

A Letter to the Editor, titled “Stop Hack & Squirt” by Steph Darling was published in the Ukiah Daily Journal on October 28, 2016.

Mendocino 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.

Substantial factual information on Mendocino and Humboldt Redwood forests and its practices are available at www.mrc.com. Wherever possible we have provided direct links to specific material on our website to help the readers have easy access.

<p style="text-align: center;">Text of Article <i>Text of article begins below, spaces placed to allow facts to line up with text of article.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Facts about Mendocino Redwood Company</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">[BEGINNING OF ARTICLE BELOW]</p>	<p>Mendocino Redwood Company (MRC) was created in 1998 from lands purchased in Mendocino and Sonoma 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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopting policies to make MRCs forestlands FSC certified (since November 2000); 2. Adding more than <u>1 billion board</u> 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; 4. Elimination of traditional clear cutting from our 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

<p style="text-align: center;">[BEGINNING OF ARTICLE]</p> <p>Stop hack & squirt</p> <p>To the Editor:</p> <p>On June 7 Mendocino County voters overwhelmingly approved a ballot measure that would effectively curtail the practice of industrial-scale tree-poisoning known as “hack-and-squirt.”</p> <p>Mendocino Redwood Co. (MRC) since 2012 has killed over 5 million trees on 24,000 acres of its holdings.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">[ARTICLE CONTINUES BELOW]</p>	<p>business; including an open invitation to take interested individuals anywhere in the forest;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Completing a substantial rebuild of our 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. <p>Measure V was a ballot measure to address fire safety and unrelated to the use of herbicides.</p> <p>This estimate substantially exceeds anything that has occurred on the MRC ownership. Hardwood treatment occurs throughout the world, the nation, and Mendocino County.</p> <p>On MRC ownership about one (1) million tanoak trees have been treated over the 18 years we have been in existence. By treating these one million tanoak trees, more than 14 million redwood and Douglas fir trees are now thriving.</p> <p>The treatment of tanoak to restore the natural balance of conifer to hardwood is a tool used for at least 25 years. Small private landowners, industrial landowners, and state landowners all use this tool to achieve this goal in a careful and controlled manner according to state regulations.</p> <p>MRC is regulated by seven (7) state and federal agencies, including CalFire. Additionally, MRC voluntarily subjects itself to third party verification of forest practices under the guidelines of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and has done so since 2000. We publish</p>
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<p>The chief target is tanoak, a species that plays an important ecological role in forest succession and recovery after decades of destructive logging.</p> <p>But the initiative’s main emphasis was to protect wildland firefighters from the potentially lethal hazards of falling trees and limbs when battling a blaze. That’s why a coalition led by firefighters and local citizens wrote and successfully campaigned for the passage of Measure V.</p> <p>[ARTICLE CONTINUES BELOW]</p>	<p>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. Among many things, CalFire reviews THPs for fire safety and requires mitigations where appropriate.</p> <p>MRC was created in 1998 from lands purchased in Mendocino and Sonoma county with the publicly declared mission to be good stewards of the forest and at the same time run a successful business. This set a different, sustainable and better path from the legacy of previous owners. This legacy includes tens of thousands of acres of redwood and Douglas fir forest which had become overwhelmed by tanoak. MRC is committed to restoring these forestlands to a balance of conifer and hardwood.</p> <p>There are many examples of wildland fires where firefighters successfully and safely controlled fires in and adjacent to areas where tanoak had been treated. A few examples include the 2008 Mendocino Lightning Complex fires, the Comptche Fire, and the Lodge Fire. In some instances, the fires were controlled in tanoak treatment areas.</p> <p>In fact there is a lack of correlation between treated stands and fire safety: http://www.hrcllc.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Lack_of_Correlation_to_Fire_Intensity_in_Treated_Tan_Oak_Stand.pdf.</p> <p>The firefighting community was split on support of Measure V and several leading local fire chiefs publically opposed Measure V. http://www.hrcllc.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/MENDOCINO-7-vv.pdf</p> <p>MRC has reviewed its internal policies to encourage fire safety. These include procedures and processes we have used for more than a decade, such as:</p>
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But now MRC is threatening to sue to nullify the initiative, and has made it known that it has not stopped using hack-and-squirt since the election. A backlash of irate voters against MRC's arrogance has already begun, with recent weeks seeing marches, protests, and demonstrations, on the North Coast and in San Francisco.

MRC should call off its lawyers and heed the unmistakable will of 63 percent of Mendocino County's voters and halt the practice of hack-and-squirt now. The company spent more than \$250,000 in its campaign opposing Measure V— more than \$25 per "no" vote—and still lost.

[ARTICLE CONTINUES BELOW]

- a. Partnering with communities to place dedicated fire-water tanks, improve egress for remote neighbors and coordination of activities with local fire districts.
- b. Working in Sacramento to encourage investment in Mendocino county infrastructure through the return of taxes paid locally and deployment of CalFire resources.
- c. Donations of time, equipment and money to Volunteer Fire Departments.

MRC strengthened its practices to improve coordinating with local fire districts, fire experts, climate experts and CalFire on pilot projects for fuels hazard reduction and additional road access in the remote parts of the County.

MRC is unaware of any litigation or pending litigation around Measure V. MRC sent a letter to Mendocino County CEO Carmel Angelo dated July 6, 2016 detailing existing state and county regulations on the issue of public nuisances. Based on a review of the pertinent State and County laws and regulations, it is our opinion tanoak treatments are exempt from a public nuisance determination. The letter can be found on our website at: http://www.hrcllc.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Ltr.-CAngelo_MendoCo_7-6-16.pdf.

MRC is unaware of any attorneys retained or acting on our behalf actively challenging Measure V. MRC sent a letter to Mendocino County CEO Carmel Angelo dated July 6, 2016 detailing existing state and county regulations on the issue of public nuisances. Based on a review of the pertinent State and County laws and regulations, it is our opinion tanoak treatments are exempt from a public nuisance determination. The letter can be found on our website at: http://www.hrcllc.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Ltr.-CAngelo_MendoCo_7-6-16.pdf.

MRC used the opportunity of Measure V to invite the community to talk about our forest

What’s more, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors should exercise its prerogative under the California Code to take necessary steps to protect public health and safety and fully embrace Measure V. It’s the law.

— Steph Darling, Berkeley

[END OF ARTICLE]

management practices. Rather than take our word for it we provide the opportunity to anyone to visit any location on our property to see firsthand.

Out of an abundance of caution we reported spending over \$250,000 to the state election commission around Measure V. These included funds that would have normally been spent on day to day activities of operating our business. Campaign laws are very complicated and punitive. Despite this abundance of caution and transparency, some proponents of Measure V filed a complaint with the Fair Political Practice Commission over MRC’s reporting. Upon reviewing our disclosures the FPPC found MRC fully complied with election reporting laws in regards to Measure V.

<http://www.hrllc.com/news/fppc-clears-mrc-of-wrongdoing/>

Mendocino County and the state of California have existing laws which preclude agricultural activities, specifically including timber management, from nuisance determinations. MRC and other landowners are awaiting a determination on how Measure V fits in with other important laws and regulations around forest management.

MRC was created in 1998 from lands purchased in Mendocino and Sonoma county with the publicly declared mission to be good stewards of the forest and at the same time run a successful business.

We are working hard to restore the forest we own and set an example for other forest owners, managers and regulators 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 policies to make MRCs

	<p>forestlands FSC certified (since November 2000);</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Adding more than <u>1 billion board</u> 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; 4. Elimination of traditional clear cutting from our 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 our 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. <p>MRC is regulated by seven (7) state and federal agencies, including CalFire. Additionally, MRC voluntarily subjects itself to third part verification of forest practices under the guidelines of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and has done so since 2000. We publish our inventory and many other details of our forest management on our website It is straightforward to find information on our</p>
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	<p>management of the forest.</p> <p>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. 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.mrc.com.</p>
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