



WESTERN STATES WATER COUNCIL

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Web Page: www.westernstateswater.org

June 20, 2025

RE: Instream Flow Council/American Fisheries Society Project Steering Committee
National Center for Ecologically Sustainable Water Conservation and Management

The Western States Water Council (WSWC) is a government entity representing eighteen states, with members appointed by their respective governors. The WSWC's mission is to ensure that the West has an adequate, secure, and sustainable supply of water of suitable quality to meet its diverse economic and environmental needs now and in the future.

Water in the West is an increasingly scarce and precious resource. Western States have and will continue to face unique hydrologic, legal and infrastructure challenges. Population growth, competing economic and ecological demands, and changing social values have left surface and groundwater supplies stressed in many areas. This has increased the number and complexity of conflicts among users and uses. Effectively addressing these challenges requires a knowledgeable and capable workforce trained in sound science and water law and policy.

Western governors recognize the need to align education and workforce training with opportunities for students and workers to secure good jobs and to build a skilled workforce that can support our present and future economic and environmental needs. Access and training related to the use of data on streamflow, snowpack runoff, soil moisture, groundwater levels, evapotranspiration, and water-related forecasts are important aspects of effective water and related resources management, including quantifying needs related to protecting, developing and managing our water and related resources, including fish and wildlife resources.

Western States are primarily responsible for the management of water, fish and wildlife resources, which requires balancing public and private interests, rights and responsibilities. Sustainable water resource management and development should yield long term economic growth, enhanced protection and restoration of significant aquatic ecosystems, and improved economic and environmental security and quality of life. The WSWC supports the creation of the National Center for Ecologically Sustainable Water Conservation and Management as consistent with our vision and principles. We look forward to future collaborative efforts to further its purposes.

Sincerely,

Tony Willardson
Executive Director
Western States Water Council