

“Warriors of Rainbow Ridge” by Tyrone McDonald was published in The Lumberjack on April 18, 2018.

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 Forest Stewardship Council® FSC® (C031337) certified (since 2009);</i><i>2. Adding more than <u>500 million board feet</u> 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><i>8. Completing a substantial rebuild of our Scotia sawmill, assuring that Humboldt</i>

<p style="text-align: center;">[BEGINNING OF ARTICLE]</p> <p>In between the Humboldt Redwoods State Park and the King Range National Conservation Area lies Rainbow Ridge, a hidden treasure connecting the redwoods to the sea.</p> <p>About an hour south from Humboldt State University lies Rainbow Ridge, a fairy tale forest with 300-foot tall trees covered in lichen and moss. Fungi grows in all shapes, sizes and colors. Rare and endangered animals lurk; the agarikon, the pine marten, the Pacific fisher, the spotted owl, Coho salmon and Sonoma tree vole. The endangered Coho salmon return here to spawn.</p> <p>“It is really important that we save the remainder of old growth. It is all that we have left,” conservation consultant for the Lost Coast League, Gabrielle Ward said. “We need to look at how we can help preserve and maintain landscape connectivity so that animals can continue to move across landscapes and not be isolated.”</p> <p>Rainbow Ridge is a combination of coastal Douglas fir trees and mixed-hardwood forest along the north fork of the Mattole River. Inside of Rainbow Ridge’s 18,000 acres of forest and meadows lies 1,100 acres of old growth coastal Douglas fir trees.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">[ARTICLE CONTINUES]</p>	<p><i>County will have infrastructure in the processing of wood products for many years to come; and</i></p> <p>9. <i>Employing about 250 skilled employees in Humboldt County earning family-level wages and benefits.</i></p> <p><i>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</i></p> <p><i>Also since our inception, HRC has been involved in numerous restoration efforts from restoring critical steelhead and coho salmon habitat, removing roads near streams, and cutting less than we grow each year to improve upland wildlife habitats. Please visit our website for additional details on this important work: https://www.hrcllc.com/forest-road-restoration</i></p>
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Rainbow Ridge is “one of only two old growth Douglas fir forests that have been unentered and untouched, and the only one in California,” Joe Seney, a HSU lecturer in forestry and wildland soils, said.

“There are very few remaining tracks of old growth Douglas fir anywhere along this part of the California coast,” Seney said.

HRC does not harvest old growth trees of any kind regardless of whether it is part of a larger stand of old growth or an individual old growth tree scattered on the landscape. All old growth are retained in this area. HRC conducted an extensive analysis in 2016 to determine the number of reserved acres in the Mattole region containing mature Douglas fir. The analysis considered over 470,000 acres in the King Range/Mattole Basin ecoregion as defined by USDA Forest Service. HRC obtained GIS data from the Northwest Forest Plan Interagency Regional Monitoring Program to determine these acres. This analysis concluded there are over 4,700 reserved acres of mature Douglas fir scattered throughout the ecoregion. It should be noted private land was not considered as data was difficult to obtain. Please visit this site to view this analysis:

https://www.hrcllc.com/sites/default/files/inline-files/Mattole_2016_for_website_072116-1_0.pdf

While not species specific, the Pacific Northwest Research Station of the US Forest Service conducted an assessment of remaining old growth in CA, OR, and WA. This study found 725,000 acres of old growth in CA in reserved status and 2.3 million acres in OR and WA in reserved status (Area of Old Growth Forest in California, Oregon, and Washington, by Charles L. Balsinger and Karen L. Waddell, 1993).

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HRC’s old growth policy states a Douglas fir is considered old growth when it has been established since 1800 and is at least 36” in diameter. Smaller and younger Douglas fir can be classified as old growth as well if they have certain characteristics common to old growth trees. Please visit our website for additional details regarding this policy: <https://www.hrcllc.com/old-growth>

[ARTICLE CONTINUES]

The Lost Coast League is a group of citizens from the Mattole watershed and they have been in land acquisition, litigation and conservancy since the early 1970s. The Lost Coast League has acquired and protected thousands of acres of forest since their inception.

“The goals of the Lost Coast League are to study, survey, understand and preserve and restore this forest,” Ward said.

The Lost Coast League hopes to acquire and restore Rainbow Ridge. The Rainbow Ridge is privately owned by the Fisher family, who is known for their GAP clothing stores. The Lost Coast League intends to purchase Rainbow Ridge from the Fisher family.

The east border of Rainbow Ridge is adjacent to Humboldt Redwoods State Park, which holds Rockefeller Forest within it that has the largest contiguous old growth redwood forest in the world.

The west border of Rainbow Ridge is the King Range National Conservation Area. The purchase and preservation of Rainbow Ridge would connect the world’s largest redwood forest with the ocean, creating a wildlife corridor to remain throughout time.

“If the Fisher family would recognize the treasure value of Rainbow Ridge and what kind of legacy they could leave, they could create a Fisher Forest standing adjacent to Rockefeller Forest. This is something that could last throughout time,” Michael Evenson, vice president of the Lost Coast League, said.

[ARTICLE CONTINUES]

HRC was formed with the intention of owning and managing this forest in perpetuity. Our management decisions are guided by this long term ownership intent.

HRC manages all of its lands with a high level of environmental stewardship while maintaining a successful business.

The advantages of this biodiverse forest close to HSU provides unique opportunities. The Lost Coast League would like to see the University of California’s nature preserve program or Humboldt State’s College of Natural Resources utilize Rainbow Ridge for research.

“By looking at what is left we can understand what the rest is supposed to look like,” Ward said.

There is the potential for new discoveries on Rainbow Ridge, especially in fungi. Agarikon is a fungus found growing on Rainbow Ridge with medicinal properties that can treat antibiotic resistant tuberculosis.

“There is a vast opportunity for students to be a part of the solution. Looking at fire regimes and restoring portions of the landscape that have been [logged] in the past, and it does have some deep carbon sinks,” Ward said.

The Cascadia Temperate Rainforest spans from Southern Alaska to Southern Humboldt and is the largest carbon sink on the planet.

“The only deep carbon sinks left in the United States are along the coastline of this Cascadian Temperate Rainforest,” Ward said. “It’s all that we have left, we can’t continue to fragment this endangered ecosystem.”

Paulo Sweeney, a forest defender, addresses Humboldt Redwood Company’s inconsistencies in forest practices.

“Humboldt Redwood Company sets aside high conservation areas that they are not going to log at that time. They aren’t going to log the area now but that does not mean that it is protected from being logged in the future,” Paulo said. “These are key places for restoration.”

[ARTICLE CONTINUES]

HRC has many collaborative research projects ongoing with HSU and is open to discussions regarding research on fungi which occurs on our forestlands as well.

HRC and MRC forestlands are sequestering more than 1 million metric tons of carbon per year .

HRC has identified a 202 acre forest in the Rainbow Ridge area (specifically Long Ridge) within our ownership that largely contains old growth trees. This area has been protected as a High Conservation Value Forest as defined by the Forest Stewardship Council®. Approximately 24 additional acres have also been identified as old growth in smaller, scattered acreages in the Rainbow/Long Ridge area. Numerous individual old growth trees have also been identified in this area. As mentioned earlier, all

During Earth Week from April 16-22, HSU will be having talks, films, demonstrations and workshops on environmentally sound practices and sustainability.

Paulo will be having a question and answer period on April 19 after the film "If a Tree Falls" in Forestry Room 201 from 3-4:30 p.m., as part of the documentary day hosted by the Climate Crisis club for Earth Week. Come and learn more on forest defense in the community, climate change, ecological collapse and student involvement in direct action.

[END OF ARTICLE]

individual old growth trees are retained on the HRC ownership.

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® were established by leading Environmental organizations and include specific protections for old growth. HRC commitment is to ALL FSC® standards including old growth. HRC performance against FSC® standards is audited annually by a third party and the reports are publically available here: <https://www.hrcllc.com/certification-reports>

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 30 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>

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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®) 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 John Andersen at 707-272-1177 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