Humboldt 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) 946-2263.** If you need this publication in an alternate format, contact **interp@parks.ca.gov**.

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Save The Redwoods LEAGUE®

SaveTheRedwoods.org/csp

Humboldt Redwoods State Park
Avenue of the Giants
P.O. Box 100
Weott, CA 95571
(707) 946-2263

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Thanks to a few concerned preservationists, the breathtaking majesty of these prehistoric giants thrills all who seek their peace and grandeur.

Humboldt Redwoods State Park harbors the largest remaining old-growth redwood forest in the world. The park's unique 52,000-acre environment has more than 17,000 acres of breathtaking ancient coast redwood and Douglas-fir trees. Varied recreational areas beckon to all adventurous park visitors.

Old-growth redwood forest

Weather changes quickly on the north coast. Between October and May, the park receives about 80 inches of rain, and temperatures range from lows in the 20s to highs in the mid-50s. Though not a common event, snow may fall at elevations above 1,500 feet. Summers are usually dry, with occasional rainy days and morning fog that generally burns off by noon.

PARK HISTORY

Native People

The Sinkyone people lived in the area of Humboldt Redwoods State Park for thousands of years before European contact. The boundaries of Sinkyone lands extended east to the main stem of the Eel River and the river's South Fork, south beyond today's town of Leggett, and west to the ocean.

The name *Sinkyone* was assigned by 20th-century ethnographers to classify separate political groups who spoke the same dialect of the Athabascan language family. Each distinct group maintained its own geographic area and self-identity, but all groups formed a larger economy that delivered goods for trade as far as the Eastern United States.

This area was likely more densely populated before European incursion than it is now. Today, more than ten percent of the population of Humboldt County are Native American, including many people of Sinkyone descent who live along the north coast.

The traditional practices passed down through generations of Sinkyone experience created a highly productive environment. Conservation and restoration projects headed by local tribal groups, using time-tested methods, have been instrumental in bringing healing to the landscape.

Saving the Trees

Beginning in the 1850s, European settlers in the area began to cut large stands of redwood trees to clear the land for pastures and farms. Lumber soon became a vital industry, and forested land suddenly increased in value.

Many people, however, believed that the huge, old redwood trees were inherently significant and should be held in perpetual trust. In 1918, the Save the Redwoods League was formed to accomplish what their name implies—the salvation of one of the world's great wonders. Thanks to the League and its supporters, more than 189,000 acres of California's redwood forest lands have been preserved for future generations of park visitors to enjoy.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Plant Communities

Some of the coast redwood *(Sequoia sempervirens)* trees at Humboldt Redwoods are thought to be as old as 2,000 years. They are not the oldest trees on Earth—both the Sierra redwood or giant sequoia *(Sequoiadendron giganteum)* and the bristlecone pine *(Pinus longaeva)* tree species can live even longer. However the coast redwoods—capable of growing more than 370 feet in height—are the tallest trees on Earth. Trillium, fairy lanterns, and calypso orchids grow in profusion at their venerable feet. The lush redwood undergrowth

includes several species of fern and the pink or white blossoms of ever-present redwood sorrel.

Away from the redwoods, Douglas-fir, California laurel, madrone, and tanoak dominate the forested areas. Prairie-like areas form grassy meadows; big-leaf maples, willows, and black cottonwoods grow along the stream banks.

Bald eagle

Wildlife

Tracks of black-tailed deer give away their presence in the park. Chipmunks, raccoons, and skunks number among the smaller wildlife inhabitants here. On rare occasions, bobcats, coyotes, and black bears leave tracks or scat along sand bars and river beaches. River otters play in the water. Bird watchers will also notice red-tailed hawks, wild turkeys, ospreys, and bald eagles among the redwoods. All of the park's visible wildlife are outnumbered by more than 140 species of insects.

Corvids—such as ravens, crows, and Steller's jays—are intelligent, curious birds, but they prey upon endangered marbled murrelets. Corvids look for scraps of food in the park, where they often find and attack marbled murrelet chicks and eggs. Please help murrelets nest in peace. Do not feed wildlife, keep a clean camp, and be careful not to drop food while hiking.

Geology

The coastal area to the west of the park at Cape Mendocino is one of the most seismically active in the San Andreas fault system. Cape Mendocino is the site of the Mendocino Triple Junction, where the North American continental plate joins the Gorda and the Pacific tectonic plates.

Climate Change

Climate change affects all living things within the redwood forest. Some scientists fear that the area's increase in average temperature and a decrease in thick summer fog and rain endangers coast redwoods, along with other plants and creatures that depend on the redwood environment.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Auto Tour—Visitors can drive along 32 miles of the Avenue of the Giants to see park highlights in eight stops.

Hiking—The park has more than 100 miles of trails, rated from easy to strenuous.

Camping—The park has three family campgrounds (seasonal Albee Creek and Hidden Springs, and year-round Burlington). Camp only in designated campsites. Register at a campground kiosk prior to selecting or occupying any campsite. To make site-specific reservations in advance, call (800) 444-7275 or visit **www.parks.ca.gov**.

Environmental Sites—Five seasonal environmental campsites have tables, fire rings, chemical toilets, and bear-resistant storage. Water is untreated. After registering at the nearest campground kiosk, campers will receive access information.

Trail Camps—Open fires are not allowed in these primitive sites; water is untreated.

Bicycling—Paved roads and multi-use trails are suitable for bicycles. Observe all posted trail signs and wear helmets.

Horseback Riding—Equestrians may ride on hiking/equestrian or multi-use trails. Watering troughs are located along the trails.

Swimming—Thirty miles of the South Fork and the main stem of the Eel River run through the park. Swimming and wading are allowed in several creeks.

Boating—Winter, spring, and early summer are best for boating on the river. After heavy rains, the river may not be safe for boating.

Fishing—Catch-and-release fishing for salmon and steelhead is allowed on the

Recreational opportunities abound—check with the visitor center for a schedule of interpretive programs and walks.

South Fork and main stem of the Eel River during fall and winter. Fishing is not allowed elsewhere in the park. Anglers age 16 or older must carry a valid California fishing license. See **www.wildlife.ca.gov/fishing** for details.

ACCESSIBLE FEATURES

Family campgrounds have accessible sites and restrooms (help may be needed with shower controls). Burlington Campground has an accessible site with a pull-through driveway. The mounting platform at Cuneo Creek Horse Camp is accessible. Picnic sites and restrooms are accessible in the Founders, Williams, and California Federation of Women's Clubs groves.

The accessible visitor center has listening and sight assistance. The Founders Grove Loop, the Gould Grove Nature Loop, the Fleishmann Grove Trail, the Drury-Chaney Loop, and the Rockefeller Loop trails are accessible. Accessibility is continually improving. For updates, visit the website at **http://access.parks.ca.gov**.

NEARBY STATE PARKS

- Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park
  16949 Highway 36, Carlotta 95528
  (707) 777-3683
- Benbow State Recreation Area
  Off U.S. Highway 101 at Benbow exit
  Garberville 95542 (707) 247-3318
- Richardson Grove State Park
  1600 U.S. Highway 101, Garberville 95542
  (707) 247-3318

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

PLEASE REMEMBER

Dogs—must be attended at all times. They 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, dogs are not allowed on trails.

Quiet Hours—are between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Generators may only be operated between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Fires—Use only the provided metal fire rings and barbeques, or provide your own camp stove. Do not leave fires unattended. Do not gather firewood. Prevent the spread of tree diseases; buy firewood only at family campground kiosks.

Collecting—All natural and cultural features of the park are protected by law and may not be disturbed or removed. This includes plants, geological features, and artifacts.

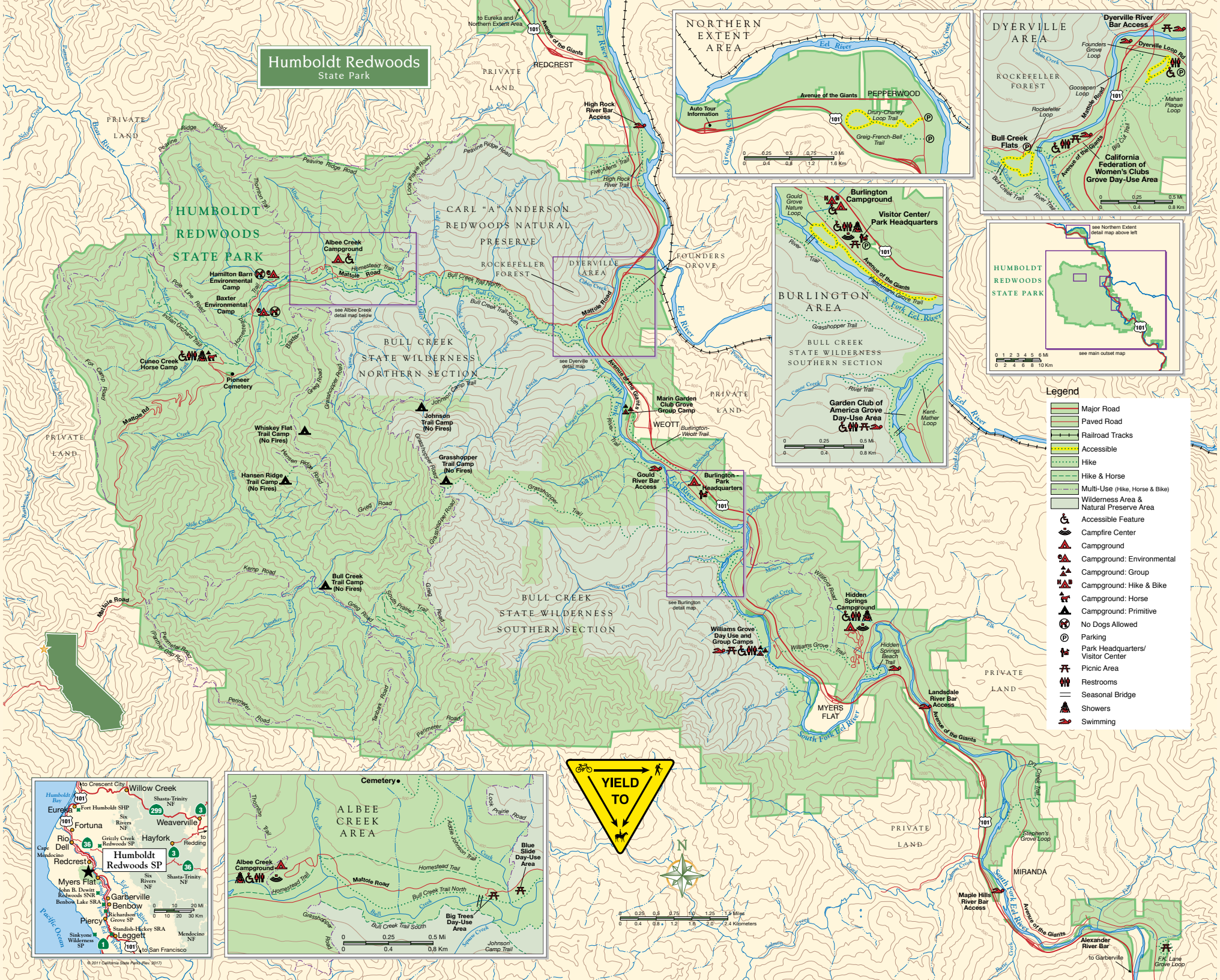
Water Activities—In late summer, blue-green algae may bloom when the river flow is low. Ingesting algae can be hazardous to humans and pets. Check for algae warnings.

Always use caution in and around the river; no lifeguards are on duty.

River Bar Access—Some river bars (exposed dry riverbed sections) are open to licensed 4WD vehicles but are subject to closure. Exhibitions of speed, ATVs, and driving in the waterway are prohibited.

Hunting—Any form of hunting is prohibited. Firearms may not be brought into state parks.

Speed Limit—In campgrounds and day-use areas, the speed limit is 15 mph.

Avoid Inviting Wildlife—Store all food and scented items when not in use, and dispose of trash in the receptacles provided.

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