

# ACTION ITEMS

## Agriculture Working Group 2015



*Pacific NorthWest  
Economic Region*

The Agriculture Working Group focuses on the Regulatory Cooperation Council Action Plan, specifically agricultural topics, including food safety, mutual reliance of food testing results and crop protection products.

Co-Chairs: Larry Doke, MLA, Saskatchewan, Patrick J. Kole, Vice President, Legal & Government Affairs, Idaho Potato Commission,

Action Items	Project Lead	Status
1	Continue to advocate to resolve regulatory barriers affecting Canada-U.S. agri-food trade, such as U.S. grain exports to Canada and Country of Origin Labeling	
2	Encourage the RCC to advance a CFIA-U.S.FDA comparability agreement related to Safe Foods for Canadians Act/ Food Safety Modernization Act; and promote awareness of regulatory changes among industry	
3	Partner with the PNWER transportation working group to provide input on harmonization of trucking size and weight standards and implications for agriculture.	

For more information, visit <http://www.pnwer.org/agriculture.html>  
or contact Brandon Hardenbook E: [brandon.hardenbook@pnwer.org](mailto:brandon.hardenbook@pnwer.org) T: (206) 443-7723

# ACTION ITEMS

## Arctic Caucus, 2015



*Pacific NorthWest  
Economic Region*

The Arctic Caucus of the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) is a partnership between Alaska, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories.

The partnership aims to provide a forum to share information, discuss issues of mutual concern, identify areas for collaboration between the three jurisdictions and the rest of North America, and provide Arctic-relevant input to PNWER working groups and the region at-large.

The Caucus is made up of PNWER public and private sector members from the three core jurisdictions; other PNWER members are encouraged to participate and to provide their input according to their interest issues effecting the Arctic.

Action Items	Project Lead	Status
1 Continue to support Shakkwak Funding Authorization in the US Congress		(PNWER Submitted Support Letter on June 3rd, 2015)
2 Explore conducting an Economic Study on the impact the Arctic Caucus member jurisdictions have on PNWER		
3 Develop a Transportation Systems and Corridors Stakeholders group to share best practices on the various resupply, rural and remote connection and development routes in the region		
4 Explore how Alaska might join with the Canadian Pan Territorial approach on using fossil fuels in the North and support from the PNWER Executive to designate that the North needs to be treated differently related to climate change		
5 Rep. Bob Herron Nominated and Elected to Chair PNWER Arctic Caucus		Completed July 2015

# ACTION ITEMS

Border Issues Working Group 2015



*Pacific NorthWest  
Economic Region*

Addresses challenges in mobility of trade and citizenry at the border, providing insight to the Beyond the Border Action Plan and pursuing a working border between the U.S. and Canada.

Co-Chairs: Senator John Brenden, Montana, Laurie Trautman, Border Policy Research Institute at Western Washington University

Action Items	Project Lead	Status
1	Bruce Agnew	
2	Laurie Trautman	
3	Rob Eaton, Alroy Chan	

For more information, visit <http://www.pnwer.org/border-issues.html> or contact Brandon Hardenbrook. E: [brandon.hardenbrook@pnwer.org](mailto:brandon.hardenbrook@pnwer.org)  
T: (206) 443-7723

# ACTION ITEMS

Cyber Security & Disaster Resilience  
Working Group 2015



*Pacific NorthWest  
Economic Region*

Creating and fostering cross-sector partnerships focused on infrastructure security and disaster resilience.

Action Items	Project Lead	Status
1 Form a regional Cyber Task-Force made up of cyber planning leads from each state and province in the PNWER region, with the purpose of sharing best practices in cyber resilience across jurisdictional boundaries.	Eric Holdeman	
2 Explore opportunities to address the social effect and making the public and employees take cyber security as seriously as they do fires or flood. Cross border education and outreach to inform how cyber threats can cost lives and create life threatening implications.	Eric Holdeman	

For more information, visit <http://www.regionalresilience.org> or contact Eric Holdeman. E: [eric.holdeman@pnwer.org](mailto:eric.holdeman@pnwer.org) T: (206) 443-7723

# ACTION ITEMS

Energy Working Group 2015



*Pacific NorthWest  
Economic Region*

In the Energy working group, PNWER works to find ways to provide sustainable energy for North America to fuel economic recovery and create a low-carbon future for North America. With funding from the U.S. Department of Energy, Alberta Ministry of Energy, and BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, PNWER brings together key industry leaders from the U.S. and Canada to examine the following key issues: Supply and demand, Transmission, and Permitting across multiple jurisdictions

Co-Chairs: Sen. Cliff Larsen, Montana; Gary Wilinger, Spectra

Action Items	Project Lead	Status
1 Host a joint-meeting of Energy working group and Environment working group to discuss regional response to 1-11D (clean energy plan)		
2 Convene a collaborative symposium between the environmental community and energy distributors to facilitate discussion		
3 Host a discussion on how individual legislatures/policy makers can encapsulate key points of working group discussions and disseminate information abroad		
4 Ask WGA to present at PNWER event to discuss what they're doing among federal agencies to promote and advocate for better coordination of transmission of energy		

For more information, visit <http://www.pnwer.org/energy-i.html>  
or contact Brandon Hardenbrook at [brandon.hardenbrook@pnwer.org](mailto:brandon.hardenbrook@pnwer.org)  
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# ACTION ITEMS

Energy and Environment  
2015



*Pacific NorthWest  
Economic Region*

The Energy & Environment Working Group, formerly known as Energy II, addresses the convergence of environmental sustainability and economic development while focusing on distributed generation, microgrids, energy efficiency, renewable energy and other issues. focuses on finding sustainable energy resources for the region. The group collaborates with [PNWER's Energy Horizon Institute](#), which works to educate lawmakers as to the current status of energy infrastructure and delivery system.

Co-Chairs: Representative Deborah Boone, Oregon State Legislature & Paul Manson, Chairman, Sea Breeze Power Corps.

Action Items	Project Lead	Status	
1	Steering Committee on <a href="#">Roadmap to Resilient, Net-Zero Buildings in the Pacific Northwest</a> to launch 10 jurisdictional networks led by a public and private sector co-chair. Networks develop market-based suggestions to promote energy efficiency	PNWER, Rep. Deb Boone, Paul Manson, and Andrew Pape-Salmon	In progress
2	Presentation of progress on Roadmap at Economic Leadership Forum in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories November 2015. Possibility of live-teleconference of session.		In progress
3	Identification of one or two common policy initiatives among all jurisdictions	Jurisdictional leads	In progress
4	Whitepaper released at PNWER 2016 Summit in Calgary		In progress

For more information, visit <http://www.pnwer.org/energy-ii.html>

or contact Jennifer Grosman. E: [Jennifer.grosman@pnwer.org](mailto:Jennifer.grosman@pnwer.org) T: (206) 443-7723

# ACTION ITEMS

Forestry Working Group 2015



*Pacific NorthWest  
Economic Region*

PNWER's Forestry Working Group is supportive of efforts that promote healthy forests, resilient watersheds, and socio-economic sustainability in communities that depend on them.

Co-Chairs: Senator Chas Vincent, Montana, Tom Partin, American Forest Resource Council

Action Items	Project Lead	Status
1 Support the empowerment of collaborative forest policy groups Co-chairs - Send message to congressional and provincial representatives in support of legislation designed to empower successful collaborative outcomes in US and Provincial forestlands.		
2 Research implementation of 2014 Farm Bill provisions with an emphasis on national forest lands designated for priority restoration by governors in the PNWER region.		
3 Research initiatives from bi-national lumber marketing organizations to see how the PNWER region can advance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pursuing building standards that recognize wood as green building material.</li><li>• Pushing state building code authorities to recognize performance standards for wood materials.</li><li>• Encourage design research with an emphasis on structural fire resiliency</li><li>• Promote state programs and policies that encourage the use of biomass as a clean source of energy.</li></ul>		

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Co-Chairs: Senator Chas Vincent, Montana, Tom Partin, American Forest Resource Council

Action Items	Project Lead	Status
<p>4 Encourage the promotion of social, economic, and environmental resiliency in rural communities within the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advance state initiatives to increase pace and scale of public land management.</li><li>• Identify shared funding mechanisms to provide for necessary treatments, such as matching state and federal contributions, revolving loan funds or ways for states to share or recover costs of forest treatment work. - Research and identify creative funding methods for retention and expansion of milling infrastructure in the PNWER region.</li></ul>		

For more information, visit <http://www.pnwer.org/forestry.html>  
or contact Mark Stayton at [mark.stayton@pnwer.org](mailto:mark.stayton@pnwer.org)  
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# ACTION ITEMS

Invasive Species  
2015



*Pacific NorthWest  
Economic Region*

The Invasive Species Working addresses the regional economic and environmental impact of invasive species and promotes regional collaboration and sharing of best practices.

Co-Chairs: Senator Arnie Roblan, Oregon State Legislature & Mark Sytsma, Portland State University

Action Items	Project Lead	Status	
1	Host an annual meeting between the invasive species councils from each state and province to coordinate projects and responses	PNWER, Invasive Species Working Group - Mark Sytsma	In progress
2	Create a regional list of high risk invasive species	Coordinators from each state/prov - Kate Wilson	In progress
3	Adopt Regional Framework to Prevent the Spread of Zebra and Quagga Mussels into the	PNWER working group - Lisa DeBruyckere	In progress
4	Ask coordinators to identify gaps between state and provincial legislation to develop model	Coordinators form each state/prov - Lisa DeBruyckere	In progress
5	Garner legislative support from each jurisdiction for the executive summary of the Regional Framework	PNWER, leads from each state - Sen. Arnie Roblan	In progress
6	Create an invasive species directory with contact information and priorities for all organizations involved with Invasive Species	PNWER- Mark Sytsma	In progress
7	Increase awareness and support by legislators not involved with invasive species, including those in other PNWER working groups	PNWER - Sen. Arnie Roblan	In progress
8	Create a list of organizations who can testify on resolutions	PNWER, state leads - Lisa DeBruyckere	In progress
9	Host Invasive species information booth at the 2016 Summit	PNWER - Megan Levy	In progress

For more information, visit <http://www.pnwer.org/invasive-species.html>

or contact Megan Levy. E: [Megan.levy@pnwer.org](mailto:Megan.levy@pnwer.org) T: (206) 443-7723

# ACTION ITEMS

Expanding Natural Gas Markets  
2015



*Pacific NorthWest  
Economic Region*

The Expanding Natural Gas Markets Working Group works to increase regional collaboration regarding natural gas as a transportation fuel and the regional development of necessary infrastructure.

Co-Chairs: Representative Caddy McKeown, Oregon State Legislature & Ian Burkheimer, Plum Energy

Action Items	Project Lead	Status
1 Explore opportunities to collaborate with the University of Montana Mansfield Center to share research and information regarding potential global markets for the region's natural gas resources.	Dr. Abraham Kim	In progress
2 The working group supports the transportation working group in the development of regional harmonization on over the road weight limits of trucks and trailers. This will support the transportation of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and other alternative fuels throughout the region and neighboring jurisdictions.	Ian Burkheimer	In progress

For more information, visit <http://www.pnwer.org/natural-gas.html>

or contact Brandon Hardenbrook. E: [Brandon.hardenbrook@pnwer.org](mailto:Brandon.hardenbrook@pnwer.org) T: (206) 443-7723

# ACTION ITEMS

Market Access Working Group 2015



*Pacific NorthWest  
Economic Region*

*Aims to initiate a discussion on market access throughout the region, providing opportunities for dialogue with all member jurisdictions on the dynamics of moving commodities to market.*

Action Items		Project Lead	Status
1	Hold session on community engagement, the permit process and impacts of expanding the environmental processes.		In progress
2	Develop backgrounder on the successful market techniques seen in the Canadian provinces		In progress
3	Explore and share best practices for expanding trade of energy resources, with untapped regions like Asia		In progress

# ACTION ITEMS

Mining Working Group 2015



Pacific NorthWest  
Economic Region

*The mining working group identifies best practices for environmental sustainability to improve the quality of life in the region, simultaneously fostering economic development.*

Action Items		Project Lead	Status
1	Compare the Federal, and Jurisdictional Mining Standards across the region...Taking into account the costs associated first explore what has been done to date. Must include water quality assessment process and communities of interest	Sen. John Coghill, Alaska	In progress
2	Recommend that the PNWER board support cross jurisdiction transboundary issues be handled at the state and provincial level and not raised to the federal level, encourage BC and Alaska to continue their discussions towards this objective		In progress

For more information, visit <http://www.pnwer.org/mining.html>  
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# ACTION ITEMS

P3 Working Group 2015



*Pacific NorthWest  
Economic Region*

*The P3 Working Group explores ways that public private partnerships can be leveraged for infrastructure development, building on best practices and sharing lessons learned.*

Action Items	Project Lead	Status
<p>1</p> <p>The Transportation Working Group will engage and support the efforts of PNWER and President Curt McKenzie to expand the program emphasis on Public Private Partnerships and "lessons learned" from Canada. We will facilitate monthly calls among PNWER delegates, continue the previous pre-PNWER Summit tours to showcase P-3's and seek program funding from governments and private sector sponsors</p>		<p>In progress</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Promote research projects to conduct an analysis of the lessons and obstacles learned from US and Canadian P3 projects</p>		<p>In progress</p>

# ACTION ITEMS

## Trade and Economic Development 2015



*Pacific NorthWest  
Economic Region*

Many of the states and provinces are each others' largest trading partners. In light of recent events, PNWER's Trade and Economic Development Working Group is collaborating with regional groups to determine the best practices for economic recovery and examining the impact of the Economic Stimulus on this region.

Action Items	Project Lead	Status
1	PNWER will form a panel/initiative to investigate the potential for a PNWER wide business plan.	David Giuliani, Isaac Kastama
2	PNWER will form an panel/initiative to investigate the potential for a PNWER wide MARF to facilitate investment in the PNWER area from international pension funds.	Burt Hamner, Christian Hauselmann
3	PNWER will host session in 2016 summit to discuss concerns held by both environmental and industry interests to further enhance dialogue and reach new concensus. Hold session in 2016 to explore regional economic targets	Webb Brown, Larry Doke
4		In progress
5		In progress

For more information, visit <http://www.pnwer.org/trade-and-economic-development.html> or contact Felicia Muncaster at [felicia.muncaster@pnwer.org](mailto:felicia.muncaster@pnwer.org) T: (206) 443-7723

# ACTION ITEMS

Transportation Working Group 2015



Pacific NorthWest  
Economic Region

*The transportation working group focuses on the infrastructure of our major corridors and gateways, with a special interest on border infrastructure. It is currently working to improve the Northwest Rail System through the Stimulus Package and examining future transportation investments.*

**Co-Chairs:**

Bruce Agnew, Director, Cascadia Center; co-chair

Sen. Chuck Winder, Idaho, co-chair

Action Items	Project Lead	Status
1 Idaho Transportation Department will take the lead in working with Federal Highway Administration to request grant funding to allow the Idaho Transportation Department to convene a public private stakeholder group to recommend harmonization of truck size, weight and oversize permit processes. The focus will be harmonization among Northwest states and across the US Canadian border in partnership with Transport Canada and the New West Partnership of BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan. Based on presentations and Montana legislative comments from the Agriculture and Border sessions, cross border trucking regulations are hurting businesses both local and		In progress
2 To continue the effort to encourage collaboration between the US and Canada, the P3 working group and Transportation working group will collaborate to explore developing a regional P3 strategy and share best practices. Identify a lead in each jurisdiction to serve on a task force to identify and share best practices.		In progress

Action Items	Project Lead	Status
<p>Based on presentations by FRA, Transport Canada and Greenbrier Co (oil tank car manufacturer) with input from BNSF and CN we propose to develop an easy-to-understand primer on developments with regard to oil tank car regulations and expedited deployment. We would use Primer at two upcoming sessions:</p> <p>3</p> <p>A) WA/Or/ID Rail Caucus meeting proposed for mid-October in Hood River, OR ( Note: at request of Montana Representative Kathleen Williams, Montana representatives would be included in the session with first responders to share best practices).</p> <p>B) Oil Train Safety Symposium in Tacoma WA (Jan/Feb 2016)</p>		<p>In progress</p>
<p>“The Transportation and Tourism Working Groups are collaborating to expand the “Two Nation Vacation Rail” experience by passenger and excursion rail, particularly by Asian tour groups.</p> <p>We Endorse:</p> <p>4</p> <p>A) Improvements in the Great Northern Rail Corridor to improve reliability of the Amtrak Empire Builder</p> <p>B) Expedited rail pre-clearance in Vancouver, BC to improve operational reliability and the customer experience</p> <p>C) Continued operation of the Rocky Mountaineer on the BNSF Seattle-to-Vancouver BC line</p> <p>D) Public/private partnerships between railroad owners, rail tour operators and local tourism and cultural leaders to expand the reach of international rail tours. Specifically from the coast to the interior and Rocky Mountain region of Montana, Idaho and Oregon in partnership with successful ventures in Alaska, BC and Alberta”</p>		<p>In progress</p>



# ACTION ITEMS

Tourism Working Group 2015



*Pacific NorthWest  
Economic Region*

The Tourism working Group helps address best practices and solutions to challenges in growing regional tourism. The group is working to develop tools that show tourism's economic impact on the region, encourage two-nation vacations and improve transportation between destinations in the region.

Co-Chairs: Dave Cowen, General Manager of Butchart Gardens, Meg O'Leary, Director, Montana Department of Commerce

Action Items	Project Lead	Status
1 Seek Funding to Deliver a Preclearance Pilot We ask for financial support and participation in a series of coordinated and expedited pilot projects that include all transportation modes.		
2 Continue to encourage a Visa Synchronization Pilot:		
3 Call on Canadian Federal Government to Restore Capacity to Canadian Consulate in Seattle to Issue Visitor Visas.		
4 Allow Tariff Flexibility for Provincial and State Ferry Operators;  We ask regulators to structure tariffs such that flexible package pricing can be applied by ferry operators to manage yield and increase revenue.		
5 Accelerate Marketing Collaboration  Governments are asked to encourage and support their destination marketers in their ongoing efforts to leverage key resources and strategically collaborate among PNWER		
6 Support Regional Product Awareness		
7 Support Regional Tourism Research		

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Co-Chairs: Dave Cowen, General Manager of Butchart Gardens, Meg O'Leary, Director, Montana Department of Commerce

Action Items	Project Lead	Status
<p>8 Support Development of Interline and Multi-modal Tourism Transportation</p> <p>We ask government to support the transportation industry in their efforts to build multi-modal bi-national travel packages that are easy to purchase.</p>		
<p>9 Support Development of the NORPASS Integrated Ferry Pass</p> <p>We ask governments to support talks between BC Ferries, Washington State Ferries and private ferry operators to develop an interline ferry pass for foot and car passengers.</p>		
<p>10 Support the PNWER Tourism Committee</p> <p>All governments that participate in PNWER are asked to commit and ensure their state or province is represented by annually supplying the tourism committee with a committee member</p>		

For more information, visit <http://www.pnwer.org/tourism.html> or contact Mark Stayton at [mark.stayton@pnwer.org](mailto:mark.stayton@pnwer.org) T: (206) 443-7723

# ACTION ITEMS

## Water Policy Working Group 2015



Pacific North West  
Economic Region

The Water Policy Working Group session at PNWER's Annual Summit saw presentations from many different stakeholders throughout the region. We discussed topics such as Water Supply Planning in a Changing World; Critical Value of Water and Impacts on Public Policy; and Water Compacts: How to Protect Water in States & Provinces. After a rich discussion of current water issues in the region, the following action items were developed. Action items are an important crux in PNWER working groups and lays out our work for the rest of the year. These action items will be built on and completed as we reach our 2016 summit in Calgary.

Action Items		Project Lead	Status
1	Poll PNWER jurisdictions on their current plans relative to improving water security, adaptation of climate change, storage options (note Montana's recently completed plan), identify best practices (legislative, stakeholder engagement, etc.)	PNWER Staff	In progress
2	Connect with universities in the PNWER region to identify research groups/teams with expertise in water research, particularly from water security perspective, climate change and adaptation, etc. -- connect with University Coalition for Water Research (U of L is only Canadian member).	David Hill University of Lethbridge	In progress
3	Poll PNWER jurisdictions on any current research or analysis relative to the value of water to the economy or sectors of the economy for collection and sharing among jurisdictions. Include variances to hydrology.	PNWER Staff	In progress
4	Collect information on the 'current' processes and/or plans to enable the role or viability of water markets to address scarcity, conservation, efficiency and productivity, identify current successes, failures, best practices.	PNWER Staff	In progress
5	Collect information on the current status of how PNWER jurisdictions prevent and/or enable inter-basin transfers of water, options to protect water supplies.	PNWER Staff	In progress

For more information, visit <http://www.pnwer.org/water-policy.html> or contact Felicia Muncaster. E: [felicia@pnwer.org](mailto:felicia@pnwer.org) T: (206) 443-7723