

2015-2016 WRP STEERING COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE PRIORITIES



As adopted by Principals at the
Seventh WRP Principals' Meeting
August 2015

WRP Executive Summary

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

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

WRP's Charter delineates the mission, goals, and responsibilities of the WRP collaborative process. The membership of the Steering Committee is composed of senior staff members representing WRP Principals; it coordinates with WRP Committee Co-Chairs. WRP Committees work to better improve regional and interagency cooperation among Federal agencies, Tribal leadership, States, and non-governmental organizations on critical Western regional issues. WRP Committees provide a forum for information exchange, issue identification, problem solving and recommendations across the WRP region. Committees are continually reviewed to maintain a resilient and dynamic organization. The focus of committee actions will be to move from knowledge gathering to collaborative action. Issues of common concern are addressed through the following Committees:

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

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

This document outlines the 2015-2016 Strategic Goals for the WRP Steering Committee, the three WRP Committees and the GIS Support Group. Each WRP Committee actively supports the WRP's Mission.

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WRP Region

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

Within the six-state region, there are:

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

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

WRP Steering Committee

The membership of the Steering Committee (SC) is composed of senior staff members representing their respective Principal organizations. Membership includes representatives of the Governors’ offices in the WRP States, the major federal Agencies within the WRP region, Native American tribes and the WGA. The SC ongoing responsibilities include:

- Staff their respective WRP Principals and conduct outreach internally within each WRP SC member organization
- Bring any relevant issues from their organization to WRP for awareness and potential action
- Conduct WRP outreach with an emphasis on:
 - Encouraging State, Federal and Tribal participation in WRP Committees
 - Enhancing working relationships with other entities to support leveraging of efforts and reducing redundancies
- Review WRP Committee actions and provide input to WRP Committee Chairs as appropriate

WRP: Reliable Outcomes for America's Defense, Energy, Environment and Infrastructure in the West
In 2015-2016, the WRP Steering Committee will:

- Work with WRP Committees and GIS Support Group to ensure each has a strategic plan for the year that aligns with available resources and does not overcommit WRP Partners or WRP contract support;
- Advance efforts for Eighth Principals' meeting; and
- Serve as a resource to ensure WRP effectiveness.

WRP: Regional Strengths, Areas of Commonality and Emerging Issues

In 2015-2016, the Steering Committee will work with the WRP Committees to identify WRP regional strengths, areas of commonality and potential emerging issues impacting WRP Partners' missions. This information will be summarized into a report with recommended actions for WRP Principals' consideration at their 2016 meeting. The report will include:

- Energy Committee: Highlight new energy generation and transmission planning efforts and projects in WRP region and potential impacts on WRP Partners' missions
- MRHSDP&A Committee: Highlight DoD mission in the WRP region and identify issues impacting the mission, as well as any changes to airspace use in the WRP region that may impact WRP Partners
- Natural Resources Committee: Identify the associated range and distribution for high priority species at risk within WRP Region and concerns about the region's water sustainability
- GIS Support Group: Provide the necessary GIS analysis, mapping and data support for this effort

This report will help highlight the interdependencies on issues, for example, what is the water nexus with energy, DoD and species at risk at the same time supporting WRP Partners' (State, Federal and Tribal entities') missions.

Each of the Committees will focus on areas within their expertise to ensure their input is consolidated in the WRP: Regional Strengths, Areas of Commonality and Emerging Issues Report. Additional and supporting WRP Committee efforts are detailed below.

WRP Energy Committee

The WRP Energy Committee will:

- Continue to share information on new renewable energy projects and transmission lines and highlight State, Federal and Tribal energy planning efforts and resources in the WRP Region; and
- Enhance WRP Partner awareness of new energy generation and transmission planning processes and opportunities for engagement to address/mitigate mission impacts, especially those impacts on the military's ability to test and train, natural and cultural resources, and Tribal lands.

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

The MRHSDP&A Committee will:

- Support military readiness by providing information on the DoD mission in the WRP region and serving as a forum to address compatible land uses in the vicinity of military operations;
- Provide a forum for collaboration and information sharing on members' respective homeland security/disaster preparedness missions to foster awareness of the interdependence among Partners; and
- Serve as a forum for aviation users by sharing information on changes to airspace use within the WRP region, including integration of UAS into the National Airspace System and highlighting potential impacts.

WRP Natural Resources Committee

The WRP Natural Resources Committee will:

- Identify the associated range and distribution for high priority species at risk within WRP Region; facilitate landscape level efforts to accommodate the requirements of the candidate species to preclude the requirement for their listing; and develop necessary data so that land-use planners may avoid or minimize the threats and impacts associated with development;
- Serve as a resource to the Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape Committee and assist the WRP Mojave project and other appropriate areas in the WRP Region in obtaining Sentinel Landscape designation; and
- Assist WRP Partners in engaging in ongoing dialogue on Western water sustainability.

WRP GIS Support Group

The WRP GIS Support Group, with contractor support, will:

- Provide GIS analysis, mapping, and data support to the Committees and develop support tools to assist in collaboration and planning initiatives within the WRP region;
- Integrate appropriate Tribal, Federal, State, and other available data sources into the WRP Web Mapping Application (WMA) for use in regional planning by WRP Partners; and
- Include one lead person to act as a liaison to each WRP Committee by:
 - Identifying opportunities for using GIS to advance the WRP Committees' efforts and encouraging use of WRP GIS-Related tools such as the Regional Project Database (RPD), WMA and Land Use Planning Tool; and
 - Working with the WRP Steering Committee to prioritize GIS support requests in consideration of available resources.