

jedediah smith redwoods

state park



Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, at the confluence of the Smith River and Mill Creek on U.S. 199 nine miles north of Crescent City, is the northernmost of the redwood parks that dot the California coast from Monterey County to the Oregon border. Here you can see many of the more impressive trees that the forest with *Sequoia sempervirens* — the coast redwood. It is a most attractive setting — white, fast-running water with many deep pools; primeval forests with a lush undergrowth of rhododendron, western redwood sorrel, azalea, banks of ferns on giant fallen trees, huckleberry, salmonberry, salal, and oxalis; and a streamside habitat which is the home of a wide variety of birds. The park offers camping, picnicking, fishing, and hiking trails.

In contrast to the cool, damp, fogbound summers along the coast just a few miles to the west, summer days in this park are usually warm and sunny. Winters are rainy — a hundred inches of rain during the season is not uncommon — and the Smith River has been known to rise twenty feet in twenty-four hours during a storm, but a warm, sunstruck winter's day can be one of the most enjoyable times to visit. Temperatures during the summer usually range from 45 to 85 degrees F. and during the winter from 30 to 65; it seldom snows.

The park contains an unusually wide variety of trees and shrubs, with both coastal and interior species represented. There are a few Ponderosa pine and incense cedar here, along with many other inland and upland species.

Bear are seen occasionally, as are deer, gray squirrels, Douglas squirrels, redwood chipmunks, raccoons and other small mammals. A rare treat is the sight of river otter playing in the riffles of the river, and patient observers may be rewarded by the sight of beaver working in some of the deep pools.

Birds are plentiful. The Steller's jay adds life to the campground — and steals food from tables. Other birds found in this area are several species of woodpecker including the pileated woodpecker, western robins, and varied thrushes. Occasionally a ruffed grouse, belted kingfisher or osprey may be seen.

The park is best seen from its hiking trails; much of it is very rugged.

Memorial Groves

There are 36 memorial groves in the park. The Frank D. Stout Memorial Grove, presented to the State in 1929, contains the park's largest known tree, which is 20 feet in diameter and 340 feet high. Also in the park are the Wellman, Krauss, Ferrel, Metcalf, Peterson, Adams, Jensen, Tyson, Kennedy and Jedediah Smith Memorial Groves. Half of the funds for the 5,000-acre National

Tribute Grove, which includes the Daughters of the American Revolution unit of about 500 acres, were contributed through the Save-the-Redwoods League by thousands of citizens and national organizations such as the Garden Club of America. This grove's magnificent virgin redwoods, combined with hemlock, fir, cedar, tan oak, and madrone, stand in majestic silent tribute to those who served the cause of freedom in the armed forces of the United States during World War II.

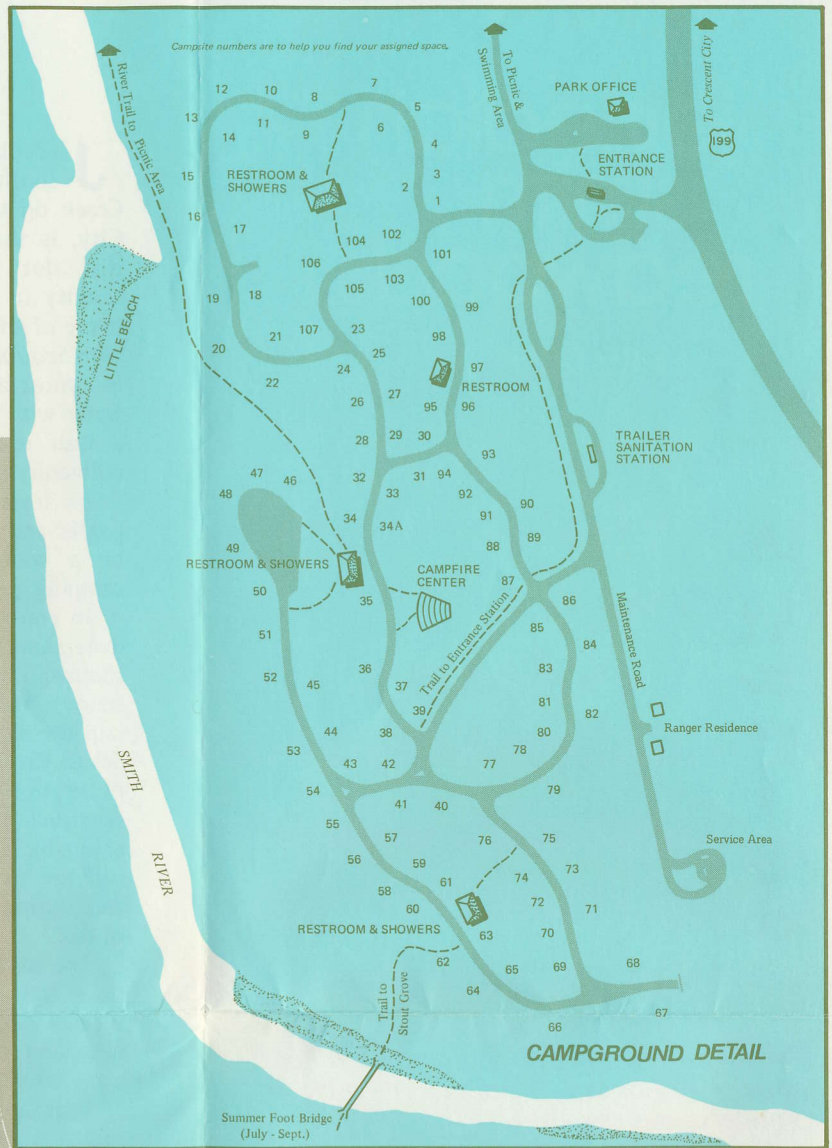
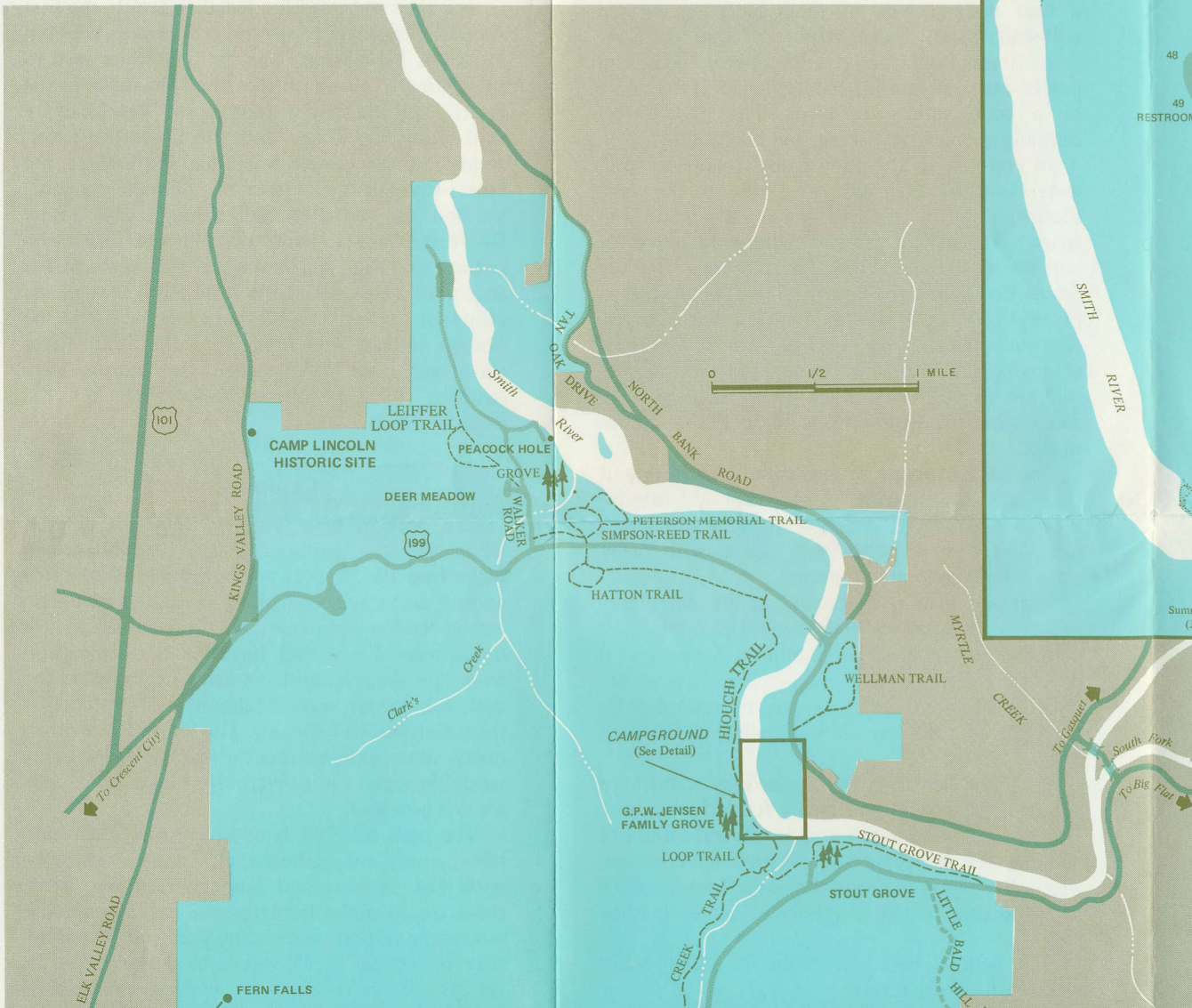
The park is named for Jedediah Smith, the first American explorer to see this area. Smith, referred to as the Bible-Toter, was the first white man to cross directly overland from the Mississippi to the Pacific, and the first to traverse the West Coast by land from San Diego past the Columbia River, almost to the Canadian border. He crossed the Smith River in the summer of 1828 while leading the first party of white men through what is now Del Norte County. Smith was killed by Comanche Indians in 1831, and few white men came to the area until 1849, when the Gold Rush brought an influx of miners. Trouble between them and the Tolowa Indians who lived along the Smith River continued until 1869, when the Indians were removed to the Hoopa Reservation on the Klamath River.

Camping

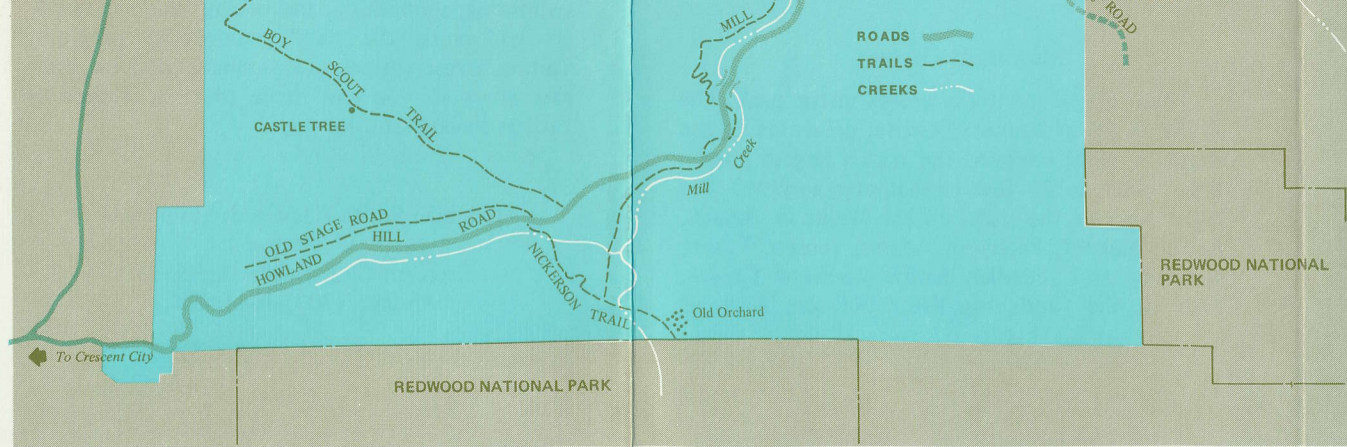
The park is busy both summer and winter. When summer vacationers leave, the fishermen move into the park to take advantage of the fine salmon and steelhead fishing — catches of thirty-pound salmon and twenty-pound steelhead are not uncommon. Fly fishing for trout is usually good from late August until the rains begin, while the best fishing for winter salmon and steelhead is from October to February. The Smith River offers many other opportunities for recreation, including sandy beaches for sunbathing; lifeguard services are not provided.

The park has 108 family campsites, each with table, stove, and cupboard, plus nearby restrooms with hot showers and laundry facilities. While there are no trailer hookups, the park has a trailer sanitation station; some campsites will accommodate trailers up to 31 feet in length or housecars up to 35 feet long. In addition to fishing, swimming, sunbathing, and hiking, summer campers will enjoy the park's interpretive program. Campsite reservations are recommended for summer stays — you can make them at Ticketron outlets throughout the state.

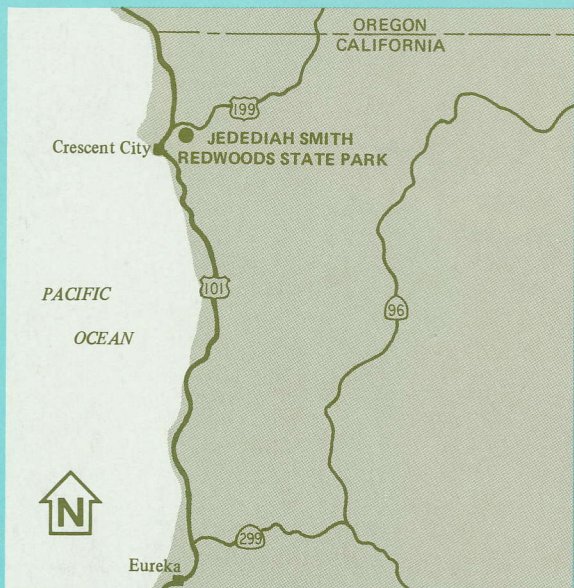
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CAMPGROUND DETAIL



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department of parks & recreation

State of California—the Resources Agency

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