



Visitor Guide

The official 2018 visitor guide
 of Redwood National and State Parks

NPS / JOHN CHAO

Park Map

Discover the best way to navigate Redwood's mosaic of habitats...pages 6-7



Short Walks

Enjoy a walk through ancient forests or a coastal stroll with stunning views...page 6



Big Trees

Learn about the three kinds of redwood trees and the best places to see them...page 5



Camping

Find out which of the parks' four unique campgrounds is best for you...page 10



Scenic Drives

The type of vehicle you drive might determine which roads are most suitable...page 7



Pets

Several designated, pet-friendly adventures should suit the whole family...page 3



Working Together

This year Redwood National and State Parks celebrates many special anniversaries. These occasions remind us that it will take all of us working together to preserve, protect, and restore the last of the redwoods for future generations.

It all began 100 years ago with the creation of Save the Redwoods League. The League was instrumental in acquiring the old-growth redwood stands that became Prairie Creek Redwoods, Del Norte Coast Redwoods, and Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Parks, the forests that anchor Redwood National and State Parks. In 2018, Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park celebrates 95 years of instilling wonder and amazement within millions of visitors from around the world.

This year also marks five decades since the establishment of Redwood National Park, an act that bought the National Park Service's legacy of stewardship and visitor engagement to the preservation and conservation of coastal redwoods.

Another valued partner that provides critical assistance is Redwood Parks Conservancy. The Conservancy is the nonprofit arm of Redwood National and State Parks that helps support park projects through fund raising and sales from the gift stores. The money you spend in our visitor center gift stores returns to the park to support interpretive, educational and resource protection projects and services.

It takes all of us working together to protect and preserve these wondrous resources—including you, the visitor. The park has many exciting volunteer opportunities from being a camp host, greeting visitors at our information centers, walking the trails to report on conditions, removing invasive plants, monitoring wildlife, and helping keep our facilities in top shape. Even if you can't volunteer, you can still support parks by being good stewards of the redwoods and observing the rules and regulations that help protect this incredible resource.

All of the staff at Redwood National and State Parks hope your visit is one you will never forget. Please share your experience in the park on our social media sites. Thank you for visiting.

Brett Silver
 RNSP Superintendent (California State Parks)

Steve Mietz
 RNSP Superintendent (National Park Service)

It's More Than Just An Anniversary

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 49th or the 51st? 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



Join the Conversation!

@RedwoodNPS

/RedwoodNPS





National or State Park?

It's both! In May 1994, the National Park Service and California State Parks agreed to cooperatively manage 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 1864. Though designated a national park in 1890, Yosemite was briefly managed by both state and federal governments.

Redwood National and State Parks manages 133,000 acres. Our mission is to preserve, protect—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 help people forge emotional, 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

Park Headquarters

ph: 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. ADA trails.

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 4pm.

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

Park Passes

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. "Senior" and "Access" passholders receive a 50% discount on camping fees, too! Of course, visitors with a California State Parks Annual or Special Pass will continue to receive the same benefits and discounts they've enjoyed at sites throughout the state.

Find out which pass is right for you and where passes can be purchased by visiting any park visitor center (see left) or online at:

California State Parks Annual or Special Passes

www.parks.ca.gov

America the Beautiful Pass Series

www.nps.gov/findapark/passes



Passport Stamps

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 and must be in accordance with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regulations. For more information, contact the CDFW Field Office at (707) 445-6493.

Firearms and Hunting

Federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under applicable federal, state, and local laws to possess firearms in National Park Service (NPS)-administered lands within Redwood National and State Parks. It is the responsibility of visitors to understand and comply with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws. Federal law also prohibits firearms in federal buildings in the national park; those places will be marked with signs at all public entrances.

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.

Drone Aircraft

Federal and state laws prohibit the use of drones anywhere in Redwood National and State Parks.

Fees and Reservations

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).

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 campsites, available from most information centers (see page 10 for more info).

Tall Trees Access Road

The gated Tall Trees Access Road is only accessible via free permit from the Thomas H. Kuchel Visitor Center, Prairie Creek and Hiouchi Visitor Center. Fifty permits per day are issued first-come, first-served.

Collecting and Vandalism

Disturbing, defacing, or collecting any park resource without a permit is prohibited. Exceptions on national (NPS) parklands only: apples (five per person per day); acorns (ten gallons per person per day); and berries, hazelnuts and unoccupied seashells (one gallon per person per day). Exception on state (CDPR) parklands only: berries (five pounds per person per day).

Crescent City, California Weather

Month	Average High	Average Low	Average Precip.
January	54.1°F (12.3°C)	39.5°F (4.2°C)	11.6" (29.5 cm)
February	55.7°F (13.2°C)	40.5°F (4.7°C)	9.9" (25.2 cm)
March	56.9°F (13.8°C)	40.9°F (4.9°C)	9.0" (22.7 cm)
April	59.1°F (15.1°C)	42.4°F (5.8°C)	5.3" (13.6 cm)
May	61.9°F (16.6°C)	45.3°F (7.4°C)	3.5" (8.8 cm)
June	64.9°F (18.3°C)	48.3°F (9.1°C)	1.6" (4.0 cm)
July	66.9°F (19.4°C)	50.6°F (10.3°C)	0.5" (1.1 cm)
August	67.3°F (19.6°C)	50.9°F (10.5°C)	0.6" (1.6 cm)
September	67.6°F (19.8°C)	49.1°F (9.5°C)	1.8" (4.7 cm)
October	64.1°F (17.8°C)	46.2°F (7.9°C)	5.2" (13.3 cm)
November	58.4°F (14.7°C)	42.9°F (6.1°C)	9.9" (25.0 cm)
December	54.7°F (12.6°C)	40.1°F (4.5°C)	11.7" (29.6 cm)

Safety

The wild animals, plants, waterways, and other natural features, as well as certain weather conditions that occur here, can be dangerous. For more information about protecting yourself and your parks, see page 12.

In case of emergency dial:

911

Ranger-Led Programs & Activities

BE PART OF THE PARKS' TRADITION!
Park staff lead a variety of seasonally available activities and programs throughout the parks that are free, informative, and fun for all ages and backgrounds.

Programs are available mid-May to mid-September. Some winter walks are offered too. Inquire at visitor centers (left) or campground bulletin boards for times, topics, and locations.



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 one hour for scheduled programs at the Jedediah Smith Campground, Mill Creek 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 park ranger-naturalist leads this investigation into the hidden world beneath the waves. *Come prepared: dress for the weather; bring drinking water and a snack; wear sturdy hiking shoes or boots (no sandals) with non-slip soles—they will get wet!*

CAMPFIRE PROGRAMS (1 HOUR)

As darkness descends on the North Coast, the Jedediah Smith, Mill Creek, and Elk Prairie campgrounds (see page 10) 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. *Come prepared: dress for the weather; bring drinking water and a snack; wear sturdy*

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 at "Big Tree Wayside" (see page 7).



...take my pet for a walk in the redwoods?

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park: Walker Road (see page 6).
Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park: Cal Barrel Road (see page 7).
Pets on a leash not exceeding six feet in length are allowed at designated campgrounds, picnic areas, public roads, parking areas, and beaches with road access.



...have a campfire?

Fires are only permitted in park-provided grills and fire rings at picnic areas, campgrounds, and designated backcountry camps; on 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 ¼-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). Biker/hiker campsites are available at all developed campgrounds and at some backcountry campsites.



...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). Camping with horses is allowed at two stock-ready campsites 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:** never 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," (above-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 info. See "Area Information," (above-right). Full-service grocery stores are available in Brookings, Ore., and Crescent City, Trinidad, McKinleyville, Arcata, and Eureka, Calif.



...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 ¼-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.

Area Information Chambers of Commerce & Visitor Bureaus

Arcata, Calif.

California Welcome Center
1635 Heindon Road
Arcata, CA 95521
ph: 707-822-3619
web: www.arcatachamber.com

Blue Lake, Calif.

P.O. Box 476
Blue Lake, CA 95525
ph: 707-688-5655
web: www.sunnybluelake.com

Brookings, Ore.

16330 Lower Harbor Road
Brookings, OR 97415
ph: 541-469-3181 or 800-535-9469
web: www.brookingsharborchamber.com

Crescent City, Calif. / Del Norte County

1001 Front Street
Crescent City, CA 95531
ph: 707-464-3174 or 800-343-8300
web: www.exploredelnorte.com

Eureka, Calif.

2112 Broadway Street
Eureka, CA 95501
ph: 707-442-3738 or 800-356-6381
web: www.eurekachamber.com

Humboldt County Convention & Visitors Bureau

1034 2nd Street
Eureka, CA 95501
ph: 800-346-3482
web: www.visitredwoods.com

Klamath, Calif.

P.O. Box 476
Klamath, CA 95548
ph: 707-482-7165 or 800-200-2335
web: www.klamathchamber.com

McKinleyville, Calif.

P.O. Box 2144
McKinleyville, CA 95519
ph: 707-839-2449
web: www.mckinleyvillechamber.com

Orick, Calif.

P.O. Box 234
Orick, CA 95555
ph: 707-488-2885
web: www.orick.net

What's Left of the Redwoods?



~5% remains:
4.7% preserved in public lands
≤ 1% privately owned & managed

...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, Calif. in Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park—it's not called the Redwood Highway for nothing!



Water Ways

NPS / JOHN CHAO



At Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, visitors on the Smith River enjoy paddling past old-growth redwoods. The river-bank is a favorite place for families to picnic.

50 Years of Wild and Scenic Rivers

THE SAME DAY HE SIGNED THE LAW THAT CREATED REDWOOD National Park on October 2, 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson also signed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This created a system of free-flowing rivers across the country which have “outstandingly remarkable values.” In 2018, celebrate this 50th birthday with a splash: have a swim, a float, or watch the wildlife along the parks’ exceptional watercourses. Upon your return home, you may be surprised to find a river near you that is also on the list of National Wild and Scenic Rivers (NWSR).

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 kayak tours for a limited time during the summer. You can learn more about this popular program by asking rangers at any visitor centers. 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.

While impounded by four major dams further upstream, most of the Klamath River is also designated—including the stretch you can visit in Redwood National Park. Wildlife viewing at the mouth of the Klamath River is consistent and diverse. A great viewpoint is the Klamath River Overlook, an accessible parking area on a cliff hundreds of feet above the ocean.

From this vantage point, visitors might see gray whales spouting as they feed on the abundant life nourished by the Klamath River. While gray whales have one of the longest migrations of any animal, some individuals may take up residence at the mouth of the Klamath for the summer. Seals and sea lions join the party, as do a myriad of sea birds, raptors, and the more-common but no-less-beautiful swallows and other songbirds.



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 50 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 Maggetti, Park Ranger



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.

Think “TSUNAMI!” if you feel a strong earthquake. Go to high ground or inland. Stay there.

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.

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 Watch:

- Use a NOAA Weather Radio or listen to local radio or television stations for updated information.
- Locate loved-ones and review evacuation plans.
- Be ready to move quickly if a Tsunami Warning is issued.

What to do during a Tsunami Advisory:

- Because of the threat of a potential tsunami and the danger to those in or near the water, local officials may close beaches and evacuate harbors and marinas. *Please obey their directions.*

What to do during a Tsunami Warning:

- 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.
- Watching 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 after a tsunami:

- Return *ONLY* when local officials tell you it is safe to do so. A tsunami is a series of waves that may continue for hours. 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 full access.
- Stay out of any building that has water around it and take care when re-entering any structure. Surge floodwater may damage buildings.

Protect yourself during the earthquake



DROP COVER HOLD ON

Move to high ground or inland as soon as you can



GO TO HIGH GROUND

Remain on high ground! Tsunamis last for hours



STAY THERE!

Nature & Science

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Ancient coast redwoods seen along the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park (see “Recommended Short Drives” on pages 6-7).



Humble beginnings: Actual size of a coast redwood seed cone. NPS COLLECTION

Three Redwoods: All in the Subfamily

THOUGH WE OFTEN SIMPLY REFER TO the world’s tallest living trees on California’s North Coast as “redwoods,” there are in fact three distinct redwood species: dawn redwood, giant sequoia, and coast redwood. Much like the members of your family, the species in this subfamily (Sequoioideae) share a common ancestry and many similar characteristics while maintaining their own unique identities.

Fossil evidence suggests that redwoods descended from a group of conifers that thrived across Europe, Asia, and North America when dinosaurs roamed the Earth—in the Jurassic period more than 145 million years ago. As Earth’s climate gradually and generally became cooler and drier, redwoods became restricted to three distinct geographic regions and evolved into the three species we know today.

All redwoods are cone-bearing trees and get their common name from their reddish-brown bark and heartwood. And, by whatever name, these magnificent trees have the uncanny ability to inspire awe and mystery. It’s a subfamily tradition!

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 (43 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 (DBH): 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 379 feet (115 m).
Diameter (DBH): 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.

Elk may appear almost anywhere—even along major roads and the busy US 101 corridor. Biologists think that road kills are among the major cause of death for elk in the parks. For your safety and theirs, please respect posted speed limits and always watch for wildlife.

Adult males (bulls) weigh up to 1,200 pounds and will aggressively guard their harems, especially during the fall mating season. Female cows may be very protective during calving season, typically May–June. **Never approach wild elk!** Observe them from a distance with binoculars or photograph them with a telephoto lens.



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 parents spend 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 (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



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 ½ mile South Fork Road junctions with US 199 just east of Hiouchi, Calif. or enter from Hiouchi, Calif. and follow signs to "Stout Grove."

Description: Just 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 trailheads along the way, including the Boy Scout Tree Trail and Stout Grove.

Bald Hills Road
Mostly paved, two-way traffic; Motorhomes/RVs and trailers not advised.

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

Directions: Signed exit for Bald Hills Road is ~1 mile north of Orick, Calif. on US 101; after ~13 miles road becomes unpaved.

Description: Ascend a steep, 15 percent grade through old-growth redwoods (with trail access to the Lady Bird Johnson and Tall Trees groves) before passing through several open prairies resplendent with spring wildflowers, Roosevelt elk, and black bear. Along the way, the Redwood Creek Overlook provides outstanding views of its namesake drainage as well as the Pacific Ocean in the distance. Further on are trailheads leading to the picturesque and historic Dolson and Lyons ranch sites. Near this southernmost part of Redwood National Park is Schoolhouse Peak—the highest point in the parks at 3,097 feet.

Drive Through a Tree?

There are no drive through trees in the parks. Carving a hole through a coast redwood reflects a time passed when people didn't fully appreciate the damage that would be done. Yet, drive-through trees have fascinated travelers for years, offering a unique perspective on scale. Today, there are three coast redwood drive-through trees along US 101 in Klamath, Myers Flat, and Leggett, Calif. Whether we drive through, walk beside, or peer skyward to the tops of these towering ancient giants, their scale and timelessness capture our imagination and inspire our care.

-  Picnic area
-  Boat access
-  Interpretive trail
-  Campground
-  Wheelchair accessible
-  Backcountry camp (free permit required)
-  Whale watching
-  Sportfishing
-  Sea lions and seals
-  Lighthouse

Orick, Calif. or 4 miles south of Klamath, Calif.

Description: This not-to-be-missed alternative to US 101 passes through the heart of the old-growth redwood forest in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. Northbound traffic take EXIT 753. Southbound traffic take EXIT 765. Features include numerous trailheads, ADA trails, Big Tree Wayside, Prairie Creek Visitor Center and Elk Prairie Campground.

Coastal Drive Loop
Mostly paved, one-way northbound traffic only between Alder Camp and Klamath Beach roads; Motorhomes/RVs and trailers prohibited.

Distance & Duration: ~9 miles, round-trip, 45 minutes.

Directions: From Klamath, Calif.: drive south 1 mile on US 101 (over the Klamath River) and exit Klamath Beach Road; after 1½ miles, turn left onto Alder Camp Rd. and proceed 2 miles to junction. Turn right (north) and continue ~1½ miles on unpaved road (restricted to one-way, northbound traffic, only) toward the mouth of the Klamath River. Turn right (east) onto the paved Klamath Beach Road and travel ~4 miles to return to US 101.

Description: This narrow road with steep grades and sharp curves 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
Winding, narrow roads and wet or foggy conditions can be hazardous—please obey posted speed limits and road signs. Be on the lookout for large logging trucks, especially on Bald Hills Road. Motorhomes/RVs and vehicles pulling trailers should obey size/length restrictions.

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 Eel 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.

-  Redwood National and State Parks boundary
-  California State Park boundary
-  Old-growth coast redwoods
-  Unpaved road
-  Scenic Drive (Motorhomes and trailers see advisories above)
-  Trail



PACIFIC OCEAN

Private Land
 Private land occurs throughout the parks. Trespass across and use of private land without owner consent is prohibited.

High Tide
 Check the tide tables before walking on the beaches. Rising water can trap you against a cliff with no possibility of escape.

Tsunami Hazard Zone
 If you feel an earthquake, think "tsunami!" Go to high ground or inland and stay there.

Heavy Surf
 Very large, powerful "sneaker" waves can occur at any time. They will quickly pull you into the water and survival is unlikely. Never turn your back on the ocean.

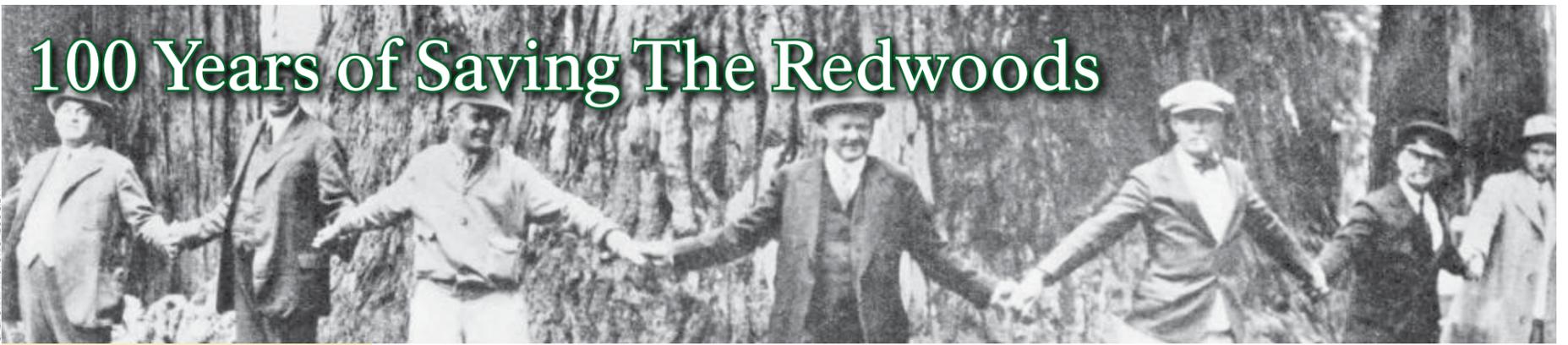
Steep Cliffs
 Cliffs are likely to crumble and slide. Climbing on them or walking near the edge invites catastrophe. Because of falling rocks, walking below cliffs is dangerous. Keep away!

Falling Limbs
 Tree limbs can fall during high winds, especially in old-growth forests.



100 Years of Saving The Redwoods

CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Early visitors to Stout Grove in the 1920s included President Herbert Hoover (center).



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. Osborn, 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 of California, the League purchases stands of redwoods and helps to raise worldwide awareness of redwoods. Portions of Redwood National and State Parks comprise 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: 415-362-2352
email: info@SaveTheRedwoods.org
web: www.SaveTheRedwoods.org

Protecting Redwoods, Past & Future

THIS YEAR MARKS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY of Redwood National Park. Serendipitously, it is also 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 Great Barrier Reef, the Amazon rainforest and the Serengeti.

Since 1918, Save the Redwoods League has protected more than 55,000 acres on the far north coast of California through the purchase and transfer of more than 140 properties to Redwood National and State Parks. Today, the parks encompass 131,983 acres, including 38,982 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 shelter for imperiled species such as Coho salmon, marbled murrelets and northern spotted owls—mature redwood forests also play an outsized role in mitigating climate change.

This work, of course, will not be accomplished by the park agencies and the League alone.

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 than the people who coexist with them.

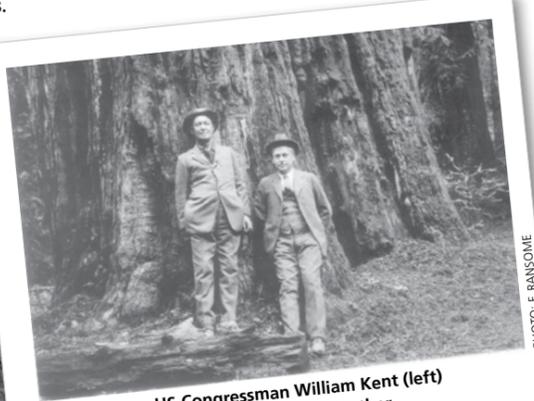
This includes the Tolowa and Yurok Tribes, first citizens whose ancestors have lived in the redwood watersheds since time immemorial. The redwood forest habitat is a foundational part of their cultures, and the tribes' commitment to the preservation and enhancement of redwood ecosystems is an inspiration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

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.



Old Redwood Highway in the 1920s



US Congressman William Kent (left) and Stephen T. Mather

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

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 during his career.

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."



Newton B. Drury

Hands-On Efforts Restore Beach Dune Habitats

Gold 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 Gold Bluffs Beach.

This invader changes how dunes form, 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.

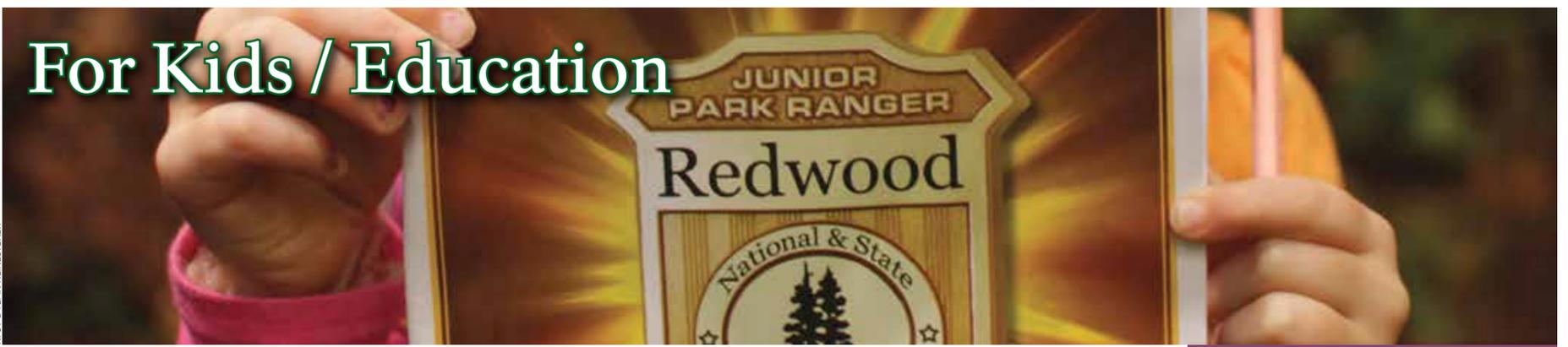


California Conservation Crew (CCC) from Fortuna, handpull invasive beachgrass.

Greg Litten, Park Ranger

For Kids / Education

NPS/DYLAN KUNESTER



Pick-up a copy of the Redwood Junior Ranger booklet at any Redwood National and State Parks visitor center (see page 2 for locations).

Keep It Crumb Clean

Help Keep Wildlife Safe and Healthy



Did you know that human food and garbage can hurt wildlife? Keeping our parks clean and safe is important! Decode the secret message to find out what you can do to help wildlife in Redwood National and State Parks. Some of the pictures make the sound of the word. You may also have to subtract (-) or add (+) letters to the word.



wildlife

by



them

N



food

and food lockers.

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!



Here at Redwood National and State Parks, we're proud of our Junior Rangers. They are true partners in helping preserve these special places.



Bringing the magic of the redwoods to classrooms, California State Parks' PORTS program uses video-conference technology to link students and park rangers. In existence since 2003, this distance-learning program reaches over 30,000 students per year.

Aligned with sixth grade California academic content standards, students get a behind-the-scenes look at Redwood National and State Parks—from the latest canopy research to large-scale ecological restoration efforts now underway in the parks.

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

Below: A California state park ranger chats live with students from the "EduGator."



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

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 programming. 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 2 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.



NPS



NPS

Top: students share discoveries during a "slideshow" activity at the Howland Hill Outdoor School. Bottom: A school bus passes through the Wolf Creek Education Center entrance gate.

Programs and facility use are by reservation only. Weekend and shoulder season rental of the facilities for redwood ecosystems-related study may also be available. For more information, please call 707-465-7335 or visit us online at www.nps.gov/redw/forteachers.

Campgrounds & Backcountry Camps

MPS / BRYAN PETRYL



The well-maintained Jedediah Smith Campground offers exceptional opportunities to camp among old-growth coast redwoods.

Developed Campgrounds

Fee	Federal Senior/ Access Pass	Calif. Parks Disabled Pass	Calif. Parks Veterans Pass	# of Sites	Toilet	Shower	RV Max. Length	Trailer Max. Length	Water & Electric	Sewer	Dump Station	Yurt	Cabin
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Redwood National & State Parks														
Jedediah Smith	\$35	\$17.50	\$17.50	Free	86	Flush	Yes	36 ft.	31 ft.	No	No	Yes	No	\$100 / \$80
Mill Creek	\$35	\$17.50	\$17.50	Free	145	Flush	Yes	31 ft.	27 ft.	No	No	Yes	No	No
Elk Prairie	\$35	\$17.50	\$17.50	Free	75	Flush	Yes	27 ft.	24 ft.	No	No	No	No	\$100 / \$80
Gold Bluffs Beach	\$35	\$17.50	\$17.50	Free	26	Flush	Yes	24 ft.	Prohibited	No	No	No	No	No

RESERVATIONS:

Reservations are *strongly* recommended for camping at all developed campgrounds in Redwood National and State Parks from early May to the end of September. Reservations must be made at least 48 hours in advance by calling 1-800-444-7275 or online at www.ReserveAmerica.com.

Nearby Public Camping

U.S. Forest Service														
Panther Flat	\$15	\$7.50	No	No	39	Flush	Yes	40 ft.	40 ft.	No	No	No	No	No
Grassy Flat	\$10	\$5	No	No	19	Pit	No	30 ft.	30 ft.	No	No	No	No	No
Patrick Creek	\$14	\$7	No	No	13	Flush	No	35 ft.	35 ft.	No	No	No	No	No
Big Flat	\$8	\$4	No	No	27	Pit	No	22 ft.	22 ft.	No	No	No	No	No
California State Parks														
Patrick's Point State Park	\$35	No	\$17.50	Free	124	Flush	Yes	31 ft.	31 ft.	No	No	Yes	No	\$80
Oregon State Parks														
Harris Beach	\$18/\$22	No	No	No	147	Flush	Yes	57 ft.	57 ft.	\$21/\$28	\$21/\$30	Yes	\$39/\$43	No
Alfred A. Loeb	\$16/\$20	No	No	No	48	Flush	Yes	66 ft.	66 ft.	\$18/\$22	No	No	No	\$39/\$44
Del Norte County														
Clifford Kamph	\$15	No	No	No	12	Flush	No	Tent Only	Tent Only	No	No	No	No	No
Florence Keller	\$15	No	No	No	28	Flush	No	32 ft.	32 ft.	No	No	No	No	No
Ruby Van Deventer	\$15	No	No	No	4	Flush	No	22 ft.	22 ft.	No	No	No	No	No
Humboldt County														
Big Lagoon	\$20/\$25	No	No	No	25	Flush	Yes	24 ft.	24 ft.	1 Elec.	No	No	No	No
Clam Beach	\$15	No	No	No	9	Pit	No	35 ft.	35 ft.	No	No	No	No	No

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 park 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.

Designated Camp	Nearest Vehicle Access	Horses	Bikes	Water	Additional Info.
North of Klamath River					
Little Bald Hills (5 sites)	Little Bald Hills Trailhead: 3 mi. to camp	✓	✓	Pack in or bring filter/purifier	Trough, corral, & non-potable water spigot
Nickel Creek (5 sites)	Crescent Beach Education Center, Enderts Beach Rd.: ~2½ mi. to camp		✓ *	Pack in or bring filter/purifier	* Ride on Coastal Trail only; must walk bike ~275 ft on camp access trail.
DeMartin (10 sites)	Wilson Creek Picnic Area: 2.5 mi. to camp		✓ *	Pack in; no reliable source nearby	* Limited bike access; ask a ranger for more info.
South of Klamath River					
Flint Ridge (8 sites)	Coastal Trail - Flint Ridge Section Trailhead: ¼ mi. to camp		✓ *	Pack in; no reliable source nearby	* No riding on trails; must walk bike ¼ mi. to camp from trailhead/Coastal Dr.
Gold Bluffs Beach (1 site in developed campground)	Prairie Creek Visitor Center: ~4½ mi. to camp (longer via bike route)		✓	Potable water; normally available	Hiker/biker ONLY. Max. of 8 people. \$5 per person/night. (Between sites 19 and 20.)
Elam Creek (3 sites)	Redwood Creek Trailhead (hikers only): 3 mi. to camp	✓		Pack in or filter/purify from Redwood Creek tributaries	Horse access via Orick Horse Trailhead (fees apply): ~6 mi.
44 Camp (4 sites)	Tall Trees Trailhead: ~3 mi. to camp			Pack in or filter/purify from Redwood Creek tributaries	Backpackers only.
Redwood Creek (dispersed; no facilities)	Tall Trees Trailhead: ~2 mi. to gravel bars			Pack in or filter/purify from Redwood Creek tributaries	Camp only on gravel bars upstream of MacArthur Creek & no closer than ¼-mile from Tall Trees Grove.

Trails

NPS COLLECTION



Hundreds of miles of trails beckon hikers, bikers, and horseback riders in Redwood National and State Parks.

Choose Your Own Adventure!

More than 200 miles of trails traverse a mosaic of habitats at Redwood National and State Parks. Whatever your interest, experience, or fitness level, there's a trail adventure for you! This visitor guide does not ensure a safe trail experience. Inquire at any visitor center (see page 2) for trip-planning advice and trail conditions. You can get maps or guidebooks from any cooperating association bookstore.

Accessible

Simpson-Reed Grove, Big Tree Wayside, 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/route name reference trailhead locations indicated on the map on pages 6-7. Mid-level walks/hikes are shown in red; longer day hikes in blue. Short on time? Check-out "Recommended Short Walks" **1-5** on page 6.

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

Streelow Creek Trail

Lost Man Creek Trail

Biker/hiker campsites are available at developed campgrounds and at two designated backcountry camps (see page 10). For more information, including a free Bicycle Routes brochure, contact any visitor center or visit us online at www.nps.gov/redw/planyourvisit/bikes

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

Horses are also allowed on Crescent, Hidden, and Freshwater beaches, and within the Redwood Creek streambed up to the first footbridge/trail crossing of Redwood Creek.

Animals may not graze park vegetation, and must be hobbled or tied to a hitching post when unattended. Carry only pellets or weed-free feed.

Contact us for more info. (see page 2) or visit www.nps.gov/redw/planyourvisit/horses.

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!

Suggested Hikes

Trail/Route Name(s)	Trailhead(s)	Distance/Duration (Approx.)	Difficulty	Additional Info.
Mid-Level Walks/Hikes				
6 Damnation Creek	10 miles south of Crescent City, pullout at milepost 16 on west side of US 101	4¼ miles (out and back) / 3 hours round-trip	Strenuous: Steep 1100-foot descent/ascent (out and back) with switchbacks.	Old-growth redwoods, Damnation Creek, rugged coast and tidepools.
7 South Fork / Rhododendron / Brown Creek	1¾ miles north of Elk Prairie on east side of Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway	3½-mile loop / 2 hours	Moderate (overall): Steep ascent on South Fork Trail.	Loop: South Fork Trail east, Rhododendron Trail northwest, Brown Creek Trail south.
8 Prairie Creek / Foothill	Prairie Creek Visitor Center: 1 mile north of US 101 on the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway	2½-mile loop / 1 hour	Easy (overall): Relatively level.	Loop: Prairie Creek Trail north, east across parkway to Foothill Trail, Foothill Trail south, west across parkway to Prairie Creek Visitor Center.
9 Trillium Falls	Elk Meadow Day Use Area: 3 miles north of Orick, Calif. off US 101.	2¾-mile loop / 1½ hours	Moderate: Some non-steep grades.	Old-growth redwoods, Trillium falls, Roosevelt elk.
Longer Day Hikes				
10 Mill Creek	1½ miles southwest of Stout Grove on Howland Hill Rd., or just across footbridge from Jedediah Smith Campground (<i>summer only</i>)	6 miles (out and back) or 5 miles as a loop via Stout Grove and Howland Hill Road (<i>summer only</i>) / 3-4 hours	Easy: Relatively level.	Mill Creek Footbridges across Smith River (from/to Jedediah Smith Campground) and Mill Creek available in summer only.
11 Boy Scout Tree	<i>From Crescent City, Calif.:</i> 3½ miles east of Elk Valley Road on Howland Hill Road (unpaved through park).	5½ miles (out and back) / 4 hours round-trip	Moderate: Some steep grades with switchbacks.	Old-growth redwoods, riparian corridor, Fern Falls, Boy Scout Tree (optional).
12 Coastal Trail - Last Chance Section Crescent Beach Overlook to Damnation Creek Trail	Crescent Beach Overlook: Southern end of Enderts Beach Road (just south of Crescent City, Calif.).	13 miles (out and back) / 6-9 hours round-trip	Strenuous: Steep 1000-foot descent/ascent (out and back) over 1-mile section south of Nickel Creek.	Ocean views, Enderts Beach (via side trip), Damnation Creek, old-growth redwoods
13 Fern Canyon / Friendship Ridge / West Ridge / Coastal Trail	Fern Canyon Trailhead and parking area at end of Davison Road	7-mile loop / 4 hours	Moderate (overall): Steep grades and switchbacks on Friendship Ridge Trail.	Loop: Fern Canyon Trail east, Friendship Ridge Trail north, West Ridge Trail northwest, Coastal Trail south.
14 James Irvine / Clintonia / Miners Ridge	Prairie Creek Visitor Center: 1 mile north of US 101 on the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway	6½-mile loop / 3-4 hours	Moderate (overall): Some steep grades on Clintonia and Miners Ridge trails	James Irvine Trail northwest, Clintonia Trail south, Miners Ridge Trail southeast.
15 James Irvine / Fern Canyon / Davison Road / Miners Ridge	Prairie Creek Visitor Center: 1 mile north of US 101 on the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway	12-mile loop / 6 hours	Moderate (overall): Some steep grades on Miners Ridge Trail.	James Irvine Trail northwest then southwest into Fern Canyon, Davison Road south, Miners Ridge Trail southeast.
16 Tall Trees <i>Trailhead accessible only via free permit from Kuchel Visitor Center, or Crescent City or Hiouchi info centers.</i>	6½ miles southeast of US 101 on Bald Hills Road, then 6½ miles south on unpaved Tall Trees Access Road.	3½-mile semi-loop / 4 hours (<i>includes drive to/from trailhead</i>)	Moderately strenuous: 800-foot descent/ascent (out and back) over 1¼ miles to/from Tall Trees Grove.	Old-growth redwoods, Redwood Creek access, Tall Trees Grove.

Protect Yourself...

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 eight 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 enhances 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!



CALIFORNIA DFG

...Protect Your Parks

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 tanoak 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 seal pups on the beach—they’re resting and waiting for their mothers to bring food.

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 plovers.

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.



As a participant in both the National Park Service Climate Friendly Parks and California State Parks Cool Parks programs, Redwood National and State Parks belongs to an enterprising network of parks putting climate-friendly behavior at the forefront of sustainability planning. By conducting an emission inventory, setting emission reduction goals, developing an Action Plan, and committing to educate staff, visitors, and the community about climate change, Redwood is taking a leading role in climate change response.

Here’s just some of the more visible climate-friendly actions Redwood has already taken to help preserve our natural and cultural treasures for future generations:



In collaboration with Humboldt State University’s Schatz Energy Research Center, existing facilities are being retrofitted with energy efficient technologies that reduce or eliminate energy consumption.



Fleet sizes have been reduced and conventional vehicles replaced with fuel/energy efficient models.



Recycling for a variety of materials is available throughout the parks—look for receptacles at day use areas, information centers, and campgrounds. Steel propane cylinder drop-off locations are available at all campgrounds. Any usable fuel will be made available to other campers, while staff safely and completely remove remaining fuel from “empty” canisters so they can be recycled by a local steel recycler.

To view Redwood’s Action Plan or learn more about Climate Friendly Parks, visit www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks.

For more information on Cool Parks, visit www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24872.



Reduce. Reuse. Recycle **this Visitor Guide!**

Redwood Parks Conservancy



REDWOOD PARKS CONSERVANCY

Redwood Parks Conservancy (RPC) is a non-profit cooperating association established to foster understanding, enjoyment, and stewardship of our parks and public lands through educational outreach, visitor services, and support of our partners entrusted with the care of public lands along California’s North Coast. Proceeds from visitor center and online store sales, as well as fundraising events,

are returned to these special places to provide interpretive and educational programs and materials. This *Visitor Guide*, too, was made possible by a generous donation from Redwood Parks Conservancy.

Redwood Parks Conservancy ph: (707) 464-9150

Visit us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/redwoodparks

To become a RPC member and/or make an online donation to support your public lands, visit:

www.redwoodparksconservancy.org

VIPs: Volunteers in Parks



Volunteers play an ever-increasing role in our parklands. At Redwood, VIPs work side-by-side with National Park Service, California State Park and Redwood Park Conservancy employees to help care for these special places. Whether staffing a visitor center front desk, serving as a campground host, assisting park scientists in the field or lab, or picking up litter, volunteers are true stewards of our natural and cultural heritage!

We welcome VIPs from all over the United States and the world to live and work in this special place (housing may be available to qualified volunteers).

To learn about available VIP opportunities and to apply online, visit www.volunteer.gov.

For opportunities as a campground host, visit www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=886



Redwood National and State Parks

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