Coastal Focus...4
Miles of coast to explore, but where to start? Park Ranger Pete Peterson offers an inside tip for visiting one of his favorite coastal locations. Also, discover the best places for viewing coastal and marine wildlife (including whales!), and learn how you can help protect these resources—wherever you live!

Short Walks...6
Pressured for time, or looking for a leisurely, family-friendly way to sample Redwood's riches? You're in luck! Some of the parks' most spectacular trails are also short and easy. Our recommended walks feature ancient, old-growth forests and a coastal stroll with stunning views.

Scenic Drives...7
Just passing through? Our recommended scenic drives through ancient forests, rugged coastline, upland prairies, and oak woodlands will have you planning a return visit in no time! If you're in a motorhome/RV or pulling a trailer, please acknowledge any vehicle type/size advisories and restrictions.

Camping...10
Redwood's campgrounds and backcountry campsites offer truly unique opportunities for individuals and groups of diverse ages, interests, and skills. Campers with bikes or horses are welcome, too! Careful planning and knowledge of camping regulations will help ensure an enjoyable and safe experience.

Welcome to Redwood!
Most visitors know Redwood National and State Parks as home to the world's tallest trees—icons that inspire visions of mist-laden primeval forests bordering crystal-clear streams. But did you know that the parks also protect vast prairies, oak woodlands, and nearly 40 miles of wild coastline, all of which support rich mosaic of wildlife diversity and cultural traditions?

We invite you to explore each of these varied habitats by taking our extensive trail network through ancient forests and along tranquil rivers, beachcombing and tidepooling, or simply parking on a high coastal bluff to watch gray whales, orcas, and Steller sea lions. Our moderate climate makes any season an excellent time to visit: spring releases a flood of wildflowers and migratory birds; summer brings warm, dry weather and ranger-guided activities; autumn offers sun-drenched days and flashes of fall color; and winter invites hundreds of spawning salmon to make the ultimate journey home to their natal streams.

We welcome you to this special place, and hope you and your family's experiences at Redwood National and State Parks inspire a lifetime of stewardship of our natural and cultural treasures.

Jeff Bomke
Superintendent, California State Parks

jeff.bomke@parcs.ca.gov

Steve Chaney
Superintendent, National Park Service

steve.chaney@nps.gov

The "Coast" in Coast Redwoods

A cool breeze pours down from distant green hills to the ocean. Last night's high tide scoured the beach, erasing yesterday's footprints. Long gray trunks—remnants of once colossal trees—litter the sand, floated out from nearby creeks and tossedunceremoniously upon the shore. Glancing east, fingers of fog drift down the narrow canyons backed by the sun rising over the spired tips of towering coast redwoods.

It's a typical spring morning on California's North Coast. Here, a delicate balance of ocean and earth is home to a forest of giants.

Coast redwoods (Sequoia sempervirens) require an enormous amount of moisture to survive. A single old-growth coast redwood tree consumes up to 400 gallons of water each day! The Pacific Ocean slakes this thirst: From October through April, a blanket of fog creeps north, taking with it the heavy clouds and storms of winter. The California Current pulls warm surface water away from the coast, bringing deeper and colder water from the ocean's depths to our drier summer. It is estimated that coast redwoods gather up to a third of their annual moisture from this fog.

These oceanic influences ensure fairly constant year-round temperatures along California's redwood coast: mid-50s to mid-60s°F—see chart on page 2. (Locals complain about the heat waves and short bursts of winter chill, the moderate, almost Mediterranean climate permits redwoods to focus their energies on growing to extraordinary heights, rather than in protecting themselves from nature's extremes. Humans, however, may be creating new challenges. Recent studies suggest that rising global temperatures are changing regional fog patterns. A long-term decrease in fog would severely impact the coast redwoods' ability to outlast periods of extended drought.

While the awe-inspiring forests of Redwood National and State Parks likely brought you here, 37 miles of dramatic, scenic coast-line beckon you to see more than the trees. Whether backpacking along an isolated beach or just enjoying a jaw-dropping panorama, you'll gain further appreciation for the coast as a nursery for the world's tallest living things. But you may also be compelled to consider your role in ensuring similar experiences in this special place for future generations. What's good for the coast is good for coast redwoods. After all, they grow only here for a reason.

Jeff Denny, Park Ranger
Information Centers: A Great Start

Five information centers provide orientation, information, and trip-planning advice. Park rangers are on duty. Cooperating association (see right) bookstores offer books, maps, and more.

Crescent City Information Center
Information, exhibits, park film, passport stamps, restrooms, picnic area, Junior Ranger workbook.
Location: 1111 Second Street, Crescent City, Calif.
Operating Hours: Summer: Open daily, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Winter: Open daily, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Spring and fall: Open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Phone: 707-465-7335

Hiouchi Information Center
Information, exhibits, passport stamps, restrooms, picnic area, ranger-led activities and programs (summer only), Junior Ranger programs (summer only) and workbook.
Location: 9 miles northeast of Crescent City, Calif., on U.S. 199.
Operating Hours: Summer: Open daily, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Off-season: As staffing permits—please call ahead.
Phone: 707-458-3294

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 U.S. 199.
Operating Hours: Summer: Open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Off-season: Friday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., as staffing permits.
Phone: 707-458-3496

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.
Operating Hours: Open daily (year-round), 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Phone: 707-488-2171

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 U.S. 101.
Operating Hours: Summer: Open daily, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Winter: Open daily, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Spring and fall: Open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Phone: 707-465-7765

The Fine Print: What You Need to Know

Dates and Hours of Operation
Redwood National and State Parks is open year-round. Operations at the three information centers (above) and campgrounds (see page 10) maintain seasonal hours of operation.

Fees and Reservations
Redwood National Park is free to visit. Jedediah Smith Redwood, Del Norte Coast Redwood, and Prairie Creek Redwood state parks collect day-use fees at campground entrance stations. Fees are required at all campgrounds and some backcountry campgrounds; reservations may also be required (see pages 10-11).

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-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 before entering National Park Service-administered lands within Redwood National and State Parks. Federal law also prohibits firearms in certain facilities 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 National Redwood and State Parks.

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

Backcountry
Permits are required for camping at some backcountry campgrounds; fees may apply (see page 10).

Tall Trees Access Road
The gated Tall Trees Access Road is only accessible via free permit available from the Thomas H. Kuchel Visitor Center (see above). A maximum of 50 permits per day are issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

Sportfishing
Ocean and freshwater sportfishing requires a California fishing license for those 16 years-old and older and must be in accordance with California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) regulations (available online at www.dfg.ca.gov). For more information, contact any information center (see above) or the CDFG Northern Region Field Office in Eureka at (707) 445-6499.

Collecting and Vandalism
With the exception of apples (five per person per day) and berries, acorns, hazel nuts and unoccupied seashells (one gallon per person per day), collecting, defacing, or collecting plants, animals, rocks, historic or archaeological objects without a permit in prohibited. Please leave these resources as you find them for others to enjoy.

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.

We Can’t Do It Alone!
Redwood Parks Association (RPA) is a not-for-profit cooperating association established to aid and support the interpretive programs within Redwood National and State Parks and other public lands along California’s North Coast. Proceeds from sales at visitor centers and online (see below) are returned directly to the parks to support interpretive staffing needs, special events, exhibits, signage, and publications— including this visitor guide.

To learn more (or to shop!), visit RPA online at: www.redwoodparksassociation.org.
FAQs: Where can I…

...take my pet for a walk?
With the exception of guide animals, pets are not allowed on park trails, at ranger-led programs, or in park buildings. Pets on a leash not exceeding six feet in length are allowed on all road-accessible beaches (excluding dune habitat), within 100 feet of public roads and parking areas, and at designated picnic areas, only.

...have a campfire?
Fires are only permitted in park-provided grills and fire rings at picnic areas, campgrounds, and designated backcountry campgrounds; on Redwood Creek gravel bars, per conditions of a valid permit; and, on beach wave slopes. Up to 50 pounds of dead and downed wood (including driftwood) may be collected by hand for use as firewood at these locations.

...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/hiker campsties are available at all developed campgrounds and at some backcountry campgrounds. See pages 10-11 for more information.

...ride my horse or travel with pack animals?
Travel with horses and/or pack animals is permitted only on trails designated for that purpose (see page 11). Camping with horses is allowed at two stock-ready campgrounds along these routes; fees may be required. Inquire at any information center (see page 2) or see pages 10-11 for more information.

...take my motorhome, RV, or trailer?
With the exception of major highways, the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway, and access roads to information centers and campgrounds (though length limits may apply—see page 10), motorhomes, recreational vehicles (RVs), and trailers are either restricted or prohibited on other roadways. Check-out the map on pages 6-7 or inquire at any information center (see page 2) for additional information.

...have a picnic?
Picnic tables are available at numerous locations throughout the parks, including all information centers (see page 2). Help Keep Wildlife Wild: never feed wildlife, properly dispose of all garbage—even crumbs; store food and other odorous items in airtight containers, out-of-sight in a locked car or bear-proof locker.

...find lodging?
While there are no lodging services (hotels, motels, or hostels, etc.) within Redwood National and State Parks, lodging is available in and around nearby communities—contact local chambers of commerce (see “Area Information,” above) for more information.

...dine or purchase groceries?
There are no food services within Redwood National and State Parks. Restaurants and groceries are available in and around nearby communities—contact local chambers of commerce for more information (see “Area Information,” above). Full-service grocery stores are available in Brookings, Ore., and Crescent City. Join a park ranger-naturalist 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 hiking shoes or boots (no sandals) with non-slip soles—they will get wet!

...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 glimpses of these giants (just keep an eye on the road!). Look for ancient coast redwoods along U.S. 199 through Jedediah Smith State Park; on U.S. 101, especially just south of Crescent City, Cal. In Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park—it’s not called the Redwood Highway for nothing!
In Depth: Coastal Connections

The (not so) Great Pacific Garbage Patch
We’ve all seen litter accumulate in cities and along roadways. Much of it collects in storm drains, canals, rivers, and streams where it flows into our oceans. Driven by currents—sometimes thousands of miles from its origin—some marine debris is de- posited ashore by wind and tide. Indeed, take a walk along any beach in the world and you’ll find accumulations of plastic and garbage. Even the seemingly pristine beaches of Redwood National and State Parks are not immune to this unsightly plight. But these are just the more visible signs of a larger problem—much larger.

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a vast concentration of floating plastics, chemicals, and other debris gathered by ocean currents. Waste from across the North Pacific Ocean is drawn in by the rotational movement of the North Pacific Gyre where it becomes “trapped” in a large and relatively stable region at its center. Estimates for the extent of the Garbage Patch vary by sampling method, but range from 270,000 mi² (700,000 km²) to 5,800,000 mi² (15,000,000 km²); some reports suggest up to 10 times the size of the continental United States.

Regardless of size, composition, and location, man-made debris and garbage simply do not belong in our oceans. Much more than an eyesore, it threatens human health and safety (on land and at sea), damages critical habitat, and kills wildlife; an estimated one million seabirds and 100,000 marine mammals and sea turtles are killed each year by ingesting marine litter, entanglement, or choking.

But you can help, even if you live far from the ocean.
• Dispose of all trash properly.
• Participate in a beach, bay, or storm drain cleanup in your area.
• Reduce, reuse, and recycle!
• Avoid buying plastic products (they can take centuries to degrade in the ocean).
• Avoid buying products with excessive packaging.

To learn more, visit the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Marine Debris Program online at www.marine-debris.noaa.gov

Park Ranger’s Pick:
Pete Peterson on the Klamath River Overlook

As a park ranger, I’m often asked which place in the parks is my favorite. It’s a tough question—there are so many incredible things to see and do here at Redwood National and State Parks. But for me, the Klamath River Overlook near Requa, Calif. is at the top of my list (see map on pages 6–7). Perched 640 feet above the Pacific Ocean, the overlook offers amazing views of the parks’ rugged and scenic coastline. While most visitors come to Redwood for the world’s tallest trees, few are aware of this vast and equally important resource: nearly 40 miles of pristine coastline are protected within these parklands out to a distance of 1/4 mile offshore. From the Klamath River Overlook you’ll begin to appreciate why.

But be forewarned, however: the overlook can be shrouded in coastal fog on many summer days or buffeted by high winds and drenching rain in winter. But on those extraordinary days when it’s clear and calm, you can see hundreds of miles from this lofty vantage point. Below, offshore rocks, crags, and small islands known collectively as sea stacks provide critical nesting habitat for seabirds such as the common murre and the double-crested cormorant. Sea stacks also provide a safe place for sea lions and harbor seals to haul themselves out of the cold water to rest and soak-up some sunshine. Composed of harder, erosion-resistant rock, sea stacks are the remnants of an older coastline; centuries of ocean storms and pounding surf eroded the softer rocks away.

I’m equally compelled to the overlook for its spectacular views of the nisene—waiting to be explored by the mighty Klamath River. Here, at the river’s mouth, freshwater merges with seawater after a journey of over 260 miles that begins high in the snow laden Cascade Mountains of southern Oregon. The river drains a watershed of over 15,000 square miles (about three times the size of Connecticut) and is prime habitat for Chinook and coho salmon, steelhead, rainbow trout, sturgeon, lamprey, and several species of suckers. For millennia, the Yurok, Hupa, Karuk, Shasta, and Klamath people have depended on these fisheries for their cultural livelihood.

Wildlife of the Redwood Coast

Nowhere in Redwood National and State Parks is the wildlife more diverse than along the Pacific Ocean coast. A great variety of birds, tidepools inhab- itants, sea mammals, and other creatures dwell in a rich mosaic of habitats protected by the sea. Take map on pages 6–7 for location mentioned below.

Offshore
The Crescent City, Klamath River, and Gold Bluffs Overlook provide ideal offshore wildlife viewing opportunities. Also look for seals and sea lions from the Crescent City Harbor (see Anchors Way off U.S. 101).
• Harbor seal (Phoca vitulina)
• Pacific gray whale (Eschrichtius robustus)
• Common dolphin (Delphinus delphis)
• Surf scoter (Melanitta perspicillata)
• California sea lion (Zalophus californianus)

Beaches
Sandy beaches ideal for birding include Crescent and Enderts beaches just south of Crescent City, Calif., Gold Bluff Beach in Prairie Creek Redwood State Park, and Ferndale Beach southwest of Drick, Calif.
• Kelp gull (Larus dominicus)
• Western sandpiper (Calidris mauri)
• Western gull (Larus occidentalis)
• Sanderling (Calidris alba)
• Willet (Catoptrophorus semipalmatus)

As a park ranger, I’m often asked which place in the parks is my favorite. It’s a tough question—there are so many incredible things to see and do here at Redwood National and State Parks. But for me, the Klamath River Overlook near Requa, Calif. is at the top of my list (see map on pages 6–7). Perched 640 feet above the Pacific Ocean, the overlook offers amazing views of the parks’ rugged and scenic coastline. While most visitors come to Redwood for the world’s tallest trees, few are aware of this vast and equally important resource: nearly 40 miles of pristine coastline are protected within these parklands out to a distance of 1/4 mile offshore. From the Klamath River Overlook you’ll begin to appreciate why.

But it’s the opportunity to witness another amazing journey—a 12,000-mile roundtrip migration—that, for me, makes the Klamath River Overlook so special. From early December to the end of January, approximately 18,000 to 20,000 Pacific gray whales pass by the overlook as they migrate from feeding grounds off Alaska to the warm-water breeding lagoons of Baja California and Mexico. Then again, from mid-February to the end of May, they make the return trip north. At high tide on a calm, clear day visitors may see dozens of whales passing near the river mouth. Look for their distinctive 6- to 12-foot high “blow” as they exhale at the surface. And, if you’re lucky, you may even see a “breach” which occurs when a whale launches its body out of the water.

Park ranger–naturalists regularly staff the Klamath River Overlook during March to assist whale watchers—inquire at any information center (see page 2) for schedules. I know I’ve enjoyed my time there, helping visitors from around the world catch a glimpse of these magnificent creatures for the first time in their life. For most of them, as well as for me, it’s an experience that simply can’t be forgotten. Hope to see you there!

Tidepools
A ranger-led tidepool walk is a great way to experience these wondrous environments—inquire at any information center (see page 2) or campground bulletin board for details. Oh, had I known on my own to Enderts Beach or False Klamath Cove! However you explore, tread lightly and with care; tidepool creatures are delicate and their rocky habitat can be treacherous.
• California mussel (Mytilus californianus)
• Ochre sea star (Pisaster ochraceus)
• Purple shore crab (Hemigrapsus nudus)
• Shell impale (Gallina pecta)
• Giant green anemone (Anthopleura xanthogrammica)

Sea Stacks
Communities along the parks’ northern coast, observe the sea stack life from False Klamath Cove, including the Yurok Loop Trail (see page 6), and from the numerous pullouts along Pebble Beach Drive in Crescent City, Calif. The 14-acre Castle Rock near Point St. George is a National Wildlife Refuge and home to the second-largest nesting seabird colony south of Alaska.
• Common murre (Uria aalge)
• Brown pelican (Pelicanus occidentalis)
• Black oystercatcher (Haematopus bachmani)
• Brandt’s cormorant (Phalacrocorax penelope)
• Double-crested cormorant (Phalacrocorax auritus)
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 distinctive 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 distinguishable from its California relatives by its smaller size and deciduous leaves.

**Distribution:** Central China.
**Height:** To 40 feet (15 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.
**Habitat/climate:** Indeterminate.

G IANT 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 30 feet (9 m).
**Diameter:** To 40 feet (12 m).
**Age:** To more than 5,000 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 370 feet (113 m) or more.
**Diameter:** To 22 feet (7 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 U.S. 101.
• Gold Bluffs Beach (day-use fee area; from Elk Meadow (see above), continue four unpaved miles on Davison Road (trailer 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 U.S. 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 U.S. 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.

**Adapt:** Adult males (bulls) weigh up to 1,200 pounds and will aggressively guard their harems, especially during the fall mating season. Fern 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.

**Habitat:** Evergreen; both needle- and 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.

The edges of this once untouched 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.

**You are the link!** Please: Never feed wildlife—ever. Keep campsites, picnic areas, and trails free of food and garbage. Leave no cumb behind! 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. Its 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.

**You are the link!** Please: Never feed wildlife—ever. Keep campsites, picnic areas, and trails free of food and garbage. Leave no cumb behind! Together, we can ensure a place in the wild for a rare bird.

Jeff Denny, Park Ranger
Recommended Short Walks

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

Yurok Loop Trail
- Easy; Level trail surface with non-steep grades
- Distance & Duration: 1.1 mi; 45-60 minutes
- Location: Trailhead begins at the signed Lagoon Creek picnic area, 15 miles south of Crescent City, Calif. or 0.6 mi north of Klamath, Calif. on U.S. 101
- Description: With spectacular views of False Klamath Cove and Lagoon Creek, this trail traverses a fine example of coastal scrub forest plants, including Sitka sedge, Douglas fir, cow parsley, wild cucumber, cat’s claw, yarrow, and a variety of berries. Bring a binoculars and scout for seabirds among the sea stacks.

Revelation Trail
- Easy; Level trail surface
- Distance & Duration: 0.3 mi; 15 minutes
- Location: Trailhead located at the Prairie Creek Visitor Center, 1 mile north of U.S. 101 on the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway
- Description: With spectacular views of False Klamath Cove and Lagoon Creek, this trail traverses a fine example of coastal scrub forest plants, including Sitka sedge, Douglas fir, cow parsley, wild cucumber, cat’s claw, yarrow, and a variety of berries. Bring a binoculars and scout for seabirds among the sea stacks.

Recommended Scenic Drives

Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway
- Most of the road is paved; Motorhomes/RVs and trailers prohibited
- Distance & Duration: 99 miles, one way, 1 hour
- Description: With spectacular views of False Klamath Cove and Lagoon Creek, this trail traverses a fine example of coastal scrub forest plants, including Sitka sedge, Douglas fir, cow parsley, wild cucumber, cat’s claw, yarrow, and a variety of berries. Bring a binoculars and scout for seabirds among the sea stacks.

Recommended Scenic Drives

Coastal Drive
- Paved; No commercial vehicles permitted
- Distance & Duration: 10 miles, one way, 20-30 minutes
- Description: Historic drive along the Pacific Ocean with spectacular views of the coastline and ocean. Stop at various scenic viewpoints along the way to take in the picturesque views and enjoy a picnic with a view.
**Directions:** From Klamath, Calif.: drive south 1 mile on U.S. 101 over the Klamath River and exit Klamath Beach Road; follow signs to Coastal Drive. From Orick, Calif., drive north 6 miles on U.S. 101 and exit Newton-B. Drury Scenic Parkway (see above), continue 9 miles to sign to Coastal Drive.

**Description:** This narrow road with steep grades and sharp curves offers wide 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 with breathtaking views at the Bluff Overlook and don’t miss the World War II radar station—dug in the 1940s to look like a humble farmhouse and barn. Hiking and backcountry camping can be accessed from the Flint Ridge section of the Coastal Trail.

### Bald Hills Road

- **Distance & Duration:** 17 miles, one way from Klamath, Calif. to junction with U.S. 101; about 13 miles Bald Hills Road becomes unpaved.
- **Directions:** Ascend a steep, 15 percent grade through old-growth redwood (with trail access to the Lady Bird Johnson and Tall Trees groves) before passing through several open prairie meadows, with spring wildflowers, Roosevelt elk, and black bear. Along the way, the Redwood Creek Overlook provides outstanding views of the namesake drainage as well as the Pacific Ocean in the distance. Further on are trailheads leading to the picturesque and historic Delbon and Lyons ranch sites. Near the southernmost part of Redwood National Park is Schoolhouse Peak—the highest point in the parks at 3,097 feet.

### Howland Hill Road

- **Distance & Duration:** 10 miles, one way from Crescent City, Calif., to junction with U.S. 199 near Hiouchi, Calif.; 45 minutes.
- **Directions:** From Crescent City, Calif.: drive south 1 mile on U.S. 101 and turn left (west/northwest) onto Elk Valley Road; continue 1 mile and turn right (west) onto Howland Hill Road; after 11 miles the road becomes unpaved as it enters Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park; continue another 5/2 miles on Howland Hill Road until it becomes Douglas Park Road (paved); after 1/3 miles turn left onto South Fork Road; after 1/3 mile South Fork Road junctions with U.S. 199 just east of Hiouchi, Calif.

**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.

**On the Road:** When driving, mountainous road and wet or foggy conditions can be hazardous—please drive slowly and watch for wildlife. 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

- **Distance & Duration:** 120 miles south of Crescent City, Calif. (State Route 254) is a 32-mile scenic drive that parallels U.S. 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 and around communities along the route; enjoy auto touring, picnicking, camping, hiking, bicycling, 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.

**Drive Through a Tree?**

Carving a hole through a coast redwood reflects a time passed when we didn’t fully appreciate the significance of all organisms and their interplay with the environment. 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 U.S. 101 in Klamath, Myers Flat, and Logget, 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.
A Landscape of Change  
False Klamath Cove Yesterday & Today

AFTER 22 YEARS ACCOMMODATING TRAVELERS FROM AROUND the world, the Redwood National Park Hostel at Wilson Creek closed its doors indefinitely on January 18, 2010 due to insurmountable restoration costs. Certainly, this change will displace many visitors and locals alike, for whom this much-loved structure maintains an iconic status. But change is nothing new to this area. Indeed, False Klamath Cove has a long history as a culturally shared space and has witnessed significant change.

“WHERE THE DIVISION COMES”  

Since time immemorial, False Klamath Cove has marked the southern end of Tolowa, and the northern end of Yurok ancestral territory. On the north side of Wilson Creek is the Yurok village O men hee-pur, while south of Wilson Creek to Lagoon Creek is O men proper. The Tolowa of the Crescent City and Smith River area also claim ancestral ties to these village sites and call it Daa-geslh-ts’a’ (“Where the division comes”), because here both law and language changed.

Both the Tolowa and Yurok managed the landscape for cultural purposes, maintaining productive tracts of open land using low intensity fires. This practice created large open prairies that attracted European-American settlers in the mid-19th century, initiating a period of violent and devastating upheaval for the native people. This was followed by the arrival, in the 1870s, of more peaceably inclined settlers.

THE DEMARTIN HOMESTEAD  

In 1877, Swiss-American Louis Peter DeMartin and his family homesteaded a large coastal prairie and some forested lands from south of Damnation Creek to Hidden Beach, south of False Klamath Cove. The DeMartins originally tried ranching sheep, but bears and mountain lions took many animals. They diversified the ranching operation, even using their home as a bed and breakfast. Eventually, they also developed a subdivision of about a dozen houses called “Giant Redwood Park” north of Wilson Creek on Russell Road. Further development was halted, however, by the creation of Redwood National Park in the late 1960s. Most of the original DeMartin ranch, too, was legislatively acquired for the park.

In 1894, the National Park Service contracted with the non-profit Hostelling International USA to provide affordable accommodations for park visitors. Since then, more than 75,000 culturally diverse travelers enjoyed the overnight hospitality of the DeMartin Ranch, Giant Redwood Park, or False Klamath Cove. Louis died in 1907 and the house that still stands today was built by his sons in 1908. Agnes lived at Wilson Creek for the rest of her life with her children.

A Tale of Two Parks  

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 in redwoods.

Save the Redwoods League  

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

Who’s Newton B. Drury?  

Perhaps you’ve driven the parkway named in his honor, or seen his name above the entryway to the Crescent City Information Center. But who was Newton B. Drury?

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 parkland. 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.

In reference to the values of his country’s natural and cultural treasures, Drury noted, “this nation of ours is not so rich it can afford to lose them; it is still rich enough to afford to preserve them.”
Salmon’s Journey

Pacific salmon bring energy from the ocean into the redwood forest. Scientists think that more than 60 species of plants and animals benefit directly from this energy flow. Help the salmon swim through the watershed.

Trace the letters in “REDWOOD NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS” in order and without spaces, in the puzzle at right.

After you’ve finished the puzzle, decode the special message hidden within! Without using any “X”s or any of the letters you traced in “REDWOOD NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS,” write the leftover letters on the lines below:

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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.

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Be a Junior Ranger!

Want to learn even more about your parks and earn some cool prizes along the way? Two different programs are available at Redwood National and State Parks for Junior Rangers age 7-12. They’re fun, informative, and free!

California State Parks Junior Ranger

From games and crafts to hikes and wildlife observation, explore some of the best places in California and make new friends along the way. To get started and receive your official badge, ask any ranger or at any information center (see page 2) for the time and place of the next Junior Ranger activity. There’s lots of activities to do, and the more you finish, the more prizes you get! But you don’t have to do them all at Redwood. You can continue at over 70 other parks around the state!

National Park Junior Ranger

Visit any information center (see page 2) for a copy of the free Junior Ranger Activity Newspaper. To earn an official sticker or badge, just complete the activities at your own pace while exploring the parks with your family. When you’re done, return to any information center to take the Junior Ranger pledge and collect your prize!

Here at Redwood National and State Parks, we’re proud of our Junior Rangers. They are true partners in helping preserve these special places for future generations. Thank you!
Backcountry camping in Redwood National and State Parks is allowed only in designated backcountry camps (except at dispersed sites on Redwood Creek gravel bars—see below).

Backcountry Camping

Backcountry travel and camping require careful planning in order to ensure a safe and rewarding experience. Visitors should adhere to national and state park regulations and are further encouraged to follow Leave No Trace guidelines to minimize their impact on the environment. Additional regulations may apply for traveling and camping with bicycles or horses (see page 11).

Leave No Trace principles are rooted in scientific studies and common sense. The message is framed under seven Leave No Trace Principles presented below with accompanying regulations and guidelines specific to Redwood National and State Parks.

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
• Camping is permitted only in designated backcountry camps (except at dispersed sites on Redwood Creek gravel bars—backpackers only);
• Pets, motorized vehicles, and hunting are prohibited on trails.
• While permits may be required for use of some areas, there is no backcountry registration system—be sure to notify others of your travel itinerary.
• Overnight stays are limited to a maximum of 5 consecutive days; 15 in a calendar year.
• Proper food storage is required: Store food, garbage, cooking gear, and all obvious items in food storage lockers (where available), in food storage canisters available at the Thomas H. Kuchel Visitor Center, or suspended from a tree at least 10 feet above the ground and 4 feet from the trunk.
• Inquire at a visitor center about trail conditions, water levels, fire danger levels, and tick/poison oak information.

2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
• Do not clear new ground for camping; camp only in designated backcountry camps (except at dispersed sites on Redwood Creek gravel bars—backpackers only).
• Stay on established trails; do not short-cut switchbacks (it’s destructive and illegal).

3. Dispose of Waste Properly
• Store all garbage in a manner that will prevent access by wildlife (see #1, above).
• Pack out all trash; do not dispose of garbage in pit toilets.
• Ceiling copies or disturbance of natural features, plants, rocks, antlers, and culturally or archeological resources is prohibited. As part of our heritage, please leave these resources as you find them for all to enjoy.
• Mushroom gathering or possession is illegal.

4. Leave What You Find
• Collecting or disturbing natural features, plants, rocks, antlers, and cultural or archeological resources is prohibited. As part of our heritage, please leave these resources as you find them for all to enjoy.
• Mushroom gathering or possession is illegal.

5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
• Ask about fire danger levels at an information center (see page 2) before heading-out.
• Strive to use portable stoves only; campfires are restricted to designated fire pits and on Redwood Creek gravel bars.
• Do not leave fires smoldering or unattended.
• Except at the Miners Ridge and Osagon Creek camp sites (driftwood only), collect no more than 50 pounds of dead and downed woody debris per day per campsite.

6. Respect Wildlife

7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

This copyrighted information has been reprinted with permission from the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. For more information or materials, please visit www.lnt.org or call 303-442-8222.
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! The information in this visitor guide alone does not ensure a safe and enjoyable trail experience. Consult any available reference trailhead locations indicated on the maps 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.

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 & God Bluffs Beach sections
- **Ossagon Trail Camp**: Ossagon Creek Camp
- **Davison Trail**
- **Streelow Creek Trail**
- **Lost Man Creek Trail**

These rides are on designated backcountry bicycle routes. The trailhead accessible only via free permit from Thomas N. Kuchel Visitor Center or Crescent City Info. Ctr.

Horses

Horses (and riders!) are welcome on three designated trails, with opportunities for short day rides or multi-day pack trips. Camping is allowed at two stock-ready sites along these routes (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

While pets are family, a national or state park may not be the best place for them. Some pets may mark territory with scent or spread domestic disease, interfering with natural patterns and causing injury to wildlife. Even normally well-behaved pets can become stressed by unfamiliar surroundings, threatening visitors and wildlife in close situations, such as on trails. Predators including mountain lions, bears, and coyotes may see pets as prey, placing both pet and owner in danger.

For the safety of visitors and all animals (domestic and wild), and for the continued protection of your parklands, pets—with the exception of guide animals—are not allowed on park trails, at ranger-led programs, or in park buildings. Pets on a leash not exceeding six feet in length are allowed on all road-accessible beaches (excluding dune habitat), within 100 feet of public roads and parking areas, and at designated picnic areas, only.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Suggested Hikes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail/Route Name(s)</th>
<th>Trailhead(s)</th>
<th>Distance/Duration (Approx.)</th>
<th>Difficulty</th>
<th>Additional Info.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mid-Level Walks/Hikes</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Damnation Creek</strong></td>
<td>Pullout at milepost 16 on west side of U.S. 101</td>
<td>4½ miles (out and back) / 3 hours round-trip</td>
<td>Strenuous: Steep 1100-foot descent/ ascent (out and back) with switchbacks. Old-growth redwoods, Damnation Creek, rugged coast and tidelands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>South Fork / Rhododendron / Brown Creek</strong></td>
<td>1½-mile north of Elk Prairie on east side of Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway</td>
<td>3½-mile loop / 2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate overall. Steep ascent on South Fork Trail. Loop: South Fork Trail east, Rhododendron Trail north; Brown Creek Trail south.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Prairie Creek / Foothill</strong></td>
<td>Prairie Creek Visitor Center: 1 mile north of U.S. 101 on the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway</td>
<td>2½-mile loop / 1 hour</td>
<td>Easy overall. Relatively level. Loop: Prairie Creek Trail north, east across parkway to foothill Trail; foothill South Trail; south across parkway to Prairie Creek Visitor Center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Longer Day Hikes</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Mill Creek</strong></td>
<td>1½ miles southwest of Stout Grove on Howland Hill Road (unpaved through park).</td>
<td>6 miles (out and back) or 5 miles as a loop.</td>
<td>Easy. Relatively level. Mill Creek Footbridges across Smith River (below Jedediah Smith Campground) and Mill Creek available in summer only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><strong>Boy Scout Tree</strong></td>
<td>From Crescent City, Calif. 3½ miles east of E. Valley Road on Howland Hill Road (unpaved through park).</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 Trail (optional).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>Coastal Trail - Last Chance Section</strong></td>
<td>Crescent Beach Overlook: Southern end of Enderle Beach Road just south of Crescent City, Calif.</td>
<td>13 miles (out and back) / 6-9 hours round-trip</td>
<td>Strenuous: Steep 1000-foot descent/ ascent (out and back) over 1-mile section south of Nickel Creek. Ocean views, Enderle Beach (via side trip), Damnation Creek, old-growth redwoods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>Crescent Beach Overlook to Damnation Creek Trail</strong></td>
<td>Mill Creek Trailhead: west side of U.S. 101.</td>
<td>7-mile loop / 4 hours</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><strong>Mill Creek</strong></td>
<td>From Crescent City, Calif. 3½ miles east of E. Valley Road on Howland Hill Road (unpaved through park).</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 Trail (optional).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>Bay Trail - Last Chance Section</strong></td>
<td>Crescent Beach Overlook: Southern end of Enderle Beach Road just south of Crescent City, Calif.</td>
<td>13 miles (out and back) / 6-9 hours round-trip</td>
<td>Strenuous: Steep 1000-foot descent/ ascent (out and back) over 1-mile section south of Nickel Creek. Ocean views, Enderle Beach (via side trip), Damnation Creek, old-growth redwoods.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td><strong>Crescent Beach Overlook to Damnation Creek Trail</strong></td>
<td>Mill Creek Trailhead: west side of U.S. 101.</td>
<td>7-mile loop / 4 hours</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td><strong>Mill Creek / Cottage Grove</strong></td>
<td>1½ miles southwest of Stout Grove on Howland Hill Road (unpaved through park).</td>
<td>6 miles (out and back) or 5 miles as a loop.</td>
<td>Easy. Relatively level. Mill Creek Footbridges across Smith River (below Jedediah Smith Campground) and Mill Creek available in summer only.</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td><strong>Boy Scout Tree</strong></td>
<td>From Crescent City, Calif. 3½ miles east of E. Valley Road on Howland Hill Road (unpaved through park).</td>
<td>5½ miles (out and back) / 4 hours round-trip</td>
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<td><strong>Mill Creek</strong></td>
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<td>Moderate: Some steep grades with switchbacks. Old-growth redwoods, riparian corridor, Fern Falls, Boy Scout Trail (optional).</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td><strong>Coastal Trail - Last Chance Section</strong></td>
<td>Crescent Beach Overlook: Southern end of Enderle Beach Road just south of Crescent City, Calif.</td>
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Thank you for your cooperation!
Along with the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation (including the logging of forests), is considered one of the main reasons for this increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide. If these activities continue at current rates, rising temperatures could lead to the extinction of 10 to 30 percent of Earth’s plants and animals species by 2050.

One thing we can do to combat this trend is to promote the storage, or sequestration, of carbon on land through (re-)forestation. Through the process of photosynthesis, trees (and all other plants) use the sun’s energy to convert carbon molecules in atmospheric carbon dioxide into sugar, which is then incorporated into mel- low wood, bark and roots. Until these plant parts decompose or are consumed by other organisms, they continue to sequester carbon and keep it out of the atmosphere.

As the tallest living things in the world, coast redwoods can grow higher than 370 feet and live more than 2,000 years. Even after they die, it can take more than 500 years for them to decompose. So, redwoods store an immense amount of carbon for a very long time. This makes them the ideal plant-based carbon vessel, or sink, for carbon storage.

How much carbon dioxide do coast red- woods remove from the atmosphere? It is estimated that a mature coast redwood tree holds more than 400,000 pounds of carbon in it’s trunk alone—the equivalent of about 80 tons of carbon dioxide. Since the average American produces roughly 1,600 tons of carbon dioxide emissions in his or her lifetime, just two mature coast redwoods have the capacity to offset your entire current carbon footprint for life!

What can you do to help? Plant a redwood! If redwoods don’t grow well in your area, plant another (preferably native) kind of tree. You may also consider contributing to organizations that preserve redwoods, like Save the Redwoods League (see page 8).

So, as you admire the magnificent coast redwoods of Redwood National and State Parks, remember that their not-so-secret identity conceals the qualities of a super-hero: they could be saving our planet!”

Christine Walters, Park Ranger

Protct Yourself… Protect Your Parks

Be a VIP: Volunteer-In-Parks!

Volunteers play an ever-increasing role in our national and state parks. At Redwood, VIPs work side-by-side with National Park Service and California State Park employees to help care for these special places. Whether staffing an information center front desk, serving as a camp- ground 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/gov.

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

Help Keep Wildlife Wild!

Wildlife are attracted to human food, garbage, and other odorous items. Bears that associate people with food become aggressive and often have to be killed. Human food can boost jay numbers, resulting in increased predation of threatened and endangered bird species like the marbled murrelet (see page 5). Please, for your safety and theirs:

• Never feed wildlife—Ever!
• Properly dispose of garbage—even crumbs.
• Store food and other smelly items in airtight, rust-proof containers, out-of-sight in a locked car or bear-proof locker.

From seashores and lakeshores to glaciers and deserts, the impacts of climate change are already taking their toll on our national and state parks. As stewards of these resources, the National Park Service and California State Parks are taking a leading role in climate change response.

Through the Climate Friendly Parks and Coasts Programs, Redwood National and State Parks is assessing and reducing its contri- bution to climate change while educating staff and visitors about its impacts. These actions help preserve our natural and cul- tural treasures for future generations.

Here’s just some of the more visible ac- tions Redwood’s already taking towards becoming a Climate Friendly Park:

• Implementing restrooms with low-flow toilets and urinals
• Behavior education campaigns to reduce littering and consumption of single-use items
• Installing energy efficient lighting in all park buildings
• Replacing energy inefficient bulbs with energy efficient models
• Recycling for a variety of materials is available throughout the parks—look for reptiles at day use areas, information centers, and camp- grounds. Steel propane cylinder drop-off loca- tions are available at all campsites; any usable fuel will be made available to other campers; staff safely and completely remove remaining fuel from “empty” cansisters so that they can be recycled by a local steel recycler.

Visit Climate Friendly Parks online at www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks.

To learn more about Cool Parks, visit www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24872

Also check out Do Your Part!—an interac- tive online program for park visitors and supporters with information and tools to understand and reduce their carbon footprints and thereby help to protect our parks from climate change: www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks/ doyourpart


What to do in case of animal encounters:

• 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 groups) 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!

• Tidespools: While exploring, protect yourself and the fragile creatures that live here step carefully along sick rocks; return all rocks and tidepool life to their original position and orientation; be aware of changing tides.

• 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, 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.

• Mountain Mammals: Mountain 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.

• Seals: Supertrees: Saving Our Planet!

How is a Coast Redwood like a superhero? To answer this riddle, we need to understand the relationship between trees, carbon dioxide, and climate change.

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is considered the leading greenhouse gas contributing to global warming. It acts like a blanket around our planet, trapping the warmth absorbed from the sun and preventing it from radiating back out into space. In the last 200 years, carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere have risen sharply, from 280 parts per million (ppm) in 1869 to 396 ppm in 2008—more than a 33 percent increase. To put this in perspective, consider that carbon dioxide levels had not risen above 300 ppm in the previous 10,000 years.

Coast redwood (“widow-makers”) can fall from hundreds of feet above at high speeds. Avoid old-growth forests in high wind. entire trees or heavy branches into socks shirts into pants. Inspect your body thoroughly after hiking.

Planting redwoods is the original position and orientation; be aware of changing tides.

Be a VIP: Volunteer-In-Parks!

Volunteers play an ever-increasing role in our national and state parks. At Redwood, VIPs work side-by-side with National Park Service and California State Park employees to help care for these special places. Whether staffing an information center front desk, serving as a camp- ground 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/gov.

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

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