



Protecting Water for Western Irrigated Agriculture

2019 Annual Meeting & Conference

Standing at the Crossroads: Looming Decisions with Sweeping Consequences for Western Water

DRAFT AGENDA

Wednesday
February 20, 2019

ELDORADO CONVENTION CENTER (LOWER LEVEL)

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Board of Directors and Advisory Committee Internal Meetings

Thursday
February 21, 2019

ELDORADO CONVENTION CENTER (LOWER LEVEL)

7:00 a.m.

Registration Desk Open

8:00 a.m.

Welcome – Opening Comments: Alliance President Patrick O’Toole will summarize the busy year he and the Alliance had, engaging in a variety of national initiatives, developing new partnerships, and strengthening existing networks. He will set the stage for the 2019 general session, which will be forward-looking and focused on continuing to advance Alliance initiatives in the 116th Congress and with the Trump Administration.

8:15 a.m. to 9:35 a.m.

Reclamation Roundtable – Deputy Commissioner David Palumbo will be the keynote speaker prior to the panel discussion featuring all five regional directors from the Bureau of Reclamation, who will participate in an interactive discussion of key policy issues that span the West in this time-honored Alliance conference tradition. Dan Keppen (Alliance Executive Director) will moderate a panel that includes regional directors Terry Fulp (Lower Colorado Region), Mike Black (Great Plains Region), Brent Rhees (Upper Colorado Region) Lorri Gray (Pacific Northwest Region); and Ernest Conant (Mid-Pacific Region).

9:35 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Break

9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Water Resources Benefits from Landscape-wide Forest Management - Recent deadly and devastating Western wildfire disasters have underscored the importance of improving on-the-ground management that can lead to improved forest health. Learn from U.S. Forest Service officials and resource managers how active forest management can improve water yield, provide new jobs, and reduce the cost of firefighting, all while increasing forest resiliency. Moderated by Alliance President Patrick O’Toole, invited speakers include USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources & Environment James Hubbard.

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Thursday February 21 (Continued)

- 10:45 a.m. to noon** ***Sustaining Agriculture, Wildlife, and People*** – Privately-owned wet meadow habitats in the Intermountain West are typically associated with irrigated agriculture and occur on working ranches and farms in landscapes important to wildlife, native fish, and people. Yet these working wet meadows are under significant pressure due to urban and exurban growth, associated shifts in water policy, drought and changing environmental conditions, and in some landscapes, declining aquifers. Hear diverse perspectives around these issues and how conservation programs, policies, and partnerships can support working lands, wildlife habitat, and western communities. Presented by representatives of the Intermountain West Joint Venture, invited speakers include Pat O’Toole (Ladder Livestock Company, LLC), Ron Alvarado (Oregon State Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service), Paul Souza (Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service), Dave Smith (Coordinator, IWJV), Joy Morris (Water 4 Initiative Coordinator, IWJV) and Laurel Anders (Communications Program Coordinator, IWJV).
- Noon to 1:15 p.m.** ***Luncheon featuring Keynote Speaker: A.G. Kawamura.*** A.G. Kawamura, a third-generation farmer from Southern California and a former secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture will discuss the crossroads faced by Western agricultural producers. Mr. Kawamura participated in recent global climate talks in Katowice, Poland, where he was troubled by the events, actions and lack of actions he witnessed there. Listen to his concerns about these recent developments and why they may have a significant impact on how Americans produce food and on how producers deal with the efforts being made by those who want to change what – and the way – consumers should eat.
- 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.** ***A Look at D.C. from the Hill:*** Mark Limbaugh moderates this panel of staff from key congressional water committees and conservation and water groups. Get the inside scoop on how the new Congress will tackle Western water and environmental challenges from Republican and Democrat staff directors on Capitol Hill. Panelists include Lane Dickson (Republican Professional Staff, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee), Matt Muirragui (Democrat Staff, House Water, Power & Oceans Subcommittee), William Ball (Republican Staff, House Water, Power & Oceans Subcommittee), Jimmy Hague (Senior Water Policy Advisor, The Nature Conservancy) and Ian Lyle (Executive VP, National Water Resources Association).
- 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.** ***Western Litigation Update***— Alliance general counsel Norm Semanko will moderate a panel of attorneys involved with critical court cases involving Western water resources matters. Ramsey Kropf (Somach Simmons and Dunn, Colorado) will discuss the Klamath takings litigation. Patrick Sigl (Counsel to Salt River Project, Arizona) will speak on the County of Maui/ Kinder Morgan Clean Water Act cases. Chip Wilkins (Remy Moose Manley, California) will describe important Endangered Species Act implications of *Friends of the River v. National Marine Fisheries Service*.
- 3:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** ***Break***
- 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** ***Trump Administration “Water Subcabinet”*** - This panel discussion will feature representatives serving on President Trump’s “Water Subcabinet,” which consists of six water related agencies represented by officials at the assistant secretary level. Hear directly from some of these invited officials, and how they are coordinating and collaborating on cross-cutting issues that impact Western water use.

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Thursday
February 21, 2019

(Continued)

5:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. *Exhibitors' Presentations (5 minutes each)*

5:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. *2019 Annual Meeting*

5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. *Evening Reception - Come unwind for drinks and food at the Eldorado Resort Casino's newest hotspot—Novi!*

Friday
February 22, 2019

ELDORADO CONVENTION CENTER (LOWER LEVEL)

8:00 a.m.– 9:15 a.m. *Upper Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plans Panel Discussion—*featuring the voices of Family Farm Alliance members from Colorado's Front Range, West Slope and Wyoming. Panelists include Mark Harris (General Manager, Grand Valley Water Users Association), Patrick O'Toole (Yampa River watershed rancher), Bennett Raley (Northern Water general counsel), and Bruce Whitehead (Southwestern Water Conservation District general manager). Moderated by Upper Colorado River Commission Executive Director Amy Haas.

9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. *Lower Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plan Panel Discussion—*featuring the voices of water managers and agricultural producers from Arizona and Southern California. Moderated by Alliance director Dan Thelander (ARIZONA), panelists include Wade Noble (Yuma County Agriculture Water Coalition), Paul Orme (General Counsel to five special districts in Pinal County, Arizona), Randy Record (Past Board Chair of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, current Chair of MWD Agriculture and Business Outreach Committee, member Board of Directors of Eastern Municipal Water District), and Tina Shields (Imperial Irrigation District water department manager)

10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. *Break*

10:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. *Keynote Speaker - Brenda Burman, Commissioner of Reclamation*

11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. *The 2018 Farm Bill—perspective from Western agriculture and conservation interests.* The Family Farm Alliance worked closely with a coalition of Western agriculture and conservation interests to influence the 2018 farm bill recently signed into law by President Trump. Moderated by Marc Thalacker (Three Sisters Irrigation District, Oregon), speakers include Josh Maxwell (Senior Staff, U.S. House Committee on Agriculture) Jack Rice (California Farm Bureau Federation) and Laura Ziemer (Trout Unlimited).

11:45 a.m. to noon *Award Presentation and Closing Comments – Patrick O'Toole*

Tour Group One –
12:45 p.m. -3:30 p.m. *Tour—Tesla Gigafactory—tour is sold out.*

Tour Group Two –
2:15 p.m. -5:00 p.m.

SORRY - SOLD OUT