

Pacific NorthWest Economic Region

2019-2020 Action Items



*Pacific NorthWest
Economic Region*

AGRICULTURE

1. Statement from the Ag Working Group in support of CUSMA/USMCA:
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 Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) / U.S.-Canada-Mexico Agreement (USMCA). The agriculture sector in particular has been a major beneficiary, 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 ratify the agreement so we can realize the economic benefits of CUSMA/USMCA.
 2. Encourage state and provincial legislatures to explore policies for improved rural broadband access to enhance precision farming and blockchain for improved food safety capabilities across the region.
 3. Explore and address policy gaps around utilizing unmanned vehicles in farming.
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BORDER

1. Develop draft proposal for a cargo truck pilot in our region similar to the Peace Bridge pilot.
 2. Continue to engage with the Beyond Preclearance Initiative and work to develop action plans for each of their working groups.
 3. Work with research institutes to develop white papers related to economic impact analyses and cost estimates for various projects and policies, including pre-clearance, co-location, loss of Canadian Enhanced Driver's Licenses, business impacts of immigration delays, etc.
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DISASTER RESILIENCE

1. Promote the inclusion of Canada and its Western provinces in Cascadia Rising 2028: exercise and participation.
 2. Seek funding for a bi-national critical infrastructure exercise.
 3. **Finding:** U.S. and Canadian federal governments should establish a knowledge database in the region for different types of mitigation projects and seek cooperation of private sector in data-sharing.
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Look for solutions for First Nations financing, examining possible solutions / best practices for enabling easier finance opportunities for Indigenous communities and businesses
 2. Continue to invite Indigenous speakers from both sides of the border to participate at PNWER. Engage with national and international groups to discuss economic development. Potentially invite banking organizations to address financing opportunities.
 3. Promote the World Indigenous Business Forum in October in Vancouver, BC.
 4. **Finding:** International standards on Indigenous people should be compiled and shared with PNWER membership in the region.
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ENERGY

1. Provide more education and training opportunities during PNWER Summit for industry to educate policy makers about best practices, technological advancement, and successful policies in other jurisdictions combined with a survey of membership before meeting to identify weaknesses in understanding by legislators to fine-tune the education received. Within this format, allow for local jurisdictions and industries a chance to inform legislators about the impact of the decisions they are making. This action would provide an opportunity to enhance the Legislative Energy Horizons Institute (LEHI) program.
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ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

1. Continue to support PNWER Roadmap to Ultra-Low Energy and Resilient Buildings. Develop private-public stakeholder networks in each jurisdiction. Release building synergies research at Seattle Economic Leadership Forum in November 17-19, 2019.
 2. The PNWER Secretariat will continue to maintain and update annually an inventory of carbon policies in PNWER jurisdictions as a resource.
 3. **Finding:** Energy storage companies in the PNWER region that are either developing or manufacturing energy storage technology should be catalogued.
 4. **Finding:** It was noted that Indigenous Services Canada should collaborate with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to promote high performance homes.
 5. **Finding:** It was identified that the Energy and Environment Working Group should collaborate with Energy Working Group to examine east-west transmission capacity.
 6. **Finding:** It was identified that the Energy and Environment Working Group should work with PNWER Mining Working Group to catalog critical mineral inventories within the region with the idea of being able to foster a cluster for collaboration.
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FORESTRY

1. Submit formal support statements from PNWER to state governments about the use of Good Neighbor Authority agreements, Shared Stewardship, and the role of active forest management in protecting our forests and communities.
 2. **Finding:** There is a current need for ongoing information sharing, best practices, and continued cross-boundary learning on fire suppression, mitigation, and adaptation (such as a future event with trainings from professionals).
 3. **Finding:** There is a need for more science on the long-term impacts of fire and smoke on human health.
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INNOVATION

1. Communicate University of Washington recommendations with PNWER delegates and representatives from Oregon, Alaska, and Alberta.
 2. Work with host committee to develop an innovation panel or workshop for the PNWER Winter Summit in Seattle (potentially related to the Working Port or Smart Cities).
 3. Identify a group of EDCs and districts for which to map capabilities (e.g. Co.Labs/Innovate Saskatoon, Launch Alaska, WEDA, Oregon Coastal Caucus) with a focus on presenting results of cross-region collaboration at next PNWER Summit.
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INVASIVE SPECIES

1. Establish the Northwest Legislative Quagga/Zebra Advisory Committee to advocate for continued funding for the Northwest states.
 2. Assist in developing strategy to prevent infected boat movement from infested waters in the Midwest to Western states and provinces.
 3. Facilitate a cross-border call on Feral Swine to consider whether a committee would be useful.
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MINING

1. Critical Minerals Action
 - a. Advocating for the free flow of minerals (no tariffs) on critical minerals within the region to promote development in the area.
 - b. Participation of PNWER in advancing the collaboration for critical mineral development in the region (could include follow-up/progress presentations by NRCan and Dept. of Interior).
 - c. Share information on mineral exploration/production/investment in region. In 2019, focus on incorporating indigenous tourism into a session at the Summit.

2. **Finding:** Saskatchewan Geological Survey has a best practice for mineral assessment for parks or no-development zones. This process provides an assessment so that an inform decision can be made on area's designation.
 3. **Finding:** During the session, the importance of hosting a plenary speaker that will promote mineral literacy that showcases the connections between natural resource development and digital economy was highlighted.
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TOURISM

1. Develop standards for tourism metrics across the region; enlist the help of key academic institutions to support the annual production of the Tourism Dashboard.
 2. Collaborate with Border Working Group to ensure at least one border metric is presented on the annual PNWER Tourism Dashboard.
 3. Ensure the Tourism Dashboard includes a metric that speaks to the quality of tourism employment that is available in the PNWER Region.
 4. **Finding:** There is an opportunity to collaborate with the Border Working Group on the following:
 - a. Support and analyze Trusted Traveler Programs: Simplify application process and program offerings, promote attributes and educate tourism industry professionals and public, and monitor customer satisfaction of trusted traveler programs.
 - b. From the Two Nation Vacation perspective, synchronize visa processes and border transit requirements for long-haul foreign visitors so they can easily visit each country. Specifically, review border process for group tour operators, and separately, study independent foreign visitors as a separate customer group.
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TRADE

1. Issue a statement in support of ratification of CUSMA/USMCA by Canada and the United States.
 2. Encourage public and private PNWER delegates to communicate with their congressional and parliamentary delegation on the benefits of USMCA/CUSMA.
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TRANSPORTATION

1. Write letter of support from PNWER urging the U.S. to issue a Presidential Permit for Alaska to Alberta (A2A) rail project.

2. Hold legislative panel in Big Sky 2020 on ACES, 5G connected technologies, harmonizing regulations. Smart cities, includes smart communities focusing on rural development through 5G and other technologies to maintain economic prosperity.
 3. Support request to U.S. DOT to assist with \$25 million to continue maintenance of Alaska-Canada Highway that goes through Yukon and BC.
 4. **Finding:** It was noted that the Transportation Working Group should collaborate with the Border Working Group; Cascadia Innovation Corridor; and state, provincial, and federal agencies to promote the testing of autonomous vehicles (personal and commercial) on the I-5 and Hwy 99 corridor.
 5. **Finding:** Idaho DOT will continue to be a leader on harmonizing trucking regulations among 5 NW states and showcase similar improvements in Western Canada provinces.
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UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS

1. **Finding:** It was noted that continued engagement with Indigenous communities in economic development and workforce development should be supported across the region.
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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

1. Professional Credential Recognition 2005: Licensing - Urge licensing bodies to adopt licensure by comity for professional credential recognition for engineers who have successfully practiced for a set number of years. Assist licensing bodies in preparing amendments to rules or policies to enable licensure by comity. 2010 (amended 2011): Pursuant to PNWER's 2006 resolution calling on all PNWER jurisdiction licensing bodies for engineers to adopt policies or present amendments to their respective legislative bodies which allows them to waive the requirement for satisfaction of prescriptive credentials in education and examination if the applicant meets specific criteria adopted by each jurisdiction, PNWER continues to encourage Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Montana to join with Idaho in facilitating this resolution. (2018/2019-Oregon-2020 Washington and Montana, Alaska post 2020) - – The Canadian Engineering regulators are meeting to discuss future efforts with respect to this item. Pending that discussion, the Working Group may sunset this action item after the spring sitting of the Oregon legislature if no progress is made.
 2. Develop a purpose statement and define mission for the upcoming year - hold sidebar at Seattle meeting to identify key members.
 3. Invite representatives and stakeholders that service marginalized communities to speak to challenges with engaging in education and workforce programs.
 4. Invite representatives from major employers investing in workforce program development to speak about status. E.g. Amazon, RBC, Starbucks long-term investment in career development.
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Waiting for Final Approval from PWNER Executive Committee

Cross-border Livestock Health

Water Policy