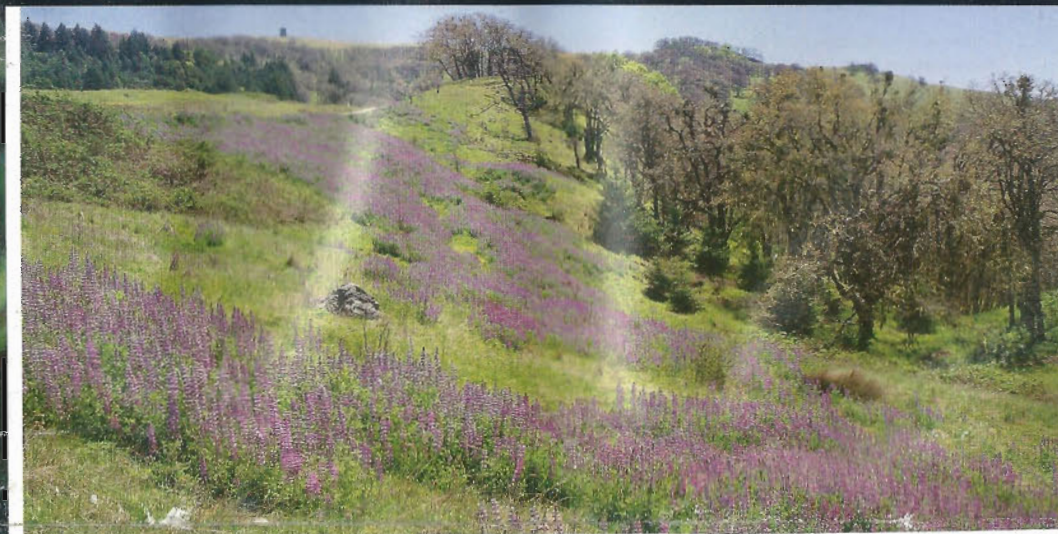


# Redwood



Redwood forest  
ALL PHOTOS NPS EXCEPT AS NOTED

Split Rock along the Coastal Trail

Rough-skinned newt

Bald Hills prairie and oak woodlands

## From Exploration to Preservation

In 1800 redwood forests probably covered two million acres. As mid-1800s gold fever subsided here, redwood fever replaced it. Seemingly endless at first, the trees soon fell to determined logging. The State of California preserved some key groves in the 1920s. Congress created Redwood National Park in 1968 to protect the world's tallest trees and Redwood Creek's salmon fishery.

The 1978 park expansion provided a buffer zone between the park and logging up-stream on private lands and a watershed restoration program to remove logging roads and rehabilitate thousands of acres of cut-over land. Redwood National and State Parks protect nearly 40,000 acres of ancient forest, almost half of all that remain.

Jedediah Strong Smith  
Lacking good deep harbors, the redwood coast drew little attention until fur trader Jed Smith arrived overland in 1828. Smith sought a better route between the Rockies and Pacific. Gold miners opened this area to settlement in the 1850s.



KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Moving logs with steam power ushered in the industrial logging era.



Gold mining began after 1848 strikes on the Trinity River.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY NPS

## Treasures of Nature and Culture

From sea level to 3,200 feet in elevation in the Coast Range, a mild, moist climate assures the parks an abundant diversity of wildlife. Elusive to visitors, many mammals, birds, amphibians, and insects live in the mature redwood forest. They depend on it for food and for shelter. Prairies form natural islands of grasslands, where wildlife abounds.

Roosevelt elk favor prairie and other open lands but seek forests for cover and shade. The parks' largest land mammals, elk may exceed 1,000 pounds.

Much bigger antlers distinguish them from black-tailed deer. Good places to see Roosevelt elk are Elk Prairie Campground and Gold Bluffs Beach. Look for them along the Bald Hills and Davison roads, too. Be alert for elk crossing highways.

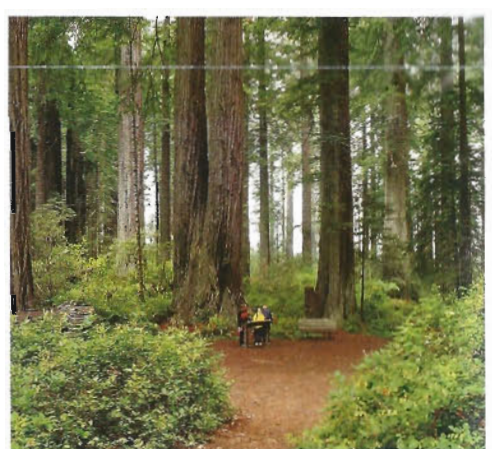


Park streams offer swimming and floating. Steelhead, cutthroat trout (the speckled fish pictured center below), and Chinook salmon (center below) inhabit these streams.



BLAIR NEPS / GEORGE BOUNDIS

The Coast Redwood Coast redwoods tower over all other trees in the world. Trees over 370 feet tall have been recorded across the region. Redwood forests develop the world's greatest reported volume of living matter per unit of land surface. Giant sequoias grow to larger diameters and bulk but do not grow as tall.



A backdrop of redwoods dwarfs hikers.

Coast redwoods can live to about 2,000 years old; they average 500 to 700 years old. They have no known killing diseases and do not suffer significant insect damage.

Coast redwoods grow in a narrow strip along the Pacific Coast of California and southwestern Oregon. Giant sequoias grow only on the Sierra Nevada's western slope.

THE BULLSHAW/ALICE HULL PHOTO COURTESY

Prairies and Waterways Prairies and rivers reflect the changing of seasons far better than redwood groves do.

In springtime, prairie wildflowers burst with color that gives way to the dry summer to the grasslands' amber glow. Prairies are the realm of raptors, the predatory red-tailed hawk, kestrel, and great horned owl, and their prey of gophers and meadow mice.

Mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, elk, and black-tailed deer frequent prairies kept free of trees by prescribed fire and grazing elk.

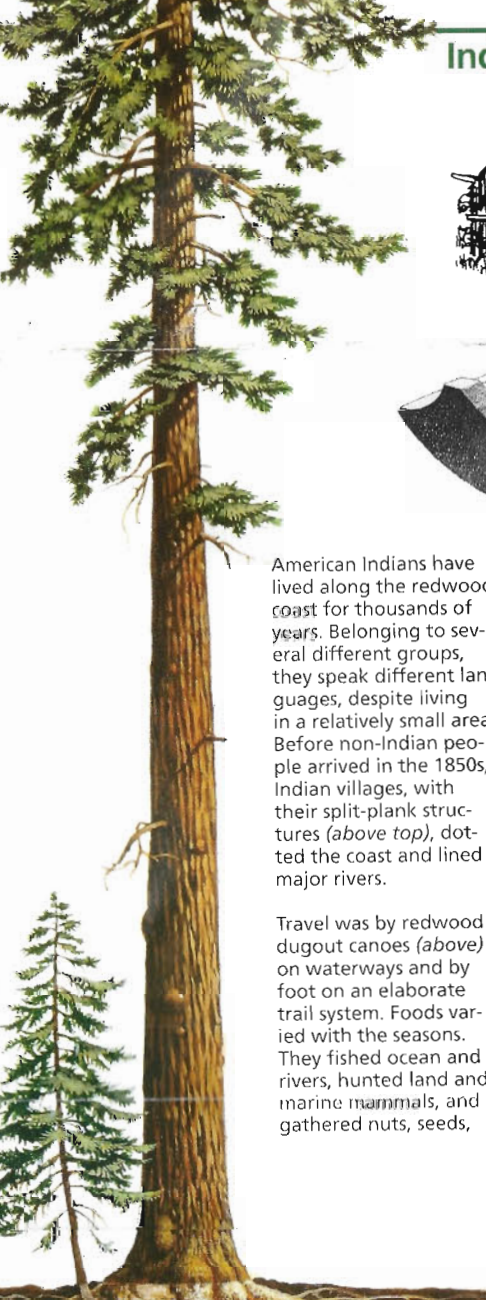
Acorn-bearing Oregon white oaks edge prairies at the higher elevations. Oaks provided protein-rich food for Indians, who cleared the understorey with fire. Prairies make good birding

Watershed Protection Congress expanded the national park in 1978 and directed the National Park Service to rehabilitate logged-over lands. Bulldozers recoultured hillsides and stream channels to restore conditions that

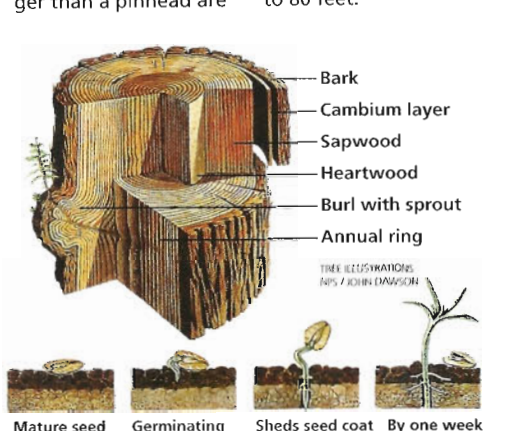


Listen to the excavator's rumble and the bulldozer's roar. The same equipment that was used to build the logging roads (above) now takes the roads out! Be sure to visit one of the rehabilitated sites during your stay in these parks.

boundary encircled the three state parks to better protect superlative ancient redwood forests. In 1994 the National Park Service and California Department of Parks and Recreation began managing the parklands cooperatively, aiming to manage the parks the same. That's why you see rangers in state and national park uniforms anywhere in the parks, working for the same mission. The parks' designation as a World Heritage Site and part of the California Coast Ranges Biosphere Reserve reflects their worldwide recognition as irreplaceable treasures. Here, the diversity of life is protected for you and



From Seed and Sprout Redwood-like trees grew over much of the Northern Hemisphere in the Age of Dinosaurs. Later climate change reduced redwood habitat to this narrow, fog-bound coastal corridor. (See "The Role of Fog" at lower right.)



THE BULLSHAW/ALICE HULL PHOTO COURTESY

## Life Along the Seacoast

Even apart from the Coast Range and its lofty forests, the coastline here would justify national or state park status. Rugged and largely unaltered by humans, the coastline features stretches of steep and rocky cliffs broken by rolling slopes. Generally rocky, its tidal zone can be tough to traverse. Gold Bluffs Beach is an exception, with its seven-mile stretch of dunes and sandy beach. On the coastline you may discover a rich mix of forms of life that live in the distinct habitats illustrated below.

Many of the parks' animal species thrive along the coast. Brown pelicans are summer visitors. Cormorants take to lagoon or river and shore waters. Willets and sanderlings work the beach. Offshore may be Pacific gray whales in migration, seals, sea lions, dolphins, porpoises, and orca whales. In the intertidal areas the cycle of rising and falling tides have produced tightly zoned layers of life. To help protect these animals, the national park boundary extends one-quarter mile offshore.

Offshore Between shore and the deep ocean here is an average surface acre is as productive as an acre of fertilized agricultural land. The basic wealth lies in phytoplankton, single-celled plants.

Sea lions feed beyond the surf and haul out on shore or on sea stacks. Harbor seals swim in the surf and haul out in sheltered coves. Sea birds nest offshore on rocks.



SEA LIONS: TERRY COOPER, AND PELICAN: ILLUSTRATION BY NPS FROM 1932

Intertidal Zone Tides rise and fall twice daily on a 25-hour lunar cycle. In the zone between high and low tide, life forms arrange themselves vertically based on tolerance for exposure to air and/or water and to heat and wave shock. Other biological limits are predators and competition for food and space.

A splash zone above high tide is home for periwinkle snails and beach hoppers that can withstand episodic wetting and wave shock. Splash zone species are transitional but more attuned to life on land than in the sea. Mussels attach to rocks in the high-tide zone, covered

by water only at high tide. Shells let them tolerate temporary exposure to air and direct sunlight.

SEAWEEDS PROVIDE OXYGEN, FOOD, AND SHELTER FOR INTERTIDAL ZONE RESIDENTS. SOME KELP, ANCHORED IN DEEP WATER, WITH BUILT-IN FLOATS, ARE TALL AS REDWOOD TREES.

Beaches Life on sandy beaches observes wet and dry zones, too, because of tides and waves. The lower beach is often wetted while upper beaches are like deserts between sea and lush coastal forest. Clams and mole crabs burrow in wet lower beaches. Sanderlings follow retreating wave lines to forage on washed-up organisms.



BROWN PELICAN

Sea Cliffs Northern park beaches tend to be rocky and backed by sea cliffs. Southern beaches tend to be backed by bluffs. Over half of the parks' birds are marine species. Some nest—often as crowds—in sea cliffs: murrelets, cormorants, puffins, auklets, gulls, and pigeon guillemots.

Most murrelets left in California nest in Redwood National and State Parks, but predators like ravens, jays, and crows are eating murrelet eggs and chicks. While circling the forest looking for food scraps at campgrounds, they find the murrelet's nest instead. Please help protect this rare bird—keep a clean campsite and avoid feeding any wildlife.



MARBLED MURRELET

The Role of Fog As air warmed by inland heat passes over the cold, near-shore waters, fog forms—in summer almost daily. Fog helps to approximate the mild, moist climate that prevailed during the Age of Dinosaurs, when redwood-like species grew over much of North America.

Woodlands The Coast Range's west slope forests benefit from being close to the ocean—for fog, rainfall, and moderated climate. Redwoods favor the moist, north-facing slopes where sunlight's effects are less drying. Rivers near sea level also provide hospitable flats for these big trees.

Redwood National Park is one of over 390 parks in the National Park System. To learn more about national parks and National Park Service programs in America's communities visit www.nps.gov.



A park interpreter shares natural lore of the rocky tidepools with visitors to the parks' Pacific shore.

Redwood National Park  
Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park  
Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park  
Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park  
California

National Park  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
State of California

# Exploring the Redwood Coast

Redwood National and State Parks represent a cooperative management effort of the National Park Service and the California Department of Parks and Recreation. This includes Redwood National Park, Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. Together these parks are a World Heritage Site and an International Biosphere Reserve that protect resources cherished by citizens of many nations. Information in this brochure can help you decide what to see and do during the time you have to visit the parks. Services and facilities are also listed or described.

**24-hr. recorded information 707-464-6101**  
**24-hr. beach patch 916-358-1300**

Call area code 707 and these numbers for:  
 Crescent City Information Center 465-7335  
 Kuchel Visitor Center 465-7765  
 Prairie Creek Visitor Center 488-2171  
 Hiouchi Information Center (seasonal) 458-3294  
 Jedediah Smith Visitor Center (seasonal) 458-3496

**Accessibility** We strive to make our facilities, services, and programs accessible to all; call or check our website.

**Emergencies call 911**

## Hiouchi Area

**Hiouchi Information Center**  
 The information center is open in the summer season. It offers a good place to begin your visit to the national and state parks if you are approaching the north end of the parks on US 199. Exhibits and interpretive publications tell about the parks, their trees and coastline, and other related topics. Trail maps are available.

**Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park**  
 Here you can camp, picnic, hike, fish, swim, and float the Smith River. There are no life-guards. Interpretive exhibits and publications are available at the visitor center. Interpretive walks and talks are offered in summer.

Howland Hill Road, an alternate route to Crescent City, is an unpaved, narrow, scenic drive through the redwood forest. It provides entry

**More Information**  
 National Park Service: [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)  
 California State Parks: [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

**Redwood National and State Parks**  
 1111 Second Street  
 Crescent City, CA 95531-4198  
[www.nps.gov/redw](http://www.nps.gov/redw)

to Stout Grove, hiking trails, and a horseback riding trail as well as to the Howland Hill Outdoor School. Motor homes and trailers are not advised on this road. Walker Road, an unpaved scenic road through redwood forest, provides entry to the Smith River and to short hiking trails.

## Crescent City Area

**Park Headquarters**  
 The headquarters for Redwood National and State Parks is at 1111 Second Street in Crescent City. Information and interpretive publications are available here year-round. For 24-hour information about the parks, call 707-464-6101. Nearby attractions are the Battery Point Lighthouse, Del Norte County Historical Museum, and the harbor at Citizens Dock. You can get information about commercial attractions and private campgrounds at the Chamber of Commerce on Front Street, across the street from park headquarters.

**Enderts Beach Road**  
 The road leads to Crescent Beach Overlook, a good place to watch whales, have a picnic, or just take in the scenery. A section of the Coastal Trail (1.2 miles round-trip) follows tall bluffs, then drops to the sandy Enderts Beach. The hike-in Nickel Creek backcountry camp (0.5 mile) just above the beach offers five sites with beach access. Free permits required, available year-round from Crescent City Information Center and Kuchel Visitor Center. Picnic tables, grills, and a pit toilet are provided. There is no water. In summer 2- to 2.5-hour tidepool or seashore walks are conducted, tides permitting. They begin at the parking area, descend to the beach, and explore rocky tidepools at its southern end.

**Coastal Trail**  
 Multiple sections of the Coastal Trail (see map) explore beaches, bluffs, grasslands, former farm land, and redwood and other forests. With substantial road links and other trails, the Coastal Trail enables you to backpack nearly the length of the parks, from Enderts Beach Road in the north to the Tall Trees Grove in the south. Backcountry camps are provided at (north to south) Nickel Creek, DeMartin, and Flint Ridge. There is a campground at Gold Bluffs Beach. Free backcountry permits are available from Kuchel Visitor Center and Crescent City Information Center. For more information on the Coastal Trail, ask at park information centers for maps and publications.

**Crescent Beach**  
 Picnicking and walking on the beach are popular activities at Crescent Beach, just two miles south of Crescent City off Enderts Beach Road.

**Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park**  
 Here you can camp, hike, and backpack. Interpretive walks and talks are offered in summer. Mill Creek campground is open in summer.

## Klamath Area

**False Klamath Cove**  
 False Klamath Cove lies five miles north of the Klamath River. A protected beach and picnic area are located at the mouth of Wilson Creek.

**Requa Road**  
 Requa Road leads from US 101 up to the Klamath River Overlook, some 600 feet above the estuary at the Klamath River's mouth. There the Coastal Trail leads down to a spur trail leading to another overlook some 200 feet above the ocean. Whale-watching can be good in this area.

1940s. The smaller structure housed the power supply. The operations building housed an oscilloscope and radar technicians. Near the junction with Alder Camp Road the High Bluff picnic area provides panoramic views of the coast from its location atop the bluff. Another point of interest is the old Douglas Memorial Bridge that was destroyed by flooding in 1964. Access sections of the Coastal Trail from Coastal Drive or Alder Camp Road; find camping at Flint Ridge backcountry camp. The Coastal Drive is a narrow and mostly unpaved road with steep grades and sharp curves. Vehicles with trailers and motor homes are prohibited.

**Lagoon Creek**  
 Picnic and enjoy the beach. The Yurok Loop Trail (one mile, one hour) gradually climbs to the top of the sea bluffs for panoramic ocean views. Look for wildflowers in season and, perhaps, views of sea mammals.

**Coastal Drive**  
 This narrow, scenic, partially paved drive (connect with Alder Camp Road for an eight-mile, 30-minute, loop drive) winds through stands of redwood, offering close looks at the Klamath River and breathtaking views of crashing surf and the expansive Pacific Ocean. Don't miss the World War II radar station. It looks like a farmhouse and barn—that was its disguise in the

## Prairie Creek Area

**Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park**  
 From US 101 you can reach the park via the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway, an eight-mile stretch of the original Redwood Highway that provides one of the parks' most scenic drives through old-growth redwood forest. You will find park information, exhibits, and interpretive publications at the Prairie Creek Visitor Center. Camping is available at Elk Prairie campground. Cal-Barrel Road is an unpaved scenic drive through the redwood forest (trailers prohibited).

**Davison Road** provides entry to the Elk Meadow Day Use Area and Gold Bluffs Beach. Elk Meadow Day Use Area has picnicking, mountain biking, and hiking, including the 2.5-mile loop (1.5 hours) Trillium Falls Trail. Beyond Elk Meadow, Davison Road is narrow and unpaved. Trailers and trailer-vehicle combinations longer than 24 feet or wider than 8 feet are prohibited. Gold Bluffs Beach offers wildlife viewing, hiking, picnicking, camping, and entry to the beach and Fern Canyon. Watch out for elk herds. **Danger: Elk are wild and unpredictable. Do not approach them on foot.**

**Lost Man Creek**  
 Take the short, unpaved, scenic drive through the redwood forest. Trailers are not advised. This area offers hiking and mountain biking trails and picnicking facilities. Lost Man Creek Trail leads past the World Heritage Site dedication area and on to a cascade on Lost Man Creek. Continue past old-growth forest and into second-growth habitat, 11 miles one-way.

## Orick Area

**Bald Hills Road**  
 Do not take trailers or motor homes on the steep—15 percent—grade here. Parking for trailers is available at the Redwood Creek trailhead and Kuchel Visitor Center.

four hours round-trip from US 101 (or driving to the trailhead and then hiking down to the grove (3.4 miles total: 1.3 miles down, an 0.8-mile loop at the bottom; 1.3 miles back up). The trail is steep, descending 726 feet into the grove where some of the world's tallest trees grow.

**Tsunami Hazard Zone**  
 If you feel an earthquake, third "tsunami" Go to high ground or inland and stay there.

Walk the Lady Bird Johnson Grove self-guiding loop trail (1.5 miles, one hour), reached from Bald Hills Road. It threads through mature forest to the grove and site at which Lady Bird Johnson dedicated the national park in 1968.

**Redwood Creek Trail**  
 The first 1.5 miles are accessible. Here you can combine hiking and backcountry camping. Take an eight-mile hike to Tall Trees Grove, where some of the world's tallest trees grow on the bluffs of Redwood Creek. This involves two creek crossings. Caution: Bridges are provided in summer only. During the rainy season high waters make stream crossings dangerous. For current information on getting to Tall Trees Grove via this route, ask a park ranger at an information station.

**Kuchel Visitor Center**  
 If you are approaching the parks from the south, make this your first stop. View the exhibits and browse publications that tell about the area, its trees, coastline, and related topics. Trail maps are available.

A limited number of permits for private vehicles are issued on a first-come, first-served basis to reach the trailhead for the Tall Trees Grove. The free permits are available at Kuchel Visitor Center and Crescent City Information Center. Allow

## General Information

**Camping Facilities** Developed campgrounds in Jedediah Smith Redwoods and Del Norte Coast Redwoods state parks have hot showers, restrooms, and disposal stations. Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park campgrounds provide heated showers and restrooms, but no disposal stations. Trailers up to 24 feet long and motor homes up to 27 feet are allowed, except at Gold Bluffs Beach where trailers are prohibited and motor homes up to 24 feet long are allowed. There are no trailer hookups in the parks. There are several primitive backcountry campgrounds for backpackers; some can also accommodate bicyclists, horses, and/or pack animals.

**Bike Trails** Several trails are designated for bicycle use. Check at any information center. Pick up the bicycle handout. Look closely at trailhead signage.

**Park Regulations** Redwood National and State Parks are managed under special regulations to protect park resources and you. • All plants and animals are protected; mushroom gathering is prohibited. You may gather fruits and berries for your personal consumption. • California fishing licenses are required for freshwater and ocean fishing. California Department of Fish and Game fishing regulations apply to all waters within the parks. • Tidepools are fragile environments, and collecting is not permitted. • Do not hunt, trap, or carry loaded firearms on park lands; for firearms regulations check the park website. • Keep pets restrained at all times; pets are prohibited on all park trails. • Camp and build fires only in areas designated for such uses. • Damaging or removing any government structure, sign, or marker is prohibited. • Help keep the park clean and litter-free; take out what you bring in. • Horseback riding and mountain biking are allowed only on certain designated trails. Information centers can provide you with more detailed information on trails. If you have questions, check at an information center or ask a patrolling park ranger.

**For camping reservations call 1-800-444-7275 at least 48 hours in advance of your stay.** Reservations are usually necessary in summer. The nearest group campgrounds are at Jedediah Smith Redwoods and Patrick's Point state parks. Other public campgrounds are located in Six Rivers National Forest: Grassy Flat, Big Flat, and Prairie Creek are closed in winter. Reservations can be made at some national forest campgrounds by calling 1-877-444-6777.

**Safety and Management Tips** On the beach be aware of tidal fluctuations. Swimming is hazardous because of cold water and strong rip currents. • Be cautious while climbing or walking near edges of high, rocky bluffs. • Watch for poison oak and deer ticks (which carry Lyme disease), particularly in coastal areas. • Roosevelt elk are wild and unpredictable—do not approach them on foot. • Do not feed bears or wild animals. Follow park regulations regarding bears and food storage; all food and scented personal care items should be secured and hidden from view in vehicles, placed in bear-proof lockers, or hung from trees. Garbage should be properly disposed of in bear-proof garbage cans. • Mountain lions may also be found in the parks. Check at park information centers for brochures and updates on mountain lion behavior. • Water from natural sources must be treated before drinking. If you are not familiar with proper water treatment techniques, ask a ranger for help.

**For Your Protection** Always lock your unattended car and place all valuables out of sight in the trunk or, preferably, carry them with you. If you are the victim of a theft, or if you witness vandalism, call the nearest law enforcement officer or information center.

**Outdoor Education** Outdoor education is available at two sites in the parks. Howland Hill Outdoor School and Wolf Creek Education Center are available for educational programming and conferences on a reservation system only. Please see their phone numbers at the top of this page next to the map.

**Road Conditions** Watch for trucks and other heavy vehicles. Use turnouts to let faster traffic pass. Drive cautiously in fog. Do not take trailers or motor homes on roads other than main highways without first finding out whether those roads can handle them.



### FOR YOUR SAFETY

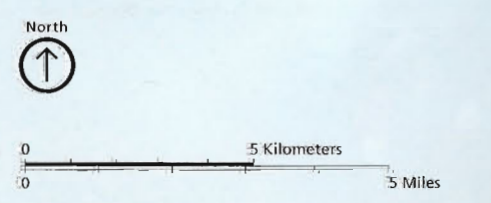
**High Tide**  
 Check the tide tables before walking on the beaches. Heavy waves can sweep you against rocks with no possibility of escape.

**Heavy Surf**  
 Very large, powerful "breakers" may be seen at any time. They will quickly push you into the water and remove a lifeguard. Never turn your back on the ocean.

**Steep Cliffs**  
 Cliffs are likely to crumble and slide. Climbing on them or walking near the edge invites catastrophe. Because of falling rocks, walking below cliffs is dangerous. Keep away!

**Falling Limbs**  
 Tree limbs can fall during high winds, especially in old-growth forests.

**Yurok Reservation**  
 The lands within one mile of each side of the Klamath River from the Pacific Ocean to 43 miles upstream compose the Yurok Reservation.



- Private Land: Some lands within the parks remain private property. Respect landowners' rights; do not trespass.
- Redwood National and State Parks boundary
- State Park boundary
- Old-growth coast redwoods
- Unpaved road
- Trail
- Campground
- Backcountry campsite (free permit required)
- Fishing
- Wheelchair accessible
- Boat access
- Interpretive trail
- Picnic area