

Mill Creek Watershed

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park



Recreation and Restoration

Mill Creek's Past and Present

Tolowa people have lived in and around the Mill Creek watershed for millennia and believe the Creator placed the first redwood tree not far from here. Although displaced from much of their land by Euro-American settlers, Tolowa today are an important part of the North Coast community.

In the mid-19th century, logging companies began to heavily impact this land. Some of the mill buildings from the last sixty years are still standing within the park. Today, only a few hundred acres of old growth forest remain scattered throughout the Mill Creek watershed.

In 2002, California State Parks acquired twenty five thousand acres with the help of many organizations. This new acreage was added to Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, bringing the entire Mill Creek watershed under protection of Redwood National and State Parks.

What is a Watershed?

The Mill Creek watershed is a drainage system that collects water from the coastal range and deposits it into Mill Creek. A healthy watershed is vital to the wellbeing of any forest. Restoring the Mill Creek watershed will revive sensitive stream and forest habitat. The work done today and for generations to come will put Mill Creek on a path toward old-growth forest conditions again.

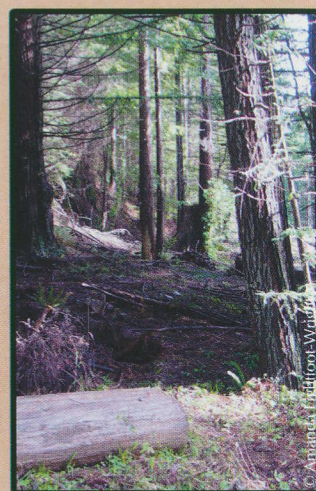


Forest Restoration At Work

To produce lumber quickly, timber companies often planted trees of a single species close together. When trees are crowded they compete for sunlight and nutrients. Today, forest thinning gives trees room to grow to their full potential. This allows sunlight to reach diverse plants on the forest floor.

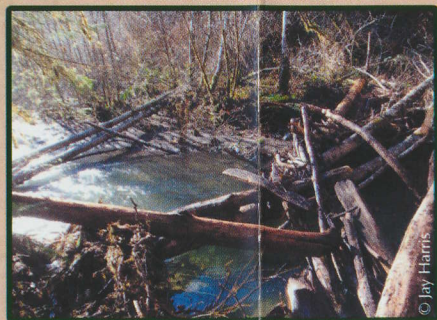
Road Removal for Forest Health

Hundreds of miles of logging roads criss-cross the park and have deteriorated over time. During the rainy season, soil from unstable roads muddies streams and damages habitat for salmon and other wildlife. Removing roads or converting them into trails keeps soil in place.



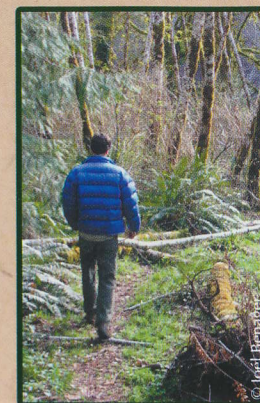
Reviving Salmon Habitat

Another key project within Mill Creek and its tributaries is in-stream restoration. Large woody debris is placed within streambeds, creating pools and hiding spots for young salmon. Wood in the streambed was once believed to be harmful for fish migration and was removed. Now we know the importance of leaving debris in place for healthy stream ecosystems.



Be Safe While Recreating

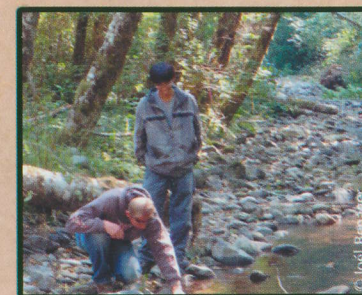
The Mill Creek Watershed offers many recreational opportunities. The watershed, however, is a "park in progress," and many visitor services have yet to be developed. These include restrooms, food, drinking water and immediate emergency response personnel.



Please follow these cautions while visiting the Mill Creek watershed:

Be safe and stay on public trails – the woods are home to mountain lions, bears and elk. The historic mill structures and buildings are unsafe and are strictly off-limits to the public. Dogs are allowed on roads and must be on a leash shorter than six feet. Remember, if you pack in food or supplies, remove all traces before you leave the park.

Whether hiking, biking, or horseback riding, explore how the Mill Creek watershed is becoming wild again.

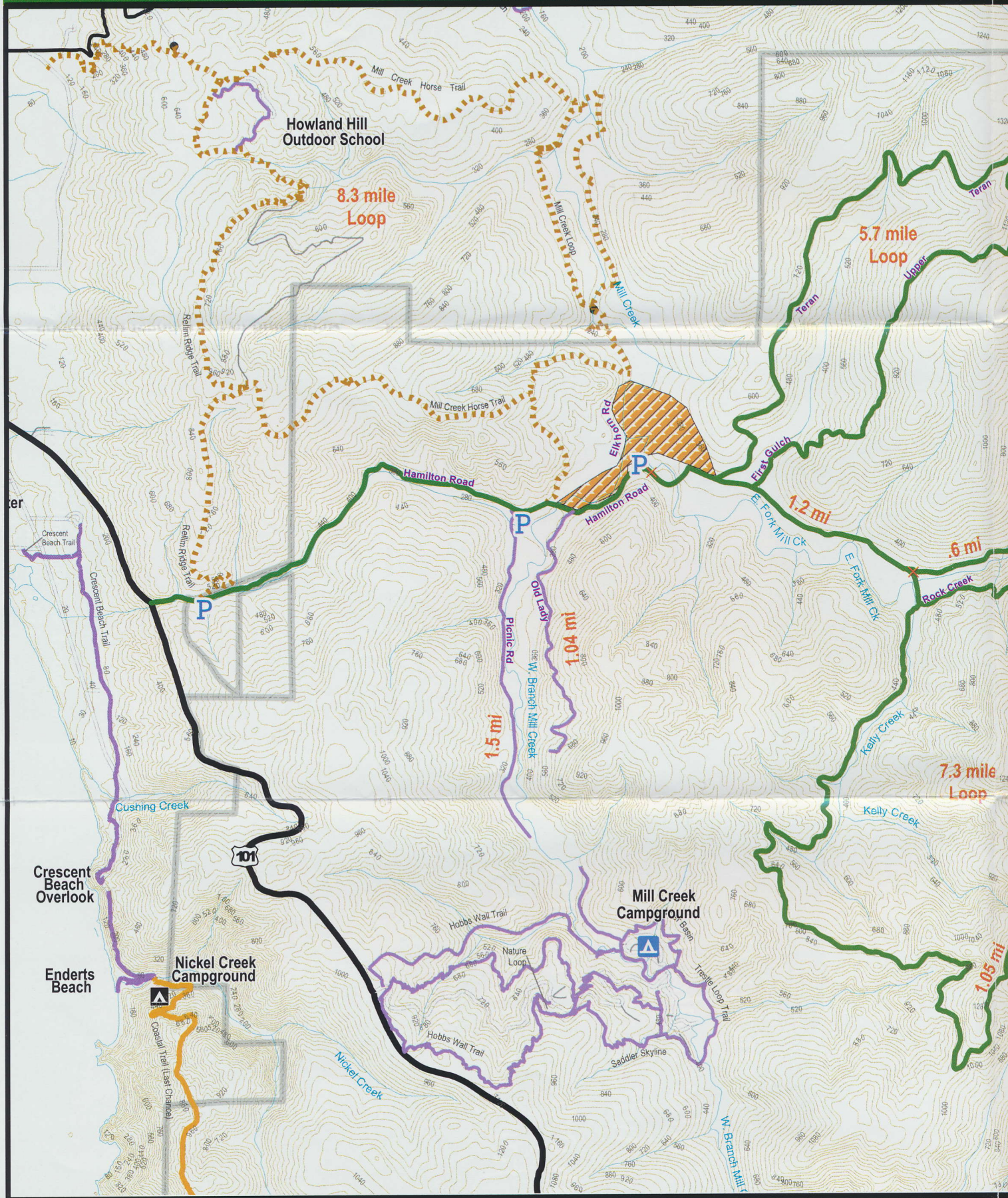


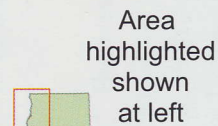
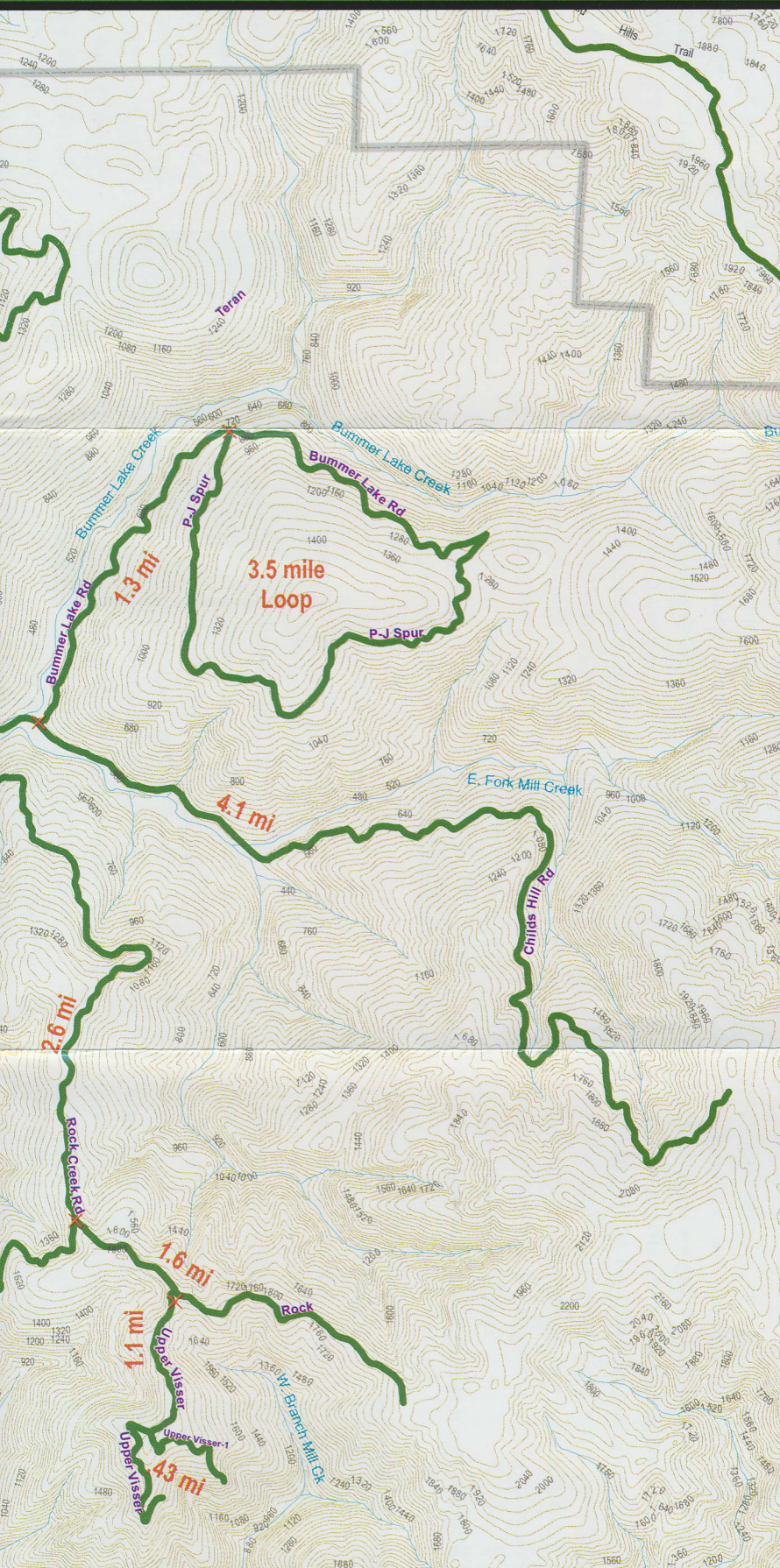
Check out the map on the back of this brochure for recreational roads and trails.

Redwood National and State Parks

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park

Nati
U.S





Area
highlighted
shown
at left



REDWOOD
NATIONAL & STATE
PARKS



**According to Northcoast Redwoods
District policy, during wet or
inclement weather, unpaved roads
may be closed to all use.**

Public Access



Parking Area



Campground



Primitive Camp

 Hiking Trail

 Horse and Hiking Trail

 Horse, Bicycle and Hiking

 Hike and Bicycle Trail

 Hazardous Area - Restricted Access



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

0 0.3 0.6 1.2 Kilometers

*Publicly Accessible
Roads and Trails*

Mill Creek Watershed



REDWOOD
NATIONAL & STATE
PARKS

California State Parks
Department of Parks and Recreation

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

*Creating a place
where plants,
wildlife and
people can thrive
for generations
to come.*

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Statement of Purpose

Redwood National and State Parks were established to preserve significant examples of the primeval coastal redwood forests and the prairies, streams, seashore, and woodlands with which they are associated for purposes of public inspiration, enjoyment, and scientific study, and to preserve all related scenic, historical, and recreational values.

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