

Redwood



Redwood forest



Split Rock along the Coastal Trail



Rough-skinned newt



Bald Hills prairie and oak woodlands

Redwood National Park
Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park
Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park
Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park
California

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Department of Parks and Recreation
State of California

World's tallest living tree—monarch of the North Coast—living link to the Age of Dinosaurs. Redwoods grow from seeds the size of a tomato seed yet can weigh 500 tons and stand taller than the Statue of Liberty. Its foot-thick bark makes the tree all but impervious to fire and insects. Archibald Menzies first noted the coast redwood for western science in 1794. Its scientific name, *Sequoia sempervirens* (ever living), probably honors Cherokee leader Sequoyah. In 1918 paleontologists wanting to save this living link to our evolutionary past campaigned nationally to protect the trees.

Three California redwoods state parks resulted: Prairie Creek (1923), Del Norte (1925), and Jedediah Smith (1929). To preserve the trees' natural Coast Range setting and associated plants and animals, Redwood National Park was created in 1968 and expanded in 1978. The national park

boundary encircled the three state parks to better protect superlative ancient redwood forests. In 1994 the National Park Service and California Department of Parks and Recreation began managing the parklands cooperatively, aiming to manage the parks the same. That's why you see rangers in

state and national park uniforms anywhere in the parks, working for the same mission. The parks' designation as a World Heritage Site and part of the California Coast Ranges Biosphere Reserve reflects their worldwide recognition as irreplaceable treasures. Here, the diversity of life is protected for you, and

for future generations. Help us safeguard this special place by treating it with care and respect.

From Exploration to Preservation

In 1800 redwood forests probably covered two million acres. As mid-1800s gold fever subsided here, redwood fever replaced it. Seeming endless at first, the trees soon fell to determined logging. The State of California preserved some key groves in the 1920s. Congress created Redwood National Park in 1968 to protect the world's tallest trees and Redwood Creek's salmon fishery.

The 1978 park expansion provided a buffer zone between the park and logging upstream on private lands and a watershed restoration program to remove logging roads and rehabilitate thousands of acres of cut-over land. Redwood National and State Parks protect nearly 40,000 acres of ancient forest, almost half of all that remain.



Moving logs with steam power ushered in the industrial logging era.



Gold mining began after 1848 strikes on the Trinity River.

Mining and Logging California's northern coast was largely ignored by non-Indians until gold was discovered on Gold Bluffs Beach in 1850. Mining profits were marginal. Revived during the Civil War, the mines closed at the war's end. Various methods were tried later, but operations ceased by 1920. A few remains of mining operations still exist on Gold Bluffs Beach.

Logging began in redwood country in 1851. At first small logs were floated to small mills or dragged by oxen on skid roads. Railroads were used by the 1860s. Redwood (above left) 10 years later, the steam donkey (above right) 10 years later. Bulldozers were used by the 1920s; trucks by the 1940s. Redwood lumber built some of San Francisco's finest Victorian homes.

Coast redwoods can live to about 2,000 years old; they average 500 to 700 years old. They have no known killing diseases and do not suffer significant insect damage. Merely to stand in a redwood grove inspires many visitors to champion these trees' preservation.



Coast Redwood Facts
Height: To nearly 380 ft.
Age: To 2,000 years
Bark: To 12 in. thick
Base: To 22 ft. diam.
Reproduce: By seed or sprout
Seed size: Like a tomato seed
Cone size: Like a large olive

Giant Sequoia Facts
Height: To 311 ft.
Age: To 3,000 years
Bark: To 31 in. thick
Base: To 40 ft. diameter
Reproduce: By seed only
Seed size: Like an oak flake
Cone size: Like a chicken egg

From Seed and Sprout Redwoods like trees that grow over much of the Northern Hemisphere in the Age of Dinosaurs. Later climate change reduced redwood habitat to this narrow, fog-bound coastal corridor. (See "The Role of Fog" at lower right.)



Redwoods have no taproot; their roots penetrate only 10 to 13 feet deep but spread out 60 to 80 feet.

Treasures of Nature and Culture

From sea level to 3,200 feet in elevation in the Coast Range, a mild, moist climate assures the park an abundant diversity of wildlife. Elusive to visitors, many mammals, birds, amphibians, and insects live in the mature redwood forest. They depend on it for food and for shelter. Prairies form natural islands of grasslands, where wild-life abounds.



Roosevelt elk favor prairie and other open lands but seek forests for cover and shade. The park's largest land mammals, elk may exceed 1,000 pounds.

Prairies and Waterways Prairies and rivers reflect the changing of seasons far better than redwood groves do. In springtime, prairie wildflowers burst with color that gives way in the dry summer to the grasslands' amber glow. Prairies are the realm of raptors, the predatory red-tailed hawk, kestrel, and great horned owl, and their prey of gophers and meadow mice.

Mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, elk, and black-tailed deer frequent prairies kept free of trees by prescribed fire and grazing elk.

Acorn-bearing Oregon white oaks edge prairies at the higher elevations. Oaks provided protein-rich food for Indians, who cleared the understory with fire. Prairies make good birding spots. There you may see the goldeneye, junco, flect the changing of seasons far better than redwood groves do.

Watershed Protection Congress expanded the national park in 1978 and directed the National Park Service to rehabilitate logged-over lands. Bulldozers recontoured hillsides and stream channels to restore conditions that



favor return of natural vegetation. Congress also created a 30,000-acre protection zone upstream from the park in Redwood Creek's watershed. This limits effects of the timber harvesting there on the park downstream.

American Indians have lived along the redwood coast for thousands of years. Belonging to several different groups, they speak different languages, despite living in a relatively small area. Before non-Indian people arrived in the 1850s, Indian villages, with their split-plank structures (above top), dotted the coast and lined major rivers.



Travel was by redwood dugout canoes (above) on waterways and by foot on an elaborate trail system. Foods varied with the seasons. They fished ocean and rivers, hunted land and marine mammals, and gathered nuts, seeds, and berries.

Indians of the Redwood Coast



Some members still speak the languages. Traditional ceremonies are held, hunting and fishing are still important, and the traditional arts and crafts are kept alive.

Redwood National and State Parks lie in traditional territories of three Indian groups. Yurok and Tolowa groups still exist; the Chilula have assimilated into the inland Hupa culture.

Life Along the Seacoast

Even apart from the Coast Range and its lofty forests, the coastline here would justify national or state park status. Rugged and largely unaltered by humans, the coastline features stretches of steep and rocky cliffs broken by rolling slopes. Generally rocky, its tidal zone can be tough to traverse. Gold Bluffs Beach is an exception, with its seven-mile stretch of dunes and sandy beach. On the coastline you may discover a rich mix of forms of life that live in the distinct habitats illustrated below.

Offshore Between shore and the deep ocean here an average surface acre is as productive as an acre of fertilized agricultural land. The basic wealth lies in phytoplankton, single-celled plants.

Sea lions feed beyond the surf and haul out on shore or on sea stacks. Harbor seals swim in the surf and haul out in sheltered coves. Sea birds nest offshore on rocks.

The California Current flows south. It works with offshore winds to draw nutrients up from deep waters, providing food for many coastal creatures. Moisture-laden air off the California Current condenses as low clouds over cold water near shore.

Intertidal Zone Tides rise and fall twice daily on a 25-hour lunar cycle. In the zone between high and low tide, life forms arrange themselves based on tolerance for exposure to air and/or water and wave shock. Other biological limits are predators and competition for food and space.

A splash zone above high tide is home for periwinkle snails and beach hoppers that can withstand episodic wetting and wave shock. Splash zone species are transitional to life on land than in the sea. Mussels cling to rocks in the high-tide zone, covered

by water only at high tide. Shells let them tolerate temporary exposure to air and direct sunlight. Seaweeds provide oxygen, food, and shelter for intertidal zone residents. Some kelp, anchored in deep water, with built-in floats, are tall as redwood trees. Tidepools shelter life in rocky beach outcroppings. Tidepool dwellers cope with great changes in water temperature, salinity, and nutrient content. Here are barnacles, limpets, nudibranchs, ochre sea stars, sea urchins, and erect sea palms anchored by rootlike hold-fasts.

Beaches On sandy beaches observes wet and dry zones, too, because of tides and waves. The lower beach is often wetted while upper beaches are like deserts between sea and lush coastal forest. Clams and mole crabs burrow in wet lower beaches. Sanderlings follow retreating waves lines to forage on washed-up organisms.

From Ocean to Forest A marbled murrelet is a robin-sized seabird that flies deep into the old-growth forest to lay its egg high in tree tops on a large moss-covered limb. Unfortunately, its ancient habitat has been greatly reduced by forest fragmentation.

Sea Cliffs Northern park beaches tend to be rocky and backed by sea cliffs. Southern beaches tend to be backed by bluffs. Over half of the park's birds are marine species. Some nest—often as crowds—in sea cliffs, murres, comorants, puffins, auklets, gulls, and pigeon guillemots.

The Role of Fog As air warmed by inland heat passes over the cold, near-shore waters, fog forms—in summer almost daily. Fog helps to approximate the mild, moist climate that prevailed during the Age of Dinosaurs, when redwood-like species grew over much of North America.

through leaf surfaces. Fog collects on trees and then its precious moisture drops to the forest floor. Fog is not essential to redwoods, but its absence would reduce their range.

Fog brings the redwood forest relief from the dry summer, too. It reduces the loss of water

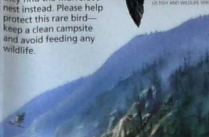
Many of the parks' animal species thrive along the coast. Brown pelicans are summer visitors. Cormorants take to lagoon or river and shore waters. Willets and sanderlings work the beach. Offshore may be Pacific gray whales in migration, seals, sea lions, dolphins, porpoises, and orca whales. In the intertidal areas the cycle of rising and falling tides have produced tightly zoned layers of life. To help protect these animals, the national park boundary extends one-quarter mile offshore.



Periwinkle snail



Ochre sea star



Marbled murrelet



Brown pelican



A park interpreter shares natural lore of the rocky tidepools with visitors to the park's Pacific shore.

Exploring the Redwood Coast

Redwood National and State Parks represent a cooperative management effort of the National Park Service and the California Department of Parks and Recreation. This includes Redwood National Park, Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. Together these parks are a World Heritage Site and an International Biosphere Reserve that protect resources cherished by citizens of many nations. Information in this brochure can help you decide what to see and do during the time you have to visit the parks. Services and facilities are also listed or described.

24-hr. recorded information 707-464-6101
24-hr. dispatch 916-358-1300

Call area code 707 and these numbers for:
Crescent City Information Center 465-7335
Kuchel Visitor Center 465-7765
Prairie Creek Visitor Center 488-2171
Houchi Information Center (seasonal) 458-3294
Jedediah Smith Visitor Center (seasonal) 458-3486

Accessibility We strive to make our facilities, services, and programs accessible to all; call or check our website.

Emergencies call 911

More Information
National Park Service: www.nps.gov
California State Parks: www.parks.ca.gov

Redwood National and State Parks
1111 Second Street
Crescent City, CA 95531-4198
www.nps.gov/redw

Houchi Area

Houchi Information Center
The information center is open in the summer season. It offers a good place to begin your visit to the national and state parks if you are approaching the north end of the parks on US 199. Exhibits and interpretive publications tell about the parks, their trees and coastline, and other related topics. Trail maps are available.

Crescent City Area

Park Headquarters
The headquarters for Redwood National and State Parks is at 1111 Second Street in Crescent City. Information and interpretive publications are available here year-round. For more information about the parks, call 707-464-6101. Nearby attractions are the Battery Point Lighthouse, Del Norte County Historical Museum, and the harbor at Citizens Dock. A walkway connects all commercial attractions and private campgrounds at the Chamber of Commerce on Front Street, across the street from park headquarters.

Crescent Beach
Picnicking and walking on the beach are popular activities at Crescent Beach, just two miles south of Crescent City off Enders Beach Road.

Klamath Area

False Klamath Cove
False Klamath Cove lies five miles north of the Klamath River. A protected beach and picnic area are located at the mouth of Wilson Creek.

Lagoon Creek
Picnic and enjoy the beach. The Yurok Loop Trail (one mile, one hour) gradually climbs to the top of the sea bluffs for panoramic ocean views. Look for wildflowers in season and, perhaps, views of sea mammals.

Prairie Creek Area

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park
From US 101 you can reach the park via the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway, an eight-mile stretch of the original Redwood Highway that provides one of the park's most scenic drives through old-growth redwood forest. You will find park information, exhibits, and interpretive publications at the Prairie Creek Visitor Center. Camping is available at Elk Prairie campground. Cal-Barrel Road is an unpaved scenic drive through the redwood forest (trailers prohibited).

Orick Area

Bald Hills Road
Do not take trailers or motor homes on the steep—15 percent—grade here. Parking for trailers is available at the Redwood Creek trailhead and Kuchel Visitor Center.

Walk the Lady Bird Johnson Grove self-guiding loop trail (1.5 miles, one hour), reached from Bald Hills Road. It threads through mature forest to the grove and site at which Lady Bird Johnson dedicated the national park in 1968.

A limited number of permits for private vehicles are issued on a first-come, first-served basis to reach the trailhead for the Tall Trees Grove. The free permits are available at Kuchel Visitor Center and Crescent City Information Center. Allow

General Information

Camping Facilities Developed campgrounds in Jedediah Smith Redwoods and Del Norte Coast Redwoods state parks have hot showers, restrooms, and disposal stations. Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park campgrounds provide heated showers and restrooms, but no disposal stations. Trailers up to 24 feet long and motor homes up to 27 feet are allowed, except at Gold Bluffs Beach where trailers are prohibited and motor homes up to 24 feet long are allowed. There are no trailer hookups in the parks. There are several primitive backcountry campgrounds for backpackers; some can also accommodate bicyclists, horses, and/or pack animals.

For camping reservations call 1-800-444-7275 for at least 48 hours in advance of your stay. Reservations are usually necessary in summer. The nearest group campgrounds are at Jedediah Smith Redwoods and Patrick's Point state parks. Other public campgrounds are located in Six Rivers National Forest: Grassy Flat, Big Flat, and Patrick Creek are closed in winter. Reservations can be made at some national forest campgrounds by calling 1-877-444-6777.

Outdoor Education Outdoor education is available at two sites in the parks. Howland Hill Outdoor School and Wolf Creek Education Center are available for educational programming and conferences on a reservation system only. Please see their phone numbers at the top of this page next to the map.

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park
Here you can camp, picnic, hike, fish, swim, and float the Smith River. There are no life-guards. Interpretive exhibits and publications are available at the visitor center. Interpretive walks and talks are offered in summer.

Howland Hill Road, an alternate route to Crescent City, is an unpaved, narrow, scenic drive through the redwood forest. It provides entry

Enders Beach Road
The road leads to Crescent Beach Overlook, a good place to watch whales, have a picnic, or just take in the scenery. A section of the Coastal Trail (1.2 miles round-trip) follows tall bluffs, then drops to the sandy Enders Beach. The hike-in Nickel Creek backcountry camp (0.5 mile) just above the beach offers five sites with access free. Free permits required, available year-round from Crescent City Information Center and Kuchel Visitor Center. Picnic tables, grills, and a pit toilet are provided. There is no water. In summer 2- to 2.5-hour tidepool or seashore walks are conducted, tides permitting. They begin at the parking area, descend to the beach, and explore rocky tidepools at its southern end.

Requa Road
Requa Road leads from US 101 up to the Klamath River Overlook, some 600 feet above the estuary at the Klamath River's mouth. There the Coastal Trail leads down to a spur trail leading to another overlook some 200 feet above the ocean. Wildlife-watching can be good in this area.

Coastal Drive
This narrow, scenic, partially paved drive (connect with Alder Camp Road for an eight-mile, 30-minute, loop drive) winds through stands of redwood, offering close looks at the Klamath River and breathtaking views of crashing surf and the expansive Pacific Ocean. Don't miss the World War II radar station. It looks like a farmhouse and barn—that was its disguise in the

1940s. The smaller structure housed the power supply. The operations building housed an oscilloscope and radar technicians. Near the junction with the Alder Camp Road the High Bluff picnic area provides panoramic views of the coast from its location atop the bluff. Another point of interest is the old Douglas Memorial Bridge that was destroyed by flooding in 1964. Access sections of the Coastal Trail from Coastal Drive or Alder Camp Road; first camping at First Ridge backcountry camp. The Coastal Drive is a narrow and mostly unpaved road with steep grades and sharp curves. Vehicles with trailers and motor homes are prohibited.

Coastal Trail
Multiple sections of the Coastal Trail (see map) explore beaches, bluffs, grasslands, former farm land, and redwood and other forests. With substantial road links and other trails, the Coastal Trail enables you to backpack nearly the length of the parks, from Enders Beach Road in the north to the Tall Trees Grove in the south. Backcountry camps are provided at (north to south) Nickel Creek, DeMartin, and Flint Ridge. There is a campground at Gold Bluffs Beach. Free backcountry permits are required for all backcountry campsites. They are available from Kuchel Visitor Center and Crescent City Information Center. For more information on the Coastal Trail, ask at park information centers for maps and publications.

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park
Here you can camp, hike, and backpack. Interpretive walks and talks are offered in summer. Mill Creek campground is open in summer.

Lost Man Creek
Take the short unpaved, scenic drive through the redwood forest. Trailers are not advised. This area offers hiking and mountain biking trails and picnicking facilities. Lost Man Creek Trail leads past the World Heritage Site dedication area and on to a cascade on Lost Man Creek. Continue past old-growth forest and into second-growth habitat, 11 miles one-way.

Lost Man Creek
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Trailhead
Camping is allowed only on gravel bars along Redwood Creek, and only upstream from the confluence of McArthur Creek, 1.5 miles from the Redwood Creek trailhead. Camping is not permitted within 25 miles of the Tall Trees Grove. Free permits are required for camping along Redwood Creek. They are available from Kuchel Visitor Center and Crescent City Information Center.

Kuchel Visitor Center
If you are approaching the parks from the south, make this your first stop. View the exhibits and browse publications that tell about the area, its trees, coastline, and related topics. Trail maps are available.

Park Regulations Redwood National and State Parks are managed under special regulations to protect park resources and you. • All plants and animals are protected; mushroom gathering is prohibited. You may gather fungi and berries for your personal consumption. • California fishing licenses are required for freshwater and ocean fishing. California Department of Fish and Game fishing regulations apply to all waters within the parks. • Tidepools are fragile environments, and collecting is not permitted. • Do not hunt, trap, or carry loaded firearms on park lands; for firearms regulations check the park websites. • Keep pets restrained at all times; pets are prohibited on all park trails. • Camp and build fires only in areas designated for such uses. • Damaging or removing any government structure, sign, or marker is prohibited. • Help keep the park clean and litter-free; take out what you bring in. • Horseback riding and mountain biking are allowed only on certain designated trails. Information centers can provide you with more detailed information on trails. If you have questions, check at an information center or ask a patrolling park ranger.

For Your Protection Always lock your unattended car and place all valuables out of sight in the trunk or, preferably, carry them with you. If you are the victim of a theft, or if you witness vandalism, call the nearest law enforcement officer or information center.

Private Land
Some lands within the parks remain private property. Respect landowners' rights; do not trespass.

Unpaved road
Trail
Campground
Backcountry campsite (free permit required)



FOR YOUR SAFETY

- 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 "breaker" waves can occur at any time. They will quickly pull you into the water and summer 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.

Yurok Reservation
The lands within one mile of each side of the Klamath River from the Pacific Ocean to 40 miles upstream compose the Yurok Reservation.

Redwood National Park
The park includes the following areas: Bald Hills Road, Dry Lagoon Beach, Stone Lagoon, and Humboldt Lagoons State Park.

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park
Includes areas like Mill Creek, Vista Point, and Sister Rocks.

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park
Includes areas like Elk Prairie and Big Tree Wayside.

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park
Includes areas like Howland Hill, Enders Beach, and Nickel Creek.

Toiyah Dunes State Park
Includes areas like Lake Earl and Lake Tule.

Redwood Creek Trailhead
A key trailhead for exploring the parks.