

PACIFIC Northwest Economic Region

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Well, folks, it has been quite a year! The past 12 months have been a challenge that I had not anticipated when I became PNWER President in 2019. Despite all of the challenges, this has been a tremendous year--in good ways and tough ways--that brought PNWER to a new level. It highlighted the importance of the work we do here and the value of our relationships. I am proud of the way PNWER was able to land on its feet and quickly began working on strategies for safe economic recovery in our region by producing webinars for our working groups, hosting meetings with all levels of leadership, and continuing our tradition of information-sharing and collaboration.

While most of the year was taken up with COVID-19, PNWER did hold a number of in-person meetings with legislators and policymakers before March including successful visits to our state capitals, and Washington, D.C. Prior to the shutdown, I was invited by the White House to witness the signing of the USMCA, which was a great privilege on behalf of PNWER and all the work that we have done to get it passed!

Not one to let challenges like COVID stand in our way, PNWER worked with industry leaders and legislators throughout the year to apply for a number of grants focused on regional economic recovery. This undertaking showcased the collaborative can-do spirit of the region to find solutions to our pressing challenges.

Also, I want to invite you all to join me in Big Sky, Montana, on August 15-19 for Round 2 of the 30th Annual Summit! While this year's Summit may look a little different, I can promise you a "Big Sky good time" whether you can join us in-person or virtually this year. We are currently planning a hybrid event which will allow our in-person attendees to enjoy our sweet mountain air and Montana country fun while also reaching a broader audience virtually throughout the region.

I will repeat what I said last year that is just as true and important today, if not more so! Together, we are stronger and better, at all levels. We are a diverse group with many competing interests, personalities, and political factions, but we stand on common ground and share so much. PNWER attracts those who care about the region and who believe that our region grows better and stronger together.

Lastly, I am honored that the PNWER Board extended my presidency through 2021 which allows me to continue to serve the region as we work together to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. We are a resilient region, and I have no doubt that we will emerge from this crisis stronger than ever together!

Sincerely,

Mike Cuffe

Senator Mike Cuffe, Montana PNWER President 2019 - 2021

COLLABORATIVE PROSPERITY: OVERCOMING CHALLENGES BY WORKING TOGETHER AS A REGION

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ABOUT PNWER

MISSION

GOALS

To increase the economic well-being and quality of life for all citizens of the region, while maintaining and enhancing our world-class natural environment.

Coordinate provincial and state policies throughout the region

Identify and promote "models of success"

- Serve as a conduit to exchange information
- Promote greater regional collaboration
- Enhance the competitiveness of the region in both domestic and international markets
- Leverage regional influence in Ottawa and Washington, D.C.
- Achieve continued economic growth while maintaining the region's natural environment

PNWER IS THE PREEMINENT BI-NATIONAL ADVOCATE FOR REGIONAL, STATE, PROVINCIAL, AND TERRITORIAL ISSUES

Founded in 1991, the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) is a public-private partnership chartered by the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington; the western Canadian provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan; and Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

PNWER is recognized by the federal governments of both the United States and Canada as the model for regional and bi-national cooperation because of its proven success.

PNWER is the leading forum where people in the policy world and the business world come together to figure out solutions to regional challenges in a bi-national forum.

2020 LEADERSHIP





Sen. Mike Cuffe President 2019 -2021 Montana Washington

Rep. Gael Tarleton Vice President





Sen. Chuck Winder

Vice President

Idaho



Rick Glumac, MLA Vice President **British Columbia**

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Premier Caroline

Cochrane

Wawzonek

Hon. Caroline

SASKATCHEWAN

Hon. Lori Carr

WASHINGTON

Premier Scott Moe

Larry Doke, MLA

Hon. Dustin Duncan

Warren Steinley, MLA

Sen. Jim Honeyford

Sen. Bob Hasegawa

Sen. Lisa Wellman (Alt)

Larry Doke, MLA Imm. Past President Saskatchewan

DELEGATE COUNCIL

Jurisdiction Leads on the PNWER Executive Committee are in bold

ALASKA

Gov. Mike Dunleavy Lt. Gov. Kevin Meyer Sen. Jesse Kiehl Sen. Mia Costello Sen. Donny Olson (Alt) Ідано Sen. Bill Wielechowski Gov. Brad Little (Alt)

Rep. Chris Tuck Rep. Dave Talerico

Rep. Chuck Kopp (Alt). Rep. George Rauscher (Alt).

PRIVATE SECTOR COUNCIL

PRIVATE SECTOR Co-CHAIRS David Bennett, FortisBC Dan Kirschner, NWGA

ALASKA

Casey Sullivan, Marathon Petroleum Hans Neidig, ExxonMobil

ALBERTA

Amanda Affonso, Enbridge Jim Donihee, CEPA Mike Simpson, Devon Energy Scott Thon, AltaLink

BRITISH COLUMBIA

David Bennett, FortisBC Dave Cowen, The Butchart Gardens Don Dalik, Fasken Martineau Hana Doubrava, Microsoft Colin Smith, Engineers & Geoscientists of B.C. Marcia Smith, Teck

ALBERTA

Premier Jason Kenney **Richard Gotfried**, MLA

BRITISH COLUMBIA Premier John Horgan **Rick Glumac, MLA** Dan Ashton, MLA

Sen. Michelle Stennett Sen. Chuck Winder Sen. Dan Johnson (Alt) **Rep. Elaine Smith** Rep. Rick Youngblood

Rep. Mat Erpelding (Alt)

IDAHO Ken Dey, J.R. Simplot Patrick Kole, Idaho Potato Commission Bob Naeurbout, Idaho Dairymen's Assn.

John Revere, INL/Battelle Jesse Ronnow, Zions Bank

Μοντανα

George Bailey, Mitsubishi Power Cory Fong, MDU Resources Mike Halligan, The Washington Companies Bob Rowe, Northwestern Energy

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Darrell Beaulieu, Denendeh Investments Pawan Chugh, NWT BDIC

Μοντανα

Gov. Steve Bullock Cliff Larsen Sen. Mike Cuffe Sen. Keith Reiger Sen. Jon Sesso (Alt) Rep. Derek Skees Rep. Bradley Hamlett

OREGON

Gov. Kate Brown Sen. Arnie Roblan Sen. Bill Hansell Rep. David Brock Smith Gov. Jay Inslee Rep. Caddy McKeown (Alt) Rep. Greg Barreto (Alt)

OREGON

Curt Abbott, Oregon PUD Association Dan Kirschner, Northwest Gas Association Sunny Radcliffe, PGE Mark Sytsma, Portland State University Diane Warner, Northwest Cement Council

SASKATCHEWAN

Shawna Argue, APEGS Chris Dekker, STEP Bob McDonald, APEGS Alan Migneault, AJM Management Corp Natashia Stinka, Canpotex Victor Thomas, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada Larry Long, Nutrien

WASHINGTON

Pam Brady, BP George Caan, WPUDA Matt Gill, Marathon

WASHINGTON CONT'D

Rep. Bruce Chandler Rep. Gael Tarleton Rep. Cindy Ryu (Alt) Rep. Bob Sutherland (Alt)

ΥυκοΝ

Premier Sandy Silver Paolo Gallina, MLA Hon. Ranj Pillai (Alt)

Petroleum Brandon Houskeeper, PSE Scott Kennedy, Alaska Airlines Irene Plenefisch, Microsoft Bob Sailer, PNWLG Dennis Vermillion, Avista Courtney Wallace, BNSF

ΥυκοΝ

Albert Drapeau, Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce Leneath Yanson, Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce

OTHER

David Miller, CN Amb. David Wilkins, Nelson Mullins

PNWER WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS

AGRICULTURE



Larry Doke, MLA Saskatchewan



Patrick Kole Vice President Idaho Potato Commission

Purpose: Provides input on agriculture trade issues to key decision makers in Ottawa and D.C. Focuses on agriculture trade with a primary examination of the USMCA and the Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) Action Plan.



Sen. Mike Cuffe Montana



Laurie Trautman Director Border Policy Research Institute

Purpose: Serves as a top forum for U.S.-Canada border coordination and collaboration by providing input on preclearance and recommendations for potential pilots in our region.

Border

CROSS-BORDER LIVESTOCK HEALTH



Dr. Tahnee Szymanski

Asst. State Vet

State of Montana



Janice Tranberg President and CEO AB Cattle Feeders Assoc



David Moss General Manager Canadian Cattleman's Assoc

Purpose: Exchanges information on animal health issues and emergency response to emerging and foreign animal diseases. Develops a common understanding of disease policies,

DISASTER RESILIENCE



Rep. Cindy Ryu Washington



Brad Richy Director ID Office of Emergency Management

Purpose: Works to create public-private partnerships, develop action plans, and undertake pilot projects and activities to improve regional disaster resilience cooperation and emergency preparedness.







Jobs Plus Inc.

Purpose: Shares case studies of initiatives that can be replicated, including innovative financing opportunities, rural economic development, Indigenous business development, and urban-to-rural economic drivers.



ENERGY



Dan Kirschner Executive Director Northwest Gas Association

Purpose: Strives to find ways to provide sustainable energy for North America that is clean, safe, affordable, and reliable while meeting low carbon targets and lowering the region's overall carbon footprint.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT



Rick Glumac, MLA Premier's Liaison to WA State British Columbia



Paul Manson CEO DC Grid Development Corporation

Purpose: Addresses the convergence of environmental sustainability and economic development, while promoting the region's competitiveness in addressing environmental challenges with innovative solutions.

FORESTRY





Sonya Germann State Forester Montana Dept. of Natural Resources

Travis Joseph President American Forest Resource Council

Purpose: Promotes collaboration between forest managers, landholders, legislators, agency staff, non-profits, and academics dedicated to healthy and sustainable forest management, conservancy, and wood products research.



Sen. Mia Costello Alaska



Nirav Desai CEO Moonbeam Exchange

Purpose: Channels the strengths of the region's resources into a collaborative, comprehensive effort to maximize economic benefit and respond to the competitive landscape of the global economy.

INVASIVE SPECIES



Rep. Terry Gestrin Idaho



Kate Wilson Commission Admin MT Dept. of Nat. Resources and Conservation

Purpose: Establishes a regional defense against invasive species threats by bringing together state and provincial partners to collaborate on initiatives and coordinate on strategic partnerships and information-sharing.



Tammy Johnson Montana Mining Association

Purpose: Identifies best practices for environmental sustainability while fostering responsible economic development, engaging with Indigenous groups to improve the quality of life in the region.



Purpose: Develops a more interconnected tourism region and facilitates collaboration among industry and public partners throughout the region. Tourism is one of the largest economic drivers in several PNWER jurisdictions.

onservancy, and wood products

PNWER WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS

TRADE



Sen. Mike Cuffe Montana



Purpose: Works with stakeholders to provide input to federal partners on issues impacting trade between the U.S. and Canada, including the USMCA, the impact of tariffs, and the regulatory cooperation council (RCC).

RANSPORTATION



Sen. Chuck Winde Idaho



Bruce Agnev Director Cascadia Center

Purpose: Collaborates on public policy of transportation corridors and gateways, shares best practices on technology development, infrastructure financing, and addresses the challenges of multi-modal market access to global markets.

WATER POLICY



Sen. Jim Honeyford Washington



David Hill Director of Development University of Lethbridge

Purpose: Addresses regional water policy issues and connects legislators, private-sector, and universities to identify best practices to improve water security, climate change adaptation, and water storage options.

Workforce Development



Sen. Lisa Wellman Washington



Russ Kinghorn Director to Engineers Engineers and Geoscientists of BC

Purpose: Provides member policymakers, governments, academia, and industry with ideas and advice in support of regional workforce policies that promote education, worker retention, and mobility within the region.



Clockwise from top right: Innovation co-chairs AK Sen. Mia Costello; Nirav Desai, CEO of Moonbeam; Steve Myers PNWER Senior Program Manager; and Margaret O'Mara from the University of Washington have a virtual PNWER Innovation working group planning session.

BORDER POLICY

COLLABORATION ON BORDER ACTION

PNWER partnered with North American Strategy for Competitiveness (NASCO) and over 30 other organizations to collaborate on a letter sent to leaders of North American federal government administrations (including President-Elect Joe Biden) to urge them to take immediate action on safely easing border restrictions at our North American borders. The letter also calls on the U.S. - Canadian governments to create and participate in two separate bi-national advisory committees on reducing border restrictions, facilitating uniform testing and screening standards, and developing accurate and coordinated contact tracing strategies at the northern and southern borders of the U.S.

CASCADIA INNOVATION CORRIDOR

As the co-chair of the Efficient Cross-Border Movement working group of the Cascadia Innovation Corridor (CIC), PNWER worked with stakeholders to host a webinar in September focused on innovating international travel. The session heard from speakers on the current situation at the northern border and on new technologies that our region is prepared to pilot. It also touched on new innovative approaches to screening passengers for COVID-19 at Vancouver and Seatac airports.

PRINCIPLES TO IMPLEMENT A PHASED APPROACH FOR EASING RESTRICTIONS AT THE BORDER

As the co-chair of the Future Borders Coalition, PNWER worked with dozens of organizations to develop "Principles to Implement a Phased Approach for Easing U.S.-Canada Border Closures and Other Travel Restrictions." These principles were shared with U.S. and Canadian federal agencies.



FUTURE BORDER COALITION PRINCIPLES

- 1. A bi-national and coordinated approach should be adopted with the aim to develop mutually accepted risk-mitigating measures and health protocols.
- 2. Both governments should adopt a layered riskbased approach when reviewing entry requirements and travel restrictions.
- 3. A phased approach for easing border restrictions should be informed by science-based criteria and communicated based on easily understood requirements.
- 4. The economic impact of border closures should be carefully assessed by both governments and inform the path towards the easing of border restrictions.

FUTURE BORDER COALITION WORKING GROUPS

- 1. Border Recovery Working Group
 - Air Border Recovery Task Force
 - Land Border Travel Recovery Task Force
 - Supply Chain / Goods Movement Task Force
 - Maritime Border Task Force
- 2. Communications Working Group
- 3. Applied Policy Research Working Group

LEGISLATIVE ENERGY HORIZON INSTITU

307 ALUMNI 18.420 HOURS 4.52 RATING 45 REGIONS

staffers, and executive branch officials have graduated from the program to date

Legislators, municipal leaders, committee

Hours contributed by legislators to participate in energy training

Legislators gave LEHI a rating of 4.52 out of 5 on quality, saliency, and content

38 U.S. States, 5 Canadian provinces and territories, District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and numerous local county and municipalities are part of the LEHI Alumni network

Now in its 11th year, the Legislative Energy Horizon Institute (LEHI) is a certificate program designed to educate state and provincial legislators and policymakers on the North American energy infrastructure and delivery system. The Institute's comprehensive curriculum helps policymakers understand how energy systems and infrastructure work, how energy infrastructure is built and financed, and the regulation and market impacts on energy infrastructure.

With major support from the U.S. Department of Energy, the Government of Canada, and world-class faculty from academia, industry, and government, the Institute seeks to bring together diverse viewpoints and ensure a wellrounded learning experience.

- ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION, TRANSMISSION, DISTRIBUTION
- NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION, TRANSMISSION, & DELIVERY
- PETROLEUM 101
- INTEGRATING RENEWABLES
- SMART GRID & ENERGY STORAGE
- CANADA'S ENERGY PICTURE
- FUTURE OF UTILITIES & RATEMAKING
- CARBON MARKETS
- CYBER SECURITY
- OUTLOOKS FOR STATE & PROVINCIAL ENERGY REGULATION



In light of the events around the global pandemic in 2020, the LEHI program was delivered as a series of virtual events. The 2020-21 LEHI Cohort participated in a LEHI Virtual Launch and will meet in-person in 2021.

The Institute delivered a series of interactive energy webinars throughout the year to the broad LEHI alumni network with expert speakers from across North America exploring cutting-edge technologies and energy policy.

VISIT WWW.LEHI.INSTITUTE

"If you want to understand the complexity and significance of energy policy to our civil society, then LEHI is your premier 'go-to' program to jump start your education."

Senator Albert Olszewski, MT

INSTITUTE PARTNERS

University of Idaho | U.S. Department of Energy | National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) | Government of Canada | Western Governors Association | Pacific Northwest National Laboratory | Energy Council











INVASIVE SPECIES

A major priority for PNWER is the prevention of aquatic invasive species in the region. PNWER regularly informs and advocates for invasive species funding, education, and prevention efforts at both the regional and federal levels. PNWER continues to champion efforts to combat the spread of invasive guagga and zebra mussels to the Pacific Northwest. Working with and promoting collaboration between state and provincial agencies, PNWER works to form a more coordinated regional defense perimeter to fight invasive mussels.

In 2019, four new river basins became eligible to access federal funds for watercraft inspection stations. PNWER successfully advocated for an increase of federal matching funds from \$5 million to \$15 million to ensure Northwest states were still able to adequately protect their waterways from aquatic

TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDING TO DATE

Total Match	\$19,120,905
Montana	\$8,562,876
Oregon	\$2,466,936
Washington	\$2,383,412
Idaho	\$5,707,681

invasive species, and the 2021 appropriation included this increase in funding for the inspection station program.

PNWER, WITH ITS REGIONAL PARTNERS, HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN SECURING OVER \$35 MILLION U.S. FEDERAL MATCHING FUNDS SINCE 2014 FOR WATERCRAFT INSPECTION **STATIONS FOR THE 4 NORTHWEST STATES** OF ID, MT, OR, AND WA TO PROTECT THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN.

In 2020, the PNWER Inasive Species working group and the Western Governors' Association (WGA) partnered on a webinar that explored the impacts of COVID-19 on prevention efforts. The webinar brought together over 300 experts, policy makers, and practitioners focused on the prevention and management of invasive species. The working group continues to advocate and support state, provincial, and territorial efforts to manage these species. Additionally, the working group continues to engage on other challenges including feral swine and northern pike.

hy Net-Zero? 70% 80% 90% CARBON 2020 2025 2030 TODAY fossil Fuel Energy Reduction 📃 Renewable 📒 Fossil Fuel Energy Consump The 2030 Challenge

Source: 622015-2030, Inc. / Architecture 2030; All Rights Reserved */Unity to Soul Your Should Hid emitting energy to operate

Increases resilience Endures extreme weather events and natural hazards through seismic and functional upgrades. Reduces depender

Increases affordability and value of buildings

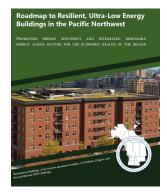
Contributors

cific Northwest Building Resilience Coalitio

ROADMAP TO ULTRA-LOW ENERGY AND RESILIENT BUILDINGS

In 2020, PNWER continued our Roadmap to Ultra-Low Energy and Resilient Buildings, a multi-year effort aimed at greener, more efficient, and more resilient buildings, and the development of a policy and technical roadmap for improving new and existing buildings within the 10-jurisdiction PNWER region. In the latest phase of the Roadmap for 2020 and beyond, PNWER has partnered with University of Victoria and the Pacific Northwest Building Resilience Coalition on a series on research projects examining

best practices in 1) building energy efficiency and emissions, 2) life cycle efficiency assessment of building materials and embodied carbon, and 3) resiliency to withstand or adapt to risks of climate change. The research projects will further develop tools to explore the optimization of new buildings and retrofits to meet net-zero energy targets and greenhouse gas reduction, and analyze resiliency maximization and anticipated climate risks for building design and retrofit solutions. The overarching purpose of the Roadmap project is to increase energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve resiliency and seismic resistance of new and existing buildings in the Pacific Northwest region.





COVID-19 RESOURCES PAGE

This evolving catalogue includes general resources for the pandemic, specific information on the U.S.-Canada border closure, essential workforce, public health, and economic impact.

regionalresilience.org/covid-19

PNWER's Center for Regional Disaster Resilience (CRDR) focuses on infrastructure interdependencies and disaster resilience projects. The CRDR is committed to working with states, provinces, territories and communities to develop regional public-private partnerships. This is done in a very collaborative fashion to provide workable and common sense solutions to the complex problems brought on by operating in the technology-heavy 21st Century. Our collective and ultimate goal is to reduce risks and eliminate vulnerabilities while building resilience in people, organizations, and institutions.

VISIT <u>REGIONALRESILIENCE.ORG</u>

CYBERSECURITY WEBINARS

Cybersecurity remains a high priority - even more so as people and organizations switched to working from home. All of our planned cybersecurity events ended up going virtual. The CRDR hosted two different cybersecurity workshop series with funding from King County, Washington, and Idaho Office of Emergency Management.

CENTER FOR REGIONAL

The April 2020 King County Region 6 Critical Infrastructure Working Group Cybersecurity Workshop was converted into a three-part webinar series.



The Ever Changing Role of the CISO and Future of Cyber Security Webinar

This webinar hosted a panel of expert Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) from the public and private sectors to discuss the changing role of the position and the future of these organizations in the virtual world. Speakers explored the impact of COVID-19 on how organizations are assessing risk, security, and workforce challenges and the impact this has on the role of a CISO.

<u>Cyber Threats</u> & Trends: <u>Impacts to the</u> <u>Connected</u> <u>Worker</u> Webinar

Webinar Today's workforce is more connected than ever before. The onset of COVID-19 has



brought about new challenges and vulnerabilities. There has been a massive shift in the workforce to employees working from home. This webinar explored the latest cyber threats to be aware of while experts discussed how employers can safeguard connected devices and protect employees.

Cybersecurity: Privacy and Risk Webinar

Ginger Armbruster, Chief Privacy Officer for the City of Seattle, and Katy Ruckle, Chief Privacy Officer for the State of Washington, explored the nexus of cybersecurity, privacy, and managing risks in today's connected world during this dynamic webinar. Safeguarding privacy and protecting our sensitive data in the digital world is something that has garnered much attention in recent years and will continue to be important issue in the future.



PNWER via the CRDR has partenered with Idaho's Office of Emergency Management for the past six years to develop their public-private sector coordination on cybersecurity through an annual statewide cyber summit. The Annual Idaho Cybersecurity Summit, which attracted over 300 in-person attendees in 2019, transitioned to a virtual webinar series that covered the topics below:

Tools, Resources & Best Practices for Small & Medium-Sized Organizations

This webinar explored how organizations can address cyber threats and weaknesses through readily-available and existing low-cost resources, toolkits, and training programs. They discussed the challenges and solutions for small to medium-sized organizations to prepare for and respond to the challenges of working from home.

Business Continuity	Business Continuity Analysis
Development Process Overview	Network Net

<u>Cybersecurity Pandemic Planning</u> <u>for Small & Medium-Sized</u> <u>Organizations</u>

Small and medium-sized organizations - including businesses, state agencies, county and city governments, local districts, educational and healthcare institutions- all need guidance and suggestions for cybersecurity planning during the time of COVID-19 and the shift to working from home.

Vulnerabilities when Working from Home

The shift to working from home has created numerous cyber vulnerabilities and human resources challenges. This webinar explored the dynamic challenges of working from the home office. Employees sharing networks and devices with family and roommates for work, education, and entertainment creates unique security challenges for companies. This webinar addressed how companies could safeguard



BLUE CASCADES COVID-19 RECOVERY CALLS CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE CYBERSECURITY DISASTER PLANNING on DRONES KEARTHOUAKE

INFORMATION SHARING

LIQUID FUEL SUPPLY

LONG-TERM POWER OUTAGES

MARITIME DISASTER RESILIENCE PLANNING

OIL TRAIN SAFETY

PUBLIC HEALTH

WILDFIRE RESPONSE

CENTER FOR REGIONAL DISASTER RESILIENCE (CONTINUED)

UPCOMING PROJECTS FOR 2021

Looking forward into 2021, the CRDR will be facilitating a Region 6 Critical Infrastructure Working Group project as well as hosting additional cybersecurity workshops in Idaho and Washington.



The interdependencies between critical infrastructures is something that we continue to focus on as a high priority for regional planning. One of these critical sectors that we will focus on in 2021 is the supply of liquid fuels of all types, gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, etc. King County and PNWER/CRDR are leading a planning effort to look at regional resilience planning as it relates to the availability and allocation of these fuels after a major disaster. Disruptions to the few pipelines supplying Western Washington, extending down to and including the Portland metro area, could have devastating cascading impacts across the region. Understanding our risks is the first step in planning. We will also explore what the priority uses of a limited fuel supply will be after a major event.

CIIDDIV

Another planning project that will start in early 2021 is the Maritime Disaster Resilience Planning project that an eight county, Central Puget Sound team has received funding for via a FEMA Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant (RCPG). Washington is a maritime state and, following a major earthquake, we can expect roads and bridges to be impacted for weeks and likely even months if the damages are severe. This project will look at how the maritime sector in Puget Sound can be used to move people, goods, and supplies in the immediate disaster response and also during the reconstruction and recovery period.



Continuing our cybersecurity theme, the Critical Infrastructure Working Group determined that more effort was needed to reach out to elected officials to educate them on the ever-present threats from nefarious actors, both foreign and domestic. We anticipate that we will be able to offer an in-person workshop by the fall of 2021 on this topic. Another element of this body of work will be looking at the security of elections here in the urban area of Puget Sound. Likewise, we plan to continue to build on our six year workshop series with the state of Idaho to develop a 2021 Idaho Cyber Resilience Summit in Boise. This annual event attracts over 300 participants and includes the Governor and many of his cabinet members. We are hopeful that we will be back to hosting an in-person meeting for this event in 2021. CRITICAL

COVID-19 RECOVERY CALLS

A REGULAR CALL SERIES EXAMINING COVID-19 RECOVERY BEST PRACTICES ACROSS PNWER JURISDICTIONS

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, PNWER assembled calls of elected officials and economic development leaders across the Pacific Northwest, providing them opportunities to discuss best practices and lessons learned during the crisis. Experts from the U.S. and Canada discussed new and emerging issues and ways our region can recover from the pandemic's far-reaching consequences.

Some of these calls focused on tools for recovery, including the Economic Recovery Dashboards in Washington State call, which discussed how the Washington Department of Commerce plans to utilize this new tool for equitable economic recovery. The Broadband Access as a Tool for Economic Recovery call discussed Canada's federal broadband initiatives and examined the positive economic and educational impacts of broadband expansion on rural communities in Idaho and Alaska.

The Rapid COVID Testing in the U.S. and Canada call included a presentation by experts about what rapid COVID testing is, limitations on this technology, and how it might be deployed in airports to ensure safer travel. The Contact Tracing and Exposure Notification Apps call highlighted Alberta's ABTraceTogether app, Virginia's COVIDWISE app, and Canada's federal exposure notification app COVID Alert, discussing the technology, privacy concerns, issues around uptake and ways this technology could help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

THE GOAL OF THIS CALL SERIES IS TO SHARE INFORMATION AND PROMOTE BEST PRACTICES TO ENSURE DECISION MAKERS IN OUR REGION CAN BETTER UNDERSTAND THE 'PUZZLE PIECES' THAT WILL SUPPORT SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE POST-COVID ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

VIEW RECAPS OF THE WEBINARS AT PNWER.ORG/COVID19-RECOVERY-CALL.HTML

WEBINAR TOPICS

Economic Recovery Dashboards

- Chris Green, WA State Dept of Commerce
- Steve Michelmore, Boston Consulting Group
- Charlie Davis, Boston Consulting Group

Contact Tracing and Exposure Notification Apps

- Dr. Jia Hu, Alberta Health Services
- Quinn Mah, Alberta Health
- ADM Marc Fortin, Health Canada
- Suresh Soundararajan, Virginia Dept. of Health

Rapid COVID Testing in the U.S. and Canada

- Dr. Paul Yager, Univeristy of Washington
- Kate Sharadin, UbiDx
- Beth Henschel, Vancouver Airport Authority

Broadband Access as a Tool for Economic Recovery

- Francis LaChapelle, MTA Wholesale
- Eric Forsch, Idaho Commerce
- Andrew Arbour, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

2020 ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP FORUM

VIRTUAL EVENT | NOVEMBER 16 - 19, 2021

While PNWER had been planning to hold our 2020 Economic Leadership Forum in Victoria,
 B.C. this winter - like many others- those plans were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
 We were very pleased instead to join with the South Island Prosperity Partnership for a combined PNWER Economic Leadership Forum with their Rising Economy Week. We are looking forward to a continued partnership with SIPP in the future.

CASCADIA'S NEXT ECONOMY: THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABLE MEGA-REGIONS

AMBASSADOR LISTENING SESSION WITH AMBASSADOR KIRSTEN HILLMAN And Charge d'Affaires katherine Brucker

U.S. - CANADA RELATIONS: AFTER THE U.S. Election

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND INNOVATION FOR Smart Borders

THE FUTURE OF FLIGHT: REIMAGINING Sustainable air travel post-covid

THE ZOOM BOOM: THE FUTURE OF WHERE WE LIVE AND HOW WE WORK

RESTARTING TOURISM: A ROADMAP TO Rebuilding a safe, resilient, and Sustainable visitor economy



Tourism is a key economic driver for our region and the tourism industry has been dramatically impacted by COVID-19. Our panelists from top left to bottom: Dave Cowen, The Butchart Gardens; Sen. Michelle Stennett-Idaho; Sarah Leonard, ATIA; Paul Nursey, Destination Greater Victoria; and Peter Armstrong, Rocky Mountaineer, addressed the unique challenges that face the region's tourism industry and what needs to be done now to support this crucial sector for our region.



We were delighted to have Ambassador Kirsten Hillman, Canada's Ambassador to the United States (top), and U.S. Acting Ambassador to Canada Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker (bottom) join us for a moderated listening session, during which select stakeholders had the opportunity share their concerns related to border issues, supply chains, trade, and bilateral cooperation during COVID-19. The Ambassador and Chargé d'Affaires were extremely pleased with the timing of this session and with the variety of perspectives being presented, as they develop their recommendations to the incoming U.S. administration. (PNWER's Recommendations on page 29)



Ryder Lee CEO Saskatchewan Cattleme Association Bridgitte Anderson President & CEO

Dave Cowen CEO The Butchart Gardens



Laurie Trautman to the CEO, Vancouv Airport Authority Laurie Trautman Director Border Policy Research Institute Ian Robertson CEO Greater Victoria Harbour Authority Bruce Agnew

ascadia Ce

"The key to moving forward is to be pragmatic, to be inclusive, and to try to find solutions that work and not worry about idealogic standing...that is the spirit that will help move our North American relationship forward."

- Dr. Christopher Sands Director, the Wilson Center's Canada Institute



PNWER was delighted to hear from Dr. Christopher Sands, Director of the Canada Institute with the Woodrow Wilson Center. Dr. Sands offered his perspective on the future of our important cross-border relationship with this new administration and addressed audience questions for an extremely informative 90-minute discussion, moderated by PNWER CEO Matt Morrison. Erik Schatzker, Editor-at-Large (top) at Bloomberg moderated a panel on Cascadia's Next Economy: The Future of Sustainable Mega-Regions. Panelists explored the rise of mega-regions and the importance of the Cascadia region on the world stage. Business Council of

"If we bring our respective legislative bodies together, work together, think big and bold outside the box, this will cement this corridor as one, rather than three."

- Chris Gregoire, CEO, Challenge Seattle; former Governor of the State of Washington



"We have a real commitment of strength of collaboration." - Greg D'Avignon, President & CEO

Business Council of B.C.



The Zoom Boom panelists explored how cities are changing as people reevaluate where they want to live, given the option to work remotely. (Clockwise from top left): Moderator Tom Banse, KUOW, NPW; Rory Capern, Rory Capern Advisory Services; Luke Mari, Aryze Development; Nirav Desai, Moonbeam; Rep. Mary Dye- WA.



British Columbia



Bruce Agnew Director, Cascadia Center and ACES NW Network

Greg McDougal under & CEO Harbour Air

JR Hammond **Executive Director** anadian Advanced



Yolanka Wuff **Co-Executive Director** Community Air Mobil Initiative (CAMI)

Roei Ganzarski CEO MagniX



Joe Sparling Air North

Adrienne Lindgren Urban Air Mobility Division Hyundai

Leaders in electric and regional aviation participated in a lively discussion about the future of aviation transportation and the ways policymakers can support the development of electric advanced air mobility.



THANKS TO OUR **PARTNERS**





(From top) Gerry Bruno with Vancouver Airport Authority, Laurie Trautman with the Border Policy Research Institute, and Solomon Wong with InterVistas Consulting, offered their recommendations on technologies and policies that need to be adopted now at the border to ease border restrictions in the future and ensure the safe and secure flow of goods and people.

PNWER WEBINAR SERIES

- Food for the Future: The Long-Term Implications of COVID-19 on Food **Supply**
- Decarbonization, Resilience, and the **Future of the Western Power Grid**
- Fighting Fires: Innovative Technology for Wildfire Management
- Innovating our Way Out of a Crisis: The Four Phases of Response
- Remote Workers and the Rise of the **Main Street**
- COVID-19 and Invasive Species **Programs**
- Policy Leaders Sustainable **Development Showcase of the Mining Sector**
- New Standard for Mining Industry A Cross-border collaborative approach to sustainability
- **PNWER Regional Tourism Task Force: Briefing from the Cruise Industry**
- Road & Rail: Safety in Separation
- Cutting the Red Tape: Permit **Modernization**
- Essential Worker Safety: Lessons Learned from the Water Sector
- Construction & COVID: B.C.'s Model for **Collaboration and Continuity**

AGRICIII TIIRF





The PNWER Agriculture and Cross-Border Livestock Health Working Groups co-hosted a webinar on the long-term implications of COVID-19 on the food supply. Over the past months, we have witnessed many unforeseen impacts of COVID-19 on food production, processing, and supply chains. Many of these short-term impacts will continue to have cascading effects across our agriculture sectors for many months and years to come. Regional experts came together to discuss what steps are being taken across the region to ensure that high levels of food safety are being maintained during the pandemic and beyond as well as how COVID-19 has been impacting trade and exports and what success stories and best practices have been seen in the region.

Moderated by Patrick Kole, Idaho Potato Commission, **PNWER Agriculture Co-Chair** Speakers included:

- Hon. David Marit, Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture
- Dr. Tahnee Szymanski, Assistant State Veterinarian, Montana



PNWER WEBINAR SERIES

MOVING FORWARD: A Sector-by-Sector Approach

to Economic Recovery

As the COVID-19 pandemic began impacting our communities, PNWER pivoted its activities to respond to the realities of our new world. Through our working groups, we started offering virtual programming through a webinar series focused on a sector-by-sector approach to economic recovery. Our top priority during this time is to foster safe and mutually beneficial collaboration.

- Ryder Lee, CEO, Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association
- Representative Mary Dye, Washington State Legislature



ENERGY





MHPS

Decarbonization, Resilience, and the Future of the Western Power Grid

PNWER partnered with NorthWestern Energy and Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems to hold a webinar on the future of the Western power grid. Utility executives from across the region participated in a panel discussion answering some of the questions below.

Questions:

How will the wetern region address the rapidly changing energy landscape (i.e. 1,000MWs reduction in the region's power resources due to the closing of fossil fuel power plants, etc.)? How can the region work together to develop viable solutions?

How do you see the need for large-scale energy storage?

What is the future of stored renewable hydrogen to support the region's power to gas opportunity?

The webinar concluded with a short report on Western Governors' Association Chair Oregon Governor Kate Brown's Electric Vehicle Roadmap Initiative.

Moderated by **Bob Rowe**, President & CEO, NorthWestern Energy Speakers included:

- Paul Browning, President & CEO, Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems Americas, Inc.
- Maria Pope, President & CEO, Portland General Electric
- Lisa Grow, President & CEO, IDACORP, Inc. and Idaho Power
- Jason Thackston, Senior Vice President, Avista
- David Bennett, Director, Communications, FortisBC
- Kevin Moss, Western Governors' Association

Fighting Fires: Innovative Technology for Wildfire Management

As wildfire seasons grow longer and more intense, innovations and advances in technology to fight these wildfires becomes increasingly crucial. Regional companies presented on what technology and services are being utilized and how the public sector can help in the development and integration of new and better technology for wildfire management. An additional point of discussion centered around communication issues and policies for the general public and what is and can be done to more effectively convey vital and time-sensitive information to the public through a variety of media.

Moderated by PNWER Forestry Co-Chair, **Travis Joseph**, President/CEO, American Forest Resource Council (pictured top)

Featured presentations from regional companies:

- Robert Atwood, CEO & Co-Founder, Hummingbird Drones
- Dan Snyder, Sr. Vice President, Neptune Aviation (pictured center)
- Ann Walker, Principal Consultant, Ann Walker Consulting (pictured bottom)



PNWER WEBINAR SERIES CONTINUED

INNOVATION



Innovating our Way Out of a Crisis: The Four Phases of Response

COVID-19 has shaken the world economy to its core – bringing cities and national economies to a grinding halt. Like any large machine, the U.S. and global economies will need an orderly restart to get humming again. We will recover from this, but economic patterns have changed. Localities that identify these changes and innovate to address emergent challenges will be the ones that prosper. As we reopen the economy, what lessons will we learn, and how will we retool to make the Pacific Northwest economic region even more vibrant than it once was?

Speakers: (Clockwise from top left)

- Margaret O'Mara, Howard & Frances Keller Endowed Professor, Department of History, University of Washington and author of *The Code: Silicon Valley* and the Remaking of America
- Senator Mia Costello, Alaska State Senator, PNWER Innovation Co-Chair
- Nirav Desai, CEO, Moonbeam Exchange, PNWER Innovation Co-Chair



INNOVATION



COVID-19 has disproportionately affected urban cores of cities due to population density, shared resources, and the difficulty of minimizing person-to-person spread. Additionally, it has introduced millions of workers to tools for remote productivity. If managed and planned for effectively, this could spark a golden age for small and medium sized-cities. This webinar featured a panel of representatives from three smaller towns in the PNW who highlighted how they are positioning to grow in the emerging new economy by levering their incumbent capabilities, strategic planning, and welcoming remote workers. They discussed different issues such as broadband requirements, inclusive growth, and virtual agglomeration.



Moderated by **Nirav Desai**, CEO, Moonbeam Exchange, PNWER Innovation Co-Chair Speakers included:

- **Senator Arnie Roblan**, Oregon State Legislature, Co-chair of the Joint Special Committee on the Coronavirus Response
- Krista Mallory, Manager, Central Okanagan EDC, Kelowna, BC
- **Brit Fontenot**, Director of Economic Development, City of Bozeman, MT

INVASIVE SPECIES



The Western Governors' Association and the Pacific Northwest Economic Region cohosted the webinar, COVID-19 and Invasive Species Programs. The webinar focused on similarities of the COVID-19 virus and invasive species.

Moderator: **Bill Whitacre**, Policy Advisor, Western Governors' Association Webinar Panelists:



 Invasive Species Program Coordinators across the country recognized that watercraft inspection & decontamination posed a risk for transmission of COVID-19 to staff & public.



WESTERN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

MINING

Policy Leaders Sustainable Development Showcase of the Mining Sector

The PNWER Mining working group co-chairs hosted a webinar to showcase more information about mining projects in the region. Attendees heard from regional legislators and stakeholders about recent activities on mitigation at the Troy Mine in Montana and the open comment period for the Midas Gold Stibnite Mine in Idaho.

The Midas Gold Stibnite Mining Project in the State of Idaho will lead to 1000 direct and indirect jobs; restoration of legacy mine activity, which will greatly enhance the environment and stop harmful leaching which has been going on for some time; investment in Idaho of \$1 billion over the next decade; and an increase to the North American critical mineral supply. The goal was to have attendees provide comments to the U.S. Forest Service before the open comment period ended on October 28, 2020.

Speakers included:

- Senator Keith Regier, Montana State Legislature, PNWER Mining Co-Chair
- **Tammy Johnson**, Executive Director of the Montana Mining Association, PNWER Mining Co-Chair
- Senator Chuck Winder, Idaho State Legislature, PNWER Vice President
- Stephen Quin, President & CEO of Midas Gold Corp.
- Laurel Sayer, President & CEO of Midas Gold Idaho, Inc.
- Mckinsey Lyon, Vice President Public Affairs





• Karen R. Hickman, Professor and Director, Environmental Science

Program, Ferguson College of

- Species Coordinator, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- Josh Shorb, Supervisor, Park County Weed and Pest Control District
- Lauri Hanauska-Brown, Nongame Wildlife Management Bureau Chief, Wildlife Division, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

PNWER WEBINAR SERIES CONTINUED

MINING



Teck

New Standard for Mining Industry - A Cross-border collaborative approach to sustainability

The PNWER Mining Working Group showcased a best practice in cross-border collaboration from the Mining Sector. Attendees learned how Teck Resources Ltd.'s approach to sustainability includes a comprehensive research and development program that has led to the development of a breakthrough technology to treat mine-impacted water. Working with Canadian and U.S.-based scientists, Teck's Saturated Rock Fill technology has proven to achieve near complete removal of selenium and nitrate from mine-impacted waters and is a game-changer for the mining industry.

Speakers included:

- Senator Keith Regier, Montana State Legislature, PNWER Mining Co-Chair
- Senator Mike Cuffe, Montana State Legislature, PNWER President
- **Tammy Johnson**, Executive Director of the Montana Mining Association, PNWER Mining Co-Chair
- **Dean Runzer**, General Manager Water Quality



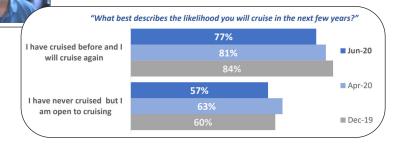
- Dr. Liz Karbashewski Manager, Applied R&D, Teck
- **Dr. Lisa Kirk** Principal Geochemist and President of Enviromin, Inc. and Assistant Research Professor in Chemical and Biological Engineering at Montana State University
- Daryl Hockley Corporate Consultant (GeoEnvironmental) SRK Consulting

PNWER Regional Tourism Task Force: Briefing from the Cruise Industry

PNWER's Regional Tourism Task Force received a briefing from Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) on the current state of the cruise industry and what initiatives are underway to ensure the safe and secure return of cruising as well as the possible solutions for health protocols, bio-security, and other concerns.

Speakers included: (pictured from left to right)

- Dave Cowen, CEO, The Butchart Gardens; PNWER Tourism Co-Chair
- **Mike McGarry,** SVP, Global Government Affairs, Cruise Lines International Association
- Brian Salerno, SVP, Maritime Policy, Cruise Lines International Association



TRANSPORTATION

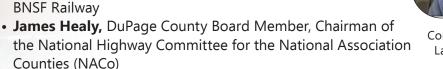


Road & Rail: Safety in Separation

Rail transit is an essential part of the transportation of consumer goods across North America. However, the areas where railroads intersect with highway systems cause congestion, delays, and present significant safety risks. With the potential for a major Congressional infrastructure bill on the horizon, federal highway-rail grade separation must be prioritized to improve safety and efficiency of the United State's infrastructure. Speakers during this webinar addressed how federal, state, and local governments can work with railroads and community stakeholders to implement high-cost grade separation projects to improve community safety and increase efficiency.

Moderated by PNWER Transportation Co-Chairs **Bruce Agnew** and **Sen. Chuck Winder** (ID), featured speakers included:

- Representative Rick Larsen (WA), U.S. House of Representatives
- Andrew Johnson, Consultant, Former 15-year Assistant VP, BNSF Railway



- Paul Cristina, Director of Public Projects & System Design, BNSF Railway
- Devan Fitch, Director Infrastructure Delivery, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority

TRANSPORTATION



The permitting process for infrastructure projects across the United States is dated and often redundant, causing expensive delays before projects are even cleared to begin construction. In the U.S., the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (FPISC) seeks to streamline this federal permitting process without changing existing regulations, applying a 21st century program management approach to qualifying federal projects. Canada was successfully able to streamline federal and provincial permitting to complete the Asia Pacific Gateway project in the mid-2000's and has valuable best practices that can be implemented in the U.S. From a labor perspective, permit modernization and streamlining - without changing the substance of environmental regulations or other laws - could help support local job markets, especially following the COVID-19-related economic downturn. Following expert presentations, state legislators from Alaska, Idaho, and Washington discussed how a state-level permit streamlining council, similar to the FPISC, could help local infrastructure projects.

Moderated by PNWER Transportation Co-Chairs **Bruce Agnew** and **Sen. Chuck Winder**, featured speakers include:

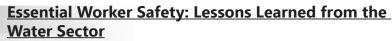
- Alex Herrgott, FPISC Executive Director
- John Higginbotham, Former Assistant Deputy Minister (2005-10), Transport Canada
- Mike Bridges, President of Longview / Kelso Building Council and Business Representative for IBEW Local 48
- Senator Shelley Hughes, Alaska State Legislature
- Senator Chuck Winder, Idaho State Legislature
- Representative Jake Fey, Washington State Legislature



Congressman Rick Larsen provides comments

PNWER WEBINAR SERIES CONTINUED

WATER



PNWER's Water Policy Working Group held a webinar highlighting Essential Worker Safety and showcasing lessons learned and best practices from the U.S. and Canada. Experts shared what their organizations are doing to keep essential workers safe and what the continued impacts of the pandemic mean for the water sector.

Introductions and Welcome

Co-Chairs, **Sen. Jim Honeyford**, WA and **David Hill**, University of Lethbridge

Speakers included:

- Bernadette Conant, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Water Network
- George Sidhu, General Manager, Skagit County PUD
- Cindy Shepel, Director of Drainage Operations, EPCOR Water Services, Inc.





WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Construction & COVID: B.C.'s Model for Collaboration and Continuity

While the rest of the world was shut down, construction workers in British Columbia were able to stay on the job with few COVID cases and no related hospitalizations. This webinar explored how close coordination between the provincial-level WorkSafeBC and the BC Construction Safety Alliance (BCCSA) resulted in clear, effective guidelines for construction work continuity during this pandemic. Speakers investigated how the public and private sector can work together to guarantee the

safety of their workers, effective timelines for collaboration, and the best practices that can be carried forward as we move towards a possible second wave of COVID-19 in the fall.

Moderated by **Charles Kelly,** President, Great Northern Management Consultants Speakers include:

- **Mike McKenna**, Executive Director, British Columbia Construction Safety Alliance (BCCSA)
- **Dr. Dave Baspaly,** President & CEO, Council of Construction Associations (COCA)



- 24 | PACIFIC NORTHWEST ECONOMIC REGION Ch
- Chris Atchison, President, British Columbia Construction Association (BCCA)
 - **Chris Back**, Director, OHS Consultation & Education Services, WorkSafeBC

PNWER WORKING GROUP ACTION ITEMS



PNWER Transportation Working Group Co-Chair Bruce Agnew (top left) moderates a webinar titled "Road & Rail: Safety in Separation" featuring partner BNSF.

WORKING GROUPS

PNWER's working groups, co-chaired by the public and private sectors, meet throughout the year with stakeholders to address regional items. The working groups quickly pivoted to virtual meetings, sharing content as part of PNWER's webinar series "Moving Forward: A Sector-by-Sector Approach to Safe Economic Recovery."

ACTION ITEMS

Action Items are developed by working groups typically during PNWER's two annual meetings and approved by the Executive Committee. They represent concrete actions the working groups will take to advance the priorities identified and constitute PNWER's priority work throughout the year. The 2020 Action Items were derived from the numerous working group webinars hosted throughout the year.



- 1. Given the PNWER region's potential to lead the globe in electric aviation, PNWER will support the importance of incentivizing electrification of air travel
- 2. Compile a list of recommendations from key stakeholders to provide to the new U.S. administration
- 3. Build bi-national collaboration for research on reopening the border safely and for new technologies to address COVID-19 challenges
- 4. Organize a meeting with the regional Consuls General and key Tourism stakeholders to discuss 'easing restrictions' at the border
- 5. Support the Woodrow Wilson Easing Border Restriction Task Force by hosting a session with the PNWER Tourism Task Force
- 6. PNWER should seek funding for bringing talent and innovation to key industry challenges in COVID-19 recovery
- 7. Advocate for equitable broadband deployment, especially in rural and underserved areas
- 8. Critical Minerals- Promote the Joint Action Plan collaboration between U.S. and Canada and recommend to the new administration that it be continued
- 9. Continue the dialogue with regional energy leaders on renewable energy storage and resource adequacy for the PNWER region
- 10. Continue to seek grant/project funding to suport disaster resilience efforts in the region. Execute on existing projects for which there are agreements in place already

CAPITAL VISITS

Each year, the PNWER Executive Committee visits our region's capitals to advocate for regional issues and assess priorities that PNWER should focus on in the coming year. Meetings with legislative majority and minoirty leadership, governors and premiers, and key executive branch staff provide an opportunity to discuss regional trade and PNWER programs. The visits also allow for cross-border legislative collaboration.

Major themes this year included regional innovation, 5G technology, invasive species prevention and funding, Columbia River treaty negotiations, precision agriculture, wildfire prevention, drones, energy policy, infrastructure and transportation, and opportunities for collaboration among the entire region.



PNWER met with ID Governor Brad Little to discuss several issues including invasive species funding, infrastructure permitting, and cybersecurity.

Other one-on-one meetings included discussions with Lt. Gov. Janice McGeachin, Speaker Scott Bedke, Senate Pro Tem Brent Hill, Senate Minority Leader Michelle Stennett, Rep. John Vander Woude- Chair of the House Environment, Energy, and Technology Committee, and Scott Pugrud- Director of the Idaho Office of Species Conservation and the lead of Governor Little's Salmon Working Group.



Sen. Chuck Winder addresses his fellow Idaho legislators at the PNWER Lunch and Learn session.

BOISE COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS IN 2020 Senate Agriculture Affairs Senate Transportation

The PNWER delegation had a productive visit with Lt. Gov. Kevin Meyer to discuss several topics related to transportation, economic development, and the Arctic. Additionally, they met with Senate Minority Leader Tom Begich, Sen. John Coghill, Sen. Jesse Kiehl, Sen. Bert Stedman, Sen. Gary Stevens, House Minority Leader Lance Pruitt, Rep. Chuck Kopp, Rep. Chris Tuck, and Rep. Adam Wool. At the Lunch and Learn, hosted by Sen. Mia Costello, attendees heard from Consul General Brandon Lee, Sen. Mike Cuffe, and Matt Morrison about the current U.S. -Canada relationship.





PNWER met with the Alaska Marine Exchange to learn more about the maritime domain management and their work to improve safe transit of vessels through Alaskan waters.



PNWER delegation meeting with Senate Majority Leader Lyman Hoffman

OLYMPIA COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS In 2020

> SENATE AG, WATER, NATURAL Resources & Parks

HOUSE ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

HOUSE INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGY & Economic Development

HOUSE RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES Delegation members met for one-on-one meetings with Lt. Governor Cyrus Habib; Sen. Steve Hobbs, Transportation Committee Chair; Governor Inslee's energy policy staff; Minority Leader Rep. J.T. Wilcox; Rep. Zack Hudgins, Chair of the Innovation, Tech & Ec Dev Committee; Sen. Lisa Wellman, Environment, Energy & Tech Committee, Rep. Mary Dye, Rep. Cindy Ryu, Sen. Jim Honeyford, and Rep. Sharon Wylie, Transporation 1st Vice Chair.



PNWER delegation meeting with House Minority Leader Rep. J.T. Wilcox



Discussing innovation, economic development, and trade with Lt. Gov. Cyrus Habib.

Meetings covered a wide range of topics from the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), invasive quagga zebra mussels, infrastructure financing, retraining displaced workforces, and the importance of tecnology in regional innovation.



OR State Sen. Arnie Roblan, MT State Sen. Mike Cuffe, and PNWER's Brandon Hardenbrook present to the Senate Ag, Water & Natural Resources committee.

"Here in the Pacific Northwest," we are stronger by working closely together, and our relationships are intact because of the ongoing partnerships in every major sector of the economy, and in state, provincial, territorial, and tribal governments." - Sen. Arnie Roblan, OR, PNWER Past President 2017-2018 Matt Morrison, PNWER Executive Director, visited Salem, Oregon, for meetings with key Oregon legislators, LEHI alumni, and members of Governor Kate Brown's office. Topics ranged from transportation and the Columbia River Bridge crossing, aquatic invasive species funding, the Cascadia Innovation Corridor, and disaster resilience among others.

These one-on-one meetings included discussions with Sen. Arnie Roblan; Sen. Lee Beyer; Sen. Michael Dembrow; Sen. Bill Hansell; Sen. Lew

Frederick; Rep. Caddy McKeown; Sen. Alan Olsen; Rep. Ken Helm; Sen. Betsy Johnson; Sen. James Manning; Sen. Dennis Lithicum; Rep. Nancy Nathanson; Rep. Pam Marsh; Rep. David Brock Smith; Gina Zejdlik, Deputy Chief of Staff to Gov. Kate Brown; and Leah Horner, Regional Solutions Director and Jobs & Economic Policy Advisor to Gov. Kate Brown.



FEDERAL ENGAGEMENT

7TH NORTH AMERICAN ARCTIC LEADERS FORUM

The 7th North American Arctic Leaders Forum was held on March 12, 2020 at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski (AK) hosted this event in collaboration with PNWER. The theme focused on how jurisdictions could work towards a stronger North American Arctic partnership. Sen. Murkowski provided a keynote presentation to the group of attendees from several U.S. Federal agencies and private businesses. Several Arctic experts spoke at the Forum and shared insights on the importance of collaboration.



PRESIDENT SEN. MIKE CUFFE, PAST PRESIDENT MLA LARRY DOKE AND MATT MORRISON

GENERAL D.C. MLLINUS PNWER met with a number of U.S. Congressional members and Executive Staff, which was a great opportunity to showcase the U.S.-Canada relationship, the work PNWER is undertaking, and to hear from the legislative leadership about the work they are doing.

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PNWER CHAMPIONS CRITICAL POLICY ISSUES IMPORTANT TO THE **REGION AT THE FEDERAL LEVELS IN** WASHINGTON, D.C. AND OTTAWA



Amb. Kirsten Hillman and Charge D'AFFAIRES KATHERINE BRUCKER SPOKE DURING PNWER'S ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP FORUM





PNWER PRESIDENT SEN. MIKE CUFFE WITH U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DON YOUNG

7th Annual North American Arctic Leaders Forum Speakers John Farrell, U.S. Arctic Research Commission Larry Hinzman, University of Alaska-Fairbanks Daniel Kachur, U.S. Department of State Kip Knudson, Office of Governor of Alaska Martin Loken, Embassy of Canada Matt Morrison, PNWER Senator Lisa Murkowski, Alaska Inuuteg Holm Olsen, Government of Greenland Christopher Sands, Canada Institute Zachary Schulman, U.S. Coast Guard Mead Treadwell, A2A Rail





PNWER continued to work with the Consulate General of Seattle on promoting the U.S.-Canada relationship. July 2020 saw the implementation of the USMCA during the pandemic. More is coming on its impacts, and PNWER will continue to be a regional resource for the improvement of U.S.-Canada trade and mobility.

Additionally, PNWER continues to monitor and share updates on the Columbia River Treaty renegotiation. We will continue to support the negotiation process to have long-term sustainable solutions for this important treaty.

The Federal Government of Canada continues to be a major contributor to the LEHI program, and PNWER looks forward to continuing this great relationship on such a critical initiative for the region and both countries.

RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR THE NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION WITH REGARD TO U.S.-CANADA RELATIONS

TRADE AND REGULATORY COOPERATION

U.S. Department of Commerce; U.S. Treasury Department

- PNWER encourages the U.S. and Canada to embrace the free trade framework provided by the USMCA, which benefits industries on both sides of the border.
- PNWER supports the Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) process and recognizes the importance it plays in facilitating cooperation between the U.S. and Canada. We encourage continued facilitation of harmonized regulatory standards.

COVID RECOVERY AND SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE

U.S. Department of Commerce

- U.S. and Canadian supply chains are deeply interconnected, and we must maintain this collaboration to ensure buyers, sellers, service providers, and experts can continue crossing the border to keep these relationships alive and trade flowing freely.
- COVID-19 exposed weaknesses in U.S. supply chains and has resulted in renewed interest for protectionist and 'Buy American' policies. While reshoring and cultivating local supply chains is important, the U.S. must preserve its reciprocal and collaborative supply chains across the Canadian border. As new global trade relationships are established, the U.S. - Canadian trade relationship is more important than ever.

SAFELY REOPENING THE BORDER

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

- The U.S. should work with Canada to develop a coordinated plan for the eventual safe reopening of the land border to non-essential travelers. This must include a discussion on reopening bi-national tourism.
- The U.S. and Canada must present a strong, safe, and well-coordinated border reopening message. Reopening the land border between the U.S. and Canada to non-essential travelers will be vital for the economic recovery of the border region and the reemergence of the bi-national tourism industry. Bi-national tourism brings sustainable income to small towns, especially as their economies move away from extractive industries. Coordinated reopenings with clear guidelines aligned with public health recommendations will allow businesses to safely bring customers across the border and generate consumer confidence.
- PNWER supports the Future Border Coalition's Four Principles to Implement a Phased Approach for Easing Canada-U.S. Border Closures and Other Travel Restrictions:
 - 1. A bi-national and coordinated approach should be adopted with the objective to develop mutually accepted risk-mitigating measuers and health protocols.
 - 2. Both governments should adopt a layered risk-based approach when reviewing entry requirements and travel restrictions.
 - 3. A phased approach for easing border restrictions should be informed by science-based criteria and communicated based on easily understood requirements.
 - 4. The economic impact of border closures on communities should be carefully assessed by both governments and inform the path towards the easing of border restrictions.

COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY

U.S. Department of State

• PNWER supports the continuation and modernization of the Columbia River Treaty.

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

BORDER TECHNOLOGY

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

- Twenty-frst century technology must be employed to ensure the health, safety, and security of our borders. PNWER supports the creation of pilot programs to test these new technologies in our border regions and urges the Biden Administration to provide funding for these projects.
- The Pacific Northwest hosts a wide variety of high-tech companies on both sides of the U.S. Canada border, many
 of which have a vested interest in using technology to safely reopen travel. Technologies such as vicinity-readable
 RFID in documents, facial verification, and virtual adjudications can protect the health of border officers and
 travelers alike by creating a more seamless and touchless processing environment.
- PNWER urges the Biden Administration to fund pilot programs to trial run these technologies and border-crossing solutions.

PRECLEARANCE

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

• We encourage a methodical process of implementing preclearance at the land, marine, and rail borders. In order to implement preclearance in the most effective and efficient way, we encourage new investment and research to ensure that commerce and tourism remain unhindered and ideally improved by the implementation of preclearance measures. This can only be accomplished by working together as a region to understand policy and economic hurdles and to find solutions. Maximum flexibility and creativity are required as this process unfolds across the region.

BI-NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY

U.S. Department of Energy

- Energy is an integral part of the U.S.-Canada trade relationship, with Canada being our largest energy trade partner (\$119b in 2019). The energy system is heavily integrated and includes cross-border pipelines and transmission.
 PNWER encourages the new administration to strategically address the long-term energy security needs of the U.S. and Canada, and recognize the importance of this crucial and integrated energy system to the economic, safety, and security of the United States.
- PNWER hosts a bi-national energy policy course for state and provincial legislators to educate them on key energy topics that they are addressing in their legislative committees. We encourage continued investment in these types of programs to ensure our policy makers have a clear understanding of the North American energy picture. The Department of Energy should continue to support funding to educate state and local policymakers on best practices in energy policy.
- In order for states to achieve climate targets, multi-state planning must include Canadian provinces, because of
 our energy interdependencies. To achieve climate change goals and greater decarbonization, more funding is
 needed to address cross-border research, share best practices, and plan for the long-term infrastructure that will
 be needed to achieve those targets. This planning must include both public and private collaboration, for example
 on the future of green hydrogen.

MINING

U.S. Department of Commerce

• Continue to collaborate with Canada on the Joint Action Plan on Critical Minerals Supplies. Securing Critical Minerals in Canada and the United States is an issue that will continue to be important to the bi-national relationship.

CROSS-BORDER INFRASTRUCTURE

U.S. Department of Transportation

- PNWER urges the Biden Administration to fully fund a comprehensive transportation package with initiatives for innovative transportation modes, including expanded electrification options for vehicles and aircraft. This package should also include funding for the Regional Infrastructure Accelerator Demonstration Program, which was first created by Section 1441 of the 2015 Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.
- PNWER supports ongoing cooperation on cross-border infrastructure development, especially the creation of a High-Speed Rail service from Vancouver, B.C. to Portland, OR.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- PNWER actively advocates for the importance of aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention, especially along the U.S.-Canadian border.
- We encourage increased collaboration with border enforcement to prevent the spread of invasive mussels across the border. This involves working with local, state, and provincial governments on a regional prevention and response strategy.
- Continue to support the U.S. ACE program supporting state efforts at the prevention of aquatic invasive species.

DISASTER RESILIENCE

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

- PNWER supports cross-border disaster resilience coordination and efforts to encourage further development of cross-border relationships between critical service providers and emergency management leaders to develop and share best practices and plans.
- We encourage the development of opportunities to collaborate on preparedness and response coordination for a catastrophic Cascadia subduction zone earthquake event that will impact the entire cross-border region.
- We support continued cybersecurity coordination and sharing of best practices across border states and provinces to include both the public and private sectors.
- Continue to support the Regional Catastrophic Planning Grant Program. These grant funds are focused on regional planning and encourage jurisdictions to look at large scale disasters in a multi-jurisdictional manner.

ARCTIC POLICY

U.S. Department of Interior; U.S. Department of Defense; U.S. Department of Commerce

- The United States must work with Canada and Tribal Organizations to promote greater collaboration and coordination in all sectors within the Arctic. A strong, united North American Arctic is key to ensuring continued safety and security for both countries in the Far North.
- Continue to support the modernization of the U.S. Coast Guard Icebreaker program.

FORESTRY

U.S. Department of Interior; U.S. Forest Service

- With increasingly long and intense wildfire seasons, the U.S. and Canada should work with States and Provinces and Tribal Organizations and First Nations to share best practices on wildfire suppression, reforestation and recovery after wildfires, and community adaptation and resiliency.
- The U.S. Forest Service should remain committed to Shared Stewardship and Good Neighbor Authority and engage in collaborative cross-boundary efforts.

PARTNERS, SUPPORTERS, & MEMBERS

PNWER IS GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF OUR REGIONAL PARTNERS.

Our economy is strengthened by our regional connections, and it was the recognition of the need to build strong partnerships across these borders that first prompted the formation of PNWER 30 years ago. PNWER's reach cross-border and region-wide makes it a valuable organization for business and government leaders alike.

STATUTORY MEMBERS

- Alaska
- Alberta
- British Columbia
- Idaho
- Montana

- Northwest Territories
- Oregon
- Saskatchewan
- Washington
- Yukon

"Think of us not as two great countries, but as one great place... Innovation requires diversity. The best ideas come when you bring together people who think differently."

-Brad Smith, President of Microsoft

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS & ASSOCIATIONS

- Canada Border Services Agency
- Cascadia Innovation Corridor
- City of Bozeman
- City of Seattle
- Consulate General of Canada in Seattle
- Cyber Incident Response Coalition & Analysis Sharing (CIRCAS)
- Energy Council
- Flathead Basin Commision
- Future Borders Coalition
- Government of Canada
- Idaho Office of Emergency
 Management
- King County Office of Emergency
 Management
- NASCO

- National Conference of State Legislatures
- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)
- Pass USMCA Coalition
- U.S. Consulate General in Calgary
- U.S. Consulate General in Vancouver
- U.S. Customs & Border Protection
- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- Washington State Homeland Security Region 6
- Washington State Military
 Department
- Western Governors Association

ACADEMIC PARTNERS

- Border Policy Research Institute at WWU
- Northeastern University
- Portland State University
- Spokane Community Colleges
- University of Idaho

SUPPORTERS & MEMBERS OF PRIVATE SECTOR COUNCIL

- ACES Northwest Network
- Adventech
- Alaska Airlines
- Alberta Beef Producers
- AltaLink
- Amazon
- American Electric Power
- American Gas Association
- American Public Power Association
- Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada
- Association of Professional Engineers
 & Geoscientists of Alberta
- Association of Professional Engineers
 & Geoscientists of Saskatchewan
- Avista
- Battelle
- BERK Consulting
- Berkshire Hathaway Energy
- BNSF Railway
- BP
- The Butchart Gardens
- Calgary Economic Development
- Cameco
- Canadian American Business Council
- Canadian Association of Petroleum
 Producers
- Canadian Energy Pipeline Association
- Canpotex

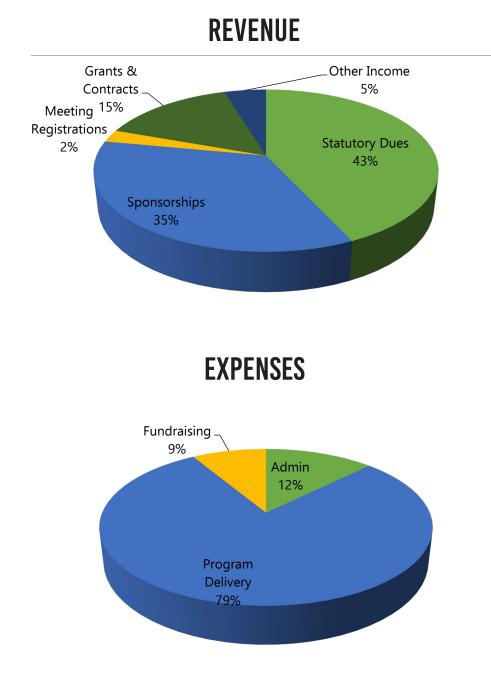
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- Community Colleges of Spokane
- CN
- Cruise Lines International
- Edison Electric Institute
- Enbridge
- Engineers & Geoscientists of B.C.
- ExxonMobil
- Fasken Martineau
- Food Northwest
- FortisBC
- Hecla Mining Company
- Idaho Dairymen's Association
- Idaho Forest Group
- Idaho Potato Commission
- J.R. Simplot
- Marathon Petroleum
- MDU Resources
- Microsoft
- Mitsubishi Power
- Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association
- Montana Logging Association
 - Moonbeam Exchange
 - Mosaic
- NASCO
- Nelson Mullins
- Northwest Cement Council
- Northwest Gas Association

- University of British Columbia
- University of Saskatchewan
- University of Victoria
- University of Washington
- Western Washington University
 - Northwestern Energy
 - Pacific Northwest Building Resilience Coalition
 - Pacific Northwest Law
 Group
 - Port of Seattle
 - Port of Vancouver
 - Portland General Electric
 - Puget Sound Energy
 - SK Cattlemen's Association
 - SK Trade and Export Partnership
 - Teck
 - The Washington Companies
 - Town Pump
 - Vancouver International
 Airport
 - Washington Public Utility Districts Assoc.
 - Washington Tourism Alliance
 - Westin Building Exchange
 - Weyerhaeuser
 - Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce

FINANCIAL REPORT

THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST ECONOMIC REGION FOUNDATION OPERATES AS A U.S. 501(C)6 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.

PNWER's income is derived from statutory dues from member jurisdictions as well as state, provincial, and federal grants and contracts, and private sector contributions. Private sector sponsorships vary by company and amount and help fund projects, meetings, and conferences.



FISCAL YEAR 2020 REVENUE

Total Revenue	\$965,985
Other Income	\$45,037
Meeting Registrations	\$24,070
Grants & Contracts	\$143,570
Sponsorships	\$337,308
Statutory Dues	\$416,000

FISCAL YEAR 2020 EXPENSES

Program Delivery	\$864,838
Administrative	\$138,241
Fund Raising	\$94,453

Total Expenses

\$1,097,532

PNWER STAFF



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PNWER INTERNSHIPS

PNWER is proud to be able to offer the opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience in U.S.-Canada relations and economic development. Each quarter, we look forward to supporting students as they develop practical skills and provide them with opportunities to discover their strengths in order to become the leaders of the next generation. If you know of interested students located in the greater Seattle area, please email intern@pnwer.org.





Pacific NorthWest Economic Region Big Sky, Montana | August 15 - 19, 2021

The leading forum where people in the policy world and the business world come together to figure out solutions to regional challenges 30th PNWER Annual Summit

VISIT <u>PNWER.ORG/2021-SUMMIT</u> FOR MORE INFORMATION

2021 HYBRID IN-PERSON, VIRTUAL SUMMIT

As the COVID-19 pandemic began impacting our communities, PNWER made the difficult decision to postpone the 2020 Annual Summit, but we look forward to hosting the 2021 Summit in Big Sky, Montana, August 15-19, 2021.

With respect to concerns over the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, PNWER's 2021 Summit is currently being planned as a hybrid event. The 2021 Summit promises robust in-person and virtual content and networking opportunities which will allow our in-person attendees to enjoy all that Big Sky has to offer as well as the opportunity to reach a broader audience virtually throughout the region and as far away as Ottawa and Washington, D.C. We hope that most of our delegates will be able to be vaccinated before August and ready to join us in Montana!

PNWER'S TOP PRIORITY DURING THIS TIME IS TO FOSTER SAFE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COLLABORATION.

WHY ATTEND THE SUMMIT?

The PNWER Annual Summit provides the opportunity for delegates to:

- Collaborate with U.S. & Canadian public and private sector leaders
- Strengthen regional cooperation
- Learn about key economic issues
- Advocate for regional interests
- Discover a working group and join regional leaders throughout the year in collaborating on issues



"PNWER is a nuts and bolts operation that gets things done. We are a diverse group with many competing interests, personalities, and political factors, but in our region, we have many common interests and can find common ground to stand on. PNWER attracts those who care about the region and believe that our region grows better and stronger together.

- Sen. Mike Cuffe, MT PNWER President 2019 - 2021





Reception

Sen. John Brendan & Amb. Bruce Heyman,U.S. Ambassador to



NWER Summit

4

2015

Amb. David Wilkins, Sen. Mike Cuffe, and **U.S. Senator Steve Daines**









Pacific NorthWest Economic Region

Pacific Northwest Economic Region 2200 Alaskan Way, Ste 460 Seattle, WA 98121