

BUILDING UP THE WEST, TOGETHER

ANNUAL REPORT
2020





ABOUT THE WESTERN PLANNER

On November 29, 1979, Stan Steadman, Art Greenburg, Jim Richard, and Fred Roach, from Montana; Allan Merta from North Dakota; Ben Orsbon from South Dakota; and Dale Pernula from Wyoming met at the office of the Western Coal Planning Assistance project in Billings, Montana, and established The Western Planner (WP). The WP was established in newspaper form as a “journal of

information and ideas for planners, their boards and commissions, and their multiple publics.” Although the journal has changed forms, it continues to be written by planners for planners on practical solutions and experiences, covering western planning issues with pragmatism and humor.

State planning associations share control of the WP by appointing members to the Western Planner Resources (WPR) Board of Directors, which manages the organization while the editorial board vets journal content. The board members serve on the WPR Board with no financial compensation as a service to their planning organizations and to other Western Planners.

Many changes have occurred in the Mountain-Plains region, and in planning in general, since the beginning of the WP in 1979. However, the WP family remains a strong, vibrant collegial group dedicated to its founding principle. We want to help empower all western planners to build up and improve their communities throughout the West.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

To My Fellow Western Planners,

This year has presented challenges like no other in our history. Shortly after our board met in March, the pandemic hit our region and disrupted every facet of life. Nevertheless, we persisted in publishing our monthly journal, presenting high-caliber articles about planning during the pandemic. The board continued to meet regularly, addressing the business of the association, and including filling vacant positions from constituent planning organizations. While our much-anticipated North Dakota conference will be rescheduled for 2022, Western Planner signed an agreement with APA Arizona committing a joint conference this coming August in Scottsdale.

Western Planner remains the planner's network connecting the great spaces and places of the West. We encompass the "1-person office", state planning organizations, and everything in between. We are committed to provide a strong and active group working to build up the Western places and communities because we share an understanding of the issues we face: water, public lands, tribal relationships, resource extraction, inequality and social justice, and sustaining biodiversity and our wide open spaces. You are not alone; we are here for you.

The Western Planner could not survive and operate without supporting state organizations. Their partnerships and contributions help expand and sustain our organization. Our goal is to communicate regularly and help us understand how we can best support the most remote planners.

Western Planner depends on the individual contributions of members—writing articles, providing job postings, engaging with one another online, sponsoring, and donating. Moving forward, we will continue expanding our network and supporting it as described in our strategic plan—all with the focus on strengthening the Western Planner network.

As I have often said, there is great value in being part of a network that transcends formal connections and results in friendships borne of shared experiences, celebrating building better communities. You and I are part of that network. Let us work in the coming year to build up the West, together as we define the "next normal" beyond 2020.

Please stay well!

Most Sincerely,
Dan Pava, FAICP
President, Western Planner Resources



“

There is great value in being part of a network that transcends formal connections and results in friendships borne of shared experiences, celebrating building better communities.”

**Dan Pava, FAICP
President,
Western Planner Resources
2018-2020**

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

During the difficult 2020 year, we were fortunate to add four new members to our Western Planner Board.

Brittany Skelton, representing Idaho APA, is Senior Planner and Floodplain Manager for the City of Ketchum in Idaho's Wood River Valley and she is guided by the mantra "do with, not for." Learn more at her website communityandplace.com.

Brittany was also part of the team who won last year's Rural Innovation Award.

The Western Planner Board is happy to welcome back **Dee Caputo, FAICP** of Washington as an at-large board member. Dee served Washington's communities for more than 25 years. Currently, she chairs the Washington APA chapter's Planning Officials Development Committee as the Planning Officials Development Officer providing access to training, education and support opportunities for elected and appointed planning officials.

Allison Platt is our new representative from Oregon and works in Bend as a Senior Planner with the Growth Management Division. A Colorado native, Allison received her Master's Degree in Urban Environmental Policy and Planning from Tufts University in 2016 and worked as a Transportation Planner for two years before joining the City of Bend.

Genevieve Pearthree is a Planning Development Manager with the Current Planning Section at the City of Flagstaff. She is focused on using good urban design and planning practice to foster a healthier and more sustainable Flagstaff. She has a Master of Urban and Environmental Planning and a Master of Science in Sustainability from Arizona State University. Prior to her planning career, she was a project manager for the Arizona State Government and a bilingual teacher in Bolivia.

WESTERN PLANNER CONFERENCES

IMPACT: WE BUILD UP CONFERENCES

2020 CONFERENCE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the North Dakota Planning Association and the Western Planner had to cancel our 2020 annual conference. The decision was made with deference to the ongoing public health concerns and the resulting fiscal impact on many members of the Western Planner community. We sincerely regret this missed opportunity to gather and share experiences on a regional scale. However, we have already rescheduled to come back together to Bismarck-Mandan in 2022.

GROWING TOWARDS FAICP

The Western Planner provides unique opportunities for professional development. Two current board members and many of those who have served in the past are part of the College of Fellows of AICP (FAICP). As board member Dee Caputo, FAICP says, "Volunteering through the Western Planner organization is like providing planning service from within a FAICP nursery." This is from the service opportunities and a rich network of support the Western Planner brings to help planners grow towards this high professional honor.

2021 WESTERN STATES PLANNING CONFERENCE

We are excited to announce our upcoming conference will be held in partnership with the Arizona APA, and will be supported by multiple western state organizations. The conference will be held at the JW Marriot Camelback Inn Resort & Spa in Scottsdale, Arizona on August 22-25. This will be a regional conference, coming during the recovery from COVID-19 and in a time of adaptation, reconciliation, and cooperation in the West. In this context, the theme of the conference is "Breaking Boundaries, Creating Connections." Now more than ever, our profession needs to break the boundaries of our "professional silos" with disruptive and innovative ways to address modern challenges, creative and authentic engagement, and real human connection that will ultimately improve our communities.

Why Be a Conference Partner with Western Planner?

Western Planner elevates rural and tribal issues. 75% of Western counties are rural and tribal nations are foundational to the fabric of the West. This is the way forward for the West. Diversity and inclusivity will be key facets of the 2021 Western States Planning Conference.

Western Planner increases the reach and impact of your event. On average, about 50% of Western Planner conference attendees are from out-of-state. This expands professional networks, helps make new connections, and encourages ideas to flourish.

Western Planner has held conferences since 1981. We invite you to be part of history while moving into the future, together.

SAVE THE DATE

PRESENTED BY
the WESTERN PLANNER

BREAKING BOUNDARIES CREATING CONNECTIONS

**2021 WESTERN STATES
PLANNING CONFERENCE**

AUGUST 22-25, 2021
JW MARRIOT SCOTTSDALE
CAMELBACK INN RESORT & SPA

**CULTURAL
GENERATIONAL
PROFESSIONAL
GEOGRAPHICAL**

WESTERNPLANNER.ORG/2021-CONFERENCE

MONTANA

RURAL: 89.3% of counties
TRIBAL: 5.9% of state (9 tribes)
WP REP: None

CONNECTIONS: 131 people

WEB VISITS: 836

Montana was one of the founding states of Western Planner, and it was founded in Montana in 1979. Western Planner also formed the West Central Chapter of the APA, which includes Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota and South Dakota, with their original board officers coming from the Western Planner board.

CONFERENCE HISTORY

- 1981 Bozeman
- 1987 Billings
- 1990 Bozeman
- 1997 Red Lodge
- 2004 Missoula
- 2012 Billings
- 2016 Great Falls

W Y O M I N G

RURAL: 89.3% of counties
TRIBAL: 5.9% of state (9 tribes)
WP REP: Megan Nelms, AICP
Angela Parker, AICP, CFM (at large)

CONNECTIONS: 271 people

WEB VISITS: 834

“
Many western planners may think we are alone in the issues we deal with, but we're not. Western Planner can help make that connection.”

Megan from Gillette

** 2020 Foundational Member **

Wyoming was one of the founding states of Western Planner in 1979. They still face off against the rest of the world in the Wyoming vs the World softball (usually) game each conference. And they still always think they win.

CONFERENCE HISTORY

1984 Jackson

1994 Cody

2002 Evanston

2008 Cheyenne

2015 Laramie

NORTH DAKOTA

RURAL: 92.5% of counties
TRIBAL: 1.9% of state (4 tribes)
WP REP: Donna Bye
Larry Weil (Representing West Central APA)

CONNECTIONS: 166 people

WEB VISITS: 900

“

Western Planner articles are written by planners for planners and are more relatable than more high level and theoretical approaches.”

Larry from West Fargo

**** 2020 Foundational Member ****

North Dakota was one of the founding states of the Western Planner. Our conference will be returning there in 2022.

CONFERENCE HISTORY

1988 Bismarck

2007 Dickinson

2022 Bismarck-Mandan

SOUTH DAKOTA

RURAL: 95.5% of counties
TRIBAL: 9.2% of state (10 tribes)
WP REP: Kevin Smith, AICP

CONNECTIONS: 128 people

WEB VISITS: 900

“
We are in this together. Once
your connections are made,
you have a plethora of people,
topics and information at your
fingertips.”

Amber from Deadwood

**** 2020 Foundational Member ****

South Dakota was one of the
founding states of Western Planner in
1979. Western Planner assisted in
founding the South Dakota Planning
Association in 1983.

CONFERENCE HISTORY

1982 Spearfish
1992 Rapid City
2000 Spearfish
2009 Spearfish
2017 Spearfish

COLORADO

RURAL: 76.6% of counties
TRIBAL: 1.2% of state (2 tribes)
WP REP: Brandon Cammarata, AICP

CONNECTIONS: 842 people

WEB VISITS: 2500

“

I think Western Planner is a reality check for stuff that is actually being implemented by peer western communities”

Brandon from Aurora

Colorado joined the Western Planner in 1980. There are more WP subscribers from Colorado than any other state.

CONFERENCE HISTORY
1986 Fort Collins



UTAH

RURAL: 72.4% of counties
TRIBAL: 4.3% of state (7 tribes)
WP REP: Brian Carver

CONNECTIONS: 140 people

WEB VISITS: 1046

Utah joined the Western Planner in 1980.

CONFERENCE HISTORY

1983 Logan

1995 Park City

2005 Midway

2014 Salt Lake City

“

Western Planner is more than a journal or conference. If people invest themselves, it is a network of friendship, camaraderie, and professional support.”

Paul from Millcreek



WASHINGTON

RURAL: 46.2% of counties
TRIBAL: 5.6% of state (29 tribes)
WP REP: Kerwin Jensen
Dee Caputo, FAICP (at large)

CONNECTIONS: 233 people

WEB VISITS: 1351

“

Western Planner is a great network of professionals who work in both rural and urban settings where open space and relatively small populations are predominant. This is why it is important to belong to an organization where we can discuss common goals with one another.”

Kerwin from Richland

Planning Association of Washington joined the Western Planner 1982. The Washington APA joined in 2003.

CONFERENCE HISTORY

1998 Wenatchee

2010 Vancouver

ALASKA

RURAL: 86.2% of counties
TRIBAL: 10.7% of state (231 tribes)
WP REP: Shelly Wade, AICP

CONNECTIONS: 141 people

WEB VISITS: 387

**** 2020 Legacy Sponsor ****

Alaska joined the Western Planner in 1984.

CONFERENCE HISTORY
1993 Homer

“

Being a planning department of five or less, or sometimes one, does not mean you need to be isolated in learning and planning for your community. The Western Planner is an extension of your small, rural planning department.”

Shelly from Anchorage

IDAHO

RURAL: 86.4% of counties
TRIBAL: 1.3% of state (5 tribes)
WP REP: Brittany Skelton
Sherwin Racehorse (Representing Tribal Interests)

CONNECTIONS: 101 people

WEB VISITS: 1428

“

I'm excited to see Western Planner as an organization upping it's online presence with the website and newsletter.”

Brittany from Ketchum

Idaho joined the Western Planner in 1984. The Western Planner helped form the Idaho Planning Association, which became the Idaho Chapter of the APA.

CONFERENCE HISTORY

1985 Coeur d'Alene

1989 Boise

1996 Idaho Falls

2006 Boise

2018 Fort Hall

ARIZONA

RURAL: 26.7% of counties
TRIBAL: 27.7% of state (22 tribes)
WP REP: Loras Rauch, AICP
Genevieve Pearthree
(Representing Young Planners)

CONNECTIONS: 547 people

WEB VISITS: 1247

“

I'm a Western Planner member because it is a great resource to share planning expertise across the West and network with the region's pioneering planners. I'm relatively early in my planning career, and I like learning from the Western Planner articles and from the other members.”

Genevieve from Flagstaff

**** 2020 Champion Sponsor ****

Arizona joined the Western Planner in 1992. They have the 2nd most WP subscribers of any state. The first WP conference in Arizona will take place in 2021.

CONFERENCE HISTORY

2021 Scottsdale

NEW MEXICO

RURAL: 63.6% of counties
TRIBAL: 10.5% of state (24 tribes)
WP REP: Dan Pava, FAICP
Brad Stebleton (at large)

CONNECTIONS: 180 people

WEB VISITS: 847

“

Western Planner stories are relevant to those working west of the 100th meridian because we understand western history, culture and issues pertaining to planning..”

Dan from New Mexico

New Mexico joined the Western Planner in 1991.

CONFERENCE HISTORY

2001 Santa Fe

2011 Santa Fe

2019 Santa Fe

NEVADA

RURAL: 70.6% of counties
TRIBAL: 1.7% of state (19 tribes)
WP REP: None

CONNECTIONS: 80 people

WEB VISITS: 453

Nevada joined the Western Planner in 1991.

CONFERENCE HISTORY

2003 Las Vegas

2013 Lake Tahoe

“

The Western Planner is an excellent resource for small town and rural communities in the West and is greatly appreciated.”

Rob from Yerington

OREGON

RURAL: 52.8% of counties
TRIBAL: 1.3% of state (10 tribes)
WP REP: Allison Platt

Oregon joined the Western Planner in 2007.

CONNECTIONS: 60 people

CONFERENCE HISTORY

WEB VISITS: 1584

None

“

Western Planner is valuable to me as a connection to a network of talented people tackling similar issues across the West.”

Allison from Bend

NEBRASKA

RURAL: 95.7% of counties
TRIBAL: 4.4% of state (6 tribes)
WP REP: None

CONNECTIONS: 5 people

WEB VISITS: 121

Nebraska joined the Western Planner in 1981.

CONFERENCE HISTORY

1991 Lincoln

1999 Lincoln

CALIFORNIA

RURAL: 25.9% of counties
TRIBAL: 0.6% of state (108 tribes)
WP REP: None

CONNECTIONS: 57 people

WEB VISITS: 1515

CONFERENCE HISTORY

None

“The Western Planner conference sessions were really great and I hope to have a chance to apply them some day to the work I do.”

Destiny from Arcata

IMPACT: WE BUILD UP KNOWLEDGE
WESTERN PLANNER JOURNAL

MOST READ ARTICLES ALL TIME

1. Code Compliance: Difficulties and Ideas for Small Towns
by Kyle Slaughter
2. Federal Lands in the West: A few facts and figures
by Candace H. Stowell, AICP
3. Civilian Conservation Corps in Montana: 1933-1942
by Michael I. Smith, CFM
4. Understanding and Implementing Mixed-Use Development in the West
by Aric Jensen, AICP
5. Living off the Grid, Inside the Grid: An interview with Jared Capp "Cappie" of Pangea Design, Spearfish, South Dakota
by Jayna Watson, AICP, RLA

MOST READ FROM 2020

1. Land Use and Environmental Planning: History & Context
by Daniel S. Pava, FAICP
2. Recreation and Revitalization in John Day
by Ken Pirie and Nick Green
3. Legal Corner: Legal Challenges to Short-term Rental Rules
by Elizabeth Garvin, Esq., AICP
4. Featured Planner: Staci Bungard
by Megan Nelms, AICP
5. Stormwater Management and Master Planning - Why it Matters
by Kevin Smith, AICP and Zach Magdol, PE

METRICS

SUBSCRIBERS: 3890 Δ 9.7%

CLICK RATE: 21.9% Δ 2.8%

UNIQUE OPEN RATE: 24.7% ∇ 0.6%

Started in 1979, the Western Planner Journal consists of original double-blind, peer-reviewed articles written by planners for planners on relevant issues with practical solutions for the problems of the West. Published and distributed for free each month through an e-newsletter, the journal provides continuing educational credits for authors. Learn about submitting articles at westernplanner.org/submitting-articles or reach out to editor@westernplanner.org. The journal is one important way the Western Planner network connects and informs one another.

2021 EDITORIAL CALENDAR

MONTH	TOPIC	ARTICLE DEADLINE
January	Conservation	December 1
February	Land Use & Zoning	January 1
March	Environmental Planning	February 1
April	Community Engagement	March 1
May	Public Lands	April 1
June	Code & Ordinances	May 1
July	Hazard Mitigation & Recovery	June 1
August	Housing Affordability	July 1
September	Conference Issue	Post-Conference
October	Tribal Planning	Sept 1
November	Economic Development	Oct 1
December	Planning Law & Legal Issues	Nov 1

WESTERNPLANNER.ORG/SIGNUP

LAND USE & ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING: HISTORY & CONTEXT

by Daniel S. Pava, FAICP

This article was the top read article in 2020, first published in the January 2020 Issue.

ARTICLE SPONSOR



What constitutes the West that planners in the West plan in and for? In the West, land use is fundamentally tied up with environmental factors. Award-winning journalist and writer Colin Woodard, in his book “American Nations” tells us:

“...the Far West occupies the one part of the continent shaped more by environmental factors than ethnographic ones. High, dry, and remote, the Far West stopped migrating easterners in their tracks, and most of it could be made habitable only with the deployment of vast industrial resources: railroads, heavy mining equipment, ore smelters, dams, and irrigation systems. As a result, settlement was largely directed by corporations headquartered in distant New York, Boston, Chicago, or San Francisco, or by the federal government, which controlled much of the land. The Far West’s people are often resentful of their dependent status, feeling that they have been exploited as an internal colony for the benefit of the seaboard nations. Their senators led the fight against trusts in the mid-twentieth century. Of late, Far Westerners have focused their anger on the federal government, rather than their corporate masters.” (Woodard, 2011)

Planning is an expression of humanity, embodied in the construction of towns and cities. Similarly, the impulse to protect the natural world and systems we depend upon follows both biologic necessity and transcendent connection. The built environment has always had a relationship to the natural environment, with the work of planners woven through both.

Planning, zoning, and subsequent environmental laws are not an idea that arose in 20th century America. Whatever your perspective on the role of local, state and federal land use and environmental protection laws, these ideas originated anciently in the Near East. Regulating land use may have originated about 4,000 years ago in the mud brick cities of Mesopotamia with the Code of Hammurabi and the Laws of Eshnunna. For example, structural negligence leading to death of a bystander was a considered a capital offense in Babylon.



Plan of the City of Babylon, engraving from 1795

Later, Jewish legal codes addressed site design and land use issues in depth. These ancient Hebraic laws stressed ethical behavior as a part of everyday life, even in building placement and construction. For example, Deuteronomy 22:8 (circa 700 BC) required that new homes have parapets two cubits (about three feet) high to prevent accidental falls. More ecological ideas, like the idea of crop rotation and letting the earth rest by leaving fields fallow can also be found in this book. There were even laws prohibiting the felling of fruit trees during wartime.



Jerusalem, early 20th century

During the Talmudic era (circa 200 AD) numerous Jewish laws and legal cases dealing with property, privacy in construction of houses and yards, and related issues were codified. There were laws about how large a yard needs to be so that it could be divided and used among the neighbors, and laws dealing with the placement of walls and windows to assure sunlight and privacy. There were laws preventing access to alleyways in certain locations. There were laws prohibiting the operation of home businesses (bakeries and dye shops) on ground floors. There were proto-euclidean laws setting forth minimum distances between incompatible uses such as a cemetery or tannery and residences (50 cubits and only on the east side of a town).

The Christian-Byzantine Empire - from late antiquity to the Middle Ages - also developed laws addressing similar concerns, derived from

precedence in the ancient Near East, Greek, and later Roman laws. Islamic societies then continued this tradition and achieved a sophisticated legal system by addressing the processes of growth and change in the built environment. Evidence of these building traditions can be seen in the southwestern United States, first brought by early Spanish settlers from the Iberian Peninsula that had long been long influenced by Moorish designs. These patterns overlaid even older indigenous influences on the landscape.

One example of indigenous environmental planning with community building is seen in the ruins of Hovenweep National Monument. These impressive methodical communities held an estimated 2,500 indigenous people who designed and built advanced infrastructure including stormwater runoff catch basins and check dams to retain topsoil (see reference).

Predating the adoption of English land use traditions and laws in what is now New Mexico in the United States, during the 17th and 18th centuries, the Laws of the Indies were applied to new Spanish towns near the well-planned Native American pueblos that preceded them by centuries. These laws attempted to balance the rights and responsibilities of owning private property with the rights of the community. Long before there were national forests in the United States, there were land grants for these same areas as decreed by the King of Spain that were to be used for the public good. Some of the conflicts regarding the use of federal public lands stem from this history.



Ruins at Hovenweep National Monument

The American naturalist ethos underpinning environmental planning had its roots in influential thinkers of the 19th and 20th centuries. During the era of Manifest Destiny, the American essayist, poet and philosopher Henry David Thoreau wrote in his essay "Walking"

published in the Atlantic Magazine in June 1862: "The West of which I speak is but another name for the Wild; and what I have been preparing to say is, that in Wildness is the preservation of the world." Today, many of us practicing planning in the lands beyond the 100th Meridian would agree.

Almost one hundred years later, in 1954, the American novelist, environmentalist, and historian Wallace Stegner wrote in *Beyond the Hundredth Meridian* about a one-legged Civil

War veteran named John Wesley Powell. Powell floated the Colorado River in a voyage of exploration, noting that Powell was one of those powerfully original and prophetic minds..."He tried to shape legal and political and social institutions so that they would accord with the necessities of the West...He tried to dissipate illusions about the West, to sweep mirage away...Long ago he accomplished great things and now we are beginning to understand him...even out West." In fact, it was Powell who suggested that the Southwestern state

boundaries should be based upon the watersheds of its great rivers.

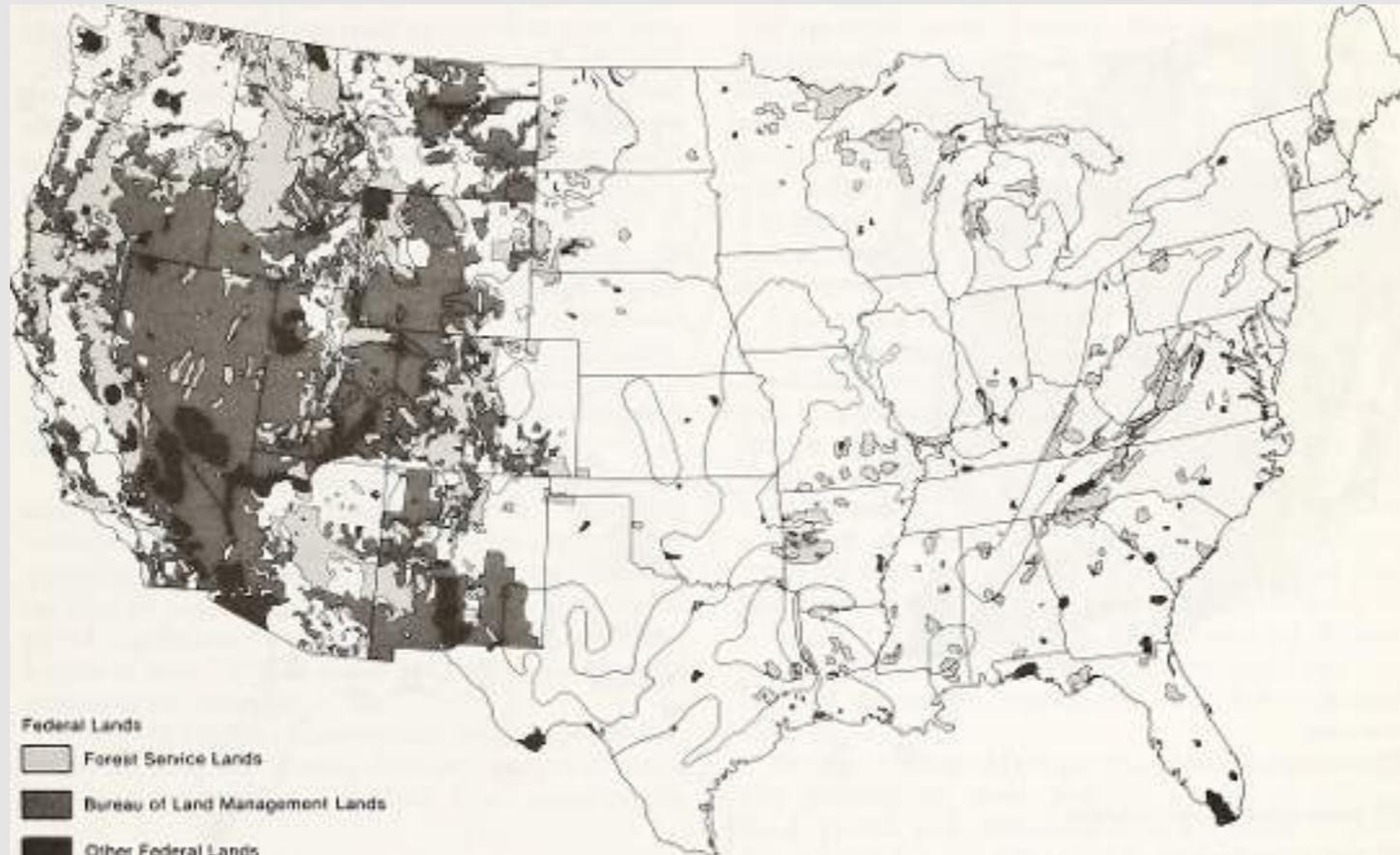
The debate continues to this day: is nature for exploiting or venerating? John Muir said: "Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves."-- *Our National Parks*, 1901, page 56. Later, in his 1943 novel, *The Big Rock Candy Mountain*, Wallace Stegner encapsulated an early 20th century view of the West: "There was somewhere, if you knew where to find it, some place where money could be made like drawing water from a well, some Big Rock Candy Mountain where life was effortless and rich and unrestricted and full of adventure and action, where something could be had for nothing." Is the Western U.S. Muir's cathedral, or is it Stegner's Big Rock Candy Mountain?

A few years later in 1949, American author, philosopher, scientist, and conservationist Aldo Leopold in *Sand county Almanac* said: "We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." Leopold was instrumental in having parts of the Gila National Forest designated as the first wilderness area.

Stegner's 1960's "Wilderness Letter" sent to members of Congress captured the feelings of many of his fellow Americans when advocating passage of the Wilderness Act:



Expedition of John Wesley Powell, 1871. Wikimedia Commons



Federal lands in the U.S.

“What I want to speak for is not so much the wilderness uses, valuable as those are, but the wilderness idea, which is a resource in itself. Being an intangible and spiritual resource, it will seem mystical to the practical minded—but then anything that cannot be moved by a bulldozer is likely to seem mystical to them.... We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in. For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope.”

Modern environmental planning arose over the past 100 years as the Federal government passed numerous laws to protect and manage its large land holdings, which are mostly found in the West. To put this in perspective, it is necessary to understand that these lands were acquired by treaties with other sovereign nations both foreign and tribal, as there were no states but only territories. According to Western Planner contributor and lawyer Elizabeth Garvin, “Our federal government controls 28 percent of the land base in the United States, down

substantially from 81 percent it once held. The basis for federal ownership came as part of the organization of our federal government.” (5th Annual Carver Colloquium, State Control of Federal Lands – Legal or Not? RMLUI 25th Workshop, Denver Co.) Among the most important laws that affect environmental planning are:

Antiquities Act of 1906 – this established the federal protection and preservation of historic sites as federal policy

Organic Act of 1916 – this established the National Park Service in order to protect and preserve places protected by the Antiquities Act, and for the general enjoyment of the public – this is a uniquely American idea that has been emulated around the world. Some say it was our best idea.

Wilderness Act 1964 – this defined and set aside wilderness areas on federal lands mostly throughout the western United States. These areas restrict most human commercial activities and connect wildlife habitats.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) - enacted in 1970, this is the nation’s environmental charter. It requires reviews such as environmental assessments and environmental impact statements and mitigations for federally funded projects. The intent of NEPA is stated in its implementing regulations: “Through comprehensive planning, well documented, NEPA provides the basis for informed decision making that protects,

restores, and enhances the environment...Ultimately, of course, it is not better documents but better decisions that count. NEPA's purpose is not to generate paperwork - even excellent paperwork - but to foster excellent action." (40 CFR 1500.1(c))"

Throughout the West, there are common issues that are of concern to Western Planners who protect natural resources and work in communities that interface with federal lands. These issues include: access to public lands, the protection of environmentally sensitive lands and cultural and historic resources, the potential listing of endangered species, law enforcement, and constitutional arguments.

Many planners in the West work in communities that may share boundaries with wilderness areas, or are impacted by federal lands policies. There are opportunities for collaboration between local, state and federal agencies, and private land holders for improved resource management, environmental protection, and leveraging scarce budgets for the public good. Some of these could include: collaborating and cooperating to implement comprehensive plans, especially the protection of agricultural land, scenic open space, wildlife habitats, watersheds, and hazard areas such as fire-prone urban-wildland interface ecosystems; creating city/county open space programs; implementing cluster development ordinances with conservation easements; and the vacating and replatting of "zombie" subdivisions to reduce density and infrastructure costs.

Invoking echoes of John Muir, Western Planners can consider their role in making undeveloped lands in and around their jurisdictions more accessible to recreate and preserve for the following reasons: Not every wild place needs to be a wilderness; many people do not have means to access nature in the wilderness; however, there are many natural and wild places that are more accessible.

An old Yiddish proverb says "Mann Tracht, Un Gott Lacht" or, Man plans and God laughs. While God may laugh, nature smiles as planners understand and appreciate the connection between built and natural environments; between land use and land conservation. Earlier generations understood the benefits and need for planning. Planning, environmental planning and land use regulation is indeed an honorable and ancient practice and profession. Western Planners, as practitioners of the art of modern land use governance, are heirs to a long tradition of working for the common good of the community while preserving individual rights. It is a tradition as old and inherently humane as the endeavor of city-building itself.

RMLUI

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LAND USE INSTITUTE

LEGAL CORNER

This year, we've been fortunate to have re-instituted the RMLUI Legal Corner. Generously provided by Elizabeth Garvin, Esq., AICP of Community Recode, this regular column dives into current, relevant legal issues in our field. The Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute sponsors these articles which help elevate the awareness of planners in the West.

Articles this past year included the following:

Does the EPA Have to Approve Your Sandbox?

Legal Challenges to Short-Term Rental Rules - There's a Test for That

Bears Ears National Monument - Dueling Presidential Proclamations and the Antiquities Act

McGirt v. Oklahoma—When Promises Have Consequences

Martin vs Boise - Homelessness in the Courts

EDITORIAL BOARD

The Editorial Board is an essential part of producing The Western Planner Journal. Each article is double-blind reviewed by voluntary board members who review content for accuracy and relevance to planners. In order to provide broad professional and regional experience, Editorial Board members come from each of the states represented by Western Planner. Brad Stebleton, current Western Planner Resources Secretary, chairs this board. We all offer our sincere thanks to each member for their service.

BRAD STEBLETON, CHAIR
Representing: Western Planner
Executive Board

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Representing: New Mexico

JAYNA WATSON
Representing: South Dakota

IMPACT: WE HELP BUILD UP CAREERS

WESTERN PLANNER JOBS

The Western Planner is a central source for planning job postings in the West. In late 2019, Western Planner began to send out email campaigns with current employment opportunities. These have been well received by the Western Planner network. Basic postings are free, and for a modest charge we feature the recruitment, provide custom advertising, and reach out through social media channels to potential applicants.

JOBS ADVERTISING BENEFITS	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	FREE
Included on jobs webpage	•	•	•	•
Included in journal	•	•	•	•
Featured on jobs webpage	•	•	•	•
Featured on home page	•	•	•	•
Posted to social media	•	•	•	•
Included in WP Jobs e-blast	•	•	•	•
Featured in WP Jobs e-blast	•	•	•	•
Custom job advertisement	•	•	•	•
	\$150	\$100	\$50	FREE

METRICS

CAMPAIGNS: 14 | CLICK RATE: 20.3% | UNIQUE OPEN RATE: 25.7% | TOTAL OPEN RATE: 7.5%



IMPACT: WE HELP BUILD UP ORGANIZATIONS

JOURNAL SPONSORS

New to this year, Western Planner began to offer individual journal sponsorships. Issue sponsorship links the company's branding to specific issue topics and broadly distributes it to the premiere network of professional and citizen planners across the West. It also continues to help provide the Western Planner journal as a free resource to planners throughout the West. Sponsorship shows organizations who care about planning and want to help build up communities across the West. A sincere thanks to all our sponsors this year for their support.

JANUARY ISSUE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SPONSORED BY 	MARCH ISSUE LAND USE & ZONING SPONSORED BY  CONSENSUS PLANNING
MAY ISSUE WATER SPONSORED BY 	JUNE ISSUE PUBLIC LANDS SPONSORED BY 
JULY ISSUE RECREATION PLANNING SPONSORED BY 	OCTOBER ISSUE TRIBAL PLANNING SPONSORED BY 
NOVEMBER ISSUE PLANNING LAW & LEGAL ISSUES SPONSORED BY  Community ReCode	DECEMBER ISSUE MAIN STREET & DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION SPONSORED BY 

IMPACT: WE HELP BUILD UP THE WEST, TOGETHER

ORGANIZATIONAL SPONSORS

Our organizational sponsors are the backbone of Western Planner, consisting of state planning chapters and corporate supporters. Western Planner would not exist without these organization's support. Our deepest gratitude for these organizations who support us as we help build up the West together.



INDIVIDUAL DONORS

The Western Planner deeply appreciates the individual contributions from people around the West. These represent the generosity and service which is found in ample supply throughout our network.

GOLD STEADMAN \$250+

Brad Stebleton Bernalillo, NM
Donna Bye Minot, ND
Gary Hennigh King Cove, AK
Glen Van Nimwegen Salida, CO
Richard Rolland Coeur d Alene, ID
Shelly Wade, AICP Anchorage, AK
Stanley Steadman Soldotna, AK

STEADMAN \$100+

Barbara Sheinberg Juneau, AK
Bruce Parker Salt Lake City, UT
Carlo Porteen Gold Canyon, AZ
Dan Pava Santa Fe, NM
Donna Ferguson Highlands Ranch, CO
Douglas Munski Grand Forks, ND
Jamee Chambers Morrison, CO
Jim Strozier Albuquerque, NM
Jocelyn Moore, AICP Pinedale, WY
Jon Froke Glendale, AZ
Julio Iturreria Littleton, CO
Lawrence County Commissioners /
P&Z Board, SD

Mark Apel Bisbee, AZ
Mark Stephens San Diego, CA
Matt Ashby Cheyenne, WY
Richard Mylius Anchorage, AK
Stacey Swanson Beach, ND
William John Siembieda Pismo Beach, CA
William L Towler Flagstaff, AZ

CITIZEN WEST \$50+

Angela Parker North Pole, AK
Brandon Cammarata Denver, CO
Brent Danielson Boise, ID
Candis Millar Olympia, WA
John Morgan Keizer, OR
Kristine Bunnell Anchorage, AK
Luanne Hook Bluff, UT
Megan Nelms, AICP Gillette, WY
Sharon Haugen Helena, MT
Thomas Donnelly Seattle, WA
W David Conine Draper, UT

LESTER \$25

Andrea Garfinkel-Castro South Ogden, UT
Angela Bordegaray Santa Fe, NM
Brian Peters Markleeville, CA
Bruce Bugbee Missoula, MT
Crystal Shoji Coos Bay, Oregon
Jason Radtke Pullman, WA
John Czarnezki Soldotna, AK
Joni Marsh Longmont, CO
LaVern L Huntington Fairbanks, AK
Michael Sullivan Albuquerque, NM
Patrick Garrity Yankton, SD
Robert Messenger Buena Vista, CO
Sarah More Sahuarita, AZ
Susana Montana Cheyenne, WY
Tanya Brocke Lewiston, ID
Timothy Boyd Wright, WY
Tina Crawford Wasilla, AK
Toby Stauffer Steamboat Springs, CO

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUE	\$15,201
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Supporting Organizations	\$9,285
Sponsorships & Donations	\$2,703
Advertisements	\$3,212
Conference	\$0

EXPENSES	\$21,321
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Newsletter Development	\$8,150
Conference Support	\$550
Administration	\$4,450
Marketing Communications	\$6,650
Travel	\$414
Operations	\$1,168





OUR MISSION

We work to unite planning professionals separated by the great expanses of the West with a common vision and shared experiences to improve our communities.

OUR GOAL

Be the catalyst for all planners in the West to be connected, supported and empowered to improve our communities.

WESTERN PLANNER RESOURCES BOARD

The WPR Board consists of representatives from the 13 planning organizations. The individual state organizations select representatives to represent their association on the WPR Board.

DAN PAVA, AICP - PRESIDENT | New Mexico
Representing: New Mexico Chapter APA

ANGELA PARKER, AICP, CFM – PRES-ELECT | Wyoming
Representing: At-large

BRAD STEBLETON – SECRETARY | New Mexico
Representing: At-large

MEGAN NELMS, AICP – TREASURER | Wyoming
Representing: Wyoming

DONNA BYE | North Dakota
Representing: North Dakota Planning Association

BRANDON CAMMARATA, AICP | Colorado
Representing: Colorado Chapter APA

DEE CAPUTO, FAICP | Washington
Representing: At-large

BRIAN CARVER | Utah
Representing: Utah Chapter APA

KERWIN JENSEN | Washington
Representing: Planning Association of Washington

GENEVIEVE PEARTHREE | Arizona
Representing: At-large, Young Professionals

ALLISON PLATT | Oregon
Representing: Oregon Chapter APA

SHERWIN RACEHORSE | Idaho
Representing: At-large, Tribal Interests

LORAS RAUCH, AICP | Arizona
Representing: Arizona Chapter APA

BRITNEY SKELTON | Idaho
Representing: Idaho Chapter APA

KEVIN SMITH, AICP | South Dakota
Representing: South Dakota Planning Association

SHELLY WADE, AICP | Alaska
Representing: Alaska Chapter APA

LARRY WEIL | North Dakota
Representing: West Central Chapter APA

EMERITUS

Matt Ashby, AICP
CUD
Cheyenne, WY

Ron Faas
Santa Maria, CA

Earl Finkler
Medford, WI

Joanne Garnett,
FAICP
Sheridan, WY

Ben Orsbon, FAICP
Pierce, SD

Dave Spencer
Buffalo, WY

Art Greenberg
Columbus, OH

Robb McCracken
Sandpoint, ID

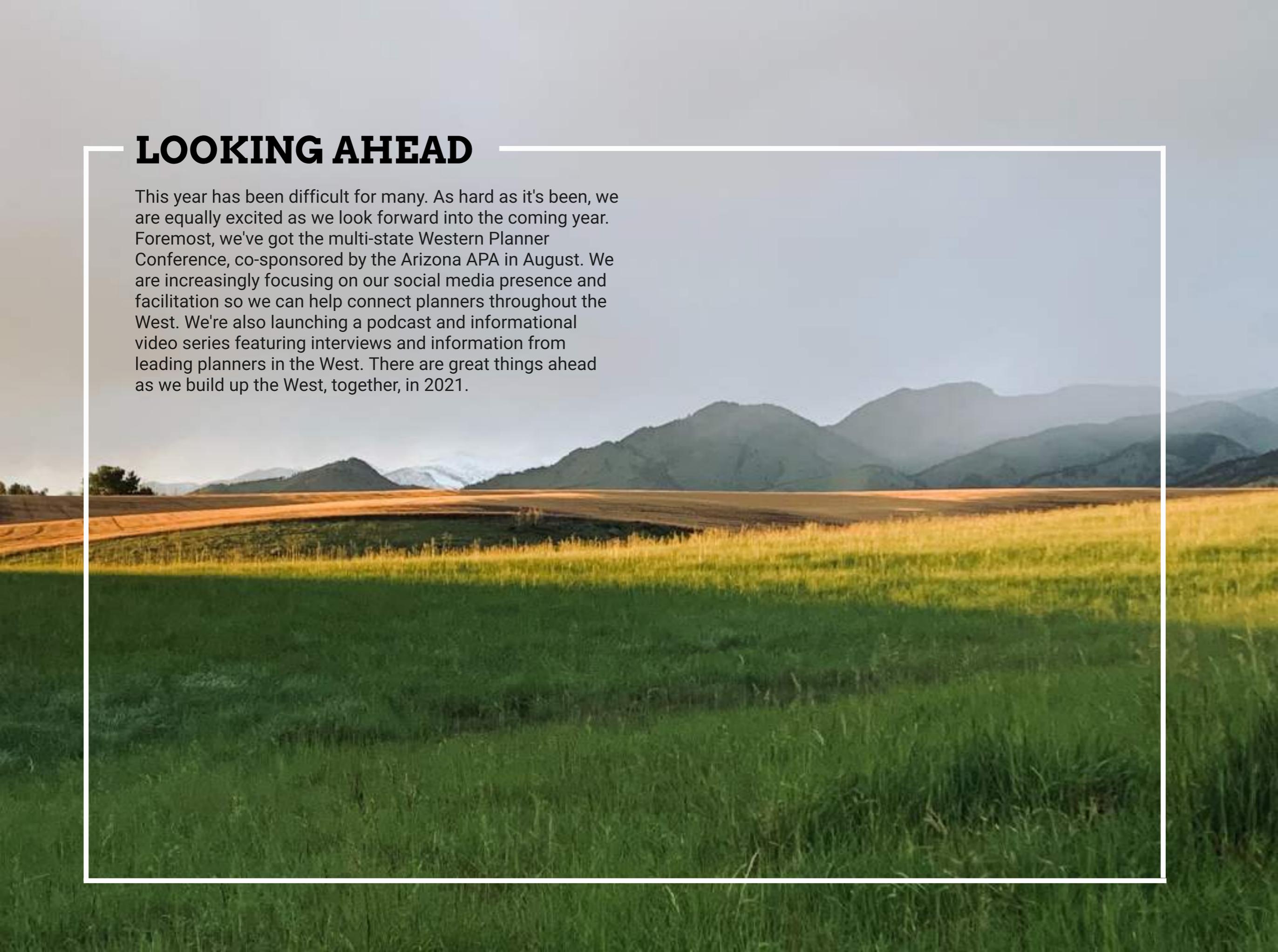
Joe Racine
Centennial, CO

REMEMBERING

Ken Waido
Fort Collins, CO

LOOKING AHEAD

This year has been difficult for many. As hard as it's been, we are equally excited as we look forward into the coming year. Foremost, we've got the multi-state Western Planner Conference, co-sponsored by the Arizona APA in August. We are increasingly focusing on our social media presence and facilitation so we can help connect planners throughout the West. We're also launching a podcast and informational video series featuring interviews and information from leading planners in the West. There are great things ahead as we build up the West, together, in 2021.





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