

Western States Watershed Study

Study Summary and Major Accomplishments



Collaborative Assessments and Demonstration/Pilot Studies that Address Regional Priorities:

- Basic Water Data Collection
- Drought, Nat'l. Hazards, Climate Change
- Tools and Collaborative Planning
- Federal Resources and Collaboration
- Federal Infrastructure Needs
- Policy/Programs

Our Partners and Stakeholder Involvement



Partnership with WSWC will provide long-term opportunities for outreach, information sharing (authorities, processes, infrastructure needs, etc) and stakeholder involvement on a regional scale.

Shared Vision Partnership Agreement for, the WESTERN STATES WATERSHED STUDY

Purpose:

To promote and facilitate a long term working and collaborative relationship between participants at the State, Federal, and local levels to develop the Western States Watershed Study.

Parties:

This is an understanding among the Western States Water Council (WSWC) and affiliated 17 Western States, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Northwestern Division, South Pacific Division, Southwestern Division). The above entities are collectively known as the Parties.

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We pledge to work together as a Watershed Study Team and meet in partnering sessions as needed. We also commit to developing a subsequent collaborative action plan with specific initiatives and measurable milestones to be reviewed on an annual basis.

It is understood that this agreement supports the parties' cooperation for a comprehensive analysis examining multi-jurisdictional use and management of water resources on a watershed or regional scale. This is not a funding obligating or fiscal document. Any exchange of funds or other tangible resources in furthering the purposes of the partnering agreement will require execution of a separate written agreement in accordance with applicable law. Nothing in this agreement will be construed as affecting the authorities of the participants to act as provided by statute or regulation or as binding beyond their respective authorities or to require the participants to obligate or expend funds in excess of available appropriations.

Effective Date:

This agreement may be reviewed periodically to renew the Parties' commitment and to consider changes that might be needed. Amendments will be made in the spirit of cooperation and partnership by agreement of the signatories. It will remain effective until the Parties agree to terminate it by consensus.


Donnie Smith
Chairman, Western States Water Council

10/5/06
Date




Major General, US Army
Director of Civil Works

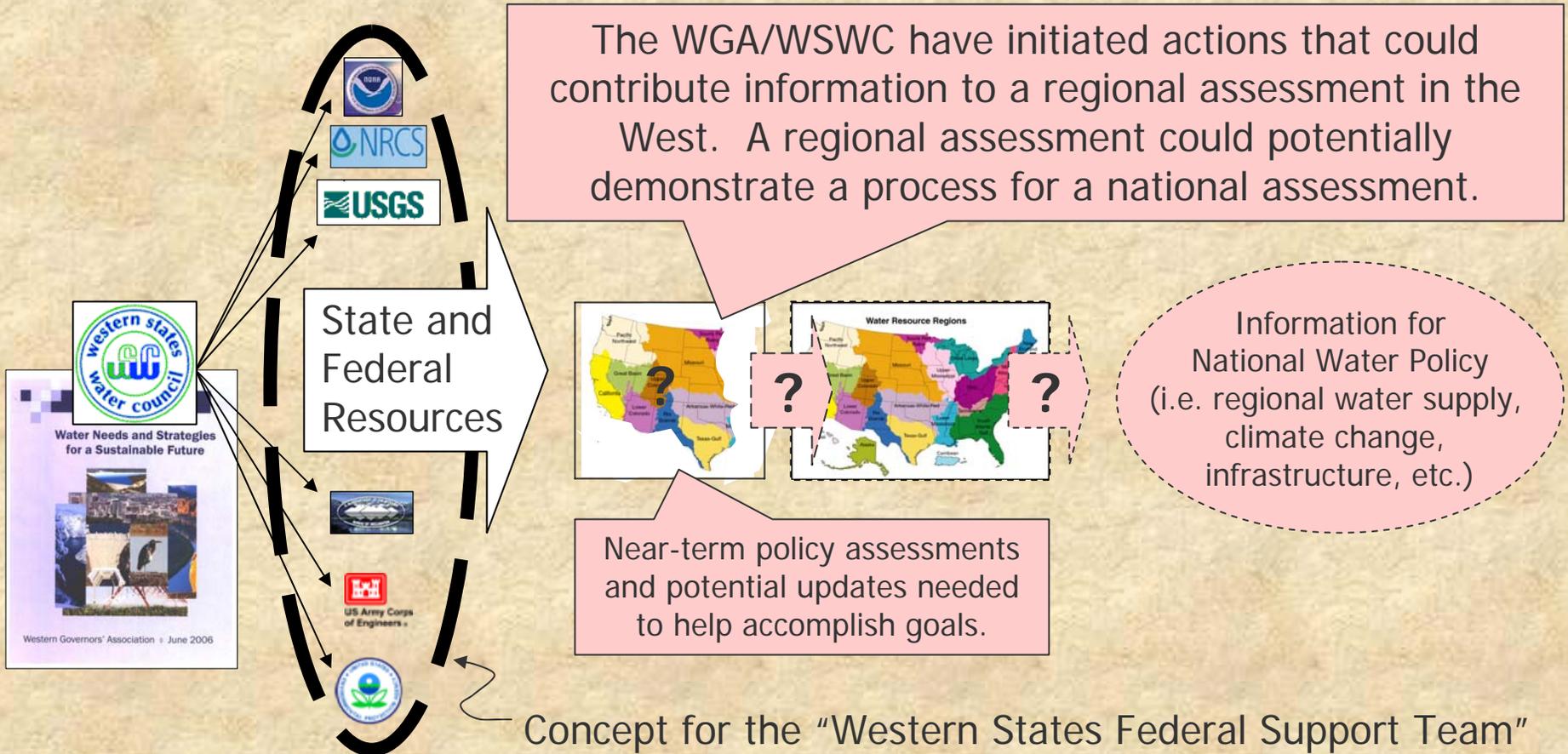
Date 1/20/06





Policy Issues

Issue: The AWRA and others have expressed the necessity for a national assessment of water resources needs and policy





Lessons Learned from the Western States Watershed Study

- The Shared Vision Partnership Agreement with the WSWC was essential to help establish study priorities and focus efforts.
- Meaningful collaboration is a challenge and takes considerable time to establish but, when accomplished, is proving effective. The WSWC is a valuable partner to help encourage collaboration between federal agencies and provides opportunities for outreach on a regional scale.
- Based on lessons learned from a small pilot scale activity, initial collaboration with multiple Tribes on regional topics, such as drought/climate change, is very challenging but can be accomplished through venues such as National Tribal Environmental Council Conferences.
- Utilizing resources from IWR, ERDC, MSC's, HQ, and on-going activities have significantly benefited our customers and helped leverage study funds.
- Regional Watershed Studies provide excellent learning experiences for Corps planners. Watershed study teams need to be adaptive and, as required, prepared for team member retirements and job changes.