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BACKCOUNTRY TRAIL PLAN

Redwood and Skunk Cabbage Creeks

Redwood National Park March 1984



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BACKCOUNTRY TRAIL PLAN
REDWOOD AND SKUNK CABBAGE CREEKS

REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK

MARCH 1984

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FORWARD

The parklands of Redwood and Skunk Cabbage Creeks are not the traditional landscape one expects to find when visiting a national park. An industrial past has drastically altered the natural scene and functioning of this redwood ecosystem. Many decades will pass before second-growth forests have blurred the visual impacts, and many centuries will unfold before the final effects of logging have disappeared completely. Yet places of peace and beauty remain in this southern portion of Redwood National Park, and the land base includes resources suitable for both vigorous recreation and quiet reflection. Additionally, the earth begins to heal with remarkable speed in this wet, coastal region. Thus visitors and scientists will be able to observe this process over the wide mosaic of cutover lands. The establishment of a trail system will open these lands for enjoyment and study.

Some of the steps leading to the establishment of a trail system in Redwood Creek's backcountry are worth noting. In 1978, when Congress passed the Redwood National Park Expansion Act (Public Law 95-250) it recognized that an important benefit was the increased recreational potential resulting from expansion. Section 104(b) of the Expansion Act directed the development of a General Management Plan for Redwood National Park which would address "the type, extent, and estimated cost of development proposed to accommodate visitor use and protect the resource, to include anticipated locations of all major development areas, roads, and trails; and, the specific locations and types of foot trail access to the Tall Trees Grove of which one route shall unless shown by the Secretary to be inadvisable, principally traverse the east side of Redwood Creek through the essentially virgin forest connecting with the road head on the west side of the park east of Orick."

The Redwood National Park General Management Plan (USDI, 1980) identified a number of goals which are relevant to the trail planning process. They are:

"Additional use areas and facilities within the national park will be created to allow people to seek new outdoor recreational opportunities. More of the park will be accessible, but fragile areas will be protected from destructive effects of overuse. Use will be distributed to reduce undesirable crowding, something many people have come to escape" (Page 11).

"...recreational opportunities, and programs for special populations will be provided throughout the park" (Page 12).

"...management actions will be geared to preserving and restoring the natural process characteristic of the (Redwood Creek) watershed. The variety of landforms coupled with the diverse range of vegetations and wildlife habitats will be the basis for a well-rounded backcountry experience which will be reinforced by the existing trailheads, trails and shuttle system. A backcountry trail and campsite system will be established and defined in the forthcoming Backcountry Use and Management Plan" (page 34).

"Packhorse trips will be established in the western drainages of the basin" (Page 34).

In addition to the above general objectives, the GMP prescribed trails and campgrounds within the Backcountry Planning Unit described in the document. These GMP recommendations are:

1. Connect Skunk Cabbage Hill Activity Site with Coastal Trail (Page 30).
2. Connect Coastal Trail with Highway 101 via the Skunk Cabbage area (Page 31).
3. Maintain existing trails and trailheads within the Redwood Creek watershed (Page 34).
4. Provide trailhead and vehicle parking in the Schoolhouse Peak area (Page 35).
5. Construct new trail and provide campsites on the west side of the basin (Page 35).

Redwood National Park's Statement for Management (USDI, 1976) also provides goals relevant to the trail planning process. They are:

1. "To provide reasonable and safe access for visitor use and enjoyment commensurate with adequate resource protection" (Page 33).
2. "To restrict visitor use facilities to the kind and minimum levels necessary to achieve park purposes consistent with protection of the resource" (Page 33).
3. "To cooperate with other agencies and private interests in planning for management use of resources adjacent to the park" (Page 32).

Working from the above foundation, the trail planning team identified these additional objectives for the planning effort:

1. Provide a long-range trail development plan and prioritize construction by trail segments.
2. Identify a trail system with opportunities for backcountry use ranging from a few hours in length to a week or more.
3. Identify a system which will compliment local economic needs by attracting visitors to the region.

DEFINITION OF TERMS AND SYMBOLS USED

The following terms have been standardized within the text of this plan:

Planning Unit - The Planning Unit covered in this document comprises portions of the Prairie Creek, Orick, and Redwood Creek Units as described in Redwood National Park's 1980 General Management Plan. The backcountry trail Planning Unit is made up of three planning areas. The term refers to the entire land base within which trail planning occurred.

Planning Area - The Planning Unit was divided into three planning areas: the Redwood Creek Corridor Planning Area, the East Side Planning Area, and the West Side Planning Area. Each Planning Area has identifiable features and goals which make it distinct from the other Planning Areas within the Planning Unit.

Redwood Creek Corridor - The Redwood Creek Corridor consists of the stream, its riverbars, and alluvial flats. For purposes of planning, the Redwood Creek Trail is included within this Corridor.

East Side (or East Boundary) - All slopes above the Redwood Creek Corridor which lie east or northeast of Redwood Creek.

West Side (or West Boundary) - All slopes west or southwest of Redwood Creek.

South Boundary - The south boundary runs from Schoolhouse Peak to Redwood Creek and then up the ridge dividing Devil's and Panther Creeks.

Segment Numbers - Trail descriptions within this document are frequently broken into segments. For example, the 25.95 mile East Side Trail is described in fourteen segments. Segments begin and end at clearly defined locations, for example, intersections with other trails or geographic features, and/or at points of significant topographic or habitat change. The starting/ending points, length, grades and general descriptions of each segment are included under each segment number. Trails and their names are marked on the enclosed map. However, to avoid excessive "clutter," the segments are not mapped. Use of the map and text together will allow the reader to locate individual segments, if desired.

Trail lengths and average grades as expressed in this report were obtained in a number of ways. After each figure in the text, the following letter symbols were used to indicate how each measurement was obtained:

The following methods result in relatively accurate figures:

A - An Altimeter was used to measure changes in elevation.

O - These figures were obtained from an automobile Odometer and rounded off to the nearest tenth of a mile.

W - Distances were Wheeled off in the field and measured to the nearest foot.

The following methods result in less accurate figures:

C - Distances were Calculated based on mapped elevation change and a maximum desired grade, usually 7.5%.

F - Field observation, no measurements made.

M - Distances and/or elevation changes were computed from a topographic Map.

Numerous road segments will be utilized for trails. The roads are not identified on the trail map in the back pocket; however, a South Area Roads map is available for review at park offices.

BACKCOUNTRY TRAIL PLAN SUMMARY SHEET

Size of Backcountry Trail Planning Unit: approximately 50,000 acres

Total Proposed Trail Mileage: 143.85

Existing: 28.75

To be abandoned: 4.3

To be built: 111.6

Type of Trails and Mileage Within Each Planning Area

	Redwood Creek Corridor	East Side	West Side
Hiking	9.4	51.5	19.8
Horse/Hiking			62.05
Hikeable Riverbars	18.4		

A major planning concern has been to keep the total trail mileage as low as possible while providing adequate recreational access within the Planning Unit. Thus comparison of this plan's proposed trail density to several other recreational areas is useful:

Area	Acres	Miles	Miles/Acre
Redwood N.P. (Redwood & Skunk Cabbage Creeks)	Approx. 50,000	143.85	.0028
Prairie Creek S.P.	12,240	±75	.006
Point Reyes N.S.	68,000	144	.002
Olympic N.P.	861,179	600	.0007
Trinity Alps Primitive Area	238,000	296	.001

PLANNING UNIT DESCRIPTION

The elements within the following description are relevant to establishment of a backcountry trail system in Redwood and Skunk Cabbage Creeks.

Land Base

This Planning Unit consists of all Redwood National Park lands within the Redwood Creek watershed plus the lands within the Skunk Cabbage Creek watershed north to the Davison Road (see map in pocket). The elevation ranges from sea level to 3,097 feet at Schoolhouse Peak.

Habitats

Broadly categorized, the following habitats occur within the Unit: Coastal beaches, coastal scrub and prairies, coastal alder forest, Sitka spruce forest, spruce/alder swamp, old-growth redwood forest, regenerating forest land (may be dominated by alder, conifers, or Ceanothus), inland prairies, oak woodland, streams, gravelbars, and riparian vegetation. Overall vegetation patterns are visible on the enclosed July 1978 black and white aerial photograph located in the back of this document.

Flora

The dominant trees include Sitka spruce (Picea sitchensis), redwood (Sequoia sempervirens), Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii), California bay laurel (Umbellularia californica), big-leaf maple (Acer macrophyllum), western hemlock (Tsuga heterophylla), grand fir (Abies grandis), madrone (Arbutus menziesii), tan oak (Lithocarpus densiflorus), and red alder (Alnus oregana).

Fauna

Common mammals within the Planning Unit include the Roosevelt elk, black tailed deer, black bear, bobcat, grey fox, coyote, mountain lion, mink, river otter, and beaver. Potential conflicts between backcountry visitors and the park's black bear population are of concern to backcountry managers. Redwood National Park's black bear research and its black bear management plan are designed to minimize bear/human interactions and trail routes will be planned to avoid problems.

Climate

The summer weather is generally characterized by low clouds and fog, and the months of November through April are generally rainy and subject to intense storms. However, summer weather may be dramatically different from one end of the Unit to the other. While hikers along the coast or the lower portion of Redwood Creek's valley may find fog and daytime temperatures in the 50's and 60's (Fahrenheit), hikers higher on the slopes or further inland may experience bright sun and daytime temperatures in the 80's and 90's (Fahrenheit). Fog is most common during the morning and evening hours and frequently burns off by mid-day. Snow is infrequent and usually confined to the higher elevations for short time periods. The mean annual precipitation for the Redwood Creek basin is 80 inches, though up to 120 inches a year have been recorded. Backcountry use (particularly overnight camping) reflects seasonal weather changes, with little visitation during the rainy season. This pattern is expected to continue.

Geology

Redwood Creek generally follows the Grogan Fault which divides the eastern third of the Unit from the western two-thirds. The process of mountain building in the California Coastal Ranges has squeezed, twisted, sheared, folded and faulted the bedrock within the Redwood Creek watershed. Slopes above Redwood Creek and its larger tributaries are frequently steep, sometimes rising as much as a thousand feet in a half mile. The combination of geological and climatic processes have contributed to produce soils with high and extremely high erosion hazard ratings (Management Options for Redwood Creek, USDI, 1975). The widespread erosional problems within Redwood Creek (where over a third of the watershed exhibits mass movement landforms) have significantly affected trail and campsite location. Visitor safety, construction and maintenance costs, and resource protection are considerations influenced by these natural conditions.

Topographic relief and erosional problems are generally less severe in Skunk Cabbage Creek than in the Redwood Creek portion of the Planning Unit.

The Bridge Creek lineament passes through the Devil's Creek, Bridge Creek, and Tom McDonald Creek watersheds within the West Side Planning Area. This fault creates the long, generally S-shaped configuration of these watersheds, thus complicating access into this region of the park.

Human Impacts

Except for some mining along the coast and the introduction of exotic species to the Bald Hills prairies by ranchers during the 19th century, human impacts on the Planning Unit's natural environment were minimal until well into the 20th century. However, recent land use practices have drastically altered this situation and have had a major impact on trail planning. A black and white foldout aerial photograph, located in the back of this document, will facilitate understanding of resource conditions.

Sitka spruce logging in Skunk Cabbage Creek and along the coast apparently began during the 1930's. Although several blocks of old-growth redwood forest remain between Skunk Cabbage Creek and the Davison Road, most of the land in the coastal portions of the Planning Unit has been clear-cut and is in various stages of regeneration.

Following World War II, large-scale cutting of Douglas-fir timber in the upper portions of the Redwood Creek watershed began. In response to increasing demands for redwood lumber, logging progressed into the lower regions of the watershed. Today, roughly 65% of the parklands in Redwood Creek have been disturbed by recent logging activities, and 29% remain in old-growth or advanced second-growth stands. The remaining 6% consists of prairies, oak woodlands, valleys and riparian bottomlands. Thus the park's single most powerful visitor attraction, old-growth redwood forest, has been isolated in a series of small islands or narrow strips.

While old-growth forest contains variety and opportunities for medium-range views, the intervening areas of densely regenerating second-growth forest are relatively uniform and visually limited. Thus the planning team has attempted to maximize trail mileage in old-growth situations and where long views are assured.

Approximately 300 miles of truck roads and 3,500 miles of tractor trails were built to facilitate logging activities on what are now the Redwood Creek parklands. The roads generally follow the most desirable land contours at low to moderate grades, use the most direct routes through cutover areas, and contain "armored" surfaces which will resist metal shod horse hoofs and discourage vegetative encroachment. They provide an existing "trail" network which is comparatively easy to establish and maintain; thus the planning team has identified extensive road sections for trail use, particularly within the West Side Planning Area.

The Redwood National Park Expansion Act directed the "development and implementation of a program for the rehabilitation of areas within the park contributing significant sedimentation because of past logging disturbances and road conditions." This land rehabilitation program which includes restoration of natural drainage patterns, removal of old logging roads, and revegetation of cutover lands, was begun by Redwood National Park in 1978 and is expected to continue into the early 1990's. Coordination between the land rehabilitation program and backcountry trail program will assure protection of future trail routes as roads are removed.

Ending Point: Redwood Creek at Tom McDonald Creek

Length: 0.6 mi. (M)

Average Grade: Gentle (F)

Roads Used: M-Line

Description: This trail will provide foot access to the Tall Trees area from the Horse Trail.

Trail Name: Bridge Creek Trail

Length: 7.6 mi. (M)

Starting Point: Mouth of Bridge Creek at Redwood Creek

Ending Point: Intersection with Bridge Ridge Trail and Devil's Creek Loop Trail on M-3-1-2 Road

Segment 1:

Starting Point: Mouth of Bridge Creek at Redwood Creek

Ending Point: Bridge Creek bridge on M-7 Road

Length: 2 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 1.5% (M)

Description: Segment 1 will be built as close to Bridge Creek as possible. The first quarter mile is through old-growth redwood forest. Beyond that, the trail will cross through regrowing cutover lands.

Segment 2:

Starting Point: Bridge Creek bridge at M-7 Road

Ending Point: Bottom of clear-cut at end of M-3 Road

Length: 3.1 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 6.1% (M)

Description: Segment 2 would initially follow an old overgrown road on the east bank of Bridge Creek. This road quickly ends in old-growth redwood forest upslope of Bridge Creek. The trail will remain in old-growth redwood forest except for one large clear-cut located about 1.5 miles from the beginning of the segment. Shortly after re-entering the old-growth forest again, the trail reaches another old logging road which has been heavily overgrown with large, attractive alder. This road is used for the last third of Segment 2.

Segment 3:

Starting Point: Bottom of clear-cut at end of M-3 Road

Ending Point: Intersection with Bridge Ridge Trail and Devil's Creek Loop Trail

Length: 2.5 mi. (C)

Average Grade: 7.5% (M)

Roads Used: A small segment of the M-3-1-2 Road

Description: The trail will wind up a prominent ridge through a recent tractor yarded clear-cut entering older clear-cuts with heavy regrowth before reaching M-3-1-2 Road.

Trail Name: Bridge Ridge Hiking Trail

Starting Point: On M-2-1 Road at intersection of Segments 8 & 9 of Devil's Creek Loop Trail

Ending Point: M-2-1-1 Road at intersection of Segments 2 & 3 Bridge Ridge Trail

Length: 3.2 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 2.4% (M)

Roads Used: M-2-1 Road

Description: This trail follows the heavily graveled M-2-1 Road for approximately .6 mi., primarily through old-growth redwood forest, until it reaches a downslope, cable yarded, clear-cut at the end of the road. Beyond the clear-cut the trail continues on a small tractor road through the old-growth forest until the road ends. It will then swing around a prominent ridge and leave the Devil's Creek watershed as it gently contours up the slopes of Bridge Ridge through superlative old-growth forest.

Trail Name: Devil's Canyon Trail

Starting Point: Intersection of 1840 and 1800 Roads

Ending Point: Intersection of Y-3 Road and Y-Line

Length: 4.3 mi.

Description: The steep, fragile slopes of Devil's Creek below the Y-Line contain some of the finest redwood forest in the Redwood Creek watershed. Further investigation is needed to determine the feasibility of this route. The inner stream canyon of Devil's Creek will be left for cross country exploration, free of trail impacts.

Segment 1:

Starting Point: Intersection of 1840 and 1800 Roads

Ending Point: Intersection of 1800 and 1810 Roads

Length: .9 mi. (O)

Average Grade: 7.2% (A)

Roads Used: 1800 Road

Description: The trail passes primarily through advanced second-growth forest in old seed-tree cuts with large attractive alder and a heavy understory of swordfern. This segment of trail passes over Elf Creek, aptly named for its almost magical qualities.

Segment 2:

Starting Point: Intersection of 1800 and 1810 Roads

Ending Point: Intersection of Y-3 Road and Y-Line

Length: 3.4 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 4.5% (M)

Roads Used: 1810 Road

Description: Segment 2 follows the 1810 Road for approximately a mile passing through recent clear-cuts. It then swings into the lower Devil's Creek watershed, passing through a cable yarded clear-cut at the end of the Y-Line and continuing through the old-growth redwood forest downslope of the Y-Line Road.

TRAIL CONSTRUCTION PRIORITIES

The ranking of construction priorities is dependent upon a number of considerations. The top priority must be to maintain and, where necessary upgrade existing trails within the Planning Unit. The East Side Planning Area, Redwood Creek Corridor, and northern third of the West Side Planning Area afford the greatest accessibility, and thus the greatest potential visitor benefits. Emphasis will be to increasingly diversify the variety of visitor experiences, complete existing trail resources, and construct "loop" situations which can later be connected by linear trail segments. Construction of horse trails in the West Side Planning Area will depend upon sufficient demonstrated use by private horse pack services and the public. If horse trail use falls significantly short of expectations, trail construction priorities in the West Side Planning Area will shift to hiking trails in the Devil's and lower Bridge Creek watersheds.

1. East Side/Coastal Trail: Skunk Cabbage Creek and South Gold Bluffs sections.
2. New Growth Trail; Miller Creek Trail; East Side Trail from New Growth Trail to Tall Trees Trail; Major Creek camp; upgrade Lady Bird Johnson Grove Trail for all-person access.
3. Skunk Cabbage Loop Trail.
4. Upgrade and reroute Half and Full Day Horse Trail Loops; portion of Three Day Loop to campsite on L-1-4 Road; campsite off of L-2 Road; Trail A or other horse access to Redwood Creek Corridor between Bond and Elam Creeks.
5. Maple Flat Trail; upgrade existing social trails from Redwood Creek Trail to Redwood Creek at Elam and Bond Creeks. Upgrade first mile and one-half of the Redwood Creek Trail for all-person access.
6. Copper Creek Trail and Gorge Bypass North and South Trails with connecting East Side Trail sections.
7. Dolason Prairie Trail; Dolason Prairie Nature trail with all-person access; East Side Trail from Emerald Ridge Trail to Gorge Bypass North Trail.
8. Three Day Horse Trail Loop; Forty-Four Creek Trail and Forty-Four Creek Horse Camp.
9. Whiskey Forty Trails, North and South; Wild Ginger Trail and connecting East Side Trail section.
10. East Side Trail from Wild Ginger Trail to New Growth Trail.
11. East Side Trail from U.S. 101 to Whiskey Forty North Trail.
12. Halfway Trail; M-Line Trails and campsite; Trail B; Bridge Creek Horse Trail; Bridge Creek Trail from Halfway Trail to Redwood Creek; and campsites on ridge east of Forty-Four Creek, at G-Line Deck, and at end of M-7-2 Road.

13. Bridge Face Horse and Hiking Trails; Bridge Face Horse Camp.
14. Bridge Ridge Trail; Devil's Creek Loop Trail; Campsite at Y-Line #2 rock pit.
15. Devil's Canyon Trail.
16. Complete Bridge Creek Trail.
17. Bridge Ridge Hiking Trail.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Redwood National Park will undertake the following management actions within the Planning Unit. These actions are designed to encourage dispersed visitor use of the backcountry and increased visitor and resource protection.

1. Provide visitors with current backcountry handouts containing map and text which reflect the range of recreational possibilities in the Planning Unit. Initial emphasis will be on the Redwood Creek Corridor, with appropriate additions made as the trail system expands. The following features will be identified on the map:
 - A. Existing trails.
 - B. Large tributary streams of Redwood Creek.
 - C. Rocky Gorge. An appropriate warning of the somewhat difficult and dangerous nature of this obstacle will be included in the text.
 - D. Solitude Grove, located opposite the mouth of Dolason Creek. This grove will not be signed or trailed. If unacceptable impacts begin to appear as a result of visitor use, its name and location will be removed from subsequent printings of park literature.
 - E. The Emerald Mile.
2. Persons in visitor contact positions, that is, seasonal park personnel (interpreters and rangers), concessionaires, special use permit holders, and contractors (for example, shuttle bus operators), will receive yearly training before the visitor season begins to acquaint them with backcountry opportunities, goals, regulations, and visitor education including backcountry ethics, bears, and water resource protection. It is particularly important that visitors receive consistent information from all sources within the park based upon clearly defined policy.
3. A small, in-house, backcountry reference manual will be developed for NPS personnel to compliment the seasonal training.
4. As Bald Hills trailheads are developed south of the C-Line, a seasonal, twice daily (morning and evening), shuttle bus will provide visitor access from Orick.
5. In accordance with 36 CFR 2.16, the horse trail and Redwood Creek below the one and one-half mile crossing will be designated for use by horses and pack animals.
6. In accordance with 36 CFR 2.10, 2.13, and 2.14, backcountry hiker camping will be allowed under the following provisions in the East and West Side Planning Areas:
 - A. Camping within one-quarter mile of a trailhead or the Bald Hills Road is prohibited.

- B. Camping within 100 feet of a flowing stream is prohibited.
- C. Fires are prohibited.
- D. All food, garbage, and other scented items shall be stored at least 200 feet from a camp and be suspended at least 12 feet above the ground, five feet below the branch, and ten feet horizontally from the tree trunk or they shall be stored using park-installed devices designed to prevent bears from obtaining food.
- E. Camping within sight of a trail is prohibited.
- F. A camping permit is required.
- G. Disposal of human waste within 150 feet of a stream is prohibited.

REFERENCES CITED

Humboldt County, California. 1979. Humboldt County Trails Plan.

U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. 1976. Statement for Management, Redwood National Park.

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U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Western Region. 1975. Environmental Assesment, Management Options for Redwood Creek, Redwood National Park.

PLANNING TEAM

Redwood National Park

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A number of people helped prepare this plan. Stephen Sun Gnome Brewer, Randy Stemler, John Amodio, Dave Van de Mark, and Lucille Vinyard each had ten to twenty years of experience hiking in the backcountry of Redwood Creek. They generously lent their expertise during the formative stages of trail plan development and later provided constructive comments and criticisms as drafting the plan progressed. Assistance with graphics was provided by Dru Erhardt, Micki Dyson, Laura Vander-Parker, and Tom Marquette. Susan Richey, Ron Knickerbocker, Francie Murphy, Kathleen Glen and Jill Albert provided clerical assistance.

Over one hundred people, including, national and state park staff, Orick residents, students, visitors, and environmentalists provided input during the planning process. Many hundreds of suggestions and concerns were put forward on subjects as varied as cultural resources, use of riffle habitats by juvenile fish, and trail standards for special populations access. This plan's strengths can be traced directly to the thoughts and enthusiasm given freely by so many. The planning team is grateful for the support it has received and wishes to express its thanks to all who have contributed.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Redwood National Park Backcountry Trail Plan Redwood and Skunk Cabbage Creeks

In accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality, 40 CFR 1508.9, an environmental assessment was prepared on the Backcountry Trail Plan for Redwood and Skunk Cabbage Creeks. Backcountry trail routes and camping were also described and evaluated in the Environmental Impact Statement for the General Management Plan (April 1980).

Three alternatives for improving visitor access in the southern portion of the park were discussed: No Action, Partial implementation of the plan; Full implementation of the plan. No action would retain the existing 29 miles of trail. Partial implementation would result in construction of the highest priority trails and trailheads. A total of 48.1 additional miles of trail would be built. Full implementation would result in 143 miles of trail in the planning area.

The Environmental Assessment was made available for review in September, October and November 1983. A public meeting was held in Arcata and a consultation with Native Americans was held in Orick. In addition, park staff attended a Coastal Commission Coastal Trail Committee meeting, a joint Orick Chamber of Commerce - Orick Economic Development Corporation meeting, and an Orick Economic Development Corporation meeting. In total fourteen letters were received and twenty-three persons attended the public meeting or consultation or contacted the planners in person or by telephone.

Oral or written comments were received from representatives of the following agencies and organizations: The California Coastal Commission; the California Coastal Conservancy; the California Department of Parks and Recreation; the California Department of Transportation; Humboldt County; the City of Arcata; the Orick Native American Heritage Advisory Committee; the Orick Chamber of Commerce; the Orick Economic Development Corporation; Save-the-Redwoods League; the Sierra Club, Redwood Chapter, North Group; and the Redwood Region Audubon Society.

Overall, the public supported improving access to the park. Major issues or concerns included the proposed coastal trail route, horse use along Redwood Creek and on the east side, horse camping near Redwood Creek, access to the Tall Trees Grove, removal of the C-line from the Emerald Creek watershed, access for special populations, backcountry camping, bicycle use, and a coastal trail-east side trail connection.

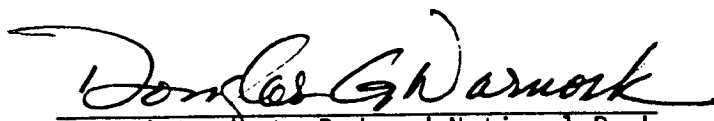
The National Park Service proposes to fully implement the Backcountry Trail Plan for Redwood and Skunk Cabbage Creeks. A total of 143 miles of trail would be provided, including 62 miles of horse trails and 81 miles of hiking trails. Six new trailheads would be developed along with nine backcountry horse camps and one coastal trail campground. Major modifications to the draft plan resulting from the comments include: The proposed Coastal Trail route in the Mussel Point/Mouth of Redwood Creek area was removed from the

trail plan; Redwood National Park will provide access for all visitors at the Dolason Prairie Nature Trail, Lady Bird Johnson Grove, and the first mile and one-half of the Redwood Creek Trail; Backcountry camping for hikers will be provided on a random basis under guidelines established in proposed 36 CFR 2.10, 2.13, and 2.14; Two additional horse camps and two hitching areas for horse users will be provided closer to Redwood Creek; and Redwood National Park will continue to work with agencies and private groups to improve pedestrian access from the Skunk Cabbage area south to Orick and east into the Redwood Creek basin.

Impacts of implementing the proposed action include long-term, but minor and localized disturbance to vegetation, soils, and wildlife along trail routes, in campground areas, and at trailheads. Visitors ability to use and enjoy park resources should increase significantly. Construction, maintenance, and patrol costs would be significantly increased in order to implement and manage the trails.

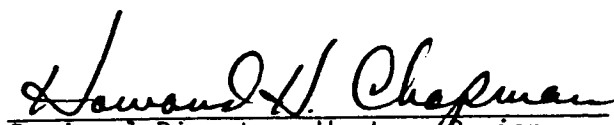
The proposed trail plan is in compliance with all applicable Executive orders, laws, and regulations. Based on the analysis of environmental consequences and public review of the assessment, the National Park Service has determined that the project is not a major federal action significantly affecting the human environment. Therefore, no additional environmental compliance will be necessary prior to implementation of the plan.

Recommended:

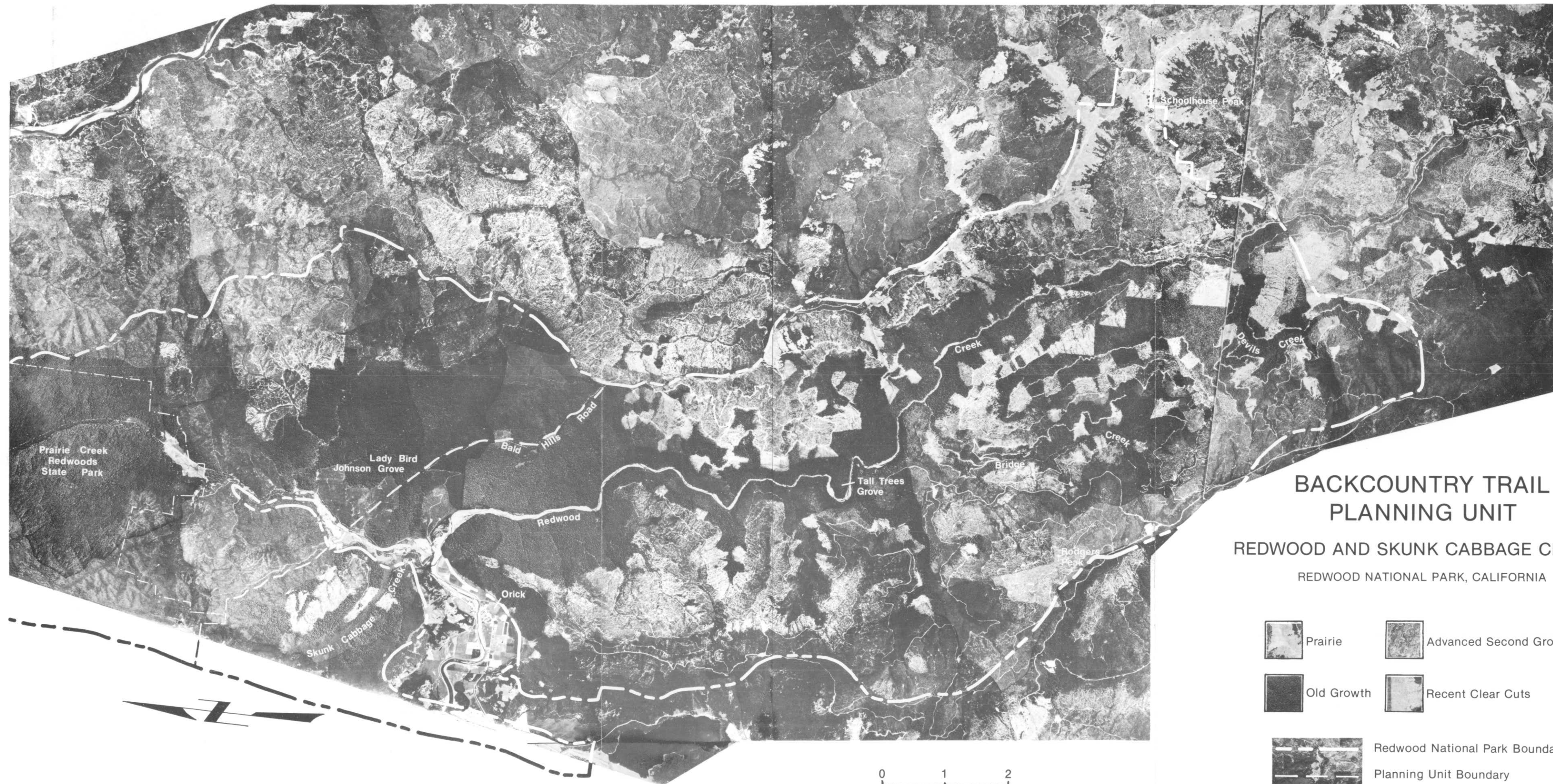

Superintendent, Redwood National Park

Mar 26, 1984
Date

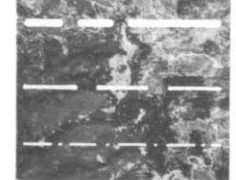
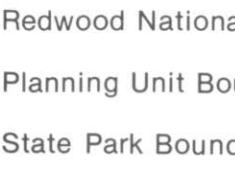
Approved:


Regional Director, Western Region

April 3, 1984
Date



**BACKCOUNTRY TRAIL
PLANNING UNIT**
REDWOOD AND SKUNK CABBAGE CREEKS
REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK, CALIFORNIA

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Old Growth |  Advanced Second Growth |
|  Recent Clear Cuts |  Prairie |
|  Redwood National Park Boundary | |
|  Planning Unit Boundary | |
|  State Park Boundary | |

REDWOOD CREEK CORRIDOR PLANNING AREA

The Redwood Creek Corridor consists of Redwood Creek, its riverbars and alluvial flats, and the Redwood Creek Trail.

The Redwood Creek Corridor is the heart of the backcountry within the Planning Unit. Redwood Creek's water experience (whether it be a shallow ford or a deep swimming pool), summertime's sunbaked riverbars, and nature's quiet beauty, combine almost ideal qualities to encourage play, relaxation, and spiritual renewal.

From a point on Redwood Creek opposite the Redwood Creek trailhead, to the south park boundary, approximately 18.4 miles of hiking are available along Redwood Creek's riverbars and streambed. The existing Redwood Creek Trail and Tall Trees Grove Loop Trail presently provide 8.9 miles of trail within the Corridor. Redwood National Park will construct an additional .4 - .6 miles of trail, for a total of approximately 28 miles of hiking opportunities in this Planning Area. Side trails coming from the east or west slopes of Redwood Creek will reach the Corridor in fourteen locations. Short trails will be built from the Redwood Creek Trail to the riverbars at Elam and Bond Creeks to eliminate existing social trails which create erosion and visitor safety hazards. In sharp contrast to the steep slopes and trails that are found elsewhere in the Planning Unit, the Redwood Creek Corridor offers easy hiking on its nearly level trails or along Redwood Creek. The riverbars form a wide, indestructible hiking surface which requires neither construction nor maintenance. Except for the large boulders and deeper pools of Rocky Gorge (located approximately 12.3 miles to 13.5 miles upstream of the Redwood Creek trailhead), hiking along Redwood Creek demands no more skills than the ability to walk.

The gravel riverbars provide level, safe, random campsites with low susceptibility to resource damage. Wildlife is abundant with frequent visitor sightings of mergansers, great blue heron, osprey, dippers, deer, porcupine, racoon, and river otter. Signs of bear, beaver, elk, bobcat, coyote, fox, and mountain lion are common.

A rich array of wildflowers grace the banks and alluvial flats of the stream. Big leaf maple, their large gnarled bodies draped with mosses and lichens, stand out against the conifers and add color to the stream-side scenery of autumn.

The above qualities offer the experienced hiker many rewards, but unlike the rugged backcountry settings frequently found in national parks, the Redwood Creek Corridor also provides a gentle backcountry setting for the inexperienced, the less firm, the mature, and the young. The first mile and one-half of the Redwood Creek trail may offer opportunities for special population access. Beyond the one and one-half mile point, access for special populations is limited by the gravel bars.

During the summer months, the Redwood Creek corridor provides access between the East and West Side Planning Areas. During the winter months, when park visitation is low, Redwood Creek becomes a raging, boiling, dangerous stream, thus effectively closing down almost all hiking opportunities within the Corridor and between the three Planning Areas.

Given the nature and configuration of the Redwood Creek Corridor, the challenge is not so much where to put more trails but how to effectively use and manage the existing resources. At present the largest concentration of backcountry use in Redwood Creek is near the Tall Trees Grove while the rest of the Corridor receives little visitation. Since the Tall Trees Grove will probably continue to be a powerful attraction, the immediate concern is how to encourage more dispersed hiking in Redwood Creek. Over the long-term, the growing system of upslope trails will help re-direct some of the use. However, several relatively easy and low cost management actions which are addressed at the end of this document can be taken to encourage broader use of the Redwood Creek Corridor.

The current backcountry camping rules would be continued. Camping is allowed on the riverbars upstream of the one and one-half mile crossing and at least .3 miles from the busy Tall Trees crossing. A camping and fire permit is required.

TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

Trail Name: Redwood Creek Trail

Starting Point: Redwood Creek Trailhead

Ending Point: Tall Trees Grove

Length: 8.2 mi. (W)

Average Grade: Generally level (F)

Description: The Redwood Creek Trail is one of the two established trails in the Redwood Creek Corridor. From its origin close to Orick until it reaches the Tall Trees Grove, the trail follows an abandoned logging road. Temporary foot bridges are installed along the trail during the summer months. They are located across Redwood Creek at the one and one-half mile point, across McArthur Creek, and again across Redwood Creek at the Tall Trees Grove. Though passing primarily through regenerating forest, prairies are found in the first mile and a half of the trail and some old-growth Sitka spruce and redwood can be seen. This trail is frequently above and out of sight of Redwood Creek, but it does provide access to the stream in a number of locations. The broad, nearly level nature of this trail makes it accessible to visitors who are traditionally unwilling or unable to enter more rugged backcountry areas. Redwood National Park will explore the possibility of upgrading and maintaining the first one and one-half miles of this trail for wheelchair accessibility.

Trail Name: Maple Flat Loop Trail

Starting Point: Redwood Creek opposite mouth of Elam Creek

Ending Point: Same

Length: Approximately .5 mi. (F)

Average Grade: Nearly level (F)

Description: Maple Flat may have been an old-growth redwood alluvial flat at one time. If so, Redwood Creek floodwaters probably washed through the flat in excess of 100 years ago, toppling the redwood forest that stood here. Today, one old-growth redwood tree remains, surrounded by large, old, big-leaf maple. Except for a similar condition in a small section of the Tall Trees Grove, this maple flat is unique in the Redwood Creek portion of Redwood National Park. This footpath through the maples is designed to encourage backcountry users to experience this resource, lead hikers off the Redwood Creek Trail and down onto the more extensive riverbars, and encourage broader visitor utilization of the Redwood Creek Corridor.

Trail Name: Tall Trees Loop Trail

Starting Point: Tall Trees Trail near Redwood Creek

Ending Point: Same

Length: .7 mi. (W)

Average Grade: Nearly level (F)

Description: This existing trail winds through old-growth redwood forest with associated stream-side hardwoods (big-leaf maple, bay laurel and alder).

Trail Name: Redwood Creek Riverbars

Starting Point: Redwood Creek, opposite Redwood Creek Trailhead

Ending Point: Redwood Creek, south park boundary

Length: 18.4 mi. (M)

Average Grade: Nearly level (F)

Description: The gravel riverbars of Redwood Creek are, for all practical purposes, an existing trail. In addition to providing a safe, easy, and

indestructible travelway, the riverbars are the most appropriate and rewarding hiking route within the Redwood Creek Corridor. The riverbars make up critical links between the upslope trails and afford the only access to some trails and park features. Because of the rugged, fragile nature of the Rocky Gorge area and the nearly impassable barrier of Rocky Gap (located midway through the Gorge), visitor use of the Gorge will be discouraged via bypass trails, seasonal riverbar warning signs, interpretive literature, and ranger contacts.

EAST SIDE PLANNING AREA

The East Side Planning Area consists of all slopes on the east side of Redwood Creek up to the East Boundary, plus the lands in the vicinity of Skunk Cabbage Creek, bounded by the Davison Road on the north, the Pacific Ocean to the west, and Orick Hill to the south.

The East Side Planning Area contains the greatest diversity of vegetative types of the three Planning Areas. A hiker, leaving the crashing surf of Gold Bluffs Beach and walking inland to the south park boundary, would experience numerous changes in the plant communities along the way.

Near the ocean, coastal salal scrub, wind and salt-swept alder forest, and Sitka spruce predominate. Redwood, spruce and western hemlock occupy the slopes above Skunk Cabbage Creek in the old-growth forest areas while regenerating forest is quickly reclaiming clear-cuts. A magnificent swamp, with fifty-year old spruce and alder, lies in the lowland of Skunk Cabbage Creek. Here, the springtime eruption of skunk cabbage from the swamp's barren mudflats adds bright colors to the scene and a permeating odor to the air.

Climbing the ridge from Highway 101 to the Lady Bird Johnson Grove, the hiker makes a transition from the coastal environs of Skunk Cabbage Creek to the higher elevation, old-growth forest of redwood, Douglas-fir, grand fir, and hemlock. Between the spruce/redwood forest low on the slope, and the mixed conifer forest of the LBJ Grove, lies a superlative stand of almost pure redwood with a dense sword fern understory and sweeping downslope views.

Moving south into Redwood Creek proper, the hiker is confronted by three distinct bands of vegetation. The first consists of approximately 2,000 acres of rolling prairies, lush green during the rainy season and golden brown during the dry months. These increasingly dominate the east slope as one moves inland. In places, the grasslands extend long fingers down through the forest, providing exceptional recreational corridors and permitting the Planning Unit's finest long views. Most prairie areas are easily accessible from the Bald Hills Road and require no trails for park visitors to enjoy and explore them. Oak woodland communities with open understories are frequently associated with the prairies.

Downslope of the grasslands, and often hugging their margins, is the second band of vegetation. Here, vast regenerating clear-cuts occupy the non-prairie landscape from Larson Creek to Copper Creek.

The third band, a continuous block of old-growth redwood forest, stretches from the LBJ Grove almost to Copper Creek. This forest, located downslope of the clear-cuts, appears uniform to the airborne eye, but the hiker can observe distinct changes within its vegetational composition. Close to the coast, with its protective summer fog, species preferring a moister environment, for example western hemlock, salmonberry, swordfern, and oxalis, are important members of the forest community. Douglas-fir, tan oak, madrone, chinquapin, and shrubs in the heath family become increasingly important in the drier inland forest environment.

A significant Congressional intent of the 1978 expansion legislation was to include within Redwood National Park the full diversity of redwood associated

ecosystems. The trail planning team sought to compliment this intent of Congress by affording visitor access to a range of forests and prairies within the East Side Planning Area. In addition, Redwood National Park's visitors come to see and experience the old-growth redwood forest. With its linear configuration, the forest within the East Side Planning Area, perhaps better than any other remaining old-growth redwood forest, offers hikers the opportunity to totally immerse themselves in the redwoods for an extended period of time. Thus, the East Side Trail*, which stretches the length of this Planning Area, was conceived as a blending of the interests of Congress and visitor. While not directly connecting with the Redwood Creek Trailhead as suggested by Congress (PL 95-250), the East Side Trail (with associated trailheads and side trails) does provide all season access principally through old-growth to the Tall Trees Grove. The East Side Trail provides expanded and more diverse experiences than the congressional directive could while following more stable, gentler slopes. Field studies of a low elevation trail along the east side of Redwood Creek indicated that the route would cross numerous, deep drainages and unstable slopes, making trail construction and maintenance difficult. The East Side Trail fulfills, in part, the intent of the Humboldt County Trails Plan (Humboldt County, California, 1979) which seeks to connect the Coastal Trail with Six Rivers National Forest via a "regional trail corridor." It is the belief and intent of the planning team that the completed East Side Trail will become a destination feature of Redwood National Park, attracting visitors to hike the redwood forest from ocean to inland prairies.

Because of the long, narrow configuration of the East Side Planning Area, several trailheads would be established on the Bald Hills Road with trails leading down to the East Side Trail. Other trails would leave the East Side Trail and connect with Redwood Creek. This pattern of trails offers a great deal of flexibility for short or extended hiking, while providing access to the entire Redwood Creek portion of the Planning Unit. Two trailheads, the existing Lady Bird Johnson Grove and the proposed Dolason Prairie Trailhead, offer opportunities for special populations. Approximately six tenths of a mile of the existing Lady Bird Johnson Grove trail could be easily upgraded and would provide an excellent introduction to the old growth forest. A three-tenths mile interpretive loop trail would be developed at the Dolason Prairie trailhead. Both second growth and prairie vegetation would be featured and the trail provides outstanding views of Dolason Prairie and the lower Redwood Creek basin. Opportunities for special population access are limited at other trailheads because of steep terrain.

Signs will be designed with distinct logos to provide visitor guidance and continuity for the East Side and Coastal Trails. Where these trails overlap in the Skunk Cabbage Creek area, the logos will be mounted side-by-side.

Random hiker camping will be permitted in accordance with proposed 36 CFR parts 2.10, 2.13, and 2.14. In general, camping will be prohibited within one-quarter mile of the Bald Hills Road and trailheads, within 100 feet of a stream, or within sight of a trail. Fires would be prohibited. If specific

* The term "East Side Trail" is being used for identification purposes in this trail plan. A more appropriate name, which takes in the concept of the transitions from wet to dry, is desired.

sites receive repeated use, it may be necessary to develop them into backcountry camps. If sensitive resources are damaged, sites may be hardened or camps may be developed nearby to protect the park's environment. Use of no-impact camping techniques will be emphasized and encouraged through ranger contacts and interpretive literature.

The location of one section of trail just north of Orick has not been determined. A number of problems have confronted the planning team in their attempts to connect trails in the Skunk Cabbage Creek area south to Orick and into Redwood Creek. Park boundaries, cultural resource concerns, geological hazards, topographic features, and visitor safety questions have all complicated planning and made achievement of the trail plan's goals in this area somewhat questionable. Exact trail locations will be dependent upon additional work. Redwood National Park will work with the California Department of Transportation to solve safety issues on the Coastal Trail at the 35 MPH turn immediately north of Orick. The park will also enter into discussions with private landowners and/or interested third parties to attempt to provide a connection between the coastal and inland portions of the East Side Trail in the Skunk Cabbage Creek/Highway 101 area.

New trail names may be adopted to reflect the surrounding vegetation, terrain, or special features in all three planning areas. In addition, where trails follow or pass near traditional routes or use areas, Redwood National Park will work with Native Americans to appropriately identify these locations. For example, Indian names for traditional routes could be adopted for modern trails in the vicinity of the earlier paths. Such names and identifications would only be used following consultation and approval by local Native Americans.

TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

Trail Name: East Side Trail

Starting Point: Trailhead adjacent to Gold Bluffs Beach near Espau Lagoon, Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

Ending Point: Mouth of Copper Creek

Length: 25.95 mi. (M)

Description: A general description of the East Side Trail can be found in the text for the East Side Planning Area, above. The East Side Trail is broken down into segments listed below:

Segment 1: (Coastal/East Side Trail)

Starting Point: Trailhead adjacent to Gold Bluffs Beach near Espau Lagoon, Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

Ending Point: Coastal bluffs at top of north fork of Skunk Cabbage Creek watershed

Length: 2.4 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 6.7% (M) grades become steeper in areas

Description: This segment, follows the beach south for about one mile before climbing the bluffs above the beach. The General Management Plan calls for the establishment of a walk-in campground on the north side of Major Creek. This trail segment features second-growth Sitka spruce forest, alder forest, spruce/alder mix, coastal prairie, coastal scrub (salal), views and sounds of pounding surf, beaches, and ocean expanse with fishing boats. Ocean birds, elk, black tailed deer, porcupine, racoons, hawks, owls and bear have been encountered along the trail route. Whales may be seen offshore.

Segment 2: (Coastal/East Side Trail)

Starting Point: Coastal bluffs at the top of the north fork of Skunk Cabbage Creek watershed

Ending Point: Skunk Cabbage Creek Trailhead at a landing on the east side of Johnson Creek near U.S. 101

Length: 2.5 mi. (W)

Average Grade: 2%; however, a 6.3% grade is experienced between the ocean bluffs and the mainstem of Skunk Cabbage Creek

Description: This trail segment, which is under construction, drops down the north fork of the Skunk Cabbage Creek watershed, crosses to the south side of Skunk Cabbage Creek swamp, and parallels the creek until it reaches the Skunk Cabbage Creek Trailhead. Segment 2 includes regenerating clear-cut lands, and advanced second-growth mix of large Sitka spruce and alder. Visitors are afforded the opportunity to follow a watershed from close to its mouth to its source. Signs of elk, bear, owls, and hawks have been encountered.

Hikers would follow U.S. 101 and county road right-of-ways to continue on either the East Side Trail or the Coastal Trail through Orick. Alternative routes will be explored in this area.

Segment 3:

Starting Point: Intersection of the Redwood National Park boundary near the western end of the Bald Hills Road

Ending Point: West end of LBJ Grove

Length: 3.35 mi. (C)

Average Grade: 7% (C)

Description: Segment 3 follows a prominent ridge leading up to the LBJ Grove. The trail will pass through regenerating forest before encountering old-growth redwood/spruce with locally dense salmonberry in the understory. As the trail climbs the ridge, the forest gives way to almost pure stands of old-growth redwood. These slopes provide some of the most dramatic and sweeping views through open, old-growth redwood forest available in the park. Near the top of the ridge, the trail encounters and follows the old overgrown Bald Hills road alignment leading to the LBJ Grove.

Segment 4:

Starting Point: West end of LBJ Grove

Ending Point: LBJ Grove parking lot

Length: .6 mi. (M)

Average Grade: Almost level (F)

Description: As proposed, Segment 4 will follow the existing LBJ Grove Trail. Because of potential conflicts with the capacity of the LBJ Grove parking lot, further investigation will take place to reroute this segment to avoid the LBJ Trail and parking lot facilities without seriously compromising the visitor experience. This ridgetop forest contains a mixture of old-growth redwood, Douglas-fir, western hemlock, grand fir, rhododendron, salal, oxalis, swordfern, and huckleberries. This section of trail will be upgraded to provide for special population access.

Segment 5:

Starting Point: LBJ Grove parking lot

Ending Point: Intersection with Whiskey Forty North Trail, near confluence of north and south forks of Hayes Creek

Length: 1.1 mi. (M)

Average Grade: Unknown; however, the grade is gentle throughout (F)

Description: The route travels through old-growth redwood forest with Douglas-fir, grand fir and western hemlock in the canopy. A lush understory of salal, swordfern, rhododendron, huckleberry, woodrose, and tan oak is below. Swordfern, heath shrubs, and salmonberry form dense, almost unpenetrable, thickets in areas. Good displays of white-veined pyrola (*Pyrola picta*) and coral root orchid (*Corallorhiza* spp.) are encountered. A short spur trail ($\pm$ 200 feet) will be built to an overlook of the Orick Valley soon after Segment 5 leaves the LBJ parking lot. The view from the overlook takes in the forested slopes of lower Redwood Creek, the Orick Valley, and the Pacific Ocean.

Segment 6:

Starting Point: Intersection with Whiskey Forty North Trail

Ending Point: Intersection with Whiskey Forty South Trail

Length: .4 mi. (M)

Average Grade: Unknown; however, the grade is relatively gentle throughout (F)

Description: See Segment 5 for description of vegetation.

Segment 7:

Starting Point: Intersection with Whiskey Forty South Trail

Ending Point: Intersection with Wild Ginger Trail

Length: .5 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 10.3% (M)

Description: The trail drops rapidly through old-growth redwood forest and swings below lower Ganns Prairie. It then continues through relatively open old-growth redwood forest with dense understories of swordfern or salal. Salmonberry thickets are encountered in wet areas.

Segment 8:

Starting Point: Intersection with Wild Ginger Trail

Ending Point: Intersection with New Growth Trail

Length: 3.3 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 1.1% (M) Grades may be locally steeper as trail enters and leaves tributary streams

Description: Side slopes are frequently steep. The trail swings through Chris and Larson Creeks which offer dramatic medium-range views through the forest and, at one point, down to Redwood Creek's riverbar. The trail drops below clear-cuts (which originate from the C-20 Road) before encountering the New-Growth Trail shortly before reaching Cloquet Creek. Old-growth redwood forest with locally dense understories of small western hemlock or tan oak are encountered.

Segment 9:

Starting Point: Intersection with New-Growth Trail

Ending Point: Intersection with Miller Creek Trail

Length: 1.7 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 4.5% (M) Grade becomes steeper as it enters and leaves tributary streams

Description: Large boulders, covered with boykinia, poison oak, and mosses, are unexpectedly encountered south of Cloquet Creek. The trail climbs to a landing at the end of the C-40 Road. A fine view of the old-growth forest on either side of lower Redwood Creek is available from this landing. Field conditions suggest this view will probably be available for some years in the future. The trail follows the C-40 Road southward passing above a solid block of old-growth redwood forest, and then encountering a second cut-block below the road. At the south end of this second cut-block, an old skid trail is followed down into the forest. The East Side Trail uses a prominent ridge to drop through old-growth to a lower elevation thus avoiding a series of clear-cuts which run below the C-40 Road. The old-growth redwood forest through this area becomes noticeably more open, with an understory of tan oak, rhododendron and swordfern. The trail follows relatively gentle benches with easy walking.

Segment 10:

Starting Point: Intersection with Miller Creek Trail

Ending Point: Intersection with Tall Trees Trail

Length: 2.3 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 3.7% (M) Some sections, particularly into and out of Miller Creek, are much steeper

Description: Soon after the intersection with the Miller Creek Trail, the East Side Trail swings steeply through the Miller Creek drainage. Beyond, with the exception of Cole Creek, the walking is easy on relatively gentle slopes. The historic Trinidad Trail is crossed on the ridgeline above the Tall Trees Grove. As indicated by fire scars and young understory trees, the packers who used this trail in the nineteenth century may have burned the forest to reduce cover. Even today, the

result is an open forest with fine, sweeping, downslope views. After crossing the Trinidad Trail, the East Side Trail passes for a short distance through the lower tip of a cable yarded clear-cut and then reenters old-growth forest before reaching the Tall Trees Trail 600 feet from the Tall Trees Trailhead. The East Side Trail has been intentionally routed to cross the existing Tall Trees Trail high on the slopes above the Tall Trees Grove in an attempt to discourage additional traffic to the Tall Trees and give hikers the option to avoid that busy area. Swordfern and huckleberry dominate the understory.

Segment 11:

Starting Point: Intersection with Tall Trees Trail

Ending Point: Intersection with Emerald Ridge Trail

Length: 1 mi. (W)

Average Grade: 8.9% (A)

Description: Segment 11 follows the alignment of the present Emerald Ridge Trail until the East Side Trail drops to cross Emerald Creek. The old-growth redwood forest contains Douglas-fir, large tan oak, and increasing numbers of madrone and chinquapin. Large huckleberry and rhododendron make up the dense understory. In several spots, the trail passes through ancient stream deposits of gravels, cobbles, and small boulders, today located hundreds of feet above the nearest watercourses.

Segment 12:

Starting Point: Intersection with Emerald Ridge Trail

Ending Point: Intersection with Gorge Bypass North Trail

Length: 3 mi. (M)

Average Grade: There is little change in grade during Segment 12 except as the trail enters and leaves tributary streams (M,F)

Description: The East Side Trail drops into and climbs out of the Emerald Creek watershed using a strong ridge on the south side of Emerald Creek to gain elevation again. Passing its intersection with the Dolason Prairie Trail, the trail swings below two large cable yarded cut blocks and crosses Dolason and Gem Creeks before traversing the slope about 200 feet in elevation above Hidden Prairie. The further south one travels along Segment 12 the more open the understory becomes. Redwood, Douglas-fir, tan oak, madrone, chinquapin, huckleberry, and swordfern predominate. Increasing numbers of game trails are encountered in this open forest. Bobcat, deer and bear sign have been observed.

Segment 13:

Starting Point: Intersection with Gorge Bypass North Trail

Ending Point: Intersection with Gorge Bypass South Trail

Length: 2 mi. (M)

Average Grade: Generally gentle except as tributary streams are encountered (F)

Description: Airstrip Creek is reached shortly after leaving the intersection with the Gorge Bypass North Trail. One of the highlights of the East Side Trail is discovered when it breaks out of the forest and crosses lower Counts Hill Prairie. Exceptional views are available up and across the prairie and into the old-growth forest on the west side of Redwood Creek. Grand fir, western hemlock, Oregon white oak and bay laurel inhabit the prairie's edge. The trail then crosses Slide Creek and skirts the top of Pigpen Prairie. Forest description is generally the same as under Segment 12.

Segment 14:Starting Point: Intersection with Gorge Bypass South TrailEnding Point: Mouth of Copper CreekLength: 1.8 mi. (M,C)Average Grade: Nearly level until the last .6 mi. with 10% grade (M,C)Roads Used: 2004 RoadDescription: After .3 mi. in old-growth redwood forest the trail breaks out into clear-cuts and follows the 2004 Road until shortly before it reaches the K & K Road. As proposed here, the trail drops down onto a landing below the south end of the 2004 Road and from there follows the ridgeline down to the mouth of Copper Creek.

It should be noted that Segment 14 passes through an area of unstable soils as it approaches Copper Creek. Two weeks of staff time were devoted to locating a feasible route below the 2004 road to the mouth of Copper Creek. However, earthflows, landslides, rapidly eroding gullies, and exposed soils with extremely high erosion hazard ratings were repeatedly encountered. Although the 2004 road exhibits some of these same conditions, it appears to be a feasible route. A subsequent analysis of a hydrological map made prior to the rehabilitation work in the 2004 road area suggests that another route should be investigated prior to trail construction. The map indicates that a 500 - 600 foot wide section of stable slope may exist between the 2004 road and the north end of a rehabilitated road which crosses the mouth of Copper Creek. A 7% graded trail with a series of climbing turns between these two roads might provide a more stable, safer, easier trail alignment for gaining access to the mouth of Copper Creek.

Trail Name: Forest Renewal TrailStarting Point: Forest Renewal Trailhead on Davison RoadEnding Point: Skunk Cabbage Loop TrailLength: .5 mi. (M)Average Grade: Unknown; however, grades are gentle throughout (F)Description: The existing Forest Renewal Trail leaves an already developed trailhead on the Davison Road and follows an old cat road in a westerly direction until it reaches recent clear-cuts in the Skunk Cabbage Hill area. Redwood National Park's General Management Plan calls for upgrading this cat trail to allow for vehicle access to a proposed campground in the Skunk Cabbage Hill area.Trail Name: Skunk Cabbage Loop TrailStarting Point: At the point where the East Side/Coastal Trail swings south to cross Skunk Cabbage CreekEnding Point: Intersection with East Side/Coastal Trail on the Gold Bluffs north of the North Fork of Skunk Cabbage CreekLength: 3.8 mi. (M)Average Grade: Appears gentle throughout (F,M)Description: In conjunction with the Forest Renewal Trail, the East Side/Coastal Trail, and trailheads at Major Creek, Johnson Creek (at Skunk Cabbage Creek) and the Davison Road, this trail will provide one of the few opportunities in the southern end of Redwood National Park for medium length day loop hikes. Recent clearcuts, advanced second-growth, and old-growth forest are features of this hike. Porcupine, deer, elk and bear sign were observed during planning.

Trail Name: Whiskey Forty North Trail
Starting Point: Whiskey Forty Trailhead
Ending Point: Intersection with East Side Trail
Length: .8 mi. (C)
Average Grade: 7.5% (M,C)

Description: Redwood National Park will develop a trailhead with parking at the Whiskey Forty clearcut on the west side of the Bald Hills Road. A 1.7 mile loop hike using the Whiskey Forty North and the Whiskey Forty South Trails plus the East Side Trail will be available to hikers from the Whiskey Forty Trailhead. Access to Redwood Creek via the Wild Ginger Trail is also available from here. Dense, aerially seeded, second-growth conifer forest is found at the trailhead, with old-growth redwood forest below.

Trail Name: Whiskey Forty South Trail
Starting Point: Intersection with Whiskey Forty North Trail
Ending Point: Intersection with East Side Trail
Length: .5 mi. (C)
Average Grade: 7.5% (M,C)
Description: See also Whiskey Forty North Trail description. This trail heads in a southwesterly direction. As the trail reaches a ridge above Ganns Prairie, it swings back toward the northwest before hitting the East Side Trail. The trail passes through old-growth redwood forest.

Trail Name: Wild Ginger Trail
Starting Point: East Side Trail
Ending Point: Redwood Creek Trail just downstream of the 1.5 mile, seasonal bridge over Redwood Creek
Length: 2.5 mi. (M,C)
Average Grade: 8.9% (M)
Description: The Wild Ginger Trail makes a series of long climbing turns down a prominent ridge which leads to Redwood Creek. The old-growth trees are generally widely spaced, giving an open feeling to the forest. Heavy understories of swordfern reach above the hiker's head. Dramatic displays of wild ginger clump around the base of many of the redwood trees on this route. Evidence of bear and deer has been encountered.

Trail Name: New Growth Trail
Starting Point: Top of C-Line on Bald Hills Road at New Growth Trailhead (shuttlebus parking lot)
Ending Point: East Side Trail
Length: 2.5 mi. (C)
Average Grade: 7.6% (M)
Description: In 1979 Redwood National Park developed a graveled parking lot with restroom facilities for use by visitors taking the C-line shuttle bus tour. Today the shuttle bus originates in Orick leaving this parking area available for use as a trailhead. Dropping through two cable yarded clear-cuts and one large tractor yarded clear-cut, the New Growth Trail follows a prominent ridge down to old-growth redwood forest and the East Side Trail below.

Trail Name: Miller Creek Trail
Starting Point: East Side Trail
Ending Point: Redwood Creek, immediately downstream of the mouth of Miller Creek
Length: .5 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 9.5% (M)

Description: Provides access to Redwood Creek from the East Side Trail.

Trail Name: Tall Trees Trail

Starting Point: Tall Trees Trailhead on C-line shuttle bus route

Ending Point: Redwood Creek at Tall Trees Grove

Length: 1.3 mi. (W)

Average Grade 9.9% (M)

Description: The present Tall Trees Trail follows an old fire road through an old-growth forest. Some grades are in excess of 20% and the trail crosses the Elbow Creek slide which causes some maintenance problems, but also creates opportunities for interpretation.

Trail Name: Emerald Ridge Trail

Starting Point: East Side Trail

Ending Point: Redwood Creek

Length: .25 mi. (W)

Average Grade: 7.5% (M)

Description: This lower portion of the present 1.25 mile Emerald Ridge Trail will give access to Redwood Creek from the East Side Trail through old-growth redwood forest.

Trail Name: Dolason Prairie Trail

Starting Point: Dolason Prairie Trailhead on Bald Hills Road

Ending Point: East Side Trail, south of Emerald Creek

Length: 6 mi. (with nature loop trail) (C)

Average Grade: 7% (M)

Description: The Dolason Prairie Trailhead will be established on the west side of the Bald Hills Road, 11 miles (0) from Highway 101, at the site of a former lumber mill. In the area of the trailhead, Redwood National Park will construct a special populations accessible picnic area and a .3 mile nature loop trail through second-growth conifer and prairie habitats. The nature trail will afford visitors exceptional views of Dolason Prairie and the historic Dolason barn, plus a panoramic sweep of the lower Redwood Creek watershed, including old-growth forest, Bridge Ridge, Rodgers Peak and the Pacific Ocean in the distance. The hiking trail will leave the nature trail, cross the K & K Road and use a rehabilitated road alignment to gain access to Dolason Prairie before dropping down a strong ridge through old-growth redwood forest to the East Side Trail. As the trail crosses Dolason Prairie, it will pass approximately 150 feet above the historic barn structure. In order to discourage vandalism to the barn, an interpretive sign will be placed beside the trail. The sign will describe the barn's historical significance and urge conservation of that resource. Small, standardized signs warning that the barn is protected by Federal law will be attached to the barn as a further deterrent. Elk, deer, mountain lion, coyote, skunk, and grouse have been observed in the prairie. The redwood forest, through which the trail passes, appears to support an unusually broad diversity of wildflowers within a relatively small area. Included is a sizeable population of the redwood orchid (Calypso bulbosa).

Trail Name: Gorge Bypass North Trail

Starting Point: East Side Trail, north of Airstrip Creek

Ending Point: Riverbar on the east side of Redwood Creek, approximately .4 mi. downstream from the northern end of Rocky Gorge

Length: 1.5 mi. (C)

Average Grade: 8.1 % (M)

Description: This trail, in conjunction with the East Side Trail and the Gorge Bypass South Trail, will allow hikers in the Redwood Creek Corridor to bypass Rocky Gorge. It passes through old-growth redwood forest.

Trail Name: Gorge Bypass South Trail

Starting Point: East Side Trail south of Pigpen Prairie

Ending Point: Redwood Creek at southernmost section of old-growth forest on East Side

Length: .8 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 7.6% (M)

Description: See Gorge Bypass North Trail description.

Trail Name: Copper Creek Trail

Starting Point: Copper Creek Trailhead on Bald Hills Road

Ending Point: Redwood Creek at mouth of Copper Creek

Length: 4.6 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 8.2% (M)

Roads Used: 1900 Road

Description: The Copper Creek Trailhead parking area will be established on the east side of the Bald Hills Road at junction with an abandoned road and the park's cattle chute, 14.7 miles (0) from Highway 101. The Copper Creek Trail starts on the west side of the Bald Hills Road opposite the trailhead parking lot. The trail initially heads in a south-southeasterly direction, dropping slowly through prairie and oak woodland until it reaches the upper end of the 1900 Road. Following the rehabilitated 1900 Road through recent clear-cuts, it reaches and drops through prairie and oak woodland before crossing the K & K and uses abandoned roads below the K & K to reach the mouth of Copper Creek. Spectacular views are available from the prairies high in Copper Creek across to Devil's Creek and to other areas on the west side of the park.

WEST SIDE PLANNING AREA

The West Side Planning Area consists of all slopes on the west side of Redwood Creek up to the park boundary. This Planning Area includes approximately two-thirds of the total land in the Planning Unit. The largest tributary streams to Redwood Creek are located here. Steep slopes and high ridges form a complex topography which heavily influences trail planning. Some of the park's most recent and oldest clear-cuts separate scattered blocks of old-growth forest, providing a wide mosaic of vegetational patterns.

Redwood National Park's 1980 General Management Plan calls for establishment of a horse trail system for pack horse trips within this Planning Area. Within this Backcountry Trail Plan, 63 miles of horse trails form the majority of the trail system for hiking as well as horseback riding. An appropriate logo will identify horse trails for visitors. In addition, twenty miles of hiking-only trails would give access to some of the more fragile and pristine landscapes on the west side and to the Redwood Creek Corridor in seven locations. Hiker passable barriers will be installed where needed to prevent horse access into hiking-only areas. The horse trails on the west side can provide additional access for special populations who are interested in horse rides.

Because horse access to this Planning Area is limited to one trailhead near Orick, half and full day loop trail options are provided. (The California Department of Parks and Recreation may establish a horse trail from Stone Lagoon which will come close to Redwood National Park's boundary near the headwaters of McArthur Creek. This could provide a second access point in the future; however, a route connecting the trails has not been determined. The suitability and feasibility of such a trail will be explored with the Department of Parks and Recreation.) A two to four day loop possibility is proposed in the northern third of the Planning Area and access to the extreme southern portion is planned for extended trips.

In keeping with the intent of the General Management Plan recommendations, an attempt has been made to find horse trail routes along the ridges or high enough above stream sources to avoid water quality problems. A total of ten horse campsites have been tentatively located along the route. It is intended that campsites in heavy use areas would be closed and opened on a rotational basis to allow individual campgrounds to recover from adverse impacts. Generally speaking, these camps are off the main horse trail, in relatively open areas, reasonably close to water resources and, whenever possible, in sites that have view opportunities. Further evaluation of these campsites is necessary, particularly in regards to black bear behavior in the park. Random hiker camping will be permitted on the west side under the same guidelines described for the East Side Planning Area.

It is the intent of this plan to provide day use and/or camping locations for tethering horses close to, yet several minutes walk from the Redwood Creek Corridor. This would maintain a separation between horses and hikers while permitting horseback users access to Redwood Creek. Where possible, horse camps are proposed in close proximity to Redwood Creek. However steep slopes limit the number of large, open sites suitable for overnight horse camping. Consequently, most suitable campsites are well away from Redwood Creek. Further field investigation is required of two potential areas: one is just

below the horse trail between Elam and Bond Creeks, perhaps along Trail A. Further south, between Bond and Forty-Four Creeks, the Redwood Creek trail climbs well above the stream, limiting access to the gravel bars. A second location may be along the Bridge Face Trail near the "t" intersection at the lower end of the 1850 road. If a suitable location for a hitching area can be found, horse access would be permitted within one-quarter mile of Redwood Creek.

Because the horse trails make extensive use of the existing logging road network, trail planning and development will be coordinated with the land rehabilitation efforts on the west side of the park.

Portions of the existing horse trail will be abandoned (see map) because of limited recreational values, geological and hydrological constraints, and high maintenance costs.

Hiking and horse trails along Bridge Ridge and in the upper Bridge Creek watershed will be analyzed in more detail as the results of on-going black bear studies are determined. Trails will be located in order to minimize problems of human and bear interactions. The trail routes are low in construction priority and it is expected that studies would be complete prior to detailed route layout.

TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS
HORSE TRAILS*

Trail Name: Half Day Loop Trail

Starting Point: Park boundary at Redwood Creek levee

Ending Point: Same

Total Length: 5.1 mi. (M)

Description: The trail climbs the Orick ridge, initially through alder and then through mixed old-growth Sitka spruce/redwood forest with a heavy understory of salmonberry and swordfern. As the ridge begins to level out, the trail reaches clear-cuts with good views overlooking the Orick Valley and the Pacific Ocean. Lane's Pack Station uses this location as a rest stop for horses and riders. A small observation deck will be erected on top of a large redwood stump here where a view can be maintained for a number of years. Beyond the rest stop, the trail reenters old-growth redwood forest before swinging over to the A-9-7-3 Road through recent clear-cuts. The trail then briefly heads in a north-northeasterly direction on the A-9-7-3 Road before dropping below the road and returning to the beginning of the Half Day Loop through old-growth redwood forest. The section through old-growth will involve about two miles of new construction.

Trail Name: Full Day Loop Trail

Starting Point: Park boundary at Redwood Creek Levee

Ending Point: Same

Total Length: 7.3 mi. (This figure reflects the linear trail mileage of the following segments, not the length of a horse ride on the Full Day Loop).

Description: The Full Day Loop initially utilizes the Half Day Loop to gain access to and from Orick. Portions of the Full Day Loop must be retraced to cross the McArthur Creek bridge.

Segment 1:

Starting Point: Top of Orick Ridge on Half Day Loop

Ending Point: Bridge at McArthur Creek

Length: 1.0 mi. (M)

Grade: 7.1% (M)

Description: Segment 1 drops through recent cutover lands until it reaches McArthur Creek. Reports indicate that this segment is too steep and wet in areas. It would be evaluated and realigned as needed.

Segment 2:

Starting Point: McArthur Creek bridge

Ending Point: L-2-2-1 Road

Length: .6 mi. (C)

Average Grade: 7.5% (M)

Description: After leaving the bridge crossing at McArthur Creek, the present trail alignment swings to the south and climbs through cutover land to reach the L-2-2-1 Road. The trail would be rerouted towards the east through old-growth redwood forest until it reaches the road.

Segment 3:

Starting Point: L-2-2-1 Road above McArthur Creek

* Horse trails are designed and intended for horse use, but will be open to hikers.

Ending Point: Intersection of L-2-2-1 with L-2 Road

Length: .6 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 3.8% (M)

Roads Used: L-2-2-1 Road

Description: The trail follows an overgrown extension of the L-2-2-1 Road through old-growth redwood forest with beautiful sweeping views downslope towards McArthur Creek. Large western red cedar are an exciting feature of this segment. Frequent bear and elk signs have been encountered.

Segment 4:

Starting Point: Intersection of L-2-2-1 with L-2 Road

Ending Point: Top of ridge between McArthur and Elam Creek (AKA "Yellow Brick Road")

Length: 1.7 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 2.5% (M) for the first 1.2 mi., 10.6% for the remaining .5 mi. (M)

Roads Used: L-2 Road

Description: The trail passes through old-growth redwood for approximately .8 mi. before breaking out into clear-cuts and continuing on a broad graveled road high above Elam Creek. A horse trail camp is located .2 mi. off the main trail on a large circular landing bordered by old-growth redwood forest. Approximately 1.2 miles from Segment 4's beginning, the trail swings upslope following skid trails through recent clear-cuts until it reaches the ridgetop.

Segment 5:

Starting Point: Top of ridge between McArthur and Elam Creeks (AKA "Yellow Brick Road")

Ending Point: Intersection with Segments 3 and 4 of Full Day Loop Trail

Length: 1.2 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 5.5% (M)

Description: The first half of this segment is on the ridgetop through a dense forest of young-growth Douglas-fir. The remainder of the route is through old-growth redwood forest. Persons riding or hiking the Full Day Loop would then retrace their steps down to the bridge at McArthur Creek (Segments 2 and 3).

Segment 6:

Starting Point: Landing on northwest bank of McArthur Creek above the bridge

Ending Point: Intersection of A-9-7 and A-9-7-3 Roads

Length: .9 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 1.3% (M)

Roads Used: A-9-7 Road

Description: This road heads in a southwesterly direction through clear-cuts.

Segment 7:

Starting Point: Intersection of A-9-7 and A-9-7-3 Roads

Ending Point: On A-9-7-3 Road at intersection with the Half Day Loop

Length: 1.3 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 6% (M)

Description: The trail heads in a northwesterly direction, making use of old tractor skid roads to reach an unnumbered timber road on the Orick

face. The trail then follows this road until it hits the intersection of the A-9-7-3 Road and the Half Day Loop. Good views of the Orick Valley are available and, in places, the road passes below old-growth redwood forest.

Trail Name: Three Day Loop Trail

Starting Point: Park boundary at Redwood Creek Levee

Ending Point: Same

Length: 14.1 mi. (M) (This figure reflects the linear trail mileage of the following segments, not the length of a horse ride on the Three Day Loop Trail)

Trail Description: Using portions of the Half and Full Day Loop Trails to gain access from and to Orick, this trail provides a comfortable three day ride into the backcountry of Redwood Creek. The eastern portion of this loop roughly parallels the Redwood Creek Trail though at a significantly higher elevation. The western portion of this loop climbs to, and follows, high ridges. If the opportunity becomes available, Redwood National Park will work with the State of California to provide trail access from Stone Lagoon to the western section of the Three Day Loop.

Segment 1:

Starting Point: Intersection of Segments 3 and 4 on the Full Day Loop

Ending Point: Elam Creek

Length: .6 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 12.6% (M)

Roads Used: L-2-2-1 Road and L-1-4 Road

Description: The horse trail follows a heavily overgrown continuation of the L-2-2-1 Road through old-growth redwood forest. Dropping steadily until it leaves the road, the trail then continues through old-growth redwood forest to the L-1-4 Road on the north bank of Elam Creek. The Elam Creek hiking trail provides access from this point to the Redwood Creek Trail and Redwood Creek. A day-use hitching post will be installed near the trail intersection. The horse trail follows the L-1-4 Road until it arrives at the stream crossing.

Segment 2:

Starting Point: Elam Creek on the L-1-4 Road

Ending Point: Intersection of L-1-4 Road and L-1-5 Road

Length: 1.4 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 6.5% (M)

Roads Used: L-1-4 Road

Description: The trail follows the L-1-4 Road. A horse camp is located .8 mile from Elam Creek. Beyond the camp, Trail A leaves the horse trail and drops to the Redwood Creek Trail. Vegetation along this segment ranges from recent to older clear-cuts with old-growth redwood forest downslope.

Segment 3:

Starting Point: Intersection of L-1-4 Road and L-1-5 Road

Ending Point: On L-1-5 Road as trail leaves the road and drops into old-growth forest in Bond Creek

Length: 1.2 mi. (M)

Average Grade: Nearly level (F)

Roads Used: L-1-5 Road

Description: Segment 3 is similar to Segment 2 above.

Segment 4:

Starting Point: L-1-5 Road

Ending Point: Bond Creek

Length: .95 mi. (C)

Average Grade: 8% (M)

Description: Old-growth redwood forest.

Segment 5:

Starting Point: Bond Creek

Ending Point: M-11 Road

Length: 1.05 mi. (C)

Average Grade: 7.2% (M)

Description: Older clear-cuts with advanced second-growth forest.

Segment 6:

Starting Point: M-11 Road as trail comes out of Bond Creek

Ending Point: A-9 Road as trail drops into Forty-Four Creek

Length: 1.1 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 2.1% (M)

Roads Used: M-11, A-9

Description: Recent clear-cuts.

Segment 7:

Starting Point: A-9 Road as trail drops into Forty-Four Creek

Ending Point: Intersection of Horse Trail with Forty-Four Creek Trail

Length: 1.2 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 2.5% (M)

Roads Used: C-Line

Description: Using old tractor skid roads, or a new road put in for rehabilitation access, the horse trail will drop to the end of the C-Line on the north slope of Forty-Four Creek. It then follows the C-Line to its intersection with the Forty-Four Creek Trail. Vegetation is primarily recent clear-cuts with old-growth redwood forest downslope. The Redwood Creek Corridor is accessible to hikers via the Forty-Four Creek Trail.

Segment 8:

Starting Point: Intersection of Horse Trail with Forty-Four Creek Trail

Ending Point: Intersection of C-13 Road and C-Line

Length: .5 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 5.7% (A)

Roads Used: C-Line

Description: This is an attractive trail segment with large second-growth conifers and older alder lining the road.

Segment 9:

Starting Point: Intersection of C-13 Road and C-Line

Ending Point: A-9 Deck #2

Length: 2 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 5.7% (M)

Roads Used: C-13 Road

Description: Roughly one and one-third miles of this route are on the C-13 Road, primarily through fairly recent clear-cuts. A horse camp is

proposed soon after leaving the C-13 Road as the trail climbs to the A-9 Deck #2 via old skid trails. Exact location of the horse camp is undetermined.

Segment 10:

Starting Point: A-9 Deck #2

Ending Point: Intersection of L-1 and L-1-1 Roads

Length: 1.2 mi. (0)

Average Grade: The first .15 mi. of trail is 16.4% grade. Beyond is a more gentle rise and then a drop to an elevation ten feet below the beginning of the segment (F,A).

Roads Used: L-Line, L-1-1 Road

Description: Recent clear-cuts

Segment 11:

Starting Point: Intersection of L-1-1 Road and L-1 Road

Ending Point: Intersection of L-1 Road with L-Line

Length: .9 mi. (0)

Average Grade: 2.5% (A)

Description: Recent clear-cuts.

Segment 12:

Starting Point: Intersection of L-1 Road with L-Line

Ending Point: Intersection with Full Day Loop Trail on top of ridge between McArthur and Elam Creeks

Length: 2 mi. (0,M)

Average Grade: 1.3% (M)

Roads Used: L-Line, L-2, L-2-2-1

Description: Following sections of the above roads along the ridgetop east of McArthur Creek, the trail passes through recent (but rapidly regrowing) clear-cuts. After 1.1 miles, the trail leaves the road, swinging north and then northeast along the ridgetop trail segment known as the "Yellow Brick Road."

Trail Name: Halfway Trail

Length: 9.55 mi.

Starting Point: Intersection of C-13 Road and C-Line

Ending Point: Bridge Creek

Description: The Halfway Trail serves as a connection between the horse trail loops in the northern third of the Planning Area and the trail system in the southern third. Four horse campsites have been identified along the Halfway Trail, and three hiking trails give access from the Halfway Trail to the Redwood Creek Corridor. The M-Line trail to the Tall Trees area intersects this trail. Except for some old-growth redwood forest in the Tom McDonald Creek watershed and as the trail approaches Bridge Creek, most of the route travels through clear-cut lands in various stages of regrowth.

Segment 1:

Starting Point: Intersection of C-13 Road and C-Line

Ending Point: Intersection of C-Line and C-12-1 Roads

Length: 1.1 mi. (0)

Average Grade: 5.2% (A)

Description: The trail passes primarily through older clear-cut units with dense alders and conifers.

Segment 2:Starting Point: Intersection of C-Line and C-12-1 RoadsEnding Point: Intersection of G-6 and C-12-1 RoadsLength: .4 mi. (0)Average Grade: 5.2% (A)Roads Used: C-12-1Description: This is an attractive route passing through large second-growth trees.Segment 3:Starting Point: Intersection of G-6 and C-12-1 RoadsEnding Point: Horse campsite southeast of Forty-Four CreekLength: .45 mi. (M)Grade: 8.4% (M)Description: Older clear-cut with heavy regrowth.Segment 4:Starting Point: Intersection of G-6 and C-12-1 RoadsEnding Point: Tom McDonald CreekLength: 1.6 mi. (C)Average Grade: 7.5% (M)Roads Used: G-6Description: After following the G-6 Road for a short distance, the trail drops through older cutblocks, reaching old-growth forest just above Tom McDonald Creek.Segment 5:Starting Point: Tom McDonald CreekEnding Point: Intersection of G-Line and G-6 Road near G-Line DeckLength: 2.9 mi. (C,M)Average Grade: 7.5% for the first 1.8 mi. (M). The remaining 1.1 mi. appears to have little change (M)Roads Used: Unnumbered road on top of ridge east of Tom McDonald CreekDescription: The trail climbs through old-growth redwood forest until it reaches a ridgetop road which runs through older clear-cuts with rapidly growing trees. A horsecamp is proposed at the G-Line deck several hundred feet southwest of the intersection of Segments 5 and 6.Segment 6:Starting Point: Intersection of G-Line and G-6 RoadEnding Point: Intersection of M-7 and M7-1½ RoadsLength: .8 mi. (0)Average Grade: 4.75% (M)Roads Used: G-Line and M-7 RoadDescription: The M-Line Trail is encountered at the intersection of the G-Line and M-7 road. Segment 6 initially passes through well established second-growth forest before hitting more recent cuts. Signs of bear, elk, and racoon have been encountered.Segment 7: (Bridge Creek Horse Trail)Starting Point: Intersection of M-7 Road and M-7½ RoadEnding Point: End of M-7-1½ RoadLength: .9 mi. (M)Average Grade: 3.4% (M)

Roads Used: M-7-1½ Road

Description: This spur trail is designed to take horseback riders fairly close to Redwood Creek before providing foot access to the Redwood Creek Corridor within the Emerald Mile. A hiking trail will have to be developed from the end of the M-7-1½ Road down to the Bridge Creek Trail for access from this segment of the horse trail. The trail passes through old-growth redwood and recent tractor and cable yarded clear-cuts.

Segment 8:

Starting Point: Intersection of M-7 and M-7-1½ Roads

Ending Point: Intersection of M-7 and M-7-2 Roads

Length: .6 mi. (0)

Average Grade: 5% (M)

Roads Used: M-7 Road

Description: Old-growth redwood and older clear-cuts with dense revegetation.

Segment 9:

Starting Point: Intersection of M-7 and M-7-2 Roads

Ending Point: Horse campsite on landing at end of M-6-2 Road

Length: .4 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 12.3% (M)

Roads Used: M-7-2 Road

Description: This spur trail passes through older clear-cuts with dense regrowth and some old-growth redwood forest. A horse camp is proposed at the end of this segment.

Segment 10:

Starting Point: Intersection of M-7 and M-7-2 Roads

Ending Point: Bridge Creek

Length: .4 mi. (0)

Average Grade: 2.4% (A)

Roads Used: M-7 Road

Description: Old-growth redwood forest and older clear-cuts with dense regrowth.

Trail Name: M-Line Trail

Starting Point: Intersection of M-Line, G-Line, and M-7 Road

Ending Point: The trail splits after 1.8 miles. The right fork heads south west for .4 miles to a horse camp. The left fork heads northwest for several hundred feet to a wide spot where a hitching post will be installed.

Length: 2.3 mi. (M)

Average Grade: Gentle (F)

Roads Used: M-Line

Description: The M-Line trail would provide access to a horse camp close to Redwood Creek and to a day use hitching post located on the M-Line approximately one-half mile from the Tall Trees Grove.

Trail Name: Bridge Face Trail

Starting Point: Bridge Creek

Ending Point: "T" Intersection at lower end of 1850 Road

Length: 5.7 mi.

Description: The Bridge Face Trail, in conjunction with other trails, provides access to the Redwood Creek Corridor in two locations and into the Bridge Creek and Devil's Creek areas. It passes through or alongside

clear-cuts in various stages of regrowth, older seed-tree cuts and old-growth redwood forest.

Segment 1:

Starting Point: Bridge Creek

Ending Point: Intersection of M-7-5-2, M-7-5-3, and M-7-5-4 Roads

Length: 1.7 mi. (O)

Average Grade: 10% (A)

Roads Used: M-7 Road, M-7-5 Road, and M-7-5-2 Road

Description: Segment 1 climbs steeply through recent clear-cuts.

Segment 2:

Starting Point: Intersection of M-7-5-2, M-7-5-3, and M-7-5-4 Roads

Ending Point: Intersection of 1840 Road and spur road to horse camp

Length: 1.4 mi. (O,M)

Average Grade: 4.1% (A,F) This segment climbs at an 8.3% grade for the first .5 mi.

Roads Used: M-7-5-3 and 1840 Roads

Description: The first third of this segment climbs through recent cutover lands reaching old-growth forest above the trail with alternating blocks of old-growth forest and clear-cuts below the trail. Several hundred feet of new trail construction are needed to connect the ends of the M-7-5-3 and 1840 Roads.

Segment 3:

Starting Point: Intersection of 1840 Road and spur road to horse camp

Ending Point: Intersection of 1800 and 1840 Roads

Length: 1.3 mi. (O,M)

Average Grade: 8.7% (A)

Roads Used: 1840 Road

Description: As this segment begins, a short spur leads downslope of the trail in a northwesterly direction to a proposed horse campsite. This trail passes through a series of seed-tree cuts with advanced regrowth and stands of large alder.

Segment 4:

Starting Point: Intersection of 1840 and 1800 Roads

Ending Point: "T" intersection at lower end of 1850 Road

Length: 1.3 mi. (O)

Average Grade: 3.2% (A) The grade is 1.1% for the first .7 mi., 5.7% for the last .6 mi.

Roads Used: 1800 Road and 1850 Road

Description: Similar to Segment 3. The lower portion of the 1850 Road has younger regrowth.

Trail Name: Bridge Face Trail

Starting Point: Dead-end "T" intersection on 1850 Road

Ending Point: Redwood Creek opposite mouth of Copper Creek

Length: 1.2 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 6.3% (M)

Roads Used: 1850 Road

Description: The trail passes through old seed-tree cuts with advanced second-growth forest for the first .6 miles. It then enters old-growth redwood forest for approximately .3 miles before reaching and following the

lower section of the 1850 Road through recent clear-cuts. If feasible, a horse camp would be found near the beginning of this segment. The final .25 mi. of this segment, as Redwood Creek is approached, would be hiking only.

Trail Name: Bridge Ridge Trail

Starting Point: Approximately 1.2 mi. southeast of the intersection of Segments 1 and 2 of the Bridge Face Trail

Ending Point: Intersection with Devil's Creek Loop Trail and Bridge Creek Trail

Length: 5.8 mi.

Description: The Bridge Ridge Trail gives access to the Devil's Creek Loop Trail and several hiking trails. This trail passes through some very nice areas of old-growth redwood forest with heavy understories of rhododendron. The redwood and Douglas-fir are generally smaller in diameter than those found lower on the slopes. Tan oak and madrone are also strongly represented in this forest. Several magnificent long-range views across to the Bald Hills and into the Bridge Creek watershed will be available until cutover areas beside this trail have revegetated. No water resources have been observed along this trail. The exact route of this trail will depend on the results of on-going bear studies in the Bridge Creek watershed.

Segment 1:

Starting Point: Approximately 1.2 mi. southeast of the intersection of Segments 1 and 2 of the Bridge Face Trail

Ending Point: Intersection of M-3-1-2-1, M-3-1-2, and M-2-1-1 Roads

Length: 1.5 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 5.6% (M) The first .6 mi. of trail is 2.5% grade, the last .9 mi. is 7.6% grade

Roads Used: M-3-1-2-1

Description: The trail climbs slowly through old-growth forest until it reaches the end of the M-3-1-2-1 Road. From that point until the end of this segment, old-growth redwood forest is downslope of the trail while recent clear-cuts are upslope.

Segment 2:

Starting Point: Intersection of M-3-1-2-1, M-3-1-2, and M-2-1-1 Roads

Ending Point: 2 mi. to the southeast on the M-2-1-1 Road

Length: 2 mi. (M)

Average Grade: Grades are gentle dropping from 2,000 feet to 1,820 feet then rising again to 2,040 feet (M,F)

Roads Used: M-2-1-1

Description: Except for two recent clear-cuts, this very pretty road passes through old-growth, ridgetop, redwood forest.

Segment 3:

Starting Point: M-2-1-1 Road

Ending Point: M-3-1-2 Road, 1.7 mi. north of intersection of Devil's Creek Loop Trail and the Bridge Creek Trail

Length: .6 mi. (C)

Average Grade: 7.5% (M)

Description: Recent clear-cuts with many tan oak and madrone left standing. This segment climbs over the top of Bridge Creek ridge.

Segment 4:Starting Point: M-3-1-2 Road, 1.7 mi. north of intersection of Devil's Creek Loop Trail and the Bridge Creek TrailEnding Point: Intersection with Devil's Creek Loop Trail and Bridge Creek Trail on the M-3-1-2 Road.Length: 1.7 mi. (M)Roads Used: M-3-1-2 RoadAverage Grade: Little grade change (F,M)Description: This segment travels primarily through recently cutover lands with some old-growth redwood forest. Bear and elk sign were observed during planning.Trail Name: Devil's Creek Loop TrailLength: 11.6 mi.Starting Point: Intersection with the Bridge Ridge Trail and Bridge Creek Trail on the M-3-1-2 RoadEnding Point: SameDescription: The Devil's Creek Loop Trail provides access to the upper half of the Devil's Creek watershed. It passes through a wide range of vegetation, including recent clear-cuts, some of the oldest and largest second-growth trees in the park, and old-growth redwood forest. A few long-range views toward the Bald Hills prairies and into Devil's Creek canyon may be maintainable for a long period of time. A horse campsite will be developed at the rehabilitated Y-Line rock pit #2. Bear, deer and elk sign were observed during planning.Segment 1:Starting Point: Intersection with the Bridge Ridge Trail and Bridge Creek Trail on the M-3-1-2 RoadEnding Point: Bridge/Devil's Pass on M-2½ RoadLength: .2 mi. (C)Average Grade: 7.5% (M)Description: The trail climbs through a recent clear-cut to a shallow pass separating the Bridge and Devil's Creek watersheds.Segment 2:Starting Point: Bridge/Devil's Pass at M-2½ RoadEnding Point: 1.5 mi. to the south-southwest on M-2½ RoadLength: 1.5 mi. (M)Average Grade: 8.3% (M) The first .7 mi. has an average grade of 5.4%. The second .8 mi. has an average of 10.4%Roads Used: M-2½ RoadDescription: The trail primarily passes through recent clear-cuts, but old-growth forest is downslope on the Devil's Creek side for part of the way.Segment 3:Starting Point: End of Segment 2 on M-2½ RoadEnding Point: Devil's Pass at intersection of M-2-2, M-2, M-2-1, and M-2-1-1 RoadsLength: .7 mi. (M)Average Grade: 3.5% (M)Roads Used: M-2-1-1 Road

Description: Segment 3 follows tractor skid roads through older clear-cuts with dense regrowth until it reaches the M-2-1-1 Road. The trail then follows the M-2-1-1 Road to reach Devil's Pass.

Segment 4:

Starting Point: Devil's Pass at intersection of M-2-2, M-2, M-2-1 and M-2-1-1 Roads

Ending Point: Intersection of M-2-2 with Y-Line

Length: 2.5 mi. (0)

Average Grade: 1.1% (A) Average grade is deceptive as road climbs and drops with grades in excess of 7.5%

Roads Used: M-2-2 Road

Description: Segment 4 winds primarily through a dense second-growth forest, passing one recent downslope clear-cut, and encounters some of the largest second-growth in the park in the southern third of this segment. The opportunity may exist to maintain some long-range views along this segment.

Segment 5:

Starting Point: Intersection of Y-Line with M-2-2 Road

Ending Point: Intersection of Y-Line with spur to rock pit #2

Length: 2.3 mi. (0)

Average Grade: 4.9% (A) The first 1.3 mi. has an average grade of 6.3%, the remaining one mile of trail has an average grade of 4.2%

Roads Used: Y-Line

Description: The upper .7 mi. of this segment passes through a beautiful, forty-year-old, second-growth redwood forest. Below, it encounters densely regrowing clear-cuts, and then a short section of old-growth redwood forest. At the intersection with Segments 5 and 6, a .3 mi. spur road climbs at a 20% grade to rock pit #2. This rock pit was recontoured during the summer of 1981. High on a ridge with exceptionally fine views, rock pit #2 would be developed into a horse campsite.

Segment 6:

Starting Point: Intersection of Y-Line with spur to rock pit #2

Ending Point: Intersection of Y-Line with Y-3 Road

Length: 1.5 mi. (0)

Average Grade: This segment begins and ends at the same elevation; however, grades of at least 5.7% exist along the segment (A,F)

Roads Used: Y-Line

Description: Segment 6 passes through some areas of extreme geological instability and further field work will have to be done after rehabilitation work has occurred to investigate the feasibility of this route. A beautiful old-growth redwood forest in the inner canyon of Devil's Creek is downslope of this trail segment while recent clear-cuts predominate above the road. Bear and elk sign were observed during planning.

Segment 7:

Starting Point: Intersection of Y-Line and Y-3 Road

Ending Point: Intersection of Y-3 Road with M-2-1 Road

Length: .5 mi. (0)

Average Grade: 13.3% (A)

Roads Used: Y-3 Road

Description: This segment climbs steeply through recent clear-cuts.

Segment 8:

Starting Point: Intersection of Y-3 and M-2-1 Roads

Ending Point: On M-2-1 Road .6 mi. to the northeast

Length: .6 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 2.5% (M)

Description: The trail passes through old-growth redwood forest.

Segment 9:

Starting Point: On M-2 Road approximately .6 mi. northeast of intersection of Y-3 and M-2-1 Roads

Ending Point: Bridge/Devil's Pass at M-2½ Road

Length: 1.8 mi. (C)

Average Grade: 7.5% (M)

Description: The trail climbs through old-growth redwood forest.

HIKING TRAILS

The primary function of hiking trails in the north half of this Planning Area is to provide connections from the horse trail system down to the Redwood Creek Corridor. In addition these short hiking trails provide opportunities for backpackers to take loop hikes utilizing the Redwood Creek Corridor and trails in the West Side Planning Area. The hiking trail system in the southern half of this Planning Area is more extensive, giving visitors access to some of the more fragile and pristine landscapes.

Trail Name: Elam Creek Trail

Starting Point: Intersection with horse trail at Elam Creek

Ending Point: Redwood Creek Trail

Length: .2 mi. (F)

Average Grade: Little grade change (F)

Roads Used: L-1-4 Road

Description: The Elam Creek Trail follows an old overgrown logging road on the north side of Elam Creek until it reaches the Redwood Creek Trail. A day-use hitching post will be installed in the general area of the intersection with the horse trail.

Trail Name: Trail A

Starting Point: On L-1-4 Road, .6 mi. south of horsecamp

Ending Point: Redwood Creek Trail in vicinity of mouth of Cloquet Creek

Length: 1 mi. (F,M)

Average Grade: 9.5% (F,M)

Description: This trail follows an overgrown tractor road through old-growth redwood forest. Further field investigation is required, but this trail may offer the opportunity for close access to Redwood Creek by horse users. Either a hitching area or a campground may be located along the trail.

Trail Name: Forty-Four Creek Trail

Starting Point: Intersection with the lower portion of the Three Day Loop horse trail at Forty-Four Creek

Ending Point: Redwood Creek Trail near mouth of Forty-Four Creek

Length: 1.9 mi. (M)

Average Grade: 2.8% (M)

Description: This trail follows an old overgrown logging road on the north side of Forty-Four Creek through an advanced second-growth forest with large alder.

Trail Name: Trail B

Starting Point: Intersection of C-12-1 and G-6 Roads

Ending Point: Redwood Creek Trail

Length: 1.5 mi. (C)

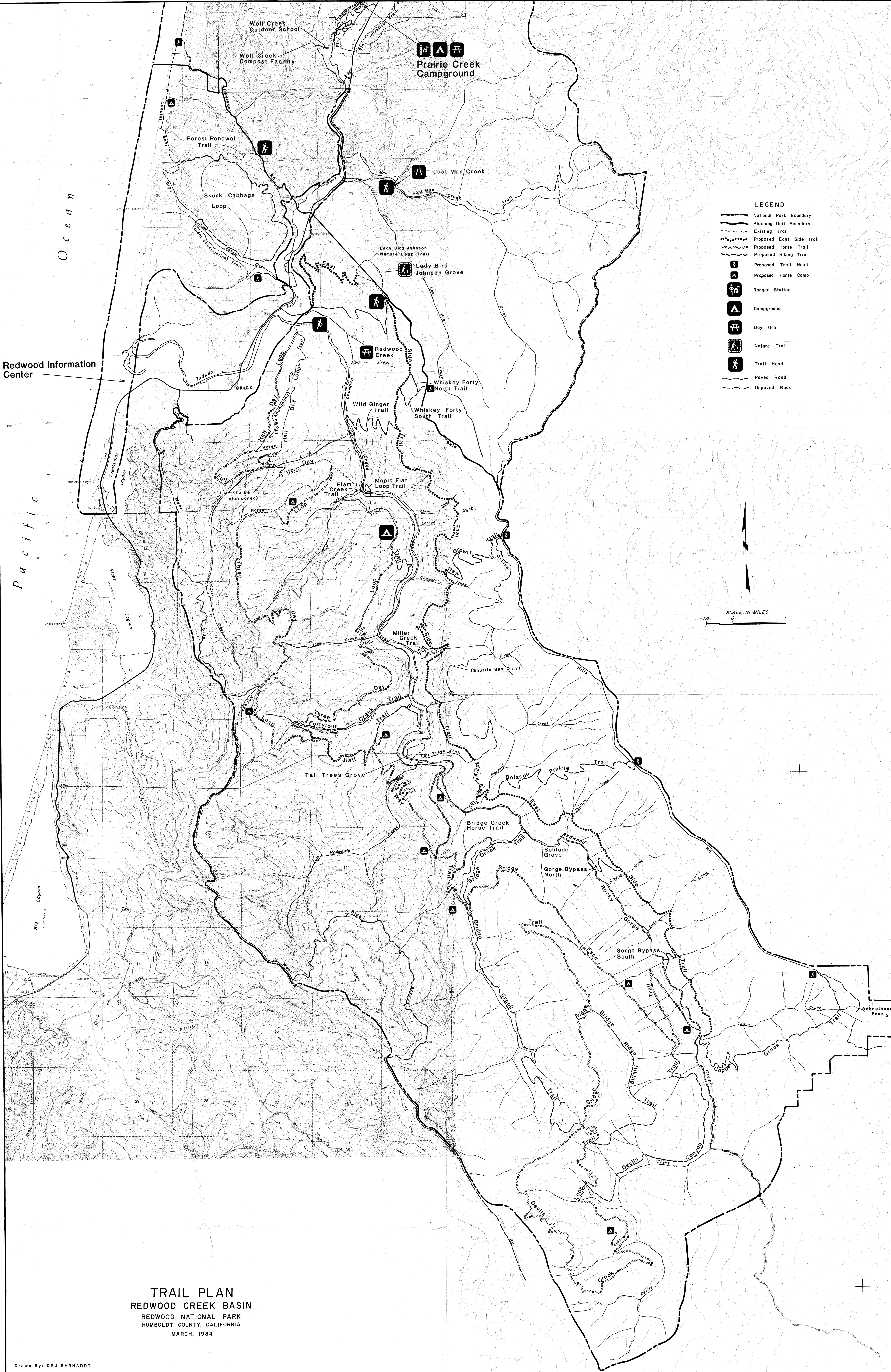
Average Grade: 6.8% (M)

Roads Used: C-12-1

Description: The trail drops through recent clearcuts and an older seed-tree cut with heavy regrowth of alder and young conifers.

Trail Name: M-Line Hiking Trail

Starting Point: M-Line (horse) Trail at day use hitching post



TRAIL PLAN
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