

**Western Extension Directors Association  
Regional Issues Scan  
July 2012**

**Critical Issues**

**Program Related Issues:**

- Wildfire
- Drought
- Water quantity and quality
- Influence of climate change on all of the above; implications for growth and development in the West; possible intervention/adaptation strategies
- Energy, including alternative energy and energy conservation
- Rural community and economic development
- Healthy living, including obesity reduction/prevention education
- Positive youth development
- Invasive species

**High Priority Organizational Issues:**

- Evaluating impact of Extension programs, including regional impact evaluation
- Marketing regional impact of Extension
- Addressing priority needs of urban audiences
- Future of SNAP-Ed and EFNEP in light of success of programs like Cooking Matters that receive large amounts of private funding
- Professional development
  - Professional development for regional directors (mid-managers)
  - New faculty/staff orientation
  - Using technology for problem solving
- Multi-state collaboration on common issues
- Sustainable funding for WRDC

**Director/Administrator Changes**

- University of Arizona - Jeff Silvertooth, Associate Dean, Economic Development and Extension Director, replaced Interim Extension Director Kirk Astroth
- University of Hawaii - Maria Gallo will replace Interim Dean and Extension Director Sylvia Yuen, effective July 16, 2012
- University of Nevada Cooperative Extension – Jerry Buk will serve as Interim Dean and Director starting August 23, 2012, when Dr. Karen Hinton retires

**Future WEDA Meetings**

- July 9-12, Joint Summer Meeting in Park City, UT
- October 17-19, WEDA Fall Meeting, Portland, OR