

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Draft Environmental Impact Statement-Draft Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report for Authorization for Incidental Take and Implementation of a Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Communities Conservation Plan and Timber Management Plan

November 26, 2012

In accordance with provisions of the Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15087(a) of the California Environmental Quality Act, notice is hereby given of the availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement-Draft Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement-Draft Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report has been prepared in response to the application by Mendocino Redwood Company for: (1) An incidental take permit and a programmatic Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game; (2) Federal incidental take permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service; and (3) A Timber Management Plan from the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The state and federal incidental take permits, if granted, would authorize the take of protected species incidental to otherwise lawful timber operations for 80 years. The programmatic Streambed Alteration Agreement, if issued, supports timber operations that might substantially affect a stream or lake. The Timber Management Plan, if certified as part of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement-Draft Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report, would grant the authority to submit Program Timber Harvesting Plans for individual timber harvesting projects. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is the lead agency and the California Department of Fish and Game is a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service are co-lead agencies under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Project Description: Mendocino Redwood Company conducts timber operations and associated activities on its timberland in coastal Mendocino County, California and is seeking incidental take coverage for these activities. The requested take authorizations would cover the incidental take of 11 animal species and 31 plant species. As part of the application process for incidental take authorization, Mendocino Redwood Company has prepared a draft Habitat Conservation Plan-Natural Community Conservation Plan, which includes specific measures and strategies developed to protect or enhance habitats and measures to minimize and mitigate potential effects on covered species. Mendocino Redwood Company has also prepared a Timber Management Plan, which addresses all aspects of its proposed timber operations, including, but not limited to, timber harvest levels, silvicultural methods, harvesting practices, erosion control, site preparation, watercourse and lake protection, hazard reduction, fire protection, wildlife protection, logging road and landing practices, archaeological resource protection, rare plant protection, and the management measures and standards proposed to implement the conservation measures of the Habitat Conservation Plan-Natural Community Conservation Plan.

Project Location: Project activities will occur on 213,244 acres of Mendocino Redwood Company's timberland in coastal Mendocino County, California. MRC's timberland is located west of Highway 101 and extends from the upper headwater streams of the Gualala River watershed in southern Mendocino County north to the Humboldt-Mendocino County line.

Environmental Impacts: The Draft Environmental Impact Statement-Draft Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report identified the following potentially significant impacts: (1) Non-covered plant species of concern and vegetation communities of concern could be individually or cumulatively impacted as a result of activities not included in Program Timber Harvesting Plans, because no plant survey would be required prior to such activities; and (2) California Natural Diversity Database Special Community Types, Habitat Elements and non-covered plant species of concern could be impacted due to application of herbicides, because no plant survey would be required prior to such activities.

Public Review and Document Availability: The public is hereby invited to submit written comments regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement-Draft Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report.

Comment Period: The 88-day time frame for submittal of written comments is November 26, 2012 through February 21, 2013.

Public meetings: Public meetings will be held on the following dates, times and locations: (1) December 11, 2012, 7 PM to 9 PM, Redwood Empire Fair Fine Arts Building, 1055 North State Street, Ukiah, California; and (2) December 12, 2012, 7 PM to 9 PM, C.V. Starr Center, 300 S. Lincoln St., Fort Bragg, California.

Where Document Can Be Found: Complete copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement-Draft Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report, as well as the Habitat Conservation Plan-Natural Community Conservation Plan, are available at the following: Mendocino County Public Library, Main Branch Library, 105 N. Main St., Ukiah, CA 95482; Mendocino County Public Library, Willits Branch Library, 390 E. Commercial St., Willits, CA 95490; Mendocino County Public Library, Fort Bragg Branch Library, 499 Laurel St., Fort Bragg, CA 95437; Mendocino County Public Library, Coast Community Branch Library, 225 Main St., Point Arena, CA 95468; California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Headquarters, 1416 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814; California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Northern Administration Office, 135 Ridgeway Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401; California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit, 1199 Big Tree Road, St. Helena, CA 94574; California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Mendocino Unit, 17501 N. Highway 101, Willits, CA 95490; California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection web site at: http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_EPRP_PTEIR.php; California Department of Fish and Game, Habitat Conservation Planning Branch, 1416 Ninth Street, 12th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814; California Department of Fish and Game, Northern Region Eureka Field Office, 619 Second Street, Eureka, CA 95501; California Department of Fish and Game, Northern Region Fort Bragg Field Office, 32330 North Harbor Drive, Fort Bragg, CA 95437; and National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Region's website at <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/nepa.htm>.

How to Comment: Written comments should be submitted on or before 5:00 PM February 21, 2013 to: Chris Browder, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Resource Management, P.O. Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460 or submitted by email to: sacramentopubliccomment@fire.ca.gov (please include "MRC PTEIR" in the email subject line). All comments received at the address above will be made available to National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the California Department of Fish and Game.

Additional Information: For information about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement or draft Habitat Conservation Plan please call Eric Shott at the National Marine Fisheries Service at (707) 575-6089 or John Hunter at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (707) 822-7201. For information about the Draft Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report or draft Timber Management Plan please call Chris Browder at the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection at (916) 653-4995. For information about the draft Natural Community Conservation Plan or draft programmatic Streambed Alteration Agreement please call Brad Valentine at the California Department of Fish and Game at (707) 527-5361.