Reclamation Names New Regional Directors

In September, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Robert W. Johnson announced the selection of two new regional directors. Lorri Gray is now heading Reclamation’s Lower Colorado Region, based in Boulder City, Nevada, and Larry Walkoviak is in charge of the Upper Colorado Region, working out of Salt Lake City.

Gray has worked in the Lower Colorado Region for 24 years, most recently as manager of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program. Prior to that, she was the region’s deputy director for more than three years. She has also managed the region’s financial and security programs, the Salton Sea restoration study program, and the Coachella Canal lining program, among others.

Gray’s position had been unfilled since the appointment of Johnson to his position as Commissioner in September 2006.

With Reclamation for more than 32 years, Walkoviak had been deputy regional director of Reclamation’s Lower Colorado Region since 2005. Prior to that, he held numerous other management positions, including in Reclamation’s Oklahoma-Texas Area Office in the Great Plains region and in the Upper Colorado region for 17 years.

Walkoviak filled the position of Rick Gold, who retired.

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Climate Scientists Recognized for Water Planning Assistance

California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Director Lester Snow presented his agency’s first-ever awards for Climate Science Services at the Climate Change Water Adaptation Summit last fall. The awards recognize ongoing assistance provided by members of the academic community who have been working closely with DWR to plan for climate variability and change.

“As water managers, we must take the initiative to clearly communicate our needs for applied science to the research community,” said Snow. “I am pleased to acknowledge the exemplary assistance that these scientists have provided to us, and look forward to a productive long-term working relationship with them and with their institutions as we move forward to develop water management strategies for adapting to climate variability and change.”

The award recipients are:

• Daniel Cayan and Michael Dettinger, California Applications Program, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego
• Gregg Garfin, Climate Assessment for the Southwest, University of Arizona
• Bradley Udall, Western Water Assessment, University of Colorado
• Connie Woodhouse, Geography and Regional Development, University of Arizona

They were cited for their contributions to DWR climate change and variability efforts, including providing advice, data, analyses, publications, and presentations, and for their willingness to engage with resource managers and support information transfer from academia to those managers.

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New ADWR Chief Hydrologist Named

After many years with the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR), the agency’s chief hydrologist, Frank Putman, resigned from the agency at the end of September to pursue other interests. Putman managed the Hydrology Division of ADWR, the technical arm of the agency, which collects and analyzes statewide water resource data and maintains the state’s groundwater site inventory database, assists with the scientific components of specific research projects, and assists in making determinations on permit applications.

In announcing Putman’s departure, ADWR Director Herb Guenther stated that Frank Corkhill, a hydrologist with the agency for many years, would assume Putman’s position.

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