

Western Region BIDE Team Sub-Regional Hangouts

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The Western Region Belonging, Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity (WR BIDE) team is a team that is evolving with the changing times. From its inception, the team started off as the Diversity Action Committee and created diversity related content to share with WR. Since then, the team has taken on a new look as the last two generations of BIDE team members have wanted to expand their horizons and take their work to the next level. One way they've done this is by introducing an idea called "Sub-regional Hangouts", which is where offices can get together informally to talk about BIDE related content. Similar to the NWS "Can We Talk" series, the WR BIDE team takes an important topic, finds or creates content to share with a group of offices, and then facilitates the meeting with the aid of subject matter experts. The goal of these meetings is to have a facilitated, safe, and healthy discussion on topics that NWS employees may not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in. Last year, the BIDE team held 3 test meetings in June, covering LGBTQ+ issues. The feedback from these meetings was overwhelmingly positive. This year, the team plans to cover racism and other hot-button issues within our communities. As a result of these efforts, each office will have measurable exposure to diversity and inclusion related to NOAA's strategic plan.

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