



NEWS RELEASE

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Sun Valley Institute Program Director to Serve on Idaho State Steering Committee for Newly Created Northwest and Rocky Mountain Regional Food Business Center

- United States Department of Agriculture announces new Regional Food Business Centers
- The Northwest and Rocky Mountain Regional Food Business Center will serve Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming
- Sun Valley Institute for Resilience Program Director, Amy Mattias, will serve on the Idaho State Steering Committee and co-lead the right size investing and infrastructure team for the Northwest and Rocky Mountain Regional Food Business Center
- Food Business Centers will support agricultural producers in accessing local and regional supply chains, new markets, and federal, state, and local resources

Hailey, ID – Sun Valley Institute for Resilience Program Director, Amy Mattias, will serve on the Idaho State Steering Committee for the new Northwest and Rocky Mountain Regional Food Business Center. This new center, established through a cooperative agreement between Colorado State University and Oregon State University, will be one of 12 regional centers established by a United States Department of Agriculture \$400 million initiative announced on May 3rd.

Regional Food Centers will elevate the connections, technical assistance, and capacity of a diverse and inclusive set of farm and food-based enterprises operating in local and regional food supply chains. Collectively, the 12 Regional Food Business Centers will serve all areas of the country with a focus on historically underserved communities in each region.



SVIR's Amy Mattias will serve as a member of the Idaho State Steering Committee. She will also co-lead the right size investing and infrastructure theme team, one of four theme teams that also include building meat supply chain capacity, diverse markets for climate resilient agriculture, connecting and scaling food entrepreneurs. Each theme team will provide coordination activities, technical assistance, and capacity building to producers and investors across the region. Mattias will be joined by FARE Idaho, University of Idaho, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Idaho Veterans Chamber, the Nez Perce Tribe, and other partners as representative of Idaho for the regional center.

"It is an honor to be serving on the leadership team and representing Idaho for the Northwest and Rocky Mountain Regional Food Business Center" says Amy Mattias. "We have strong agricultural traditions in Idaho. I am looking forward to connecting Idaho producers to the resources that will be available through the regional food center. This initiative is a powerful tool for local food producers and an amazing catalyst for the Sun Valley Institute for Resilience's work developing robust regional food systems."

The Northwest and Rocky Mountain Regional Food Business Center will serve as the central node for the region's small and mid-tier food and farm business development initiatives by supporting resilient multi-sector and cross-regional collaborative networks, providing timely and relevant data and analysis for market access and development, and serving as a gateway and navigator for USDA programs and funding as well as other third-party funding sources.

To find out more about the Northwest and Rocky Mountain Food Business Center, sign up here (<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/tYg6rYT/NWRegFoodCenter>) to receive project updates and more.

Amy Mattias

Amy Mattias is the Program Director for the Sun Valley Institute for Resilience. She played a critical role in launching the Impact Idaho Fund and publishing four annual Locally Grown Guides. Under Mattias' leadership, SVIR was chosen as a semi-finalist for the Rockefeller, Open IDEO, and SecondMuse prize competition for a 2050 Food Vision.

Her commitment to regional food systems and regenerative agriculture is highlighted by her volunteerism with various organizations including board secretary for the Idaho Center for Sustainable Agriculture, board chair for FARE Idaho's Farm and Agriculture Committee, and executive committee member for the Upper Big Wood River Grange. Amy has worked for various farm and ag-adjacent enterprises in central Idaho including Lava Lake Lamb, Kraay's Market & Garden, Idaho's Bounty, and NourishMe.



Prior to moving to Idaho, Amy graduated magna cum laude from Western Michigan University in 2013, majoring in Sociology and Organizational Communications. Since then she has continued to expand her education with a professional courses series at Chico State's Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Systems and is currently enrolled in a Master's of Science in Sustainable Food Systems program at Arizona State University. Amy is an avid gardener, wildcrafter and naturalist living in Gannett, Idaho, where she continues to deepen her roots and cultivate a better tomorrow.

About Sun Valley Institute for Resilience

SVIR advances community resilience in Idaho's Wood River Valley region by educating, investing and collaborating to ensure that the economy, environment and people thrive. SVIR is dedicated to supporting our whole community and we are working to develop programs that meet everyone's needs. For more information, please visit: www.sunvalleyinstitute.org