

**To:** Getto, Leila[leila\_getto@ios.doi.gov]  
**Cc:** Sarah Olsen[solsen@westgov.org]; Scheduling SIO[scheduling\_sio@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Joe Rassenfoss  
**Sent:** 2019-04-30T15:40:42-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Thanks for your help on Secretary Bernhardt at WGA meeting  
**Received:** 2019-04-30T15:41:06-04:00  
[WGA 2019 Annual Meeting Keynote Secretary Bernhardt.docx](#)

**Leila:** Great to have confirmation of the Secretary's participation on June 10.

When it comes to the announcement in email and on our website, we keep things very basic. As you will see below in last week's email newsletter that announced Secretary Acosta's involvement, we just note the name and cabinet title. So this week's email announcement would read:

**Interior Secretary Bernhardt keynote announced**

U.S. Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt (pictured) has become the latest Cabinet member confirmed to deliver remarks at the WGA 2019 Annual Meeting. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta, Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao, and HUD Secretary Ben Carson also will speak at the June 10-12 meeting in Vail, Colorado. Other keynoters include influential pollster Frank Luntz, and best-selling author Craig Johnson. Learn about all meeting speakers and register now.

On the website, we will keep it similarly basic. To see how it would look, the three web pages to visit would be our [News feed](#), the 2019 [Annual Meeting page](#) and the [registration site](#). The Secretary would appear on each as kicking off day one, with language that would read:

**Secretary David Bernhardt:** The Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior will discuss the department's work in the West and have an on-stage conversation with the Governors.

That's all the language we offer. Please let me know when it has been OK'd and we'll take it live on the website and include in this week's email.

I've also attached the WGA fact sheet about the remarks we've previous shared. It has information about getting the Secretary and his team registered for the meeting, which is an important next step. And we would also subsequently want to arrange a planning call with his speech-writing team to share issues of interest to the Western Governors that he might consider addressing.

**Joe Rassenfoss**

*Communications Director, [Western Governors' Association](#)*  
303-803-8008

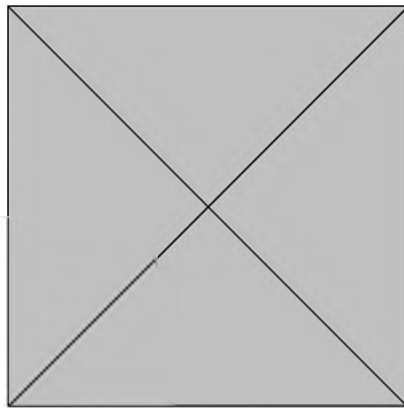
***[Register now for the 2019 WGA Annual Meeting, June 10-12 in Vail, Colorado](#)***

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**Subject:** WGA NEWS: Labor Secretary Acosta to keynote Annual Meeting; new governors accelerate WGA pace; register for invasive species webinar

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Contact: Joe Rassenfoss, Communications Director: 303-803-8008 or [via email](#).



## Labor Secretary Acosta keynote announced

Three Cabinet secretaries are now confirmed to deliver remarks at the WGA 2019 Annual Meeting. Secretary of Labor **Alexander Acosta** (pictured), Transportation Secretary **Elaine L. Chao**, and HUD Secretary **Ben Carson** will speak at the June 10-12 meeting in Vail, Colorado. Other keynoters include influential pollster **Frank Luntz**, and best-selling author **Craig Johnson**. Learn about all meeting speakers and [register now](#).

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## Executive Director's Notebook: 11 new Western Governors accelerate the pace at WGA

In his latest Executive Director's Notebook, WGA's Jim Ogsbury reflects on policy victories, Congressional outreach, collaboration with Cabinet officials and other notable achievements by Western Governors in the first months of 2019. [Read more.](#)

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**Western Governors' News: New Mexico cheers film industry growth; Idaho boosts teacher pay**

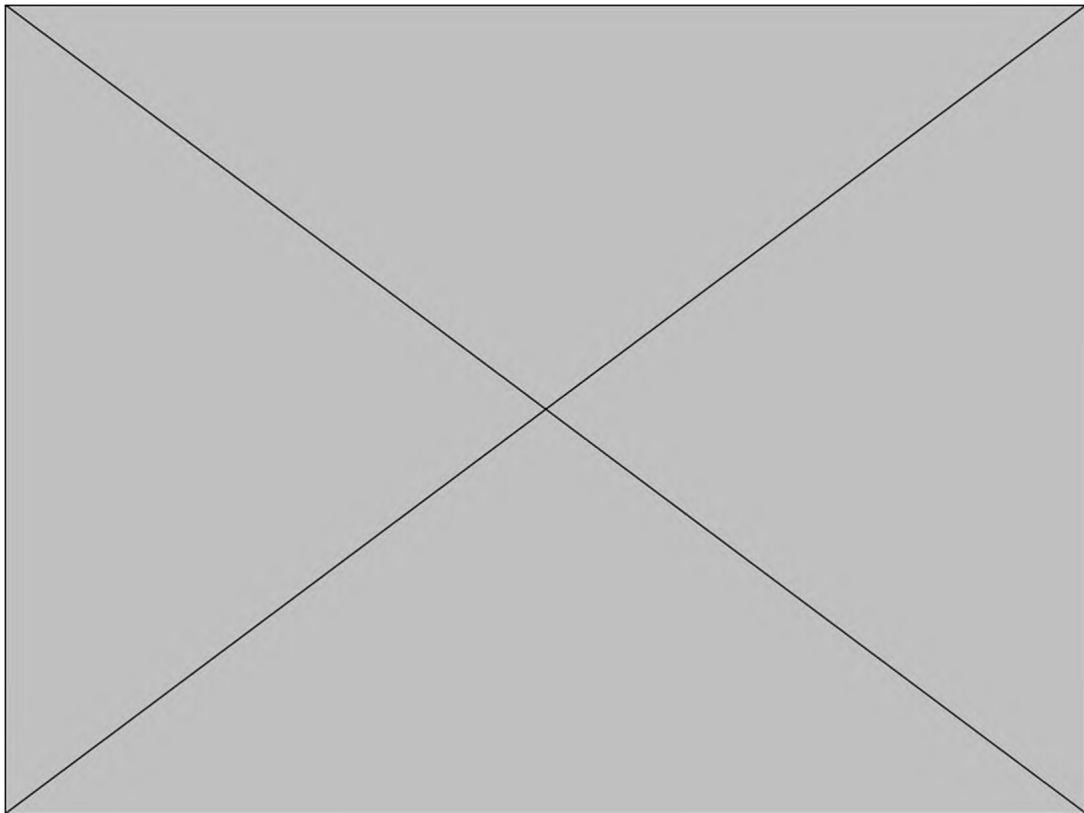


Image: Andrew Oxford, The New Mexican

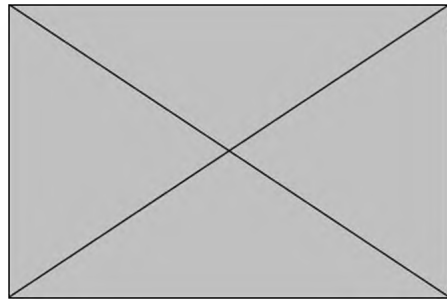
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**Register for webinar on species**

# distribution modeling

WGA will host the webinar, *Species Distribution Modeling and Scenario Planning*, at 10:30 a.m. (MT) this Wednesday May 1. The webinar will highlight a tool being designed by the U.S. Geological Survey and National Park Service to develop species distribution models for high-priority invasive plants and report on research that pairs scenario planning with quantitative modeling. [Register for the webinar.](#)

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## Preparing for wildfire season; healthy snowpack across the West

As western states prepare for wildfire season, new tools are helping firefighters and land managers assess danger and respond rapidly. Also in [Best of the West](#), read about ample snowpack replenishing reservoirs, an indigenous language immersion program in **Guam**, and renewable energy rising in **Nevada** and **New Mexico**.

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## Watch webinar exploring State- APHIS Relationship

This week, WGA hosted a webinar examining how the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service collaborates with western states to prevent the spread of invasive species. Panelists highlighted the role of state authority in regulating the movement of pests, and explored strategies to improve coordination between federal and state regulations. [Watch.](#)

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**REGISTER: [2019 Annual Meeting, June 10-12, Vail, Colorado](#)**  
**SAVE THE DATE: 2019 Winter Meeting, Dec. 13-14, Las Vegas, Nevada**

### ABOUT WGA

*The Western Governors' Association represents the Governors of 19 Western states and 3 U.S.-Pacific territories. The association is an instrument of the Governors for bipartisan policy development, information exchange and collective action on issues of critical importance to the Western U.S. Follow the Western Governors' Association on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).*



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WGA is honored to host Secretary Bernhardt's keynote at the Western Governors' Association **2019 Annual Meeting** hosted from June 10-12 by WGA Chair and Hawaii Gov. David Ige in Vail, Colo. Following are details on registration, the keynote and meeting.

**Questions?** Contact Joe Rassenfoss, 303-803-8008 or [joe@westgov.org](mailto:joe@westgov.org)

**Online Registration:** Use [this link](#) to register the Secretary (Select 'Speaker') and his party, as well as secure hotel lodging in the WGA block at the best available rate.

### Keynote Logistics

- **Time/Date:** The keynote will kick off Day One of the Annual Meeting from 1:30-2 p.m. on Monday, June 10.
- **Location:** Hotel Talisa, 1300 Westhaven Drive in Vail, Colorado.
- **Audience:** We expect about 300 attendees. Our meetings are open to accredited press, who must be registered. There is no expectation the Secretary meet with the press; we can facilitate a conversation in a side room and will share a list of registered press.
- **A/V:** We will be able to show slides or videos. We just ask that you share them at least one week in advance of your remarks.
- **Recording:** We do not livestream the Annual Meeting or share presentations without the approval of our speakers. Let us know if you would like the speech recorded.

### Speaking Guidelines

- **Format:** The Governors are on stage throughout the meeting, including this keynote. We will have a podium with a mic set up for the Secretary, or we can discuss a wireless mic.
- **Length:** We budget 30 minutes for a keynote. The Secretary speaks for up to 20 minutes, then leaves the remaining time for Governors to ask questions and have an onstage conversation. **Taking Governors' questions is a required element of the keynote.**
- **Speech Content:** WGA looks forward to hearing about the Secretary's work on significant policy issues facing the West. WGA will arrange a planning call ahead of the remarks to share policy issues of high interest to Governors and to hear about some of the topics the Secretary is contemplating. It's important to note that WGA offers a non-partisan, collaborative environment for policy dialogue.

## Private Events and sidebar meetings

The Secretary may meet privately with the Governors, but only outside the public meeting sessions. WGA has designated 8-11 a.m. on Day One (Monday, June 11) as private time for Governors to hold sidebar meetings, so the Secretary could meet them then individually or as a group.

The Secretary also is invited to attend a reception hosted by the Governors onsite after the Day One session ends at 5 p.m.

## 2018 Annual Meeting General Description

Western Governors' Association Chair and Hawaii Gov. **David Ige** will host his colleagues, administration officials and special guests at the **2019 WGA Annual Meeting** June 10-12 in Vail, Colorado. The Governors will participate in public roundtables on critical issues facing the West and have onstage conversations with invited guests and Administration officials. In addition to the Secretary, other Administration speakers will include **HUD Secretary Ben Carson** (Day 2) and **Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao** (Day 3). Visit our [Meetings](#) page for photos and reports on past gatherings.

That's it for now, more to come. Look forward to working with you.

### **Joe Rassenfoss**

Communications Director, Western Governors' Association  
303-803-8008

*The [Western Governors' Association](#) was established in 1984 to represent the Governors of 19 Western states and 3 U.S. territories in the Pacific. The association is an instrument of the Governors for bipartisan policy development, information exchange and collective action on issues of critical importance to the Western United States.*