

# Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship (IRIS)

*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.

## Our Approach

IRIS serves as a catalyst to help communities address opportunities and challenges as we build a more sustainable future. We gather stories that focus on successes and contribute to a common vision of what communities can achieve. We use this expanding knowledge bank of what works to build partnerships and programs that yield practical, sustainable and replicable models for use by others in our region and beyond.

## Our Programs

<i>Nature of Place</i>	celebrates the diversity of lands, life and culture that makes North Central Washington special.
<i>Regional Food Systems</i>	enhances the production and exchange of food in our region.
<i>Healthy Lands</i>	Seeks to identify, develop, and enhance voluntary incentives for private landowners that provide sound ecological, economical, and social solutions to land management issues.

## Current Projects

*Connecting with Nature* focuses on the encounters between people and nature across habitat types and seasons.

*Gathering Our Voice* creates inspired stories for the future by developing a strong network of story gatherers and storytellers throughout the region.

*Witnessing Change* engages people in using photography to see lands through the eyes of a landowner or manager working to improve the health of the land.

*Regional Food Systems* is currently focused on completing a Regional Food System Assessment to help the community identify strategies for increasing food grown and consumed here.

*NCW Biodiversity Council* seeks to demonstrate how the Washington Biodiversity Conservation Strategy can be implemented at a regional scale.

*Habitat Farming* is working to develop a system that will provide payments to farmers for growing riparian vegetation instead of tree fruit in high priority salmon spawning habitat.

## Contact

Nancy Warner  
Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship  
10 N Mission  
PO Box 4563  
Wenatchee, WA 98807  
nwarner@applecapital.net  
509-881-1812