By 1980, 95% of the old-growth redwood forests had been logged. Pockets of old-growth trees remained. But, more than half of the land within Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP) was clear-cut logged before it was bought and protected by environmental groups, state, and federal governments.

But, we can’t work alone to protect the parks’ habitats. To succeed we cooperate with local timber companies, non-profit organizations, local tribes, and other agencies to protect the forests, hillsides, and rivers inside and outside of the park.

The privately owned timberlands adjacent to the park are nearly all second and third growth timber—much of it a mix of redwood and Douglas-fir. New rules for harvesting timber have changed forest operations to better protect the streams. Logging on privately owned lands completed in the last few years is far less impacting than even five to ten years ago. More trees are being retained during the harvest and logging boundaries are less straight. Park staff note that some recent harvest areas near the parks are even difficult to see—unless they are pointed out.

If it wasn’t for last century’s citizens who fought for and bought land from logging companies there would be no Redwood National and State Parks. The view you see today reflects an evolution of science, attitudes, conservation and industry—not just inside the park—but on our borders too.

A Logging Legacy

Did you notice any logging on the hills as you made your way to these parks? No matter where you came from, every visitor has travelled through forests greatly altered by a legacy of over a century and a half of logging. It is a part of the history, economy, and culture of the Pacific Northwest.

Diametrically opposed views of forests and their human use did, and still exist in redwood country. Yet embedded in this jigsaw of industrial timber lands are public lands set aside for conservation, protection, and your enjoyment—including the grandeur of the old-growth redwood groves you have come to visit.

Logging is part of our history, our culture, our story.

Post World War II consumer demand for lumber led to intensive harvesting of nearly all the original old growth conifer forests in the region. Well-paying jobs were plentiful in rural north-west California as demand for old growth redwood timber from sprawling new suburbs skyrocketed. For many people, harvesting redwoods became a matter of pride and middle-class economics. For others however, fallen redwoods became a symbol that spurred a powerful environmental movement.

From the 1990s-1970s, logging methods became more efficient, industrial, and prior to the establishment of more protective laws—environmentally devastating. Clear cutting of the forests became common and mountain-sides were cleared of their protective forest cover. The outcome was terrible erosion, decades of stream damage, and eye sore.

From Greg Litten, Park Ranger and Darci Short, Park Geologist.

The official 2017 visitors guide of Redwood National and State Parks

Join the Conversation! Just add RedwoodNPS to the URL of your favorite social media outlets.
Federal and state laws prohibit the use of drones in Redwood National and State Parks. Drone Aircraft prohibited in Redwood National and State Parks.

Hunting (and/or any discharge of firearms) is prohibited in Redwood National and Service (NPS)-administered lands within Redwood National and State Parks. Local laws to possess firearms in National Park Service lands. You may 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.

Fees and Reservations

State parks collect day-use fees at entrance stations and fees are required for camping at campground; 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 campgrounds, 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 Ho Chi Minh Visitor Center. Fifty permits per day are issued first-come, first-served.

Collecting and Vandalism

Disturbing, defacing, or collecting any park resources without a permit is prohibited. Exceptions on national (NPS) parks lands 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). Exceptions on state (CDPW) parks lands only: berries (five pounds per person per day).

Safety

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


crescent city, california weather

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

In case of emergency dial: 911

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.

Passport Stamps

California State Parks Annual or Special Passes www.parks.ca.gov

America the Beautiful Pass Series www.nps.gov/findapass

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” pass holders 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:

Califonia State Parks Annual or Special Passes www.parks.ca.gov

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), campground (see page 10), and day-use areas maintain regular/seasonal hours of operation.

Sport Fishing

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.

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.

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 restaurants, 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.

Ho Chi Minh 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 4 pm; Off-season: As staffing permits—please call ahead: 707-465-7335.

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

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
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 wood and downed wood (including driftwood) may be collected from: Freshwater, Hidden, Crescent, and Enderts beaches; Redwood Creek gravel bars; and, within ½-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). Bike/foot campers 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 information. 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 ½-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
1625 Hendon 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 800-346-8300
web: www.exploredelnorte.com
Eureka, Calif.
2112 Broadway Street
Eureka, CA 95501
ph: 707-442-3738 or 800-356-6381
web: www.eurekahamber.com
Humboldt County Convention & Visitors Bureau
1034 2nd Street
Eureka, CA 95501
ph: 800-346-3482
web: www.redwoods.info

Redwoods historic Range: 2,000,000 acres
What’s Left of the Redwoods?

Redwoods historic Range: 2,000,000 acres
-5% remains: 4.7% preserved in public land; ≤ 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!
Where Science Fiction Comes to Life

Imagine an alien landscape. As far as the eye can see, huge meadows of soft, spongy greenery sway. Psychedelic gelatinous beasts glide gracefully across the environment. Muscular giants cower between black shells. Five and six-limbed predators adorn every rock face, fighting giants to fight and consume.

The most cunning of this extraterrestrial kingdom—an eight-legged monstrosity—lurks in the deep crevices of the landscape. This is not science fiction. This is real. This is here.

The Northern California coastline is graced with rocky outcrops forming this strange habitat known as a tidepool. When the tide is low, ocean water moves further away from the shore—in some cases enough to reveal the world caught in the pooling water. Anemones, sea slugs, mussels, sea stars, and octopuses are a shortlist of wildlife inhabiting the underwater terrain.

All tidepool dwellers need adaptations to survive the constant ebb and flow of water. Anemones have a muscular foot, sea stars have tube feet, and mussels have extremely strong hairs called byssus. All these structures are designed to cling tightly to the rocks. When exploring the tidepools, these animals should never be pried off rocks. This will do damage to their structures and jeopardize their ability to survive.

Sea slugs and octopus have taken on a different tactic to survive the pounding waves. Instead of relying on a body part for survival, these creatures have changed their behavior to conquer their habitat. An octopus will hunker down at the base of rocks, or move shells and ocean debris into strategic locations to protect itself from the rushing waves. When the turbulence calms, the octopus uses its eight legs to move from one tidepool to the next, often crawling out of the water and across large expanses of exposed rock. Sea slugs take on a less showy approach, hiding under rocks, or within the flowing mats of seaweed.

Staying at home is only one conundrum these residents must navigate. Tidal movement creates conditions where inhabitants are exposed to the air for extended periods—up to eight hours at a time. As fauna of the sea, these animals require water to breathe. Once again, adaptations come to the rescue. Mussels will close their shells and anemones will tuck their tentacles in on themselves to help retain water within their soft tissues.

Sea stars will often reduce their activity level—and hence need for oxygen—until submerged once again.

To view the underside of the horizon line, check in at a visitor center for current tide conditions. During your “first contact”, remember to show respect to the creatures living on the ocean’s edge. Finally, beware where you step—for every rock is a world of its own overflowing with life. May the tides be with you as you explore the alien realm of the redwood shore.

Melissa Lockwood, 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 Watch:
• Use a NOAA Weather Radio or listen to local radio or television stations for updated information.
• Locate local one 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, check for 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 freshwater 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.

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.
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 at breast height (DBH): 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 90,000 cubic feet.
- Distribution: Western slopes of Sierra Nevada Mountains in Central California
- Height: To 345 feet (105 m)
- Diameter at breast height (DBH): To 26 feet (8 m)
- Age: To more than 3,000 years
- Leaves: Evergreen; and 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 at breast height (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; motorhome/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.

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

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.

Jeff Denny, Park Ranger
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 (see “Recommended Scenic Drives,” below).
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, Level trail surface with grades.
Distance & Duration: ~1 mile, 45-60 minutes.
Location: Trail begins at the well-marked Big Tree wayside, ~¾ mile north of Elk Prairie on the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway (see “Recommended Scenic Drives,” below).
Description: This historic walk winds through upland stands of old-growth redwood, Douglas fir, and tanoak to the site where Lady Bird Johnson dedicated Redwood National Park in 1968. In spring, rhododendrons and astilbes abound, while vine and big leaf maple reveal their bold colors in the fall. A brochure at the trailhead corresponds to marked interpretive stops along the trail.

Yurok Loop Trail
Easy, Level trail surface with non-steep grades.
Distance & Duration: ~1.1 mile, 45-60 minutes.
Location: Trailhead begins at the signed Lagoon Creek picnic area, 15 miles south of Crescent City, Calif. or ~6½ miles north of Klamath, Calif. on US 101.
Description: With spectacular views of Fife Klamath Cove and Lagoon Creek, this trail traverses a fine example of coastal scrub forest plants, including Ska spruce, Douglas fir, cow parsley, wild cucumber, catbark, yarrow, and a variety of barberries. Bring along binoculars and scout for seabirds among the sea stacks.

Circle Trail
Easy, Level trail surface
Distance & Duration: ~1 mile, 30 minutes.
Location: Trail begins at the well-marked Big Tree wayside, ~¾ mile north of Elk Prairie on the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway (see “Recommended Scenic Drives,” below).
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.

Revelation 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 (see “Recommended Scenic Drives,” below).
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.

Highlighted Scenic Drives

Howland Hill Road
Mostly unpaved, mostly two-way traffic; Motorhomes/RVs and trailers not advised.
Distance & Duration: 10 miles, 45 minutes.

Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway
Paved, two-way traffic; No commercial vehicles permitted.
Distance & Duration: 10 miles, 30 minutes.
Directions: Start at exit 753 on I-5 located 6 miles north of Orick, Calif. or 4 miles south of Klamath, Calif.
This not-to-be-missed alternative to US 101 passes through the Redwoods National Park, offering spectacular views of the Pacific and the Klamath River. Motor homes and trailers prohibited.

Directions:
Orick, Calif. or 4 miles south of Klamath, Calif. Take exit 753 off the I-5 onto Bald Hills Road and continue 2½ miles to signed trailhead.

Directions:
From Klamath, Calif. drive south 1 mile on US 101 to exit 753 onto Bald Hills Road and continue 2½ miles to signed trailhead.

Redwood at a Glance
**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. From Leggett, Calif., whether we drive through, walk beside, or peer skyward to the top of these towering ancient giants, their scale and timeliness capture our imagination and inspire our care.

**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 Elk 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.

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**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:** Exit south of Bald Hills Road (1 mile north of Orick, Calif. on US 101); after ~13 miles road becomes unpaved. 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 trails leading to the picturesque and historic Dobson and Lyons ranch sites. Near this southernmost part of Redwood National Park is Schoolhouse Peak—the highest point in the park at 3,097 feet.
Preservation Alone is not Enough

YOU MIGHT WALK THROUGH TWO kinds of redwood forest: old-growth and second-growth. An old-growth forest has never been logged; they've braved winter storms for thousands of years. A second-growth forest has had all, or most of the original trees logged, and has regenerated.

Visitors to old-growth forests gaze upwards and feel deep emotional connections to this environment. It is a place to recreate, meditate, or bond with friends and family. Yet, these contemporary values may not be the same values as those held in the past. Logging of old-growth redwoods started around 1890 and continued well into the 1960’s, resulting in over 95% of these forests being harvested. The workers cutting down old-growth redwood trees felt deep connections to the forest around them, too. After all, these are the trees that provided income for them to feed and educate their children.

The price we put on our natural resources—and the ways we decide what is priceless—may change from one generation to another. The fact remains that we inherit the world that past generations left for us. How can you tell what past generations left for you when you are visiting here?

Old-growth forests are found in many places in the parks—look for the dark green areas on the park map (page 6). The trees here are spaced apart with about a dozen giant trees per acre. Old-growth forests feel “open”. Shafts of sunlight feed a diverse understory of ferns, flowers, and wildlife.

Second-growth forests on the park map are lighter green. In second-growth, trees are roughly the same height and width—having been planted after logging. They were planted at unnaturally high densities with hundreds, or thousands of trees per acre. Little light reaches the ground through the crowded canopy, resulting in stunted growth and little diversity.

Today, the fight to save the old-growth redwood forest is mostly over. Nearly half of the remaining 5% of old-growth redwoods surround you right now.

However, many of these last habitats are next to, or downstream from logged areas. Hastefully built logging roads failed, triggering massive landslides that threatened old-growth forests and rivers.

In 1978, Congress passed the Redwood Expansion Act to acquire 40,000 acres of land in Redwood Creek. This directed the national park to engage and restore logged parts of the newly acquired lands. The Act also authorized park managers to work together with neighboring landowners. This authority enhanced partnerships between the park and private entities—not only in this park—but across the National Park Service.

As part of this restoration effort, logging roads are removed—in some cases by the same people and equipment that originally built them. Second-growth forests now echo with chainsaws as some non-redwood trees are removed to mimic the density found in old-growth forests.

One place to see the results of this revolutionary restoration and road removal program is the Al-Pah Trail on the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway.

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 500 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 handpull 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.
For Kids / Education

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.

-y +ep ______ wildlife ______ by ______
-t+d+ing ______ them ______

food ______ and food lockers.

Redwood National and State Parks

Keep It Crumb Clean
Help Keep Wildlife Safe and Healthy

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 coastal 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 90s 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.

PORTS
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.parks.parks.ca.gov

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.

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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 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.

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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 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 guides from any cooperating association bookstore.

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
- Ossagon Trail
- Davison Trail
- Streelow 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

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/bikes

More than 200 miles of trails traverse a mosaic of habitats at Redwood National and State Parks.

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 name indicate reference trailhead locations 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>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Damnation Creek</td>
<td>Campground (summer only)</td>
<td>10 miles south of Crescent City, or via Foothill Trailhead</td>
<td>4½ miles (out and back) / 3 hours round-trip</td>
<td>Moderate: Some steep grades with switchbacks. Old-growth redwoods, Damnation Creek, rugged coast and tidepools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. South Fork / Rhododendron / Brown Creek</td>
<td>Campground</td>
<td>16 miles north of Elk Prairie, or side of Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway</td>
<td>3½-mile loop / 2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate: Easy ascent. Loop: South Fork Trail east, Rhododendron Trail north, Brown Creek Trail south.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Prairie Creek / Foothill</td>
<td>Foothill Trailhead</td>
<td>1 mile north of US 101 on the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway</td>
<td>2½-mile loop / 1 hour</td>
<td>Easy: Relatively level. 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><strong>Longer Day Hikes</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Mill Creek</td>
<td>Trailhead</td>
<td>1½ miles southeast of Stout Grove on Howland Hill Rd., or just across freeway from Jedediah Smith Campground (summer only)</td>
<td>6 miles (out and back) or 5 miles as a loop from Stout Grove and Howland Hill Rd. (summer only) / 3-4 hours</td>
<td>Easy: Relatively level. Mill Creek Foothills across Smith River (north from Jedediah Smith Campground) and Mill Creek available in summer only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Boy Scout Tree</td>
<td>Campground</td>
<td>From Crescent City, Calif. / US 101, east of 8 Varney Road on Howland Hill Rd. (closed through path)</td>
<td>5½ miles (out and back) / 4 hours round-trip</td>
<td>Moderate: Some steep grades with switchbacks. Old-growth redwoods, riparian corridor, Fern Falls, Boy Scout Tree (optional).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Coastal Trail - Last Chance Section</td>
<td>Campground</td>
<td>Crescent Beach Overlook, Southern end of Enderts Beach Trail (Just south of Crescent City, Calif.)</td>
<td>13 miles (out and back) / 6-9 hours round-trip</td>
<td>Moderate: Easy ascent. Ocean views, Enderts Beach (via side trail), Damnation Creek, old-growth redwoods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. James Irvine / Fern Canyon / Davison Road / Miners Ridge</td>
<td>Campground</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 Adams Ridge Trail. James Irvine Trail north/northwest then southwest into Fern Canyon, Davison Road southwest, Miners Ridge Trail southwest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Tall Trees Trail</td>
<td>Trailhead accessible only via fire permit from Kuchel Visitor Center or Crescent City or Mouths info center</td>
<td>6½ miles southwest of US 101 on Bald Hill Road, then 6½ miles south on unpaved Tall Trees Access Road</td>
<td>3½ miles semi-loop / 6 hours (includes drive to/from trailhead)</td>
<td>Moderately strenuous: 800-foot descent/ascent (out and back) over 1½ miles total from Tall Trees Grove. Old-growth redwoods, Redwood Creek access, Tall Trees Grove.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TRAILHEAD SECURITY! Whenever leaving your vehicle, secure all valuables and keep them out of sight. Better yet, take them with you!
To learn about available VIP opportunities and to apply online, visit www.volunteer.gov.

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