

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Reduced Motor Vehicle Access to Two Access Roads in Redwood National Park beginning June 3rd

On June 3, 2013, Redwood National Park will close motor vehicle access to two unpaved roads in the park, including the Tall Trees Access Road and the Skunk Cabbage Trail access road. These closures are necessary due to key vacancies in park staffing, including heavy equipment operators required to grade and maintain these roads. Without funding for these positions, unpaved roads cannot be maintained in a condition safe for vehicle travel. However, these roads will remain open for bicyclists and hikers.

Access to the Tall Trees Grove is still available, though it will be a significantly longer hike. Visitors are invited to hike in from the Redwood Creek trailhead, located just north of Orick, CA, on the Bald Hills Road. The 8-mile, one-way hike to the Tall Trees Grove is best accessed during the summer months when footbridges are in place to cross the creek. Hikers may obtain a backcountry camping permit at the Kuchel Visitor Center and camp on the

gravel bars along Redwood Creek.

All national park sites must absorb a 5% cut in the remaining months of the federal fiscal year, which ends September 30, 2013. For Redwood National Park, this amounts to a \$441,216 reduction from a budget of \$8,824,318. This reduction is in addition to significant budget adjustments the park had made earlier in the year in order to manage annual rising operating costs and a budget that remains static. The park has reduced the number of seasonal and permanent employee positions to meet the required spending reduction. In addition, the park has cut training, travel, supplies and materials purchases, and overtime costs.

Visitors are reminded that Redwood National & State Parks will continue to offer over 100 miles of hiking trails, most of which travel through spectacular stands of old-growth redwood forest. Lady Bird Johnson Grove, the Berry Glen Trail, and Trillium Falls Trail, all located near Orick, make for outstanding alternatives to the Tall Trees Grove, with trees that rival those of their more famous cousins on Redwood Creek. In addition, Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, just north of Orick, CA, holds over 50 miles of roads and trails almost entirely within old-growth forest.

For more information on hiking, biking and motor-vehicle touring options within Redwood National and State Parks, please visit one of the park's visitor centers, or call 707-465-7335. For information on these road closures, please contact the park superintendent Stephen Prokop at 707-465-7301 or public information officer Candace Tinkler at 707-465-7304.

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