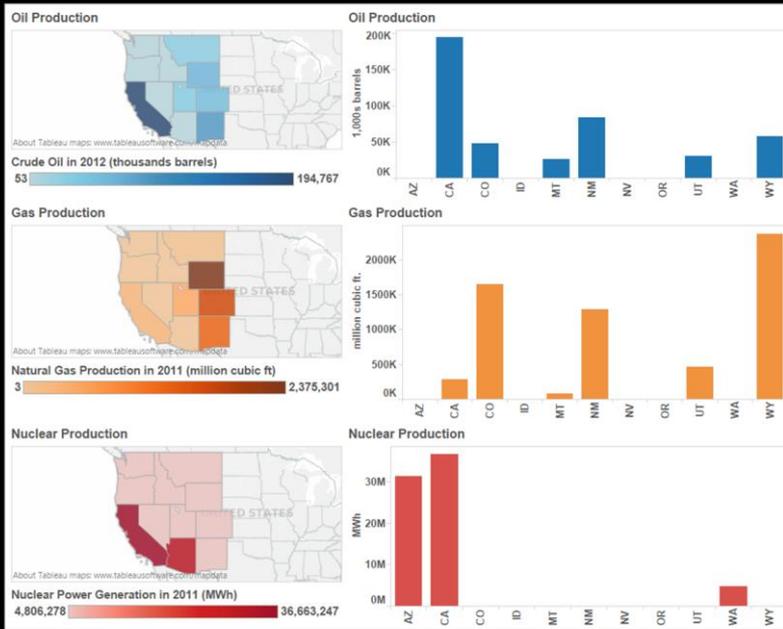


In this EcoWest presentation, we review energy production in the West and the region's contribution to the nation's energy portfolio.

Note: The Western Governor's Association is a non-partisan organization of 22 U.S. Governors that represent 19 U.S. states and 3 U.S. territories. EcoWest defines the West as the 11 contiguous Western states; thus, "The State of Energy in the West" report includes states which are traditionally excluded from EcoWest analysis. For more information on how EcoWest defines the West, please see: "What is the West?" (<http://www.ecowest.org/about/what-is-the-west/>).

Non-renewable energy production in the West



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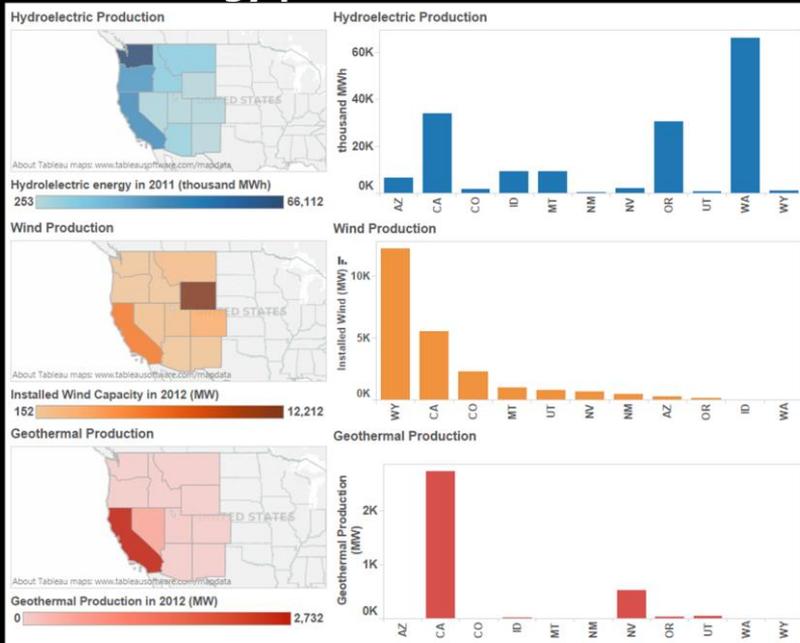
Source: "State of Energy in the West"

1/2/2013

Narrative: The West is abundant in conventional energy resources. The region accounted for roughly 74% of domestic oil production in 2012; 71% of domestic natural gas production in 2011; 10% of nuclear production in 2012; and 60% of domestic coal production in 2011.

Source: "State of Energy in the West," Western Governor's Association (2013). <http://www.westgov.org/initiatives/energy>

Renewable energy production in the West



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Source: "State of Energy in the West"

1/2/2013

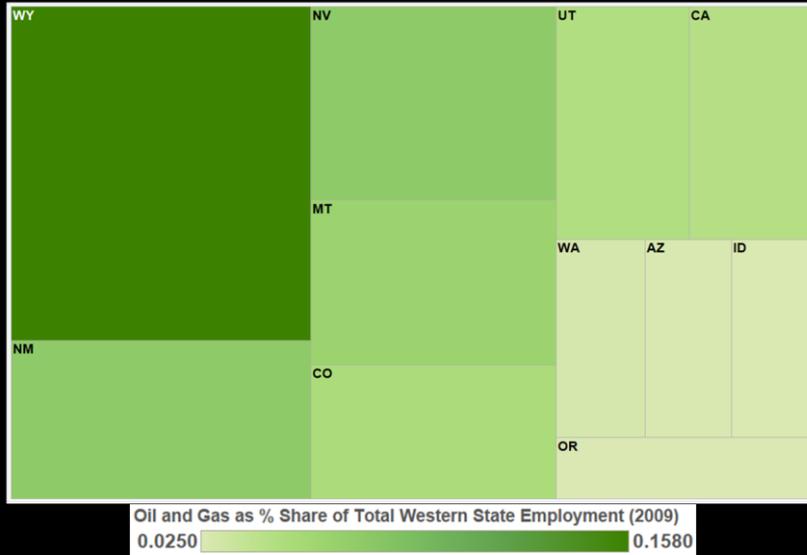


Narrative: The renewable energy industry is also expanding rapidly in the West. The region accounted for 70% of hydroelectric production in 2011; 66% of wind energy output in 2012; and 99.5% of geothermal energy produced nationally in 2012.

Source: "State of Energy in the West," Western Governor's Association (2013).
<http://www.westgov.org/initiatives/energy>

Oil and gas as a share of employment, by state

Fossil fuels make up the largest share of state employment in the West. In Wyoming, the oil and gas industry accounts for nearly 16% of total state employment.



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Source: "State of Energy in the West"

1/15/2014

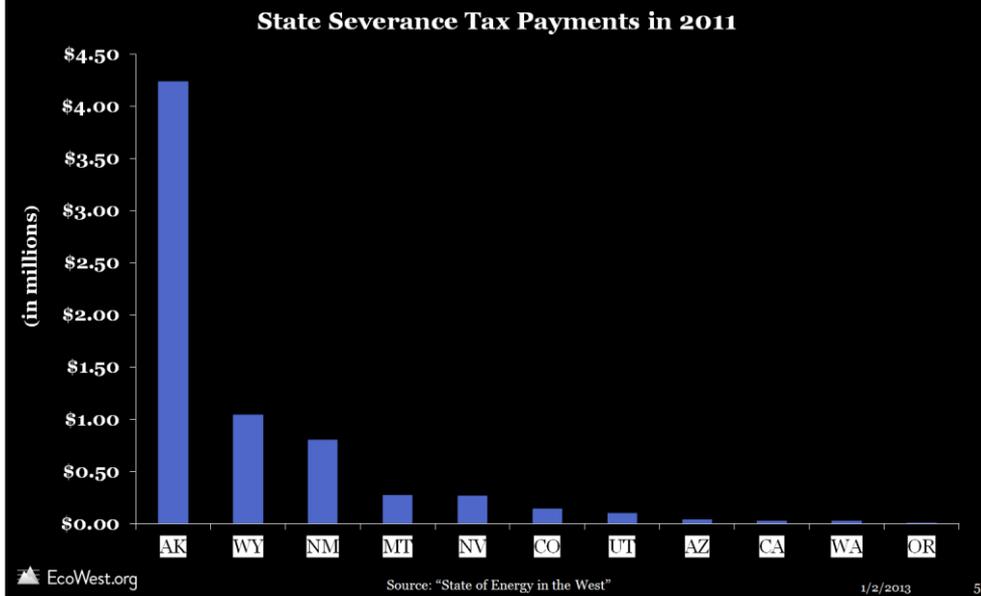


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Narrative: Fossil fuels currently make up the largest contribution to state-level employment in the West. In 2009, the oil and gas industry made up over 5% of total state employment in Alaska, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming, respectively. The coal industry in Wyoming bears a particularly significant presence, accounting for 14.2% of state GDP and 8% of employment in 2010. The state's total coal output exceeds Russia's.

Source: "State of Energy in the West," Western Governor's Association (2013).
<http://www.westgov.org/initiatives/energy>

Severance taxes (for the extraction of fossil fuels) are an important revenue source in Western states



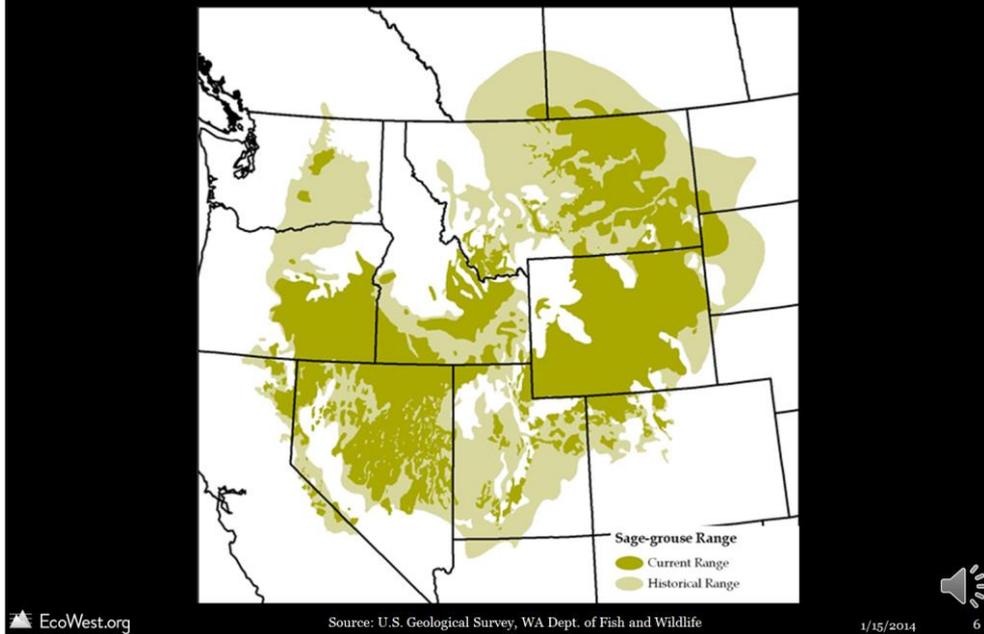
Narrative: In addition to providing an important source of jobs, the fossil fuel industry also contributes to the region's economy through severance taxes. A severance tax is applied for the extraction of a non-renewable resource, in order to compensate for loss and mitigate any potential negative impacts. Five states in the West – Alaska, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming – have a severance tax endowment, which provides a revenue stream in perpetuity. Among all state-level severance taxes collected across the nation in 2011, roughly 85 percent were collected in the West.*

Source: "State of Energy in the West," Western Governor's Association (2013).
<http://www.westgov.org/initiatives/energy>

*Note: This percentage is based on the WGA's definition of the West, which includes 22 states and 3 U.S. territories.

Sage grouse range overlaps some wind power sites

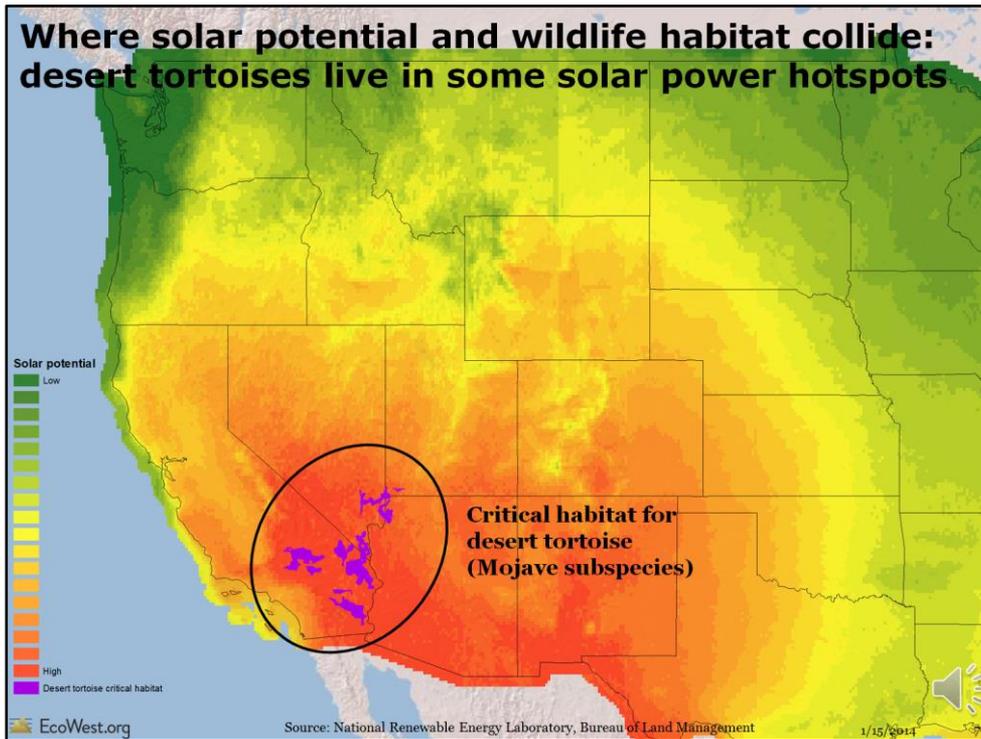
ESA candidate threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation



Narrative: While the abundant energy resources in the West play a pivotal role in both the regional and national economy, it's also true that the region's energy development can bear an environmental price tag. One of the major issues confronting wind power development in places like Wyoming and Montana is the presence of the greater sage grouse, an imperiled bird that is a candidate for protection under the Endangered Species Act. In this map, the bird's current and historic range is shown in green.

Source: USGS Sagemap, Michael A. Schroeder, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

URL: http://rockymountainwild.org/_site/wp-content/uploads/10-032_Sage_Grouse_Range.jpg



Narrative: Solar resources are available in many areas of the West, though the potential is greatest in the Southwest. In considering the installation of solar energy in the Southwest, one key concern is the overlap with critical habitat of the Mojave subspecies of desert tortoise, classified as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. In this map, the location of critical habitat for the desert tortoise is shown in purple.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Bureau of Land Management

URL: <http://www.nrel.gov/gis/solar.html/>
<http://solareis.anl.gov/>

Notes: This map shows the potential for solar photovoltaic panels.

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The screenshot shows the EcoWest.org website with a navigation menu including ABOUT, BIODIVERSITY, CLIMATE, FIRES, LAND, POLITICS, and WATER. The main content area features a large article titled "2012 was hottest year on record for U.S." with a sub-headline "No doubt about it: 2012 was toasty. Today, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported that 2012 was not only the warmest on record for the lower 48 since 1895 but also the second warmest on a measure known as the Climate Extremes Index, which includes factors such as temperature anomalies, drought patterns, and the [1]". Below this are four smaller article thumbnails: "Hawaii, West and South have most at-risk species", "Ebb and flow of snow, fuels, and fire", "2012 was hottest year on record for U.S.", and "Which states have the most federal land?".

Please visit EcoWest.org to download slides and find other resources related to environmental trends in the West.