

**ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN STATE ENGINEERS**

**2009 POSITION STATEMENT**

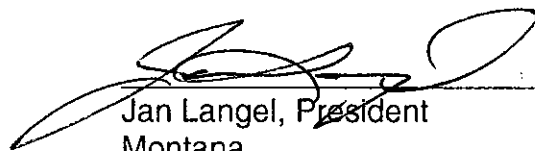
**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT**

Western states have for more than a hundred years managed water use under a system of established priorities. The system of management serves as a basis for socio-economic and environmental sustainability and growth in the west. As the federal government continues in its mission of endangered species protection, federal agencies should recognize western water law and rights of water users in achieving the goals and objectives of the Endangered Species Act.

The Association of Western State Engineers strongly encourages federal agencies to fulfill their obligation to consult with western state agencies in fulfilling their responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act. This includes the acquisition of valid existing water rights to offset any water system depletions associated with federal habitat restoration activities.

Adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2009.

Association of Western State Engineers



Jan Langel, President  
Montana