

An article titled “Mendocino County voters to decide on timber practices, Fort Bragg zoning issues” by Glenda Anderson, was published in the *Press Democrat* on May 8, 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</p> <p><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 business; including an open invitation to take interested individuals anywhere in the forest;

<p style="text-align: center;">[BEGINNING OF ARTICLE]</p> <p>A ballot measure aimed at halting the controversial timber harvest practice of poisoning unwanted trees and then leaving them to die and decompose is among three initiatives Mendocino County voters will decide in the June 7 election.</p> <p>If approved, Measure V would create a county ordinance declaring trees that are killed and left standing for more than 90 days to be a nuisance and fire danger.</p> <p>Companies conducting such operations would be liable for any damage the practice causes to structures, water sources and telecommunication lines within 1,000 meters of the trees. The ordinance does not state who determines liability.</p> <p>The ballot measure’s proponents, led by local fire district officials, say the current practice increases the risk and intensity of wildfires, endangering both rural residents and firefighters. They claim the timber industry has left millions of trees standing dead across tens of thousands of acres.</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 would create a county ordinance declaring trees that are killed and left standing for more than 90 days to be a public nuisance.</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 that are now dominated by tanoak. MRC is committed to restoring these forestlands to the natural balance of conifer and hardwood.</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>[ARTICLE CONTINUES]</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 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> <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>In the tanoak treatment areas MRC has planted 10.1 million redwood and Douglas fir trees since 1998. When a tanoak is removed, not only can conifer seedlings be planted in its place but existing conifers adjacent to the removed tanoak grow much healthier because competition for sunlight and soil nutrients has been removed. We estimate an additional 4 million existing conifers benefit from tanoak removal, for a total number of restored</p>
----------------------------	---

“Measure V protects our residents from indefensible forests,” said Albion-Little River Volunteer Fire Department Chief Ted Williams, who is at the forefront of the ballot effort.

Opponents of the measure include Mendocino Redwood Company, whose forest practices — on land it owns — triggered an outcry from area residents and fire officials alarmed by the massive number of dead trees in the area. Williams estimates 1.5 million trees are being killed annually in Mendocino County forests through the practice, dubbed “hack-and-squirt” for the way the herbicide is applied.

The company did not have an estimate for the number of trees killed annually. But John Andersen, director of forest policy for Mendocino Redwood and its sister company, Humboldt Redwood Co., argued the practice does not significantly increase fire risks and called the proposed ordinance excessive and unnecessary.

He said the practice of removing hardwood trees through poisoning is crucial to restoring forests damaged by past practices — including massive

redwood and Douglas fir of 14 million.

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.

While an estimate of the number of tanoak treated across the County is difficult to determine, we do know is 14 million redwood and Douglas fir trees are now restored on MRC forestlands alone.

overcutting. Because hardwoods grow quickly, they can prevent sunlight and other resources from reaching conifer trees, whose timber is prized for its higher monetary value.

“That’s what this whole issue is about,” Andersen said.

The Mendocino and Humboldt timber companies have spent almost \$200,000 opposing the ballot measure through advertising, social media and mailers, according to Andersen and campaign documents.

The pro-Measure V campaign has spent less than \$2,000.

Williams said he’s not concerned about the spending discrepancy because the evidence should be clear to voters that dead trees are a fire hazard.

While redwood and Douglas fir have higher monetary value, there are other benefits to restoring forests. The thick bark of redwood makes it a much more fire resistant species than tanoak. When the forest is restored to its natural balance of conifer and tanoak, wildlife habitat for a variety of species is also restored. In fact, the northern spotted owl has been observed nesting on MRC lands in a couple areas where tanoak treatment occurred several years ago.

Out of an abundance of caution, MRC is reporting what we have spent and what we expect to spend to comply with very complicated campaign laws.

The amount spent on the campaign is a reflection of how important MRC feels it is to talk with people about our Forest Stewardship Council-certified forest management, long term commitment to forest restoration and providing more than 300 family wage jobs to local residents.

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

[ARTICLE CONTINUES ON OTHER BALLOT MEASURES, NOT PRINTED HERE]

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)-equivalent Environmental Review Document. Among many things, CalFire reviews THPs for fire safety and requires mitigations where appropriate.

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 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

	<p>Ukiah sawmill, assuring that Mendocino County will have infrastructure in the processing of wood products for many years to come; and</p> <p>9. Employing about 300 skilled employees in Mendocino County earning family-level wages and benefits.</p> <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