

Dear Editor,

In response to the article "The California Timber Battles Shift to New Grounds," by Glen Martin, please accept the following.

While forestry issue can be complex and even technical, a few things can be stated clearly -

- Across the entire ownership, HRC/MRC has robust policies developed in conjunction with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC® C004495 and C031337) which include annual third-party audits. We have a specific old growth protection policy in place that protects old growth to the level of individual trees: <http://www.hrllc.com/old-growth>.
- HRC/MRC produces wood in a sustainable fashion, harvesting less than half the estimated annual growth of the forest and encouraging the growth of larger trees over a longer rotation. We publish our inventory and harvest information publically.
- HRC/MRC sequesters more than 1 million net tons of carbon each year, without ever having sought any compensation in the form of "carbon credits."
- HRC/MRC operations include substantial restoration work across our forests including keeping over 1,500,000 cubic yards (150,000 dump trucks) of dirt out of the coastal streams running through our forests and planting more than 12 million seedlings to date.

We have a longstanding policy of taking anyone anywhere on the property to the place of their choosing to see firsthand our forest management practices. Pick any spot and the forester in charge of the area will go there with you. To arrange a visit and/or learn more about HRC/MRC please visit www.MendoCo.com

Sincerely,
Bob Mertz
CEO
BMertz@MendoCo.com

P.S. Far from being a "battle" the HRC/MRC plans in Mattole have been thoroughly studied, reviewed and updated over five years in conjunction with a wide array for stakeholders. You may find a comprehensive white paper including FSC review of the Mattole harvest discussion here: <https://www.hrllc.com/letters/mattole-2016-managing-humboldt-redwood-company-ownership-mattole-river-watershed-0>