



**News & Updates**

**May 2026**

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### Rachel's Remarks

I'm always amazed how busy our region gets in springtime. With the longer days and everything in bloom, North Central Washington gears up for celebration, adventure, and progress.

At OVOF, we have a lot to celebrate this spring. WildfireNCW.org has launched, fulfilling a game changer objective from the 2022-26 Action Plan. The Chelan County Resilience Summit showed how we live in a different ecosystem and will need to continue innovating. Many of our partners have made progress on action items and we're thrilled to share their successes with you.

Lastly, the [community survey](#) to develop the 2027-31 Action Plan is closing at the end of this month. If you haven't filled it out yet, now's the time to do it! I can't wait to see what our friends and neighbors have shared, then put it into action. Together, we can shape the future of Our Valley.

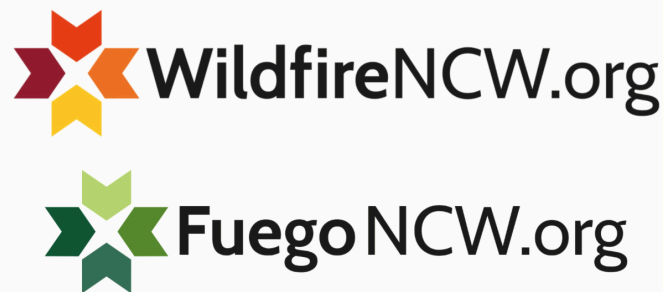
**Ready, Set, Action Plan!**

# THE OVOF COMMUNITY SURVEY CLOSSES MAY 31.

Take 10 minutes to shape the next 5 years of Chelan & Douglas counties.

Take the Survey Now

## Game Changer: Wildfire Prevention & Preparedness



We are excited to announce that [wildfirencw.org](http://wildfirencw.org) is now live! Created in partnership with over 20 organizations, including our leads **Cascadia Conservation District** and **Chelan County PUD**, this bilingual website brings resources for wildfire prevention and preparation all in one place. The website includes information on preparing your home and property, burn bans, tracking smoke and fires, and health resources. The purpose is to ensure every resident and visitor has access to clear, timely, and practical wildfire information in English and Spanish. We hope this resource will reduce loss, increase readiness, and support community resilience in the face of our growing wildfire reality.

Wildfire NCW

## What We've Been Up To



## Resilience Summit

Speakers at the April 16th Resilience Summit shared the current and projected impact of natural hazards and a changing climate on our region. Guests engaged with the content and identified opportunities to increase resilience to harden the regional economy and lifestyles.

Summit speakers included Washington State University, University of Washington, Visit Chelan County, WA Department of Commerce, Chelan County PUD, Congresswoman Schrier's office, and more. This event was hosted by Our Valley Our Future, Sustainable NCW, and Chelan County.

[Learn More](#)



## Clean Energy Expo

The energy landscape in North Central Washington is rapidly changing. The Mid-Columbia PUDs (Chelan, Douglas, and Grant) shared innovative opportunities and infrastructure challenges at the April 22 Expo.

Emerging technologies included fusion, small modular reactors, geothermal, and grid-scale solar and battery storage. With growing power demands, the PUDs shared that they are collaborating to maintain their reliability, affordability, and environmental stewardship.

[Learn More](#)

[Join Us & Get Involved](#)

# REGIONAL HOUSING SUMMIT

June 11 | 9:30am - 3pm

Leavenworth Festhalle



[Register Now](#)

We've been talking about the housing crisis for over a decade—what progress have we made, and where are we headed next?

Together, we'll explore the **big picture** shaping housing in Chelan & Douglas counties and highlight practical, local solutions to increase supply and affordability. From innovative construction methods to workforce development and equitable access to homeownership, this event is designed to inform, connect, and inspire action.

This event is planned by the [Chelan Douglas Regional Housing Solutions Group](#) as part of Our Valley Our Future's work.



**Cultural Futures**  
June 2, 5pm | Wells House

Cultural Futures is a free funding, policy, and advocacy workshop for cultural businesses and supporters! This spring, Inspire Washington invites you to join your local partners for Cultural Futures, Inspire Washington's annual post-State Legislative Session tour when they visit communities to share what happened during the 2026



**Legislative Advocacy Fellowship**  
Apply by May 29

The Legislative Advocacy Fellowship, facilitated by Thriving Together North Central Washington, will equip local leaders with the skills and confidence needed to engage in strategic, collaborative, and locally led public policy advocacy. No policy advocacy

[Register Here](#)

[Apply & Learn More](#)

## Action Plan Successes

The shared vision of Our Valley is becoming a reality through the steady progress of our partners' achieving objectives and moving Game Changer initiatives forward. Join us in celebrating them!

- *Inclusive Workforce Development:*
  - [Chelan County PUD expands supported employment program for people with disabilities](#) (Wenatchee Valley Business World)
- *Regulatory Barriers Affecting Affordable Housing:*
  - [ADUs gain traction in Wenatchee Valley as cities push affordable housing options](#) (Wenatchee Valley Business World)
  - [Chelan expands flexibility in housing fund with ordinance updates](#) (NCW News)
- *Regional Food System:*
  - [NCW small farms, businesses awarded food system infrastructure grants](#) (Wenatchee Valley Business World)
  - [Leavenworth Community Farmers Market open for the season](#)
  - [Chelan Farmers Market open for the season](#)
  - [Wenatchee Valley Farmers Market open for the season](#)
- *Community Centered Arts and Culture:*
  - [‘The Icicle Calls Us Back’ centers p’squosa perspectives on Icicle Creek’s future](#) (NCW News)
  - [Community at the center of record-breaking Lotería night](#) (NCW News)
- *Redesign of the Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center:*
  - [Groundbreaking celebration May 16](#), your final chance to visit the Museum before the transformation begins.
- *Post-Carbon Economy:*
  - [Three PUDs explore geothermal energy as regional demand grows](#) (NCW News)
- Expanded Airline Service
  - [Pangborn Memorial Airport Announces New Nonstop Service to Portland with Horizon Air](#)

## Steve's Reading Recommendations

- [Washington looking for solutions to looming water challenges](#) (Washington State Standard)
- [Two surveys suggest most Spokane residents are contemplating an exodus](#) (The Spokesman-Review)
- [Portland-based ocean energy startup gets \\$140 million investment from billionaire backers](#) (The Oregonian)
- [Significant wildfire potential to shift above normal by June in NCW](#) (National Interagency Fire Center)

- [WSU extends Washington's Cosmic Crisp exclusivity rights](#) (Good Fruit Grower)
- [WA's latest emissions report shows small decline](#) (Washington State Standard)
- [Microsoft AI demands more power. Can a WA fusion company supply it?](#) (The Seattle Times)
- [Discomfort with modern technology shapes Gen Z's desire to live in the past](#) (NBC News)

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Our Valley Our Future | 14 N Wenatchee Ave Ste 155 | Wenatchee, WA 98801 US

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