

# *Gathering Our Voice*

## *Foodways and Byways*

Project Framework 2010 – 2011

**What is the purpose of this program?** This program is designed to build the infrastructure that will create inspiring stories for the future by developing a strong network of story gatherers and story tellers throughout North Central Washington. Together, the Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship (IRIS) and our partners will create the story of how acts of environmental, community and economic stewardship contribute to a vital and sustainable future.

**What is the difference between stewardship and sustainability?** *Stewardship* means taking responsibility to assure the existence of something, e.g., the full range of natural diversity, access to healthful food, and clean drinking water for the next generation. Stewardship encompasses a continuum of actions to which we all contribute as individuals and members of a family, business, organization, and community. *Sustainability* is an outcome of good stewardship that leverages the interconnections of our lands, community and economy. Sustainability addresses individual and community vitality, environmental health, and economic prosperity.

**How will we identify stories that illustrate these concepts?** Over the next two years IRIS and partners will work as a region to highlight principles of stewardship and sustainability by gathering stories about past and present food harvest and distribution practices that: 1) integrate social, environmental, and economic values, 2) foster choice and opportunity for future generations, 3) acknowledge our dependence upon healthy natural ecosystems, and 4) create thriving communities where people feel safe, have meaningful work and relationships, and enjoy a healthy environment.

Specifically, we'll look for stories about hunting, fishing and gathering along with those about farming and ranching across the region. We'll record stories about how acts of adapting, learning and cooperating have contributed to successful food harvest and distribution practices. And we'll also explore how acts of appreciating, enhancing, and hoping have shaped past practices in ways that remain relevant today. We expect that self-reliance, inventiveness, and building on the good work of others will be cornerstones of many of the stories we find - cornerstones we can build upon as we work to increase the amount of food grown and consumed in NCW.

**How will we choose interviewees and interview questions?** We'll interview a broad spectrum of people who have influenced the foodways and byways of our region. By November 2011 we will combine excerpts from more than 60 of these interviews and tell one *Signature Story* highlighting what we discover about successful food harvest and distribution practices in NCW. This story will be produced as a video/DVD with companion educational materials about local foods and offered for sale as a benefit to the larger program.

## Anticipated Schedule

<b>2010</b>	April	Develop interview guide
	April	Convene a regional technical team to provide support to local groups
	May	Conduct story center group interviews and create their web pages
	June	Charter teams, conduct trainings and begin interviews
	Aug	Launch <i>Foodways &amp; Byways</i> photo drive
	Sept	Convene storyboard workshop to distill storyline
	Nov	Present draft <i>Foodways &amp; Byways</i> at NCW Summit
<b>2011</b>	Jan	Present <i>Foodways &amp; Byways</i> to various audiences for feedback
	Feb	Conduct second round of interviews
	Mar	Refresh/add new interview teams, conduct trainings and begin interviews
	June	Convene storyboard workshop to create storyline for DVD
	Aug	Charter DVD production team to create Signature Story
	Nov	Present <i>Foodways &amp; Byways</i> DVD at NCW Community Success Summit

**How can I get involved?** While IRIS serves as the convener and project manager, *Gathering Our Voice* is a community effort that reflects the contributions of many partner staff, contractors, and volunteers who work together as a team. Here's how you can help:

- 1. Lead a local team.** Coordinate the work of 4-5 people and serve as a liaison to the regional *Gathering Our Voice* team.
- 2. Provide a story center.** Museums, art centers, libraries and other organizations can provide access to phone, computer, internet and meeting space for local teams.
- 3. Help with writing.** Transcribe interviews, identify key segments and themes for the Signature Story, and work with others to develop companion educational materials.
- 4. Conduct interviews.** Participate in a local team training session and conduct at least two recorded interviews.
- 5. Collect photos.** Gather, duplicate, and label photos for use in the Signature Story and regional archives.
- 6. Share your skills in audio-video production.** Work with students to produce audio and video segments and the full DVD using the latest technology.
- 7. Compose music.** Collaborate with other musicians to compose music inspired by the story of this place for use in the Signature Story.
- 8. Provide art and graphics.** Generate maps, graphical elements, and art for use in the Signature Story and companion discussion guide materials.
- 9. Help with outreach and education.** Support the NCW Community Success Summit and distribution of the DVD and discussion guide.
- 10. Make a financial contribution.** Donations from individuals and organizations are greatly appreciated and used to support the collecting, keeping, and sharing of stories that inspire our future. The NCW RC&D serves as the fiscal agent for IRIS.

**For more information** contact Nancy Warner, Coordinator, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship, 509-881-1812, [nwarner@applecapital.net](mailto:nwarner@applecapital.net), [www.irisncw.org](http://www.irisncw.org)