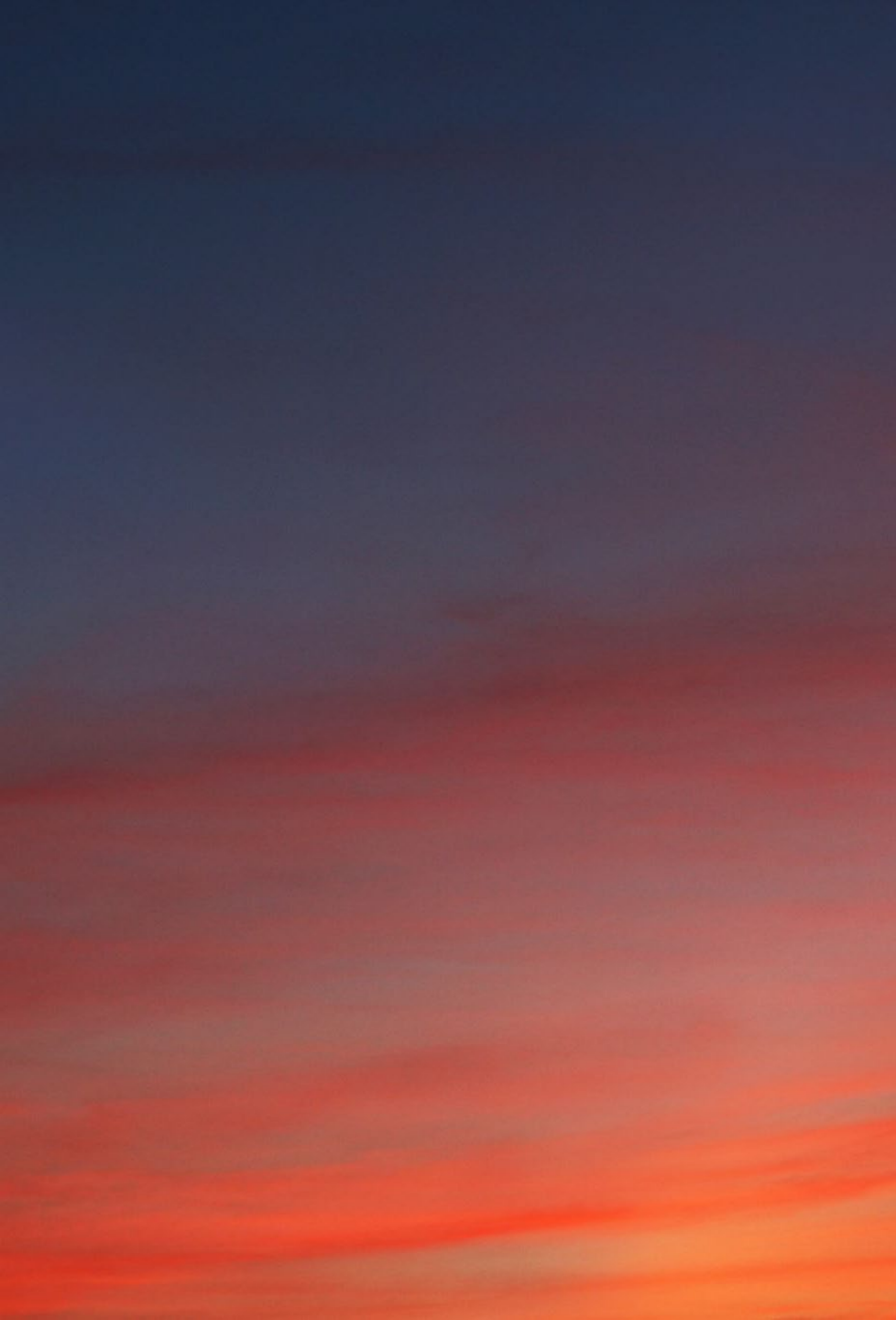


**USDA NRCS
WESTERN GOVERNORS'
ASSOCIATION LIAISON**

HEIDI RAMSEY





**THE WESTERN GOVERNORS'
ASSOCIATION (WGA) IS A NON-
PARTISAN ORGANIZATION OF ALL 22
UNITED STATES GOVERNORS THAT
ARE CONSIDERED TO BE PART OF
THE WESTERN REGION
OF THE NATION**

Our Governors

The Western Governors' Association Region



WGA'S MISSION:

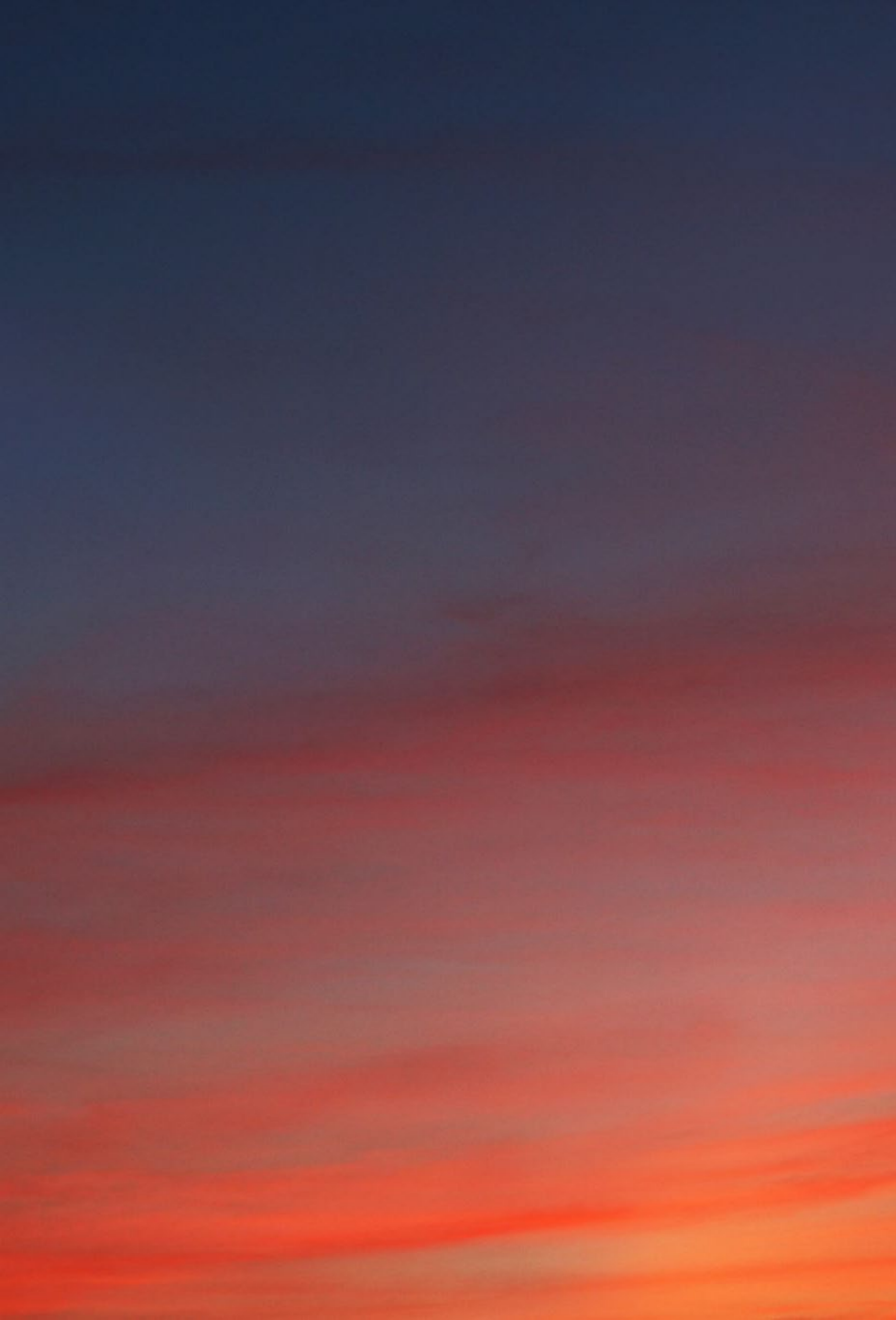
- Addresses important policy and governance issues in the west**
- Advances the role of the western states in the federal system, and strengthens the social and economic fabric of the region**
- Develops policy and carries out programs in the areas of natural resources, the environment, human services, economic development, international relations and state governance**
- Acts as a center of innovation and promotes shared development of solutions to regional problems**

WGA's STRATEGIES:

- **Develop and communicate regional policy**
- **Serve as a leadership forum**
- **Build regional capacity**
- **Conduct research and disseminate findings**
- **Form coalitions and partnerships to advance regional Interests**
- **Build public understanding and support for regional issues and policy positions**

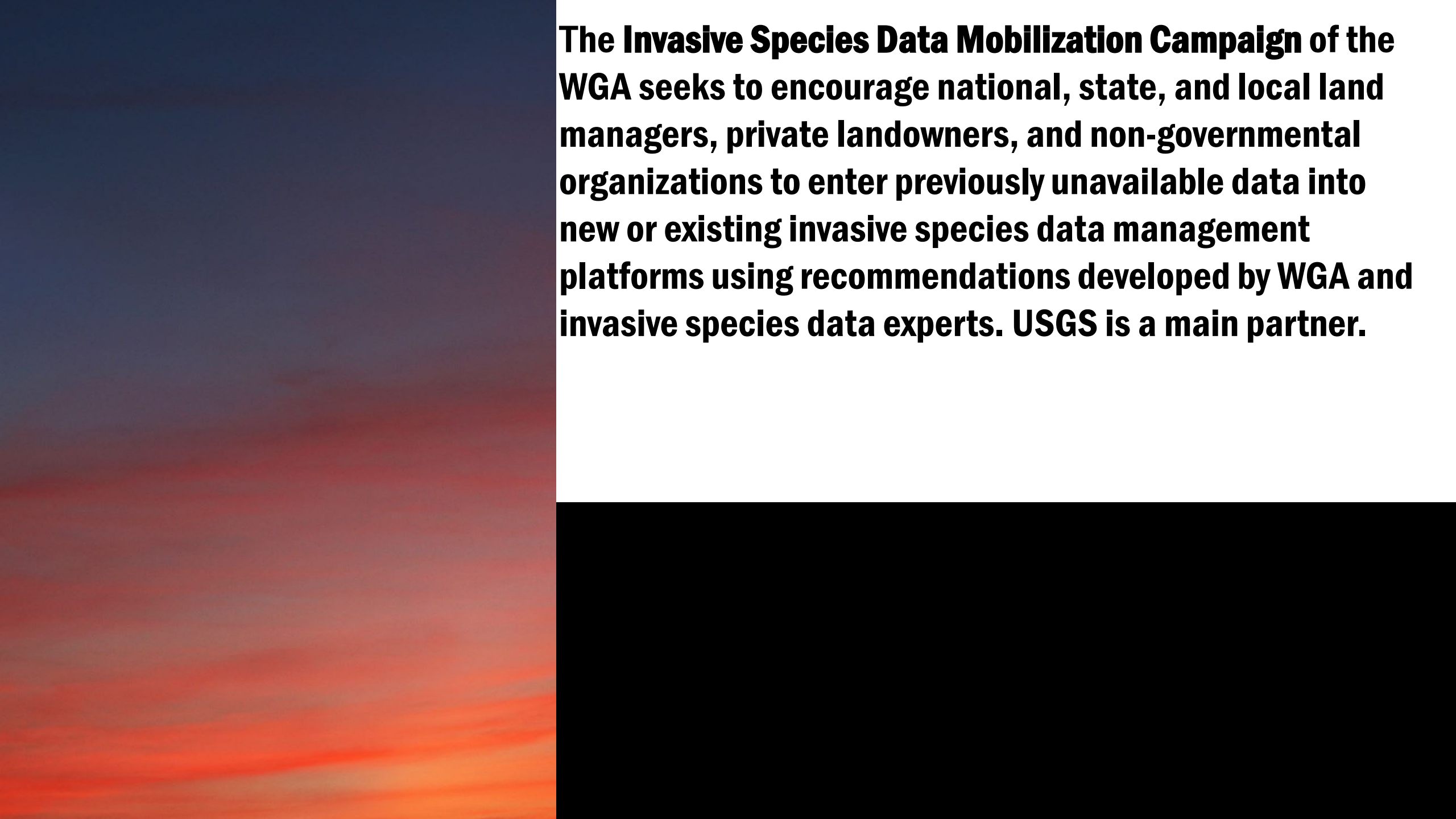
WGA Focuses Include:

- **Agriculture**
- **Air Quality**
- **Economic Development**
- **Energy**
- **Environmental Management**
- **Forest and Rangeland Management**
- **Mining**
- **Natural Resource Development**
- **Species Management**
- **State-Federal Relationship**
- **Transportation**
- **Water**
- **Waste Isolation Pilot Plant**
- **Healthcare**




WGA was a vital partner in the success of the Sage grouse Initiative. They helped carry our message to the states and other partners which helped to get more conservation on the ground to improve habitat.

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- **WGA has strong involvement in invasive species control at the federal, state and local levels.**
 - **The “Cheat grass Challenge” is being implemented by NRCS in ID, WY, and UT.**



The Invasive Species Data Mobilization Campaign of the WGA seeks to encourage national, state, and local land managers, private landowners, and non-governmental organizations to enter previously unavailable data into new or existing invasive species data management platforms using recommendations developed by WGA and invasive species data experts. USGS is a main partner.



The current Chair is Governor Kate Brown of Oregon. Her Initiative is the “Electric Vehicles Roadmap” seeking to address barriers to developing infrastructure for electric cars across the West.

The past chair last year was Governor Doug Burgam of ND. His Initiative “Reimagining the Rural West” examined challenges and opportunities in rural economic development, infrastructure, and quality of life in the West.

My roles include:

- **Improve communication between NRCS and WGA**
- **Provide NRCS State Conservationists with information about ways to connect with WGA (Cheat grass Challenge)**
- **Provide policy and programs guidance to WGA**
- **Serve to connect policy leads and technical experts in our agency**
- **Find ways to build conservation coalitions**

WGA has a great website with a lot of information and important work going on across the western states:

<https://westgov.org/>

They also have a terrific podcast that is usually about 20 to 25 minutes that I highly recommend. I listen on Apple podcasts.



Thank you, North Dakota!

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