



**2015 Family Farm Alliance Annual Conference
February 19-20, 2015**

GENERAL SESSION –AGENDA

Thursday, February 19

- 7:30 a.m. **Registration Desk Open**
- 8:00 – 8:20 a.m. **Welcome – Opening Comments:** Alliance President 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.
- 8:20 – 10:00 a.m. **AGree: Working Towards a Long-Term Strategy to Enhance Food Production and Improve the Environment.** AGree, a new initiative to transform food and agriculture policy, seeks to engage a variety of stakeholders in a dialogue that leads to positive and fair U.S. farm policy change. Family Farm Alliance President Patrick O’Toole has represented the Alliance on the committee for the past three years. The group seeks to find long-term, global food and agriculture policy. Panelists will include Mr. O’Toole and other key AGree participants, including AG Kawamura (California farmer and former California Secretary of Agriculture), John Ehrmann (Meridian Institute), and Deb Atwood (AGree Executive Director).
- 10:00 - 10:15 a.m. **Break**
- 10:15- 10:30 a.m. **Mike Connor Address** – The Deputy Secretary of the Interior has been invited to deliver the Thursday morning keynote address, focusing on the Interior Secretary’s water priorities and initiatives for the coming year.
- 10:30 – 11:45 a.m. **Reclamation Roundtable** – Principal Deputy Commissioner Estevan Lopez will lead the discussion of 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. Panelists include Terry Fulp (Lower Colorado Region), Lorri Lee (Pacific Northwest Region), David Murillo (Mid-Pacific Region), Mike Ryan (Great Plains Region), Upper Colorado Region representative.
- 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Luncheon / Keynote Speech: Randy Record, Chairman of the Board, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.** A fifth-generation Southern California native, Randy Record has been active in the farming community for over three decades as an owner and partner in agricultural enterprises. He also happens to be the new chairman of the board of the largest municipal water supplier in America - Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which provides water to nearly 19 million customers. Hear Randy Record's views of how agriculture and urban water interests can work together.
- 1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. **Break**

Thursday, February 19

(Continued)

- 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. **Inside Washington – A Look at DC from The Hill.** Mark Limbaugh of The Ferguson Group (Washington, D.C.) will moderate this annual conference tradition, which features staff from key congressional water committees.
- 2:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. **Tribes and Water Users Working Together: Southwest Success Stories—** this panel of water managers and tribal representatives from the Four Corners region will discuss how collaboration has led to “win-win” amongst potentially competing interests. Panelists include Eric Whyte (Ute Mountain Ute Tribe), Tsosie Lewis (CEO, Navajo Agricultural Products Industry), and Katosha Nakai (Central Arizona Project Manager, Tribal Affairs and Policy Development).
- 3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Break**
- 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. ***CESAR and Jean Sagousse v National Park Service et al*** - In 2014, California farmer and former Alliance president Jean Sagousse and the Center for Environmental Science, Accuracy and Reliability (CESAR) file suit in the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. against the Department of the Interior. The plaintiffs claim that Hetch Hetchy reservoir in Yosemite National Park, the primary water source for San Francisco, has been allowed to skirt environmental laws while farm irrigation in the Central Valley has been drastically reduced because of imperiled fish. Learn firsthand from about this case from Julie MacDonald (CESAR plaintiff and former Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Interior Department), who is using tactics long employed by litigious environmental groups who target water used for irrigation.
- 4:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Exhibitors’ Presentations** (5 minutes each)
- 5:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. **Alliance Annual Meeting.**
- 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. **Reception.** The Pub – second floor, adjacent to hallway.

Friday, February 20

- 7:30 a.m. **Registration Desk Open— BALL ROOMS 4 & 5.**
- 8:00 – 8:25 a.m. **The Symbiotic Relationship between Waterfowl Management and Western Irrigated Agriculture-** Half of all wetland resources in the Western U.S. have been lost to date. Despite encompassing only a small fraction of the landscape, wetlands act as keystone landscape features that drive migratory bird distributions and abundance in the Intermountain West. Up to 70–80% of these wetland resources occur on private lands where most are associated with ranching and agricultural production. Hear from Dave Smith (Coordinator, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Missoula, Montana) and learn more about why the high private ownership of these resources inextricably links migratory bird conservation to ranching and working lands in the West.

Friday, February 20 (Continued)

8:25 – 8:50 a.m.

Innovations in Climate Change Policy. Hear from Ernie Shea (President, Solutions from the Land, Lutherville, Maryland) and learn how the Family Farm Alliance will work with the leaders of a "smart agriculture" advocacy group which recently launched a new, three-year North American initiative that will give farmers, ranchers and foresters the opportunity to collaborate with industry, academia, government and NGO partners in developing ways to improve production resiliency and mitigate current and future risks of changing climatic conditions.

8:55 – 10:45 a.m.

Colorado River System Conservation Pilot Program. A collaborative effort between the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the Central Arizona Project, Denver Water, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Southern Nevada Water Authority, will provide up to \$11 million in funding for projects related to reduced risk to water supplies, hydropower production, water quality, agricultural output, recreation and environmental resources across the Colorado River basin. The water conserved under this program will stay in the river system, helping to boost declining reservoir levels and the overall health of the system. Hear what the architects of this program, in addition to Upper and Lower Basin agricultural water users and conservation interests, are thinking about this new development. Panelists include Jim Lochhead (Denver Water), Chuck Cullom (Central Arizona Project), Tina Shields (Imperial Irrigation District), Mark Harris (Grand Valley Water Users Association), Ted Kowalski (Colorado River Conservation Board), and Russ Schnitzer (Trout Unlimited).

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Break

11:00 – 11:45 a.m.

Film: "Resilient: Soil, Water and the New Stewards of the American West". Followed by update of Walton Family Foundation-funded Colorado River Basin conservation tour and case study report. Kate Greenberg (National Young Farmers Coalition), Dan Keppen (Family Farm Alliance), Margaret Bowman (Walton Family Foundation), Harrison Topp (Rocky Mountain Farm Union).

11:45 – 12:00 p.m.

Award Presentation and Closing Comments Patrick O'Toole.

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Endangered Species Act "Brainstorming" Forum and Luncheon. Dragon Noodle Co. and Sushi Bar (Casino Level, Monte Carlo).