

Statement on People at HRC Scotia Office and blocking US 101

HRC respects everyone's right to express their views on our forest management. Additionally, safety from injury is a priority for HRC. When individuals or groups have gathered to publicly express their views we have accommodated people on the sidewalk, in the parking lot, coming into the office with loud instruments, defacing the office and even banging on windows. Throughout these events we refrained from calling law enforcement, we answered questions of the media and politely requested the people respect the work environment of our forestry, office and sales staff.

Recently, a group of people left the area of our office and, unknown to us at the time, blocked old US highway 101, US Hwy 101 offramp and a frontage road into the HRC Log Yard. Additionally, a private vehicle trespassed onto HRC sawmill putting themselves in harm's way driving through the log yard area. HRC log yard receives and ships hundreds of large commercial trucks every day carrying logs, lumber, bark and sawdust. US Highway 101 has thousands of vehicles traveling at high speed immediately adjacent to the offramp. Blocking a roadway, frontage roads, or trespassing inside industrial facilities or on a US Highway adds risk in a very dangerous manner.

When we learned of these dangerous actions, we felt compelled to act for the safety of people and property in order avoid an accident or an uncontrolled event leading to a tragedy. By the time we learned of this unsafe behavior several large trucks were already blocked by people and stopped on US Highway 101, old US 101 and the private frontage road. We called law enforcement as soon as we learned of the blocked roads. When law enforcement arrived, the people dispersed.

We subsequently saw the video of the empty log truck going through one of the signs held up by people in the middle of the road. This appears to have occurred in the initial blocking and trespassing on highway 101 and before we were aware of the incident. While safety is a priority, we also understand these hardworking independent trucking contractors, numbering in the hundreds, who serve us so well, are trying to make their living and have reason to be frustrated. This combined with little experience in a sudden blockade of the road, heightened an already dangerous condition created by people blocking an interstate highway. If people are blocking a public road or trespassing on private property we will pay contractors and employees for time lost waiting for law enforcement to arrive. Safety is a priority for HRC.

HRC supports the rights of individuals to express their views about forest management policies. In fact, since our inception HRC's policy is to take anyone, anywhere on the property, to the place of their choosing, to see for themselves our forest management in practice. HRC also proactively publishes abundant information related to forest management activities. At the same time, HRC seeks to avoid risks to people and property.

PLEASE CONTACT John Andersen at 707-463-5113 or JAndersen@MendoCo.com with additional questions about this announcement or the company. Please visit www.MendoCo.com to arrange a visit or learn more about HRC forest management activities.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION about HRC's ownership in the Mattole River watershed and the company can be found on the next two pages:

- 1) *HRC has been very involved with the Mattole community since we bought the property in 2008. HRC has conducted 13 field tours with nearly 50 individuals, 6 stakeholder meetings, formal review by FSC®, and more than 70 email and phone conversations. Conversations continue with local neighbors and interested parties. We learned from these interactions and as a result, this document was prepared and reviewed by SCS Global Services (a FSC® certified auditor): <https://www.hrcllc.com/letters/mattole-2016-managing-humboldt-redwood-companys-ownership-mattole-river-watershed-0>*
- 2) *Safety a Priority – Statement on Removal of Trespassers*
<https://www.hrcllc.com/community/safety-priority-statement-removal-trespassers-hrc>
- 3) *Letter from Chairman, Sandy Dean: <https://www.hrcllc.com/letters/mattole-watershed-management-email-sandy-dean-david-simpson>*
- 4) *Response to Cal Alumni Article: <https://www.hrcllc.com/news/california-timber-battles-shift-new-grounds-hrc-responds>*

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ABOUT HRC:

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:

1. Adopting FSC® sustainability policies and procedures from our inception to seek FSC® certification of HRC's forestlands which achieved certification in 2009 (FSC® C031337);
2. Adding more than 500 million board feet of redwood and Douglas fir trees by lowering the rate of harvest;
3. Defining and protecting groves and individual old growth trees to protect all individual old growth trees across our property;
4. Elimination of clear cutting from our property;
5. Long term investments to improve habitat for fish across the property by controlling or holding back more than 400,000 cubic yards of sediment (more than 40,000 dump trucks of dirt) from the coastal streams flowing through our forest;
6. Storm proofing approximately 527 miles of forest roads on our ownership to hold and protect sediment from entering streams and waterways.
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 and acquisition, restarting a biomass combined heat and powerplant to provide renewable energy to the local Community Choice utility, all assuring Humboldt County will have forest products infrastructure in the future; and
9. Employing over 300 skilled employees in Humboldt County earning family-level wages and benefits.