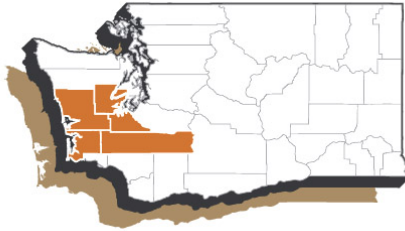


## Pacific Mountain, Washington



The Pacific Mountain region comprises five counties, with geographic boundaries that encompass over 7,000 square miles. The region spans from the southern tip of Puget Sound, rolling south along the I-5 corridor, west to the Pacific Ocean and east to the crest of the Cascade Mountains.

A rich historical linkage to the timber and the forest products industries frames the region's economy. Extraction of natural resources created family wage jobs that supported generations of workers. In the late 1980's, the structural dismantling of the timber and wood products industries left the region lacking its identity and families searching for employment opportunities where they could transfer their skills.

Aggressive economic development efforts have created an entrepreneurial environment new to the region that is recapturing its natural resource base through advanced manufacturing processes and sustainable energy technology. The Pacific Mountain Region is an emerging center of the "green revolution."

The communities making up the region's economy share many similarities, in particular their interdependence on traditional and renewable energy resources, manufacturing and construction. These three sectors create the foundation that will support the skills training and talent development strategies to sculpt, integrate and transform the economic landscape across the region and beyond.

The Pacific Mountain Alliance for Innovation (PMAI) intends to transform the region's talent pool and economies through industry-driven goals:

1. Create a flexible technologically perceptive workforce
2. Promote innovation and entrepreneurship
3. Create an Enterprise Network to accelerate regional economic growth and
4. Harness the synergy of the Pacific Mountain Alliance for Innovation to leverage resources and promote regional identity

Through PMAI, the region will align and share resources that will result in a flexible, responsive, integrated training system driven by industry to anchor the region's economic competitive advantage.

## Pacific Mountain, Washington



Identification of core skill sets and introduction of the industry training models into the education system will serve as a catalyst to transform methods of teaching science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). By connecting with the state's integrated work on career guidance, the K-12 system will increase the pipeline of students entering STEM programs. STEM will form the education backbone to create a "home grown," highly skilled workforce that can advance innovation and sector development.

The integrated goals and strategies of PMAI easily lend themselves to closing industry skill gaps and transforming the region's economy. By building a well-educated, highly skilled talent pool, PMAI partners will increase employer confidence to create, maintain and grow their competitive advantage through the people they hire. PMAI provides the structure and partner commitment to transform, grow and sustain Pacific Mountain's regional economic future.

The PMAI is an industry-led consortium of economic development, education and workforce leaders. Representing the energy, manufacturing and construction sectors are senior members of the region's major public utilities, senior leadership from private manufacturing and several labor organizations representing the construction and building trades. The three Presidents of the region's community colleges and the Executive Director of the New Market Skills Center, serving ten K-12 school districts and 25 high schools, strengthen the Alliance. Washington State University's Energy Research program, the directors of all five Economic Development Councils who will be instrumental in building the Enterprise Network, add significantly to the brain trust. Leaders from the South Sound Manufacturers' Alliance complete the growing circle of private sector partners. Washington's One-Stops, WorkSource, provide a wide range of integrated employment and training services, critical to the success of this initiative.

