

“Groups file suit in Elk River watershed dispute” was published in The Times Standard on March 15, 2016.

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.mrc.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>Facts about Humboldt Redwood Company</i></p>
<p>[BEGINNING OF ARTICLE BELOW]</p>	<p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Adopting policies to make HRCs forestlands FSC certified (since 2009);2. Adding more than <u>500 million 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 400,000 cubic yards of sediment (more than 40,000 dump trucks of dirt) from the coastal streams flowing through our forest;6. Stormproofing approximately 527 miles of forest roads on our ownership.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 Scotia sawmill, assuring that Humboldt

<p style="text-align: center;">[BEGINNING OF ARTICLE]</p> <p>The Environmental Protection Information Center announced Tuesday that it has filed to intervene in a lawsuit to defend the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board’s decision to not authorize sediment discharge and other associated waste from logging operations into the Elk River watershed.</p> <p>“The time is long past due to address the sources of pollution and recover the Elk River,” Rob DiPerna, EPIC’s forest and wildlife advocate, said in a press release. “The forest, and the watershed and its residents have suffered long enough.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">[ARTICLE CONTINUES]</p>	<p>County will have infrastructure in the processing of wood products for many years to come; and</p> <p>9. Employing about 250 skilled employees in Humboldt County earning family-level wages and benefits.</p> <p>This lawsuit is centered on a Timber Harvest Plan (THP) in the Elk River watershed which was reviewed by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB). The NCRWQCB supplied recommendations to the plan which HRC adopted. The THP was then approved by the state lead agency for forestry activities, Cal Fire. HRC requested and received an additional permit from the NCRWQCB for operations related to road work associated with the THP. After significant investment in the road system in accordance with NCRWQCB recommendations, HRC learned the NCRWQCB would not be issuing a permit for the selective harvest associated with this THP. HRC asked the State Water Quality Control Board to review the application for harvesting, however, they chose to ignore HRC’s appeal. The court case asks NCRWQCB to make a decision. Lack of action has this particular THP in limbo.</p> <p>Erosion control in the watershed began in earnest 15 years ago under previous ownership with the establishment of a 1999 state and federally approved 50 year term Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). The HCP requires substantial watershed protection measures during forestry activities and control of pre-existing sediment sources. Since then, the NCRWQCB has issued three clean up and abatement orders (2004, 2006) and a Waste Discharge Requirement permit (2006) specific to the Elk River, all focused on addressing sediment sources and watershed recovery. HRC inherited these permits from the previous landowner and has remained in compliance with their requirements including the control of existing and potential sediment sources in the watershed.</p> <p>Since the inception of HRC in 2008, approximately 156,000 cubic yards of sediment (15,600 dump trucks) have been removed or otherwise controlled</p>
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<p>According to the EPIC press release, the Arcata-based center — along with the Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman’s Association and the Institute for Fisheries Resources — will be defending the water board’s May 20, 2015 decision against the Humboldt Redwood Company.</p> <p>The Humboldt Redwood Company brought suit in Sonoma County Superior Court, the release states.</p> <p>The original lawsuit comes against the backdrop of the water board’s plans to adopt a Total Maximum Daily Load for the Elk River as well as a newer, more restrictive water quality control permits at its April 7 meeting, according to the release.</p> <p>It also states that the Elk River watershed was declared “significantly adversely and cumulatively” impacted by sediment discharges as a result of timber harvesting operations conducted in the watershed by the then-Pacific Lumber Company, under the ownership of MAXXAM Corporation and Charles Hurwitz.</p>	<p>from the streams in the Elk River watershed. As part of this costly and beneficial work in the watershed approximately 74 miles of roads and 450 stream crossings have been upgraded to a ‘storm-proofed’ standard designed to withstand large storm events under the review of third party, independent HCP monitors.</p> <p>HRC contends that the THP was prepared in full compliance with the 2006 NCRWQCB waste discharge requirements and thoroughly reviewed by multiple state agencies including Water Quality, prior to approval by the lead agency, and therefore should be enrolled consistent with the existing agreement between the company and the NCRWQCB.</p> <p>There is ongoing discussion between the company, NCRWQCB, and other resource agencies regarding effective solutions for improving Elk River floodplain channel conditions related to flooding, water supplies, and salmon habitat improvement. Elk River continues to provide vital and productive steelhead and salmon habitat. HRC is active in both on property watershed restoration work including in-stream projects, as well as participation in downstream off property collaborative efforts to address water quality concerns.</p> <p>http://www.hrcllc.com/news/lawrence-creek-a-new-habitat-restoration-approach-on-the-west-coast/</p> <p>https://issuu.com/building-products/docs/merchant_1-16/35?e=1439489/32464165</p> <p>When HRC acquired the forestlands in 2008 an aggressive effort was started to reduce sediment impacts associated with roads and other sediment sources in the Elk River watershed. Since the inception of HRC in 2008, approximately 156,000 cubic yards of sediment (15,600 dump trucks) have been removed or otherwise controlled from the</p>
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<p>Impacts include “significant” reductions in stream and channel capacity, resulting in increases in the frequency and intensity of flooding as well as destruction of traditional domestic and agricultural water supplies, and the destruction of salmon habitat, according to the release.</p> <p>The Elk River watershed was added to the list of impaired water bodies under the federal Clean Water Act in 1998.</p> <p>[END OF ARTICLE]</p>	<p>streams in the Elk River watershed. As part of this costly and beneficial work in the watershed approximately 74 miles of roads 450 stream crossings have been upgraded to a ‘storm-proofed’ standard designed to withstand large storm events under the review of third party, independent HCP monitors. Now that sediment sources in the middle and upper portions of the watershed have been addressed, HRC is participating with Humboldt County and watershed groups to study the lower portion of the watershed. The lower reaches are impacted by a multitude of natural and legacy events which have occurred over more than a century.</p> <p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Adopting policies to make HRCs forestlands FSC certified (since 2009);2. Adding more than <u>500 million 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;
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5. Long term investments to improve habitat for fish across the property by controlling or holding back more than 400,000 cubic yards of sediment (more than 40,000 dump trucks of dirt) from the coastal streams flowing through our forest;
6. Stormproofing approximately 527 miles of forest roads on our ownership.
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 Scotia sawmill, assuring that Humboldt County will have infrastructure in the processing of wood products for many years to come; and
9. Employing about 250 skilled employees in Humboldt County earning family-level wages and benefits.

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. Additionally, we post our inventory and other forest facts on our website. You can find more information at www.mrc.com.