

Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

Connecting People, Place and Possibility

The Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship supports vibrant, healthy, sustainable rural communities in North Central Washington by building knowledge, confidence, and positive community dialogue.

October 28, 2010

Dear friend of IRIS:

Gathering Our Voice has been a tremendous success. Two years ago, teams throughout NCW gathered stories about local ski areas. The DVD that was produced demonstrated that individuals have a history of working together to meet common goals. Just think about how our region could prosper if we could rekindle that collaborative spirit!

Last year, the project focused on gathering stories of stewardship success to build a common language to describe sustainability. Having this common language based in stories of on-the-ground experiences helps to build a common vision of a sustainable future—a future in which we all have a voice.

We have been presented with a unique opportunity to supercharge the work of our program. The Icicle Fund has graciously given us a \$10,000 challenge grant to use in seeking community support for the *Gathering Our Voice* "Foodways & Byways" project.

We have until December 31 to complete our effort to match the dollars. We have thus far raised \$2,000. We hope that you will generously support this effort by making a contribution to IRIS to be matched dollar for dollar. That's a great way to leverage your contribution.

Here's another signal that our work is gaining traction. We are partnering with The Wenatchee World to develop a regular column in the newspaper that will bring to light our ongoing storygathering work. This will allow us to showcase the work of our volunteers and partners in an unprecedented fashion.

I encourage you to support this effort to the extent possible. The IRIS board of directors is strongly supporting this effort and is also actively seeking additional help to support this work. We see *Gathering Our Voice* as an approach that can grow important dialogue and understanding in our region. I hope you agree.

Sincerely,



Nancy Warner
Coordinator

P.S. Please send your check to IRIS **now** at PO Box 4563, Wenatchee, WA 98807. IRIS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.