

Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

Connecting People, Place and Possibility

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IRIS to Host North Central Washington Community Success Summit *Public invited to join the conversation on November 16*

Focus on success and success will grow. In that spirit, the Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship (IRIS) is teaming up with the Port of Douglas County, Mansfield Museum, and others to convene a summit that will showcase examples of how innovative stewardship are building community and lasting success across our region. Citizens are invited to bring their energy, ideas and success stories to share with others at the Summit on Wednesday, November 16, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at The Commons at Chief Joseph Dam in Bridgeport. Visit the IRIS website irisncw.org to view the agenda and obtain registration information.

Highlights of the NCW Community Success Summit agenda will include the release of the *Gathering Our Voice* video, “Foodways & Byways – The Story of Food in NCW,” that IRIS has created in collaboration with volunteers and partners across the region. Designed to support conversation about how we can strengthen our local food system, this 30-minute video presents stories about past and present food harvest and distribution practices that hold promise for our future. In addition to photographs and interview excerpts, the video also includes a variety of music recorded just for this project by a team of talented artists from our region. See www.gatheringourvoice.org to view segments of this music and story.

Additional presentations will include the Bridgeport School, Colville Tribes Selective Fish Harvest & Distribution Program, Okanogan Producers Marketing Association, and more. Fellow citizens will also share insights and stories about how they are working within their communities to meet basic needs while conserving natural systems and bridging cultural divides. Following the presentations, Summit participants will share their best ideas for creating more success in our rural communities in 2012.

Copies of the 2011 Commemorative Edition of the Summit supplement IRIS produced in collaboration with The Wenatchee World will also be available for distribution starting that day. Featuring success stories by contributors from all around the region, this supplement provides a way to share the ideas, energy and positive outcomes that are springing from our region all year long.

For more information contact Nancy Warner, Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship, 509-881-1812, nwarner@applecapital.net. The \$25 registration fee includes a lunch of locally grown foods. An optional fieldtrip to see the Bridgeport tree carvings and visit the new vocational agriculture facility at the Bridgeport School will follow the Summit.

The Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship fosters sustainable rural communities by connecting people, place and possibility in North Central Washington. *On the web at* www.irisncw.org.

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