

North Coast Dialogues

A Draft Working Lands Vision: Survey Results



NORTHCOAST REGIONAL LAND TRUST

A Draft Working Lands Vision for Our Future

We are currently developing a 100-year Vision for Working Lands and Waters in Humboldt County. The Working Lands Vision will ultimately be crafted into a practical, multi-disciplinary framework for guiding and evaluating future resource and land use decisions in Humboldt County, as well as a community action agenda on the most pressing issues facing local resource lands and resource producers.

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The vision will be a series of goals, desired outcomes, and strategies to accompany broad vision statements established by the Working Group of the North Coast Dialogues in 2008. The end product will be a comprehensive document that outlines: a) what our community wants for its working lands and waters; b) the best strategies and partnerships for creating those outcomes; and c) how success will be measured over time.

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The Goals and other elements are being derived from multiple sources reflecting local opinions on working lands, including Phase 1 of the Dialogues, the Prosperity! Network's Industry Cluster Work Plans, General Plan Update testimony, etc. We are making a special effort to synthesize and advance the findings of past efforts, not duplicate them.

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The overarching vision statements and goals were submitted to the Working Group and 25 members of the community during two different outreach events held in October and November of 2009.

Participants evaluated the vision and goals by taking an online survey.

Survey results were as follows...

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Collaborative Vision Statements*	Support	Neutral	Oppose
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.	96%	4%	2%
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries are economically and environmentally viable and sustainable.	80%	20%	0%
People are living and working on resource lands, using traditional and evolving knowledge of stewardship and management, providing opportunities for future generations.	92%	8%	0%
Resource lands, in addition to their economic value, provide fish and wildlife habitat, open space, and are recognized as essential to Humboldt County.	96%	4%	0%

* *Sample size = 25; Survey responses only documented for the community event in November*

North Coast Dialogues

A Draft Working Lands Vision for Our Future

Agriculture Goals*	Support	Neutral	Oppose
A. Maintain agricultural productivity at current levels or greater.	84%	12%	4%
B. Maintain a large number of family-owned and operated dairies, farms, and ranches as the foundation of local agriculture.	92%	4%	4%
C. Maintain or enhance ecosystem services provided by agricultural land.	98%	0%	2%
D. Increase the viability of dairies, farms and ranches by improving marketing, transport systems, infrastructure and technical services; by developing a stable and productive workforce; and by reducing the costs of regulatory compliance.	83%	11%	6%
E. Increase economic, ecological, and cultural connections between local producers and the broader community.	94%	6%	0%

* Sample size = 49

A Draft Working Lands Vision for Our Future

Forestry Goals*	Support	Neutral	Oppose
A. Maintain a large and productive forest land base.	96%	2%	2%
B. Sustain a strong and resilient forest resource economy, including the infrastructure and technical services to support it.	96%	2%	2%
C. Increase the economic viability of forest resource production, with an emphasis on reducing the costs of regulatory compliance for forest landowners.	84%	11%	5%
D. Help private forestland owners capitalize on a broad range of sustainable resource markets, including carbon sequestration, biomass, and biofuels.	91%	9%	0%
E. Maintain and enhance the ecological functions of forestlands by providing high-quality habitat for native wildlife and by restoring the hydrologic functions of our forested watersheds.	94%	2%	4%
F. Foster responsible and skilled forest stewardship based on science and the intimate knowledge of people who live and work on the land.	96%	4%	0%
G. Provide opportunities for people to recreate on local forestlands of willing landowners, particularly near urban settings.	74%	26%	0%

* *Sample size = 46 for goals A-E;*
Sample size = 25 for goals F & G

North Coast Dialogues

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Watershed/Fisheries Goals*	Support	Neutral	Oppose
A. Maintain or improve water quality and quantity in native fish-bearing waters.	100%	0%	0%
B. Maintain or improve fish passage between historically connected habitats.	93%	7%	0%
C. Protect and restore functional riparian habitats along streams and other natural water bodies.	91%	7%	2%
D. Enhance the capacity of estuaries to function as fish habitat.	93%	5%	2%
E. Objectively evaluate the effectiveness of restoration efforts on an ongoing basis; adapt practices accordingly.	96%	2%	2%

* *Sample size = 45*

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