

CHRONOLOGY

Establishment of the
Redwood National Park
Willard E. Pratt, Arcata Redwood Co.

- 1879 Secretary of Interior Carl Schurz recommended withdrawal of 46,000 acres of prime redwoods.
- 1901 California Legislature set aside Big Basin Redwoods State Park, Santa Cruz County.
- 1908 Representative William Kent gave Muir Woods to the U. S.
- 1918 Save-the-Redwoods League formed.
- 1920 Secretary of Interior John B. Payne, responding to a resolution by Representative Clarence Lea of Santa Rosa, had Forest Service study suitability of a Redwood National Park. Committee report recommended:
64,000 acres Lower Klamath
1,800 acres South Fork Eel
Favorable report House Interior Committee and bill to establish passed House without debate but was never considered in the Senate.
- 1934 National Forest Reservation Commission approved establishment of Redwood National Forest and California enacted enabling legislation.
- 1935 National Forest Reservation Commission set up two Redwood Purchase Units (southern and northern). The Northern Purchase Unit covered 263,000 acres in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. Only 14,491 acres were purchased, all in the Northern Unit.
- 1963 Fight to establish present park began. Paul A. Zahl, Senior Natural Scientist, National Geographic Society, "found" tall tree grove along Redwood Creek containing "world's first, second and third tallest trees -- 367.8', 367.4' and 364.3'."
- 1963 April National Geographic Society grant to National Park Service to make a comprehensive study of redwoods and prepare a report and recommendations for their preservation.
- 1964 Spring Chester Brown, career park planner, submitted his report.
- 1964 25 June Johnson asked Udall to have study completed and to submit recommendations.

1964	National Park Service's "professional report" --			
Sept. 15	"The Redwoods -- A National Opportunity for Conservation and Alternatives for Action":			
	<u>Plan</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>
	Prairie Creek Redwoods	10,330	10,330	10,330
	Redwood Creek	21,300	21,330	13,730
	Lost Man & Mae Creeks	14,280		
	Additions to Prairie Creek			
	Redwoods, Inc. Fern			
	Canyon and Gold Bluffs	7,690	7,690	7,690
		53,600	39,320	31,750
	"Virgin Redwood"	22,580		11,800
	Addition to Jedediah Smith	8,840	8,840	8,840
	Land from Arcata	18,395		
	G-P	12,789		
	Simpson	7,868		

1964 Highway Commission proposed re-routing of U. S. 101 along the bluffs or thru Park.

1965 American Forests carried American Forestry Association's
May plan (Dr. Samuel T. Dana and Kenneth Pomeroy)
a) Enough virgin redwood had been set aside.
b) Proposed Humboldt Redwoods State Park be converted into Redwood National Park.
c) Proposed additions to State Park system.

Their summary: The National Park Service's Plan I would:
a) Lead to substantial unemployment.
b) Disrupt plans of the larger owners for placing their lands under sustained yield management.

The Redwood Park and Recreation Committee, an organization formed by industry to oppose massive transfer of commercial forest lands to non-commercial ownerships, endorsed the AFA Plan. However, that plan was summarily dismissed by the Department of Interior and was not a major factor in the political maneuvering that followed. One result of the AFA and RPRC plans was to identify appropriate acquisitions for the State Park System over which there was substantial agreement:

Gold Bluffs and Fern Canyon	2,125 Acres
Simpson Grove between Jedediah Smith	
Redwoods State Park and Smith River	809 "
Avenue of the Giants Extension	1,647 "

1965
July 1 Representatives of the 5 affected timber companies met with National Park Director George Hartzog to make clear their opposition to any Redwood National Park.

The Sierra Club supported the largest possible Redwood National Park with the objective of preserving virgin redwoods along Redwood Creek.

The Save-the-Redwoods League was concerned with saving the groves in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park which they thought were threatened by logging in the Mill Creek Watershed. They felt that the Redwood Creek area was not suitable for a park since it could not be protected because of the size of the upstream watershed. Also Redwood Creek did not affect Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park.

Actually, the Bureau of the Budget's \$60 million limitation on land acquisition for a National Park determined the contents of the Administration's final proposal.

1965
June 19

Bureau of the Budget approved plan to acquire:
18,240 acres from Rellim
6,720 acres other private land
and combine with: 18,432 acres in Jedediah Smith and
Del Norte Coast Redwoods
State Parks
For a total of: 43,392 Acres

1965
Jul 20

Laurance Rockefeller wrote to the President suggesting the Mill Creek Area. Following this, a split in the pro-Park forces developed:

The Save-the-Redwoods League, led by Newton Drury, former Director of the National Park Service, backed the Mill Creek proposal.

The Sierra Club, led by Edgar Wayburn, David Brower and Michael McCloskey, took the position that the only proper attack was to ask for all anyone could hope to get.

1965
Oct. 7

The Advisory Board on National Parks recommended a two-unit Redwood National Park designed to unite pro-Park forces.

The Northern Unit to consist of the Mill Creek watershed and the two State Parks (Jedediah Smith Redwoods and Del Norte Coast Redwoods).

The Southern Unit to consist of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, Gold Bluffs, Lost Man Creek drainage, and the lower Redwood Creek drainage (including the Tall Trees).

The two units would be joined by a scenic corridor. The cost would have been greatly in excess of the Bureau of Budget's ceiling.

1965 Secretary Udall and staff met with Representative
Oct 14 Clausen and Senator Kuchel to try to work out details
on the Administration proposal.

1965 Representative Cohelan (D. Berkeley) introduced H. R.
Oct 20 11705 calling for a Redwood National Park of 97,000
acres primarily in Redwood Creek but including Lost
Man, Little Lost Man and Skunk Cabbage Creeks and
Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. The Sierra Club
estimated the cost at \$120 million; opponents estimated
\$200 million.

The Sierra Club then launched a nationwide publicity
campaign involving ads in major newspapers, pamphlets,
talks and a flood of cards, letters and telegrams to
members of Congress.

The Sierra Club demonstrated a basic political fact of
life: Opposition to particular preservation proposals
usually is local while support is national. If decision
making can be placed at the national level, preserva-
tion usually can win.

As the Park battle became more intense, "experts" for
the interested parties began cranking out studies to
support the positions of their principals.

Dr. R. Burnell Held, Chief
Research Division
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, USDA --

claimed that the Park would generate more jobs than
would be lost by the total elimination of Miller-Rellim
(207 jobs). According to Held, the Park would generate:

210 jobs the first year,
432 " " third year -- then level off at
330 " " fifth and subsequent years

Dewayne Kreager, a Seattle economist, made a study for
the lumber industry which showed that the Park would
ruin Del Norte County.

An A. D. Little study found that in the first five
years the Park would not generate as many jobs or as
much business as the timber industry but thereafter
it would generate more.

1966 Senator Kuchel introduced the Administration's Park
Feb 23 Bill S.2962 and Representative Clausen introduced a
companion bill into the House. Later Clausen modified
his bill.

The Administration bill attempted to split the solid front of the timber companies by centering on Mill Creek. Park supporters reasoned that Miller's competitors would stand with him until defeat was certain, then enjoy the benefits of dividing his redwood markets.

The bill tried to provide something for everyone:

- Local Government,
- State Government,
- Business
- Labor
- Redwood Timber Companies

The Sub-committee on Parks and Recreation of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs held hearings in Crescent City and Washington.

The House Interior Committee waited.

Rellim began cutting timber along the border of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park and running new logging roads into key stands of timber.

1966
Aug 17

Udall sought to stop Rellim's cutting within the proposed National Park.

A bitter controversy ensued which, on--

Sept 1
1966

--saw President Johnson asking Congress for a one-year prohibition on cutting trees in the proposed Park Area.

Senator Jackson negotiated a moratorium on cutting which was announced on--

Sept 8
1966 --

Nov 8
1966

Reagan's election as Governor of California.

1967
Jan 18

Senator Metcalf introduced the Sierra Club proposal for himself and 19 other Senators. Representative Saylor sponsored an identical bill in the House.

About this time Governor Reagan asked for a 90-day delay in action on the Park proposal to allow his new administration time to study the situation. This study resulted in a proposal to exchange State redwood parks for federal lands near population centers and in a proposal to exchange federal lands in the Northern Redwood Purchase Unit as partial compensation for private lands taken for the Park.

- 1967
Mar 23 Don Clausen introduced H.R. 7742 to establish a National Redwood Park and Seashore. This bill was immediately dismissed by Park advocates while Park opponents did not consider it a viable alternative to the Administration's proposal. It did, however, result in the inclusion of about 40 miles of beaches in the Redwood National Park.
- 1967
Mar 24 Edward P. Cliff, Chief, U. S. Forest Service, opposed the payment-in-kind principle.
- 1967
Apr 3 Laurance S. Rockefeller met with representatives of the State in Sacramento to work out a compromise between the federal and state administrations.
- 1967
Apr 17-19 Senate hearings on Redwood National Park.
- 1967
Jan 27-29
Jul 12-19 House hearings.
- 1967
Oct 10 Senators Jackson, Kuchel and Bible introduced S.2515.
64,000 acres.
\$100 million.
21,000 acres larger than Administration Plan.
33,000 acres smaller than Sierra Club proposal.
- Support for a Redwood National Park had developed to the point where only two questions remained:
What size?
Would exchange of Northern Redwood Purchase Unit lands be authorized?
- 1967
Oct 31 Leaders of Senate Agriculture Committee announced opposition to Purchase Unit land exchange.
- 1967
Nov 1 Senate defeated Anderson-Ellender amendment to block exchange of Purchase Unit land 50 to 30.

Passed S.2515 - 77 to 6.
- 1968
Apr 16&18 House hearings on Redwood National Park bill.
- 1968
May 20-22 House hearings on Redwood National Park bill -- mostly devoted to question of land exchange.
- 1968
Jul 3 House Interior Committee recommended a 28,400 acre Park at an estimated cost of \$56,750,000 but without the land exchange provision.

- 1968
Jul 15 Representative Aspinall arranged to move consideration of his bill under a suspension of the rules, thus making it unamendable. It was passed 389 to 15 with the understanding that, in conference, the Senate version would prevail.
- 1968
Sept 11 Conferees reported agreement on a Redwood National Park bill which incorporated provision for a legislative taking. 58,000 acres -- to cost \$92 million. To date it has cost \$163 million in cash plus \$40 million in exchange.
- 1968
Sept 12 House voted to accept the Conference report with only one dissenting vote.
- 1968
Sept 19 Senate accepted Conference report by voice vote.
- 1968
Oct 2 President Johnson signed the Redwood National Park Act and, because of the "Legislative Taking" provision, the Redwood National Park came immediately into existence.