

Vision 2023

From the Bottom Up

Prepared by the GRI Core Group

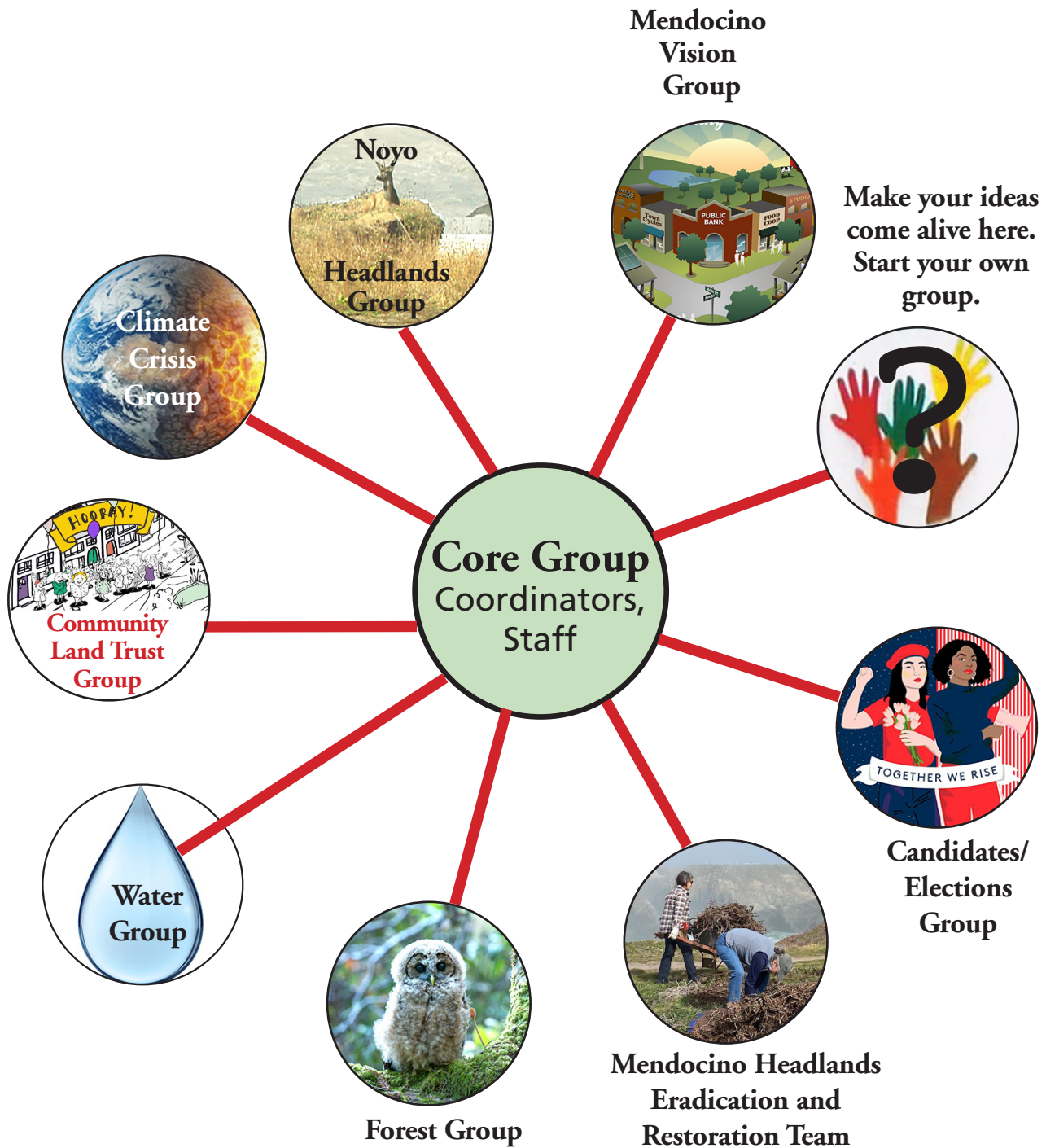


Solutions for the Common Good

GRI

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GRI Work Group Organization Chart



2022: A Year of Education & Action by the GrassRoots Institute

- The Institute's Noyo Headlands Workgroup hosted the California Coastal Commission for a public reception at the Coast Botanical Gardens and the next day testified before them on the need to clean up toxic waste on the Noyo Headlands and restore the environment;



GRI's Water Group organized workshops on rainwater catchment, drought preparedness and water conservation strategies, with our work featured in the August 2022 issue of Real Estate Magazine. Members attended the statewide water stewardship conference, Localizing California Watersheds with policy makers and environmentalists to build local and state-wide collaborative partnerships.

- The Candidates & Elections Workgroup hosted a forum about running for elected office, and created a web page with interviews of Fort Bragg City Council candidates and information on city issues to educate voters;



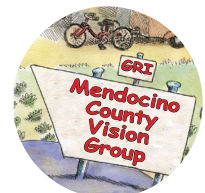
- GRI's Land Trust and Housing Workgroup hosted a conference of County and Coastal Commission representatives resulting in \$3 million in State funding to update Local Coastal Programs to address sea level rise and climate change.

• Every week since January 2021, volunteers with GRI's HEART have pulled invasive species on Mendocino Headlands State Park and let the natives come back. Last Spring, at a lovely lunch gathering in the Cypress trees, the park presented us with a certificate of achievement and removed the ice plant piles we had accumulated since the weeding began.



• The Climate Crisis Workgroup helped instigate Mendocino County's two million dollar Net Zero Carbon Emission Initiative. It is also assisting the City of Fort Bragg in its solar projects and has been active in opposing sections of the California Public Utilities Commission's NEM 3 ordinance which favors corporate utilities over private homeowners.

- GRI's Mendocino County Vision Group is working with planners to update the Local Coastal Plan, as well as updating other land use rules and permitting requirements.



GRASSROOTS INSTITUTE

The Institute's 2022 successes build on decades of community organizing. GRI helps county residents educate themselves and take action to resist corporate exploitation, strengthen shared community goals, and create an economy for the common good.



Challenges & Goals for 2023



Update Local Coastal Programs to address the challenges and opportunities of climate change in the 21st century. The Mendocino Vision Workgroup will help local residents educate themselves about sea level rise and climate change to safeguard the social, physical and economic well being of coastal communities.

The GrassRoots Institute believes in the necessary evolution of public forest management away from timber harvesting and towards Indigenous co-management focused on protecting cultural landscapes, optimizing healthy carbon sequestration, and maintaining recreational open space. Join our Forests working group to stay in the loop, or promote a project.



Climate change demands transforming to a green economy based on clean, renewable energy and zero emission transportation. The Climate Crisis workgroup will promote solar energy generation, development of micro-grid networks, conversion to electric vehicles and greater access to electric vehicle chargers. It will also advocate for government action to reduce greenhouse emissions to speed up the conversion to a net zero greenhouse gas economy.

Our communities suffer from a lack of affordable housing. The Housing and Land Use Trust Workgroup will support the land trust model to lower housing costs and expand the stock of affordable housing.



The introduction of invasive plant species has endangered native plants and diminished bio diversity. The Headlands Eradication And Restoration Team (HEART) hosts weekly work sessions for volunteers to remove invasive plants from the Mendocino Headlands and create space for native plants to flourish.



Despite the wet winter, our local/statewide demand for water amid climate change remains an environmental and political challenge. The Water Group will seek volunteers to help build strong collaborative partnerships for grant funding, educational outreach, and to work with policy makers to implement rainwater catchment and other conservation strategies. Grant research and writing will be part of the effort.

Democracy requires continuous vigilance by an informed electorate to remain a vibrant, responsive and effective community. The Institute's Elections and Candidates Workgroup will collaborate with civic organizations promoting local democracy to increase voter participation in elections and remove barriers for highly qualified candidates to seek election to local office.



Noyo Headlands Group works to: 1) Envision a future for the Noyo Headlands with daylighted creeks and a green economy; 2) defang the corporate bad actors that will pillage the headlands for corporate good rather than our common good and; 3) clarify the historical record of how we ended up in this mess. For a full description go to

Join The Effort

Start or join a workgroup — GRI is driven by volunteers. Workgroups are the building blocks that enable the Institute to pursue goals for the common good. New workgroups can be created anytime when a group of volunteers comes together to both educate themselves on a challenge confronting our community, and then take action to address that challenge. Anyone wanting to make a difference is welcome to join an existing workgroup or to start a new workgroup and go to work for the common good.



Participate In Institute Events And Activities

Not quite sure you are ready to commit to the ongoing work of a workgroup? We still welcome everyone to attend and participate in the regular, general meetings of the Institute or participate in workshops, classes and activities sponsored by the Institute. Everyone has a place within the Institute's structure and everyone has something to contribute.



From Study Group to Action Group

Many of us have been involved in studying problems of inequity caused by corporate power, and how corporate power can dominate our government and communities. Understanding is a piece of the whole, but to make change there needs to be more; a collective, strategic design that results in targeted action. Our workshops are a platform for groups of concerned citizens to seek positive change. We understand the dominant cultural narrative is part of what holds the status quo in place, keeping wealth and power in the hands of the few, and limiting opportunities for the many. To counter the dominant story, we need to create a new, life-affirming vision in our own community, right here on the Coast. We work collaboratively to build trust, and confidence while moving towards specific goals that align with our values.

As has been demonstrated by recent events across the country, the power structures of white supremacy, oppression and exploitation, long unexamined, are now being challenged openly and there is room, space for new, creative, inclusive, ideas to emerge, get traction, and take hold. Now it is time to engage more directly with the persistent aspects of racism that are toxic to our culture, and many people's lives. When groups of people understand their history and are willing to explore the art of new possibilities, they can lean into, move towards, dance to a new rhythm, and sing a different song. This is the kind of transformational work we embrace.

Our Chance to Change the Story, Change the Future

by Carrie Durkee

*Slow down, walk, don't run
Change the tempo
Watch for detail
It will appear*

*A fluctuation in the foundation,
Makes us feel uncomfortable, off balance
Where is the familiar?
Old assumptions have got to go.*

*Find the downbeat in the rhythm of the pattern
That makes us feel safe?*

*Question, adjust, and revise
Habits
Routines
Impulses
Desires.*

*And simultaneously,
How wonderful to know
It is in the realm of possibility
To alter and rearrange
The shape of our thoughts
Just from a change of pace
And the plasticity of our being*



*Shifting,
Tectonic plates shifting
How to value who we are
What we choose to do,
Continue to do,
Or not.*

*The invisible is more powerful than all of us.
The opportunity for change is here now.
Explore the clues,
Nurture empathy,
Heal the pain,
Seed ideas.*

*Pursue wholeness
As you travel along charting the course
Of the new story that we are creating.*

Carry on.

Make A Donation -

To pay our bills, GRI relies on donors just like you. If you value the work GRI does, we hope you'll use one of the following ways to donate to GRI and keep us funded and working for you in 2023:

- Online: bit.ly/donategri
- By mail: via check made out to GRI's non-profit sponsor, The Alliance for Democracy, and sent to 21 Main Street, Suite 4, Hudson, MA 01749.

Please include GRI in the memo line on the check, or GRI plus the name of any GRI workgroup you would specifically like to support.





The Li'l Stinker

by Andy Mackey

<https://www.grassroots-institute.org/noyo>

When you hear a railroad song
you think of the times that are long gone.
But even though the times have changed,
corporate greed is still the same.

There's a cute little skunky railroad train,
wants to claim eminent domain,
And plant yet another corporate flag
on the headlands in Fort Bragg.

When the rails ruled, those dirty crooks
wrote the laws that are on the books.
They say they're a utility
but they're really only touristy.

There's a cute little skunky railroad train,
wants to claim eminent domain,
And plant yet another corporate flag
on the headlands in Fort Bragg.

Tell your Ma! Tell your Pa!
The railroad thinks they're above the law.

Well the town folks here have had enough
of toxic ponds on the coastal bluffs,
GP, Koch, or the little Skunk,
someone needs to clean this up.

There's a cute little skunky railroad train,
wants to claim eminent domain,
And plant yet another corporate flag
on the headlands in Fort Bragg.

