

Region A: Redwood National & State Parks

This region is a shining example of a successful partnership between state and federal land-management agencies, now preserved for all to enjoy as a complex of one national park and three state parks. Its ecological importance is reflected in its further designation as a World Heritage Site and an International Biosphere Reserve.

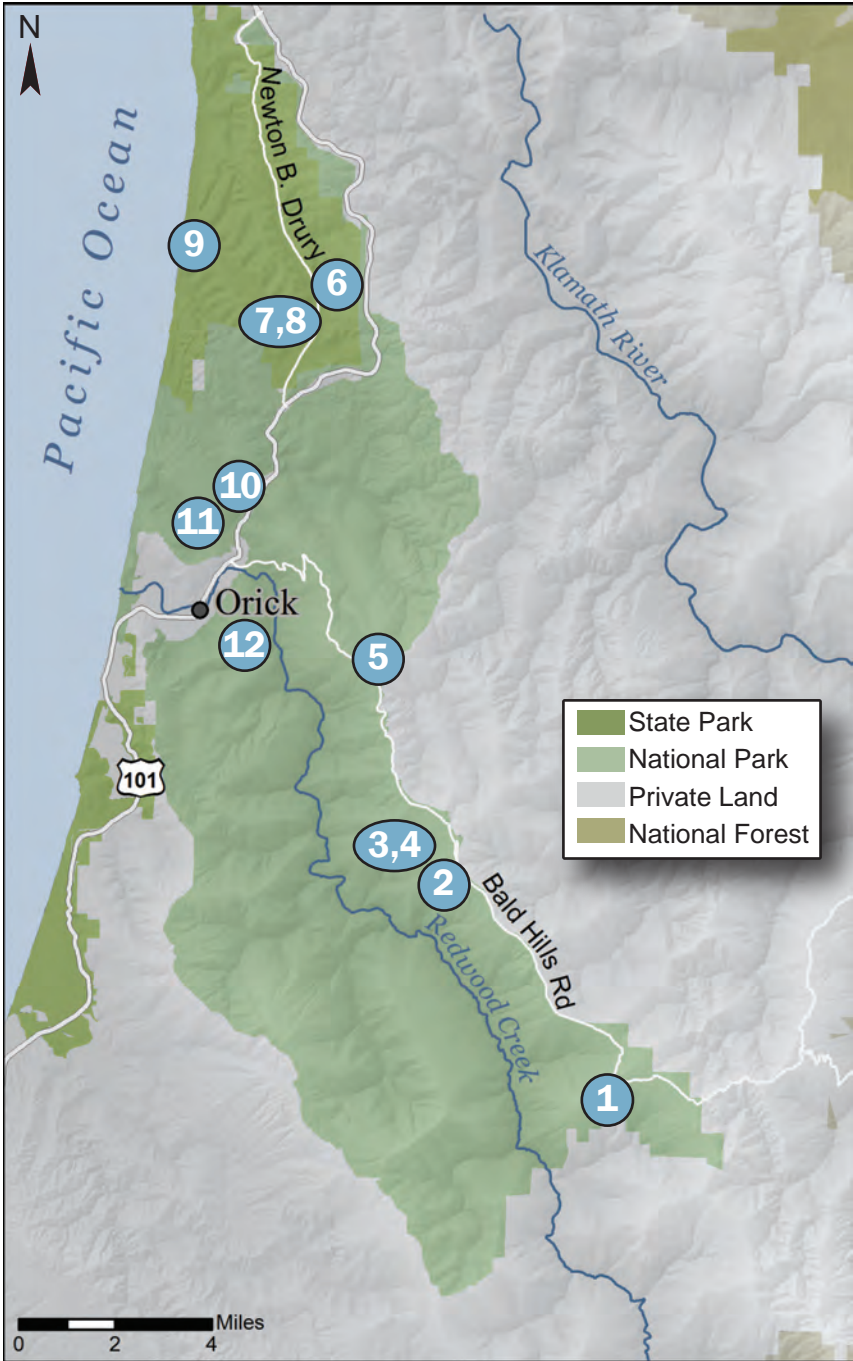
Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park (PCRSP) is the only one of the three state parks within the Redwood National & State Parks complex that is found within Humboldt County—the others are in Del Norte County to the north. Established in 1925, PCRSP protects 14,000 acres of old-growth redwood and spruce forests—including the world's tallest known tree—along with miles of beach, pristine streams, coastal prairies, and herds of Roosevelt elk. About half the park is a state wilderness established for the protection of one of the healthiest populations of the threatened marbled murrelet in the contiguous United States.

PCRSP has a well-developed infrastructure, including a visitor center with a superb bookstore, two developed and two primitive campgrounds, an amphitheater, and about 75 miles of trails. The trail system allows for an almost unlimited selection of hikes. The four loops presented here (hikes 6-9) are each 7-8 miles long and take in some of the more popular and scenic features of the park. Together they provide a great introduction to an amazing place. Less demanding, shorter walks are featured in volume 2.

The core of Redwood National Park (RNP) was dedicated in 1968 to protect the world's tallest trees as well as the salmon fishery in adjacent Redwood Creek. A 1978 expansion added a large area of clear-cuts and second-growth forest to act as a buffer between the old-growth forests and active logging on private lands upstream. Since then, this area has been the focus of a massive restoration program involving the removal of logging roads for erosion control and rehabilitation of salmon spawning habitat. The park also includes areas of upland prairie and oak woodland and about five miles of Humboldt coastline.

There is an excellent visitor center just south of Orick with picnic areas at some of the trailheads, but there are no vehicle-accessible campgrounds within RNP. With the exception of the Lady Bird Johnson and Tall Trees groves, its trails are used much less than those in PCRSP and there are few loop options. The eight hikes (1-5 and 10-12) sample all the park's habitats and will get you into some seldom-visited areas.

There are a few lodging and camping options in and around the town of Orick, but visitor services outside the parks are limited. Redwood Adventures (866-733-9637) provides a hiker shuttle service by pre-arrangement.



Region A:
Redwood National and State Parks

1 Coyote Creek

Length: 8.4 miles

Fee: none

Total ascent: 1550 feet

Access constraints: none

Elevations: 1800-2900 feet

Dogs: no

Type: loop

Restrooms: none

Land management: National

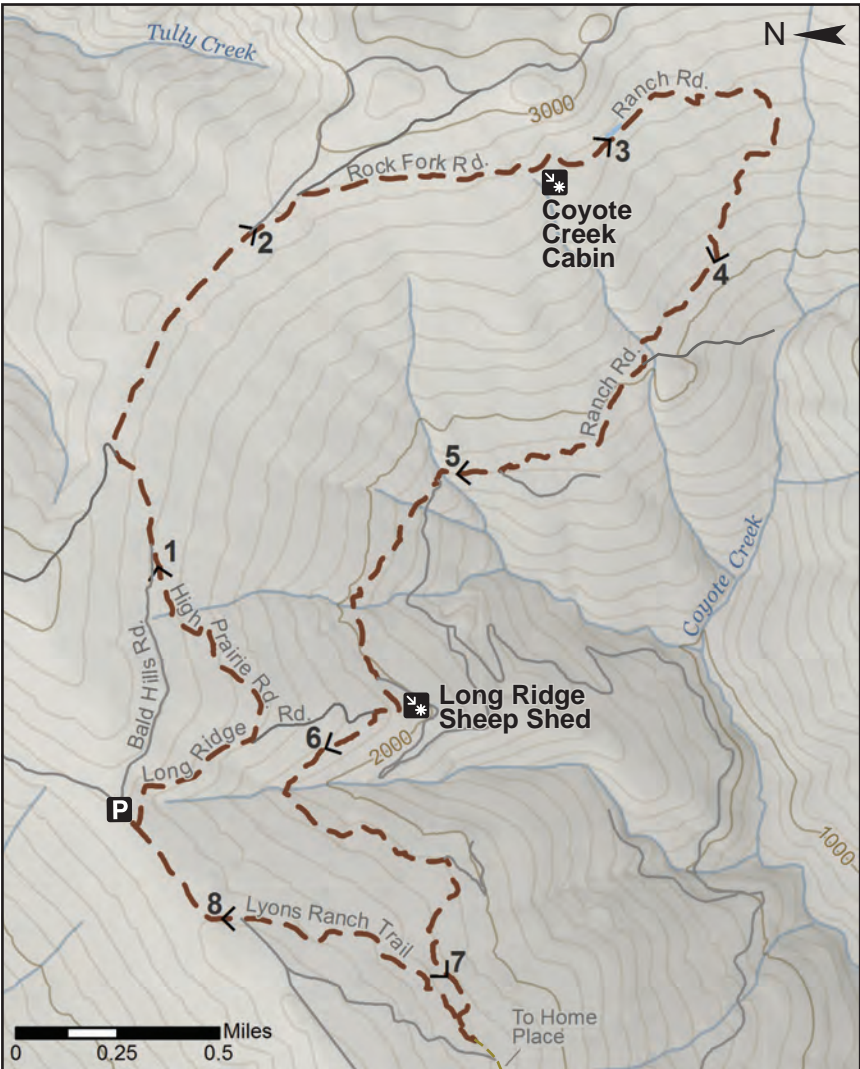
Park Service

Description: In RNP's remote southeast corner, this hike provides one of Humboldt's few off-road walking opportunities in upland prairie and oak savanna. The route makes a loop on the north side of the Coyote Creek valley, mostly through grassland at the higher elevations and mixed woodlands lower down. Except for a mile on Bald Hills Road, it follows old ranch roads now designated as hiking and biking trails, passing several historic buildings along the way. Bears are plentiful and you have a good chance of seeing one.

Getting there: Take US 101 north 43.2 miles. Turn right onto Bald Hills Road and go 16.8 miles to the Lyons Ranch Trailhead on the right. Approximate driving time, 1 hour 32 minutes.

The route: Turn left just inside the gate onto Long Ridge Road (returning to Bald Hills Road and turning right instead shortens the hike by 0.4 mile but makes for a less pleasant walk). Take the first left (0.4) onto High Prairie Road. Turn right at Bald Hills Road (1.1). Take the next right (2.0) onto Rock Fork Road. Bear right at the fork (2.2) and Rock Fork Road eventually becomes Ranch Road. Turn left at the Long Ridge Sheep Shed (5.8) to stay on Ranch Road; continuing straight here cuts off 1.7 miles. Turn right at the T (7.2) onto the Lyons Ranch Trail and return to the parking lot.





 **Coyote Creek Trail** 

