



"Serving Western Legislatures"

RESOLUTION NO. 2000 – 3

The Role of Collaborative Problem Solving in Western Natural Resources

A Suggested Joint Policy Solution of the

Council of State Governments-*WEST*
Western Municipal Conference
Western Interstate Region, National Association of Counties

WHEREAS, the Western Governors' Association (WGA), Council of State Governments-*WEST*(CSG-*WEST*), Western Interstate Region of the National Association of Counties (WIR), and Western Municipal Conference (WMC) adopted a Statement of Western Political Leaders on August 16, 1997, and agreed to work together on issues of mutual concern;

WHEREAS, CSG-*WEST*, WIR, and WMC agree that, in light of demographic and economic changes in the West, it is imperative for elected officials in the region to work together to shape natural resource policy and resolve natural resource disputes;

WHEREAS, CSG-*WEST*, WIR, and WMC agree that if the appropriate people come together in constructive ways with good information, they will create effective, sustainable solutions to the shared problems of their community;

WHEREAS, CSG-*WEST*, WIR, and WMC agree that collaborative problem solving is most likely to be appropriate when people believe that they can better meet their interests through negotiation than through some other forum, such as lobbying or litigation;

WHEREAS, CSG-*WEST*, WIR, and WMC agree that collaborative processes are designed to supplement, not replace the existing processes for public decision making; and

WHEREAS, CSG-*WEST*, WIR, and WMC acknowledge that WGA has adopted policy resolutions on the role of collaborative problem solving in western natural resources [See PR 99-013, *Enlibra Principles for Environmental Management in the West* (June 15, 1999) and PR 97-024, *Consensus Building* (December 5, 1997)];

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT CSG-WEST, WIR, AND WMC AGREE TO:

Foster the appropriate use of collaborative problem solving by seeking partnerships with the president, Congress, and federal agencies;

Consider solutions that emerge from community-based collaborative groups;

Encourage federal land management agencies to meaningfully incorporate the findings and recommendations of community-based collaborative groups;

Encourage federal agencies to seek amendments to existing laws and policies to better integrate collaborative approaches into federal land management;

Encourage experimentation and pilot projects, realizing that there is no one model or approach to collaborative problem solving;

Convene, when appropriate, collaborative problem solving forums to address natural resource issues;

Develop a platform or set of policy goals on western natural resources, consistent with CSG-WEST Resolution 99-3, including strategies to foster the appropriate use of collaborative problem solving;

Appoint three people from each association, including leadership and staff, to serve on a Coordinating Committee to develop the platform on western natural resources; and

Work with WGA, consistent with the *Statement of Western Political Leaders*, on western natural resource issues.

Adopted By the CSG-WEST Executive Committee on November 18, 2000
Assembled in Annual Meeting in San Diego, California.