

PREAMBLE

Washington State's Snoqualmie Valley consists of the rural unincorporated areas of King County and the small cities of Carnation, Duvall, North Bend, and Snoqualmie. While rural in nature for the lower population density, open green space, and containing the last remaining farmland in the state's most populous county, only unincorporated areas have official rural designation. The Snoqualmie Valley continues to evolve and become more ethnically and socially diverse, reflecting the regional changes seen elsewhere in King County.¹

Snoqualmie Valley wishes to strengthen local economies in a way that honors our past, gives opportunity to sustain and preserve our rural character going forward, all while ensuring success regardless of residents' income or size of business.

Memorandum of Understanding

WHEREAS the cities of Snoqualmie Valley - Carnation, Duvall, North Bend, and Snoqualmie – find it beneficial to join with the Department of Local Services, representing unincorporated King County, and the Snoqualmie Valley Tribe (hereinafter referred to as “Parties”) in promoting and coordinating the community's economic development efforts hereby creating the Snoqualmie Valley Economic Alliance (hereinafter referred to as the “Alliance”).

ADDITIONALLY for the success of the Alliance, the Parties partner with local organizations to enrich collaboration efforts including community associations, non-profits, greenway associations, school districts, chambers of commerce and tribes. Organizations partner voluntarily on a project-by-project basis. Snoqualmie Valley Innovation Center will serve as the coordinating 501c3 organization.

FURTHERMORE, the Alliance will focus on these areas of interest:

1. **Honor the historic role of Snoqualmie Valley**- Respect the rural vitality that the Snoqualmie Valley brings to King County, Washington State, and beyond.
2. **Healthy living through sustainability and Green Jobs**²- Center the environment and career sustainability of our fragile Pacific Northwest ecosystem by developing economic pathways³ that empower workers to pursue quality careers with sustainable wages.
3. **Diversity**- Honor the diversity of Snoqualmie Valley communities and ensure services for minority-owned businesses and historically underserved residents.

¹ 54.27% of Riverview School District Sixth to Eighth grade students surveyed in 2022 identified as a race/ethnicity other than White and 55% of 6-8th grade Snoqualmie Valley School District students identified as a race/ethnicity other than White.

² King County defines green jobs as living wage positions providing environmental benefits (such as clean energy deployment) in high-demand industry sectors of construction, manufacturing, transportation, and professional services. [SJI/King County Green Jobs Report - Seattle Jobs Initiative](#)

³ [Green Jobs Strategy - King County, Washington](#)

4. **Equity**- Promote access to capital, educate about small business best practices, reduce barriers to economic growth, and economically empower the residents and small business owners most impacted by environmental stressors (climate change, pandemics, economic recessions etc.).^{4,5}
5. **Preserve rural character**- Support King County's Creative Economy⁶ Initiatives and advocate to be included in state and federal incentives that benefit rural communities such as Snoqualmie Valley.
6. **Entrepreneurship**- Support the exploration of entrepreneurship and create opportunities for small business innovation. The Alliance will work to empower local Snoqualmie Valley small businesses and residents to scale their businesses and thrive economically.
7. **Economic empowerment** - Use creative strategies to empower businesses in all stages from inception to maturity with supportive services to help ensure their success.
8. **Youth Career Opportunities**- Engage and inspire youth through hands on learning opportunities with local businesses to support their career readiness, foster life-long-learning, and create tomorrow's entrepreneurs.
9. **Rural infrastructure improvement** – Strengthen safety for multimodal transportation networks by improving roads along SR 202/203. Focus on expansion of rural broadband access across the Snoqualmie Valley Corridor.
10. **Strengthening and supporting local business**- Work collaboratively to strengthen local small business and enhance the vibrancy of downtowns.

THEREFORE, this Alliance provides a framework for future endeavors that will allow for competitive applications for governmental and private grants. It demonstrates the common interests of all Parties and the Parties' willingness to work together knowing that there is scale in size and scope that individually would be difficult to achieve.

FURTHERMORE, this MOU creates no financial commitment nor obligation on the part of any of the Parties to commit staffing resources to Alliance projects or programs unless the parties involved later agree in a subsequent writing to participate in shared grant applications and are successful in their endeavors. In such cases, a separate contracting process with the Grantor and Grantees would apply. Let it be known there are no formal procedures nor a body of decisionmakers to administer this MOU. This Alliance simply allows all participating agencies to coordinate economic development efforts on a voluntary basis to achieve mutually beneficial interests.

THIS MOU REMAINS UNTIL December 31st 2026 after which it may be renewed and re-signed with interested parties. This MOU will commence on _____, 2023 however any signatory agency, government, or organization may opt-out at any time by providing written notice to the other Parties involved.

⁴ Fire, smoke, extreme temperatures, flood, storms etc.

⁵ Helgeson, J. , Aminpour Mohammadabadi, P. , Fung, J. , Roa Henriquez, A. , Zycherman, A. , Butry, D. , Nierenberg, C. and Zhang, Y. (2022), Natural hazards compound COVID-19 impacts on small businesses disproportionately for historically underrepresented group operators, International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction, [online], <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdr.2022.102845>, https://tsapps.nist.gov/publication/get_pdf.cfm?pub_id=932704 (Accessed September 6, 2023)

⁶ [Office of Economic Opportunity & Creative Economy - King County, Washington](#)

CITY OF SNOQUALMIE

Mayor Katherine Ross