

“Lost Coast League Cries ‘Foul’ when Humboldt Redwood Co. Begins Felling Old-Growth at Rainbow Ridge” by Michael Evenson was published in PR Newswire on June 6, 2019.

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>Text of Article <i>Text of article begins below, spaces placed to allow facts to line up with text of article.</i></p>	<p><i>Humboldt Redwood Company Facts Corrections, Clarifications and Commentary</i></p>
<p>[BEGINNING OF ARTICLE BELOW]</p>	<p><i>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:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>1. Adopting policies to make HRCs forestlands FSC® (C031337) certified (since 2009);</i><i>2. Adding more than 500 million board feet of redwood and Douglas fir trees by lowering the rate of harvest;</i><i>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;</i><i>4. Elimination of traditional clear cutting from our property;</i><i>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;</i><i>6. Stormproofing approximately 680 miles of forest roads on our ownership.</i><i>7. Operating as an open and transparent business; including an open invitation to take interested individuals anywhere in the forest;</i>

<p style="text-align: center;">[BEGINNING OF ARTICLE]</p> <p>Activists on Rainbow Ridge have reported that logging by Humboldt Redwood Company (HRC) commenced late Wednesday, June 5, in the last remaining unprotected intact Douglas-fir/hardwood forest in coastal California.</p> <p>Rainbow Ridge, located about 25 miles south of Eureka, has been the scene of resistance to old-growth logging since 1990. Lawsuits, blockades, and tree-sits have kept much of the forest standing.</p> <p>The remote area is the home to numerous threatened and endangered species, including Golden Eagle, Northern Goshawk, and Northern Spotted Owl and is the headwaters for the wild Mattole River stocks of coho and Chinook salmon.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">[ARTICLE CONTINUES BELOW]</p>	<p>8. <i>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</i></p> <p>9. <i>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</i></p> <p><i>The Douglas fir/hardwood forest type is very common in the inland portion of the redwood range, extending from southern Oregon to Santa Cruz County.</i></p> <p><i>Since our inception, Humboldt Redwood Company (HRC) has a policy of protecting every old growth tree, down to an individual tree, from harvest. Please visit our website for additional details regarding this policy: https://www.hrcllc.com/old-growth</i></p> <p><i>Company policies, government regulations and FSC standards ensure the protection of listed species on managed timberland. HRC is regulated by seven (7) state and federal agencies, including CalFire, and seeks FSC certification annually.</i></p>
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Despite negotiations between HRC and Mattole citizens groups (Lost Coast League, Mattole Restoration Council, Mattole Salmon Group) and other environmental organizations on the North Coast, HRC has refused to allow the groups to achieve permanent protection for these Mattole watershed lands. They lie adjacent to Humboldt Redwoods State Park, home to the largest contiguous stands of virgin Coast redwood in the world and habitat for many endangered species.

When logging appeared imminent in 2018, the Lost Coast League (LCL) challenged HRC's "green" sustainability certification under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) by filing a formal complaint. FSC's auditors (SCS Global Services) found the complaint had merit in two areas: lack of a plan to designate and protect High Conservation Value Forests, and lack of a plan to phase out the widespread use of herbicides HRC uses routinely.

[ARTICLE CONTINUES BELOW]

HRC has been very involved with the Mattole community regarding forest management on our ownership. Since 2008, HRC staff has conducted 13 field tours involving over 50 individuals, 6 stakeholder meetings, and over 70 email and phone conversations. Conversations continue with local neighbors and interested parties. As a result of these interactions, this document was prepared: <https://www.hrcllc.com/letters/mattole-2016-managing-humboldt-redwood-companys-ownership-mattole-river-watershed-0>

Whenever a complaint is filed the auditor (SCS in this case) is required to review the complaint. The author of the article and their association filed a complaint with FSC® (C031337) about HRC activity in the Mattole. The process was initiated by the complainant which compels FSC® (C031337) to review the matter.

HRC has owned timberland including some in the Mattole River watershed for ten years. From our inception we ended the practice of clear cutting, instituted an old growth policy which protects old growth stands and individual trees across the property, among many other policies which have earned certification from SCS as sustainable under the guidelines of FSC® (C031337). A thorough and multi-party review over recent years has confirmed HRC's operations meet the requirements of FSC® (C031337) by avoiding harvest in areas deemed a High Value Conservation Forest. Due to this review, HRC prepared a Vegetation Management Plan that guides further reductions in herbicide use. Please visit our website here to review this document: https://www.hrcllc.com/sites/default/files/inline-files/Redwood%20Company%20Vegetation%20Management%20Policy_v1_1.pdf

LCL was assured by SCS Global's founder, Dr. Robert Hrubes, that logging would not happen until HRC completed its plans as required by SCS Global and delivered them to LCL for evaluation. Neither documents have been delivered to the LCL.

"We are shocked and disappointed that HRC would rush in to log these trees without fulfilling the promise of their FSC 'sustainability' audit," said Michael Evenson, Vice President of LCL. "Violating the terms of the audit should call into question the certification of their operations. This is an irreplaceable natural treasure."

Also brought to the public's attention by this logging is a re-examination of programs like Home Depot's that charge a premium price for lumber certified as sustainably sourced. "Claiming lumber from such sources to be sustainable," said long-time Mattole activist Jane Lapiner, "is cheating the consumer."

[ARTICLE CONTINUES BELOW]

HRC completed and submitted the plans to SCS Global last month.

HRC has fully complied with all requests of SCS Global. Certification through the Forest Stewardship Council is an important component of our business. It is also important to ensuring we are achieving ecological restoration goals. The standards for FSC® (C031337) were established by leading environmental organizations and include specific protections for old growth. HRC commitment is to ALL FSC® (C031337) standards including old growth.

Since our inception, Humboldt Redwood Company (HRC) has a policy of protecting every old growth trees, down to an individual tree from harvest. Please visit our website for additional details regarding this policy: <https://www.hrcllc.com/old-growth>

HRC is unaware of any marketplace paying a premium for FSC-labeled lumber. We wish it were so and continue to promote and employ sustainable harvesting practices in hopes to attract more forest landowners and lumber consumers to our methods.

HRC adopted the policies to make their forestlands FSC® (C031337) certified in 2009. Annual audits ensure continued compliance with these policies.

HRC performance against FSC® (C031337) standards is audited annually by a third party and the reports are publically available here: <https://www.hrcllc.com/certification-reports>

Activists observing the forest operations said that HRC has again hired the paramilitary-styled security company Lear Asset Management of Ukiah, which employs tasers, dogs, drones, and night-vision goggles. This equipment is familiar to Lear personnel who are veterans of U.S. wars in the Middle East.

"Tree-sitters and forest defenders told us they pledge to stop the logging until HRC comes to its senses and negotiates the protection of these natural treasures," Lapiner said.

"HRC is wholly owned by the Fisher family, San Francisco real estate moguls that also own the GAP. Though the Fishers claim to have serious environmental principles they have apparently given the go-ahead on this logging."

[END OF ARTICLE]

This fully licensed and bonded private security firm was hired in 2018 after HRC became aware of an injured trespasser needing medical evacuation and a fire hazard present at the trespasser's camp. Please visit our website for further details at <https://www.hrcllc.com/community/safety-priority-statement-removal-trespassers-hrc>

HRC has been an industry leader in sustainable forestry since its inception, earning a 2016 FSC National Leadership Award. The SCS Global review of the complaint filed by Lost Coast league concluded our forests are managed with a high degree of environmental stewardship but did require additional studies involving high conservation value forests and herbicide use. These studies have been completed and submitted to SCS Global.

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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;*
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 and another \$75 million paid for contractors, supplies and raw material purchases flowing through the local economy*

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.

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>

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