

News Release



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Humboldt County and Save the Redwoods League Join Forces to Keep Grizzly Creek State Park Open

California State Parks' Director Ruth Coleman announced today that she has signed and approved an operating agreement to keep Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park open.

The agreement is with Humboldt County, which will receive supplemental funding to be provided by the Save the Redwoods League, with the County operating the park for one year in order to prevent closure due to State budget cuts.

"This is yet another exciting success story for keeping parks open that support local economies throughout the State," said Director Coleman. "We are pleased and we send sincere thanks to Humboldt County and the Save the Redwoods League for joining together to keep this magnificent park open and operating."

According to Tom Mattson, Humboldt County Public Works Director, the plan leverages the County's staff from the adjacent Van Duzen County Park for cost efficiency and is also dependent on a commitment of funds from Save the Redwoods League to ensure a cost-neutral enterprise for the County.

"Protecting the redwoods today is different and more challenging than at any point in the long history of state parks. However, our focus remains the same as when Save the Redwoods League was founded nearly 100 years ago – ensuring the state's magical redwood groves are protected and made accessible to the public," said Ruskin K. Hartley, League Executive Director. "We are thrilled to help keep Grizzly Creek State Park open for the public's enjoyment. We encourage everyone to visit this park and other redwood parks along the north coast of California and the sierras."

Humboldt County will take the lead in providing for the operation of the park, with the Save the Redwoods League committing funding to bridge the difference between fee revenue and total operational costs. The League will also work with State Parks and the County to develop a long-term strategy for revenue enhancement and management of the park utilizing additional Save the Redwoods League funds held by the County as part of a previous settlement.

Beginning Thursday May 24th the park will reopen to the public with camping available on a first come first serve basis. Visitors will once again be able to enjoy a quiet place to camp, hike, fish, swim and picnic in the redwoods along the Van Duzen River in Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park. ##

For energy efficient recreation –
California State Parks on the Internet: www.parks.ca.gov>

