

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Institute of the North****Federal Tax ID: 75-3155877****Project Title:****Project Type: Planning and Research**

Institute of the North - Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) Arctic Caucus Planning

State Funding Requested: \$150,000**House District: Statewide (1-40)**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

A comprehensive approach to addressing cross border regional Arctic issues in the Pacific Northwest.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$240,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$25,000)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$150,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$65,000

Funding Details:

2010 - \$20,000

\$5,000 from Northwest Territories, \$5,000 from Northwest Tel, \$3500 Canadian Consulate Anchorage, \$6,500 (in kind) North Slope Borough

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

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The Institute of the North will work in conjunction with Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) to define an ongoing structure that can facilitate cross jurisdictional, bi-national, and multi-sector arctic planning.

Planning will involve executive and legislative leadership from Alaska, the Yukon Territory, and Northwest Territories (and to some extent other jurisdictions of PNWER) as well as private sector business leadership. The Arctic Caucus will prioritize the following issues, which were identified at the PNWER 2010 Arctic Caucus Leadership Forum in Barrow:

- Increased Arctic surveillance consisting of environmental research and vessel tracking.
- Explore opportunities to address and mitigate tension between local users and industry/shipping.
- Explore opportunities for cultural exchanges between jurisdictions.
- Identify economic development opportunities through tourism, infrastructure development and regional partnerships.
- Explore current emergency/disaster agreements and plans and conduct tabletop exercises with response and rescue organizations to better coordinate.
- Develop specific emergency plans focused on issues identified in gap analysis.
- Explore means to support the expansion of the Marine Exchange of Alaska's AIS System in Alaska as well as Northwest Territories, Yukon and BC. Support current efforts to increase Search and Rescue response capacity and infrastructure on both sides of the border including joint training/exercises

PNWER's Arctic Caucus will maintain an Alaska-based coordination arm through the Institute of the North.

Deliverables (Phase 1-2)

Phase I:

- Hold a Bi-National Scoping meeting of Federal, State, Territories and Provincial, Tribes and private sector industry representatives
- Hold an additional meeting in different part of the region, to address stakeholder concerns and input and prioritize action items.
- Identify areas of mutual opportunity and corresponding specific barriers in economic development, emergency response, infrastructure, regional coordination
- Host a cross border regional resilience workshop to discuss several emergency response and recovery scenarios and develop a list of specific shortfalls and gaps identified.

Phase II:

- Hold two meetings in different parts of the region to continue to develop action strategies to address issues raised in phase one.
- Develop a prioritized action plan to address the opportunities and barriers identified in Economic development, Emergency response, Infrastructure, and Regional coordination
- Develop a prioritized action plan to address the gaps identified in the emergency response and recovery workshop held in phase I.
- Advocate for state-territory-provincial regional issues on a national and international level

Project Timeline:

The project is divided into two phases with the first phase beginning in August 2011 with a meeting in Yellowknife, NWT. Phase one will consist of a minimum of two regional meetings and several teleconferences/webinars. The second meeting will take place in Barrow in Spring 2012. Phase II will consist of a minimum of two meetings beginning in Summer 2012 as well as several webinars/teleconferences.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Institute of the North

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No



Pacific NorthWest Economic Region

A Comprehensive Approach to Addressing Arctic Issues in the Pacific Northwest

Background

- PNWER is a statutory public/private partnership created by the US states of Washington, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, and Oregon and provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon Territory, and Northwest Territories in 1991.
- As part of PNWER, the Arctic Caucus formed in 2009 as a working group made up of legislators, government officials, business and nonprofit leaders committed to the responsible development of North America's Arctic.
- The PNWER Arctic Caucus provides a forum within PNWER for the Arctic jurisdictions of Alaska, Yukon and the Northwest Territories to share information, discuss issues of mutual concern, identify planning and policy gaps, identify areas for collaboration, which may include working with other jurisdictions, and providing Arctic-relevant input to PNWER working groups and beyond.

Initiative Background – The Challenges

Increased open water in the north has brought on a new interest in energy, mineral extraction, tourism, social/cultural/environmental protection, and infrastructure development in the Arctic. This new activity also brings new challenges unique to the region and requires a comprehensive approach to begin to address the many issues surfacing.

PNWER is responding to the many opportunities and challenges in the arctic by forming the Arctic Caucus. The PNWER Arctic Caucus provides a forum within PNWER for the Arctic jurisdictions of Alaska, Yukon and the Northwest Territories to share information, discuss issues of mutual concern, identify planning and policy gaps, identify areas for collaboration, and provide Arctic-relevant input to PNWER working groups and beyond.

Recognizing that many arctic issues are viewed as national and international and must be addressed at these levels, there is a great need to also focus on regional issues impacting PNWER Arctic Caucus members. These jurisdictions not only share a common culture and community, they also have common interests in economic development, disaster planning and environmental concerns. While there are multilateral and bilateral agreements in place to protect the environment or secure borders, it is important to provide a platform for a regional voice to have a role in future policy decisions.

Alaska, the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories have similarities in population density, distance between communities, and infrastructure needs that make sense when speaking with one voice. There are common interests and common opportunities in the region – energy costs, climate change, non-renewable resource base, adventure travel, infrastructure, transportation linkages – that allow for synergistic development.

As we have seen with other states and provinces, successfully communicating and sharing information enhances economic development, security and disaster preparedness on both sides of the border. Responding to life threatening situations in the Arctic precludes borders, and requires a regional coordinated approach. Building a more resilient region requires the development of relationships, trust and a new understanding of interdependent linkages between jurisdictions.

We can also think about other PNWER locations as “gateway jurisdictions.” Alberta, B.C., Washington, Oregon and Idaho serve to support northern neighbors, with a specific interest in energy and transportation – and transportation of energy – as well as strengthening economic connectivity. The Arctic is the next frontier that PNWER jurisdictions will play a major role in developing our regional economy.

Proposal

Utilizing the convening power of PNWER, the Arctic Caucus proposes to define an ongoing structure that can facilitate this cross jurisdictional, bi-national, and multi-sectoral arctic planning. The territories, states and provinces need to be involved, both executive and legislative policymakers, as well as private sector business leadership. Some of the issues the Arctic Caucus might address include

- Increased Arctic surveillance consisting of environmental research and vessel tracking.
- Explore opportunities to address and mitigate tension between local users and industry/shipping.
- Identify economic development opportunities through tourism, infrastructure development and regional partnerships
- Explore current emergency/disaster agreements and plans and conduct tabletop exercises with response and rescue organizations to better coordinate.
- Develop specific emergency plans focused on issues identified in gap analysis.
- Explore means to support the expansion of the Marine Exchange of Alaska’s AIS System in Alaska as well as Northwest Territories, Yukon and BC. Support current efforts to increase Search and Rescue response capacity and infrastructure on both sides of the border including joint training/exercises

Cost

Additional revenues needed for the next two years would be approximately \$240,000. The following tasks would be completed.

- Hold a Bi-National Scoping meeting of Federal, State, Territories and Provincial, and private sector industry representatives
- Two annual meetings in different parts of the region, to address stakeholder concerns and input.

- Development of a regional stakeholder agreement for the structure of an ongoing planning council
- Development of a regional gap analysis focusing on economic, security, infrastructure and regional coordination
- Host a regional workshop to discuss several emergency response and recovery scenarios. Develop a prioritized action plan based on the gaps identified in the exercise.

Budget

	<i>Year 1</i>	<i>Year 2</i>	Total 2-Year
Revenue			
Alaska Request	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 150,000.00
Territories Request	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Private Sector	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Total Revenues	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 240,000.00
Expenses			
PNWER Project Management	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$100,000
Contract Services	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$70,000
Travel	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000
Meeting Exp.	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000
Total Expected Expenses	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$240,000