

Redwood Region RISE

In-Person Collaborative Convening

Friday, August 21, 2026 | Bear River

[Link to RSVP form](#)

- **Date & Time:** Friday, August 21st from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **Location:** [Bear River Casino Resort](#), Loleta
- **Invitees:**
 - RRRISE Collaborative and RRRISE Projects;
 - Community leaders, partners, and elected officials across the region;
 - Resource partners and state agency representatives.
- **Scholarships for Travel and Accommodation, plus Per Diems:** Limited scholarships available for hotel and mileage for participants traveling over 30 miles each way. Per diems of \$100/day for the event are available for eligible attendees.
- **Food Costs:** Breakfast, lunch, and beverages will be provided.

Evolving Our Regional Collective Impact

- Hear directly from RRRISE projects & key sector leaders on progress and the path forward
- Strengthen relationships through networking with fellow regional leaders and partners
- Get inspired by a keynote speaker on championing rural economic development
- Be informed about – and help shape – what's next for RRRISE

Agenda (subject to change)

Friday, August 21, 2026

Time	Session	Description & Details
8:00–8:45 a.m.	Registration & Breakfast	Arrive, enjoy breakfast, and connect with colleagues from across the Redwood Region. Light structured conversation prompts at each table to spark connections between attendees. Between bites, browse the room to meet RRRISE-funded projects and partners, pick up materials, and learn more about the work happening across the region.

9:00– 9:30 a.m.	Welcome & Opening	Opening Blessing followed by a welcome from RRRISE Collaborative leadership – the Convening Team, Tribal Table, and Voting Block representatives. Overview of the day's agenda, goals, and what to expect. Brief framing of RRRISE's work, vision, and early impact across the region.
9:30– 10:15 a.m.	Keynote Address: Championing Rural Economic Development	A featured speaker on the power and promise of rural economic development – sharing insights on what it takes to build equitable, resilient regional economies. Drawing on lessons from across the state, the keynote will help our Collaborative envision what's next for regional collaboration and alignment, connecting insights to the work happening right here in the Redwood Region. Followed by brief Q&A.
10:15– 10:30 a.m.	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
10:30– 11:10 a.m.	Strengthening a Sense of Place: Arts, Culture, and Tourism	Discover how Arts, Culture, and Tourism are helping shape a stronger, more connected Redwood Region. Hear from Sector Investment Coordinator Calder Johnson and regional partners as they explore how this sector is woven throughout economic and community development, strengthening community identity, supporting economic resilience, and building a regenerative future. Presenters will examine the challenges this interconnected nature creates for sustained investment, highlight opportunities and policy approaches that could help advance the sector, and conclude with a discussion of the "Hope Economy" as a framework for the future of arts, culture, tourism, and regional prosperity.
11:10 a.m.– 11:50 p.m.	Health and Caregiving Successes and Future Ambitions	Panelists highlight the progress of the Redwood Region RISE Health and Caregiving Sector, showcasing accomplishments achieved through its Advisory Council and Activation Plan implementation, while outlining priorities for the future. Participants will hear updates on key initiatives, including the development of the Clinical Placement Consortium, HEART Hub architectural plans, and Home Health Aid brief, and explore how the California Rural Health Transformation initiative presents a significant opportunity to secure resources that will advance these regional priorities and bring high-impact workforce and healthcare projects to fruition.
11:50– 12:50 p.m.	<i>Networking Lunch</i>	
12:50– 1:30 p.m.	Powering a Transition: Renewable and Resilient Energy	Hear updates from our Renewable and Resilient Energy Sector Investment Coordinator, the Blue Lake Rancheria, alongside RRRISE-funded projects preparing the region for a low-carbon, climate-ready future. With Tribal leadership and innovation at the forefront, leaders will share how their work is advancing workforce development, strengthening community energy resilience, and driving a just energy transition – and where the sector is headed next.

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1:30–2:10 p.m.	Cultivating Regeneration: Working Lands and Blue Economy	Our Working Lands and Blue Economy Sector Investment Coordinator West Business Development Center is joined by RRRISE-funded projects to share how the region is advancing a regenerative shift across farms, fisheries, and forests — supporting sustainable resource use, expanding markets, growing an inclusive workforce, and driving innovation across agriculture, forestry, and ocean industries — and what's next for rural prosperity in the Redwood Region.
2:10–2:25 p.m.	Regional Pulse Check: Live Mentimeter	Before we close out the sector sessions, we want to hear from you. Using Mentimeter, reflect on what you've heard so far and share your perspective in real time — on what's working, where economic development through regional coordination and alignment could go further, and how we each show up for this work. Watch the Redwood Region's voice take shape on screen.
2:25–2:35 p.m.	<i>Break</i>	
2:35–2:50 p.m.	What We Built Together: RRRISE Trivia	How well do you know the Redwood Region — and the resources built to help it thrive? In this interactive session, we're turning the spotlight on the tools, maps, plans, and resources the RRRISE Collaborative and partners created — and inviting everyone to engage with them together. Through a live quiz format, we'll surface some surprising numbers, celebrate regional milestones, and make sure everyone leaves knowing where to find the resources built to support this region's economic future. From Career Pathway Maps and the Regional Roadmap to the Partner Directory, Projects Map, storytelling resources and beyond — everything lives in one place, and this session is your guided tour.
2:50–3:50 p.m.	What's Next for RRRISE – Sustainability & Future Planning	Join RRRISE leaders and Sustainability Consultant Elizabeth Devaney (Organizational Learning Partners) for a forward-looking closing session on the future of the Collaborative. Hear key sustainability findings and the direction RRRISE is moving toward for economic development through regional alignment and coordination, followed by a facilitated discussion on funding pathways, governance, and sustained regional impact. Then zoom in with RRRISE leaders — including North Edge Financing on their Regional Project Finance Council, and representatives from the Voting Block and Tribal Table — to explore how each group plans to move this work forward.
3:50–4:00 p.m.	Closing & Send-Off	Reflections on the day, key takeaways, and next steps. Closing remarks from RRRISE leadership and appreciation for hosts, participants, speakers, and panelists.

Breakfast, lunch, and refreshments provided.

Questions? Contact the RRRISE Convening Team at ccrp@humboldt.edu.