



# GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL AGENCY

PO Box 458, Blue Lake, CA 95525  
(707) 463-3280 | [TheGreatRedwoodTrail.org](https://thegreatredwoodtrail.org)

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## **Request for Proposals: Tribal Liaison Consultant**

**Proposal Submission Deadline: Friday, February 20, 2026 at 5:00pm**

**Deadline to Submit Questions: Monday, January 26, 2026 at 5:00pm**

- Responses to all submitted questions will be compiled and posted publicly on <https://thegreatredwoodtrail.org/bids/> by Monday, February 2, 2026 at 5:00pm.
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The Great Redwood Trail Agency is seeking proposals to assist with the establishment and operation of a Tribal Advisory Committee to the Board of Directors. The ideal Tribal Liaison Consultant will bring deep, demonstrated experience working in close partnership with multiple Northern California tribes, with extensive knowledge of tribal governance, cultural protocols, and collaborative decision-making on the North Coast. This consultant should be highly skilled in multitribal facilitation, government-to-government communication, and development of engagement strategies that are culturally informed and grounded in trust-based relationship building. They will be capable of guiding the formation and operation of a Tribal Advisory Committee, including recruitment of members, supporting respectful dialogue, and translating tribal priorities into clear recommendations for GRTA leadership. A strong background in land stewardship, tribal cultural resource protection, and tribally led planning is desired, combined with the ability to work seamlessly with agency staff, board members, and communications teams to make recommendations that meaningfully integrate tribal perspectives and participation into the planning, development, and long-term management of the Great Redwood Trail. Additionally, the consultant should demonstrate a solid and accurate understanding of the Great Redwood Trail project and its goals around tribal participation, environmental restoration, cultural resource protection, and the facilitation of public access to outdoor recreation opportunities that benefit tribes and local communities.

## **Description of Services**

The Tribal Liaison Consultant will:

- **Develop and implement GRTA's Tribal Involvement Strategy** to ensure participation of interested California Native American tribes and tribal-led organizations in the planning, design, and stewardship of the Great Redwood Trail, building from the 13 recommendations heard from tribes during the master planning process and Resolution 2025-09 Environmental and Tribal Commitments (attached below).
- **Facilitate respectful, proactive communication** between GRTA and interested tribal governments, tribal organizations, and community members to build long-term, trust-based relationships and ensure culturally informed decision-making.
- **Coordinate with GRTA's Board of Directors Ad-Hoc Committee** on the formation of the Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC), helping guide discussions on its structure, purpose, and operations.
- **Assist in drafting a detailed proposal** for the creation and facilitation of the TAC, to be presented to the GRTA Board of Directors.
- **Provide recommendations** to the Ad-Hoc Committee on:
  - Committee size, member composition, and representation across tribal nations;
  - Selection and appointment processes;
  - Term lengths and rotation;
  - Options for stipends or honoraria;
  - The purpose and scope of the committee;
  - Decision-making structures and protocols;
  - How the TAC's advice is formally communicated to staff and considered by the GRTA Board.
- **Conduct** early tribal engagement sessions, presentations to tribal councils and staff from tribes in the Great Redwood Trail project area, and outreach to form the committee.
- **Facilitate** ongoing Tribal Advisory Committee meetings once membership, cadence and structure are established.
- **Guide development of engagement frameworks and discussion protocols** that reflect GRTA's goals and assist in furthering the project while facilitating dialogue that results in tribal-formed recommendations that are helpful to GRTA staff and Board when considering organizational development and trail segment design, construction and management.

- **Advise GRTA on contracting and partnership opportunities** that draw upon tribal cultural knowledge and capacity in restoration, planning, land stewardship and trail management.
- **Collaborate with GRTA's media consultants** to develop culturally appropriate communications, press releases, and public stories highlighting tribal partnerships and tribal leadership in Great Redwood Trail projects.
- **Support board and staff education** by helping build internal understanding of the Tribal Advisory Committee's structure and role, and ways staff and the Board can integrate their recommendations into agency practices.
- **Prepare reports and presentation materials** summarizing engagement progress, meeting outcomes, and recommendations for board review.

## **Desired Skills, Experience & Expertise**

- **Extensive knowledge of North Coast tribal history, culture, and contemporary governance**, with a strong track record of working respectfully and collaboratively with tribes in the region.
- **Demonstrated experience facilitating multi-tribe engagement**, including convening advisory groups, supporting consensus-building, and guiding conversations toward shared goals.
- **Skilled in government-to-government and intergovernmental relations**, particularly in contexts involving natural resources, land stewardship, transportation, or recreation planning.
- **Strong facilitation and communication skills**, including the ability to design and lead culturally informed meetings, listening sessions, and consultation processes.
- **Experience developing tribal involvement or consultation strategies**, frameworks, or policies for public agencies, nonprofits, or multi-jurisdictional initiatives.
- **Knowledge of tribal cultural resource protection, environmental stewardship, ecological restoration, and land management practices**, particularly as practiced by North Coast tribes.
- **Experience drafting governance documents**, such as committee charters, protocols, operating guidelines, and advisory structures.
- **Ability to collaborate with diverse partners**—including tribal governments, tribal-led organizations, agency staff, boards of directors, consultants, and community members.
- **Experience preparing written reports, summaries, and presentation materials** for public boards or governing bodies.
- **Sensitivity to cultural communication norms**, confidentiality protocols, and tribally led decision-making processes.

## **Submission Requirements**

Respondents must include the following in their plan:

**1. Consultant Information:**

- Name, address, and contact information.

**2. Pricing:**

- Hourly rate
- Estimated total cost per year for completion of services described above

**3. Plan to carry out scope of work:**

- Describe your plan for carrying out the activities listed above in the scope of work.

**4. Qualifications:**

- Description of qualifications (this could be your resume, a narrative of your experience and expertise, references from people who know you or have worked with you in similar capacity, etc.)
- Demonstrated understanding of the Great Redwood Trail and GRTA goals.

## **Submission Guidelines**

**Proposal Submission Deadline:** Friday, February 20, 2026 at 5:00pm

**Submission Method:**

- Email: [elaine@thegreatredwoodtrail.org](mailto:elaine@thegreatredwoodtrail.org)

**Questions:** Direct any questions to Elaine Hogan by Monday, January 26, 2026 at 5:00pm

- Email: [elaine@thegreatredwoodtrail.org](mailto:elaine@thegreatredwoodtrail.org)

## **Evaluation Criteria**

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Respondents' ability to describe their process for conducting activities listed above in the "Description of Services" section
- Description of skills and relevant experience working on similar projects and with tribes in the GRTA's service area
- Respondents' ability to convey their understanding of the Great Redwood Trail's project goals and agency vision as it relates to the services outlined in this RFP.
- Hourly rate and overall price per year for conducting the services needed

## **Questions & Answers**

As part of the RFP process, we are providing an opportunity for prospective respondents to submit questions regarding the project scope, requirements, and proposal submission.

- **Deadline to Submit Questions:** Monday, January 26, 2026 at 5:00pm
- **Submission Method:** Please email your questions to [elaine@thegreatredwoodtrail.org](mailto:elaine@thegreatredwoodtrail.org) with the subject line: "RFP Questions – Tribal Liaison Consultant"
- **Q&A Publication Date:** Responses to all submitted questions will be compiled and posted publicly on <https://thegreatredwoodtrail.org/bids/> Monday, February 2, 2026 at 5:00pm.

Please ensure that all questions are submitted by the deadline, as no additional inquiries will be accepted after that time. Any changes to the RFP as a result of the responses will be formally issued as an addendum. Respondents are responsible for reviewing all RFP documents including the Q&A responses before submitting proposals.

## **Terms and Conditions**

1. Great Redwood Trail Agency reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.
2. Late submissions will not be considered.
3. This RFP does not constitute a contract or offer to purchase.
4. All work must comply with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.
5. The selected respondent will be required to submit proof of insurance prior to a contract being executed, per GRTA's Vendor Insurance Requirements, attached hereto and available on our website: <https://thegreatredwoodtrail.org/bids/>.

# Great Redwood Trail Master Plan Tribal Recommendations



## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Great Redwood Trail is envisioned as a 307-mile multi-use trail connecting San Francisco Bay to Humboldt Bay, along the rail corridor formerly managed by the North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA). The Great Redwood Trail Master Plan will be a road map for designing, constructing, and managing the future Great Redwood Trail in Mendocino, Trinity and Humboldt counties.

## PROJECT TEAM

Master plan community and tribal engagement to gather feedback took place between Fall 2022 and Summer 2025 and was led by the Great Redwood Trail Agency (GRTA) with support from the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) and non-profit organizations Redwood Community Action Agency (based in Eureka), and North Coast Opportunities (based in Ukiah).

## PLANNING PROCESS & TRIBAL COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES

The Great Redwood Trail will pass through the ancestral lands of many California Native American tribes and tribal communities. The GRTA and SCC acknowledge the harmful legacy created by colonization and the railroad industry in this region. As partnering agencies, we aim to support California Native American tribes with uplifting tribal connections and relationship to the land through meaningful collaboration with tribal governments and engagement with tribal communities. Project staff are committed to seeking and incorporating input, addressing concerns, sharing how feedback has been used, and developing a plan that reflects the unique needs, hopes, and ideas that California Native American tribes and tribal communities have for the Great Redwood Trail. Building ongoing collaboration is paramount to this Master Plan and future projects within the trail corridor.

### Engagement opportunities could include:

- ▶ Government-to-government conversations with GRTA;
- ▶ One-on-one meetings with tribal leaders, and/or staff;
- ▶ Project updates or presentations at tribal council or governance meetings;
- ▶ Facilitated small roundtable discussions with tribal leaders, staff, and/or community members;
- ▶ Walking tours with tribal leaders, staff, and/or community members; and
- ▶ Facilitated community meetings for tribal members to collect community ideas and concerns.

## IDEAS WE'VE HEARD FROM TRIBES SO FAR AND INCORPORATED AS MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Respectfully communicate early and often with tribes to build long-term relationships and collaboration.
2. Early in project implementation planning, work with appropriate tribes to identify culturally sensitive sites and plant species for protection or tribal access. All cultural resources investigations will be conducted and paid for by the Great Redwood Trail Agency (GRTA) or local trail development partners and involve tribal participation.
3. Where feasible, the GRTA should work with tribes to design and engineer trail elements that avoid or minimize interference with sensitive cultural sites and sacred spaces.
4. Early in project implementation planning, identify opportunities for and invite tribal participation in ecological restoration activities and construction monitoring.
5. Invite interested tribes to collaborate on management and use of portions of the trail that cross ancestral tribal lands.
6. Create opportunities for holders of tribal knowledge to engage in paid stewardship activities such as construction monitoring, leading guided excursions, performing trail patrols, or maintenance and restoration.
7. Explore ways to connect tribal members with job opportunities that value local tribal cultural knowledge and related experience.
8. Install interpretative signage and tribal artwork along the trail that is developed by local tribal people.
9. Name portions of the trail using native languages.
10. Consider building an interpretive center and/or culturally important buildings. If built, ensure it is located in collaboration with local tribes to avoid trespassing, or identification of and possible damage to sensitive cultural resource areas.
11. Take steps to ensure the trail is as safe as possible for all.
12. Consider creating a memorial to Murdered and Missing Indigenous People (MMIP).
13. Consider forming a tribal advisory committee to provide input as the GRT is developed.

## CONTACTS

To discuss the project, please call or email at your convenience:

**Elaine Hogan**  
GRTA Executive Director  
▶ [elaine@thegreatredwoodtrail.org](mailto:elaine@thegreatredwoodtrail.org)  
▶ (707) 463-3280

**RESOLUTION**

**of the**

**Board of Directors**

**of**

**GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL AGENCY**

Resolution No. 2025-09

IN THE MATTER OF:

Resolution No. 2025-09  
Environmental and Tribal  
Commitments

**WHEREAS**, GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL AGENCY (“GRTA”), formerly named the North Coast Railroad Authority (“NCRA”), created and governed by the terms of California Government Code Section 93000 et seq.; and,

**WHEREAS**, per GRTA’s enabling legislation (Government Code, Title 12, Section 93022(a))

GRTA shall do the following:

1. Complete an environmental assessment of the conditions of the rail rights-of-way for purposes of trail development.
2. Conduct a thorough community engagement process that includes landowners, trail advocates, environmental groups, and the community at large.
3. Use the services of the California Conservation Corps or certified community conservation corps for projects related to trails, environmental enhancements, and restoration, and other improvement projects

- 1           4. Use the services of conservation organizations for projects related to trails, fishing access,  
2           fish passage barrier restoration, and other environmental enhancement, restoration, and  
3           improvement projects; and,  
4

5 **WHEREAS**, Great Redwood Trail development creates the opportunity for environmental  
6 restoration along key waterways and early in project implementation planning, the GRTA and  
7 local partners should identify opportunities for and invite tribal participation in ecological  
8 restoration activities; and,  
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10 **WHEREAS**, the master planning process has resulted in recommendations to complete  
11 additional studies that identify and assess:  
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- 13           • Stream restoration locations on the Eel River and Russian River to improve water  
14           conveyance through trail design and remove fish passage barriers on tributaries that cross  
15           GRTA property,  
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- 17           • Trail design features that prevent further erosion,  
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- 19           • Opportunities to enhance ecological habitat with native plant species,  
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- 21           • Opportunities for environmental restoration including the removal of dilapidated railroad  
22           infrastructure; and,  
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24 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE**  
25 **GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL AGENCY** as follows:  
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- 27           1. The GRTA Board hereby adopts the below stated values as the policy direction of the  
Agency with respect to topics contained therein, and further declares that through the  
creation of the Great Redwood Trail and the stewardship of lands GRTA owns and  
manages it is our intent and staff are hereby directed to, to the extent feasible:

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- a. Protect, preserve, and restore sensitive natural and cultural resources along the trail corridor,
  - b. Develop long-term relationships and engage in robust dialog consistent with the goal of aligning protection and preservation of tribal and cultural resources with the implementation of the Great Redwood Trail corridor.
  - c. Remove environmentally damaging railroad infrastructure and restore fish passage and other ecologically important features,
  - d. Steward, honor, and care for the land.
2. Staff are directed to undertake the following actions toward full involvement of California Native American tribes and tribal-led organizations:
- a. Respectfully and proactively communicate with tribes to build long-term relationships and dialog consistent with the goal of aligning preservation of tribal and cultural resources with the implementation of the Great Redwood Trail,
  - b. Direct staff to develop a proposal for creation and facilitation of a Tribal Advisory Committee and to return to the Board with a recommendation at the regular January 2026 meeting,
  - c. Explore contract opportunities to draw on local tribal cultural knowledge relevant to planning and implementation of GRTA’s mandate,
  - d. Develop a plan for inviting tribes to participate in management of portions of the Great Redwood Trail that may cross ancestral tribal lands, particularly with reference to ensuring ceremonial and cultural gathering uses are facilitated and prioritized; and,

e. Continue to maintain the highest degree of confidentiality with respect to the information generated from communicating with tribal representatives within applicable law.

3. Staff are directed to undertake the following actions toward the implementation of environmental restoration activities, providing the board with regular updates and returning to the board with results of work conducted:

a. Develop a consistent, actionable framework to identify, assess, and remediate toxic pollutants resulting from railroad operations along the GRTA-controlled right-of-way of the former Northwestern Pacific Railroad,

b. Develop a prioritized checklist and maps that the GRTA Board of Directors and staff can utilize to identify and prioritize restoration projects to be incorporated into segment level trail development in the Eel River watershed using the forthcoming Eel River Restoration and Conservation Program (ERRCP) Phase 2 Restoration and/or Conservation Action Plans CalTrout is producing under a grant from California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW).

c. Operationalize recommendations into Agency trail development policy and decision-making.

Introduced and adopted this 18th day of September, at a meeting of the Board of Directors of Great Redwood Trail Agency by the following vote:

AYES: Sackett, Haschak, Mulheren, Hunerlach, Madrone, Gore, Hart, Campbell, Garnes

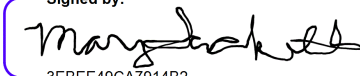
NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:  Signed by: Elaine Hogan  
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GRTA Executive Director

 Signed by: Mary Sackett  
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GRTA Chair



# GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL AGENCY

## Great Redwood Trail Agency Vendor Insurance Requirements

Before contracting with the Great Redwood Trail Agency (GRTA), vendors must provide proof of insurance meeting the minimum coverage requirements below. Certificates of Insurance must be submitted prior to the execution of any agreement.

### Commercial General Liability

- Minimum Limits: \$1,000,000 per Occurrence
- \$2,000,000 General Aggregate
- \$2,000,000 Products/Completed Operations Aggregate
- Evidence Required: Certificate of Insurance
- GRTA must be listed as Additional Insured.

### Workers' Compensation & Employers' Liability

- Workers' Compensation: Statutory limits required by California Labor Code
- Employers' Liability: \$1,000,000 per Accident, per Employee, and per Policy
- Evidence Required: Certificate of Insurance
- Required only if the contractor has employees.

### Automobile Liability

- Minimum Limit: \$1,000,000 Combined Single Limit per Accident
- Coverage must include owned, hired, and non-owned autos
- Evidence Required: Certificate of Insurance
- Required even if contractor owns no vehicles.

**Note:** Certificates of Insurance must list the Great Redwood Trail Agency as an Additional Insured where applicable. Coverage must be primary and non-contributory.