



For more information on how you can support this program, contact:

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WWW.IRISNCW.ORG



Connecting People, Facilitating Change

OUR MISSION: Fostering sustainable rural communities in North Central Washington by building on the successes and supporting the innovative spirit of its people and institutions.

IRIS serves as a catalyst, building on the strengths of the region through three integrated programs:

Nature of Place celebrates the diversity of land, life, and culture that makes this region special.

Healthy Lands identifies, develops, and enhances voluntary incentives for private landowners that provide sound ecological, economical, and social solutions to land management issues.

Regional Food Systems enhances the production and exchange of food in North Central Washington.

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*Building on Success in
North Central Washington*



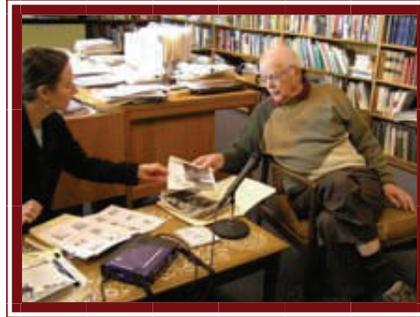
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Gathering Our Voice

The Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship designed the *Gathering Our Voice* program to celebrate and strengthen our shared sense of place.

The program aims to build a network of story gatherers and storytellers to collect and preserve positive stories of economic, community and environmental stewardship throughout North Central Washington.



Stories of successful stewardship teach us about our values and strengths, and inspire us to take actions that create equal or better opportunities for future generations who will live in this place.

Such stories are found in actions by families, businesses, organizations, and communities. They speak of a way of living and problem solving that stems from self-reliance, inventiveness, and building on the good work of others. They are stories of individual and community vitality, environmental health, and economic prosperity.

IRIS serves as the convener and project manager for the program. Other partners include representatives from the business community, museums and libraries, education and technology, visual and performing arts, and landowners and managers across the region.

To build, empower, and sustain the network of story gatherers, storytellers, and story keepers, IRIS and its partners:

- Sponsor an annual speaker series featuring published storytellers



- Launch an annual story drive for local groups to form and collect oral histories and photos focused on specific topics



- Provide training and coaching in methods of interviewing and photo collection

- Work with a storyboard and production team to distill a regional story each year



- Coordinate with regional institutions to archive digital recordings of interviews and photographs