



*Protecting Water for Western Irrigated Agriculture*

## **2018 Annual Meeting & Conference**

### ***One Year In: What's changed, and where are we going in Western Water?***

## **AGENDA**

**Wednesday**  
**February 21, 2018**

**ELDORADO CONVENTION CENTER (LOWER LEVEL)**

**8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Board of Directors and Advisory Committee Internal Meetings**

**Thursday**  
**February 22, 2018**

**ELDORADO CONVENTION CENTER (LOWER LEVEL)**

**7:00 a.m.**

***Registration Desk Open***

**8:00 a.m.**

***Welcome – Opening Comments:*** Alliance President Patrick O'Toole will summarize the busy year he and the Alliance had, engaging in a variety of national initiatives, developing new partnerships, and strengthening existing networks. He will set the stage for the 2018 general session, which will be forward-looking and focused on making positive change one year into the 115th Congress and a new administration in Washington, D.C.

**8:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.**

***“The Layman’s Guide to Understanding Water” - Mitzi Wertheim***, Professor Naval Postgraduate School, Practice for Sustainability, Enterprises and Social Networking. With a vast experience in government spanning fifty years, Ms. Wertheim was the first woman appointee in the Navy to serve as Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy. During the Carter administration she was part of the Transition Team and helped staff the National Security Cluster. Ms. Wertheim now oversees the Energy Conversation, a network of government and other sectors working together to build the foundation for horizontal communications and whole of government solutions to complex energy problems.

**8:45 a.m.  
to  
10:05 a.m.**

***Reclamation Roundtable*** – Commissioner Brenda Burman will be the keynote speaker prior to the panel discussion featuring all five regional directors from the Bureau of Reclamation, who will participate in an interactive discussion of key policy issues that span the West in this time-honored Alliance conference tradition. Dan Keppen (Alliance Executive Director) will moderate a panel that includes regional directors Terry Fulp (Lower Colorado Region), Mike Black (Great Plains Region), and Brent Rhees (Upper Colorado Region) and Lorri Gray (Pacific Northwest Region); and deputy regional director Federico Barajas (Mid-Pacific Region).

# 2018 Family Farm Alliance Annual Conference

## AGENDA

### Thursday February 22 (Continued)

10:05 a.m. Break  
to  
10:20 a.m.

10:20 a.m.  
to  
11:30 a.m.

***Western Wildfire Forum: A look back at a year of wildfire devastation and a look ahead at possible federal funding and policy fixes.*** In the world of Western water, a massive wildfire in the headwaters of a watershed can devastate the water supply – both quantity and quality – so important to the many beneficial uses in that river basin, including the irrigation of farms and ranches that produce some of our Nation’s high-quality food and fiber. Recent wildfire disasters in California and other Western states have underscored the importance of finding solutions to federal funding of wildfire suppression and prevention, as well as on-the-ground management that can lead to improved forest health. Cecilia Clavet (Senior Policy Advisor, The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, VA); Erin Huston (California Farm Bureau Federation, Washington, D.C.); and Tim Quinn (Executive Director, Association of California Water Agencies) will look back at the worst year of wildfire devastation and discuss possible solutions.

11:30 a.m.  
to  
11:45 a.m.

***Western Congressional Caucus Update: Darrell Henry, Executive Director, Western Caucus Foundation.*** The Western Caucus Foundation is a cultural exchange organization committed to educating public policy makers and communicating with the public in an effort to enhance, sustain, and preserve the West’s dynamic and unique culture. Mr. Henry, his staff and Members of Congress disseminate information to people in Washington, and across the country, about how the West is a real place where people live, work and play, and that it is not an abstraction or an idyllic playground. Introduction by Pete Gile (Kansas Bostwick ID)

Noon  
to  
1:15 p.m.

***Luncheon featuring Keynote Speaker: Kiel Weaver, Assistant for Policy to House Speaker Paul Ryan.*** Kiel Weaver has long been a featured speaker at Family Farm Alliance annual meetings, particularly over the past 15 years, where he served as Staff Director for the House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans. Learn of his first-hand recent experience working for the third most powerful elected official in the land, where he handles energy and environmental policy issues.

1:15 p.m.  
to  
2:00 p.m.

***A Look at D.C. from the Hill:*** Mark Limbaugh moderates this panel of staff from key congressional water committees. Get the inside scoop on how the new Congress will tackle Western water and environmental challenges from Republican and Democrat staff directors on Capitol Hill. Panelists include Lane Dickson (Republican Professional Staff, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee), Camille Touton (Democrat Professional Staff, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee) and Bryson Wong (Republican Senior Professional Staff, House Natural Resources Committee).

# 2018 Family Farm Alliance Annual Conference

## AGENDA

**Thursday**  
**February 22, 2018**

**(Continued)**

**2:00 p.m.**

**to**

**2:45 p.m.**

***Bureau of Reclamation Policy Review and Customer Service Improvement Activities.*** The Bureau of Reclamation recently began initiatives related to its policies and technical services. Reclamation is reviewing both policy development processes and the content of its Reclamation Manual, as well as reviewing customer service improvements related to its technical services. David Palumbo, Deputy Commissioner of Reclamation, and other Reclamation leaders will provide an overview of these activities, including how they will engage and involve external stakeholders like the Family Farm Alliance. Introduction by Jeff Sutton (Tehama-Colusa Canal District, CA)

**2:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

***Break***

**3:00 p.m.**

**to**

**5:00 p.m.**

***Seeking a Sustainable Balance of Economic Prosperity and Environmental Protection in the West.*** This panel of agency, agriculture and conservation representatives will discuss an important paradigm shift underway: moving away from confrontation and litigation and towards collaboration and cooperation solutions that recognize the importance of irrigated agriculture and ultimately improve the ecology and rural economies. Moderated by Alliance President Patrick O'Toole, this panel includes Robert Harper ((Director of Water, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants, U.S. Forest Service), Dave Smith (Coordinator, Intermountain West Joint Venture); Paul Souza (Director, Pacific Southwest Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service); and Jay Tanner (Board of Directors, Partners for Conservation).

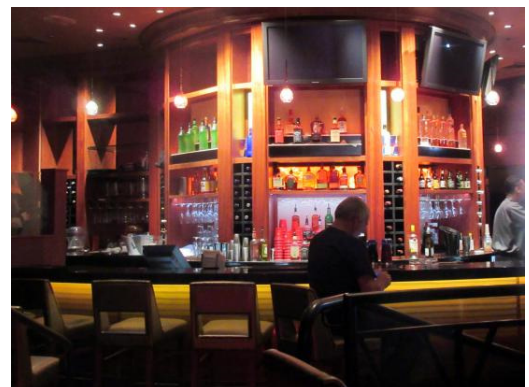
***Exhibitors' Presentations (5 minutes each)***

**5:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.**

***2018 Annual Meeting***

**5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

***Evening Reception - Come unwind for drinks and food at the Eldorado Resort Casino's newest nightspot—Novi!***



# 2018 Family Farm Alliance Annual Conference

## AGENDA

Friday  
February 23, 2018

ELDORADO CONVENTION CENTER (LOWER LEVEL)

7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

*Continental Breakfast*

8:00 a.m.– 8:45 a.m.

***Keynote Address: David Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Interior***. Find out what is happening in the halls of Interior from David Bernhardt, Secretary Ryan Zinke's right-hand man. President Trump nominated Mr. Bernhardt for the position in April 2017 and the U.S. Senate confirmed him three months later. He was sworn-in by Secretary Zinke on August 1, 2017. Mr. Bernhardt is the second-highest-ranking official at the Interior Department with statutory responsibilities as the Chief Operating Officer of an agency of more than 70,000 employees and an annual budget of approximately \$12 billion.

8:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

***Fish, Families and Farms – Developing creative ways to address ESA challenges***. Implications associated with implementation of the federal Endangered Species Act are as various as the Western landscape, and locally-driven solutions are just as diverse. Hear from three western water managers from three different states on how solutions are being developed to protect family farms and fish. Mike Hamman (Chief Engineer and CEO, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District) will talk about New Mexico's silvery minnow; Chris Harris (Executive Director, Colorado River Board of California) will discuss the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Plan; and Urban Eberhart will address collaborative efforts in the Yakima Basin and what that means for Washington state salmon and farmers. Tanya Trujillo will moderate.

10:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

***Break***

10:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

***Connecting consumers with the producers - examples of urban-ag outreach efforts in the Western U.S.*** All Westerners, like all Americans, prefer healthy food and prize open spaces. There is a need to emphasize the virtues of farming and ranching in the West, building upon the growing public appreciation for open space, farmer's markets, and the rapidly growing interest in local, sustainable, and organic foods. This panel will feature representatives involved with efforts to highlight local food production and traditions. Speakers include Jessica DuBose (Community Program Manager for the Blue Zones Project, Klamath Falls, OR); Dr. Jonathan Mabry (University of Arizona), who will discuss how Tucson became the first American city to become part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network as a City of Gastronomy; and Nick Matteis, Director of CA GROWN (Sacramento). Sheldon Jones (Soil Health Institute) will moderate.

11:45 a.m. to noon

***Award Presentation and Closing Comments – Patrick O'Toole***

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

NoVi, at Eldorado

Lunch will be provided.

***"Tour of Discovery—the 2018 Farm Bill"*** - leaders of the Western Agriculture and Conservation Coalition will facilitate a brain storming session that will bring together interested conference attendees, agency and congressional agriculture committee representatives and agriculture and conservation representatives to provide perspectives on what the new Farm Bill might look like, and should look like. Join us for a unique opportunity to network, brainstorm and discover ways to make the Farm Bill work for rural communities, producers and the environment.