



PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGIONAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

PNREC 2023

57th Pacific Northwest Regional Economic Conference

May 8-10, 2023

| Walla Walla, Washington

Inflation, Inequality, Infrastructure, and Innovation

Event Program

Marcus Whitman Hotel
6 W. Rose Street
Walla Walla, Washington, 99362



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About the Pacific Northwest Regional Economic Conference

The Pacific Northwest Regional Economic Conference (PNREC) is a non-profit organization established to promote research and education on the economy of the Northwest states and western Canada. The objectives of the Conference are to:

- Present a program of professional papers, panels, and symposia that relate to regional economics.
- Enable distinguished regional scientists and policy analysts from elsewhere to play a featured role at the conference.
- Provide a forum for those from academia, business, and government to meet and interact professionally.
- Introduce and share current regional economic research with students, business, and community leaders.

The idea of PNREC came to Charles Tiebout, the noted and highly respected Professor of Urban and Regional Economics at the University of Washington, in 1966. He had observed that economic organizations in other parts of the U.S.—the New England Council, for example, and the Southern Economic Association—were undertaking studies that turned the spotlight on their regional economies. These suggested additional reports, possible policy responses, and in any case governmental grants, both to research the problems further and to propose remedies. Professor Tiebout thought that the Pacific Northwest should also initiate an organization, forum, or publication that examined its economy, discovered problem areas, and suggested remedial action.

To this end, Tiebout asked business and government economists and academic colleagues concerned with the regional economy to organize a startup conference at the University of Washington in early May of 1967. The first PNREC was held in 1967 at the Benson Hotel in downtown Portland. The inaugural conference lasted two days and was a great success. The program covered many topics, though it concentrated on the theory and practice of building input-output models that were then under construction in most states of the region. At the end of that first conference, everyone agreed that a second one should be convened a year later.

The plan for PNREC had been to let the annual conferences alternate between Seattle and Portland. In 1968, however, Dr. John Guthrie, Chair of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Washington State University, volunteered to organize the next one at his institution. Since that time, PNREC has been staged at sites throughout the Pacific Northwest and western Canada, including Missoula, Spokane, Olympia, Boise, Bellingham, Tacoma, Richland, Bend, Vancouver, and Victoria B.C.

The 2023 PNREC will be held in Walla Walla, Washington. Similar to economic fluctuations, the conference has experienced highs and lows over the past 57 years, but continues to bring the region's economists together each year to share research, maintain connections, and build our understanding of the economic issues facing our region.

Conference Sponsors:

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Silver-Level Sponsors



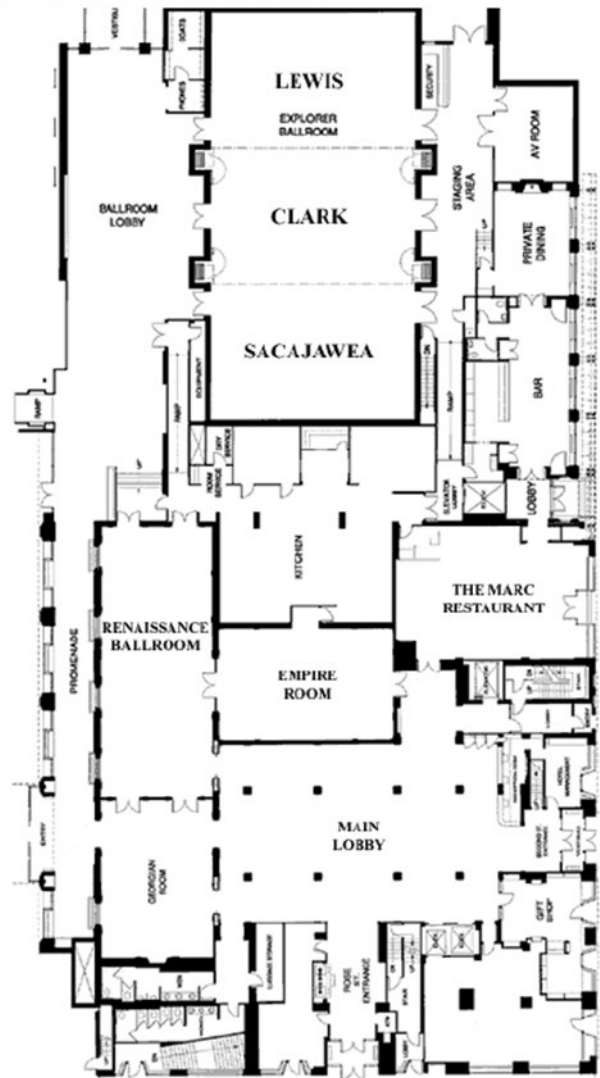
To all our partners, keynote speakers, presenters, moderators, and volunteers:

Thank You!

Marcus Whitman Hotel

All formal sessions will take place at the Marcus Whitman Hotel in the Explorer Ballroom, Renaissance Ballroom and Empire Room.

FIRST FLOOR AND CONFERENCE CENTER



PNREC 2023 AGENDA AT A GLANCE

May 8-10, 2022

Marcus Whitman Hotel | 6 W. Rose Street | Walla Walla, WA

Monday, May 8, 2023

- 11:00 AM – 5:30 PM** Regional Economy Bus Tour – tour of Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation' Chinook Hatchery, catered lunch at Pepper Bridge Winery and tour of College Cellars of Walla Walla (pre-registration required)
- 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM** Registration
- 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM** Meet and Greet Reception (Appetizers and Drink Ticket), No Host Bar

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

- 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM** Registration
- 7:00 AM – 8:30 AM** Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 AM – 8:40 AM** Welcome from Nick Beleiciks, Oregon Employment
PNREC President Department
- 8:40 AM – 9:00 AM** Welcome to Ajsa Suljic, Washington Employment
Walla Walla Security Department
- 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM** Plenary Session: Professor Rajeev Dhawan, Carl R.
National Economic Zwerner Chair of Economic
Outlook Forecasting, Georgia State University
- 10:00 AM – 10:15 AM** Networking Break
- 10:15 AM – 11:30 AM** Session 1 (Panels 1-4)
- 11:30 AM – 11:45 AM** Networking Break
- 11:45 AM – 1:15 PM** Lunch Plenary Session: Bill Edmonds, NW Power and
Conservation Council
- 1:15 PM – 1:30 PM** Networking Break
- 1:30 PM – 2:45 PM** Session 2 (Panels 5-7)
- 2:45 PM – 3:15 PM** Networking Break

3:15 PM – 4:30 PM Plenary Session: Dr. Jennifer Sherman, Washington State University

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM Reception (Appetizers and Drink Ticket), No Host Bar

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

7:00 AM – 4:00 PM Registration

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM Breakfast

7:40 AM – 8:00 AM Opening Welcome: Nick Beleiciks, PNREC President

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM Plenary Session: Regional Water Panel

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM Session 3 (Panels 8-11)

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM Networking Break

10:30 AM – 11:45 PM Session 4 (Panels 12-15)

11:45 AM – 1:15 PM Lunch Plenary Session: Dr. Gregg Colburn, University of Washington

1:15 PM – 1:30 PM Networking Break

1:30 PM – 2:45 PM Session 5 (Panels 16-19)

2:45 PM – 3:15 PM Networking Break

3:15 PM – 4:45 PM Regional Outlook

4:45 PM – 5:00 PM Closing Ceremonies

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM PNREC Annual Board Meeting

Logistical Information

Meeting Location

Marcus Whitman Hotel
6 W. Rose Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362
(509) 525-2200

Conference Chair

Anneliese Vance-Sherman
Employment Security Department
anneliese.vance-sherman@esd.wa.gov
(425) 258-6315

PNREC 2023 AGENDA

May 8-10, 2023

Marcus Whitman Hotel | 6 W. Rose Street | Walla Walla, WA

Monday, May 8, 2023

5:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Registration
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Meet and Greet Reception (Appetizers and Drink Ticket, No Host Bar)

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

7:00 AM – 7:00 PM	Registration	
7:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Continental Breakfast	
8:30 AM – 8:40 AM	Welcome from PNREC President	Nick Beleiciks, Oregon Employment Department
8:40 AM – 9:00 AM	Welcome to Walla Walla!	Overview of the Local Economy, Ajsa Suljic, Regional Economist with the Washington Employment Security Department
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Plenary Session: National Economic Outlook	Professor Rajeev Dhawan, Carl R. Zwerner Chair of Economic Forecasting, Georgia State University
10:00 AM – 10:15 AM	Networking Break	

10:15 AM – 11:30 AM Concurrent Sessions: Session 1, Panels 1–4

Panel 1: The COVID Recovery in State Labor Markets

Moderator: Nick Beleiciks, Oregon Employment Department

Nick Holom, Montana Department of Labor,

Lisa Grigg, Idaho Department of Labor,

Anneliese Vance Sherman, Washington Employment Security Department.

Panel 2: Transportation: Funding Scarcity and Prioritizing Investment

Moderator: Chris Lawless, University of Victoria, B.C., Canada

Lewis Lem, Port of Portland, *The State of Oregon Experience with Federal Transportation Competitive Grant Applications, including Discussion of Economic Impacts and Benefit Cost Analysis of Projects*

Jenny Liu, Portland State University, *An Analysis of ODOT's Funding and Decision-Making*

Becky Knudson, Oregon Department of Transportation, *Climate Risk Economic Impact Analysis: Quantifying Uncertainty*

Panel 3: Agriculture: Fiscal, Farming and GHG

Moderator: Scott Bailey, Washington Employment Security Department

Dana Lynn and Pete Van Moorsel, *Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee, 2022 Food Processors Tax Preference Performance Review*

Lacey Jacoby, Anthro-Tech, and Bertha Clayton, Washington Employment Security Department, *Customer Experience Study of Specialty Crop Farmworkers and Growers in Three Regions in Washington State*

Abigail King, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, *The Potential for Greenhouse Gas Mitigation in Agriculture*

Panel 4: Economic Impact Analysis

Moderator: Hart Hodges, Western Washington University

Fanny Roberts, Washington Office of Financial Management, *Washington's Input-Output Model*

Colin Gibson, Washington State Institute for Public Policy, *Impacts of a Buy American Steel policy on Washington State*

Erica Johnson, Gonzaga University, *The Effect of Medicaid Expansion on Hospital Revenues and Uncompensated Care Costs*

11:30 AM – 11:45 AM Networking Break

11:45 AM – 1:15 PM Plenary Session: Bill Edmonds, Executive Director,
NW Power and Conservation Council

1:15 PM – 1:30 PM Networking Break

1:30 PM – 2:45 PM **Concurrent Sessions: Session 2, Panels 5-7**

Panel 5: The Changing Landscape of Childcare Supply and Demand

Moderator: Sonya Stevens, Washington Department of Children, Youth, and Families

Nicole Matthews, Kittitas County Health Network

Eiledon McClellan, Walla Walla Valley Early Learning Coalition

Tracy Schreiber, Washington Department of Children, Youth, and Families

Panel 6: Energy

Moderator: Terry Morlan, NW Power and Conservation Council (retired)

Massoud Jourabchi, Northwest Power and Conservation Council, *State of Electric Utilities in the Northwest*

Annika Roberts, Northwest Power and Conservation Council, *Climate Policy's Impact on Regional Power Planning: Past And Present*

Kevin Smit, Northwest Power and Conservation Council, *Decarbonizing The NW Industrial Sector - The Role of Energy Efficiency*

Panel 7: Exploring Inequalities in the Northwest: WSU Sociology Graduate Student Panel

Moderator: Jennifer Sherman, Washington State University

Sarah Deming, *Antecedents Of The Motherhood Penalty: Expectant Mothers' Work-Related Preferences and Plans Across Divergent Socioeconomic Contexts*

Sam Castonguay, *Where are the Women? An Assessment of Gendered Leadership Characteristics for Environmental Movement Organizations of the Pacific Northwest*

Michelle Weston, *Policing Rural Poverty: Narratives from within Washington's Criminal Justice System*

2:45 PM – 3:15 PM Networking Break

3:15 PM – 4:30 PM Plenary Session: Dr. Jennifer Sherman, Washington State University, "Please Don't Take This": Rural Gentrification, Social Dynamics, and Housing Insecurity.

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM Reception: Appetizers and Drink Ticket, No Host Bar

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

7:00 AM – 3:00 PM Registration

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM Breakfast

7:50 AM – 8:00 AM Welcome to PNREC
Conference Chair Anneliese Vance-Sherman, Washington Employment Security Department

8:00 AM – 9:00 Plenary Panel: Addressing Water Usage in the Walla Walla Region

Moderator: Nick Velluzzi, Walla Walla Community College

Panelists:

Anton Chiono, Habitat Conservation Project Leader, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation,

Tom Tebb, Director, Office of Columbia River, Washington State Department of Ecology

Chris Kowitz, North Central Regional Manager, Oregon Water Resources Department

Judith Johnson, Walla Walla Basin Advisory Committee member, Kooskooskie Commons

Mark Wagoner, Walla Walla Basin Advisory Committee member, Gardena Farms Irrigation District

Travis Trumbull, Walla Walla Basin Advisory Committee member, Walla Walla River Irrigation District

Frank Nicholson, P.E., Walla Walla Basin Advisory Committee member, City of Walla Walla Public Works

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM Concurrent Sessions: Session 3, Panels 8-11

Panel 8: Advanced Clean Cars 2 – Modeling Transition to Electric Vehicles, Estimating Revenue Impacts, and Building Financial Resiliency

Moderator: Becky Knudson, Oregon Department of Transportation

Satenik Donaca, Oregon Department of Transportation, *The Impact of Advanced Clean Cars 2 on the Composition of On-the-Road Light-Duty Vehicles*

Evan Rogers, Oregon Department of Transportation, *The Impact of Advanced Clean Cars 2 on Fuel Tax Revenues*

Allen Molina, Oregon Department of Transportation, *Using Oregon's Weight Mile Taxation for Heavy Duty Vehicles as a Model for Road Usage Taxation that Counteracts Shrinking Fuel Tax Revenues*

Panel 9: Pacific Northwest Labor Market Topics

Moderator: Anneliese Vance-Sherman, Washington Employment Security Department

Nick Holom, Montana Department of Labor and Industry, *Who is Coming to Montana? Data on Montana's In-migration*

Betty Mittelstaedt, Central Washington University graduate student, *Occupation-Education Mismatch among the Immigrant Community*

Nick Beleiciks, Oregon Employment Department, *Estimating Minimum Wage Jobs in Oregon: Not as Easy as it Sounds*

Panel 10: Supply and Demand: Housing and Residential Energy

Moderator: Greg Piepmeyer, Idaho Division of Financial Management

Justin Sherill, ECONorthwest, *The Oregon Housing Needs Analysis: Estimating Future Needs and Current Underproduction in Housing*

Chris Collier, Snohomish Housing Authority, *Inelastic Supply Meets Stagnant Wages*

Adrienne Rackley, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, *Advancing Residential Decarbonization: A User-Centered Approach to Understanding Occupant Values, Perceptions, and Motivations for Electrification*

Panel 11: Regional Food Systems as Economic Development Drivers

Moderator: Bonnie Gee Yosick, ECONorthwest

Panelists:

Monica Cuneo, Consultant to the Moore Institute, Oregon Health and Science University

Elaina Kim, Director of Property Operations and Human Resources, Central Bethany

Channa Kim, Director of Special Projects, Central Bethany

Jen Turner, Associate Director of Partnerships and Programs, Oregon Food Bank

Lindsay Grosvenor, Strategic Partnerships Program Manager, Oregon Food Bank
Southeast Oregon Services

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM Networking Break

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM Concurrent Sessions: Session 4, Panels 12-15

Panel 12: The Great Outdoors

Moderator: Tom Potiowsky, Portland State University

Peter Maille, Eastern Oregon University, *Exploring a Link Between US Forest Service Payments to Counties and County Economic Resilience*

Nick Velluzi, Walla Walla Community College, and Spencer Cohen, High Peak Strategy, *Economic Impacts of the Walla Walla Wine Industry*

Donn Johnson, Quinnipiac University, *Experimental Travel Cost Methods to Value Fishing on the Lower Snake River Reservoirs*

Panel 13: Student Panel: Central Washington University and Western Washington University

Moderator: Patrick Balducci, Argonne National Laboratory

James Gibson, *Economic Outcomes for Immigrants in the Pacific Northwest*

Jaap Donker, *Assessing ESG Performance and Engaging Shareholders on Employee Health and Safety*

Mia Young, Landon Hashimura, and Caden McNair, *Central Washington University Student Price Index Project*

Tate Van Patten, *The Ability of Large Language Models (Like GPT3) to Express Economic Intuition*

Panel 14: Equity, Economic and Ecological Resiliency

Moderator: Nick Beleiciks, Oregon Employment Department

Amy Bainbridge, The Balmoral Group, *Shore to Shore, Uncertainty, Indecision and Economics of Coastal Management*

Billy Leung and Jeff Dykes, REMI, *Examining the Economic and Social Impacts of COVID-19 in the Pacific Northwest*

Panel 15: Broadband Access as Critical Infrastructure: Economic and Social Imperatives for Universal Access

Moderator: Bonnie Gee Yosick, ECONorthwest

Panelists:

Fred Abouseiman, President, A/R360

Chris Blakney, Project Director, ECONorthwest

Matt Craigie, Economic Development Manager, Washington County, Oregon

11:45 AM – 1:15 PM Lunch Plenary Session: Dr. Gregg Colburn, University of Washington, *Homelessness is a Housing Problem: How Structural Patterns Explain U.S. Patterns*

1:15 PM – 1:30 PM Networking Break

1:30 PM – 2:45 PM Concurrent Sessions: Session 5, Panels 16–19

Panel 16: Washington Restaurant Industry – Establishing Economic Benchmarks to Understand the Health of the Industry

Moderator: Mark Beattie, Washington State University

Panelists: Vlad Onyshchuk and Kris Koehn, Washington State University

Panel 17: An In-Depth Guide to Census Bureau Data, Data Equity, Data Tools and Products

Moderator: Becky Knudson, Oregon Department of Transportation

Adam Grundy, Statistician, Data User and Trade Outreach Branch, Economic Management Division, U.S. Census Bureau

Panel 18: Housing Programs, Issues and Policy at the Local Level

Moderator: Pat Barkey, University of Montana

Marcus Luke, Umatilla Nation, *CTUIR Housing Department Programs*

Devin Bales, DHM Research, *Housing and Inflation: Public opinion on cost of living in the Pacific Northwest*

Vanessa Fry, Idaho Policy Institute, *Cost-Benefit Analysis of a Permanent Supportive Housing with a Housing First (PSH/Housing First) Program*

Panel 19: “But Wait, There’s More…” Economic Impact Analysis

Moderator: Greg Piepmeyer, Idaho Division of Financial Management

Kim Thompson, Institute for Policy Research and Engagement, and Courtney Flathers, Business Oregon, *Economic Impact of Oregon Ports*

Nick Chun, ECONorthwest, *Road to Recovery: Differential Impacts of the COVID-19 Crisis on Communities of Color and Elderly Populations in Washington*

Kelley Cullen and Patrick Jones, Eastern Washington University, *Using Data to Build Better Communities: The Case of Priority Spokane*

2:45 PM – 3:15 PM Networking Break

3:15 PM – 4:45 PM Plenary Session: Regional Outlook Panel

Moderator: Chris Lawless, University of Victoria, B.C., Canada

Alaska: Dan Stickel, State of Alaska

Alberta: Felicia Mutheardy, City of Edmonton

British Columbia: Ryan McLaughlin, British Columbia Real Estate Association

Idaho: Greg Piepmeyer, Idaho Division of Financial Management

Montana: Pat Barkey, University of Montana

Oregon: Tom Potiowsky, Portland State University

Washington: Steve Lerch, Washington State Revenue and Forecast Council

4:45 PM – 5:00 PM

Closing Ceremonies

5:00 PM

PNREC Annual Board Meeting

PNREC Board of Directors

Mr. Nick Beleiciks, PNREC President, Oregon Employment Department

Dr. Hart Hodges, PNREC Vice President, Center for Economic and Business Research, Western Washington University

Dr. Terry Morlan, PNREC Treasurer, Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Retired)

Ms. Becky Knudson, PNREC Secretary, Oregon Department of Transportation

Mr. Scott Bailey, Washington Employment Security Department

Mr. Patrick Balducci, Argonne National Laboratory

Dr. Patrick Barkey, University of Montana

Dr. C. Scott Benson, Department of Economics, Idaho State University

Mr. Massoud Jourabchi, Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Mr. Chris Lawless, University of Victoria, Canada

Mr. Mark McMullen, Office of Economic Analysis, State of Oregon

Dr. Greg Piepmeyer, Idaho Division of Financial Management

Dr. Tom Potiowsky, Department of Economics, Portland State University

Dr. Anneliese Vance-Sherman, Washington Employment Security Department

Save the Date

The next Pacific Northwest Regional Economic Conference will be held at
the *Riverhouse on the Deschutes*

2850 NW Rippling River Court in Bend Oregon
in Bend Oregon on May 21-23, 2024





PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGIONAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

*A forum to exchange knowledge and expertise
between academia, business and government*

