



December 1, 2015

Please Post

Mendocino Redwood Earns Forest Stewardship Council Certification Representing Fifteen Years of Third-Party Verified Healthy Forests

On November 14, 2015, Mendocino Redwood Company, LLC (MRC®) received Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) certification for our 228,000 forest in Mendocino and Sonoma counties. This marks fifteen (15) consecutive years of FSC certification.

First and foremost let me thank our 500 employees in Mendocino, Humboldt and Sonoma counties whose dedication and hard work has resulted in MRC reaching the noteworthy milestone of fifteen (15) years being FSC certified.

The achievement is noteworthy for its duration and more importantly for the improvements that have resulted in the forest. This area of California has had decades of vigorous public conversations around the management and health of the forest. Clearly, our friends, neighbors, colleagues and others truly care about the forest on the North Coast.

From our inception we have emphasized an exceptional level of transparency and public monitoring of how we operate our business, some of which include:

- Opening our property to take anyone to the place of their choosing to see firsthand our practices and results;
- Publishing enormous amounts of data on our website (mrc.com); and,
- Abiding by regulations of seven (7) state and federal agencies.

That is a lot of transparency and monitoring of our activities.

In the redwood region we felt more was needed which is why we embraced third-party review and verification of our activities; specifically under the standards of the Forest Stewardship Council.

The Forest Stewardship Council stands out in the field of forest certification for the rigorous review process required to achieve certification. It is important to note a unique distinction of FSC certification. The Forest Stewardship Council was born out of an effort by national and regional environmental organizations to create a standard of exemplary forest management; something they could support while allowing a reasonable harvest. The FSC protocols are extensive with sixty-six (66) principles and conditions, requiring environmental protections, monitoring, assessment, and comprehensive management plans. FSC standards also go beyond other certification protocols to include the important review of social impacts and community involvement.

From the beginning of MRC ownership, we have worked with the local community to talk about the activities on our forestlands. These conversations have contributed to the meaningful improvement on our forest and in surrounding communities. Some of these improvements are:

1. Adopting policies to make MRC's 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 on 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.

We publish many other details of our forest management practices on our website, www.MRC.com. We have a publicly-stated, long-standing policy of taking anyone anywhere on the property to see our practices firsthand. For some who may find visiting our forest challenging, we will provide assistance. We also post video of activities and forest science work at <http://www.mrc.com/about-us/forestry-videos/>. And you can follow our activities on:

Facebook: Mendocino Redwood Forestry
Twitter: @MendoForestry

We welcome the opportunity to discuss how we manage our forests. If you have any questions about this letter or the company, please call me personally at the number below. If you would like a tour of the property, please call 707-463-5113.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Mertz".

Bob Mertz
Chief Executive
707-467-3385