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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Our Valley Our Future launches third regional Action Plan project

Residents will again craft projects and programs that improve the region's quality of life

WENATCHEE — Our Valley Our Future / Nuestro Valle Nuestro Futuro has announced the launch of its “Our Valley Together” community outreach, visioning and planning project that will guide development of the region’s third Action Plan.

Our Valley Our Future (OVOF) anticipates releasing the new Action Plan, for the years 2027-31, at a public event in January 2027.

The current Action Plan, released in 2022, expires at the end of this year. Since the first Action Plan released in 2017, more than 100 initiatives, projects and programs have met their objectives and attracted more than \$120 million in funding from outside the region.

To develop the 2027-31 Action Plan, OVOF’s community outreach includes a bilingual public survey — available at bit.ly/surveyovof — along with 20 listening sessions and interviews of community leaders and stakeholders.

“OVOF’s work is defined by the opportunities, challenges, and priorities identified by the residents of Chelan and Douglas Counties,” said executive director Rachel Evey. “The ideas residents share in the survey will become our focus for the next five years.”

Feedback from residents will be analyzed and turned into initiatives, projects and programs — known as “action items” and “game changers” — aligned with six “whole of community” focus areas in the Action Plan. Those focus areas include: economic development and jobs; housing, transportation and growth; environment, sustainability and the outdoors; health, wellness and social services; life-long learning, culture and youth; and civic engagement and decision-making.

OVOF appoints experts to six committees representing each of the focus areas to assist in creating the action items and game changers. OVOF then recruits local government, nonprofit, and private organizations to serve as the lead partners of the action items and game changers.

In addition to developing projects and programs designed to improve the region’s quality of life, OVOF’s process also serves as a needs assessment, providing decision-makers in the public,

private and nonprofit sectors with an assessment of the region's challenges, strengths, and weaknesses.

More than 20 organizations from Chelan and Douglas counties have signed on as official project partners for this year's "Our Valley Together" project. They include Cascadia Conservation District, Catholic Charities Serving Central Washington, Chelan County PUD, Chelan Douglas Community Action Council, Chelan Douglas Health District, Chelan Douglas Land Trust, Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority, City of Chelan, City of Leavenworth, Communities in Schools NCW, Community Foundation of NCW, Community for the Advancement of Family Education (CAFÉ), Link Transit, NCW Libraries, North Central Educational Service District, Parque Padrinos, Sustainable NCW, Thriving Together NCW, Together for Youth TREAD, Upper Valley MEND, Wenatchee Valley College, Wenatchee Valley YMCA.

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OVOF's mission is to empower the people and organizations of Our Valley to co-create and achieve our region's shared vision. OVOF is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that conducts community outreach, visioning and planning work, and guides the development of a community-generated Action Plan every five years. OVOF convenes and facilitates community gatherings around various topics, and provides learning opportunities for residents. It also serves at the designated Coalition for Health Improvement in Chelan and Douglas counties. More information at ourvalleyourfuture.org.