

# Redwood

National and State Parks

## Official Map and Guide



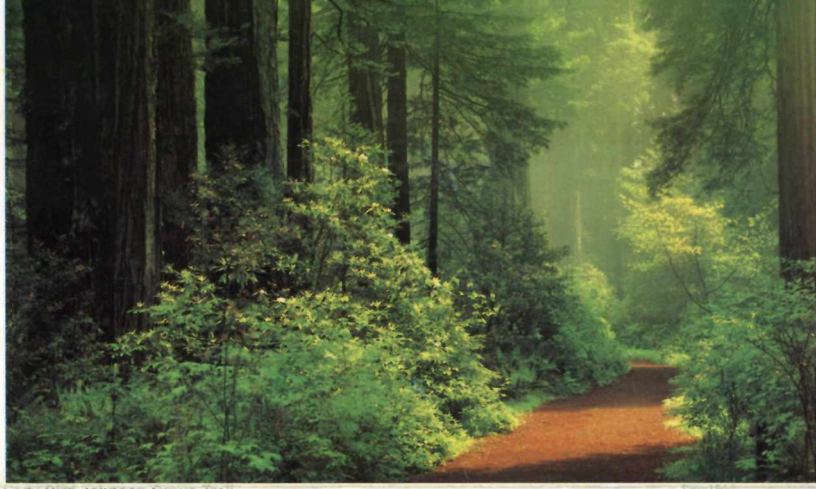
Redwoods and rhododendrons



Split Rock along the Coastal Trail



Rough-skinned newt



Lacy bird Jonsson Grove Trail

World's tallest living tree—monarch of the North Coast—living link to the Age of Dinosaurs. A redwood grows from a seed the size of a tomato seed, yet it may weigh 500 tons and stand taller than the Statue of Liberty. With its foot-thick armor of bark, this tree seems nearly impervious to the effects of fire and insects. Botanical credit for the coast redwood's discovery is generally

given to Archibald Menzies, who noted it in 1794. In 1847 it was given its scientific name, *Sequoia sempervirens*, probably in honor of Cherokee leader Sequoyah. (*Sempervirens* means "ever living.") In 1918 paleontologists interested in preserving this living link to our evolutionary past launched a national campaign for the trees' protec-

tion. Interest from the scientific community led to the establishment of three North Coast redwoods state parks: **Prairie Creek** in 1923, **Del Norte** in 1925, and **Jedediah Smith** in 1929. Interest in preserving not just the trees, but also their natural setting in the **Coast Range** and the associated plants and animals, led to the creation of **Redwood National Park** in 1968, and its

expansion in 1978. The national park boundary encircled the three existing state redwoods parks and gave increased protection for the superlative, ancient redwood forests growing along the northern California coast. The parks form a **World Heritage Site** and are part of the **California Coast Ranges Biosphere Reserve**. These designations reflect worldwide recognition that

these resources are irreplaceable treasures. In watching over the trees, Congress and the **State of California** have saved miles of Pacific shore, rivers, streams, estuaries, meadows, and prairies. Here, the diversity of life is protected for you and for future generations. Help us safeguard this special place by treating it with care and respect.

## From Exploration to Preservation

When Archibald Menzies saw the redwood forests in 1794, they probably covered almost two million acres. As gold fever subsided here redwood fever replaced it. The trees at first seemed endless but quickly fell to determined logging. The State of California preserved a number of key groves during the 1920s. When modern logging methods raised the possibility that *all* the rest might be cut, Congress created **Redwood National Park** in 1968. The park was expanded in 1978 to protect the world's tallest trees along **Redwood Creek**. **Redwood National and State Parks** include just fewer than 40,000 acres of ancient forest, nearly half of all that remain.



Early logging centered on small trees. Later, redwoods could be logged. Gold mining (below) began after the 1848 strikes on the Trinity River.

Jedediah Strong Smith  
Lacking good deep harbors, the redwood coast drew little attention until fur trapper Jed Smith arrived overland in 1828. Smith explored the redwood coast for a better route between the Rockies and Pacific. Gold miners opened the area to settlement in the 1850s.



Kansas State Historical Society



## Treasures of Nature and Culture

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

**Prairies and Waterways**  
**Prairies** and rivers reflect the changing of seasons far better than redwood groves do. **Prairies:** In springtime, prairie wildflowers burst with color that gives way in the dry summer to the grasslands' amber glow. **Prairies** are the realm of raptors, the predatory red-tailed hawk, kestrel, and great horned owl, and their prey of gophers and meadow mice. Mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, elk, and black-tailed deer frequent prairies, which once were kept free of trees by fire and grazing elk. **Acorn-bearing Oregon white oaks** edge prairies at higher elevations. Oaks provided protein-rich food for Indians, who cleared the understory with fire. **Prairies** make good birding spots. There



Roosevelt elk favor prairie and other open lands but seek forests for cover and shade. The parks' largest land mammals, these elk may exceed 1,000 pounds. Their much larger antlers distinguish them from black-tailed deer. One of the best places to see Roosevelt elk is at Elk Prairie campground. At **Gold Bluffs Beach** elk can be found along the beach and nearby trails. Look for them along the Bald Hills and Davison roads, too. Always be alert for elk crossing the highways.



Park streams offer swimming and floating opportunities. Steelhead, cutthroat trout (left), and Chinook salmon (below) inhabit these streams.



Illustration by George Founds

**Black Bears**  
Seldom seen, black bears roam throughout the parks. Fond of acorns, bears travel far to harvest them. These bears generally have not lost their fear of humans. The best way to prevent wild bears from becoming problem bears is to keep human food away from them. Use sound food storage practices. Counter-balance all food, scented

you may see the goldfinch, junco, quail, or raven. **Waterways:** These parks' rivers are world-renowned for fishing and no less loved for recreation and sheer beauty. The **Smith River**, named for Jedediah Smith, arises in the Siskiyou Mountains and flows through the parks' north section. It is now California's last major free-flowing river and is famous for salmon and steelhead. The **Klamath River**, also a salmon and steelhead stream, crosses the midsection of these parks. **Redwood Creek** flows through the parks' southern section. Salmon and steelhead populations were severely diminished by past logging activities within **Redwood Creek's** watershed.

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



Where revegetation might be slow, native trees are planted to redevelop forests similar to those cut.

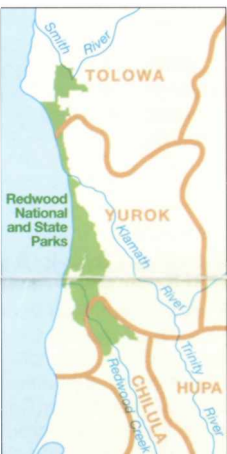
favoring the return of natural vegetation. Congress also created a 30,000-acre protection zone upstream from the park in **Redwood Creek's** watershed. This limits the effects of timber harvesting there on the park downstream.

## Indians of the Redwood Coast

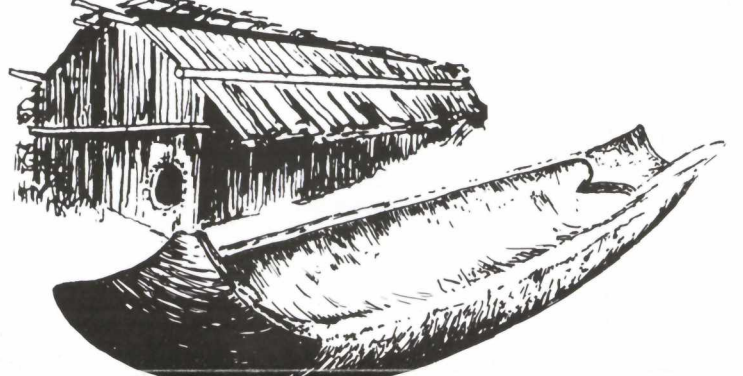
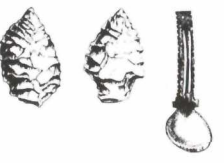
For thousands of years American Indians have lived along the redwood coast. They belong to a number of different groups and speak different languages, even within this relatively small geographic area. Before the arrival of non-Indian people in the 19th century, Indian villages, with their fine split-plank structures, dotted the coast and lined the major rivers. People traveled in redwood dugout canoes along the waterways and by foot along an elaborate system of trails. Their foods varied with the seasons. They fished the ocean and rivers, hunted land and marine mammals, and gathered nuts, seeds, and berries. Today American Indians live on



and off reservation lands and represent five to 10 percent of the local population. Groups are represented by sovereign governments and many traditions continue. Some members still speak the languages, traditional ceremonies are held, hunting and fishing are important, and traditional arts and crafts are kept alive.



Redwood National and State Parks lie within the traditional territories of three American Indian groups. Yurok and Tolowa groups still exist; the Chulula were assimilated into the inland Hupa culture.



## Life Along the Seacoast

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

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

**Offshore**  
Between shore and the deep ocean here an average surface acre is as productive as a surface acre of fertilized agricultural land. The basic wealth lies in phytoplankton, single-celled plants. Sea lions feed beyond the surf and haul out on shore or on sea stacks. Harbor seals swim in the surf and haul out in sheltered coves. Sea birds of several types nest on offshore rocks. The California Current flows south. It works with offshore winds to draw nutrients up from deep waters. This provides food for many coastal creatures. Moisture-laden air off the California Current condenses as low clouds over cold water near shore.

**Intertidal Zone**  
Tides rise and fall twice daily on a 25-hour lunar cycle. In the zone between high and low tide, life forms arrange themselves vertically. Just where depends on their tolerance for exposure to air and/or water and to heat and wave shock. Other biological limits apply, too: predators and competition for food and living space. A **splash zone** above the high tide is home for periwinkle snails and beach hoppers that can withstand episodic



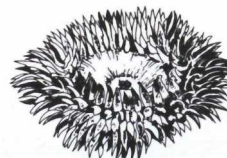
Periwinkle snail

wetting and the powerful shock of pounding waves. Inhabitants of the splash zone are transitional but are more attuned to life on land than in the sea. Mussels cling to rocks in the **high-tide zone**. They are covered by water only at high tide. Their shells enable them to tolerate temporary exposure to air and direct sunlight. Often called seaweeds, various algae that have chlorophyll frequent the **mid- and low-tide** zones. They can't endure being deprived of water very long. Seaweeds provide oxygen, food, and shelter for inhabitants of the intertidal zone. Larger kelp have built-in floats and are anchored in deeper water. Some kelp rival the height of redwood trees.



Sea star

**Tidepools** that form in rocky beach outcroppings shelter life in these environments. Tidepool dwellers cope with great changes in water temperature, salinity, and oxygen content. Here are barnacles, limpets, nudibranchs, sea urchins, sea stars, and erect sea palms. Sea palms are anchored by root-like hold-fasts. Their flexible, stem-like structure lets them withstand the full force of breaking waves.



Giant green anemone

**Beaches**  
Life on sandy beaches also observes wet and dry zones because of tides and waves. The lower beach is often wetted while upper beaches are like desert between the sea and lush coastal forest. Clams and mole crabs burrow into wet lower beaches. Sanderlings follow retreating wave lines to forage on the washed-up organisms.



Brown pelican

**Sea Cliffs**  
Northern park beaches tend to be rocky and backed by sea cliffs. Southern beaches tend to be backed by bluffs. More than half of the parks' birds are marine species. Some of them nest—often as crowds—in the sea cliffs: murrelets, cormorants, puffins, auklets, gulls, and pigeon guillemots.



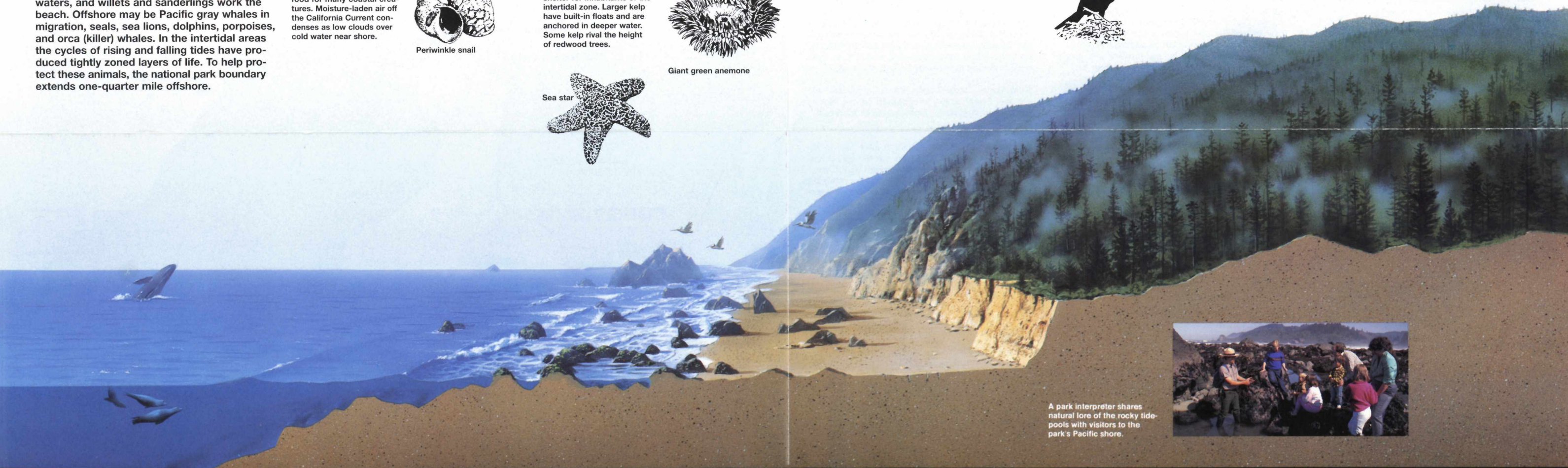
Double-crested cormorant

**The Role of Fog**  
As air warmed by inland heat passes over cold, near-shore waters, fog forms—almost daily in summer. Fog helps approximate the mild, moist climate that prevailed in the Age of Dinosaurs, when redwood-like species grew over much of North America. Fog also brings redwood forests relief from the dry summer. It reduces the loss of water

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

**Woodlands**  
Forests of the **Coast Range's** west slopes benefit from being close to the ocean—for fog, rainfall, and moderated climate. Redwoods favor moist, north-facing slopes where sunlight's effects are less drying. Rivers near sea level also provide hospitable flats for these great trees.

Seacoast illustration by Rob Wood



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



# Exploring the Redwood Coast

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

## Hiouchi Area

### Hiouchi Information Center

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

## Crescent City Area

### Park Headquarters

The headquarters for Redwood National and State Parks is at 1111 Second Street in Crescent City. Information and interpretive publications are available here year-round (closed Sundays in winter). For 24-hour information about the parks, call 707-464-6101. Nearby attractions are the Battery Point Lighthouse, Del Norte County Museum, and Citizens Dock. Find out about commercial attractions and private campgrounds at the Chamber of Commerce on Front Street, across the street from park headquarters.

### Crescent Beach

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

## Klamath Area

### False Klamath Cove

False Klamath Cove lies five miles north of the Klamath River. A protected beach and picnic area are located at the mouth of Wilson Creek. Across U.S. 101 the Redwood Hostel, which provides overnight accommodations year-round, is operated by American Youth Hostels, Inc.; there is a fee for use. For hostel information call 707-482-8265.

### Lagoon Creek

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

## Prairie Creek Area

### Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

Use the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway to reach the park from U.S. 101. You will find park information, exhibits, and interpretive publications at the Prairie Creek Visitor Center. Camping is available at Elk Prairie campground. Cal-Barrel Road is an unpaved scenic drive through the redwood forest (trailers prohibited).

## Orick Area

### Bald Hills Road

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

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

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

## General Information

**Camping Facilities** Developed campgrounds are located within Jedediah Smith Redwoods, Del Norte Coast Redwoods, and Prairie Creek Redwoods state parks. Hot showers, restrooms, and disposal station are provided, except at Gold Bluffs Beach, which has solar-heated showers only and no disposal station. Trailers up to 24 feet long and motor homes up to 27 feet are allowed, except at Gold Bluffs Beach, where trailers are prohibited. Motor homes up to 24 feet long are allowed at Gold Bluffs Beach. Trailer hookups are not available in the parks. For backpackers there are several primitive backcountry campgrounds in the parks. Three backcountry campgrounds can accommodate horses and pack animals.

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

**Outdoor Education** Outdoor education is available at two sites in Redwood National and State Parks. Howland Hill Outdoor School and Wolf Creek Education Center are available for educational programming and conferences on a *reservation system only*.

**For accessibility information** about facilities and programs, ask at the parks' information centers.

**For More Information**  
National Park Service: [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)  
California State Parks: [www.cal-parks.ca.gov](http://www.cal-parks.ca.gov)  
Redwood National and State Parks  
1111 Second Street  
Crescent City, CA 95531-4198  
[www.nps.gov/redw](http://www.nps.gov/redw)

### Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park

Here you can camp, picnic, hike, fish, swim, and float the Smith River. There are no lifeguards. Interpretive exhibits and publications are available at the visitor center. Interpretive walks and talks are offered in the summer.

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

### Enderts Beach Road

The road leads to Crescent Beach Overlook, a good place to watch whales, have a picnic, or just take in the scenery. Enderts Beach Trail (1.2 miles round-trip) follows tall bluffs, then drops to this sandy ocean beach. A hike-in camping area (0.5 mile) just above the beach offers five sites with beach access. Picnic tables, grills, and a pit toilet are provided. There is no water. In summer 2- to 2½-hour tidepool or seashore walks are conducted. They begin at the parking area, descend to the beach, and explore rocky tidepools at its southern end.

### Coastal Trail

Multiple sections of the Coastal Trail (*see map*) explore beaches, bluffs, grasslands, former farmlands, and redwood and other forests. With substantial road links and other trails, the Coastal Trail enables you to backpack nearly the length of the parks, from Enderts Beach Road in the

### Requa Road

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

### Coastal Drive

This narrow, scenic, partially paved drive (eight miles, 45 minutes) winds through stands of redwood, offering close looks at the Klamath River and breathtaking views of crashing surf and the expansive Pacific Ocean. Don't miss the World War II radar station. It looks like a farmhouse and barn—that was its disguise in the 1940s. The smaller structure housed the power supply. The

**Davison Road** provides entry to the Elk Meadow Day Use Area and Gold Bluffs Beach. Elk Meadow Day Use Area has picnicking, mountain biking, and hiking, including the 2.5-mile loop (1.5 hours) Trillium Falls Trail. Beyond Elk Meadow, Davison Road is narrow and unpaved. Trailers and trailer-vehicle combinations longer than 24 feet or wider than eight feet are prohibited. Gold Bluffs Beach offers wildlife-viewing, hiking, picnicking, camping, and entry to the beach and Fern Canyon. Watch out for elk herds. **Danger: Elk are wild and unpredictable. Do not approach them on foot.**

### Redwood Creek Trail

Here you can combine hiking and backcountry camping. Take an eight-mile hike to Tall Trees Grove, where some of the world's tallest trees grow on the flats of Redwood Creek. This involves two creek crossings. Caution: Bridges are provided in summer only. During the rainy season high waters make stream crossings dangerous. For current information on getting to Tall Trees Grove via this route, ask a park ranger at an information station. Camping is allowed only on gravel bars along Redwood Creek, and only upstream

**Safety and Management Tips** On the beach be aware of tidal fluctuations. Swimming is hazardous because of cold water and strong rip currents. • Be cautious while climbing or walking near edges of high, rocky bluffs. • Watch for poison oak and deer ticks (which carry Lyme disease), particularly in coastal areas. • Roosevelt elk are wild and unpredictable—do not approach them on foot. • Do not feed bears or wild animals. Follow park regulations regarding bears and food storage; all food and scented personal care items should be secured and hidden from view in vehicles, placed in bear-proof lockers, or hung from trees. Garbage should be properly disposed of in bear-proof garbage cans. • Mountain lions may also be found in the parks. Check at park information centers for brochures and updates on mountain lion behavior. • Water from natural sources should be treated before drinking. If you are not familiar with proper water treatment techniques, ask a ranger for assistance.

**Road Conditions** Watch for trucks and other heavy vehicles. Use turnouts to let faster traffic pass. Drive cautiously in fog. Do not take trailers or motorhomes on roads other than main highways without first finding out if the roads can handle them.

**Park Regulations** Redwood National and State Parks are managed under special regulations to protect park resources and you. • All plants and

**24-hour recorded information 707-464-6101**

**24-hour dispatch 916-358-1300**

Call 707-464-6101 and these extensions to reach: Crescent City Information Center, 5064 Kuchel Visitor Center, 5265 Prairie Creek Visitor Center, 5300 Hiouchi Information Center (seasonal), 5067 Jedediah Smith Visitor Center (seasonal), 5113 Howland Hill Outdoor School, 5065 Wolf Creek Education Center, 5266

**TDD (Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-4 p.m.) 707-465-5171**

**In case of emergency dial 911.**

to Stout Grove, hiking trails, and a horseback riding trail as well as to the Howland Hill Outdoor School. Motor homes and trailers are not advised on this road. Walker Road is an unpaved scenic road through the redwood forest. It provides entry to the Smith River and to short hiking trails. Little Bald Hills Trail is closed seasonally due to Port Orford cedar root rot disease.

north to the Tall Trees Grove in the south. Primitive campsites are provided at (north to south) Nickel Creek, DeMartin, Flint Ridge, Ossagon Creek, and Miners Ridge. There is a campground at Gold Bluffs Beach; the Redwood Hostel (*see below*) is near False Klamath Cove. For more information about the Coastal Trail, ask at park information centers for maps and publications.

### Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park

Here you can camp, hike, and backpack. Interpretive walks and talks are available in the summer. Mill Creek campground is open during the summer season.

operations building housed an oscilloscope and radar technicians. Near the junction with Alder Camp Road the High Bluff picnic area provides panoramic views of the coast from its location atop the bluff. Another point of interest is the old Douglas Memorial Bridge that was destroyed by flooding in 1964. There are two access points to Flint Ridge Trail, which offers backcountry camping. The Coastal Drive is a narrow, mostly unpaved road with steep grades and sharp curves. **Vehicles with trailers and motor homes are not advised.**

### Lost Man Creek

Take the short, unpaved, scenic drive through the redwood forest. **Trailers are not advised.** This area offers hiking and mountain biking trails and picnicking facilities. Lost Man Creek Trail (1.5 miles round-trip) leads past the World Heritage Site dedication area and on to a cascade on Lost Man Creek.

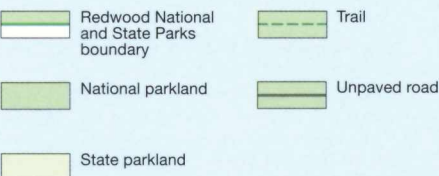
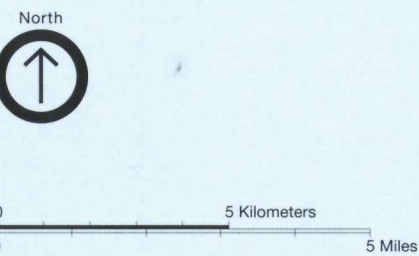
### Kuchel Visitor Center

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

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

**Bike Trails** Several trails are designated for bicycle use. Check at any information center. Pick up the bicycle handout. Look closely at trailhead signage.

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



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

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

