

Working Groups

TRADE & NAFTA
REGULATORY COOPERATION
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURE

Co-Chairs: Larry Doke, MLA, Government of Saskatchewan
Patrick Kole, Vice President, Idaho Potato Commission

Purpose: Over the past several years, the Agriculture Working Group has focused on trade with a primary examination of NAFTA and the Canada-U.S. Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) Action Plan. The working group continues to provide input on cross-border agriculture trade issues to key decision makers in Ottawa and Washington, D.C.

Key Projects:

- Hosted listening session with Under Secretary Bill Northe, Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture, on stakeholder concerns and priority recommendations on regional trade and cross-border issues.
- Hosted Agriculture roundtable discussion with four state/provincial Ministers/Directors.
- Hosted a webinar on the impact of a new NAFTA on the agriculture sector.

Action Items:

- Collaborate with Border & Trade working group to compile regional examples of impacts of tariffs (jobs, decline in sales, etc.)
- Share Joint Statements supporting modernizing NAFTA, opposing tariffs, and supporting science-based regulatory systems in agriculture.

Joint Statement:

- The Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER), in both the United States (U.S.) and Canada, recognize the importance of trade and the immense benefits realized under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The agriculture sector in particular has been a major benefactor, creating deeply integrated cross border supply chains that have enhanced our competitiveness internationally. Members of the PNWER Agriculture Working group urge both the U.S. and Canadian federal governments to continue negotiating a modernized and enhanced NAFTA.
- We believe that new unilateral tariffs between the U.S. and Canada go against the principles of free and fair trade and only harm industries in both countries. When markets are open and goods are transported freely across borders, the result is economic growth, new businesses and more and better job opportunities for individuals.
- We believe the U.S. and Canada should enhance competitiveness by becoming more effective and efficient through the adoption of new and cutting edge technologies. A science-based regulatory system is needed to support our industry's efforts in this area, and this requires strong leadership internationally from both Canada and the U.S. to address issues with countries whose regulations are less than science-based. As such, members of PNWER encourage the U.S. and Canada to continue pushing for science-based regulation in the agriculture sector in forums like Codex Alimentarius Commission and the OIE World Organization for Animal Health.

Working Groups

TRADE & NAFTA
REGULATORY COOPERATION
PRECLEARANCE

BORDER & TRADE

Co-Chairs: Rep. Mike Cuffe, Montana
Dr. Laurie Trautman, Director, Border Policy Research Institute at Western Washington University

Purpose: PNWER continues to serve 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. PNWER has worked with public and private stakeholders to provide input to federal partners on specific issues impacting trade between the U.S. and Canada, including NAFTA, the impact of tariffs, and the regulatory cooperation council (RCC). More information on page 10.

Key Projects:

- Developed stakeholder recommendations on modernizing NAFTA .
- Committed to sustained advocacy in D.C. and Ottawa on importance of stable and fair trading relationship.
- Collaborated on tech innovations to promote a more secure border.

Action Items:

- Work with Beyond Preclearance Coalition to publish their White Paper on connecting transportation and industry in identifying how new technologies can improve border security and facilitation.
- Host several conference calls before the winter meeting with tourism and transportation providers, DHS and CBSA, and consulates to help identify recommendations for messaging related to cannabis to reduce problems for travelers crossing the border.
- Compile regional impacts of Section 232 tariffs on business and jobs and share with congressional delegation.
- Send letter supporting expansion and continued participation in Regulatory Cooperation Council initiatives to U.S. Federal Government.

LIVESTOCK TRADE
E-CERTIFICATION IN LIVE
CATTLE

ANIMAL WELFARE DURING
BORDER CROSSING

PREVENTION AND EARLY
DETECTION FOR ANIMAL
DISEASE

CROSS-BORDER LIVESTOCK HEALTH

Co-Chairs: Jill Harvie, Programs Manager, Canadian Cattlemen's Association
Dr. Amber Itle, Assistant State Veterinarian, Washington Department of Agriculture

Purpose: The Cross-Border Livestock Health Working Group consists of state, provincial, and federal veterinarians and industry representatives. The group exchanges information on animal health issues, develops a common understanding of disease policies, and exchanges information on emergency response to emerging and foreign animal diseases.

Key Projects:

- Supported livestock-based modernization of NAFTA and advanced Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) initiatives.
- Tracked pilot projects for live cattle E-Certification. Requested specific criteria for system needs to fulfill data and security requirements from USDA and CFIA.
- Developed science-based guidelines/requirements and promoted consistency of requirements for animals crossing international, state, and provincial borders.

DISASTER RESILIENCE

Co-Chairs: Brad Richy, Director, Idaho Office of Emergency
Eric Holdeman, Director, Center for Regional Disaster
Resilience

Purpose: The Center for Regional Disaster Resilience works on emergency preparedness and disaster resilience projects across the Pacific Northwest. The CRDR is committed to working with states, provinces, territories, and communities to create public-private partnerships, develop action plans, and undertake pilot projects and activities to improve regional disaster resilience cooperation. More information on Page 32.

Key Projects:

- Hosted the Blue Cascades Earthquake Recovery Tabletop Exercise on post-earthquake disaster recovery efforts in March in Seattle, WA. 125+ energy, transportation, healthcare, education, leaders attended to discuss the post-response, long-term recovery process.
- Completed the Cyber Incident Reporting Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for Washington State and is a model for the nation.
- Continued work on application of drones in disaster response including a workshop on drone use by local governments, webinar on establishing a drone program, and a study of technical guidelines for infrastructure inspection.

Action Items:

- Develop a cyber threat briefing for presentation at the next summit. Additionally, develop a webinar on the same topic that can be presented and would be available online on the CRDR website as a resource tool.
- Seek funding to develop an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS)/Drone workshop to help educate personnel from private companies, city/municipality, county, and state/provincial jurisdictions.
- Develop a database of UAS users, their equipment, and their usage (Current DHS funded project deliverable).
- Develop a "users group" and hold quarterly conference calls for the sharing of best practices (Current DHS funded project deliverable).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Co-Chairs: Rep. Rick Youngblood, Idaho State Legislature
Steve Allan, Chair, Board of Directors, Calgary Economic
Development

Purpose: The Economic Development Working Group shares best practices among jurisdictions and highlights case-studies of successful economic initiatives that can be replicated around the region.

Key Projects:

- Convened key legislators, economic development directors, and stakeholders to discuss successful economic initiatives that can be replicated in both the U.S. and Canada. Highlighted best practices and strategic initiatives from both rural areas and urban centers in the PNWER region. Showcased innovative financing and development opportunities for rural areas and small businesses.

Working Groups

GRID RESILIENCY & MODERNIZATION

TRANSMISSION & INFRASTRUCTURE PERMITTING

UTILITY REGULATION

ENERGY

Co-Chairs: Rep. Jeff Morris, Washington State Legislature
John Gibson, Chief R & D Engineer, Avista

Purpose: Strive 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 overall carbon footprint of the region. Topics explored include utility pricing models; pipeline safety; collaboration on cross-border energy infrastructure; climate policy; integrated resource planning; resiliency of the shared energy grid; and LNG export opportunities.

Key Projects:

- Organized two-day energy track at Annual Summit covering smart grids, energy reliability, carbon pricing, funding for energy research, and infrastructure permitting.
- Graduated 33 policymakers from Legislative Energy Horizon Institute. More information on page 31.

Action Items:

- The PNWER Executive Committee will submit a request to the Western Governors Association to include renewable natural gas as part of the renewable energy discussion that has been announced for the agenda for WGA's winter meeting in December. PNWER will assist in assembling a panel/presentation for the WGA Annual Meeting. The request letter should be transmitted to WGA within two weeks of the conclusion of the 2018 Summit.
- PNWER will investigate the possibility of convening a sidebar of clean energy and cleantech stakeholders at the The Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) May 27, 2019 in Vancouver, BC.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT / INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCE

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCE

RENEWABLE ENERGY

ENERGY INNOVATION

CARBON POLICY

Co-Chairs: Rep. Deborah Boone, Oregon

Paul Manson, CEO, DC Grid Development Corporation

Energy Efficiency Lead: Andrew Pape-Salmon, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, British Columbia

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

Key Projects:

- Increased focus on infrastructure resilience, green building, and climate change adaption requiring collaboration between working groups. International experts spoke at Annual Summit.
- The PNWER Secretariat will continue to maintain and update annually an inventory of carbon policies in PNWER jurisdictions as a resource.
- Encourage collaboration between the Innovation Working Group and the Northwest Energy Innovation Alliance on the best models to develop innovation ecosystems.
- Complete the Roadmap to Resilient, Ultra Low Energy Buildings and present to the University President Roundtable at the 2019 Summit.

Action Items:

- The PNWER Secretariat will continue to maintain and update annually an inventory of carbon policies in PNWER jurisdictions as a resource.
- Encourage collaboration between the Innovation Working Group and the Northwest Energy Innovation Alliance on the best models to develop innovation ecosystems.
- Complete the Roadmap to Resilient, Ultra Low Energy Buildings and present to the University President Roundtable at the 2019 Summit.

PROMOTING HEALTHY FORESTS

EFFECTIVE FIRE SUPPRESSION FUNDING

RESILIENT WATERSHEDS

FOREST PRODUCT INNOVATION

FORESTRY

Co-Chairs: Mark Peck, Libby County Commissioner, Montana
Travis Joseph, President, American Forest Resource Council

Purpose: The Forestry Working Group includes private forest managers and landholders, legislators, and agency staff dedicated to healthy and sustainable forest management, as well as non-profit partners in conservancy and academics in forestry and wood product research.

Key Projects:

- Examined challenges and opportunities in the renewable forest products industry.
- Explored advancements in building with wood from CLT manufacturers and builders.

INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

REGIONAL COLLABORATION BETWEEN RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS

INCUMBENT SECTORS INNOVATION POTENTIAL

CASCADIA INNOVATION CORRIDOR INITIATIVE

INNOVATION

Co-Chairs: Sen. Mia Costello, Alaska State Legislature
Rick Glumac, MLA, Parliamentary Secretary for Technology, Government of BC
Nirav Desai, Senior Partner, Moonbeam

Purpose: The competitive landscape of the global economy, coupled with worldwide environmental challenges, is creating unprecedented demand for scientific discovery and application. The Pacific Northwest region must channel the strengths of its many separate resources into a collaborative, comprehensive effort that maximizes the economic benefits of regional innovation.

Action Items:

- Conduct a study/Share information across states/provinces on how each handles data privacy and associated legislation (GDPR). Assemble a common body of knowledge on this topic.
- Promote the U.S. Navy Hack the Machine event in Seattle on August 20-22 Coordinate a call with AK, WA, and OR on potential Navy Future Command in the PNW with PNWER Maritime Cyber Task Force.
- Investigate development of a White Paper on state-verified identities leveraging blockchain tech - Lessons learned and best practices from B.C. and others.
- Update PNWER's Innovation Assets Map of the PNW.
- Plan a session to investigate mechanisms for ethical use of technology for Big Data (deep learning and AI) and coordinate with our universities in PNWER jurisdictions.

Working Groups

INVASIVE MUSSELS
FEDERAL FUNDING AND
ADVOCACY

REGIONAL PERIMETER
DEFENSE STRATEGY

NORTHERN PIKE

INVASIVE SPECIES

Co-Chairs: Rep. Terry Gestrin, Idaho State Legislature
Kate Wilson, Commission Administrator, Montana
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Purpose: The Invasive Species Working Group focuses on establishing a regional defense against invasive threats by bringing together state and provincial partners to collaborate on initiatives and coordinate on strategic partnerships, information sharing, and best practices.

Action Items:

- Advocate for increased invasive species federal funding for jurisdictions within PNWER and modifications to existing programs, legislation, and policies.
- Inform state, provincial, and territorial officials and lawmakers of high priority invasive species and pathways.
- Request letter from PNWER Executive Committee to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council regarding the need and potential for additional economic analyses of invasive species to be developed.
- Support cross border Pike committee planning and key action items.

WORKFORCE
AND ADVANCED
TECHNOLOGY
DEVELOPMENT

INFRASTRUCTURE

INDIGENOUS,
FIRST NATION AND
NATIVE AMERICAN
ENGAGEMENT

MINING

Co-Chairs: Rep. Dave Talerico, Alaska State Legislature
David Ramsay, Director, Fortune Minerals

Purpose: The Mining Working Group identifies best practices for environmental sustainability and engaging indigenous groups to improve the quality of life in the region while fostering economic development. The working group aims to show how development, when done responsibly, supports economic growth and increases the standard of living.

Key Projects:

- Showcased redevelopment of legacy mines for restoration and sustainable operations with the goal of mitigating past exploration.
- Highlighted Cobalt mining in the region as a critical element in the production of batteries.
- Informed policy makers on roads to resources and the need for infrastructure and market access to rural and remote communities.

Action Items:

- Work with member jurisdictions to inventory best practice of developing transparent economic benefits and environmental remediation investments of mining projects in order to streamline permitting.
- Work with members to identify best practices for outreach on the economic benefits of mining within communities.

INNOVATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE

MARKET ACCESS & RAIL CAPACITY

OIL TRAIN SAFETY & SAFETY IN THE SALISH SEA

ULTRA-HIGH SPEED RAIL & CASCADIA CORRIDOR

AUTONOMOUS, CONNECTED, ELECTRIC, SHARED VEHICLES

TECH FOR SECURE BORDER CROSSINGS

PERMIT REFORM

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Co-Chairs: Sen. Chuck Winder, Idaho State Legislature
Bruce Agnew, Director, Cascadia Center

Purpose: The Transportation and Infrastructure Working Group facilitates regional collaboration on public policy of transportation corridors and gateways, sharing best practices on technology development, infrastructure financing, and addressing the challenges of multi-modal market access to global markets.

Key Projects:

- Sustained engagement with U.S. Congress to appropriate funds for Regional Accelerator Demonstration Program which would prepare states to utilize Canadian expertise on innovative infrastructure financing mechanisms.
- Collaboration with Border and Tourism working groups on high-tech security measures to facilitate border crossings.
- Increased focus on preparing the region for autonomous, connected electric, shared vehicles.

Action Items:

- Encourage the expansion of Alaska and Washington's vessel tracking program into B.C. to improve the safety of the Salish Sea.
- PNWER will work with Idaho Dept. of Transportation to help connect them with key stakeholders across the region to provide input on their study focused on truck size and weight harmonization.
- PNWER will continue to advocate for the full appropriation of the FAST Act 1411 Regional Accelerator Demonstration Project with the objective of sharing Canadian innovative financing models with U.S. jurisdictions. PNWER will share the findings with members and on our web site of the Coalition of America's Gateways and Trade Corridors Report "Freight Can't Wait: CAGTC Speaks on Permit Reform."

REGIONAL TOURISM DESTINATION COORDINATION

“TWO-NATION” VACATION INITIATIVE

REGIONAL TOURISM DATA, METRICS, AND INFORMATION

SHARING ABORIGINAL TOURISM

TOURISM

Co-Chairs: Rep. Gael Tarleton, Washington State Legislature
Dave Cowen, CEO, The Butchart Gardens

Purpose: The Tourism Working Group works to develop a more interconnected tourism region and facilitate collaboration among industry and public partners throughout the region. Tourism is one of the largest economic drivers in each state and province and is a clean industry.

Action Items:

- In 2019, focus on incorporating indigenous tourism into a session at the Annual Summit.
- Encourage each PNWER member jurisdiction to designate a representative to the PNWER Tourism Working Group.

Working Groups

COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY
CLIMATE CHANGE
ADAPTATION
INFRASTRUCTURE

WATER POLICY

Co-Chairs: Sen. Jim Honeyford, Washington State Legislature
Dr. David Hill, Director, Centres and Institutes and Research Advocacy, University of Lethbridge

Purpose: Provide an important forum to address water policy issues throughout the region. Connect legislators, private-sector, and universities, to identify best practices to improve water security, adaptation of climate change, and storage options. Also provide updates to the region on the Columbia River Treaty & explore linkages with other working groups.

Action Items:

- Continue to hold a legislative roundtable in future water policy session at the Annual Summit.
- Share information about bioremediation work on water treatment technology in the Elk Valley, B.C. with PNWER members.

LICENSING
RECIPROCITY
INNOVATING
WORKFORCE
TRAINING
WORKFORCE MOBILITY

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Co-Chairs: Sen. Maralyn Chase, Washington State Legislature
Shawna Argue, Director of Education and Governance, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan (APEGS)

Purpose: The Workforce Development Working Group identifies best practices and the barriers to addressing labor shortages, the key stakeholders, and specific actions that can be implemented to alleviate these shortages.

Action Items:

- Professional Credential Recognition 2005: Licensing Reciprocity - Urge licensing bodies to adopt reciprocal professional credential recognition for engineers who have successfully practiced for a set number of years.
- Compile and share best practices/lessons learned from PNWER members on the prepare the workforce for the future (example "Future Ready Oregon").

INNOVATIVE ACADEMIC
INITIATIVES
ENGAGING
POLICYMAKERS
CROSS BORDER
COLLABORATION

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS ROUNDTABLE

Co-Chairs: Christine Johnson, Chancellor, Community Colleges of Spokane
Mary Cullinan; President, Eastern Washington University
Ana Mari Cauce, President, University of Washington;
Kirk Schulz; President, Washington State University

Purpose: The University Presidents Roundtable identifies best practices and the barriers to addressing labor shortages, the key stakeholders, and specific actions that can be implemented to alleviate these shortages. More information on page 18.

Key Projects:

Presidents and chancellors explored how the region could move forward to address challenges and opportunities in talent development, as well as share strategic partnerships and innovations for emerging challenges in higher education.