



Message from the President

Welcome to the Western States Land Commissioners Association (WSLCA) website. My name is Brent Goodrum, and I am the Director of the Division of Mining, Land and Water within the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. It is my distinct honor to serve this organization as its current president.

The WSLCA is represented by 23 western states who collectively manage over 400 million acres of public school and institutional trust lands, surface and subsurface minerals rights and submerged lake, river and coastal acreage. Together we are the largest landowner group in the nation, second only to the federal government. State trust lands provide a range of public and private sector economic value. We believe in actively managing our state owned public land and financial resources to provide maximum benefit for the state's respective public beneficiaries, primarily K-12 public education.

Over the past few years we have begun a major shift in our organization to meet the needs of our members and the beneficiaries we serve. With an emphasis on excellence, collaboration and integrity, we have strategically grown our membership by offering an [affiliate member program](#). This program encourages mutual sharing of best practice and innovation, as well as, collaboration on issues of national importance such as energy production, transportation, infrastructure across public lands and reasonable protection of wildlife and plant species.

Our strategic initiatives for the coming year emphasize strengthening our collaborative networks to work on issues, seeking passage of Advancing Conservation & Education (ACE) legislation as a new tool to address trust lands trapped in federal conservation units, providing professional webinars and targeted education events for our staffs, and giving back to academic programs aligned with public land management and WSLCA objectives. These are aggressive goals that will continue to strengthen our value proposition to members.

I share in the great optimism about the direction and vision of the organization. We continue to build depth in infrastructure. Our shared experience has made us "a nationally recognized voice for prudent land management". No one state or member can do it alone. Together we represent a stronger, more influential voice.