



**Humboldt®**

## Background

Humboldt Redwood Company (HRC) was created in July 2008 through the reorganization of the former Pacific Lumber Company and related entities. HRC consists of approximately 330 square miles (211,221 acres) of coast redwood and Douglas-fir forestland spanning across over 60 Northern California coastal watersheds with about 305 miles of fish-bearing streams

and nearly 1,100 miles of streams supporting non-fish aquatic life. The forestlands are located about five hours north of the Golden Gate Bridge in Humboldt County.

These lands have been harvested dating back to the early 1850's by a variety of owners. Early historical harvesting was conducted in a shortsighted manner, with a heavy reliance on clearcutting and burning. Starting in the mid 1930's, the previous owner implemented a management style of selective logging which continued until the mid-1980's at which time clearcutting was reinstated following a change in ownership.

From the beginning, HRC has operated with a publicly declared purpose to duplicate what has worked for Mendocino Redwood Company (MRC), HRC's sister business, whose mission since its founding in 1998 has been to manage a large block of productive forestland utilizing high standards of environmental stewardship and at the same time to operate as a successful business. Our intent is to maintain our forestlands for long-term ecological, social, and economic vitality. Stewardship objectives are achieved by maintaining and where possible improving habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species, protecting old-growth forests and water resources, enhancing forest complexity and biodiversity, and supporting the well-being of local communities. HRC seeks to be a successful steward of the forest, and to create a positive, economically viable example of how private forest management can protect and restore the ecological attributes of an industrial landscape. Furthermore, our companies maintain a policy of open and transparent operations and are willing to take interested members of the public anywhere on our forestlands.

## Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) Certification

In 2009, HRC was evaluated by and received certificates from an FSC® (C013337) accredited certifier located in the U.S.: Scientific Certification Systems of Emeryville, California. The Forest Stewardship Council® is an international, independent, non-profit organization that promotes responsible forestry, and is supported by many of the leading environmental organizations in the country (see [www.fscus.org](http://www.fscus.org)). FSC® Certification is awarded when an independent evaluation of a forest company's practices meets the highest standards for environmentally and socially responsible forestry. The certification reports are available on this web site at [www.hrcllc.com/Reports-CertificationReports.aspx](http://www.hrcllc.com/Reports-CertificationReports.aspx).

## HRC's Actions on Key Issues Since Start-Up

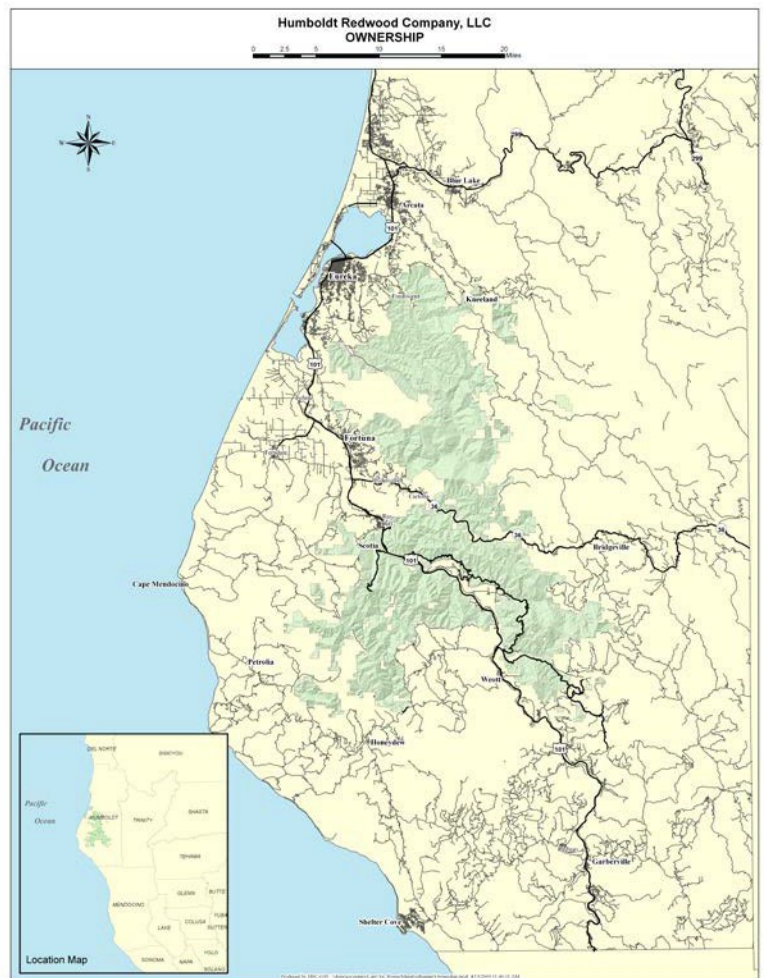
### HARVEST RATES AND LONG-TERM HARVEST PLANNING:

From 1995 through 2007, an average of 187 million board feet (MMBF) of timber was harvested annually on the lands now owned by HRC. During that time, harvest ranged from a low of 82.5 MMBF (in 2007) to a high of 295.3 MMBF (1996). HRC has substantially reduced the annual harvest since taking ownership of these forest lands, averaging 56 million board feet per year (2011-2024).

Annual growth on HRC lands exceeds the annual volume harvested, thus HRC's standing inventory of trees increases by an average of 62 million board feet each year. HRC periodically conducts a re-inventory of trees and other forest resources on its lands and uses this information as the foundation for long-term harvest plans.

### TRADITIONAL CLEARCUTTING ELIMINATED:

HRC's management model depends on developing multi-aged conifer stands across the property. On well-stocked conifer stands, which



comprise most of HRC's forests, HRC uses "uneven-aged" management, typically retaining 50% of the pre-harvest stocking. In the few areas where restoration forestry is needed (due to hardwood competition), HRC uses a special harvest prescription called "Variable Retention" to return degraded stands back to redwood and Douglas-fir forests. Variable retention harvesting retains between 10% and 50% of the original stand in pockets or groups of trees and dispersed trees across the stand. This silviculture method is followed by replanting with conifers to restore the original forest type.

#### **OLD-GROWTH PROTECTION:**

HRC has an old-growth protection policy which preserves "un-entered" old-growth stands, protects the old-growth characteristics of previously-entered old-growth stands, and also retains all individual trees meeting HRC's old-growth definition regardless of their location on the landscape (see Key Policies – Old Growth section on this website for additional information). There are 3,794 acres of old-growth redwood protected, primarily within the 6,635 acres of our six marbled murrelet preserves. The identification and delineation of the un-entered old-growth stands outside of the preserves is an on-going process, but we currently estimate that there are some 1,618 acres of un-entered old growth across the property. We also estimate there are over 1724 acres of previously-entered old growth. All old growth in stands meeting the FSC® Type 1 and Type 2 definitions are protected and managed according to the FSC® Criteria.

#### **HERBICIDE USE REDUCTION:**

Our annual herbicide use varies depending on the level of harvest and the stands chosen for restoration. Over the long term, herbicide usage will decrease proportionally as HRC converts its landscape from the even-aged stand management (clearcutting) of the prior owner, to partial harvest (selection) management. The shade from the conifer overstory in an uneven-aged stand typically inhibits the excess growth of hardwoods, brush, and weeds, so use of herbicides will accordingly diminish over time. However, there will be instances where to regenerate a conifer stand or to address invasive species may require careful consideration of site-specific herbicide use. Moreover, in keeping with Forest Stewardship Council™ principles, HRC is committed to phasing out the use of chemical herbicides as a routine management tool and transitioning to silvicultural regimes which require little or no herbicides to ensure conifer survival and growth. HRC foresters closely evaluate each forest stand before and after harvesting to determine if and where herbicides are required.

### **Key Components of Our Habitat Conservation Plan**

#### **PROTECTION OF SPECIES:**

HRC inherited the 1999 Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the property. Under the protections provided by the HCP, marbled murrelets continue to nest in the Marbled Murrelet Conservation Areas (MMCA's), a system of reserves made up of the largest redwood old growth forest stands on HRC lands. Similarly, the riparian buffers required by the HCP are designed to provide tree canopy over streams for maintenance of cool water temperatures, filter strip properties, and abundant large wood for protection and enhancement of salmonid habitat. Spotted owls, Pacific fisher, and other species benefit from these protected areas, as well as the habitat structures (snags and other tree forms favored by wildlife) retained during harvest. In addition, the HCP provides specific protections for the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, western snowy plover, bank swallow, red tree vole, rare amphibians and reptiles, and rare plants.

#### **WATERSHED ANALYSIS:**

Watershed Analysis, a cornerstone component of the Habitat Conservation Plan, is a process that characterizes watershed conditions affecting aquatic habitat through multi-disciplinary scientific analyses, and from these analyses projects future trends in watershed conditions. The result generates forestry and monitoring recommendations and an opportunity for HCP updates through adaptive management. Collaborative partners include the California Department of Fish and Game, NOAA Fisheries, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Geologic Survey, local consultants, and community groups. Public involvement in the form of issue identification at the start, and presentation of key findings and a public review draft near the end, is a part of the process.

#### **CONSERVATION AREAS:**

Established by the HCP, HRC has 6,635 acres of conservation areas containing both old-growth redwood stands and mature second-growth redwood stands with significant amounts of residual old-growth trees. Comprising six separate areas, these stands have been shown to be active nesting habitat for the endangered marbled murrelet. Conserving these stands also provides protection for other species that depend on mature forests, enhances stream quality, maintains biodiversity, and, along with riparian buffers, contributes to a network of habitat corridors in the region.

#### **ROADS MANAGEMENT:**

Roads can be a significant source of sediment that is delivered to watercourses, but this impact can be substantially reduced through proper management and road improvements. HRC minimizes the impacts of forest roads through an ambitious plan of road improvements. This includes ongoing road inventory and assessment, road upgrading and stormproofing, and cooperative restoration projects with state and federal agencies to improve water quality.