



REDWOOD NATIONAL & STATE PARKS

VISITOR GUIDE

1996-1997

Ancient Forest Links Us To Global Responsibilities

Global concern over environmental quality led to the adoption of the World Heritage Convention in 1972. Through this convention, nations of the world agree to protect irreplaceable properties of outstanding international significance. In 1980, Redwood National and State Parks was added to the select list of World Heritage Sites. In 1994, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the National Park Service and California State Parks to manage Redwood National Park, Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, and Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park cooperatively. During an interview, Superintendents Andy Ringgold and Rick Sermon shared their thoughts in light of this cooperative agreement and honorable designation. Here are some highlights.

"We are honored that Redwood National and State Parks are internationally recognized as a key part of the world's heritage. With this designation and the cooperative agreement, we have protected the redwoods and to some degree linked them and protected more of the ecosystem than just isolated little pockets.

The effort to establish a national park really galvanized a lot of people back in the 1960s and it became more than just a park, it was a movement. When the national park was established in 1968 and expanded in 1978, the movement pulled three existing state parks together and the momentum of this effort helped establish the World Heritage designation and, later, the cooperative agreement.

This designation and the cooperative agreement is like a big umbrella, linking both agencies that manage the parks. Our vision of how these parks should be managed is one in which decisions aren't based on administrative or political considerations but on resources and ecosystems as a whole. We're part of a larger

picture and there's a whole lot more riding on our decisions than just what's happening right here. That's what this World Heritage program and the cooperative agreement are all about. A recognition that we all have responsibilities beyond our immediate areas of concern and influence."



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Buying Power

You can play an important role in your parks by visiting one of Redwood National and State Parks' Information or Visitor Centers. Each center has a bookstore or nature store operated by a nonprofit cooperating association. When you purchase books or other items, you are helping support these parks. Proceeds from sales are returned directly to the parks for visitor programs, museum activities, research activities, publications, and library activities.

There are 64 associations in the National Park System and over 80 associations in the California State Park System. Most associations have members who actively lend their support to a particular park or region. Members benefit by receiving discounts on books, maps, and other materials sold by the associations. Perhaps the best benefit is knowing that you are playing an important role in helping your parks.

For more information about cooperating associations at Redwood National and State Parks contact:

Redwood Natural History Assoc.
1111 Second St.
Crescent City, CA 95531
(707) 464-6101 ext. 5095

North Coast Redwood Interpretive Assoc.
Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park
Orick, CA 95555
(707) 464-6101 ext. 5300

Interpretive Programs: Explore Your Ties to the Parks

You and your family are invited to join a ranger in discovering more about our connection to the parks. Most programs are offered during the summer months and can include walks, demonstrations, children's activities, and evening programs. From trees to tidepools, legends to landforms, a myriad of topics are explored each summer at various locations. Ask a ranger for details at any of the information centers.



We Want Your Ideas

Do you have an idea about how to make the parks better? Now is your opportunity to let us know.

The National Park Service and California State Parks are beginning a new general management plan for Redwood National and State Parks. This plan will guide preservation, use, and development of the parks for the next 15 to 20 years.

The plan will address questions about resource protection, interpretive prospective, what visitor activities should be allowed, what facilities are needed, and where those facilities should be located.

If you would like to be on a mailing list to receive further information about this general management plan, please write to Superintendents, Redwood National and State Parks, 1111 Second Street, Crescent City, CA 95531 and ask to be on the General Management Plan mailing list. Help us make your parks better!



Volunteers help park staff in many different ways.

Join Our Redwood Community... Volunteer In Parks!

Would you like to help preserve the redwood community? Explore the many volunteer opportunities available to you at Redwood National and State Parks.

Just about anyone can volunteer in the parks. You can share your skills and education or learn something new. Previous experience is often not necessary. Training and uniforms are provided. Dorm-style housing or trailer hookups may be available. Ask a ranger how you can get involved or call the Volunteer Coordinator at (707) 464-6101 ext. 5068 to obtain an information packet and application.



Native American Cultures of the North Coast

Redwood National and State Parks are famous throughout the world for magnificent stands of towering trees and a dramatic, ever-changing coastline. The North Coast is also home to many distinct groups of indigenous people who, like the redwoods, have lived here for thousands of years and who, like the redwoods, endure.

Native Americans of this area, the Yurok, Tolowa, Chilula, Hupa, and Karuk, have an intimate relationship with redwoods. Split redwood planks are used to reconstruct historic family houses, sweathouses, and dance pits. Redwood is also carved into

canoes, canoe paddles, acorn soup stirrers, pillows, and ladders. The roots of redwoods are sometimes employed as basket materials. Examples of traditional Native American uses for redwood may be seen at several locations in the area; particularly Sumêg Village at Patrick's Point State Park, Redwood Information Center and Hiouchi Information Center, and at local museums.

Over time, some customs, beliefs, and ceremonies have changed but redwoods remain important in the lives of this area's indigenous people.



Yuroks and Tolowas are well-known for their skill at basket weaving.

Pioneers Explore the Rugged California North Coast

"Some of the cedars was the noblest trees I had ever seen....mountainous, which renders traveling almost impassable." Jedediah Smith, May, 1828.

These are words of early explorers to the area that would later include Redwood National and State Parks. Redwoods, unknown to pioneers at the time, were thought to be cedars. Pioneer reports soon drew gold seekers to the rugged North Coast mountains. Later, coastal plains, river valleys, and unique ridgetop prairies attracted agricultural settlement. Cattle, sheep ranching, and later dairying became important, but secondary, industries to lumber in the growing

economy. But the isolation of Humboldt Bay and Crescent City, from each other and the outside world, would make this place the edge of the frontier throughout the last half of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

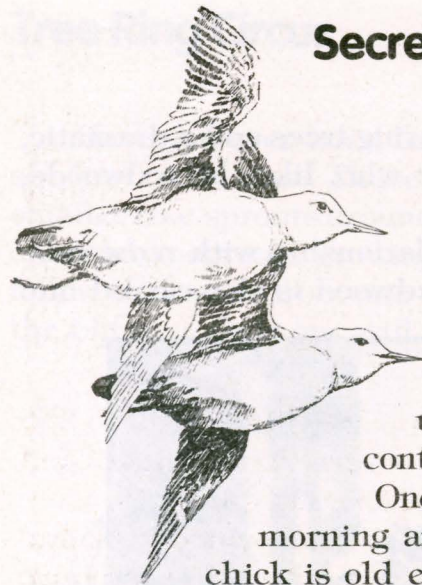
As lumber companies expanded their operations, two major rail lines in California joined forces and completed the rail gap between Ukiah and Fortuna in October, 1914. The completion of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad cut travel time from San Francisco in half. Tourism finally arrived when the railroad offered vacation packages and special round-trip fares to Eureka. Hunting and fishing grew

in popularity but so did awareness that the vast redwood forests were rapidly succumbing to the axe. Influential Californians began lobbying federal and state governments in a movement that would eventually create Redwood National and State Parks.

Isolation and challenging geography continue to make this area one of the most remote places on the West Coast. Even today, travellers can relate to the thoughts of Jedediah Smith. As you travel the rugged mountains and coastline, imagine the distances, the isolation, and the immensity of the forest to those early explorers.



Secret Sea Traveler to the Redwood Forest



A secret sea traveler lives offshore in the Pacific Ocean. The sea traveler makes preparation in early April for the journey from the sea to the old-growth forests of coastal California. This sea traveler is searching for a special branch in the canopy of an old-growth tree that will serve as a nest site for the single egg the traveler will lay. The search for a suitable nest branch is more difficult than it used to be because there are fewer old-growth trees and contiguous forests than in times past.

Once the egg hatches, our sea traveler will make many early morning and late evening flights to the ocean for food. Finally, the chick is old enough to fly unassisted back to the wide Pacific. And the cycle begins again.

Our secret traveler, the marbled murrelet, was listed as an endangered species in 1992. Biologists now believe that there are less than 6000 marbled murrelets in northern California. We are fortunate to have one of California's largest breeding populations of marbled murrelets at Redwood National and State Parks.

Early some morning during the breeding season of April through September, visit an old growth redwood forest. You may hear the gull-like calls or see the small dove-sized birds flying upstream above the canopy. If you do, congratulations! You have just witnessed the secret sea traveler to the Redwood Forest.

Frequent Flyers to the Redwood Community

Three hundred and fifty species of shorebirds, songbirds, and raptors breed in North America, but fly to Mexico, Central or South America, or the Caribbean for the winter. These birds, known as neotropical migrants, journey thousands of miles through treacherous terrain twice each year.

Long-term monitoring programs document decline for many neotropical migratory bird species. In a population of a million Wilson's warblers, for example, we may be losing as many as 10,000 warblers per year. Why the downhill slump? Destruction of summer and winter habitat are the main factors. Summer (breeding) habitat in North America is disrupted by human developments such as homes, shopping centers, logging, and agriculture.

But there is hope! These declines have focused attention on conserving neotropical migrants through an international cooperative effort between Latin America, the United States, and Canada. This venture between countries involves public and private organizations and communities working together to monitor, research, manage, and educate.

Redwood National and State Parks contribute to this conservation effort by operating a long-term monitoring program for neotropical migratory birds. You can join our conservation efforts by learning more about neotropical migratory birds and finding out what you can do to help them survive.



Northern harrier chicks



Sea stars are just one of the many treasures you might find in a tidepool.

Creatures in the Crevices

Standing fast against the rough weather, these coastal sentinels are the foundation for an entire ecosystem. They support an amazingly diverse community of plants and animals. Redwood trees? No - the rocks at the beach!

The tide pools in Redwood National and State Parks appear barren, yet they teem with life. Upon closer inspection, you can find an abundance of life rivalled by few places in the world. Hungry sea stars creep slowly along, looking for shellfish to rip open and eat. Barnacles shut tight for hours, waiting for the replenishing tide to come in.

In shallow pools left behind by the retreating tide, a colorful slug-like nudibranch inches along, protected by the stinging cells of a jellyfish it has recently eaten. A shorebird dashes in and out, spearing a mussel before its shell closes. Anemones lie camouflaged, waiting to trap unsuspecting fish or crabs in their tentacles!

The redwood forest and the tide pools are linked together by bonds of water, wind, and geology; the first humans here discovered that. So can you! Experience the excitement - explore the tide pools with a ranger. Want to explore on your own? Ask a ranger to point you in the right direction.

Help Summer Steelhead Trout Survive

Summer steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) have been monitored in Redwood Creek by researchers since the summer of 1981. The adult fish migrate upriver in spring, stay in deeper pools during summer, and spawn during winter. They are classified as a Species of Special Concern by the California Department of Fish and Game.

Summer steelhead face several problems: habitat degradation, poor water quality, sport-fishing and poaching, and small population size. Numerous stream pools have been filled in as a result of floods and historic land-use activities. The prospect for recovery of the summer steelhead of Redwood Creek is poor and uncertain. Most summer steelhead stocks in California are at risk.

As you enjoy the parks, please strictly observe fishing regulations and keep in mind that they have been implemented to protect the reduced populations of steelhead and salmon in hopes that, with careful management, they will recover and flourish once again.

Exploring Your Redwood Forest Community

Taking a walk through an ancient coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) forest is sure to inspire young and old. Just looking and listening to the forest can awaken the senses, but understanding the forest will convince you that these trees are simply amazing.

The best way to experience these towering trees is to be among them. Trails into old growth groves of redwoods are often right along your route. Once in the forest, try walking the trail silently. Listen to the quiet. Think about the 500 to 2,000 years that these trees have experienced in their individual lives.

Below the trees' trunks are roots six to ten feet deep supporting trees 200 to 350 feet tall. The roots are shallow, but they spread out laterally several hundred feet and intertwine with neighboring trees, supporting each other and forming groves.

Redwood trees have amazing abilities to survive. Besides intertwined root systems, they are resistant to fire and pests. Redwoods have several ways to reproduce and few natural enemies. However, the one thing they cannot compete with is us. The coast redwood has made its final stand along a narrow 450 mile strip of the California coast. In the mid 1700s, it is estimated that ancient coast redwoods covered over 1,900,000 acres. It has taken only one century to cut 96% of those acres.

Redwood National and State Parks exist to protect a vital part of the remaining ancient redwoods, but we all play a part in this species' survival. Tomorrow take a friend for a walk among the world's tallest trees and reconnect with your redwood community.



Burning in the Bald Hills

From September to November, you may see wisps of smoke in the sky. If you happen to be in Redwood National and State Parks, you may see smoke, flames, fire trucks, and firefighters. This is the prescribed burn season, when park crews deliberately ignite some areas of dry grasses under controlled conditions. Why is Smoky starting fires?



Crew at work on a control burn.

In the Bald Hills, grasslands and oak woodlands originated thousands of years ago when the local climate was drier and warmer than today. As the climate became cooler, evergreen forest began advancing into the prairies. Regular burning by Native American people and natural fires were all that held the big conifers back. The major reason for burning today is to preserve these unique prairies.

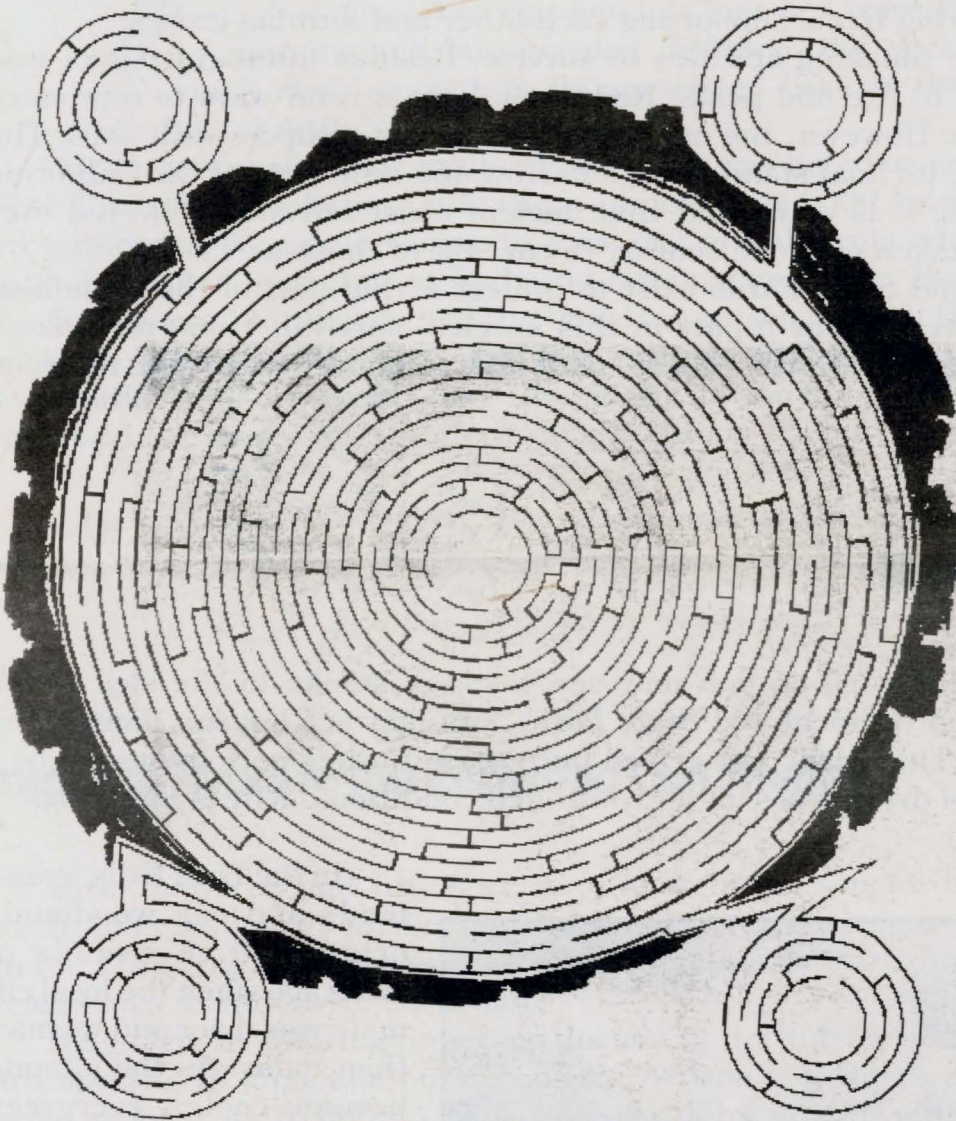
Prescribed burning is also done at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park and Lake Earl State Park. Prescribed burning is used in both of these parks to maintain grasslands or meadows.

In addition to preserving entire ecosystems, other beneficial effects of burning include the increased diversity of native plants and wildlife following burns, reduction in hazard fuel, and control of harmful nonnative plant species.



Tree Ring Circus

Have you ever tried to count the rings in a tree stump to see how old it was? These tree rings form a maze. Notice the smaller tree sprouts around the bigger one. Old redwood trees often have sprouts growing out of their base. See if you can follow this maze from one of the little sprouts to the center of the big tree. Only one will work. Can you find it?



Got it!

On a piece of paper list ten things you brought from home. Now try to spot things in Redwood National & State Parks beginning with the same letter (or letters if the item is two words) and of the same color. For example, if you wrote blue socks, you could spot a banana slug or if you brought a tent, you could spot a trillium.

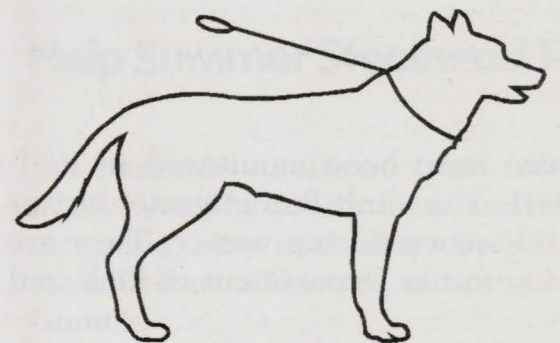
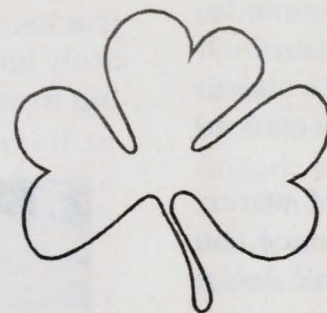
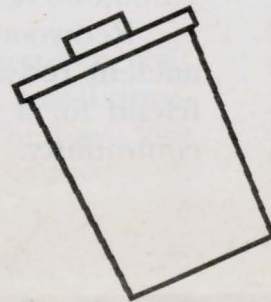
Call "Got it" when you spot something and tell everyone what it is so they can check the spelling. Then cross that item off your list.

The winner is the first person to cross off everything on their list. Have fun!



Are You Paying Attention?

Scattered throughout this paper are park rules which help protect you and the parks. Can you find them? Here's some clues.



What's grey and has a trunk?

A mouse on vacation.



Best Kept Secret

There is more to explore at Redwood National and State Parks than dense redwood forests and rugged coastline. An area that is uniquely different and rarely visited by travellers is the Bald Hills.

A mosaic of coastal grasslands and Oregon white oak woodlands, the Bald Hills sit atop the ridge line dividing the Klamath River and Redwood Creek drainages. The area affords spectacular views of the Redwood Creek basin, Pacific Ocean, and the Coast Range to the east.

You will find trails winding through mixed forests and grassy prairies. An abundance of wildflowers in late spring and early summer give color to the hills. Deer and elk are often seen. Occasionally you may catch a glimpse of coyote, bear, fox, mountain lion, and bobcat. Birds from redtail hawks to mountain bluebirds, white-tailed kites to blue grouse find their livelihood in the numerous prairies. Discover a barn built in the 1880s by the Lyons family, early home-

steads of this area. Find a shady oak tree and enjoy an afternoon nap. The Bald Hills offers something for just about everyone.

Just north of Orick, turn east on Bald Hills Road off Highway 101. Or ask for directions to Redwood National and State Parks' best kept secret - the Bald Hills!

Explore by Motorhome

While some roads in the park are too rugged or steep for recreational vehicles, there are many places you can explore while traveling in your motorhome.

Just two miles south of Crescent City, Endert's Beach Road features easy access to the beach, picnic tables, and a large parking lot. Crescent City Overlook, about 4 miles south of Crescent City on Highway 101, is a great stop for a spectacular view of the ocean and Crescent City harbor.

Lagoon Creek, off Highway 101 between Crescent City and Klamath, offers picnic tables, fishing, a beach, and hiking trail access, including a one-mile self-guided interpretive trail describing Yurok Indian culture.

Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway is a lovely alternative route to Highway 101 and gives you a chance to drive the original highway as it twists through old growth forest. The parkway can be accessed about five miles north of Orick or about five miles south of Klamath. Several large pullouts provide access to trailheads along the way. Big Tree Wayside along the parkway offers a short walk to a tree of impressive diameter and has a large parking lot for easy turnarounds. Elk Prairie, along the southern end of the parkway, has parking lanes on both sides of the roadway offering safe parking for elk viewing.

Whatever your interests, there is plenty to explore as you travel by motorhome through Redwood National and State Parks.



Tall Trees Outfitters P.O. Box 12 Orick, CA 95555
(707) 488-5785

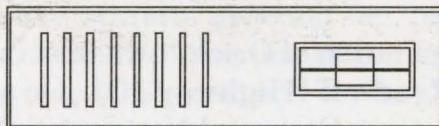
Explore by Horseback

Travel by horseback with a Tall Trees Outfitter guide through ancient forest, replanted forests, streams, and mountains. Venture along fern covered trails winding through trees hundreds, even thousands, of years old. Your guide will help you learn about life in the redwood forest. Enjoy an overlook of the Orick Valley and the mouth of Redwood Creek where it seems you can see forever. Imagine living here in a time before roads, trails, or even people.

Camp along scenic Redwood Creek near the tallest trees in the world. In this remote area, time seems to stand still, and the quiet can be almost deafening. Look for animal tracks along the creek bed. What stories do they tell? Tall Trees Outfitters offer a wonderful way to relax and enjoy the grandeur of the parks by horseback. For more information about this park concession, call (707) 488-5785.



<http://www.nps.gov/redw/index.htm>



Planning Your Visit

Five facilities are available in Redwood National and State Parks to help visitors plan their redwood adventures. These centers have friendly staff to answer your questions and a variety of park-related publications. Some centers also have exhibits on the natural and cultural history of the area. From south to north they are:

- ☞ Redwood Information Center. Open daily. Summer hours 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Winter hours 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- ☞ Prairie Creek Visitor Center. Open daily. Summer hours 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Winter hours 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- ☞ Crescent City Information Center. Open daily 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- ☞ Hiouchi Information Center. Open daily during the summer months, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- ☞ Jedediah Smith Visitor Center. Open daily during the summer months, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and when staffing is available in the winter months.



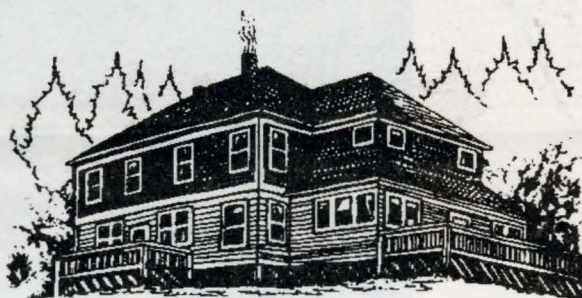
Where is a Tree to Drive Through?

For many years, travelers have been fascinated by trees large enough to actually drive their cars through. There was once a drive-through giant sequoia tree in the Mariposa Grove of Yosemite National Park. This "Tunnel Tree" fell over in 1969 due to heavy snow. Giant sequoias (of the Sierra Nevada Mountains) and coast redwoods (of the north coast) have both served as drive-through trees in California.

Three coast redwood drive-through trees are found in northern California. All are located on private lands. They are listed here from north to south; all are along the Highway 101 corridor and charge admission.

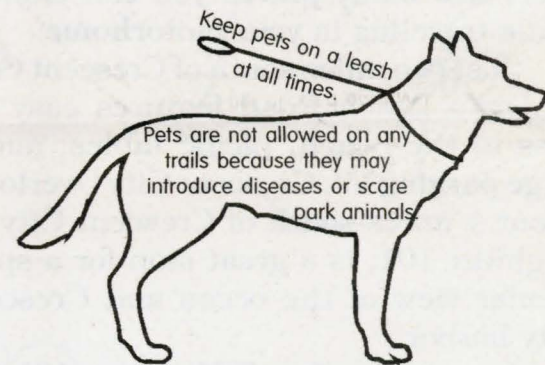
- Klamath Tour-Thru Tree is located in the town of Klamath (take the Tower Valley exit).
- Shrine Drive-Thru Tree is in Myers Flat (take the Myers Flat exit).
- Chandelier Tree in Drive-Thru Tree Park is located in the town of Leggett (follow signs off Highway 101).

Whether we drive through, walk through, or arch our necks and peer over 300 feet up toward the tops of these towering giants, their scale and timelessness captures our imaginations and inspires our care.



Redwood Hostel offers inexpensive, shared lodging inside the parks.

Redwood Hostel
14480 Highway 101
Klamath, CA 95548
(707) 482-8265



For More Information



You can reach Redwood National and State Parks at 707-464-6101. Extensions for the various information/visitor centers are listed below.

5064 - Crescent City Info. Center
5265 - Redwood Information Center
5300 - Prairie Creek Visitor Center

The following areas can be reached during the summer by direct dial at the following numbers:

Hiouchi Information Center
707-458-3134
Jedediah Smith Visitor Center
707-458-3310

