

Western Interstate Region Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 10, 1:30 PM – 4:15 PM Eastern

Western Interstate Region Leadership

President:	Hon. Greg Chilcott, Commissioner, Ravalli County, Mont.
1st Vice President:	Hon. Mark Whitney, Commissioner, Beaver County, Utah
2nd Vice President:	Hon. Dan Joyce, Malheur County, Ore.
Past President:	Hon. Joel Bousman, Commissioner, Sublette County, Wyo.

Western Interstate Region Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

1:30 PM: Call to Order

- **Hon. Greg Chilcott**, Commissioner, Ravalli County, Mont.

1:35 PM: Congressional Western Caucus

Congressman Dan Newhouse is a lifelong resident of central Washington, where he operates an 850-acre farm. He was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2014. He serves on the U.S. House Appropriations Committee, which is responsible for funding critical programs for western counties, such as PILT. Congressman Newhouse was unanimously elected Chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus in December 2020.

- **Hon. Dan Newhouse**, U.S. Congressman (R, Wash.-04) and Congressional Western Caucus Chairman

2:00 PM: Legislative and WIR Finance Update

An update on the legislative priorities and finances of the Western Interstate Region.

- **Jonathan Shuffield**, NACo Associate Legislative Director for Public Lands and WIR Liaison

2:25 PM: U.S. Department of Agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) mission spans a wide array of issues, including farm policy, rural economic development, nutrition assistance and forest management. With a budget of approximately \$150 billion, USDA assists local communities with infrastructure and telecommunications grant and loan programs as well. Elizabeth Archuleta, Director of USDA's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, will discuss how the Biden administration intends to assist and invest in rural America over the next four years.

- **The Hon. Elizabeth Archuleta**, Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, USDA

2:50 PM: U.S. Department of the Interior

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) manages approximately 500 million acres nationwide, with 62 percent of counties nationwide containing some federal land. DOI oversees agencies with drastically different missions as well, such as the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Kate Kelly, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy at DOI, will discuss some of the key public lands priorities for the Biden Administration. Shantha Ready-Alonso works in the DOI Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs and will introduce herself to the WIR Board.

- **Kate Kelly**, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, U.S. Department of the Interior
- **Shantha Ready Alonso**, Director, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior

3:15 PM: Update from the National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition

WIR's Public Lands Trust contributes to the National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition (NESARC). NESARC is a broad group focused on improving and modernizing the Endangered Species Act (ESA). NESARC Executive Director Jordan Smith will discuss recent regulatory, legislative and judicial actions related to the ESA.

- **Jordan Smith**, Executive Director, NESARC

3:40 Disaster Planning and Mitigation: Accessing FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) mission is to support efforts to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards. FEMA's newly unveiled Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program will support state and local governments as they undertake hazard mitigation projects. BRIC will replace the existing Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program. FEMA Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Director Sarah Montell will discuss how counties can benefit from BRIC and the application process.

- **Sarah Montell**, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Federal Emergency Management Agency

4:00 PM: Good of the Order

- **Hon. Greg Chilcott**, Commissioner, Ravalli County, Mont.

4:15 PM: Meeting Conclusion

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