

MANAGING THE WEST

...serving the future

Fall 2013

Volume 1 - Issue 2



2013 WSLCA Executive Committee

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23 states

440+ million acres

\$3.8 billion in 2012
for public education

Learn more at
www.wslca.org

Welcome to the Fall 2013 issue of *Managing the West*...

Shaping a Path Forward

As an association we have articulated a desire to change. A desire to be an influential, nationally recognized voice for prudent land management and ultimately create more value for the variety of beneficiaries we serve. It has been said that hope is not an effective management strategy. However, in leadership a vision of the future starts with the hope and desire for change. In the book *Switch – How to Change Things When Change is Hard*, Chip and Dan Heath challenge traditional thinking about change management which ascribes to the need to analyze, think, and then change. The authors illustrate that the order in which substantive change really happens in an organization is SEE-FEEL-CHANGE. Hope nourishes change momentum. People need to see a path and feel the change happening to believe their contribution will lead to even more success.

Consistent with direction provided at our last conference, the executive committee and a handful of committee chairs came together in October for a two-day work session to prepare a draft strategic plan for the association. A high level **summary** of the work is included as part of this newsletter. The effort builds upon information already gathered through several surveys and collaborative discussion over the past two years. The planning team feels the draft goals and strategies bring a focused approach to the work needed to achieve our association vision. Please come to the January conference prepared to discuss the plan. State member consensus around the draft goals and strategies is necessary for the strategic planning team to then devote the necessary time to develop detailed action plans to complete the document.

Affiliate Membership Update

We continue to meet and talk with groups in Washington D.C. to join our ever growing Affiliate Membership list. Oil, gas, mining, timber, agriculture, and conservation interests continue to recognize the importance of the 447 million acres of lands and minerals our member states manage and the potential production from those trust assets. We urge our Affiliate Members to spread the word about WSLCA and the important role our member states play in an effort to create economic growth and education funding in the West. And member states, if you have any questions about how to make nominations please contact an executive committee member.

As we progress through another holiday season, can we challenge ourselves to find ways to be abundantly thankful? Soon we will gather in Arkansas to network, collaborate and improve on the great work we get to do every day. Come and enjoy the Arkansas hospitality, but more important, come prepared to help us grow the Association.

President, WSLCA

Washington Update...

WSLCA's presence in Washington DC is committed to help WSLCA achieve its vision of establishing itself as a nationally recognized voice for prudent land management. Outreach efforts in Washington create value for our beneficiaries through our leadership, education of decision makers in Washington, and furthering sound land management practices with national decision makers. WSLCA's presence and influence in the nation's capital continues to increase through outreach and educational efforts with elected officials, federal agencies, as well as business and conservation interests. The Fall of 2013 in Washington may best be remembered for the Federal Government shutdown, government funding debates, Affordable Care Act, and, of course, federal websites. However, WSLCA has continued to educate Members of Congress and their staff about the vital role state lands and minerals play in local and state economies and the national economy. Our efforts are stressing the critical need for Congress to consider and take actions that will enhance states' ability to generate revenue for their beneficiaries.

Outreach...

In order to further educate Members of Congress about the importance of school trust assets we continue to conduct meetings and briefings with Members of Congress and their staff. Our message is clear: management of our 447 million acres of lands and minerals is critical to our ability to fund public education in our states. Members of Congress must understand the significant impact that federal lands, regulations, and management has on our ability to serve our beneficiaries. Furthermore, we also stress the benefits of rationalizing land ownership patterns in our states to benefit conservation, achieve federal management goals, and make state lands and minerals available for responsible management which leads to greater production of energy, minerals, timber, and agricultural products.

In-Lieu Selections Legislation...

Following the House Natural Resources Committee hearing conducted by Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT) this past September which discussed the issues surrounding state and federal ownership patterns, we continue our dialogue with Members of Congress and outside interests to perfect WSLCA's legislative proposal. The success of the hearing is evidenced by the interest created within Congressional offices and within the broader public lands sector. Over the past two months, WSLCA has conducted numerous meetings with Congressional staff and with interested outside groups to achieve

bipartisan agreement on issues particular to WSLCA's in-lieu selections legislation. We have formed valuable partnerships with the Western Governors Association and several conservation groups to work through the complicated issues surrounding land tenure adjustments and crafting new solutions to the historical problems of intermingled Federal and State land ownership. WSLCA will continue to work with all interested parties to refine the legislation to increase the chances for broad support and ultimate enactment of this important effort.

Endangered Species...

Numerous endangered species issues are impacting our member states but the greatest challenges today are the lesser prairie chicken and sage grouse. Combined, these species occupy 14 of our member states from Texas to North Dakota and from California to Oklahoma. These species are likely to negatively impact these states' ability to effectively manage their trust assets for schoolchildren. Based upon WSLCA's Endangered Species Act Resolution from our summer conference in Omaha, WSLCA has engaged in discussions with Members of Congress and staff about these ESA issues and the impacts these listings could have on our ability to produce commodities from our lands. The resolution stresses the need for good science, the consideration of economic impacts on states and local governments, and promotes a more transparent system for listings, public input, and litigation. WSLCA will continue to engage in this debate to make sure decision makers account for the need to responsibly manage trust assets.

Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act...

Reauthorization of the Federal Land Transactions Facilitation Act ("FLTFA") continues to work its way through Congress. Known as S. 368 in the U.S. Senate and sponsored by Senator Heinrich of New Mexico, the bill is essentially a "clean" reauthorization of the program which authorizes the sale of certain federal lands and the use of proceeds to purchase other lands important to federal land managers. The Senate Committee amended S. 368 to make FLTFA a permanent program rather than an eight year authorization. Efforts are under way to clear S. 368 for Floor consideration in the Senate. In the House, Representative Lummis from Wyoming has introduced H.R. 2068 which reauthorizes the FLTFA program for seven years and also makes several changes to the Act. The House Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on H.R. 2068 in July of this year and the Committee continues to work through many issues surrounding this program.

Affiliate Memberships

WSLCA has adopted an Affiliate Membership program in order to provide public and private entities and individuals who share common interests in the WSLCA's objectives with an opportunity to formally communicate and cooperate with WSLCA members. The program offers Affiliate Members the opportunity to participate in the WSLCA's biannual conferences and to talk directly with other members on issues important to both. Applicants must be a corporation, non-profit entity, or an individual that has been recommended by a member state, approved by the WSLCA Executive Committee and paid at least one year of annual dues.

Affiliate Membership Objectives

- ✦ Enhance and extend WSLCA, our educational missions, institutional impacts, influence and positive public image
- ✦ Develop or strengthen relationships with organizations that complement our mission
- ✦ Share intellectual & social capital

Desired Outcomes

- ✦ Expand diversity of WSLCA members and audiences
- ✦ Enhance distribution of WSLCA outputs to new, relevant markets
- ✦ Augment opportunities to develop, share & evaluate information regarding land, water and other resource management policies and practices
- ✦ Help member states maximize the earnings and preserve the assets of educational trusts

Benefits

- ✦ Speaking opportunities at WSLCA conference
- ✦ Conference displays and recognition
- ✦ Membership recognition and links on the WSLCA website
- ✦ Dialog opportunities with other professionals on issues affecting us

Application

Those interested in establishing an affiliate relationship are encouraged to contact your state land commissioner, state land director or a member of the WSLCA executive committee. You can find a link to each state's website at www.wslca.org.

Welcome to our newest affiliate member,
the Sonoran Institute!



Please take a moment to visit all of our affiliates websites and learn about how we can work together.

RioTinto



RVKuhns
▶▶▶ & ASSOCIATES, INC.



AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE

A map of the United States with state abbreviations labeled. The map is set against a green background. The states shown are WA, OR, CA, NV, ID, MT, WY, UT, CO, AZ, NM, TX, AK, HI, ND, SD, NE, MN, WI, IL, IN, OH, PA, NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL, LA, MS, AL, and DC.

www.wslca.org

Check out our website for information on:
Member states, affiliate members,
upcoming conferences and past
conference materials, adopted resolutions,
committee contacts and more.



WSLCA STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW

NOVEMBER 12, 2013

DRAFT GOALS

#1: WSLCA is a professional organization known for effective and sustainable governance.

#2: WSLCA develops, communicates, and implements initiatives to address trust management, public policy, and association growth priorities.

#3: WSLCA represents all states.

#4: WSLCA builds strong relationships with other entities that further our mission of leadership, education and sound land management.

#5: WSLCA is recognized by national and state elected officials as an influential voice for all members.

#6: WSLCA has sufficient budget to implement its goals.

WSLCA DRAFT VISION
NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED
VOICE FOR
PRUDENT LAND MANAGEMENT

WSLCA DRAFT MISSION
The Mission of WSLCA is to
create value for our beneficiaries
through leadership, education and
sound land management.

DRAFT CORE PRINCIPLES

Excellence
Collaboration
Integrity
Stewardship

Who are our beneficiaries?

Public schools, educational systems, mental health programs, public institutions, and the public benefit from the financial income derived from grant and endowment lands.

 STRATEGIES	PRIORITY
Make the association Vision and Mission our overriding message in all our communications.	#1
Align conferences around strategic initiatives.	#2
Create a communication plan that involves: website, designated outreach, follow-up on presentations, newsletter.	#3
Create affiliate membership recruitment committee.	#4
Develop growth plan to convert from volunteer staff to professional (paid) staff to support leadership.	#5 (tie)
Increase funding for association outreach.	#5 (tie)
Invite substantive participation in meetings from other areas of the country and like-minded groups.	#7
Make annual Washington DC trip(s) a priority.	#8 (tie)
Leverage influence of affiliate members.	#8 (tie)
Increase the pool of members willing and able to serve in leadership positions.	#8 (tie)
Invite Congressmen/Senators to speak at every meeting; also invite state legislators.	#11
Offer a new member orientation class about the association, duties and responsibilities of state land offices, etc.	#12

Draft Annual Strategic Initiatives - Year 1

Possible Initiatives for Year 2

Possible Initiatives Year 3

Join us in Little Rock, Arkansas for the 2014 Winter WSLCA Conference!

January 12-16, 2014 @ the Doubletree Little Rock Downtown
www.doubletreelr.com, rate- \$87, group code- WSL, book by December 20, 2013

TENTATIVE AGENDA WSLCA CONFERENCE – JANUARY 12-16, 2014 Doubletree Downtown Little Rock Hotel

SUNDAY, JAN. 12

11:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Optional Event- Day at the Races- Oaklawn
1 to 6 p.m.	Registration
3 to 6:00 p.m.	Hospitality Suite
4:00 to 5:30 p.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
6:30 to 8 p.m.	Reception-Hotel
8 to 11 p.m.	Hospitality Suite

MONDAY, JAN. 13

7:00 to 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
7:30 to 8:00 a.m.	Report from Mike Nedd, BLM
8:30 to 10:00 a.m.	General Session- On the floor of the Arkansas State Senate Welcome: John Thurston, AR COSL WSLCA President's Address- Kathy Opp & Roll Call
10:00 to 10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 to 11:00 a.m.	General Session Continued
11:00 to 11:30 a.m.	Report from Alan Freemyer, WSLCA Washington Consultant
12:00 to 1:30 p.m.	Lunch- Hotel-Affiliate presentations
2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Panel- Invasive Species Management on State Owned Lands- Mark Oliver, AGFC, Ray Powell (NM), Joe Krystofik & Heath Rauschenberger, USFWS, Randy Wiest (OR)
3:30 to 3:45 p.m.	Break
3:45 to 5:00 p.m.	Strategic Plan Presentation- Executive Committee
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.	Dinner- Governor's Mansion- Special Guest- AR Governor Mike Beebe (invited)
8 to 11 p.m.	Hospitality Suite

TUESDAY, JAN. 14

7:00 to 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:00 to 10:00 a.m.	Topic- Endangered Species Act
10:00 to 10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 to 11:45 a.m.	Panel- Mitigation Banking- Ken Brazil, AR (moderator), Kim Christy, UT, Ben Guillon, WRA, Inc., Michael Sprague, Trout Headwaters, Inc.
12:30 to 2:00 p.m.	Lunch- TBA- Guest Speaker- Rex Nelson
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.	Tour of Plantation Agriculture Museum
Evening	Dinner on your own
5:00 to 11:00 p.m.	Hospitality Suite

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 15

7:00 to 8:00 a.m. Breakfast

8:00 to 9:00 a.m. Topic- Ownership and Management of Submerged Lands- Tom Butler, MT

9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Panel- Utilizing New Technologies-Public Land Record Access & GIS Mapping- John Thurston, AR, Shelby Johnson, AR

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

10:45 to 12:15 p.m. Committee Meetings- Concurrent
 Legal- John Peiserich, AR (CLE credit)
 Land Exchange
 Submerged Lands
 Communications- Crisis Management, Terri Watkins, OK

12:15 to 1:30 p.m. Lunch- Hotel
 Guest Speaker: Keith Jackson

1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Committee Meetings- Concurrent
 Asset Management
 Sub-surface Lands
 Surface Lands
 Legislative Resolutions

3:00 to 3:15 p.m. Break

3:15 to 4:45 p.m. WSLCA Business Meeting

6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Dinner- Clinton Presidential Library- Special Guest- Skip Rutherford

8 to 11 p.m. Hospitality Suite

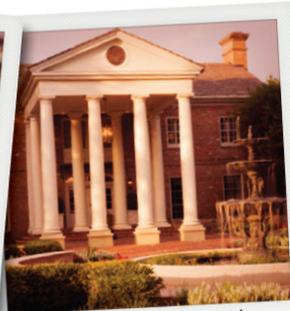
THURSDAY, JAN. 16

7:00 to 9:00 a.m. Breakfast

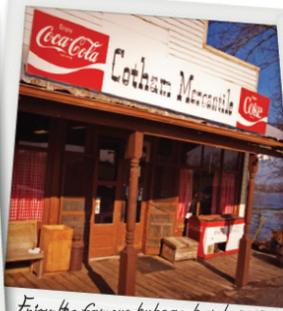
Register Now!



Bet on a winner!



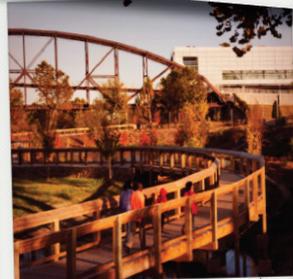
Dine at the Governor's Mansion



Enjoy the famous hubcap hamburger and a peek into early life in the Arkansas Delta



The lively downtown River Market area offers exciting nightlife along with unique dining and shopping



Take an evening stroll on the River Trail's newest addition



Join us in the Senate Chambers of the historic Arkansas State Capitol



Learn about Arkansas's agricultural roots at the Plantation Agriculture museum



Learn about presidential history



2014 WSLCA Winter Conference
January 12-16, 2014
Little Rock, Arkansas

Delegate & Guest Registration Form

Registration Deadline: December 20, 2013

Please use one form per delegate or guest

Delegate Name: _____

Title: _____

Representing: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Guest Name: _____

Please indicate any special needs you may have, including dietary: _____

- Delegate Registration (\$400 per person)
- Guest Registration (\$250 per person)

Event Sign Up

- Sunday, January 12th- Optional- Day at Oaklawn Racing Park, \$30.00 pp
**please send a separate check for the Oaklawn trip, payable to WSLCA
- Monday, January 13th- Arkansas Governor's Mansion- Dinner
- Tuesday, January 14th- Scott, Arkansas- lunch and museum
- Wednesday, January 15th- Clinton Presidential Library- Dinner

Conference Hotel Information

Doubletree by Hilton
Little Rock
424 West Markham
Little Rock, AR 72201

- *The hotel code is: WSL
- *The rate is \$87 for a single queen & \$96 for doubles and king
- *The WSLCA room block is available until December 20, 2013
- *Call 1-800-222-8733 to make reservations *or*
- *Book online at www.doubletree.com

Make checks payable to WSLCA

Mail to: WSLCA c/o Commissioner of State Lands office, 109 State Capitol Building, Little Rock, AR 72201

For more information please contact:

Nikki Heck, phone: 501-683-3314, email: nheck@cosl.org OR

Sandra Blount, phone: 501-683-3031, email: sblount@cosl.org

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