



# Western Water Network Vision Paper Rollout

October 24, 2023 ~ Webinar



# Western Water Network Webinar

- Overview of Vision Paper Initial Draft
- Q&A, discussion, feedback/input
- Next steps for the Western Water Network (as time permits)

Please provide feedback on the VP Initial Draft by **Friday, November 17**, to [bhess@unr.edu](mailto:bhess@unr.edu) or any member of the WWN Workshop Planning Committee



# Western Water Network Background and Need

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**What is the WWN?** WWN is a network of networks that facilitates land-grant university efforts (researchers, extension professionals, and their stakeholder collaborators) and water managers to improve water security in the West.

## Timeline

August 2020: WAAESD Water Mini-Summit to identify and address pressing water issues

April 2022: Reno Assembly to develop the WWN

June 2023: Fort Collins Workshop to charge an initial vision for land-grant focused research and engagement

2024 and Beyond: ...

**The WWN Mission** is to advance collaborative, proactive, science-based water decision making that supports dynamic human and natural systems in the West.

## The WWN seeks to:

- Facilitate improved coordination and collaboration in water research, education, and engagement activities in the West, within and across state boundaries.
- Help remove barriers limiting innovative solutions and foster non-traditional collaborations.

# How a Super-Network such as WWN Could Assist

(Ideas that Arose from the Fort Collins Workshop)

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**INCREASED DEI** is needed, in all facets of western water management

## **RESEARCH**

Outstanding transboundary water management research topics

- Natural and Human System Water Sustainability
- River and Basin Compact Analysis
- Water Data and Use
- Climate Uncertainty

Other outstanding research questions to benefit from a transboundary lens

- Incentives for Water Use and Management
- Water Use and Value
- Valuing Environmental and Human Health

Benefits in Water Management

## **EXTENSION**

Develop educational resources/programming to:

- Build a water-competent civic citizenry
- Support collaboration between Extension, policymakers, and regional and national trade organizations
- Educate future and current leaders on water challenges and possible solutions

WWN can be a convenor between entities, educating and creating empathy among/across user groups. Activities:

- River and Basin Compact Database
- Learning Forums
- Products to Inform Public Policy

## **EDUCATION**

- Workforce/professional development
- Educational content creation for K-12 and college courses



# Developing a roadmap: What is needed to sustain WWN and to continue its success?

## Key Points:

### NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE

- Draft rules of operation.

### ACTIVITIES & WORK OF THE WWN

- **Partnerships** define an active network.
- **Data-sharing** between states.
- **Research** and knowledge transfer.
- **Extension** conceived at the multi-state level.
- **Education** focused on novel modes of grad training and Extension-based professional development.

**Vision Paper.**  
Dissemination of Vision Paper.

**Building Partnerships.** Goal is to have researchers, extension specialists and stakeholders identify as members.

**Data Sharing.** Develop a data hub from researchers and state departments and agencies.

**Research.** Repository of completed & on-going research leading to policy briefs and workshop/conference engagements.

**Teaching.** Proactive WWN leadership campaign to conceive of novel graduate training.

**Cooperative Extension.** Proactive WWN leadership campaign to conceive Extension at the multi-state level.

**Annual Milestone.**  
UCOWR Annual Meeting 2024. Revise existing roadmaps and define new ones.

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### WWN Workshop Planning Committee

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