

A letter to the Editor titled “Yes on Measure V” by Kirk Van Patten was published in the *Ukiah Daily Journal* on May 13, 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;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; and9. Employing about 300 skilled employees in Mendocino County earning family-level wages and benefits.

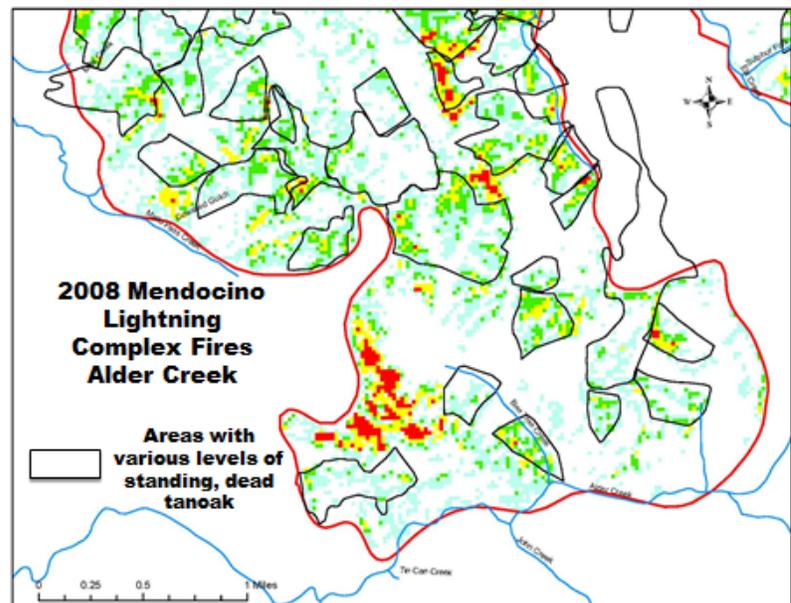
[BEGINNING OF ARTICLE]

Do dead trees burn? Most folks will agree that dead trees do burn.

Dead trees do burn. Depending on the fuel arrangement and the type of tree, the intensity of the burn will vary widely. In the case of tanoak, the fuel arrangement is such that most limbs do not grow close to the ground, keeping fire from entering the tops of the trees. The 2008 Mendocino Lightning Complex fires, the Comptche Fire, and the Lodge Fire all showed no correlation between fire intensity and tanoak treatment areas.



Lodge Fire, 2013, burn in tanoak treatment area



[ARTICLE CONTINUES BELOW]

No correlation between fire intensity (red polygons are high intensity) and tanoak treatment areas. Red line is the fire perimeter.

What happens when 90,000 acres of forestland are treated causing the mortality of millions of hardwood trees? In most of these treated areas there are hundreds of acres of dense dead standing hardwood trees. To a firefighter this is very heavy fuel for a wildland fire. These dead trees, many are two feet or more in diameter, also represent manmade snags. Each year wildland firefighters are injured or killed by natural snags. The timber industry refers to this management practice as frilling. A more common term for this treatment is hack and squirt. For the last ten years of my career in the Mendocino Unit of Cal Fire I was the Air Attack Captain assigned to the Ukiah Air Attack Base. A major portion of my duties was to fill the Air Tactical Group Supervisor (ATGS) position on wildland fires. The ATGS is airborne directing air operations. In most situations the Incident Commander relies heavily on the tactical advice of the ATGS. I enjoyed a good reputation among ground personnel and pilots. After my retirement I was asked to work for Region Office in Redding as a mentor for ATGS students completing their taskbooks. After five years mentoring students in Redding I decided it was time to move on after 39 years in the business. It is clear to me that any affect frilling or hack and squirt may have on fire behavior is not well understood. As an Air Tactical Group Supervisor (ATGS) I would advise an Incident Commander or

Mendocino Redwood Company has treated over 1 million tanoak trees resulting in the restoration of approximately 14 million redwood and Douglas fir trees.

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.

Operations Section Chief against making an effort to suppress a wildland fire in an area that has been treated by frilling. Weather forecasts as well as current and predicted fire behavior would factor into this decision. There in lies the problem. Firefighters will be faced with having to disengage where they might otherwise attempt control efforts. It is also clear to me that my advice will not be taken, I am retired. My hope is that the students I mentored will place the same high priority on firefighter safety that I did. I am confident they will.

Let's ask the timber industry to also make a commitment to firefighter safety. On June 7 vote yes on Measure V. Go to www.citizensforfiresafeforests.com for more information.

- Kirk Van Patten, Ukiah
[END OF ARTICLE]

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.

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.

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

	<p>tree, along with implementation of a policy to protect all individual old growth trees across our 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>
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