

# Western Wholesale Electricity Markets: Overview for Tribes

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[westernresourceadvocates.org](http://westernresourceadvocates.org)

**wra** Western  
Resource  
Advocates®

# AGENDA

1. Wholesale  
electricity markets
2. Nevada context
3. Recent  
developments &  
Tribal impacts





# About Western Resource Advocates

*Our mission is to protect the West's land, air, and water to ensure that vibrant communities exist in balance with nature.*

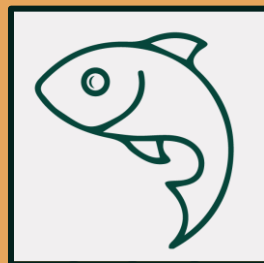
## *Western Lands*

**Protect lands and habitat**



## *Healthy Rivers*

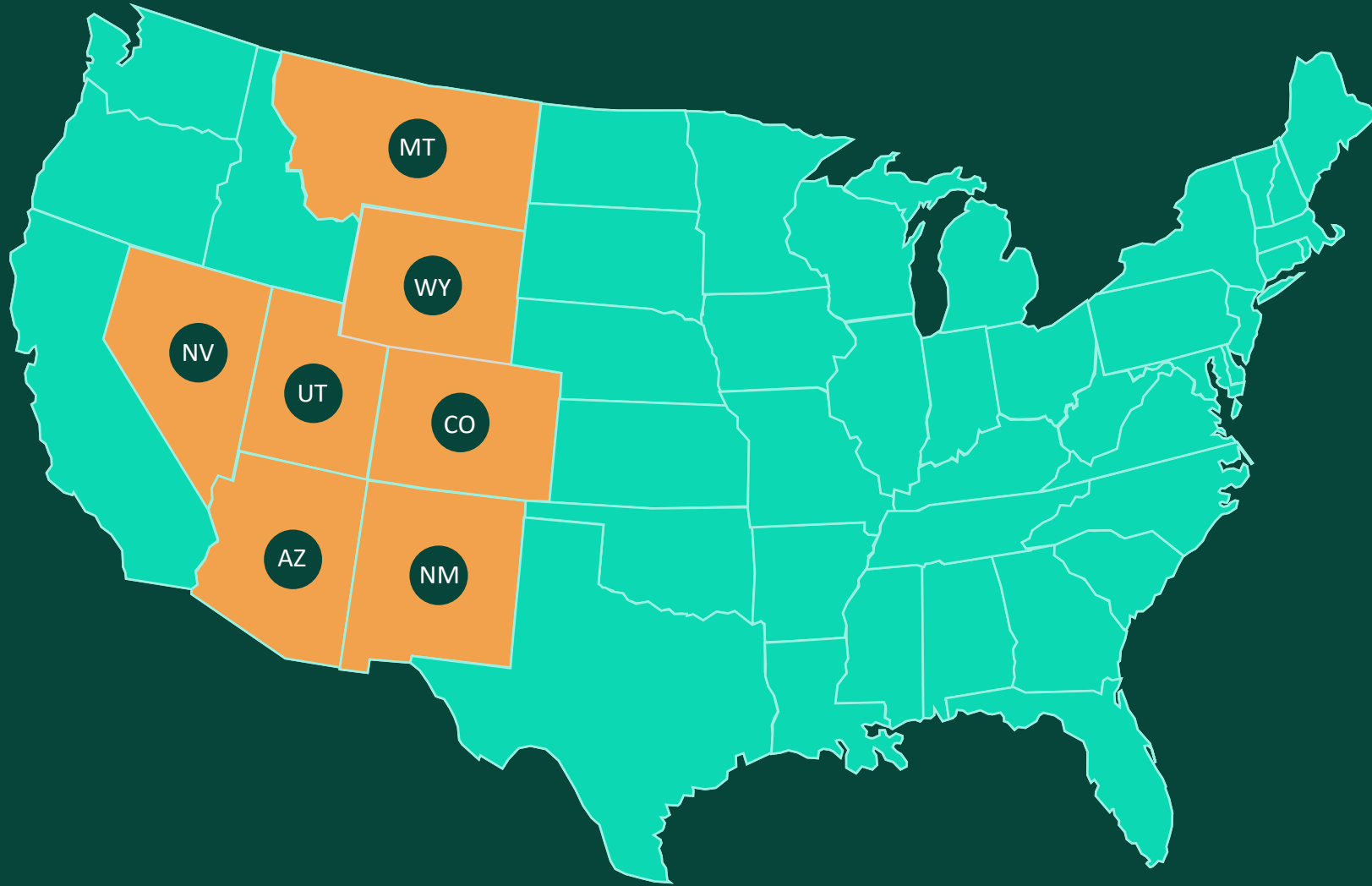
**Keep water in rivers and streams**



## *Clean Energy*

**Decarbonize the energy sector**





# Where We Work

- Federal & Regional Collaboration
- State Legislatures
- State Agencies & Commissions
- Local Governments
- Electric Utilities
- Diverse Coalitions & Communities

WRA works across seven states in the **Interior West** to **protect our climate, land, air, and water.**





# WRA & Indigenous Communities

## Principles of Partnership

- ❖ *Respect sovereignty and history*
- ❖ *Trust and relationship building*
- ❖ *Communication and outreach*
- ❖ *Shared understanding of interests, goals, and needs*

## Examples of Collaboration

- State energy policymaking
- Support letters for Tribal clean energy projects
- Energy market presentations and webinars e.g. Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Arizona Tribal Energy Association, NREL, MTERA
- Energy market research incl. ~10 Tribal utilities



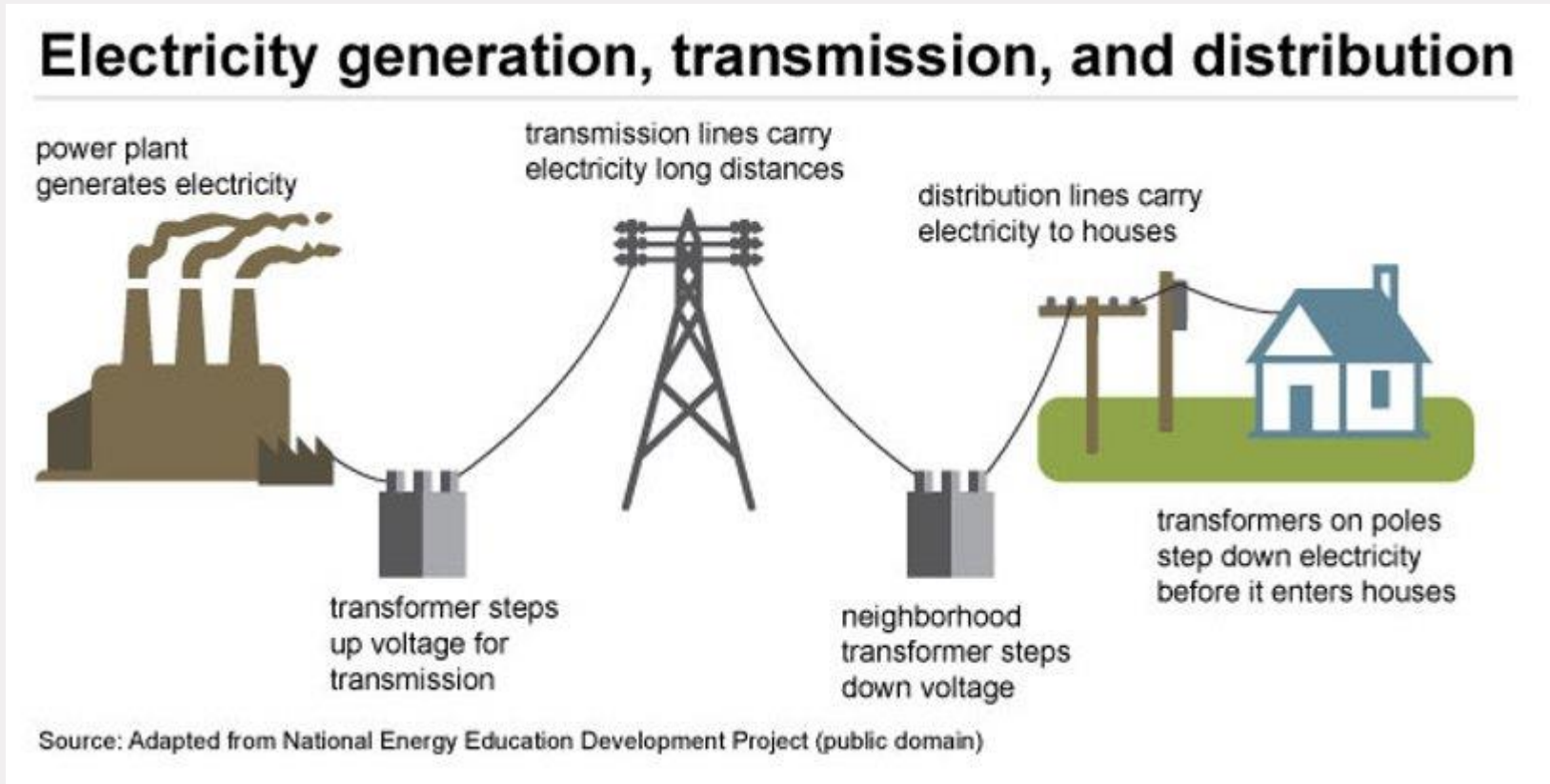
# Tribes & Markets Intersection

- Western grid is regionalizing now
- Grid investments like IRA and IJA
- Extreme weather events increasing - need to keep lights on
- Significant changes anticipated 2025-2030
- Utility and customer impacts
  - Changing energy planning
  - Rates, emissions, reliability, etc. could improve
- Creating new grid regionalization and transmission planning decision-making processes

# Wholesale Electricity Markets



# Electric Grid Structure

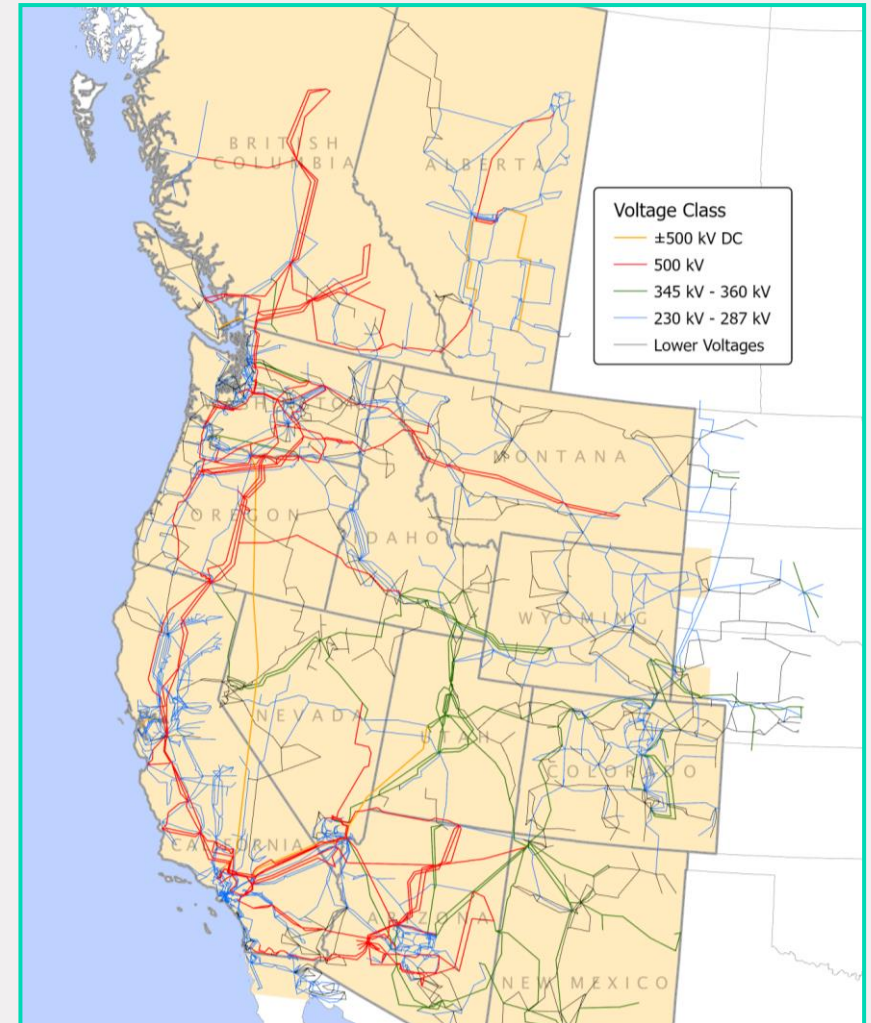




# Western Interconnection

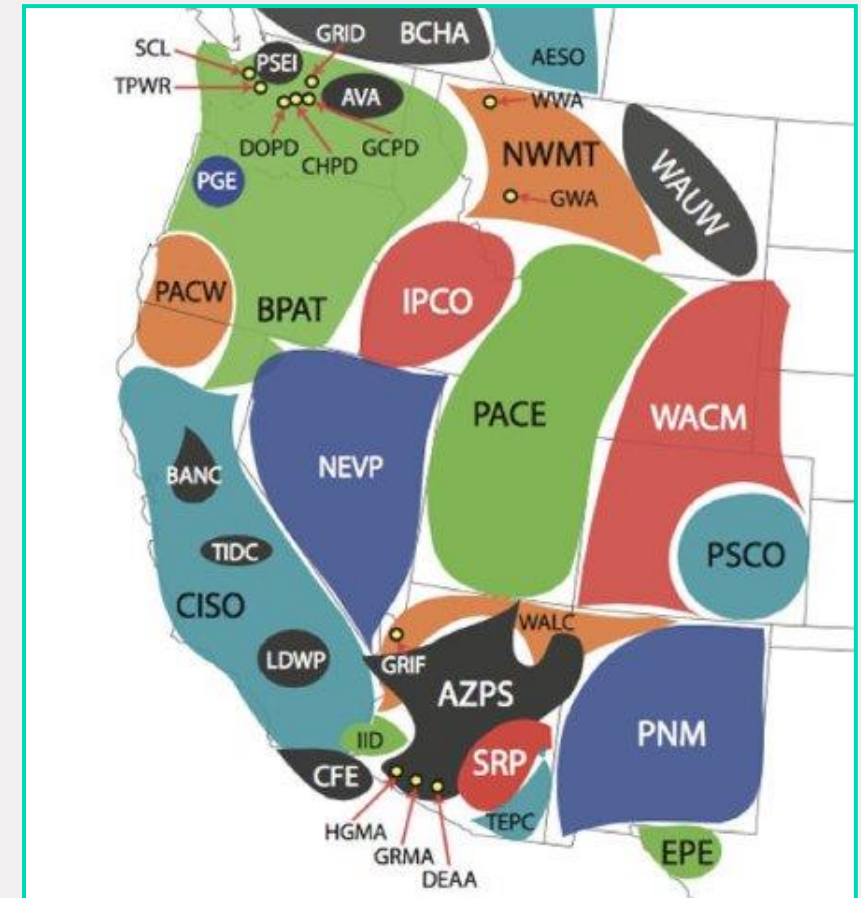
- 14 states, 2 provinces, and Baja California
- 88 million+ people
- 156,000 miles of transmission
- 87% public or protected land, including Tribal lands
- Benefits: diverse solar, wind, and hydro  
Challenges: renewable resources remote from population centers, wildfires and other risks

Source: WECC State of the Interconnection



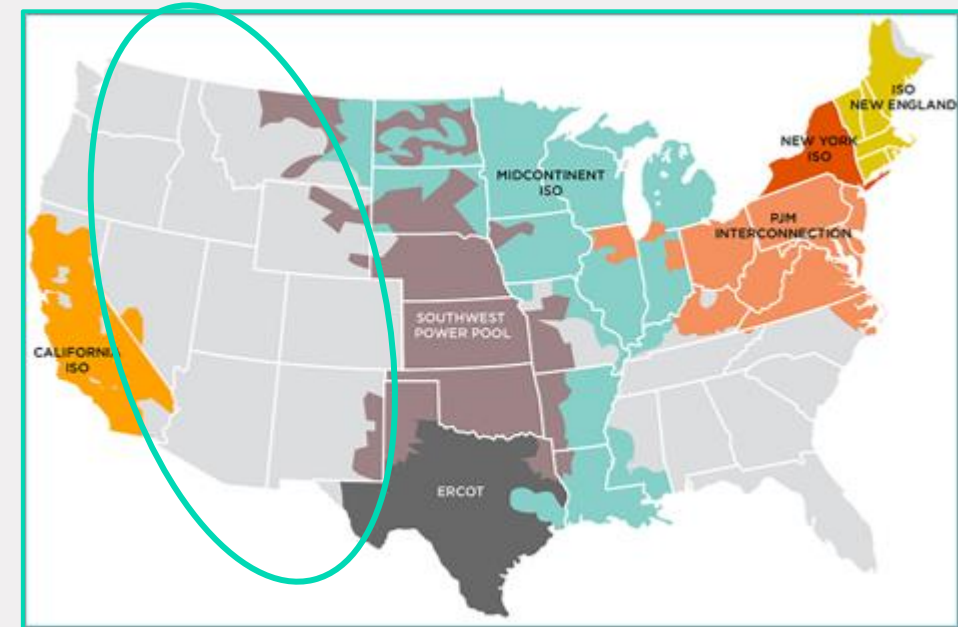
# Balancing Authorities

- 37 Balancing Authorities (BAs)
- Often utilities, responsible for balancing supply and demand in their footprint
- Challenges:
  - Inefficient communication
  - Different processes and procedures



# Benefits of a Centralized Grid

- Centralized energy markets (aka RTOs or ISOs) cover the U.S. and Canada
- Consolidated planning and efficiency in automated dispatch
- Access to diverse renewable resources and regional awareness of system

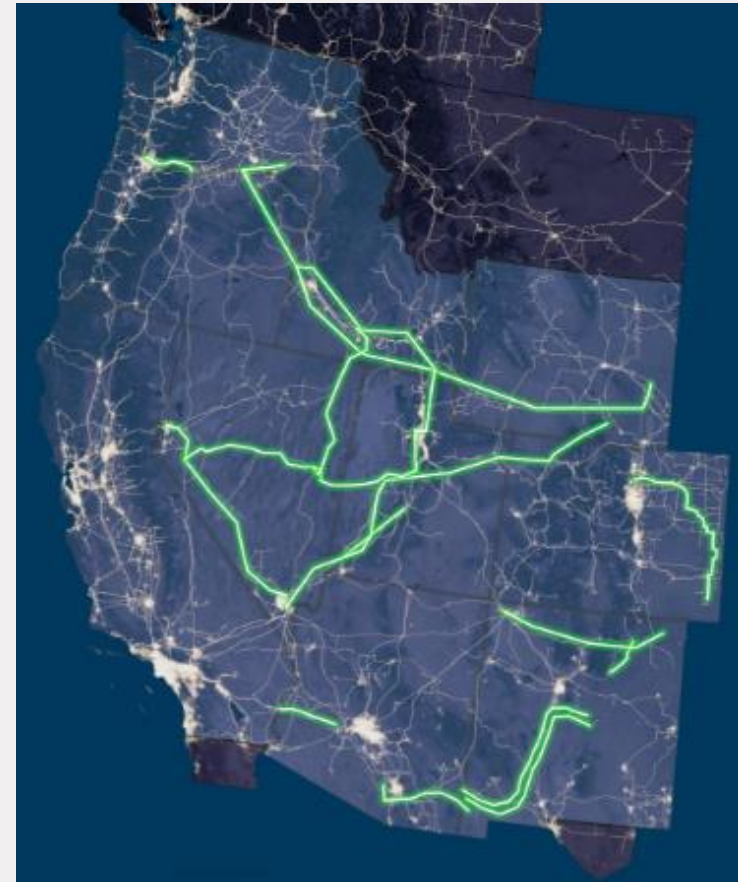
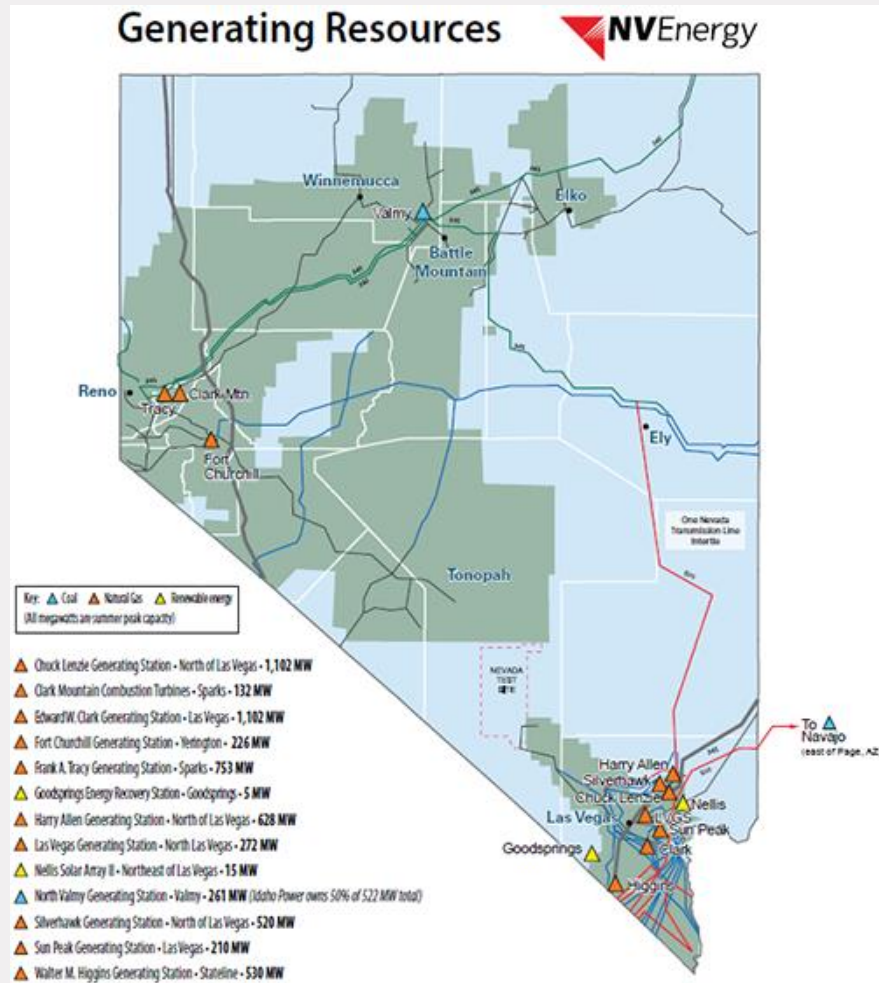


Map Source: Sustainable FERC Project

# Nevada Context



# Nevada Context



Map Sources: NV Energy; WECC State of the Interconnection





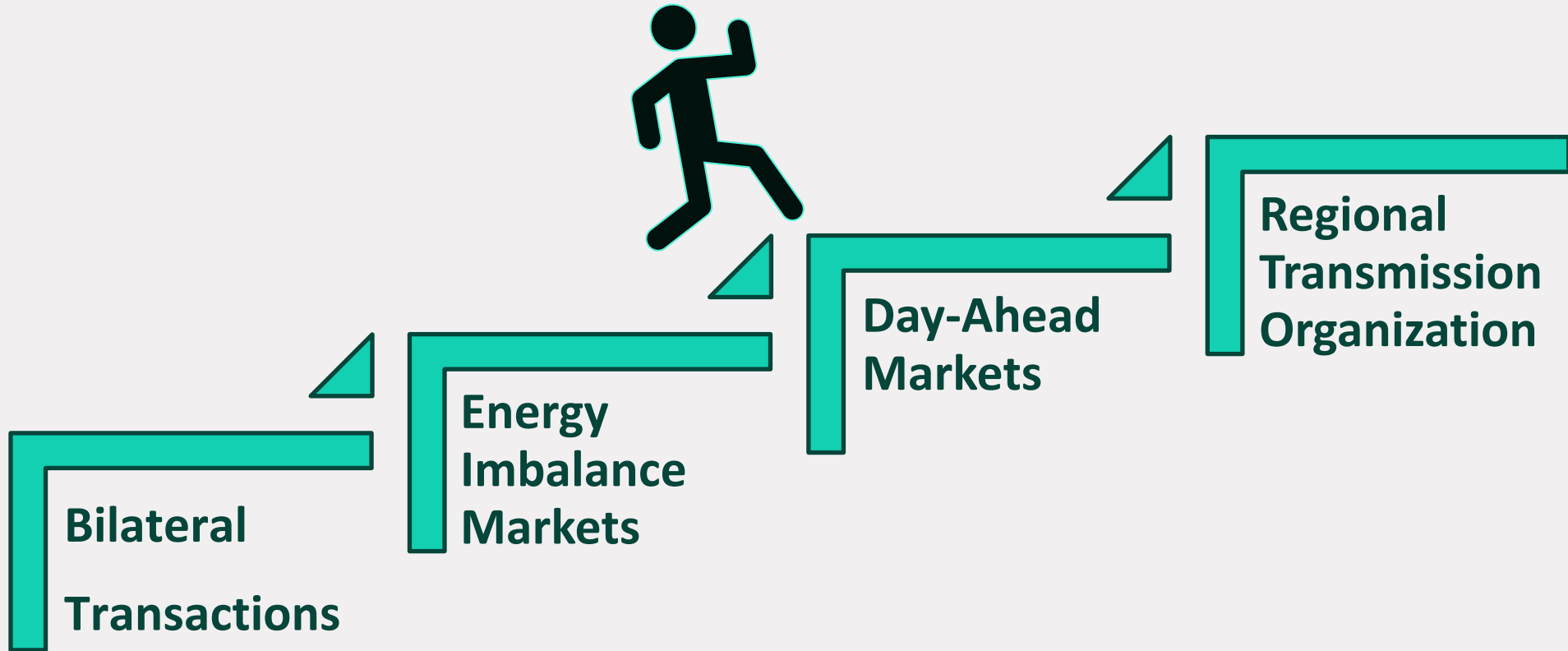
# Nevada Context

- 2021: SB 448 requires every transmission provider to join an RTO by 2030
- 2022: Regional Transmission Coordination Task Force advises Governor and Nevada Legislature on topics related to regional energy transmission
- 2024: PUCN Workshops on markets

# Day-Ahead Market Development & Tribal Engagement



# Market Progression





# Day-Ahead Markets

Opportunity to purchase and sell wholesale electricity up to one day ahead of operating day. Can deliver benefits by integrating renewable resources through advance commitment of generating units to meet demand across a large geographic footprint.

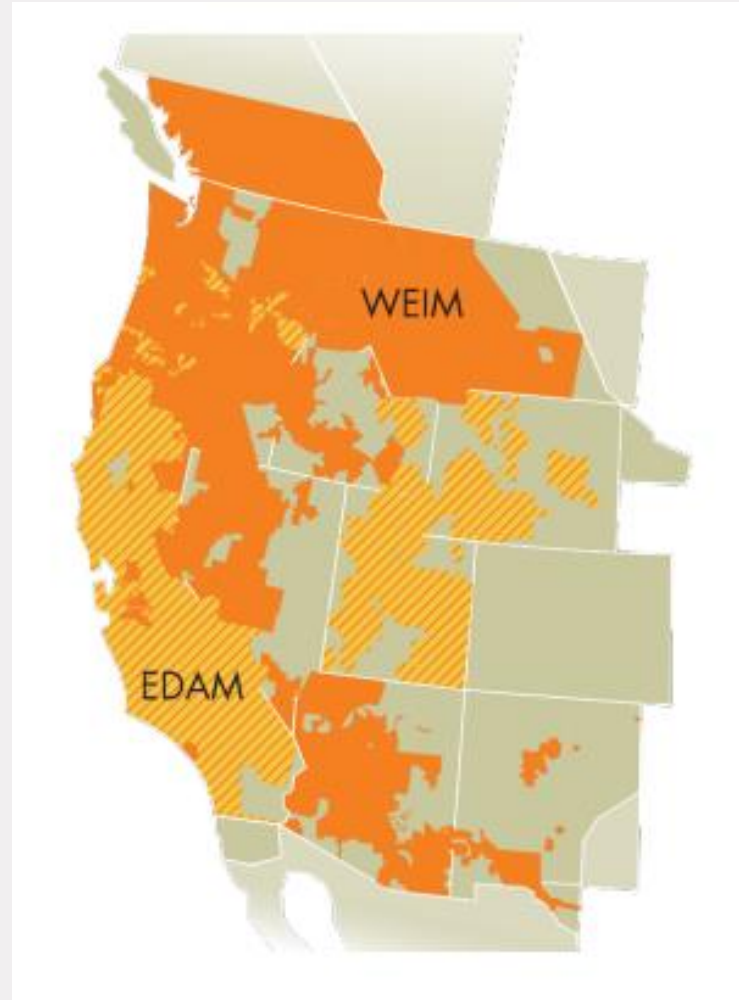


# CAISO EDAM

- California Independent System Operator (CAISO) Extended Day-Ahead Market (EDAM)
- Building on existing, successful Western Energy Imbalance Market – carbon and economic savings
- Launching mid-2026
- Planned participants: PacifiCorp, Idaho Power, Portland General Electric, BANC
- NV Energy and others undecided



# CAISO EDAM & WEIM





# SPP Markets+

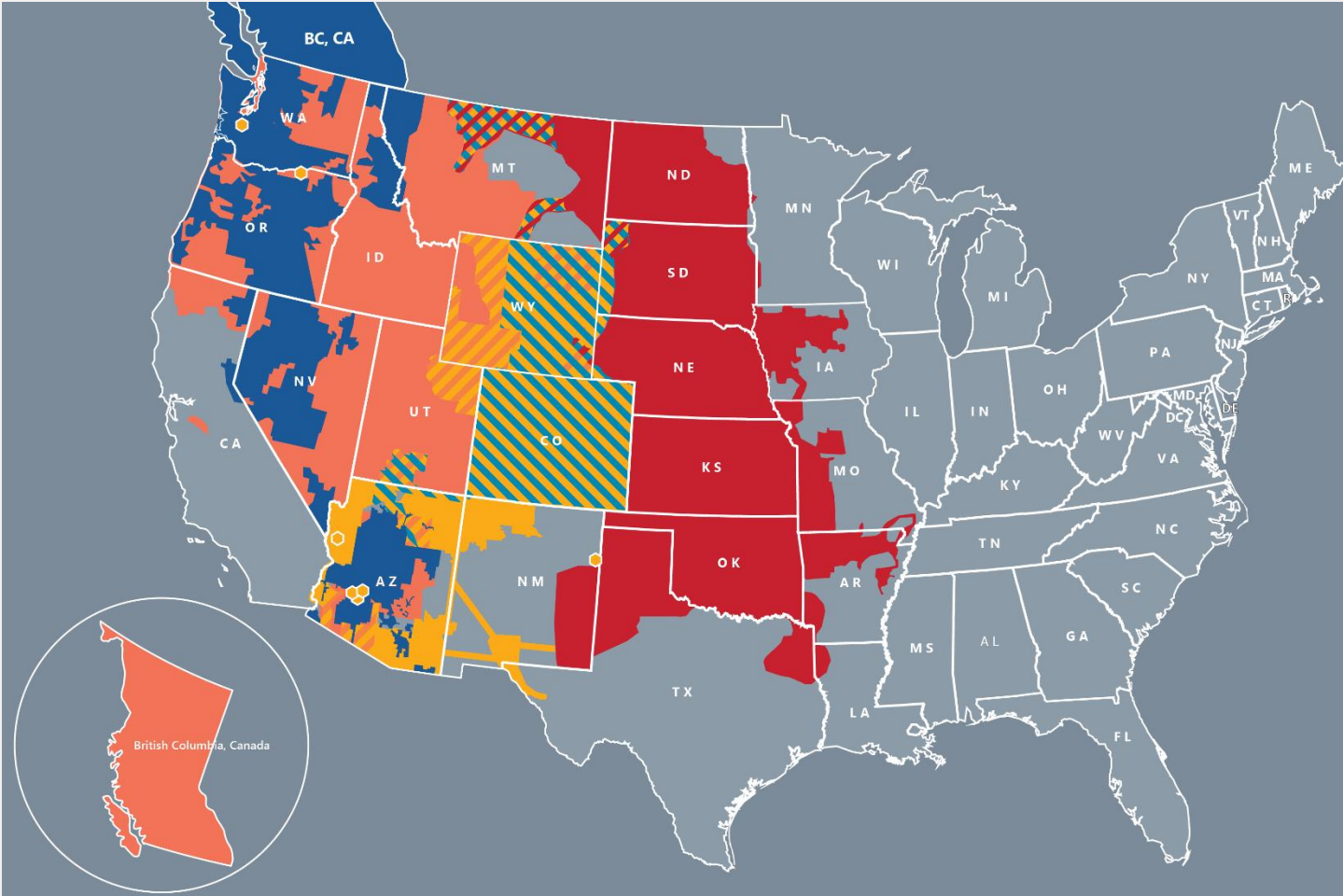
- Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Markets+ day-ahead market
- Planned to launch mid-2027
- NV Energy and others undecided









# SPP RTO West Expansion

- Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Regional Transmission Organization (RTO)
- Planned for mid-2026
- WAPA Regions (RM, CRSP, UGP) joining
  - WAPA Tribal consultation conducted in 2023
  - 6 Tribal letters submitted

# SPP



## **SPP** *Southwest Power Pool*

-  Regional Transmission Organization (RTO)
-  Western Energy Imbalance Service (WEIS)  
(inc. Xcel Energy-Colorado, joining April 2023)
-  Western Reliability Coordinator (RC)
-  Generation-only Western RC Participant
-  Western Resource Adequacy Program
-  Markets+ Phase One

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# WRA Resources & Engagement

WRA will:

- provide updates on NV Energy choices, WAPA, opportunities for Tribal engagement
- visit with you to discuss how markets may interact with your energy goals
- maintain a sustained point of engagement w/ Tribes



# Questions?



# Thank You!

The logo for Western Resources Advocates (wra) is a teal circle containing the lowercase letters "wra" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

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