

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.



California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact the park at **(707) 777-3683**. If you need this publication in an alternate format, contact interp@parks.ca.gov.

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

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(916) 653-6995, outside the U.S.

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Save The Redwoods

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Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park

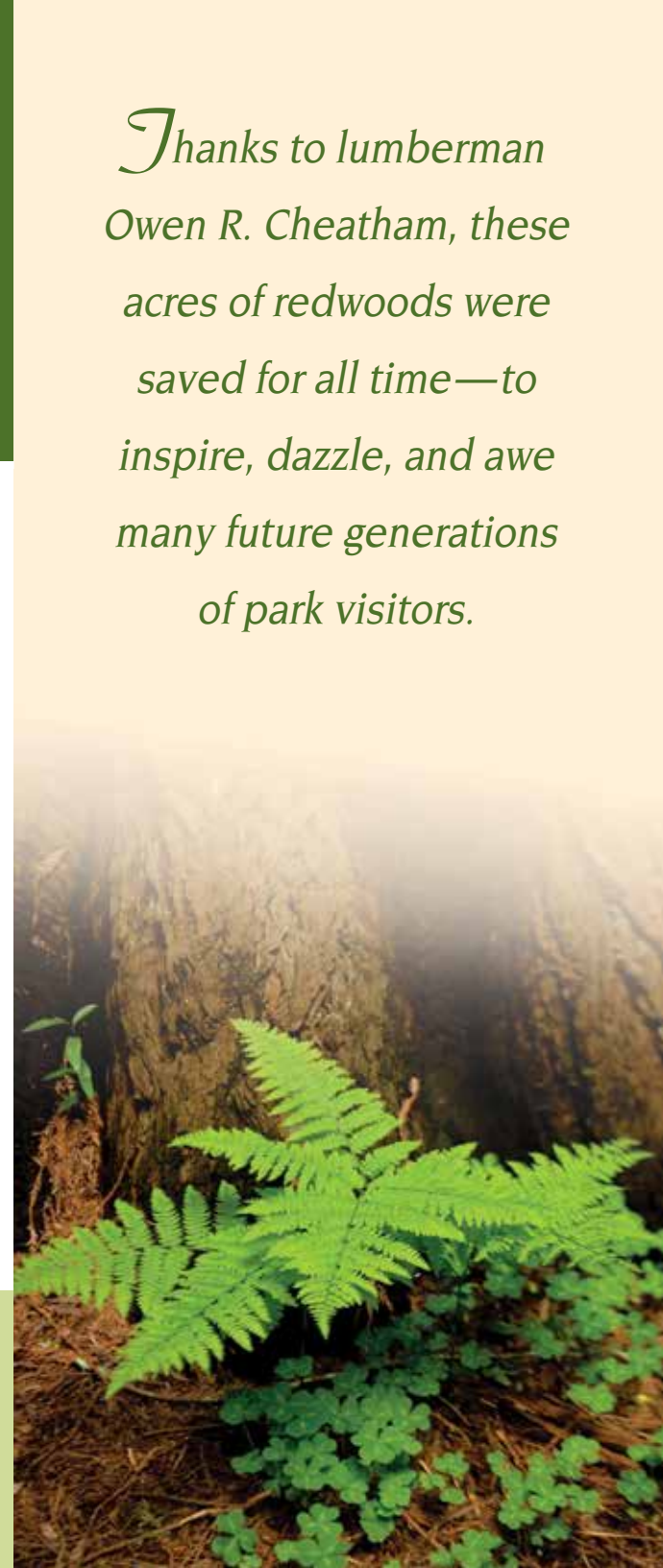
16949 Highway 36

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 pristine riverfront.

PARK HISTORY

California Indians

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



One of many dedicated redwood groves

Four distinct language families still exist in the local region: Athabascan, Algic, Hokan, and Yukian. Although 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 Euro-American settlers, 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.



Euro-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, elk, 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.

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

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 and the Nature Conservancy, California State Parks acquired Cheatham Grove, one of more than 1,000 dedicated redwood “honor” or memorial groves donated by League benefactors.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Camping—Grizzly Creek has 26 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.

Trails—4.5 miles of trails offer scenic views.

Picnicking—Open for day use. To reserve a 40-unit group picnic area, call (707) 777-3683.

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.

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. Visit www.wildlife.ca.gov for more information.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

The visitor center has a schedule of events and programs during the summer, including campfire programs, nature walks, and the Junior Ranger program. There are two Redwood EdVentures programs available.

PLEASE REMEMBER

- Do not feed wildlife. Store all food and scented items in bear-resistant lockers.
- 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.



- Fires are permitted only in the stoves or fire rings provided by the park.

ACCESSIBLE FEATURES

Within the campground, two campsites and a shower/toilet room are generally accessible. The picnic area is usable, but assistance may be needed.

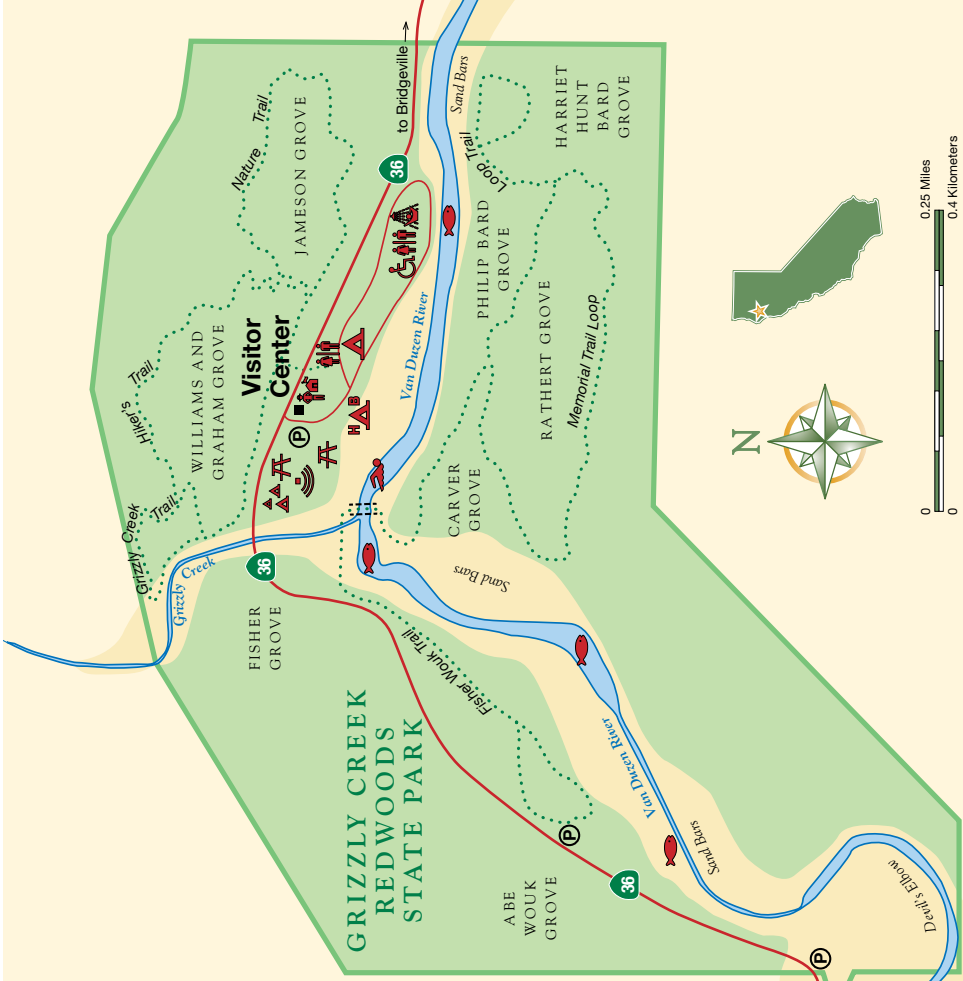
Accessibility in parks is continually improving. Visit <http://access.parks.ca.gov> for details or updates.

NEARBY STATE PARKS

- Fort Humboldt State Historic Park
3431 Fort Ave., Eureka 95503
(707) 445-6547
- Humboldt Redwoods State Park
17119 Avenue of the Giants, Weott 95571
(707) 946-2409

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

Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park



Legend

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

