

Forest WRX Alliance
1018 2nd Street
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Eureka, CA 95501
Forestwrx.org



Headwaters Fund Executive Director
520 E Street
Eureka, CA 95501
headwaters@co.humboldt.ca.us

Re: Mini-Grant Application for Strategic Board Development

August 25, 2025

Dear Headwaters Fund Executive Director and Board,

The Forest WRX Alliance requests \$5,000 to provide strategic sessions as this non-profit mobilizes several projects towards shared goals of economic development within Humboldt County and beyond. These funds will be used to support a critical strategic board session scheduled for October 25-26, 2025. This investment will directly accelerate our economic development impact by establishing foundational agreements, goals, and objectives that will guide our organization's expansion beyond our current \$1.2 million California Jobs First Catalyst grant towards further growth

This two-day strategic session will bring together our 11-member board, 4-6 staff and contractors, and expert guests to tackle the critical strategic work needed to sustain and expand our economic development impact.

This strategic board session will further refine our:

1. **Action Plan** - Building on strategic work completed earlier this year, we will prioritize initiatives that maximize economic development impact and align with regional needs.
2. **Sustainable Business Model** - Focus on Phase One business model design to establish revenue-generating services that will sustain our economic development work beyond grant funding, creating long-term economic stability for our organization and the communities we serve.
3. **2025-2027 Strategic Goals** - Further define clear objectives that will enable staff to develop focused workplans and identify resources needed to achieve board-defined outcomes that drive economic growth.

4. **Partnership Network** - Our newly expanded 11-member board brings together representatives from tribal organizations, academic institutions, forestry businesses, and community organizations. This strategic session will formalize collaboration agreements that leverage collective resources for greater economic impact.

The mission of Forest WRX Alliance directly aligns with the Headwaters Fund's mission to inject seed money into projects that serve as catalysts for long-term revenue generation and job creation in Humboldt County. Our organization works to:

- **Create Jobs:** Establish framework for sustained job creation in forestry and climate sectors
- **Support County Economic Development:** Align with Prosperity Plan strategies for diversification and innovation
- **Generate Revenue:** Create sustainable business model that brings ongoing revenue to the county
- **Leverage Outside Funds:** Position the organization to secure additional implementation funding

The Forest WRX Alliance's work spans the two priority sectors identified in the Regional Roadmap: Working Lands and Blue Economy, Renewable and Resilient Energy, and cross-cutting enablers including Workforce Development and Entrepreneurship.

Forest WRX Alliance is creating a framework for an additional \$2-5 million in implementation funding. We estimate that the expected projects will generate an estimated \$500,000+ annually in earned revenue through fee-for-service offerings which will facilitate the creation of 50+ living-wage jobs in forestry, manufacturing, and climate technology sectors. These projects both support the development of carbon credit financing model that could fund forest health treatments on hundreds of thousands of acres, but also create a pipeline for ongoing workforce development programs serving priority communities. The goal is to position our region as California's leader in climate tech and natural resource innovation with a traditional ecological knowledge lens attracting on-going economic investment and workforce development.

Budget and Matching Funds

Total Project Cash Budget: \$10,000

Headwaters Fund Request: \$5,000

Matching Funds: Cash \$5,000; In-Kind \$23,700.

Budget Breakdown:

- Professional facilitation services: \$6,250
- Strategic session rental: \$2,000
- Materials, travel, and food costs: \$1,750

Matching Fund Sources:

- Cash match: \$5,000
- Board member contributed professional time for 11 members (valued at \$125/hour x 16 hours): \$22,000
- Staff and contractor time for planning & participation: \$1,200
- Guest expert consultation: \$500

In conclusion, this modest investment of \$5000 will catalyze the strategic development needed to transform our \$1.2 million Catalyst grant into a self-sustaining economic development engine. By supporting our upcoming strategic session, the Headwaters Fund will directly contribute to building the foundation for decades of economic growth, job creation, and forest resilience in Humboldt County and the broader Redwood Region.

We respectfully request your consideration of this strategic investment in our region's economic future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christy Prescott".

Christy Prescott
Executive Director
Forest WRX Alliance
Christy@forestwrx.org