

The Western Governors' Association (WGA) pursued the *Western Governors' Biosecurity and Invasive Species Initiative*, the central WGA policy effort of Hawaii Governor David Ige, the immediate past chair of the association. The initiative is designed to confront the impact of nuisance species and pests on western ecosystems.

Current WGA Chair and North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum launched his Chairman's Initiative, *Reimagining the Rural West*, an ambitious examination of rural challenges and opportunities regarding infrastructure, economic opportunity and quality of life. Initiative workshops have been hosted by Gov. Burgum in Fargo, New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham in Santa Fe, and Idaho Governor Brad Little in Post Falls. A fourth workshop will be hosted by Oregon Governor Kate Brown March 19-20 in The Dalles.

The association continued its groundbreaking work on realigning the state-federal relationship by creating the [Center of Excellence for Improving the State Federal Relationship](#), an online repository of resources on federalism issues. These resources include case studies, legal analyses, and other WGA research products.

WGA launched the [Western Invasive Species Council](#) to enhance coordination between existing state invasive species councils and improve regional biosecurity and invasive species control efforts. The Governors also created the [Western Governors' Collaborative Conservation Task Force](#) to develop proactive approaches for conserving at-risk species and habitat in the West.

The Governors approved and enacted nine policy resolutions during 2019 on a variety of critical western issues. Among other issues, resolutions address: federal-state land exchanges and purchases; wildlife migration corridors and habitat; and physical and behavioral health care in western states. [Read, download the resolutions.](#)

*Content provided by Jim Ogsbury, Executive Director, Western Governors Association (WGA)*