



## Key accomplishments for Idaho

The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) has been actively **building partnerships to tackle challenges facing Idaho** while ensuring the state's voice—and that of the broader Pacific Northwest region—is effectively represented in Washington, D.C.

In 2024, PNWER continued working to enhance economic development for member jurisdictions, open pathways for communication and coordination across borders, and develop a better understanding of the interdependent economy across the region. Some of the recent successes for Idaho include:

### Legislative Energy Horizon Institute (LEHI)

Over the past ten years, more than 500 legislators from across the U.S. and Canada have graduated from this important course focused on North American energy infrastructure and delivery systems. **PNWER has secured funding to support Idaho's 36 LEHI graduates (totaling over \$350,000) to cover tuition and travel expenses.** In addition, PNWER has contracted with the **University of Idaho** for over a decade through a subrecipient agreement to assist in the planning and delivery of the course. **The LEHI program has provided over \$1 million in value to the state of Idaho.** Visit [www.lehi.institute](http://www.lehi.institute) for more information.

### Supply Chain Security Planning

**Former ID Senate Pro Tempore Chuck Winder** led a multi-year effort as PNWER President to focus the region to address key elements needed to ensure we have a secure energy future and food supply. This led to several meetings focused on interdependent sectors such as critical minerals, fuel and fertilizer which are all required to ensure we have required energy and food.



2024 LEHI  
Graduating  
Cohort at the  
Embassy of  
Canada to the  
U.S. in D.C.

### Agriculture and Livestock Health

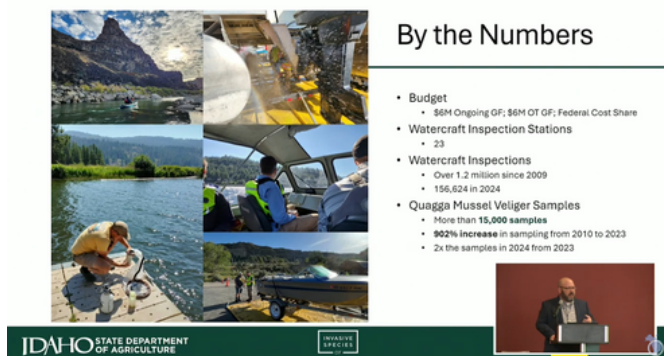
A major outcome of the **PNWER Summit in Boise in 2023** included a recommendation from regional state/provincial veterinarians and private industry partners to seek funding to plan a tabletop exercise focused on a foreign animal disease outbreak (foot and mouth disease) in our region. This exercise took place in July 2024 and identified specific recommendations to plan for a cross border disease outbreak. Key recommendations identified included:

1. Identify mechanisms beyond Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement (PNEMA) for intra- and international resource sharing prior to an animal disease event.
2. Explore the feasibility of accessing veterinary stockpiles across international borders with CFIA and USDA.
3. Compile an inventory of available resources once intra- and international resource-sharing details are resolved.
4. Conduct a cross-border mapping project.

### Aquatic Invasive Species

For over 20 years, PNWER has led the effort to ensure quagga and zebra (QZ) mussels receive the required attention and funding to develop prevention and response planning. The PNWER Executive Board unanimously passed an action item enabling the PNWER Secretariat to seek funding from federal and non-federal sources for enhanced regional Northwest transboundary zebra and quagga mussel prevention and response readiness.

More than 25 legislators signed a joint letter to the governors of Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington, urging action on this imminent threat. PNWER continues to provide support to secure the federal appropriation for the USACE match program. Because of PNWER, from 2017 to 2024, Pacific Northwest states have leveraged over **\$39 million** federal match funds from this program. **Idaho has utilized over \$12.6 million in this program for watercraft inspection and decontamination.** On December 3rd, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, with support from PNWER, hosted a QZ Prevention and Readiness Summit in Spokane, WA. **Deputy Director Lloyd Knight of the State of Idaho's Department of Agriculture** delivered the keynote address where he gave an update on the treatment of the Snake River. This event helped continue to develop needed coordination and relationships to address gaps in planning and response.



**By the Numbers**

- Budget
  - \$6M Ongoing OF; \$6M OT OF; Federal Cost Share
- Watercraft Inspection Stations
  - 23
- Watercraft Inspections
  - Over 1.2 million since 2009
  - 156,624 in 2024
- Quagga Mussel Velliger Samples
  - More than 15,000 samples
  - 902% increase in sampling from 2010 to 2023
  - 2x the samples in 2024 from 2023

Idaho Dept. of Agriculture Deputy Director Lloyd Knight provides updates on Idaho's response strategy.

### Border and Trade

In 2023, **Idaho exported roughly \$1.5 billion worth of products to Canada**, making Canada Idaho's largest export market. 25% of exports – roughly \$375 million – were agricultural. **Idaho imported about \$1.4 billion worth of products from Canada**, with agricultural products accounting for 28% of imports, or roughly \$392 million. Food supply chains depend deeply on this bi-national relationship to keep the cost of groceries down on both sides of the border. Disruptions to this mutually beneficial relationship could have significant impacts on Canadians and Idahoans. PNWER works closely with CBP, CBSA, DHS and Public Safety Canada on advancing smart U.S.-Canada border management, and implementing innovative, clear and consistent policies that facilitate secure and efficient travel and trade.

(Source: <https://liencanada.com/wp-content/fact-sheets/id.pdf>)

### Regional Infrastructure Accelerator

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Build America Bureau is investing **\$2 million** in our region to advance infrastructure development through PNWER's five-state Regional Infrastructure Accelerator (RIA). Two subrecipients of this funding are located in Idaho: **Valley Regional Transit (VRT) received \$100,000** and **Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) received \$50,000**. VRT is responsible for the management of public bus transit, specialized van services, paratransit, Park & Ride, and more in Treasure Valley and LHTAC connects local highway jurisdictions in Idaho with available resources for maintenance and construction of Idaho's local highway system in the most efficient and effective manner possible. Notable projects in Idaho include Boise Cut-Off Feasibility Analysis, College of Western Idaho Housing & Transit Joint Development, Canyon County Feasibility Analysis, High Performance Rail Working Group, and the Build Northwest Center of Excellence. Learn more at [www.RIAnorthwest.org](http://www.RIAnorthwest.org).



Idaho Legislators L-R, T-B at PNWER Events: Sen. Van Burtenshaw showcasing Aquatic Invasive Species threats; Rep. Britt Raybould and Lt. Governor Bedke with panelists discussing water policy; Sens. Kevin Cook and Dave Lent receiving LEHI diplomas at the Embassy of Canada.



## 2025 PNWER Annual Summit Info

### Critical Minerals

Idaho's mining sector plays a pivotal role in the critical mineral supply chain. PNWER has showcased Idaho-based leaders such as **Perpetua Resources** and **Hecla Mining Company** at our events, highlighting their commitment to sustainable practices and innovation in critical mineral development. These companies exemplify how the state is contributing to a resilient and sustainable North American supply chain while supporting economic growth. PNWER supports policies that strengthen the production, processing, and secure sourcing of critical minerals, and our Critical Mineral and Mining Working Group is working on tools and mechanisms that can incentivize manufacturers to purchase North American minerals, incentives to encourage processing, and mining of vital minerals for national defence.

### Regional Tourism Council

In 2023 at the **Boise Summit**, PNWER established a **Regional Tourism Council (RTC)** with the goal of convening regional tourism leaders to provide expertise and advice to help market our region to the world. The Regional Tourism Council is composed of an elected official and a tourism industry representative from each of our ten PNWER jurisdictions. **Idaho's representative on the Regional Tourism Council is Senator Kevin Cook.** As part of this initiative, PNWER secured funding to develop a regional tourism portal to help provide destination marketing for Idaho and other states in the region. This portal will provide a way to reach visitors from other countries interested in specific tourism opportunities that are unique to Idaho.

### Disaster Resilience

For over ten years, PNWER has partnered with **Idaho's Office of Emergency Management** to plan an annual statewide **cybersecurity workshop** to bring together local, state and federal partners along with the private sector to discuss cybersecurity planning and preparedness issues across the state. **Governor Little's participation** each year has led to the development of the **Idaho Cybersecurity Task Force.**

### 2025 PNWER Annual Summit

This year's PNWER Annual Summit will be in **Bellevue, WA from July 20 - 24.** The PNWER Annual Summit provides the opportunity to **collaborate** and establish partnerships with Canadian & U.S. public & private sector leaders, **learn** about key economic issues facing the region, **strengthen** regional networks and cooperation, and **advocate** for regional policies and cross-jurisdictional initiatives. Visit [www.pnwer.org/2025-summit](http://www.pnwer.org/2025-summit).

**For more information on PNWER programs and opportunities to get involved, contact Matt Morrison at [matt.morrison@pnwer.org](mailto:matt.morrison@pnwer.org) or (206) 443-7723**