NACo’s WIR conference addresses federal issues affecting western counties

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Counties’ (NACo) 2013 Western Interstate Region (WIR) Conference, May 22-24 in Coconino County/Flagstaff, Ariz., will explore several issues important to western counties including public and forest lands, disaster preparedness and recovery, and public-private partnerships.

The conference provided county officials with the opportunity to hear national speakers, discuss federal legislation and network with other county officials from across the country. Click here to review conference schedule.

Featured speakers include Bruce Bugoski, personal motivational author and columnist; Ed Fox, vice president of state and local affairs, Arizona Public Service Company, and James D. Ogsbury, executive director of the Western Governors Association.

Breakout sessions explored topics including: Public-Private Partnerships: Utilizing the Private Sector to Address the Needs of Your County; Smart Justice Practices and Cost Savings Measures; Forest Health: The Economics of Treatment versus Large-Scale Forest Fires; Beyond Civility: Communication for Effective Governance; A Multi-State Overview of Sage Grouse Conservation Efforts in the West, and Recovering After Disaster and Protecting Your Community from Further Disaster.

WIR President Jerome Selby, Mayor, Kodiak Island Borough, Alaska, the WIR Conference is one of the most important meetings of the year for county officials interested in economic and rural development, land use, and other western issues.

“The conference brings NACo and WIR leadership together with county officials from across the country in one place,” said Selby said. “Together, we seek pragmatic solutions for the unique challenges facing our western communities.”

WIR is affiliated with NACo and is dedicated to the promotion of western interests within NACo. Its membership consists of fifteen western states with membership funded through the individual state associations.

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The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation’s 3,069 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public’s understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit www.naco.org.