

An article titled “Hack-and-squirt foes challenge industry technique” by Loran Lewis was published in the *Willits News* on April 29, 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>Text of Article <i>Text of article begins below, spaces placed to allow facts to line up with text of article.</i></p>	<p>Facts about Mendocino Redwood Company</p>
<p>[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 business; including an open invitation to take interested individuals anywhere in the forest;

<p style="text-align: center;">[BEGINNING OF ARTICLE]</p> <p>Hack-and-squirt foes challenge industry technique</p> <p>By Loran Lewis</p> <p>Proponents of a June 7 ballot measure to eliminate the use of so-called “hack-and-squirt” deforestation methods spoke out against the technique they said could potentially be disastrous.</p> <p>Ted Williams, Albion Little River Fire Protection District chief, and Kirk Van Patten, retired CalFire air attack captain, spoke to a small crowd at the Little Lake Grange Hall in Willits April 26. Among those not attending were invited opponents of the measure.</p> <p>Measure V asks voters, “Shall the people of Mendocino County declare intentionally killed and left standing trees a public nuisance?” Voters will decide whether companies that use hack-and-squirt processes can be held liable for the dead standing trees that are left behind.</p> <p>The hack-and-squirt practice involves “hacking” a notch into unwanted trees, such as tanoaks, and then “squirting” the notch with an herbicide to kill the tree. Concerns have been raised about the herbicides being used and the dry standing trees left behind. Some firefighters argue those trees may increase fire risk.</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>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 that are now dominated by tanoak. MRC is committed to restoring these forestlands to the natural balance of conifer and hardwood.</p> <p>Beginning in 1998, when MRC was established, we spent several years on a variety of methods to treat</p>
--	---

<p>Williams said Mendocino County residents should be concerned about Measure V “for the safety of their neighbors who may be firefighters, the impact on the economy and because Mendocino County agriculture products could be tainted by the poison used on the wood.”</p>	<p>tan oaks (including an ill-fated and expensive effort to make tan oak flooring). After much effort, we concluded the most effective way to bring back a healthy conifer forest in our lifetime was to treat tan oak, selectively, carefully, in the woods, literally tree by tree.</p> <p>Treating tan oak involves using herbicide (about two cups per acre) that is injected directly into the trunk of tan oak trees, following a cut made in the bark. The treatment results in trees dropping most leaves in six to nine months (depending on the time of year), and beginning to fall down within three to four years. After several years, the treated trees largely decompose and their biomass is added to the duff layer of the forest. The treatment of tan oak reduces competition for sunlight and water allowing redwood and Douglas fir trees to thrive.</p> <p>Treating tan oak encourages the emergence of a healthier forest by restoring the health of redwood and Douglas fir trees.</p> <p>Since the inception of MRC, approximately 69,000 acres have been restored to a natural conifer balance by controlling tanoak and planting 8.8 million redwood and Douglas fir seedlings.</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>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>Wood products produced from Mendocino Redwood Company forestlands come from redwood and Douglas fir. Herbicides are not used on these species so there is no potential for these products to contain herbicide. Any tanoak delivered to firewood</p>
---	---

The fire chief said dead standing trees left behind when timber companies and others use the hack-and-squirt procedure “enhance fire behavior because there are more surface fuels, which create faster fires and are harder to contain.”

Van Patten called hack-and-squirt a dangerous gamble.

“I think that as taxpayers, we foot the bill,” he said after the meeting. “They’re gambling with our safety, with firefighters’ safety. They know it’s a gamble but it’s cheaper (for timber companies) in the long run.

“If they lose the gamble, it’s (cleanup) paid for with public funds. We end up paying for it, and firefighters end up paying for it in deaths and increased injuries.”

Opponents do not want to show up at the forums because they know they’re wrong,

sources has not been treated with any herbicide.

It is common knowledge contemporary forest management can be used as a tool to thin forests, bringing them back to the natural, fire resistant forests they once were. MRC’s policy of selectively harvesting forests removes fuel ladders, opens roads in the event a fire occurs, and replaces tanoak with more fire-resistant redwood and Douglas fir.

Recent fires in Mendocino County show little to no correlation between high fire intensity and tanoak treatment areas. In fact, some wildland fires were stopped in areas where tanoak had been treated. The fuel ladders had been removed prior to tanoak treatment, keeping the fire on the ground.

CalFire, the Lead Agency on forest regulations, independently reviews and verifies all Timber Harvest Plans (THPs). THPs are considered a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)-equivalent Environmental Review Document. Among many things, CalFire reviews THPs for fire safety and requires mitigations where appropriate.

Tanoak treatment and selective management of MRC forestlands is a more expensive style of forest management when compared to evenaged management or clearcutting. Evenage management would remove all the standing tanoak but MRC policies since its inception in 1998 eliminated clearcutting.

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.

MRC has been active in many forums related to this measure. Other landowners and agencies have been

<p>Williams said.</p> <p>“I take that as a positive sign that there is a lot of support (for Measure V),” he said. “I would like to have a round table discussion (of the pros and cons). This is a public safety issue, and I would like to keep it as a public safety issue, but the opponents try to reframe it as a reforestation issue.”</p> <p>[ARTICLE CONTINUES]</p>	<p>encouraged to participate in forums as well. MRC plans to attend future forums.</p> <p>MRC has attended a number of forums with Ted Williams to discuss the measure.</p> <p>Treating tan oak encourages the emergence of a healthier forest by restoring the health of redwood and Douglas fir trees.</p> <p>Since the inception of MRC, approximately 69,000 acres have been restored to a natural conifer balance by controlling tanoak and planting 10.1 million redwood and Douglas fir seedlings.</p> <p>The restoration of the forest can occur while providing safety to firefighters and adjacent landowners. 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>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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>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.</p>
--	--

During the forum, Williams said Measure V is written in its current form to make timber companies liable for any damages that result from the hack-and-squirt procedures. If an area of dead trees is considered a public nuisance, those who created the nuisance would be responsible for the resulting consequences including fires, damage to property and injuries or loss of life. The added financial risk for timber companies and their insurance companies could cause them to reconsider using the practice.

Williams said it costs a company about \$600 per acre using hand tools to remove unwanted trees, while it is only about \$300 per acre using the chemical agent.

Along with the dead and drying timber creating additional fire hazards, Williams and Van Patten said limbs from dead trees create a more dangerous situation for firefighters because the limbs are more likely to fall on them. The dead limbs, referred to as “snags,” are considered man-killers in the firefighting community, they said.

However, the two, who are members of Citizens for Fire Safe Forests, a pro-Measure V group, said the issue has divided the firefighting community because most of the county’s firefighters are volunteers; some have direct ties to the timber industry and are more sympathetic to the industry’s position.

The potential for increased herbicide chemicals (Imazapyr) in smoke from a fire has also been a concern.

Tanoak, when cut, is a vigorous sprouter. Many small tanoak trees will sprout from a single tanoak stump. Using hand tools is more expensive, but it is also not effective in restoring the forest. A redwood tree planted next to a recently cut tanoak stump will succumb to competition for sunlight and soil moisture from the tanoak sprouts.

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.

The US Forest Service has conducted research on the presence of herbicides in smoke when treated areas of the forest burn. The research included five different herbicides including Imazapyr. The research concluded no herbicide residues are found in smoke when treated areas of the forest burn. For more details on this research see the actual document on MRC’s website at: <http://www.hrcllc.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/imapazyrandfire.pdf>.

Some in the audience suggested using the unwanted tanoak wood so that the company might make a profit. Richard and Phil Jergenson, brothers from Willits, said their company, Gridbeam, which makes structural grid-style building material, and has found tanoak wood to be workable as long as it is properly treated and prepared.

If voters say yes to Measure V in June, the ordinance would in part immediately declare that dead trees left standing as a result of hack-and-squirt for more than 90 days, are at least 16 feet tall and within 3,200 feet of public infrastructures including, roads, driveways or significant water sources, be declared a public nuisance and hold parties liable for any damages caused by the trees.

The Ukiah Saturday Afternoon Club will sponsor a “Public Forum for Measure V” at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 10, at the Ukiah Civic Center, 300 Seminary Drive, Ukiah.

[END OF ARTICLE]

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 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 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

	<p>property;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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 at any time 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>
--	---

Paid for by Mendocino Redwood Company, LLC