopt as its strategic priority for 2018-2019 “*Advancing Compatible Planning in the West for America’s Defense, Energy, Environment and Infrastructure through Enhancing Collaboration among Federal, State and Tribal Entities*.” The purpose of this Priority is, in recognizing that agencies are streamlining planning processes (including environmental reviews and permits), it is more imperative to have a keen understanding of the new processes and collaborative engagement practices. By working together, WRP Partners will develop best practices and models for more efficient and consistent planning collaboration.

The SC has identified particular milestones that should be met and guiding principles to be employed in the next year to accomplish this priority.

**Advancing Regional Strategies**

# *Summary of WRP Committee and WRP Working Group Efforts in 2017-2018*

Energy Committee

The WRP Region contains diverse existing energy generation resources, both conventional and alternative, and significant transmission corridors. This region benefits from climates conducive to alternative forms of energy, including wind, solar and geothermal, and has significant hydroelectric resources, e.g., Hoover Dam. Over the last decade, much of the energy planning in the West has focused on renewable energy, transmission infrastructure, and the sharing of renewable energy generation resources across larger geographies and transmission systems to reduce costs, achieve public policy goals, and maintain system reliability. More recently the focus has shifted to ensuring grid resilience while integrating all forms of energy to best provide for the nation’s economy. However, there is still a need for continued and robust collaborative planning to ensure that certain projects in some locations do not impact military testing, training, and operations, natural resources, Tribal lands, etc. To assist with these issues, the main goals of the WRP Energy Committee over the past year were to:

* Explore energy-related findings from 2017 WRP Regional Assessment; summarize changes in policy, trends and energy projects
* Share information on renewable energy and transmission projects; highlight planning efforts
* Enhance WRP partner awareness of energy generation and transmission planning processes and engagement opportunities

To begin to attain these goals, the Energy Committee circulated a brief survey to the WRP SC and Energy Committee membership to obtain input on 2018 anticipated changes in energy policies (administrative or statutory) and new energy generation and transmission planning processes or other engagement opportunities to address/mitigate mission impacts.

Additionally, the Energy Committee hosted three webinars with ten presenters highlighting the latest on Section 368 Energy Corridors (federal energy planning); regional energy market trends and options; and information relating to Tribal Energy efforts. Summaries of the webinars, survey results and energy trends in the West obtained from monitoring news across the WRP Region are found below. These items are categorized as federal, state, tribal and energy market trends.

### *Federal Activity*

*Section 368 Energy Corridor Review*

In March 2018, the WRP Energy Committee webinar provided background on the Section 368 Energy Corridors, current efforts and opportunities for engagement in the reviews. This webinar was conducted by the BLM and Argonne National Laboratory[[2]](#footnote-2). [Section 368](http://corridoreis.anl.gov/documents/docs/Section368_Extract_EnergyPolicyAct.pdf) of the [Energy Policy Act of 2005](http://corridoreis.anl.gov/documents/docs/EnergyPolicyAct2005.pdf) directed the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, and the Interior to designate corridors on federal land in 11 Western States for oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission and distribution facilities. In response, the BLM, Department of Energy, USFS, DoD, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) in November 2007 and a Final PEIS in November 2008 that evaluated issues associated with the designation of energy corridors on federal lands in eleven Western states. In 2009, the BLM and the U.S.F.S. designated approximately 6,000 miles of energy corridors.

These energy corridors are now under review (pursuant to 2012 settlement agreement) and a Corridor Study was released in May 2016 to identify potential corridor revisions, deletions or additions to improve the corridor network. To best manage this effort, the area under review was divided into six regions. [Region 1 corridor abstracts](http://corridoreis.anl.gov/regional-reviews/region-1/) (southern California, southern Nevada, and western Arizona) and [Regions 2 and 3 Regional Reviews](http://corridoreis.anl.gov/regional-reviews/regions-2-3/) (New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, the remainder of Arizona and eastern Nevada) have been published. The review process for [Regions 4, 5, and 6](http://www.corridoreis.anl.gov/regional-reviews/regions-4-5-6/)  (part of California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming) will begin in late 2018.

This corridor review effort seeks to encourage more efficient and effective use of Section 368 corridors. For more information please see: the [Regional Reviews](http://corridoreis.anl.gov/regional-reviews/) page and the [Section 368 Mapping Tool](https://bogi.evs.anl.gov/section368/portal/), a web-based GIS tool to facilitate stakeholder understanding and input. The WRP webinar [recording](https://bah16f18.adobeconnect.com/pduh08hqe675/).

In support of the Section 368 effort, in May 2018 NREL published a report titled “Energy Futures Synthesis for West-Wide Section 368 Energy Corridors”.[[3]](#footnote-3) The report focused on Regions 2 and 3, providing an overview of various public studies. The report recognized the fast pace of change in the West. With that in mind, the report summarized some key implications for Section 368 corridors:

* Transmission projects under development will largely meet expected future transmission demands, with little congestion expected before 2026.
* If there is higher than expected renewable energy development, some corridors might see additional development interest, especially New Mexico, Nevada, and Utah rather than Colorado or Arizona.
* In-state renewable energy procurement requirements could reduce demand for corridor transmission development.
* Interstate natural gas pipeline development in the West is expected to be moderate to low, unless California’s natural gas demand increases or natural gas generation in the West increases greater than expected.

The need for Section 368 corridors may be impacted by such things as changing generation mix, state and federal policies, decreasing costs of natural gas and renewable energy, and market evolution.

*Other important Federal Activities over the past year include:*

DOI:

* In January 2018, [Secretary Zinke Announces Plan For Unleashing America's Offshore Oil and Gas Potential](https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-zinke-announces-plan-unleashing-americas-offshore-oil-and-gas-potential) The Draft Proposed Program includes potential lease sales (2 each) for Northern California, Central California, and Southern California. There are 43 current leases in the Southern California planning area; no lease sales have been made in the Pacific Region since 1984.
* The Department of the Interior issued numerous Secretarial Orders (SO) with policy changes which include:
  + [SO 3355](https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/elips/documents/3355_-_streamlining_national_environmental_policy_reviews_and_implementation_of_executive_order_13807_establishing_discipline_and_accountability_in_the_environmental_review_and_permitting_process_for.pdf) (August 2017) establishes page and time limits for environmental impact statements and environmental assessments;
  + [SO 3354](https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/elips/documents/3354%20%20-%20Supporting%20and%20Improving%20the%20Federal%20Onshore%20Oil%20and%20Gas%20Leasing%20Program%20and%20Federal%20Solid%20Mineral%20Leasing%20Program.pdf) (July 2017) ensures consistent quarterly oil and gas lease sales and promotes exploration and development of Federal onshore oil and gas resources and Federal solid mineral resources;
  + [SO 3348](https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/elips/documents/3348%20-Concerning%20the%20Federal%20Coal%20Moratorium.pdf) (March 2017) rescinds a Federal coal moratorium and directs the BLM to expeditiously process coal leases;
  + [SO 3349](https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/elips/documents/3349%20%20-American%20Energy%20Independence.pdf) (March 2017) calls for changes to mitigation and climate change policies
* Correspondingly, the BLM has issued policies which include:
  + [Instruction Memorandum (IM) 2018-034](https://www.blm.gov/policy/im-2018-034) (January 2018) streamlines and expedites oil and gas leasing;
  + [Information Bulletin 2018-06](https://www.blm.gov/policy/ib-2018-061)1 (June 2018) reiterates BLM’s policy to expedite processing oil and gas Applications for Permits to Drill (APDs) and includes NEPA streamlining tools;
* Information about BLM projects under environmental review can be found on the [BLM's ePlanning website](https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do). Multiple BLM land use plan revisions are underway and can be found at: (<https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa>); Also, several major infrastructure projects involving land use plan amendments are tracked at: <https://www.permits.performance.gov/projects>
* BLM noted several new proposed projects on BLM administered lands including:
  + Crescent Peak Wind Energy Project, 500MW near Searchlight, NV
  + Gemini Solar Project, 690MW 25 miles northeast of Las Vegas, NV
  + Yellow Pine Solar Project, 250MW 32 miles west of Las Vegas, NV
  + McGinness Hills Geothermal Project, 48 MW 10 miles north of Austin, NV
  + BLM and USFS held “West-Wide” Energy Corridor Reviews workshops in 5 western states May-June 2018 with reviews ongoing in 2018 and 2019
* A few BLM planning efforts underway:
  + [BLM Authorizes Southern California Edison Utility Transmission Extension Project](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwOTE0Ljk0OTIwMTUxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDkxNC45NDkyMDE1MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MzAzOTIzJmVtYWlsaWQ9YW15cmR1ZmZ5QGljbG91ZC5jb20mdXNlcmlkPWFteXJkdWZmeUBpY2xvdWQuY29tJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mbXZpZD0mZXh0cmE9JiYm&&&127&&&https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-authorizes-southern-california-edison-utility-transmission-extension-project)
  + [BLM Announces Approval of $2.5 Billion Renewable Energy Transmission and Water Pipeline in Riverside County, California](https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-announces-approval-25-billion-renewable-energy-transmission-and-water-pipeline)
  + Broke records for oil and gas lease [sale](https://www.blm.gov/press-release/they-said-it-couldn’t-be-done-trump-admin-dominates-billion-dollar-oil-and-gas-sale) in New Mexico by grossing nearly $1 billion in bonus bids for 142 parcels.
  + [Ten West Transmission Project](https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-releases-draft-environmental-impact-statement-proposed-ten-west-transmission-line), a 500-kilovolt transmission line would connect existing substations near Tonopah, Arizona, and Blythe, California. Comment period ends November 29. Resource: [Notice of Availability](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-08-31/pdf/2018-18721.pdf)
  + [Desert Quartzite Solar Project](http://www.elabs10.com/c.html?ufl=d&rtr=on&s=x8pbwi,3798j,3xn3,jevb,i2hl,jhie,1h3), a 450-megawatt solar development in eastern Riverside County.  Comment period ends on Nov. 8. Resource: [Notice of Availability](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-08-31/pdf/2018-18721.pdf)
  + [500 megawatt Palen Solar Photovoltaic Project in eastern Riverside County, CA](http://www.elabs10.com/c.html?ufl=d&rtr=on&s=x8pbwi,34fz9,3xn3,kznb,a78q,jhie,1h3) Resource: [ROD](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/pagedetails.action?na=&se=&sm=&flr=&ercode=&dateBrowse=&govAuthBrowse=&collection=&historical=true&st=content%3A%28%28Interior+OR+%E2%80%9CForest+Service%E2%80%9D+OR+endangered+OR+habitat+OR+ecosystem+OR+environmental+OR+%28NOAA%29+OR+new+OR+Pacific%29+AND+%28California+OR+%E2%80%9C+CA%E2%80%9D%29+OR+wilderness%29+AND+publishdate%3Arange%282018-10-30%2C%29+AND+collection%3AFR&fromState=advSearch&sb=don&sb=re&ps=100&ps=100&granuleId=2018-24017&packageId=FR-2018-11-02)
  + [Potential changes to the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan to seek greater opportunities for renewable](http://www.elabs10.com/c.html?ufl=d&rtr=on&s=x8pbwi,31ktg,3xn3,ink2,e6cr,jhie,1h3)
  + [BLM Seeks Public Input on Proposed Keystone Exploratory Project](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwOTE0Ljk0OTIwMTUxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDkxNC45NDkyMDE1MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MzAzOTIzJmVtYWlsaWQ9YW15cmR1ZmZ5QGljbG91ZC5jb20mdXNlcmlkPWFteXJkdWZmeUBpY2xvdWQuY29tJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mbXZpZD0mZXh0cmE9JiYm&&&134&&&https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-seeks-public-input-proposed-keystone-exploratory-project)
  + [Secretary of the Interior issues Public Land Order for lands in Nevada](https://www.blm.gov/press-release/secretary-interior-issues-public-land-order-lands-nevada)
* In October, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management published a [Call for Information and Nominations](https://www.boem.gov/83-FR-53096/) (Call) for Commercial Leasing for Wind Power Development on the Outer Continental Shelf Offshore California. The three proposed Call Areas comprise over 1,000 square statute miles off the Coast of California: the Humboldt Call Area on the North Coast, and the Morro Bay Call Area and the Diablo Canyon Call Area on the Central Coast. The 100-day public comment period closes on Jan. 27, 2019. More information on the Call, including a map of the Call Areas and how to comment, may be found [here](https://www.boem.gov/California/).
* Largest Ever Database of U.S. Wind Turbines Released: [United States Wind Turbine Database](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001paTjWJdytk3nc8VgtGeduiME5oD2MvFsb03h2lXS9T-Ewn3FmZe40qsYdbjyvz2BiRABuTxmWwO1maU1EhuXfnuvGtM2XEMlVDVAD731Q0j2FsZ3SOlMk44jJiAizqjZF22NePKhI8mGs6ZTVd8R8EocZXB-K3uL&c=f6FkETXZJqB5YV772ARZLnaSpvXjtUAGdgZeyVxxyNFc29KiNKHdQA==&ch=rw2uSUTgntRMrnlePaNom5fPCjjYRQ-T3LNHM9Wlt97g1Wi4tiHZEA==)

Energy cybersecurity

* Cyber threats have increased as attacks have become easier to launch, including attacks to interrupt energy service and damage specialized equipment. [Executive Order 13800 on Strengthening the Cybersecurity of Federal Networks and Critical Infrastructure: Assessment of Electricity Disruption Incident Response Capabilities](https://www.energy.gov/articles/executive-order-13800-strengthening-cybersecurity-federal-networks-and-critical) recognizes that energy cybersecurity and resilience has become one of the most important security challenges, and the importance of fostering partnerships with public and private stakeholders to address the issue. For more information, see:
  + [DOE Announces Investment to Strengthen and Secure the Nation’s Critical Energy Infrastructure](https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-announces-investment-strengthen-and-secure-nation-s-critical-energy-infrastructure)
  + Sept 2018 DOE [Congressional Testimony](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/pagedetails.action?na=&se=&sm=&flr=&ercode=&dateBrowse=&govAuthBrowse=&collection=&historical=true&st=content%3A%28%28Interior+OR+%E2%80%9CForest+Service%E2%80%9D+OR+endangered+OR+habitat+OR+ecosystem+OR+environmental+OR+%28NOAA%29+OR+new+OR+Pacific%29+AND+%28California+OR+%E2%80%9C+CA%E2%80%9D%29+OR+wilderness%29+AND+publishdate%3Arange%282018-10-30%2C%29+AND+collection%3AFR&fromState=advSearch&sb=don&sb=re&ps=100&ps=100&granuleId=2018-24017&packageId=FR-2018-11-02)

EPA

* [EPA Proposes Oil and Gas Targeted Improvements Package to Advance President Trump’s Energy Dominance Agenda](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-proposes-oil-and-gas-targeted-improvements-package-advance-president-trumps-energy)
  + In response to the BOEM’s action, a Joint Venture was established by EnBW North America and Trident Winds Inc. to advance a planned 650- to 1,000-megawatt offshore wind project off the central coast of California. The wind farm would be the first commercial-scale project for floating offshore wind in the United States and is expected to be operational by 2024.

DoD

* Section 311 of The [National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, Public Law 115-91](https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/2810/text), codified at 10 U.S.C. § 183a, changed the roles and responsibilities of the Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse (Clearinghouse) concerning proposed energy projects that may affect DoD operations and readiness. If the Clearinghouse believes an offshore energy project within FAA jurisdiction or a land-based project may have an adverse impact on military operations and readiness, it will notify the applicant, describe DoD concerns, and request a discussion of possible mitigation actions. The Clearinghouse will also notify governors of states where these projects exist. Other Clearinghouse activities include:
  + Working in concert with the Office of Economic Adjustment to encourage federal funding opportunities for projects which can assist with achieving improved energy compatibility with DoD mission
  + Tasking the Navy to coordinate the California offshore assessment.
  + Working with states in non-WRP states to improve interoperability development in areas such as drop zones and MTRs. The Clearinghouse would like to work similar mission protection issues with states in the WRP region. An example of such a bill is Oklahoma House Bill 3561, approved by the Governor on April 3, 2018 ([Chapter 0004, 2018](https://www.sos.ok.gov/documents/legislation/56th/2018/2R/HB/3561.pdf).)
  + Publishing areas of geographic concern to better inform developers early in the development process of areas where energy development could impact military mission. Maps are not currently underway in the west but could be employed in the future.
  + Continuing to engage in the Section 368 Energy Corridor Review process.

### 

### *Energy Market Trends*

*Current Regional Energy Market Trends and Options*

In September 2018, California Independent System Operator (CAISO), Southwest Power Pool (SPP) and Black Hills (participant of the Mountain West Transmission Group) presented[[4]](#footnote-4) to the Energy Committee on current regional energy market trends and options within the WRP Region. The ability to forecast load and adjust supply rapidly has become increasingly important as more variable types of generation, such as wind and solar, represent a greater portion of regional generation. This highlights the need for continued planning and coordination among multiple entities to create additional opportunities for new market structures in the West, such as an Energy Imbalance Market (EIM). An EIM is intended to allow participants such as Balancing Authorities and utilities to ensure generation meets demand with diverse resources across a wider footprint. Some of the trends/unique aspects of the west identified in this webinar included:

* Utilities are interested in pooling resources and finding more efficient and effective ways to deliver power to its customers. CAISO and SPP are seeking to provide a market platform. Peak Reliability is winding down to ultimately cease operations by the end of 2019.[[5]](#footnote-5)
* The cost of transmission remains high
* The West differs from the east coast because of the long distances between generation and load centers and the high cost of transmission. These factors make it harder to move to a centralized energy market.
* It is anticipated that there will be renewed focus on [FERC Order 1000](https://www.ferc.gov/industries/electric/indus-act/trans-plan.asp) regional planning process and perhaps revisions through rulemaking process.
* Carbon policies seem to be a focus for some states (such as cap-and-trade; or a carbon tax); these may be compatible with a regional strategy.
* California passed [SB 100](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB100) requiring 60% renewable energy portfolio by 2030 and a target to serve 100% of retail load with zero-carbon energy by 2045.
* Electric vehicles are more common and easier to charge.
* The speed at which utility regulators coordinate and energy policies change has greatly increased. States are more willing to look at alternative tariff structures. The grid can provide reliability and stability.

For more information please see[WRP Energy Committee Webinar on Current Regional Energy Market Trends and Options within the WRP Region](http://wrpinfo.org/meetings/wrp-energy-committee-webinar-on-current-regional-energy-market-trends-and-options-within-the-wrp-region/)

Other Important Market Trends:

* United States is now the largest global crude oil producer.[[6]](#footnote-6)
* [Federal financial interventions and subsidies in U.S. energy markets declined since 2013](https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=35932).
* Coal-fired plants continue to close nationwide, and it is anticipated coal consumption for domestic energy generation will continue to decline.[[7]](#footnote-7)
* [Wind energy market](http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwNTMwLjkwNDkzMTQxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDUzMC45MDQ5MzE0MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3OTc4NjkwJmVtYWlsaWQ9YW15ZHVmZnlAd2VzdGVybnJlZ2lvbmFscGFydG5lcnNoaXAub3JnJnVzZXJpZD1hbXlkdWZmeUB3ZXN0ZXJucmVnaW9uYWxwYXJ0bmVyc2hpcC5vcmcmZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUlkPSYmJg==&&&106&&&https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy18osti/69026.pdf) continues to be strong (more than [90,000](http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwNTMwLjkwNDkzMTQxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDUzMC45MDQ5MzE0MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3OTc4NjkwJmVtYWlsaWQ9YW15ZHVmZnlAd2VzdGVybnJlZ2lvbmFscGFydG5lcnNoaXAub3JnJnVzZXJpZD1hbXlkdWZmeUB3ZXN0ZXJucmVnaW9uYWxwYXJ0bmVyc2hpcC5vcmcmZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUlkPSYmJg==&&&106&&&https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy18osti/69026.pdf) megawatts capacity in the US) and by 2019 is expected to [surpass hydro](http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwNTMwLjkwNDkzMTQxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDUzMC45MDQ5MzE0MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3OTc4NjkwJmVtYWlsaWQ9YW15ZHVmZnlAd2VzdGVybnJlZ2lvbmFscGFydG5lcnNoaXAub3JnJnVzZXJpZD1hbXlkdWZmeUB3ZXN0ZXJucmVnaW9uYWxwYXJ0bmVyc2hpcC5vcmcmZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUlkPSYmJg==&&&106&&&https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy18osti/69026.pdf) nationwide.
* Renewable energy market in the United States remains strong. In 2017, nearly half of all utility-scale generation capacity installed came from [renewables](https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.cfm?id=34472), [chiefly solar, wind and hydro](https://www.windpowerengineering.com/reports/continued-growth-renewables-wind-solar-hydropower-lead/). [Wind and solar provided 10 states with 20 percent or more of their electricity in 2017](http://www.euci.com/wind-and-solar-provided-10-states-with-20-percent-or-more-of-their-electricity-in-2017/?x=32573e385813Bc&utm_campaign=101718_energize_weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_source=energize) and the [energy storage market saw significant increases.](http://www.euci.com/energy-storage-market-up-60-percent-over-last-year-in-second-quarter-of-2018/?x=31950i385813Bc&utm_campaign=091218_energize_weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_source=energize)
* As renewable energy costs continue to decline, renewable generation projects will increase.
* Transmission projects have challenges. For example, in March 2018, SunZia submitted an application to the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission for New Mexico Location Control and Right of Way Width Approval (Case No. 18-00049-UT) for two bi-directional extra-high voltage electric transmission lines and substations to transport energy from Arizona and New Mexico to customers and markets across the Desert Southwest.  [The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission rejected the application on September 5, 2018, subject to re-filing by SunZia.](http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/prc-rejects-sunzia-transmission-line-project/article_ee3c6270-4c5b-5998-8ab4-3e9a04141c46.html)
* Peak Reliability, the reliability services coordinator for the Western Interconnection since 2014, will cease operations by the end of 2019. [All the Western Interconnection Balancing Authorities have made tentative commitments for their reliability coordinator services beginning in 2020.](https://www.wecc.biz/Reliability/181023_TentativeRC_Commitments.pdf)
* The [Western Energy Imbalance Market](https://www.westerneim.com/Documents/WesternEIMSurpassesHalfBillionDollarsinGrossBenefits.pdf) (EIM), which offers an opportunity for participants to share resources in real-time and reduce curtailments of renewable energy, continues to expand geographically. The Western EIM, which will become more important over time as additional intermittent renewables are added to the grid, has surpassed half a billion dollars in gross benefits for all participants since 2014. Additional benefits of the Western EIM include avoided renewable curtailments, emissions reductions, and future opportunities for day-ahead market enhancements.

### *Tribal Energy*

In October 2018, WRP held a webinar on Tribal Energy,[[8]](#footnote-8) highlighting the processes by which energy development occurs on Tribal lands, related policies, current hurdles and recommendations. Tribal lands possess energy resources that could generate power, provide revenue, and create jobs in Indian Country while supporting the goals of clean energy and energy independence. Developing energy projects (from initial assessment to project operations) can be time-consuming, complicated and frustrating.

There is a complex mix of history and laws regulating leasing and development. Many Tribes have viable renewable energy resources and land for development, but do not have direct or proximate access to connect with the electrical grid system, diminishing Tribes' participation in developing profitable, utility-scale renewable energy.

Some of the trends/unique aspects of the west identified in this webinar included:

* Expansion of regional transmission organizations
* Technology improvements (i.e. microgrids, batteries/storage)
* State regulatory activities ([AZ’s Energy Modernization Plan](https://www.azcc.gov/commissioners/atobin/letters/energyplan.asp),  [energy](https://azsos.gov/sites/default/files/Proposition_127_Final.pdf), CA’s [new state law](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB100) requiring 100% renewable energy; NV’s [ballot initiative](https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/home/showdocument?id=5824) on retail choice, which passed its initial voter approval on November 6, 2018, and requires one more approval by the voters in November 2020 to become effective in 2022.)
* There remain significant challenges in development of energy on Tribal lands.
* Much of Indian Country is rural and remote making it expensive to run transmission lines (since the customer base is not large); therefore, in some areas it may never be cost effective to run power lines. Other technologies must be considered.
* Additional Federal laws are anticipated to address the continuing challenge of balancing federal role and tribal priorities and authority. The current trend is to provide for more expansion and responsibilities for tribal regulatory authority and sovereignty.
* [NREL Tribal Energy Atlas](https://maps.nrel.gov/tribal-energy-atlas/?aL=-OWxkj%255Bv%255D%3Dt%26tvoQdU%255Bv%255D%3Dt%26tvoQdU%255Bd%255D%3D1&bL=clight&cE=0&lR=0&mC=53.225768%2C-103.18359375&tour=splash&zL=3) provides a robust mapping tool (including Tribal lands, energy and transmission infrastructure, energy potential, etc.). However, this tool could be more robust if combined with other WRP Partners’ data and mapping tools to develop multi-agency scenarios regarding developable energy technologies.

For more information please see[WRP Energy Committee on Tribal Energy](http://wrpinfo.org/meetings/wrp-energy-committee-on-tribal-energy/) and WRP Report: [Renewable Energy Development on Tribal Lands](http://wrpinfo.org/media/1042/renewable_energy_development_on_tribal_lands_2015.pdf)

*Other Tribal news over the year:*

* The Ute Indian Tribe has filed a lawsuit regarding the area of Uinta Basin, Utah
* [Navajo Nation celebrates the expansion of its largest solar energy project](file:///C:\Users\sduff\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\BOI19NGK\News%20Releases\NNCouncil\2018\aug\Navajo%20Nation%20celebrates%20the%20expansion%20of%20its%20largest%20solar%20energy%20project_opt.pdf)
* [Hopi Tribe Calls for U.S. to Explore Other NGS Options](https://www.hopi-nsn.gov/hopi-tribe-calls-for-u-s-to-explore-other-ngs-options/)
* [President Begaye pushes for sovereignty in energy development on tribal lands](https://mailchi.mp/3c756a66338a/press-release-president-begaye-pushes-for-sovereignty-in-energy-development-on-tribal-lands?e=5770ab07ba)

### *State Activities*

States were also active over the past year on significant energy issues:

* WGA [Policy Resolution 2018-04: Energy in the West](http://westgov.org/images/editor/WGA_PR_2018-04_Energy.pdf) *sets forth revised energy policy priorities for the West*

Arizona:

* On the November 2018 ballot, Arizona voters rejected [Proposition 127](https://azsos.gov/sites/default/files/Proposition_127_Final.pdf), which would have required electricity providers to generate at least 50% of their annual sales of electricity from certain renewable energy sources by 2030

California:

* California Senate Bill 100 (The 100 Percent Clean Energy Act of 2018) was enacted ([Chapter 312, Statutes of 2018](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB100)) increasing the Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) requirement from 50 percent by 2030 to 60 percent, and that 100 percent of the state's retail electricity supply be from of RPS-eligible and zero-carbon resources by December 31, 2045.
* CA Energy Commission publishes [2018 Integrated Energy Policy Report Update, Volume I](https://www.energy.ca.gov/releases/2018_releases/2018-08-01_leadership_of_State_in_energy_climate_policy_nr.html), and the [Draft Integrated Energy Policy Report Update, Volume II](https://www.energy.ca.gov/2018_energypolicy/documents/)
* CA Energy Commission [Adopts](http://www.energy.ca.gov/title24/2019standards/documents/2018_Title_24_2019_Building_Standards_FAQ.pdf) Standards Requiring Solar Systems for New Homes, First in Nation.
* [California Now Sourcing 32 Percent of Electricity from Renewables](http://calenergycommission.blogspot.com/2018/07/california-now-sourcing-32-percent-of.html)
* [CA Governor Brown Signs Bills to Block Trump Administration’s Offshore Oil Drilling Expansion](file:///C:\Users\AmyDuffy\Documents\Western%20Regional%20Partnerhip\SC\monthly%20updates\2018\•%09https:\www.gov.ca.gov\2018\09\08\trump-offshore-oil-drilling-expansion)
* [California Offshore Wind Energy Gateway](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwNTE2Ljg5ODU1NjExJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDUxNi44OTg1NTYxMSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3OTc1NzkxJmVtYWlsaWQ9YW15ZHVmZnlAd2VzdGVybnJlZ2lvbmFscGFydG5lcnNoaXAub3JnJnVzZXJpZD1hbXlkdWZmeUB3ZXN0ZXJucmVnaW9uYWxwYXJ0bmVyc2hpcC5vcmcmZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUlkPSYmJg==&&&119&&&https://caoffshorewind.databasin.org/) launched

Colorado:

* [Xcel Energy gets the OK from Colorado PUC to develop a clean power plan](http://www.euci.com/xcel-energy-gets-the-ok-from-colorado-puc-to-develop-a-clean-power-plan/?x=29408q385813Bc&utm_campaign=032118_energize_weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_source=energize)

Nevada:

* Nevada voters will have on the November 2020 ballot [Question 6](https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/home/showdocument?id=5824), the Renewable Energy Standards Initiative, which received preliminary approval on November 6, 2018. If passed, Question 6 would increase the RPS in stages, starting in 2022, to 50 percent by 2030. Renewable energy would be defined to include sources such as solar, geothermal, wind, biomass, and hydroelectric.
* Multiple State of Nevada agencies are engaged with DoD as Cooperating Agencies in the [Fallon Range Training Complex Modernization EIS](https://frtcmodernization.com), which would withdraw an additional 685,259 acres of public lands in Dixie Valley, where geothermal generation is centered, for use by the Navy for military training purposes.
* NV Energy, the State's largest investor-owned utility, filed a request with the PUCN on June 1st to approve 6 new 25-yr Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) representing over 1 GW of solar and 100 MW of battery storage capacity. The 6 new PPAs include:
  + Cypress Creek Renewables' Battle Mountain Solar Project - a 101 MW solar PV project located in Battle Mtn, NV which includes 25 MW of battery storage
  + NextEra Energy Resources, LLC's Dodge Flat Solar Energy Center - a 200 MW solar PV project located east of Reno includes 50 MW of battery storage
  + NextEra's Fish Springs Ranch Solar Energy Center - a 100 MW solar PV project located north of Reno includes 25 MW of battery storage
  + Moapa Band of Paiutes' Eagle Shadow Mtn. Solar project - a 300 MW solar PV project north of Las Vegas
  + Sempra's Copper Mtn Solar 5 project - a 250 MW solar PV project just south of Boulder City
  + Techren Solar V - a 50 MW solar PV project in Eldorado Valley just south of Boulder City
* Ormat, the largest geothermal developer in Nevada, continues development of 150 MW of geothermal facilities included in its portfolio PPA with Southern California Public Power Authority which include new projects currently under construction such as Tungsten Mountain and Dixie Meadows located in Churchill County, NV.

New Mexico:

* [New Mexico regulators OK 2,200-MW wind project covering 300,000 acres](http://www.euci.com/new-mexico-regulators-ok-2200-mw-wind-project-covering-300000-acres/?x=32504c385813Bc&utm_campaign=101018_energize_weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_source=energize)
* [Governor Susana Martinez Announces Record Levels of Energy Diversification in New Mexico](http://www.governor.state.nm.us/uploads/PressRelease/191a415014634aa89604e0b4790e4768/Governor_Susana_Martinez_Announces_Record_Levels_of_Energy_Diversification_in_New_Mexico.pdf)

Utah:

* Utah supported a lawsuit to allow coal export from Oakland.
* [Utahns Vision for 2050](https://envisionutah.org/projects/your-utah-your-future) includes projects aimed for increased conservation and efficiency, transition to natural gas and renewable sources and promotion of economic development.
* Enefit American Oil’s South Project on private land and minerals in which the BLM approved 7 rights-of-way for pipelines, powerlines and a road to support mining operations.

Other WRP energy-related resources not highlighted above.

* [WRP Energy Guide](http://wrpinfo.org/media/1468/wrp-energy-overview_august-2015.pdf)
* [Renewable Energy and Transmission Siting Coordination and Potential Impacts to the Military Mission](http://wrpinfo.org/media/1041/renewable-energy-and-transmission-siting-coordination-and-potential-impacts-to-the-military-mission_2015.pdf)

Energy Committee themes include:

From the webinars, survey and news reports, several energy themes can be identified:

* There are significant energy projects and efforts within the WRP region
* Energy programs and policies are evolving at all levels (state, federal and Tribal)
* Further policy changes may be expected in the six WRP states; there will be four new Governors as a result of the November 2018 election.
* There is much more focus on all types of energy, both renewable and conventional
* Federal environmental reviews and planning efforts are being streamlined.[[9]](#footnote-9)
* Anticipated trends in energy in the WRP Region include:
  + Renewable energy and battery storage costs will continue to decline
  + Renewable and distributed generation projects and energy storage projects will increase
  + Energy efficiency savings will increase, reducing load, but the greater use of electric vehicles over time will increase load
  + Electric grids will continue share resources across larger geographic areas
  + Electric grids will continue to decarbonize
* [Energy Infrastructure Permitting Factors Affecting Timeliness and Efficiency GAO-18-693T Report](http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwOTA2Ljk0NTQ5MzUxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDkwNi45NDU0OTM1MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3Mzc0MTQ3JmVtYWlsaWQ9YW15cmR1ZmZ5QGljbG91ZC5jb20mdXNlcmlkPWFteXJkdWZmeUBpY2xvdWQuY29tJmZsPSZleHRyYT1NdWx0aXZhcmlhdGVJZD0mJiY=&&&113&&&https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-18-693T?utm_campaign=usgao_email&utm_content=daybook&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)
* Several factors affect the timeliness and efficiency of these reviews—such as coordination between federal agencies, the number of experts that agencies must review applications, whether agencies are tracking and collecting milestone information, the completeness of applications, and changes in federal policy that affect reviews. Federal agencies play a critical role in ensuring that energy infrastructure projects comply with federal statutes and regulations.[[10]](#footnote-10)
* Early and frequent engagement is key to success and WRP has been helpful with that.

Natural Resources Committee

The WRP Region has 18% of the U.S. population, 19% of the U.S. land mass, considerable state, federal and Tribal lands and various land management processes. Approximately fifty percent of the land within the WRP Region is managed by a Federal agency. There are several hundred Federally listed species. These factors and the fact that many land use issues are regional means that unintended land use conflicts may occur among WRP Partners’ interests. To assist with these issues, the WRP Natural Resources Committee over the past year had the main goals to:

* Further explore related findings from the 2017 WRP Regional Assessment
* Assist in precluding or delisting species through coordinated conservation efforts; identify gaps/leverage ongoing efforts
* Provide resources for conservation efforts
* Engage in ongoing dialogue on western water sustainability

The Committee’s main focus this year has been assisting efforts to preclude or delist species through coordinating conservation efforts. To begin to attain these goals, the Natural Resources Committee circulated a brief survey to the WRP SC and Natural Resources Committee membership to obtain input on agency’s unofficial input on species of concern. Additionally, the Natural Resources Committee hosted three webinars with eleven presenters highlighting species coordination, federal agency planning efforts and water collaboration. Summaries of the webinars, survey results and related trends in the West obtained from monitoring news across the WRP Region are found below. These items align with the Committee goals and are categorized as species, water or resources for conservation efforts (including Land Use Collaboration/Planning).

### Species-Related

Over the past year, the WRP Natural Resources Committee Co-Chairs have diligently worked to identify species of concern for WRP Partners and identify appropriate next steps. According to the USFWS [Environmental Conservation Online System](http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/reports/species-listed-by-state-totals-report), as of November 2018 the following numbers of species listed as threatened or endangered believed or known to occur in the WRP states:

* Arizona: 64 (of which 43 are animals and 21 are plants)
* California: 300 (of which 118 are animals and 182 are plants)
* Colorado: 34 (of which 17 are animals and 17 are plants)
* Nevada: 40 (of which 30 are animals and 10 are plants)
* New Mexico: 53 (of which 40 are animals and 13 are plants)
* Utah 42: (of which 18 are animals and 24 are plants)

A survey was sent to the WRP SC and WRP Natural Resources Committee asking for each agency’s unofficial input on species of concern and the Committee’s recommended Criteria and objective. This survey effort helped to focus WRP resources going forward. This input assisted to finalize the Committee Objective, to “*enhance collaboration among WRP Partners to assist efforts to preclude or delist species through conservation efforts and to relieve the regulatory burden for WRP Partners.*” Additionally, the following Committee Criteria were established to assist in identifying species of focus for WRP:

* Maximizes mission interest of WRP Partners (supports many members’ missions)
* Coordinates with existing efforts
* Builds resilience for wildlife, plants and their habitats and enhances Partners’ missions
* Increases habitat/precludes listing
* Multi-state region (at least 2 states). Generally, the Committee will focus on species in at least two states in the WRP Region. However, there may be situations where the Committee will focus on a species in only one WRP state if the species is of national or regional significance.

The Committee Co-Chairs took all species input provided in 2018, compared this with input provided in 2017 and 2015 and with location in WRP and listing status to determine if there were any trends or concentrations of interest. Based on this analysis the following eleven species were identified for further consideration:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * Desert Tortoise | * Greater Sage-Grouse | * Least Bell's Vireo | |
| * Little Brown Bat | * Monarch Butterfly | * Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog | |
| * San Clemente Island Endemic Species[[11]](#footnote-11) | * Sonoran Desert Tortoise | * Stephens' Kangaroo Rat | |
| * Western Spadefoot Toad | * Yellow-Billed Cuckoo |  |

Maps were developed by WRP Natural Resources Committee GIS Liaison with overlays of the above eleven species (included USGS GAP data (species range) and USFWS data; landmarks, land ownership, etc.). The maps and species information were compared with Committee criteria and species that already had much stakeholder support/engagement (seeking not to duplicate) were eliminated.

*WRP Natural Resources Committee Priority Species-Further Review*

After the careful review process described above, three priority species were identified for further examination: Least Bell’s Vireo, Sonoran Desert Tortoise, and Yellow-Billed Cuckoo. For each of these species, details and next steps were outlined.

Least Bell’s Vireo – WRP Action: Monitor and Support Existing Forum

Least Bell’s Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) is a small (4-5”) bird. It is found primarily in that part of California south of San Francisco to the border with Mexico (where the species is also found.) In 1986, it was federally listed as endangered wherever found; it is also listed as endangered by the State of California. The species is migratory, and its migratory range has been reduced by loss of 90% of its habitat. Most of the population is concentrated in Southern California. A status review is expected in FY19, and a Recovery Plan in 2-3 years.

The reduction in habitat leading to the species’ endangered listing is largely from the loss of suitable water sources. Consequently, recovery efforts for the species are focused on the provision of water and the vegetation, primarily willows, that provide habitat for the species. The focus of the recovery plan is to increase the availability of water, including near urban environments where wastewater treatment plant discharge and urban runoff may help restore natural stream flows or move water to extend the species, through a stepping-stone model, into the northern end of its historical range, and possibly to extend its range into desert regions to provide additional habitat. Among the places where the species is already managed is USMC Camp Pendleton.

The Collaborative Wildlife Protection and Recovery Initiative (CWPRI) is a collaborative approach to align existing efforts and priorities across agencies and organizations as well as identify gaps and develop solutions. CWPRI is working to identify species, places, and projects where federal agencies can collaborate with state and local partners to recover species or preclude listings in support of species and respective missions. The initial effort focuses on the Least Bell’s Vireo, a priority species for many CWPRI partners in the Southwestern United States. A Conservation Workshop was held in April 2018 in Carlsbad, CA to explore the development of a range-wide recovery strategy. WRP intends to monitor and support as feasible the efforts of CWPRI in the recovery of Least Bell’s Vireo.

Since that meeting, much success has occurred including:

* DoD is providing funding through NFWF to partners to model the range-wide habitat suitability that was identified as an initial priority.
* USACE secured funding for a coordinator position, most significantly to start development of a range-wide plan and monitoring strategy.  This is worthy of further discussion.
* BLM received funding to support its species recovery fund, also administered by NFWF.

WRP Partners indicated this species of concern in 2017 and 2018. The WRP Natural Resources Committee appreciates the CWPRI’s leadership on this effort and stands by to support as appropriate.

Sonoran Desert Tortoise - WRP Action: Recognize success to date; No need for further WRP Action

The Sonoran Desert tortoise (*Gopherus morafkai*) occupies portions of western, northwestern, and southern Arizona; it is also found in the Mexican state of Sonora. Its habitat includes rocky, steep slopes and bajadas in Mojave and Sonoran Desert scrub. The USFWS determined most recently in 2015 that listing the species was not warranted at that time. See [FR Vol 80, No. 93, p 60321](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-10-06/pdf/2015-25286.pdf), October 6, 2015.

In 1995, an Arizona Interagency Desert Tortoise Team was established, led by Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) and USFWS. The Team includes 22 State, Federal and County agencies that discuss and coordinate research and management issues. In 2015, AGFD and 16 Federal and State partners developed a Candidate Conservation Agreement for submission to the FWS and AGFD worked with ranchers, NRCD, and other partners to create Best Management Practices for Ranching in SDT habitat. The decision of FWS was based extensively on this activity. In its decision not to list, the FWS noted:

*There are a number of conservation actions that have been implemented to minimize stressors and maintain or improve the status of the Sonoran Desert Tortoise, including a Candidate Conservation Agreement (AIDTT 2015, entire) with AGFD, Bureau of Land Management, Department of Defense, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Arizona Department of Transportation (collectively referred to as ‘‘Parties’’). Candidate Conservation Agreements are formal, voluntary agreements between the Service and one or more parties to address the conservation needs of one or more candidate species or species likely to become candidates in the near future. Participants voluntarily commit to implement specific actions designed to remove or reduce stressors to the covered species, so that listing may not be necessary. The agreement for the Sonoran Desert Tortoise, which formalizes many existing conservation measures and land management practices, was completed by the Parties in March 2015 and was signed by the final signatory, the [Fish and Wildlife] Service, on June 19, 2015. The agreement applies to approximately 13,000 sq. mi (3.4 million ha) of Sonoran Desert Tortoise habitat in Arizona. This area represents approximately 55 percent of the species’ predicted potential habitat in Arizona and 34 percent of its predicted potential habitat rangewide. The agreement is designed to encourage, facilitate, and direct effective tortoise conservation actions across multiple agencies and entities having the potential to directly influence conservation of the species in Arizona.*

*Parties to the agreement identified existing tortoise conservation measures and designed a comprehensive conservation framework for these measures that encourages coordinated actions and uniform reporting, integrates monitoring and research efforts with management, and supports ongoing conservation partnership formation. Management actions in the agreement include, but are not limited to, reducing the spread of nonnative grasses, reducing or mitigating dispersal barriers, reducing the risk and impact of desert wildfires, reducing the impact of off-highway vehicles, population monitoring, and reducing illegal collection of tortoises.*

Additionally, a workshop has been created to inform livestock ranchers in areas the species occupies of these Best Practices.

The Arizona population of the species has been actively monitored by AGFD for approximately 30 years with 17 long-term monitoring plots. Survivorship exceeds 90% in most locations; no evidence suggests a systematic decline.

This species was noted as a top priority for WRP Partners in 2015 (ranked the highest) and since then the extensive collaboration led by Arizona Game and Fish working with federal, state, and county members regarding the Sonoran Desert Tortoise has made remarkable progress and should be considered a success story.

Yellow-Billed Cuckoo - WRP Action: Focus Efforts

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) is a fairly large bird. Its Western U.S. Distinctive Population Segment (DPS) is found in most Western states, including all of the WRP States: throughout Arizona and Utah, in the western part of New Mexico and Colorado, in Central Nevada and Northern California. The Western U.S. DPS has been listed as Threatened since 2014. (The Eastern U.S. DPS is not listed.) The species has been endangered in California since 1978[[12]](#footnote-12), identified as a species of concern in Arizona in 1988 and a sensitive species on USFS lands in Arizona and New Mexico[[13]](#footnote-13).

The species use a variety of riparian habitats. Cottonwood and willow trees are an important foraging habitat in areas where the species has been studied in California. For this reason, the principal threat to the species is loss of these riparian habitats. Principal causes of riparian habitat losses are conversion of lands to agricultural and urban uses and flood control measures. Available breeding habitats for yellow-billed cuckoos have also been reduced in area and quality by groundwater pumping, and the replacement of native riparian habitats by invasive non-native plants, particularly tamarisk.

A petition has been brought to seek USFWS review of the designation as Threatened for two asserted reasons:

* Western DPS is not distinct from the bird that appears elsewhere.
* Even if it is distinct, it is using additional habitat in the West, so it is not under threat.

The USFWS determined in its 90-day review that there is enough information on the use by the species of additional habitat to review the listing and, in light of that review, will revisit the DPS determination as well, and issue 12-month findings. See: [FR Vol 82, No. 124, p. 30091, June 27, 2018](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-06-27/pdf/2018-13843.pdf)

The USFWS seeks information on the following subjects (see FR above):

(1) The species’ biology, range, and population trends, including:

(2) The factors described in the Endangered Species Act

(a) Habitat range (b) Overutilization (c) Disease or predation (d) The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms or (e) Other natural or manmade factors including past and ongoing conservation measures that could decrease the extent to which one or more of the factors affect the species, its habitat, or both.

(3) The potential effects of climate change on the species and its habitat.

This species has consistently been ranked as a species of interest for WRP Partners in 2015, 2017, and 2018. Therefore, the Natural Resources Committee will continue to focus efforts on the Yellow-billed Cuckoo over the 2018-2019 WRP year and encourages interested agencies to participate to fully maximize efforts.

DoD’s Natural Resources Program

In May 2018, the WRP Natural Resources Committee hosted a webinar[[14]](#footnote-14) on DoD’s Natural Resources Program and the Collaborative Wildlife Protection and Recovery Initiative.

The DoD’s Natural Resources Program invested nearly $340 million in FY2017 to ensure continued access to the approximate 25 million acres of military land, air, and water resources needed to accomplish vital testing, training, and operational activities while simultaneously working to ensure the long-term sustainability of priceless natural heritage.  The Program priorities include:

* Preventing new species listings
* Reducing regulatory mission impacts by improving consultation processes and outcomes and to develop conservation strategies and approaches to enhance mission flexibility
* Facilitating de-listing of species
* Improving internal and external collaboration and coordination
* Aligning Program activities and investments to support mission

The Program is actively engaged in many efforts including the Collaborative Wildlife Protection and Recovery Initiative (CWPRI). In addition to DoD participation, CWPRI also includes membership from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Natural Resources Conservation Service, BLM, USFS, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USFWS, Defenders of Wildlife and American Bird Conservancy. The initiative began through the realization of overlapping agency interests in seeking to more effectively and efficiently implement the ESA to better support their respective missions. Agencies also identified priority species, ecosystems or regions where they were already focusing resources and efforts, or where there were existing partnerships or relationships. The Southwest emerged as an area of opportunity. For more information please see: [WRP Natural Resources Committee webinar on DoD’s Natural Resources Program and the Collaborative Wildlife Protection and Recovery Initiative](http://wrpinfo.org/meetings/wrp-natural-resources-committee-webinar-on-dod-s-natural-resources-program-and-the-collaborative-wildlife-protection-and-recovery-initiative/)

*Other important related species efforts this year*

Federal:

* DoD and DOI signed an [MOU](http://wrpinfo.org/media/1424/dod-doi-mou-re-esa.pdf) in June 2018 to Establish a Recovery and Sustainment Partnership Initiative with three primary goals: 1) as recovery goals are met, downlist or delist species as appropriate; 2) partner to assist in reaching recovery goals or avoiding the need to list species; and 3) develop tools to meet the goals of both the Endangered Species and the military mission. It is anticipated that this MOU will assist many efforts.
* DOI [Secretarial Order 3362](https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/so_3362_migration.pdf), to improve habitat quality and western big game winter range and migration corridors​ for antelope, elk, and mule deer; and [next steps outlined](https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/just-ahead-national-hunting-and-fishing-day-secretary-zinke-announces-next-steps)
* Interior Releases [Report](http://www.elabs10.com/c.html?ufl=d&rtr=on&s=x8pbwi,32fdt,3xn3,hwkp,aat0,jhie,1h3) on Fight Against Invasive Mussels
* [New Mexico Federal Public Lands Take Safety Steps as State Tests for Fungus that Causes Bat Disease](https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=new-mexico-federal-public-lands-take-safety-steps-as-state-tests-for-&_ID=36299&Source=iframe)
* [BLM invites public to comment on draft southeastern New Mexico management plan](https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-invites-public-comment-draft-southeastern-new-mexico-management-plan).
* [More Than $50 Million in Grants from Interior Department Will Support State Wildlife Conservation Projects](https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/more-50-million-grants-interior-department-will-support-state-wildlife-conservation)
* [BLM and Partners Sign Agreement to Improve Fish and Wildlife Resources](https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-and-partners-sign-agreement-improve-fish-and-wildlife-resources)
* [Bald Eagle Population Expands on the Channel Islands](https://www.nps.gov/chis/learn/news/pr072618.htm)
* USFWS and NOAA Fisheries Seek [Public Input](https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=u.s.-fish-and-wildlife-service-and-noaa-fisheries-seek-public-input-on-&_ID=36286) on Proposed Reforms to Improve & Modernize Implementation of the Endangered Species Act. Comments were due September 2018.
* Greater Sage-Grouse updates:
  + Notice of [Intent](https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName=renderDefaultPlanOrProjectSite&projectId=90121) to Amend the Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan Revisions and Amendment(s);
  + NV and Northeastern CA Greater Sage-Grouse [Draft RMP Amendment and EIS.](https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/lup/103343/143703/176904/NVCA_GRSG_DEIS_201805_508.pdf)
  + [U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California held](https://www.westernwatersheds.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/158-SJ-order-bistate.pdf) that a 2015 [decision](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2015/04/23/2015-09417/endangered-and-threatened-wildlife-and-plants-withdrawal-of-the-proposed-rule-to-list-the-bi-state) by USFWS was erroneous. The USFWS decision withdrew a proposed listing of an isolated population of greater sage-grouse along the California-Nevada border as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
  + Colorado [Governor weighs in to protect sage grouse habitat](https://www.colorado.gov/governor/news/governor-weighs-protect-sage-grouse-habitat)
* [Update](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/)on Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project
* USFWS is no longer planning a PEIS to evaluate a proposed [rule](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/05/24/2018-11147/migratory-bird-permits-programmatic-environmental-impact-statement) authorizing incidental take of migratory birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
* [Bi-national Success – Lesser Long-nosed Bat Has Recovered](https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=bi-national-success-%E2%80%93-lesser-long-nosed-bat-has-recovered-&_ID=36256)
* USFWS Endangered and Threatened Wildlife Plants:
  + Initiation of Five-Year Status Reviews of [38 Species](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/05/31/2018-11675/endangered-and-threatened-wildlife-and-plants-initiation-of-5-year-status-reviews-of-38-species-in) in the Southwest Region and 50 [Species](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-06-18/pdf/2018-12974.pdf) in CA, NV and Oregon
  + Removing [CO Butterfly Plant](https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=FWS-R6-ES-2018-0008-0001) from Federal List
  + Reclassification of [humpback chub](https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/pressrel/2018/03222018_After_Scientific_Review_the_U.S._Fish_and_Wildlife_Service_to_Propose_Reclassification_of_the_Humpback_Chub_from_Endangered_to_Threatened.php)from endangered to threatened.
  + Draft recovery plan for the Southern California distinct population segment of the [mountain yellow-legged frog](https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/profile/speciesProfile?spcode=D02H) (*Rana muscosa*) for [public comment](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/07/19/2018-15362/endangered-and-threatened-wildlife-and-plants-draft-recovery-plan-for-the-southern-california)
  + Final [Plan](https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=final-plan-to-ensure-long-term-health-of-recovered-songbird-available-&_ID=36314) to Ensure Long-Term Health of Recovered Songbird Available. USFWS and Partners will monitor black-capped vireo for 12 years
* Conservation and Management of Western Monarchs on DoD Lands [PowerPoint](http://www.dodnaturalresources.net/WesternMonarchResearch_DoD_Webinar_2018.pdf) & [Webinar Recording](https://dodnatres.adobeconnect.com/pg4tu9xdmahz/)
* [Monitoring rare plants on Naval Base Pt. Loma and Coronado, CA](https://consbio.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3dea159e4cbe0a0ff3b43eadd&id=7ac2434052&e=c5455c0952)

Regional

* WGA:
  + Website on Biosecurity and Invasive Species [Website](http://westgov.org/initiatives/biosecurity-and-invasive-species-initiative) Launched;
  + Submits invasive species data management [recommendations](http://westgov.org/images/editor/WGA_Invasive_Species_Data_Protocol.pdf)
  + [Comments](http://westgov.org/images/editor/COMMENTS_FWS_Mititgation_Review_FINAL.pdf) to the **USFWS Service**regarding mitigation policies under the Endangered Species Act
  + Letter to DOI regarding Western Governors’ Task Force on [Collaborative Conservation](http://www.westgov.org/images/editor/Zinke_WGA_Collaborative_Conservation_Task_Force_FINAL.pdf)
* National Wildlife Federation, American Fisheries Society, and The Wildlife Society publication [Reversing America's Wildlife Crisis](https://www.nwf.org/ReversingWildlifeCrisis)
* Desert LCC [Webinar](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQEc9mu2ahI) on the Collaborative Conservation and Adaptation Toolbox
* [Study Validates Crash-Reduction Benefit of Wildlife Highway Crossing Structures](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001BNwul0pOVLnykufN9XAvlPb_p1fboKowdkQRsnsDZv-gTGhAivjtrTEh3-XboksGEIIzKiFmbkKre3duq_3QYEqPSJszLqrShl34Dv7yZ2eDx1HxenWJxhXacoVn6zR56y6847x2zdTmJbONEyXiXAbbM8hhr_wFVlz52m8I9AvujTEdtK8r76YoXvgvHPdwcU2A7DDjKMWMeTX9XJQuSRVNTP1k010-DIZ556KqVJZPUrRmKASLd_1vxXzqQIr1u9_Nb8EWrMhHDnMokxYs-ezVz4JRIz1Of1NtYy6LNxB_y4CwsLSaoA==&c=nKDqO_9hJuSNEK2HccyH4ZyQPPAnA9nVhlKH4_cZOcABx1yoWYnJJQ==&ch=Lw6z5WHwXUdSOWGxXUaJl5a0nTEI8s7H9GfNgzVTQk6CHMXFxPyFCQ==)
* [Satellite Imagery Used to Better Predict Mountain Lion, Mule Deer, Human Habitat Overlap](http://www.upr.org/post/satellite-imagery-used-better-predict-mountain-lion-mule-deer-human-habitat-overlap)
* [WAFWA Partners Sign Agreement to Enhance Western Fish and Wildlife Resources](https://www.wafwa.org/news/e_2105/WAFWA_in_the_News/2018/7/WAFWA_Partners_Sign_Agreement_to_Enhance_Western_Fish_and_Wildlife_Resources.htm)
* WAFWA: [Collaborative Conservation Benefits Lesser Prairie-Chicken](http://www.wafwa.org/initiatives/grasslands/lesser_prairie_chicken/collaborative_conservation_benefits_lesser_prairie-chicken/)
* [Bat Acoustic Monitoring Portal](https://consbio.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3dea159e4cbe0a0ff3b43eadd&id=d74be54b43&e=c5455c0952)

State:

* AZGFD assist with Nevada wildlife [crossing](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VNuYVS2Rhxs&feature=youtu.be) over I-11
* CA Governor Brown Takes [Action](https://www.gov.ca.gov/2018/09/07/governor-brown-takes-action-to-protect-californias-plants-animals-and-unique-biodiversity/) to Protect California’s Plants, Animals and Unique Biodiversity
* CA State and Federally [listed](https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=109405&inline) endangered and threatened animals of California(updated August 2018)
* NV Gov [Sandoval: Invasive species one of the biggest environmental issues in the West](https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/sandoval-invasive-species-one-of-the-biggest-environmental-issues-in-the-west&ct=ga&cd=CAEYAyoTNDM3ODUwODUwMjY3MjIxNjI1MzIaZjQwZTFiNWZkNDg5ZGQ2Zjpjb206ZW46VVM&usg=AFQjCNFwVd-d1E7jP1LQ6gxBnGy3KN2Gkg)
* [Nevada MOU Scales Up Sagebrush Conservation](http://email.connectablenews.com/t/y-l-kdtyhtt-jtpdhjrid-h/)
* [Utah DOT Begins Work on ‘Unique’ Wildlife Bridge Over I-80](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwNTIyLjkwMDkxNzUxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDUyMi45MDA5MTc1MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MDEwNDIwJmVtYWlsaWQ9YW15cmR1ZmZ5QGljbG91ZC5jb20mdXNlcmlkPWFteXJkdWZmeUBpY2xvdWQuY29tJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&108&&&https://www.ksl.com/article/46324928/udot-begins-work-on-unique-wildlife-bridge-over-i-80)

Tribal:

* [Species Recovery Grants to Tribes - FY 2019](https://azgovernor.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c4c50d22371422a8560604221&id=9de79a60c3&e=f266fb939c)

### *Resources for Conservation Efforts (including Land Use Collaboration/Planning)*

In September 2018, the WRP Natural Resources Committee held a webinar [[15]](#footnote-15)on Federal Agency Planning Efforts highlighting BLM, USFS, USFWS and NPS efforts.

*Bureau of Land Management (BLM)*

BLM manages more than 245 million acres of America’s public lands and roughly 700 million acres of its subsurface mineral estate. BLM develops Resource Management Plans (RMPs) to guide future land use and establish goals for resource management. In July 2018, there were 33 ongoing RMPs with 10 more planned within the WRP Region. RMPs’ main purposes are:

* Allocate resources and determine appropriate multiple uses for the public lands;
* Provide a strategy to manage and protect resources; and
* Establish systems to monitor and evaluate the health of resources and effectiveness of management practices over time

The BLM land use planning process includes: scoping (NOI); draft RMP and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); proposed RMP and Final EIS; and approved RMP and Record of Decision. BLM has new guidance/changes in policy to streamline planning efforts:

* BLM to prepare Streamlining Report (Secretarial Memo, March 27, 2017)
* One Federal Decision for major infrastructure projects: 1 ROD, 2 years (E.O. 13807, August 15, 2017)
* EIS limits: 150-300 pages, 1 year (Secretarial Order 3355, August 31, 2017)
* BLM Streamlining Report (September 2017) identified policy and regulatory changes that would improve process
* Review and Tracking of EISs (Deputy Secretary Memo, April 27, 2018)
* Expediting Federal Register Notices (Deputy Secretary Memo, April 27, 2018)
* EA limits: 75 pages, 180 days (Deputy Secretary Memo, August 6, 2018)

BLM seeks engagement throughout the planning process. Pre-NOI other agencies and state, local and tribal governments are invited to coordinate, formal consultation with tribes begins, and data are sought from other agencies, tribes and the public. These contacts are intended to identify issues, concerns, opportunities, actions in the project area; desired future activities and location needs on public lands; provide the RMP schedule, review timeframes, staff, project point of contact, and data; and suggest potential alternatives and quantifiable impact indicators for use in measuring and describing impacts. Once NOI is issued, opportunities to engage remain throughout the formal process: providing scoping comments; working with BLM on draft RMP/EIS development, changes to draft and final RMP/EIS; Governor’s consistency review (the Governor’s opportunity to flag inconsistencies between the proposed RMP/EIS and State/local plans, policies, and programs) and protesting the proposed RMP/EIS.

For more information on the BLM planning process, please see: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa>. For more information on DOI NEPA procedures, including DOI Secretary Order 3355 along with accompanying Deputy Secretary Memos, please see: <https://www.doi.gov/oepc/resources/nepa-procedures>.

Some best practices in engagement include: regularly meeting face-to-face; designing a process; developing a work plan (objectives, tasks products, roles, deadlines, constraints); defining the ground rules; identifying sideboards (legal mandates); using a third party facilitator; meeting in the field/on-site; rotating meeting locations; maintaining meeting and communication; providing updates on any changes in leadership/contacts; inviting staff from another agency to attend your agency’s meetings and share information about common concerns.

*US Forest Service (USFS)*

USFS has direct stewardship responsibility for 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands and shares responsibility, working though State forestry agencies, for the management, protection, and wise use of about 500 million acres of non-Federal rural and urban forests. Within the WRP Region there are four Forest Regional Offices: Southwestern Region (AZ & NM); Pacific Southwest (CA); Intermountain Region (NV & UT); and Rocky Mountain Region (CO).

The key points of USFS Planning are collaboration in a science-based framework; the development of the PEIS; balancing economic and social values in an ecologically sound framework; working with state, local and tribal authorities; outreach to meet joint objectives with partners; offering frequent public participation opportunities; and resolving concerns before final approval.

The National Forest Management Act, requires the Department of Agriculture to develop a Land Management Plan for each national forest and grassland, revise the Plans every 15 years, and amend them as necessary. Forest plans provide broad strategic direction to guide future decisions without authorizing any action or compelling any use. Components of a Forest Plan are goals, objectives, desired conditions; standards and guidelines; suitability for uses (required for timber); and special area recommendations, if any. Other plan content (changeable without amendment): roles and contributions; management approaches; priority watersheds, proposed/possible actions; and monitoring questions/indicators.

The Forest Plan Revision Process includes: inviting participation on assessment and the proposal; providing NEPA public participation; meeting with any objectors and coordinating monitoring activities. [Forest Plan Revision Status](https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=cad3a24327944488927aabdba031397f) shows the status of forest plans in the WRP region.

*US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)*

The Mission of the USFWS is “*to work with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.”* It manages the 150 million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System of more than 560 National Wildlife Refuges and thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. Its Fisheries program operates 70 National Fish Hatcheries, 65 fishery resource offices and 86 ecological services field stations. It employs approximately 9,000 people at facilities across the U.S. The Service headquarters office is in Washington, D.C., with regional and field offices across the country. The WRP States include the following USFS Regions: Southwest Region (Region 2-AZ, NM); Mountain-Prairie Region (Region 6-CO, UT); and the Pacific Southwest Region (Region 8-CA, NV).

USFWS planning priorities include: regulatory balance; Endangered Species Act implementation; species recovery and delisting; wildlife refuges; public access on wildlife refuges; state and tribal partnerships; partnerships with the private sector; and proactive, collaborative conservation.

*National Park Service (NPS)*

Within the WRP Region, there are 95 National Parks ([Arizona](https://www.nps.gov/state/az/index.htm)-22, [California](https://www.nps.gov/state/ca/index.htm)-28-, [Colorado](https://www.nps.gov/state/co/index.htm)-13, [Nevada](https://www.nps.gov/state/nv/index.htm)-4, [New Mexico](https://www.nps.gov/state/nm/index.htm)-15, and [Utah](https://www.nps.gov/state/ut/index.htm)-13). The WRP Region includes two NPS regions: Intermountain (AZ, CO, NM, UT) and Pacific West Region (CA & NV).

Planning is important for NPS efforts. By legislation, the NPS is directed to plan: general management plans for the preservation and use of each park must be prepared and revised in a timely manner. General management plans include measures for the preservation of the area’s resources; indications of types and general intensities of development, visitor carrying capacities; and potential boundary modifications. Each park prepares a 5-year strategic plan and an annual performance plan, which are made available to the public.

Most parks are engaged in several kinds of planning: general management *(mostly for new parks)*, strategic, site, accessibility transition, visitor use management, interpretive, and business planning as well as developing resource stewardship strategies.

The NPS planning program is in transition. Because funding is limited, planning takes too long and costs too much, and plans become derailed by controversy, a new planning program is envisioned that would be more nimble, collaborative, flexible and sustainable. The revised framework would include foundation elements (park description, purpose and significance; fundamental resources and values; interpretive themes; special mandates; key issues and assessment of planning and data needs). The new planning priorities need to consider changes in the NEPA process regarding DOI-directed “NEPA Streamlining” and have prescribed page and time limits and other review requirements. Planning and NEPA are being treated separately by conducting preliminary planning and civic engagement before beginning the NEPA process and considering a final, separate NEPA document.

For more information please see: [WRP Natural Resources Committee webinar on Federal Agency Planning Efforts](http://wrpinfo.org/meetings/wrp-natural-resources-committee-webinar-on-federal-agency-planning-efforts/)

*Other important related conservation efforts this year*

**Featured:**

The Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape

* As a direct result of the WRP Southeastern Arizona/New Mexico project’s efforts ([report](file:///Users/AmyDuffy/Documents/Western%20Regional%20Partnerhip/SC/2018/2018%20Priority%20Efforts/WRP%20SoAZ/NM%20Project%20Report) and [fact sheet](file:///Users/AmyDuffy/Documents/Western%20Regional%20Partnerhip/SC/2018/2018%20Priority%20Efforts/WRP%20SoAZ/NM%20Project%20GIS%20Suitability%20Report)), the area won the 2014 REPI Challenge, received funding from the AZ Military Installation Fund for conservation easements and Fort Huachuca was designated a [Sentinel Landscape;](http://sentinellandscapes.org) subsequently the area won the 2016 and 2018 REPI Challenges.
* 2018 Update: Fort Huachuca won the [2018 REPI Challenge](http://www.repi.mil/Buffer-Projects/REPI-Challenge) and afterwards NRCS announced an additional $3M to assist in this area. REPI Challenge noted that the **Fort Huachuca project demonstrates strong stakeholder engagement and outlines a plan to promote compatible land uses that enable military training and operations while effectively reducing competition for limited water resources. The total award of $1.1 million in REPI Challenge funds will leverage $3.1 million in partner contributions to protect 1,150 acres in the eastern portion of the state.**

Federal

* Congressional Research Service released a report, [Wilderness: Issues and Legislation](https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41610.pdf) provides an overview of the National Wilderness Preservation System and how lands are designated as wilderness.
* USDA: [How the Military Helps Protect Natural Landscapes](https://www.fs.fed.us/blogs/how-military-helps-protect-natural-landscapes)
* [USDA Forest Service Announces New Strategy for Improving Forest Conditions](https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2018/08/16/usda-forest-service-announces-new-strategy-improving-forest)
* [Revisions Suggested for NEPA Review Process](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001lzSrPyWDs8-JLXhexO77znut77e3kXz1CpgsufM6xlWLTlFDfPt4nOziKP6ymiGU6S4cFssqnOXm73qaEFuqxGZHYKOvkDD6FP0jTpM6fIevhAbtaH9uzqyc71muigtpFt3ee6xugPppdy-h8mdSCmgwK-MfVBCSTOMM1USh2VJblm0vQvfAOr66As0q58WngmHutkaGi913tT6DOor5DwHFl3Q6AkNs4ldLlc9hIqcjrhVa_rriTnfGJox1rI3C&c=JmPK0tXSezQkTu7Pw1AbwM4m7VWvg4YrCHSPnbIIwNx5nDhgfdMBng==&ch=4ia8fSpL53xBGGG5OiI8ZoDZpELNhxVkMjoUHumaaEkYmB5SSe4FCg==) (AASHTO)
* [Secretary Zinke Announces 19 New National Recreation Trails in 17 States](https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-zinke-announces-19-new-national-recreation-trails-17-states)
* [Secretary of the Interior issues Public Land Order for lands in Nevada](https://www.blm.gov/press-release/secretary-interior-issues-public-land-order-lands-nevada)
* [BLM invites the public to review draft Bears Ears National Monument plans](https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-invites-public-review-draft-bears-ears-national-monument-plans). Comments will be accepted through Nov. 15, 2018.
* USGS: [Better Together: How Ecosystem Services and Adaptive Decision-Making Can Improve Land Management](https://www.usgs.gov/news/better-together-how-ecosystem-services-and-adaptive-decision-making-can-improve-land-management)
* [EPA, Working with States and Tribes, Takes Next Steps on 2015 Ozone Designations](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-working-states-and-tribes-takes-next-steps-2015-ozone-designations)
* USACE-SPD was successful in partnering with the local community on eco-system restoration for the Coho Salmon in the riverbeds running behind the vineyards by Lake Sonoma. The Dry Creek CAP 1135 Team from the San Francisco District Office received the USACE Sustainability "Good Neighbor" Award.
* Army Issues [Memorandum](https://www.army.mil/article/209359/) to Empower States & Tribes in their Permitting Authority
* [USDOT Streamlines Environmental Rules to Improve Transportation Project Delivery](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001wuhmRZJWzL3rLxCZOOeqwyzp_5oN3jYCPunz7IhPgiP3N3gsqk67tq7_sPpoSDJBVCVWZW6wop7d4n_m5hq0nzP-4LlGvUzbJvLwVi9zdZm5qqFOAGTAX05TA3Ja_mXrDizC5LvOBRAV0KOJENvPnF947j8pqOJRTvxA64kULE7pcx_zd13X1Qh7k7jEmKD00ikq4JQkWw-xE6DrbU4-6CziPNs6Wl2Jk4KOIu1G0BvQOq_mBdNfUq6vpeZnjBvK8C84vN4rRFwdRATR2Sqtd1q3wpsiSTUhPqYHwC9w0ZzDv9VZ0pKIKA==&c=LHiZueBFY_R-rtOdgQndh9V2Gup4ZmkckSK24pOxTUpJSonaZ5s54A==&ch=thW_RPgwI18PF5WGKNM6px7MZxzz9kU-CKHs62cS_FyJx69hTqQJlA==)

State

* ADOT seeks federal approval to administer new project environmental [reviews](https://azdot.gov/business/environmental-planning/ce-assignment-and-nepa-assignment)
* CA Legislative Analyst's Office report: [Improving California’s Forest and Watershed Management](http://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/3798?utm_source=laowww&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=3798). Most watersheds that provide water for millions of Californians are forests.
* [Utah State Forester Brian Cottam: 'The work we do is ego-system management, not eco-system management'](http://leadershipnature.com/podcasts/s4e18-brian-cottam-the-work-we-do-is-ego-system-management-not-eco-system-management/)

Tribal

* [Tribal Leaders Directory](http://click.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=3888837&msgid=410109&act=6MWC&c=1335784&destination=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bia.gov%2Ftribal-leaders-directory) provides contact information for each federally recognized tribe.

Regional

* The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies [white paper on landscape conservation collaboration](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001bvWUuCX9Hbk7oydE_GbIGMx_9mKLy1G7jQCHpvrAlVn69TK0Q9L9fFK05xH6JOVM-So8zAbUfV6jh7rcSHtzmdcjpz9h9ONx06CuMsumGZCgNRqp8IfMGLMq3dC3GmdBvw7ezYf3FiANBkFcUMxizWxHvY5hEFA0Eb0m6M0SZllSijE0mG3zxs0vpo4LvWnUynjdMVSSmq9qgbP4Y7Kfs4NxxziEPp6yVXVi-tHDLD73HhshnX3FewCzy8XYCDbcpDGXFqhZ_01AcMVVHVrHJg==&c=P82mBsDnsr653ulyw2YPaYLKdK5m00LwevV3yKC9icoPPNGf9SBnmw==&ch=Oinz8rErWOAXboKwGK2sjLr0bakH584hTkSrRIAgyMyAsVXj1eUJGw==).
* Network for Landscape Conservation Report: [Assessing the State of Landscape Conservation Initiatives in North America](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001bvWUuCX9Hbk7oydE_GbIGMx_9mKLy1G7jQCHpvrAlVn69TK0Q9L9fJK7YEvvxO5BK8Z8L4_L0L7dv8lhuUZyT5LRGJt7qE_5aZ6brrbbsRxqvfeZ29Z-YtRPH-Tm-q2_lNz0POixPgMKNRyUbL9xmx0ldUX2sB8p-5NJZznsGDzBI8CGetLrirIrwWjR4nj3gdcY-IUjmcqee03ldntsVmavnWLbmCHhipG3uboXlmmhv5OaX22v0CWPosjuVGul4hzh43aUQbc=&c=P82mBsDnsr653ulyw2YPaYLKdK5m00LwevV3yKC9icoPPNGf9SBnmw==&ch=Oinz8rErWOAXboKwGK2sjLr0bakH584hTkSrRIAgyMyAsVXj1eUJGw==) and [Pathways Forward: Progress and Priorities in Landscape Conservation](http://landscapeconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Pathways-Forward_2018_NLC.pdf)
* New [guide](https://ecommons.cornell.edu/bitstream/handle/1813/58760/Doyle-Capitman%20&%20Decker_Local%20Stakeholder%20Participation%20PG_online%20version.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y) published to help practitioners to facilitate local stakeholder participation in collaborative landscape conservation planning.
* Conservation Corridor summarizes recent research on urban connectivity. [Learn more](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001rI_WXfzfOLZsy049Ztof4D4_53gQRrLUkDLBhUC0pvH25700F8R8bNa8CMT6Nnen9kgo9HBEdSmJIjLTFv1WjcLUwcZs02V-qTXzs-vzuCg4S31LShtQoqdt5Xj-bUdYlJgHd-uzwXlvHEgeu7PNdFoX6rjxPnAYLw_OCyABAiitqHs27-Awyj4zUL2H9fVbAwi6Qw4ApvLqyqxgX9v4hVkqKL4nmVUC7j_MX0-RTaH3zzQLPNUCUXvu-lFYfmYDqoL0PUdV2Y5P-mW1vmuH0Q==&c=O3btmPM7HbRzFA9MyYhAn-eG9Fzbx1pgiMQeYrTPDncWE3IVrv-55Q==&ch=Vmbwb9XRs99BkbuUdLwdPtQBlvL6zWQSthhz0T-ZMIownEGY8c39ew==)
* Case Studies: [Utilizing the Good Neighbor Authority in the West](https://blogspot.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b4052ed78560498da372b666f&id=36e32baad1&e=40d1b26742)
* The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Wildfire and Invasive Species in the Sagebrush Biome [report](https://www.wafwa.org/Documents%20and%20Settings/37/Site%20Documents/Newsletters/WAFWAWorkingGroup_AGapUpdate_Final_5.10.18.pdf)  provides a comprehensive assessment of fire and invasive management options.
* WGA
  + Western Working Lands Forum [website](http://westgov.org/initiatives/wga-working-lands-roundtable) established
  + Requested consultation by the USFS Service in [decision making](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001N3SF6MUIHGmCmt8j4HKaaCtLsPoYZgu_KZRyjSfvdIDC95-qO2fbttm9MUaiDvzHBt4lMNR62Ngl9QQiegjrNvFdk_sh-EWyW75UpNMKk_iJ4Hsn-zGeT1X0R3o4QrN-LK5QGP4CGpSxLm8B-h7XYHfQ_1lBvYQB68vIar-ATTqJJbVxvQkKrlxBv1U3zt5oTk-YiDw_X3ejMIGaZr4FJ_B8752TmRqrpvrz2V_U-_CaQLWT_SyCYitxPySnWBtD-4fSHd5_tS6QyDL3hU4Yyg==&c=4fLcdTg2edk-Y9MOtMcKKZaJ0kML_06ylMwpPpyWaG9qYc7K1lbwwg==&ch=kof29A5soxDj8RnI_lIxe0XyEldg63g53BjzX0Z0KpX_rvKvB2sovA==).
  + [submitted comments](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001XG9hAakT9WNIJ5vwv7bLWEg4nR7QrgCo5d_PkiveVWz7JY_1UYbxsR8QN_mJPsI3ycYy6VT_jbYGfP3eOdmxBHuk_ar8yDMyP4Gc_isGFrEwQOIE32mTqT11He74fNakBgg_vkGUjj2YuwqE9auZgFQeMc1FBkJ77i2fTrWtLWQ4_T9aVBOl-aPIHC3Fjtj4a4z3_SN6MUV3Ia2wn43GDqPpsfjfpr7S2eGeEUqV8Q-p43rOhGmHe0yDoW2QndPt91-R4pSNQmTzHmiblswBPQ==&c=ZZabIoLHA6oXAlbAXZYKu3N4_P1MzvTm6-zWoPsXf-5kWpJe25lN8w==&ch=n6CgIWV9mDBe50Kw_qc12WNi7ZYPfswh3Q6tLQwCzrA99BdiWLRIWg==) to **USFWS National Marine Fisheries Service**about their Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances Policy
  + Hosted [webinar](http://westgov.org/news/register-for-webinar-partnering-with-tribes-on-shared-land-management-goals): “Partnering with Tribes on Shared Land Management Goals”
  + [Watch: Collaboration and Alternative Dispute Resolution Tools](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001XOBfUP_VdlqvVdw0lIhQSuW9iROex6AgdzMganPyGYXlYSxAPFyzzBXLsA4a2Vapwxp1VW-UdDiKYK6XzNAvdZ1JSLeXTVhNjRp7wmHFfnCyiqUMNYLCOaVshpswbRy1dSiNWs5nL_Kuj2xXqzSF3JB1WruL2CdCymUdrbN9zxQf_fdgMKCJ4ioORqcH-7v8QhPs2qeG9VvrthpS9XgdtsV8Bx7SuMCiCKGaS79ESGJZ6ldxtnL3fMyOqEes7jVG&c=YvqezeB90KJiINr5Y9Fjya-_iHG8gOvZmWjhpGZ042u8KEODGRlSQQ==&ch=67mgkCGvyS4KpKVJ6YRMtg4g3xlpRHqInjQlfQ2RpU1zWuhaxMj3Rw==)

### *Water-related*

In September 2018, the WRP Natural Resources Committee held a webinar on 2018 Federal and State water strategies and collaboration. This webinar featured[[16]](#footnote-16) two keynote presenters Western States Water Council (WSWC) and DoD and a panel of federal water experts for further discussion on the latest efforts, trends and policies at the state and federal level impacting water strategies including efforts to work together as partners. The Western U.S. is one of the fastest growing regions of the country, and the future growth and prosperity of the western states depend upon the availability of adequate quantities of water of suitable quality.

*WSWC*

WSWC is an organization consisting of representatives appointed by the governors of 18 western states to ensure adequate supplies of water of suitable quality; provide states a collective voice; foster collaboration (among states and between states and federal agencies); and works with the Western Governors’ Association and Western Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST). A number of water-related challenges were noted including aging and inadequate infrastructure, growing population in the West, increasingly complex water user conflicts, a constantly evolving regulatory landscape, limited financial resources and political divisions. Recommendations for potential solutions include:

* Even greater State leadership in addressing water problems and involvement in federal decision making
* Support for innovative project and non-project solutions, Integrated Water Resources Management, green infrastructure and stormwater use, water transfers and Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations
* Innovative project financing and cost sharing
* Regulatory reform with reasonable flexibility

[Water Data Exchange](http://www.westernstateswater.org/wade/) (WaDE) enables states to share important water data with each other, the public and federal agencies to assist in their planning efforts.

*DoD Strategies for Water Resources Management*

DoD sees the military value of strengthening water resource management and the importance of the water-energy nexus, and contingency planning to address issues such as would water be pumped if power is lost. Many efforts are underway including development of a DoD Water Resource Management Strategy, focused on water source preservation, working with Federal partners to gain a better understanding of water scarcity risks (obtain better tools) and expanded outreach with DoD stakeholders.

The Western Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST) is a collaboration among 12 federal agencies[[17]](#footnote-17) that have a role in research or management of water in the West in support of the WSWC and WGA to help with coordination, act as a sounding board, resolve conflicts, etc. Projects of interest include:

* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) [National Integrated Drought Information System](https://www.drought.gov/drought/what-nidis) (NIDIS) program and its regional drought early warning systems (DEWS).
* WestFAST efforts to leverage federal resources to implement state and local water strategies and to assist Altus Air Force Base (Southwest Oklahoma Drought Planning)
* Waters of the United States ruling and Trump’s Executive order to [revise or rescind](https://www.epa.gov/wotus-rule) provisions related to federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act

For more information, please see: [WRP Natural Resources Committee webinar on 2018 Federal and State water strategies and collaboration](http://wrpinfo.org/meetings/wrp-natural-resources-committee-webinar-on-2018-federal-and-state-water-strategies-and-collaboration/)

WRP Water- Related Resources:

* [Overview of Water-Related Resources Available to WRP Partners](http://wrpinfo.org/media/1046/brief-overview-of-water-related-resources-available-to-wrp-partners.pdf)

*Other important water related efforts this year*

Federal

* [Presidential Memorandum on Promoting the Reliable Supply and Delivery of Water in the West](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-memorandum-promoting-reliable-supply-delivery-water-west/)
* [Secretary Zinke Applauds President Trump’s Memorandum on Western Water](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgxMDI1Ljk2NzcxNzUxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MTAyNS45Njc3MTc1MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MzIwODk2JmVtYWlsaWQ9YW15cmR1ZmZ5QGljbG91ZC5jb20mdXNlcmlkPWFteXJkdWZmeUBpY2xvdWQuY29tJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mbXZpZD0mZXh0cmE9JiYm&&&146&&&https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-zinke-applauds-president-trumps-memorandum-western-water)
* Effective Date of the Waters of the United States [Rule](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/02/06/2018-02429/definition-of-waters-of-the-united-states-addition-of-an-applicability-date-to-2015-clean-water-rule?utm_campaign=subscription%20mailing%20list&utm_source=federalregister.gov&utm_medium=email) Extended to 2020; EPA and Army Take Next [Step](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-and-army-take-next-step-joint-efforts-redefine-waters-united-states) in Joint Efforts to Redefine “Waters of the United States”
* BuRec is proactively addressing drought.
  + Through its [Drought Response Program](http://www.usbr.gov/drought.), Reclamation is supporting a proactive approach to drought by providing assistance to water managers to develop and update comprehensive drought plans and implement projects that will build long-term resiliency to drought.
  + [Water Use Across the United States Declines to Levels Not Seen Since 1970](https://www.usgs.gov/news/water-use-across-united-states-declines-levels-not-seen-1970)
  + [Long-term Colorado River forecasts highlight need for action](https://www.usbr.gov/newsroom/newsrelease/detail.cfm?RecordID=63108)
  + Draft Environmental Assessment/Initial [Study](https://www.usbr.gov/newsroom/newsrelease/detail.cfm?RecordID=63303)-Negative Declaration for a proposed 635-acre conservation area as part of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program.
  + Upper and Lower Basin Colorado River Drought Conservation [Plans](https://www.usbr.gov/dcp/docs/DCP_Agreements_Final_Review_Draft.pdf).
* State: Plan to [Securing Arizona's Water Future](http://click.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=20247452&msgid=350001&act=U2LD&c=1533672&destination=https%3A%2F%2Fazgovernor.gov%2Fgovernor%2Fnews%2F2018%2F02%2Fsecuring-arizonas-water-future)

Regional:

* WGA:
* [Webinar: Water Quality Concerns in Western Forests and Rangelands](http://westgov.org/news/webinar-water-quality-concerns-in-western-forests-and-rangelan)
* [Webinar](http://westgov.org/news/webinar-the-importance-of-state-authority-under-clean-water-act-section-401): State Authority under Clean Water Act Section 401
* [WGA-led coalition urges Congress: Don't diminish state authority under Clean Water Act](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0015ZcdMgpai5YMfjxLBwslh3XOXAjRielI6Jznt0jiPOxlPUQOJJd3BWAZO_a2bR6AUGhCG5OCGMiBVx0eONadgFDjzYGF2yRgC1bTd2ZO9_FQe7WimeD1P19SHgYvjlrUNxJwFnGUJIHzG1VPMtBbwTgdKPIivn2hctfPyneEqMvpJ2akpPC6g00OGlELu0VrC1aBmvVhcEx_SdIIiobvbF9EAAJ_EwYdmQQMUrZ1D91fXiSffgEROpP1E9fWX1ZNum9OY9QToJxW2O51miIzIHidLBFEdJCNi_KBBmX71UpDcwJj75pELzDt8RgHI2TiejdIDPnjaReJsvIGdrjEE3ysd7Yc-rW4kFjpbAnJ0v3DsLC82yvXpgf_82oP9Wk2&c=FCn1dc4kYOYXDAiyS-2l-IPQpyPE-95-cCIvXc47fUwHP8Qid_69HA==&ch=BH22XxbMt-5ehCFVE8297NRjwZglXC6ADUmWSbFqx1y1MZWr23aWOQ==)
* Western State Water Council (WSWC) October 2018 [Meeting](http://www.westernstateswater.org/wswc-fall-188th-council-meetings-coeur-dalene-id/)Outcomes

Tribal

* Little Colorado River Adjudication:
  + [President Begaye addresses framework for main stem and LCR water rights settlement](https://mailchi.mp/8b4ee634ecfe/press-releasepresident-begaye-addresses-framework-for-main-stem-and-lcr-water-rights-settlement?e=5770ab07ba)
  + [Hopi Tribe’s Statement on Little Colorado River Adjudication](https://www.hopi-nsn.gov/hopi-tribes-statement-on-little-colorado-river-adjudication-2/)
  + [Hopi Water and Energy Committee meet with Udall Institute and Navajo Nation to discuss LCR Water Negotiations](http://www.hopi-nsn.gov/hopi-water-energy-committee-meet-udall-institute-navajo-nation-discuss-lcr-water-negotiations/hopi-water-and-energy-committee-meet-with-udall-institute-and-navajo-nation-to-discuss-lcr-water-negotiations/)
* [Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure:](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwNjE0LjkxMTkxNzQxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDYxNC45MTE5MTc0MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MzQwNjU0JmVtYWlsaWQ9YW15cmR1ZmZ5QGljbG91ZC5jb20mdXNlcmlkPWFteXJkdWZmeUBpY2xvdWQuY29tJmZsPSZleHRyYT1NdWx0aXZhcmlhdGVJZD0mJiY=&&&101&&&https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-18-309?utm_campaign=usgao_email&utm_content=topic_naturalresources&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)[Opportunities Exist to Enhance Federal Agency Needs Assessment and Coordination on Tribal Projects](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwNjE0LjkxMTkxNzQxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDYxNC45MTE5MTc0MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MzQwNjU0JmVtYWlsaWQ9YW15cmR1ZmZ5QGljbG91ZC5jb20mdXNlcmlkPWFteXJkdWZmeUBpY2xvdWQuY29tJmZsPSZleHRyYT1NdWx0aXZhcmlhdGVJZD0mJiY=&&&102&&&https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-18-309?utm_campaign=usgao_email&utm_content=topic_naturalresources&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) GAO-18-309

Military Readiness, Homeland Security, Disaster Preparedness and Aviation (MRHSD&A) Committee

The MRHSDP&A Committee is “mission-focused” and worked over the past year to capture relevant emerging issues and identify impacts. The main goals of the WRP MRHSDP&A Committee over the past year were to:

* Enhance awareness of DoD mission; serve as a forum on compatible land uses near DoD operations
* Assist WRP Partners’ homeland security/disaster preparedness missions to foster awareness of interdependence among Partners; capture emerging issues, existing tools and recommendations (e.g. disaster recovery, cyber security)
* Serve as a forum for aviation users sharing information on changes to airspace use (e.g. new technology, integration of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) into the National Airspace System (NAS)

To attain these goals, the MRHSDP&A Committee hosted three webinars with eleven presenters highlighting issues regarding military aviation readiness, communication interoperability and UAS. Summaries of the webinars and Committee efforts as well as updates from WRP Partners and monitoring news across the WRP Region are found below. These items are categorized under: military readiness; homeland security/disaster preparedness; and aviation.

### *Military-Related*

The WRP Region is important for the military, homeland security/disaster preparedness missions and aviation operations. For the military, the WRP Region contains extensive training ranges, premier testing facilities and unmatched military air space. For the services, it includes:

* Approximately 55% of the Army’s landholdings
* Over 33% of Navy’s landholdings
* 85% of Marine Corps’ Live Fire Rangesand67% of Marine Corps’ airspace
* Four of the largest Air Force range complexes: Edwards Air Force Base (AFB); Nellis AFB/Creech/Nellis Test and Training Range (NTTR); Luke AFB/Barry M. Goldwater Range East; and Utah Test and Training Range (UTTR)
* 75% of DoD Special Use Airspace is located within the WRP Region

Within the WRP region, there are significant military testing and training installations and ranges. WRP developed [Military Asset Listing](http://wrpinfo.org/resources/dod-information/) (MAL) summaries from all of the Services and the National Guard, describing the history, missions, and importance of these assets. WRP appreciates all the military’s review, coordination and input to develop the following 80 MAL summaries:

**By State** **By Service**

Arizona: 18 Air Force: 23

California: 29 Army: 16

Colorado: 9 Marine Corps: 9

Nevada: 9 National Guard: 20

New Mexico: 9 Navy: 12

Utah: 6

Military installations and ranges provide the platform for testing and training so that military members are best prepared for times of war. Encroachment can impact DoD’s use of land, sea, airspace, frequency spectrum and other resources; it is the cumulative impact of development that hampers DoD’s ability to carry out its testing and training mission. For more information on issues of importance to DoD and other useful information please see WRP [Guide to Working with DoD](http://wrpinfo.org/media/1047/guide-to-working-with-the-us.pdf) and [WRP State Support for Military Testing and Training](http://wrpinfo.org/media/1266/wrp-state-support-for-military-testing-and-training_august-2015_final.pdf)

*WRP DoD Management Team*

The WRP DoD Management Team consists of staff level representatives from OSD and the military services to coordinate DoD issues internally to support WRP activities. Over the past year, their internal coordination led to the drafting of a Strategy Action Plan to assist efforts focused on four key issues (either internal coordination within DoD or to best support/integrate with WRP efforts). The majority of the 2017-2018 year was dedicated to the priority of influencing land use plans and policies to protect DoD mission sustainment which is detailed in the BLM Planning Temporary Working Group (summary below). Additionally, the WRP Core priorities include:

* Preserve and Maintain Long-Term Access to Frequency Spectrum
* Influence Airspace Use Plans and Policies to Protect DoD Mission Sustainment
* Gain Credit for Existing Natural Resources Management Practices

Having a DoD Co-Chair of each of the WRP Committees greatly assists with coordination, especially having a consistent DoD Co-Chair of this Committee reporting on any relevant issues.

Coordinating planning efforts with the military can mitigate impacts on DoD. Some examples include:

* Light from nearby commercial areas may interfere with a Service member’s night vision, compromising night training.
* Housing developments built near drop zones can halt airborne training, (e.g., parachute training).
* Development that forces endangered species to migrate within the military installation fence lines may segment and diminish the utility of testing and training areas.
* Noise, dust, and smoke generated by weapons testing may generate complaints from residents near installations and ranges, leading to reduction or limitation of these important tests.
* Energy projects, such as wind turbine and transmission line development, if not sited collaboratively with the military, may interfere with military operations.

DoD Aviation Mission

In April, the WRP MRHSDP&A Committee hosted a webinar on the DoD’s aviation mission.[[18]](#footnote-18)

The mission of the DoD is to “*provide the military forces needed to deter war and to protect the security of our country.”* The WRP region is important to the military’s ability to train; it has extensive training ranges (air, land and sea), premier testing facilities and unmatched military air space. Seventy-five percent of DoD Special Use Airspace is located within the WRP Region.

Increases in aviation operations and types of users along with changes in land use patterns can impact aviation missions. As a general rule, most aircraft-related military operations are performed in segregated airspace, designed to accomplish any of several objectives. Because aviation operations may be conducted virtually anywhere in the world, the airspace used by the military for test and training not only requires a significant amount for its sheer volume, it must also include geographical features that typically can be expected to be encountered by such units. Thus, there is a need to have airspace over water, deserts, mountains, etc. and may even include areas that replicate certain urban features. It is also important that as much as possible the airspace be in reasonably close proximity to a military aviation capable installation. The southwest region provides a unique environment for DoD to conduct its mission.

The FAA manages the National Air Space on the public’s behalf under the Federal Aviation Act of 1958. In turn, through a 1969 MOU, the FAA has delegated some of the National Airspace to DoD air traffic control. Additionally, Special Use Airspace has been released by FAA Order during specified times for military operations.

Among the challenges facing military users of airspace are the evolving military requirements for airspace (in both volume and integration with training assets) and the long process to propose uses of the airspace, which causes lack of continuity across project timelines as uses of surrounding airspace continue to evolve. Additionally, reporting of Special Use Airspace utilization, GPS testing where increased military needs coincide with increased civil dependence, drone flights over military installations, and the complex process for commercial operators of drones in military-controlled airspace. [Webinar recording](https://bah16f18.adobeconnect.com/peiyqpono3a8/)

*Highlights of Significant DoD Efforts over the past year*

* [National Defense Strategy](https://dod.defense.gov/Portals/1/Documents/pubs/2018-National-Defense-Strategy-Summary.pdf)  - DoD Secretary Mattis released the NDS in January 2018. Its focus is Sharpening the American Military’s Competitive Edge and it articulates DoD’s strategy to compete, deter and win in the current complex security environment of rapid technological change, challenges in every operating domain, and readiness impacted by the longest armed conflict in our Nation’s history on readiness.
* August 2018 [Report](https://militarycouncil.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/81/2018/10/CRB_NatSecEIS-Report-2018-08-22-FINAL.pdf) on California Statewide National Security Economic Impacts
* August 2018 [Sustaining Military Readiness](file:///C:\Users\sduff\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\BOI19NGK\smrconference.org) (SMR) Conference. Over 700 DoD leaders, trainers, testers, and installation personnel with key non-DoD stakeholders gathered to expand partnerships that ensure sustained access to land, air, sea and spectrum to ensure readiness and enhance military capabilities; engage on key and emerging issues; share best practices; and conduct educational workshops. WRP leaders presented and WRP hosted a well-attended meet-and-greet and staffed an information booth. WRP was highlighted many times during the SMR.
* DoD reorganization created new [Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment](https://www.acq.osd.mil/log/lmr/biography_RobertHMcMahon.html) (merger of the office of the assistant secretary of defense (ASD) for energy, installations and environment with the ASD for logistics and materiel readiness).
* In 2018, Utah [enacted](https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/SB0227.html) relaxed occupational licensing criteria for spouses of active duty military to help them find immediate employment upon relocation to the State.
* [President Signs Executive Order for Military Spouse Employment](https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1517050/president-signs-executive-order-for-military-spouse-employment/)
* The [2018 REPI Report to Congress](http://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/Reports_to_Congress/REPI2018RTC.pdf) documents its Fifteen years of sustaining mission capabilities. Through Fiscal Year (FY) 2017, REPI has protected 516,413 acres in 93 locations across 31 states.
* Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program named Fort Huachuca as a recipient of the [2018 REPI Challenge award](http://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/REPI_Challenge/2018%20REPI%20Challenge_FINAL.pdf?ver=2018-07-09-181111-210).
* Pentagon leaves BRAC out of [budget proposal.](https://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/Documents/defbudget/fy2019/FY2019_Budget_Request.pdf)
* [Department of Defense Launches New Initiative on This is Your Military](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwMjAyLjg0Njg2OTYxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDIwMi44NDY4Njk2MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3NDg4OTYyJmVtYWlsaWQ9YW15ZHVmZnlAZHVmZnljb25zdWx0aW5nLm5ldCZ1c2VyaWQ9YW15ZHVmZnlAZHVmZnljb25zdWx0aW5nLm5ldCZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&100&&&https://www.defense.gov/News/Press-Advisories/Press-Advisory-View/Article/1430412/department-of-defense-launches-new-initiative-on-this-is-your-military/?source=GovDelivery): an outreach initiative to connect Americans to their military.
* [Department of Defense Announces Winners Of the 2018 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwNDIwLjg4NzQzNjQxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDQyMC44ODc0MzY0MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3NTEwOTk5JmVtYWlsaWQ9YW15ZHVmZnlAZHVmZnljb25zdWx0aW5nLm5ldCZ1c2VyaWQ9YW15ZHVmZnlAZHVmZnljb25zdWx0aW5nLm5ldCZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&100&&&https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Releases/News-Release-View/Article/1499609/department-of-defense-announces-winners-of-the-2018-secretary-of-defense-enviro/?source=GovDelivery)
* DoD Should Address Challenges with Communication and Mission Changes to Improve Future Base Realignment and Closure Rounds: [GAO-18-231](https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-18-231?utm_campaign=usgao_email&utm_content=topic_natldefense&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)
* DoD Needs to Improve Its Approach for Collecting and Analyzing Data to Manage Risks: [GAO-18-586R](https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-18-586R?utm_campaign=usgao_email&utm_content=topic_natldefense&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)
* 8 Strategic [Goals](https://www.defensecommunities.org/blog/congress-dod/eight-strategic-goals-intended-to-deal-with-pentagons-growing-facilities-backlog/) Intended to Deal with Pentagon’s Growing Facilities Backlog
* [Homeland Security and Defense Department Officials Joint Press Conference on the Defense Department Deployment to the Southwest Border](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgxMDMwLjk2OTA0MzUxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MTAzMC45NjkwNDM1MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3NTU4NzA1JmVtYWlsaWQ9YW15ZHVmZnlAZHVmZnljb25zdWx0aW5nLm5ldCZ1c2VyaWQ9YW15ZHVmZnlAZHVmZnljb25zdWx0aW5nLm5ldCZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&100&&&https://dod.defense.gov/News/Transcripts/Transcript-View/Article/1675870/homeland-security-and-defense-department-officials-joint-press-conference-on-th/?source=GovDelivery). [DOD Statement on Support to DHS](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgxMDI2Ljk2ODI4MTcxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MTAyNi45NjgyODE3MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3NTU4MDYwJmVtYWlsaWQ9YW15ZHVmZnlAZHVmZnljb25zdWx0aW5nLm5ldCZ1c2VyaWQ9YW15ZHVmZnlAZHVmZnljb25zdWx0aW5nLm5ldCZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&100&&&https://dod.defense.gov/News/News-Releases/News-Release-View/Article/1674387/dod-statement-on-support-to-dhs/?source=GovDelivery)
* New Authority Could Benefit [Installation Resiliency](https://www.defensecommunities.org/blog/congress-dod/new-authority-could-benefit-installation-resiliency-niemeyer-says/)
* [FY19 Defense Authorization Bill Passes Congress in Record Speed](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwODAxLjkzMjQwMjgxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDgwMS45MzI0MDI4MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3NTM1NzQzJmVtYWlsaWQ9YW15ZHVmZnlAZHVmZnljb25zdWx0aW5nLm5ldCZ1c2VyaWQ9YW15ZHVmZnlAZHVmZnljb25zdWx0aW5nLm5ldCZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&100&&&https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Releases/News-Release-View/Article/1591064/fy19-defense-authorization-bill-passes-congress-in-record-speed/?source=GovDelivery)
* [Defense Bill Calls for Plan to Upgrade Training Ranges to Address Latest Threats](https://defensecommunities.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8156c255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=dc09644e45&e=822f95e226)
* In 2018, there was a great deal of activity regarding the President’s Space Force concept:
  + [Pence Makes Hard Sell For Trump's Space Force by 2020](http://link.defenseone.com/click/14175594.25976/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZGVmZW5zZW9uZS5jb20vcG9saXRpY3MvMjAxOC8wOC9wZW5jZS1tYWtlcy1oYXJkLXNlbGwtdHJ1bXBzLXNwYWNlLWZvcmNlLTIwMjAvMTUwNDMxLz9vcmVmPWdiYi1uZXdzbGV0dGVy/542dc73f3b35d0811c8bba13Bfb70aff2);
  + [Deputy Secretary Discusses Future of Space Force](https://dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1617867/deputy-secretary-discusses-future-of-space-force-at-space-and-missile-systems-c/)
* [Military Pilots: The View from 30,000 Feet](https://blog.gao.gov/2018/08/16/military-pilots-the-view-from-30000-feet/)
* [Remotely Piloted Aircraft Become Mainstay of Wildland Firefighting](https://dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1595204/remotely-piloted-aircraft-become-mainstay-of-wildland-firefighting/)
* [DoD releases first new cyber strategy in three years](https://link.militarytimes.com/click/14505003.46224/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZmlmdGhkb21haW4uY29tL2RvZC8yMDE4LzA5LzE5L2RlcGFydG1lbnQtb2YtZGVmZW5zZS11bnZlaWxzLW5ldy1jeWJlci1zdHJhdGVneS8/57588738498e574579743a61Bbbb518c8)
* [Community Adjustment Assistance Expanded to Deal with Threats to Installation Resilience](https://defensecommunities.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8156c255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=d881256089&e=822f95e226)
* [Watchdog report sounds alarm over military aviation readiness](https://link.navytimes.com/click/14429020.33731/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubmF2eXRpbWVzLmNvbS9uZXdzL3lvdXItbmF2eS8yMDE4LzA5LzExL3dhdGNoZG9nLXJlcG9ydC10aGUtbGF0ZXN0LXRvLXNvdW5kLWFsYXJtLW92ZXItbWlsaXRhcnktYXZpYXRpb24tcmVhZGluZXNzLw/57588738498e574579743a61B79167b0e)
* DoD Office of Economic Adjustment released its Defense Spending by State Fiscal Year 2016 [report](http://trk.cp20.com/click/8rol-sv6vm-g8lqwp-ovds270/). This report provides a state by state analysis of spending across 50 states and the District of Columbia.
* [All US F-35s grounded worldwide](https://link.militarytimes.com/click/14731269.67871/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcnl0aW1lcy5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLW1pbGl0YXJ5LzIwMTgvMTAvMTEvZG9kLWFubm91bmNlcy1nbG9iYWwtZ3JvdW5kaW5nLW9mLWFsbC1mLTM1cy8/57588738498e574579743a61B3315a884)
* [Mattis orders fighter jet readiness to jump to 80 percent — in one year](https://link.militarytimes.com/click/14707287.71507/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZGVmZW5zZW5ld3MuY29tL2Fpci8yMDE4LzEwLzA5L21hdHRpcy1vcmRlcnMtZmlnaHRlci1qZXQtcmVhZGluZXNzLXRvLWp1bXAtdG8tODAtcGVyY2VudC1pbi1vbmUteWVhci8/57588738498e574579743a61Bbc5fdcc7)
* [Providing for the Common Defense – DoD Sept 2018 report](https://link.govexec.com/click/14639591.25626/aHR0cHM6Ly9tZWRpYS5kZWZlbnNlLmdvdi8yMDE4L09jdC8wMy8yMDAyMDQ3OTQxLy0xLy0xLzEvUFJPVklESU5HLUZPUi1USGUtQ09NTU9OLURFRkVOU0UtU0VQVC0yMDE4LlBERg/542dc73f3b35d0811c8bba13Bebead0eb)
* USAF Posture [Statement](https://www.af.mil/Portals/1/documents/1/FY19_AF_POSTURE_STATEMENT_HIGH_RES.PDF) Fiscal Year 2019
* New Mexico Official [Demands](https://www.defensecommunities.org/blog/active-base-issues/new-mexico-official-demands-25m-from-air-force-following-dispute-over-wind-farm/) $25M from Air Force following Dispute over Wind Farm
* Training Range Modernization part of Air Force [Plan](https://docs.house.gov/meetings/AS/AS03/20180214/106857/HHRG-115-AS03-Wstate-NowlandM-20180214.pdf) to restore readiness

* [F-35 completes most comprehensive flight test program in aviation history](http://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1492578/f-35-completes-most-comprehensive-flight-test-program-in-aviation-history/)
* [Vandenberg AFB unveils solar array project](http://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1490853/vandenberg-afb-unveils-solar-array-project/)
* [The Air Force is still thinking about retiring the F-15 — and it could happen sooner than you think](http://link.airforcetimes.com/click/12929308.54960/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWlyZm9yY2V0aW1lcy5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLWFpci1mb3JjZS8yMDE4LzA0LzE4L3RoZS1haXItZm9yY2UtaXMtc3RpbGwtdGhpbmtpbmctYWJvdXQtcmV0aXJpbmctdGhlLWYtMTUtYW5kLWl0LWNvdWxkLWhhcHBlbi1zb29uZXItdGhhbi15b3UtdGhpbmsv/57588738498e574579743a61B02465522)
* [What birds cause the most damage to U.S. Air Force assets?](http://link.airforcetimes.com/click/12918566.55088/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWlyZm9yY2V0aW1lcy5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLW1pbGl0YXJ5L2F2aWF0aW9uLWluLWNyaXNpcy8yMDE4LzA0LzE3L3doYXQtYmlyZHMtY2F1c2UtdGhlLW1vc3QtZGFtYWdlLXRvLXVzLWFpci1mb3JjZS1hc3NldHMv/57588738498e574579743a61Bc2dec57f)
* [Air Force working with Bureau of Land Management to temporarily close public lands as military tests weapons, including new ‘hypersonics’](https://www.sltrib.com/news/2018/04/13/air-force-working-with-bureau-of-land-management-to-temporarily-close-public-lands-as-military-tests-weapons-including-new-hypersonics/)
* [The military’s stunning fighter pilot shortage: One in four billets is empty](http://link.airforcetimes.com/click/12850471.55760/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWlyZm9yY2V0aW1lcy5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLWFpci1mb3JjZS8yMDE4LzA0LzExL3RoZS1taWxpdGFyeXMtc3R1bm5pbmctZmlnaHRlci1waWxvdC1zaG9ydGFnZS1vbmUtaW4tZm91ci1iaWxsZXRzLWlzLWVtcHR5Lw/57588738498e574579743a61Bffa4c71e)
* In October 2018, the Air Force published the [Final Legislative Environmental Impact Statement](http://www.nttrleis.com/documents/review/fleis/Final_LEIS_Oct2018_withAppendices.pdf) (EIS) for the Nevada Test and Training Range Land Withdrawal. The EIS and its supporting documents are available on the project website at [www.nttrleis.com](http://www.nttrleis.com).
* [The Air Force We Need: 386 operational squadrons](https://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1635070/the-air-force-we-need-386-operational-squadrons/)
* [Air Force secretary details plans to increase fighter readiness](https://link.militarytimes.com/click/14906083.67488/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZGVmZW5zZW5ld3MuY29tL2RpZ2l0YWwtc2hvdy1kYWlsaWVzL2FpcmxpZnQtdGFua2VyLWFubnVhbC8yMDE4LzEwLzI2L2Fpci1mb3JjZS1zZWNyZXRhcnktZGV0YWlscy1wbGFucy10by1pbmNyZWFzZS1maWdodGVyLXJlYWRpbmVzcy8/57588738498e574579743a61B1d9f02df)
* [Dunn says WSMR 'restrictions' cost state millions](https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=http://www.lcsun-news.com/story/news/local/2018/01/31/dunn-says-wsmr-restrictions-cost-state-millions/1081310001/&ct=ga&cd=CAEYACoTMTMyMDk5MTI4MDg1NzY3OTMyMDIaY2JhMzQ4ZDU1NDBhYjA5Yjpjb206ZW46VVM&usg=AFQjCNET07tgZcLNEy_Rct4DN7in98doLg)
* [Army secretary releases reduction requirement memos to improve readiness](https://www.army.mil/article/207160/army_secretary_releases_reduction_requirement_memos_to_improve_readiness)
* [Top 10 takeaways for the future of Army installations](http://link.armytimes.com/click/13888640.40926/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYXJteXRpbWVzLmNvbS9uZXdzL3lvdXItYXJteS8yMDE4LzA3LzE2L3RvcC0xMC10YWtlYXdheXMtZm9yLXRoZS1mdXR1cmUtb2YtYXJteS1pbnN0YWxsYXRpb25zLTIv/57588738498e574579743a61B15e7acc7)
* [Esper Sets Sights on 500,000-Strong Army](https://www.defensecommunities.org/blog/congress-dod/esper-sets-sights-on-500000-strong-army/)
* [Navy fighter squadron begins switch to the F-35](http://link.navytimes.com/click/12765206.57200/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubmF2eXRpbWVzLmNvbS9uZXdzL3lvdXItbmF2eS8yMDE4LzA0LzAzL25hdnktZmlnaHRlci1zcXVhZHJvbi1iZWdpbnMtc3dpdGNoLXRvLXRoZS1mLTM1Lw/57588738498e574579743a61B92da1e37)
* Navy Wants to [Limit](https://www.defensecommunities.org/blog/congress-dod/navy-wants-to-limit-offshore-wind-development-in-california/) Offshore Wind Development in California
* The Navy proposes to modernize the Fallon Range Training Complex by:
  + Renewing existing public land withdrawal of 202,859 acres expiring in November 2021
  + Withdrawing and reserving for military use approximately 604,789 acres of additional public land
  + Acquiring approximately 65,160 acres of non-federal land
  + Expanding associated special use airspace and reconfigure existing airspace
  + Conducting the same general types and tempos of aviation and ground training as currently authorized
  + Upgrading range infrastructure to support modernization

Comments on the proposed withdrawal were required by August 2, 2018. For information on the proposed modernization and the EIS, see the [project website](https://frtcmodernization.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a15c167b01e85293585c92bce&id=6c382767b0&e=47cd0ca8fe).

* [Navy establishes aerial drone squadron](http://link.navytimes.com/click/13129515.52720/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubmF2eXRpbWVzLmNvbS9uZXdzL3lvdXItbmF2eS8yMDE4LzA1LzA2L25hdnktZXN0YWJsaXNoZXMtYWVyaWFsLWRyb25lLXNxdWFkcm9uLw/57588738498e574579743a61B1f0df0f0)
* [New US Pacific Fleet Commander backs away from ‘3rd Fleet Forward’](http://link.militarytimes.com/click/13852469.40930/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZGVmZW5zZW5ld3MuY29tL25hdmFsLzIwMTgvMDcvMTIvbmV3LXVzLXBhY2lmaWMtZmxlZXQtY29tbWFuZGVyLWJhY2tzLWF3YXktZnJvbS0zcmQtZmxlZXQtZm9yd2FyZC8/57588738498e574579743a61B54e99112)
* [WATCH: F-35C in first-ever flight ops on US Navy carrier](https://link.militarytimes.com/click/14300149.40805/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZGVmZW5zZW5ld3MuY29tL3ZpZGVvLzIwMTgvMDgvMjgvd2F0Y2gtZi0zNWMtaW4tZmlyc3QtZXZlci1mbGlnaHQtb3BzLW9uLXVzLW5hdnktY2Fycmllci8/57588738498e574579743a61B15ab8e95)
* [In a First, Navy F-35Cs Join Older Fighters on Carrier Operations](https://link.militarytimes.com/click/14300149.40805/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcnkuY29tL2RhaWx5LW5ld3MvMjAxOC8wOC8yOC9maXJzdC1uYXZ5LWYtMzVjcy1qb2luLW9sZGVyLWZpZ2h0ZXJzLWNhcnJpZXItb3BlcmF0aW9ucy5odG1s/57588738498e574579743a61B1060fa03)
* [New Statute to Help China Lake Address Water Shortfall](https://defensecommunities.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8156c255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=335d4ba8a5&e=822f95e226)
* [Moveover, 355-ship Navy: New report calls for an even larger fleet](https://link.militarytimes.com/click/14906083.67488/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZGVmZW5zZW5ld3MuY29tL25hdmFsLzIwMTgvMTAvMjYvbW92ZS1vdmVyLTM1NS1zaGlwLW5hdnktcmVwb3J0LWZyb20tdHJ1bXBzLWZhdm9yaXRlLXRoaW5rLXRhbmstY2FsbHMtZm9yLWFuLWV2ZW4tbGFyZ2VyLWZsZWV0Lw/57588738498e574579743a61B3831062b)
* FAA established a [Controlled Firing Area](http://www.29palms.marines.mil/airspace/) (CFA) over the Exclusive Military Use Area (EMUA) in Johnson Valley to support Marine Corps training activities.
* [Marines are flying more than the Air Force](http://link.marinecorpstimes.com/click/12246730.61872/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWFyaW5lY29ycHN0aW1lcy5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLW1hcmluZS1jb3Jwcy8yMDE4LzAyLzE0L21hcmluZXMtYXJlLWZseWluZy1tb3JlLXRoYW4tdGhlLWFpci1mb3JjZS8/57588738498e574579743a61Bed20ca23)
* [Top Marine: In 15 years, the Corps might not have any manned aircraft](http://link.marinecorpstimes.com/click/13050816.53776/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWFyaW5lY29ycHN0aW1lcy5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLW1hcmluZS1jb3Jwcy8yMDE4LzA0LzI3L3RvcC1tYXJpbmUtaW4tMTUteWVhcnMtdGhlLWNvcnBzLW1pZ2h0LW5vdC1oYXZlLWFueS1tYW5uZWQtYWlyY3JhZnQv/57588738498e574579743a61B4848f210)
* [Marine Corps F-35 flies first combat mission in Afghanistan](https://link.militarytimes.com/click/14584655.53184/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcnl0aW1lcy5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLW1pbGl0YXJ5LzIwMTgvMDkvMjcvZi0zNS1mbGllcy1maXJzdC1jb21iYXQtbWlzc2lvbi1pbi1hZmdoYW5pc3Rhbi8/57588738498e574579743a61B2a317c65).

### *Homeland Security/Disaster Preparedness Related*

In June 2018, the MRHSDP&A Committee webinar featured the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group (RECCWG) liaisons[[19]](#footnote-19) and an opportunity to discuss communication interoperability issues and solutions sets.

Regional RECC Coordinators are located in each of the 10 FEMA regions; they coordinate disaster emergency communications capabilities and requirements during a response, report to the Regional Administrator on emergency issues in the region, and staff the establishment and administration of the RECCWGs.

RECCWGs duties include: assessing the survivability, sustainability, and interoperability of local emergency communications systems; reporting annually to Federal stakeholders on the regional status of interoperable voice and data emergency communications networks; ensuring a process for coordinating effective multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency emergency communications networks for use during disasters; and coordinating the establishment of Federal, Tribal, State, and local support services and networks. RECCWG Membership include Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies at the regional level on emergency communications-related matters.

FEMA State Emergency Communications Annexes describe the primary and backup communications systems used by Federal, State, local, and Tribal entities and identify resources that States may request during a catastrophic event. FEMA Mobile Emergency Response Support (MERS) provide mobile and tactical communications capabilities to support State and local agencies requesting emergency communications support

Within the WRP Region, there are three FEMA Regions: Region VI includes New Mexico; Region VIII includes Colorado and Utah; and Region IX includes Arizona, California and Nevada. Each region faces unique homeland security/disaster response issues. FEMA Region IX responded to fires in California and noted a key issue during disasters is public communications, especially when infrastructure is degraded and impacts cellular, telephone and internet, requiring that communication workarounds must be identified and implemented. FEMA Region VI responded to many hurricanes in 2017 (including Hurricane Harvey) and developed several recommendations for consideration: improve outreach and coordination with state partners; look for Regional Emergency Communications Coordinator to come to state and establish relationships with the greater community; provide the highest quality of support; at all times share information, answer Requests for Information; collaborate with all partners; Improve federal coordination to enable a timely and right-sized service fulfillment; bolster Emergency Support Function @2 (ESF2) communications activities; reporting, and products to improve leadership decisions in federal activations. FEMA Region VIII conducts training exercises to simulate the Wasatch Range earthquake and response. [Webinar recording.](https://bah16f18.adobeconnect.com/pbzf6uvo7p01/)

Although the climates among and within the six WRP states vary, there are some common themes. For example:

* The most dominant feature in western weather are wintertime “atmospheric rivers” that provide a significant amount of the total winter precipitation for the west coast, primarily impacting California and the Sierra Nevada mountains, but to a lesser degree Nevada, Arizona, and Utah.
* The summer monsoon provides moisture in the desert southwest (Arizona, New Mexico, and southern parts of California, Utah, Nevada and Colorado. Before the monsoons bring rainfall, dry thunderstorms can lead to significant lightning activity and numerous wildfires. Once the deeper moisture comes into the area, the threat of lightning induced
* El Nino/La Nina climate patterns can be strongest across the desert southwest portion of the WRP region. El Nino events tend to be correlated with above normal winter precipitation; La Nina the opposite.
* The six-state WRP region has seen significant, multi-year drought periods. Long-term drought can influence power generation, water availability, land use and other factors. The Colorado River passes through or along each of the states, and its basin is in a long-period drought periodically interrupted with a year or two of significant precipitation.
* Resources: [Western Regional Climate Center](https://wecc.dri.edu) ; NOAA’s [National Weather Service](https://www.weather.gov)

[US Drought Monitor](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/)

*Highlights of Homeland Security/Disaster Preparedness Efforts over the past year:*

* [Presidential Memorandum on the Support for National Biodefense](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-memorandum-support-national-biodefense/)
* FEMA after-Action [Report](https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/167249) for 2017 Hurricane Season
* FEMA Released [2018-2022 Strategic Plan](https://www.fema.gov/strategic-plan)
* [FEMA Releases Vance Taylor's PrepTalk: 'We Succeed or Fail Together!'](https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2018/09/26/fema-releases-vance-taylors-preptalk-we-succeed-or-fail-together)
* FEMA released [The Senior Leader Toolkit](https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/172504) for review. It provides emergency managers with tools to help prepare senior leaders and policy makers fulfill their incident responsibilities. Comments are due November 16
* U.S. Border Patrol: Actively working on border replacement fence from FY17 funding. [Carla L. Provost Named Chief of the US Border Patrol](https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/carla-l-provost-named-chief-us-border-patrol); she is the first woman to serve in this capacity.

Wildfire Related:

* [GeoMAC](https://nifc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=fa067b6b21534df283a87acc3ae3227c) updated. Hosted by the U.S. Geological Survey, it provides near real-time web mapping about spreading wildfires, allowing for more effective decisions about deployment of firefighting resources.
* [NASF publishes updated guide for utilizing National Guard resources](https://stateforesters.org/best-practices-national-guard-resources)
* Multihazard Planning Framework for Communities in the Wildland-Urban Interface [report](https://www.planning.org/publications/document/9155699/)
* California experienced immense wildfires.
* USFS [Report](https://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/toward-shared-stewardship.pdf?utm_source=Western+Cohesive+Strategy+News&utm_campaign=f4d47486a9-Cohesive_Wildland_Fire_Strategy_Western_1_5_2018_C&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_46a4d00425-f4d47486a9-208612505): Toward Shared Stewardship Across Landscapes: An Outcome-Based Investment Strategy
* [Home and Landscape wildfire defense: lessons learned from the 2017 California wildfire season](https://blogspot.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b4052ed78560498da372b666f&id=b1d0489a69&e=40d1b26742)
* [NACo Launches County Wildfire Playbook](http://www.naco.org/featured-resources/county-wildfire-playbook-county-leadership-guide-help-communities-become-more-fire-adapted?utm_source=Western+Cohesive+Strategy+News&utm_campaign=006d121470-Cohesive_Wildland_Fire_Strategy_Western_1_5_2018&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_46a4d00425-006d121470-208612521)

Cyber:

WRP had a number of calls on cybersecurity issues. The President announced the first national cyber strategy plan in 15 years, and many agencies, including DoD and DHS, announced plans and investments in cyberstrategy. In light of these developments, WRP’s involvement will need to adapt and evolve as these plans are implemented over the coming months and years:

* Department of Energy [Invests](https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-invests-28-million-advance-cybersecurity-nation-s-critical-energy) $28 Million to Advance Cybersecurity of the Nation’s Critical Energy Infrastructure
* [Summary](https://media.defense.gov/2018/Sep/18/2002041658/-1/-1/1/CYBER_STRATEGY_SUMMARY_FINAL.PDF): DoD Cyber Strategy 2018. Competitors deterred from engaging the United States and its allies in traditional armed conflict have turned to cyberspace operations. Given the country’s increasing dependence on cyberspace for both civilian and military functions make the risk posed by these actors both urgent and unacceptable. This Cyber Strategy provides DoD’s vision for addressing this threat and implementing the priorities of the National Security Strategy and National Defense Strategy for cyberspace.
* [Fact Sheet](https://media.defense.gov/2018/Sep/18/2002041659/-1/-1/1/Factsheet_for_Strategy_and_CPR_FINAL.pdf): 2018 DoD Cyber Strategy and Cyber Posture Review
* White House Releases First National Cyber Strategy [Plan](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/National-Cyber-Strategy.pdf) in 15 years
* Governor Ducey [Forms](https://azgovernor.gov/governor/news/2018/03/governor-ducey-forms-arizona-cybersecurity-team) Arizona Cybersecurity Team
* White House Update: [Strengthening the Cybersecurity of Federal Networks and Critical Infrastructure](https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/strengthening-the-cybersecurity-of-federal-networks-and-critical-infrastructure/)
* [Mike Pence's Cybersecurity Speech (Annotated)](http://link.nextgov.com/click/14051572.58948/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubmV4dGdvdi5jb20vY3liZXJzZWN1cml0eS8yMDE4LzA4L21pa2UtcGVuY2VzLWN5YmVyc2VjdXJpdHktc3BlZWNoLWFubm90YXRlZC8xNTAyNTcvP29yZWY9bmV4dGdvdl90b2RheV9ubA/542dc73f3b35d0811c8bba13B87201994)
* Department of Homeland Security Unveils Strategy to Guide Cybersecurity Efforts: outlining the Department’s approach to identifying and managing national cybersecurity risk. The [DHS strategy](https://www.dhs.gov/publication/dhs-cybersecurity-strategy) details a Department-wide approach to address the evolving threats to our nation’s cyber and critical infrastructure security.

### *Airspace Related*

Within the WRP Region there are significant numbers of aviation users (military, commercial, business, and general aviation, etc.) with diverse missions. The WRP Region appreciates nearly year-round fair weather, enabling all types of flying missions. Some of the nation’s busiest airports (Los Angeles, Denver, San Francisco, Las Vegas and Phoenix Sky Harbor) in terms of passenger boardings and passenger traffic are located within the WRP region. In addition to these major commercial airports, there are numerous airstrips and small airports on sovereign Native American lands that have plans for future growth. The region’s interconnected military airspace supports air-to-air, air-to-ground, ground-to-ground and air-to-sea operations.

Airspace is a finite resource and competition for its use is increasing. There are various types of manned flight operations such as government (federal, state, local, Tribal and law enforcement) commercial and general aviation. Significant changes are occurring within the region’s airspace such as: exponential increase in the use of private and commercial unmanned aircraft; implementation of new technology (such as NextGen and commercial space operations); introduction of new aircraft such as the F-35; and an expected increase in passenger aircraft. Access to airspace is critically important for continued economic growth in the west and must support civil, commercial and military aviation while also integrating unmanned aircraft.

In November 2018, the MRHSDP&A Committee hosted a webinar[[20]](#footnote-20) on UAS (also known as unmanned aerial vehicles, remotely piloted vehicles and drones). UAS is an aircraft controlled by an operator on the ground. Unmanned aircraft are currently used for government (federal, including military, state and local, law enforcement), commercial and research purposes. Demand for UAS continues to grow and is expected to be one of the fastest growing segments of aviation. UAS can perform many roles that manned aircraft cannot and these uses will likely increase in the future. Airspace cohabitation is an important national security and public safety issue. UAS can range from micro to 737 airliner size. The smaller UAS use line of sight (LOS) communications. Medium and large UAS use both LOS and beyond line of sight (BLOS) for flight.

There are many efforts underway to develop and conduct UAS missions across the WRP Region as well as evaluate procedures on how to safely integrate UAS into the National Airspace System. Challenges and Opportunities of UAS in the NAS were noted as well as the USDOT/FAA UAS Integration Pilot Program efforts to support complex commercial drone operations. Relevant state laws and challenges were highlighted. For more information please see NCSL Report titled, [Taking Off: State Unmanned Aircraft Systems Policies](http://www.ncsl.org/research/transportation/2017-unmanned-aircraft-systems-uas-state-legislation-update.aspx) and 2015 FAA [fact sheet](https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=84369) on state and local regulation of UAS. [Webinar recording](https://bah16f18.adobeconnect.com/ptc2xqqkczmh/).

The MRHSDP&A Committee circulated the [WRP Airspace Sustainability Overview](http://wrpinfo.org/media/1464/wrp_airspace_sustainability_overview_august-2015.pdf) Report for comments, which continues to be positively received.  The accompanying WRP Meteorological Evaluation Towers [MET Tower Fact Sheet](http://wrpinfo.org/media/1469/met-tower-fact-sheet-october-2018.docx), which discusses their impacts on Aviation, was updated based on recent changes to the FAA law.

*Noteworthy Aviation Related activities in the past year:*

* In October 2018, the President signed the [FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgxMDA1Ljk1ODc0OTMxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MTAwNS45NTg3NDkzMSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MzEyNzc1JmVtYWlsaWQ9YW15cmR1ZmZ5QGljbG91ZC5jb20mdXNlcmlkPWFteXJkdWZmeUBpY2xvdWQuY29tJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mbXZpZD0mZXh0cmE9JiYm&&&101&&&https://www.congress.gov/115/bills/hr302/BILLS-115hr302enr.pdf).
* FAA Releases [FAA Aerospace Forecast Fiscal Years (FY) 2018-2038](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwMzE2Ljg3MTEyNDIxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDMxNi44NzExMjQyMSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MjI5MDE5JmVtYWlsaWQ9YW15cmR1ZmZ5QGljbG91ZC5jb20mdXNlcmlkPWFteXJkdWZmeUBpY2xvdWQuY29tJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mbXZpZD0mZXh0cmE9JiYm&&&104&&&https://www.faa.gov/data_research/aviation/aerospace_forecasts/). The forecast also highlights the growth in the use of [UAS](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwMzE2Ljg3MTEyNDIxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDMxNi44NzExMjQyMSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MjI5MDE5JmVtYWlsaWQ9YW15cmR1ZmZ5QGljbG91ZC5jb20mdXNlcmlkPWFteXJkdWZmeUBpY2xvdWQuY29tJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mbXZpZD0mZXh0cmE9JiYm&&&109&&&https://www.faa.gov/uas/), and [commercial space transportation activities](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwMzE2Ljg3MTEyNDIxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDMxNi44NzExMjQyMSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MjI5MDE5JmVtYWlsaWQ9YW15cmR1ZmZ5QGljbG91ZC5jb20mdXNlcmlkPWFteXJkdWZmeUBpY2xvdWQuY29tJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mbXZpZD0mZXh0cmE9JiYm&&&110&&&https://www.faa.gov/news/fact_sheets/news_story.cfm?newsId=19074).
* [FAA Administrator's Fact Book](https://www.faa.gov/news/media/2018_Administrators_Fact_Book.pdf)  - Facts, data, and graphics about FAA's management of our nation's complex airspace system.
* DOI [Expands](https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-expands-capabilities-vertical-take-and-landing-fixed-wing-small-unmanned) Capabilities with Vertical Take Off and Landing Fixed Wing Small UAS
* [SpaceX confirms moon ride for first space tourist](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/kqbpDKbjocqXaAAAfDlgfMfCbbFm?format=multipart)
* In January 2018, [FAA Drone Registry Tops One Million](https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/faa-drone-registry-tops-one-million)
* U.S. Selects 10 Drone Programs for Testing. The [FAA’s UAS Integration Pilot Program](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwODMwLjk0MjgyMzgxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDgzMC45NDI4MjM4MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3Mjk3NTg4JmVtYWlsaWQ9YW15cmR1ZmZ5QGljbG91ZC5jb20mdXNlcmlkPWFteXJkdWZmeUBpY2xvdWQuY29tJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mbXZpZD0mZXh0cmE9JiYm&&&100&&&https://www.faa.gov/uas/programs_partnerships/uas_integration_pilot_program/) has been busy accelerating drone technology.
* [FAA Expands Drone Airspace Authorization Program](https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=89845): The LAANC beta test will cover approximately 500 airports across the country by mid-September.
* May 2018 DoD [Memo](https://www.suasnews.com/2018/06/us-dod-pulls-the-plug-on-cots-drones/) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Systems Cybersecurity Vulnerabilities; calling for moratorium on commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) UAS
* [The Marines Are Giving Quadcopters to Every Squad](https://www.unmannedaircraftsafetyteam.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/UAST-Sightings-Executive-Summary-2017.pdf)
* Unmanned Aircraft Safety Team (UAST) [Report](https://www.unmannedaircraftsafetyteam.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/UAST-Sightings-Executive-Summary-2017.pdf) on Drone Sightings Analysis and Recommendations
* New uses of drones anticipated: Development of [autonomous air tanker](https://generalaviationnews.com/2018/01/15/development-of-autonomous-air-tanker-begins/)**,** [flying cars](https://aashtojournal.org/2018/09/14/house-aviation-subcommittee-hearing-examines-drone-flying-car-issues/)**,** [Cargo drones](https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2018/01/Boeing-Experimenting-with-Cargo-Drones/145108/?oref=defenseone_today_nl)and[Uber to test drone delivery of food orders](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/kadqDKbjocqJrHAAfDlgfMfCiuPG?format=multipart)
* DOI 2017 Drone Mission [Report;](https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-announces-2017-drone-mission-report) flew nearly 5,000 missions ranging from fighting wildfires to monitoring dams and spillways and mapping wildlife.
* FAA [forecasts](https://www.aerospace-technology.com/news/faa-forecasts-451800-commercial-drones-us-2022/) 451,800 commercial drones in US by 2022
* [FAA Establishes Restrictions on Drone Operations over DOD Facilities](https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=91286)
* [FAA Surveys Commercial Drone Operators](https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=90765)
* [FAA Hits 100K Remote Pilot Certificates Issued](https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=91086)
* FAA: [Drones and Wildfires Don't Mix-Period](https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=91287)
* [Signed FAA Reauthorization Act Establishes New Conditions for Drone Use](https://stateaviationjournal.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e87f320d3afba63a319b38d2d&id=5ff0e236e1&e=6edabe5e85)
* [FAA Now Lets Certain Drones Fly Near Airports](https://link.nextgov.com/click/14639691.8268/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubmV4dGdvdi5jb20vZW1lcmdpbmctdGVjaC8yMDE4LzEwL2ZhYS1ub3ctbGV0cy1jZXJ0YWluLWRyb25lcy1mbHktbmVhci1haXJwb3J0cy8xNTE3NjkvP29yZWY9bmV4dGdvdl9kYXRhX25s/542dc73f3b35d0811c8bba13B6791e73e)
* [Newly formed 'Deseret Unmanned Aerial Systems' group hopes to make Utah a leader in UAS industry](http://www.mmsend56.com/link.cfm?r=EbM6VXkDAq9VlxoW8fghcA~~&pe=E3zaLaOSSZZKQ_OankHO_Gk94ja8SOnOTbvUMcC1ZyCBDxtqiePu4rD0808tNowO-WtnM6iRuyrqBpaixJgwJg~~&t=aI3Tm5_A0N-NzqYj8oJiRQ~~)
* [FAA funding act gives law enforcement authority to destroy drones](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/kvjADKbjocradnswfDlgfMfCZsKR?format=multipart)
* [FAA targets drone operators who interfere with first responders](http://generalaviationnews.acemlna.com/lt.php?s=49f5f2566e4adba37de64285c505b9e1&i=323A1394A1A11473)

WRP Working Groups: BLM Planning and Tribal Engagement

Two WRP Temporary Working Groups were stood up by the SC, under the authority of the WRP Principals at their 2017 Meeting. Principals empowered the SC to establish temporary working groups to address strategic priorities adopted at a Principals’ meeting that fall outside of existing committee structure or overlap committee jurisdiction. The group’s activities are to be limited in time and scope and results are to be reported back to the Principals by the SC members.

### *BLM Planning Temporary Working Group*

Within the WRP Region, BLM manages a significant amount of land. This working group of State, BLM and DoD Members, worked over the past year to improve WRP Members’ understanding of the BLM planning processes and proactively address land issues. The primary focus was to enhance coordination with key DoD Members to identify best practices in addressing DoD issues of concern with BLM Resource Management Plan (RMP) efforts in the WRP Region and provide key information on how DoD can best collaborate with BLM. Additionally, the work group engaged the state perspective by identifying opportunities for mutual support to advance common interests associated with BLM and DoD planning.

In July 2018, BLM provided a list of RMPs within the WRP Region:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Resource Management Plans (as of July 2018):  In Progress or Potential | | |
|  | Ongoing | Planned |
| Arizona | 3 | 2 |
| California | 8 | 3 |
| Colorado | 5 | 3 |
| Nevada | 2 | 1 |
| New Mexico | 8 | 1 |
| Utah | 7 | NA |
| Total | 33 | 10 |

The DoD members of this group took the above RMP information and produced a data overlay with DoD Resources.  The map was color-coded:

* Red (Intersects with DoD Resources and has an RMP in work near-term (<2021)).
* Yellow (Intersects with DoD Resources, but does not have a near-term RMP effort).
* Green (does not fall into either category above).

There were several calls and meetings over the past year including:

* WRP DoD Core Meeting (June), which included a separate meeting with AZ BLM State Director and AZ Associate State Director to better understand issues/areas of commonality
* BLM Members had a call (July) to review the task and develop questions for DoD
* State Members held a call in (July) and developed questions for BLM
* DoD held meeting on RMP and data overlays (August)
* DoD and BLM held a call (August) and a meeting (September) to review findings and develop recommendations to present to the WRP SC for their consideration.
* BLM members presented to a WRP Natural Resources Committee on RMP planning efforts and policies.

From these activities, the Working Group obtained a great deal of actionable information, including:

* BLM State Directors get together in national meetings three or four times each year covering a wide variety of topics, they do not break out to discuss the WRP region *per se*.   Similarly, BLM Deputy Directors meet once each year and have multiple issue or program specific meetings throughout the year. However, neither the State Directors or Deputy Directors meet to discuss issues specific to the WRP Region states. The concept of such a meeting was appealing.
* Consequently, it was determined that the BLM have a separate breakfast meeting at the WRP Principals’ meeting to allow for an exchange among them to occur specific to the WRP Region states.
* BLM State Directors, BLM Deputy State Directors and staff can and do directly and readily communicate with state agencies and maintain good relationships through regular meetings throughout the year. This promotes easy communications between BLM and states. This is particularly helpful at the District Manager and Field Manager level with their State counterparts.  Many issues are being addressed and solutions identified at the field level. Among the kinds of meetings held, at least in some states, are:
  + Annual BLM/State Dept of Wildlife.
  + Quarterly meetings with Governor's staff and state agencies responsible for renewable energy, mining, rights of way applications.
  + *Ad hoc* meetings on weeds, livestock, and various projects, with appropriate state agency looped in as specific issues require
* DoD expressed interest in forums, such as the Arizona Commander’s Summit (ACS), to support communication between military commanders and BLM State Directors and staff.Arizona Commanders’ Summit (ACS) brings together all DoD commanders in the state, a State BLM Director attending the semi-annual meetings, and sharing updates including the latest on Arizona land withdrawals. The ACS is augmented by a staff level forum with BLM membership (Barry M. Goldwater Intergovernmental Executive Committee (IEC)). Some WRP states have similar efforts, but not all, nor as comprehensive. There already exists very effective communication/engagement within WRP between DoD and BLM, including local engagement with state and field offices, such as the California Desert District thru the Desert Managers Group.
* DoD has general awareness of BLM's planning process, and wants to focus on the evolution of that process going forward and how DoD can engage in it, and identify and address gaps in awareness and engagement.

Recommendations moving forward:

* Continue WG efforts over the next year; and assist members with contacts and issues.
* Specific DoD-BLM efforts:
  + DoD and BLM will work to cross-educate staff on their respective missions (DoD engagement and BLM multi-use mission)
  + DoD will develop standard language/template (military element) and share with BLM. Further coordination will occur on language and best way to incorporate in BLM planning documents.
  + DoD and BLM will work together to create a MOU to advance collaborative efforts and capture best practices identified by the WRP BLM Temporary Engagement Working Group.
  + DoD and BLM to have a sidebar meeting at the upcoming Principals’ meeting in November.
  + DoD offered to be specific in their requests to BLM (to be clear and reasonable).
  + DoD and BLM will continue to support Intergovernmental Executive Committee (IEC)-like forums in locations where they already exist and identify those locations where standing-up additional forums would be beneficial to DoD and/or BLM.

DoD members have noted that this working group has been incredibly helpful and thanked BLM for their assistance.

Resources:

* Information on [BLM RMPs](https://www.doi.gov/oepc/resources/nepaprocedures)
* Department of the Interior/Bureau [NEPA Information](https://www.doi.gov/oepc/resources/nepa-procedures)

This website contains a number of useful resources, including Secretary Order 3355 - Streamlining National Environmental Policy Reviews and Implementation of Executive Order 13807 and various supportive documents.

### *Tribal Engagement Temporary Working Group*

Within the WRP Region there are 172 Federally Recognized Tribes. The percentage of Indian Trust land within each of the WRP States ranges from 0.5 to 27.6%. At the 2017 WRP Principals’ Meeting, a Tribal Caucus was held and a brief drafted outlining the request to stand up a WRP Tribal Engagement Temporary Working Group. This was not intended to revive the previous Tribal Committee of the WRP or to supplant any existing forums for Tribal-agency engagement. As expressed by one long-time Tribal representative in WRP, the WRP provides another level of communication with Tribal leadership and specialists working to achieve effective outcomes, and this Working Group is intended to promote outreach to Tribes to obtain greater engagement in WRP.

A meeting was held on September 20, 2018 to share information among state, federal and Tribal members and develop recommendations. During this meeting, A Hopi Tribal Council Representative offered to Co-Chair the WRP Energy Committee; all WRP Committees now have a Tribal Committee Co-Chair to ensure early Tribal engagement. Some other requests were implemented in conjunction with planning of the 2018 WRP Principals’ Meeting:

* Include a question relating to Tribal Engagement in the 2018-2019 WRP Priority.
* Include an optional Tribal tour at the end of the November Principals’ meeting. Subsequently, NRCS offered to coordinate this tour and provide transportation.
* Provide for an optional Tribal breakfast on day one of the WRP Principals’ Meeting.
* At the conclusion of the WRP Principals’ Meeting, hold a meeting of Tribal Members and Federal and State Liaisons (including those who have policy direction in this area).
* The Navy reviewed available Tribal energy data and presented their findings on a WRP Energy Committee webinar on Tribal Energy.

Recommendations moving forward:

* Continue this WG over the next year to develop tools and strategies to support outreach and engagement of tribal governments to support the goals and objectives of the WRP; encourage increased inclusion of tribal perspectives; and improve the working relationships with federal and state entities on WRP initiatives.

Resources:

* [Tribal Leaders Directory](http://click.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=3888837&msgid=410109&act=6MWC&c=1335784&destination=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bia.gov%2Ftribal-leaders-directory) provides contact information for each federally recognized tribe.

Proposed 2018-2019 WRP Priority

In light of the activities of the Committees and Working Groups, the SC recommends that the Principals adopt as its strategic priority for 2018-2019 “*Advancing Compatible Planning in the West for America’s Defense, Energy, Environment and Infrastructure through Enhancing Collaboration among Federal, State and Tribal Entities*.” The purpose of this Priority is, in recognizing that agencies are streamlining planning processes (including environmental reviews and permits), it is more imperative to have a keen understanding of the new processes and collaborative engagement practices. By working together, WRP Partners will develop best practices and models for more efficient and consistent planning collaboration. Details below.

**WRP Strategic Priority for 2018-2019**

The 2018-2019 WRP Year is focused on “*Advancing Compatible Planning in the West for America’s Defense, Energy, Environment and Infrastructure through Enhancing Collaboration among Federal, State and Tribal Entities.”*

**Background:**

In the West, there are significant military assets, varied wildlife ecosystems and extensive infrastructure such as energy and transportation. The WRP Region represents 19% of the U.S. land mass and includes 18% of the U.S. population. Leveraging of resources and inter-agency coordination are required to avoid duplication of efforts, minimize mission impacts and encourage sharing of best practices. The WRP Region land management breakout is:

* Federal (non-DoD) Managed: 46.7%
* Private Land: 35.3%
* Indian Trust Land: 7.4%
* State Trust Land: 6.3%
* DoD Managed: 4.3%

**Statement of Purpose:**

Agencies are streamlining planning processes (including environmental reviews and permits), making it even more imperative to have a keen understanding of the new processes and collaborative engagement practices. By working together, WRP Partners will develop best practices and models for more efficient and consistent planning collaboration.

**Expected Product:**

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

* Identification of specific projects, policies and plans on which WRP collective efforts may be focused and establishment of mutually agreed upon actions and priorities with clearly identified metrics to demonstrate progress.
* Strategies (narrative) on processes to encourage planning efforts that avoid mission conflict; highlighting best practices and models.
* Map product highlighting areas of overlap of mission interests that could drive greater collaboration among Partners

**Project Phases:**

This priority will be attained through the following steps:

1. November 2018: Focused discussion at the WRP Principals’ Meeting and consensus to be reached on questions to ask of agencies.
2. By January 31, 2019: Agency response on approved questions To the extent possible, agencies are asked to please coordinate across any management regions so that all of the WRP area (AZ, CA, CO, NM, NV and UT) is included.
3. February – October 2019: WRP SC and WRP Committees will review input provided and conduct follow-on analysis, synthesizing of data and developing draft recommendations. Facilitating additional agency coordination to establish mutually agreed upon actions and priorities with clearly identified metrics to demonstrate progress.
4. June 2019: WRP SC and WRP Committee Co-Chairs will review analysis at their meeting on June 20, 2019. SC members will apprise their WRP Principal on current progress.
5. October 2019: Final report with analysis and recommendations to be circulated in preparation for presentation and review at the 2019 WRP Principals’ Meeting.
6. November 2019: Presentation and review of findings at the WRP Principals’ Meeting anticipated to be held on November 19-20 in San Diego, CA.

**Guiding Principles:**

* Project will highlight WRP Partners’ missions and long-term goals
* Recognizing the inherent, differentiated authority of federal, state and tribal entities, encouraging communication and cooperation among those entities and avoiding interference with any entity’s distinct rights and responsibilities
* Leverage efforts; not duplicate
* Information will be publicly available and highlight:
  + Energy Development
  + Military Mission Footprint or Weapon System Changes and any upcoming Military Land Withdrawals
  + Ecological Goals and large landscape-level conservation (looking for opportunities to assist with activities over key habitat and species)
  + Aviation and unmanned mission changes
  + Homeland Security/Disaster Preparedness efforts
  + Regional and state-wide plans

1. For example, the White House [announced](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trumps-administration-improving-inefficient-permitting-reviews/) that federal agencies involved in environmental review of major infrastructure projects have signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/MOU-One-Federal-Decision-m-18-13-Part-2-1.pdf) (MOU) implementing [Executive Order 13807](https://www.energy.gov/nepa/downloads/eo-13807-establishing-discipline-and-accountability-environmental-review-and), which is commonly referred to as One Federal Decision. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Presented by Jeremy Bluma, National Project Manager, Sec. 368 Energy Corridor Regional Review Project; Georgeann Smale, Bureau of Land Management; and Jim Kuiper, Principal Geospatial Engineer, Argonne National Laboratory [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. This report is available at no cost from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory at [www.nrel.gov/publications](http://www.nrel.gov/publications) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Presented by Ms. Stacey Crowley, Vice President of Regional and Federal Affairs, California Independent System Operator; Mr. Daniel Kline, Director of Transmission and Engineering Services, Black Hills Energy (Black Hills Energy participates in Mountain West Transmission Group); and Mr. Carl Monroe, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Southwest Power Pool [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. [Peak Funder Feedback Indicates Support for Wind Down](https://www.peakrc.com/whatwedo/Transitional/Lists/Annoucements/Attachments/5/2018_07_18%20Peak%20Stakeholder%20Bulletin%20final%20for%20posting.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. [Short-Term Energy Outlook](https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=37053) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/steo/data/browser/#/?v=18&f=A&s=0&start=2014&end=2019&linechart=CLPRPUS_TON~CLEPCON_TON&ctype=linechart&maptype=0&map>= [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Presented by Ms. Pilar Thomas, Esq. Of Counsel, Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP and U Poly Ira Fulton Schools of Engineering; Mr. Matt McKeown, Regional Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior; Mr. Monte Mills, Associate Professor of Law and Co-Director, Margery Hunter Brown Indian Law Clinic, Alexander Blewett III School of Law, University of Montana; and Mr. Dwight Deakin, Head, Sustainability Office, Naval Air Systems Command [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. See: [DOE has 63 rules in various stages.](https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaMain?operation=OPERATION_GET_AGENCY_RULE_LIST&currentPub=true&agencyCode=&showStage=active&agencyCd=1900) And [Administrator Pruitt Issues Memo to Increase Regulatory Certainty in Permitting Process](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-pruitt-issues-memo-increase-regulatory-certainty-permitting-process) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. [Energy Infrastructure Permitting Factors Affecting Timeliness and Efficiency GAO-18-693T Report](http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwOTA2Ljk0NTQ5MzUxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDkwNi45NDU0OTM1MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3Mzc0MTQ3JmVtYWlsaWQ9YW15cmR1ZmZ5QGljbG91ZC5jb20mdXNlcmlkPWFteXJkdWZmeUBpY2xvdWQuY29tJmZsPSZleHRyYT1NdWx0aXZhcmlhdGVJZD0mJiY=&&&113&&&https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-18-693T?utm_campaign=usgao_email&utm_content=daybook&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. San Clemente loggerhead shrike; San Clemente Bell's sparrow; San Clemente Island paintbrush; San Clemente Island larkspur; San Clemente Island lotus; San Clemente Island bush mallow [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/nongame/t\_e\_spp/bird.html [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5182002.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Presented by Ryan Orndorff, DoD’s Director of Natural Resource Conservation Programs [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. The presenters for this webinar were: Ms. Heather Bernier, Branch Chief, Planning & NEPA, BLM; Ms. Abbie Jossie, BLM Utah Deputy State Director for Natural Resources; Mr. John Rupe, Land Management Planning Specialist, Ecosystem Management Coordination, Washington Office, US Forest Service; Ms. Jody Holzworth, Deputy Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; and Ms. Martha Crusius, Program Chief, Park Planning & Environmental Compliance, National Park Service, Pacific West Region [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Presented by: Mr. Tony Willardson, Executive Director of the Western States Water Council; Ms. Marissa McInnis, Program Manager, Water Resources & Resilience, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Energy, Installations, and Environment); Mr. Kevin Werner, Science and Research Director, NOAA Fisheries, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA and WestFAST Chair; Ms. Melinda (Mindi) Dalton, Deputy Director, Office of Programming and Planning, U.S. Geological Survey, Water Mission Area; Mr. Roger Pierce, Meteorologist, NOAA/NWS Headquarters and WestFAST Federal Liaison [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Defense and National Aeronautics and Space Administration [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. This presentation was conducted by Colonel Brett Howard (USAF), Lieutenant Colonel Meeker (USMC), Lieutenant Colonel Marentette (USAF), Major Ledford (USMC) and Mr. Jim Hutto (USAF). [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Presented by Regional Emergency Communication Coordinators: Ms. Pat Sarin, FEMA Region VIII, Mr. David Benoit, FEMA Region IX and Mr. Archie Salters FEMA VI [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Presented by Mr. Emanuel (Manny) Cruz, Safety and Operations Branch Manager, Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration Office, Safety and Operations Branch, Federal Aviation Administration; Mr. Ben Husch, Senior Committee Director, Natural Resources and Infrastructure Committee, National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL); Ms. Sezen Jones, Counsel, AirMap and Colonel Jeff Holt, Deputy Commander, MCI-West Camp Pendleton [↑](#footnote-ref-20)