



NEWS RELEASE

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Cruickshank becomes president of western counties group

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Valley County, Idaho Commission Chairman Gordon Cruickshank was sworn in on May 22 as president of the Western Interstate Region (WIR), a regional affiliate of the National Association of Counties (NACO). During his swearing-in at NACO's WIR [conference](#) in Kauai County, Hawaii, Cruickshank spoke of his commitment to be a strong voice for county policy priorities at the federal level.

“NACO's Western Interstate Region plays a key role in shaping federal policies that directly affect Valley County and other counties across the country,” said Cruickshank. “I'm proud to represent western counties and advocate for policies that help to improve the quality of life for our residents.”

With critical legislative and regulatory issues being debated in the nation's capital, county leaders at the conference discussed issues particularly important to western communities. These issues included:

- Federal funding through the [Payments in Lieu of Taxes](#) (PILT) and [Secure Rural Schools](#) (SRS) programs,
- Forest health, active forest management and wildfire suppression,
- Proposed redefinition of “[Waters of the U.S.](#),”
- Reauthorization of federal [transportation](#) programs, and
- [Endangered Species Act](#) reform.

Earlier this month, Cruickshank [testified](#) on behalf of NACO before the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. He provided his expertise on species conservation and impacts of the Endangered Species Act on counties nationwide.

WIR's membership consists of counties in 15 western states: Alaska, Hawaii, Wash., Ore., Calif., Idaho, Nev., Ariz., Mont., Wyo., Colo., N.M., Utah, N.D. and S.D. For more information about WIR, visit: www.naco.org/WIR.

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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 assists America's 3,069 counties in pursuing excellence in public service to produce healthy, vibrant, safe and resilient counties. NACO promotes sound public policies, fosters county solutions and innovation, promotes intergovernmental and public-private collaboration and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. More information at: www.naco.org.