

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park



Redwood National
and State Parks



Our Mission

The mission of California State Parks is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.



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CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

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Save The Redwoods
LEAGUE®

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Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park

7 miles south of Crescent City on Hwy. 101

Crescent City, CA 95531

(707) 465-7335

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*The rugged California
coast, scenic river
canyons, dense
forests and steep cliffs
create a mosaic of
interdependent habitats
in the Del Norte region.*



V

isitors to Del Norte Coast Redwoods

State Park experience the grandeur of an old-growth redwood forest on California's rugged coast. The park's steep cliffs, flat river canyons and rocky beaches invite hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians and anglers.

This area has the state's heaviest rainfall, averaging 70 inches annually. Year-round temperatures vary from 30 to 80 degrees. Summer days bring morning fog to thirsty redwoods and the ferns at their feet.

PARK HISTORY

Native People

The Tolowa and Yurok are the original inhabitants of the area now known as Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park. The Tolowa derive from Athabascan-speaking peoples whose aboriginal lands extend north into Oregon and east along Mill Creek and the Smith River. The Yurok language has Algonquian roots; their aboriginal lands extend south to the Little River and east along the Klamath River.

Both the Tolowa and Yurok utilize the bountiful ocean. They also hunt and gather from inland mountain ranges and free-flowing rivers. Their important foods include salmon, steelhead, smelt, clams, deer, elk, berries and acorns.

The region's native people suffered enormous losses from genocide and disease upon the arrival of Euro-Americans in the 19th century. Today's Tolowa and Yurok descendants flourish in a thriving society—continuing their cultural life ways, language programs, and tribal governments.

A Legacy of Logging

This area once contained some of the world's oldest, tallest trees. The Del Norte coast's redwoods are part of the largest remaining contiguous section of ancient coast redwood forest. Abundant natural resources on the remote Del Norte coast drew new settlers in the 1850s. Logging quickly became the foremost industry; by the 1930s, many old-growth redwoods had been cut down.

Parts of the Mill Creek watershed were logged off by a succession of mill owners. Hobbs, Wall and Company established a mill on Mill Creek's upper watershed in the 1920s. They built the Del Norte and Southern Railroad to transport logs to mills in Crescent City. Constructing a railroad through the mountains was considered the North Coast's most ambitious undertaking.

To save remaining old-growth redwoods, Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park was added to the State Park System in 1925. The Save the Redwoods League collaborated with funding partners to acquire 25,000 additional acres of the Mill Creek watershed in 2002—making Del Norte Coast Redwoods California's fifth-largest state park. The Mill Creek addition opened in 2007. Removing roads and restoring the forest and streams is returning the watershed to its former glory.

Redwood National and State Parks

Four North Coast redwood parks preserve more than 105,000 acres of old and second-growth forest for posterity. Del Norte Coast Redwoods, Jedediah Smith Redwoods and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Parks



and Redwood National Park have joined forces, cooperatively managed as Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP) by California State Parks and the National Park Service.

In 1980, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) listed RNSP as a World Heritage Site; UNESCO named RNSP an International Biosphere Reserve in 1983.

NATURAL HISTORY

Geology

Offshore and beneath the forest lies a mixture of twisted rocks. Over 20 million years, more than eight miles of sandstone, shale, serpentine, chert, and greenstone (a blend called *Franciscan complex*) have built up from the original ocean floor in layers.



Coho Salmon

These sediment layers resulted from repeated tectonic plate collisions. Three tectonic plates—North American, Pacific, and Gorda—all meet offshore at the Mendocino Triple Junction south of Eureka.

Particles from each plate collision float along the ocean floor until they are deposited. Sea stacks—rock towers that have broken off from the main land mass—protrude from offshore waters.

Plants

Sitka spruce hug the cliffs. Ferns, azaleas and orchids carpet the forest floor in lush colors and textures. Rhododendrons may reach 30 feet. Tanoak, madrone, red alder, big leaf maple, Douglas-fir and California bay trees add to the dense overhead canopy formed by redwoods as tall as 350 feet.

Coast redwoods thrive in an ideal mix of soils, nutrients, temperatures and humidity. Scientists believe that increasing temperatures and decreasing fog from global climate change could pose a threat to the coast redwoods and the life forms that depend on them.

Wildlife

The scenic Mill and Rock creeks flow through the park. Chinook and endangered coho and chum salmon attract great blue herons

and dippers. Federally threatened marbled murrelets and northern spotted owls nest high in the redwoods. Steller's jays and hawks fly overhead. Watchful hikers may spot a Roosevelt elk, mountain lion, bobcat, coyote or black bear on the trails. Banana slugs, snakes, lizards and salamanders slither among ferns.

RECREATION

Fishing—Licensed anglers may catch only chinook salmon and cutthroat trout. Mill Creek is closed to fishing part of the year. For fishing regulations and details, visit www.dfg.ca.gov/fishing.

Trails—The Damnation Trail and the California Coastal Trail are steep and strenuous. South of Wilson Beach, a half-mile trail leads to Hidden Beach tide pools at False Klamath Cove. Old logging roads form easy loops and out-and-back trails from the mill site parking lot. Mill Creek's former mill site area is for day use only. Observe all posted trail-use and "closed-area" signs.

Camping—Mill Creek Campground's two loops have 143 sites without hookups. For details and site-specific camping reservations, call (800) 444-7275 or visit www.parks.ca.gov.

ACCESSIBLE FEATURES

The coastal cliffs are reachable only by steep trails. Seven accessible campsites have paved pads with nearby accessible restrooms with showers.

Accessibility is continually improving. For updates, call (916) 445-8949 or visit <http://access.parks.ca.gov>.

PLEASE REMEMBER

- Stay on established trails; use a detailed trail map or GPS to avoid getting lost on unmarked logging roads.
- All natural and cultural features are protected by law and may not be disturbed or removed.
- Do not feed wildlife; secure food and scented items in bear-resistant containers.
- Except for service animals, pets are not allowed on hiking trails.
- Dogs must be on a leash no more than six feet long during the day and must be confined to tents or vehicles at night.
- Hidden Beach is rocky, steep and unsafe for swimming.

NEARBY STATE PARKS

- Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park
1440 Highway 199, Crescent City 95531
(707) 465-7335 or (707) 458-3496
- Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park
127011 Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway
Orick 95555 (707) 465-7335
- Tolowa Dunes State Park
1375 Elk Valley Road, Crescent City 95531
(707) 465-7335

This park receives support in part
through the nonprofit
Redwood Parks Association
1111 Second Street, Crescent City, CA 95531
(707) 645-9150
www.redwoodparksassociation.org

