

## **WESTERN STATES TOURISM POLICY COUNCIL (WSTPC)**

**Established in 1996, the Western States Tourism Policy Council is a consortium of 13 western state tourism offices – Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. It is a non-profit corporation, registered in Nevada.**

**Through a Memorandum of Understanding with eleven Federal agencies, the WSTPC works with its Federal partners to support the conservation, preservation and protection of Federal and tribal lands while raising the awareness of the important role they play in the development of sustainable tourism in the gateway communities that border them.**

**Federal partners include the National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineer, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Federal Highway Administration, Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Commerce Office of Travel and Tourism Industries.**

**In its brief history, the WSTPC has played a major role in advancing public policy goals critical to travel and tourism in the West. With its Federal partners, the WSTPC has co-sponsored five highly successful educational conferences that have produced tangible positive outcomes. These include:**

- Tourism and the Federal Public Lands (1996)**
- Cultural Tourism in the West (1997)**
- Gateway Communities in the West (1998)**
- Transportation and Tourism in the West (1999)**
- Facilitating International Travel to the USA (2000)**

**In December, 2002, WSTPC and the Federal partners sponsored the conference on “Gateway Community Partnerships for Tourism and Conservation”.**

**Some Federal Issues in which WSTPC played a role:**

- **International Tourism Marketing**
- **Gateway Community Cooperation Act**
- **Recreation Fee Demonstration Program**
- **Transportation Funding**
- **Visa Waiver Program**
- **Homeland Security**
- **INS Proposed 30-Day Rule**
- **Greater Role for State Tourism Offices in Federal Programs**