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## **Mendocino Redwood Company Updates the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- Ukiah, Calif. (July 8, 2015)

On Tuesday, July 7, 2015 during public comment at the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors meeting, Mendocino Redwood Company (MRC) representatives, Dennis Thibeault (VP of Forestry) and John Andersen (Dir. of Forest Policy) discussed the company's fire safety and fire risk reduction activities.

Earlier this year, the Board of Supervisors directed the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council (MCFSC) to perform an update of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The update to the plan will include a thorough study of fire risks due to drought and climate change. The Board directed \$25,000 to the process effective July 1, 2015. Thibeault and Andersen shared that they have met with MCFSC several times since the directive from the Board to offer assistance with the county-wide fire plan. They also reiterated Mendocino Redwood Company's commitment to this open and public process.

Additionally, Thibeault explained enhancements MRC has made to previously established company policies on fire safety, including fuel reduction projects, addition of fuel breaks in various locations throughout the property, treatment of hazardous fuels in high risk areas and fire preparedness efforts that include adding dedicated water storage tanks, as well as frequent inspections of equipment and operations.

Thibeault provided details about the fire break work MRC is currently undertaking on the property on Alaska Ridge. He also noted that the company is preparing plans for new fuel breaks along Cliff Ridge and Miller Ridge on the property. Each of these fuel breaks may cover up to 300 acres and be of significant cost to the company.

Thibeault and Andersen closed by reminding the Board and the audience of the company's open door commitment to take interested parties out on the property at any time to see firsthand the company's operations and practices in the forest.

### **About Mendocino Redwood Company**

Mendocino Redwood Company was created in 1998 from lands purchased in Mendocino and Sonoma counties with the publicly declared mission to be good stewards of the forest and at the same time run a successful business. MRC has made significant progress in that regard:

1. Adopting policies to make MRCs forestlands FSC certified (since November 2000);
2. Adding more than 1 billion board feet of redwood and Douglas fir trees by lowering the rate of harvest;
3. Defining 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 the property;
5. Long term investments to improve habitat for fish across the property by controlling or holding back more than 1 million cubic yards of sediment (more than 100,000 dump trucks of dirt) from the coastal streams flowing through our forest;
6. Removal of more than 36 long time fish barriers, increasing fish bearing streams by more than 20 miles.
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 the company's Ukiah sawmill, assuring that Mendocino County will have infrastructure in the processing of wood products for many years to come; and
9. Employing about 300 skilled employees in Mendocino County earning family-level wages and benefits.

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