

An article titled “Forest Defenders Blockade Logging Roads in Mattole Headwaters” was posted on PopularResistance.org on Sept. 24, 2021.

Humboldt Redwood Company found a number of comments that would benefit from additional correction, clarification or commentary which are presented on the right side of the page in green italics.

Substantial factual information on Mendocino and Humboldt Redwood forests and its practices are available at www.mendoco.com. Wherever possible we have provided direct links to specific material on our website to help the readers have easy access.

<p style="text-align: center;">Text of Article</p> <p><i>Text of article begins below, spaces placed to allow facts to line up with text of article.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Humboldt Redwood Company Facts Corrections, Clarifications and Commentary</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">[BEGINNING OF ARTICLE BELOW]</p>	<p>Humboldt Redwood Company (HRC) was created in 2008 from lands purchased in Humboldt county with the publicly declared mission to be good stewards of the forest and at the same time run a successful business. We have made significant progress in that regard:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopting policies to make HRCs forestlands FSC® (C031337) certified (since 2009); 2. Adding more than <u>500 million board</u> feet of redwood and Douglas fir trees by lowering the rate of harvest; 3. Defining of old growth down to the level of an individual tree, along with implementation of a policy to protect all individual old growth trees across our property; 4. Elimination of traditional clear cutting from our property; 5. Long term investments to improve habitat for fish across the property by controlling or holding back more than 470,000 cubic yards of sediment (more than 47,000 dump trucks of dirt) from the coastal streams flowing through our forest; 6. Stormproofing approximately 680 miles of forest roads on our ownership. 7. Operating as an open and transparent business; including an open invitation to take interested individuals anywhere in the forest; 8. Completing a substantial rebuild of our Scotia sawmill, assuring that Humboldt County will have infrastructure in the processing of wood products for many years to come; and 9. Employing more than 300 employees contributing a payroll of more than \$23 million

<p style="text-align: center;">[BEGINNING OF ARTICLE]</p> <p>Early Thursday morning, 20 forest defenders barricaded logging roads in the headwaters of the upper North Fork Mattole River in anticipation of Humboldt Redwood Company (HRC) logging operations. “Road building on steep, unstable slopes and logging of old-growth forest is unacceptable,” said a local resident participating in the blockade.</p> <p>“This logging plan will release a large amount of long term greenhouse gas, and along with industrial logging across the Pacific Northwest, constitutes a major driver of climate catastrophe.”</p> <p>HRC plans to log over 300 acres just outside of Humboldt Redwoods State Park. The activists say that while the company has policies against logging old growth forest, much of the unspoiled habitat here is excluded from protections.</p> <p>“While we were building these blockades we were using piles of old logging debris for building material, and we uncovered pieces of tree sits cut down by Pacific Lumber in 2003. Those tree sits successfully protected an old growth grove that contains an active Northern Spotted Owl nest site. HRC’s new logging plan proposes cutting in the same grove, where the trees are as big as 6 feet across and 180 ft tall.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">[ARTICLE CONTINUES BELOW]</p>	<p>and another \$75 million paid for contractors, supplies and raw material purchases flowing through the local economy</p> <p>All proposed new roads are reviewed by multiple state and federal agencies to ensure slope stability is ensured. The California Geological Survey is one of these agencies.</p> <p>HRC retains all old growth trees defined as redwood trees 48 inches in diameter and Douglas fir trees 36 inches in diameter that have been established since 1800. This applies to single trees and groups of trees alike. If a younger or smaller tree is found to have old growth characteristics (large limbs, rounded top, fire scars, etc) then such trees are retained as well. Please visit this link for more details on HRC’s old growth policy: https://www.hrcllc.com/old-growth.</p> <p>Since HRC took ownership of the Pacific Lumber lands in 2008 it has been working to restore the redwood forest to a level prior to mismanagement by previous landowners. The level at which HRC harvests timber is below what is grows each year, thereby sequestering greater amounts of carbon each year. In addition, HRC has planted over 1.3 million redwood and Douglas fir seedlings.</p> <p>HRC retains all old growth trees defined as redwood trees 48 inches in diameter and Douglas fir trees 36 inches in diameter that have been established since 1800. This applies to single trees and groups of trees alike. If a younger or smaller tree is found to have old growth characteristics (large limbs, rounded top, fire scars, etc) then such trees shall be retained as well. Please visit this link for more details on HRC’s old growth policy: https://www.hrcllc.com/old-growth.</p>
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HRC foresters have admitted the presence of a tiny patch of old growth within the plan area, but forest defenders who have surveyed the area say this is a gross underrepresentation. While timberlands in surrounding areas were heavily logged during Pacific Lumber's management, much of the Mattole headwaters contain intact late seral forest due to decades of resistance.

The plan also calls for the use of herbicides to kill oak, madrone and California bay trees, which are all native species and provide food for wildlife. The standing dead trees left after herbicide treatment constitute a major fire hazard. Activists say HRC actually pledged to phase out herbicide use two years ago in response to community opposition.

[ARTICLE CONTINUES BELOW]

The treatment of tanoak to restore the natural balance of conifer to hardwood is a tool used for decades across the county, the country, and around the world. Small private landowners, industrial landowners, and state landowners all use this tool to achieve this goal in a careful and controlled manner according to state regulations. Mendocino and Humboldt Redwood Companies additionally seek Forest Stewardship Council certification for its forest management activities. This third party certification, born out of standards established in the 1990s by environmental groups, has been achieved by HRC for 11 consecutive years.

MRC and HRC were created from lands purchased in Mendocino, Humboldt, and Sonoma counties with the publicly declared mission to be good stewards of the forest and at the same time run a successful business. This set a different, sustainable and better path from the legacy of previous owners. This legacy includes tens of thousands of acres of redwood and Douglas fir forest that are now dominated by tanoak. MRC and HRC are committed to restoring these forestlands to the natural balance of conifer and hardwood.

Beginning in 1998, when MRC was established, we spent several years on a variety of methods to treat tanoaks (including an ill-fated and expensive effort to make tanoak flooring). After much effort, we concluded the most effective way to bring back a healthy conifer forest in our lifetime was to treat tanoak, selectively, carefully, in the woods, literally tree by tree.

Treating tanoak involves using herbicide (about two cups per acre) that is injected directly into the trunk of tanoak trees, following a cut made in the bark. The treatment results in trees dropping most leaves in six to nine months (depending on the time of year), and beginning to fall down within three to four years. After several years, the treated trees largely decompose and their biomass is added to the duff layer of the forest. The treatment of tanoak reduces competition for sunlight and water allowing redwood and Douglas fir trees to thrive.

The forest defenders say they will continue their efforts to protect this place as long as logging and herbicide remain a threat.

[END OF ARTICLE]

CalFire, a Lead Agency on forest regulations, independently reviews and verifies all Timber Harvest Plans (THPs). THPs are considered a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)-equivalent Environmental Review Document. Among many things, CalFire reviews THPs for fire safety and requires mitigations where appropriate.

The annual herbicide use for both companies will vary dependent on the level of harvest and which forest stands are chosen for restoration. The trend, however, is a reduction in herbicide use over the long-term. HRC has committed to phasing out the use of chemical herbicides as a routine management tool in keeping with certification principles as we transition towards uneven-aged silvicultural regimes.

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1. Adopting policies to make HRCs forestlands FSC® (C031337) certified (since 2009);
2. Adding more than 500 million board feet of redwood and Douglas fir trees by lowering the rate of harvest;
3. Defining of old growth down to the level of an individual tree, along with implementation of a policy to protect all individual old growth trees across our property;
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5. Long term investments to improve habitat for fish across the property by controlling or holding back more than 470,000 cubic yards of sediment (more than 47,000 dump trucks of dirt) from the coastal streams flowing through our forest;
6. Stormproofing approximately 680 miles of forest roads on our ownership.
7. Operating as an open and transparent business; including an open invitation to take interested individuals anywhere in the forest;

	<p>8. Completing a substantial rebuild of our Scotia sawmill, assuring that Humboldt County will have infrastructure in the processing of wood products for many years to come; and</p> <p>9. Employing more than 300 employees contributing a payroll of more than \$23 million and another \$75 million paid for contractors, supplies and raw material purchases flowing through the local economy</p> <p>HRC is regulated by seven (7) state and federal agencies, including CalFire. Additionally, HRC voluntarily subjects itself to third part verification of forest practices under the guidelines of the Forest Stewardship Council FSC® (C031337) and has done so since 2009. We publish our inventory and many other details of our forest management on our website It is straightforward to find information on our management of the forest.</p> <p>From our inception we have encouraged transparency and we have a publicly stated policy of taking anyone to anywhere on the property to see our practices first hand. If you are unable to make the trip you may find videos of our activities in the forest at https://www.hrcllc.com/videos</p> <p>Please contact HRC through their website to arrange for a tour. Additionally, we post our inventory and other forest facts on our website. You can find more information at www.mendoco.com</p>
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