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Mendocino Redwood Company Meets FSC Standards for Recertification as a “Well-Managed Forest”

Rigorous evaluation by Scientific Certification Systems shows alignment
with environmental certification criteria

Ukiah, CA -- January 9, 2006 -- Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) announces independent recertification of Mendocino Redwood Company's (MRC) 232,000 acres of forestland in accordance with the Forest Stewardship Council's (FSC) international guidelines for responsible forest management. The recertification demonstrates MRC's conformance with the strict FSC standard.

“Throughout the first five years, MRC showed how private forest management can operate productive forestland with high standards of environmental stewardship,” said Dave Wager, director of Forest Management Certification at Scientific Certification Systems (SCS), an independent accredited certification body of the FSC. “The recent recertification, against a revised and more rigorous FSC standard, demonstrates MRC's continuing achievement of, and ongoing commitment to, exemplary forest management.”

“Our company was formed with the vision that it is possible to be both economically and environmentally sustainable,” said Mike Jani, chief forester of MRC. “Recertification affirms that we are sound environmental stewards.”

By engaging in long-term harvest planning and habitat restoration, MRC is simultaneously able to protect old growth forests and improve wildlife and fish habitats, while supplying wood products from sustainably managed forests.

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The MRC received its first certification in 2000. For its recertification, MRC again voluntarily retained the services of two independent certifiers accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council: Scientific Certification Systems of Emeryville, California, and the Vermont-based SmartWood Program of the Rainforest Alliance. It is customary to seek certification from one accredited body, but MRC engaged the services of two independent certifiers to ensure maximum rigor.

“The process brought together a multidisciplinary team of scientists and forestry experts to review documents, interview stakeholders, and conduct field investigations,” said Dr. Robert Hrubes, team leader and senior vice president for Scientific Certification Systems. “After a thorough evaluation, it is clear that MRC manages forest operations with the environmental ethic required to meet FSC certification.”

Mendocino Redwood Company forestlands are located on the California coast range in Mendocino and Sonoma Counties. All MRC lands are in the rare redwood ecosystem and are considered by many conservation groups to be globally significant.

About Mendocino Redwood Company

Mendocino Redwood Company was created in July 1998 as a long-term investment by the Fisher family of San Francisco. MRC consists of approximately 350 square miles (228,800 acres) of forestland spanning across over 75 Northern California coastal watersheds with 1500 miles of year-round streams. The forestlands are located about two hours north of the Golden Gate Bridge in Mendocino and Sonoma counties. From the beginning, MRC has operated with a publicly declared purpose to demonstrate that it is possible to restore industrial forestlands as part of a viable business plan. For more information about MRC, visit www.mrc.com.

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About Scientific Certification Systems

SCS is an independent certifier of environmental, food quality and food purity claims. Over two decades, SCS has developed internationally recognized standards and certification programs aimed at spurring the highest level of environmental and quality performance. Its programs span a wide cross-section of the economy, recognizing accomplishments in the fields of agricultural production, food processing and handling, forestry, fisheries, energy, green building, consumer and business product manufacturing, and retail. As an accredited certification body of the FSC, SCS has certified over 15.2 million acres of natural forests and plantations. For more information about SCS, visit www.scscertified.com or call 510-452-8000.

About FSC

FSC is a nonprofit organization devoted to encouraging the responsible management of the world's forests. FSC sets high standards that ensure forestry is practiced in an environmentally responsible, socially beneficial, and economically viable way. Landowners and companies that sell timber or forest products seek certification as a way to verify to consumers that they have practiced forestry consistent with FSC standards. Independent certification organizations are accredited by FSC to carry out assessments of forest management to determine if standards have been met. There are currently 21-million acres of FSC-certified forestland in North America and 100-million acres globally. For more information, please visit www.fscus.org.

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