

# North Coast Dialogues



NORTHCOAST REGIONAL LAND TRUST

# The North Coast Dialogues Project

The world is changing and, with it, the rural way of life that has historically defined our region and its communities. How can we respond to these changes in ways that maintain what we value most about the North Coast, that strengthen our communities, improve the quality of our lives, and retain opportunities for future generations?

The Dialogues project was started by the Northcoast Regional Land Trust to establish a collective vision and to initiate collaborative actions that will shape the region's future over the next 100 years. The current focus is on developing strategies for maintaining working lands and waters in Humboldt County.

# Phase 1

## *Goals*

1. Help our community to collectively determine how to maintain privately-owned productive working lands in Humboldt County while maintaining value.



# Phase 1

## *Goals*

2. Create a forum that:
  - a. informs decision-making
  - b. establishes a collaborative atmosphere
  - c. achieves a shared understanding of the issues and effects on all stakeholders
  - d. encourages open communication
  - e. respects diverse perspectives, and
  - f. engages a broader community.



# Phase 1

## *Goals*

3. Address the tension between public and private interests.



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# Phase 1

## *Goals*

4. Find ways for the forum to inform other processes (e.g. General Plan Update; Prosperity's regional economic development strategy).



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## Phase 1

Creating a shared vision



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# Participants

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# Phase 1

## *Collective Vision Statements*

*For the next 100 years...*

- Locally-based agriculture, forestry, and fisheries are integral to and positively contribute to Humboldt County's economy, natural landscapes, and rural way of life and are supported by our entire community.
- Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries are economically and environmentally viable and sustainable.
- People are living and working on resource lands, using traditional and evolving knowledge of stewardship and management, providing opportunities for future generations.
- Resource lands, in addition to their economic value, provide fish and wildlife habitat, open space, and are recognized as essential to Humboldt County.

# Phase 1

## *Defining the Issues*

### Major Issues and Challenges:

- Regulations
- Conversion and Development pressure
- Economic Factors
- Succession of ownership
- Community polarization/poor communication/Lack of Trust

# Phase 1

## Approaches:

- State and federal regulatory reform
- Local planning policy—  
Subdivision/development/enforcement
- Education—Linking landowners and the public
- Objective research
- Conservation financing and stewardship incentives
- Business, estate, and succession planning
- Address impacts of the marijuana industry
- Economic strategies—Value-added and diversification
- Retain infrastructure
- Collaborative communication, visioning, and problem-solving

# North Coast Dialogues

## Phase 2



# Phase 2

## *Next Steps*

### Short-term objectives:

To establish county-wide resource and land use goals for farmland, forestland, rangeland, and fisheries.

# Phase 2

## *Next Steps*

### Short-term objectives:

Better define the current situation around our forestlands,  
agricultural lands, and fisheries

# Phase 2

## *Working Lands Vision*

### Purposes:

- Guide decisions and actions related to agriculture, forestlands, and watershed resources.
- Facilitate productive dialogue on difficult issues.
- Community action agenda.

# Phase 2

## *Working Lands Vision*

### Structure:

- Vision
  - Goals
    - Benchmarks/Desired Outcomes
      - Strategies
        - Measures of Success

# Phase 2

## *Working Lands Vision*

### Guiding Principles:

- Farsighted
- Collaborative
- Fair
- Strategic
- Innovative
- Balanced
- Action-oriented



# Phase 2

## *Working Lands Vision*

### Other things to be considered:

- Future housing needs
- Existing land uses
- Recreation
- Cultural resources
- Biodiversity
- Others???

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