

# Butano State Park

## Key Natural Resources

<p><b>Geology</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Butano Sandstone:</b> only known significant surface outcrop is Butano Bluffs, along Butano Fire Trail.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Hydrology</b></p>  <p>Little Butano Creek</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Watersheds:</b> <b>Gazos Creek, Butano Creek, and Little Butano Creek</b>—all identified as priority watersheds for restoration of habitat and recovery for coho salmon and steelhead trout.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Native Vegetation Communities</b></p>  <p>Grassland near Entrance</p>  <p>Butano Redwood Forest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Arroyo Willow Alliance</b> (Central Coast Arroyo Willow): found adjacent to streams</li> <li>▪ <b>California Oatgrass Alliance:</b> found in grasslands</li> </ul> <p>These are identified by the California Natural Diversity Data Base as rare natural communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Redwood Forest Alliance:</b> Makes up more than half of Butano SP vegetation. Most previously logged; older second-growth and small amount of old-growth provide critical wildlife habitat.</li> </ul> <p>Other native plant communities include <b>Canyon/Interior Live Oak, Coyote Brush, Douglas-fir, and Knobcone Pine.</b></p>

<p><b>Native Plants</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Special Status Plants:</b> None known to occur within the park boundaries, but <b>suitable to marginally suitable habitat exists for 24 special status species</b> found in the region.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wildlife Habitat</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Park very important for wildlife because of <b>variety of habitats.</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Valuable redwood and riparian habitat.</b></li> <li>▪ Part of an extensive system of public lands that provides <b>important habitat linkages.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Native Animals</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Ensatina</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Nesting Marbled Murrelet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Special Status Animals:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>California red-legged frog</b> (riparian habitats)</li> <li>○ <b>Ensatina</b> (redwood and Douglas-fir forests)</li> <li>○ <b>San Francisco garter snake</b> (aquatic and riparian habitats)</li> <li>○ <b>Marbled murrelet:</b> Suitable nesting habitat exists in old-growth redwoods near Gazos Mountain Camp.</li> <li>○ <b>Steelhead</b> (aquatic habitats)</li> <li>○ <b>Coho salmon</b> (aquatic habitats) Steelhead and coho salmon part of the Central California Coast Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU)—a distinct population of Pacific salmon defined as a "species" under the Endangered Species Act. The Central California Coast ESU coho and steelhead are listed as "threatened."</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Non-native plants and animals</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Pampas grass</b></li> <li>▪ <b>French broom</b></li> </ul> <p>Both plants are invasive and difficult to eradicate; compete with native species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Wild (feral) pigs:</b> Can cause significant damage to natural resources by disturbing soil, uprooting native plants, and harming ground-nesting birds and other native wildlife.</li> </ul>