

Redwood



Redwood forest

ALL PHOTOS NPS EXCEPT AS NOTED

World's tallest living tree—monarch of the North Coast—living link to the Age of Dinosaurs. Redwoods grow from seeds the size of a tomato seed yet can weigh 500 tons and stand taller than the Statue of Liberty. Its foot-thick bark makes the tree all but impervious to fire and insects. Archibald

From Exploration to Preservation

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

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

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



KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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



Gold mining began after 1848 strikes on the Trinity River.

ILLUSTRATION NPS



Split Rock along the Coastal Trail

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



Rough-skinned newt

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



Bald Hills prairie and oak woodlands

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

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

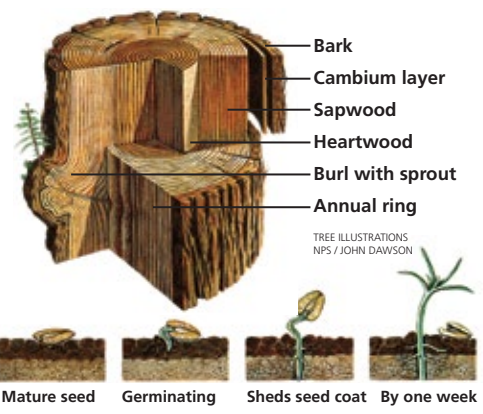


From Seed and Sprout
Redwood-like trees grew over much of the Northern Hemisphere in the Age of Dinosaurs. Later climate change reduced redwood habitat to this narrow, fog-bound coastal corridor. (See "The Role of Fog" at lower right.)

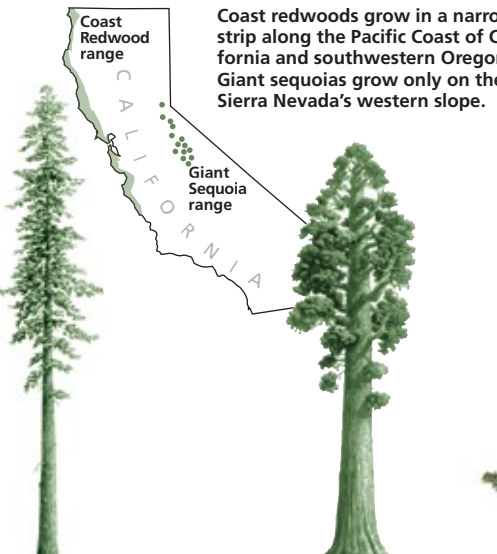
Coast redwoods reproduce by seed and by stump and basal sprouting. Seeds slightly bigger than a pinhead are

released from mature cones that ripen in August and September. If a redwood is felled or is badly burned, a ring of new trees often sprouts from burls around the trunk's base. These so-called "family groups" are common. Saplings use the parent tree's root system.

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



TREE ILLUSTRATIONS NPS / JOHN DAWSON



Coast Redwood Facts

Height: To nearly 380 ft.
Age: To 2,000 years
Bark: To 12 in. thick
Base: To 22 ft. diam.

Reproduce: By seed or sprout
Seed size: Like a tomato seed
Cone size: Like a large olive

Giant Sequoia Facts

Height: To 311 ft.
Age: To 3,200 years
Bark: To 31 in. thick
Base: To 40 ft. diameter

Reproduce: By seed only
Seed size: Like an oat flake
Cone size: Like a chicken egg



A backdrop of redwoods dwarfs hikers.

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.

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

Much bigger antlers distinguish them from black-tailed deer. Good places to see Roosevelt elk are Elk Prairie campground and Gold Bluffs Beach. Look for them along the Bald Hills and Davison roads, too. Be alert for elk crossing highways.



Park streams offer swimming and floating. Steelhead, cutthroat trout (the speckled fish pictured center below), and Chinook salmon (center below) inhabit these streams.



NPS / DAN FEASER



USFWS / DUANE RAVEN



Prairies and Waterways
Prairies and rivers reflect the changing of seasons far better than redwood groves do.

In springtime, prairie wildflowers burst with color that gives way in the dry summer to the grasslands' amber glow. Prairies are the realm of raptors, the predatory red-tailed hawk, kestrel, and great horned owl, and their prey of gophers and meadow mice.

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

Acorn-bearing Oregon white oaks edge prairies at the higher elevations. Oaks provided protein-rich food for Indians, who cleared the understory with fire. Prairies make good birding

Black Bears
Seldom seen, black bears roam these parks. Most haven't lost their fear of humans. Fond of acorns, bears travel far to harvest them. To prevent wild bears from becoming problem bears we must keep human food away from them. Use sound food storage practices. Counter-balance all food, scented items—soap, tooth-

spots. They may see the goldfinch, junco, quail, or raven.

The parks' rivers are world-renowned for fishing and loved for recreation and their sheer beauty. The Smith River, named for Jedediah Smith, arises in the Siskiyou Mountains and then flows through the parks' northern 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 mid-section of the parks.

Redwood Creek flows through the parks' southern part. Salmon and steelhead populations were severely diminished by past logging in the Redwood Creek watershed.

paste, lotion—and garbage in a tree 200 feet from camp; 12 feet up and 10 feet out from the trunk; and five feet down from the branch. Ask a park ranger about how to store your food.

Remember: A bear seeking food from human camps can be aggressive and may have to be destroyed. Please keep wildlife wild.

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



Listen to the excavator's rumble and the bulldozer's roar. The same equipment that was used to build the logging roads (above) now takes the roads out! Be sure to visit one of the rehabilitated sites during your stay in these parks.

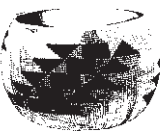
favor return of natural vegetation. Congress also created a 30,000-acre protection zone upstream from the park in Redwood Creek's watershed. This limits effects of the timber harvesting there on the park downstream.

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

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

and berries. American Indians today 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 still important, and the traditional arts and crafts are kept alive.



CANOE NPS / MICHAEL HAMPSHIRE; DWELLING AND BASKET NPS



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

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Life Along the Seacoast

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

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

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

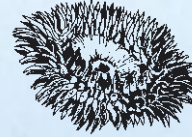
Sea lions feed beyond the surf and haul out on shore or on sea stacks. Harbor seals swim in the surf and haul out in sheltered coves. Sea birds nest offshore on rocks.

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

Periwinkle snail



Ochre sea star



Giant green anemone

by water only at high tide. Shells let them tolerate temporary exposure to air and direct sunlight.

Seaweeds provide oxygen, food, and shelter for intertidal zone residents. Some kelp, anchored in deep water, with built-in floats, are tall as redwood trees.

Tidepools shelter life in rocky beach outcroppings. Tidepool dwellers cope with great changes in water temperature, salinity, and oxygen content. Here are barnacles, limpets, nudibranchs, ochre sea stars, sea urchins, and erect sea palms anchored by rootlike hold-fasts.

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

Most murrelets left in California nest in Redwood National and State Parks, but predators like ravens, jays, and crows are eating murrelet eggs and chicks. While circling the forest looking for food scraps at campgrounds, they find the murrelet's nest instead. Please help protect this rare bird—keep a clean campsite and avoid feeding any wildlife.



Brown pelican

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

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



Marbled murrelet
US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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

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

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

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

Redwood National Park is one of over 390 parks in the National Park System. To learn more about national parks and National Park Service programs in America's communities visit www.nps.gov.



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

Exploring the Redwood Coast

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

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 US 199. Exhibits and interpretive publications tell about the parks, their trees and coastline, and other related topics. Trail maps are available.

Crescent City Area

Park Headquarters
The headquarters for Redwood National and State Parks is at 1111 Second Street in Crescent City. Information and interpretive publications are available here year-round. For 24-hour information about the parks, call 707-464-6101. Nearby attractions are the Battery Point Lighthouse, Del Norte County Historical Museum, and the harbor at Citizens Dock. You can get information 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.

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

Prairie Creek Area

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

Orick Area

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

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

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

General Information

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

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

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

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

Call area code 707 and these numbers for:
Crescent City Information Center 465-7335
Kuchel Visitor Center 465-7765
Prairie Creek Visitor Center 488-2171
Hiouchi Information Center (seasonal) 458-3294
Jedediah Smith Visitor Center (seasonal) 458-3496

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

Emergencies call 911

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

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

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

Requa Road

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

Coastal Drive

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

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 8 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

The first 1.5 miles are accessible. 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 sta-

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

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 must be treated before drinking. If you are not familiar with proper water treatment techniques, ask a ranger for help.

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 motor homes on roads other than main highways without first finding out whether those roads can handle them.

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

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

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, an unpaved scenic road through redwood forest, provides entry to the Smith River and to short hiking trails.

Coastal Trail

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

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park

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

1940s. The smaller structure housed the power supply. The 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. Access sections of the Coastal Trail from Coastal Drive or Alder Camp Road; find camping at Flint Ridge backcountry camp. The Coastal Drive is a narrow and mostly unpaved road with steep grades and sharp curves. Vehicles with trailers and motor homes are prohibited.

Lost Man Creek

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

Kuchel Visitor Center

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

Park Regulations Redwood National and State Parks are managed under special regulations to protect park resources and you. • All plants and animals are protected; mushroom gathering is prohibited. You may gather 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 firearms on park lands; for firearms regulations check the park website. • Keep pets restrained at all times; pets are prohibited on all park trails. • Camp and build fires only in areas designated for such uses. • Damaging or removing any government structure, sign, or marker is prohibited. • Help keep the park clean and litter-free; take out what you bring in. • Horseback riding and mountain biking are allowed only on certain designated trails. Information centers can provide you with more detailed information on trails. If you have questions, check at an information center or ask a patrolling park ranger.

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

