



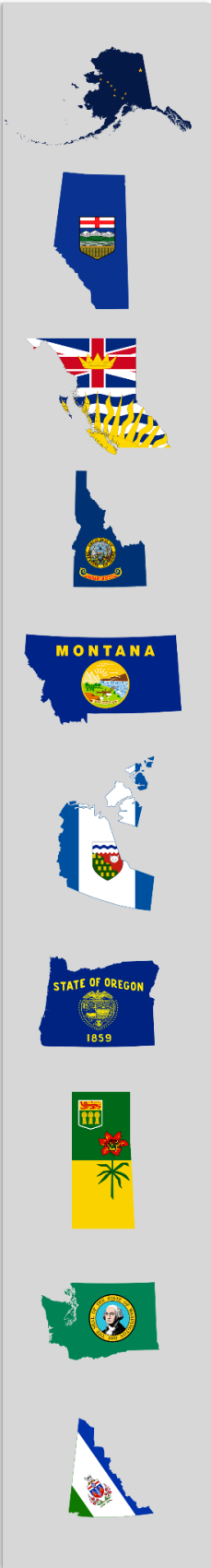
2025 PNWER Annual Summit Recap

Building a Resilient Future through Collaboration, Innovation and Trade

At the 34th PNWER Summit, more than 600 leaders from the public and private sectors convened to identify **practical ways to boost regional competitiveness and security**. With over 40 sessions focused on innovation, infrastructure, and trade, the Summit delivered actionable next steps through partnerships that connect policy to progress.



PNWER truly has many strengths: cross border collaboration, a knowledgeable and highly motivated staff, and a truly in-depth understanding of international trade issues. During times like these, organizations such as PNWER are more important than ever. - Hon. Travis Keisig, PNWER President



Turning Ideas to Action: Our Next Steps

ENERGY

Energy is a defining issue of our region, from meeting growing demand to deploying innovative energy solutions. Experts from the U.S. and Canada's public and private sectors explored the future of energy infrastructure, grid resilience and regional collaboration.

→ **BUILDING BLOCK- HYDROGEN**

During the Summit, PNWER released the findings of two landmark studies examining the hydrogen economy potential in the Pacific Northwest. The Cross-Border Hydrogen Analysis was commissioned by the Washington State Department of Commerce and British Columbia Clean Energy and Major Projects Office, and the Alberta Hydrogen Study was commissioned by the Government of Alberta. Both studies were conducted by Deloitte and serve as a foundational tool for deploying a robust hydrogen development ecosystem in our region. Read key findings at www.pnwer.org/h2-study.

→ **NEXT STEP**

Collaborate with the governments of British Columbia, Washington and Alberta to prioritize recommendations of the hydrogen studies and develop plans for implementation.

→ **BUILDING BLOCK- SAF**

Policymakers, representatives from airport authorities, technology and energy companies highlighted the critical role of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) in decarbonizing aviation while advancing economic development and multi-sector collaboration.

→ **NEXT STEP**

Work with the Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Association, the SAF Center in Snohomish County and other refineries and H2 stakeholders with government partners to develop and implement a book-and-claim system for Synthetic Aviation Fuels (SAF) to enhance regional and bi-national hydrogen trade and begin a series of calls to establish a region-wide SAF Coalition. This book-and-claim system would be based on the renewable natural gas system currently in place.

TOURISM & BORDER

Border management remains a top of mind issue for leaders — especially as we prepare to welcome over a million visitors to Seattle and Vancouver for the FIFA World Cup games next summer. Regional experts took an in-depth look at opportunities to enhance the cross-border travel and tourism experiences that will be on the global stage in less than a year.

→ **BUILDING BLOCK- KNOW BEFORE YOU GO TOOL**

A new "Know Before You Go" tool was featured during the Summit, giving attendees a sneak peek into an AI system that will provide international visitors with real-time, trusted border crossing information and travel requirements for the U.S., Canada and Mexico. The tool is developed in partnership with the Future Borders Coalition and funded by Pacific Economic Development Canada.

→ **NEXT STEP**

Support the continued development, promotion and implementation of the “Know Before You Go” tool for cross-border travel and tourism. The tool will complement PNWER’s development of a regional tourism portal, which will encourage tourism dispersion across each of PNWER’s 10 jurisdictions.

→ **BUILDING BLOCK- BORDER PILOTS**

The Pacific Northwest is hosting the 2026 Men’s FIFA World Cup, with games being played in both Seattle, Washington and Vancouver, British Columbia next June and July. PNWER is working with government and industry partners to ensure that the region’s border procedures, transportation systems and tourism experiences are event-ready.

→ **NEXT STEP**

The Regional Tourism Council will collaborate with the border and transportation working groups to advance initiatives such as border pilot projects and transportation infrastructure improvements. PNWER will coordinate planning calls with U.S. and Canada border agencies and stakeholders to develop strategies to increase tourism processing capacity.

TRADE & TRANSPORTATION

Trade and transportation keep our region’s economy moving. Sessions explored new ways for our region to maximize competitiveness, enhance our supply chains and advance shared economic growth.

→ **NEXT STEP**

Continue to host calls with cross-border chambers of commerce and businesses to share information on the impact of shifting trade policies. Discussions will be held with stakeholders on potential recommendations or updates to USMCA/CUSMA.

→ **BUILDING BLOCK- RESILIENT SUPPLY CHAINS**

Sessions underscored the necessity of building resilient supply chains to support domestic and international trade from the Pacific Northwest. Strategic cross-sector partnerships and innovative investments can advance critical infrastructure in our region’s port, rail, road and maritime sectors.

→ **NEXT STEP**

Form a cross-border supply chain resilience working group to address the impacts of supply chain disasters and ensure future-ready rail, trucking and maritime sectors. The PNWER Regional Infrastructure Accelerator team will coordinate with the U.S. Maritime Administration in developing contingency plans in the event of a major natural disaster interrupting the delivery of critical resources at Alaska ports.

PNWER is seeking a Congressionally-directed appropriation to support a Northwest Export Accelerator initiative. U.S. Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell are supporting the request, which will be up for Senate and House approval in the coming months.

ENVIRONMENT & AGRICULTURE

The Pacific Northwest is rich in agricultural commodities like apples, wheat and livestock. Livestock health experts from the subnational and national levels exchanged insights on avian influenza management and prevention. Agriculture, water policy and invasive species prevention also took center stage, as leaders work to advance policy alignment and sustainability.

→ **NEXT STEP**

PNWER will host coordination calls with state, provincial and federal veterinarians to encourage information sharing and begin planning discussions for the next Annual Summit in Edmonton, Alberta, in July 2026.

→ **BUILDING BLOCK- INVASIVE MUSSELS**

PNWER passed a resolution on the importance of addressing the imminent threat of invasive mussels through prevention, readiness, and mitigation across our region. The resolution is designed to elevate invasive mussels as the top aquatic invasive species priority for the region, urge governments to continue to prioritize and strengthen prevention and response and highlight the importance of existing partnerships.

→ **NEXT STEP**

Host an aquatic invasive species summit in Saskatchewan in the spring of 2026, modeled after a successful statewide response summit held in Spokane, Washington last winter. PNWER will work with the Government of Saskatchewan to host the event.

MINING

→ **NEXT STEP**

Coordinate with stakeholders about potential options for a database of information that promotes the ties between the U.S. and Canada related to critical minerals. The information will have a focus on processing materials in North America. PNWER will seek funding to create a targeted, cross-border critical minerals strategy.

→ **NEXT STEP**

Submitted public comment to the U.S. Federal Register in support of the US government adding potash to the list of recognized critical minerals. Potash is a critical mineral harvested in large quantities in Saskatchewan and used as fertilizer in agriculture practices. More on potash's role in our region is here.



INNOVATION

Sessions showcased how the Pacific Northwest has become a hub for innovation and explored opportunities to foster growth through innovation. AI is quickly emerging as a prominent tool, but what does it mean for workforce development, education and other industries? Experts showcased applications for AI and inspired continuing conversations about its impact in our region. Attendees came away with an understanding of how policy, investment and culture created the conditions for innovation to thrive.

Quantum

→ **NEXT STEP**

Promote the Northwest Quantum Nexus as a regional convener and assist them in organizing a meeting to discuss workforce development and other regional initiatives to advance the quantum industry in the Pacific Northwest.

DISASTER RESILIENCE

Building Resilience

→ **NEXT STEP**

Develop a business plan to seek funding for a building resilience strategy in coordination with partners in planning, prevention, designing for resilience, risk management and finance/insurance sectors. The funding would support research, workshops and coordination meetings.

Forestry/Wildfires

→ **NEXT STEP**

Participate in the Nationwide Regional Risk and Resilience Collaborative (NR3C) wildfire working group, a subsection of a broader, nationwide disaster resilience planning group. PNWER will contribute to Pacific Northwest-focused workshops, priority needs exploration and policy recommendations.

NEW LEADERSHIP

The PNWER Delegate Council elected Saskatchewan Minister of Environment Travis Keisig to serve as the next PNWER president and Alberta MLA Shane Getson to serve as PNWER Canadian vice president at the Summit on July 20. The PNWER Executive Board, which includes a president and two vice presidents from the U.S. and Canada, leads the delegate council in promoting PNWER's mission.

PNWER offers the opportunity to be a hub for critical mineral mining and processing that supports bi-national advanced manufacturing. Processing near mines cuts cost and risk, lowers emissions, enhances economic independence and keeps value in the region.

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The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) Foundation is a statutory public/private nonprofit created in 1991 by the U.S. states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, and Washington and the Canadian provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan and the territories of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon.