

**Western Extension Directors Association
Regional Issues Scan
July 2013**

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
- Military programs

High Priority Organizational Issues:

- Evaluating impact of Extension programs, including regional and state impact evaluation
- Marketing regional/state impact of Extension
- Addressing priority needs of urban audiences, including urban agriculture
- SNAP-Ed and EFNEP funding
- Effect of sequestration on capacity funding and competitive grant funds
- 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
- Smith-Lever Celebration

Director/Administrator Changes

- Beginning July 1, 2013, Dr. Noelle Cockett from UT will be replaced by Dr. Ken White, Vice President of USU Extension and Dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

Future WEDA Meetings

- July 15-18, Western Region Joint Summer Meeting, Coeur d'Alene, ID
- Sept. 18-19, WEDA Fall Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA (Galaxy)