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May 12, 2021  
**WESTAR Council Meeting  
Conference Call Summary**

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The monthly WESTAR Council call began at 1:00 pm PDT/2:00 pm MDT/3:00 pm CDT.  
Council members and delegates present included:

AK-Alice Edwards  
AZ-Daniel Czecholinski  
CA-  
CO-Garry Kaufman, Daniel Bon  
HI-Marianne Rossio  
ID-Tiffany Floyd  
MT-Liz Ullrich  
NV-Danilo Dragoni  
NM-  
ND-  
OR-Phil Allen, Ali Mirzakhali  
SD-Kyrik Rombaugh  
UT-  
WA-Rob Dengel  
WY-Nancy Vehr

WESTAR-Mary Uhl, Tom Moore, Jeff Gabler, Jay Baker, Jackie Gadret

Agenda:

1. Fall Business meeting planning and discussion (Mary Uhl)
2. WESTAR draft GAO letter for Council approval, attached (Jay Baker)
3. WESTAR AERR letter drafting update, attached (Jay Baker)
4. Regional haze update (Tom Moore)
5. WESTAR/WRAP website revision (Mary Uhl)
6. Other items as time and interest permit

Meeting Minutes

1. Fall Business meeting planning and discussion  
AK-allowed to travel; no out-of-state travel has been put through

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<sup>1</sup> Draft will be considered final upon review and approval by a majority of the members, typically on the next monthly conference call.

AZ-agency still on bare minimum travel for in-state, no out-of-state allowed  
CO-just started in-person meetings, not sure on travel ban  
HI-funding would be an issue, still a question as to whether travel allowed, might change by fall  
ID-allowed to travel, return to work is supported, funding available  
MT-unsure, talking about return to office  
NV-slowly reopening, flying for inspections, optimistic that travel in September could occur.  
OR-transitioning offices to normal in September, unsure on travel, still in heightened state on restrictions, funding is not an issue  
SD-out-of-state is allowed  
WA-no travel allowed, have not returned to office, plan for next fiscal year travel is only mission critical travel  
WY-transitioning back to office by May 24, no restrictions on travel, no funding restrictions

2. WESTAR draft GAO letter for Council approval

Daniel Bon spearheaded the writing of the letter, thanks for those efforts. Final draft was attached to agenda. Letter is to EPA in response to the GAO recommendations to EPA. WESTAR generally supported the GAO conclusions and called out a few that are important to WESTAR. The letter includes recommendations on IMPROVE monitoring network maintenance and state access to the data, training, and guidance policies. The letter asks to meet with EPA as they work to implement the GAO recommendations.

3. WESTAR AERR letter drafting update, attached

EPA held listening sessions in early April on the AERR to gather input from states but didn't have significant participation. WESTAR members initial input centers around the timing of submittals, amendment of NEI data, collaboration and communication improvement, use of state-specific data, and the EPA wagon wheel model.

4. Regional haze update

Results meeting held last week to share more results related to alternative ways to look at modeling results, including tools to investigate data. Regional haze planners are providing feedback on the tools and we will revise as requested. Forest service is reaching out to states on the plan for more prescribed fire. One more set of results with future fire scenarios will be available in early June. There are concerns from states about new alternative ways to view data; this may be complicating the work of SIP planners. Tom acknowledged that there are concerns; there are a couple of new charts that Tom will work with each state to discuss. One chart is complex and will either be changed or removed from the TSS.

5. WESTAR/WRAP website revision

WESTAR is working with the contractor to get a contract in place.

6. Other items as time and interest permit

Call duration was 52 minutes.