Stewarding western water

Bipartisan programs for state lawmakers to address the challenges and opportunities of managing water resources.

Our story is one of excellence
WHY THIS WORK IS CRITICAL
Sustaining our essential river systems into the future

CREATES SHARED UNDERSTANDING OF WATER GOVERNANCE IN THE WEST
Translating and communicating what it means
Unpacks compacts, agreements, and water rights, and explores the history and impact of state to state, cross border, and tribal relations along shared river systems.

CONVENES DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES, PRIORITIES & PARTNERSHIPS
Informing collaborative policy making on water management
Gathers federal, state, tribal, and NGOs working across agricultural, energy, public lands, and conservation and restoration sectors, including Canada and Mexico to examine current challenges and form regional perspectives on water use, energy security, agricultural production and shared

PROMOTES INNOVATION IN WATER, AGRICULTURE, & ENERGY POLICIES
Surfacing best practices
Spotlights the energy and environmental challenges and work toward collaborative solutions to strengthen and support energy security and resilience, food safety, security, and environmental health across the west.

These programs help lawmakers decide and communicate on water management tools and strategies, aquatic and other invasive species threats, and to develop regional approaches that influences water system rule-making collaboratively.
The Colorado River Forum is a nonpartisan venue for state legislators of the seven Colorado River Basin States in the U.S., as well as the bordering Mexican states of Baja California and Sonora. The Forum offers state legislators an opportunity to engage in collaborative conversation with colleagues as well as key stakeholders.

Issues of study and discussion this year will include:

- Consequences and Impacts of the Seven State Agreement
- The Current State of the Colorado River System Hydrology
- Wyoming Natural Diversity Data Base: Flood Irrigation and Ecological Benefits to Green River Basin of Wyoming
- Conservation, Fisheries, and Wetlands in Wyoming
- Industrial Water Use in Wyoming
- 2026 and Beyond: Key Considerations for Future Governance

Collaboratively influencing the rule-making that will govern the Colorado River into the future.
Join us in Montana for the 2023 LCRG meeting to engage with lawmakers from the four Columbia and Snake River basin states in a relaxed, yet collaborative setting. Learn about new innovations, policy issues, and perspectives from across the Pacific Northwest.

“Ideas absolutely critical to life in the Pacific Northwest. The LCRG provides a forum for legislators to discuss, collaborate, and work on solutions.”
- Oregon Senator Bill Hansell

Issues of study and discussion this year will include:

- Modernizing the Columbia River Treaty
- Preventing, Detecting, and Mitigating Invasive Species
- Managing Columbia River Basin Fisheries
- Collaborating with the Salish and Confederated Kootenai Tribes
- Fostering the “Crown of the Continent” Partnership

Fostering opportunities for regional collaboration on the Columbia River Treaty modernization and the Columbia River Initiative.
Committee Work
Collaborating on the critical issues facing our states.

All legislators are invited to join these sessions at the CSG West Annual Meeting

**AGRICULTURE & WATER**

Addressing urgent challenges in water management, food production, distribution, safety and security

The west produces the lion’s share of our nation’s meat, dairy, fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains, pulses, and legumes. These resources require timely, adaptive, and water-intelligent solutions. The Agriculture and Water Committee engages western legislators on the challenges and opportunities that government and communities face in managing water resources and agriculture to:

- Mitigate the impacts of megadrought
- Strengthen supply chains and infrastructure
- Increase forage availability
- Address workforce shortages

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**ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT**

Accessing reliable, affordable, and secure energy to support a vibrant, diverse West

As states continue to navigate both familiar and new energy challenges, the Energy & Environment Committee is the forum where legislators exchange information and ideas to:

- Diversify energy resources, including meeting net-zero carbon targets.
- Update and build energy infrastructure to onboard solar, wind, marine, and other renewable energy sources to the grid.
- Address energy affordability challenges.
- Unpack environmental costs of consumer packaging, destructive wildfires, smoke and debris, and water and air pollution.

For more information about any of CSG West's water programs, contact Jackie Tinetti at jtinetti@csg.org