

Redwood

NATIONAL PARK • CALIFORNIA

Redwoods are a titan race, the tallest trees in the world. By their age, their size, and their majestic beauty, redwoods are a supreme achievement in the evolution of trees. Not only does the species date far back in time, more than 30 million years, but individual redwoods live as long as 2,000 years. Once found in many other parts of the world, the coast redwood now grows as a natural forest only in a narrow strip along the northern California coast and barely into Oregon.

Redwood National Park, established October 2, 1968, added to the acreage of redwoods being preserved up to that time, mostly in California State parks. The national park is 46 miles long, north to south, and about 7 miles wide at its greatest width. It includes 30 continuous miles of coastal land plus hills, ridges, valleys, and streams.

Included within the 58,000 acres authorized by Congress are three long-established State parks—Jedediah Smith Redwoods, Del Norte Coast Redwoods, and Prairie Creek Redwoods—totaling 27,468 acres that can be donated by California to the United States under the Redwood National Park Act. The remaining 30,500 acres are mostly redwood groves, coastal bluffs, and beach acreage, but include some former private lands and cutover redwood forests.

THE STATE PARKS

Much of the redwood forest acreage of the State parks consists of memorial groves. People from all over the world contribute funds to the Save-the-Redwoods League which uses the money, matched by State funds, to acquire more redwood groves to be included in the State parks.

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 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, may be enjoyed by millions of people 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. Closely related to the coast redwood is the giant sequoia found at Calaveras Big Trees State Park, at Yosemite, Sequoia, and Kings Canyon National Parks, and at a few isolated groves in adjoining national forests.

Until the three State parks are donated to the United States for inclusion in 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 agency to assure, on the one hand, the continued independence and separate integrity of the State parks, and, on the other hand, to avoid confusing visitors to the redwood country as to what facilities are available on State and Federal lands.

Because the orderly addition of property to the national park will take time and will vary from one case to another, you are requested to accept with patience and understanding any "no trespassing" signs posted within national park boundaries. 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 private activities will be present.

While final land purchases are being negotiated, the National Park Service is making plans for the future protection and operation of the park. Trail accesses, bridges, exhibits, picnic areas, parking areas, and other facilities are being developed. Information services are offered at the Orick and Crescent City offices year-round and at Klamath in summer.

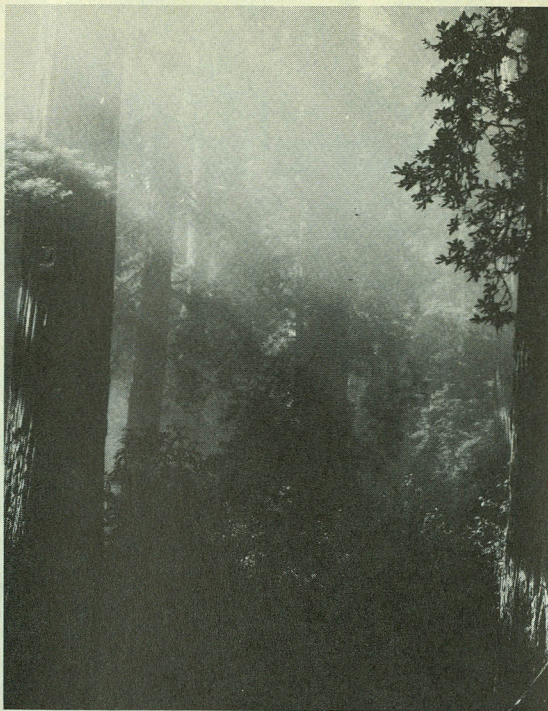
THE FOREST AND THE COAST

This national park can be divided into two main parts, each with different plant and animal communities and physical environments: the *redwood forest*, with its associated vegetation, streams, and rivers, and the *coastal and marine zone*, with its abrupt cliffs, eroding headlands, beaches, lagoons, and tidepools.

The redwood forest is a superlative expression of the interaction of vegetation and the abundant rain and fog, the drainage and soils, and the moderate year-round temperatures. This forest is dominated by the coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*). It grows here in pure stands and with associated trees—Douglas-fir and others. The understorey is thick with shrubs such as rhododendron, salal, and huckleberry, and with small trees. The forest floor is deep with the litter of the trees and often is concealed beneath a cover of ferns.

Vegetation varies near the forest streams in response to moisture levels and sunlight; California-laurel ("bay"), cedar, alder, and maple are abundant. Alluvial flats along these streams often support the finest redwood stands.

At the higher inland elevations, the forest is influenced by drier, warmer conditions of summer. Tan oak, madrone, and Douglas-fir increase in numbers, and redwood decreases. Nearer the ocean, moisture in the form of rain or fog is so



abundant throughout the year that cedars, hemlock, and Sitka spruce become more common. The coastal margin of the forest is usually Sitka spruce, apparently the most tolerant of the ocean's influence. Portions of the redwood forest have been cut, as long ago as the 1850's but mostly within the past 25 years. The scars of this logging will slowly disappear as the forest reestablishes itself.

The *coastal and marine area* of the park is fairly typical of the Pacific coast from Washington's Olympic Peninsula to mid-California. The rugged headlands and bluffs rising from the sea are constantly besieged and eroded by waves. Low-growing trees, woody shrubs, and herbaceous plants predominate. The beaches are a special kind of wilderness almost unmarred by man.










In summer, much of the coast and redwood forest may be shrouded with fog while inland the weather is warm and sunny. The long, rainy winter season is punctuated by occasional periods of cool clear weather. Year-round temperatures are generally cool and moderate. Snow is rare.

Animal life. Herds of Roosevelt elk are in the park vicinity. They can sometimes be seen grazing beside U.S. 101 in the open grassy area in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. They are wild and should be observed from a distance. Other animals in the park such as black bear, deer, foxes, cougar, and bobcats are shy and rarely seen. Rivers and streams of the area are known for their runs of spawning salmon and steelhead.

Bird-watching is good because of the many different habitats. The park lies in the Pacific Flyway, which brings migrants into the area during spring and autumn. Migrating whales are often observed near the coast, and offshore rocks are havens for sea birds, seals, and sea lions. The tidepools, marshes, and lagoons are rich in animal life.



Three state parks within
authorized boundaries of
national park.

-  Ranger Station
-  Picnic Area
-  Campground,
State Park
-  Paved Road
-  Unpaved Road
-  Trail
-  Authorized
National Park
Boundary
-  State Park
-  National Park

0 1 2 3 4 5
SCALE IN MILES



MOTOR TOURS

Many beautiful stands of redwoods can be viewed from U.S. 199 and U.S. 101, both inside and outside the national park. The *Avenue of the Giants*, starting about 50 miles south of Eureka, is a scenic drive through redwood groves in several State parks. If you have time, take one of these trips:

Howland Hill Road in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Pk. is unpaved, through old-growth redwoods.

Bluff Road, along the coast, is a paved road to a picnic area which overlooks Crescent City and the beach to the south. Beyond this point is a trail to Enderts Beach and more picnic facilities.

Requa Road, west of U.S. 101, leads to a viewpoint where you can observe the Klamath River's entrance into the ocean and the summer salmon fishing activities. Here are exhibits and the trail-head for the Coastal Trail.

Coastal Drive, about 8 miles long with spectacular coastal scenery, is a low-speed, partial gravel scenic drive. Use the Klamath Beach Road or Alder Conservation Camp exits from U.S. 101.

Davison Road leads to Gold Bluff Beach in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. Due to its condition, the north end of this loop road is often closed.

Bald Hill Road, east of U.S. 101 north of Orick, is the access road to both the Redwood Creek trail-head and Lady Bird Johnson Grove.

These roads are off the main highways. Weather, road conditions, and steep grades, make it advisable to check before taking trailers.

HIKING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Coastal Trail, about 4 miles long, winds high on the bluffs overlooking the ocean. There are viewpoints, exhibits, views of a seasonal sea lion rookery, and access to the beach.

Redwood Creek Trail, 8½ miles long, provides access to the Tall Trees Grove, site of the tallest known trees in the world. Only primitive camping is available. Footbridges across the creek are removed in the rainy season because of high water.

Two miles up the Bald Hill Road from U.S. 101 you can park your car and enjoy a leisurely stroll along a ½-mile trail to the Park Dedication Site at Lady Bird Johnson Grove, where President Nixon signed a proclamation dedicating the grove to the former First Lady.

Many miles of shoreline invite walking and photography. There are also opportunities to observe wildlife and enjoy the waves rolling in. *Always watch the tide. Some rocky promontories cannot be skirted even at low tide.* Cold water, jagged shoals, undertow, and steep descending beaches usually discourage swimming and surfing.

There are also many miles of trails in Prairie Creek Redwoods, Del Norte Coast Redwoods, and Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Parks.

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. This is a good area to catch salmon, steelhead, and trout and to do some surf fishing.

Picnicking. Facilities for picnics are at a number of locations, including Bluff Road, Lagoon Creek, and the State and county parks.

Interpretive services. Park rangers present evening programs and guided walks in summer. Check at park information offices for schedules.

OVERNIGHT FACILITIES

The national park is not as yet operating campgrounds. The Federal recreation permit, the Golden Eagle, is NOT valid in State parks.

Camping in State parks. Each park has a developed campground suitable for tents, campers, and small trailers up to 26 feet long. All 349 campsites in the three State parks can be reserved in advance. Obtain reservation information and request forms at any California State Park office. Be sure to reserve your campsite, especially during the heavy travel period from June 1 to after Labor Day. Campsites not filled by reservation are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. State parks have fees for camping and day-use picnic areas.

Camping in national forests. Four campgrounds are off U.S. 199 in Six Rivers National Forest. They contain 87 campsites, developed for tents, campers, and small trailers, and are about a 30-minute drive from U.S. 101. Other campgrounds are also on Calif. 299 and 96 in Six Rivers, Klamath, and Trinity National Forests. These are 1- to 4-hour drives from U.S. 101. The Golden Eagle permit can be used in all of these Federal facilities.

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

"Time—time as we dissect it in days and hours and minutes, loses all meaning in a setting such as this. Here is a forest that was young when life itself was young. Here are trees that have already stood for a millenium or two—and still their lives will outlast yours a thousand years."

François Leydet

*The Last Redwoods and
the Parkland of Redwood Creek*

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REGULATIONS

The National and State Park Systems have their own regulations, copies of which can be obtained at the information offices. Here in brief are the national park regulations:

It is unlawful to hunt, trap, or possess loaded or assembled firearms on park lands.

Removal of or damage to any vegetation or wildlife is prohibited.

Fires are permitted only at designated locations.

Pets must be kept under physical restraint and are prohibited beyond the Redwood Creek parking area.

Defacement, damage, or removal of any Government structure, sign, or marker is prohibited.

ADMINISTRATION

Redwood National Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Drawer N, Crescent City, CA 95531, is in charge.

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.

National Park Service

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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