



"Serving Western Legislatures"

RESOLUTION NO. 99-3

**Calling For The Development Of A Western Platform
On Natural Resources Issues**

Introduced by the Public Lands Policy Committee

WHEREAS, the development of a platform that provides a regional perspective on critical public lands and natural resource topics such as federal land management, grazing, mining, public access, recreation, and water is very important and will serve a consensus position on these public lands matters for the western United States; and

WHEREAS, given that elected officials in the West are at the center of many important policy decisions regarding natural resources, their involvement in creating this regional platform is vital; and

WHEREAS, *CSG-WEST* in cooperation with the Western Governors' Association, the Western Interstate Region of the National Association of Counties, and the Western Municipal Conference, is familiar with state and local concerns regarding public land issues and has entered into a Statement of Agreement and Cooperation with these organizations; and

WHEREAS, there has been a continuing debate in the West over the multiple use of natural resources and further recognize that a reasonable balance must be achieved when addressing public lands issues; and

WHEREAS, in sparsely settled western states, the development of a broad coalition of common interests will increase and enhance their influence, encourage the exchange of ideas, and convey to land management agencies that the West has legitimate and valid concerns regarding public lands issues; and

WHEREAS, the *CSG-WEST* and its committees on Water, Energy and Minerals and Public Lands and by virtue of its regional structure, can provide an effective forum through which natural resource issues can be monitored and discussed and which, through consensus building, a regional platform can be developed; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the membership of CSG-WEST urge the development of a natural resource platform for 2000 and beyond to serve, in part, as a

means to recommend legislation in the United States Congress, to mitigate the economic burden of unreasonable federal air, land, and water policies on the West; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CSG-WEST encourage federal and state land managers and local and state governments to assist in the development of this regional public lands platform; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CSG-WEST urges all western elected officials, federal and state land managers, and public land users to educate and inform the public, especially those living in urban areas, of the key role public lands play in the economy and culture of western communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Western Governors' Association, the Western Interstate Region of the National Association of Counties, and the Western Municipal Conference be requested by the officers and Executive Committee of CSG-WEST to serve as catalysts, convenors, and collaborators in the development of a western platform on natural resource issues.

*Adopted By The CSG-WEST Executive Committee on July 19, 1999
Assembled In Annual Meeting In Sun Valley, Idaho*