



Redwood Region
RISE



Cal Poly
Humboldt.

July 30, 2026

Redwood Region RISE (Resilient Inclusive Sustainable Economy)
Quarterly Collaborative Meeting (Zoom)

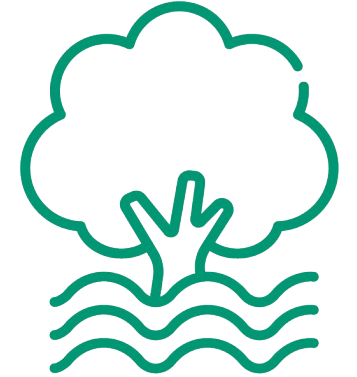
Learn More: [**bit.ly/Redwood-RISE**](https://bit.ly/Redwood-RISE)

Welcome Everyone / ¡Bienvenidos todos!



You've arrived at Redwood Region RISE's
Quarterly Collaborative Meeting

Today's theme is ***Working Lands and Blue Economy***



Please introduce yourself in the chat – name, affiliation
(if applicable), and where you are zooming in from

**What's one landscape near you – a forest, farm,
coastline, waterway – that's shaped how you think
about this work?**

Land Acknowledgement



Redwood Region RISE's Collaborative is located on the present and ancestral Homeland and unceded territory of Indigenous Peoples who are integral to the vibrancy of this region, having protected and developed their lands and resources through countless generations. They remain in relationship to the land through ceremony, culture, and continuous knowledge. Tribal governments and Indigenous communities are critical to the economic flourishing of our region and bring unique assets, access, and perspectives. Tribes and Nations in our region include:

Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria; Big Lagoon Rancheria; Big Valley Band Rancheria; Blue Lake Rancheria; Cahto Tribe; Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians; Elem Indian Colony; Elk Valley Rancheria; Guidiville Indian Rancheria; Habematolel Rancheria of Pomo Indians; Hoopa Valley Tribe; Hopland Band of Pomo Indians; Karuk; Koi Nation; Manchester Band of Pomo Indians; Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians; Pinoleville Pomo Nation; Potter Valley Tribe; Pulikla Tribe of Yurok People; Redwood Valley Little River Band of Pomo Indians; Robinson Rancheria; Round Valley Indian Tribes; Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians; Sherwood Valley Rancheria; Tsnungwe; Tolowa; Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation; Trinidad Rancheria; Wailaki; Wiyot; Yurok Tribe of the Yurok Reservation; Yokayo Rancheria.

We also acknowledge the Mattole and Northern Pomo peoples, whose ancestral homelands are within this region and whose living descendants continue to steward their cultures, languages, and traditions.

We make this land acknowledgement in recognition that our words must be matched by action and approach.

Housekeeping Notes

Reminder: *This meeting is our check-in space to get updates and progress reports of Redwood Region RISE and California Jobs First.*

- **Welcome (Back)!**
- **Convening Team** 🙋
- **Informational, Sector-Focused Sessions**
(No per diems)
- **Slides, Spanish recap** will be shared after
- Please **mute your microphone**
- **Questions in chat** (DMs to the team)
→ *we gather & answer your questions!*



Photo credit: Kaos Sheep Outfit

Agenda

Our goals for today:

- Understand the current landscape of the Redwood Region's Working Lands and Blue Economy sector
- Learn about the RRRISE's Working Lands and Blue Economy projects
- Explore opportunities for alignment around Working Lands and Blue Economy

TIME	AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTED BY
11:00-11:05	Welcome (Back)!	CCRP
11:05-11:25	Admin Updates • Progress updates & developments: ◦ RRRISE portfolio projects updates ◦ August 21st RRRISE In-Person Convening (More Info) ◦ RRRISE Sustainability developments ◦ North Edge: Regional Project Finance Council ◦ Equity Committee: Micro-investments ◦ Tribal Cultural Gathering: Recap	CCRP, Collaborative Leaders
11:25-11:40	Working Lands and Blue Economy Sector Update • Sector Overview • Opportunities and challenges • Current activities, news, and resources	Sector Investment Coordinator West Business Development Center
11:40-12:00	Working Lands and Blue Economy Workforce Development Highlights • Career pathways and workforce development updates	Workforce Development Sector Investment Coordinator Capitol Impact
12:00-12:25	Catalyst Project Highlights • Fire Lines & Fiber Bioregions: A Regional Wool Industry Cluster • Career Pathways: Fire, Forest, Fish & Facilities	Kaos Sheep Outfit; Trees Foundation
12:25-12:30	Recap & next steps • Join upcoming RRRISE meetings	CCRP
12:30	Adjourn Meeting	CCRP

Admin Updates: Overview



- **RRRISE portfolio projects updates:**
 - Private philanthropic funding – 6 new projects
 - Catalyst Projects – 2 projects finalized, 11 projects underway
 - **Now 19(!) RRRISE-funded projects** moving from early-stage to implementation across the region — removing barriers for underserved communities, including through Tribal-led initiatives, in areas ranging from housing and healthcare to working lands, cultural preservation, with workforce development woven throughout.
- **August 21st RRRISE In-Person Convening** ([More Info](#))
- **RRRISE Sustainability update**
- **North Edge: Regional Project Finance Council**
 - *Want more info? Reach out at ccrp@humboldt.edu*

NORTH EDGE ADMINISTERED · SUSTAINING RRRISE / CALIFORNIA JOBS FIRST EFFORTS

Regional Project Finance Council

RRRISE Collaborative Meeting

Building durable capital readiness across Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino & Lake Counties

Developed in partnership: North Edge + Regional Government Services (RGS)

What Happens After the Grant Cycle Ends?

The RPFC is the sustainability answer for project finance in the RRRISE region.

The Gap Without Action

- EDFWG activity winds down with the Jobs First grant cycle
- No formal home remains for project finance expertise
- No pipeline connecting sponsors to capital advisors
- Hard-won relationships and knowledge dissipate



What the RPFC Provides

- An ongoing advisory council under North Edge
- Continuity of EDFWG expertise in a durable structure
- An active pipeline for capital-ready project development
- Regional capacity that outlasts any single grant cycle

What Is the RPFC?

A capital readiness advisory council — not a program, not a funder, not a governing body.



Who

10–15 appointed finance practitioners from across the four-county region



What

Non-binding advisory review of project structure, capital readiness & financing strategy



Under

North Edge as administrative host — regionally aligned, not single-county owned



How

Confidential, liability-protective, quarterly sessions via Zoom — no cost to participants

Built on the EDFWG Foundation

Expert session knowledge, regional relationships, and four-county scope carry forward — now formalized with an attorney-reviewed governance charter, a structured intake process, staggered-term appointed membership, and a county endorsement structure built with no Brown Act exposure.

Council Composition & Where We Are

10–15 appointed members | Staggered two-year terms | Four-county geographic balance

Required Expertise Areas

- Economic Development
- Tribal / Sovereign Finance
- Commercial Real Estate Finance
- CPA / Project Finance
- Planning & Land Use
- Commercial Lending / CDFI
- Tax Credits (NMTC, LIHTC, OZ)
- Infrastructure Finance
- Capital Stacking / Philanthropy
- Government Finance (Advisory Role)

Where We Are — and What's Next



Complete — Governance framework — charter, COI policy, attorney review complete



Complete — North Edge Board action — formal launch authorized



In Progress — County endorsement package & tribal outreach



In Progress — Wave 1 recruitment — founding cohort



Upcoming — First Council session — early Fall 2026

The RPFC is the region's capital readiness infrastructure.

Built on the EDFWG. Designed to last. Administered by North Edge.

For Discussion

- How does the RPFC connect to your sustainability planning for RRRISE?
- Are there project sponsors in your network who should know about the intake process opening this fall?

Developments across the Collaborative



Sector Investment Coordinators:

- **Arts, Culture and Tourism** – calder.johnson@gmail.com
- **Health and Caregiving** – RRRISE@nchiin.org
- **Renewable and Resilient Energy** – mmarshall@bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov
- **Working Lands and Blue Economy** – sarah@westcenter.org
- **Workforce Development** – annie@capitolimpact.org
 - Check out our “[Activation Plans](#)” to learn more about RRRISE’s sector work

Announcements from our Tables

Equity Committee of the Voting Block: [26 "Elevate Awardees": RRRISE Micro-investment](#)

Tribal Table: [Tribal Cultural Gathering](#), July 23–26

RRRISE Executive Committee

Walter Gray, Heidi Moore-Guynup, Asa Mattice (*Quarterly Co-Chair*), Angela Shull, Annette Kamaloni, Paul Garza Jr., and Maria Dahlin (*Quarterly Co-Chair*)

Working Lands and Blue Economy Sector Update

**RRRISE Sector Investment Coordinator | Sarah Bodnar,
CEO of West Business Development Center: sarah@westcenter.org**

- Sector Overview
- Opportunities and challenges
- Current activities, news, and resources



Photo credit: Anna Neumann



Redwood Region RISE

Working Lands & Blue Economy Sector Investment Coordinator





WLBE Activation Plan

The Redwood Region's forests, farms, and fisheries are more than resources—they are the living foundation of community, culture, and climate resilience.

From mountain rangelands to the Pacific coast, our region is uniquely positioned to advance a regenerative Working Lands and Blue Economy (WLBE) model that restores ecosystems, revitalizes rural communities, and fosters inclusive economic growth.

This Activation Plan outlines regional coordination serving producers, processors, port authorities, Tribal communities, and value chain innovators across agriculture, forestry, and ocean-based industries through five interconnected strategies.

Strategy 1 Expand and Integrate Markets



Strategy 2 Build Collective Capacity



WLBE Activation Plan

The Redwood Region's **Blue Economy**, spanning 280 miles of North Coast shoreline, is essential to sustaining coastal livelihoods and advancing California's climate and economic goals.

Anchored by Dungeness crab fishing (\$37.4 million annually) and oyster aquaculture (\$17.4 million, 12% of state production), the region blends marine tradition with innovation.



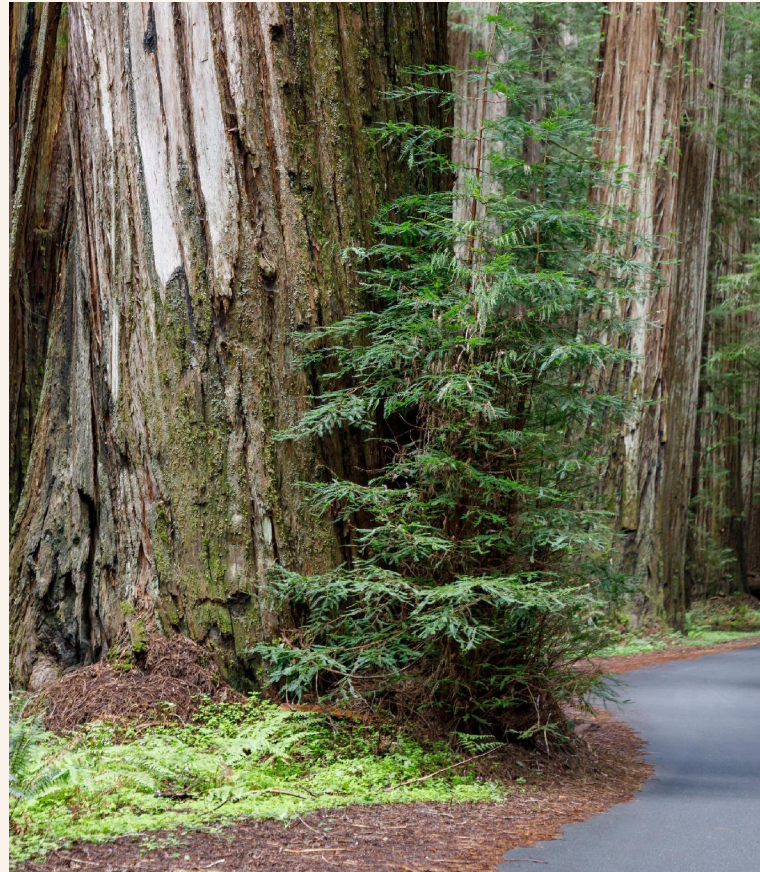


Strategy 5

Advance WLBE Research

WLBE Activation Plan

The Redwood Region's **Working Lands**—spanning Tribal Lands, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, and Mendocino Counties—play a vital role in California's natural resource economy. With over 3.5 million forested acres, the region supports active timber, biomass, and conservation efforts.





Catalyst Funded Projects

- **NCO- Redwood Corridor SEEDS Network-** Just Soup
- **North Coast Grower's Association-** Community Kitchen, Meat Collaborative, DNATL (Del Norte Tribal Lands & Community Food Council), Aquilli Metzli, Mini Grants for farmers, Tribal Food Sovereignty Projects, Eureka Dockside Market
- **Kaos Sheep Outfit**
- **True North Organizing Network/Hmong Association**
- **Forest WRX**
- **Trees Foundation**



Workforce Development Highlights



Prepared by  **CAPITOL
IMPACT**

CHOOSE YOUR OWN **CAREER PATHWAY** → IN THE REDWOOD REGION!

Use these pathway maps to find stable, in-demand, high-paying careers in Humboldt, Del Norte, Mendocino, and Lake Counties.



**Working Lands &
Blue Economy**



**Renewable &
Resilient Energy**



**Arts, Culture, &
Tourism**



Click on each picture to learn more!



**Health &
Caregiving**

**Workforce Development Sector
Investment Coordinator |
Capitol Impact team:
annie@capitolimpact.org**

- Career pathways and workforce development updates:
 - [Blue Economy](#)
 - [Fire & Forestry](#)

Catalyst Project Highlights

Fire Lines & Fiber Bioregions: A Regional Wool Industry Cluster (Kaos Sheep Outfit)



Career Pathways: Fire, Forest,
Fish & Facilities (Trees Foundation)

Grant Project Update: Fire Lines & Fiber Bioregions

Fiscal Sponsor: Kaos Sheep Outfit

Partners: UCANR, UCCE, Cal Poly
Humboldt, Shannon Family of Wines,
Fibershed



**Redwood Region
RISE**

CA Woolgrower Needs Survey



<https://forms.gle/6hneXtxgJ8dp66fi8>



Project Scope + Goals

- **Where?** Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt + Del Norte counties
 - **When?** July 2025 – March 2026 (final public report)
 - **What? Exploratory feasibility study** to identify the needs, gaps, strengths, and weaknesses in the economic development idea of a Regional Wool Industry Cluster
- 1) **Production:** Assess food and fiber supply, grazable acreage, and vocational training needs for contract grazing
 - 2) **Processing:** Barriers, potential products and partnerships for wool, and infrastructure needs – with added focus on scour step
 - 3) **Delivery:** Analyze market demand, supply chains, state procurement, investment needs for processing



Early Returns + Highlights

Production:

- **High grazing need in the region** (funded projects for prescribed herbivory need animals; untended, former cannabis lands; state acreage goals) – supply drivers
- UC teams + grazing advisory group **mapping** acreages
- Ecosystem **co-benefits to acres** (Fibershed + state)
- High interest and demand in **contract grazing as a business and training** for same; affordability challenges
- Major challenge is **policy disconnects** (state grazing targets (acres) and wage requirements)
- **Contract grazing -> VM** -> specific processing needs -> increased costs



Early Returns + Highlights

Processing:

- **“Scouring is a bottleneck”** actually means MANY different things.
- **Test R+D shipment** (single container) from multiple growers to Woolworks in New Zealand – quality, speed, cost
- **No sale** – pay to send, scour, return
- **Opportunities** for freight coordination and consolidation (among growers) and logistics help.
- **Lessons** in biocontrols and quarantine, disposal, quality, service, wool test results, and more
- **Tariffs and trade chaos** creates *interesting* incentives, behaviors, and approaches to cost management.



Early Returns + Highlights

Delivery:

- **Little to no marketing of U.S. wool**
- **High interest in buying** (2026 scarcity, prices)
- **Excellent overseas scour experience;** high value, service
- Developing partnerships/value chains (American Woolen blanket R+D beginning)
- High service need for, and value in, **connection, education, “hand holding”**
- **“Repeat replacement” products** – air filters, garden
- **State procurement vs. consumer potential** – Marin Co.
- **Demand drives throughput**
- **Scour financials in progress**



CA Woolgrower Needs Survey



<https://forms.gle/6hneXtxgJ8dp66fi8>



Questions + Contact

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Rural Resilience Partnership



**Tribal
EcoRestoration
Alliance**



**Mattole
Salmon
Group**



Proud partner of Redwood Region RISE, a Collaborative of 175+ organizations working to bring good jobs to our region while advancing inclusive economic development and environmental stewardship across Tribal Lands, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, and Mendocino Counties.



Career Pathways

Fire, Forests, Fish and Facilities

Purpose:

Through empowering tribal and community based leadership, we aim to restore healthy ecosystems and our relationships to the land. Together, we are building a vibrant land stewardship workforce in Northern California.



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Career Pathways

Fire, Forests, Fish and Facilities

Fire:

- Create and build out a JPA to strengthen the Volunteer Fire Service
- Support each other to implement larger landscape-scale wildfire mitigation and workforce development efforts



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Career Pathways

Fire, Forests, Fish and Facilities

Forests:

- Grow the Restoration Workforce
- Increase climate resilience and forest health through collaborative efforts



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Career Pathways

Fire, Forests, Fish and Facilities

Fish:

- Increase in-stream monitoring capabilities
- Support internships and entry-level monitoring jobs



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Career Pathways

Fire, Forests, Fish and Facilities

Facilities:

- Secure the purchase of the Mattole Resilience, Education, and Research Center
- Develop plans for 2 additional learning and demonstration centers



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Rural Resilience Partnership

Guiding Values:

- Reverence for Life
- Native Leadership
- Genuine Communication
- Long-Range, Collective Vision
- Place-Based Prosperity



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Rural Resilience Partnership

Impact:

- 1 Training Facility Acquired and 2* completing planning efforts
- Formation of Southern Humboldt Fire Joint Powers Alliance
- 182 RT-130 firefighter certifications in 2026 (up from 147 in 2025)



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Rural Resilience Partnership

Impact:

- 43 newly qualified sawyers
- 481 firefighters, prescribed fire practitioners, weather personnel, and other emergency response partners certified to date
- Internship programs developed and expanded (5 early career interns)
- 50+ people transported to events
- Coordinated training efforts



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Rural Resilience Partnership

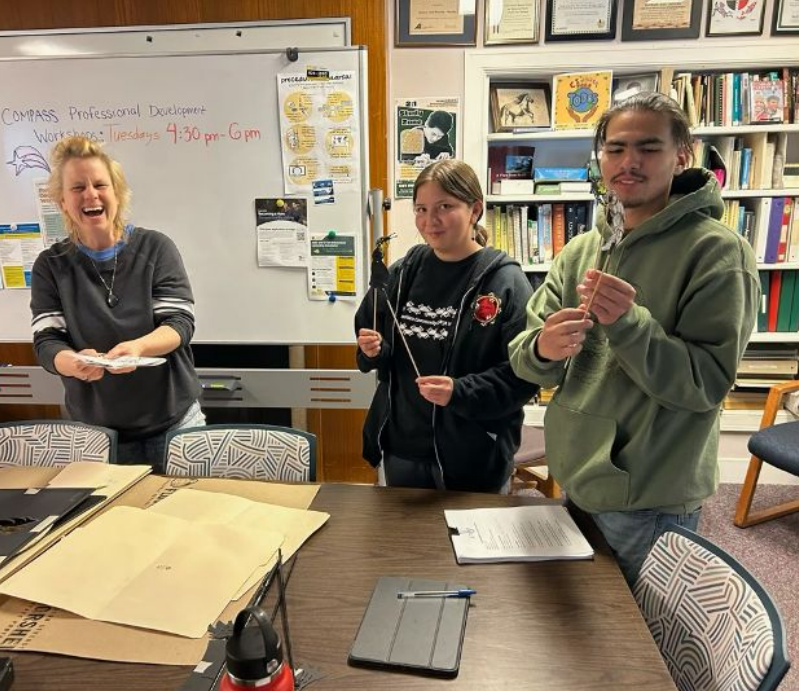
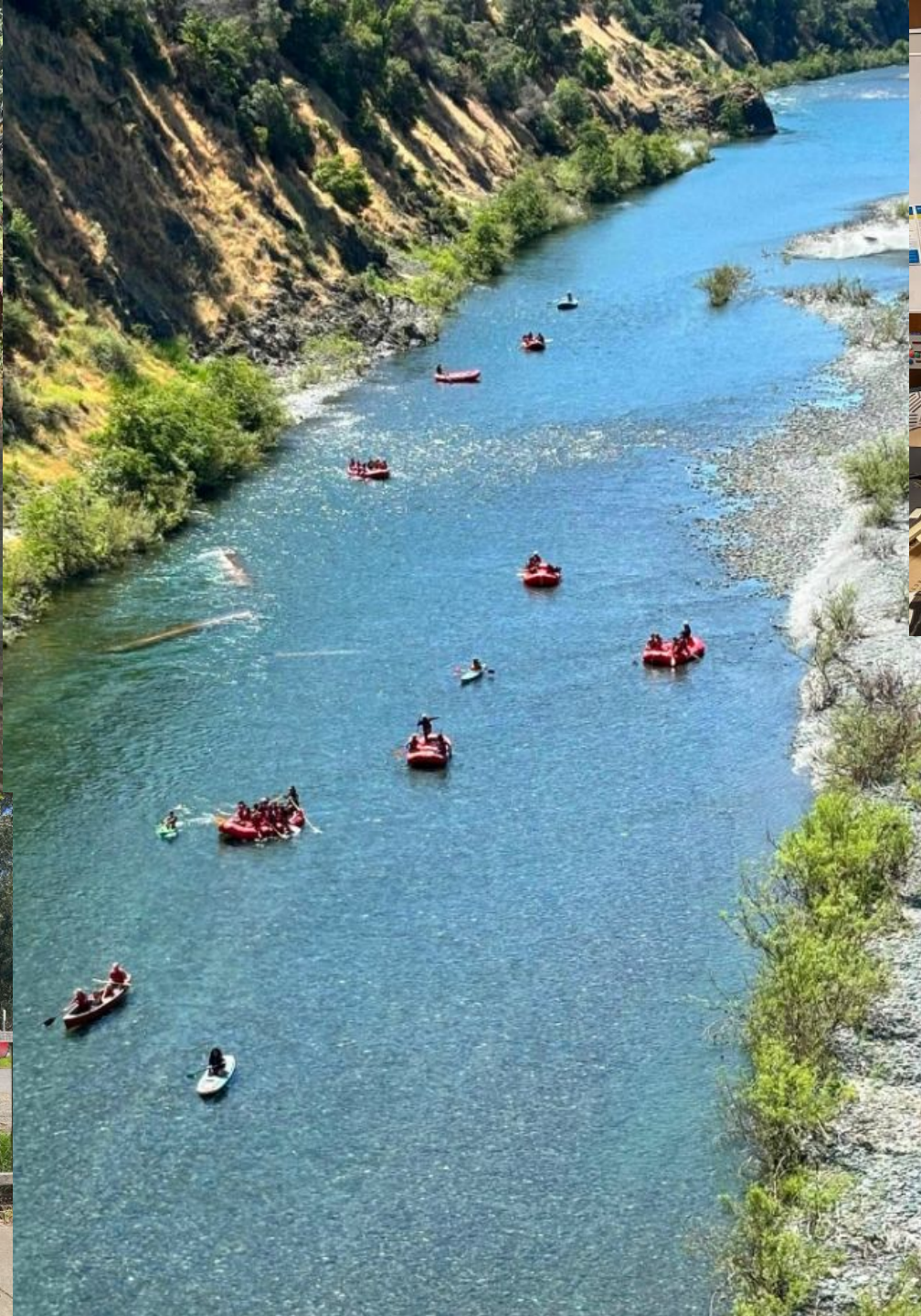
Impact:

- Framework to Build and Expand on Collaborative Efforts throughout the region
- 35* jobs created
- Inherent Relationship to the Land strengthened



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Rural Resilience Partnership

Next Steps:

- Develop initiatives and build partnerships and funding support
- Continue with partnership formation (2-3 years)
- Tackle \$40M in existing Forest Health and wildfire mitigation projects
- Leverage NCRP Capacity Awards
- Continue building a solid foundation in Community
- Support each other as we respond to change and opportunity



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Rural Resilience Partnership



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Recap & Next Steps

Did we reach today's goals?

- Do we have a clearer picture of our Working Lands and Blue Economy sector and its career pathways?
- What did we learn about RRRISE's projects and initiatives?
- What are some key opportunities for alignment in this sector?

→ *What would you have liked to go deeper on?*
Feel free to let us know at ccrp@humboldt.edu

Our Upcoming Meetings

- **Tribal Table Meeting:** *August 6, 10 – 11:15 a.m.*
- **Voting Block Equity Committee Meeting:** *August 12, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.*
- **RRRISE In-Person Convening (Bear River):** *August 21, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.*
- **Tentative – Leadership Team Meeting:** *August 27, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.*
- **Voting Block Meeting:** *September 15, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.*

Please note: Per diems end on August 31st, so meetings scheduled after that date do not qualify for per diem reimbursement.

Do you have events coming up? Drop 'em in the chat!

Contact us with any questions or concerns: ccrp@humboldt.edu

[Check out our Calendar](#)

