

Who we are

The Western Counties Alliance (WCA) is an alliance of rural public lands counties and other supporting groups and individuals which is organized in a mutually beneficial and productive way to shape federal land and resource management policies.

We work closely with the Western Caucus of the House of Representatives and key congressmen and senators to develop vital legislation and to encourage essential congressional oversight of federal agencies to address and resolve the challenges faced by our member counties. We also work directly to influence federal regulations.

What we stand for

Western Counties Alliance advocates balanced multiple use management of the public lands and natural resources, responsible economic development and sensible environmental standards.

We actively lobby to enact new laws where necessary and to amend existing public land laws and regulations that do not serve the public interest or that do not treat public lands states and counties fairly and equally

How we work

- ◆ Encourage all rural public lands counties to join us in our efforts.
- ◆ Educate the public and the media about the realities, opportunities and challenges associated with current federal natural resources policies.
- ◆ Bring the best scientific research and practical expertise to bear in support of our efforts.
- ◆ Actively lobby policy makers for needed changes in law.
- ◆ Participate directly in the development and implementation of federal regulations
- ◆ Train and support counties to help them better deal with federal management agencies and influence federal policy.
- ◆ Build coalitions and alliances with organizations and individuals who share our goals and objectives.

Current major projects and emphasis

Full Funding of PILT and Secure Rural Schools

Our top priorities are achieving full funding of payments-in-lieu-of-taxes and Secure Rural Schools and enacting legislation to insulate these vital programs from the uncertainties of the annual congressional appropriations process. For too long, full funding for these two critical programs has been traded off against each other. WCA is making it clear to Congress that these are completely separate programs and that both of them must be fully funded separately.

Protecting RS 2477 Rights

We are working to protect public access to public lands by defending the property rights-of-way granted by Congress to counties under RS 2477. WCA is working towards a locally-acceptable congressional resolution of this problem as well as helping our member counties to deal more effectively with the federal agencies in protecting these rights-of-way.

Improved Federal Coordination with County Plans

We provide training and support to member counties to help them achieve better coordination of federal natural resources policies with their county land use planning and economic development policies as required by federal law.

Continued...

Current major projects (continued)

Supporting Energy Development

We support full development of the energy resources on the public lands. Development is critical to many state and local economies as well as to our national security. These resources should be developed in a balanced and responsible way, but the public interest demands that they be developed.

Ranching and Rangeland Revitalization

We are pushing to incorporate sound science and proven best-management practices into federal grazing policy both to revitalize ranching in the West and to improve the health of public rangelands.

Wilderness Act Reform

WCA advocates reforming both the Wilderness Act and federal wilderness regulations and policies to deal with the many challenges being created by formal wilderness designation and federal wilderness management practices.

Endangered Species Act Reform

We believe reform of the Endangered Species Act is long overdue. This reform must include requiring that the Act and federal agency policies recognize private property rights and reflect sound science and common sense to prevent the many problems now being created.

Help Make A Difference!

The Western Counties Alliance is a unique organization. We focus specifically on helping rural public lands counties to better influence federal land and resource policies and to deal more effectively with the federal management agencies.



Mark O. Walsh

We are already making a difference for public lands counties. We invite all public lands counties, other organizations and individuals who share our goals and objectives to join us in our efforts.

If you want to help us make a difference, please contact me.

Mark O. Walsh
Executive Director



For more information contact:

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