

Grizzly Creek Redwoods

State Park



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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For information call: (800) 777-0369.

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Discover the many states of California.™



SaveTheRedwoods.org/csp

Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park

16949 Highway 36

Carlotta, CA 95528

(707) 777-3683

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*Thanks to lumberman
Owen R. Cheatham,
these acres of
redwoods were saved
for all time—to inspire,
dazzle and awe many
future generations of
park visitors.*



Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park offers a sense of seclusion and intimacy that has endeared it to generations of visitors. Nearly 30 miles inland from the coast, the lush, green, 393-acre park is an unspoiled gem. Towering ancient redwoods guard three separate parcels of unspoiled riverfront.

PARK HISTORY

California Indians

For thousands of years, native California Indians known as Nongatl lived in this area. The Nongatl speak Athabascan, a distinct language family whose speakers range from the Arctic Circle, along the North American west coast from Alaska to Humboldt County.

Four distinct language families still exist in the local region: Athabascan, Algic,

Hokan and Yukian. Though distinct from one another, they still shared many cultural traits. Ethnographers have codified this region as a Northern California culture area. Native groups traded with each other; local objects such as ceremonial blades and shell beads have been identified as far away as America's Deep South and East Coast.

Athabascan-speaking ceremonies often included multiple groups, and intermarriage between groups was common. Many local indigenous people spoke or still speak two or more languages.

With the coming of Europeans and Americans, native lands around the Van Duzen River were turned into farms and ranches. The new settlers insisted that the Indians be relocated, so U.S. Army troops from Fort Humboldt took the Nongatl

people to the Round Valley, Hupa Valley and Smith River Reservations in the 1860s. Many of these people eventually returned to their homelands, and the Rohnerville Rancheria was established north of Fortuna in 1910.

Some descendants of the Nongatl belong to the Bear River Band of Rohnerville

Rancheria, maintaining cultural and ancestral ties while retaining and practicing their own traditions.

American Settlers

In the late 1860s, the Van Duzen River area—named for New Jersey gold seeker James Van Duzen—was a stagecoach stopover and resort. When the State of California acquired the acreage in 1943, the river and its banks had long been popular with visitors.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Wildlife

Black-tailed deer watch for bobcats or mountain lions. Tracks of California black bears, raccoons and river otters may dot the river's damp banks on any morning.

Beautiful pileated woodpeckers hammer at the trees, in the company of dark-eyed juncos, northern spotted owls, winter wrens and boisterous Steller's jays. Great blue herons fish among the river rocks.

Endangered marbled murrelets nest in the redwood canopy, but *corvids* (jays, crows and ravens) prey upon their eggs and chicks. Please do not drop food or crumbs.



One of many dedicated redwood groves

Habitats

Coast redwood trees dominate the park. Near the eastern boundary of the redwoods' range, the trees rely on winter rains and morning fog for survival. As climate change accelerates, experts fear that diminished rain and fog may cause the loss of some redwoods as well as other plants and animals that depend on these forests.

Some typical redwood understory plants include three-leaf white trillium, purple calypso orchids (lady slippers), fairy lanterns, wild ginger and Douglas irises.

Douglas-fir, tanoak and big leaf maple trees grow among various ferns, mosses, wild huckleberries and salal.

Owen R. Cheatham Grove

About four miles west of the visitor center, the ancient redwoods of Cheatham Grove stand among redwood sorrel. The beauty of this grove—named for Owen R. Cheatham, founder of what would become the Georgia-Pacific Plywood and Lumber Company—inspired Cheatham to spare the trees for others to enjoy.

In 1983, thanks to the Save the Redwoods League, California State Parks acquired the Cheatham Grove, one of more than 1,000 dedicated redwood “honor” or memorial groves donated by League benefactors.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Camping—Grizzly Creek has 30 family sites, a group site and one hike/bike site.

Family site reservations may be made at www.parks.ca.gov or call (800) 444-7275. To reserve the group site for up to 40 people, call (707) 777-3683. Cheatham Grove has five first-come, first-served environmental sites; register at the Grizzly Creek entrance.

Boating—The Van Duzen River fluctuates in depth seasonally, but strong river currents make rafting and kayaking in winter and early spring a Class III adventure.

Picnicking—open for day use. To reserve a 30-unit group picnic area, call (707) 777-3683.

Trails—4.5 miles of trails offer scenic views.

Swimming—Grizzly Creek joins the Van Duzen River to create a popular swimming spot. Use caution in the strong currents; no lifeguards are on duty.

Fishing—In late fall and early winter, steelhead and salmon migrate from the ocean. All anglers aged 16 and over must carry a valid California fishing license.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

The visitor center has a schedule of events and programs including summer campfire programs, nature walks and the Junior Ranger program. Take a self-guided tour on the Nature Trail near the campground.

PLEASE REMEMBER

- Dogs must be on a leash no more than six feet long and must be confined to a tent or vehicle at night. Except for service animals, pets are not allowed on trails.



- Do not feed wildlife. Store all food and scented items in bear-resistant lockers.
- Fires are permitted only in the stoves or fire rings provided by the park.

ACCESSIBLE FEATURES

The visitor center, two campsites, routes of travel, restrooms and three picnic tables are accessible. Assistance may be needed.

Accessibility in parks is continually improving. Visit <http://access.parks.ca.gov> or call (916) 445-8949 for details or updates.

NEARBY STATE PARKS

- Fort Humboldt State Historic Park
3431 Fort Ave., Eureka 95503
(707) 445-6567
- Humboldt Redwoods State Park
17119 Avenue of the Giants, Weott 95571
(707) 946-2311

This park receives support in part through the Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association
PO Box 276 • Weott, CA 95571
(707) 946-2263
www.humboldtredwoods.org

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Legend

Major Road	Accessible Feature	Campfire Center	Picnic Area
Paved Road	Campground	Bridge	Ranger Station
Unpaved Road	Group Camp	Fishing	Restrooms
Trail: Hiking	Hike/Bike Camp	Locked Gate	Showers
Sand/Gravel	Environmental Camp	Parking	Swimming

