

Redwood

NATIONAL PARK • CALIFORNIA

Desk
only

The Forest . . .

Trees. Shade trees, the climbing of trees, the autumn colors of leaves. All occupy a special place in our affections. They are familiar and friendly. But how is it possible to relate to redwoods, tallest of all trees, which dwarf us in size and age?

Redwoods are more than individual trees. They form a unique and diverse forest. Once found in many 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. Portions of the redwood forest here were cut as long ago as the 1850's, but most were downed within the past 25 years.

The forest is dependent on the ocean-created climate of thick summer fogs and moderate year-round temperatures. Torrential winter rains regularly swell the Smith River, Redwood Creek, and the Klamath River. The long, rainy winter season has occasional periods of cool clear weather.

The coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) grows here in pure stands and in mixed forests. The litter from the trees and a cover of ferns conceal the forest floor. The understory is thick with shrubs such as rosebay rhododendron, salal, and huckleberry. On alluvial flats along streams grow some

of the finest stands, such as the Tall Trees Grove on Redwood Creek and Stout Grove on the Smith River. Alder, maple, cedar, and California laurel (bay) thrive along the streams. The rivers also are known for their runs of spawning salmon and steelhead.

At higher inland elevations, the drier, warmer conditions of summer influence the forest. Tan oak, madrone, and Douglas-fir increase in numbers, and redwood decreases. In such a ridge forest near Lady Bird Johnson Grove Jedediah Smith found "noble cedars" in 1828. He saw, too, the abundant wildlife of the open forest: black-tailed deer, black bear, foxes, cougar, bobcats, and elk. The numbers of Roosevelt elk have declined in recent times, their range has decreased so much that they are seen regularly only in the park vicinity. The open grassy area beside U.S. 101 in Prairie Creek Redwood State Park is a good place to look. The elk are wild, so observe them from a distance.

The explorers also encountered Indians living in villages along streams and in coastal communities. Indian trails were criss-crossed in later years as miners and pack trains moved inland to look for gold in the Trinity and Klamath River drainages. With settlement came improved roads, although as late as the 1920's parts of the Redwood Highway were still under construction. In 1926 the Klamath River, previously crossed by ferry, was first bridged, completing an important link in the road.

Now, people from all over the world visit the redwood forest. They come mostly in summer, season of fogs that gently encircle and engulf, pierced occasionally by brilliant shafts of sun. With the changing seasons, fall finds the bigleaf and vine maples adding yellow and red to the prevailing green of the forest. Spring decorates the forest floor with a host of small wildflowers. Winter brings stormy winds and rains. The redwoods seem most natural in this dim wet setting, wrapped in mist and silence, the hush broken only by sounds of the rain and of a nearby creek.

The repeated yearly cycles help us understand the age and dimension of these magnificent trees. Not only does the species date back more than 30 million years, but individual redwoods live as long as 2,000 years. In the quietness of a walk in the forest, time seems to slow, and you can appreciate the natural forest living at a pace and rhythm all its own.



. . . and the Coast

Rugged headlands and bluffs rising from the sea are constantly besieged and eroded by waves. Low-growing trees, woody shrubs and herbaceous plants cover the slopes. The forest bordering the coast usually consists of Sitka spruce, apparently the tree most tolerant of the ocean's influence. The beaches are a special kind of wilderness almost unmarred by man. Long sandy stretches are strewn with bleached driftwood. Rocky zones washed by the surf are inhabited by a multitude of tidepool plants and animals, some brightly colored, spiny, and lacy, others tiny and fragile. A black oystercatcher probes with a sharp bill among the mussel beds. Gulls are everpresent, sometimes silently riding the winds, other times squabbling noisily over a morsel.

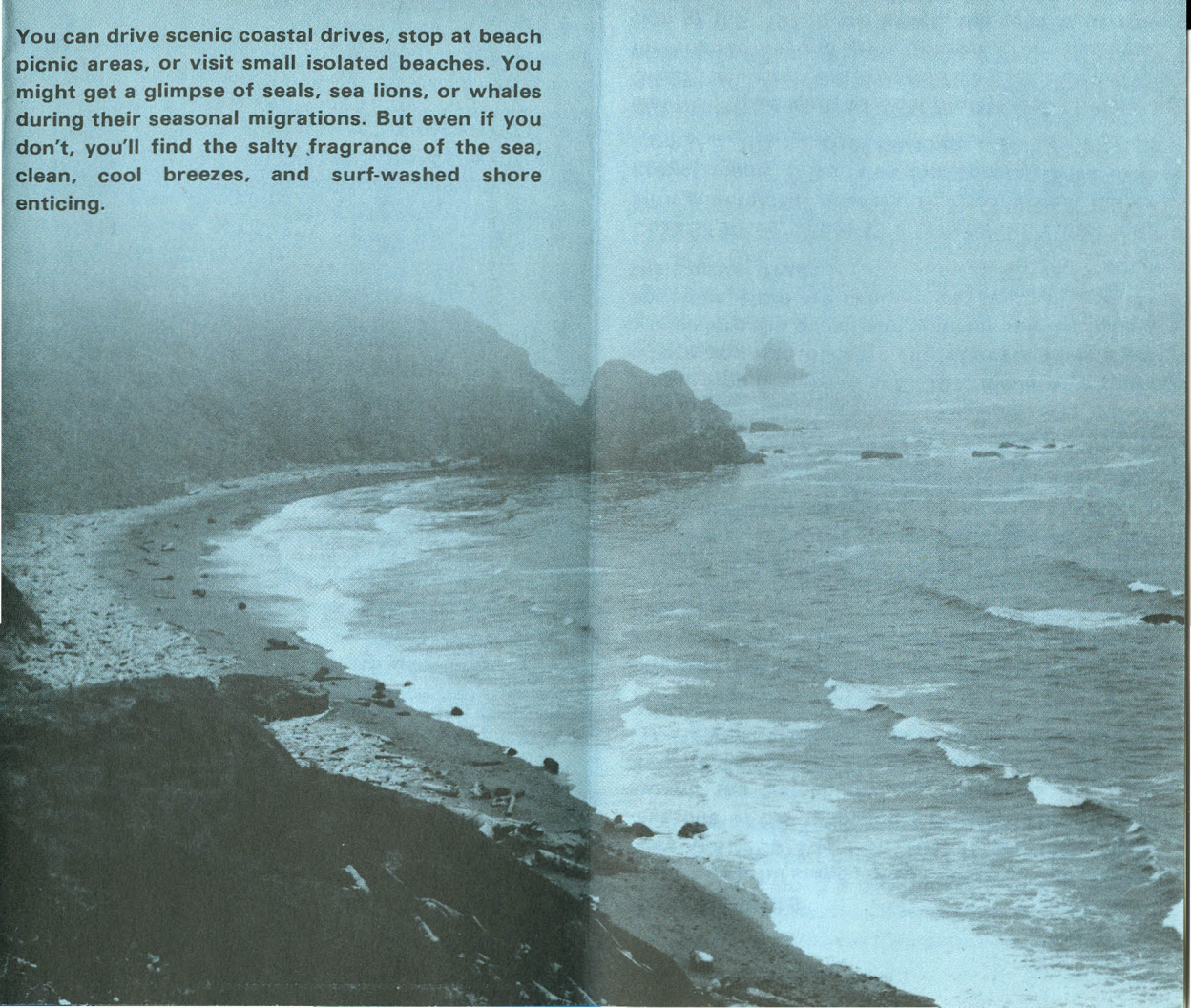
A walk along the Coastal Trail, near False Klamath Cove, might be an opportunity to see little birds

called turnstones huddled on the lee side of rocks, protected from buffeting winds. Offshore rocks are havens for sea birds, and from the Yurok loop you can see a rock that provides nesting space for thousands of murre. Bird watching is good because of the many different habitats. The park lies in the Pacific Flyway, and migrants stop here during spring and autumn.

Along the coastal hills you can look out to sea and perhaps imagine a sailing ship or steam schooner from the days when they plied the coast, carrying passengers and freight. These were wild, dangerous waters in those days, and inevitably there were shipwrecks. St. George reef, for example, claimed the *Brother Jonathan*. But the era of schooners and steamers has long since ended and only small fishing boats and occasional barges are likely to be seen nowadays.

The ocean can be calm or stormy and fierce. Sometimes it is cold and gray, meeting an equally gray sky far in the distance. Sunny days find it green becoming silver in late afternoon and later reflecting in the water the gold of a sunset. Along Enderts Beach Road, the Coastal Drive, or the Klamath River overlook on Requa hill, brilliant sunsets can sometimes be viewed. The most spectacular occur on days of high fog as the sun descends below the fog layer, lighting sky and ocean at once.

You can drive scenic coastal drives, stop at beach picnic areas, or visit small isolated beaches. You might get a glimpse of seals, sea lions, or whales during their seasonal migrations. But even if you don't, you'll find the salty fragrance of the sea, clean, cool breezes, and surf-washed shore enticing.



THE NATIONAL PARK

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 74 kilometers (46 miles) long, north to south, and about 11 kilometers (7 miles) wide at its greatest width. It includes more than 48 continuous kilometers (30 miles) of coastal land plus hills, ridges, valleys, and streams.

Included within the national park boundary as authorized by Congress are three long-established State parks—Jedediah Smith Redwoods, Del Norte Coast Redwoods, and Prairie Creek Redwoods—totaling 11,116 hectares (27,468 acres). These parks can be donated by California to the United States under the Redwood National Park Act. Until the three are donated for inclusion in Redwood National Park, they will remain completely separate units under the administration of the California Department of Parks and Recreation. An additional 11,253 hectares (27,807 acres) are mostly former private redwood lands. These include groves, coastal bluffs, beaches, and cut-over redwood forests. The national park is authorized for 23,472 hectares (58,000 acres).

For some time, a few of the former private holdings will not be open for public use, logging trucks will be operating on roads within the park, and several other private activities will be present.

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, supplemented 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 36,414 hectares (90,000 acres) of additional redwood forest lands in 25 other State parks, may be enjoyed by millions of people each year. 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.

OVERNIGHT FACILITIES

The national park is not as yet operating campgrounds and Federal recreation permits are NOT valid in State parks.

Camping in the State parks. Each park has a developed campground suitable for tents, campers and small trailers up to 8 meters (26 feet) long. There are 349 campsites in the 3 state parks. Sites may be reserved through Ticketron outlets or by writing to Reservation Office, Dept. of Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 2390, Sacramento, 95811. Information and forms are available at any California state park office. Reservations are helpful from July 1 to after Labor Day. Campsites not filled by reservation are assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. State parks have fees for camping and day-use picnic areas. Interpretive programs are presented during the summer.

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.

Private accommodations. A number of motels, 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.

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. Collecting in tidepools is not permitted. Camping and 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.



TO BROOKINGS, OREGON 27.4 KM (17mi)

FS ▲

TO GRANTS PASS, OREGON 104.6 KM (65mi)

Gasquet

SIX RIVERS

NATIONAL

INFORMATION
2nd and K Streets

Crescent City

ENDERTS BEACH ROAD
Demonstration Forest

JEDEDIAH SMITH
REDWOODS,
STATE PARK

MILL CREEK

DE NORTE COAST
REDWOODS
STATE PARK

FOREST



OCEAN

REDWOOD
NATIONAL
PARK

CALIFORNIA

COASTAL
TRAIL

Requa

Klamath

REDWOOD
NATIONAL
PARK


PRAIRIE CREEK
REDWOODS
STATE PARK

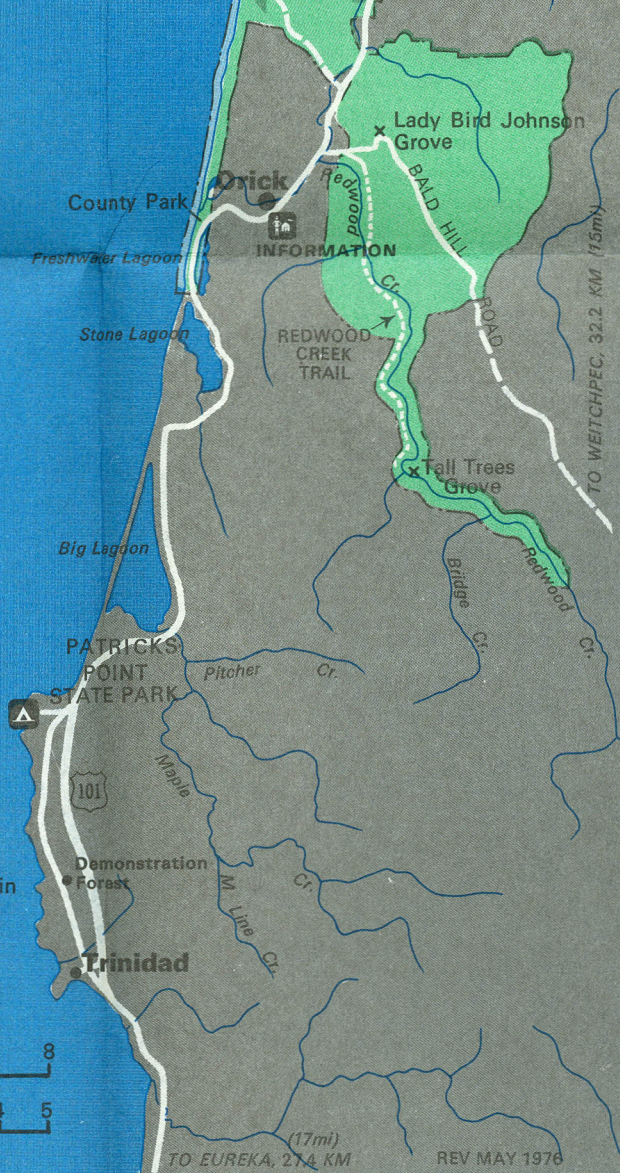
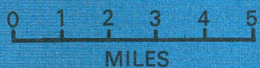
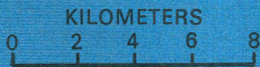
Fern Canyon

Gold
Bluff
Beach

Big Tree
Wayside

PACIFIC

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



MOTOR TOURS

Many beautiful stands of redwoods can be viewed from U.S. 199 and U.S. 101. If you have time, take one of the following side-trips. These roads are off the main highways. **TRAILERS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN ON THEM BECAUSE OF WEATHER, GENERAL ROAD CONDITIONS, AND STEEP GRADES.**

Howland Hill Road in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park is an unpaved way through old-growth redwoods.

Enderts Beach Road, along the coast, has three use areas: Crescent Beach with picnicking and beach access; Crescent Overlook with picnicking and a fine view; Enderts Beach, reached by a 0.8-kilometer (0.5-mile) trail, with picnicking and beach access.

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

Coastal Drive, about 13 kilometers (8 miles) long with spectacular scenery, is a low-speed, partial gravel scenic drive. Use the Coastal Drive exits from U.S. 101, south of Klamath.

Davison Road leads to Gold Bluff Beach in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. This road may not be maintained beyond Fern Canyon. From the junction of U.S. 101 to the beach, the road is narrow with sharp curves. Vehicle size is restricted. Drive carefully.

Bald Hill Road, east of U.S. 101 north of Orick, is the access road to the Redwood Creek trailhead. The remainder of this road to Lady Bird Johnson Grove and beyond is steep, winding, and heavily used by logging trucks. Drive carefully.

Motorists continuing south from the national park have an opportunity to drive a scenic alternate to the U.S. 101 freeway. The Avenue of the Giants, starting about 65 kilometers (45 miles) south of Eureka, passes through redwood groves in several State parks.

HIKING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Coastal Trail, about 6 kilometers (4 miles) long, winds high on the bluffs overlooking the ocean. There are viewpoints, exhibits, and access to the beach.

Redwood Creek Trail, 14 kilometers (8.5 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. The trail is reached by a short drive from Bald Hill Road. Dogs are prohibited. Campers should obtain a back-country permit at the trailhead.

Three kilometers (2 miles) up Bald Hill Road from U.S. 101 you can park your car and enjoy a leisurely stroll along a 0.8-kilometer (0.5-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. The return section is a self-guiding nature trail.

Many kilometers 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 discourage swimming and surfing.

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

Fishing. A California fishing license is required for both freshwater and ocean. 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 Enderts Beach 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.

WE'RE JOINING THE METRIC WORLD

The National Park Service is introducing metric measurements in its publications to help Americans become acquainted with the metric system and to improve interpretation for park visitors from other nations.

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. Tel. (707) 464-6101.

The park can be reached by private auto and scheduled bus lines on U.S. 101 south from the Oregon coast, north from Eureka and Arcata, and from the east via U.S. 199 from Grants Pass and Medford, Oreg. Scheduled air service to Crescent City meets connecting lines in Eureka-Arcata. Rental cars are available.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

National Park Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR