

2011 Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) Action Items

Border Issues				
Discussion Topic	Number	Action Items	Project Team	Initial Project Lead
Topic 1	1	In February 2011, Prime Minister Harper and President Obama announced a shared vision for perimeter security and economic competitiveness and established a bilateral Regulatory Cooperation Council to reduce red tape for businesses. The joint declaration on perimeter security and economic competitiveness set up a joint 'Beyond the Border' working group tasked with developing a joint action plan to be announced in Fall 2011. PNWER supports the priorities identified by President Obama and Prime Minister to encourage more effective border management and economic competitiveness, including improved information sharing among agencies, joint planning on investment in infrastructure and technology at ports of entry, integrated cross-border law enforcement, and joint work on critical infrastructure.		
Topic 1	2	PNWER should continue to act as a 'Provocateur' and ask questions about why border processes that do not increase security are done at the border, keeping agents from spending time on high-risk people and goods. Push for partnerships for security, and innovative ways to improve safety and security which reduce transaction costs.		
Topic 2	3	PNWER will offer to host a meeting in the region to announce the Beyond the Border Action plan this fall.		
Topic 3	4	Encourage stakeholders, jurisdictions, partners to collect data on value of increase of border efficiency, and importance of cross border trade to the region.		
<i>Border Solutions</i>	5	Border solutions - prioritized and accepted report from Border Solutions Council, and endorsed subcommittees to finalize pilot projects - 1) Single Window, 2) E-Certification for livestock, 3) Tourism pilot on expediting visas between Canada and US,		
		Recommend op-ed's, organize strategy to encourage communication plan in US communities to promote Perimeter Security Action Plan		

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Border Solutions Council				
Discussion Topic	Number	Action Items	Project Team	Initial Project Lead
Topic 1	1	Re-constitute Border Solutions Council and update Charter	PNWER	
Topic 1	2	Established committee to work on all details regarding Ag E-Certification Pilot Project	Cross-Border Livestock Health group	
Topic 2	3	Single Window - for all export/import between US - Canada - build alliances to push this pilot forward		
Topic 3	4	Tourism pilot - recommend a limited pilot to test an expedited process for travelers from (identify best country) who already have a visa to Canada (or US) to get one in the other country (US or Canada)		Darrell Bryan
	5	Encourage DHS to re-institute the ferry and airport fee advisory council	PNWER	
	6	Establish sub-committees to prioritize pilots, work with PNWER to plan Washington DC conference in November 2011 with Woodrow Wilson Center		

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Cross Border Livestock Health Conference				
Discussion Topic	Number	Action Items	Project Team	Initial Project Lead
Topic 1	1	Work with stakeholders to prepare in advance and build a common understanding of the tools (vaccination) and strategies that can be used to respond to an FMD outbreak in both Canada and the US.	CFIA- Dr. Jag Dhanda	CFIA - Dr. Jane Rooney, Dr. Tom Smylie
Topic 1	2	Work to support science and risk-based approaches to allow the safe resumption of bilateral and international trade after the eradication of a FAD. Develop and deliver common messaging to encourage proactive adoption of regulations that require science-based recognition of disease-free status of countries and zones, consistent with OIE guidelines. Delivery messaging as part of PNWER engagement in WSHDC and Ottawa. Identify other key venues to deliver messaging	CAHC - Ron Barker, AAFC - Alan Schlater,	AB Agriculture -Peter Kuperis
Topic 2	3	Explore potential public-private funding sources, identify fiscal benefits to governments and encourage CFIA and USDA to design their IT systems in such a way that they are compatible. Recognising that paperwork requirements impose significant costs on cattle buyers and sellers on both sides of the border, while subjecting animals to unnecessarily stressful welfare conditions, we urge both countries to move towards electronic certification for cattle on a much more aggressive timeline than is currently being considered.	AgriBeef - Aaron Canart, BC Cattle Feeders - Michael Nicolaisen, Alberta Beef Producers - Larry Delver, CLGA - Rick McDonald	CCA - Louis Desautels

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Disaster Resilience: Energy Assurance				
Discussion Topic	Number	Action Items	Project Team	Initial Project Lead
Topic 1	1	PNWER will assist in facilitating the distribution/sharing of state and local energy assurance plans between all states/provinces in the PNWER region.	WA, OR, ID, Salem, Portland EA leads	
Topic 1	2	Set up a periodic conference call (2-3 times per year) to continue to share information and best practices across the region on activities related to energy sector disaster planning and coordination.	WA, OR, ID, Salem, Portland EA leads	

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Energy Storage Technologies				
Discussion Topic	Number	Action Items	Project Team	Initial Project Lead
Topic 1	1	1. Need model document that shows how these various technologies can be used – model framework that could be build on for specific circumstances; can then devise an “alternative rate case” model that could then be included in the regulatory review. Let the storage technology “bid in” for the role.		
Topic 1	2	2. Is there a need for more “test beds” – are the venue available to do the field testing for this technology? Would be prudent to establish a group that is focusing on energy storage and what the requirements would be for that role.		

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Energy II (Renewable Energy)				
Discussion Topic	Number	Action Items	Project Team	Initial Project Lead
	1	Prepare a PNWER letter (copied to the NW delegation) to Secretary of the Interior requesting cooperation and expediency in permitting and siting of transmission lines on Federal Lands – with note that this supports the Administration’s energy policy;		
	2	Prepare a draft resolution for State legislatures instructing their respective NW Congressional delegation members to request that the Secretary of the Interior cooperate and promote efficiency in permitting and siting of transmission lines on Federal lands.		
	3	PNWER letter to states, agencies and legislature to establish permitting timelines with a bias for action in the permitting process.		
	4	<p>4) Provide recommendations to Bonneville Power Administration to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concentrate on near term successful transmission upgrades - south to CA, north to BC (strengthen northern interties), focusing on those projects which already have existing right of ways, such as the Juan de Fuca Cable and others; Encourage private investment, and trans-border investment for transmission; Implement programs that can “soak up” spring night time surplus – create incentives to transfer load; Allow a “one time” off-ramp for previous wind interconnection application permits - allow developers to get security deposit back, create more transmission capacity, and clear queue for future development. 		
	5	PNWER to compose letters to owners of linear Rights of Way (eg utilities, pipeline companies, railroads, and agencies controlling highways) requesting cooperation with such utilities and independent transmission developers that are seeking Rights of Way for new transmission lines.		
		PNWER to seek funding to commission a “state-of-the-art” review of commercially available transmission technologies to determine their applicability to region, with regard to enhancement of energy security, and compatibility with digitalization of operation and control of the grid (“Smart Grid” compatibility).		
		Submit a study request to Western Energy Coordination Council (WECC) to determine the environmental and economic cost if foundational transmission projects are not permitted in time or not completed.		

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Health Care				
Discussion Topic	Number	Action Items	Project Team	Initial Project Lead
Topic 1	1	PNWER recognizes that obesity is a growing and significant issue in the PNWER region effecting the health of residents and threatening future prosperity. PNWER health care working group with the support of the executive will urge partner jurisdictions on a priority basis to develop strategies to address prevention, focusing on school programs and policies, food industry, urban planning and transportation and ensure affordable access to effective treatment. An inventory of current initiatives in PNWER jurisdictions will be developed and shared with PNWER members in addition to relevant evidence being posted on working group website. .	members and support to be sought through private and public partners for inventory development	John Sproule, working group chair

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Innovation				
Discussion Topic	Number	Action Items	Project Team	Initial Project Lead
Topic 1	1	Adoption of Draft Purpose Statement (See Attached Document)	Sen. Kastama, Dave Zepponi	
Topic 1	2	Identify Work Group Members to lead and following up on the PurposeStatement	Dave Zepponi, PNWER	
Topic 2	3	Develop PNWER Virtual Community (ex. Linked-In Group)	Sen. Kastama, Dave Zepponi	
Topic 3	4	Create Official Innovation Working Group members/ governance structure	Sen. Kastama, Dave Zepponi	
	5	Review Procedures for Selecting Key Deliverables	Sen. Kastama, Dave Zepponi	
	6	Develop Process/Strategy & Confirm Supporting Resources	Sen. Kastama, Dave Zepponi	
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Invasive Species				
Discussion Topic	Number	Action Items	Project Team	Initial Project Lead
Topic 1	1	Assist PNWER in acting as a formalized regional structure for communication and developing messages to increase message consistency and effectiveness		
Topic 2	1	Form a PNWER Invasive Species Council Coordinating Committee with representation from all PNWER Jurisdictions for developing action plan for working group		
Topic 2	2	Engage groups who have not been involved in PNWER invasive Species, including organizations such as the Pacific Coast Collaborative and the Associated Tribes of Northwest Indians		
Topic 2	3	Produce white paper describing economic importance of invasive species in the PNWER region		
Topic 2	4	Continue the PNWER Invasive Species Conference model for the future of the working group		
Topic 2	7	Develop educational piece for regional legislators to educate about the economic and societal impacts of invasive species.		
Topic 2	8	Integrate activities of the invasive species working group into other PNWER working groups and activities		

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Natural Resource Development: Mining				
Discussion Topic	Number	Action Items	Project Team	Initial Project Lead
	1	Prepare resource map illustrating producing mines and advanced mineral projects within the PNWER jurisdiction along with transportation and key infrastructure (rail, air, road, port, electrical) corridors (existing & proposed).		Saskatchewan
	2	Share information on the collaboration on NW power line with BC and Alaska.		Fred Dyson
	3	Develop overview of capital investment and employment of exploration & mining in the PNWER region.		Pam Schwann
	4	Labor market workforce - PNWER region; requirements for labor market workforce; who is doing the training and where? Develop proposal for study and refer to University Presidents.		Pam Schwann & Bob McDonald
	5	Share information about devolution on the PNWER Website		Harvey Brooks
	6	TO BE DISCUSSED BY WORKING GROUP in 2012: -Listing of research projects related to utilization of coal. -Branding - investment attraction. -Opportunities for value-added. -Tracking return on investment of incentive programs.		

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Alternative Fuel Vehicles: Natural Gas Vehicles				
Discussion Topic	Number	Action Items	Project Team	Initial Project Lead
Topic 2	1	State/provincial governments should encourage fleet vehicle use of natural gas.		
Topic 2	2	Examine regulated utility legislation pertaining to natural gas providers, to allow them to advance funds to build refuelling infrastructure for particular commercial customers and then build the repayment cost into their rates charged to those commercial customers.		
Topic 3	3	PNWER jurisdictions should create financial incentives for NGV adoption. Particularly aimed fleets strategically poised to lead market transformation		
Topic 4	4	Governments need to provide clarity to regulators about what role utilities should play in leading the adoption of NGVs		
Topic 5	5	PNWER should consider the creation of a permanent NGV working group		

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Ocean Energy				
Discussion Topic	Number	Action Items	Project Team	Initial Project Lead
The PNWER Executive Committee recommended that the Ocean Energy Action Items be reviewed and revised by the co-chairs with particular focus on refining action steps for PNWER and other responsible parties. The revised action items for Ocean Energy are to be reviewed by the PNWER Board during Sept. or Oct. Conf. Call				
Topic 1	1	PNWER renew its call for regional jurisdictions and their federal governments to share experiences and expedite implementation of feed in tariffs to create market driven commercial demonstration projects that can generate ocean energy into the power grid.		
Topic 1	2	PNWER address accords within the Pacific Coast Collaborative and the Canada/US Clean Energy Dialogue to provide a mechanism to coordinate and accelerate development of emerging ocean energy solutions.		
Topic 1	3	PNWER work with regional utilities to identify both early stage development project sites and long-term opportunities for ocean energy solutions.		
Topic 1	4	PNWER work with regional jurisdictions and their federal governments to review the wording of regulations and legislations and remove administrative barriers to phased implementation of ocean energy solutions. The goal is to coordinate wording that can encourage demonstration projects that can transition to long-term commercial projects.		
Topic 2	5	PNWER should canvass other jurisdictions for definition of demonstration program that includes a more expansive or useful definition that could be used to leverage a change of definition in PNWER jurisdictions.		
Topic 2	6	PNWER should commission a study about what the economic costs of not supporting ocean energy technology in the region		
Topic 2	7	PNWER should canvas region to see what utilities are interested in ocean energy		
Topic 2	8	PNWER should commission a GIS map of areas with the highest cost of energy, what they are paying and if they have the possibility of using ocean energy.		
Topic 2	9	PNWER should create three separate tracks in the Ocean Energy Working Group - Micro Scale, Small Scale and Large Scale generation.		
Topic 2	10	PNWER should revive the Ocean Energy Education Program		

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Sustainable Development/Environment				
Discussion Topic	Number	Action Items	Project Team	Initial Project Lead
	1	For the 2012 Summit, hold a one or more sessions regarding the following topics, to be determined by the co-chairs:		
	a	Eco-Districts		Brian Peasley (CH2MHill)
	b	Cumulative Effects Mgmt.		Bev Yee (Alberta Ministry of Environment)
	c	Smart-Grid		Landis Kannberg (Pacific Northwest National Labs)
	d	Eco-Industrial planning		Gary Willson (NewAlta)

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Trade and Economic Development				
Discussion Topic	Number	Action Items	Project Team	Initial Project Lead
Topic 1	1	Provide prioritized recommendations (including regional pilots) to the Regulatory Cooperation Council on improving cross border trade and mobility.	Trade & Economic Dev. and Border Solutions Council	Border Solutions Council
Topic 1	2	Recognizing the New West Partnership as a template, explore potential opportunities for marketing jobs and investment opportunities across the PNWER states and provinces.	Trade and Economic Development working group and Workforce working group	
Topic 1	3	Host a roundtable discussion with University presidents on priority issues on trade and economic development	University presidents	

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Transportation				
Discussion Topic	Number	Action Items	Project Team	Initial Project Lead
Topic 1	1	<p>During the 2010 Winter Olympic Games, Amtrak Cascades train service carried over 11,000 passengers. Popularity of the Amtrak Cascades and the international exposure received by the region during the Games opened the door for new tourism opportunities. Since that time, Amtrak Cascades two daily trains have brought more than 70,000 passengers into Vancouver, BC in 2010 (an estimated 71% of which are visitors to Canada), basically doubling ridership into Vancouver with the addition of the 2nd daily train. The Canadian Border Services Agency has waived proposed border inspection fees since the 2nd daily train's inception in August 2009, and has agreed to waive these fees until October 31, 2011.</p> <p>PNWER supports the work carried out to date at both the federal, provincial, and state levels and calls on the Canadian federal government to continue to support operation of the 2nd daily Amtrak train beyond the end of the current pilot date of October 31, 2011, and permanently waive border fees as previously proposed by the Canada Border Services Agency for the 2nd daily Amtrak train.</p>		Province of BC (John Les, MLA)
Proposed cost recovery for second Amtrak train	2	Reaffirm PNWER support for a permanent waiver of the proposed cost recovery fee for the second Amtrak train, and work with the Canadian Consulate, British Columbia and Washington in partnership to secure.		Bruce Agnew
Legislative primer for potash, coal, Grain, Wood and other exports	3	Secure additional resources to develop a legislative primer which will include a matrix on investments be made in Western Canada and Northwest states to handle projected increases of exports in shipment of coal, potash, grain and wood. This would help guide decision-makers in their investment in infrastructure with respect to rail and port facilities. This would be prepared in time for the Saskatchewan meeting in 2012.		Bruce Agnew, Co-Chair & Minister Jim Reiter.

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Water Policy/Columbia River Symposium				
Discussion Topic	Number	Action Items	Project Team	Initial Project Lead
Topic 1	1	PNWER Recommends that further efforts be made to include legislative members in the Treaty process in order to keep them informed and engaged.	Water working group	
Topic 1	2	PNWER should assist in providing additional opportunities where appropriate for legislative members, Treaty representatives and regional stakeholders to come together and be informed and engage in dialogue on priority regional issues	Water working group	
Topic 2	3	Provide an update to Water policy working group at the 2012 Summit on results of fall workshops on the Bow River	Water working group	David Hill

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Washington State/Regional Legislative Hearing on Innovation				
Discussion Topic	Number	Action Items	Project Team	Initial Project Lead
		Work with TVW to post recording of hearing on PNWER website		PNWER

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Women in Natural Resources				
Discussion Topic	Number	Action Items	Project Team	Initial Project Lead
Topic 1	1	Host a lunch at the 2012 Summit in Saskatoon, including sponsor and speaker panel, to highlight the Women in Natural Resources Session and topic areas	Shawna Argue, Anna Fairclough, Leah Lawrence	Anna Fairclough

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Workforce				
Discussion Topic	Number	Action Items	Project Team	Initial Project Lead
Topic 1	1	<p>Professional Credential Recognition</p> <p>2005: Licensing Reciprocity - Urge licensing bodies to adopt reciprocal professional credential recognition for engineers who have successfully practiced for a set number of years. Assist licensing bodies in preparing amendments to rules or policies to enable reciprocity of licensure.</p> <p>2007: Investigate the extent that the U.S. unemployment system collects workers certification information. Collection of this data would enable the effective and efficient matching of available workers to vacant jobs around the region.</p> <p>2010 (amended 2011): Pursuant to PNWER's 2006 resolution calling on all PNWER jurisdiction licensing bodies for engineers to adopt policies or present amendments to their respective legislative bodies which allows them to waive the requirement for satisfaction of prescriptive credentials in education and examination if the applicant meets specific criteria adopted by each jurisdiction, PNWER continues to encourage Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Montana to join with Idaho in facilitating this resolution and particularly encourages Washington's Board of Licensure to complete its proposed amendments to its rules that would enable</p>		
Topic 1	2	<p>Follow-up with Program Officer Parminder Jassal Gates Foundation on future involvement with the Workforce Working Group - Fulfills 2007 Understanding regional best practices action item</p>	Joy Howland	
Topic 2	3	<p>Investigate the framework in which labour market and industry supply demand data is collected and utilized in Canada and determine a framework in which it can be replicated in U.S. Jurisdictions and explore pilot project in two states - Washington and Alaska (suggested)</p>	Joy Howland, Eleni Papadakis - Washington State	
Topic 3	4	<p>PNWER Jurisdictions should advocate to Federal Delegation for improved mechanisms and processes for facilitating temporary worker mobility between the U.S. and Canada - Coordinate with Border Working group</p>	PNWER	