



# IDAHO

## 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

### About PNWER

The Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) provides a trusted platform for collaboration among public, private, academic, Indigenous and non-profit partners, enabling the region to navigate shared challenges and pursue common goals. PNWER was created in 1991 by the U.S. states of Washington, Alaska, Idaho, Montana and Oregon; and the Canadian provinces and territories of Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan and Yukon.

PNWER's mission is to increase the economic well-being and quality of life for all citizens of the region, while maintaining and enhancing our natural environment.

### Delivering Energy Education

PNWER is a founding member of the Legislative Energy Horizon Institute (LEHI) which is **designed to educate state and provincial legislators, governors advisors, and policymakers on the North American energy infrastructure and delivery system.**

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. 36 policymakers and staff from Idaho have graduated from LEHI. **The program has provided over \$1 million in value to Idaho.**



**Lead Delegate**  
**Rep. Britt Raybould**



*LEHI participants tour the Ice Harbor Dam in Burbank, Washington.*

### Connecting Transportation Networks - Regional Infrastructure Accelerator

The PNWER Regional Infrastructure Accelerator (RIA) is a technical assistance program funded by the USDOT Build America Bureau. In Idaho, the PNWER RIA provides technical expertise on innovative financing tools for infrastructure upgrades to the Boise Cut-Off rail corridor, College of Western Idaho Joint Development Project and Canyon County Development Project. **Regionally, the program delivers education on transportation systems and creative funding models on supply chain and passenger mobility projects that support economic development.**

The PNWER RIA partners with Valley Regional Transit and Local Highway Technical Assistance Council to provide on-the-ground technical assistance in Idaho.

This year, the RIA hosted:

- Virtual “crash course” on federal financing tools
- Briefing on federal surface transportation legislation reauthorization
- Session on innovative funding at Idaho Local Transportation Convention with Rep. Dustin Manwaring
- Multimodal transportation sessions at the Annual Summit
- Cross-sector educational briefings on regionally-critical topics

## Federal Engagement

PNWER leadership met with U.S. Senator Mike Crapo (right) and Congressman Mike Simpson in Washington, D.C. to provide updates on work in Idaho and strengthen connections with delegates from neighboring jurisdictions.



## Amplifying Regional Tourism Opportunities

PNWER established a Regional Tourism Council (RTC) in 2023 to promote bilateral coordination between the U.S. and Canada. **The RTC convenes regional leaders to facilitate cross-sector dialogue and contribute to the success of our region as a leader of responsible, sustainable and resilient tourism.** The RTC is composed of an elected official and an industry representative from each PNWER jurisdiction. Idaho's representatives on the RTC are Sen. Kevin Cook and Jeremy Chase from Visit Idaho.

### Innovating the Regional Travel Experience



With grant funding from Pacific Economic Development Canada, PNWER developed a **destination management strategy to improve cross-border travel across the Pacific Northwest.** The funding also is supporting the development of an innovative AI “Know Before You Go” tool that provides information on travel entry and customs requirements for the U.S. and Canada. Explore the tool with the code on the left.

## Developing Future-Forward Water Policy

A ‘Technology and the Future of Water’ session at the Annual Summit explored how cutting-edge technology is shaping the next generation of water policy, ensuring smarter decision-making in response to climate events, growing populations and increasing demand. The panel was moderated by **PNWER VP Rep. Britt Raybould** and featured expert perspectives on industry breakthroughs, the policies needed to support them, and how we can turn high-tech solutions into real-world impact. PNWER continues to monitor the Columbia River Treaty negotiation progress.



## Preventing Invasive Species

PNWER continues to be a leading voice in the regional effort to prevent the spread of aquatic zebra, quagga and golden mussels across Idaho and neighboring jurisdictions. PNWER works closely with Idaho Department of Agriculture to support regional and federal education and advocacy efforts. PNWER delegates from the U.S. and Canada signed a joint resolution in September underscoring the importance of region-wide prevention and response efforts.

## Facilitating Cross-Border Trade

PNWER is actively engaged in the joint review process of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) occurring in 2026. Meetings with Idaho businesses, chambers of commerce and policymakers are informing data-driven recommendations to improve the agreement and flow of goods between the U.S. and Canada.