Why do we celebrate anniversaries? For this ranger — the answer seems simple. To commemorate years spent with loved ones. To show progress made over time. To recognize a decision made long ago that is still valid. No matter the reason, anniversaries mark a moment in time meant to be remembered. Redwood National Park was established on October 2, 1968. As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, we are given an opportunity to reflect on the last half century. The national park was created only after a long, bitter and controversial fight to preserve the rapidly disappearing old-growth redwoods. Indeed, less than 5% of the original forests remain. Much of the land within the new park’s boundaries included clear-cut forest and the wounds of miles of hastily cut logging roads. Over the decades, the park has initiated large-scale forest and watershed restoration. The goal is to return logged timberland to a healthier landscape capable of eventually becoming old-growth redwood forests.

We are celebrating the past, present, and future efforts to protect this unique place on earth. As a place of both human inspiration and far-reaching ecological value, the park was designated a World Heritage Site in 1980. Partnerships with local tribes and communities have enriched stories told of the past and created dreams for the future. Millions of visitors made memories with the tallest trees in the world. Most importantly, we have stood watch over a mosaic of landscapes—from windy coastlines to towering forests—striving to preserve and protect resources for the enjoyment of the people today and the generations of tomorrow.

Here is where this ranger gets confused: Why do we make a bigger deal out of specific anniversaries? Why is the 50th more important than the 40th or the 30th? As we commemorate Redwood’s 50th anniversary, we aren’t celebrating one isolated event; we are celebrating the past, present, and future efforts to protect and admire this unique place on earth. Something so momentous can’t be honored in a single day. This 50th year is an opportunity to re-evaluate the meaning of an anniversary—a time to reflect on every victory taken towards the preservation of the primeval redwood forests and surrounding lands.

We at Redwood National Park invite you to help celebrate all that has been done, and all we hope for the future. Hike a trail. Kayak down a river. Watch the whales migrate. Attend a ranger program. Tell us your story. Create memories with friends and families. Enjoy your stay in Redwood National Park as we celebrate the last 50 years—and help us keep the celebration going every day—for 50 years more.

Melissa Lockwood, Park Ranger
Redwood National and State Parks is open every day. Visitor centers (above), campgrounds (see page 10), and day-use areas maintain regular/seasonal hours of operation.

Sportfishing

Sportfishing requires a California fishing license for those 16 years-old and older. "Senior," "Access," or "Volunteer," you enjoy free entry to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites, including national parks. Now, those same benefits are extended to state parklands within Redwood National and State Parks: With your America the Beautiful Pass, you won't pay day-use fees (where applicable) at Jedediah Smith Redwood, Del Norte Coast Redwood, and Prairie Creek Redwood State Park. For more information about protecting yourself and the animals that occur here, can be dangerous. For information, contact the CALF Fish and Wildlife Service (707)-465-7335.

Permits

Permits are required for scientific research, collecting, organized events, and commercial activities such as filming. Call 707-465-7307 or visit www.nps.gov/redw for more information.

Backcountry

Free permits are required for camping at all backcountry campgrounds, available from most information centers (see page 10 for more info). Don't forget your park passport stamp! Stamps are available at all visitor centers in Redwood National and State Parks.

State laws prohibit firearms in California State Parks-administered lands. Hunting (and/or any discharge of firearms) is prohibited in Redwood National and State Parks. State parks collect day-use fees at entrance stations and fees are required for camping at campgrounds; camping reservations may be required (see pages 10–11). Holders of qualifying park passes may be eligible for discounts (see above). If you're an America the Beautiful pass holder ("Annual," "Military," "Senior," "Access," or "Volunteer"), you enjoy free entry to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites, including national parks. Now, those same benefits are extended to state parklands within Redwood National and State Parks: With your America the Beautiful Pass, you won't pay day-use fees (where applicable) at Jedediah Smith Redwood, Del Norte Coast Redwood, and Prairie Creek Redwood State Park. For more information about protecting yourself and the animals that occur here, can be dangerous. For information, contact the CALF Fish and Wildlife Service (707)-465-7335.

National or State Park?

It's both! In May 1994, the National Park Service and California State Parks agreed to cooperate by managing their contiguous redwood parklands. Both park systems have a long history of working together that dates back to Yosemite, which became California’s first state park in 1883. Though designated a national park in 1890, Yosemite was briefly managed by both state and federal governments. Redwood National and State Parks manage 133,000 acres. Our mission is to protect, preserve—and make available to all people, for their inspiration, enjoyment, and education—the forests, scenic coastlines, prairies, and streams and their associated natural and cultural values, which define this World Heritage Site; and to honor people from many cultural, intellectual, and recreational ties to these parks.

Mailing Address

Redwood National and State Parks
1111 Second Street
Crescent City, Calif. 95531

Web and E-mail

www.nps.gov/redw
For e-mail, click “Contact Us”

Join the Conversation

facebook.com/RedwoodNPS
twitter.com/RedwoodNPS
youtube.com/user/RedwoodNPS
instagram.com/RedwoodNPS

Permits

Permits are required for scientific research, collecting, organized events, and commercial activities such as filming. Call 707-465-7307 or visit www.nps.gov/redw for more information.

Backcountry

Free permits are required for camping at all backcountry campgrounds, available from most information centers (see page 10 for more info). Don’t forget your park passport stamp! Stamps are available at all visitor centers in Redwood National and State Parks. Each of the five visitor centers has a unique stamp. Redwood National Park can be found in the Western Region (page 83) of the passport booklet.

The Fine Print: What You Need to Know

Dates and Hours of Operation

Redwood National and State Parks is open every day. Visitor centers (above), campgrounds (see page 10), and day-use areas maintain regular/seasonal hours of operation.

Sportfishing

Sportfishing requires a California fishing license for those 16 years-old and older. "Senior," "Access," or "Volunteer," you enjoy free entry to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites, including national parks. Now, those same benefits are extended to state parklands within Redwood National and State Parks: With your America the Beautiful Pass, you won’t pay day-use fees (where applicable) at Jedediah Smith Redwood, Del Norte Coast Redwood, and Prairie Creek Redwood State Park. For more information about protecting yourself and the animals that occur here, can be dangerous. For information, contact the CALF Fish and Wildlife Service (707)-465-7335.

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Visitor Centers: A Great Start

Five visitor and information centers provide orientation, information, and trip-planning advice. Park staff and park partners are on duty.

Crescent City Information Center

Information, live video feed from Castle Rock National Wildlife Refuge, passport stamps, nearby restrooms, Junior Ranger workbook.

Location: 1111 Second Street, Crescent City, Calif.

Operating Hours: Summer: Open daily, 9 am to 5 pm; Off-season: As staffing permits—please call ahead: 707-465-7335.

Hiouchi Visitor Center

Information, exhibits, park film, passport stamps, restrooms, picnic area, ranger-led activities and programs; Junior Ranger programs (summer only) and workbook.

Location: 9 miles northeast of Crescent City, Calif. on US 199.

Operating Hours: Summer: Open daily, 9 am to 5 pm; Off-season: Open daily, 9 am to 4 pm.

Jedediah Smith Visitor Center

Information, exhibits, passport stamps, restrooms, picnic area, ranger-led activities and programs (summer only), Junior Ranger programs (summer only) and workbook.

Location: Jedediah Smith Campground (see page 10), 9 miles northeast of Crescent City, Calif. on US 199.

Operating Hours: Summer: Open daily, 9 am to 5 pm; Off-season: As staffing permits—please call ahead: 707-465-7335.

Prairie Creek Visitor Center

Information, exhibits, passport stamps, restrooms, picnic area, ranger-led activities and programs (summer only), Junior Ranger programs (summer only) and workbook.

Location: 6 miles north of Orick, Calif. on the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway (exit off US 101).

Operating Hours: Summer: Open daily, 9 am to 5 pm; Off-season: Open daily, 9 am to 4 pm.

Thomas H. Kuchel Visitor Center

Information, exhibits, park film, passport stamps, restrooms, picnic area, ranger-led activities and programs (summer only), Junior Ranger programs (summer only) and workbook.

Location: 2 miles south of Orick, Calif. on US 101.

Operating Hours: Summer: Open daily, 9 am to 5 pm; Off-season: Open daily, 9 am to 4 pm.
JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAMS (1 HOUR)

Children ages 7-12 have fun while learning about the people, plants, animals, and life systems of the redwood region. Allow 1 hour for scheduled programs at the Jedediah Smith Campground. Campground, or Prairie Creek Visitor Center. Self-paced junior ranger activities are available at all visitor centers. See page 9 for more activities and information.

TIDEPOOL WALK (2 HOURS, AS TIDES PERMIT)

Get your hands (and feet!) wet while discovering delicate tidepool creatures. A ranger-naturalist leads this investigation into the hidden world beneath the waves. Be sure to bring drinking water and a snack; wear sturdy hiking shoes or boots (no sandals) with non-slip soles—they will get wet!

CAMPFIRE PROGRAM (1 HOUR)

As darkness descends on the North Coast, the Jedediah Smith, Mill Creek, and Elk Prairie campgrounds (see page 16) are ideal settings for a creative and inspiring evening. Programs may include narrated slide shows, storytelling, music, and/or games. Campfire circles and outdoor amphitheaters are wheelchair accessible.

NATURE WALKS (1-2 HOURS)

Immerse yourself in the forest, sea, or prairielands. Join a park ranger for a down-to-earth exploration of the natural communities that contribute to one of the most diverse ecosystems on Earth. Be sure to bring drinking water and a snack; wear sturdy hiking shoes or boots (no sandals) with non-slip soles—they will get wet.

FAQs: Where can I…

...find an accessible trail in the redwoods?
Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park: Simpson-Reed Grove (see page 6). Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park: Several trails and loops begin at the Prairie Creek Visitor Center. Off the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway is an accessible path to “Big Tree Wayside” (see page 7).

...take my pet for a walk in the redwoods?
Pets are permitted only in park-provided grills and fire rings in picnic areas, campgrounds, and designated backcountry campgrounds. Some winter walks are available at all visitor centers. See page 9 for more activities and information.

...have a campfire?
Fires are only permitted in park-provided grills and fire rings in picnic areas, campgrounds, and designated backcountry campgrounds. In Redwood Creek gravel bars per conditions of a valid permit; and, on national parkland beach wave slopes. Up to 50 pounds of dead and downed wood including driftwood may be collected from: Freshwater, Hidden, Crescent, and Enderts beaches, Redwood Creek gravel bars; and, within 1/4-mile radius of designated backcountry camps on national parkland. Wood collection is prohibited in developed campgrounds. On state parklands, up to 50 pounds of driftwood only may be collected by hand, per person, per day.

...ride my bicycle?
Bicycles are permitted on all public roadways open to vehicle traffic, as well as on designated backcountry bicycle routes (see page 11). Bikeflower campites are available at all developed campgrounds and at some backcountry campites.

...ride my horse or travel with pack animals?
Travel with horses and/or pack animals is allowed only in designated areas or on designated routes and trails (see page 11). Campers are required to allow two stock-ready campites along these routes; free permit may be required.

...take my motorhome, RV, or trailer?
With the exception of major highways, Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway, and access roads to visitor centers and campgrounds (though length limits may apply—see page 10), motorhomes, recreational vehicles (RVs), and trailers are ill-advised or prohibited on other roadways. Check-out the map on pages 6-7.

...have a picnic?
Picnic tables are available at numerous locations throughout the parks, including all visitor centers (see page 2). Help Keep Wildlife Wild! Do not feed wildlife; properly store and dispose of all food and garbage—even crumbs.

...find lodging?
While there are no lodging services (hotels, motels, or hostels, etc.) within the parks, lodging is available in and around nearby communities—contact local chambers of commerce. See “Area Information,” (abode-right) for more information.

...dine or purchase groceries?
While there are no food services within the parks, food is available in and around nearby communities—contact local chambers of commerce for more information. See “Area Information,” (abode-right) for more information.

...go camping?
Camping is permitted in four developed campgrounds; at numerous designated backcountry camps; and at dispersed sites on Redwood Creek gravel bars upstream of MacArthur Creek and no closer than 1/4-mile from Tall Trees Grove. Permits, reservations, and/or fees may apply (see pages 10-11). Outside the national and state parks, tent, trailer, and RV camping may be available on adjacent public lands or nearby private campgrounds. See “Area Information” for additional information.

...see some really tall trees?
When logging began in 1850, roughly two million acres of ancient or “old-growth” coast redwood forest canopy mantled the coastal mountains of California. Today, just about five percent remains. Redwood National and State Parks preserves over 35 percent of all remaining, protected old-growth coast redwood forests in California.

To experience these rare yet iconic forests yourself, refer to the map on pages 6-7. Shaded areas identify the general locations of old-growth forests. Most “Recommended Short Walks” and “Recommended Scenic Drives” offer easy access to some really tall trees. Most of the “Suggested Hikes” in the chart on page 11 also traverse old-growth forests.

Even travelers on major highways will catch a glimpse of these giants (just keep an eye on the road!). Look for ancient coast redwoods along US 199 through Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, as well as on US 101, especially just south of Crescent City, CA. In Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park—it’s not called the Redwood Highway for nothing!
There are two National Wild and Scenic Rivers that flow through Redwood National and State Parks: the Smith River and the Klamath River. These rivers are considered outstanding for their anadromous fisheries, and are notably significant for recreation, wildlife, cultural history, and scenery.

Nearly all 300 miles of the Smith River are designated “wild and scenic,” making it one of the most complete river systems in the national system. It flows freely without a single dam along its entire length—the only major river system in California to do so. You can tell right away that this river is something special: the emerald-clear water, deep swimming holes, and towering tall trees along its banks beckon visitors to stay longer.

The Smith River provides many great recreation opportunities in Redwood National and State Parks. Park rangers offer free, guided kayaking tours for a limited time during the summer. You can learn more about this popular program by asking rangers at any visitor center. Also, the Smith is a wonderful river for swimming, bird watching, or even just lounging with a good book on sandy river bars in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park. Fishing is especially popular in the winter months when Chinook salmon and steelhead trout swim upstream from the ocean to spawn. The California state record for steelhead trout, just over 27 pounds, was caught in the Smith River in 1976.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act does not prohibit development along designated rivers, or their shorelines. Designation of a river as Wild and Scenic is an attempt to balance the value of future development with other values such as conservation, recreation, and culture.

Over 200 rivers are included in the national system, only ten states do not have any national NWSRs. If you’re from the USA, there’s a chance that a river near your home has outstanding qualities similar to the rivers here. Wherever you call home, exploring new areas and enjoying the many benefits of outdoor recreation is something we wish for all of our visitors.

Celebrate 50 years of Redwood National Park—and 30 years of Wild and Scenic Rivers—by creating memories on the water to forever take home with you. Then, be sure to make more.

Brad Maggitti, Park Ranger

You are in Tsunami and Earthquake Country

Since 1933, Crescent City, California has recorded 34 tsunamis—more than any other community on the Pacific Coast of the United States. Crescent City’s tsunami preparedness came at the highest of costs, however. Often through unwelcomed experience and practice, it has proven itself to be one of the most tsunami ready cities on the Pacific Coast. These tips will help you to stay safe while visiting tsunami country:

Know the signs of a tsunami:
- A strong earthquake lasting 20 seconds or more near the coast.
- A noticeable rapid rise or fall in coastal waters.
- A loud roaring noise from the ocean.
If you are in a coastal area and feel a strong earthquake...:
- Drop, cover, and hold on.
- Protect yourself from the earthquake.
- When the shaking stops, move quickly to higher ground away from the coast. A tsunami may be coming within minutes.
- Be prepared for aftershocks which happen frequently after earthquakes. Each time the earth shakes, drop, cover, and hold on.
- Move as far inland and uphill as possible.

What to do during a Tsunami Advisory:
- If you hear a tsunami warning siren, detect signs of a tsunami, or hear about a tsunami warning on the radio or TV, move to higher ground and inland immediately.
- Bring pets with you to keep them safe.
- Take your disaster supplies kit. Having adequate supplies on hand will make you more comfortable.
- Watch a tsunami from near the shore is dangerous, and it is against the law to remain in an evacuated area.
- Keep listening to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio or TV for the latest updates.

What to do during a Tsunami Warning:
- Keep papers away from emerging water.
- Do not assume that the danger is over after one wave. The next wave(s) may be larger than the first.
- Stay away from damaged areas so emergency responders can have clear access.
- Stay out of any building that has water around it and take care when re-entering any structure. Surge floodwater may damage buildings.

A life vest can be the difference between an incident and a tragedy. Enjoy the beaches but don’t let the ocean catch you off-guard:

- Sneaker Waves are very large waves that can occur at any time. Never turn your back on the ocean.
- Rip Currents are strong out-going currents that can occur at any time. They are stronger than you are.
- Rising Tides can cut off access. Know the tides; plan for rising water.
- Cold Water quickly paralyzes muscles, making it hard to swim.

If someone in the water appears to be in trouble, CALL 911. Don’t go in after them—you may not survive.

Take steps to protect yourself during an earthquake:

- Drop, cover, hold on.
- Go to high ground.
- Stay there!

Move to high ground or inland as soon as you can
Three Redwoods: All in the Subfamily

Dawn Redwood
Metasequoia glyptostroboides

Thought to have been extinct for millions of years, the dawn redwood was rediscovered in 1944 by a forester in the Sichuan-Hubei region of China. Also popular as an ornamental today, the tree is easily distinguished from its California relatives by its smaller size and deciduous leaves.

Distribution: Central China.
Height: To 140 feet (45 m).
Diameter: To 6 feet (2 m).
Age: Indeterminate.
Leaves: Deciduous; needle-like with small stalk, arranged opposite each other.
Cone size: Like a large olive, shed yearly.
Seed size: Like a tomato seed.
Reproduction: By seed only.
Habitat/climate: Indeterminate.

Giant Sequoia
Sequoiadendron giganteum

Quick-growing and long-lived (some over 3,000 years), no tree is more massive than the giant sequoia. The General Sherman Tree in Sequoia National Park is the most massive living thing on Earth, with an estimated total volume of over 50,000 cubic feet.

Distribution: Western slopes of Sierra Nevada Mountains in Central California.
Height: To 314 feet (96 m).
Diameter: To 30 feet (9 m).
Age: To more than 3,000 years.
Leaves: Evergreen; awl-shaped, attached at base.
Cone size: Like a chicken egg, can stay on tree for two decades.
Seed size: Like an oat flake.
Reproduction: By seed only.
Habitat/climate: Seedlings require abundant light, are frost tolerant, and drought-resistant.

Coast Redwood
Sequoia sempervirens

Coast redwoods are the tallest trees in the world. Dense forest stands grow on nutrient-rich river bars and flood plains, protected from the wind. Heavy winter rains and fog from the Pacific Ocean keeps the trees continually damp, even during summer droughts.

Distribution: Northern California coast, and into southernmost coastal Oregon.
Height: To 287 feet (87 m).
Diameter: To 26 feet (8 m).
Age: To more than 2,000 years.
Leaves: Evergreen; both needle- and awl-shaped, attached at base.
Cone size: Like a large olive, shed after 1-2 years.
Seed Size: Like a tomato seed.
Reproduction: By seed or sprout.
Habitat/climate: Seedlings are shade-tolerant but frost sensitive, require abundant moisture.

Watchable Wildlife:

Roosevelt Elk

Roosevelt elk (Cervus elaphus roosevelti) is the largest subspecies of North American elk and one of the most commonly seen mammals in Redwood National and State Parks. Though abundant today, as few as 15 Roosevelt elk remained in California in 1925 when one of the last herds made its stand in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. Since then, protection of critical habitat in parks and surrounding areas has allowed the population to rebound.

Prime locations for viewing Roosevelt elk include (also see map on pages 6-7):

- Elk Prairie: Six miles north of Orick, Calif. or 34 miles south of Crescent City, Calif. on the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway.
- Elk Meadow: Exit Davison Road three miles north of Orick, Calif. or 39 miles south of Crescent City, Calif. on US 101.
- Gold Bluffs Beach: Day-use fee area; From Elk Meadow (see above), continue four unpaved miles on Davison Road (trailers prohibited; motorhomes/RVs not advised).
- Bald Hills Road: Exit Bald Hills Road one mile north of Orick, Calif. or 41 miles south of Crescent City, Calif. on US 101; continue about nine miles or more on Bald Hills Road to upland prairie and oak woodland habitat.

Marbled Murrelet: On the Edge of Extinction

Sheltered in a soft nest of moss and ferns, a marbled murrelet chick waits silently atop a massive coast redwood branch high above the forest floor. It’s parent spends their day at sea diving for small fish, returning at dusk to feed their solitary offspring. Like the fog that shrouds the North Coast, the life of the marbled murrelet (Brachyramphus marmoratus) is connected to both forest and sea.

Nearby, a Steller’s jay hops along the forest floor scavenging for any morsel of food. Aggressive and incredibly intelligent—they can remember hundreds of different food locations—jays and their fellow corvids (crows and their fellow corvids) (ravens and crows) flourish at the ecologically-rich edges of the redwood forest.

The edges of this once unbroken forest have increased a hundred-fold in as many years. Logging, highways, cities, campgrounds, and picnic areas open broad boulevards into the heart of the coast redwood forest. Thus exposed, murrelet chicks and eggs make easy meals for crafty corvids. As the forest edge continues to expand, the marbled murrelet lives on the edge of extinction.

Never Feed Wildlife! It’s dangerous to you, the fed animal, and other wildlife. It’s against the law, too! Store food and smelly items in bear-proof storage lockers. Keep food within arm’s reach when cooking or preparing. Together, we can ensure a place in the wild for a rare bird.

Jeff Denny, Park Ranger

Redwood Visitor Guide 5
Recommended Short Walks

**Stout Grove Trail**
- **Easy; Level trail surface.**
- **Distance & Duration:** ~0.3 mile, 15 minutes.
- **Location:** Trailhead located at the Prairie Creek Visitor Center, 1 mile north of US 101 on the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway.
- **Description:** Developed specifically for the visually impaired but enjoyable for all, this trail encourages you to engage all your senses: touch, hear, smell, and taste your way to a more complete understanding of the redwood ecosystem.

**Lady Bird Johnson Grove Trail**
- **Easy-moderate; Level trail surface with grades.**
- **Distance & Duration:** ~1 mile, 30 minutes.
- **Location:** Trail begins at the well-marked Big Tree wayside, ~3 miles north of Elk Prairie on the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway.
- **Description:** With access to Big Tree—one of the largest in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park—this trail offers time-pressed visitors an opportunity to experience a lush old-growth redwood forest.

**Yurok Loop Trail**
- **Easy; Level trail surface.**
- **Distance & Duration:** ~0.3 mile, 15 minutes.
- **Location:** Trailhead located at the Prairie Creek Visitor Center, 1 mile north of US 101 on the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway.
- **Description:** With access to Big Tree—one of the largest in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park—this trail offers time-pressed visitors an opportunity to experience a lush old-growth redwood forest.

**Howland Hill Road**
- **Mostly unpaved, mostly two-way traffic.**
- **Distance & Duration:** 10 miles, 45 minutes.
Directions: From Crescent City, Calif., drive south 1 mile on US 101 and turn left (east-northeast) onto Elk Valley Road; continue 1 mile and turn right (east) onto Howland Hill Road. After ~1½ miles the road becomes unpaved. As it enters Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, continue another 5½ miles on Howland Hill Road until it becomes Douglas Park Road (paved); after ~1½ miles turn left onto South Fork Road. After ~1½ miles south of Fork Road junctions with US 199 just east of Hoohai, Calif., or enter from Hoohai, Calif., and follow signs to "Stout Grove." 

Description: A couple miles west of Crescent City, an unpaved stretch of Howland Hill Road offers motorists an intimate encounter with the towering old-growth redwoods in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park. Numerous pull-outs and trailsheads along the way include the Boy Scout Trail and Stout Grove.

Bald Hills Road

Mostly paved, two-way traffic; motorists restricted to vehicles not advised. 

Distance & Duration: ~17 miles, (from junction with US 101 to Lyons Ranch Trailhead); 45 minutes.

Directions: Exit 753 for Bald Hills Road is ~1 mile north of offers panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean and Klamath River estuary. Whales, sea lions, and pelicans may be seen from overlooks high above the crashing surf. Enjoy a picnic at the High Bluff Overlook, and don't miss the World War II radar station—disguised as a humble farmhouse and barn. Hiking and backcountry camping can be accessed from the Coastal Trail - Flint Ridge section.

On the Road: Wildlife and clear views of the Pacific Ocean, the road may wind through forests and over rolling hills. The park's open spaces provide excellent opportunities for recreation, including swimming, hiking, biking, horseback riding, fishing, or boating among thousands of acres of coast redwoods, including the largest remaining old-growth coast redwood forest in the world.

Avenue of the Giants

About 80 miles south of Orick, Calif. (120 miles south of Crescent City), Avenue of the Giants (State Route 254) is a 32-mile scenic drive that parallels US 101 and the South Fork of the Ed River through the heart of Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Numerous public and privately operated services are available in the communities along the route. Enjoy auto touring, picnicking, camping, hiking, biking, horseback riding, swimming, fishing, or boating among thousands of acres of coast redwoods, including the largest remaining old-growth coast redwood forest in the world.
A League of Their Own

The road was dusty and long back in 1917 when three men traveled from San Francisco to see for themselves the towering trees and the impending effect of the ax. So impressed were John C. Merriam, Professor Henry F. Dobson, and Madison Grant that they immediately sought to preserve redwoods for future generations.

In 1918 they established Save the Redwoods League and since then the non-profit organization has set aside more than 181,000 acres of redwood forest and supporting lands. Through public donations and matching funds from the State parklands, the League purchases stands of redwoods and helps to raise worldwide awareness of redwoods. Portions of Redwood National and State Parks comprised land donated by the League. The brown and gold signs seen along trails and roadways represent the Memorial Grove Program, started in 1921. More than 950 groves, named for individuals and organizations, have been set up, with more being added each year. They are instrumental in saving redwoods.

Save the Redwoods League has about 20,000 members from all over the world. For more information, contact the League:

Save the Redwoods League
114 Sansome Street, Suite 1200
San Francisco, Calif. 94104
Ph: 415-362-3352
Email: info@SaveTheRedwoods.org
Web: www.SaveTheRedwoods.org

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Redwood National Park. Serendipitously, it also marks the centennial anniversary of Save the Redwoods League, a preeminent non-profit partner. We share common roots. Stephen Mather helped to establish both the National Park Service and Save the Redwoods League. In this anniversary year for both organizations we celebrate Mather’s vision, and honor all who have fostered the spirit of redwood conservation through the decades.

California is a land of superlatives, and nothing exemplifies this fact more than our coast redwood and giant sequoia forests. They shelter the tallest and largest trees on the planet, and are natural wonders comparable in significance to the Gargantuan Reef, the Amazon rainforest and the Serengeti.

Since 1918, Save the Redwoods League has protected more than 15,000 acres on the far north coast of California through the purchase and transfer of more than 400 properties to Redwood National and State Parks. Today, the parks encompass 139,983 acres, including 38,983 acres of old-growth coast redwoods—the tallest trees in the world. The parks are the heartland of the coast redwood forest, and their founding was driven by private citizens determined to save these majestic giants for posterity.

League-funded researchers have recently discovered that redwoods serve another vital purpose for our planet. For millions of years, the redwood forest has been absorbing and storing more atmospheric carbon per acre than any other land ecosystem on the planet.

This brings a new level of intrigue to the continued conservation, restoration, and stewardship of redwoods. Not only does the redwood forest provide joy and tranquility to millions of annual visitors and joy and tranquility to millions of annual visitors and joy and tranquility to millions of annual visitors and joy and tranquility to millions of annual visitors and joy and tranquility to millions of annual visitors and joy and tranquility to millions of annual visitors and joy and tranquility to millions of annual visitors...but it takes people to hand pull the regrowth. Once this invasive species is gone, native flowers and plants come back swiftly to the dunes. Thanks to the efforts of unsung nature-heroes, these dunes are almost back to nature.

The restoration of the redwood forest requires a strong and diverse coalition of dedicated supporters, including community members. No one has a greater stake in the health and resiliency of the redwood forest then the people who care for it.

This includes the Tolowa and Yurok Tribes, first citizens whose ancestors have lived in the redwood watersheds since time immemorial. The redwood forest habitat is a foundational part of their cultures, and the tribes’ commitment to the preservation and enhancement of redwood ecosystem is an inspiration to all park advocates.

With active restoration efforts, younger, struggling redwood tracts will assume the cathedral-like quality of the ancient forest; the imperiled wildlife species associated with old-growth trees will return, and the scars inflicted by generations of industrial clear-cutting will fade and ultimately disappear.

In time, the great trees will return across their historic range, providing tranquility and enjoyment for generation after generation, assuring secure habitat for a broad suite of imperiled species, and moderating climate change by sequestering vast—quantities of atmospheric carbon.

Ultimately, the techniques that we learn in restoring Redwood National and State Parks can be applied to other harvested lands throughout the historic range of the coast redwood. Together, public agencies, private organizations and committed citizens are implementing a vision that will leave the redwood forest – and the world – better than we found it.

To learn more about the League’s projects and Centennial celebration visit:
StandForTheRedwoods.org

Mike Kahn, Save The Redwoods League

Hands-On Efforts Restore Beach Dune Habitats

Old Bluffs Beach is a popular destination for many people. The miles of tranquil dunes seem to invite us to explore and play in them. Yet, all is not quiet—the largest coastal restoration program on the Pacific Coast is unfolding here.

In the past years, California State Parks and volunteer groups have been busy removing invasive plants that had almost taken over the natural and diverse dune ecosystem. More than 550 acres has been treated to remove European beachgrass (Ammophila arenaria) from the northern part of Old Bluffs Beach.

This invader changes how dunes forms, impacts pollinators like bees, and chokes out the native plants that make the dunes such a rich habitat for a wide variety of coastal creatures.

European beachgrass may initially be removed, or buried by machinery—but it takes people to hand pull the regrowth. Once this invasive species is gone, native flowers and plants come back swiftly to the dunes. Thanks to the efforts of unsung nature-heroes, these dunes are almost back to their natural and healthy state.

Who’s Newton B. Drury?

Perhaps you’ve driven the scenic parkway named in his honor in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park (see page 7), or seen his name above the entryway to the Crescent City Information Center. But who was he?

Considered by many “the man who saved the redwoods,” Drury dedicated 40 years of his life to preserving these forests and was instrumental in securing hundreds of thousands of acres as parklands: A fitting symbol of the continuing partnership between the National Park Service, California State Parks, and the Save the Redwoods League, Drury served as director of all three organizations for 40 years.

Drury noted, “There are values in our landscape that ought to be sustained against destruction though their worth cannot be expressed in money terms. They are essential to our life, liberty and pursuit of happiness; this nation of ours is not so rich it can afford to lose them; it is still rich enough to afford to preserve them.”

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Redwood forests exist on a geologic time scale. The individual trees can live for millennia, while a mature and healthy forest can regenerate and sustain itself indefinitely. Our restoration techniques conform to the deep time that characterizes the redwood forest, assuring steady progress and ultimate success.

We have, in short, entered a new era in redwood conservation. Though vast tracts of the ancient redwood forest have been lost, we now know that what was lost can be regained.
Parks as Classrooms
Don’t Get Left Inside!

At Redwood National and State Parks, learning takes place at all levels! For over a quarter century, two outdoor schools in the parks have offered unique, hands-on, curriculum-based education programs. National park education rangers guide students, parents, and teachers in resource-immersed field studies directly related to redwood ecosystems and the rich cultural histories of the area. All programs are aligned with National Science Standards and California Department of Education content standards for natural science, social science, and the arts.

Howland Hill Outdoor School
Situated above the Mill Creek watershed near the towering coast redwoods of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, Howland Hill Outdoor School offers a variety of day-long and overnight experiences for students in preschool through sixth grade. Many students who took part in these programs in the early 1980s now return as teachers or parent chaperones, providing important generational connections to the outdoor school and the parks.

Wolf Creek Education Center
Started in 1972 as a grassroots effort by local teachers eager to study the newly created Redwood National Park, today the Wolf Creek Education Center provides overnight programs (2½ days, including a nights lodging) for fourth through sixth grade students. Ideally located near Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, in-depth study focuses on prairies, wetlands and streams, and the ancient coast redwood forest.

For more information visit PORTS online at www.parks.ca.gov

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Be a Junior Ranger!
Want to learn even more about your parks and earn cool badges along the way? Two different programs are available for Junior Rangers at Redwood National and State Parks. Both are fun, informative, and free!

Self-Guided Program
Visit any information center (see page 2) and pick up a free Junior Ranger Activity Booklet. Complete the activities at your own pace while exploring the parks with your family. When you’re done, return the completed booklet to any information center to get your badge.

Ranger-Guided Program
From games and crafts to hikes and watching wildlife, explore some of the best places in California and make new friends along the way. To get started, ask a ranger or visit an information center (see page 2) for the time and place of the next Junior Ranger activity. Get an official badge after completing the activities. There’s even more prizes to be won, but you don’t have to earn them all at Redwood. You can continue at over 70 other parks around the state!

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Developed Campgrounds

- Thomas H. Kuchel Visitor Center
- Hiouchi Visitor Center

Free permits are available from the Backcountry Use Permits bars. All camps feature picnic tables, food storage lockers, and toilets.

Backcountry camping in Redwood National and State Parks is allowed only in designated backcountry camps. Whether on foot, bicycle or horseback (see page 11 for more info.), you’ll traverse a wide variety of prairies, pristine beaches, rivers, streams, and marshes.

Backcountry camping in Redwood National and State Parks is allowed only in designated backcountry camps and at dispersed sites on Redwood Creek gravel bars (see below). Except at Redwood Creek gravel bars, all camps feature picnic tables, food storage lockers, and toilets.

Backcountry Use Permits
Free permits are required for all backcountry camping, available from the Thomas H. Kuchel Visitor Center and the Hiouchi Visitor Center (see page 2 for operating hours and locations).

Backcountry Camps
For those who like to get away—a trail to themselves, a starlit sky at night, and a lullaby of crashing waves—Redwood National and State Parks offers you more than 200 miles (322 km) of extraordinary backcountry trails and eight designated backcountry camps. Whether on foot, bicycle or horseback (see page 11 for more info.), you’ll traverse a wide variety of natural habitats, including old-growth redwood forests, oak woodlands, prairies, pristine beaches, rivers, streams, and marshes.

Backcountry camping in Redwood National and State Parks is allowed only in designated backcountry camps and at dispersed sites on Redwood Creek gravel bars (see below). Except at Redwood Creek gravel bars, all camps feature picnic tables, food storage lockers, and toilets.

Backcountry Use Permits
Free permits are required for all backcountry camping, available from the Thomas H. Kuchel Visitor Center and the Hiouchi Visitor Center (see page 2 for operating hours and locations).

CAUTION: CROSSING REDWOOD CREEK
Redwood Creek may be dangerous and/or inaccessible during the rainy season and/or high flow stages. Always check with a ranger or inquire at any information center (see page 2) for the latest conditions.

Two bridges over the creek (via the Redwood Creek Trail) are only in place during summer, usually June–September.
Choose Your Own Adventure!

Bicycles

Bicycles are permitted on all public roadways open to vehicle traffic, as well as on designated backcountry bicycle routes:

- Little Bald Hills Trail
  - Camp: Little Bald Hills Camp

Coastal Trail

- Last Chance & Gold Bluffs Beach sections
  - Camp: Gold Bluffs Beach Campground

Ossagon Trail

- Davison Trail

Steeleow Creek Trail

- Lost Man Creek Trail

Horses

Horses and pack animals are welcome on three designated trails, with opportunities for short day rides or multi-day trips. Camping is allowed at two stock-ready sites along these trails (see “Backcountry Camping” on page 10):

- Little Bald Hills Trail
  - Camp: Little Bald Hills Camp

Mill Creek Horse Trail

- Day-use only:
  - Orick Horse Trail
    - Camp: Elam Creek Camp

Pets

Walker Road and Cal Barrel Road are great places to walk through old-growth redwoods with your pets (see page 6-7). While pets are family, wild park trails are not the best place for them. Some pets may mark territory with scent or spread domestic disease to wildlife. Well-behaved pets can become stressed by unfamiliar surroundings and threaten visitors or wildlife. Predators including mountain lions, bears, and coyotes may see pets as prey, placing pet and owner in danger.

For the safety of visitors and all animals (domestic or wild), and for the continued protection of your parklands, pets on a leash not exceeding six feet in length are allowed only at designated campgrounds, picnic areas, public roads, parking areas, and beaches with road access. Unless posted—with the exception of service animals—pets are not allowed on park trails, at ranger-led programs, or in park buildings.

TRAILHEAD SECURITY! Whenever leaving your vehicle, secure all valuables and keep them out of sight. Better yet, take them with you!

Accessible

Simpson-Reed Grove, Big Tree Way-side, Elk Prairie, Foothills/Prairie Creek Loop and Revelation trails will lead you through old-growth redwood groves (see page 6-7).

Hiking

Suggested hikes in the chart below are just a sample of possible adventures and may not be suitable for everyone. Circled numbers next to each trail/trailname reference trailhead location indicated on the map on pages 6-7. Mid-level walk/hikes are shown in red; longer day hikes in blue. Short on time? Check-out “Recommended Short Walks” on page 6.

Suggested Hikes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail/Route Name(s)</th>
<th>Trailhead(s)</th>
<th>Distance/Duration</th>
<th>Difficulty</th>
<th>Additional Info.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mid-Level Walks/Hikes</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Damnation Creek</td>
<td>10 miles south of Crescent City, pullout at milepost 16 on west side of US 101</td>
<td>4.6 miles (out and back) / 3 hours round-trip</td>
<td>Shinnemus: Steep 1100-foot descent/ascent (out and back) with switchbacks.</td>
<td>Old-growth redwoods, Damnation Creek, rugged coast and tidepools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Fork / Rhododendron / Brown Creek</td>
<td>1 mile north of Elk Prairie on east side of Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway</td>
<td>3.5-mile loop / 2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate (overall); Steep ascent on South Fork Trail.</td>
<td>Loop: South Fork Trail east, Rhododendron Trail northwest, Brown Creek Trail south.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie Creek / Foothill</td>
<td>Prairie Creek Visitor Center: 1 mile north of US 101 on the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway</td>
<td>2-mile loop / 1 hour</td>
<td>Easy (overall); Relatively level.</td>
<td>Loop: Prairie Creek Trail north, east across parkway to Foothill Trail, Foothill Trail south, west across parkway to Prairie Creek Visitor Center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trillium Falls</td>
<td>Elk Meadow Day Use Area: 3 miles north of Orick, Calif. off US 101</td>
<td>2.6-mile loop / 1/2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate; Some non-steep grades.</td>
<td>Old-growth redwoods, Trillium Falls, Roseswell elk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Longer Day Hikes</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mill Creek</td>
<td>1 1/2 miles southwest of Stout Grove on Howland Hill Rd., just across footbridge from Jedediah Smith Campground (summer only)</td>
<td>6 miles (out and back) or 5 miles as a loop via Stout Grove and Howland Hill Rd. (summer only) / 3-4 hours</td>
<td>Easy; Relatively level.</td>
<td>Mill Creek Foothills across Smith River (former Jedediah Smith Campground) and Mill Creek available in summer only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boy Scout Trail</td>
<td>From Crescent City, Calif. 3/10 mile east of E &amp; Valley Road on Howland Hill Road (unpaved through park)</td>
<td>5.7 miles (out and back) / 4 hours round-trip</td>
<td>Moderate; Some steep grades with switchbacks.</td>
<td>Old-growth redwoods, riparian corridor, Fern Falls, Boy Scout Tree (optional).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Trail - Last Chance Section</td>
<td>Crescent Beach Overlook to Damnation Creek Trail</td>
<td>13 miles (out and back) / 6-9 hours round-trip</td>
<td>Shinnemus: Steep 1000-foot descent/ascent (out and back) over 1-mile section south of Nickle Creek.</td>
<td>Ocean views, Enderlos Beach (5 side trip), Damnation Creek, old-growth redwoods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fern Canyon / Friendship Ridge / West Ridge / Coastal Trail</td>
<td>Fern Canyon Trailhead and parking area at end of Davison Road</td>
<td>7-mile loop / 4 hours</td>
<td>Moderate (overall); Steep grades and switchbacks on Friendship Ridge Trail.</td>
<td>Loop: Fern Canyon Trail east, Friendship Ridge Trail north, West Ridge Trail northwest, Coastal Trail south.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Irvine / Clintonia / Miners Ridge</td>
<td>Prairie Creek Visitor Center: 1 mile north of US 101 on the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway</td>
<td>6-mile loop / 3-4 hours</td>
<td>Moderate (overall); Some steep grades on Clintonia and Miners Ridge trails.</td>
<td>James Irvine Trail northwot, Clintonia Trail south, Miners Ridge Trail southwest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Irvine / Fern Canyon / Davison Road / Miners Ridge</td>
<td>Prairie Creek Visitor Center: 1 mile north of US 101 on the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway</td>
<td>12-mile loop / 6 hours</td>
<td>Moderate (overall); Some steep grades on Miners Ridge Trail.</td>
<td>James Irvine Trail northwot, Fern Canyon, Davison River, Miners Ridge Trail southwest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tall Trees</td>
<td>Trailhead accessible only via free permit from Rachel Visitor Center, or Crescent City or Moss Beach info centers</td>
<td>6 1/2 miles southwest of US 101 on Bald Hill Rd. (then 6 1/2 miles south on unpaved Tall Trees Access Road)</td>
<td>3.5-mile semi-loop / 4 hours (includes drive thru forest trailhead)</td>
<td>Moderately strenuous: 800-foot descent/ascent (out and back) over 1/3 mile from Tall Trees Grove.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Beach Safety**
Before hitting the beach, check for storm or high surf advisories and be aware of changing tide levels—tide charts are available at all visitor centers (see page 2). Never turn your back on the surf; large “rogue” or “sneaker” waves may strike unexpectedly. Supervise children at all times.

**Tsunamis**
Most commonly caused by earthquakes, tsunamis are series of large waves or surges that may strike the coast for hours or longer. If you feel an earthquake, see the ocean suddenly recede, or receive any other tsunami warning: immediately move inland or to higher ground; stay away from coastal areas until officials permit you to return.

**Poison Oak**
Leaves of three, let them be! Poison oak occurs in various forms in the parks—it can be vine-like or a free-standing shrub. Stay on trails and look for the three distinctive, smooth, shiny leaflets that are bright green or red in new shoots or during the dry season. Contact with leaves can cause an itchy skin rash—wash thoroughly if you brush against poison oak.

**Ticks**
Ticks carrying Lyme disease occur in the area. Stay on trails and check clothing frequently (light-colored clothes enhance visibility). Tuck pant legs into socks shirts into pants. Inspect your body thoroughly after hiking.

**High Winds**
Avoid old-growth forests in high wind. Entire trees or heavy branches (“widow-makers”) can fall from hundreds of feet above at high speeds.

**Mountain Lions**
Mountain lions, or cougars, are seldom seen in these parks. Like any wild animal, they can be dangerous. To prevent an encounter: hike in groups (not alone) and keep children close—don’t let them run ahead on the trail; keep a clean camp; always be alert to your surroundings. If you meet a mountain lion: do NOT run, crouch down, or bend over—stand and face the animal; pick up children and appear large, remain calm and back away slowly, giving the animal a chance to leave the area; if the animal approaches, yell loudly, wave arms, and throw objects; if attacked, fight back!

**Tidepools**
While exploring, protect yourself and the fragile creatures that live here, step carefully among slick rocks; return all rocks and tidepool life to their original position and orientation; be aware of changing tides.

**Aquatic Hitchhikers**
Help prevent the spread of invasive species such as New Zealand mudsnail, quagga mussel, and Asian clam. Never release plants, fish, or other animals into a body of water unless they came from that body of water. When leaving water: remove any visible mud, plants, fish, or other animals from recreational equipment and drain water before transporting; clean and dry any equipment or clothing that comes into contact with water.

**Invasive Plants and Diseases**
Sudden Oak Death is a disease killing millions of oak and tan oak trees in Calif., and Ore. A root-rotting fungus is killing Port Orford-cedar throughout its limited range. Non-native invasive plants such as Scotch broom, English ivy, and yellow starthistle compete with native plants and alter ecosystems. You can help: stay on established trails; clean mud and debris from shoes, pets, livestock, and tires before exploring your parks.

**Marine Mammals**
Marine mammals are protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Stay at least 75 feet away—like all park animals, they’re wild, unpredictable, and potentially dangerous. Never approach seals on the beach—they’re resting and waiting for their mothers to bring food.

**Intelligent Hitchhikers**
A fed bear that becomes habituated to humans other than you, the human, may become dangerous. To prevent an encounter: hike in groups; stay on trails; keep food out of vehicles; and never feed bears.

**Never Feed Wildlife**
Feeding wildlife is dangerous to you, other humans, and the fed animal. It’s against the law, too! A fed bear that becomes habituated to humans often has to be killed; feeding ravens and jays may result in increased populations of these predatory birds, threatening endangered species like marbled murrelets and snowy owls.

Please keep a clean camp or picnic site and store all food or smelly items out of sight in a locked car or bear-proof locker. When cooking or preparing food, keep all food within arm’s reach.

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A fed bear that becomes habituated to humans other than you, the human, may become dangerous. To prevent an encounter: hike in groups; stay on trails; keep food out of vehicles; and never feed bears.

**Never Feed Wildlife**
Feeding wildlife is dangerous to you, other humans, and the fed animal. It’s against the law, too! A fed bear that becomes habituated to humans often has to be killed; feeding ravens and jays may result in increased populations of these predatory birds, threatening endangered species like marbled murrelets and snowy owls.

Please keep a clean camp or picnic site and store all food or smelly items out of sight in a locked car or bear-proof locker. When cooking or preparing food, keep all food within arm’s reach.