

Redwood

NATIONAL PARK • CALIFORNIA



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As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources." The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

In a sense, this park is dedicated to the memory of the Oligocene epoch of earth's history. For it was then, over 30 million years ago, that the coast redwood evolved and grew in great forests along the California coast. Here we are preserving a remnant of that forest. It is not enough that you walk beneath giants that sprouted 20 centuries ago. You are present in a forest that existed before the human species evolved upon the earth.

As described by the Authorization Act of October 2, 1968, Redwood National Park is 46 miles long north and south, and about 7 miles wide at its greatest width. It includes 30 continuous miles of coastal acreage plus hills, ridges, valleys, and streams for an ultimate total of 58,000 acres of redwood forest, bluffs, and beaches.

Included within the boundaries are three long-established State parks, which can be donated by the State of California to the Federal Government under the Redwood National Park Act. From north to south, these three parks are: Jedediah Smith, Del Norte, and Prairie Creek, for a total of 27,468 acres. The remaining 30,500 acres are former private lands, including some residences and small business sites, but mostly redwood groves, coastal bluffs, and beach acreage. Some cutover redwood forest is included in order to provide reasonably manageable units.

Until the State parks are contributed to Redwood National Park, they will remain as completely separate units under the administration of the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The National Park Service is working with that State agency to assure, on one hand, the continued independence and separate integrity of the State parks, and, on the other hand, to avoid confusion in the minds of visitors to the Redwood Country this season as to what facilities are available on State lands and what on Federal lands.

Because the orderly occupation of property by the National Park Service will take time and will vary from one case to another, you who are visitors to Redwood National Park are requested to accept with patience and understanding those "no trespassing" signs you may find posted within the park boundaries. The simple fact is that during this season, and for some time, a great many of the former private holdings will NOT be open for public use, logging trucks will be operating on park roads, and several other nonconforming uses will be present. Your cooperation and understanding will be much appreciated by your fellow citizens in residence, and by the park rangers who are here to help you enjoy your visit.

Private land within Redwood National Park boundaries is subject to the terms of the park's Authorization Act, Public Law 90-545 of October 2, 1968, which reads as follows: "Sec. 3 (b) (1) Effective on the date of enactment of this Act, there is hereby vested in the United States all right, title, and interest in, and the right of immediate possession of, all real property within the park boundaries . . . except real property owned by the State of California or a political subdivision thereof. . . ."

The act also stipulates that there will be an "orderly termination of all operations on real property acquired by the United States under this subsection, and for the removal of equipment, facilities and personal property therefrom."

WHAT IS BEING DONE NOW

To create an effective national park, one that is open to the public for enjoyment and that is consistent with uses in long-established national parks, these things are being done:

- Detailed boundary surveys are being completed.
- Final stages of land purchases are under negotiation.
- Master planning for the future protection and operation of the park is well underway.
- Basic natural resource data necessary for a resources management plan are being collected.

FACILITIES AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Camping in State parks. Each park has a developed campground suitable for tents, campers, and small trailers up to 26 feet long. The 349 campsites in the three State parks can be reserved in advance. Reservations for any time during the calendar year must be made prior to June 30. Reservation information and request forms are available at any California State Park office.

You are urged to reserve your campsite, particularly during the heavy travel period from June 1 to after Labor Day. Campsites not filled by reservation are available on a first-come, first-served basis. State campgrounds charge \$2 to \$3 per night (reduced rates for off season). Day-use fee is 75 cents. When the State park campgrounds are filled to capacity, the rangers in charge will help you find space nearby.

Camping in the National Forests. There are four campgrounds along U.S. 199 adjoining Redwood National Park and Six Rivers National Forest to the north. These campgrounds, containing 87 campsites, are developed for tents, campers, and small trailers, and are a 20- to 40-minute drive from U.S. 101. In addition, there are a number of campgrounds on U.S. 299 and Calif. 96 in Six Rivers, Klamath, and Trinity National Forests. They are 1- to 4-hour drives from U.S. 101.

Private accommodations. A number of private trailer parks are available along U.S. 101 from Eureka, Calif., to Oregon, and on Calif. 299, 96, and 199 to the east. Motels are located at various points along these highways.

REGULATIONS

The State and national parks each have their respective regulations, copies of which can be obtained at the information offices of both the State and national parks. The following is a brief summary of National Park Service regulations:

- It is unlawful to hunt, trap, or have loaded firearms in your possession on park lands.
- Removal or damage to any vegetation or wildlife is prohibited.
- Fires without a permit are allowed only at designated sites.
- Pets must be kept under physical restraint while in the park.
- The defacement, damage, or removal of any Government structure, sign, or marker is not allowed.

A WORD ABOUT THE STATE PARKS

Much of the redwood forest acreage of these parks consists of memorial groves. Private citizens from all over the world contribute funds to the Save-the-Redwoods League which uses the money, matched by State funds, to acquire additional redwood groves for inclusion in the State parks. The memorial groves in the State parks have been established by the California State Park System in recognition of the generous gifts of these private citizens who wanted to help save them for YOU.

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park was established in 1923, Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park in 1925, and Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park in 1929. Since that time, the people of California have supported the California State Park System so that these magnificent examples of the Redwood Country, plus more than 82,000 acres of additional redwood forest lands in 21 other State parks extending as far south as Monterey County, may be enjoyed by millions of visitors each year. Although descendants of these marvelous trees have been transplanted throughout the world, the cool, moist north coast of California is their natural home. Another redwood species, the giant sequoia, is found at Calaveras Big Trees State Park and at Yosemite, Sequoia, and Kings Canyon National Parks.

NATURAL HISTORY

The area within Redwood National Park can be roughly divided into four main ecosystems (communities of plants and animals including their physical environment). These four systems are: *redwood forest*—the forest, its streams, its inland forest border and coastal forest border; *marine and shore*—the submerged land one-quarter of a mile out from mean high tide, salt marshes, tidepools, beaches, dunes, and freshwater pools; *north coastal scrub*—a narrow strip of cliffs and scoops; *cutover forest*—clearcut or nearly clearcut land with its hills and streams.

The *redwood forest* ecosystem is special plant communities adapted to the abundant rain and fog, the drainage and soils, and to the relatively moderate temperatures the year-round. This ecosystem is dominated by the coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*). It grows here in pure groves of many acres or scattered throughout in a rough ratio of 60 percent redwood to 40 percent of other trees. The understory is thick with smaller trees and shrubs. And the forest floor, deep with fallen and other natural litter, is often out of sight under a cover of ferns. Where the duff is drier and the forest crown more open, acres of forest floor are taken over by wildflowers.

Forest streams provide a variation in plantlife because of year-round moisture and greater sunlight. Inland forest borders are dry from May through October and consequently have different kinds of trees, especially oaks, and other plants. These attract different kinds of animals. On the other side of the redwood forest ecosystem is the coastal forest border. Here, moisture in the form of rain or fog is so abundant throughout the year that the redwoods must share the ground with hemlock, spruce, fir, and cedar. The forest crown is broken and there are more kinds of shrubs and their growth more vigorous.

The *marine and shore* ecosystem is fairly typical of the edge of the Pacific where the ocean beats against the coast from Washington's Olympic Peninsula to mid-California. Offshore rock masses are havens for sea birds, seals, and sea-lions. The tidepools and the salt-water and fresh-water marshes and pools have abundant animal life. The beaches and dunes are a special kind of wilderness, almost unmarred by the works of man, created by the unconquerable wildness of the ocean.

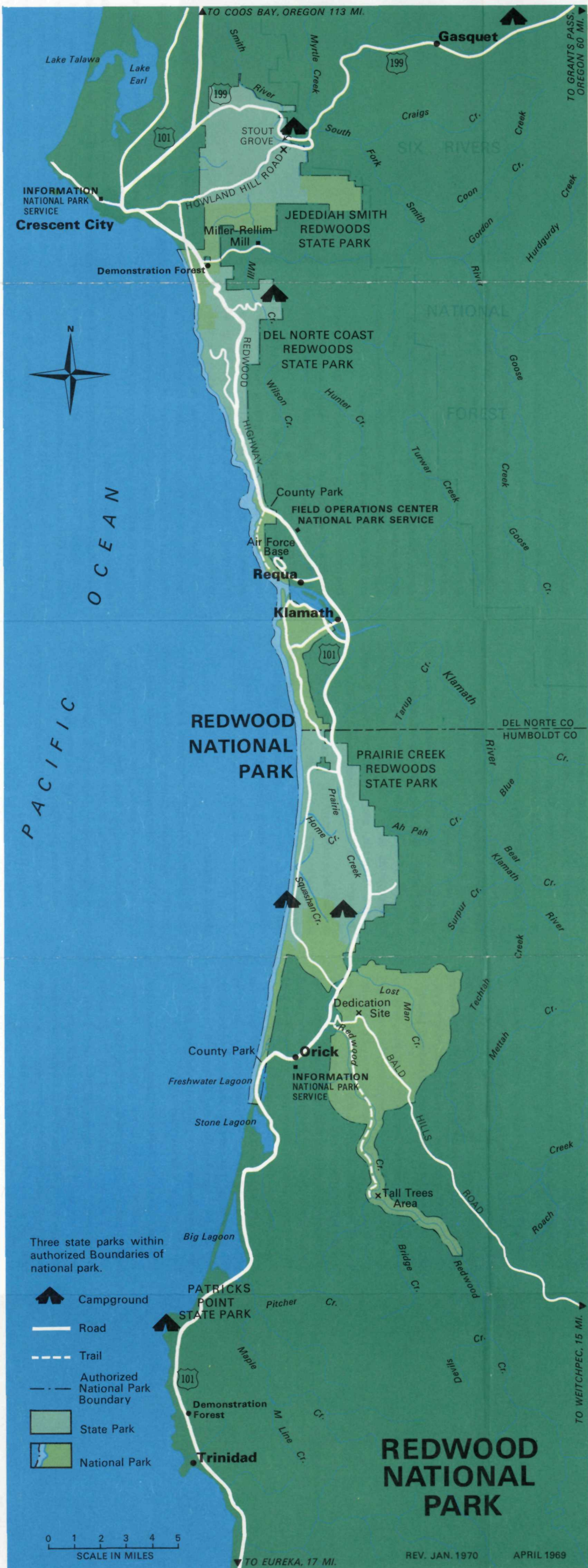
The *north coastal scrub* ecosystem takes over as the forest thins on approaches to the cliffs and scoops in the coastline. This narrow strip is influenced by almost constant salty winds, rocky soils, and poor drainage. Low-growing trees, woody shrubs, and herbaceous plants dominate.

The *cutover forest* ecosystem represents a drastic and sudden change in the previously existing redwood forest ecosystem. The effects of clear-cutting have created new conditions for plant and animal life. In theory, such areas will go through a succession of changes in kinds of vegetation and will result, in 100 years or more, in a new redwood forest ecosystem.



WHAT ARE THE PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

The park was created primarily to protect a representative segment of old growth redwood and outstanding coastal scenery. Planning for development and operation of the park is limited by its long and narrow geographic shape and the lack of suitable open land. There is considerable land surrounding the park, much of which is suitable for visitor accommodations and services, that would not be compatible with the strict preservation of the redwoods and the coast. This is not to say that no developments will be planned for the park. On the contrary, there will be visitor centers, information stations, interpretive exhibits, road improvements, trails, etc., planned and developed as funds become available.



WHAT YOU CAN DO THIS SEASON

Interesting side trips. Klamath Beach Road is 11 miles long and includes spectacular coastal scenery (see map).

Bald Hills Road passes through an inspiring stand of untouched redwoods and offers a fine view of Redwood Creek. This road continues for about 35 miles across scenic balds out of the park, southeast to Weitchpec on Calif. 96. *Watch for logging trucks!*

Hiking. The aforementioned side trips are also suitable for hiking. See map for additional trails in the Lost Man Creek area, Redwood Creek area, False Klamath Cove area, and in the State parks.

Two miles up the Bald Hills Road from U.S. 101 you can park your car and enjoy a leisurely stroll along a 1/2-mile trail to the Park Dedication Site. Here, President Nixon signed a proclamation naming this area the Lady Bird Johnson Grove.

The Birds. Bird-watching is good because of the many different habitats, i.e., the forests that march to the sea, the coastal bluffs, the many green "scoops" in the coastline that remain green all year, the beaches, the lagoons, and the bird colonies on the offshore rocks. The entire area of the national park lies in the path of the Pacific Flyway and is particularly good for bird-watching during the spring and autumn waterfowl migrations.

The Ocean. In special places along the coastal zone, sea-lions have their colonies, usually on offshore rocks surrounded by rough waters. Migrating whales are often observed near the coast. The sea with its ceaseless motion, its breakers crashing on the rocks, its waves that roll up the beaches and slide down again, all are worth hours of watching. Everyone likes to walk along a shoreline. Here your walks may be short because of the rocky promontories that protrude into the sea and sometimes cannot be skirted even at low tide. Always watch the tide, and plan to leave when it starts to come in. While the coast and surf look inviting for swimming and surfing, they are, in fact, a very dangerous combination of steep descending beaches, heavy undertow, and jagged rocky shoals. *You are, therefore, cautioned against swimming and surfing.*

The Coastline. The object and purpose of the national park is to maintain the shores of its coastal zone in a state of wild and untouched beauty. All are encouraged to hike along these areas and explore the interesting tidepools, rocks, plantlife, wildlife, and other natural phenomena, leaving them undisturbed for others to enjoy.

Fishing. A California fishing license is required and the State's regulations apply in the national park as well as in the three State parks. Opportunities for catching salmon, steelhead, and trout, and surf fishing are readily available in this area.

