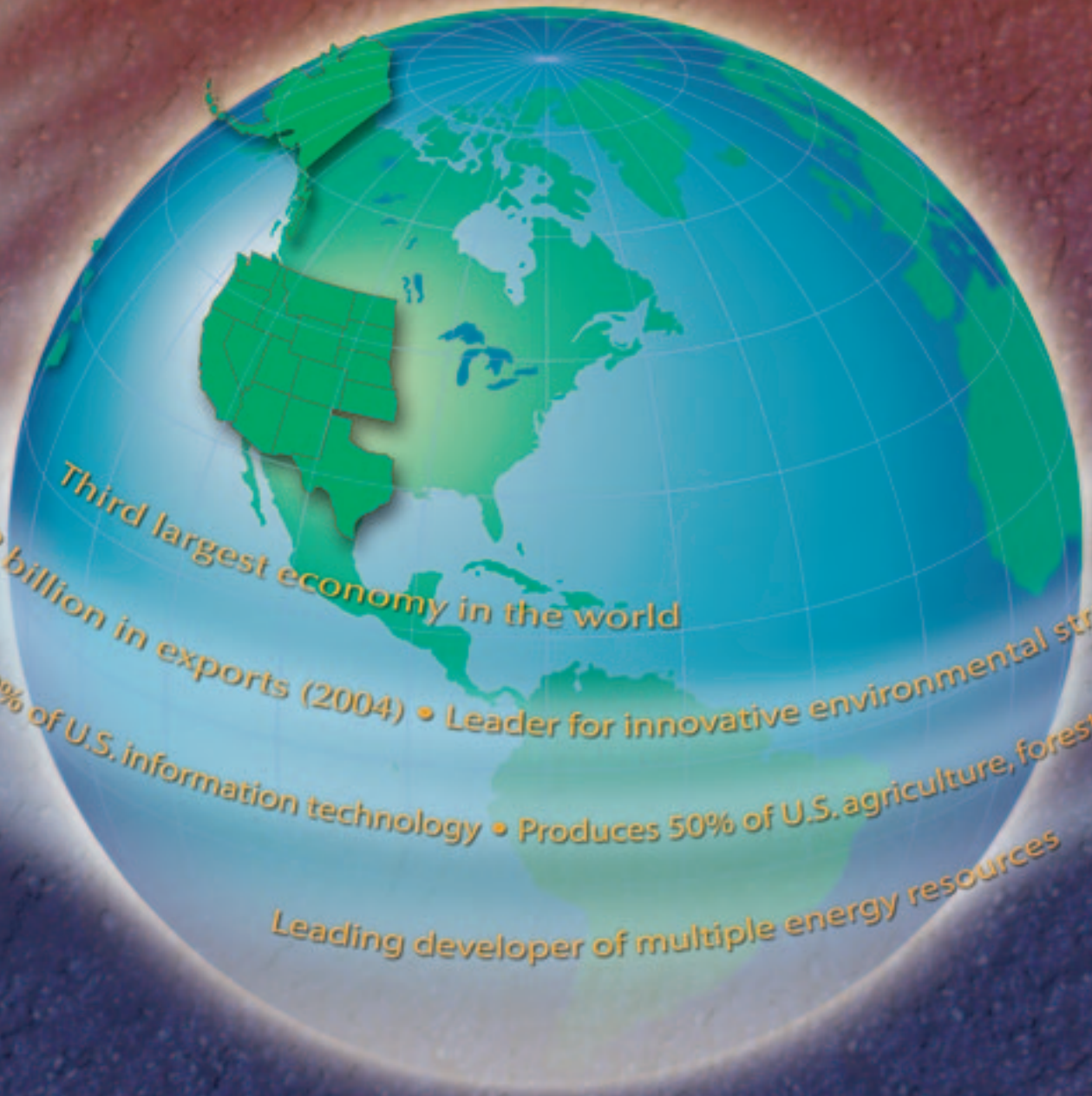


# Western Governors' Association 2005 Annual Report

*Western Leadership  
in the Global Economy*







## Message from the Chairman

*Dear Friends of the Western Governors' Association:*

*Welcome to the Western Governors' Association's 2005 Annual Meeting and our discussions on Western Leadership in the Global Economy. The West is the most dynamic and fastest growing region in the country. Combined, the economic activity of the Western states forms the third largest economy in the world. During the Annual Meeting, my colleagues and I will discuss public policies that will foster continued growth, innovation and productivity throughout the West.*

*Looking back over the past year, it is rewarding to see how much we have accomplished. Our Executive Summit on the Endangered Species Act held in December brought together a diverse group of stakeholders who concurred that the Act should be updated if it is to achieve its primary mission: identify threatened and endangered species and, more importantly, recover species on the brink of extinction. The progress made on this issue represents an important and rare opportunity to achieve bipartisan consensus on major environmental legislation.*

*On a related issue, WGA convened local working groups from 11 states in February to share strategies for conserving the greater sage grouse and the sagebrush habitat that covers much of the West. Many of these efforts serve as national models for how we can protect habitat and recover species while allowing landowners, businesses and communities to remain economically viable.*

*The West has continued to demonstrate its environmental and economic leadership in another key area this year: energy. A newly formed advisory committee for WGA's Clean and Diversified Energy Initiative is on target to produce recommendations by June 2006 for increasing the region's clean and diverse energy resources and improving energy efficiencies. During the Annual Meeting, we will learn about the progress being made.*

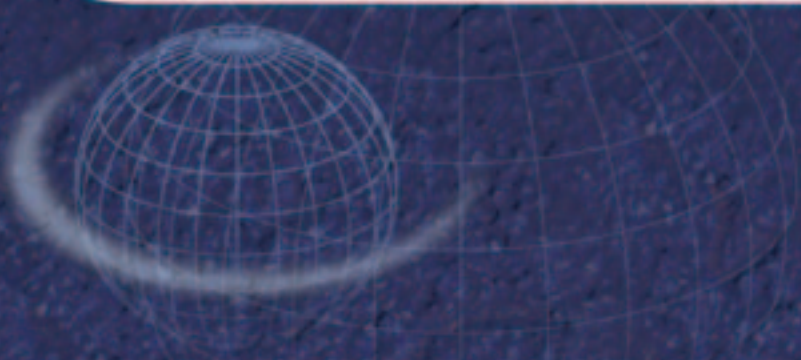
*WGA's Indian Gaming Summit held in March examined a number of issues that have arisen since the passage of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988. Many recommendations for improving the Act were made based on the excellent discussions with tribal leaders, industry representatives and experts in the field.*

*A summary of the past year's accomplishments on these and many other programs and issues can be found in the following pages of the 2005 Annual Report. I am proud of our work on important regional and national issues, and it has been my pleasure to serve as WGA's Chairman.*

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Owens." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

*Bill Owens  
Governor of Colorado  
Chairman, Western Governors' Association*





# 2004-2005 Board of Directors

## States

- Governor Frank Murkowski, Alaska
- Governor Janet Napolitano, Arizona
- Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger,  
California
- Governor Bill Owens, Colorado
- Governor Linda Lingle, Hawaii
- Governor Dirk Kempthorne, Idaho
- Governor Kathleen Sebelius, Kansas
- Governor Brian Schweitzer,  
Montana
- Governor Dave Heineman, Nebraska
- Governor Kenny C. Guinn, Nevada
- Governor Bill Richardson,  
New Mexico
- Governor John Hoeven,  
North Dakota
- Governor Ted Kulongoski, Oregon
- Governor Michael Rounds,  
South Dakota
- Governor Rick Perry, Texas
- Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr., Utah
- Governor Christine Gregoire,  
Washington
- Governor Dave Freudenthal,  
Wyoming

## U.S.-Flag Pacific Islands

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American Samoa
- Governor Felix Camacho, Guam
- Governor Juan N. Babauta,  
Northern Mariana Islands



Hawaii  
Guam

Northern Mariana Islands  
American Samoa

## Table of Contents

Board of Directors . . . . .	1
Acknowledgements . . . . .	2
About the Western Governors' Association . . . . .	2
2005 Year in Review . . . . .	3
Finances . . . . .	16
Western Governors' Bio Sketches . . . . .	17
Western Governors' Association Staff Council . . . . .	24
Western Governors' Association Staff . . . . .	24
Letter from the Vice Chairman . . . . .	Inside Back Cover

# About the Western Governors' Association

The Western Governors' Association is an independent, nonpartisan organization of Governors representing 18 Western states, and three U.S.-flag Pacific islands. Through their Association, Governors identify and address key policy and governance issues in natural resources, the environment, human services, economic development, international relations and public manage-



ment. Governors select issues for further review based on regional interest and impact. WGA helps the Governors develop strategies both for complex, long-term issues facing the West and for the region's immediate needs. Governors use WGA to develop and advocate policies that reflect regional interests and relationships in debates at the national and state levels. WGA

also acts as a center of innovation to find promising solutions for problems in the region.

The Governors serve as WGA's Board of Directors. The Board meets three times per year. Many Governors have one or more issues or policy areas for which they choose to serve as a lead Governor. With the concurrence of the chairman, a lead Governor directs activities, develops proposed positions, chairs related meetings, and provides testimony and comments to Congress, committees and federal agencies. WGA staff provides assistance for these activities.

During the Annual Meeting, the board elects a chairman, approves a work plan and budget for the upcoming year, and adopts policy resolutions that guide the work of the Association. Between gubernatorial meetings, the WGA Staff Council, which comprises the chief of staff or a top policy adviser for each Governor, reviews and guides WGA activities.

# Acknowledgements

The Western Governors' Association wishes to thank the following federal agencies and organizations for their support over the past year:

- Commission for Environmental Cooperation
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
- Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
  - U.S. Forest Service
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Department of Energy:
  - National Renewable Energy Lab
  - National Energy Technology Laboratory
  - Environmental Management, Carlsbad Field Office
  - National Transportation Program, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
- U.S. Department of the Interior
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,
  - Regional offices: VI, VIII, IX and X
  - Office of Air and Radiation
  - Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
  - Office of International Activities



# Priorities of the Chairman

Each Chairman of the Western Governors' Association selects issues or initiatives to advance during his or her tenure. This year's Chairman, Governor Bill Owens, placed special emphasis on three issues: reauthorizing and improving the Endangered Species Act; supporting a regional effort to conserve the Greater Sage Grouse; and examining the growth and effects of Indian gaming since passage of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988.

## *Giving States Better Tools to Protect and Recover Endangered Species*

Reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is one of the highest legislative priorities of the Western Governors' Association. Western Governors applaud the principles of the ESA and have maintained a longstanding interest in improving species recovery efforts by making the process more efficient and by providing more effective incentives for state and private conservation activities. With Governors Owens and Freudenthal serving as leads for this issue, WGA remains committed to working with Congress to achieve targeted, common-sense changes to the ESA to effectuate these goals.

Western Governors have engaged a broad array of stakeholders to develop a consensus set of recommended changes to the ESA that can be supported by a bipartisan group of federal lawmakers. In December, WGA hosted an Endangered Species Act Summit that brought together over 400 participants representing diverse interests. Summit participants appeared to be in general agreement that there are many steps we can take together to update and modernize the Act, such as: enhancing the role of states in the recovery process; requiring recovery goals for listed species; providing more incentives for species conservation on private lands; and ensuring the use of good science in the process.

As a result of the positive feedback from the Summit,

the Governors sent a letter to Congress asking for targeted changes to the Act in accordance with those principles. Subsequently, letters supporting the Governors' general recommendations were sent to



*Attending the ESA Summit and WGA winter meeting were Govs. Guinn, Richardson, Martz, Schwarzenegger, Owens, Rounds and Lingle.*

WGA by three leading environmental groups — Environmental Defense, Defenders of Wildlife and the World Wildlife Fund — and the Western States Land Commissioners Association. WGA and lead-Governor staffs continue to coordinate with stakeholders and have undertaken an aggressive advocacy campaign to convince Congress and the Administration to support changes to the ESA that are consistent with this growing consensus.

### **Reports, Position Papers and Resolutions**

- *Reauthorization and Amendment of the Endangered Species Act of 1973* (03-15)
- *De-listing of Endangered Species* (03-10)
- *Conservation Efforts Regarding Black-tailed Prairie Dogs* (04-21)

## *Conservation of the Greater Sage Grouse*

In January of this year, Western Governors applauded the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's decision that the Greater Sage Grouse does not warrant listing under the Endangered Species Act. Under the leadership of Governors Owens and Guinn, WGA helped compile significant data and success stories on sage grouse





recovery efforts in the 11 states affected by the decision and submitted it to FWS officials and to Congress.

Following the decision, WGA hosted the National Conference for Sage Grouse Local Working Groups in Reno, Nevada. Cosponsors

included the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Department of the Interior, the North American Grouse Partnership, and the National Wildlife Federation.

The conference brought together more than 270 private landowners, conservationists, government

officials, industry, and nongovernmental representatives to share their experiences, knowledge, and data. The goal of the conference was for key policy-makers to learn from local working groups what their needs and concerns were and to begin building a comprehensive plan for the recovery of the Greater Sage Grouse and other species that inhabit the sagebrush ecosystem.

The Governors are encouraging a continued focus on the health of the species, range-wide, and have cautioned that any disengagement at this critical juncture would likely have negative consequences for the species, private industry, and the states. Because sage grouse serve as one indicator of the overall health of the sagebrush ecosystem in western North America, Governors have expanded their states' involvement in this conservation effort to the entire sagebrush ecosystem.

This coming year, WGA will convene a Sagebrush Conservation Council to assist local working groups with completing their sage grouse conservation plans and to develop a conservation plan for sagebrush habitat. The council will be co-chaired by the lead Governors or their designees and consist of members appointed by the Governors in the 11 states with Greater Sage Grouse habitat.



## Reports, Position Papers and Resolutions

- *Sage Grouse and Sagebrush Conservation* (Res. 05-01)
- *National Conference for Sage-grouse Local Working Groups Conference Proceedings Report* (2005)
- *Conserving the Greater Sage Grouse: A Compilation of Efforts Underway on State, Tribal, Provincial and Private Lands* (June 2004)
- *Conserving the Greater Sage Grouse: Examples of Partnerships and Strategies at Work Across the West* (June 2004)

## Executive Summit on Indian Gaming

In March, Governors Bill Owens and Mike Rounds convened an Executive Summit on Indian Gaming. The purpose of the Summit was to examine developments in Indian Gaming since passage of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act in 1988.

Representatives of 25 tribes, five tribal associations, and 10 state governments attended the Summit. They were joined by local government and federal representatives, gaming regulators and law enforcement officials, concerned citizens and casino owners.

The Summit found that gaming has been beneficial to tribes by generating revenues to improve housing, education and health care on their reservations. Also discussed were areas causing friction between tribes and states. Those issues included proposals to take land into trust for gaming in states distant from a tribe's reservation and technology changes that are blurring the lines between low-stakes, bingo-type games and traditional casino style games, such as poker.



*Participating in a press conference on Indian Gaming were Governors Owens, Rounds and Stuart Paisano of the Pueblo of Sandia.*

# 2005 Year in Review

## Creating More Workable Environmental and Natural Resource Management Systems

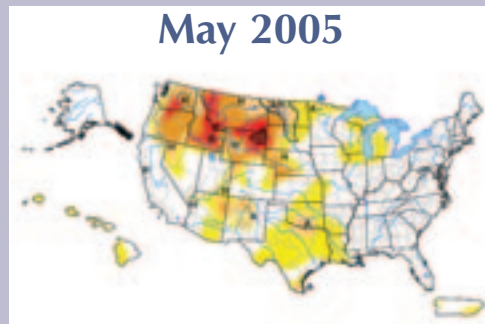
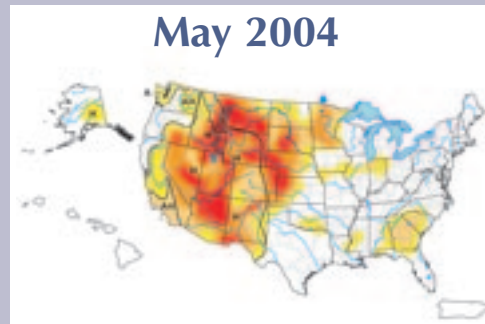
The Western Governors' Association has long supported and encouraged policies and strategies that allow the public to meet environmental objectives in innovative, more cost effective ways. Such strategies focus on results rather than inflexible processes; emphasize the power of market incentives without defeating the enormous gains achieved historically; and finding solutions to solve problems through the best thinking and cooperation of all affected groups – regulators, businesses, tribal governments, landowners and the general public. WGA bases these efforts on the Enlibra Principles adopted by the Governors originally in 1999.

Two issues that fall under this broad category – Endangered Species Act reauthorization and conservation of the Greater Sage Grouse – are summarized under the Chairman's Priorities on the previous two pages.

### *Water and Drought Policy*

Water supplies in the West are strained by several competing demands: economic expansion and population growth; protection of wildlife, including threatened and endangered species; and water quality. Droughts further compound these demands and have major impacts on our quality of life. The WGA water program is intended to provide a strategic, state-based approach to Western water policy.

Records indicate that drought occurs somewhere in the West almost every year. However, it is multi-year drought events that are of the greatest concern to planners, natural resource managers and government policy-makers, as well as cities, the agricultural community and homeowners. During recent droughts, states



### National Drought Monitor

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

often have been frustrated in their attempts to provide drought assistance to their citizens. At the federal level, droughts have historically been treated as unique, separate events even though there have been frequent, significant droughts of national consequence over the years. Actions have been taken mainly through special legislation and ad hoc action measures rather than through a systematic and permanent process, as occurs with other natural disasters. Frequently, funding to assist states with related impacts has been unavailable or not provided in a timely manner.



To better coordinate and integrate federal and state programs for drought, WGA's lead Governors for drought, Mike Rounds of South Dakota, Bryan Schweitzer of Montana and Bill Richardson of New Mexico, have worked with Senate and House leaders in developing the National Drought Preparedness Act of 2005. The bill would move the country away from the costly, ad-hoc, response-oriented approach to drought, and move us toward a proactive approach to preparedness. The new national policy would provide tools and coordination for drought, similar to those provided for other natural disasters in the Stafford Act.

The Governors have identified reliable data as a key factor that will allow policy-makers and individuals to mitigate drought impacts. In June 2004, the Governors adopted the report "A Drought Early Warning System for the 21st Century: the National Integrated Drought Information System," which includes a number of recommendations to improve the science of drought in terms of both forecasting and monitoring. The report was developed through a collaborative process under a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Governors sent a letter to the President in August 2004 urging him to fund NIDIS, and were pleased to see that the President's 2006 budget request does indeed include \$4 million to support NIDIS.

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### Reports, Position Papers and Resolutions

- *Creating a Drought Early Warning System for the 21st Century; The National Integrated Drought Information System* (2004)
- *Future Management of Drought in the West* (Res. 02-02)
- *Regarding Future Management of Drought in the United States (Memorandum of Understanding;* (2000)
- *Western Drought Experience: The Western Drought Coordination Council's Report to the National Drought Policy Commission* (1999)
- *Drought Response Action Plan* (1996)

## Nuclear Waste Transportation

The WGA Radioactive Waste Safe Transportation Program consists of 12 Western states collaborating to plan and monitor shipments of transuranic waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in southeastern New Mexico. This model program is supported by the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE), Carlsbad Field Office, which is responsible for coordinating all transuranic waste shipments.

Since March 1999, more than 3,500 shipments have been successfully completed without a significant incident. To date, shipments have been made from five DOE sites: Rocky Flats Environmental Test Site in Colorado, Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, Hanford Site in Washington, Savannah River Site in South Carolina, and Idaho National Laboratory in Idaho. The last shipment from the Rocky Flats site was made in late April 2005.

During the past year, WGA has focused on the preparation of a "Report to Western Governors on the Status of the WIPP Transportation Safety Program," which was issued in June of 2004. Additionally, the Western states have continued to focus on updating the WIPP Transportation Safety Program Implementation Guide.

In addition to transuranic waste shipments, DOE has made shipments of foreign research reactor spent fuel



*Last shipment of waste leaves Rocky Flats in April 2005.*



from the Savannah River site to the Idaho National Laboratory and low level shipments, via rail, from Rocky Flats Environmental Test Site to Evirocare in Clive, Utah. DOE developed transportation and security plans for these shipments using a planning process that included both WGA and the affected states..

WGA's affiliate, the Western Interstate Energy Board, has been assigned the responsibility to implement the Governors' policies related to the shipment of spent fuel and high-level radioactive waste under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. During the past year, WIEB has worked closely with DOE's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management to develop a system for the safe and uneventful transportation of such waste. DOE anticipates shipping this waste to the proposed repository at Yucca Mountain beginning in 2012.

Governors Dirk Kempthorne of Idaho, Kenny Guinn of Nevada and Bill Richardson of New Mexico serve as lead Governors for WGA's radioactive waste transportation programs. These programs are supported with funding from DOE.

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### Reports, Position Papers and Resolutions

- *Report to Western Governors on the Status of the WIPP Transportation Safety Program, Developed Cooperatively through the Western Governors' Association WIPP Transportation Technical Advisory Group, June 2004*
- *U.S. Department of Energy Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) and TRU Waste (Res.03-08)*
- *Assessing the Risks of Terrorism and Sabotage Against High-Level Nuclear Waste Shipments to a Geologic Repository or Interim Storage Facility (Res.04-02)*
- *Transportation of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste (Res. 02-05)*
- *Department of Energy Facilities Cleanup Program Top-to-Bottom Review (Res. 02-25)*

## Western Regional Air Partnership

Through the leadership of Western Governors, the Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP) is spearheading efforts to improve air quality in the West. The WRAP brings together Western states, tribes, and federal agencies — along with business, industry, and environmental interests — to protect air quality in the West's National Parks and wilderness areas, which are cherished by Westerners and visitors from around the world.

Under the co-chairmanship of Governor Janet Napolitano and Councilman Lloyd Irvine of the Confederated Tribes of Salish and Kootenai, the WRAP



Mount Rainier National Park

is making great strides as it helps Western states with the development of regional haze plans due to the Environmental Protection Agency in December 2007.

The WRAP continues to develop state-of-the-art technical tools needed by Western states and tribes to develop sound strategies for improving air quality across the West. This effort includes development of a regional emissions database management system, an air-quality modeling program being conducted by the University of California at Riverside, and a comprehensive evaluation of data to assess the factors contributing to visibility impairment at each Class I area.

Five of the WRAP states and the city of Albuquerque,



which developed a joint plan for reducing regional haze under Section 309 of EPA's Regional Haze Rules, are working with the EPA to determine what additional analysis is needed for their sulfur dioxide emissions program to be approved in light of a recent court decision in CEED v. EPA. In a letter to the EPA, environmental and air quality directors from Arizona, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah and Wyoming and the city of Albuquerque said they are encouraged that "the court's decision upholds the ability of states to develop market-based alternatives to source-by-source controls for those facilities that are subject to the best available retrofit technology (BART) requirements of the regional haze rules."

Once the EPA promulgates new BART rules, the states said they will work together and with the agency to determine what additional analysis of their SO<sub>2</sub> program is needed for EPA to move forward with approval of the Section 309 state implementation plans.

### Reports, Position Papers and Resolutions

- *Western Air Quality* (Res. 02-06)

## Strengthening State and Federal Energy Policy and Systems

### *Clean and Diversified Energy Initiative*

The Western Governors Clean and Diversified Energy Initiative is well on its way toward meeting its goals of increasing clean energy resources and energy efficiency. Under the leadership of Governors Bill Richardson, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Dave Freudenthal and John Hoeven, this initiative is aimed at developing a national energy policy that is diverse, and contains both conventional and alternative energy resource development, energy efficiency and conservation. All Western

Governors agree that for the West to sustain its growing population and economy, it will need to have new, secure and reliable energy sources. At the same time, they recognize the challenge of meeting long-term energy needs of the West, while being good environmental stewards.

In June 2004, the Western Governors agreed to tackle the issue by passing the Clean and Diversified Energy Resolution. This initiative emphasizes the development of a diverse mix of energy supplies that will result in 30,000 megawatts of clean energy by 2015 from a variety

#### CDEAC Task Forces

- Advanced Natural Gas
- Biomass
- Clean Coal
- Energy Efficiency
- Geothermal
- Solar
- Transmission
- Wind

of conventional and renewable sources; a 20 percent increase in energy efficiency by 2020; and a plan for meeting transmission needs over the next 25 years. While these goals are ambitious, the Western Governors believe they are not only achievable, but critical to the continued vitality of the West.

The Governors have appointed a Clean and Diversified Energy Advisory Committee (CDEAC) to identify technically and financially viable recommendations for meeting these goals. The CDEAC is a consensus-based group that will ensure that broad viewpoints representing the public interest as a whole are considered and forwarded to the Governors. As with many of the WGA projects, the CDEAC will be guided by the Enlibra principles for environmental management.

The CDEAC has created eight technical task forces to provide it with information on which to base its recommendations. These task forces are Energy Efficiency, Solar Energy, Geothermal Energy, Biomass, Wind Energy, Clean Coal, Advanced Natural Gas, and Transmission. The task forces started meeting in early 2005 and will submit their final reports to the CDEAC on



November 1, 2005. The CDEAC will then develop recommendations to the Governors. A final report from the Governors will be issued in June 2006.

Support for this initiative is provided by the U.S. Department of Energy and the Hewlett Foundation.

## ***Proactive Regional Transmission Planning***

With the September release of the Phase 1 report of the Rocky Mountain Area Transmission Study (RMATS), Western Governors took the next step in implementing proactive transmission planning. The study identifies the new facilities needed for the region to tap lower cost generating resources. The Governors of Wyoming, Montana, and Utah announced the results of a stakeholder-driven process that identified what new transmission is needed to meet expected load growth in those states, as well as in Idaho, and to export power to West Coast and Southwest markets.

Phase 2 of the study will encourage beneficiaries of the proposed transmission expansion to move forward by providing recommendations for specific projects. In April 2005, Governors Arnold Schwarzenegger, Kenny Guinn, Jon Huntsman, Jr., and Dave Freudenthal, signed an MOU to develop the Frontier Line, which would move power from Wyoming and northern Nevada to load centers in Utah, Nevada and California. Also following up on the RMATS study was Northwestern Energy, which issued an "open season" proposal to build transmission between Montana and southern Idaho.

Proactive transmission planning is

also underway in the Northwest and Southwest, and a new round of interconnection-wide transmission planning has begun. As a result of proactive planning in the Southwest, a new 500 kilovolt transmission line from Palo Verde, Arizona, to Southern California has been approved by the California Independent System Operator.

## ***Coal Bed Methane Best Management Practices***

Coal bed methane (CBM) resources play an important role in meeting U.S. domestic energy needs. In 2001, 1.4 trillion cubic feet of CBM was produced in the five Rocky Mountain States of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, representing eight percent of the total U.S. gas supply. The Rocky Mountain West may contain as much as 63 trillion cubic feet of natural gas from coal seams.

Natural gas is used to produce 18 percent of the electricity generated domestically, and is the fastest growing use of natural gas.

While CBM is a critical component of our energy supply, the growth in CBM development in the West poses challenges for communities in which it occurs, including the construction of new roads, pipelines, compressors, and other facilities. Challenges also include management of water resources, waste treatment and disposal and impacts to communities where this development is occurring. One means of addressing these challenges is to coordinate and foster sharing of information that will





promote the sound, efficient and environmentally appropriate development of CBM. In particular, best management practices can be shared and used to help develop this resource in an environmentally sound manner.

Based on a recommendation from WGA's "Enlibra" Summit in 2002, the Governors adopted policy to promote the sharing of best practices for CBM and formed an advisory committee of a broad range of stakeholders to develop a CBM Best Management Practices Handbook. The advisory committee worked diligently to reach a consensus on best practices. The handbook was endorsed and released by the Governors at the North American Environmental Summit in April 2004. It addresses four areas of management practices: planning; water; landowner relations; and, infrastructure. The handbook is intended to be broadly applicable across geographic basins, although the decision to adopt a particular practice may be site specific.

WGA is continuing to promote the use of best practices through distribution of the handbook and by arranging speaking engagements on this topic for members of its advisory committee. We are also looking at customizing and applying the practices set forth in the handbook to a particular CBM basin in advance of its development.

Governor Freudenthal is lead governor for this effort. Region VIII of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management provide funding for this effort.

## ***Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System***

The Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System is a joint effort by the WGA, the California Energy Commission and the Western Regional Air Partnership to implement an independent, voluntary, renewable energy generation database and a registry for Renewable Energy Certificates within the Western Interconnection.

Recommendations for operating rules and a governance structure were developed by more than 200 stakeholders and completed in July 2004. Among the recommendations was that the Western Electricity Coordinating Council host WREGIS within its organization, which the WECC agreed to in early December. A WREGIS Interim Committee met in March 2005 to organize and convene a new Stakeholder Advisory Committee, which will conduct the first election for a permanent WREGIS Committee.

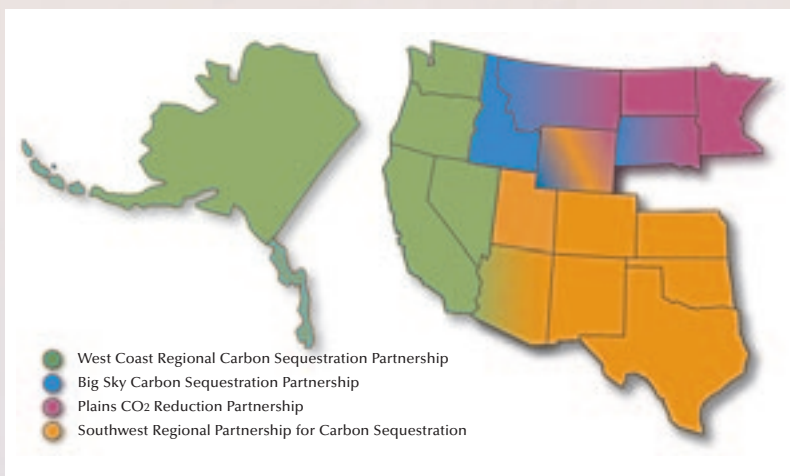
The renewable tracking system is expected to be designed, tested and operational in late 2006. WREGIS will not be a trading platform for renewable energy, certificates, or credits. Rather, it will serve as a tracking and registry service, similar to a banking system, enabling the registration of generators and other account holders, the tracking of REC transfers within and out of the system, and the creation of public and private reports.

Support from this project comes from the California Energy Commission and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



## Western Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnerships

The Western Governors' Association and its affiliate, the Western Interstate Energy Board, are assisting four regional partnerships to bring together all interested stakeholders to identify technologies and infrastructure that have the best potential to capture and sequester carbon in economical and environmentally sound ways. In March, all four CO<sub>2</sub> partnerships in the West — the Big Sky, Plains, Southwest and West Coast — submitted proposals to the U.S. Department of Energy for Phase II demonstrations. Lead Governors Bill Richardson and Mike Rounds, in a letter to DOE, expressed WGA's support for the Phase II proposals. The Governors noted that the West "is essential to the success of the sequestration program, because it holds a preponderance of the nation's fossil fuels and also provides excellent



opportunities for geologic and terrestrial sequestration." The Governors said the success of the Phase II pilots will help ensure the continued development of the West's fossil energy resources, a key element in the Western Governors' Clean and Diversified Energy Initiative. Funding for this initiative is provided by the U.S. Department of Energy.

## Reports, Position Papers and Resolutions

- *Clean and Diversified Energy Initiative for the West* (04-14)
- *Coal Bed Methane Best Management Practices: A Handbook* (April 2004)
- *Western Energy Policy Roadmap* (03-19)
- *Protecting the Reliability of the Western Electric Power System* (03-27)
- *Conceptual Plans for Electricity Transmission in the West* (2001)

## Restore and Maintain Healthy Forests and Rangelands in the West

### Implementing the 10-year Comprehensive Strategy

Under the leadership of Governors Napolitano and Kempthorne, WGA continued to make forest health policy a high priority. The focus in this area for WGA has been helping to implement the Governors' 10-year Comprehensive Strategy and Implementation Plan. The plans were developed by a broad-based group of stakeholders in 2001 and 2002, respectively. The Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior, among others, joined the Governors in approving the plans. The goals of the plans are to improve suppression, promote community assistance, reduce hazardous fuels, and maintain and restore fire-adapted ecosystems.

At the request of the Governors, WGA's Forest Health Advisory Committee submitted a report to the WGA in November on the status and needs for full implementation of the 10-Year Strategy. The Governors endorsed the report and forwarded it to the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture in December. The report details the progress made in implementing the 10-Year Strategy and also points out that substantial progress is still needed in the



## Oregon Fuels Reduction Project



areas of restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems, community assistance, and using a collaborative approach. WGA is working closely with its advisory committee and the federally led Wildland Fire Leadership Council to implement the recommendations in the report.

To support state-level collaborative efforts on forest health, WGA sponsored a workshop in Casper, Wyoming in May for the states of Colorado, South Dakota and

Wyoming. More than 100 people participated in the conference to hear about case studies from around the West and to discuss how each state can better include the public in designing and funding projects on the ground.

The Governors continue to engage Congress as the House and Senate evaluate forest health-related budgets and programs. Governors Kempthorne and Napolitano on behalf of Western Governors, provided testimony in February to a House Resources Sub-Committee on WGA's view on wildfire policy based on the report from the advisory committee. They have also repeatedly sought increased funding from the Congress for forest health activities consistent with the 10-Year Strategy.

WGA also chaired a blue-ribbon panel examining the costs of suppressing large fires. Fires greater than 300 acres consume nearly 94 percent of all suppression resources. A number of the panel's recommendations were presented in testimony before the U.S. Senate in April. If implemented, the recommendations would lead to increased cost control by the federal agencies, making more resources available to improve forest health and reduce the risks of large wildfires.

Governors Kempthorne and Napolitano serve as leads for Forest Health. The U.S. Forest Service and the Department of the Interior provide financial support for this effort.

### Reports, Position Papers and Resolutions

- *Western Governors' Association Forest Health Advisory Committee – Report to the Western Governors on Implementation of the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy (November 2004)*
- *Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan – A Handbook for Wildland-Urban Interface Communities (March 2004)*
- *Memorandum of Understanding on Enhancing Cross-Boarder Co-Operation to Fight Wildland Fires, between the Western Premiers and the Western Governors' Association (September 14, 2003)*



- *A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment: 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan (2002)*
- *A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildfire Risks to Communities and the Environment: A Ten-year Comprehensive Strategy (2001)*
- *Improving Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Health in the West (Res. 03-18)*

## Western Regional Biomass Energy Program

To further the development and use of biomass energy sources, the WGA has developed a Western Regional Biomass Energy Program that offers grants for joint projects between state forestry and energy offices in



*Converting forest slash into usable wood chips for energy.*

13 states. Biomass projects include renewable organic materials, such as forestry and agricultural crop residues, as well as wood and food processing wastes.

The grant program was initiated by WGA and the U.S. Department of Energy through the National

Biomass State and Regional Partnership. WGA manages the Western region of this national partnership, which is addressing two significant natural resource challenges in the West – restoring the health of our forests and developing a clean and renewable source of energy.

WGA's goal, under the leadership of Governors Janet Napolitano and Dirk Kempthorne, is to increase conversion of biomass residuals from forest health projects and commercial agricultural activities into energy and other valuable by-products. In this first year four states received biomass program funding totaling nearly \$250,000. Among the projects underway are:

- **Arizona** - Economic and engineering feasibility studies are being conducted on the potential use of pellets or chips in state-funded buildings' heating and cooling systems.
- **Colorado** - This grant will cover four projects: development of university course curriculum on biomass utilization; a biomass supply study; a survey of industry to gauge interest in using wood for in co-firing energy; facility heating studies.
- **New Mexico** - A sustainable biomass energy and economic case study will evaluate policy and incentives related to the appropriate sizing of biomass co-generation operations, on-site energy supply and economic feasibility.
- **South Dakota** - Feasibility studies will be conducted on the use of biomass for schools, state and local governments and other public institutions in the Black Hills area.

A second round of grants for the remaining eligible states in the WGA biomass region is planned for the upcoming year. Support for this initiative comes from the U.S. Department of Energy.

### Reports, Position Papers and Resolutions

- *Clean and Diversified Energy Initiative for the West*



# Strengthening Relationships with Mexico and Canada

## *Western U.S.-Western Canada Relations*

The Western Canadian Premiers will join Western governors at the WGA Annual Meeting in June 2005. The Western Premiers' Conference and WGA meet once a year, alternating between each group's meeting, to discuss issues of mutual concern and to share information. Among topics to be discussed this year are energy and agricultural trade. Members of the WPC are the Premiers of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nunavut, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

## *U.S.-Mexico Border Environment Dialogue*

The Border Environment Dialogue provides a mechanism for U.S. and Mexican state and federal officials to work together on health, environmental and natural resource issues of mutual concern. With WGA's assistance, an ongoing forum and coordination mechanism has been established for the environmental agencies of the four U.S. and six Mexican border states to communicate, exchange information and cooperate on border environmental issues and programs.

The State of Coahuila hosted the 2005 Ten State Retreat for environmental directors in May. Topics discussed included shared environmental and natural resources challenges along the border, including trans-boundary air quality management and the National Border 2012 Program.

The efforts of the Dialogue are closely coordinated with the Border Governors' Conference, which includes the 10 U.S.-Mexico border Governors and is held annually. This coordination has allowed the environmental

leaders to have an effective voice in the Border Governors' agenda and international policy positions.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides funding for these efforts.

## *Mexico Air Pollutant Emissions Inventory*

WGA was instrumental in helping conduct a comprehensive inventory of air pollutant emissions for Mexico and joined in releasing the results in June 2005. WGA has worked in partnership with the states and Mexico over the past four years to develop the inventory, which provides a technical basis for identifying effective control strategies to protect the health of the Mexican people. For the United States, having a comprehensive inventory will provide data essential to the accurate characterization of air quality and visibility problems along the border, as well as a more realistic estimation of the long



range transport characteristics of Mexican emissions.

Another benefit of this initiative is that WGA helped build the technical skills of Mexican air quality staff to keep the inventory accurate and up-to-date well into the future. In April, 2004, WGA released the first major product of this effort, a comprehensive emissions inventory for the six northern states of Mexico. Since then, WGA released a special inventory for the 100 kilometer zone on either side of the border in support of the goals of the U.S.-Mexico Border 2012 project.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Commission for Environmental Cooperation provide support.

## ***U.S.-Mexico Border Energy***

WGA's Border Energy effort advanced this year with the establishment of Border Energy Advisory Roundtables in both San Diego-Tijuana and El Paso-Ciudad Juarez. The BEARs are peer-to-peer business groups that work to gain a greater acceptance and application of energy efficiency measures. WGA is also working in conjunction with the World Bank, the North American Development Bank, and the California Energy Commission to complete energy audits in Monterrey, Mexico that will lead to implementation of energy efficiency projects. Finally, WGA is working with businesses in the California-Baja California to complete energy audits and implement energy projects.

This project is supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

### **Reports, Position Papers and Resolutions**

- *Energy Efficiency in the Border Region: A Market Approach* (April 2004)
- *U.S.-Mexico Border Environment* (Res. 00-011)
- *WGA Relations with the Western Premiers' Conference* (Res. 02-14)
- *WGA Relations with Mexico and the Border Governors' Conference* (Res. 02-15)

## **Strengthening Relationships in Washington, D.C.**

The WGA Washington, D.C. Office exists to aid the Western Governors in explaining and advancing Western policy objectives in federal law, regulations, and administrative decisions. Primarily, the Washington, D.C. Office has two tasks: policy monitoring and lobbying, and bringing the West to Washington.

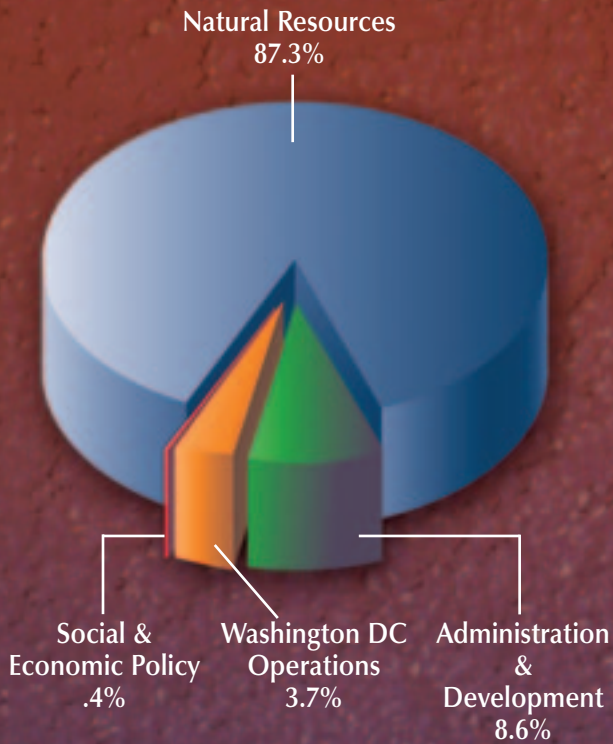
Over the past year, WGA staff has lobbied Congress and federal agency personnel on the Governors' priority issues, including: enhancements to the Endangered Species Act; public lands legislation and appropriations; energy policy; drought policy; abandoned mine lands; and telecommunications. The Washington, D.C. staff also assists Governors in their own lobbying efforts on behalf of WGA, e.g., in preparing testimony for Congressional hearings. In addition, WGA staff have actively sought out and developed strong relationships with other entities that have substantially similar policy interests and built coalitions to lobby for changes in federal policy.

The Washington, D.C. Office is also responsible for "bringing the West to Washington," an effort to maintain regional cohesion among the various policymakers in Washington, D.C. The office works with the Western States Senate Coalition, the House Western Caucus, and with other groups to foster a sense of regional identity and joint purpose among the many Westerners living and working in the Nation's Capitol.

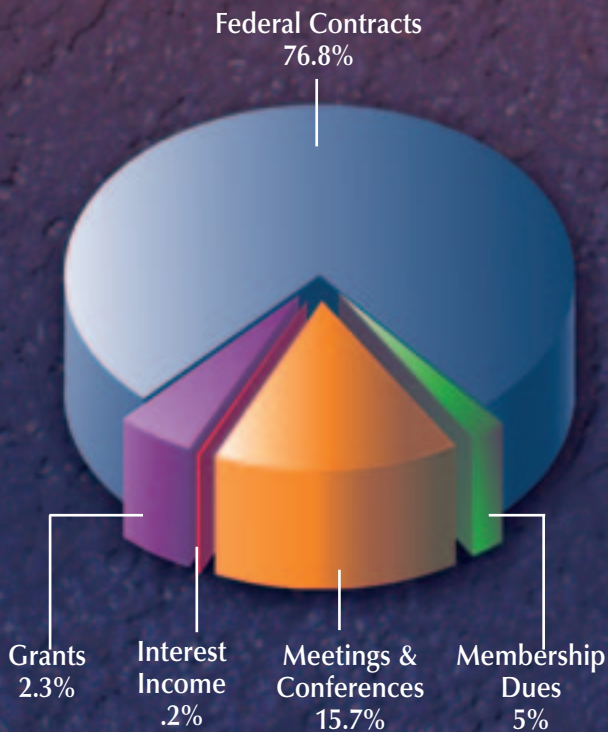
*Reports, position papers and resolutions mentioned in the "Year in Review 2005" are available on the Western Governors' Association Web site at [www.westgov.org](http://www.westgov.org). Resolutions adopted at the 2005 Annual Meeting in June, which are not listed in this report, are also available on the Web. For those without access to the Internet, a copy may be obtained by contacting WGA at (303) 623-9378.*



## FY 2004 Functional Expenses



## FY 2004 Support and Revenues



## Finances

WGA's income is derived from dues from member states, grants and contracts, contributions, interest and other miscellaneous income. Member Dues for the fiscal year 2004 were \$36,000 per state and \$6,000 per territory/commonwealth.

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2004 WGA's Income totaled \$9,657,180 approximately 77% of this amount was received from federal agencies for various projects.

### *Statement of Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2003*

Membership Dues	\$ 480,000
Federal Contracts	7,415,354
Grants	220,865
Meetings & Conferences	1,525,037
Interest Income	15,925
	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 9,657,180</b>

### *Functional Expenses*

Natural Resources	\$ 7,965,082
Social & Economic Policy	31,129
Washington DC Operations	342,024
Administration & Development	787,488
	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 9,125,723</b>

Excerpted for the audit of report of JDS Professional Group, Certified Public Accounts, Consultants and Advisors

# Governor Bio Sketches

## Alaska



**Frank Murkowski**, born in Seattle, Washington, left the life of a U.S. Senator to run for Governor of Alaska, an office to which he was elected in 2002. Murkowski was first elected as a U.S. Senator in 1980 and served on the Energy and Natural Resources, Finance, Indian Affairs and Veterans' Affairs Committees. Prior to entering the Senate, he was president of Alaska National Bank of the North, starting in that post in 1971. In 1966 Murkowski was appointed Alaska's Commissioner of Economic Development, the state's youngest commissioner at age 33. Murkowski's first job after graduating from Seattle University in 1955 with a degree in economics and then serving

two years in the U.S. Coast Guard was with Pacific National Bank in Seattle. Murkowski has been president of the Alaska Bankers Association and president of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the Pioneers of Alaska.

*Birth Date: March 28, 1933*  
*Family: Married, six children*  
*Spouse: Nancy*  
*Party: Republican*  
*Elected: 2002*

## American Samoa



**Togiola Tulafono**, formerly American Samoa's Lieutenant Governor, was sworn into office in April 2003 following the sudden death of Governor Tauese Sunia. Prior to that he had served as a Senator for 12 years, as the first chair of the Board of Directors of the American Samoa Power Authority and as the first chair of the Board of Higher Education. A graduate of Chadron State College in Nebraska, Washburn University School of Law in Topeka, Kansas, and the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada, Tulafono also served as a District Court Judge, as Samoan Assistant to the Attorney General, and as a lawyer in private practice for more than 20 years. His other

public duties have included service as a policeman, an administrative assistant for the Secretary of Samoan Affairs, and chair of the American Samoa Centennial Committee, which in 2000 marked the centennial of American Samoa's relationship as a U.S. possession.

*Birth Date: February 28, 1947*  
*Family: Married, six children*  
*Spouse: Mary*  
*Party: Democrat*  
*Succeeded to Office: 2003*

## Arizona



**Janet Napolitano** is a former U.S. Attorney for Arizona, a post in which she served for more than five years. She was elected Arizona Attorney General in 1998 and Governor in 2002. Her activities as U.S. Attorney included management of investigations into the relationship between the Oklahoma City Federal Building bombing and Timothy McVeigh's time in Kingman, Arizona. Born in New York City in 1957, Napolitano grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and attended college in California at Santa Clara University. She received her law degree from the University of Virginia. Napolitano is WGA's Vice Chair.

*Birth Date: November 29, 1957*  
*Party: Democrat*  
*Elected: 2002*



## California



**Arnold Schwarzenegger** moved to the United States from Austria when he was 21. Schwarzenegger has devoted significant time and energy to improving the lives of others, especially children. Schwarzenegger has received many awards for this devotion. He was appointed the Chairman of the Presidents Council on Physical Fitness in 1990, where he served until 1993. In 1995, he established the Inner City Game Foundation, which provides year-round after school and weekend cultural, educational and community enrichment programs for youths. Before being sworn in as California's 38th governor, Schwarzenegger had a distinguished career in business and entertainment.

*Birth Date: July 30, 1947*  
*Family: Married, four children*  
*Spouse: Maria Shriver*  
*Party: Republican*  
*Elected: 2003*

## Colorado



**Bill Owens**, WGA Chairman, was sworn in as Colorado's 40th governor in January 1999. Called "the best governor in America" by National Review magazine, he was re-elected in 2002 with the greatest majority in Colorado history, earning a broad mandate for his innovative leadership. He also served as the Chairman of the Republican Governors' Association in 2003. Governor Owens, who holds a master's degree in public administration from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, worked for 20 years in the private sector before serving in the Colorado House of Representatives, Colorado Senate and as State Treasurer. He and Colorado's First Lady, Frances Owens, have three children.

*Birth Date: October 22, 1950*  
*Family: Married, three children*  
*Spouse: Frances*  
*Party: Republican*  
*Re-elected: 2002*

## Guam



**Felix Perez Camacho**, prior to his election served as a senator in four sessions of the Guam Legislature, and held positions as assistant majority leader, majority whip and presiding officer of the Legislative Committee on Power, Governmental Operations, and Foreign Affairs. He also was chair of the Committee on Tourism, Transportation, and Economic Development, and served on various other committees. He represented Guam at the Asian Pacific Parliamentarian Union, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures and the National Council of State Legislators. Born in Camp Zama, Japan, Camacho attended Marquette University and graduated with a

degree in business administration and finance in 1980. He worked with the Pacific Financial Corp. as an insurance manager in the property casualty division before joining IBM as an account administrator. He has been active in community affairs and was a recipient of the Pacific Jaycees, Three Young Outstanding People Award.

*Birth Date: October 30, 1957*  
*Family: Married, three children*  
*Spouse: Joann*  
*Party: Republican*  
*Elected: 2002*

## Hawaii



**Linda Lingle**, the sixth elected governor of Hawai'i and the first woman to lead the Aloha State (who previously served two full terms as Mayor of Maui County and ten years on the Maui County Council), assumed office in December 2002 following a campaign in which she pledged to bring about a "New Beginning." A native of Missouri, she relocated to Hawai'i in 1975 after graduating cum laude with a journalism degree from California State University, Northridge. In 1976, she founded and began serving as publisher of the Moloka'i Free Press.

*Birth Date: June 4, 1953  
Party: Republican  
Elected: 2002*

## Idaho



**Dirk Kempthorne** was born in San Diego, California. He attended the University of Idaho, earning a bachelor's degree in political science in 1975. Kempthorne was elected mayor of Boise, Idaho, in 1984 and served in that capacity for seven years. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in November 1992. Kempthorne served on the Environment and Public Works Committee, where he chaired the Drinking Water, Fisheries, and Wildlife Subcommittee. He also served on the Armed Services Committee, chairing the Military Personnel Subcommittee, and the Small Business Committee. Governor Kempthorne was elected Governor in 1998 and re-elected in

*Birth Date: October 29, 1951  
Family: Married; two children  
Spouse: Patricia  
Party: Republican  
Re-elected: 2002*

2002. He is a former chairman of the Western Governors' Association and the National Governors Association.

## Kansas



**Kathleen Sebelius** is the nation's first daughter of a governor (Ohio Gov. John Gilligan) to be elected to the same position. Her first elected service began in 1987 with election to the Kansas House of Representatives, where she served until 1994. In 1994 she was elected Insurance Commissioner and received recognition as one of Governing Magazine's Top 10 Public Officials in 2001. In 2002 she was elected as the 44th Governor of Kansas. Modern Healthcare Magazine listed her among the 100 most powerful people in the healthcare field that same year. Sebelius was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, to John and Katie Gilligan in 1948. She received a political science degree from

*Birth Date: May 15, 1948  
Family: Married, two sons  
Spouse: Gary  
Party: Democrat  
Elected: 2002*

Trinity College and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Kansas. Sebelius was the youngest member to be appointed to the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission.



## Montana



**Brian Schweitzer**, elected governor in November 2004, is Montana's first Democratic Governor since 1988. The fourth of six children, he was raised on his parent's registered cattle ranch in the Judith Basin, Montana. Governor Schweitzer earned a Bachelor of Science degree in International Agronomy from Colorado State University, and later earned a Master of Science degree in soil science from Montana State University. After graduation, he and his wife, Nancy, began a career of irrigation development that took them to Africa, Asia, Europe and South America. The Governor has extensive farming and ranching experience in Montana and successful agricultural

business projects on five continents. In 1993, he was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to serve on the Montana State USDA Farm Service Agency committee. He has been active in developing and implementing national farm policy, including his participation on the National Drought Task Force to review policy and report to Congress on improved coordination response to drought emergencies nationwide.

*Birth Date: September 4, 1955*  
*Family: Three children*  
*Spouse: Nancy Hupp*  
*Party: Democrat*  
*Elected: 2004*

## Nebraska



**Governor Heineman** was sworn-in as Nebraska's 39th Governor in January, 2005, following the confirmation of former Governor Mike Johanns as the United States Secretary of Agriculture. As Lt. Governor, Governor Heineman served as Nebraska's director of homeland security, chairman of the Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC), and the presiding officer of the Nebraska Legislature. Dave Heineman is a native Nebraskan. He was born in Falls City, graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point and served five years in the US Army, rising to the rank of captain. He was first elected to a statewide office in 1994, as the Nebraska State Treasurer. He was re-elected to that post in 1998.

*Birth Date: May 12, 1948*  
*Family: One child*  
*Spouse: Sally Ganem*  
*Party: Republican*

## Nevada



**Kenny C. Guinn** was born in Garland, Arkansas and grew up in Exeter, California. He earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in physical education from Fresno State University in 1959 and 1965, respectively, and a doctorate in education from Utah State University in 1970. In 1964, Guinn went to work for the Clark County School District as a planning specialist. Within five years, he was named superintendent of schools in Clark County and served in that position until 1978. At that time he was hired as administrative vice president for Nevada Savings and Loan in Las Vegas, which later became PriMerit Bank, and in 1987 he was appointed chairman of the board of directors.

Soon thereafter, Guinn was recruited to the energy business as president of Southwest Gas Corporation, eventually becoming chairman of the board of directors in 1993. In 1995, he served as interim President at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he donated his salary to student scholarships. He continued working in the private sector until running successfully for Governor in 1998.

*Birth Date: August 24, 1936*  
*Family: Married, two children, six grandchildren*  
*Spouse: Dema*  
*Party: Republican*  
*Re-elected: 2002*

## New Mexico



**Bill Richardson**, born in Pasadena, California, became Governor of New Mexico in 2003. Richardson previously had served the state as a congressman for 15 years and served the nation as Ambassador to the United Nations, a post to which he was confirmed in 1997, and as Secretary of the Department of Energy, to which he was confirmed in 1998. Prior to his election as Governor, Richardson taught in 2001 at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and at the United World College in Montezuma, New Mexico. He also served as chair of the nonprofit, nonpartisan Freedom House, which promotes democracy worldwide. Richardson's work on human

rights and his diplomatic efforts are among reasons for four nominations for a Nobel Peace Prize over the years between 1995 and 2001. He is a past chairman of the Western Governors' Association.

*Birth Date: November 15, 1947*  
*Family: Married*  
*Spouse: Barbara*  
*Party: Democrat*  
*Elected: 2002*

## North Dakota



**John Hoeven**, North Dakota's 31st Governor, has focused his administration on six pillars: excellence in education, economic development, agriculture, energy, technology and quality of life. Born in Bismarck, Governor Hoeven earned a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College in 1979 and a master's degree in business administration from Northwestern University in 1981. He served as executive vice president of First Western Bank in Minot from 1986 to 1993 and established a strong position of service in many civic, community and economic development activities. From 1993-2000 he served as president and CEO of Bank of North Dakota (BND), which grew from \$900 million to \$1.6 billion.

*Family: Married, two children*  
*Spouse: Mical (Mickey)*  
*Party: Republican*  
*Elected: 2002*

## Northern Mariana Islands



**Juan N. Babauta** was born September 7, 1953 in the village of Tanapag on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. He earned a master's degree in health planning/administration from the University of Cincinnati and a bachelor's degree in political science and master's degree in political science and American history from Eastern New Mexico University. He served as executive director of the commonwealth Health Planning and Development agency from 1979 to 1986. Babauta served as a senator in the Northern Marian Islands legislature from 1986 to 1990. He was elected to serve three terms as the commonwealth's Resident Representative to the United States from 1990 to 2002.

*Birth Date: September 7, 1953*  
*Family: Married*  
*Spouse: Dianna*  
*Party: Republican*  
*Elected: 2001*



## Oregon



**Ted Kulongoski** spent his early life in Missouri, where he was raised in a Catholic boys home in St. Louis. After completing high school and a tour of duty with the U.S. Marine Corps as a forward observer with artillery regiments, Kulongoski put himself through college and law school at the University of Missouri with the help of the GI Bill and work as a truck driver and steelworker. After receiving his law degree Kulongoski established a law firm in Eugene, Oregon. He was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in 1974 and to the Oregon Senate in 1978. In 1992 Kulongoski was elected Attorney General. Four years later, Kulongoski was elected to the Oregon Supreme Court. In 2002 he was elected Governor.

*Birth Date: November 5, 1940  
Family: Married, three children  
Spouse: Mary Oberst  
Party: Democrat  
Elected: 2002*

## South Dakota



**Mike Rounds** was elected Governor of South Dakota in 2002. Prior to serving in this position, he also served for four terms in the state Senate from 1990 to 2000. Mike, the oldest of 11 children, was born in Huron, S.D., and is a lifelong resident of Pierre. He earned a Bachelors of Science degree in political science from South Dakota State University in Brookings and met his wife, Jean. The couple has four children. Governor Rounds is part owner of Fischer, Rounds & Associates Inc., an insurance and real estate agency. He has previously served as board president of the Oahe YMCA, vice president of the Home and School Association of St. Joseph School, president of the

Pierre-Ft. Pierre Exchange Club and exalted ruler of the Pierre Elks Lodge. He is also a member of St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church of Pierre, the Knights of Columbus, and Ducks Unlimited.

*Birth Date: October 24, 1954  
Family: Married, four children  
Spouse: Jean  
Party: Republican  
Elected: 2002*

## Texas



**Rick Perry** was born in West Texas in 1950, the fifth generation of a farming and ranching family. He attended Texas A&M University, earning a degree in animal science in 1972. Following graduation, he served five years in the United States Air Force, flying C-130 tactical airlift aircraft in the U.S., Europe and the Middle East. Governor Perry was elected to the Texas House of Representatives from a rural, West Texas district in 1985. In 1991, he began to serve the first of two terms as Texas Commissioner of Agriculture. He was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1998, and was sworn in as Governor of Texas in December 2000, following the election of former Governor George W. Bush as President.

*Birth Date: August 24, 1936  
Family: Married, two children,  
six grandchildren  
Spouse: Dema  
Party: Republican  
Re-elected: 2002*

## Utah



**Jon Huntsman, Jr.**, a seventh generation Utahn, attended the University of Utah and graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania. As a business executive, he has held several leadership positions with Huntsman Corporation, most recently as Chairman and CEO of its holding company. His public service career includes serving as a White House staff assistant to President Ronald Reagan. Under President George H. W. Bush, he was deputy assistant secretary of commerce for trade development, deputy assistant secretary of commerce for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, as well as U.S. ambassador to Singapore (the youngest U.S. ambassador in a century). He is

fluent in Mandarin. He also served as a deputy U.S. trade representative and U.S. trade ambassador under President George W. Bush.

*Birth Date: March 26, 1960*  
*Family: Six children*  
*Spouse: Mary Kaye*  
*Party: Republican*  
*Elected: 2004*

## Washington



**Christine Gregoire**, prior to being elected governor in 2004, served 12 years as Washington's state attorney general, the first woman elected to the position in state history. She was the lead negotiator for the states in their suit against the tobacco industry, which resulted in the largest financial settlement in history and tough, new restrictions on cigarette advertising and youth marketing. Gregoire also served as director of the Washington Department of Ecology from 1988 to 1992. During her tenure she negotiated the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) with the federal government for the safe cleanup and permanent storage of radioactive wastes at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Eastern Washington. Raised in Auburn,

Washington, Gregoire graduated from the University of Washington in 1969 with a teaching certificate and Bachelor of Arts degree in speech and sociology. In 1977, she received a Juris Doctorate degree and, in 1995, an honorary Doctor of Law degree from Gonzaga University.

*Birth Date: March 24, 1947*  
*Family: Two children*  
*Spouse: Michael*  
*Party: Democrat*  
*Elected: 2004*

## Wyoming



**Dave Freudenthal**, a native of Thermopolis, Wyoming, earned money to attend college in Amherst, Massachusetts, by working construction in summers as a member of the National Brotherhood of Boilermakers and Blacksmiths Union. After graduating from Amherst College in 1973, Freudenthal began work as an economist with the Wyoming Department of Economic Planning and Development. In 1975, then Wyoming Governor Ed Herschler appointed Freudenthal the State Planning Coordinator. Freudenthal completed a law degree at the University of Wyoming and began practice in Cheyenne in 1980. In 1994 Freudenthal was appointed U.S. Attorney for

Wyoming, a position he held until May 2001. His civic activities have included serving as a founding director of the Wyoming Student Loan Corp., chair of the Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Education Policy Implementation Council, the state Economic Development Stabilization Board and the Laramie County Community Action Board.

*Birth Date: October 12, 1950*  
*Family: Married, four children*  
*Spouse: Nancy*  
*Party: Democrat*  
*Elected: 2002*



## WGA Staff Council 2004-2005

The WGA Staff Council comprises the chief of staff or top policy adviser for each Governor and meets between the Governors' annual and winter meetings to review and guide WGA activities. The council reviews proposed work plans, budgets, and policy resolutions; works out interstate differences on regional issues; and provides guidance to WGA staff. Council recommendations are conveyed to the individual Governors, as well, to keep members abreast of WGA activities. Representing each Governor's office are:

### ALASKA

Kristopher Knauss

### AMERICAN SAMOA

Pati Faiiai

### ARIZONA

Lori Faeth

### CALIFORNIA

Terry Tamminen

### COLORADO

Joel Harris  
Jon Anderson

### GUAM

Juan Carlos Benitez

### HAWAII

Linda Smith

### IDAHO

Lance Giles

### KANSAS

Troy Findley

### MONTANA

Hal Harper

### NEBRASKA

Lauren Hill

### NEVADA

Steve Robinson

### NEW MEXICO

Ned Farquhar

### NORTH DAKOTA

William Goetz

### NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Robert Schwalbach

### OREGON

Peter Cogswell

### SOUTH DAKOTA

Jim Soyer

### TEXAS

Tony Gilman

### UTAH

Jason Chaffetz

### WASHINGTON

Laurie Dolan

### WYOMING

John Masterson

## Western Governors' Association Staff

Pam O. Inmann, *Executive Director*

Lee Alter, *Policy Analyst, Western Regional Air Partnership*

Shanna Brown, *Deputy Director, Washington, D.C. Office*

Patrick Cummins, *Program Manager – Western Regional Air Partnership, Air Quality Initiative, Mexico Air Quality Projects, Clean and Diversified Energy Initiative*

Linda Davis, *Financial Manager*

Karen Deike, *Director of Communications*

Rich Halvey, *Project Manager – Air Quality, Mexico Air Quality Projects, Clean and Diversified Energy*

Deborah Kinsley, *Administrative Secretary*

Margo Ling, *Accounting and Administration*

William Mackie, *Program Manager, Radioactive Waste Safe Transportation*

Toni McCammon, *Office Manager/Executive Secretary*

Shaun McGrath, *Program Manager – Water Issues, Drought*

Christopher McKinnon, *Program Manager – Technology, Education and Health*

Tom Moore, *Technical Project Coordinator, Western Regional Air Partnership*

Kevin Moran, *Director, Washington, D.C. Office*

Paul Orbuch, *Counsel – Lands & Water, Wildland Fire, Border Environment Dialogue, International Relations*



## Message from the Vice Chairman

*Dear Friends of WGA:*

*I am pleased to be assuming the chair of the Western Governors' Association in 2005 and 2006. WGA is a highly productive and effective organization that is known for its ability to find common ground on difficult policy issues, even in an often highly partisan atmosphere. As the lead governor for WGA's air quality program and a co-lead for its forest health efforts, I am a believer in the value of this institution and our collective ability to get things done.*

*That is why I am using my time as WGA Chair to develop a comprehensive strategy for the region that will promote and sustain long-term economic prosperity, while improving the environment. The West is leading the nation in economic growth, stimulating increased innovation and bringing additional capital and skilled workers to our states. At the same time, the beautiful and bountiful natural resources of the region are under increasing strain from the population growth.*

*My goal over the next year is to convene some of the best and brightest minds to educate and inform Western decision-makers from the public, private and non-profit sectors on steps we can take to ensure our region's economic vitality and environmental health are protected and improved. We will examine case studies and successful strategies from around the nation and the world that have helped foster sustainable, local economies and a healthy environment. We will develop a tool kit of strategies that Governors and legislatures may use in their own states and that WGA can promote in the years ahead. We also will consider ways to track our progress to determine what is working and what policies may be needed to make further improvements.*

*It should be an exciting year and one that I hope leaves a lasting, positive impact on the West. I look forward to working with you.*

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Napolitano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

*Janet Napolitano  
Governor of Arizona  
Vice Chair, Western Governors' Association*





Western Governors' Association  
2005 Annual Meeting  
June 12-14, 2005

**BRECKENRIDGE, COLORADO**

Western Governors' Association  
1515 Cleveland Place • Suite 200  
Denver, Colorado 80202  
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