



Pacific NorthWest
Economic Region

WASHINGTON 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.

Some of the recent successes for Washington include:

Annual Summit - Building a Resilient Future through Collaboration, Innovation & Trade

The PNWER Annual Summit, this year held in Bellevue, Washington, serves as a powerful binational platform for regional policymakers, business leaders, associations, nonprofits and academics to share best practices and advance solutions across a variety of issue areas.

This year's event was co-chaired by Washington Representative Cindy Ryu, Alaska/Hawaiian Airlines' Diana Birkett Rakow and Microsoft's Mary Snapp.

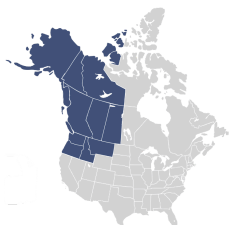
Key topics included:

- Energy
- Trade Concerns
- Supply Chains
- Disaster Resilience
- Tourism Readiness
- Emerging Technologies



Advancing the Regional Energy Economy

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. 58 policymakers and staff from Washington have graduated from LEHI.



PNWER conducted a first-of-its-kind study exploring cross-border opportunities and linkages for building out the regional hydrogen economy. PNWER secured a cost share agreement with the Washington State Department of Commerce and British Columbia Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions to expand the analysis, and contracted Deloitte to conduct the study.

Federal Engagement

PNWER leadership met with staff of U.S. Senators Maria Cantwell (right) and Patty Murray in Washington, D.C. to provide updates on work in Washington and strengthen connections with delegates from neighboring jurisdictions.



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 Washington, the PNWER RIA provides technical expertise on innovative financing tools for infrastructure upgrades to the Amtrak Cascades corridor, Hood River-White Salmon Bridge and Seven Feathers Truck and Travel Center. **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:

- Virtual “crash course” on federal financing tools
- Briefing on surface transportation legislation reauthorization
- Supply chain resilience workshop in Bellingham, WA
- Multimodal transportation sessions at the Annual Summit
- Cross-sector educational briefings on regionally-critical topics

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 advance regional opportunity.** The RTC is composed of an elected official and an industry representative from each PNWER jurisdiction. Washington’s representatives on the RTC are Rep. Cindy Ryu and David Blandford, State of WA Tourism.



Tourism leaders meet at the Summit.



Innovating the Regional Travel Experience

The Port of Seattle awarded a grant to PNWER through its Tourism Marketing Support Program to fund the development of a regional tourism portal. Scan the code to the left to explore the portal, or visit www.explore-pnw.com.



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 right.

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 Washington and neighboring jurisdictions. PNWER works closely with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife 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 Washington 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.