



# THE TRAILS OF REDWOOD CREEK

## PEOPLE, BEARS, AND OTHER CRITTERS

Wildlife is most enjoyed when viewed in its natural habitat; however, feeding wild animals quickly alters their normal behavior. Redwood National Park asks that you **not** feed park wildlife. This includes unintentional feeding, such as leaving food accessible in camp or dis-

carding seemingly harmless refuse like peanut shells and orange peels. An animal accustomed to human food may become a bothersome pest. Small rodents will chew through a pack or tent and foul food supplies, while bears can destroy equipment and injure people. Despite Redwood National Park's significant bear population, there have been few people/bear incidents. The park needs your help to keep relations with our resident bears on a friendly basis. Protect wildlife and yourself by hanging all food, soap, toothpaste, suntan oils and other scented items or garbage at least 200 feet from camp. These items should be hung from a stout branch at least ten feet from the tree trunk, five feet below the branch and twelve to fifteen feet above the ground.

## CAMPING ON THE RIVER BAR

The joys of camping are familiar to many: the hearty meal at the day's end, a warm sleeping bag under a starry night sky, a doe and her fawn at stream's edge in the cool air of early morning. Redwood National

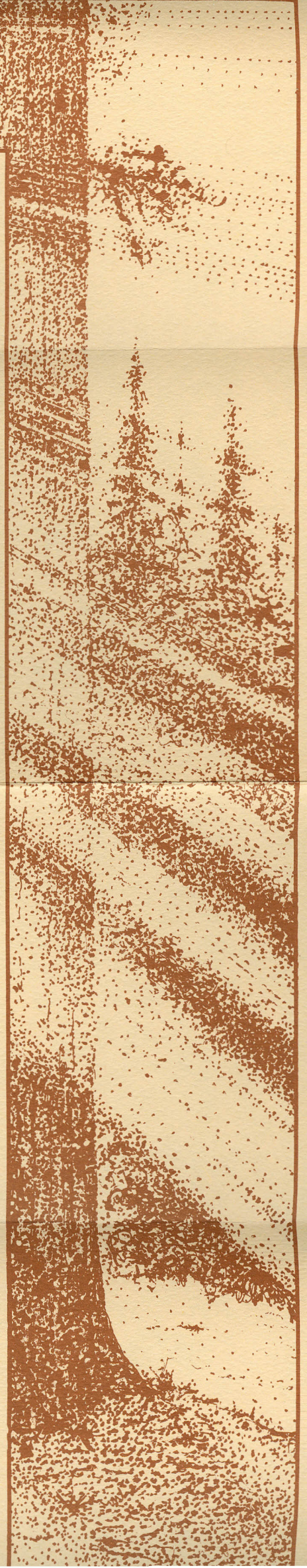
encourages you to enjoy one or more nights along Redwood Creek. To protect your visit and increase the safety and pleasure of all visitors, the National Park Service asks that you camp only on the river bars at least ¼ mile from the busy Tall Trees crossing. If you would like a campfire, build it on the river bar using only dead and down wood. Boil all water or use purification tablets before drinking water from park streams. Wash dishes and bathe with soap well away from creeks. Biodegradable soaps do not protect our streams from pollution. All toilet facilities should be set up away from the gravel bars and at least 150 feet from streams. Dig a "cat" hole and bury all fecal matter under four to six inches of soil where it will decompose quickly.

## WHAT TO WEAR

Shorts, wool shirts and rain parkas are a must in Redwood Creek. Summer daytime weather ranges from hot and dry to fog, drizzle, and occasional rain. Nights are frequently cool. A pair of tennis shoes for

fording the creek will make your hike more comfortable.

- **Lock** your car. **Do not** leave valuables inside!
- **Dogs** are **prohibited** in the backcountry. They are not compatible with resident wildlife.
- Carrying of **firearms** is **prohibited** in the backcountry.
- **Pack out all trash.**
- A camping and fire permit, available at the Redwood Creek trailhead or Orick Information/Ranger Station, is required.
- Please report any wildlife encounters at the Orick information station or use a wildlife card at the trailheads.



# HOW TO SEE REDWOOD CREEK

The parklands of Redwood Creek are not the traditional landscape that one expects to find in a national park. The visual and resource-related scars of an industrial past continue to dominate much of this southern section of Redwood National Park. Yet Redwood Creek contains areas of peaceful, gentle beauty and opportunities for the hiker to enjoy a day or week experiencing its natural wonders. Here the visitor finds magnificent groves of towering redwoods to wander through, narrow, steep walled side streams to explore, clear pools to swim in, and sun baked gravel bars to lie on. Wildflowers and wildlife are abundant. One senses that Redwood Creek is a place to see nature's beauty and renew the spirit.

# THE REDWOOD CREEK TRAIL

parallels Redwood Creek for 8.2 miles. Temporary foot bridges are provided during the summer months at the 1.5 mile point on Redwood Creek, at McArthur and Tom McDonald Creeks, and again at Redwood Creek near the Tall Trees Grove. This level trail passes through prairies and regenerating forest.

# THE TALL TREES TRAIL

can be reached via the Redwood Creek Trail or by taking the Tall Trees shuttle bus from Orick. This steep trail winds down through old-growth redwood forest, dropping 680 feet in elevation from the trailhead to Redwood Creek, a distance of 1.3 miles.

# THE EMERALD RIDGE TRAIL

leaves the Tall Trees Trail one-tenth mile below the Tall Trees trailhead. The 1.25 mile trail drops 580 feet in elevation through old growth redwoods before reaching Redwood Creek 1.5 miles above the Tall Trees Grove.

Redwood National Park is developing an extensive back-country trail system in the Redwood Creek basin. Ask at the Orick Information/Ranger Station for current conditions. Four trails are available for hiking:



# LEAVE THE TRAILS BEHIND!!

The most rewarding back country experience comes to the hiker who dons shorts and tennis shoes and walks the river bars of Redwood Creek. The stream repeatedly swings across the route forcing the hiker to ford the knee-deep water of summertime.

Hiking upstream from the Tall

Trees is limited by Rocky Gap; a narrow, steep walled jumble of huge boulders that channel the stream into a three-foot wide flow. Only hikers with rock climbing experience and a minimum party size of three, should attempt to negotiate this difficult and dangerous gap.

**Redwood Creek** is a powerful and **dangerous** river during **high water flows**. From September to May check with rangers for water conditions before crossing.

# A HORSE TRAIL

is accessible from the Orick rodeo grounds. Approximately 12 miles in length, it loops through clearcut areas and old-growth forest on the west side of Redwood Creek.