
To: Mark Rude
Subject: RE: GMDA Federal Issues committee so you may know

Below is the latest weekly report from National Water Resources Association. I missed sending out the prior week's report again and am happy to send to any who are interested at this point. As The Groundwater Caucus for NWRA, the NWRA weekly report is available to all GMDA members. Please let the GMDA Federal Issues committee know if you do not wish to receive this regular email.

I was privileged by invitation and support of my SW Kansas GMD3 board to be able to attend the Colorado Water Congress (CWC) summer meeting this week in Steamboat Springs where I participated in a panel discussion of water folks from Kansas (myself), Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico fielded questions posed by the new director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board on management challenges and successes in our respective states. I later met up with fellow GMDA Federal Issues Committeeman Randy Ray of Central Colorado Water Conservancy District for a farm bill session moderated by NWRA Executive Vice President Dale Neller. The most notable groundwater management discussions at the CWC occurred for me regarding the common need for voluntary compensated options for reducing demand in mined aquifer areas needing temporary or permanent reductions in pumping while preserving local Ag economies, like in the San Louise Valley, and the Colorado Republican River Basin. It is always helpful to someone when we openly collaborate on shared groundwater management interests, successes, needs and concerns.

We continue to provide outreach and advocacy for 2023/2024 Farm Bill conservation title items that are aligned with our GMDA federal priority goals. Those goals were sent previously and available upon request. At the upcoming NWRA Leadership Forum we will update these priorities to focus NWRA efforts and advocacy on the Hill for 2024. One hour of general session presentation and discussions at the NWRA Annual Conference will be dedicated to GMDA/Groundwater Caucus interests and priorities. Please let us know of federal speakers or issues you recommend for that time. That agenda is being developed now for NWRA promotion, so don't wait to respond back.

Best regards,
Mark Rude, Federal Issue Committee.
C 620-272-3001



NWRA WEEKLY

August 25, 2023

THIS WEEK IN REVIEW

NWRA Annual Conference and Leadership Forum

Early bird registration rates remain in effect for our 2023 Annual Conference and



Leadership Forum! The event will take place November 8–10 at the Marriott Rivercenter on the famed Riverwalk in San Antonio, Texas.

The Leadership Forum takes place the morning of Wednesday, November 8, and will focus on updating our policy priorities and strategies for the coming year. The Annual Conference will commence thereafter, running Wednesday afternoon, all day Thursday, and concluding midday Friday, November 10.



Leading industry officials and policymakers will be joining us to discuss current issues that are top of mind to the water sector, with an overriding focus on

NWRA

Events

Annual Conference and Leadership Forum

Nov 8–10

San Antonio, TX

Member

Events

Agribusiness and Water Council of Arizona

Annual Meeting & Water Conference

preserving and maximizing the use of our most precious resource—water.

Sept 15

Phoenix, AZ

We are particularly fortunate that our long-time allies at the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) will again be partnering with us to host the traditional “15-minute meetings” between their leaders and representatives of your irrigation districts and water agencies. New this year, officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will also be available for a limited number of “15-minute meetings.”

32nd Annual
H2O Golf
Tournament

Oct 27

Casa Grande,
AZ

We especially want to recognize our industry colleagues that have already stepped up to exhibit, and/or to sponsor the event!



**Association
of California
Water
Agencies**

Fall
Conference

Nov 28–30

Indian Wells,
CA

Exhibitors

Intertape Polymer Group

International Water Screens

**Colorado
Water
Congress**

Annual
Convention

Jan 31–Feb 2
2024

Sponsors

Aurora, CO

Trinity River Authority of Texas

-Water Titan-

**Groundwater
Management
Districts
Association**

Kogovsek & Associates, Inc.

-Water Buffalo-

Salt River Project

-Water Buffalo-

Intertape Polymer Group

-Gold-

Colorado River Energy Distributors Association

-Bronze-

[Click here for details and to register](#)

No Immediate Events

Idaho Water Users Association

Legislative Water College

Aug 28–30

Burley, ID

Tri-State Meeting

(ID, UT, WA)

Sept 22

Boise, ID

Headgate - Idaho's Water Leadership Academy

Session 1

Nov 14–16

Twin Falls, ID

Session 2

Dec 12–14

Twin Falls, ID

Session3

Jan 31–Feb 1

NWRA Attends CWC Summer Conference

This week the Colorado Water Congress held its summer conference in Steamboat Springs, CO. The sold-out conference featured a broad lineup of speakers that discussed state and federal policy efforts, statewide collaboration, neighboring state challenges, Colorado agriculture and weather trends. NWRA Executive Vice President, Dale Nellor, participated in the Morning Farm Report as a moderator and speaker of a panel discussion on the Farm Bill and its importance to the Western water community.

NWRA Submits ESA Comments

Boise, ID

On Monday, NWRA through the National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition (NESARC) filed comments on the Biden Administration's three proposed rules that would revise portions of regulations that implement Section 4 (listing/critical habitat), Section 4(d) (prohibitions for threatened species), and Section 7 (consultation) of the Endangered Species Act. The comments highlight a number of areas of concern and provide recommendations that would improve the proposed rules. The complete comments can be found here: [Section 4 comments](#) / [Section 4\(d\) comments](#) / [Section 7 comments](#).

**Kansas
Water
Congress**

Kansas Water
Office, 2023
Governor's
Conference on
the Future of
Water in
Kansas

Nov 15–16

Last Call for NWRA 2023 Award Nominations

Manhattan, KS

Do you know a water professional that goes above and beyond the call of duty in the service of our nation's water users and our association? If you have someone in mind, complete this [Nomination Form](#) and send it to NWRA's Awards and Recognition Committee at nwra@nwra.org by August 31, 2023. Nominations will be reviewed and approved by NWRA's Awards Committee in early September and will be presented at the NWRA Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX the week of November 6th.

**Montana
Water
Resources
Association**
No Immediate
Events

EPA loses to greens in court fight over water quality

By: E&E News

A federal judge in Arizona has found that EPA failed to assess harms to vulnerable species before increasing the amount of cadmium allowed in its water pollution standards.

The Center for Biological Diversity sued the agency last March, arguing that EPA didn't consult other partner agencies before changing its regulations in 2016 — a step the environmental group says is critical to protecting endangered species like salmon, freshwater mussels and sea turtles. In what the center called a "precedent-setting decision," the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona on Friday ordered EPA to revisit its cadmium pollution standards, which were updated seven years

**Nebraska
Water
Resources
Association**

NeWRA &
NSIA Joint
Convention

Nov 21–23

Kearney, NE

**North Dakota
Water Users
Association**

60th Annual
Joint ND

ago from its original recommendation in 2001. For now, the agency will revert to more protective levels. Read more [HERE...](#)

Lightning sparks new blazes, but moist air aids Northern Calif. firefighters

By: E&E News

HAMBURG, Calif. — Weekend lightning strikes ignited new wildfires near a complex of blazes that have been burning since last week through the Klamath National Forest near California's border with Oregon, authorities said Monday. The lightning Sunday accompanied heavy rain showers that caused mudslides that closed parts of State Route 96, but the wet weather also aided firefighters battling the flames, the Forest Service said.

"A moister air mass has moved over much of the Klamath today which should moderate fire behavior on any new starts," the Forest Service said in a statement. Read more [HERE...](#)

Bennet bill would add drought mitigation to flood program

By: E&E News

A popular Department of Agriculture program aimed at reducing flooding and its damaging effects could soon expand to include drought mitigation efforts. Colorado Sen. Michael Bennet (D), along with Nebraska Sen. Deb Fischer (R) and Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley (D), on Monday announced S. 2636, the "Healthy Watersheds, Healthy Communities Act." The legislation would update the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations program — commonly referred to as PL-566, a reference to its identifier in federal law — to include "drought resilience" among its priorities. Read more [HERE...](#)

Park service OKs chemicals to kill invasive bass in Colorado River

By: E&E News

PAGE, Ariz. — The National Park Service will renew efforts to rid an area of the Colorado River in northern Arizona of invasive fish by killing them with a chemical treatment, the agency said Friday. A substance lethal to fish but approved by federal environmental

Water
Convention
and Irrigation
Workshop

Dec 5–8

Bismarck, ND

**Oregon
Water
Resources
Congress**

Water Law
Seminar

Oct 4

Sisters, OR

Annual
Conference

Nov 28–30

Hood River,
OR

**Texas Water
Conservation
Association**

Fall
Conference

Nov 1–3

San Antonio,
TX

**Upper
Missouri**

regulators called rotenone will be disseminated starting Aug. 26. It's the latest tactic in an ongoing struggle to keep nonnative smallmouth bass and green sunfish at bay below the Glen Canyon Dam and to protect a threatened native fish, the humpback chub. The treatment will require a weekend closure of the Colorado River slough, a cobble bar area surrounding the backwater where the smallmouth bass were found and a short stretch up and downstream. Chemical substances were also utilized last year. Read more [HERE...](#)

Water Association

UMWA Conference

Oct 24–26

Gillette, WY

NEXT WEEK IN CONGRESS

Week of Monday, August 28, 2023

House of Representatives - In Recess

Senate - In Recess

Utah Water Users

Association

Annual Utah Water Summit

Sept 26

Layton, UT

Washington State Water Resources Association

Annual Conference

Nov 29–Dec 1

Spokane, WA

JOB LISTINGS

City of Oklahoma City

Title: Utilities Line Maintenance Superintendent

Salary: \$90,368–\$138,079 annually

Location: Oklahoma City, OK

Deadline: 09/22/23

Summary: The Oklahoma City Utilities Department is seeking a forward-thinking, effective leader to be its next Utilities Line

Stay Connected via:



Maintenance Superintendent. The Utilities Line Maintenance Superintendent will be the head of the Line Maintenance Division and manage and direct the activities, including oversight of clerical, technical, and/or professional staff. Line Maintenance is the Utilities Department's largest division, with over 225 employees, who service 4,000 miles of waterpipe and 3,000 miles of sewer pipe, with 17,000 work orders annually. The ideal candidate will have ten years of progressively responsible experience supervising water and wastewater repair and maintenance activities and/or related utility operations. Skill in developing and managing large annual budgets and improving complex operations, and supervising a large, diverse, unionized workforce and experience in contract management is required.

Apply: [Here](#)

Colorado River Commission of Nevada

Title: Natural Resource Specialist

Salary: \$65,000–\$132,250 annually

Location: Las Vegas, NV

Deadline: Until filled

Summary: The Commission is seeking a qualified natural resource professional, preferably with experience in natural resource management. The Natural Resource Specialist will assist or represent the agency on Colorado River related environmental resource programs, including the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program Technical Workgroup and the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Programs. The Natural Resource Specialist will be expected to review scientific research and apply that knowledge to manage resources on the Colorado River.

Apply: [Here - \(full position description and details\)](#)

SRP (Salt River Project)

Title: Senior Controls/Electrical Engineer

Salary: Based on qualifications

Location: Phoenix, AZ (possible hybrid option)

Deadline: Until filled

Summary: This position supports the Water SCADA system, a 24x7 real time operation control system, used by Water Transmission for delivery of water from the dams throughout the valley canal system. The position performs a mix of control engineering design, software development and system administration for the entire system. This position also performs analysis of a new equipment and ensures that design standards are upheld. .

Apply: [Here](#)

SWCA Environmental Consultants

Title: Numerous opportunities

Salary: Based on position and qualifications

Location: To be determined

Deadline: Until filled

Summary: SWCA employs smart, talented, problem-solvers dedicated to our purpose of preserving natural and cultural resources for tomorrow while enabling projects that benefit people today. Our people work on diverse projects, develop new skills, and collaborate with teams across the country. Our projects take us to exciting places – picturesque outdoor landscapes, bustling cities, and historic small towns. We work best at the intersection of people, progress, and the natural world.

Apply: [Here](#)

Tarrant Regional Water District

Title: Public Safety Telecommunications Specialist

Salary: \$43,014–\$64,417 annually

Location: Fort Worth, TX

Deadline: Until filled

Summary: Under the general supervision of the Security Operations Supervisor, the Tele-Communicator performs duties including but not

limited to receiving, prioritizing, and disseminating multiple 911 and administrative telephone lines and monitoring the District's radio communication system

Apply: [Here](#)

Tarrant Regional Water District

Title: Facility Maintenance Technician

Salary: \$37,440–\$61,713 annually

Location: Waxahachie, TX

Deadline: Until filled

Summary: The Facility Maintenance Technician is responsible for maintaining and upkeep of water district grounds, buildings, and structures

Apply: [Here](#)

Arvin-Edison Water Storage District

Title: Numerous opportunities

Salary: Based on position and qualifications

Location: Arvin, CA

Deadline: Until filled

Summary: The district oversees major infrastructure consisting of 45 miles of concrete canals, 50 pumping plants with 150 pumps/motors, 1500 acres of spreading basins, 82 groundwater extraction wells, and manages approximately 50 employees.

Apply: [Here](#)

Arizona Department of Water Resources

Title: Numerous opportunities

Salary: Based on position and qualifications

Location: Phoenix, AZ

Deadline: Until filled

Summary: Virtually everything Arizona Department of Water Resources employees do affects the quality of life for the state's residents and guests. With multiple career opportunities available through the same employer job mobility and career advancement are highly likely.

Apply: [Here](#)

Conservancy of Southwest Florida

Title: Numerous opportunities

Salary: Based on position and qualifications

Location: Naples, FL

Deadline: Until filled

Summary: The Conservancy of Southwest Florida is a leading environmental conservation organization dedicated to protecting the water, land and wildlife in the region. As the population of this area grows, so do the demands placed on its unique, natural resources. For more than 50 years the Conservancy has worked with community leaders, businesses, partner agencies and individuals to find a sensible balance between the demands of a growing population and the preservation of our natural treasure

Apply: [Here](#)

Texas Water Development Board

Title: Numerous opportunities

Salary: Based on position and qualifications

Location: Austin, TX

Deadline: Until filled

Summary: Employees of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) enjoy excellent benefits along with an incredible opportunity to do important work and make a positive difference for the state of Texas.

Apply: [Here](#)

Have a job posting you would like featured in the NWRA Daily? Send it to nwra@nwra.org.

We're Here For You!

NWRA staff are readily available throughout the day via email or phone:

- Dale Nellor: dnellor@nwra.org
- Kris Polly: kris.polly@waterstrategies.com
- Drake Wood: drake.wood@waterstrategies.com
- Dillon Kuehn: dillon.kuehn@waterstrategies.com
- Tom Wacker: tom.wacker@waterstrategies.com

Call us at 202-698-0693!

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