

Statement 2020-05-IWM

ICWP Principle Statement on Federal Support for Interstate Water Resource Management

Adopted by the ICWP Board of Directors on December 3, 2020; Sunset/Review December, 2023

Statement of the Issue:

ICWP encourages the federal government to actively participate as partners in the activities of regional interstate water commissions and organizations, base decisions on sound scientific foundations and to provide support for such organizations, including financial resources. Federal agencies should make best use of the interstate organizations/commissions as full partners and should embrace basin-wide management concepts.

Why Important to ICWP membership:

Many states across the nation have found it advantageous to enter into cooperative agreements or formed joint organizations with neighboring states over the management of shared water resources. While these agreements and organizations have achieved notable success, they are often limited in their ability to generate scientific and financial resources to fully execute their missions.

Because these shared water resources cross state boundaries, the federal government has an interest in helping to ensure their equitable and wise management. Federal agencies frequently collaborate with interstate organizations and nearly always share similar objectives. It is therefore in the best interest of the organizations, the member states and the federal government that the interstate efforts have the critical scientific information, hydrologic technology and financial resources necessary to fulfill their missions.

ICWP Recommended Action/Position:

--ICWP will advocate for federal programs that extend assistance to interstate organizations such as the USACE's Planning Assistance for States, and will support robust participation by federal agencies in such efforts, including adequate funding levels.

--ICWP supports the participation by federal agencies and their regional offices in the collaborate efforts of interstate organizations through participation in studies and the collection and sharing of critical hydrologic data, and will express the strong expectation that the federal government honor all financial commitments it has made in support of these organizations.