



OREGON

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 jurisdictions of Oregon, Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, Washington, 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.



Lead Delegate
Senator Lew Frederick

Educating Energy Policymakers

PNWER is a founding member of the **Legislative Energy Horizon Institute (LEHI)**, which educates state and provincial policymakers and governors' advisors 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 including 59 policymakers and staff from Oregon.

Strengthening Cross-Border Trading Relationships

PNWER is actively engaged in the joint review process of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) occurring in 2026. Meetings with Oregon 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.

Event Spotlight

Economic Forum & Rail Summit | Portland, Oregon

Continuing conversations from the Annual Summit, policymakers and business leaders gathered in Portland, Oregon, in October 2025 for the Build Northwest Economic Forum and Pacific Northwest Rail Summit. Sessions spanned cross-border trade, multimodal supply chain resilience and permit reform.



(L-R) Sen. David Brock Smith, Sen. Mike Cuffe, Sen. Lew Frederick, MLA Travis Keisig, Rep. Denise Baum, Sen. Ron Taylor and MLA Shane Getson.



(L-R) Scott Hunter, MLA Travis Keisig, Bill Prybylski and Brandon Hardenbrook tour a potash terminal.

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. Oregon's representatives on the RTC are Rep. Annessa Hartman and Travel Oregon VP Kevin Wright.



Innovating the Regional Travel Experience

With grant funding from Pacific Economic Development Canada, PNWER is developing a **destination management strategy to improve cross-border travel across the Pacific Northwest.** The funding is also 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.

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 Oregon, PNWER's efforts include enhancements to the Amtrak Cascades corridor, Hood-River White Salmon Bridge, Umpqua Indian Development Corporation truck parking facilities and Portland Union Station. **Regionally, the program delivers education on transportation systems and creative funding models on supply chain and passenger mobility projects that support economic development.**

This year, the RIA hosted:

- The 4th annual Pacific Northwest Rail Summit in Portland
- Virtual “crash course” on federal financing tools for project sponsors in Oregon and across region
- Briefing on federal surface transportation legislation reauthorization
- Cross-sector educational briefings on regionally-critical topics

Aquatic Invasive Species

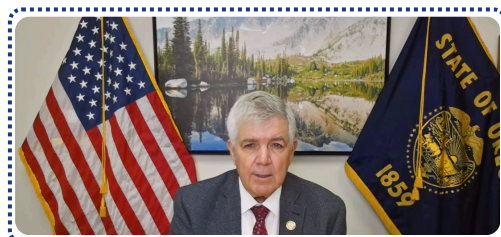
PNWER signed a joint letter to the congressional delegation on the need to enhance and appropriate funds for the U.S. Corps of Engineers' Aquatic Plant Control and Watercraft Inspection Decontamination (APC-WID) Program.

Columbia River Treaty

PNWER continues to monitor developments in the Columbia River Treaty negotiation. PNWER staff met with U.S. lead negotiator Jill Smail during LEHI in Richland, WA in July.

Federal Engagement

PNWER leadership met with U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley and Congresswoman Val Hoyle in Washington, D.C. to provide updates on work in Oregon. During the PNWER Economic Forum & Rail Summit, U.S. Representatives Cliff Bentz and Val Hoyle provided recorded remarks on regional rail connections.



Congressman Bentz discusses the impacts of tariffs and efforts to improve the Northwest's transmission infrastructure.



Congresswoman Hoyle provides updates on the bi-partisan surface transportation reauthorization legislation.