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January 14, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
H-232 U.S. Capitol  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
H-204 U.S. Capitol  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

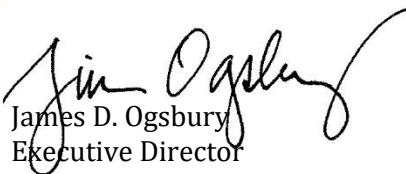
Congratulations on your selection to the positions of Speaker and Minority Leader. Western Governors request that you consider the Governors' priorities for legislative action – in the attachment to this letter – as you formulate your parties' agendas for the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The bipartisan priorities outlined in the attachment reflect policies developed through the Western Governors' Association (WGA). WGA is an instrument of the Governors of the 19 western states and 3 Pacific territories for advocacy, information-sharing, and policy development on issues of critical importance to the West. The Governors encourage you to consider WGA staff and individual Governors' offices as resources on these issues.

These priorities include improvements to the state-federal relationship generally, such as: recognizing states' sovereign status and authority in legislation; clarifying that federal agencies are required to consult with states on issues that affect states; and eliminating perceived barriers to state-federal communication. They also include priorities on specific issues, such as: invasive species, wildfire, infrastructure, environmental review and permitting, energy, cybersecurity, species conservation, and the regulation of water quality and management of water resources. Western Governors stand ready to assist you in furthering these and the other issues of critical importance to our region in the attachment.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions. Western Governors look forward to working with you to better serve your shared constituents.

Sincerely,



James D. Ogsbury  
Executive Director



## Fiscal Year 2020 Congressional Priorities

This document outlines Western Governors' priorities for congressional action through the FY2020 appropriations process and 2019 calendar year. It is comprised of positions adopted by Western Governors in their policy resolutions, recommendations adopted through the WGA initiative process, and other positions adopted by the Governors.

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<b>State-Federal Relationship</b>		
<p><b>States are Sovereigns</b></p> <p>Recognize states' sovereign status and authority in legislation.</p> <p>Ensure that states are not treated as equivalent to stakeholders, interested parties, public or private organizations, industry, or the public in legislation or by federal agencies. Rather, states should be treated as sovereign entities and engaged in a government-to-government manner.</p> <p>Amend the House of Representatives Office of Legislative Counsel <a href="#">Guide</a> to Legislative Drafting to add a fourth important convention in Section VII to distinguish states from stakeholders.</p> <p>Amend Clause 7 of Rule XII the Rules of the House of Representatives for the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress (and <a href="#">Protocol 8</a>, Constitutional Authority Statements), to read: "(c) A bill or joint resolution may not be introduced unless the sponsor has submitted for printing in the Congressional Record a statement citing as specifically as practicable the power or powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the bill or joint resolution <i>and an explanation why the bill or joint resolution does not infringe on the rights reserved to the states by the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment.</i>"</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-01, Building a Stronger State-Federal Relationship</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Legislative Recommendations to Improve the State-Federal Relationship</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Recommendations to Promote State Authority</a></p>	<p>House Judiciary House Oversight and Government Reform Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Senate Judiciary House and Senate Leadership</p>
<p><b>Preemption</b></p> <p>Avoid preemption of state authority in legislation.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-01, Building a Stronger State-Federal Relationship</a></p>	<p>House Judiciary House Oversight and Government Reform Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>Ensure legislation grants states the maximum administrative discretion possible and does not create undue burdens on state resources.</p> <p>Explicitly state that preemption is disfavored and require agencies to specify where preemption is warranted. In such cases, agencies must provide affected states notice and an opportunity to participate in proceedings at which the agency must demonstrate the preemption of state authority is needed to accomplish a national purpose.</p>	<p><a href="#">Letter: Legislative Recommendations to Improve the State-Federal Relationship</a></p>	<p>Senate Judiciary House and Senate Leadership</p>
<p><b>Consultation</b></p> <p>Seek opportunities for more meaningful consultation through: agency-specific processes, Executive Branch cross-cutting regulatory efforts, administrative reorganization, and Congressional regulatory reform.</p> <p>Require federal agencies to consult with states on agency reorganization and regulatory reform.</p> <p>Consult with states on a regular basis: as a predicate to federal action; through the pre-publication stage of rulemaking; after publication and before adoption of rules and regulations; and on an ongoing basis throughout implementation.</p> <p>Clarify definitions in key enabling statutes to better define state-federal consultation. Define "consultation" to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include early, meaningful, substantive, ongoing, government-to-government communication and exchange with states through Governors or their designees.</li> <li>• Require procedures separate from and beyond the stakeholder or public process.</li> </ul> <p>Clarify that notice and comment rulemaking procedures do not satisfy agencies' requirements to consult with states where required by law.</p> <p>Require all federal departments and agencies, including independent regulatory agencies, to codify in regulation a clear, consistent, and accountable process for state consultation on policies with federalism implications. Such processes should include a remedy for states where agencies fail to do so.</p> <p>These regulations should also require:</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-01, Building a Stronger State-Federal Relationship</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Legislative Recommendations to Improve the State-Federal Relationship</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Lack of Consultation on DOI Proposed Regional Office Boundaries</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: State Consultation on USDA Regulatory Reform</a></p>	<p>House Judiciary House Oversight and Government Reform Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Senate Judiciary House and Senate Leadership</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal agencies to provide written notification to and an invitation to consult with Governors of all potentially-affected states (or their designees) of policies with federalism implications within the area affected by the proposed federal action.</li> <li>Federal agencies to provide procedures for written response to Governors' or their designees' input prior to a final federal decision.</li> <li>Federal agency decision-makers to hold regular, ongoing consultation meetings with Governors or their designees regarding policies with federalism implications.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Rulemaking</b></p> <p>Prior to promulgation of a rule with federalism implications, require federal agencies to: ensure that new funds sufficient to pay the direct costs incurred by the state in complying with the regulation are provided by the federal government; and provide OMB with a description of the extent of agency's consultation with states, a summary of their input, the agency's response to that input, and any written communications submitted by states.</p> <p>Provide an opportunity for Governors or their designees to review agencies' regulatory agendas.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-01, Building a Stronger State-Federal Relationship</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Legislative Recommendations to Improve the State-Federal Relationship</a></p>	<p>House Judiciary House Oversight and Government Reform Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Senate Judiciary House and Senate Leadership</p>
<p><b>Non-legislative Rulemaking/Guidance</b></p> <p>Require agencies to consult with affected states prior to issuing guidance documents with federalism implications – including memoranda, directives, notices, bulletins, manuals, handbooks, opinions, and letters.</p> <p>Require agencies to develop a transparent and accountable process for determining whether a proposed agency action requires notice-and-comment rulemaking procedures prescribed under Section 553 of the Administrative Procedures Act.</p> <p>Require agencies to publish all existing guidance documents at a single location on their agency's website and publish new and rescissions of guidance documents at the same location on the date they are issued.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-01, Building a Stronger State-Federal Relationship</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Legislative Recommendations to Improve the State-Federal Relationship</a></p>	<p>House Judiciary House Oversight and Government Reform Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Senate Judiciary House and Senate Leadership</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p><b>Consistency and Avoidance of Conflicts</b></p> <p>Require federal agencies to: make all reasonable efforts to achieve consistency and avoid conflicts between federal and state objectives, plans, policies, and programs; and address and resolve all issues and concerns raised by states, unless precluded by federal law.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-01, Building a Stronger State-Federal Relationship</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Legislative Recommendations to Improve the State-Federal Relationship</a></p>	<p>House Judiciary House Oversight and Government Reform Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Senate Judiciary House and Senate Leadership</p>
<p><b>State Data</b></p> <p>Require agencies to incorporate state and local data and expertise, subject to existing state requirements for data protection and transparency, into their decisions. This data should include scientific, technical, economic, social, and other information on the issue the agency is trying to address.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-01, Building a Stronger State-Federal Relationship</a></p> <p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-08, State Wildlife Science, Data and Analysis</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Legislative Recommendations to Improve the State-Federal Relationship</a></p>	<p>House Judiciary House Oversight and Government Reform Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Senate Judiciary House and Senate Leadership</p>
<p><b>Settlement Negotiations</b></p> <p>In settlement negotiations impacting policies with federalism implications, require federal agencies to provide notice of the action to affected states, consult with affected states on any negotiations, and seek state concurrence regarding the settlement.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-01, Building a Stronger State-Federal Relationship</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Legislative Recommendations to Improve the State-Federal Relationship</a></p>	<p>House Judiciary House Oversight and Government Reform Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Senate Judiciary House and Senate Leadership</p>
<p><b>Congressional Oversight</b></p> <p>Establish a Federalism Office within the White House or reestablish the U.S. Advisory Committee on Intergovernmental Relations to ensure federal agencies meet their federalism obligations.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-01, Building a Stronger State-Federal Relationship</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Legislative Recommendations to Improve the State-Federal Relationship</a></p>	<p>House Judiciary House Oversight and Government Reform Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Senate Judiciary</p>

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Request a report on existing federalism requirements and/or require regular and ongoing reporting on federalism requirements.		House and Senate Leadership
<p><b>Perceived Barriers to the State-Federal Relationship</b></p> <p>Require agencies to revise or establish their <i>ex parte</i> rules or policies in accordance with current case law, which permits these communications in informal rulemaking proceedings; and/or exempt communications with states and state officials from the definition of <i>ex parte</i> communications.</p> <p>Exempt all meetings held exclusively between federal personnel and non-federal elected officials (or their designees) acting in their official capacities or in areas of shared intergovernmental responsibilities or administration from FACA.</p> <p>Create statutory exceptions to FOIA disclosure for state data and analysis in instances where publication of state data provided to federal agencies would be violation of existing state statutes.</p> <p>Investigate and develop solutions for other barriers to state-federal communication presented by FOIA.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-01, Building a Stronger State-Federal Relationship</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Legislative Recommendations to Improve the State-Federal Relationship</a></p>	House Judiciary House Oversight and Government Reform Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Senate Judiciary House and Senate Leadership
<p><b>Unfunded Mandates Reform Act</b></p> <p>Eliminate the \$100 million threshold for the application of the UMRA to federal intergovernmental mandates.</p> <p>Require agencies to incorporate state government input and data, including social and economic data, in their qualitative and quantitative assessment of anticipated costs and benefits of qualifying rules under the UMRA.</p> <p>Strengthen the consultation requirements for federal intergovernmental mandates. Authorize a court to compel substantive, meaningful consultation with elected officers of state governments if an agency fails to develop or implement the effective process under the UMRA.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-01, Building a Stronger State-Federal Relationship</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Legislative Recommendations to Improve the State-Federal Relationship</a></p>	House Judiciary House Oversight and Government Reform Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Senate Judiciary House and Senate Leadership
<b>Biosecurity and Invasive Species</b>		

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p><b>Wild Horses and Burros</b></p> <p>Request that the Committee include the following language in its report on Interior Appropriations:</p> <p>“The Committee continues to believe that the horse and burro management program in its current state is unsustainable and the Committee cannot afford to allow this situation to persist. The Committee believes that a process to establish, monitor and adjust Appropriate Management Levels (AMLs) for wild horses and burros that is transparent to stakeholders, supported by scientific information (including state data), and amenable to adaptation with new information and environmental and social change is integral to addressing both the long-term viability of wild horse and burro populations, and near-term concerns about the rangeland impacts of overpopulation. Accordingly, the Committee directs the Department to adjust its AML approach to be transparent, based on sound science and adaptable.</p> <p>“The Committee supports continued research to develop and refine a variety of fertility-control methods, including immunocontraceptives, which allow for self-sustaining populations of wild horses and burros while maintaining the genetic viability of the protected herds. The Committee recognizes that the Department has invested in such research but has been slow to employ on-the-ground use of methods supported by this effort. The Committee directs the Department to expedite its implementation of scientifically sound and humanely implemented fertility control methods for wild horses and burros.”</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-01, Wild Horse and Burro Management</a></p> <p>Appropriations Requests Testimony FY <a href="#">2019</a></p>	<p>House Appropriations Senate Appropriations</p>
<p><b>Quagga and Zebra Mussels</b></p> <p>Direct DOI to implement mandatory inspection and decontamination of all high-risk watercraft leaving waterbodies under their jurisdiction infested with quagga and zebra mussels and provide DOI agencies with both the resources and statutory authority required to implement these actions.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2016-05, Combating Invasive Species</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Western Governors Request Clarification on DOI Collaboration with States on Invasive Mussel Prevention</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Western Governors Request Collaboration with DOI on Invasive Mussels</a></p>	<p>House Appropriations House Natural Resources Senate Appropriations Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
	Appropriations Requests Testimony FY <a href="#">2019</a>	
<p><b>Invasive Species</b></p> <p>Ensure a more focused and streamlined federal approach to invasive species.</p> <p>Promote greater coordination, collaboration, and communication with states and Pacific islands.</p> <p>Provide greater transparency of invasive species data and management decisions.</p> <p>Strengthen the national network of native and non-native seed reserve and storage facilities for rehabilitation and restoration.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2016-05, Combating Invasive Species</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Western Governors Request Clarification on DOI Collaboration with States on Invasive Mussel Prevention</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Western Governors Request Collaboration with DOI on Invasive Mussels</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Recommendations for State Experts for Invasive Species Advisory Council</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Governors' Concern Regarding Invasive Species Management</a></p> <p><a href="#">Testimony: Oversight Hearing on Invasive Species</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Governors' Comments on the 2015-2020 National Seed Strategy for Rehabilitation and Restoration</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Secretarial Order 3336: Rangeland Fire Prevention, Management, and Restoration</a></p>	<p>House Agriculture            House Natural Resources            Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry            Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>



Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<b>Cybersecurity and Physical Security</b>		
<p><b>Energy Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Secure the United States' energy supply and systems, and safeguard against risks to cybersecurity and physical security.</p> <p>Work with the Department of Defense to meet its national security mission by ensuring safe and secure onsite and off-site electricity generation for key defense installations.</p> <p>Continue to reduce reliance on non-North American oil imports from unstable foreign sources through individualized state-by-state solutions, such as increasing North American production, improving fuel efficiency, and developing renewable and alternative fuels.</p> <p>Ensure there is sufficient domestic energy supply, including domestic renewable electric generation, to meet existing and new market demand.</p> <p>Identify security and other vulnerabilities of energy infrastructure and create programs and standards to defend infrastructure from cyber and physical attacks, as well as natural disasters.</p> <p>Encourage effective relationships between state agencies, federal agencies, public utilities, and the private sector to prevent and prepare for risks to the region's energy supply and systems, as well as to respond to and recover from disruptions.</p> <p>Partner with the federal government to ensure the provision of adequate funding and access to resources for state emergency planning, response, and recovery.</p> <p>Expand, upgrade, and secure transmission and pipeline infrastructure, as well as ensure that all federal pipeline safety measures are efficiently implemented.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-04, Energy in the West</a></p> <p><a href="#">Energy Vision for the West</a></p>	<p>House Energy and Commerce</p> <p>Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>
<p><b>Coordination and Consultation</b></p> <p>Improve coordination of congressional oversight and legislative activity on cybersecurity.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2019-02, Cybersecurity</a></p>	<p>House Energy and Commerce</p> <p>Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>Clarify the roles and responsibilities of federal agencies in preventing, preparing for, and responding to cyberattacks, including by providing centralized authority, points of contact, and formalized communication pathways at each level within government and other organizations.</p> <p>Establish a working group with representatives from states and federal agencies to harmonize disparate agency regulations.</p> <p>Continue and support the DHS State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Engagement Program and DHS's Office of Cybersecurity and Communications.</p>		
<p><b>Information-Sharing</b></p> <p>Create and continue policies that incentivize the private sector to improve cybersecurity and share information regarding cyber threats as early as possible, including policies to improve access to information or create common standards for information-sharing.</p> <p>Emphasize the benefits of information-sharing, while alleviating private sector concerns with this essential communication.</p> <p>Investigate liability protections, such as safe harbor provisions, for entities that report cyber intrusions.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2019-02, Cybersecurity</a></p>	<p>House Energy and Commerce Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>
<p><b>Election Security</b></p> <p>Provide adequate funding for states to meet election security needs.</p> <p>Work cooperatively with states in developing election security legislation and mandates, and to fully fund implementation.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2019-02, Cybersecurity</a></p>	<p>House Energy and Commerce Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>
<p><b>Training and Workforce Development</b></p> <p>Increase the cybersecurity awareness of government and private employees through training and education.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2019-02, Cybersecurity</a></p>	<p>House Energy and Commerce Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>Provide, long-term authorization and sufficient appropriations for high-quality cybersecurity education and workforce development programs to grow and sustain the cybersecurity workforce.</p> <p>Expand the CyberCorp: Scholarship for Service program and continue to support educational initiatives, such as NIST's Initiative for Cybersecurity Education and National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense.</p>		
<p><b>Prevention and Deterrence</b></p> <p>Encourage the use the full range of economic tools, including travel and financial sanctions, to deter cyberattacks organized or supported by nation-states.</p> <p>Take steps to mitigate global supply chain risks (e.g. installation of malicious software or hardware).</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2019-02, Cybersecurity</a></p>	<p>House Energy and Commerce Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>
<p><b>Cybersecurity Research</b></p> <p>Provide funding and technical assistance for cybersecurity research and development, such as research to understand the use of blockchain and encryption by perpetrators and its utility for defense against cyber threats, and address vulnerabilities of other emerging technologies, including connected vehicles and Internet of Things devices.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2019-02, Cybersecurity</a></p>	<p>House Energy and Commerce Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>
<p><b>Disaster Response</b></p>		
<p><b>Federal Funding for Disaster Recovery</b></p> <p>Request adequate funding for federal disaster recovery and assistance programs.</p> <p>Identify barriers to the effective and efficient allocation of federal funds for post-wildfire restoration efforts.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-03, Federal Disaster Recovery Assistance for Communities in the West</a></p>	<p>House Appropriations Senate Appropriations</p>
<p><b>USDA NRCS Emergency Watershed Program</b></p> <p>Request adequate funding for USDA NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-03, Federal Disaster Recovery Assistance for Communities in the West</a></p>	<p>House Appropriations Senate Appropriations</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p><b>Federal Emergency Management Agency State Cooperation</b></p> <p>Work directly with individual states and territories to jointly identify their individual and common disaster risks and needs, and the best methods to determine the necessity and provision of federal disaster assistance.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-03, Federal Disaster Recovery Assistance for Communities in the West</a></p> <p><a href="#">Comments: Factors Considered When Evaluating a Governor's Request for Individual Assistance for a Major Disaster</a></p>	<p>House Homeland Security Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs</p>
<p><b>Reevaluate Processes Used to Evaluate Need for Access to Disaster Aid Programs</b></p> <p>Require federal agencies to reexamine the standards used to provide Individual Assistance to homeowners and access to federal natural disaster aid.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-03, Federal Disaster Recovery Assistance for Communities in the West</a></p> <p><a href="#">Comments: Factors Considered When Evaluating a Governor's Request for Individual Assistance for a Major Disaster</a></p>	<p>House Homeland Security Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs</p>
<p><b>Fire Management Assistance Grant</b></p> <p>Congress should continue the Fire Management Assistance Grant pilot program.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-03, Federal Disaster Recovery Assistance for Communities in the West</a></p>	<p>House Homeland Security Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs</p>
<p><b>Energy</b></p>		
<p><b>Hydropower Licensing</b></p> <p>Do not replace or impede existing state hydropower licensing authorities.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-04, Energy in the West</a></p> <p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-01, Building a Stronger State-Federal Relationship</a></p> <p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-04, Water Quality in the West</a></p>	<p>House Energy and Commerce Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
	<a href="#">Letter (2017): Hydropower Facility Licensing Authorities</a>  <a href="#">Letter (2016): Hydropower Facility Licensing Authorities</a>  <a href="#">Letter: Supporting Small Hydropower Legislation</a>  <a href="#">Comments: Feasibility of Two-Year Licensing Process for Small Hydropower Projects</a>	
<p><b>Transmission Siting</b></p> <p>Advance efficient environmental review, siting, and permitting processes that facilitate energy development and the improvement and construction of necessary electric grid (transmission and distribution) and pipeline infrastructure, while ensuring environmental and natural resource protection.</p> <p>Encourage responsible leasing and development of energy resources and infrastructure.</p> <p>Create a clear and transparent process for regulation and permitting, coordinated among well-trained and adequately funded federal, state and local agencies.</p> <p>Streamline project-permitting reviews to minimize timelines, without compromising environmental and natural resource protection or states' roles in those processes. Maintain state and local decision-making authority over transmission line siting and permitting.</p> <p>Encourage regional transmission planning organizations to conduct interconnection-wide planning with the full participation of the states and with consideration of state energy policies.</p>	<a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-04, Energy in the West</a>  <a href="#">Energy Vision for the West</a>  <a href="#">Letter: Western Governors Recommend Improvements to BLM, USFS on Western Corridor Review Process</a>  <a href="#">Letter: State Consultation on DOE 2019 Congestion Study</a>	<p>House Energy and Commerce Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>Create functional partnerships among states, federal agencies, tribal governments and local jurisdictions to solve conflicts that hinder energy infrastructure and resource development.</p> <p>Increase cooperation on interstate projects through interstate compacts and other tools.</p> <p>In the West-wide energy corridor process, ask federal agencies to guarantee: ongoing, substantive, and meaningful state consultation; consideration of state plans, processes, priorities, and policies; and integration of other streamlining efforts.</p> <p>Ensure DOE consults with states on the 2019 Congestion Study pursuant to the Federal Power Act.</p>		
<p><b>Balanced Portfolio</b></p> <p>Ensure energy is clean, affordable, and reliable by providing a balanced portfolio of renewable, non-traditional, and traditional resources.</p> <p>Recognize the importance of western renewable (wind, solar, biomass, biofuels, geothermal, hydropower), nuclear, coal and natural gas resources, and the generation facilities that utilize those resources.</p> <p>Adapt utility regulation to changing markets, technologies, and resources.</p> <p>Encourage the addition of renewable, low-carbon, and clean generation, including utility scale and distributed generation.</p> <p>Maintain the Rural Energy for America (REAP) program, which has benefited farmers, ranchers and rural businesses that are often underserved by other federal energy efforts.</p> <p>Ensure competition in the market for all resources.</p> <p>Recognize the growing importance of consumer choice in driving energy policy and support consumer choice of distributed energy resources to achieve affordability, environmental, and other objectives.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-04, Energy in the West</a></p> <p><a href="#">Energy Vision for the West</a></p>	<p>House Energy and Commerce</p> <p>Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>Increase the amount of electricity generated from new, retrofitted, or relicensed hydroelectric facilities, including small, irrigation, and flood control hydropower projects.</p> <p>Restore financing for the geothermal exploration program financed by the Department of Energy.</p> <p>Accelerate the introduction of small modular reactors into the marketplace.</p>		
<p><b>Responsible Energy Development</b></p> <p>Reduce costs and risks for the environmentally sound development of all energy resources.</p> <p>Protect western wildlife, natural resources, and the environment, including clean air and clean water, and strive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Continue advancing air and water quality improvements and plans in each state and across state lines.</p> <p>Foster environmental cooperation that: protects the state-federal partnership; provides for sustainable environmental protection; is nimble and flexible; and ensures that state governments play a key role in regulation.</p> <p>Acknowledge that a productive economy and responsible development can support environmental protection by providing additional funding and opportunities for public-private partnership.</p> <p>Encourage technologies that reduce water consumption, prioritize water consumption for traditional activities (drinking water, agriculture, habitat conservation/restoration), and contribute to the responsible development of new energy resources.</p> <p>Achieve a balance between the responsible development of energy projects and wildlife conservation.</p> <p>Urge the federal government to identify and approve solutions for the long-term storage and permanent disposal of spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-04, Energy in the West</a></p> <p><a href="#">Energy Vision for the West</a></p>	<p>House Energy and Commerce</p> <p>House Natural Resources</p> <p>Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p><b>Energy Efficiency</b></p> <p>Increase energy efficiency associated with electricity, natural gas, and other energy sources and uses to enhance energy affordability and to effectively meet environmental goals.</p> <p>Prioritize energy efficiency associated with electricity, natural gas, and vehicle transportation.</p> <p>Enhance utility rate designs, including time-varying rates, and cost-effective utility energy efficiency programs that deliver electricity and natural gas savings to consumers.</p> <p>Support energy efficiency programs that provide incentives and rebates to lower the incremental up-front costs of energy efficiency technologies; Energy Service Company (ESCO) programs; and where successful, utility ratepayer-funded energy efficiency programs, including the use of rate decoupling.</p> <p>Encourage the retrofit of residential and commercial buildings and improve the energy efficiency of new buildings, such as through building energy codes and programs that stimulate energy efficient construction.</p> <p>Decrease energy intensity using tools such as combined heat and power and waste heat to power systems.</p> <p>Incorporate systems strategies to improve efficiency throughout the building lifecycle and to improve grid connectivity, including energy systems that enable two-way, automated utility-to-customer communications to facilitate demand response programs.</p> <p>Maintain funding and support long-term authorization for the State Energy Program (SEP), Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-04, Energy in the West</a></p> <p><a href="#">Energy Vision for the West</a></p>	<p>House Energy and Commerce</p> <p>House Science, Space, and Technology</p> <p>Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation</p> <p>Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>
<p><b>Electric Grid Reliability and Resiliency</b></p> <p>Improve the nation's electric grid's reliability and resiliency.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-04, Energy in the West</a></p> <p><a href="#">Energy Vision for the West</a></p>	<p>House Energy and Commerce</p> <p>Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>



Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>Protect state authority to determine the type and amount of new generation facilities and the programs used to procure new generation, recognizing that each state has their own priorities and portfolios.</p> <p>Protect state authority to encourage continued operation of existing generation facilities through long-term contracts, retail utility contracting, or other incentives.</p> <p>Encourage regional reliability organizations, utilities, state agencies and public utility commissions to assess the provision of essential reliability services under future scenarios that include a changing resource mix in the West.</p> <p>Support grid operator situational awareness of distributed energy resources by promoting coordination between utilities and distributed energy resource developers.</p> <p>Preserve areas of exclusive state authority regarding distributed energy resources, including storage, and improve utility distribution systems planning for distributed energy resources to enhance grid reliability and resilience.</p> <p>Improve understanding of grid resources and services and the need for new power production facilities and transmission/distribution infrastructure through data, analysis, and coordination.</p> <p>Prepare for potential disruptions to the grid from wildfires, flooding, earthquakes, tornadoes, cyberattacks and other disturbances and emergencies, as well as increase the grid's ability to withstand and reduce the magnitude of such events.</p> <p>Enable utilities to take necessary actions to enhance grid reliability and reduce the threat of wildfires to and from electric transmission and distribution rights-of-way.</p>		
<p><b>Energy Innovation</b></p> <p>Make the West a leader in energy education, technology development, research, and innovation.</p> <p>Increase the development and use of alternative transportation fuels and vehicles, including the necessary infrastructure for those vehicles.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-04, Energy in the West</a></p> <p><a href="#">Energy Vision for the West</a></p>	<p>House Energy and Commerce</p> <p>House Natural Resources</p> <p>House Science, Space, and Technology</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>Encourage innovation and application of energy storage, including pumped hydro storage, battery storage, and compressed air energy storage where cost-effective.</p> <p>Promote, advance and fund the evolution of new technologies, including carbon capture and advancements in renewable energy.</p> <p>Leverage the vast expertise in the West's industry, academic institutions, and national laboratories to make the region an international hub for new energy technology research and development, as well as energy education.</p> <p>Fund research, development, demonstration, and deployment of advanced energy technologies.</p> <p>Create public-private research and development partnerships among industry, academia, the national labs, and federal agencies to identify promising new technologies, including energy efficiency technologies that advance clean energy with reduced environmental impacts.</p> <p>Encourage market operators, reliability organizations, and utilities to appropriately share electric system operational data with researchers, educators, and entrepreneurs to promote electric system innovation and technology development, while still safeguarding against risks to cybersecurity and physical security.</p> <p>Encourage training and education in energy-related fields and ensure there is an adequate workforce operating under the highest safety standards.</p> <p>Facilitate the creation of employment opportunities for displaced energy sector workers.</p>		<p>Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation</p> <p>Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>
<p><b>State Authority / Energy Development</b></p> <p>Direct DOI, EPA and other federal agencies to work collaboratively with states when considering regulations that would affect development of oil, natural gas, coal, solar, wind, geothermal or other energy resources on federal land or Indian land. When a state is meeting the minimum requirements of a delegated program, the role of federal agencies should be limited to the provision of funding, technical assistance and research</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-01, Building a Stronger State-Federal Relationship</a></p> <p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-04, Energy in the West</a></p>	<p>House Energy and Commerce</p> <p>House Natural Resources</p> <p>Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p> <p>Senate Environment and Public Works</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>support. States should be free to develop implementation and enforcement approaches that make sense within their jurisdictions, without intervention by the federal government.</p>		
<p><b>Financial Assurance Regulation</b></p> <p>Direct EPA to work collaboratively and substantively with states to determine the necessity of financial assurance regulations for the coal and petroleum products manufacturing, chemical manufacturing, and electricity generation, transmission and distribution industries.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-06, Financial Assurance Regulation</a></p>	<p>House Energy and Commerce Senate Environment and Public Works</p>
<p><b>Carbon Capture, Sequestration, and Utilization</b></p> <p>Increase the awareness of the many benefits of CO2 EOR.</p> <p>Enact federal incentives to increase CO2 supply available for the oil industry to purchase and use in EOR.</p> <p>Federal policies aimed to limit CO2 emissions should: (1) promote, and not impede, development and deployment of CO2 capture and commoditization; and (2) allow states to create programs tailored to individual state needs, industries and economies.</p> <p>Abide by EPA regulations promulgated to ensure the permanent storage of CO2 in different geologic formations.</p> <p>Proactively identify and evaluate opportunities for pipeline corridors to transport industrial and power plant CO2 for beneficial use and permanent storage.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-07, Enhanced Oil Recovery</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Support for the USE IT Act</a></p>	<p>House Energy and Commerce House Science, Space, and Technology Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Senate Environment and Public Works</p>
<p><b>Environment</b></p>		
<p><b>State Authority</b></p> <p>Clarify key enabling statutes such as Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, RCRA, and CERCLA to better define delegated authority of states.</p> <p>Require the use of state science as a predicate for rulemaking decisions.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-01, Building a Stronger State-Federal Relationship</a></p> <p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-04, Water Quality in the West</a></p>	<p>House Energy and Commerce Senate Environment and Public Works</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>Redundant federal regulation of energy development, transport, and use is not required where sufficient state, territorial, or flag island regulations exist. Existing state authority should not be replaced or impeded by Congress or federal agencies.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-08: Water Resource Management in the West</a></p> <p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-04, Energy in the West</a></p>	
<p><b>Environmental Review</b></p> <p>Increase bottom-up coordination among agencies, state and local governments and foster collaboration among diverse stakeholders and project proponents to create efficiency and predictability in the NEPA process.</p> <p>Identify and eliminate inconsistencies in environmental review and analysis across agencies to make the NEPA process more efficient.</p> <p>Allow for existing state environmental review processes to supplement and inform federal environmental review under NEPA. Encourage joint reviews with the states where possible.</p> <p>Consider and apply peer-reviewed environmental science in a consistent manner across agencies as each undertake their NEPA reviews of different projects' impacts on and contributions to environmental quality. Work directly with states to obtain and use up-to-date state data and analyses as critical sources of information in the NEPA process.</p> <p>Clarify that state, local and tribal governments, as well as their political subdivisions, have unique and critical duties to serve their citizens and should not be considered ordinary "stakeholders" for purposes of the NEPA process. Federal agencies should be required to engage with states and state agencies in early, meaningful, substantive and ongoing consultation.</p> <p>Require federal agencies to promulgate regulations establishing consultation procedures and clarifying states' roles as cooperating agencies, which include the opportunity to review documents and alternatives prior to the public comment period.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-15, Modernizing Western Infrastructure</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Recommendations for CEQ NEPA Regulation Revisions</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Administration's Clarification of One Federal Decision Policy and Section 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act</a></p>	<p>House Agriculture House Appropriations House Oversight and Government Reform House Energy and Commerce House Natural Resources House Transportation and Infrastructure House Science, Space, and Technology Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Senate Appropriations Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Senate Energy and Natural Resources Senate Environment and Public Works Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>Ensure that Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EAs) fulfill state environmental review requirements in addition to, but not in conflict with, NEPA and are consistent with state, local, and tribal plans and laws to the maximum extent possible. Where inconsistency or conflict between state and federal requirements necessarily occurs, require federal agencies to include the agency's rationale and the steps taken to mitigate inconsistency or conflict to the maximum extent possible.</p> <p>Require federal agencies to invite all qualified state governmental entities to participate in the NEPA process as cooperating agencies for both EISs and EAs, while providing flexibility for those entities to decline the invitation.</p> <p>Provide a standard for, documentation requirements pertaining to, and review of a lead agency's denial of, a request for cooperating agency status. The denial of any bona fide request for cooperating agency status should be accompanied by a clear and thorough explanation from the lead agency denying such request, citing specific factors the agency used in its determination. Such information should be recorded and maintained by the lead federal agency and collected by the Office of Management and Budget.</p> <p>Simplify the definition of cooperating agency and clarify that cooperating agency status extends until an EIS or EA is implemented.</p>		
<p><b>CERCLA 108(b) Financial Assurance</b></p> <p>Consult with Western Governors and state regulators prior to determining whether to pursue any CERCLA section 108(b) financial assurance regulations and throughout any regulatory process instigated by that determination.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-06, Financial Assurance Regulation</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Concerns over Potential EPA CERLCA 108(b) Financial Assurance Requirements</a></p> <p><a href="#">Comments I: CERCLA 108(b) Financial Assurance Rule for Hardrock Mining Industry</a></p> <p><a href="#">Comments II: CERCLA 108(b) Financial Assurance Rule for Hardrock Mining Industry</a></p>	<p>House Energy and Commerce Senate Environment and Public Works</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p><b>Good Samaritans and Abandoned Mines</b></p> <p>Legally protect Good Samaritans that cleanup abandoned mines, including local and state government agencies, from becoming legally responsible under Sections 301 and 402 of the CWA for any continuing discharges from the abandoned mine.</p> <p>Support legislation establishing pilot projects to address liability issues for Good Samaritans at individual sites to help pave the way for comprehensive legislation, if comprehensive legislation addressing these issues is not possible in the short term.</p> <p>Develop legislative and administrative remedies to address potential CERCLA and RCRA liabilities for Good Samaritans.</p> <p>Develop remedies for liabilities associated with re-mining, which deter those best-equipped with technology and expertise from improving conditions at abandoned mines.</p> <p>Ensure the requirements for Good Samaritan project approvals and reviews do not deter cleanups, while still ensuring there are significant measurable environmental gains from the project.</p> <p>States that administer the Clean Water Act and hardrock mining regulatory programs are best suited to determine what entities are eligible for Good Samaritan status and review and determine the adequacy of Good Samaritan reclamation plans.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-11, Cleaning Up Abandoned Mines in the West</a></p>	<p>House Energy and Commerce Senate Environment and Public Works</p>
<p><b>Coal Combustion Residuals</b></p> <p>Encourage safe, beneficial use of CCRs, including for geotechnical and civil engineering purposes, and urge EPA to work with states to promote other beneficial use of CCRs.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-07, The Regulation of Coal Combustion Residuals</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: EPA Coal Combustion Residual Revisions Comments</a></p>	<p>House Energy and Commerce Senate Environment and Public Works</p>
<p><b>Clean Air Act</b></p> <p>Recognize state authority under the CAA and accord states sufficient flexibility to create air quality and emissions programs tailored to individual state needs, industries, and economies.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-05, Air Quality and Methane Emissions Regulation</a></p>	<p>House Energy and Commerce Senate Environment and Public Works</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>In reviewing state plans, EPA should focus on the circumstances facing the individual state. EPA should not reject reasonable state policy choices based solely on concerns that such choices might not be appropriate for all states.</p> <p>Federal agencies should communicate, consult, and engage with Governors and state air quality agencies as co-regulators.</p> <p>In the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program, EPA should work with states to clarify responsibilities and procedures to improve coordination and consultation among state agencies, EPA, and federal land managers, as well as develop guidelines and tools for the program.</p> <p>Provide financial and technical support for state CAA programs and give EPA sufficient resources to perform the research necessary to develop tools, templates, and guidance for states to implement effective and efficient air programs.</p> <p>Ensure that EPA rules and guidance are clear, timely, supported by current science and data, and the results of consultation with states throughout the drafting process before a potential rule or guidance becomes public.</p> <p>Maintain the deadline for the New Source Performance Standard (NSPS) for wood stoves and its regulations addressing mobile sources.</p> <p>Authorize states to reduce monitoring in National Ambient Air Quality Standards maintenance areas that have appropriately demonstrated air quality in the area is below the NAAQS.</p> <p>Perform transparent, comprehensive, ongoing research coordinated with state air quality agencies and regional organizations on background, interstate, and international ozone in the West. Provide dedicated funding for analysis of background and transported ozone in the West.</p> <p>Streamline the process for exceptional event demonstrations; provide additional technical tools for states, including databases, online submission systems, and a clearinghouse; and allocate resources to review state demonstrations.</p>	<p><a href="#">Letter: EPA Failure to Consult on the Proposed Affordable Clean Energy Plan</a></p> <p><a href="#">Testimony: Air Quality Impacts from Wildfire</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Additional Recommendations on Air Quality Regulation</a></p> <p><a href="#">Testimony: Cooperative Federalism in the Clean Air Act</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Recommendations on Air Quality Regulation</a></p> <p>Appropriations Requests Testimony, FY <a href="#">2017</a>, <a href="#">2018</a> and <a href="#">2019</a></p>	

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>Recognize the profound impacts of fire and smoke on visibility at Class I areas in the Regional Haze Guidance and Rule; finalize EPA’s Draft Regional Haze Guidance as soon as possible; and provide funding and resources to states throughout the regional haze planning and implementation process.</p> <p>Support the use of prescribed fire to reduce the air quality impacts from uncharacteristic wildfire in the West. Give federal and state land managers the ability to use prescribed fires in appropriate conditions and improve existing tools and create additional tools for states to encourage prescribed fire, including a simplified exceptional events guidance for prescribe fire.</p> <p>Recognize that many western states – in cooperation with industry in those states – have already implemented regulatory strategies that reduce methane emissions from oil and gas operations, while expanding the use and sale of methane.</p> <p>In any federal methane regulation: (1) ensure that the capture, commoditization, and sale of methane is promoted; (2) give states the flexibility to integrate a variety of technologies and tools to achieve methane emission reduction standards; (3) recognize methane emissions reductions that result from existing state regulation of volatile organic compounds; and (4) work with states to ensure the consistent use of a single, clear method of quantifying methane emissions.</p>		
<p><b>Hydraulic Fracturing</b></p> <p>Redundant federal regulation of energy development, transport, and use is not required where sufficient state, territorial, or flag island regulations exist. Existing state authority should not be replaced or impeded by Congress or federal agencies.</p> <p>Federal efforts to study the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing on water quality should leverage state knowledge, expertise, policies, and regulations, as well as be limited in scope, based upon sound science, and driven by the states. Western Governors oppose efforts that would diminish the primary and exclusive authority of states over the allocation of water resources necessary for hydraulic fracturing.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-04, Energy in the West</a></p> <p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-12, Water Quality in the West</a></p> <p><a href="#">Comments: Governors Agree with BLM, States are Best Equipped to Regulate Hydraulic Fracturing</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Input on BLM Proposed rule, Oil and Gas: Hydraulic Fracturing and Federal and Indian lands</a></p>	<p>House Energy and Commerce</p> <p>Senate Environment and Public Works</p>



Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<b>Health Care</b>		
<p><b>Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder</b></p> <p>Improve the quality and quantity of behavioral health services, as these services are essential to reducing suicide rates and treating a range of behavioral health conditions, including substance use disorder.</p> <p>Work toward treating addiction as a chronic illness and work with Western Governors to develop strategies for addressing substance use disorder that work in concert with state efforts and recognize regional variations in substance use disorder patterns.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2019-04, Health Care in Western States</a></p>	<p>House Energy and Commerce House Ways and Means Senate Finance Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions</p>
<b>Land Management</b>		
<p><b>Cross-Boundary Projects</b></p> <p>Identify barriers to cross-boundary projects involving federal, state and private lands.</p> <p>Develop training on state and federal contracting procedures for cross-boundary projects and use Service First authorities.</p> <p>Establish multi-agency pilot projects, which can suggest models for subsequent formal agreements.</p> <p>Target funding from USFS, BLM, NRCS and state sources to address cross-boundary management goals in priority areas consistent with state plans.</p> <p>Codify and direct funding for the Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Program to facilitate continued partnership and investment between USFS and NRCS to support restoration projects where federal and private land ownership and management goals intersect.</p>	<p><a href="#">National Forest and Rangeland Management Initiative June 2017 Special Report</a></p>	<p>House Agriculture House Natural Resources Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>
<p><b>Grazing</b></p> <p>Improve flexibility and integration of grazing management and targeted grazing as tools to achieve restoration and land management goals.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-02, Public Lands Grazing</a></p>	<p>House Natural Resources Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>Promote grazing allotment flexibility on federal lands, within FWS and BLM permitting systems and across ownership boundaries, to respond to changing range conditions and environmental considerations.</p>	<p><a href="#">National Forest and Rangeland Management Initiative June 2017 Special Report</a></p>	
<p><b>Conservation Flexibility and Funding</b></p> <p>Fully fund conservation title programs that provide technical and financial assistance for forest and rangeland management in partnership with private landowners.</p> <p>Take steps to provide greater flexibility in the deployment of conservation title programs to achieve restoration objectives.</p>	<p><a href="#">National Forest and Rangeland Management Initiative June 2017 Special Report</a></p>	<p>House Agriculture House Appropriations House Natural Resources Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Senate Appropriations Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>
<p><b>Restoration</b></p> <p>Use and expand authorities in the 2014 Farm Bill (Good Neighbor Authority and Stewardship Contracting Authority) to increase the pace and scale of forest management and restoration on BLM lands.</p> <p>Increase flexibility in the GNA program on road construction and reconstruction and create flexibility in allocations of program income to support GNA projects across larger geographies.</p> <p>Authorize the use of stewardship and GNA funds for recreation improvements and restoration planning and implementation.</p> <p>Expand the use of GNA agreements and other 2014 Farm Bill tools to achieve all-lands restoration objectives across federal, state, local government and privately-owned lands.</p> <p>Prioritize restoration activities across all ownerships to create resilient landscapes. Where programmatic agreements are already in place, use GNA agreements to address priority restoration needs.</p> <p>Explore the use of strike teams, interagency ESA consultation support, and other modular capacity to accelerate restoration in priority areas, including the expanded use of existing statutory authorities.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-10, National Forest and Rangeland Management</a></p> <p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-02, Public Lands Grazing</a></p> <p><a href="#">National Forest and Rangeland Management Initiative June 2017 Special Report</a></p> <p>Appropriations Requests Testimony <a href="#">2016</a>, <a href="#">2017</a>, <a href="#">2018</a> and <a href="#">2019</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Governors' Response to GNA Guidance Letter</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Governors' Support for Accelerated Implementation of Forest Management Projects</a></p>	<p>House Agriculture House Appropriations House Natural Resources Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Senate Appropriations Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>Leverage the use of state, tribal, and local expertise and science in federal environmental review, consultation, and permitting.</p> <p>Collaborate with environmental regulators to reduce legislative and regulatory barriers to restoration activities.</p> <p>Improve flexibility and integration of grazing management and targeted grazing as tools to achieve restoration and land management goals.</p> <p>Codify and fund the USFS State and Private Landscape Scale Restoration Competitive Grant program to prioritize work consistent with state forestry goals and action plans.</p> <p>Codify and direct funding for the Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Program.</p> <p>Modify employee relocation practices to optimize leadership development and longevity.</p>		
<p><b>Wildfire</b></p> <p>Identify fuels management priorities in consultation with states to focus resources on greatest wildfire threats.</p> <p>Improve interagency communication, fire response capability, and coordination, including the sharing of firefighting resources between federal and state agencies.</p> <p>Ensure these activities support fire prevention, full suppression strategies and management of wildfire for resource benefits.</p> <p>Continue to seek opportunities, including revisions to forest plans, to enhance safety and reduce costs in suppression decisions while protecting communities.</p> <p>Facilitate the expanded use of prescribed fire.</p> <p>Incentivize local governments to take voluntary actions to support the creation and expansion of fire-adapted communities and resilience.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-10, National Forest and Rangeland Management</a></p> <p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-09, Western Agriculture</a></p> <p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-08: Water Resource Management in the West</a></p> <p><a href="#">National Forest and Rangeland Management Initiative June 2017 Special Report</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: State Collaboration in Addressing Rangeland Fire Risk</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Wildfire Funding Reform</a></p>	<p>House Agriculture House Natural Resources Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>Provide additional analyses to help communities evaluate the full costs of suppression in the wildland urban interface.</p> <p>Address the associated effects of wildfire funding on federal natural resource management capacity, planning and project implementation. Ensure budget actions continue to support state wildfire and forestry capacity, including the USFS State and Private Forestry programs.</p>		
<p><b>Environmental Review</b></p> <p>Congress should direct federal agencies to build consistency in environmental analysis and bring agency practice in conducting EAs more in line with the administrative policy intent of streamlined, summary documents. Agency guidance should clarify significance thresholds and Extraordinary Circumstances language for NEPA based on best practices and provide, where possible, consistent approaches to interpreting these NEPA requirements when agencies and the courts have had conflicting interpretations.</p> <p>Implement NEPA streamlining efforts that promote best practices or procedural innovations, including the use of landscape-scale, programmatic, adaptive and iterative analyses.</p> <p>Support independent research and analysis from NGO, academic, and other partners to inform NEPA and ESA process improvements, including time and cost estimates for different project types.</p> <p>Develop metrics for successful outcomes, including cost and time performance indicators. Consider standardized approaches to environmental analysis to increase efficiency and reduce time to decision.</p> <p>Ensure agency NEPA implementation policy includes comprehensive training and accountability for field practitioners.</p> <p>Use information technology to improve the efficiency and transparency of NEPA and reduce redundant data, analysis and business practices.</p>	<p><a href="#">National Forest and Rangeland Management Initiative June 2017 Special Report</a></p>	<p>House Agriculture House Natural Resources Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>Build consistency in environmental analysis and bring agency practice in conducting EAs more in line with the administrative policy intent of streamlined, summary documents.</p> <p>Provide improved analytical tools to evaluate no-action alternatives.</p>		
<p><b>Alternatives, Significance Thresholds, Extraordinary Circumstances, and Categorical Exclusions (CE)</b></p> <p>Provide improved analytical tools no-action alternatives.</p> <p>Allow agencies to analyze only the action and no-action alternatives when a project is collaboratively developed, unless a third alternative is proposed and meets the purpose and need of the project.</p> <p>Clarify significance thresholds and Extraordinary Circumstances language for NEPA based on best practices and provide, where possible, consistent approaches to interpreting these NEPA requirements when agencies and the courts have had conflicting interpretations.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-09, Western Agriculture</a></p> <p><a href="#">National Forest and Rangeland Management Initiative June 2017 Special Report</a></p>	<p>House Agriculture House Natural Resources Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>
<p><b>Strengthen Farm Bill Authorities</b></p> <p>Expand the use of GNA agreements and other 2014 Farm Bill tools to achieve all-lands restoration objectives across federal, state, local government and privately-owned lands.</p> <p>Where programmatic agreements are already in place, use GNA agreements to address priority restoration needs.</p> <p>Create flexibility in allocations of program income to support GNA projects across larger geographies.</p> <p>Expand use of authorities included in the 2014 Farm Bill to increase the pace and scale of forest management and restoration on western National Forests and adjacent non-federal lands.</p> <p>Authorize the use of stewardship and GNA funds for recreation improvements and restoration planning and implementation.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-10, National Forest and Rangeland Management</a></p> <p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-09, Western Agriculture</a></p> <p><a href="#">National Forest and Rangeland Management Initiative June 2017 Special Report</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Governors' Response to GNA Guidance Letter</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Governors' Support for Accelerated Implementation of Forest Management Projects</a></p>	<p>House Agriculture House Natural Resources Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>Permanently authorize the insect and disease designation provisions of Section 602 of the 2014 Farm Bill and eliminate project constraints from Section 603 for condition class or fire regimes outside of the wildland-urban interface.</p> <p>Allow for a portion (up to five percent) of retained receipts from stewardship contracting to be used for subsequent project planning and analysis.</p> <p>Fully fund conservation title programs such as Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP), that provide technical and financial assistance for forest and rangeland management in partnership with private landowners. Take steps to provide greater flexibility in the deployment of these programs to achieve restoration objectives.</p>		
<p><b>PILT and SRS Funding</b></p> <p>Request full funding of PILT and SRS in the Interior Appropriations bill.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-03, Tax-Exempt Federal Lands and Secure Rural Schools</a></p> <p>Appropriations Requests Testimony FY <a href="#">2019</a></p>	<p>House Appropriations Senate Appropriations</p>
<p><b>USFS / Insect and Disease Designation Funding</b></p> <p>Request appropriate funding for USFS I&amp;D projects in the Interior Appropriations bill.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-10, National Forest and Rangeland Management</a></p>	<p>House Appropriations Senate Appropriations</p>
<p><b>USDA Specialty Crops Funding</b></p> <p>Request adequate funding for the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) that provides critical research, education, and promotion tools to the fruit and vegetable producers in the Agriculture Appropriations bill.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-09, Western Agriculture</a></p> <p>Appropriations Requests Testimony FY <a href="#">2019</a></p>	<p>House Appropriations Senate Appropriations</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p><b>Collaboration</b></p> <p>Expand opportunities for state and local collaborative involvement in decision-making processes.</p> <p>Enable state leadership to reinforce and reward collaboration on USFS and DOI planning and projects.</p> <p>Leverage the use of state, tribal, and local expertise and science in federal environmental review, consultation, and permitting.</p> <p>Reward successful implementation of collaborative projects through increased funding, retained-receipt authority, or other capacity to pursue subsequent projects.</p> <p>Pass legislation, such as the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Act, to make it easier for young people and veterans to complete quality, cost-effective maintenance and improvement projects on public and tribal lands and waters across the country. These programs could address the backlogged maintenance needs of land and water management agencies; enhance outdoor recreation opportunities; improve the accessibility of public lands; and respond to wildfires and other natural disasters.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-10, National Forest and Rangeland Management</a></p> <p><a href="#">National Forest and Rangeland Management Initiative June 2017 Special Report</a></p> <p>Appropriations Requests Testimony <a href="#">2016</a>, <a href="#">2017</a>, <a href="#">2018</a> and <a href="#">2019</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Governors' Response to GNA Guidance Letter</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Governors' Support for Accelerated Implementation of Forest Management Projects</a></p>	<p>House Natural Resources Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>
<p><b>Multiple Use</b></p> <p>Establish a balance between multiple uses of public lands as required by federal statutes. Account for local needs and state priorities when evaluating the viability of various uses.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-10, National Forest and Rangeland Management</a></p> <p><a href="#">National Forest and Rangeland Management Initiative June 2017 Special Report</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Western Governors Commend House and Senate Leaders on Training Support Act</a></p>	<p>House Natural Resources Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>
<p><b>Fuels Management and Reduction</b></p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-10, National Forest and Rangeland Management</a></p>	<p>House Natural Resources Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>Identify fuels management priorities in consultation with states to focus resources on greatest wildfire threats.</p> <p>Consult with states in development of a consistent, cross-agency process for identifying and selecting highest priority hazardous fuels projects.</p> <p>Involve states in development and implementation of risk assessment tools for identifying and prioritizing hazardous fuels reductions projects on western NFS lands.</p> <p>Implement tracking measurements to quantify and report acres treated for hazardous fuels reduction as an accomplishment only after an entire project has been completed and the desired condition is achieved.</p> <p>Allow for investment of a portion of hazardous fuels funding on state and private lands commensurate with program funding increases for NFS lands.</p>	<p><a href="#">Letter: State Collaboration in Addressing Rangeland Fire Risk</a></p> <p>USFS Inspector General's Report "<a href="#">Forest Service Wildland Fire Activities – Hazardous Fuels Reduction.</a>" (July 2016)</p>	
<p><b>Seed Reserves</b></p> <p>Utilize state expertise to develop a national network for the production and storage of native and non-native seed reserves adequate to meet the West's rehabilitation and restoration needs.</p> <p>Maintain these storage facilities on a 10-year planning horizon.</p>	<p><a href="#">Letter: Governors' Comments on the 2015-2020 National Seed Strategy for Rehabilitation and Restoration</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Secretarial Order 3336: Rangeland Fire Prevention, Management, and Restoration</a></p> <p><a href="#">Testimony: Oversight Hearing on Invasive Species</a></p>	<p>House Natural Resources Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>
<p><b>State and Local Liaisons</b></p> <p>Invest in key state and federal liaison positions with decision-making authority to provide better engagement and understanding between state and federal forest, wildlife, and rangeland agencies.</p>	<p><a href="#">National Forest and Rangeland Management Initiative June 2017 Special Report</a></p>	<p>House Natural Resources Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>



Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>Facilitate the participation of local governments by dedicating staff to develop and provide technical assistance and enhance communications across local, tribal, state and federal partners.</p>		
<p><b>Streamlined Environmental Analysis Pilot Program</b></p> <p>Create a new pilot program to prioritize landscape-scale, streamlined environmental analysis for restoration projects envisioned over geographies greater than 100,000 acres (using either environmental assessments or environmental impact statements, depending on context and size of the project) in landscapes with demonstrated ecological and economic need and effective existing collaboration among diverse stakeholders. The analysis should be sufficient to allow for project-scale implementation and adaptive management, and should include the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site descriptions or land allocations that identify locations within the landscape in which specific restoration or maintenance treatments can be used appropriately;</li> <li>• Standards and guidelines consistent with the appropriate forest plan and project-level design criteria for projects;</li> <li>• Identification of the cumulative impacts of the project; and</li> <li>• Provisions allowing for the implementation of project-level actions barring the introduction of new information or unforeseen circumstances.</li> </ul> <p>Congress should consider creating a limited and short-term categorical exclusion (CE) under NEPA available to expedite work in these pilot landscapes while environmental analyses are being developed, available for use at the agency’s discretion provided the analyses achieve defined progress milestones.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-09, Western Agriculture</a></p> <p><a href="#">National Forest and Rangeland Management Initiative June 2017 Special Report</a></p>	<p>House Natural Resources Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>
<p><b>Land Use Planning, USFS Forest Plans and BLM Resource Management Plans (RMPs)</b></p> <p>Enhance state-federal consultation regarding BLM's planning processes. Federal-state consultation should be substantive, take place on an early and ongoing basis, and involve both Governors and state regulators.</p> <p>RMPs should be developed and amended with meaningful and substantial input from governors and state regulators before they are released for public comment.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-01, Building a Stronger State-Federal Relationship</a></p> <p><a href="#">National Forest and Rangeland Management Initiative June 2017 Special Report</a></p>	<p>House Natural Resources Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>Apply Governors' Consistency Reviews to ensure consistency of RMPs with state plans, policies, programs, and processes.</p> <p>Maintain the existing appeals process and timelines for Consistency Reviews and provide sufficient time for their completion.</p> <p>Ensure that the standard for consistency in the RMP process matches the requirement of FLPMA 1712(c)(9).</p> <p>Retain existing minimum public comment time frames and existing requirements for publication of a <i>Federal Register</i> notice at the start of every planning effort, as well as extend these publication requirements to Notices of Intent to prepare EAs as part of RMP amendments.</p> <p>Resolve outstanding issues with potential requirements to reinitiate endangered species consultations following the adoption, amendment or revision of an appropriate management plan.</p>	<p><a href="#">Letter: Lack of Consultation on DOI Proposed Regional Office Boundaries</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Governors Encourage Collaboration on BLM Planning and Environmental Review</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Governors Request Engagement with BLM on Land Use Planning and NEPA Processes</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Governors Concerned by Final BLM Planning 2.0 Rule</a></p> <p><a href="#">Testimony: BLM Proposed Rule, Resource Management Planning</a></p> <p><a href="#">Comments: BLM Proposed Rule, Resource Management Planning</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Request for Extension of Comment Period for BLM Proposed Rule, Resource Management Planning</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Request for Clarification on Aspects of BLM's Resource Management Planning (Planning 2.0) Initiative</a></p>	
<p><b>Local Offices and Workforce</b></p> <p>Give BLM state office directors independent authority to respond to issues that are unique to individual states.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-01, Building a Stronger State-Federal Relationship</a></p>	<p>House Natural Resources Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>Modify employee relocation practices to optimize leadership development and longevity.</p>	<p><a href="#">Letter: Lack of Consultation on DOI Proposed Regional Office Boundaries</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Governors Request Engagement with BLM on Land Use Planning and NEPA Processes</a></p>	
<p><b>Royalties and Leasing</b></p> <p>Support legislation, regulatory changes, and agency practices that provide transparency and certainty, ensure fair value for the American public, and more efficiently administer the sales and leases of the resources on these federal lands.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-12, States' Share of Royalties and Leasing Revenues from Federal Lands and Minerals and States' Role in Associated Federal Policy</a></p>	<p>House Natural Resources Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>
<p><b>Vegetation Management</b></p> <p>Apply clear, coordinated and consistent federal vegetation management practices to maintain the health of western forests, prevent dangerous and damaging fires, and maintain grid reliability.</p> <p>Enable utilities to take necessary vegetation management actions on or adjacent to federal transmission rights-of-way without fear of strict liability imposition.</p> <p>Direct USFS and other federal land management agencies to work collaboratively with states to achieve effective and efficient cross-jurisdictional coordination that enables utilities to undertake necessary vegetation management actions on federal transmission rights-of-way – and to do so without fear of strict liability imposition for necessary vegetation management actions taken adjacent to transmission rights-of-way.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-10, National Forest and Rangeland Management</a></p> <p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2016-06, Wildland Fire Management and Resilient Landscapes</a></p> <p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-04, Energy in the West</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Support for Expedited Review of Reintroduced Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act</a></p> <p><a href="#">Testimony: WGA Advocates for Responsible Vegetation Management for Electricity Assets on Federal Lands</a></p>	<p>House Natural Resources Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p><b>National Park Service</b></p> <p>Support legislation to address the \$12 billion maintenance backlog on NPS land.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2016-10, National Parks and the West</a></p>	<p>House Natural Resources Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>
<p><b>Radioactive Waste Management</b></p>		
<p><b>Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-level Radioactive Waste</b></p> <p>Work cooperatively with states in implementing a policy to ensure the safe transportation, storage, and disposal of spent fuel and high-level waste.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-05, Storage and Disposal of Radioactive Waste and Spent Nuclear Fuel</a></p> <p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2016-03, Transportation of Radioactive Waste, Radioactive Materials and Spent Nuclear Fuel</a></p>	<p>House Energy and Commerce Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>
<p><b>Interim Storage of Radioactive Waste</b></p> <p>Require the consent of an affected state's Governor before allowing construction of a centralized interim storage facility.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-05, Storage and Disposal of Radioactive Waste and Spent Nuclear Fuel</a></p> <p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2016-03, Transportation of Radioactive Waste, Radioactive Materials and Spent Nuclear Fuel</a></p>	<p>House Energy and Commerce Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>
<p><b>Species Conservation</b></p>		
<p><b>State Authority / State Wildlife Data</b></p> <p>Promote early, meaningful consultation with states in the promulgation or development of any rules, regulations, directives, or agency action that affects or influences states' management of fish, wildlife and habitat under their management jurisdiction.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-01, Building a Stronger State-Federal Relationship</a></p> <p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-11, Species Conservation and the Endangered Species Act</a></p>	<p>House Appropriations Senate Appropriations</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
	<a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-08, State Wildlife Science, Data and Analysis</a>  Appropriations Requests Testimony, FY <a href="#">2015</a> , <a href="#">2016</a> , <a href="#">2017</a> , <a href="#">2018</a> and <a href="#">2019</a>	
<b>State Authority / ESA</b>  Ensure that states are provided the opportunity to be full partners in administering and implementing the ESA, as defined in Section 6(a) of the ESA.	<a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-11, Species Conservation and the Endangered Species Act</a>	House Appropriations Senate Appropriations
<b>Petitions</b>  Require petitioners to provide a copy of petitions to affected states so states may provide any existing state data regarding the petitioned species.	<a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-11, Species Conservation and the Endangered Species Act</a>  <a href="#">Comments: Streamlining Regulatory Processes and Reducing Regulatory Burdens</a>  <a href="#">Comments II: Endangered &amp; Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revisions to the Regulations for Petitions</a>  <a href="#">Comments I: Endangered &amp; Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revisions to the Regulations for Petitions</a>	House Natural Resources Senate Environment and Public Works
<b>Concurrent Jurisdiction</b>  Clarify or emphasize existing authority under the ESA for states to exercise concurrent jurisdiction with the Services to implement the ESA, including management of threatened species and issuance of Section 10 take permits, if states have the desire and capacity to do so.	<a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-11, Species Conservation and the Endangered Species Act</a>  <a href="#">WGA Species Conservation and the Endangered Species Act</a>	House Natural Resources Senate Environment and Public Works

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
	<a href="#">Initiative Year Two Recommendations</a> <a href="#">Comments: Streamlining Regulatory Processes and Reducing Regulatory Burdens</a>	
<p><b>Recovery</b></p> <p>Provide states the opportunity to lead and develop recovery teams and, if states decline to develop and lead recovery teams, still seek sufficient participation from states to assemble recovery teams.</p>	<a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-11, Species Conservation and the Endangered Species Act</a>  <a href="#">WGA Species Conservation and the Endangered Species Act Initiative Year Two Recommendations</a>  <a href="#">Comments: Streamlining Regulatory Processes and Reducing Regulatory Burdens</a>	<p>House Natural Resources Senate Environment and Public Works</p>
<p><b>Critical Habitat Designations</b></p> <p>Critical habitat designations should be based on analysis that includes data and scientific information from states included in proposed critical habitat.</p>	<a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-11, Species Conservation and the Endangered Species Act</a>  <a href="#">Comments: Streamlining Regulatory Processes and Reducing Regulatory Burdens</a>  <a href="#">Comments: Implementing Changes to the Regulations for Designating Critical Habitat</a>	<p>House Natural Resources Senate Environment and Public Works</p>
<p><b>Mitigation Policy</b></p> <p>Develop mitigation requirements and processes that may affect state and private land in coordination with Governors in whose states DOI lands are situated.</p>	<a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2019-03, Compensatory Mitigation</a>  <a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-01, Building a Stronger State-Federal Relationship</a>	<p>House Natural Resources Senate Environment and Public Works</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>Where state compensatory mitigation programs or standards exist, federal agencies should adopt and implement state-supported compensatory mitigation programs and policies.</p> <p>Ensure that federal mitigation policy or programs are consistent with existing state mitigation programs or standards where they are in place.</p> <p>Federal agencies should consult with states to provide consistency in the use of and improve assessment criteria for mitigation goals. Further, mitigation goals should establish clear expectations backed by effective assessment criteria.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-11, Species Conservation and the Endangered Species Act</a></p> <p><a href="#">Comments: Endangered Species Act Compensatory Mitigation Policy</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter I: Request for Clarification on Secretarial Order 3330</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter II: Reiterating Request for Clarification on Secretarial Order 3330</a></p>	
<p><b>Voluntary Conservation</b></p> <p>Incentivize voluntary conservation actions to preclude the need to list species under the ESA.</p> <p>Support the provision of economic incentives for landowners to participate in voluntary conservation efforts.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-11, Species Conservation and the Endangered Species Act</a></p> <p><a href="#">Comments: Streamlining Regulatory Processes and Reducing Regulatory Burdens</a></p> <p><a href="#">Comments: Policy Regarding Voluntary Prelisting Conservation Actions</a></p>	House Natural Resources Senate Environment and Public Works
<p><b>Species Status Assessments (SSAs)</b></p> <p>Give state wildlife agencies a leadership role on SSA teams commensurate with level of data and expertise they provide to the process.</p> <p>Provide an adequate internal appeal process to challenge the conclusions of an SSA.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-11, Species Conservation and the Endangered Species Act</a></p> <p><a href="#">WGA Species Conservation and the Endangered Species Act Initiative Year Two Recommendations</a></p>	House Natural Resources Senate Environment and Public Works

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
	<a href="#">Comments: Streamlining Regulatory Processes and Reducing Regulatory Burdens</a>	
<p><b>State Data and Expertise</b></p> <p>FWS should utilize data and expertise provided by states in conducting status reviews and 12-month findings on petitions for ESA listings.</p> <p>Leverage the use of state, tribal, and local expertise and science in federal environmental review, consultation, and permitting.</p> <p>Recognize that state agencies often have the best available science on species and retain primary management jurisdiction over most wildlife on Federal, State and private lands and require that federal agencies utilize state data and analyses as a principal source in developing and analyzing science serving as the basis of a regulatory action.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-11, Species Conservation and the Endangered Species Act</a></p> <p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-08, State Wildlife Science, Data and Analysis</a></p> <p><a href="#">Comments: Streamlining Regulatory Processes and Reducing Regulatory Burdens</a></p> <p>Appropriations Requests Testimony, FY <a href="#">2015</a>, <a href="#">2016</a>, <a href="#">2017</a>, <a href="#">2018</a> and <a href="#">2019</a></p> <p><a href="#">Comments: Use of State Data &amp; Expertise in ESA Listing Methodology</a></p> <p><a href="#">Testimony: State Wildlife Data</a></p> <p><a href="#">National Forest and Rangeland Management Initiative June 2017 Special Report</a></p>	<p>House Natural Resources Senate Environment and Public Works</p>
<p><b>State Authority / ESA FOIA Exemption</b></p> <p>Explore opportunities to provide FOIA exemptions for sensitive state data used in federal agency science and analysis.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-08, State Wildlife Science, Data and Analysis</a></p>	<p>House Natural Resources Senate Environment and Public Works</p>
<b>Water</b>		



Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p><b>Consultation</b></p> <p>Promote early, meaningful consultation with states in the promulgation or development of any rules, regulations, directives, or agency action that affects or influences states' management or allocation of water resources.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-01, Building a Stronger State-Federal Relationship</a></p> <p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-08: Water Resource Management in the West</a></p> <p>Appropriations Requests  Testimony <a href="#">2016</a>, <a href="#">2017</a>, <a href="#">2018</a> and <a href="#">2019</a></p> <p><a href="#">Comments: WGA Defines Areas for Army Corps of Engineers to Collaborate with States</a></p> <p><a href="#">Comments: Governors Submit Analysis and Recommendations Regarding WOTUS</a></p> <p><a href="#">Comments: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking by USACE Regarding "Surplus Water."</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Governors' Concern Regarding USACE Water Surplus Rule</a></p> <p><a href="#">Testimony: State Authority over Water Management</a></p> <p><a href="#">Comments: USFS Groundwater Directive</a></p> <p><a href="#">Comments: Ski Area Water Rights on Forest Service Lands</a></p>	<p>House Natural Resources  House Transportation and Infrastructure  Senate Energy and Natural Resources  Senate Environment and Public Works</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
	<p><a href="#">Comments: Proposed USFS Directive for National Best Management Practices for Water Quality</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Concern on USFS Proposed Groundwater Management Directive</a></p>	
<p><b>Waters of the United States</b></p> <p>Recognize the authority of states to manage water within their boundaries in any attempts to define the jurisdictional scope of "Waters of the United States" in the Clean Water Act.</p> <p>Respect limits set by Congress and the U.S. Supreme Court in any attempts to define the jurisdictional scope of "Waters of the United States" in the Clean Water Act.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-08: Water Resource Management in the West</a></p> <p>Appropriations Requests Testimony <a href="#">2016</a>, <a href="#">2017</a>, <a href="#">2018</a> and <a href="#">2019</a></p> <p><a href="#">Comments: WOTUS Rulemaking Federalism Analysis and Recommendations</a></p> <p><a href="#">Comments: Final Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rule Request for Extended Comment Period - Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rule</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Concern Regarding Clean Water Act Jurisdiction Rulemaking</a></p>	<p>House Transportation and Infrastructure Senate Environment and Public Works</p>
<p><b>Management of Water Resources</b></p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-08, Water Resource Management in the West</a></p>	<p>House Natural Resources House Transportation and Infrastructure</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>Expressly, unambiguously, and conspicuously recognize states' primary authority over water management and allocation decisions in all new federal laws, rules, regulations, and guidance documents.</p> <p>Respect limits set by Congress and the U.S. Supreme Court for any definition of "Waters of the United States" in the Clean Water Act and recognize the authority of states to manage water within their boundaries.</p> <p>Recognize states' exclusive authority over the allocation and administration of rights to develop groundwater resources and expressly preclude federal agencies from usurping such authority through rulemakings, regulations, guidance documents, or agency directives.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-04, Water Quality in the West</a></p> <p>Appropriations Requests Testimony, FY <a href="#">2015</a>, <a href="#">2016</a>, <a href="#">2017</a>, <a href="#">2018</a> and <a href="#">2019</a></p> <p><a href="#">Comments: WOTUS Rulemaking Federalism Analysis and Recommendations</a></p> <p><a href="#">Comments: Final Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rule Request for Extended Comment Period - Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rule</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Concern Regarding Clean Water Act Jurisdiction Rulemaking</a></p> <p><a href="#">Comments: WGA Defines Areas for Army Corps of Engineers to Collaborate with States</a></p> <p><a href="#">Comments: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking by USACE Regarding "Surplus Water"</a></p>	<p>Senate Energy and Natural Resources Senate Environment and Public Works</p>
<p><b>Clean Water Act</b></p> <p>Engage the states as co-regulators and ensure that state water managers have a robust and meaningful voice in the development of any federal rule regarding Clean Water Act jurisdiction.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-08, Water Resource Management in the West</a></p> <p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-04, Water Quality in the West</a></p>	<p>House Energy and Commerce House Transportation and Infrastructure Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>Allow states to adopt flexible water quality standards and establish total maximum daily loads that are tailored to the specific characteristics of western water bodies, including variances for unique state and local conditions.</p> <p>Coordinate with states in establishing and, if necessary, modifying any water quality standards under Section 303 of the Clean Water Act to ensure any changes do not unduly interfere with sound existing practices.</p> <p>Ensure that authority delegated to states under Clean Water Act Section 401 is preserved.</p>	<p>Appropriations Requests Testimony, FY <a href="#">2015</a>, <a href="#">2016</a>, <a href="#">2017</a>, <a href="#">2018</a> and <a href="#">2019</a></p> <p><a href="#">Comments: WOTUS Rulemaking Federalism Analysis and Recommendations</a></p> <p><a href="#">Comments: Final Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rule</a></p> <p><a href="#">Request for Extended Comment Period - Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rule</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Concern Regarding Clean Water Act Jurisdiction Rulemaking</a></p>	<p>Senate Environment and Public Works</p>
<p><b>Army Corps of Engineers Water Supply Rule</b></p> <p>Fulfill the expanded procedural rulemaking requirements of Executive Order 13132. Recognize state authority over water management and allocation within their borders – states must not be required to relinquish any of their rights to natural flows of rivers which have been impounded by USACE or any other federal agencies.</p> <p>Define “surplus water” to expressly exclude natural flows (and any quantification of such flows) which would have occurred without the development of federal water projects. Allow access to divert and appropriate natural flows in USACE reservoir projects and do not charge storage fees to appropriators where such users are making withdrawals of natural flows within USACE reservoirs.</p> <p>Request that the Appropriations Committee include language in its report on Energy and Water Development affirming that administration of water supply contracts by USACE should not have any negative effect on states’ primary authority in the management, allocation, planning, and protection of water resources within their boundaries and</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-08, Water Resource Management in the West</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Governors Offer Analysis, Recommendations to Army Corps on Regulation of “Surplus Waters”</a></p> <p>Appropriations Requests Testimony FY <a href="#">2018</a> and <a href="#">2019</a></p>	<p>House Appropriations House Transportation and Infrastructure Senate Appropriations Senate Environment and Public Works</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>noting that the rights of states to access and appropriate such waters must not be precluded by any federal regulations, including the Surplus Waters Rule proposed by the Corps in December 2016.</p>		
<p><b>Drought</b></p> <p>Seventeen Bureau of Reclamation states, Hawaii and Alaska are affected by water shortages because of extended drought conditions and infrastructure to assure adequate water supplies. This challenge has both regional and national aspects, including how best to meet the need for efficient infrastructure financing to maintain and enhance adequate water supplies, avert further economic and environmental harm, and maintain food security. The following policy solutions should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing incentives for innovative water management policies among states (with federal, tribal and local partners) that preserve states’ primacy in water management, recognize state law, and align with the financial, environmental and social values of water to Western citizens today and in the future;</li> <li>• Strengthening federal efforts to maintain adequate collection of drought and water data;</li> <li>• Coordinating information programs across multiple agencies, enhancing data networks (where appropriate) and facilitating better use of existing information;</li> <li>• Promoting greater investment in water infrastructure through tools such as loan guarantees, revolving funds, infrastructure banks, and water trust funds; and</li> <li>• Creating a budget neutral federal loan program that will make it possible for Western states, and other concerned public and private entities in western states, to secure financing on reasonable terms to complete important water resources management projects.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-08, Water Resource Management in the West</a></p>	<p>House Transportation and Infrastructure Senate Environment and Public Works</p>
<p><b>Drought Forecasting</b></p> <p>Work with states and resource managers to improve predictive and adaptive capabilities for extreme weather variability and related impacts, with a priority on improving sub-</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-08, Water Resource Management in the West</a></p>	<p>House Science, Space, and Technology</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>seasonal and seasonal precipitation forecasting capabilities to support water management decision-making.</p> <p>Pass legislation to reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information (NIDIS) program under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.</p>	<p><a href="#">Letter Supporting Adequate Funding of NIDIS Program</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Support for Federal Drought Relief legislation</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter Supporting Comprehensive Western Drought Legislation</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter Supporting reauthorization of NIDIS program</a></p>	<p>Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation</p>
<p><b>Federal Water Data Programs</b></p> <p>Request adequate funding for federal efforts to coordinate water data gathering and information programs, including: (i) U.S. Geologic Survey's Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program; (ii) Natural Resource Conservation Service's Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program; (iii) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's weather and hydrology-related data collection, monitoring, and drought information programs; and (iv) National Aeronautics and Space Administration's National Land Imaging (Landsat) Program with its infrared sensor.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-08: Water Resource Management in the West</a></p>	<p>House Appropriations Senate Appropriations</p>
<p><b>Local Watershed Planning</b></p> <p>Provide resources such as technical support to states and local watershed groups. States may empower these watershed groups to address local water issues associated with water quality, growth and land management to complement state water needs.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-08: Water Resource Management in the West</a></p>	<p>House Natural Resources Senate Environment and Public Works</p>
<p><b>Water Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Congress should provide adequate support for the CWA and SDWA State Revolving Funds. Further, Congress should fully utilize the receipts accruing to the Reclamation Fund for their intended purpose in the continuing conservation, development and wise use of western resources to meet western water-related needs, including the construction of Congressionally-authorized Bureau of Reclamation rural water projects and facilities that are part of a Congressionally-authorized Indian water rights settlement.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-08: Water Resource Management in the West</a></p>	<p>House Transportation and Infrastructure Senate Environment and Public Works</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>Congress also should consider facilitating greater investment in water infrastructure, utilizing such tools as loan guarantees, revolving funds, infrastructure banks and water trust funds.</p> <p>Capital budgeting and asset management principles should be used to determine funding priorities based on long-term sustainability and not annual incremental spending choices. It should be accompanied by dedicated sources of funding with appropriate financing, cost-sharing, pricing and cost recovery policies.</p>		
<p><b>Water Resources Development Legislation</b></p> <p>Congress should authorize water resources development legislation on a regular schedule and appropriate funding, so all projects and studies authorized in such legislation can be completed in a timely manner.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-08: Water Resource Management in the West</a></p>	<p>House Transportation and Infrastructure Senate Environment and Public Works</p>
<p><b>Water Infrastructure Planning and Permitting</b></p> <p>Water infrastructure planning and permitting guidelines, rules and regulations should be coordinated, streamlined and sufficiently flexible to: (1) allow for timely decision-making in the design, financing and construction of needed infrastructure; (2) account for regional differences; (3) balance economic and environmental considerations; and (4) minimize the cost of compliance</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-08: Water Resource Management in the West</a></p>	<p>House Transportation and Infrastructure Senate Environment and Public Works</p>
<p><b>Water Conservation and Efficiency</b></p> <p>Adopt strategies to sustain water resources and extend existing water supplies further through water conservation, water reuse and recycling, desalination and reclamation of brackish waters, and reductions in per capita water use. The Governors encourage the use of and research into promising water-saving strategies.</p> <p>Technology exists to use produced, reused, recycled and brackish water -sources traditionally considered to be marginal or wastewater. Adoption of this technology has been limited by inadequate data, regulatory obstacles, financial barriers, public attitudes and logistical uncertainties. Encourage use of produced, brackish, and reused water (where appropriate) through regulatory streamlining and development of policy options.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-08: Water Resource Management in the West</a></p>	<p>House Transportation and Infrastructure Senate Environment and Public Works</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p><b>State Authority / CWA</b></p> <p>Request that the Committee include the following language in its report on Interior Appropriations:</p> <p>“The Committee directs federal agencies to engage in active and meaningful consultation with states regarding any new definitions of federal jurisdiction over state-managed resources such as water.”</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-04, Water Quality in the West</a></p>	<p>House Appropriations Senate Appropriations</p>
<p><b>USFS / Groundwater</b></p> <p>Obtain statutory language confirming that states have exclusive authority over the allocation and administration of rights to groundwater located within their borders and are primarily responsible for protecting, managing, and otherwise controlling the resource.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-08, Water Resource Management in the West</a></p>	<p>House Natural Resources Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>
<p><b>EPA Water Transfers Rule</b></p> <p>Request that the Appropriations Committee include language in its Interior report directing the Environmental Protection Agency to exclude water transfers that do not involve the addition of a pollutant from the permitting requirements of the Clean Water Act’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and affirming that states already have the authority to address water quality issues associated with transfers.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-08, Water Resource Management in the West</a></p> <p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-04, Water Quality in the West</a></p>	<p>House Appropriations Senate Appropriations</p>
<p><b>Snow Survey and Weather Forecasting</b></p> <p>Work closely with states and other resource managers to improve predictive and adaptive capabilities for extreme weather variability and related impacts.</p> <p>Coordinate water data gathering and information programs across multiple agencies. Provide adequate funding for the NRCS Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program, as it provides states with vital data in their management of water resources.</p> <p>Request adequate funding for SNOTEL in the Agriculture Appropriations bill.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-08: Water Resource Management in the West</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Importance of Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program</a></p> <p>Appropriations Requests Testimony FY <a href="#">2019</a></p>	<p>House Agriculture House Appropriations House Natural Resources Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Senate Appropriations Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>
<p><b>Workforce Development / Economic Development</b></p>		



Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p><b>Education and Workforce Training</b></p> <p>Fully fund the Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (formerly the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act).</p> <p>Maintain the 15 percent reserve for statewide activities under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-13 Workforce Development in the Western United States</a></p>	<p>House Appropriations Senate Appropriations</p>
<p><b>Training and Education</b></p> <p>Increase student access to short-term education and skills training programs in reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, including through expanding the Pell Grant program to include high-quality short-term training programs leading to industry-recognized credentials.</p> <p>Include the College Transparency Act in reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, to adopt and report on earnings, employment and credential attainment metrics by education provider and individual program in a manner that protects student privacy and ensures data security.</p> <p>Support and incentivize state, local, and industry-led partnerships to create and scale work-based learning and apprenticeship programs. New federal investments in apprenticeships should align with existing efforts to foster a coherent system with minimal duplication at the federal, state, and local level.</p> <p>Examine and implement programs to ensure states have an adequate health care workforce – including in primary care and other in-demand specialties – that is prepared to serve diverse populations in urban, suburban, and rural communities. Support efforts to increase the diversity of the health care workforce to improve health outcomes for all.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-13, Workforce Development in the Western United States</a></p> <p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2019-04, Health Care in Western States</a></p>	<p>House Education and the Workforce Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions</p>
<p><b>Preclearance</b></p> <p>Work to complete the negotiation process with foreign countries and add new preclearance-approved international airports as soon as possible.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2019-01 Foreign Visitor Preclearance</a></p>	<p>House Homeland Security Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>Work with western states to help identify optimal international foreign visitor preclearance airports for future consideration.</p>		
<p><b>Broadband</b></p> <p>Examine strategies to improve the accuracy and granularity of federal broadband data, particularly in rural areas.</p> <p>Support federal broadband deployment programs that prioritize assistance for areas that wholly or severely lack access to broadband.</p> <p>Examine strategies to improve coordination and permit streamlining for cross-boundary broadband infrastructure projects.</p> <p>Support innovative technologies, such as TV White Spaces, that have the potential to provide low-cost broadband service to rural communities.</p> <p>Support federal policies that provide adequate spectrum access to support the growth of TV White Spaces technology.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2019-04, Health Care in Western States</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Comments to NTIA on Federal Broadband Data</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Rural Utilities Service e-Connectivity Pilot Program</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Support for TV White Spaces Technology</a></p> <p>Appropriations Requests Testimony FY <a href="#">2019</a></p>	<p>House Agriculture House Energy and Commerce Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation</p>
<p><b>Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Coordinate, streamline, and increase the flexibility of infrastructure planning and permitting guidelines, rules, and policies to: (i) allow for timely decision-making in the design, financing, and construction of needed infrastructure; (ii) account for regional differences; (iii) balance economic and environmental considerations; and (iv) minimize costs.</p> <p>Support improved infrastructure permitting and environmental review processes that result in more efficient reviews without shortening timelines for state input and consultation, or compromising natural resource, wildlife, environmental quality or cultural values.</p> <p>Ensure that agencies set, and adhere to, timelines and schedules for completion of reviews and develop improved metrics for tracking and accountability in the federal infrastructure permitting and environmental review process.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-15, Modernizing Western Infrastructure</a></p> <p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2015-08, Water Resource Management in the West</a></p> <p><a href="#">Letter: Administration's Clarification of One Federal Decision Policy and Section 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act</a></p>	<p>House Transportation and Infrastructure Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p>Avoid shifting costs to states or creating undue or disproportionate impacts to the infrastructure in the West.</p> <p>Acknowledge and support the diverse infrastructure needs facing western states in any federal infrastructure financing appropriations.</p>		
<p><b>Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund</b></p> <p>Fully fund the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund and reform the Harbor Maintenance Tax to ensure Western ports remain competitive.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-06, Transportation Infrastructure in the Western United States</a></p>	<p>House Transportation and Infrastructure Senate Environment and Public Works</p>
<p><b>Transportation</b></p> <p>Provide additional flexibility to states to determine how and where to deploy investment to maximize the use of scarce resources.</p> <p>Reduce regulation accompanying federal transportation programs by expediting project delivery and streamlining the environmental review process without diminishing environmental standards or safeguards.</p> <p>Create and fund a viable, long-term funding mechanism is critical to the maintenance and expansion of our surface transportation network.</p> <p>Enhance the ability to leverage scarce resources by creating and enhancing financing mechanisms and tools that are appropriate for all areas of the United States, including those with low traffic densities where tolling and public private partnerships are not feasible.</p> <p>Use the historic formula-based approach for the distribution of funds to ensure that both rural and urban states participate in any infrastructure initiative.</p> <p>Provide a long-term solution to ensure solvency of the Highway Trust Fund and provide for increased, sustainable federal transportation investment through the fund.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-06, Transportation Infrastructure in the Western United States</a></p>	<p>House Transportation and Infrastructure Senate Environment and Public Works</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
<p><b>Mining</b></p> <p>Ensure access to the metals that are critical to U.S. economic and national security – providing vital base materials for electronics, telecommunications, satellites, aircraft, manufacturing and alternative energy technologies (particularly wind and solar).</p> <p>Develop a National Minerals Policy that truly enables mineral exploration and development in a manner that balances the nation’s industrial and security needs with adequate protection of natural resources and the environment (including long-term effects and potential effects) and addresses permitting delays, patenting, maintenance fees, an equitable government revenue mechanism, and the development of a clean-up fund and program for reclaiming abandoned hard rock mines.</p> <p>Encourage U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to take an active role, working with western states, in the development of a National Minerals Policy that recognizes the importance of a domestic supply of minerals for our country.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2018-09, National Minerals Policy</a></p>	<p>House Natural Resources Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>
<p><b>Wood Products</b></p> <p>Expand opportunities for existing programs and financing to support wood product business development and infrastructure.</p> <p>Encourage collaboration between USFS research and development, state and private forestry, and NFS capacities that support existing and emerging wood products technologies.</p> <p>Encourage appropriate research, development and deployment focused on commercially-ready technologies with high potential to contribute to current and emerging restoration objectives.</p> <p>Better align these capacities with the contributions of states and industry partners and actively pursue public-private partnerships, with the goal of providing sustainable economic development opportunities for rural communities.</p>	<p><a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-09, Western Agriculture</a></p> <p><a href="#">National Forest and Rangeland Management Initiative June 2017 Special Report</a></p>	<p>House Natural Resources Senate Energy and Natural Resources</p>

Priority	Governors' Policy	Venue
Pass legislation to promote forest and rangeland product markets and technologies, and expand funding for the Community Wood Energy Program. Use program funds to create and incentivize state, federal and tribal partnerships in support of these objectives.		
<b>USDA Market Access and Foreign Market Development Funding</b>  Support funding for USDA Market Access and Foreign Market Development Programs to promote opportunities for western producers to increase export revenues and encourage trade agreements.	<a href="#">WGA Policy Resolution 2017-09, Western Agriculture</a>  Appropriations Requests Testimony FY <a href="#">2019</a>	House Appropriations Senate Appropriations

**List of Acronyms:**

- ACIR – Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations
- BLM – Bureau of Land Management
- CCR – Coal Combustion Residual
- CE – Categorical Exclusion
- CEQ – Council on Environmental Quality
- CERCLA – Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
- DOI – Department of the Interior
- EA – Environmental Assessment
- EPA – Environmental Protection Agency
- ESA – Endangered Species Act
- FERC – Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- FLPMA – Federal Land Policy and Management Act
- FRRRPA – Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act
- FWS – Fish and Wildlife Service
- GAO – Government Accountability Office
- GNA – Good Neighbor Authority
- MUSYA – Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act
- NAAQs – National Ambient Air Quality Standards
- NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act
- NFS – National Forest System
- NFMA – National Forest Management Act
- NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service
- NWRSIA – National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act

OMB – Office of Management and Budget  
OIRA – Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
RCRA – Resource Conservation and Recovery Act  
RMP – Resource Management Plan  
SMCRA - Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act  
SSA – Species Status Assessment  
USACE – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
USFS – U.S. Forest Service