

# DEL NORTE COAST REDWOODS STATE PARK



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At Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, in the heart of California's rain forest, an average annual rainfall of 110 inches and a temperate, foggy climate foster tree and plant growth year round. Due to its higher elevation and the mountains to the west that separate it from the ocean, the Mill Creek campground has a warmer and sunnier climate than Crescent City, just six miles away.

In the springtime the azaleas and rhododendrons catch the forest's filtered sunlight with their blooms; and in the fall, the white-barked alders deck road and trail with colorful leaves.

### Campground

Mill Creek Campground, open from April 1st to October 31st, is situated in a lush second-growth forest. Hobbs, Wall & Co. conducted logging operations here in the 1920s; railroad ties and an old trestle are decaying reminders of the Crescent City and Smith River railroad. Over two-thirds of the 145 campsites accommodate vacation trailers and motor homes. The campground also offers several walk-in campsites that provide privacy and solitude for tent campers. Each campsite has a food locker, stove, and table, with restrooms and showers nearby.

Many visitors enjoy wading in Mill Creek, which flows through the campground. Because of the heavy run of salmon during spawning, fishing is allowed only during the regular trout season.

### Trails

Many interesting features of the park can be seen from the trails. Damnation Creek Trail, which begins at the Henry Solon Graves Memorial Grove on Highway 101 four miles south of the Mill Creek Campground turnoff, winds through dense forest with giant redwoods growing almost to the ocean's edge to a small beach where tide pools offer the opportunity to study marine life (please, don't remove specimens from their natural habitat). The trail was originally used by the Yurok Indians to reach the ocean to gather shell fish and seaweed.

The two-mile Last Chance Trail follows the route of the original highway. Starting in the southern section of the park, the trail parallels Highway 101 to the headwaters of Damnation Creek and then turns westward to the bluffs overlooking the rocky Pacific shoreline, offering spectacular panoramic vistas along the way, and ends at Ender's Beach. Other developed trails within the park are also available to the hiker.

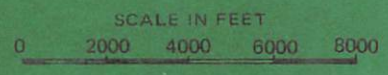
### Plants and Wildlife

Wildlife at Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park include Columbian blacktail deer, chipmunk, bobcat, Steller's jay, varied thrush and ruffed grouse. Black bear are occasionally seen by hikers in the more remote backcountry.

From April to July the park is decorated with a profusion of scarlet to rose-purple flowers, the blooms of the California rosebay or rhododendron. The redwoods protect a thick growth of ground cover — the pink flowers and purple veins of redwood sorrel, the leathery green leaves of the salal with its purple summer fruit, and trillium, Douglas iris, and the Olympia lily. Salmonberry, thimbleberry and huckleberry provide forage for wildlife.







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**MILL CREEK CAMPGROUNDS**  
 See Detail Below.

- A. LAST CHANCE TRAIL
- B. DAMNATION TRAIL
- C. FOOTSTEPS ROCKS TRAIL
- D. HOBBS WALL TRAIL
- E. NATURE LOOP
- F. MILL CREEK TRAIL
- G. SADDLER SKYLINE TRAIL
- H. TRESTLE LOOP TRAIL
- I. SKID ROAD TRAIL
- J. ALDER BASIN TRAIL

PACIFIC

OCEAN

