

Backcountry Press Presents

Hiking Humboldt

Volume 1



55 Day Hikes in Northwest California

Kenneth M. Burton

Maps by Jason Barnes

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Maps by Jason Barnes

Kauffmann



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Contributing reviewers, in alphabetical order:

Jason Barnes

Rees Hughes

Michael Kauffmann

Allison Poklemba

Jacob Pounds

**BACKCOUNTRY
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Humboldt County, CA

Dedication

To the heroes, sung and unsung,
who have fought to keep our
open spaces both wild and public



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Humboldt County Overview

Foreword by Rees Hughes

My wife, Amy, and I took advantage of our empty nest this past autumn and departed in our re-purposed old family van. It is hard to know whether we were channeling Jack Kerouac or geriatric residue of the Griswold family. In the end, we saw a great deal of this beautiful country of ours. Amazing sights for sure but in the final analysis, there is little that can compare with Humboldt County's rare combination: rugged mountains that reach to nearly 7,000 feet, some 110 miles of coastline from plunging cliffs to broad sandy beaches, pristine (and not so pristine) rivers and deep redwood forests, broad prairies, and oak woodlands. It is a jewel that is nearby and familiar, like a friend with whom we have grown old, whose special gifts we have long taken for granted.

One of the best ways to explore our own backyard is on foot. The 55 hikes that Ken Burton has collected touch every corner of the County. They include classic hikes in Redwood National and State Parks, lesser-known walks in the Green Trinities in the northeastern portion of the county, challenging hikes along the Lost Coast, and urban walks at the Arcata Marsh and along the Fortuna riverfront. The variety mirrors the richness of our home place. Hiking them is a wonderful way to re-ignite our relationship with this land.

I use all of my senses when I walk. I seem to think at walking speed. I notice subtleties. As Rebecca Solnit, the author of *Wanderlust: A History of Walking*, observes, "the mind, the body, and the world are aligned" when walking, like "three notes making a chord."

What better way to experience a deep old growth redwood forest? It is to remember the smell of earthy moistness as you descend the James Irvine Trail through sky-blocking, sound absorbing redwoods. It's the delicate sorrel underfoot, the rainbow of saturated greens perhaps punctuated with the startling pink bursts of rhododendron blooms.

What better way to celebrate the magic of the King Range? It is to remember the steepness of the grassy meadows bent in the wind as you climb hillsides that rise out of the Pacific. What better way to soak in the warmth of a summer evening than in the oak woodlands? It is to remember the speckled light filtered by the gnarled branches as you cross Faulkner Meadow high above Lacks Creek. It is to experience the unexpected ocean view through a grove of alders near Patrick's Point you have passed a hundred times but never in winter. It is to hear the solitary call of the varied thrush or the raucous Steller's jay as you parallel Bull Creek.

In your explorations, I urge you to follow Robert Frost's counsel in his poem, "The Wood-Pile":

"Out walking in the frozen swamp one gray day,
I paused and said, "I will turn back from here.
No, I will go farther – and we shall see."

Go farther, my friend, go farther. Discover what a special place this is.

Introduction

Primeval forests harboring the world's tallest trees. Sea cliffs, pristine beaches, and towering coastal sand dunes. Mountain prairies, meadows, and vistas. Rivers, lakes, lagoons, and bays. Bears, elk, seals, otters, and birds galore. And solitude – lots and lots of solitude. Humboldt County offers this and much more to the intrepid hiker.

On California's remote North Coast, closer to Oregon than to the San Francisco Bay Area, Humboldt County covers 2.5% of the state by area but has only 0.4% of its population—nearly all of which is concentrated around Humboldt Bay and the lower Eel River. That leaves a lot of open space. It boasts a national park, 14 state parks, two national forests, a national wildlife refuge, a national monument, and the nation's first national conservation area. Extending from the coast to the mountains, the natural diversity of the county is amazing.

Humboldt has built a reputation on two plants: coast redwood and marijuana. It is less well known as a hiking destination. This book and its companion volume are meant to introduce residents and visitors alike to what they have been missing. The following 55 hikes, totaling 480 miles, are all 5-15 miles in length and wholly within Humboldt County. Ranging from easy strolls to challenging adventures, all require at least a couple of hours but can be done in a single day, even factoring in driving time from Eureka. Volume 2, written by Rees Hughes and expected in late 2016, will present shorter hikes and road and urban walks.

Whatever your experience level, you will find days of outdoor enjoyment in these pages. I have checked out every mile, and I can say honestly that Humboldt hiking is world-class. Get out there!

Using the book

The hikes are grouped into six regions, each with its own introductory section describing the area and showing the layout of the hikes. Each hike has its own two-page write-up with an information box, brief description, driving and hiking directions, and map. At the back is a chart allowing quick comparison of hike details (pg. 138).

Information boxes: Most of the information presented in these boxes is self-explanatory, but a few items may need clarification. **Total ascent** is the cumulative total of all the uphill portions of the hike, rounded to the nearest 50 feet. All elevations likewise are rounded to the nearest 50 feet. Except for car shuttles, all hikes begin and end at the same point.

Many of the hikes are inaccessible for part of the year for reasons like snow, road closures, high water, etc.. **Access constraints** are listed in the box and described in more detail in the text. Pay attention to these to avoid disappointment and safety risk. Seasonal bridges are in place from Memorial Day through Labor Day and snow may be a factor from November to June.

Symbol Key

 Alternate trailhead	 Lodging
 Beach access	 Picnic area
 Biking allowed on trail	 Point of interest
 Boating access	 Ranger station
 Campground	 Restroom
 Hike start - parking	 Rock collecting allowed
 Horses allowed on trail	 Swimming hole
 Food	 Viewpoint

Since hiking speed is dependent on the individual hiker's objectives and fitness level, I do not indicate the amount of time needed to do the hikes. A reasonable rule of thumb is to budget half an hour per mile; if you stop often you may need more time, while a strong nonstop hiker might need only half as much.

Descriptions: Some hiking guides give such detailed, play-by-play trail descriptions that the opportunities for exploration and surprise are all but lost. This book takes a more minimalist approach, presenting just enough information on each hike to give the hiker a general idea of what to expect. I encourage you to learn more about whatever aspects of the cultural and natural history of the region interest you. A list of recommended readings is provided (pg. 137).

Getting there: All driving directions originate at the county courthouse, US 101 and J Street in Eureka. Most hikes with vehicle access at both ends are presented starting at the end nearer Eureka; you may wish to start at the other end, especially if it is closer to your origin. The exceptions are car shuttles, which start at the end *farther* from Eureka after dropping off a vehicle at the nearer end.

I strongly support the use of public transit. If taking a bus, combined with walking or bicycling to the trailhead, is a feasible option, I so indicate (use Google Maps or a public transit application for bus routes and schedules).

The routes: Trail mileages (usually in parentheses) are cumulative. Loops are presented in the direction that, in my opinion, makes them easier or more scenic. You are welcome, of course, to rearrange the hikes as you wish. Keep in mind that trail conditions change. What you encounter may not exactly match what is described so please report discrepancies on the Web site (see below).

Maps: The orientation of the maps varies, so check the direction of the north arrow when interpreting them. The numbers along the route are miles, with arrows showing the direction of travel at those points as they relate to the text.

Elevation profiles: The most important point to remember with the elevation profiles is that each hike is not all drawn to the same scale, either vertically or hori-

zontally, so do not attempt to compare them directly to other hikes. Pay careful attention to the calibrations on both axes when interpreting them and bear in mind that a short hike with little elevation change can look very similar to a long hike with a lot of elevation change when they are shown the same size. Hikes with elevation ranges less than 500' do not have profiles.

www.hikinghumboldt.com

The companion web site for both volumes 1 & 2 has links to additional information, including bird lists and a forum for hikers to share their observations, experiences, and comments. Users are urged to post notes on their impressions of the hike, trail conditions, unexpected access issues, and observations of natural and cultural history. A bundle of the GPX tracks for all the hikes is available for a download fee.

Safety

As outdoor recreational activities go, hiking is pretty safe, and Humboldt County's natural environment is relatively benign. There are inherent risks, but it is important to keep them in perspective and remember that the most dangerous part of virtually any hike is the drive to the trailhead.

The vast majority of problems hikers encounter are of their own making. Know your limits and be adequately prepared for your hike. Carry sufficient water and dress appropriately, keeping in mind that our coastal and inland climates are radically different; temperatures on the coast can be 40° F. cooler in summer and 20° F. warmer in winter than inland. Be careful not to wander onto private property, especially in the southern and eastern parts of the county, where most marijuana is grown outdoors. For beach hikes, check a tide table in advance and do not turn your back on the ocean.

With so much wild land, Humboldt has healthy populations of several large animals, including cougar, black bear, and elk. Cougars tend to avoid humans and if you see one, consider yourself lucky. Regionally, black bears tend to avoid humans. Elk are fearless and frequently encountered, especially in Region A, thus posing the biggest local wildlife threat; keep your distance, especially from bulls in the fall. Aside from a few rattlesnakes in the brushy and rocky parts of the King Range and inland mountains, Humboldt is free of dangerous snakes. Biting arthropods are generally scarce here, but the Lyme disease parasite, vectored by ticks, has been proven quite common in Humboldt, especially in the dunes. Poison oak is prevalent in some areas.

Although it may be hard to believe in this day and age, most of Humboldt County does not have cellular phone coverage. Take this into consideration and assume you will be *incommunicado* during your hike and much of your travel time. Bear in mind also that cell-phone batteries run down faster when searching for a signal.

Trail etiquette

As a rule, follow the “leave no trace” ethic. It goes without saying that you should not litter, but a universal agreement on what constitutes litter is lacking. If you take out everything you take in, you are covered. Cigarette filters are litter, period.

Please do not shortcut across switchbacks because it increases erosion. Be on the lookout for small, slow creatures such as slugs, snails, beetles, millipedes, salamanders, and lizards that also use the trails. If you see one, alert your companions to its presence so it survives your visit. Leave everything you find behind (except other people’s litter) within the places you visit. Possession of feathers from almost all types of birds is illegal without a permit, so leave them for others to appreciate.

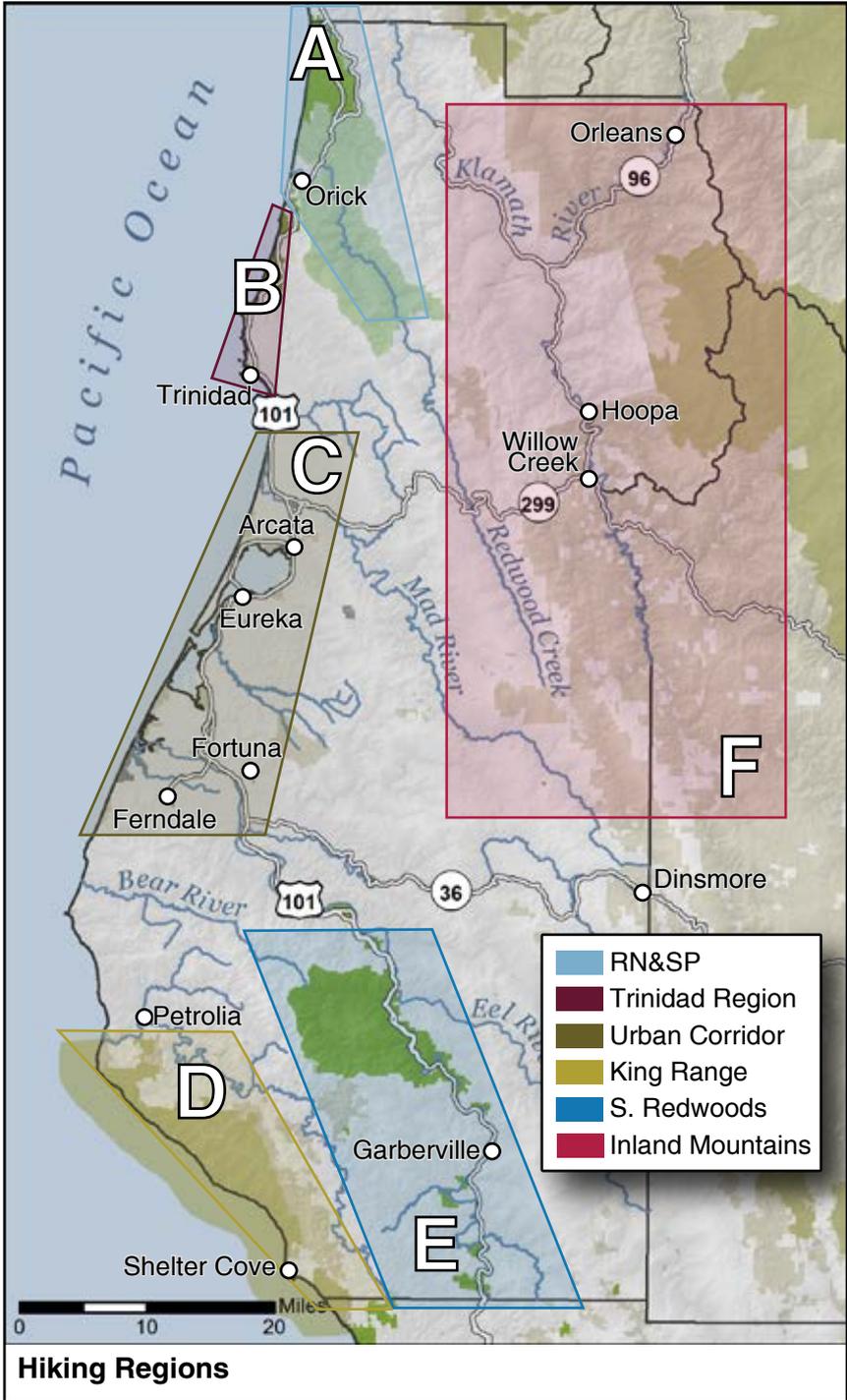
You are likely to see other people on the trails who do not have the same respect for the land and the rules as you. Set a good example and help ensure that our public lands remain open and clean for all.

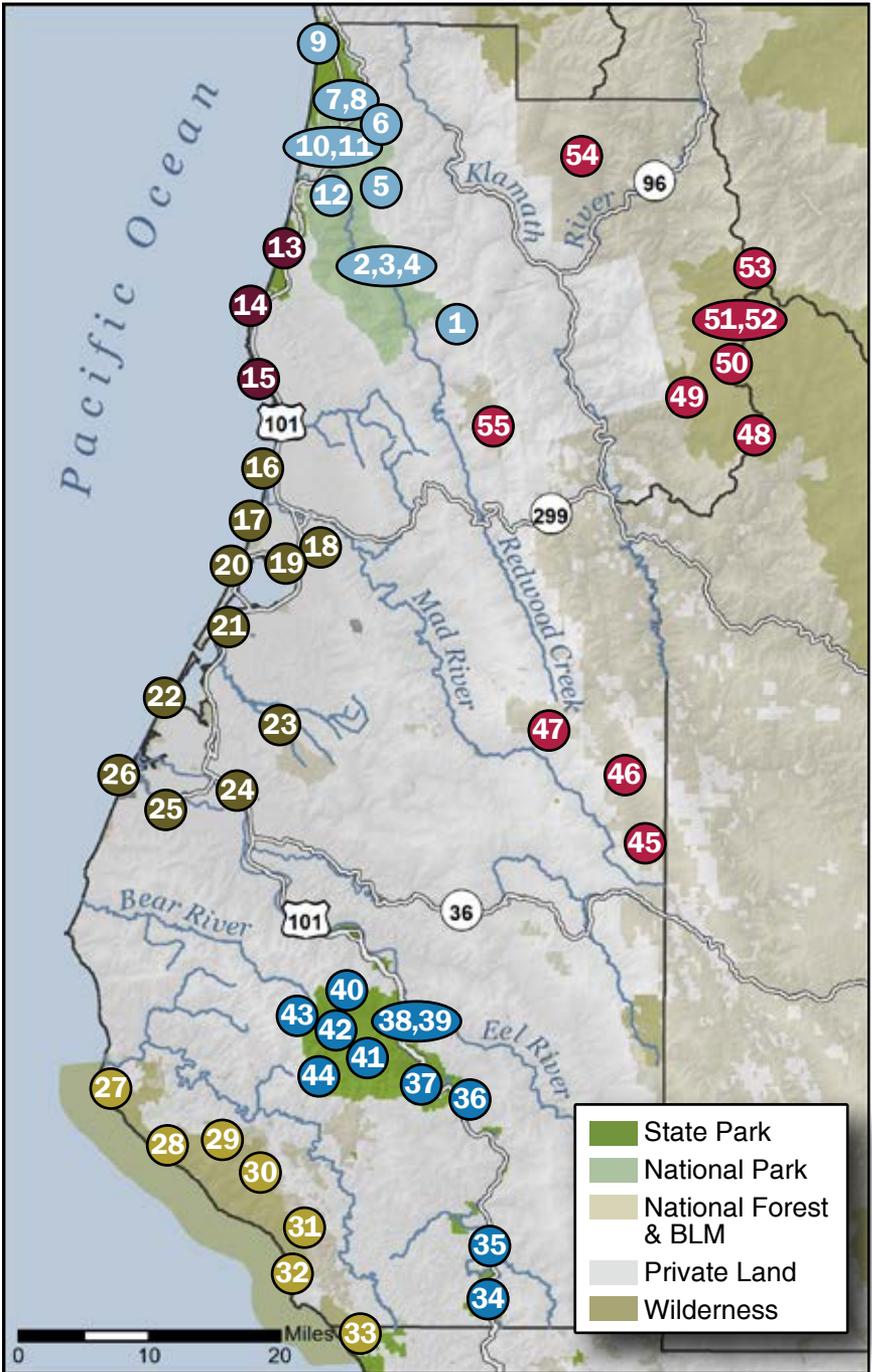
Looking ahead

As this book is going to print, trails are a hot topic in Humboldt. The Humboldt Trails Council is busy planning a regional multi-use trail network, ultimately intended to encircle Humboldt Bay, and funding has been approved to begin work on a trail connecting Arcata and Eureka. The City of Eureka has prioritized completion of a trail along its entire waterfront as part of this network. A trail connecting Arcata and Blue Lake is in the works. The County has acquired a large tract of private timberland near Eureka and is converting it into a community forest like Arcata’s. The Arcata Ridge Trail, linking northeast and southeast Arcata through the Community Forest, is nearing completion. There is talk of extending the Hammond Trail north to Moonstone Beach and there are plans to expand the bike-trail system in the King Range. A community group is attempting to develop a trail system in the Horse Mountain area of the Six Rivers National Forest. At the same time, the county’s planning commission recently removed from the General Plan Update language promoting a countywide trail system.

Whatever transpires over the coming years, it is certain that by the time the next edition of this book is published, there will be many more miles of trail in Humboldt. I hope this book will further that process. I believe that an expanded trail system will both help improve the quality of life for Humboldt’s residents and support the county’s economy through ecotourism.







55 Day Hikes in Humboldt County

Region A: Redwood National and State Parks

This complex of a national park and three state parks is a rare and shining example of a successful partnership between state and federal land-management agencies. Its ecological importance is reflected in its designation as a World Heritage Site and an International Biosphere Reserve.

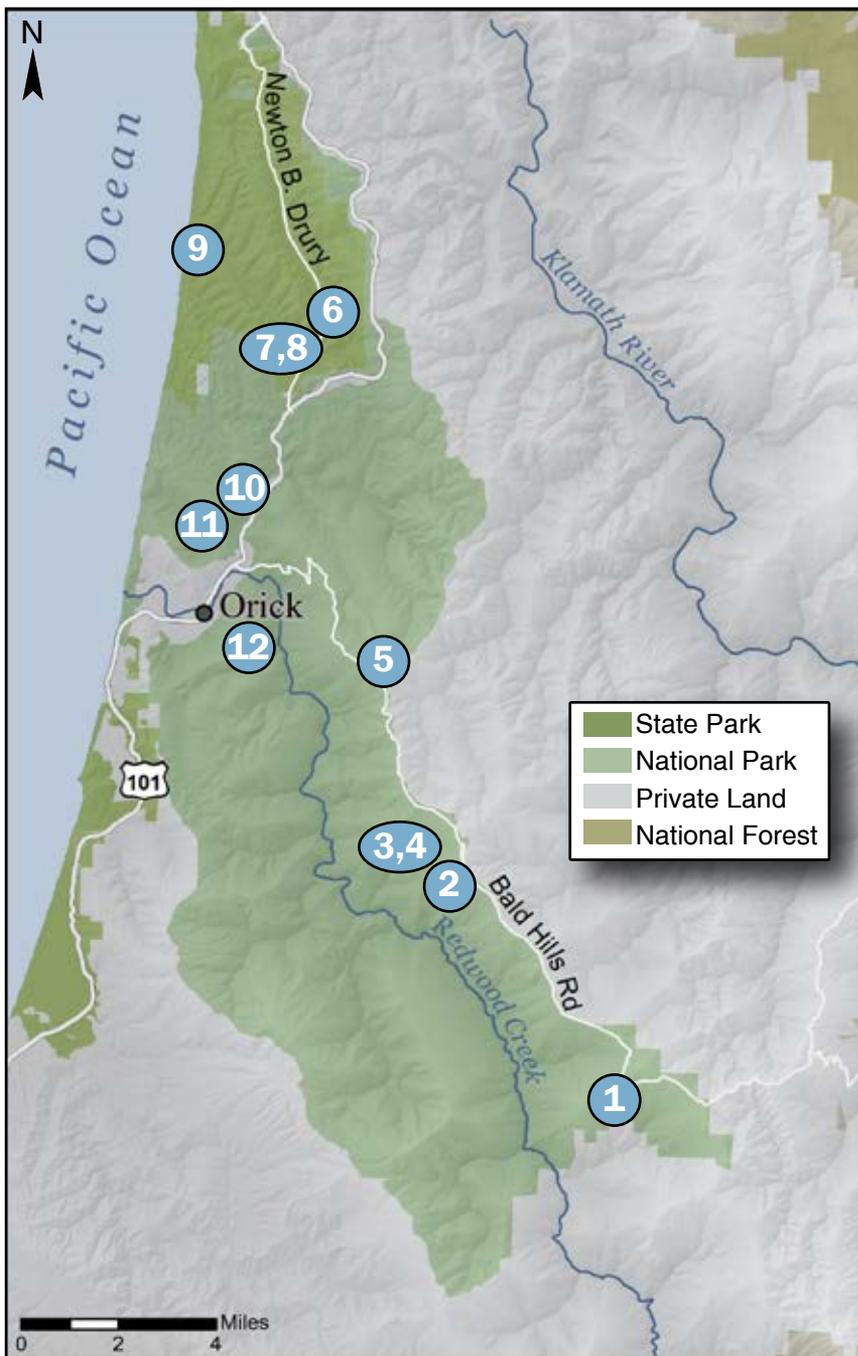
Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park (PCRSP) is the only one of the three state parks within the Redwood National & State Parks complex in Humboldt County—the others are in Del Norte County to the north. Established in 1925, PCRSP protects 14,000 acres of old-growth redwood and spruce forests along with 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 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 known 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, these areas have 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—maintained by prescribed burning—and about five miles of Humboldt coastline.

There is an excellent visitor center just south of Orick and there are 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, RNP's trails are used much less than those in PCRSP and there are few loop options. 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

Total ascent: 1550 feet

Elevations: 1800-2900 feet

Type: loop

Land management: National
Park Service

Fee: none

Access constraints: none

Dogs: no

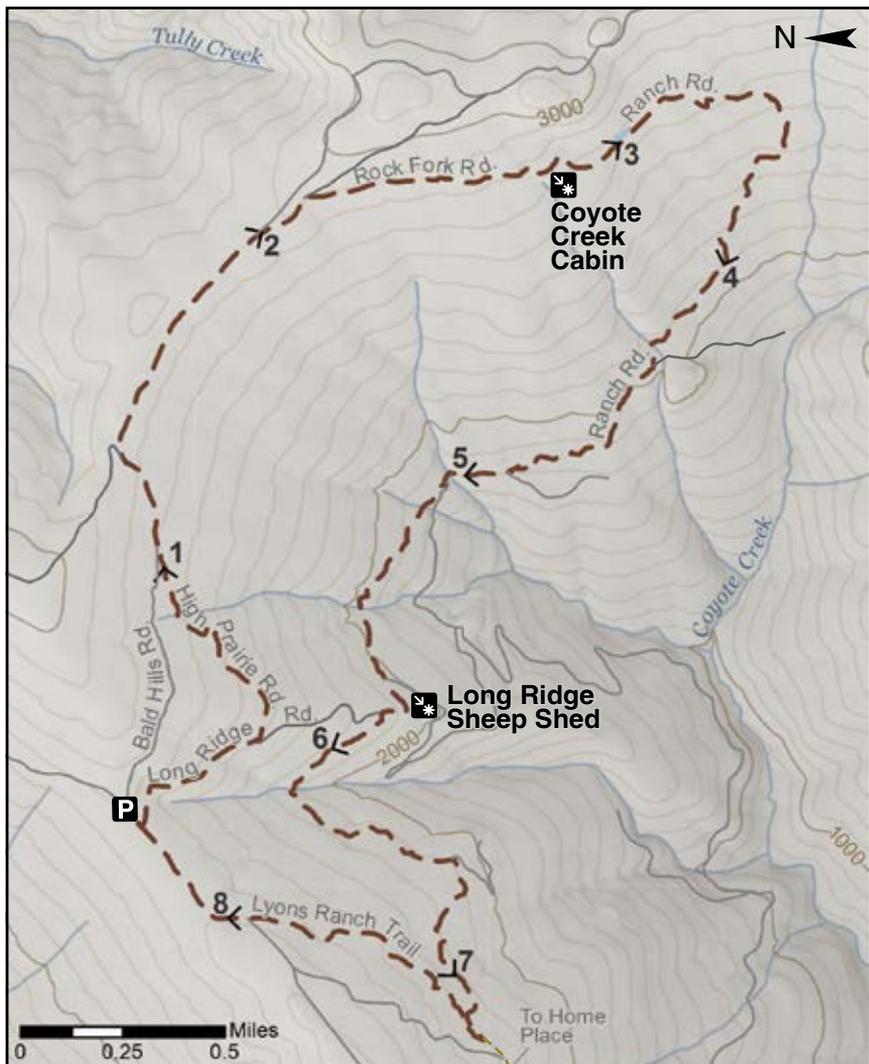
Restrooms: none

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



2 Dolason Prairie to Redwood Creek

Length: 13.2 miles

Fee: none

Total ascent: 3000 feet

Access constraints: fords

Elevations: 100-2400 feet

Dogs: no

Type: 33% loop; shuttle option

Restrooms: yes

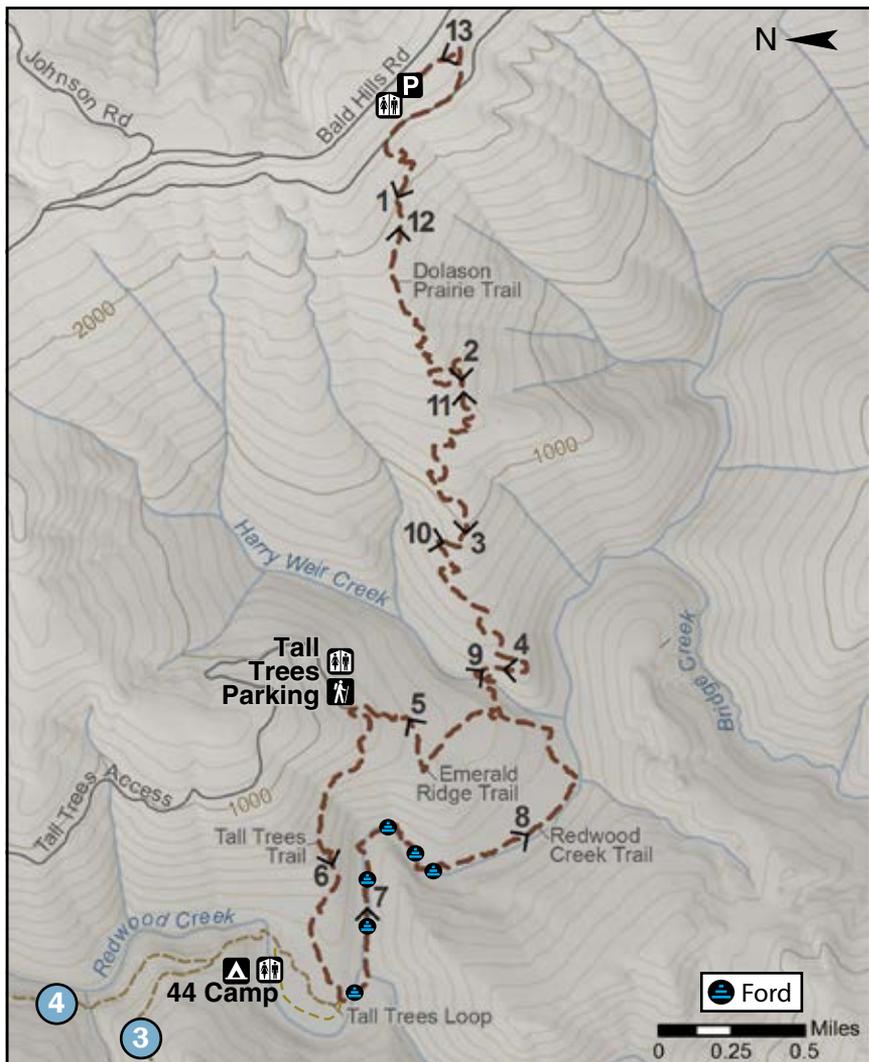
Land management: NPS

Description: This route traverses several mountain prairies and passes a historic barn as it drops off the Bald Hills into the Redwood Creek valley; the habitat changes dramatically with the change in elevation from ridgetop to valley floor. It is long, including nearly two miles in a rocky stream bed with six fords, and ends with a long, hard climb. The section along Redwood Creek is passable only during the dry season; wear shorts and carry river sandals, a towel, and a plastic bag. The hike passes the Tall Trees Trailhead and could be done as a 5.3- or 7.9-mile car shuttle.

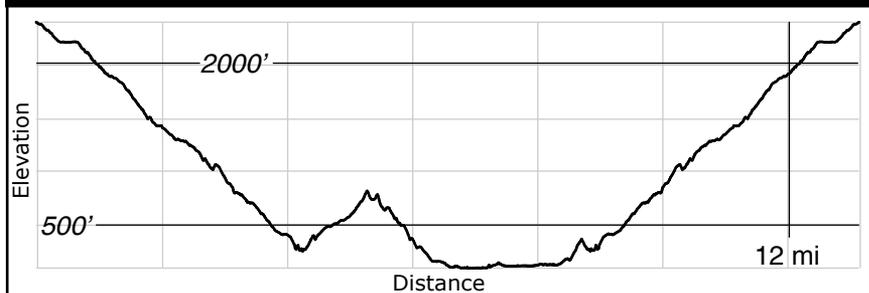
Getting there: Take US 101 north 43.2 miles. Turn right onto Bald Hills Road and go 11.2 miles to the trailhead on the right. Approximate driving time, 1 hour 9 minutes.

The route: Turn right at the end of the Dolason Prairie Trail (4.4) onto the Emerald Ridge Trail. Turn left at the end of the Emerald Ridge Trail (5.3) onto the Tall Trees Trail. Go left on the Tall Trees Loop (6.6), then immediately left towards the Emerald Ridge Trail. Follow Redwood Creek upstream (left), fording it as necessary to stay on the insides of the meanders, where gravel accumulates. Turn left onto the Emerald Ridge Trail (8.3). Turn right onto the Dolason Prairie Trail (8.8) and follow it back to the start





 **Dolason Prairie to Redwood Creek**



3 44 Camp and Creek

Length: 11.1 miles

Total ascent: 2000 feet

Elevations: 100-950 feet

Type: 60% loop

Land management: National
Park Service

Fee: none

Access constraints: permit
required, gated road,
seasonal bridge

Dogs: no

Restrooms: yes

Description: Here is an opportunity to explore the remote southern portion of RNP's horse-trail complex as a day hike in a lovely area that is rarely used. From Redwood Creek the route climbs through second-growth redwood forest on an old logging road. It then uses a narrow trail, crossing a series of small bridges to 44 Creek—which it follows almost all the way back to Redwood Creek. Finally, it climbs through sun-exposed old growth near the bottom. Trail maintenance is minimal out here and there may be downed trees to negotiate. It is necessary to get an entry permit and the gate code after 9 a.m. the day of your hike; only a limited number are issued daily.

Getting there: Take US 101 north 40.2 miles. Turn left to the Thomas H. Kuchel Visitor Center to obtain your permit. Return to 101, turn left, go 3.1 miles, and turn right onto Bald Hills Road. Go 7.0 miles, turn right onto the gated Tall Trees Access Road, and continue to the trailhead parking at the end. Approximate driving time, 1 hour 27 minutes.

The route: Take the Tall Trees Trail from the parking lot. Bear right on the Tall Trees Loop (1.3). Turn right onto the Redwood Creek Trail (1.6). Turn left onto the 44 Creek Loop Spur towards 44 Camp (2.1). Turn right where an old road comes in from the left onto a very obscure, overgrown path (3.5); you can bypass this shortcut by making a hairpin right 0.4 mile farther. Turn right at the T back onto the loop spur road and then right again onto the 3-Day Loop trail (3.8). Turn right at the T (7.4) and right again at the next T onto Redwood Creek Trail (8.1). Close the loop (9.0) and return to the trailhead, taking the longer route through Tall Trees Grove if you're so inclined.





 **44 Camp and Creek**



4 Redwood Creek Trail

Length: 9.8 miles

Total ascent: 500 feet

Elevations: 50-800 feet

Type: car shuttle

Land management: National

Park Service

Fee: none

Access constraints: permit required, gated road, seasonal bridges

Dogs: no

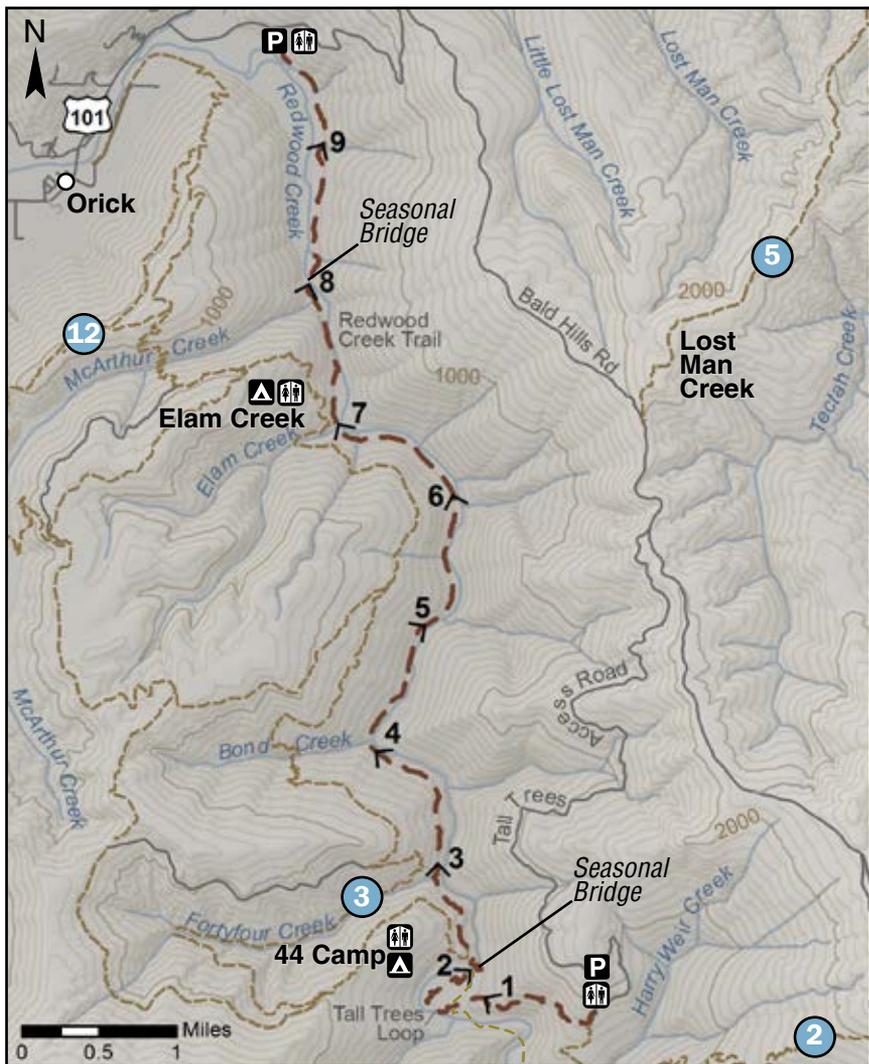
Restrooms: yes

Description: For its length, this is an easy hike that, after an initial descent to the Tall Trees Grove, is mostly level. The famous Tall Trees Grove is the site of some of the largest trees in RNP. The route follows the course of Redwood Creek, crossing it twice on seasonal bridges and numerous tributaries on some impressive permanent bridges. Most of the forest is second-growth that usually screens the creek from view but occasional glimpses of deep pools may tempt you to take a dip. The final mile-and-a-half passes through old-growth spruce and redwood forest with some large clearings. It is necessary to get an entry permit and the gate code after 9 a.m. the day of your hike; only a limited number are issued daily.

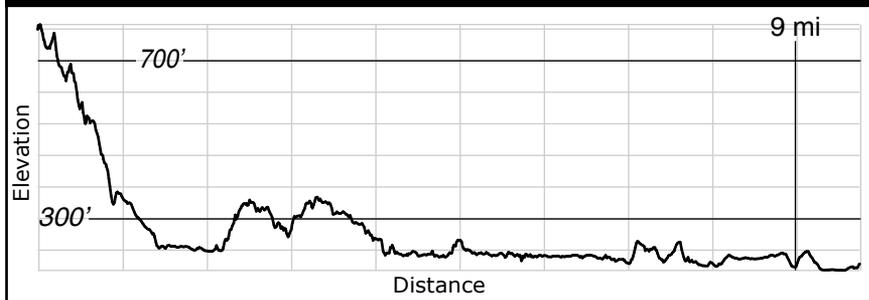
Getting there: Take US 101 north 40.2 miles. Turn left to the Thomas H. Kuchel Visitor Center to obtain your permit. Return to 101, turn left, go 3.1 miles, and turn right onto Bald Hills Road. Go 0.4 miles and turn right to the Redwood Creek Trailhead at the end of the road to drop off a vehicle. In the other vehicle, return to Bald Hills Road and turn right. Go 6.6 miles, turn right onto the gated Tall Trees Access Road, and continue to the trailhead parking at the end. Approximate driving time, 1 hour 30 minutes.

The route: Take the Tall Trees Trail from the parking lot. Bear left on the Tall Trees Loop (1.3); going right shortens the hike by 0.3 miles. Turn left onto the Redwood Creek Trail (1.9) and stay on it all the way back to the Redwood Creek Trailhead.





 **Redwood Creek**



5 Lost Man Creek

Length: 10.2 miles

Total ascent: 650 feet

Elevations: 100-2250 feet

Type: car shuttle

Land management: NPS

Fee: none

Access constraints: none

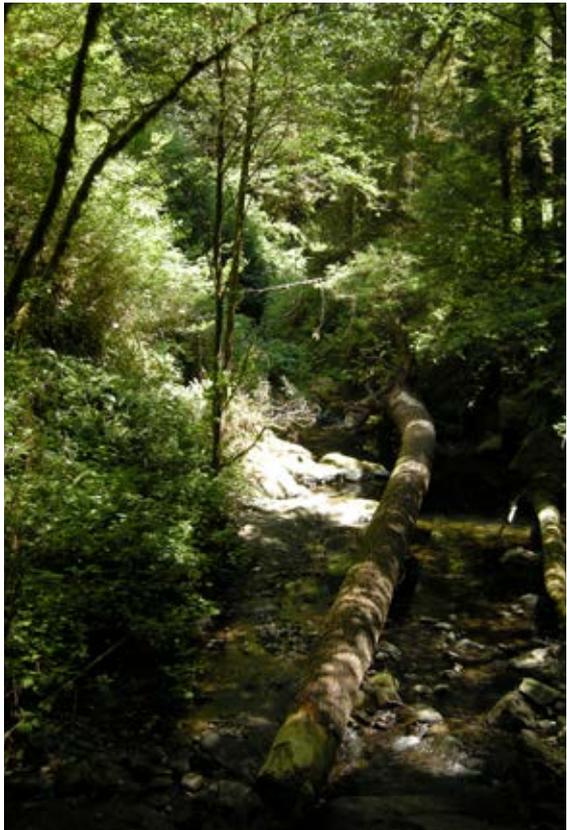
Dogs: no

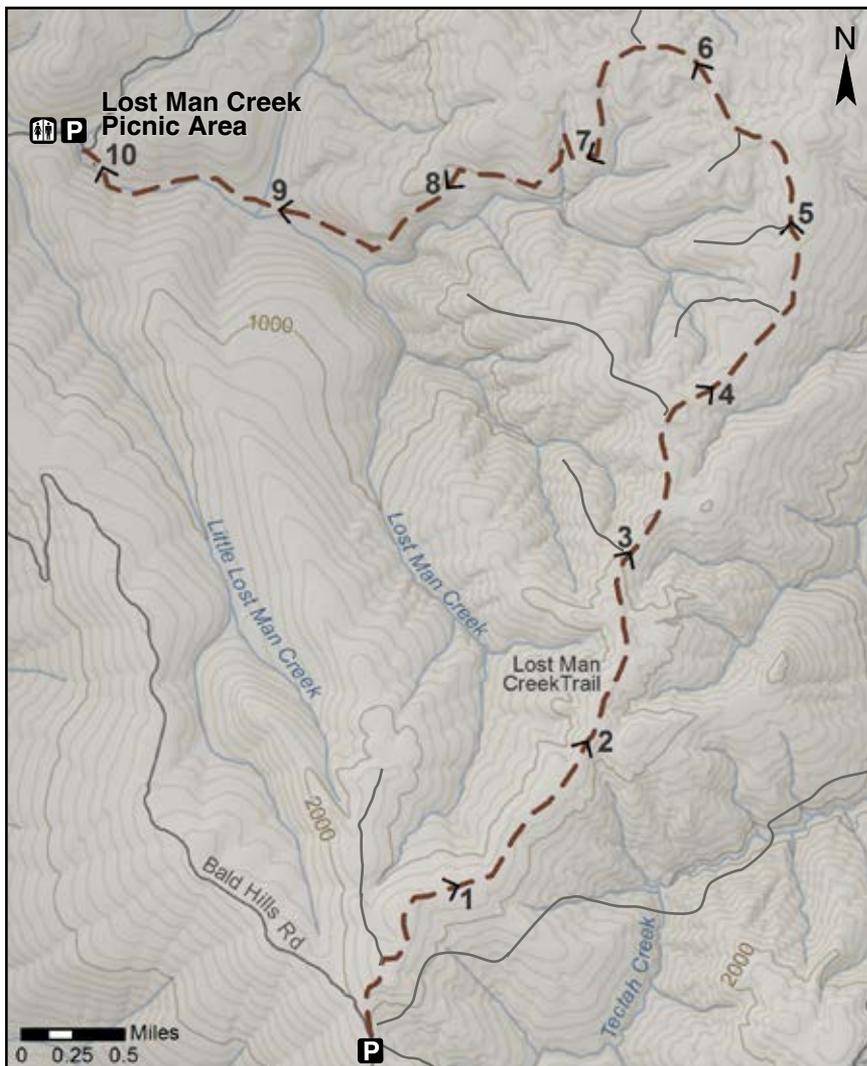
Restrooms: yes

Description: The Lost Man Creek Trail is a hiking & biking trail on old logging roads with a beginning and an end that are strikingly different. This hike starts at 2,000 feet on Bald Hills Road and runs north along the spine of Holter Ridge on the edge of RNP through dense, second-growth, mixed-evergreen forest. At about mile six, the trail veers west and drops steeply into Lost Man Creek canyon, ending up close to sea level in old-growth redwood forest alongside the creek, where American dipper are known to nest. The temperature at the bottom is often quite cool, while at the top it can be warm in summer and cold in winter. This trail is not heavily used, especially above the bottom mile or so.

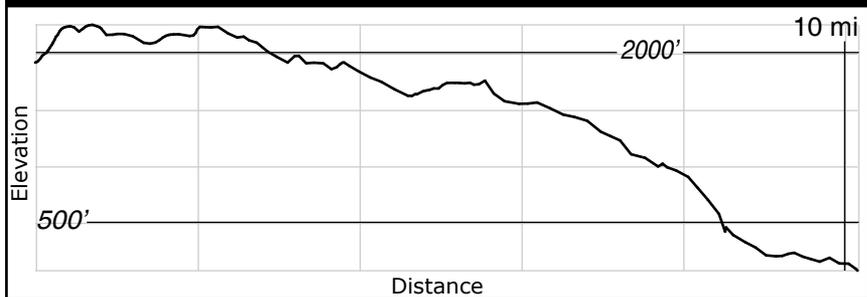
Getting there: Take US 101 north 45.4 miles. Turn right onto Lost Man Creek Road and go 0.9 mile to the parking area at the end. Leave a vehicle there and backtrack to the highway. Turn left and go 2.2 miles. Turn left onto Bald Hills Road and go 6.2 miles to the trailhead on the left. Approximate driving time, 1 hour 10 minutes.

The route: Simply follow the Lost Man Creek Trail all the way from one end to the other.





 **Lost Man Creek**



6 Rhododendron - Cathedral Trees

Length: 7.4 miles

Total ascent: 1600 feet

Elevations: 200-1000 feet

Type: loop

Land management: CSP

Fee: none

Access constraints: none

Dogs: no

Restrooms: yes

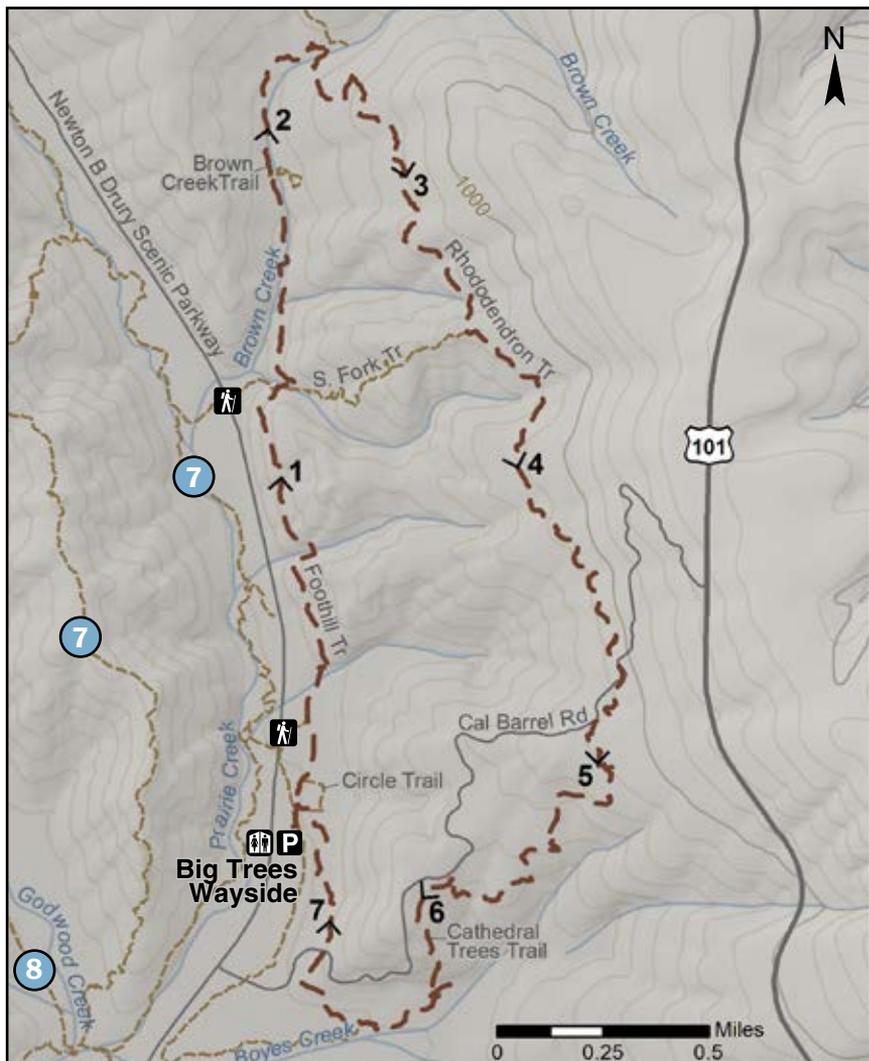
Description: This route passes some of the largest, most spectacular redwoods in the park and even goes through some of them! The hike begins at the famous Big Tree, then parallels the parkway before veering away up the lovely Brown Creek valley. The east leg follows the Rhododendron Trail, especially beautiful in June when the “rhodies” are blooming. The final section follows the Cathedral Trees Trail, with some of the most interestingly shaped trees in the park. With short, gentle ascents and descents throughout you will have ample time to enjoy the stunning old-growth forests of this area.

Getting there*: Take US 101 north 46.9 miles. Take exit 753 (Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway) and turn left. Go 1.9 miles and turn right into the Big Tree Wayside. Approximate driving time, 54 minutes.

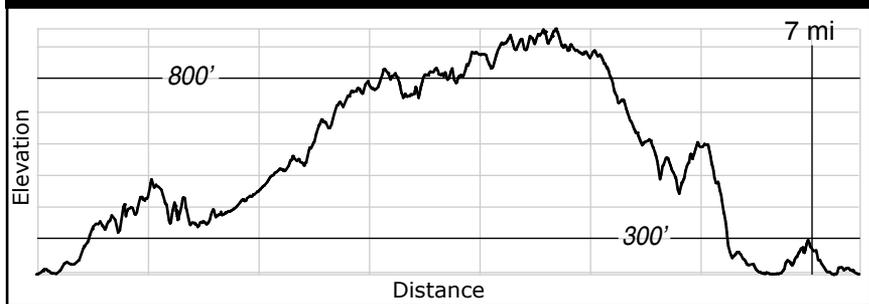
*Redwood Coast Transit will make a courtesy stop at the free-way exit.

The route: Take the trail from the parking lot and turn left onto the Foothill Trail. Turn right onto the South Fork Trail and left onto the Brown Creek Trail (1.3); staying on South Fork cuts 1.2 miles off the hike. Turn right onto the Rhododendron Trail (2.4). Go about 50 yards down Cal Barrel Road (4.7), then turn left to stay on the Rhododendron Trail. Turn right onto the Cathedral Trees Trail (6.7). Turn left onto the Foothill Trail (7.3) and retrace your route back to the parking lot.





 **Rhododendron - Cathedral Trees**



7 West Ridge - Prairie Creek

Length: 8.4 miles

Total ascent: 1100 feet

Elevations: 150-850 feet

Type: 95% loop

Land management: CSP

Fee: none

Access constraints: fords

Dogs: no

Restrooms: yes

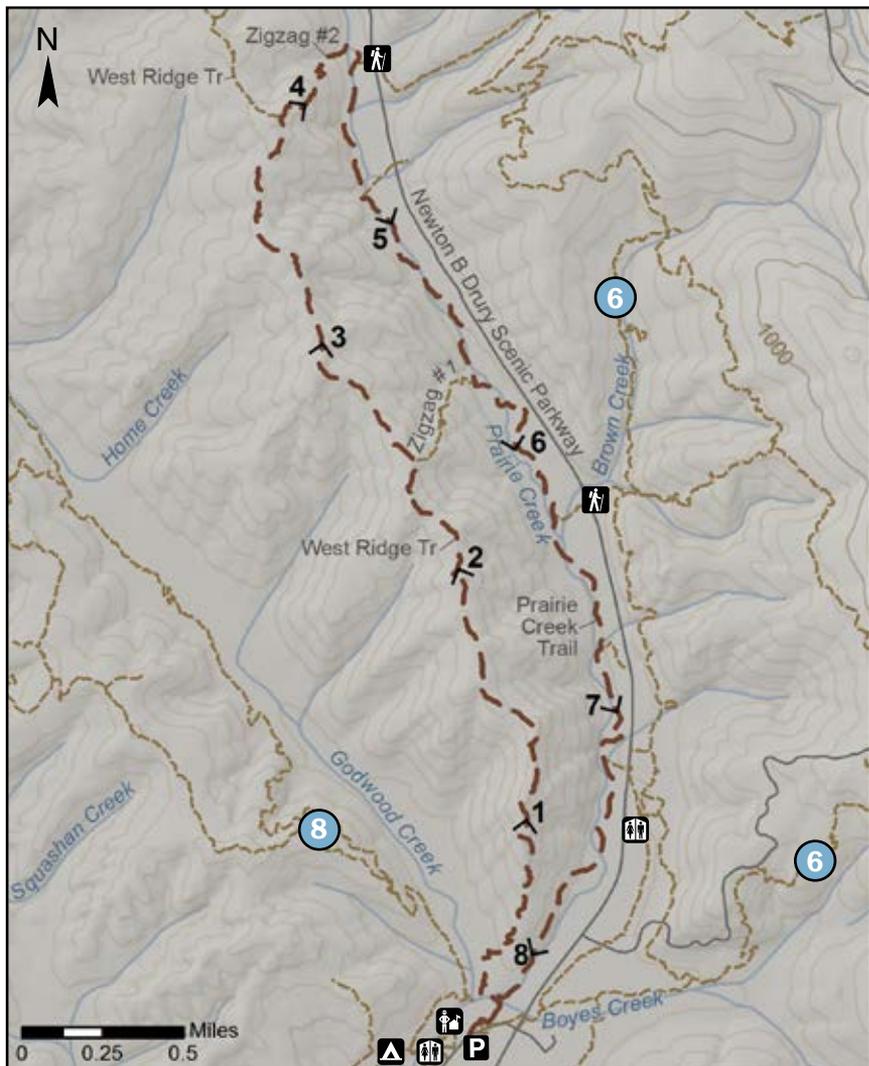
Description: This route offers excellent examples of old-growth conifer and mature riparian forests. After a short section in Prairie Creek valley, it rises gradually along the extensive spine of West Ridge, then drops abruptly back to Prairie Creek. The latter half of the hike follows the creek and is essentially level. Two small stream crossings at the north end could be problematic during heavy rains.

Getting there*: Take US 101 north 46.9 miles. Take exit 753 (Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway) and turn left. Go 1.1 miles and turn left on unsigned Prairie Creek Road towards the Visitor Center and campground. Park on the right 0.2 miles ahead. Approximate driving time, 53 minutes.

*Redwood Coast Transit will make a flag stop at the freeway exit.

The route: Take the trail going behind the restrooms immediately before the parking area, take the second left (behind the women's room), then turn right at the Redwood Access Trail sign. Keep left at the unsigned fork behind the Visitor Center and pass an unsigned spur trail on the left (this goes about 50 yards to a famous hollow tree that can hold more than 20 people). Pass short-term parking on the right and interpretive signs on the left (0.1) onto the Nature Trail (no sign). Pass the Prairie Creek Trail on the right (0.2), then turn right onto the West Ridge Trail. Pass the Zigzag #1 Trail on the right (2.4); turning right here cuts 2.9 miles off the hike. Turn right onto the Zigzag #2 Trail (3.9). Turn right onto the Prairie Creek Trail (4.3). Turn left onto the Nature Trail (8.2) and retrace your route back to the start.





 **West Ridge - Prairie Creek**



8 James Irvine - Miner's Ridge

Length: 7.6 miles

Fee: none

Total ascent: 1000 feet

Access constraints: seasonal bridge

Elevations: 100-600 feet

Dogs: no

Type: 84% loop

Land management: California State Parks

Restrooms: yes

Description: This is one of the more popular Prairie Creek hikes as it begins close to the Visitor Center. Along the way you cross the park's main divide, from the Prairie Creek watershed to the Pacific slope. The route initially follows Godwood Creek, with a recent upslope re-route, then gradually ascends Miner's Ridge for the return leg. I have tacked on a little extra summer loop at the end, along the Nature Trail. The scenery is mature redwood forest with patches of hemlock and spruce.

Getting there*: Take US 101 north 46.9 miles. Take exit 753 (Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway) and turn left. Go 1.1 miles and turn left on unsigned Prairie Creek Road towards the Visitor Center and campground. Park on the right 0.2 miles ahead. Approximate driving time, 53 minutes.

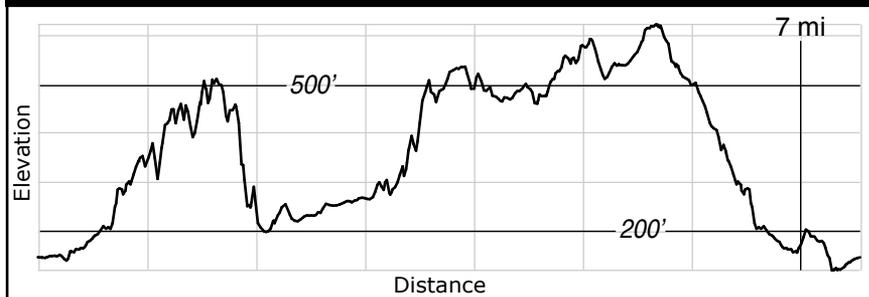
*Redwood Coast Transit will make a flag stop at the freeway exit.

The route: Take the trail between the restrooms and handicapped parking, take the second left (behind the women's room), then turn right at the Redwood Access Trail sign. Keep left at the unsigned fork behind the Visitor Center and pass short-term parking onto the Nature Trail (no sign). Turn right onto the James Irvine Trail (0.3). Turn left onto the Clintonia Trail (3.4) and again onto the Miner's Ridge Trail (4.7). Complete the main loop and turn right onto the James Irvine Trail (6.3). Turn right onto the Nature Trail (7.0) if the seasonal bridge is in place (otherwise, turn left and retrace your route to the start, shortening the hike by 0.4 miles). Turn left onto the Redwood Access Trail (7.4). Turn left onto the Revelation Trail and again towards the Visitor Center (7.5). Bear right at the fork (7.6) back to the parking lot.





 **James Irvine - Miner's Ridge**



9 Fern Canyon - Friendship Ridge

Length: 8.0 miles

Fee: \$8

Total ascent: 900 feet

Access constraints: seasonal bridges

Elevations: 50-800 feet

Dogs: no

Type: 95% loop

Land management: California State Parks

Restrooms: yes

Description: This hike traverses a wide variety of habitats, including spruce and redwood forests inland and coastal prairie adjacent to the Pacific. The route begins in Fern Canyon, one of the region's best-known and most popular locations, then gently ascends Friendship Ridge and descends West Ridge. The last couple of miles on the Coastal Trail, which is also a popular bicycling route, are flat; along the way, watch for short spur trails to waterfalls. Summer wildflower diversity is excellent as are the chances of observing elk.

Getting there: Take US 101 north 44.8 miles. Turn left on Davison Road and go 6.8 miles to the end. Approximate driving time, 1 hour 19 minutes.

The route: The trailhead is at the northeast corner of the parking lot. Pass the Coastal & James Irvine trails on the left (0.2) and enter Fern Canyon, which can be bypassed on the James Irvine Trail, cutting off 0.2 mile (a good winter option when seasonal bridges aren't in place). After leaving Fern Canyon, turn right on the James Irvine Trail (0.8). Turn left on the Friendship Ridge Trail (1.0). Turn left on the West Ridge Trail (3.8). Turn left on the California Coastal Trail (5.4). Return to Fern Canyon (7.8) and retrace your route back to the parking lot.



Kauffmann



Fern Canyon - Friendship Ridge



10 Trillium Falls to Lady Bird Johnson Grove

Length: 8.2 miles

Total ascent: 1700 feet

Elevations: 50-1300 feet

Type: 40% loop

Land management: NPS

Fee: none

Access constraints: none

Dogs: no

Restrooms: yes

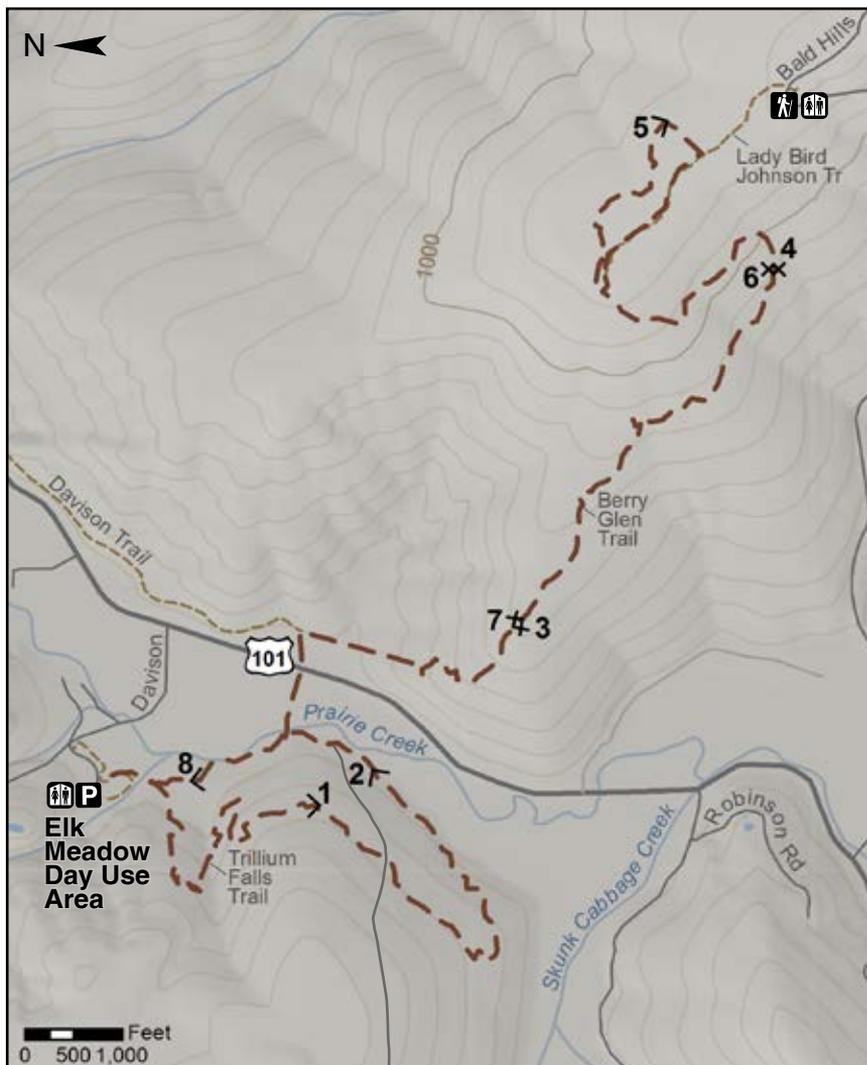
Description: This hike includes some of the best redwood groves in RNP. It begins with a short loop past a small waterfall on the west side of the Prairie Creek valley. It then crosses the valley, passing a wetland frequented by birds and elk, and climbs 1200 feet up the east side of the valley through old-growth forest on the newest trail in the park to the famous Lady Bird Johnson Grove. The first half mile of the ascent is the steepest. The trees at the higher elevations are unusually large for an upland site.

Getting there*: Take US 101 north 44.8 miles. Turn left on Davison Road. Go 0.4 miles, turn left, and go 0.1 mile to the Elk Meadow Day Use Area. Approximate driving time, 50 minutes.

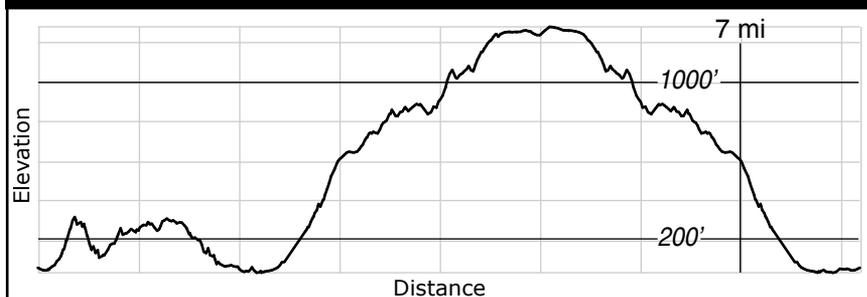
*Redwood Coast Transit will make a flag stop at Berry Glen, 0.3 miles south of Davison Road and just south of where the trail crosses the highway.

The route: Take the Davison Trail from the parking lot; turn right at the T. Turn right on the Trillium Falls Trail (0.1). Turn right on the Davison Trail (2.2). Turn right on the Berry Glen Trail (2.4). Turn left on the Lady Bird Johnson Grove Nature Trail (4.6). Turn right at the T, still on the nature trail (5.1); 1/3 mile away to the left is Bald Hills Road (restrooms). Turn left on the Berry Glen Trail (5.4) and retrace your route. When you get back to the Trillium Falls Trail (7.8), stay on the Davison Trail to return to the trailhead.





 **Trillium Falls to Lady Bird Johnson Grove**



11 Skunk Cabbage

Length: 10.4 miles

Total ascent: 1250 feet

Elevations: sea level-550 feet

Type: out and back; shuttle option

Land management:

NPS, CSP

Fee: none

Access constraints: none

Dogs: no

Restrooms: yes

Description: The Skunk Cabbage section of the California Coastal Trail offers a nice mix of forest and beach walking. The first two miles follow Skunk Cabbage Creek through mixed redwood, spruce, and hemlock with little elevation change. The low-lying areas support large patches of the trail's namesake. The trail then crosses a ridge and descends to an invariably deserted beach.

Getting there*: Take US 101 north 43.7 miles. Turn left on Robinson Road and go 0.7 miles to the end. Approximate driving time, 51 minutes.

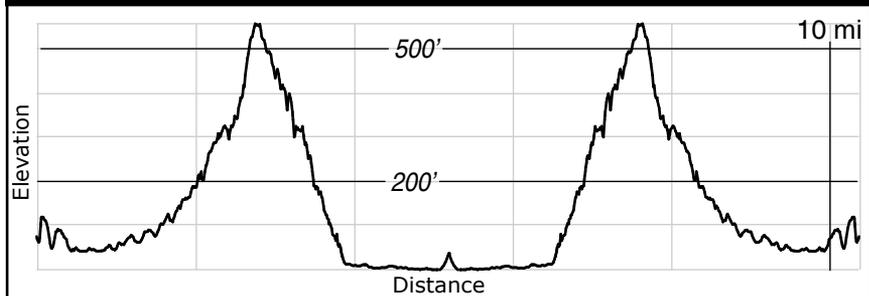
*Redwood Coast Transit stops in Orick 1.4 miles south of Robinson Road.

The route: At mile 2.4, a short spur trail to the left leads to an ocean viewpoint with a bench. The beach is reached at 3.9; most hikers turn around here, but the "trail" continues to the north (right) on the beach. Bear right at 5.2 toward some signs and the bare cliffs to Gold Bluffs Beach Road. From here, retrace your route back to the start, making sure not to miss the trail off the beach.





 **Skunk Cabbage**



12 McArthur Creek

Length: 13.5 miles

Fee: \$5

Total ascent: 2700 feet

Access constraints: none

Elevations: 50-1300 feet

Dogs: no

Type: 77% loop

Restrooms: yes

Land management: NPS, private

Description: This hike utilizes trails better known for equestrian use and hikers are rare here. It is a remarkably easy hike despite its length, with only a few noticeable elevation gains and the most difficult climb coming near the start. It passes alternately through old-growth redwood forest and young second-growth mostly consisting of alder. The trail can get pretty soupy in places during the rainy season. Most of the trail junctions are numbered and loops are named by the estimated time it takes to ride them.

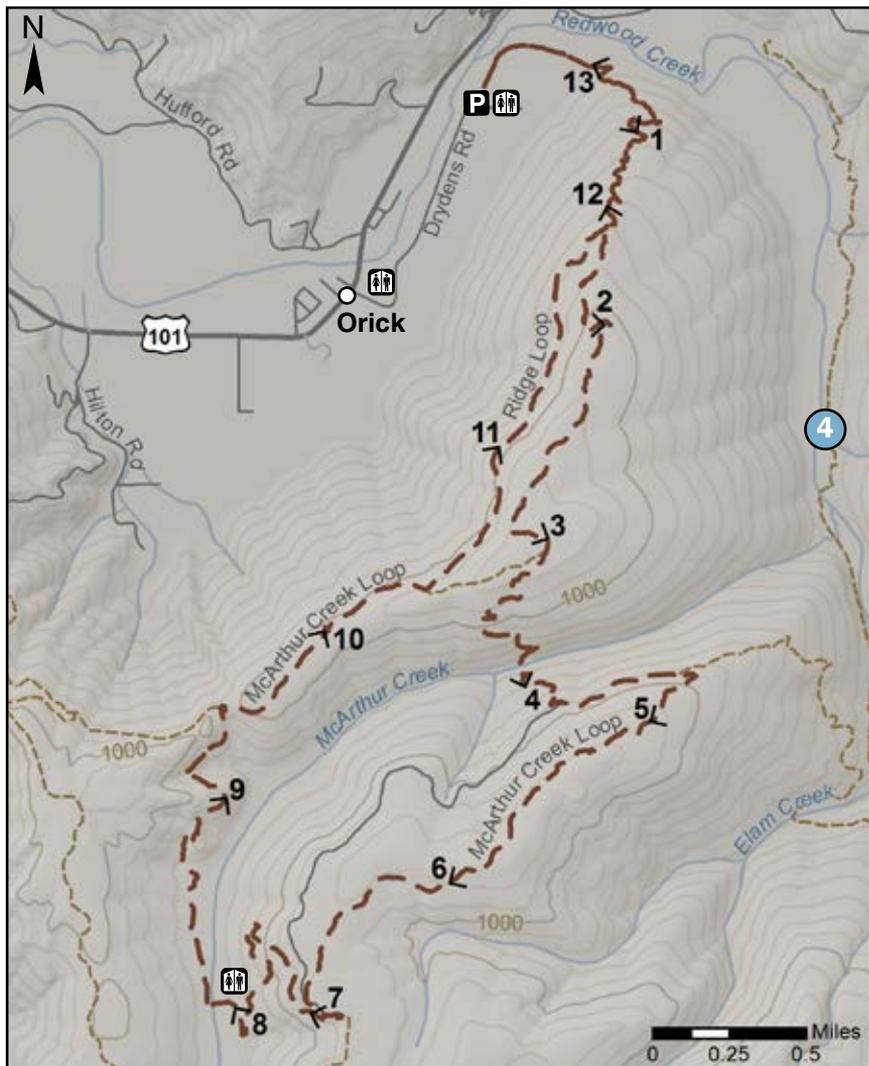
Getting there*: Take US 101 north 42.0 miles. Turn right on Drydens Road and go 0.9 miles. Turn left into the Redwood Trails Horse Rides compound just after the bend to the right and park on the left. Approximate driving time, 46 minutes.

*Redwood Coast Transit stops in Orick 0.3 mile north of Drydens Road.

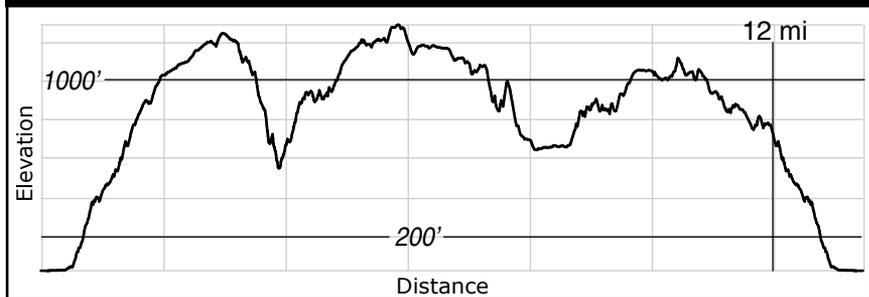
The route: Walk down the driveway to the trailer (camp host) to pay the parking fee. Go up onto the levee and turn right. Stay left at trail junction 3 on the Ridge (Three-Hour) Loop (1.6). Stay left at junction 4 on the McArthur Creek (Six-Hour) Loop (3.1); stay on this loop until you get back to the Ridge Loop. Stay right at junction 6 (4.7). Turn left at junction 7 (6.7). Take the next right (6.9). Turn right at junction 9 (8.2). Take the next left (8.6). Stay left at junction 5 on the Ridge Loop (10.4). Turn left at junction 3 (11.9) and return to the start.



Rough-skinned newt



 **McArthur Creek**



Region B: Trinidad Area

This region includes some of Humboldt's most rugged and rocky coastline decorated with sandy beaches and hidden coves. These three hikes highlight state, county, and private lands surrounding Humboldt Lagoons, Patrick's Point, and the city of Trinidad.

The Humboldt Lagoons are the largest lagoon system in the United States. These lagoons were once shallow bays between rocky headlands. Over time, wave action deposited sand at their mouths, creating narrow spits that eventually separated them from the ocean. Today, the four lagoons vary widely in character. Aptly named Big Lagoon and smaller Stone Lagoon are brackish, regularly breaching their spits during winter storm events. The northernmost Freshwater Lagoon is now permanently separated from the ocean by US 101. Dry Lagoon was filled for farming and is now little more than a marsh. Land management around the lagoons is by a complex mix of federal, state, county, and private entities with facilities including campgrounds, an RV park, and a visitor center that doubles as a kayak rental facility.

Patrick's Point State Park, established in 1929, preserves the headlands near the north end of the rocky coastline that extends from the Little River to Big Lagoon. It is a popular and well-developed park with a visitor center, numerous campgrounds and picnic areas, and an extensive trail system. It also contains a botanical garden, a Yurok village used for ceremonial purposes, beaches, tidepools, forests, meadows, and two former sea stacks that now rise out of the forest instead of the ocean. The forest is highlighted by the rare bishop pine on the marine terrace at Patrick's Point.

Trinidad, a bucolic seaside village, is California's second smallest city and Humboldt's principal tourist base. With a sheltered harbor, it has served as a gold-rush supply port, a whaling port, and now a sport and commercial fishing and crabbing port. It also serves as one of five designated gateways to the California Coastal National Monument, which includes most of the state's offshore rocks; several of these comprise the Trinidad Rocks Important Bird Area, supporting some of the most significant seabird nesting colonies in the state—they are easily visible from shore.

There are numerous vacation rentals and B&Bs in Trinidad. Between Trinidad and Patrick's Point is a diverse array of lodging and camping options.





Region B:
Trinidad Area

13 Humboldt Lagoons

Length: 8.4 miles

Total ascent: 450 feet

Elevations: sea level-300 feet

Type: car shuttle

Land management: CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Humboldt County Dept. of Public Works

Fee: \$2

Access constraints: flooding and tides

Dogs: no

Restrooms: yes

Description: This hike follows the California Coastal Trail as it makes its way through Humboldt Lagoon State Park, mostly on sandy spits. It starts with a traverse of the mile-long Stone Lagoon spit, then cuts inland to bypass a steep headland, going through alder and spruce forest. It reemerges on Dry Lagoon Beach, then goes through a rocky section of beach, which is impassable at high tide, and finishes with the 3½-mile Big Lagoon spit. The Stone and Big Lagoon spits can breach in winter and it may or may not be possible to wade across.

Getting there: Take US 101 north 29.5 miles. Turn left on Big Lagoon Park Road and follow the signs 0.9 mile to Big Lagoon County Park Day Use Area. Leave a vehicle there (\$2) and return to 101. Turn left, go 8.9 miles, turn left, and go 0.2 mile to Stone Lagoon Day Use Area (this road may be closed in winter due to flooding). Approximate driving time, 48 minutes.

The route: Walk through the gate onto the beach and turn left. Turn left away from the ocean at the end of the lagoon (0.9) and walk along the lagoon shoreline; this section may be impassable when the lagoon is full. Turn right on a distinct but unmarked trail leading away from the lagoon (1.3). Pass the unsigned turnout to Stone Lagoon Boat-in Campground on the left (1.7). Dry Lagoon Day Use Area is at 4.0; continue south on the beach. The rocky section between Dry and Big lagoons may require some scrambling and should be attempted only within two hours of low tide (Trinidad is the nearest tide station). Walk the length of the Big Lagoon spit back to the county park.





14 Patrick's Point

Length: 5.1 miles

Total ascent: 950 feet

Elevations: sea level-250 feet

Type: 75% loop

Land management: California

State Parks

Fee: \$8 per vehicle to drive into the park

Access constraints: none

Dogs: no

Restrooms: yes

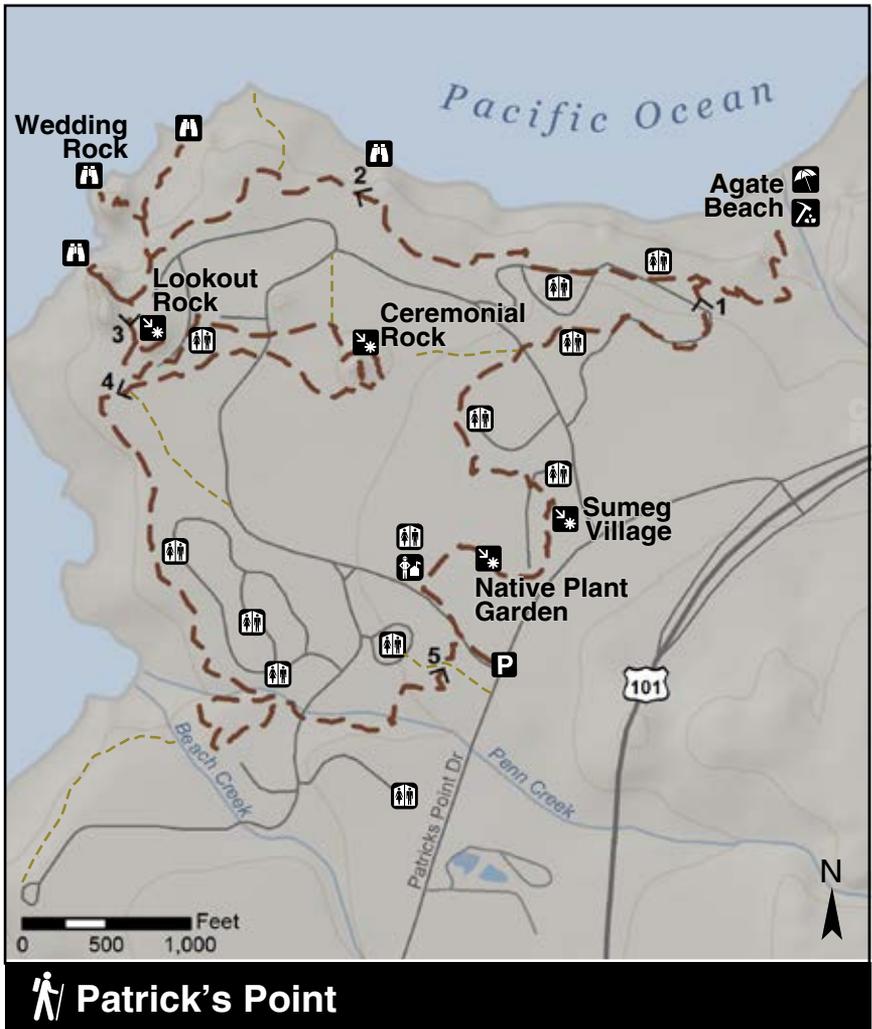
Description: This route includes most of Patrick's Point State Park's trails and the majority of its iconic features with a minimum of backtracking and an avoidance of roads. Junctions are poorly signed, but the park is so small that you cannot get lost for long. Additional spurs to locations such as the Rim Trail Overlook, Mussel Rocks, Rocky Point, and Palmer's Point may be added for a longer hike. A detailed park map is available at the visitor center.

Getting there*: Take US 101 north 27.4 miles. Take exit 734 (Patrick's Point) and turn left onto Patrick's Point Drive. Go 0.5 miles and park on the shoulder opposite the park entrance road. Approximate driving time, 29 minutes.

*Redwood Coast Transit will make a flag stop at the freeway exit.

The route: Walk down the park entrance road. Where the road divides as it leaves the forest, turn right across the lawn. Skirt the right edge of the parking lot onto the paved Sumeg Village Loop Trail. Turn right onto the Native Plant Garden Trail. Choose your route through the garden and emerge on the other side in the Sumeg Village. On the far side of the village, angle left past the picnic shelter into the parking lot. Turn left out of the parking lot onto the trail towards Ceremonial Rock. Turn right, left, left, and right at the next four junctions, veering away from Ceremonial Rock towards Agate Beach. Cross the road, continuing towards Agate Beach. At the campground, stay on the trail past the restroom. At the next road, turn left. Turn right onto the Agate Beach Trail to Agate Beach, then backtrack to the campground. Go straight onto the campground road and turn right onto the Rim Trail opposite campsite 86. Take the second right onto the Wedding Rock Trail and then right onto the Wedding Rock Beach Trail. At the end of the trail, return to the Wedding Rock Trail and turn right to Wedding Rock. Return to the Rim Trail, turn right, and turn right again onto the Patrick's Point Overlook Trail, which leads to a short loop; take the loop in either direction. Return to the Rim Trail, turn right, then turn left onto the Lookout Rock Steps Trail; from the top of the rock, backtrack to the Rim Trail and turn left. Turn left again at a 4-way junction into the Lookout Rock Campground and onto the Lookout Day Use Road. At the junction beyond the restrooms, cross the road onto the trail into the forest. Go through the Bishop Pine Picnic Area, cross the

next road, continue into the meadow, and turn right onto the Ceremonial Rock Meadow Trail. Turn left onto the Ceremonial Steps Trail. Turn right up the steps to the top of the rock, then return to the previous junction and continue straight down the steps. Turn left at the T and then bear right on the Ceremonial Rock Trail. Turn left at the next T and then stay to the right where the Rim Trail Access comes in from the left. Turn left on the Rim Trail. Turn right at the T and then keep right at a 4-way junction to stay on the Rim Trail. Bear left at the fork; this loops back to the 4-way junction, where you turn right on the Penn Creek Trail. Turn left at the T onto a trail no longer shown on park maps; follow this along the creek. Stay straight at the 4-way junction, then turn right on the entrance road back to the start.



15 Trinidad

Length: 6.3 miles

Total ascent: 950 feet

Elevations: sea level-350 feet

Type: 60% loop

Land management: City of Trinidad, private, CSP

Fee: none

Access constraints: tides

Dogs: leashed

Restrooms: yes

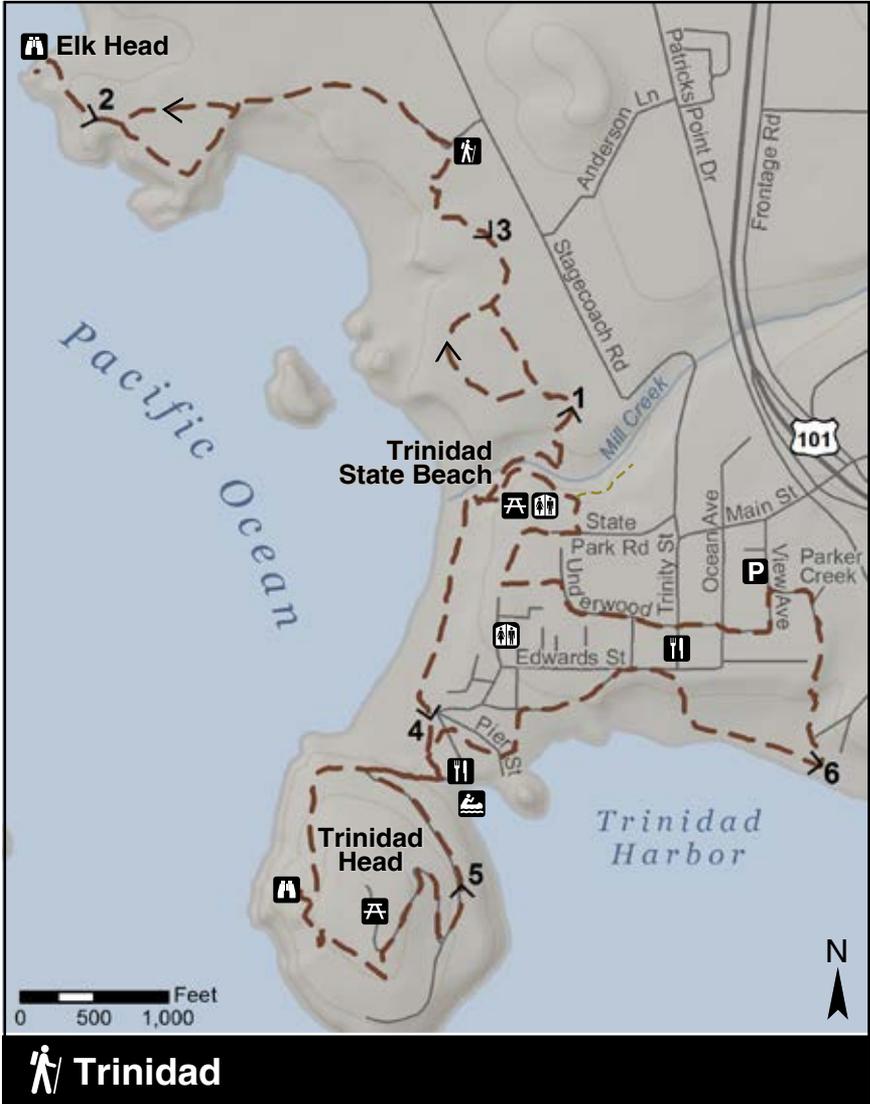
Description: The seaside village of Trinidad is one of the county's premier destinations. This hike cobbles various trails, streets, and beaches together into a route with considerable variety and incredible scenery. It will take you through forests and neighborhoods to cliff-top vistas of the town, the coast, and offshore islands. Be prepared for strong winds on the headlands and the beaches may be impassable at high tide.

Getting there*: Take US 101 north 22.1 miles. Take Exit 728 (Trinidad) and turn left. Go 0.1 mile and turn left on View Avenue. Go another 0.1 mile to Parker Creek Drive. Approximate driving time, 25 minutes.

*Redwood Transit System and Redwood Coast Transit stop near Main Street and Patrick's Point Drive.

The route: Continue on View Avenue, then turn right onto East Street. Cross Ocean Avenue onto West Street. Cross Trinity Street onto Parker Street (0.2), continuing onto Underwood Street (0.3). Turn left onto an unnamed path between a house and a small field at a dog waste bag dispenser (0.4). Turn right at the T onto the unsigned Lab Trail; Humboldt State University's Marine Lab is a short distance to the left. Bear right at the fork (0.5). Go halfway down the Trinidad State Beach parking lot and turn left (0.6). Take the Mill Creek Trail at the bottom of the lawn next to the restrooms. Stay left at the bottom of the stairs. Go right at the next fork and again at the T (0.8). Turn right at the next T (1.1). Stay left at the fork and right at the following junction (1.2). Turn left into the Elk Head parking lot and take the trail at the far end (1.5). Bear right at the fork (1.8) and right at the T (2.0). Turn around at the end of this trail (2.1) and go straight at the previous junction (2.3). Follow this trail back to the parking lot and on towards the starting point. Stay right at the large junction (3.1) and then right at the T; you are now back on the original trail. Go right at the fork and left on the beach (3.7). Turn left off the beach at the end of the bluff and then cut diagonally across the parking lot to the Trinidad Head Trails sign at the far end (4.0). Turn right at the top of the steps (4.1) onto a paved service road. Leave the road at the hairpin left turn (4.2). Turn right at the second "spur" sign (4.4). Follow the spur trail to the top and back and turn right (4.5). Follow the trail past a monument and up to a service road (4.7). Turn right and follow the road back

to the steps and parking lot. Turn right (5.3) down towards the Trinidad Pier. At the base of the parking lot, turn left onto the Galindo Street Trail. Follow the signed trail to Edwards Street (5.7) and turn right. Take the path to the right just before the lighthouse and right onto the Axel Lindgren Memorial Trail (5.8); this is a steep section which at the bottom leads to a treacherous stairway. Turn left on Old Home (Indian) Beach. Turn left onto unlabeled Indian Beach Trail at the base of a cliff (6.0). Turn right onto the Parker Creek Trail (6.1), which becomes Parker Creek Drive.



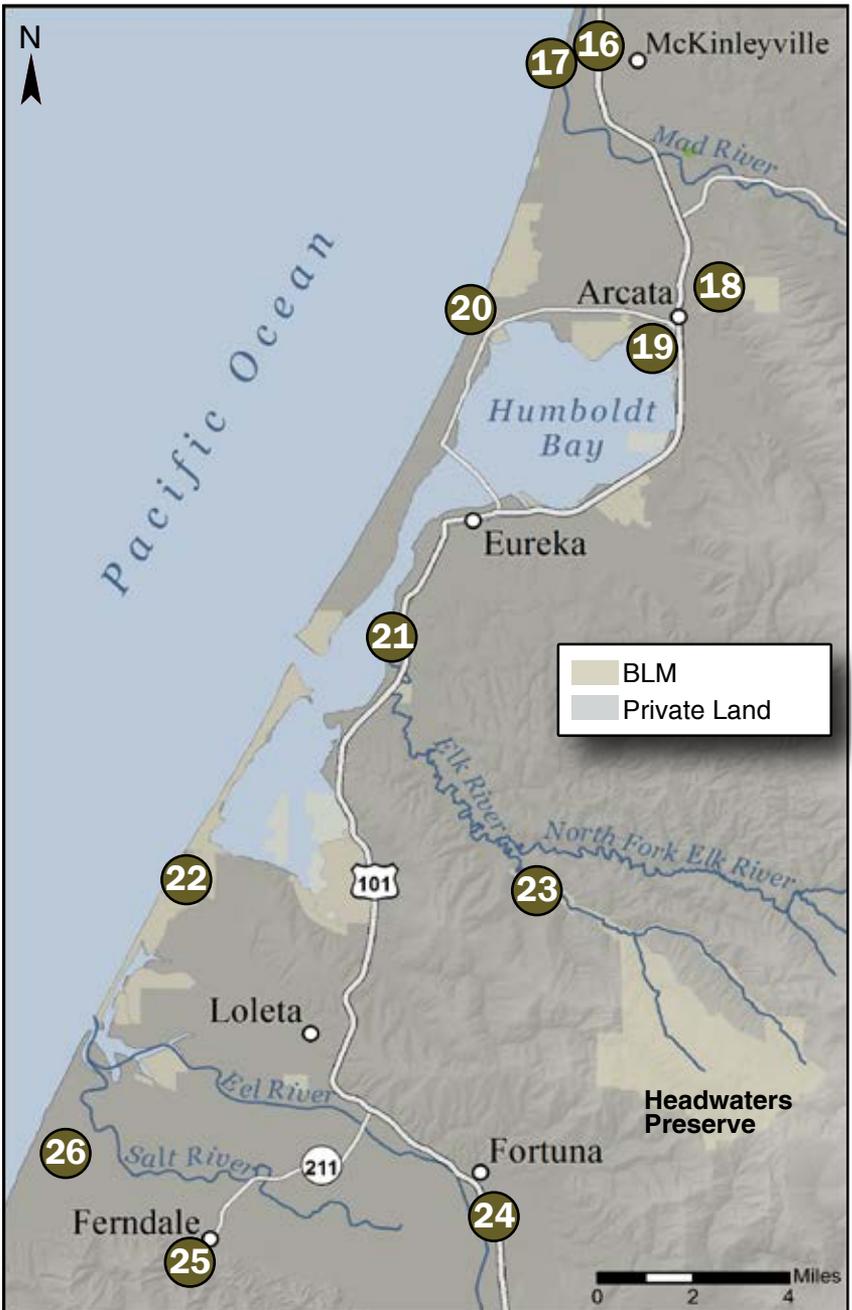
Region C: Urban Corridor

Although the small portion of Humboldt extending from McKinleyville south to Scotia and west to Ferndale contains most of the county's population, it can be considered "urban" only relative to the rest of the region. Eureka, the largest coastal city between San Francisco Bay and Puget Sound, has a population of a mere 27,000. One of the great rewards of living close to Humboldt Bay is the superb forest, riverine, and shoreline recreation areas that are so close to the population centers.

The 11 hikes in this region, spanning the Humboldt Bay watershed and the estuaries of the Mad and Eel rivers, range from hikes in redwood forests to beach walks to strolls on multi-use trails. Some locations are well used while others offer considerably more solitude. All can be reached from the courthouse within about half an hour's drive. Most are accessible by bus and are nearly all are dog-friendly. See Volume 2 for a variety of shorter and urban walks.

A wide range of lodging and other visitor services are readily available throughout the region.





Urban

Region C:
Urban Corridor

16 Hammond Trail - Hiller Park

Length: 5.1 miles

Total ascent: 150 feet

Elevations: 50-100 feet

Type: 62% loop

Land management: McKinleyville Comm. Services District,

McKinleyville Land Trust

Fee: none

Access constraints: none

Dogs: leashed

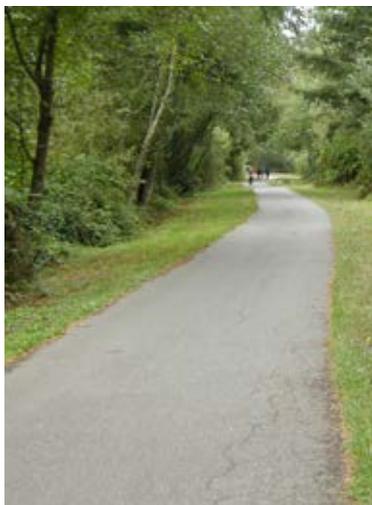
Restrooms: yes

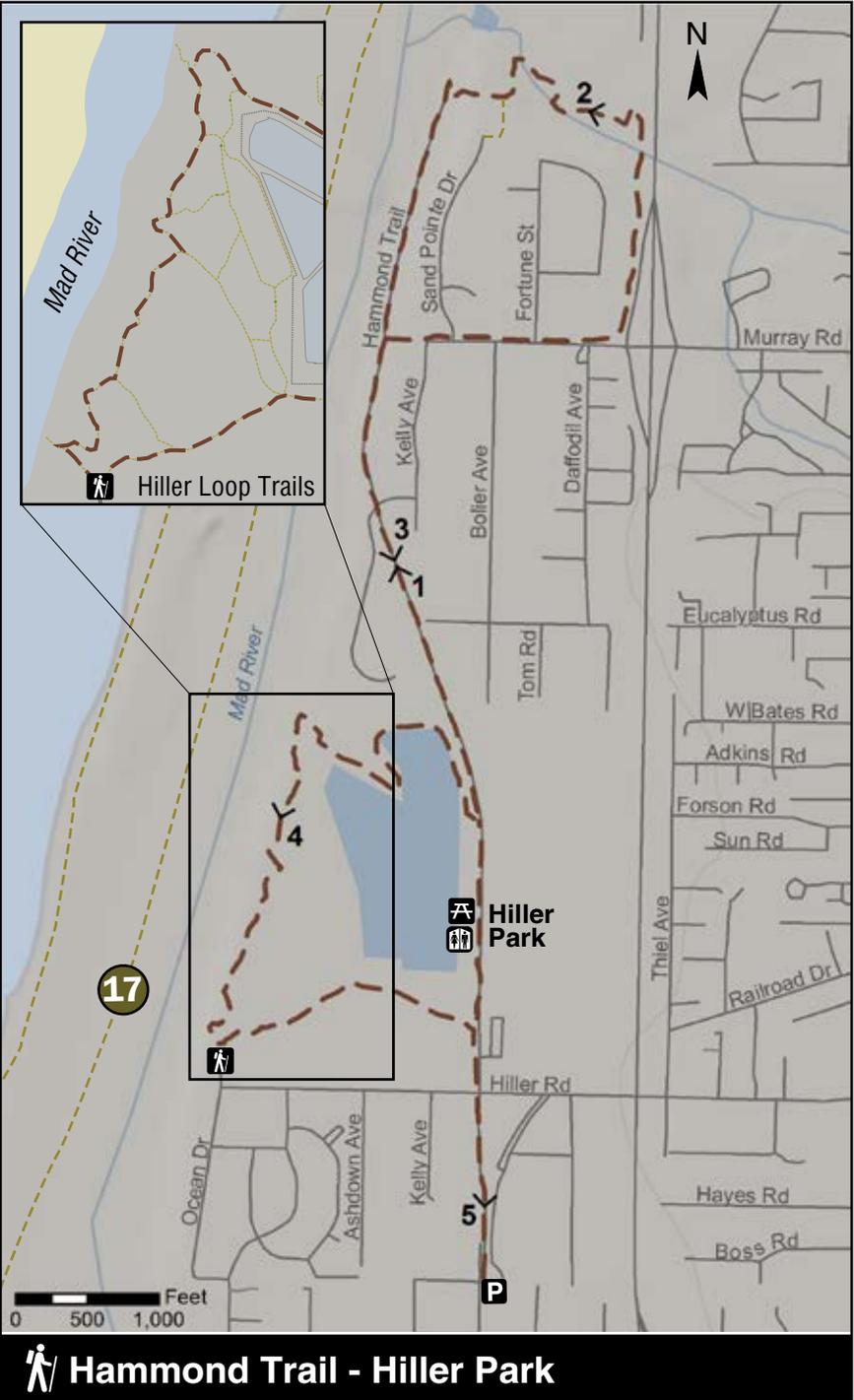
Description: The Hammond Trail and Hiller Park comprise McKinleyville's primary recreation area. The portion of the Hammond Trail selected for this hike runs through forest and neighborhoods with views of the Mad River estuary. Hiller Park offers an excellent example of the Sitka spruce forest that once covered the marine terrace that is now McKinleyville. Numerous interpretive signs along the route provide an educational diversion on this mellow, suburban hike. The Hammond Trail extends another 1.1 miles south to Mad River Road and 2.3 miles north to Clam Beach, allowing for a round-trip hike of up to 12 miles.

Getting there*: Take US 101 north 12.6 miles. Take Exit 719 (School Road) and turn left. Go 0.3 miles to a T junction and turn right on Fischer Avenue. Go 0.3 miles to Montana Road. Approximate driving time, 17 minutes.

*Redwood Transit System stops at McKinleyville High School (0.5 mile) from where the Hammond Trail leaves Murray Road at mile 1.5).

The route: Take the Hammond Trail through the yellow posts. Stay on the paved path where it turns right (1.3) and continue straight when you reach the road. Stay on the path when it veers left away from the road (1.6). Take the Hammond Trail Interpretive Footpath (1.9). Turn right at the end of the footpath onto the Hammond Trail (2.2); this returns you to the paved section. Turn right between the small bridge and the garbage can (3.4). Bear right at the first fork (3.8) onto the Bluff Trail (no sign) and again at the next fork (4.0). Turn right at the T (4.0) and again at the next junction (4.2). Turn right at a very large spruce (4.3). Go straight on the Baduwat Trail (4.4). Stay right at the next junction (4.5). Bear right at the fork (4.6) and on the Hammond Trail to return to the start.





17 Mad River Spit

Length: ~5.8 miles, depends on location of river mouth

Total ascent: 50 feet

Elevations: sea level-50 feet

Type: loop

Land management: Humboldt

County Department of Public

Works, private,
McKinleyville Land Trust

Fee: none

Access constraints: closed
midnight to 5 a.m.

Dogs: leashed

Restrooms: none

Description: The sandy spit between the Pacific Ocean and the Mad River estuary offers an easy and accessible coastal walk with excellent wildlife-viewing opportunities. The location of the river mouth is in constant flux, so walking distance varies over time. The described route goes north through vegetation behind the dunes and along the river estuary to the mouth, then back on the ocean beach, two totally different experiences only a couple of hundred yards apart.

Getting there*: Take US 101 north 9.8 miles. Take exit 716B (Giuntoli Lane/ Janes Road) and turn left on Giuntoli Lane. Go 0.2 mile and turn right onto Heindon Road. Go 0.4 mile and turn left onto Miller Lane. Go 0.8 mile to the end and turn right onto Mad River Road. Go 2.7 miles to Mad River Beach County Park at the end. Approximate driving time, 24 minutes.

*Redwood Transit System stops at Central and School (2.9 miles).

The route: Follow the sandy path from the north side of the parking lot. Stay left at the fork (0.4). The path ends at the river (0.7); continue along the riverbank or on the adjacent spit as conditions warrant. Near the end of the spit is a major harbor seal haul-out site; give the seals a wide berth – if they start moving away from you, you're too close! At the river mouth, follow the shoreline around to the ocean side and return along the beach. At the gap in the dunes opposite the parking lot (usually where most of the people are), turn left to return to your vehicle.





Urban

 Mad River Spit

18 Arcata Community Forest

Length: 6.9 miles

Total ascent: 1150 feet

Elevations: 150-1100 feet

Type: loop

Land management: City of Arcata, private

Fee: none

Access constraints: gated road

Dogs: leashed

Restrooms: nearby

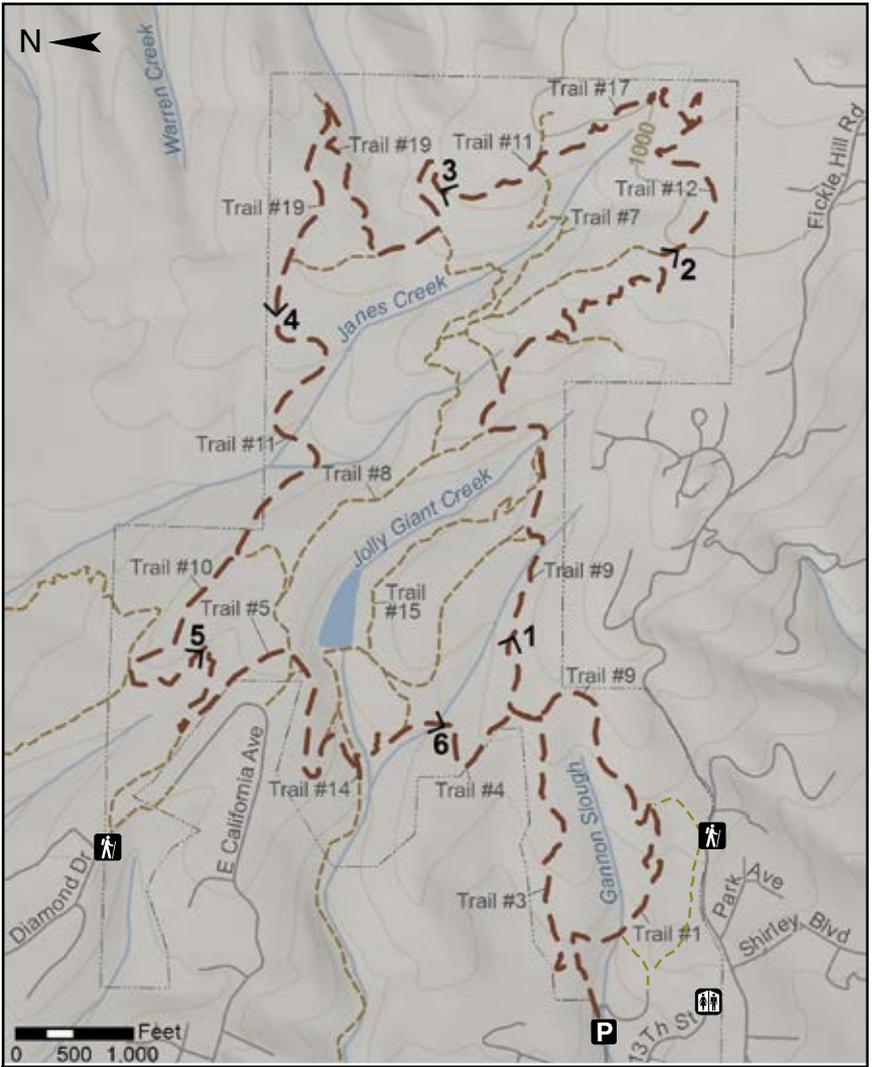
Description: The Arcata Community Forest is managed by the City of Arcata as a working forest, selectively and sustainably logged to generate revenue. As the redwood forest most accessible to the majority of county residents, it is frequently used by hikers, runners, cyclists, dog walkers, and horse riders. Its 11-mile network of trails and service roads offers a wide variety of routes; the one presented here circumnavigates the forest. ACF trails have both numbers and names but only the numbers are shown on trail markers and used here.

Getting there*: Take US 101 north 7.5 miles. Take Exit 714A (14th Street) and turn right onto 14th Street, which becomes Park Drive after crossing Union Street. Go 0.5 mile to the trailhead at the first sharp bend; if the gate at the base of Park Drive is closed, park outside and walk the last 0.2 mile. Approximate driving time, 12 minutes.

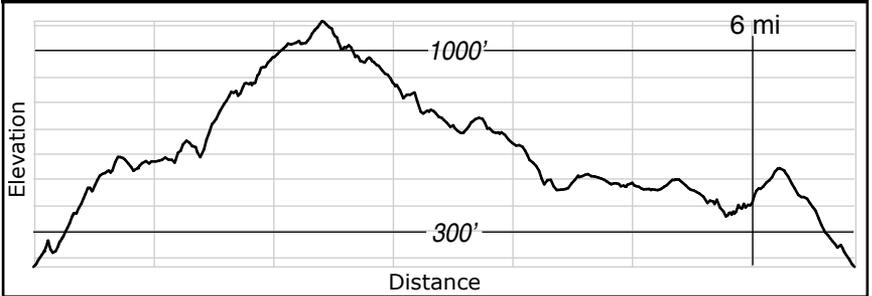
*Redwood Transit System stops at 14th and B (0.3 mile from the trailhead); Arcata & Mad River Transit System stops at 14th and Union (0.2 mile).

The route: Go uphill on trail #3. Go straight onto #2 (0.1) and onto #1 (0.2). Turn left at the T on #9 (no sign, 0.5). Bear right at the fork onto #8 (1.2). Turn right onto #12 (1.5) and onto #13 (1.5). Turn right at the T back onto #12 (2.0). At the four-way junction (2.4), stay to the right; you'll return to this point shortly. Turn right onto #17 (2.5). Turn left at the T onto #11 (2.8). Turn right onto #19 (3.3). Go straight on #11 (no sign, 3.9). Bear right on #10 (4.6). Turn left to stay on #10 (4.8). Turn left onto #5 (5.2). Turn right onto #8 (5.4). Take the first right (5.7). Take the first left and then immediately turn right onto #4 (5.8). Turn right at the T onto #9 (6.2) and then the second right onto #3 (6.3). At the four-way junction (6.7), turn left to stay on #3 and then stay to the right at the junction with #2 to return to the starting point.





 **Arcata Community Forest**



19 Arcata Marsh

Length: 5.0 miles

Total ascent: flat

Elevations: sea level

Type: 74% loop

Land management: City of
Arcata

Fee: none

Access constraints: closed at
night

Dogs: leashed

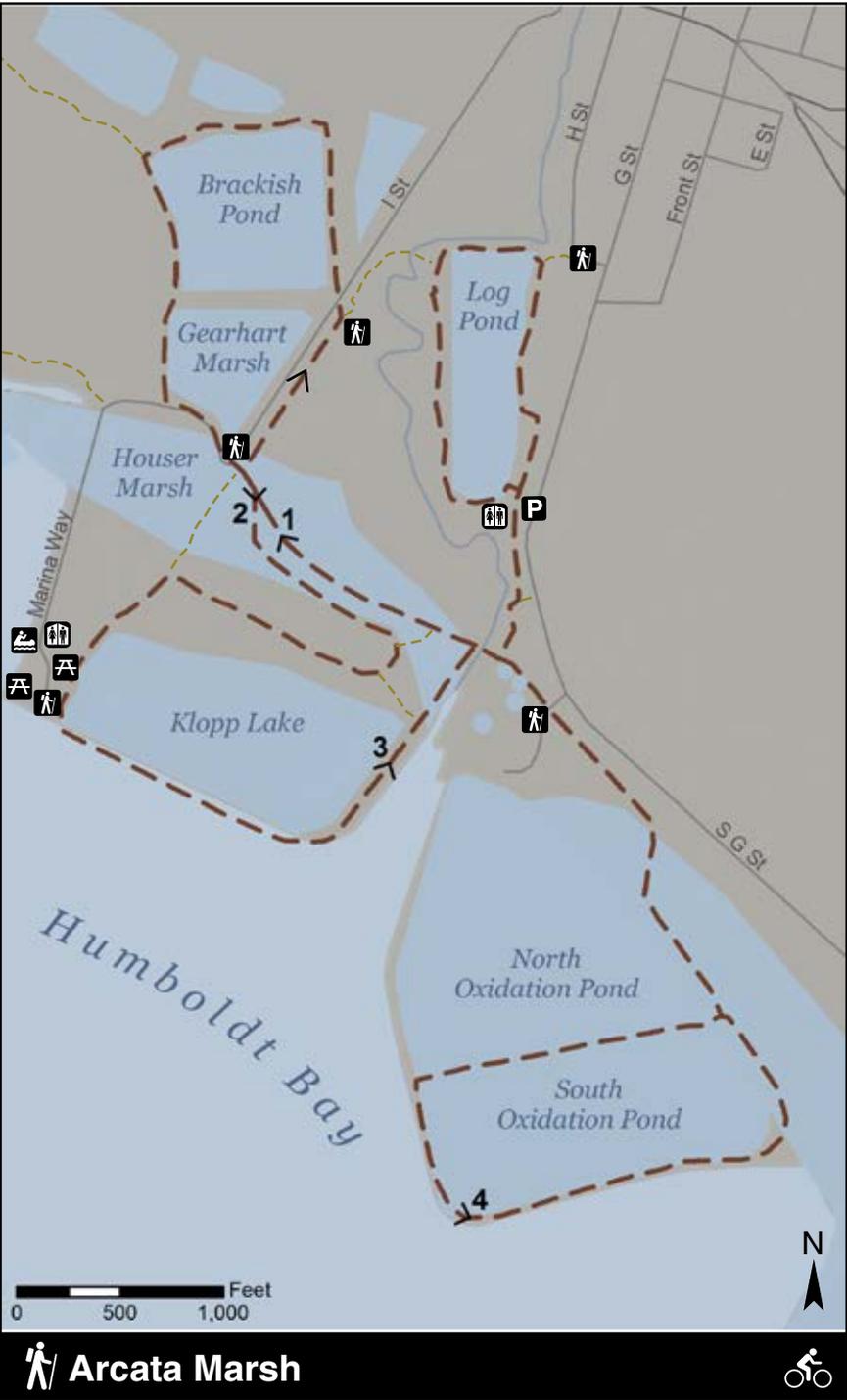
Restrooms: yes

Description: The world-famous Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary serves as one of the region's most popular recreation areas and important wildlife resources. In addition to the birds and people it attracts, it is also Arcata's wastewater treatment facility! Converted from an industrial site in the 1980s, this facility pioneered the integration of natural processes into wastewater treatment. Every day of the year hundreds of people including walkers, joggers, bicyclists, and birders enjoy the marsh. This hike—one of the shortest in the book and arguably the best for wildlife, especially birds—takes in virtually the entire site with relatively little backtracking. While trails are unnamed, all skirt well-known landmarks

Getting there*: Take US 101 north 6.7 miles. Take exit 713 (SR 255/Arcata/Sunny Brae) and go straight at the first fork and right at the second onto SR 255. Take the first left onto South G St. Go 0.5 mile and turn right at the Coastal Access sign into a parking lot. Approximate driving time, 12 minutes.

*Redwood and Arcata & Mad River Transit Systems stop at 6th & F, 5th and G, or 6th and H, depending on route and direction.

The route: Take the trail heading west (away from G St.) at the northwest corner of the parking lot and immediately turn right to begin a counter-clockwise circuit of the Log Pond, turning left at miles 0.2 and 0.3. Pass the Interpretive Center (0.6), which has restrooms, on the right; turn right at a four-way junction; then turn right again near the parking lot to parallel G St. Turn right at the next two Ts (0.7 and 0.8) and cross Butcher Slough. Turn right just before South I Street (1.1). Angle across the street (1.3) and proceed counter-clockwise around Brackish Pond, bearing left at 1.7. Turn left at South I St (1.9), then go straight where I St. turns left (1.9). Bear right (2.0) to begin a clockwise circuit of Mt. Trashmore, turning right at 2.3. At the southwest corner of the field (2.5), turn left, passing Hauser Marsh on the right and Klopp Lake on the left. Turn left at the bay-shore levee (2.7) to circle the lake. Turn right at the T (3.2), retrace your route over Butcher Slough, and go straight past the treatment plant. Cross the plant driveway (3.3) and go through a small parking lot onto the trail to the oxidation ponds. Turn right (3.6) to circle the south oxidation pond. Finish the loop (4.5) and backtrack to the treatment plant. Turn right (4.9) and return to the starting point.



20 Manila Dunes to Ma-le'l Dunes

Length: 6.6 miles	Land Management, US Fish & Wildlife Service
Total ascent: 150 feet	Fee: none
Elevations: sea level-50 feet	Access constraints: none
Type: 91% loop	Dogs: no
Land management: Friends of the Dunes, private, Bureau of	Restrooms: yes

Description: The Samoa Peninsula's dune system is one of the most interesting and unusual environments in the region. It is a dynamic landscape that, through restoration efforts like the removal of invasive European beach grass, is returning to its natural splendor. This hike traverses both old, forested dunes and young, sparsely- or un-vegetated ones; both support unique and distinctive plant communities. The hike starts at Friends of the Dunes' Humboldt Coastal Nature Center, which is well worth a visit in its own right. The southern (HCNC) trail junctions are marked but the trail names are not indicated but the northern (federal) ones are color coded.

Getting there*: Take US 101 north 0.4 miles. Turn left on SR-255 and follow it 4.5 miles. Turn left on Stamps Lane, go 0.2 miles, and bear left to the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center. Approximate driving time, 9 minutes.

*Redwood Transit System stops at Lupin and Peninsula (0.8 mile).

The route: Take the road leading towards the nature center from the parking lot. From the end of the handicapped/staff parking lot, take the Back Dune Trail. Continue straight onto the Back Loop Trail at the first junction (0.1). Stay right at the next junction, then left at the following one (0.3) and the one after (0.4). Turn left at the next junction onto the Ridge Trail, then immediately right. Go straight at the four-way junction (0.7) onto the South Beach Access Trail. Turn right at the beach (0.8). Turn right on the Kimuk Trail (2.5). Turn left at the end of the Kimuk Trail onto the Tsoutsgish Trail (3.0); restrooms are a short distance to the right. Pass the first Dap Loop junction (3.3); turning left here shortens the hike by about 0.1 mile. Turn left at the second Dap Loop junction (3.4). Turn right on the Hout Trail (3.7). Turn left at the beach (4.2) and again on the Lutguk Trail, marked with green blazes (4.7). Turn left on the Du'k Loop Trail (5.1), following the green blazes. Turn right on an unsigned trail in the forest (5.4) and right again at its end (5.5). Turn right at the parking lot and continue on the Ledik Trail. Turn right at the T on the Lutguk Trail (5.7) and then quickly left at a 4-way junction (5.8). Turn left at concrete pillar 80 onto the Wildberries Trail (6.2). Turn left at the next junction (6.3) to return to the nature center.



Urban

 **Manila Dunes to Ma-l'el Dunes**

21 Bucksport to King Salmon

Length: 7.1 miles

Total ascent: flat

Elevations: sea level

Type: 18% loop; vehicle access at both ends

Land ownership: City of Eureka, North Coast Rail Authority, Pacific Gas & Electric, Hum-

boldt County Public Works

Fee: none

Access constraints: Gates at miles 2.8 and 3.0 (outbound) may be closed and locked

Dogs: leashed on Hikshari' Trail, otherwise no restrictions

Restrooms: yes

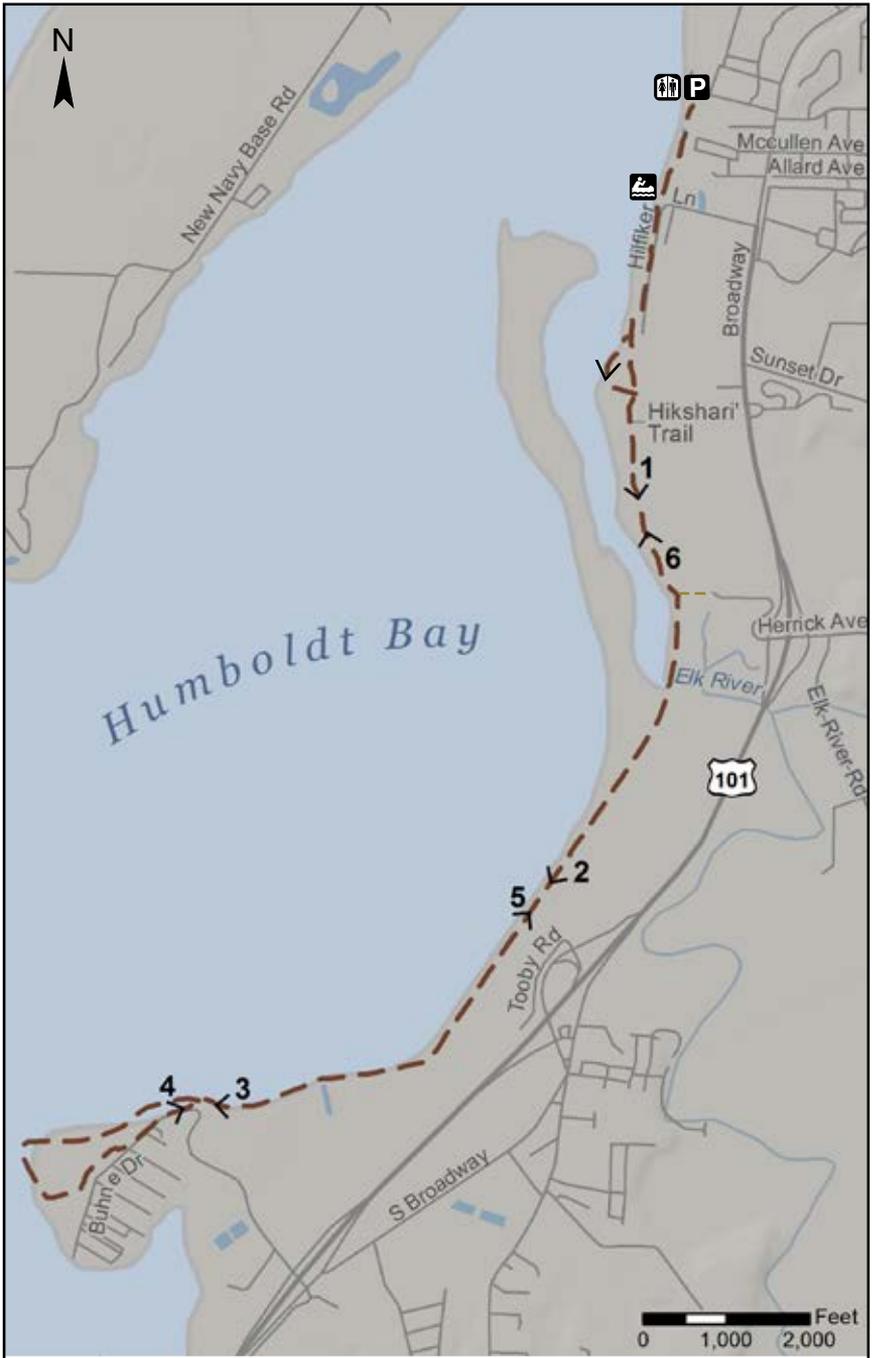
Description: Despite its quasi-urban setting, this hike feels remarkably wild in places. It starts near the mouth of the Elk River, the Humboldt Bay watershed's largest stream, on the new and popular Hikshari' Trail, and follows the river before heading down the bay-shore. It passes a wide variety of habitats, including estuary, willow thickets, pastures, wetlands, bay, and dunes. The route offers excellent birding opportunities and a spotting scope will make the birding, if not the hiking, more rewarding. The unpaved portions of the route present a rather challenging mix of loose gravel, cobbles, rocks, sand, and decommissioned train tracks. Spur trails offer numerous opportunities to explore.

Getting there*: Take US 101 south 2.7 miles. Turn right on Truesdale Street, go 0.2 miles, and turn left into the public parking lot. Approximate driving time, 10 minutes.

*Eureka and Redwood Transit Systems stop at Broadway and McCullens (0.3 mile).

The route: Take the paved Hikshari' Trail from the end of the parking lot. Turn right onto the Melvin "Cappy" McKinney Memorial Loop Trail (0.5). Turn right again back at the Hikshari' Trail (0.8). Turn right at the train tracks (1.3) and walk on or alongside them as conditions warrant. Turn right on a gravel path paralleling the north breakwater (2.6). Bear right on the path through the dunes (3.1), then bear left on the beach. Turn left onto the path along the south breakwater (3.5). Turn left onto a grassy path (3.6) and follow it, paralleling Buhne Drive, until it returns to the original trail at the base of the north breakwater (4.1). Return to the start, staying on the Hikshari' Trail.





Urban

 **Bucksport to King Salmon** 

22 Eel River Spit

Length: 9.0 miles

Total ascent: 50 feet

Elevations: sea level

Type: loop

Land ownership: Humboldt

County Department of Public
Works, California Department

of Fish and Wildlife

Fee: none

Access constraints: closed
midnight to 5 a.m.

Dogs: leashed in parking lot;
otherwise, no restrictions

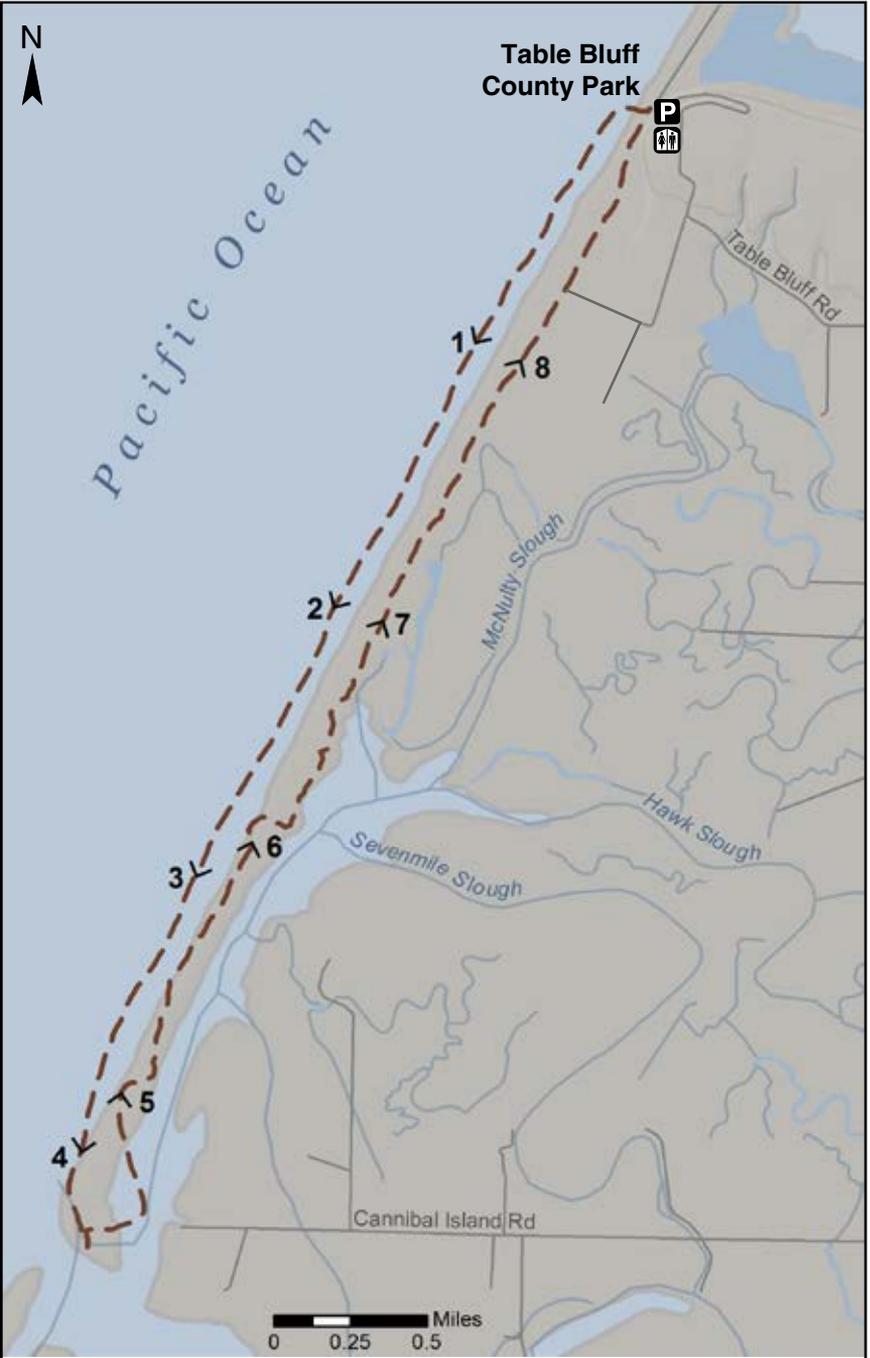
Restrooms: yes

Description: This long, sandy spit extends from Table Bluff south to the mouth of the Eel River. Few people hike the whole spit and most of those who reach the tip usually do so on horseback or by 4WD. Walking one way on the beach and the other behind the dunes provides two totally different experiences. Most of the spit lies within the state-owned Eel River Wildlife Area. Winter is the best season for birds.

Getting there: Take US 101 south 10.6 miles. Take exit 696 (Hookton Road) and go straight onto Hookton Road; this becomes Table Bluff Road and then South Jetty Road. Go 5.6 miles and turn left into the Table Bluff County Park parking lot. Approximate driving time, 28 minutes.

The route: From the end of the parking lot, cut over to the beach. Turn left and walk to the mouth of the Eel River (4.3). Follow the shoreline around the tip of the spit. On the far side of a small cove (5.1), look for the beginning of a sandy jeep track and follow it back to the parking lot.





Urban

 **Eel River Spit** 

23 Headwaters Forest

Length: 10.7 miles

Total ascent: 1700 feet

Elevations: 100-1350 feet

Type: 8% loop

Land ownership: Bureau of
Land Management

Fee: none

Access constraints: none

Dogs: voice control, first
three miles only

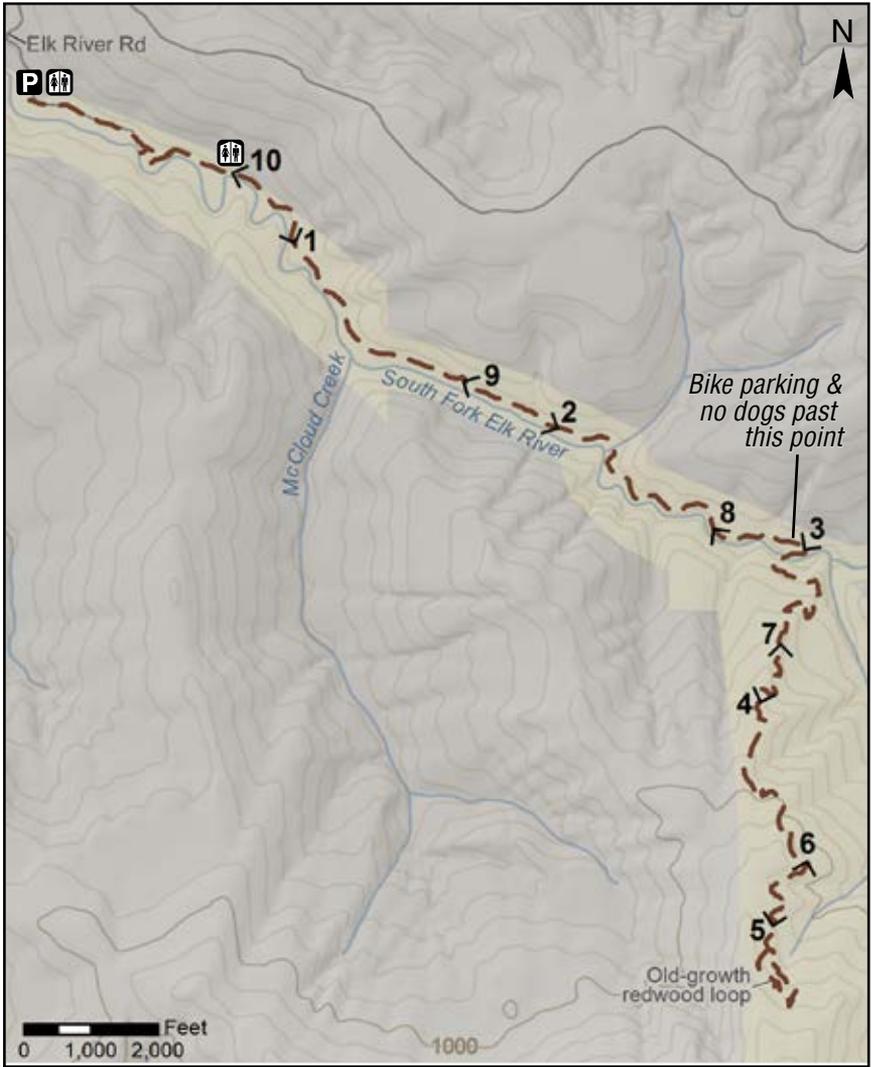
Restrooms: yes

Description: The Headwaters Forest Reserve is one of Humboldt's newer protected areas. Acquired in 1999 from Pacific Lumber Company after 15 years of tree sits and other protests of the company's logging practices, it is now the only designated forest reserve in the U.S. Most of it was logged while under private ownership and the vast majority is still closed to the public. This hike utilizes all the trails in the reserve accessible without a reservation. It follows the course of the South Fork Elk River through regenerating redwood and maple forest before climbing to a small old-growth redwood stand, passing rehabilitated roadbeds en route. Numerous interpretive signs along the way tell the story of the area's ecology and cultural history.

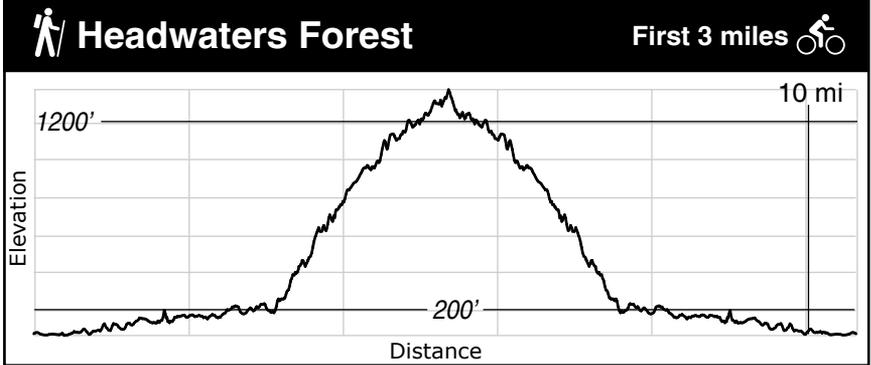
Getting there: Take US 101 south 3.8 miles. Take Exit 702 (Herrick Avenue/Elk River Road) and turn left onto Herrick Avenue. Go 0.1 mile and turn right onto Elk River Road. Follow Elk River Road as it turns right in 1.6 miles and again 3.3 miles farther. Go another 0.9 mile to the Headwaters parking lot at the end of the road (5.8 miles from Herrick). Approximate driving time, 21 minutes.

The route: Take the Elk River Trail. Turn right at the Quest box (0.4). Turn right again back at the Elk River Trail (0.5). Turn right on the Little South Fork Elk River Trail (3.3). Turn right on the loop trail (5.1). After completing the loop (5.6), take the Little South Fork Elk River and Elk River trails back to the trailhead.





Urban



24 Fortuna Riverfront

Length: 7.2 miles

Total ascent: 50 feet

Elevations: 50 feet

Type: 12% loop

Land ownership: Hum. Co. Pub.

Works Department, private

Fee: none

Access constraints: none

Dogs: leashed

Restrooms: yes

Description: This is the only substantial off-road walk in the Fortuna area and is a popular destination for residents of the Eel River Valley. It offers pleasant views of the lower Eel River valley and passes an interesting mix of industrial, commercial, and agricultural land usages. The riparian forest at the south end is characteristic of the region's large streams. This is an excellent hike for bird-watching.

Getting there*: Take US 101 south 18.3 miles. Take Exit 688 (12th Street). Go straight at the stop sign onto Riverwalk Drive and park just beyond the first driveway on the right (about 300 feet from the stop sign). Approximate driving time, 21 minutes.

*Redwood Transit System stops at the Fortuna Overlook (a mile into the hike).

The route: Go down the driveway and bear left at the gravel plant entrance towards the orange gate. At the end of the gravel path (2.1), continue on the paved driveway/road parallel to the river. Take the gravel path at the orange gate on the right (2.2). At the end of the path (3.1), turn right. After going around a bend to the left, stay left at the fork (3.2). Turn left at the next T (3.6) and right at the following one (4.0) and backtrack to the start.





Urban

 **Fortuna Riverfront** 

25 Russ Park

Length: 5.2 miles

Total ascent: 1550 feet

Elevations: 50-650 feet

Type: 40% loop

Land ownership: City of

Ferndale

Fee: none

Access constraints: none

Dogs: leashed

Restrooms: none

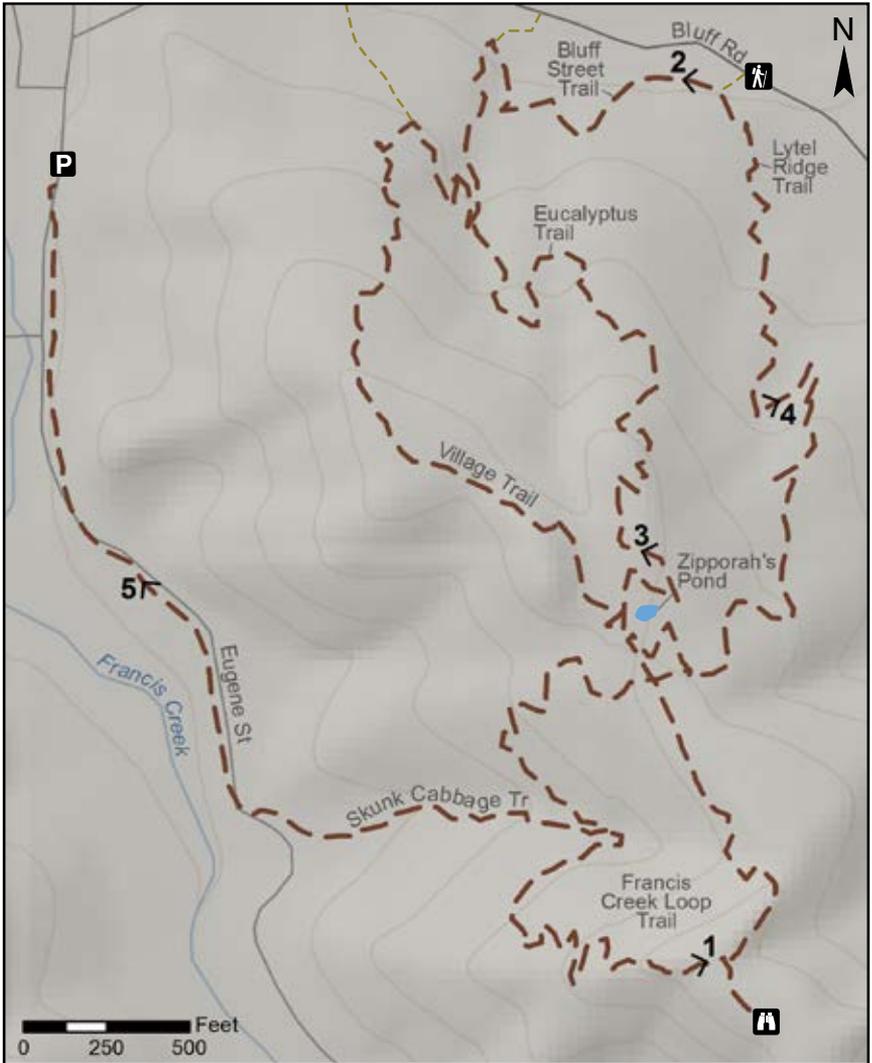
Description: Draped over the ridge on the south side of Ferndale, Russ Park protects one of Humboldt's best examples of diverse coastal coniferous forest. Donated to the City in 1920 by Zipporah Russ, a member of one of Ferndale's founding families, it offers a sense of wildness within city limits. Along the way you will enjoy outstanding views of the town, the Eel River floodplain, and forests to the south. There are some impressive specimens of Sitka spruce and grand fir on the hillsides. This hike utilizes almost of the park's trails, climbing the ridge by three different routes.

Getting there: Take US 101 south 14.3 miles and take Exit 692 (Fernbridge/Ferndale). Turn right at the stop sign onto Singley Road and go 0.5 miles. Turn right onto CA 211 (this becomes Main Street, then Francis Street) and go 4.8 miles. Turn left on Eugene Street and go 0.4 miles to Lorenzen Drive on the left. Turn around and double back a short distance to the pullout on the right. Approximate driving time, 27 minutes.

The route: Continue out Eugene Street, ignoring the "No Trespassing" signs (0.2). Bear left outside the gate (0.4) and follow the fence away from the road. Go through the next gate (0.5) and into the park on the Skunk Cabbage Trail. Turn right onto the Francis Creek Loop Trail (0.7). Turn right onto the spur trail to Bunker Hill Viewpoint (1.0). Return to the Francis Creek Loop Trail (1.1) and turn right. Go through the four-way junction and take the next right (1.3). Turn right onto the Eucalyptus Trail and then left onto the Lytel Ridge Trail (1.4). Take the next left (1.9) onto the Bluff Street Trail and the following left (2.1) onto the Eucalyptus Trail. Take the next right (2.3) and then the next left (2.4) onto the Village Trail. Take the next two lefts (2.9) onto the Eucalyptus Trail. Stay right at the next three junctions (3.4, 3.6, and 3.8), backtracking on the Eucalyptus, Bluff Street, and Lytel Ridge trails. Take the next left (4.3), then go straight through the original four-way junction onto the Daddy Bush Trail. Turn right onto the Skunk Cabbage Trail (4.6) and return to the start.

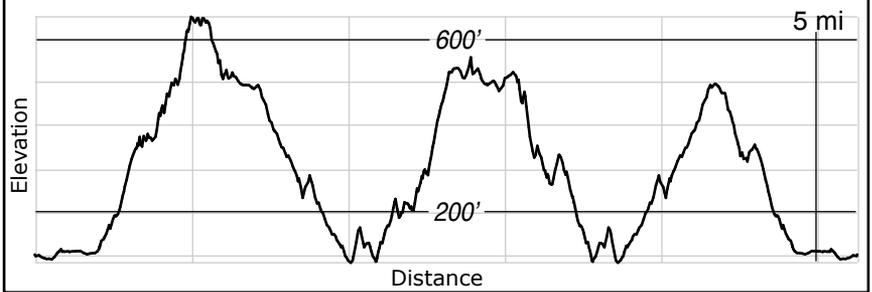


Fetid Adder's Tongue



Urban

 **Russ Park**



26 Eel River Estuary Preserve

Length: 8.5 miles

Total ascent: flat

Elevations: sea level

Type: 67% loop

Land management: The

Wildlands Conservancy

Fee: none

Access constraints:

reservation required, tides

Dogs: leashed

Restrooms: yes

Description: This private preserve, established in 2011 by the Wildlands Conservancy, incorporates 1,100 acres of grassland, marshes, dunes, beach, and river frontage. In winter, it is a fantastic place for birds, especially waterfowl and raptors. Preexisting uses, such as grazing and waterfowl hunting continue under lease, while restoration and visitor infrastructure development projects are underway. This hike covers virtually the entire trail system, some of which follows old, overgrown ranch tracks to the Eel River. I have tacked on some beach walking as well. The east side of the north loop is impassable at high tide and likely to be soggy at other times. The preserve is open only by reservation; call 707-672-4725.

Getting there: Take US 101 south 14.3 miles and take Exit 692 (Fernbridge/Ferndale). Turn right at the stop sign onto Singley Road and go 0.5 miles. Turn right onto CA 211 (this becomes Main Street) and go 4.8 miles. Turn right onto Bluff Street, which becomes Ocean Avenue and Centerville Road. Go 2.6 miles and turn right onto Russ Lane. Go 0.7 mile to the gate, which you will need to open and then close behind yourself, and continue to the office building to check in. Approximate driving time, 32 minutes.

The route: Head north on the road between the office and restrooms. Turn right at the T just past the second bridge (1.4) to circle the Inner Marsh; skipping this loop shortens the hike by 1.7 miles and small groups can park here. Upon reaching the dunes (3.1), make a hairpin right on a well-defined track. This ends at a dune blowout (3.4); continue along the edge of the slough on a poorly-defined path, roughly following the "Private Property" signs and bearing left at a huge redwood stump (3.8). Bear left away from the slough at a fork (4.1), then continue more or less straight where the path returns to the slough (4.4). At a small bluff overlooking the Eel River (4.7), turn left and cross the dunes to the beach (4.8). Turn left and go down the beach, past the blowout, before turning left (6.5) back to the Inner Marsh road (6.7). Turn right and return to the junction at the second bridge (7.1). Turn right to return to the office.



Urban

Region D: King Range

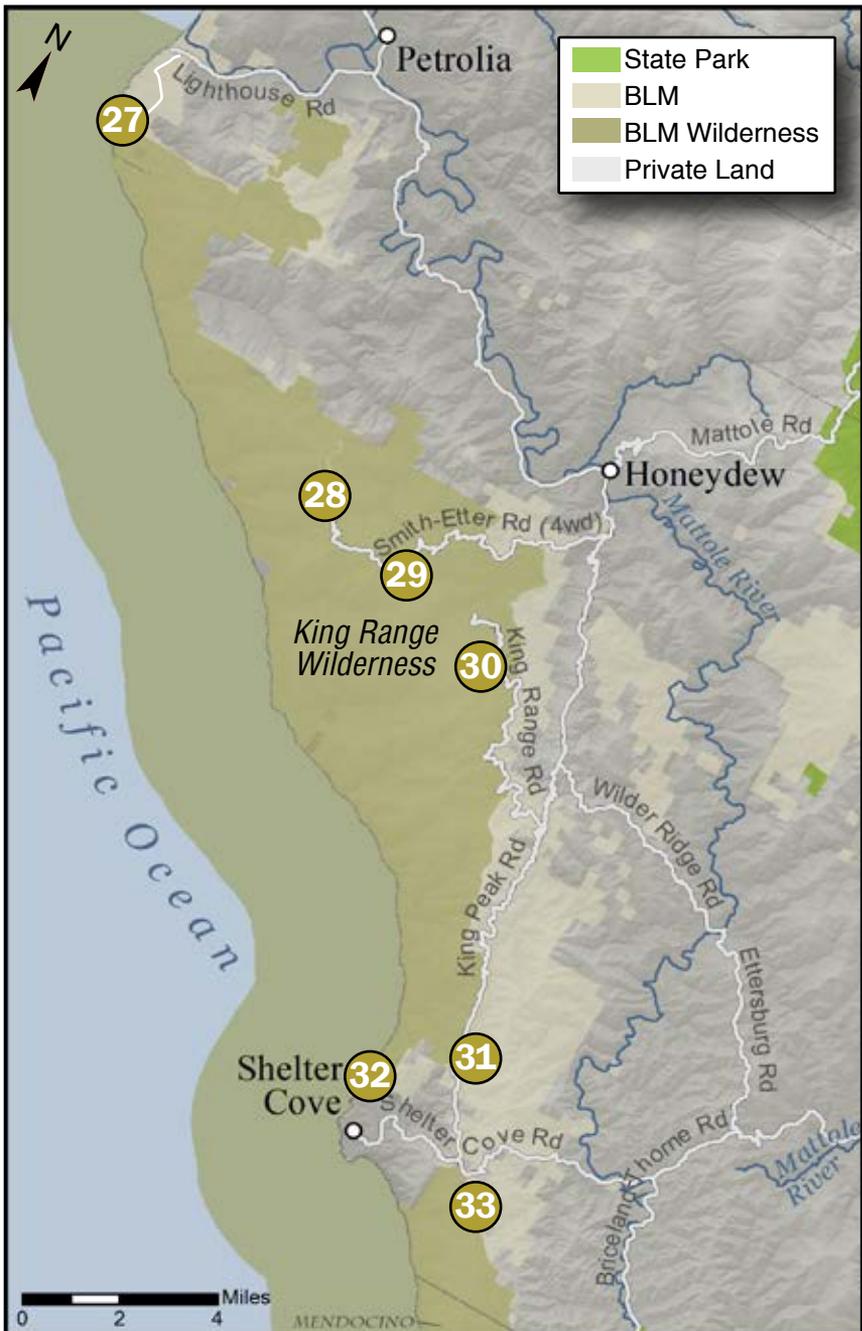
The BLM's King Range National Conservation Area is a 60,000-acre wonderland of streams, mountain peaks, and wild coastline which, through thoughtful conservation efforts, has emerged from formerly private timber- and rangelands. This rugged and remote mountain range sits in the middle of the area known as the Lost Coast in the sparsely populated southwest corner of Humboldt County, with only a few roads that traverse the region. In fact, the terrain forced the abandonment of plans to extend SR-1 from Fort Bragg to Ferndale. The famous Lost Coast Trail extends 25 miles from Shelter Cove to the Mattole River and has been called one of the best backpacking trips in the United States. Congress recognized the area's significance and designated it the nation's first National Conservation Area in 1970; wilderness designation followed for much of the region—including adjacent ocean—in 2006.

The position of the King Range relative to the ocean and nearby Mattole River valley produce a climate more typical of areas farther inland and farther south. Hot, dry interior winds are funneled over the range, often holding coastal fog offshore. The plant and animal communities have responded accordingly; redwoods are virtually absent and large trees grow only along streams and on a few north-facing slopes. Large expanses of chaparral support species such as Eastwood's manzanita, western rattlesnake, and California thrasher that are rare or absent elsewhere in the county but common farther south. The combination of frequent earthquakes and the erosive force of the Pacific Ocean's winter storms produces one of the most dynamic landscapes in North America.

The KRNCA has almost 100 miles of trail, much of it too far from trailheads to be included in a day-hiking guide. The seven routes presented here are scattered throughout the NCA and do not require a car shuttle; most are also accessible without 4WD. Distances here are deceptive, grades are steep and often slippery, trails are sometimes poorly defined or are simply beaches, and stream crossings may not have bridges. As the BLM's trail map puts it: "miles in the King Range do not come easy, so be well prepared and allow plenty of time."

The KRNCA headquarters is on Shelter Cove Road near the town of Whitethorn. There are numerous campgrounds in and around the KRNCA. Limited lodging and other services are available in the nearby towns of Petrolia, Honeydew, and Shelter Cove.





Region D:
King Range

27

Cooskie Creek - Punta Gorda

BLM

Length: 10.8 miles**Total ascent:** 3200 feet**Elevations:** sea level-2350 feet**Type:** 87% loop**Land management:** Bureau of

Land Management

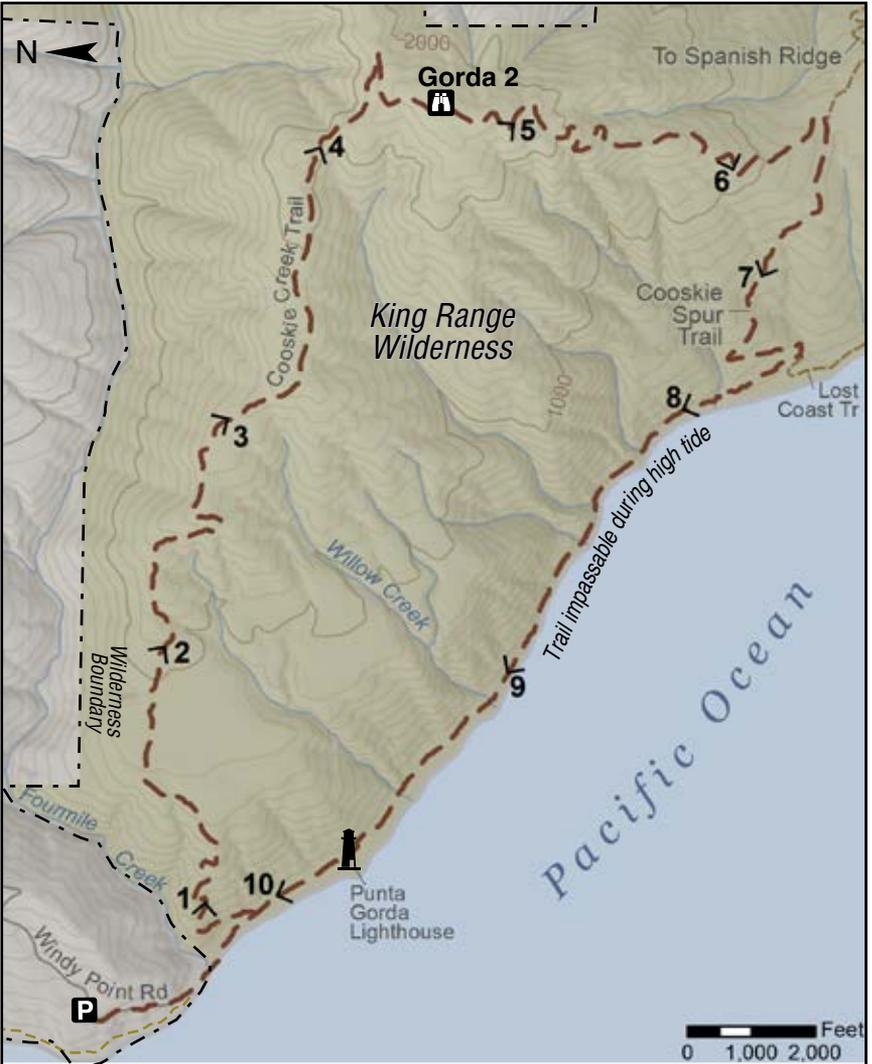
Fee: none**Access constraints:** winter road closure, rough road, high tides**Dogs:** in sight and under voice control**Restrooms:** none

Description: This is one of those Lost Coast hikes that really can make you feel lost. The Cooskie Creek Trail is seldom used, under-maintained, and sometimes hard to follow. From the beach it rises steeply, then more gradually, through gloomy Douglas-fir forest and sun-baked prairie, finally topping out at a peak called Gorda 2. The descent back to the beach is knee-jarring and slippery. The return leg up the coast is mostly rocky and challenging and there is a tough climb at the end. The payoff? Solitude, outstanding views, a historic lighthouse, and a sense of accomplishment. What more could anyone ask of a hike? The recommended direction for the loop is clockwise, but the tide schedule may necessitate counterclockwise.

Getting there: Take US 101 south 14.3 miles and take Exit 692 (Fernbridge/Ferndale). Turn right at the stop sign onto Singley Road and go 0.5 mile. Turn right onto CA 211 (this becomes Main Street) and go 4.8 miles. Turn right onto Ocean Avenue, then immediately left onto Wildcat Avenue/Mattole Road towards Petrolia. Go 29.8 miles and turn right onto Lighthouse Road. Go 4.4 miles and turn left onto Prosper Ridge Road (unsigned). Go 2.3 miles and turn right onto Windy Point Road (also unsigned). (Windy Point Road requires 4WD and high clearance and is closed November through March and otherwise during rainy periods.) Go 1.6 miles to the end. Approximate driving time, 2 hours 15 minutes.

The route: Follow the old road from the northwest corner of the parking area down to the shore (0.3) and turn left onto the Lost Coast Trail. Turn left onto the Cooskie Creek Trail (0.7). (This junction is unsigned and easy to miss; the trail makes a hairpin left up an old road grade that angles back toward the trailhead and is visible from the beach.) On the way to Gorda 2 (4.8), bypass several unsigned trails branching off to the right. Turn right onto the Cooskie Spur Trail (6.4). Turn right onto the Lost Coast Trail (7.6). Close the loop (10.1) and return to the start.





King Range

 **Cooskie Creek - Punta Gorda**



Length: 12.9 miles

Total ascent: 3250 feet

Elevations: 50-2450 feet

Type: loop

Land management: Bureau of

Land Management

Fee: none

Access constraints: road closure, rough road

Dogs: in sight and under voice control

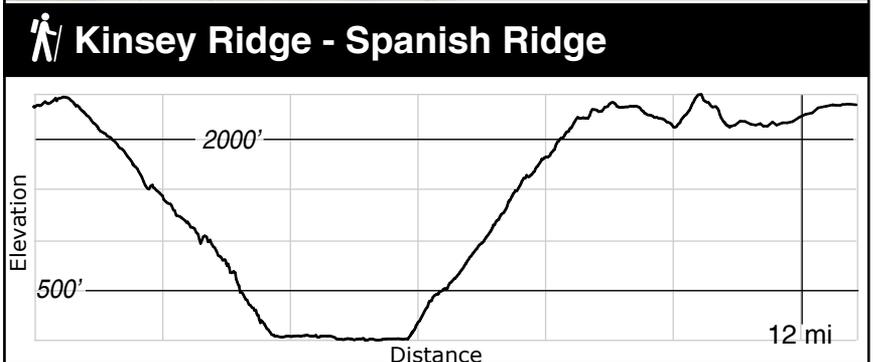
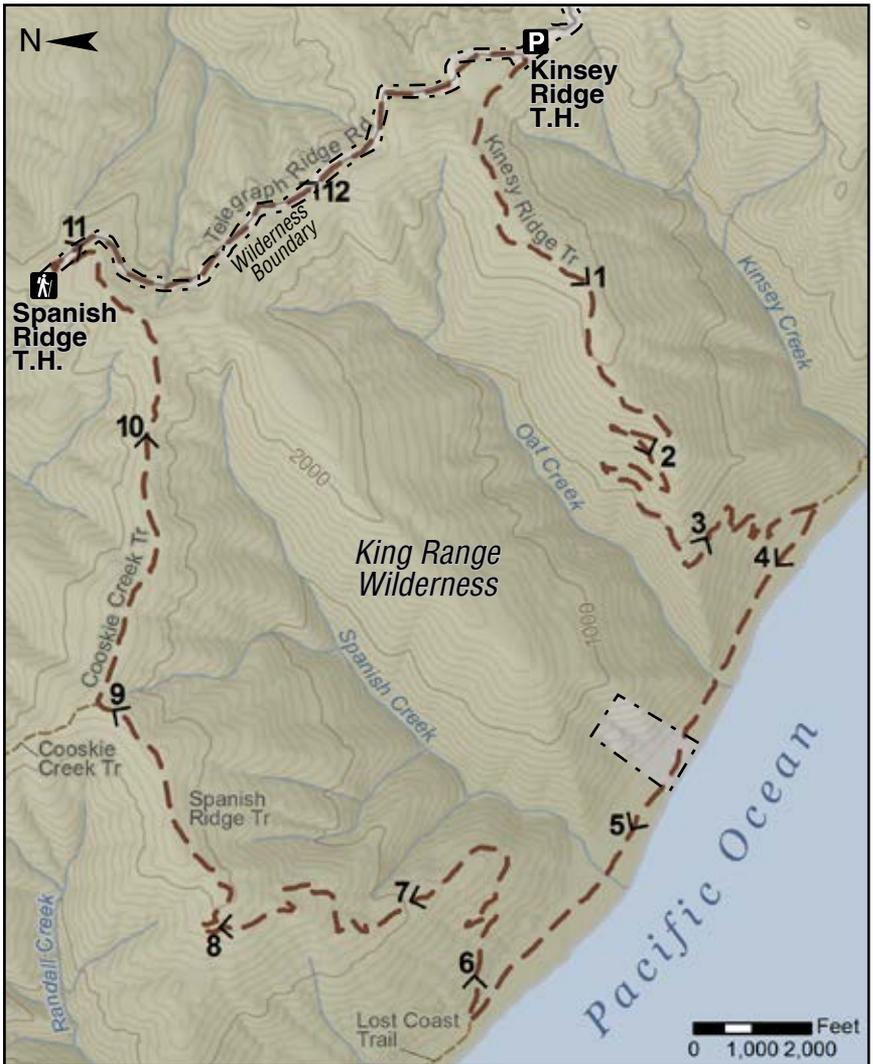
Restrooms: none

Description: This hike has it all: awesome views, beach access, wildlife, wildflowers, and just about every habitat to be found in the King Range. However, access to this beauty comes at the price of an uninterrupted 2400-foot climb over 3.2 miles. The descent to the coast is on a fire road through thick forest, while the climb back up is through brush-fields and grassland on paths that are sometimes barely discernible. You may find yourself in thick fog on the slopes, under it on the coast, and above it on the ridge. The two miles along the Lost Coast Trail are above the beach and passable at any tide.

Getting there: Take US 101 south 42.5 miles. Take Exit 663 (South Fork/Honeydew) and turn right onto Bull Creek Road. Go 20.9 miles to Honeydew and turn left onto Wilder Ridge Road. Go 1.7 miles and turn right just before Landergeren Road on Smith Etter Road (no sign). (Smith Etter Road requires 4WD and high clearance and is closed in winter.) Go 10.2 miles to Kinsey Ridge Trailhead on the left. Approximate driving time, 2 hours 22 minutes.

The route: Take the gated Kinsey Ridge Fire Road to its end and turn right onto the Lost Coast Trail (3.8). Turn right onto the Spanish Ridge Trail (5.9), which doubles sharply back to the south as it begins its ascent; the first mile is obscure and brushy, so be prepared to get wet. Stay right at the unsigned T (7.7). Bear right at the junction with the Cooskie Creek Trail (9.1). From the Spanish Ridge Trailhead (10.9), follow Telegraph Ridge Road back to your starting point.





29 Miller Loop

Length: 6.1 miles

Total ascent: 2200 feet

Elevations: 2400-3350 feet

Type: 46% loop

Land management: Bureau of

Land Management

Fee: none

Access constraints: road closure, rough road

Dogs: in sight and under voice control

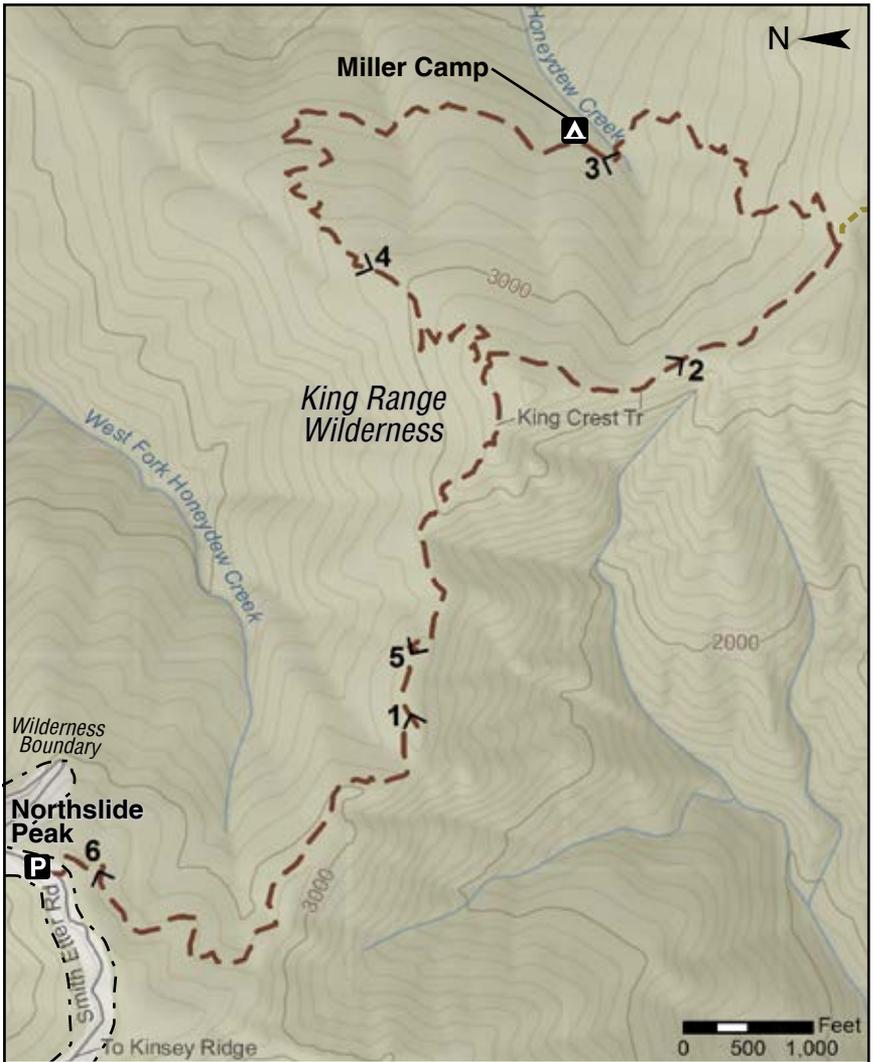
Restrooms: none

Description: The north end of the King Crest Trail provides intermittent, breathtaking views to the east and west as well as south to King Peak as it passes through various vegetation types including extensive stands of fire-touched chaparral and madrone forest. The trail is narrow and steep in some places, with dramatic drop-offs. About half the hike is the Miller Loop, which descends steeply to Miller Spring at the headwaters of Honeydew Creek. The burned areas are loaded with wildflowers in spring and summer; keep watch for rattlesnakes in warm weather.

Getting there: Take US 101 south 42.5 miles. Take Exit 663 (South Fork/Honeydew) and turn right onto Bull Creek Road. Go 20.9 miles to Honeydew and turn left onto Wilder Ridge Road. Go 1.7 miles and turn right just before Landerger Road onto Smith Etter Road (no sign). (Smith Etter Road requires 4WD and high clearance and is closed in winter). Go 7.8 miles to Northslide Peak Trailhead on the left. Approximate driving time, 2 hours 13 minutes.

The route: The trail starts just beyond the parking area. Turn left at the second Miller Loop junction (2.3). Turn left away from Miller Camp towards Miller Spring (3.0) and then right towards the King Crest Trail. Turn right onto the King Crest Trail (4.4) and return to the trailhead.





 **Miller Loop**



30 King Peak

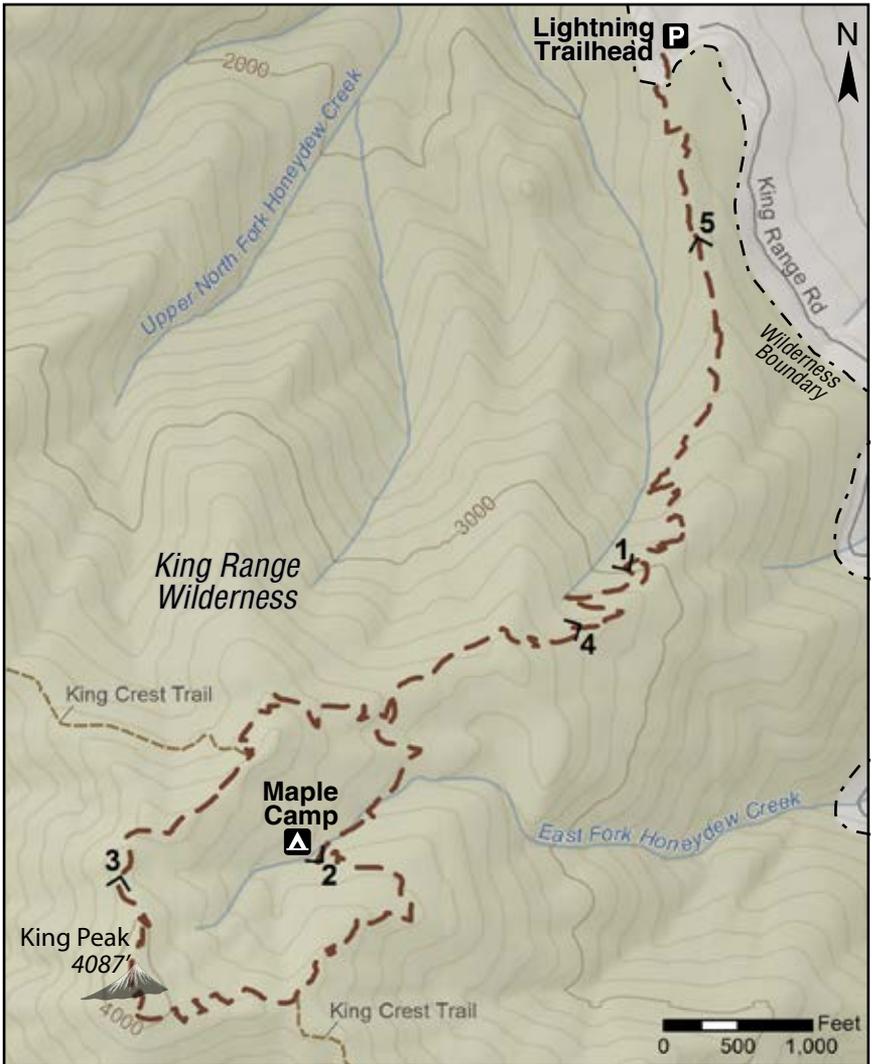
Length: 5.3 miles	Fee: none
Total ascent: 1950 feet	Access constraints: snow, road conditions
Elevations: 2200-4050 feet	Dogs: in sight and under voice control
Type: 38% loop	Restrooms: none
Land management: Bureau of Land Management	

Description: King Peak is the highest point west of US 101 and north of Monterey County's Santa Lucia Mountains. The hike to the 4100' summit, while steep in places, is short and mostly shaded. It starts with a steady climb through forest burned at a low intensity in 2004. Near the top it breaks out into chaparral filled with fire-adapted Eastwood's manzanita, now regenerating from a high-intensity fire. From the peak, the unobstructed 360° view of the ocean, the entire King Range, the distant Klamath Mountains, and the Mattole and Eel River valleys is stupendous; there is even an observation deck.

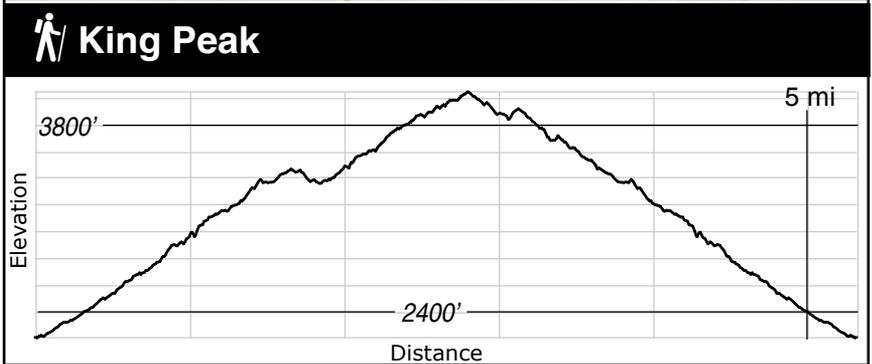
Getting there: Take US 101 south 63.9 miles. Take Exit 642 (Redway/Shelter Cove) and go 2.0 miles on Redwood Drive. Turn right onto Briceland Thorn Road and go 10.0 miles. Turn right onto Ettersburg-Honeydew Road (this becomes Wilder Ridge Road) and go 11.7 miles. Turn left onto King Peak Road and go 2.9 miles. Turn right onto King Range Road and go 6.5 miles to the trailhead on the left at the end of the road. Approximate driving time, 2 hours 34 minutes.

The route: Take the Lightning Trail from the trailhead. Turn left at the T (1.6) onto the King Crest Trail towards Maple Camp. The trail gets hard to follow going through the camp; stay close to the creek. Go straight at the next junction (2.5) towards King Peak. The summit is to the left of the trail (2.8). Continue on the Lightning Trail. Turn right at the next junction (3.3) to stay on the Lightning Trail and return to the trailhead.





King Range



31 Paradise Royale

Length: 11.1 miles

Total ascent: 3100 feet

Elevations: 1250-2550 feet

Type: loop

Land management: Bureau of

Land Management

Fee: none

Access constraints: snow,
road conditions, fords

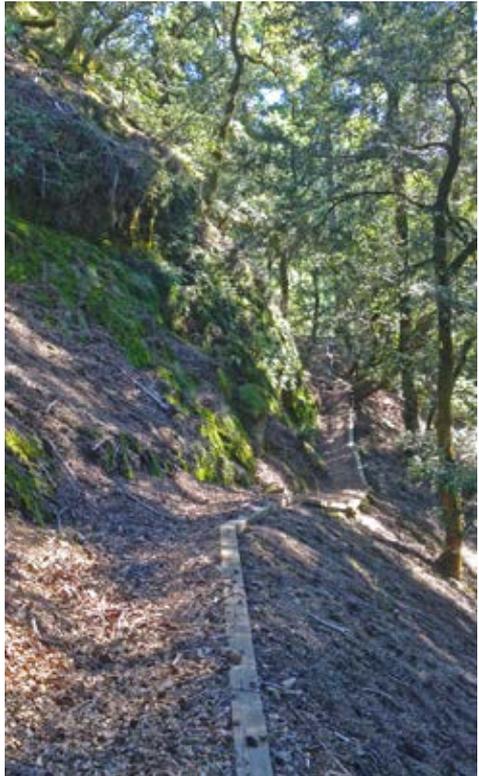
Dogs: in sight and under
voice control

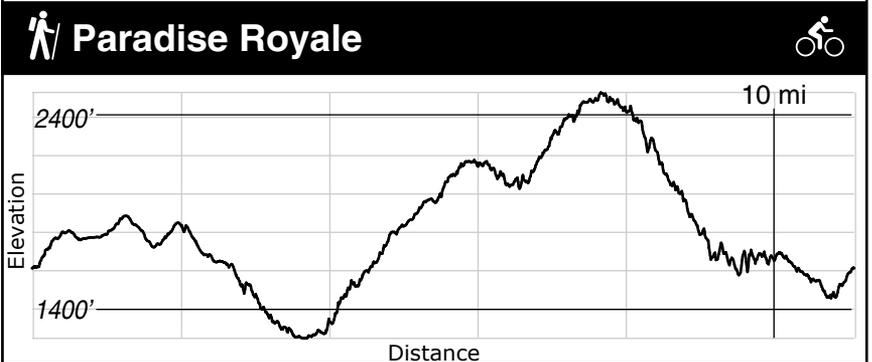
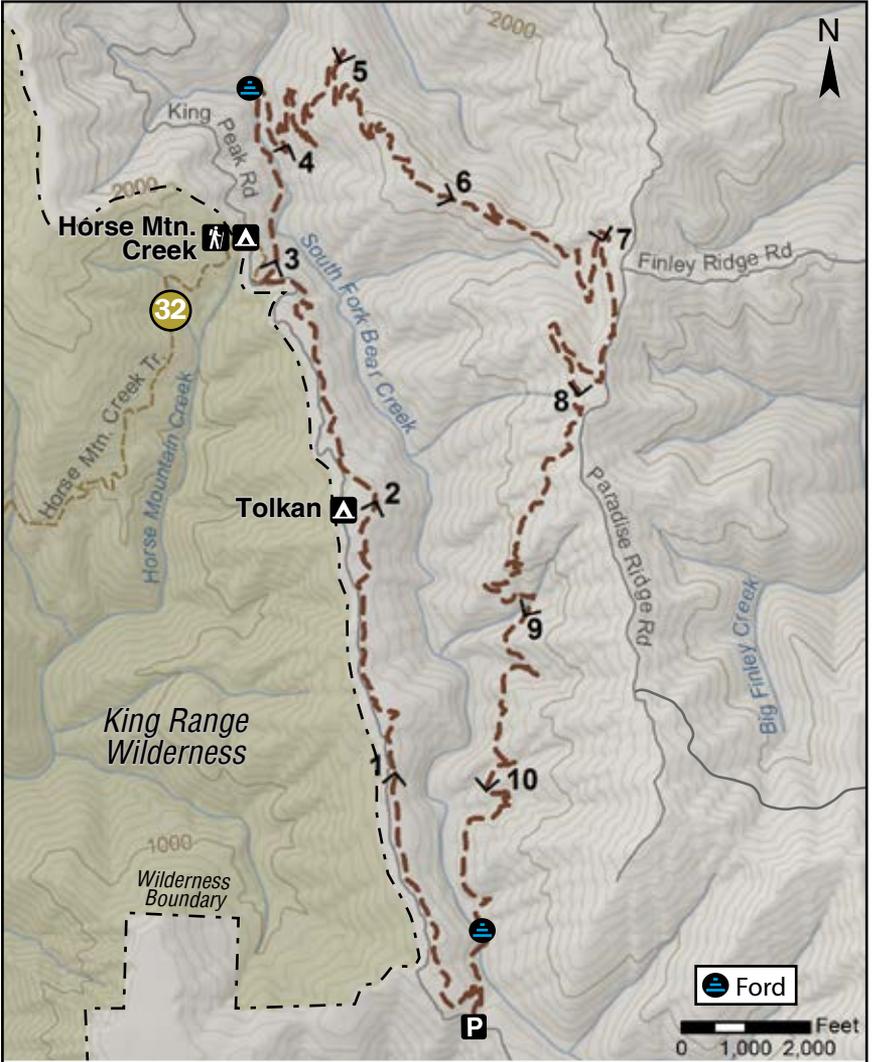
Restrooms: none

Description: This trail was built in 2008 specifically for mountain biking, but do not let that put you off; it is not heavily used for much of the year and makes for a great hike. The grades are gentle making this is one of the easier long day hikes in the county and, by King Range standards, it is quite accessible. The route offers views of Bear Creek valley and one of the ocean but is, overall, forested. There are two fords of Bear Creek that could be challenging after rains, so be prepared for wading.

Getting there: Take US 101 south 63.9 miles. Take Exit 642 (Redway/Shelter Cove) and go 2.0 miles on Redwood Drive. Turn right onto Briceland Thorn Road (this becomes Shelter Cove Road) and go 17.7 miles. Turn right onto King Peak Road and go 2.0 miles to an unsigned trailhead on the right (if you prefer, you can start at the official trailhead a mile farther down the road). Approximate driving time, 1 hour 49 minutes.

The route: Make an immediate left at the first fork. Follow the Paradise Royale signs, turning right at 1.7. Cross Bear Creek (3.6). Around miles 9 and 10 there are two unsigned forks; it doesn't really matter which way you go as the tracks quickly rejoin, but in both cases the right track is more direct. Cross Bear Creek again (10.9) just before closing the loop at the first fork.





32 Shelter Cove to Horse Mountain Creek

Length: 13.0 miles

Total ascent: 3350 feet

Elevations: sea level-1550 feet

Type: out and back; shuttle option

Land management: Bureau of Land Management, Humboldt

County Dept. of Public Works

Fee: none

Access constraints: none

Dogs: in sight and under voice control

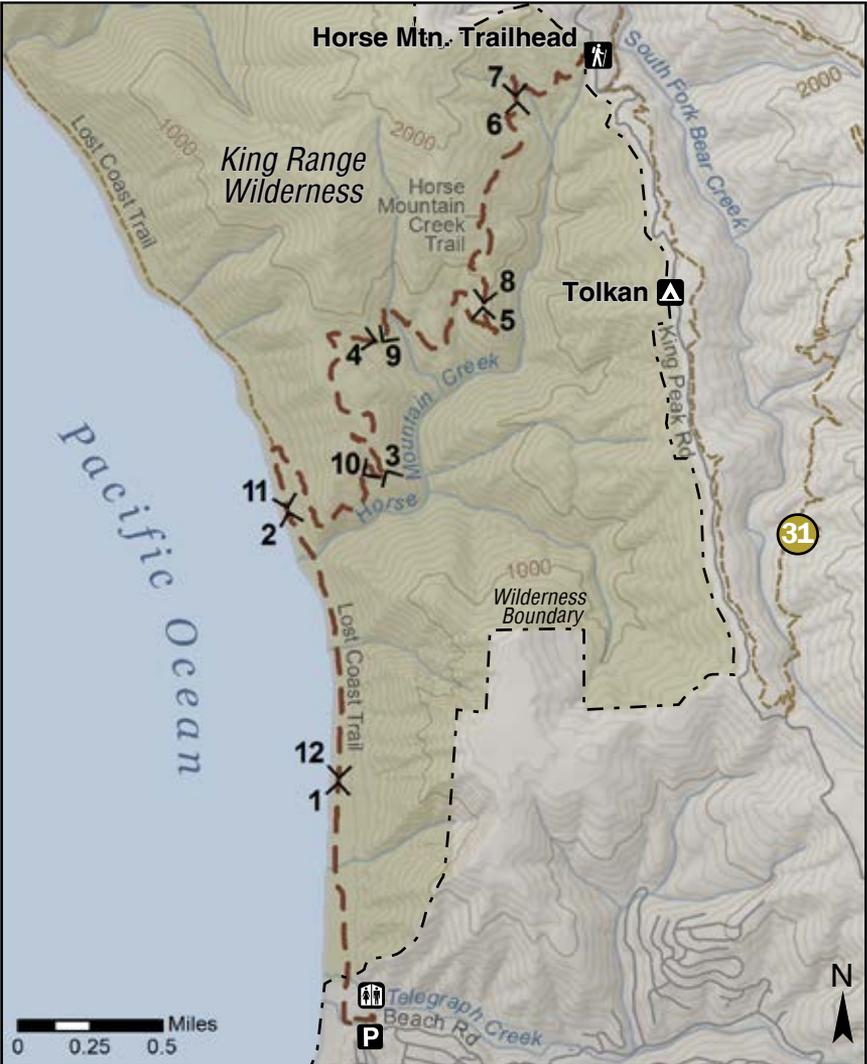
Restrooms: yes

Description: Horse Mountain Creek Trail is the easiest trail connection between the King Crest and the ocean. Nearly all the potential views are obscured by trees, but this makes the ascent shaded and cool. This is a long and demanding hike with significant elevation change and four miles of difficult beach walking.

Getting there: Take US 101 south 63.9 miles. Take exit 642 (Redway/Shelter Cove) and go 2.0 miles on Redwood Drive. Turn right onto Briceland- Thorn Road (this becomes Shelter Cove Road) and go 20.2 miles. Turn right onto Beach Road and go 0.9 mile to the Black Sands Beach parking lot on the right. Approximate driving time, 1 hour 50 minutes.

The route: Walk back out to Beach Road, turn right, and walk down the sidewalk 0.1 mile to the cul-de-sac. Take the track off the end down to the beach and turn right. Turn right onto the Horse Mountain Creek Trail (2.2). At King Peak Road (6.5), turn around and retrace your route back to the start.





Shelter Cove to Horse Mountain Creek



33 Chemise Mountain

Length: 6.9 miles

Total ascent: 1750 feet

Elevations: 1700-2550 feet

Type: 14% loop

Land management: Bureau of
Land Management

Fee: none

Access constraints: none

Dogs: in sight and under
voice control

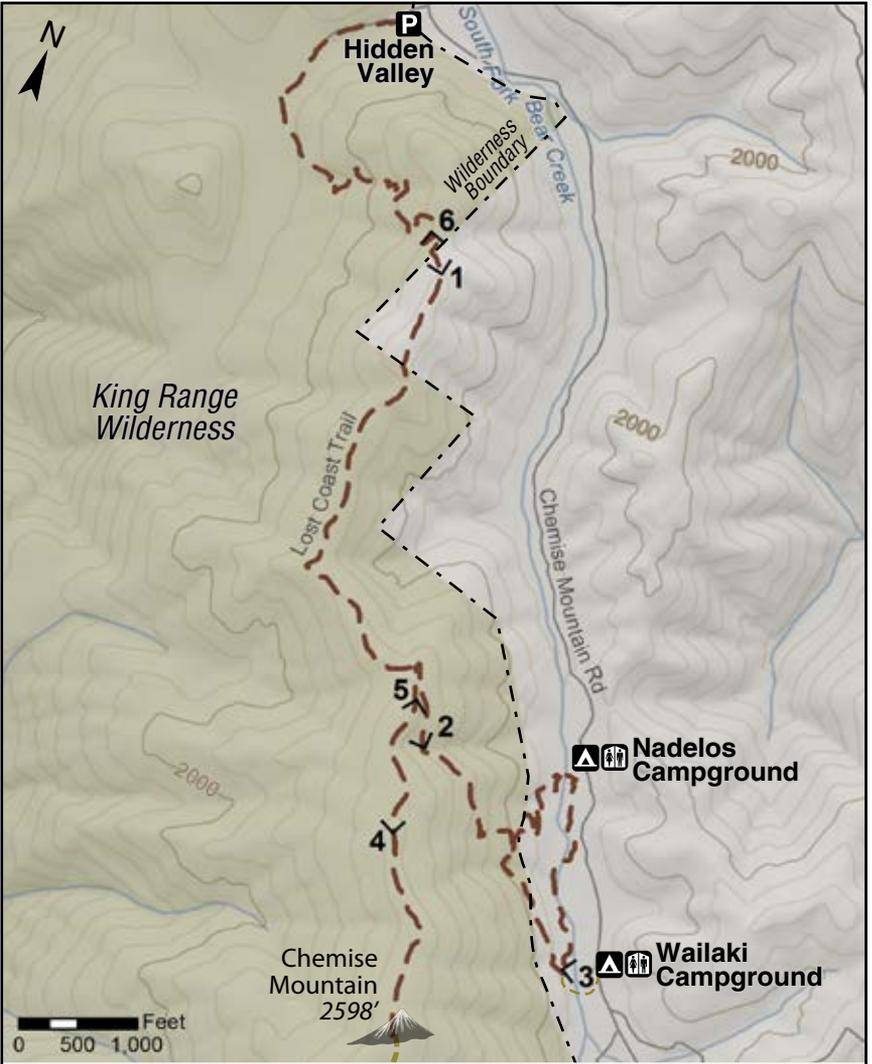
Restrooms: yes

Description: This hike goes through a variety of multi-aged forests and offers excellent views. It starts in the Bear Creek valley and passes a lovely complex of meadows called Hidden Valley before climbing through dense, second-growth forest to a ridgeline with ocean views. It then drops back down to Bear Creek and follows an interpretive trail before returning to the ridge and the summit of Chemise Mountain. From the summit there are wonderful views of the hills and valleys to the east.

Getting there: Take US 101 south 63.9 miles. Take Exit 642 (Redway/Shelter Cove) and go 2.0 miles on Redwood Drive. Turn right onto Briceland Thorn Road (this becomes Shelter Cove Road) and go 17.3 miles. Turn left onto Chemise Mountain Road and go 0.2 miles. Turn right at the signed access road to the trailhead. Approximate driving time, 1 hour 41 minutes.

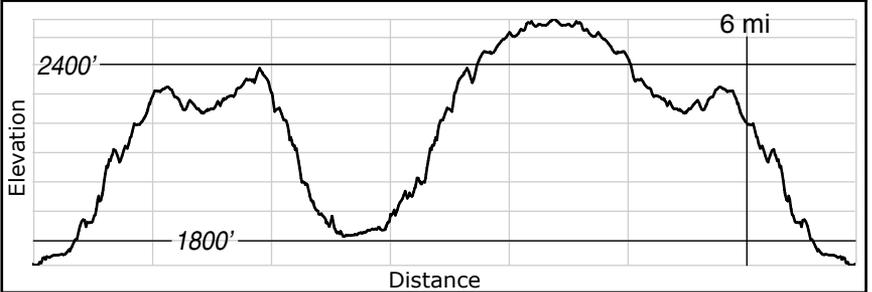
The route: Take the Lost Coast Trail from the end of the road. At the first junction (1.8), turn left towards the campgrounds. Take the next left (2.3) towards Nadelos Campground. Turn right at the unsigned T in the campground (2.6) onto the Bear Creek Nature Trail. Take the next right (3.0) towards Bear Creek Overlook and Chemise Mountain Trailhead, right again at the Chemise Mountain Primitive Area sign (3.1), and left at the next junction (3.3). Return to the very first junction (3.8) and turn left towards Chemise Mountain. Turn left at the overlook sign (4.3). From the top, return directly to the starting point.





King Range

 **Chemise Mountain** 



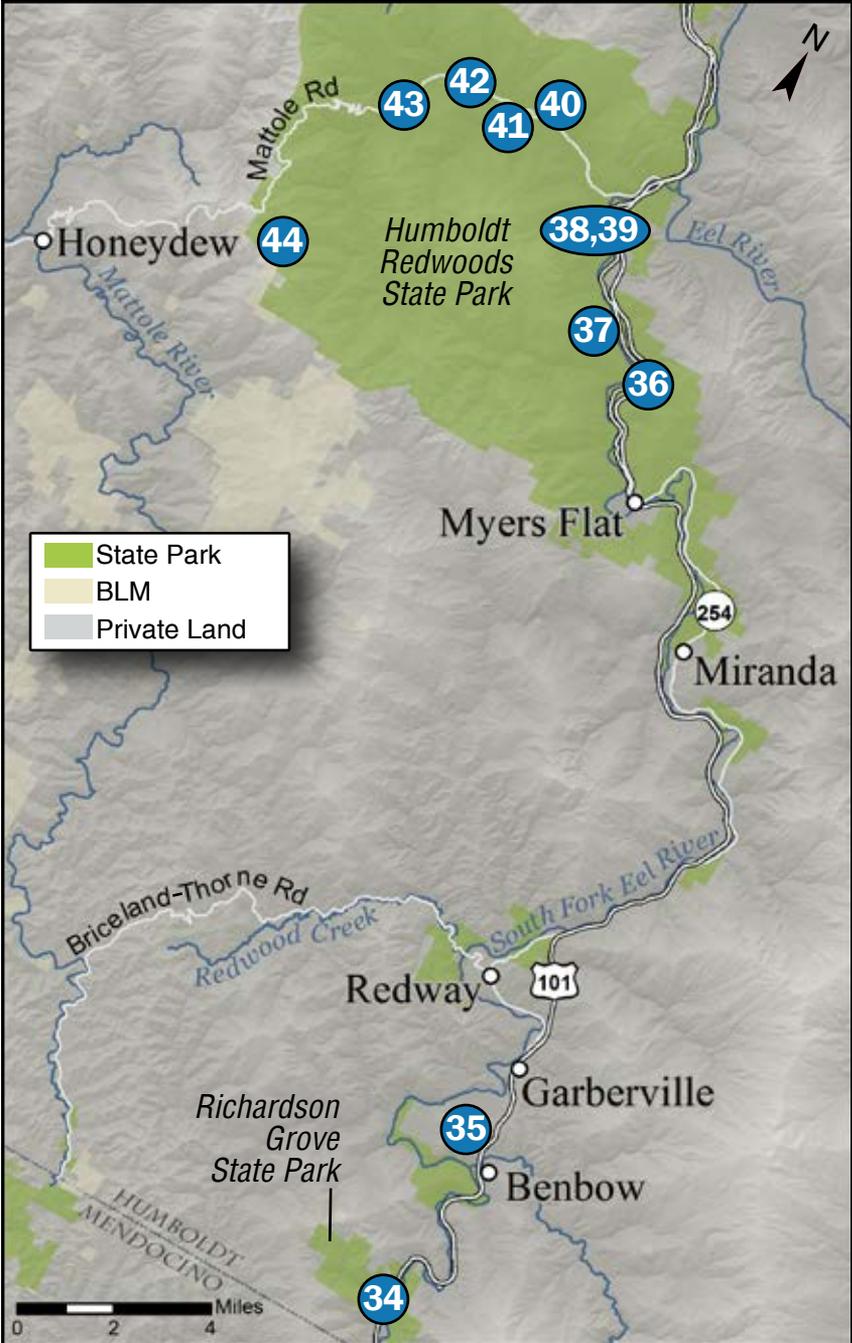
Region E: Southern Redwoods

The forests of the Eel River watershed are quite different from those of northern Humboldt County. The summer climate here is warmer and drier and the vegetation reflects this in several conspicuous ways. The understory is much more open and the vegetation composition is different, with fewer ferns, more poison oak, and vast carpets of redwood sorrel. Redwoods are often restricted to the alluvial flats along streams while forests just upslope hold trees such as Douglas-fir, grand fir, and tanoak.

The crown jewel of this region is Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Established in 1921, it is the third largest California state park and contains the largest remaining old-growth redwood forest anywhere. About a third of the park is old growth; mixed-evergreen, riparian, and second-growth redwood forests and prairie make up the remainder. There is a lot of history here, too—of settlement, logging, and floods. The Eel River and, paralleling it, the famous Avenue of the Giants traverse the eastern side of the park. The Bull Creek valley and Mattole Road arc across the north. The southwest quarter of the park is wild and only lightly used. Hikes 36-44 will give you a good feel for the park's diversity. Farther south, higher up the Eel, are the southern Humboldt (SoHum) towns of Benbow, Garberville, and Redway and several smaller state parks, including Richardson Grove (see hike 34).

Humboldt Redwoods and Richardson Grove have visitor centers and campgrounds. The region's numerous towns offer a wide range of private camping and lodging options.





S. Redwoods

Region E:
Southern Redwoods

34 Richardson Grove

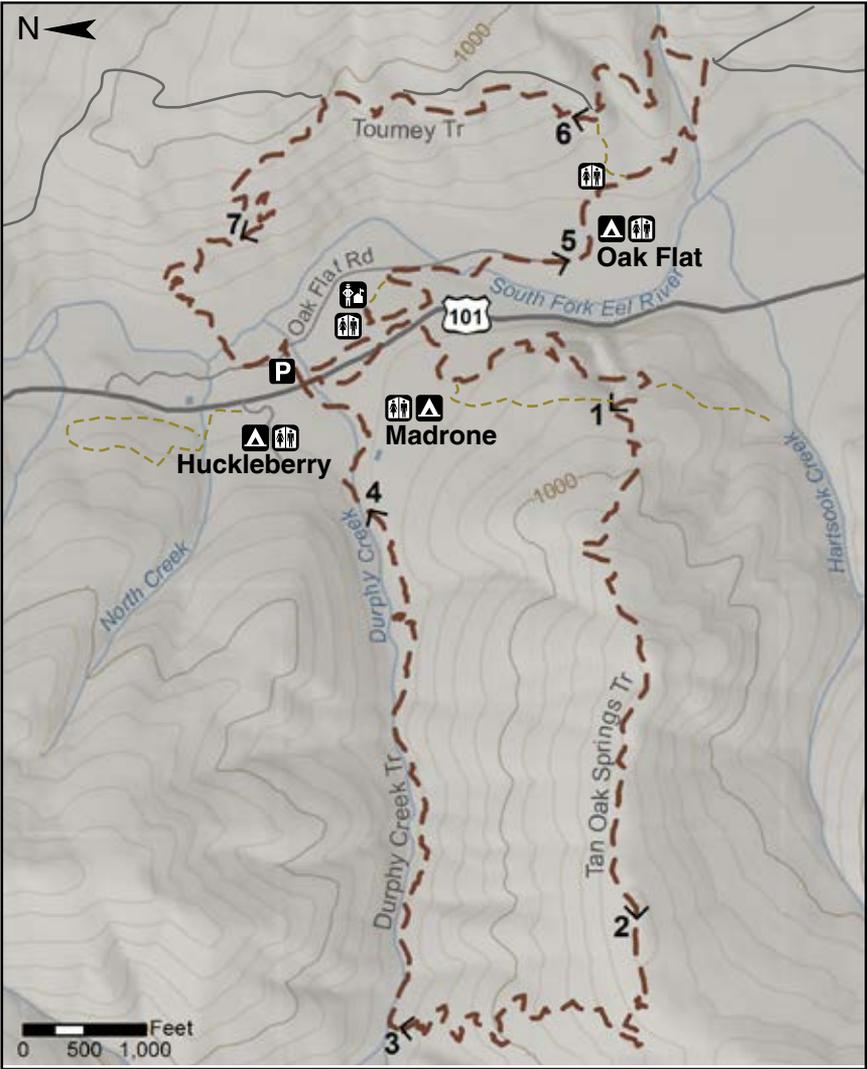
Length: 7.6 miles	Fee: \$8
Total ascent: 2000 feet	Access constraints: seasonal bridges
Elevations: 400-1500 feet	Dogs: no
Type: loop	Restrooms: yes
Land management: California State Parks	

Description: Straddling US 101 near the southern border of Humboldt County, Richardson Grove State Park is considered the “Gateway to the Redwood Empire”. This hike includes most of the park’s trails and showcases the redwood and mixed evergreen forests typical of Humboldt’s interior. The terrain is steep, and this hike, while not particularly long, provides quite a workout.

Getting there: Take US 101 south 74.8 miles. Turn right into Richardson Grove State Park. Stay left at two intersections, go under the highway, and park in the Swim Beach parking lot on the left where the road bends right. Approximate driving time, 1 hour 14 minutes.

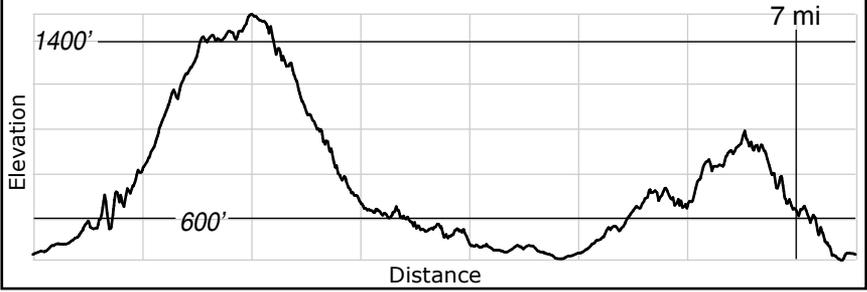
The route: Leave the parking lot and walk back up the road and under the highway, then immediately turn left (0.1). Turn left onto the Madrone Campground loop road (0.4). Turn left onto the Lookout Point Trail (0.5) and immediately left again towards Lookout Point. Turn left at the next junction onto the Tan Oak Springs Trail (0.8; no sign); this trail eventually drops to Durphy Creek and becomes the Durphy Creek Trail (no sign). Turn left at the end of the trail (4.2) onto the Madrone Campground access road. Stay right at the next intersection (4.3). Turn right immediately after the highway underpass and right again at the next junction (4.5) onto the Grove Nature Trail (no sign). Stay right through several junctions until reaching the amphitheater (4.7); make two quick rights here onto the Oak Flat Campground access road, which soon crosses the river on a seasonal bridge. Turn left at the first road junction (5.0). Turn left just after the bridge (5.3); taking the previous left shortens the hike by 0.5 mile. At the end of the campground loop, take the Settlers Loop Trail, which begins as a fire road. Take the trail left where it leaves the road (5.9), then turn right onto the Toumey Trail. Where the trail rejoins the road (6.4), turn left, then follow it left where it leaves the road again (6.6). Another seasonal bridge (7.4) returns you to the parking lot.





S. Redwoods

 **Richardson Grove**



35 Benbow to Garberville

Length: 5.9 miles

Total ascent: 600 feet

Elevations: 350-650 feet

Type: out and back; vehicle access at both ends

Land management: California State Parks, private

Fee: none

Access constraints: none

Dogs: no

Restrooms: none

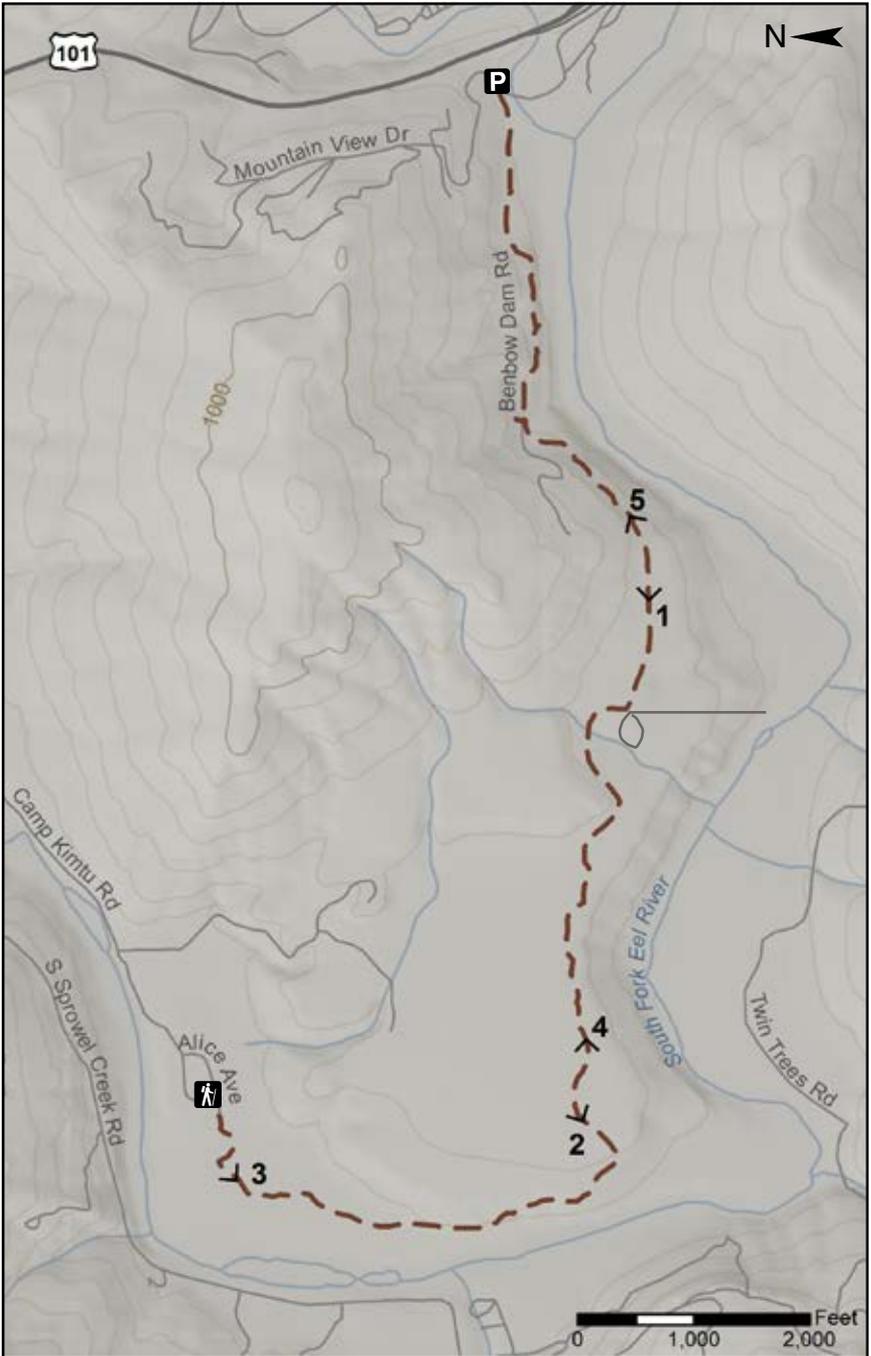
Description: This easy, scenic hike through a variety of habitats links the towns of Benbow and Garberville via the South Fork of the Eel River. The first quarter of the route is a private road through brushy woodland with views up and down the river. The second quarter follows park fire roads through grassland. The second half is a forested trail. Most of the hike is within the Benbow State Recreation Area.

Getting there*: Take US 101 south 70.6 miles. Take Exit 636 (Benbow) and turn right onto Benbow Lake Road. Go 0.3 mile and park on the far side of Benbow Bridge. Approximate driving time, 1 hour 9 minutes.

*Redwood Transit System stops at the Benbow Inn, 0.2 mile from the trailhead.

The route: Go around the gate onto Benbow Dam Road (no sign). Bear left at the driveway for 750 Benbow Dam Rd. (0.6). Turn right at the four-way junction (1.2). The trail ends at the end of Alice Avenue (3.0); turn around here and retrace your route back.





S. Redwoods

 **Benbow to Garberville**

36 Williford - Williams Grove

Length: 7.9 miles

Total ascent: 1300 feet

Elevations: 150-1050 feet

Type: loop

Land management: California

Sate Parks

Fee: none

Access constraints: seasonal
bridges, ford

Dogs: no

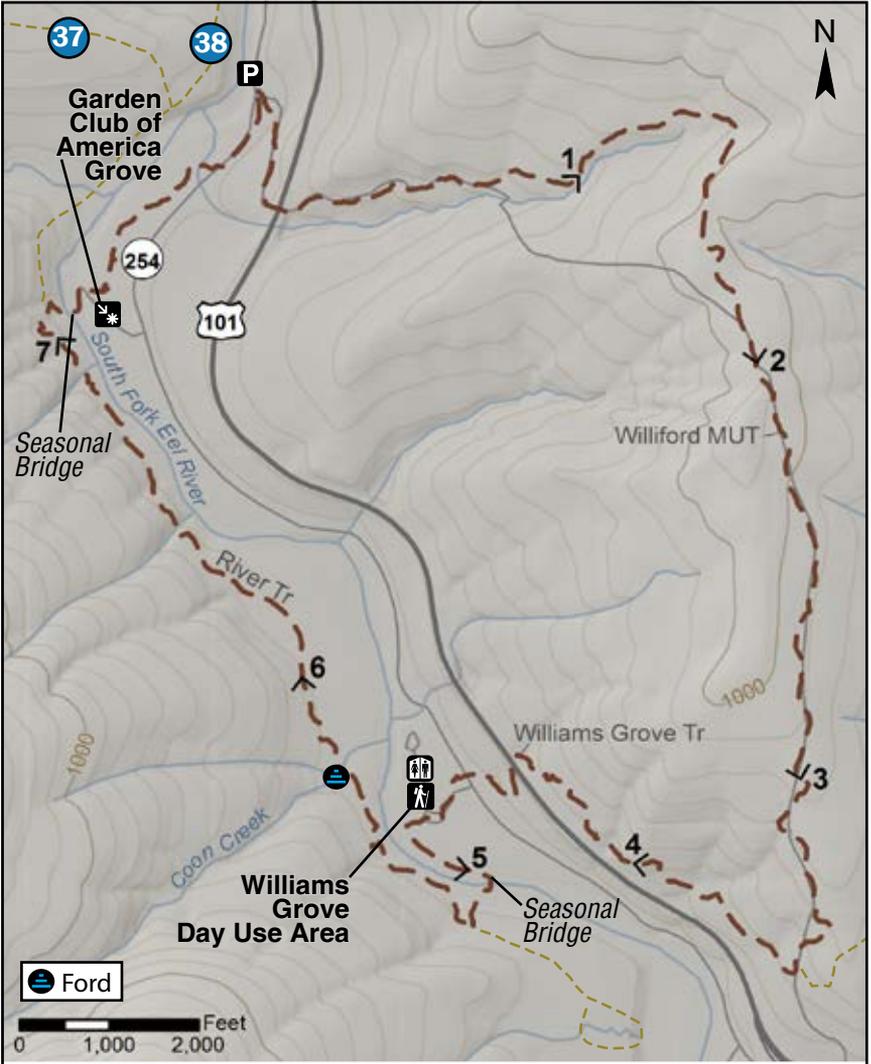
Restrooms: yes

Description: This hike offers a variety of terrain and habitats as it traverses mixed-evergreen, redwood, and riparian forests while passing through two day-use areas. The route also includes redwood forest that burned in the 2003 Canoe Fire with a trail that just reopened in 2015. It begins with a steep climb up the Williford Multi-Use Trail past an old ranch, follows a transmission line, and then drops steeply down to the Eel River. The return leg follows the river on the other side of the valley. There are two crossings of the river on seasonal bridges plus a stream ford that could be impassable in winter.

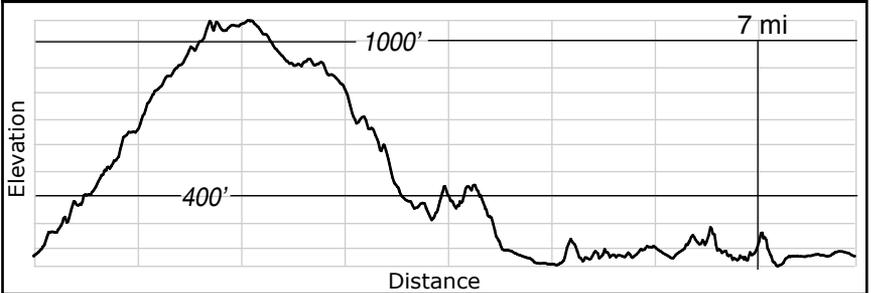
Getting there: Take US 101 south 45.1 miles to exit 661 (Weott). Turn right at the stop sign onto Newton Road, continuing onto Lum Street. Half a mile from the offramp, turn left onto The Avenue of the Giants. Go 2.9 miles to Williford Road on the left. Approximate driving time, 54 minutes.

The route: Take the Williford Multi-Use Trail (the lower gated road to the right). Turn right onto the Williams Grove Trail (3.5). Cross the Avenue of the Giants (4.6) into Williams Grove Day Use Area. Turn left at the No Wood Gathering sign. Go through the parking lot and onto the gated road down to the river bar. Bear left, follow an obscure track along the bar to the bridge (5.1), and cross the river. Turn right onto the River Trail (5.2). Turn right at the next trail sign (7.1). Cross the river again, bear left, then turn right off the gravel bar. Turn left at the Garden Club of America Grove (7.3) and take the trail towards the Kent Mather Loop Trail. Turn left onto the Loop Trail (7.6), just before the Avenue of the Giants. Bear right at the loop (left is only slightly longer), then right off the loop (7.7). Turn left onto the Avenue of the Giants and return to the start.





 **Williford - Williams Grove**



37 Grasshopper Peak

Length: 15.0 miles	Fee: none
Total ascent: 3450 feet	Access constraints: seasonal
Elevations: 150-3350 feet	bridges
Type: 7% loop	Dogs: no
Land management: California State Parks	Restrooms: yes

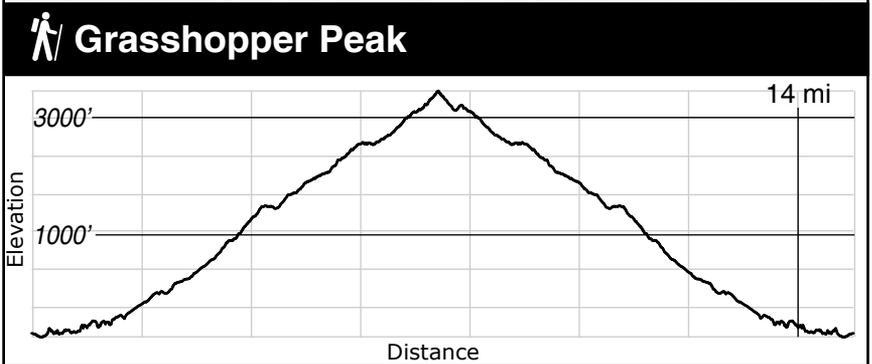
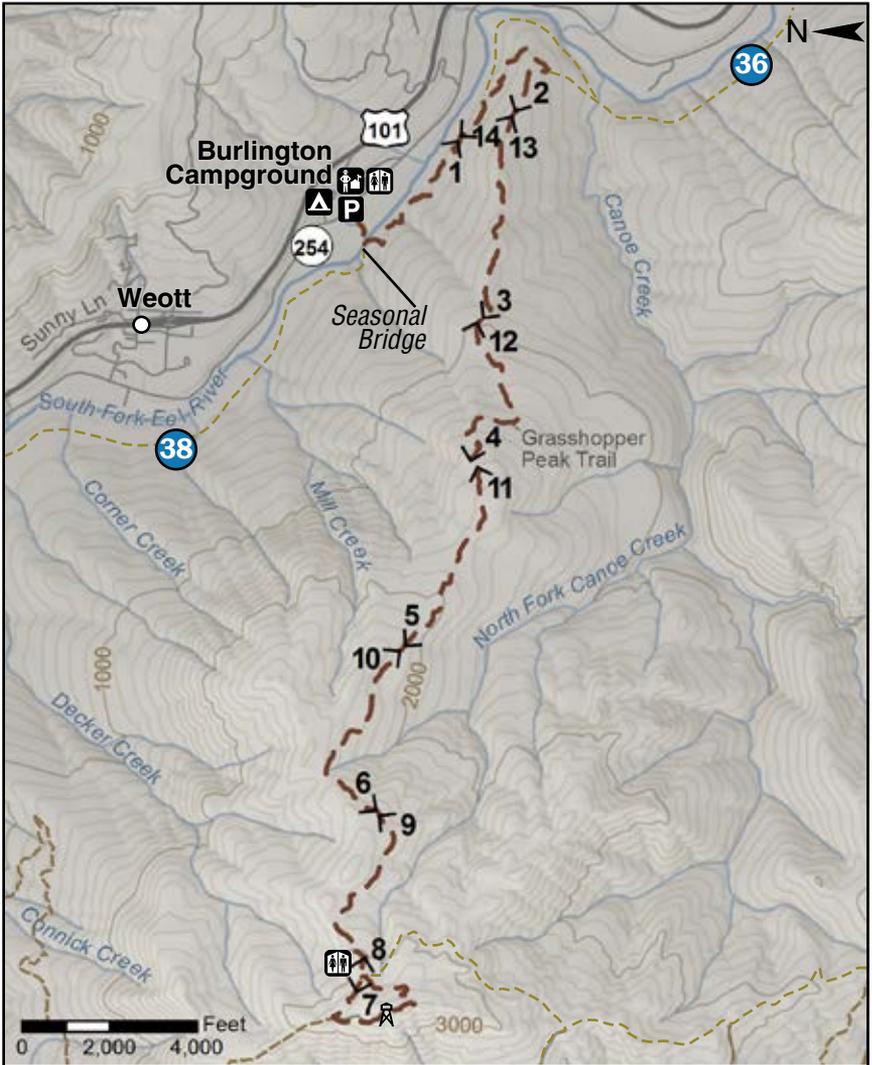
Description: Although this is the longest hike in the book and has the greatest elevation range, it is still the shortest route to the highest point in HRSP. This hike makes use of a seasonal bridge and the Grasshopper Multi-use Trail from the north is the shortest alternative. The route climbs gradually up the east flank of the mountain, with only a few steep sections. It is mostly in shade with short stretches through open areas heavily burned in the 2003 Canoe Fire. It is interesting to see how much more profoundly the fire affected the vegetation at the upper elevations. The nearly 360° view from the top is well worth the long approach.

Getting there*: Take US 101 south 42.5 miles to exit 663 (South Fork/Honeydew). Go more or less straight at the stop sign onto Avenue of the Giants (CA 254). Go 4.0 miles and park on the roadside opposite the north end of Burlington Campground (MP 16.75). Approximate driving time, 50 minutes.

*Redwood Transit System stops at the Weott off-ramp on 101, two miles from the trailhead.

The route: Walk away from the campground on the Gould Grove Nature Trail, then turn right towards the river (0.1). Turn left at the T onto the River Trail (0.3). Turn right towards Grasshopper (1.2), then right again at the T onto the Grasshopper Peak Trail (1.7). Go straight through the 4-way junction (7.0) towards the Grasshopper Fire Lookout. Bear right at the summit (7.4) down the access road. Turn right onto Grieg Road (7.8), then left at the 4-way junction to return to the start.





38 River Trail

Length: 13.4 miles

Total ascent: 2300 feet

Elevations: 100-450 feet

Type: 12% loop; shuttle option

Land management: California

State Parks

Fee: none

Access constraints: seasonal
bridges

Dogs: no

Restrooms: nearby

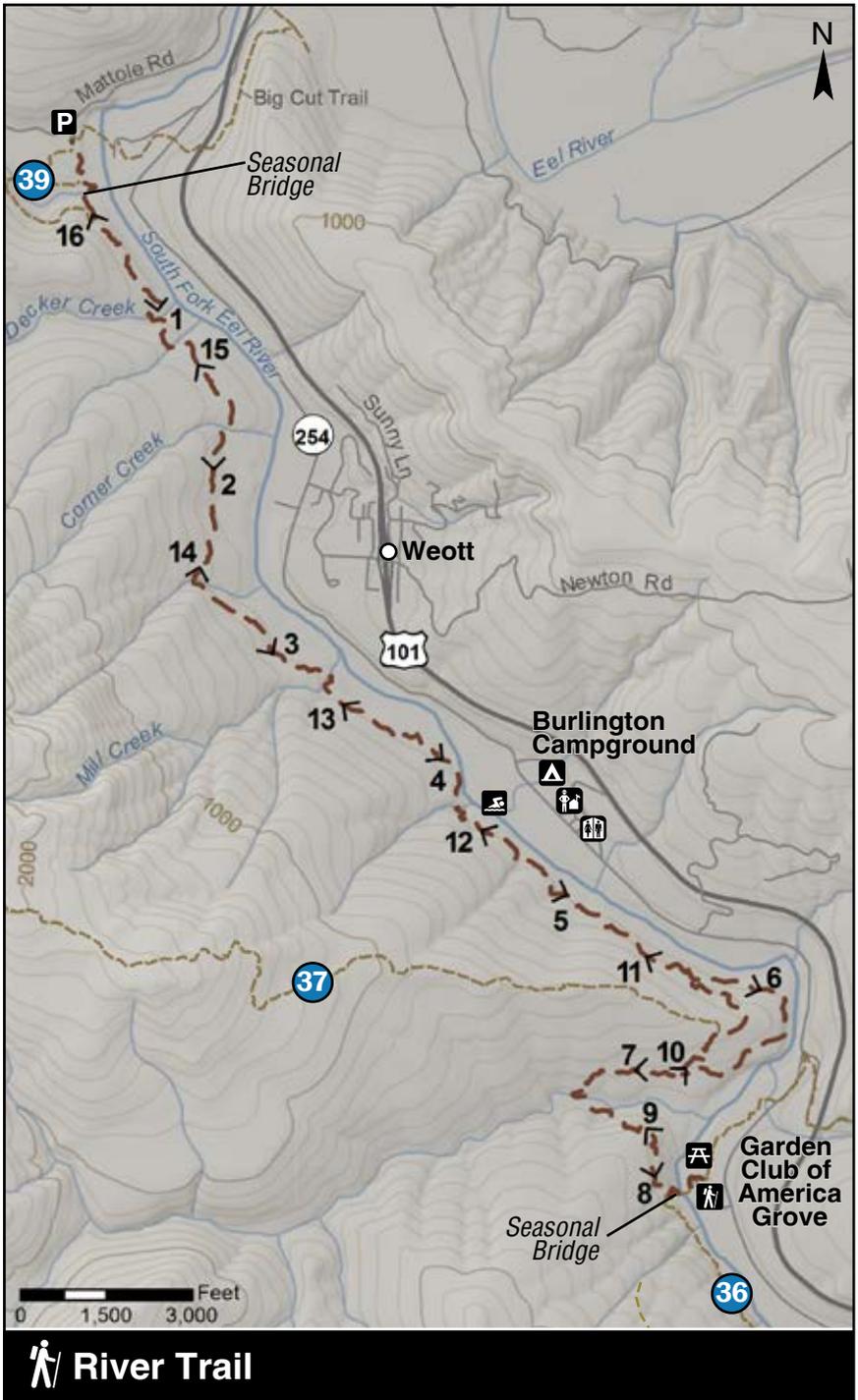
Description: The River Trail runs parallel to the South Fork Eel River but, despite its name, is mostly out of sight of the river. It is a gentle, shady, and little-used trail through second-growth forest with a few old-growth stands. The hike crosses Bull Creek near the start, the river near the end, and several small streams in between. The southern part passes through the site of the 2003 Canoe Fire, one of the largest fires in old-growth redwoods ever recorded. It burned over 11,000 acres and forced trail closures that lasted over a decade. There is a picnic area near the far end.

Getting there*: Take US 101 south 42.5 miles. Take Exit 663 (South Fork/Honeydew) and turn right onto Lower Bull Creek Flats Road/Mattole Road. Go 1.4 miles and turn left at Rockefeller Grove (unsigned and hard to see). Continue 0.1 mile to the parking lot. Approximate driving time, 46 minutes.

*Redwood Transit System will make a flag stop at the freeway exit.

The route: Take the Rockefeller Forest Loop Trail from the parking lot, then turn left at the beginning of the loop. Turn left off the Loop Trail where the loop bends right (0.1). On reaching the creek bed (0.2), look upstream (right) for the bridge. Pass the Bull Creek Trail on the right, the turnoff to Burlington on the left, and two turnoffs to Grasshopper Peak on the right, then turn left (6.8). Cross the river, veer left, and turn right up the hill to the Garden Club of America Grove. Backtrack to the more southerly Grasshopper Peak junction (8.1) and turn left, then turn right (8.2). Turn left on the River Trail (8.8) and return to the start.





39 Bull Creek Flats

Length: 9.8 miles	Fee: none
Total ascent: 400 feet	Access constraints: seasonal bridges
Elevations: 150-350 feet	Dogs: no
Type: loop	Restrooms: yes
Land management: California State Parks	

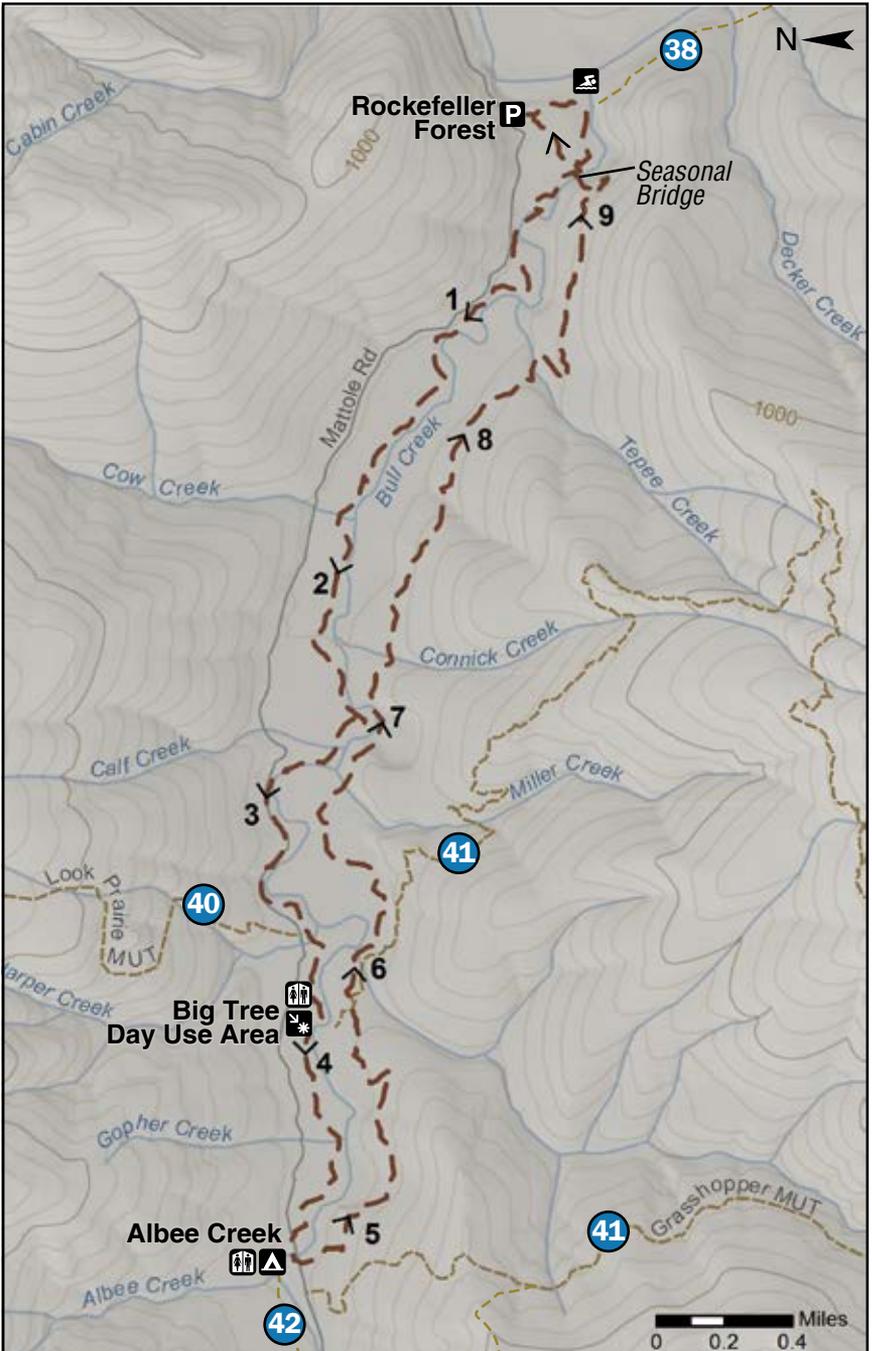
Description: The sheltered, sediment-rich benches of lower Bull Creek valley provide optimal growing conditions for redwoods. This nearly level route showcases some of the tallest and most massive trees on the planet and offers various perspectives—at times wending among their bases and at others looking down into groves from the hillside above. Bull Creek is a nearly constant presence. This route links some of the most popular trails in the county and is likely to be crowded, at least near the parking areas.

Getting there*: Take US 101 south 42.5 miles. Take Exit 663 (South Fork/Honeydew) and turn right onto Lower Bull Creek Flats Road/Mattole Road. Go 1.4 miles and turn left at Rockefeller Grove (unsigned and hard to see). Continue 0.1 mile to the parking lot. Approximate driving time, 46 minutes.

*Redwood Coast Transit will make a courtesy stop at the freeway exit.

The route: Take the Rockefeller Forest Loop Trail from the parking lot, then turn right at the beginning of the loop (0.1). Turn right onto the Bull Creek Trail towards Burlington (0.2), then keep to the right on the Bull Creek Trail North (0.3). The trail merges briefly with Mattole Road (3.0), then resumes (3.4), skirting the Blue Slide Day Use Area parking lot. At the Big Tree Day Use Area (3.9), keep to the right through the parking lot (turning left instead cuts about 1.8 miles off the hike but bypasses some of the nicest forest) and pick up the Big Tree Trail towards Albee Creek Campground on the other side (4.0). Turn left onto Mattole Road (4.7). Turn left onto an unsigned, unnamed trail (4.8), just after crossing Bull Creek. At the T (4.9), turn left onto the Bull Creek Trail South (also called the Bull Creek Flats Trail - unsigned). Continue straight at 5.7, 5.9, and 6.1. Turn left towards the Rockefeller Loop (9.2). Turn right onto the Bull Creek Trail North and right again onto the Rockefeller Loop (9.3). At the end of the loop (9.7), stay right to return to the parking lot.





S. Redwoods

 **Bull Creek Flats**

40 Peavine Ridge

Length: 13.0 miles

Total ascent: 3000 feet

Elevations: 250-2450 feet

Type: loop

Land management: California

State Parks

Fee: none

Access constraints: none

Dogs: no

Restrooms: yes

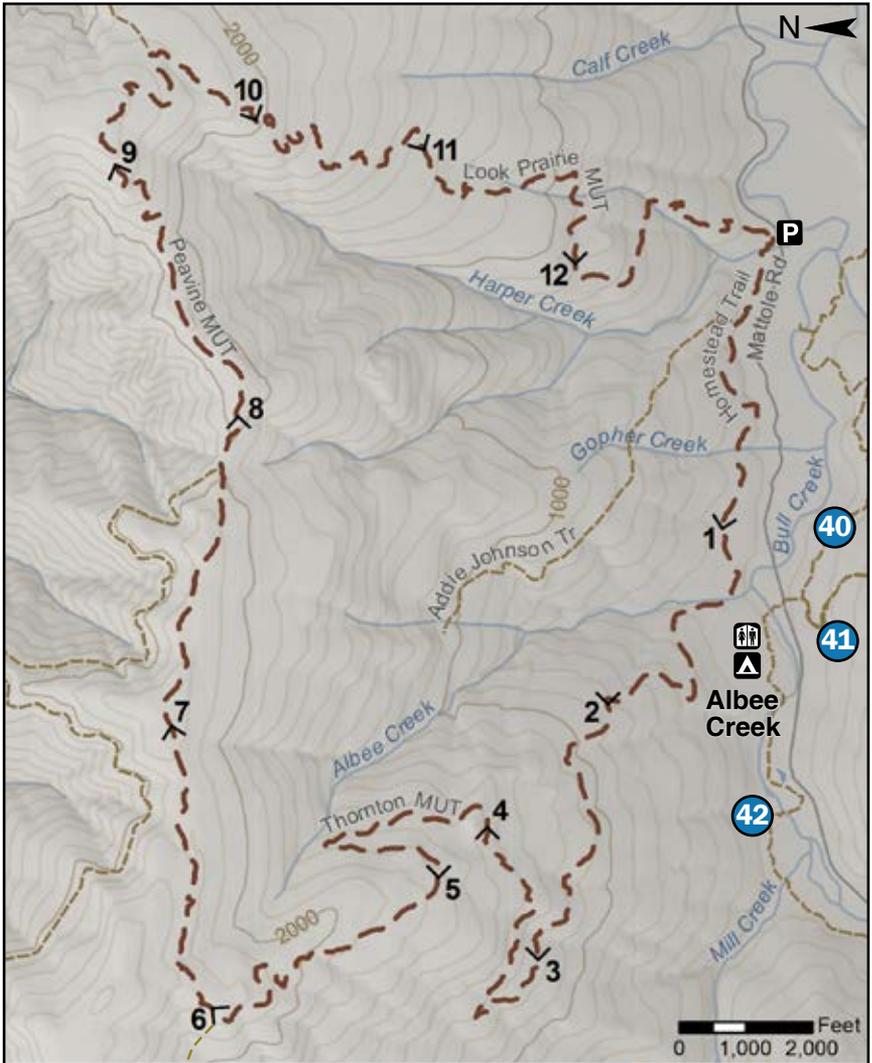
Description: This long but not very strenuous hike takes you through some of the park's prettiest backcountry forest. It begins with an easy stroll through old-growth redwoods along the edge of Bull Creek valley and then climbs through mixed forest and prairie to Peavine Ridge with views along the way. The ascent is mostly gradual, with only a few steep sections. Forests on the ridgetop are magnificent, with an impressive mix of redwoods, Douglas-firs, tanoaks, and madrones. The descent is rather steep and passes through a post-burn prairie complex.

Getting there*: Take US 101 south 42.5 miles. Take Exit 663 (South Fork/Honeydew) and turn right onto Lower Bull Creek Flats Road/Mattole Road. Go 4.2 miles to the trailhead on the right just before Harper Creek. Approximate driving time, 53 minutes.

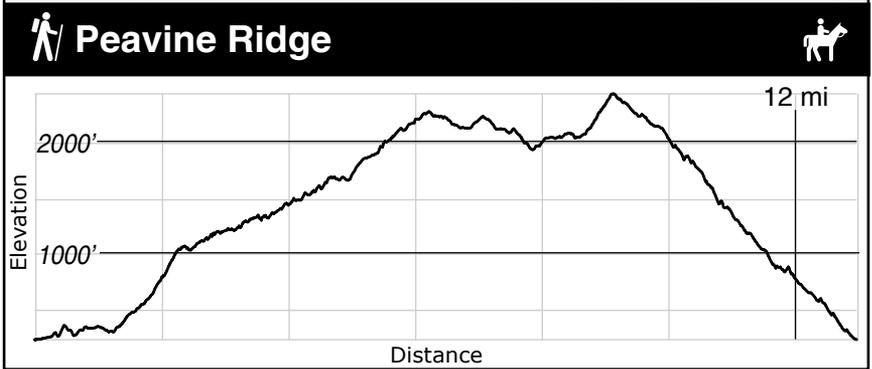
*Redwood Transit System will make a flag stop at the freeway exit.

The route: Take the Homestead Trail. Turn left onto the Albee Creek Campground road where the trail ends (1.2) and then take the first right. Take the Thornton Multi-use Trail (1.4). Turn right onto the Peavine Multi-use Trail (also called Peavine Ridge Road; 6.0). Turn right onto Look Prairie Road (9.6).





S. Redwoods



41 Johnson Trail Camp

Length: 10.8 miles

Total ascent: 1850 feet

Elevations: 250-1550 feet

Type: 99% loop

Land management: California

State Parks

Fee: none

Access constraints: seasonal
bridge

Dogs: no

Restrooms: yes

Description: This hike highlights the higher elevations of the old-growth Rockefeller Forest and offers a fascinating perspective on regional forest ecology. The forests on the slopes harbor smaller trees but with a higher species diversity when compared to the old-growth redwood forests found along the creek-side flats. The ascent is gentle and culminates near the campground, which has some historic buildings. The descent, on a fire road, is steep in places.

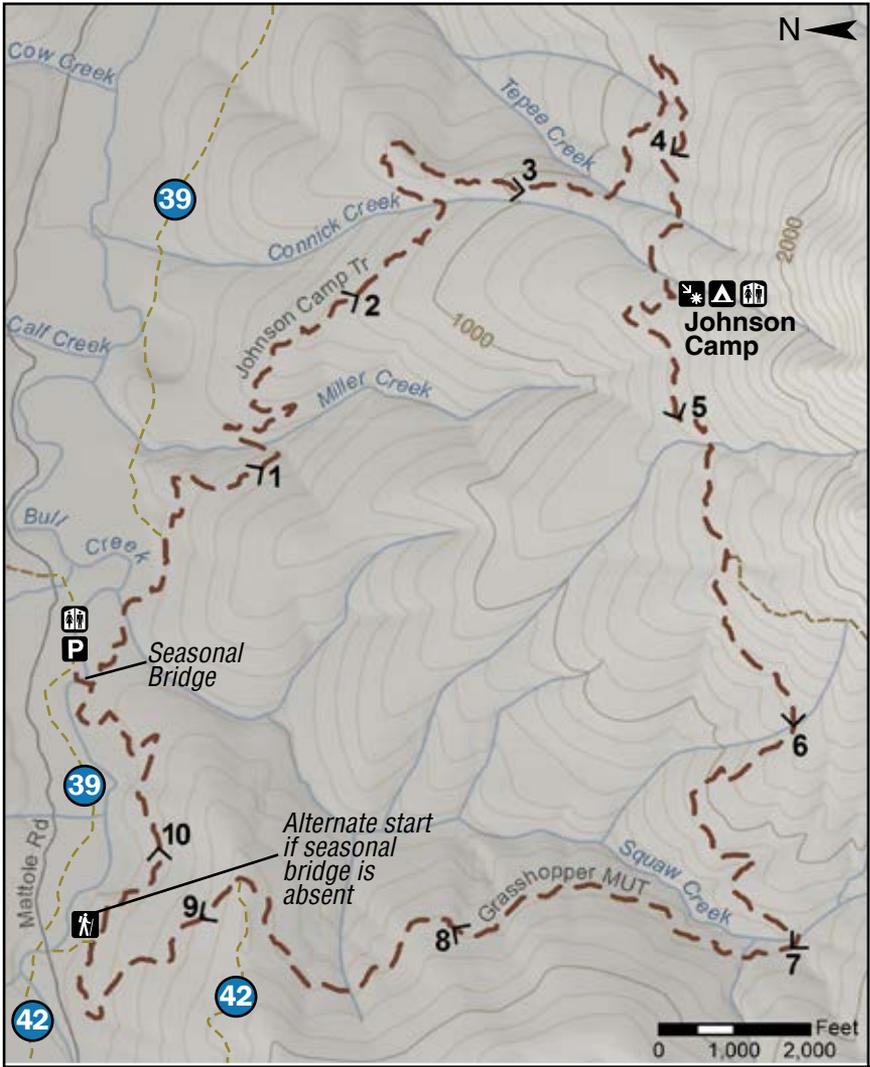
Getting there*: Take US 101 south 42.5 miles. Take Exit 663 (South Fork/Honeydew) and turn right onto Lower Bull Creek Flats Road/Mattole Road. Go 4.4 miles and turn left into the Big Trees Day Use Area. Approximate driving time, 53 minutes.

*Redwood Coast Transit will make a flag stop at the freeway exit.

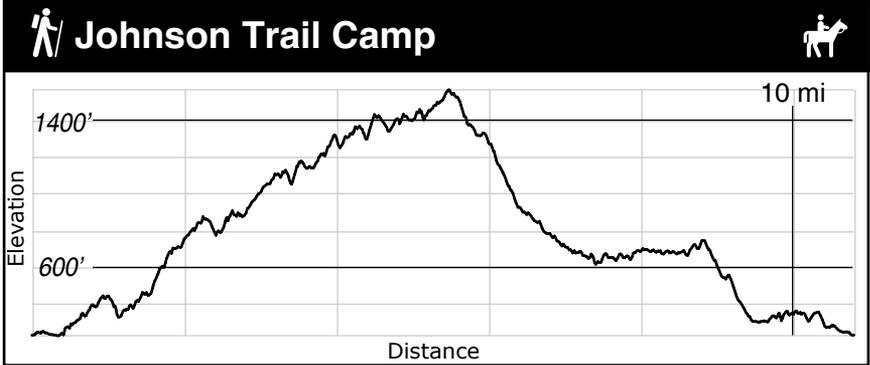
The route: Take the trail across Bull Creek and straight towards the Giant Tree and Johnson Camp. Turn left onto the Bull Creek Trail South (0.2). Turn right onto the Johnson Camp Trail (0.4). Turn right onto Grasshopper Road, also called the Grasshopper Multi-use Trail (5.5). Turn right just before Mattole Road onto the Bull Creek Flats Trail South (9.5; no sign) and at the T (9.7). Turn left at 10.5, again at the Flat Iron Tree, and again at the T (10.8) and retrace your route across the creek to the start.



Calypso Orchids are common in spring



S. Redwoods



42 Baxter-Homestead Loop

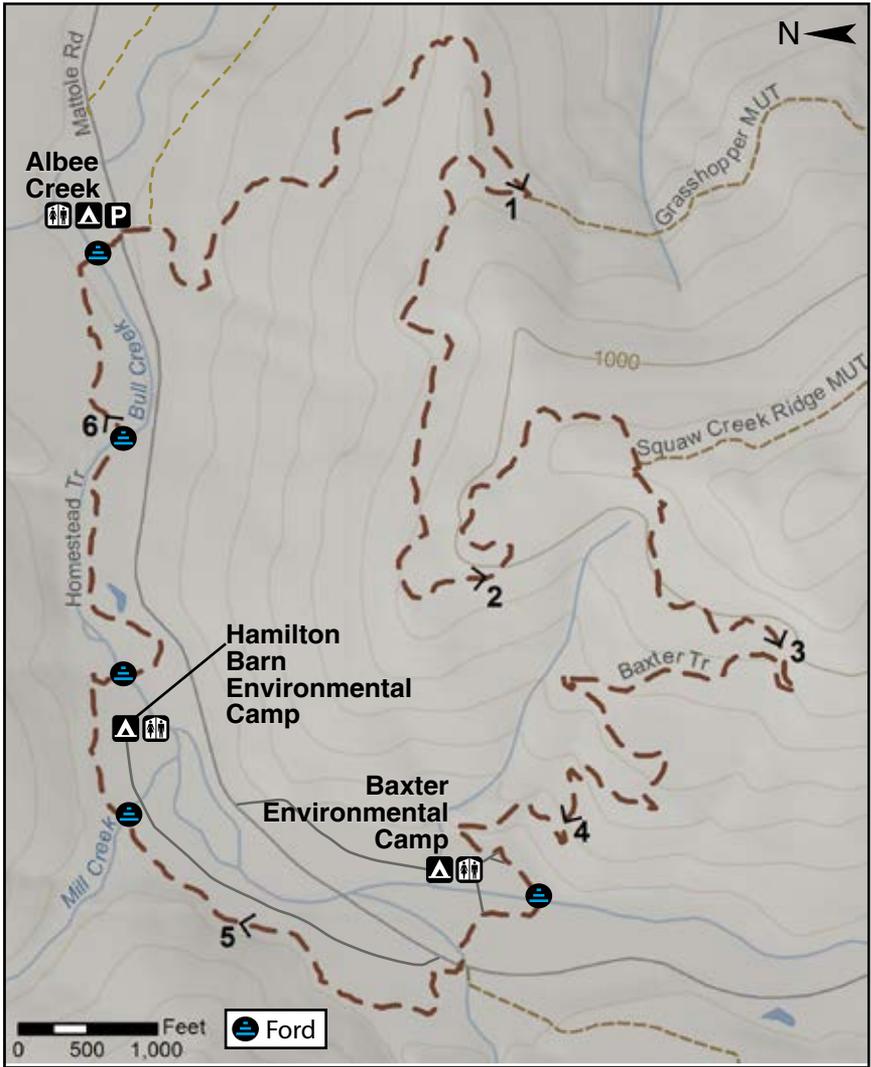
Length: 6.3 miles	State Parks
Total ascent: 1050 feet	Fee: none
Elevations: 300-1150 feet	Access constraints: fords
Type: loop	Dogs: no
Land management: California	Restrooms: nearby

Description: This hike offers a lot of variety and features five stream fords. Most of the route passes through dense, second-growth forest on land added to the park after the 1964 flood to help restore the Bull Creek watershed and reduce the impacts of future erosion and flooding. Half of the ascent comes in the first $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, so the work is over quickly and the descent back to Bull Creek is gradual, with numerous switchbacks. The last two miles meander back and forth across Bull Creek, without the help of bridges, through a diverse mosaic of habitats and past some historic buildings. During high-flow periods, or if you do not want wet feet, you can avoid all the fords by cutting through Baxter Campground and returning along Mattole Road.

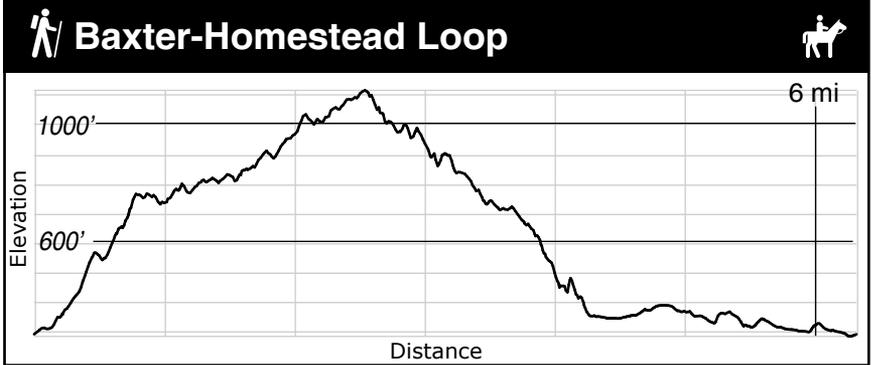
Getting there: Take US 101 south 42.5 miles. Take Exit 663 (South Fork/Honeydew) and turn right onto Lower Bull Creek Flats Road/Mattole Road. Go 5.2 miles and park on the right. Approximate driving time, 56 minutes.

The route: Cross the road and follow the Grasshopper Multi-Use Trail towards the fire lookout. Bear right onto Squaw Creek Ridge Road (0.7). Make a hairpin right onto the Baxter Trail (2.6). Bear slightly right at the first Bull Creek ford (4.4) to pick up the trail on the other side. Cross Mattole Road, go up the gated service road, and bear left at the Environmental Camp sign (4.6). Turn right onto the Homestead Trail (4.7). After the second Bull Creek ford (5.5), go straight towards Mattole Road and look for a trail to the left (5.6) shortly before the road. After the next ford (6.0), take an obscure, unsigned trail to the right (6.2) where the Homestead Trail veers left towards Albee Creek Campground. Ford Bull Creek one last time and return to your vehicle.





S. Redwoods



43 Indian Orchard - Pole Line

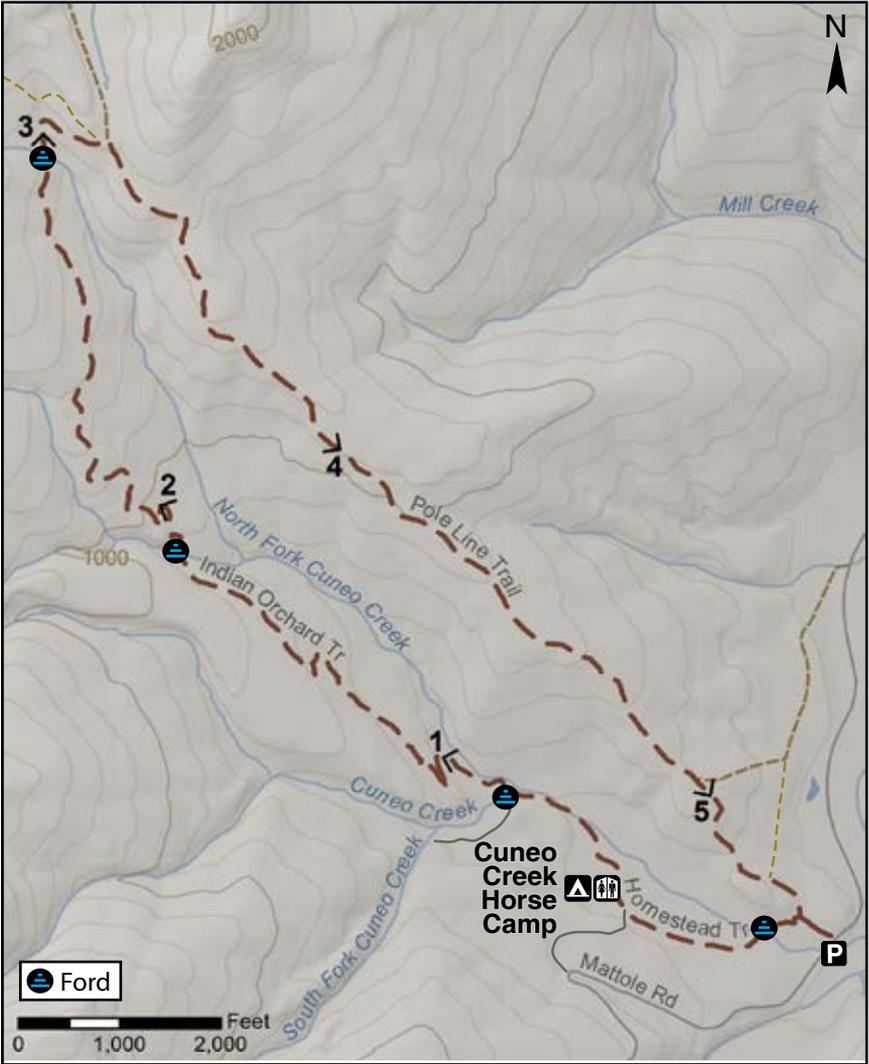
Length: 5.4 miles	State Parks
Total ascent: 1250 feet	Fee: none
Elevations: 400-1650 feet	Access constraints: fords
Type: 98% loop	Dogs: no
Land management: California	Restrooms: yes

Description: Indian Orchard is the easiest trail from Bull Creek to Peavine Ridge and the cumulative route is the shortest of the Volume 1 hikes in Humboldt Redwoods. The ascent is gradual and shaded as it winds back and forth over Cuneo Creek and its tributaries; with no bridges, the crossings can be challenging (or at least cold) during the rainy season. The much steeper descent offers splendid views of the Bull Creek valley.

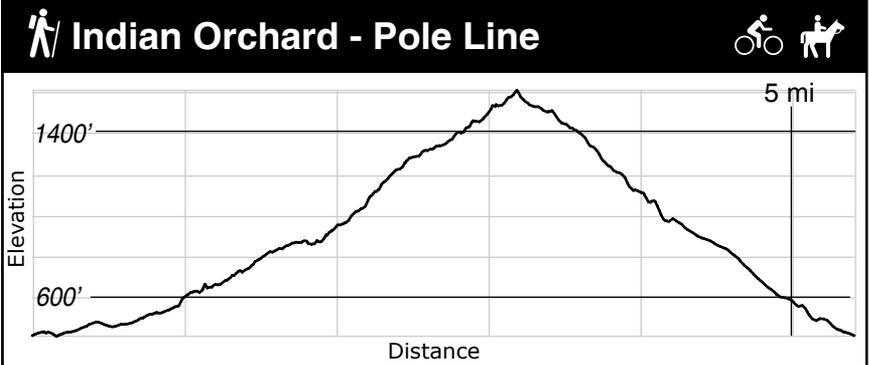
Getting there: Take US 101 south 42.5 miles. Take Exit 663 (South Fork/Honeydew) and turn right onto Lower Bull Creek Flats Road/Mattole Road. Go 7.2 miles and park on the right at the base of Pole Line Road. Approximate driving time, 1 hour.

The route: Go up Pole Line Road and turn left onto the Homestead Trail (0.1 no sign). Turn right onto the road at the end of the trail (0.5). Stay straight through the horse camp, bending left around the restrooms, and turn right onto the Indian Orchard Trail (0.6). Bear right at the fork (0.8). Turn right onto Pole Line Road (3.2) and take it back to the starting point.





S. Redwoods



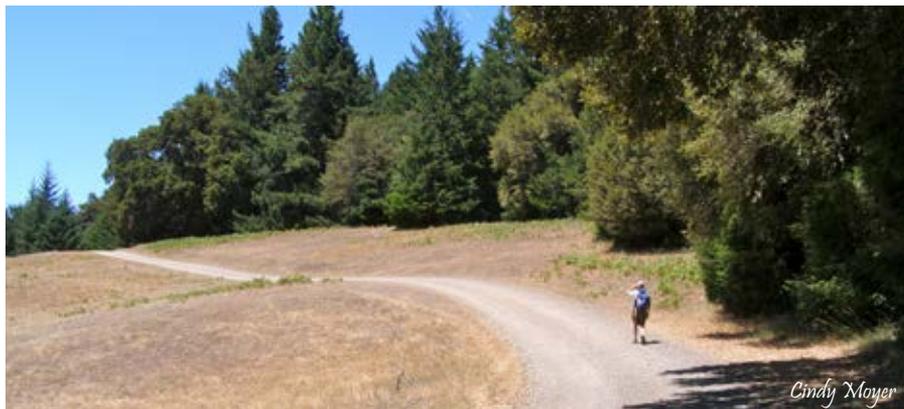
44 Upper Bull Creek

Length: 12.9 miles	State Parks
Total ascent: 2600 feet	Fee: none
Elevations: 900-2800 feet	Access constraints: ford
Type: loop	Dogs: no
Land management: California	Restrooms: yes

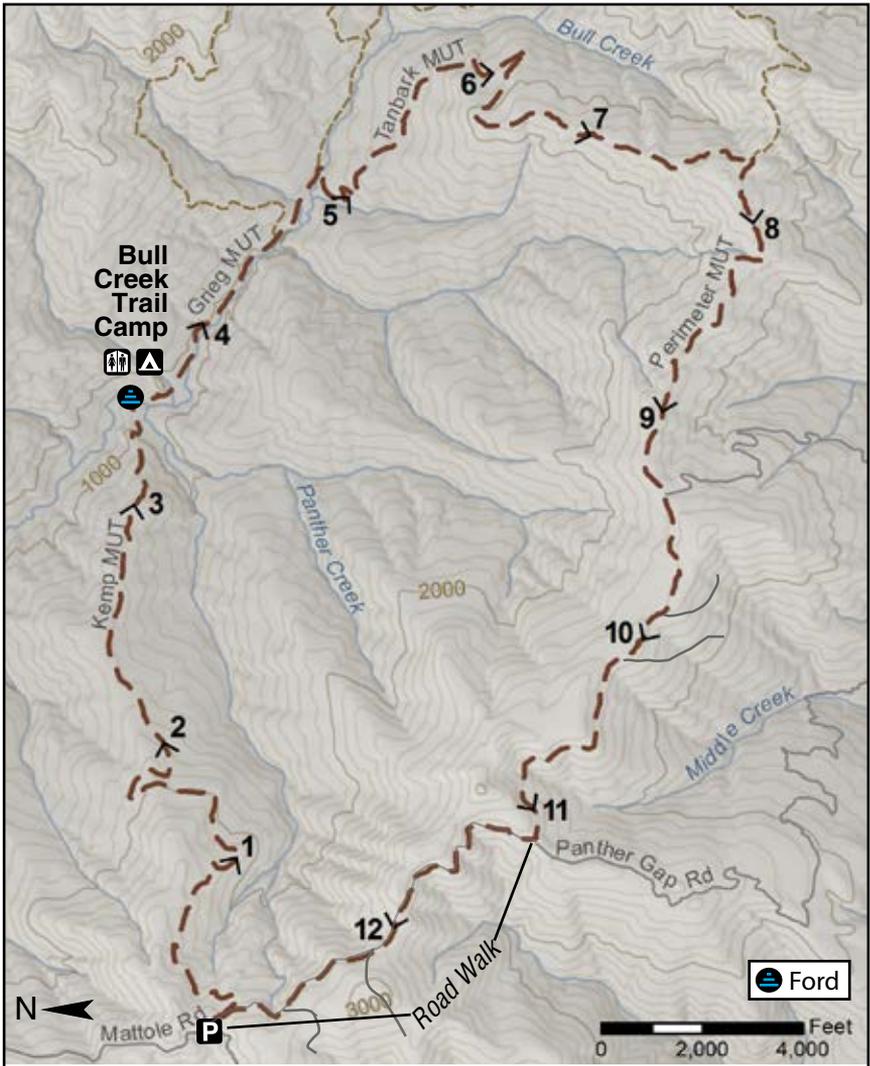
Description: This multi-use route traverses miles of seldom-visited terrain in the southwest corner of Humboldt Redwoods. The habitat is mostly dense second-growth forest, with patches of prairie, scattered redwood groves, and some impressive Douglas-firs. The hike descends 2000 feet to Bull Creek over the first few miles, then follows the creek upstream before climbing back out of the valley. Over half the elevation is regained between miles 5 and 8, but the shade makes the ascent surprisingly comfortable. The last leg includes spectacular views of the King Range. The downside of this hike is that the last couple of miles are on a road that often has quite a bit of speedy traffic; a car shuttle can eliminate this portion.

Getting there: Take US 101 south 42.5 miles. Take Exit 663 (South Fork/Honeydew) and turn right onto Lower Bull Creek Flats Road; this becomes Mattole Road. Go 14.1 miles to the trailhead, on the left at the summit. Approximate driving time, 1 hour 18 minutes.

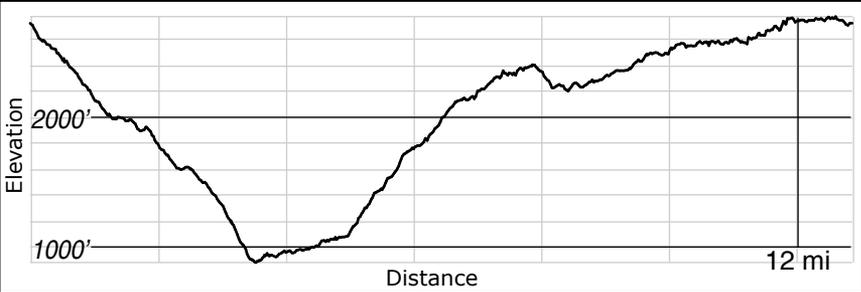
The route: Go downhill on the gated Kemp Trail; at some point this becomes the Grieg Trail, but there is no sign. Bull Creek (3.5) may be impassable after heavy rain. Turn right onto Tanbark Road (4.8). At the top of Tanbark Road (7.7), turn right onto the unsigned Rim Trail, also called the Perimeter Trail; this becomes Panther Gap Road. Keep to the right at every intersection until you return to the trailhead.



Cindy Moyer



Upper Bull Creek



Region F: Inland Mountains

The inland mountains offer a blend of two geologic provinces just an hour's drive from the coast. In this region, the Coast Range and Klamath Mountains collide along South Fork Mountain and present a jigsaw puzzle of ridges and valleys created by perpetual offshore tectonic activity.

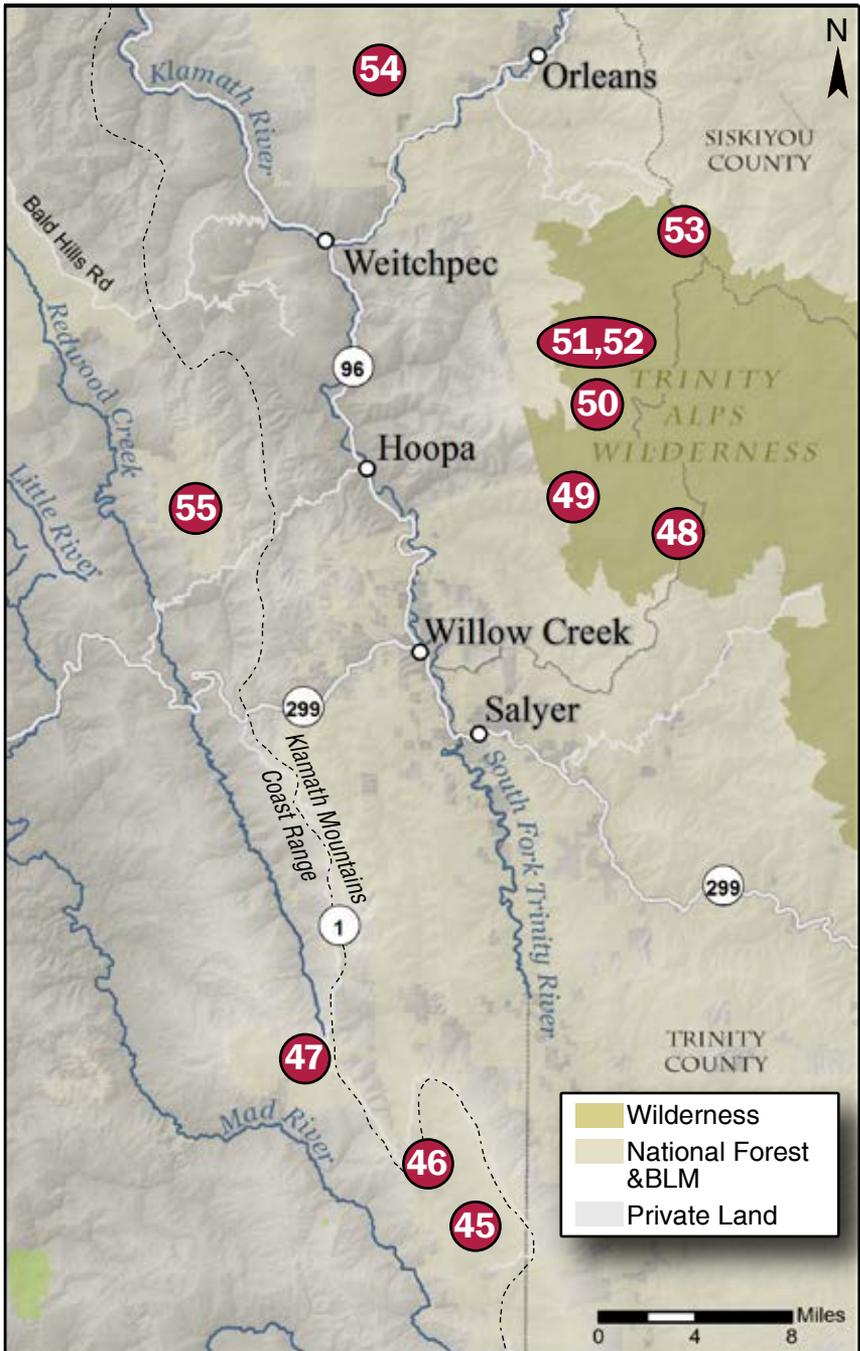
Hikes 45-47 offer an exhibit of this collision. While the hikes themselves are within the Coast Range, the route to the trailheads (FS 1) zigzags through both ranges along the crest of South Fork Mountain. Hike 55, in the Lacks Creek Management Area, is strictly within the Coast Range.

Topping out at nearly 7,000 feet, hikes 48-54 highlight the unique ecology and geology of the Klamath Mountain region. The complex interactions of living and nonliving factors can be witnessed in the diversity of life, particularly that of the vascular plants. The Klamath Mountains harbor one of the most biodiverse temperate coniferous forests in the world within a montane landscape that, at least in Humboldt's portion, are reminiscent of California's famed Sierra Nevada.

All hikes, with the exception of Lacks Creek, are on the Six Rivers National Forest (SRNF), a long sliver of public lands extending from the Oregon border south nearly to Mendocino County. Hiking trails can be poorly maintained, signage is minimal, and maps are sometimes inaccurate. Most of the SRNF hikes are in the Trinity Alps Wilderness, which has seen multiple high-intensity wildfires in recent years. In many places, these fires have obliterated trails, while falling snags and regenerating brush add to the trail-maintenance issues. Some trails are even being abandoned due to the lack of resources available for managing such an effort. Hiking on the SRNF can be challenging, and downloading the tracks from hikinghumboldt.com is strongly recommended.

Camping is permitted almost anywhere on the SRNF and there are a few undeveloped campsites and developed campgrounds, most closed October-May. Lacks Creek has numerous primitive campsites. Lodging and other services are available in Willow Creek, Hoopa, and Orleans while limited services are available in Weitchpec (fuel), Salyer, and Hawkins Bar. Forest Service ranger stations are in Willow Creek and Orleans.





Region F:
Inland Mountains

Inland Mtns.

45 Skull Camp Trail

Length: 11.7 miles

Total ascent: 3950 feet

Elevations: 2700-4000 feet

Type: out and back; shuttle option

Land management: USFS

Fee: none

Access constraints: snow, fords

Dogs: no restrictions

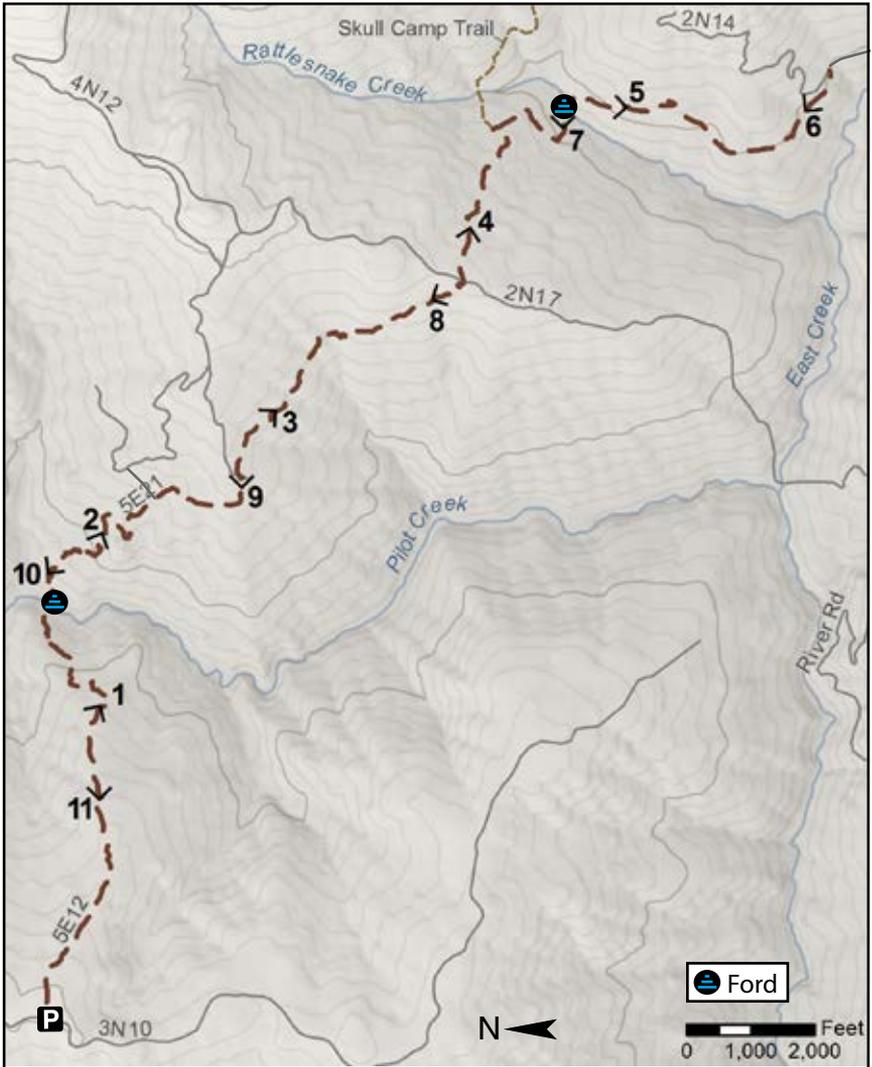
Restrooms: none

Description: This is a butt-kicker! With more elevation gain than any other hike in the book, it climbs two major ridges, one of them twice, and ends with a brutal ascent. Consider a car shuttle for this one. The rewards, aside from the workout, are utter solitude and superb views of a little-visited part of the county. The trail passes alternately through coniferous forest, oak woodland, and prairie, providing an excellent cross-section of these inland Coast Range habitats. The route uses clearly-defined trails, old logging roads, and overgrown cow paths; recent trail work has helped re-define the route. Long pants are advised due to burs.

Getting there: Take US 101 north 9.4 miles. Take exit 716A (Weaverville/Redding/Blue Lake/Willow Creek) and take SR-299 east 28.2 miles. Turn right onto Titlow Hill Road (this becomes Forest Route 6N01/Friday Ridge Road) and go 27.3 miles. Turn right onto FR 3N10 and go 5.1 miles. Turn left onto an unsigned entrance road into a hunting camp known as Careyville. Approximate driving time, 2 hours 3 minutes.

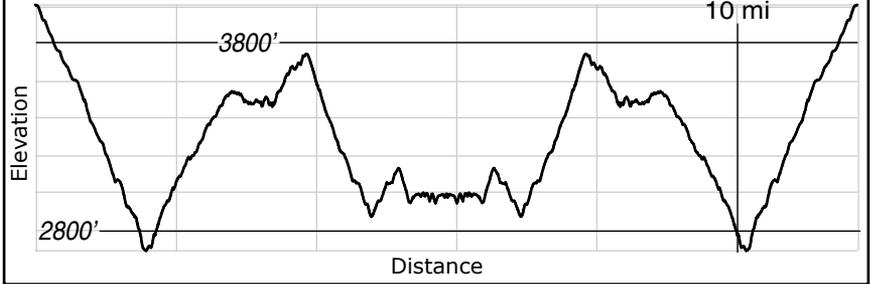
The route: Take Trail 5E12 out of Careyville. Cross Pilot Creek (1.5); you'll have to go slightly downstream (right) to stay dry, and this ford may not be passable after rain. The trail on the other side becomes an old road. Turn right off the road onto an unsigned trail (2.1); maps show this as 5E12D/5E21. This merges with the road again (2.3). Cross a private road (2.7) and continue on the other side through a prairie above a house, through a gate, through forest and back into prairie. Cross another road (3.8) and continue downhill. Turn right at a small, wooden turnstile-like structure onto unsigned 5E24 (4.3). Cross Rattlesnake Creek (4.7) and continue to the end of the trail at FR 2N14 (5.8). Turn around and retrace your route back.





Skull Camp Trail

Icons for a hiker, a cyclist, and a horse rider.



Inland Mtns.

46 Dan East Trail

Length: 7.9 miles

Total ascent: 3200 feet

Elevations: 3150-5700 feet

Type: out and back; vehicle access at both ends

Land management: USFS

Fee: none

Access constraints: snow, ford

Dogs: no restrictions

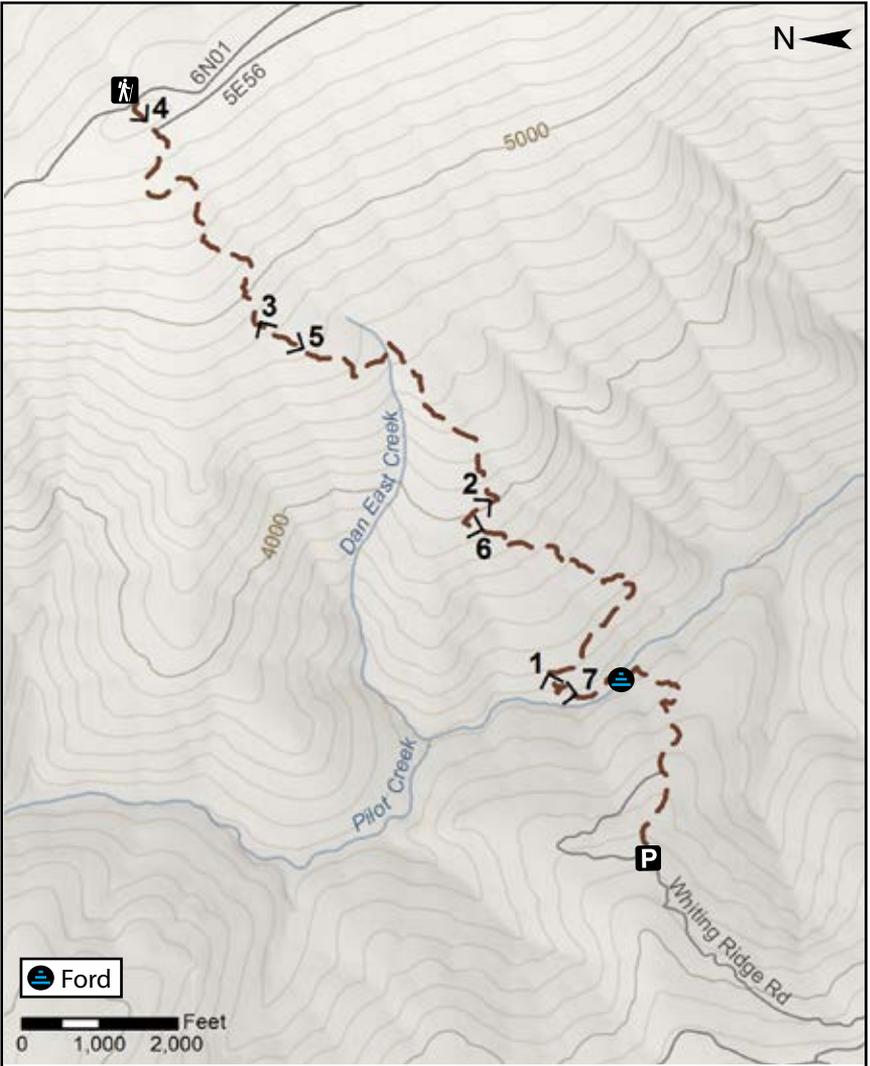
Restrooms: none

Description: Although not especially long, this hike is the steepest in the book and provides quite a workout. Still, it is relatively accessible, easy to follow, and quite secluded most of the time—though it is occasionally used by motorcyclists. Most of the route is in dense fir forest, but there are a few prairies with views to enjoy while you catch your breath. The trail serves as a shortcut between Pilot Ridge and South Fork Mountain and cuts straight across the Pilot Creek valley.

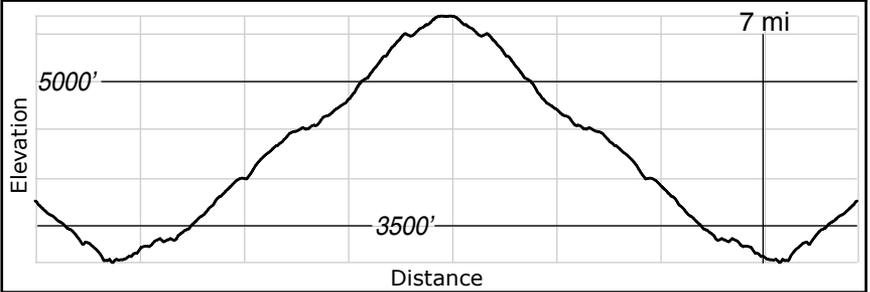
Getting there: Take US 101 north 9.4 miles. Take exit 716A (Weaverville/Redding/Blue Lake/Willow Creek) and take SR-299 east 28.2 miles. Turn right onto Titlow Hill Road (this becomes Forest Route 6N01/Friday Ridge Road) and go 27.4 miles. Turn right onto FR 3N14 and go 1.0 mile, staying left at two junctions, to an obscure, unsigned trail (5E14) on the right. (You can cut ½ mile off the roundtrip hike by driving to the end of 3N14 and picking up the trail there via 5E14A.) Approximate driving time, 1 hour 55 minutes.

The route: Follow the trail downhill, staying right at the fork (0.1). Cross Pilot Creek (0.7); this could be tricky after heavy rain or during snowmelt. Continue, uphill, on the other side, keeping left at the unsigned junction with 5E56 (3.9). Turn around when you reach Route 6N01 again (4.0) and retrace your route back.





 **Dan East Trail**



Inland Mtns.

47 Board Camp Mountain

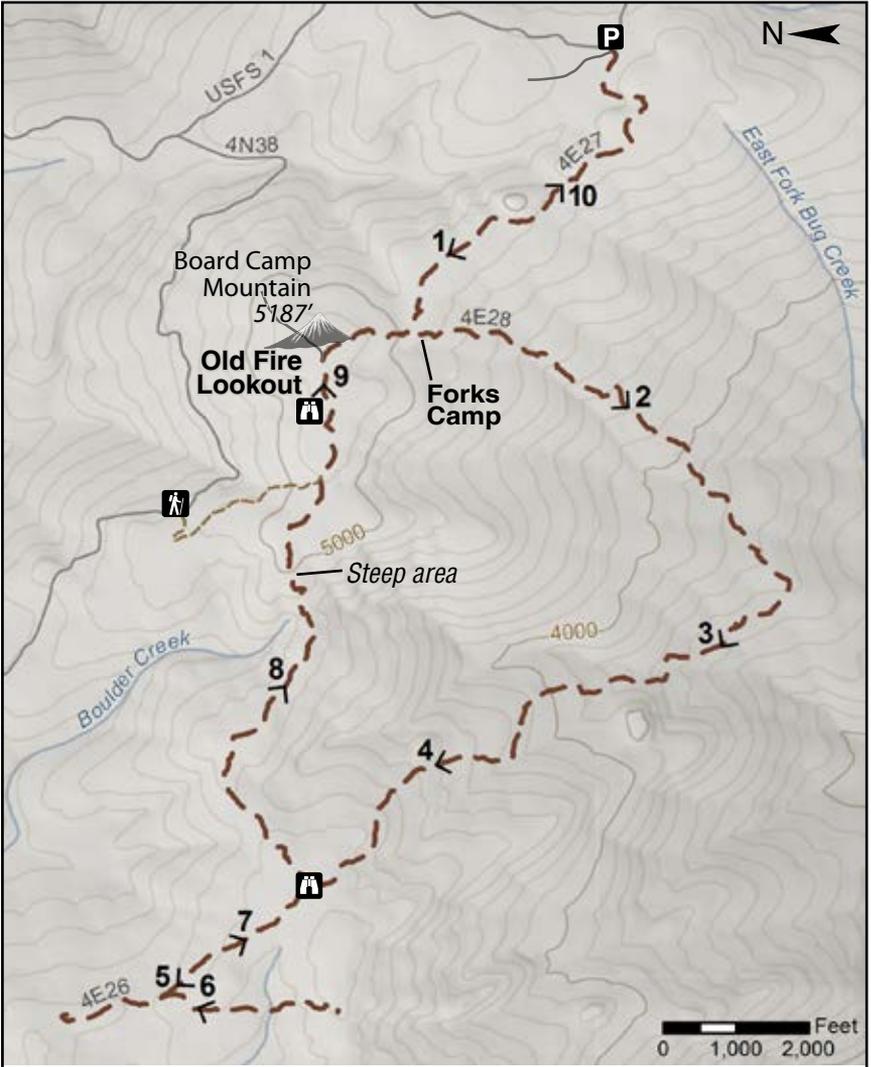
Length: 10.6 miles	Service, private
Total ascent: 3200 feet	Fee: none
Elevations: 3150-5150 feet	Access constraints: snow
Type: 51% loop	Dogs: no restrictions
Land management: US Forest	Restrooms: none

Description: This is a challenging hike that can be made considerably less so by skipping the southern part of the loop. The route includes steep slippery slopes, poorly-defined trails, and minor fords. The rewards are jaw-dropping views in every direction, interesting rock formations, and miles of seldom-visited forests and prairies. The spur trails at the west end go to overlooks; if you are going to leave one out, make it the northern one, even though it is easier to get to.

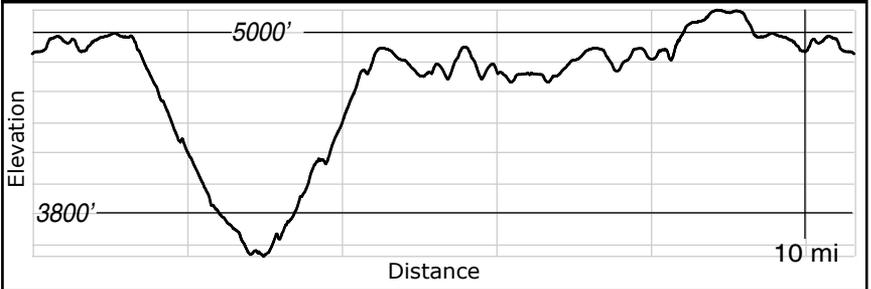
Getting there: Take US 101 north 9.4 miles. Take exit 716A (Weaverville/Redding/Blue Lake/Willow Creek) and take SR-299 east 28.2 miles. Turn right onto Titlow Hill Road, which becomes Friday Ridge Road/FS Route 1, and go 21.2 miles to a sharp left bend where two tracks go off to the right. Approximate driving time, 1 hour 35 minutes.

The route: Take the left track up the hill; this quickly becomes overgrown but opens up again shortly. After about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, the “road” ends and becomes a trail, 4E27 on the maps. Turn left at the first junction (1.2) onto 4E28, which marks the beginning of the loop portion of the hike. Turn left at the T (4.5) onto a grassy ATV track (4E26) that gets hard to follow in spots. Make a hard left (5.0) onto a well-defined trail that eventually crosses the Bug Creek drainage. The trail ends on a ridge (5.6); turn around here, backtrack to the last junction (6.1) and continue straight on the trail. This ends at a rock outcrop (6.4). Backtrack from here, bearing left at 6.7, to the junction with 4E28 (7.3). A road comes in from the left (8.7); with a high-clearance, 4WD vehicle you can start the hike here. Stay right at the next two junctions (9.0 and 9.1). Stay left at the start of the loop (9.4) to get back to Route 1.





Board Camp Mountain



48 Grizzly Camp to Horse Linto Creek

Length: 8.8 miles

Total ascent: 2600 feet

Elevations: 4400-5050 feet

Type: out and back

Land management: US Forest

Service Wilderness Area

Fee: none

Access constraints: rough road, snow

Dogs: no restrictions

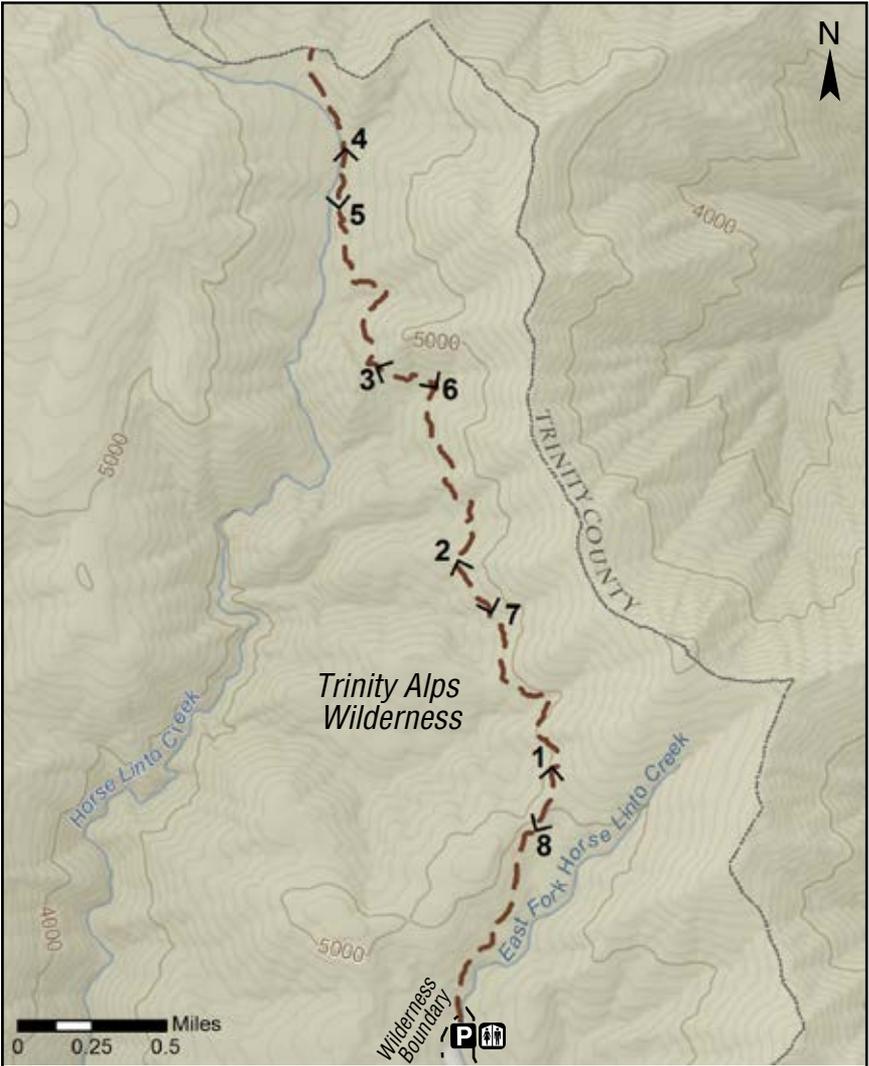
Restrooms: yes

Description: This section of the Horse Ridge Trail traverses a post-apocalyptic landscape—the product of a series of devastating wildfires. After a gradual one-mile climb through the most intensely burned stretch, the trail descends gently to the headwaters of Horse Linto Creek, crossing several small drainages along the way. The trail peters out beyond that but you can bushwhack up the last half mile to the saddle for views north across the Soldier Creek canyon to Devil's Backbone. As with any hike through a burned area, be prepared to scramble over logs and push through encroaching brush.

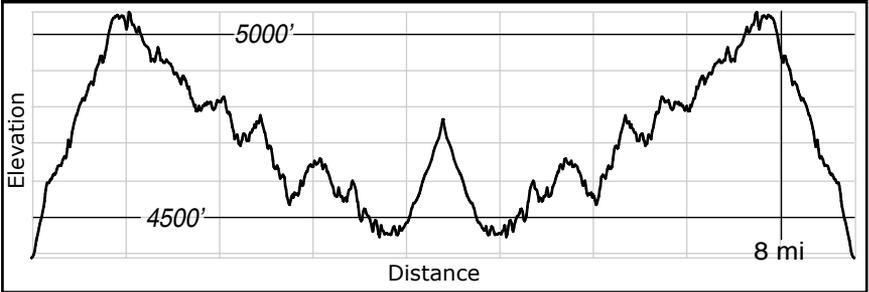
Getting there: Take US 101 north 9.4 miles. Take Exit 716A (SR-299/Weaver-ville/Redding/Blue Lake/Willow Creek) and follow SR-299 east 47.4 miles. Turn left onto Denny Road. Go 7.0 miles and turn left onto FR 7N26. Go 10.0 miles and bear right onto FR 7N53 (high clearance recommended). Continue 4.7 miles to the Grizzly Camp Trailhead at the end of the road. Approximate driving time, 2 hours 1 minute.

The route: Simply follow the trail to Horse Linto Creek (3.9). To continue to the saddle (4.4), follow the creek a short distance, then bear right around the boulder field, staying near the right side of the canyon.





 **Grizzly Camp to Horse Linto Creek** 



Inland Mtns.

49 Patterson Meadows

Length: 6.5 miles

Total ascent: 1850 feet

Elevations: 3350-5150 feet

Type: out and back

Land management: US Forest

Service Wilderness Area

Fee: none

Access constraints: snow,
fords

Dogs: no restrictions

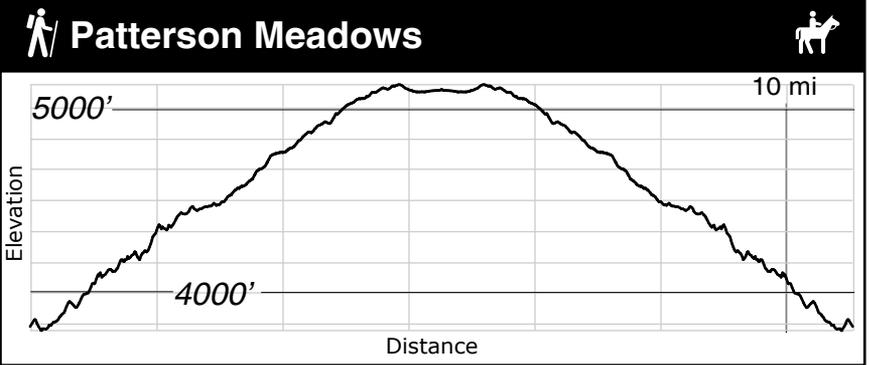
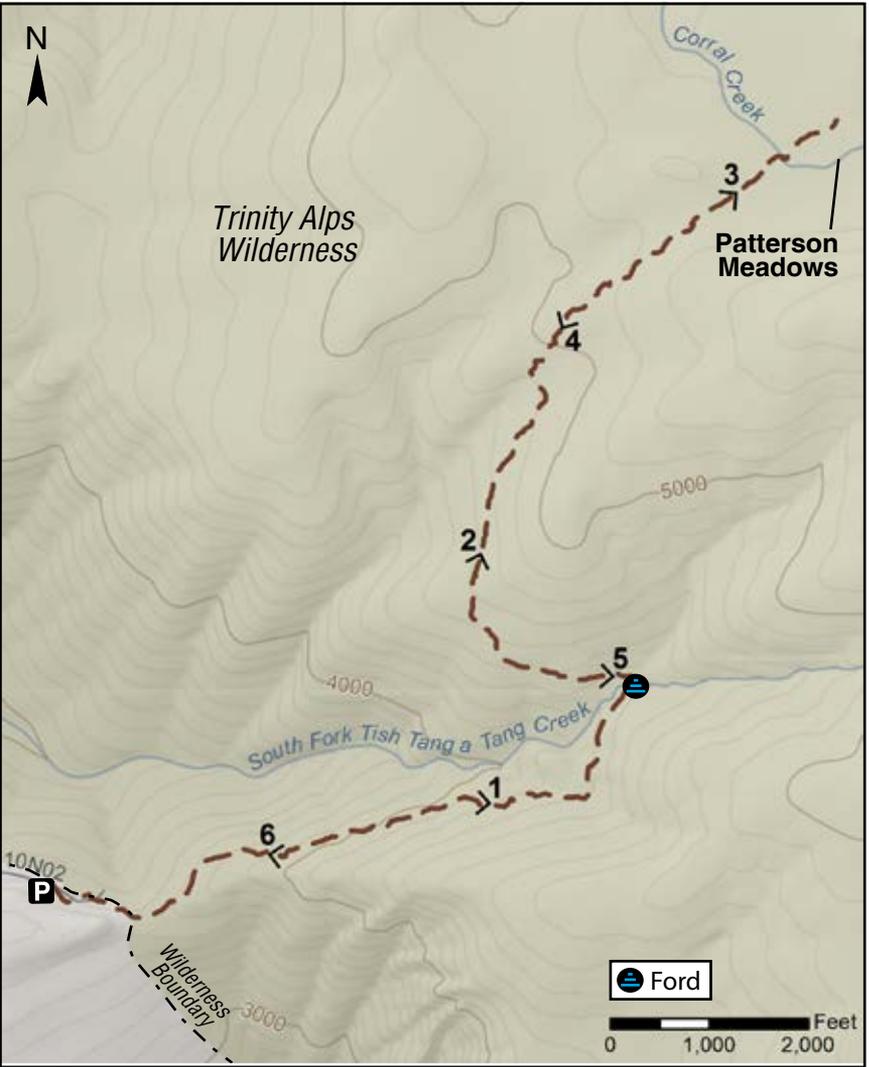
Restrooms: none

Description: The Tish Tang Trail provides the most direct access to Humboldt's largest montane meadow complex, with spectacular views along the way. It climbs through a small section of lightly burned forest before crossing the south fork of Tish Tang a Tang Creek, which may be challenging in spring. Most of the remaining hike climbs gradually through incinerated forest, now a mass of brush and burned snags and logs. The trail is hard to follow in places but if you watch for cut logs and flagging tape while keeping track of landmarks, it is navigable. Eventually, the trail tops a ridge and descends into the meadows, where the unburned forest at meadow's edge makes a pleasant resting spot before the return trip. Use of a GPS unit with the track loaded is strongly recommended for this hike.

Getting there: Take US 101 north 9.4 miles. Take Exit 716A (SR-299/Weaver-ville/Redding/Blue Lake/Willow Creek) and take SR-299 east 37.8 miles. Turn left onto CA 96, go 12.3 miles, and turn right onto Tish Tang Road. Go 3.2 miles and bear left at a fork. Go 4.8 miles and bear right at another fork. Go 3.6 miles and make a hard left. Go another 4.0 miles to the trailhead at the end of the road. Approximate driving time, 2 hours 3 minutes.

The route: Aside from the fact that the trail is often hard to follow, the route is straightforward as there are no other obvious trails. The turn-around point is arbitrary, and it is at least theoretically possible to continue up to the Horse Ridge National Recreation Trail and Trinity Summit. The SRNF map shows a return route via Ladder Rock and Graveyard Prairie that would make a nice loop, but those trails seem no longer to exist.





Inland Mtns.

50 Crogan Hole

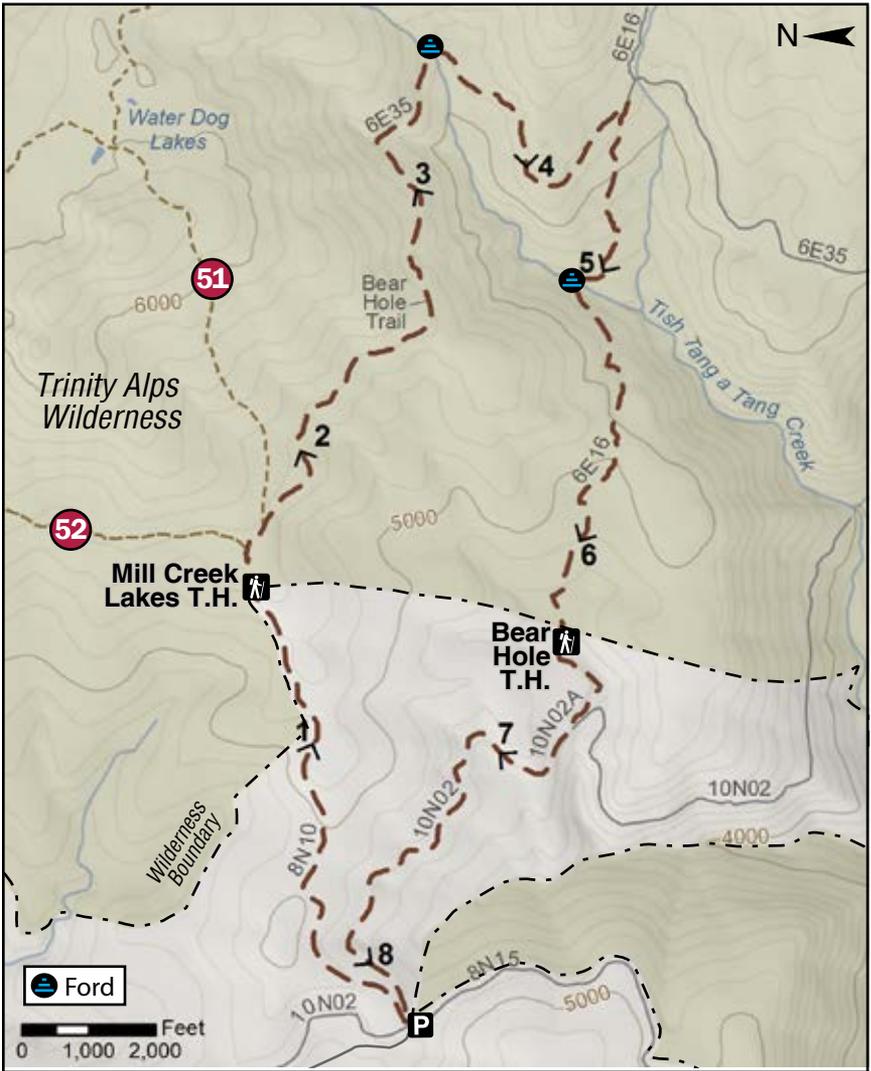
Length: 8.2 miles	Fee: none
Total ascent: 1350 feet	Access constraints: snow, fords
Elevations: 4650-5450 feet	Dogs: no restrictions
Type: loop	Restrooms: none
Land management: US Forest Service Wilderness Area	

Description: This is a hike with relatively little elevation change and also the shortest loop option in Humboldt's portion of the Trinity Alps Wilderness. The area burned in the 1999 Megram Fire and much of the hike passes through an immense brush-field full of burnt snags. However you may feel about stand-replacing wildfires, they sure do open up the views! The far end of the loop hits a section of unburned forest with some meadows. Several fords could be problematic during heavy flows. Although nearly half the hike is outside the wilderness on roads, you can expect zero traffic and these road-walking sections are quite pleasant.

Getting there: Take US 101 north 9.4 miles. Take Exit 716A (SR-299/Weaver-ville/Redding/Blue Lake/Willow Creek) and take SR-299 east 37.8 miles. Turn left onto CA 96, go 13.8 miles, and turn right onto Big Hill Road. Go 13.5 miles, bearing right at the fork at 7.9, and turn right onto FR 10N02 (no sign). Go 1.2 miles to the junction with FR 8N10 on the left. Approximate driving time, 1 hour 51 minutes.

The route: Take 8N10 to the end (1.6). Continue on the trail and immediately bear right at two successive forks, after which you'll be on the Bear Hole Trail. At a rocky meadow (4.5), make a hairpin right toward Bear Hole Trailhead. From Bear Hole Trailhead (6.3), take the road (FR 10N02A) to FR10N02 (6.7) and turn right.





Crogan Hole



Inland Mtns.

51 Lookout Rock

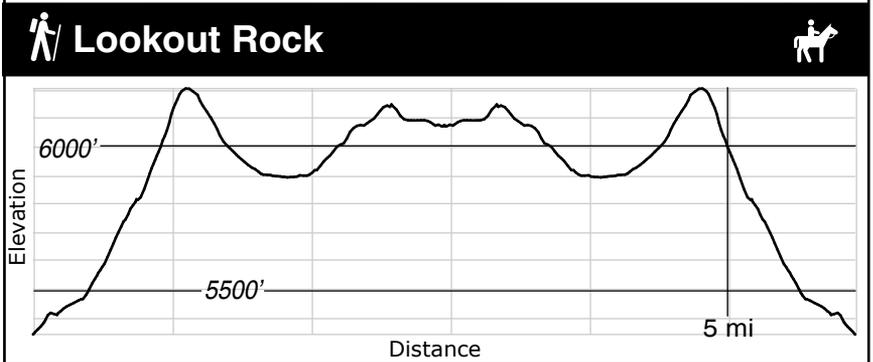
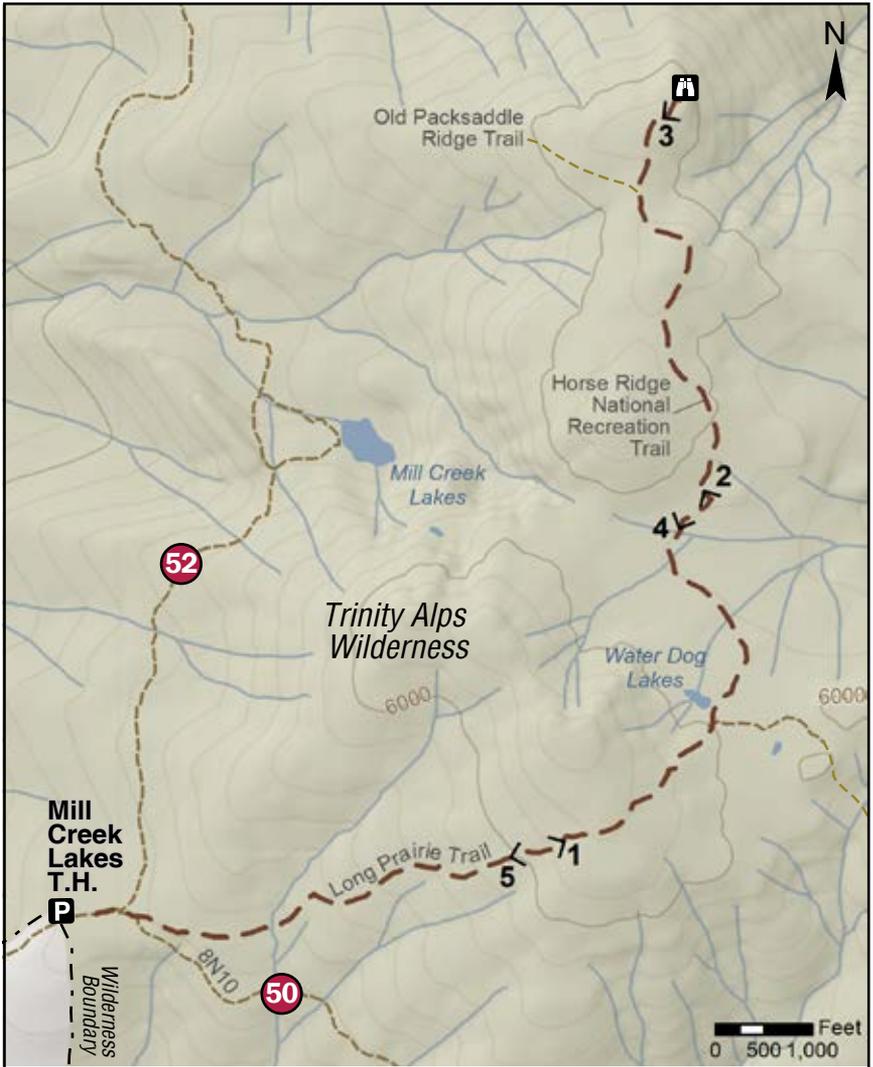
Length: 5.9 miles	Fee: none
Total ascent: 1500 feet	Access constraints: rough road, snow
Elevations: 5350-6200 feet	Dogs: no restrictions
Type: out and back	Restrooms: none
Land management: US Forest Service Wilderness Area	

Description: If you can follow this trail, you should feel proud of your navigation skills. Your efforts will be rewarded with expansive flower-filled meadows, small lakes, and incredible vistas of the Trinity Alps Wilderness. Most of the route traverses the site of the 1999 Megram Fire and is brushy and overgrown. It climbs steeply over the shoulder of North Trinity Mountain to Water Dog Lakes, then descends into a basin before climbing again, more gradually, to Lookout Rock, with views east across Red Cap Canyon to the Devil's Backbone. The trail is essentially nonexistent in places, so GPS unit with the track loaded is highly recommended.

Getting there: Take US 101 north 9.4 miles. Take Exit 716A (SR-299/Weaver-ville/Redding/Blue Lake/Willow Creek) and take SR-299 east 37.8 miles. Turn left onto CA 96, go 13.8 miles, and turn right onto Big Hill Road. Go 13.5 miles, bearing right at the fork at 7.9, and turn right onto FR 10N02 (no sign). Go 1.2 miles and turn left onto FR 8N10 (high clearance only), signed "Wilderness Trail." Go 1.5 miles to the trailhead at the end. Approximate driving time, 1 hour 57 minutes.

The route: Within the first hundred yards, keep right at the first junction and left at the second, heading uphill on the Long Prairie Trail. After the summit, you reach the Horse Ridge National Recreation Trail (1.4), but the junction is obscure; keep left, passing one of the Water Dog Lakes on your left. When you reach a meadow (1.6), stay along the left side through a small stand of trees into another meadow; here the trail disappears. Swing to the right along the left side of this meadow until you reach an old track at the far end. Follow this uphill through a couple of small switchbacks onto a ridge. Stay on the ridge, going under a large fallen tree, where the main trail leaves the ridge to the left (2.7). Turn right at a signed spur (2.9) to Lookout Rock (the more obvious trail here). From the rock, turn back and retrace your route to the start.





 **Lookout Rock**



Inland Mtns.

52 Red Cap Hole

Length: 5.9 miles

Total ascent: 1000 feet

Elevations: 5050-6450 feet

Type: 8% loop

Land management: US Forest

Service Wilderness Area

Fee: none

Access constraints: rough road, snow

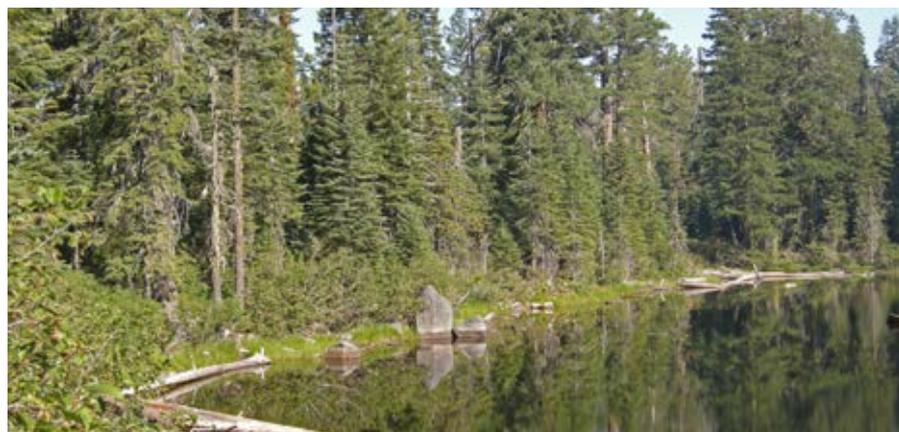
Dogs: no restrictions

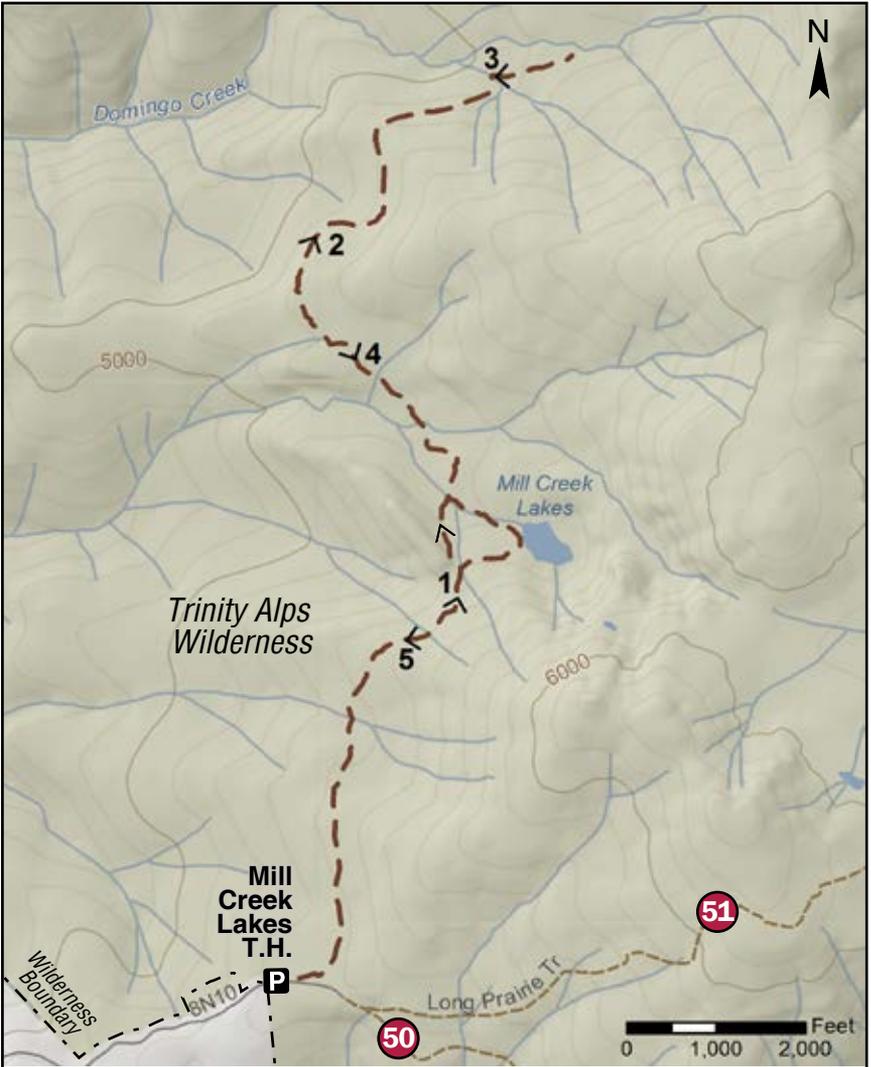
Restrooms: none

Description: This hike has only slight elevation change, passes through beautiful montane meadows, and makes a detour on the return leg to a secluded lake for a refreshing dip. It also traverses forests slowly regenerating after the 1999 Megram Fire so be prepared for downed trees and brush impinging on the trail. If the trail beyond Domingo Creek is reopened, it could be linked to Hike 51 to make an awesome loop.

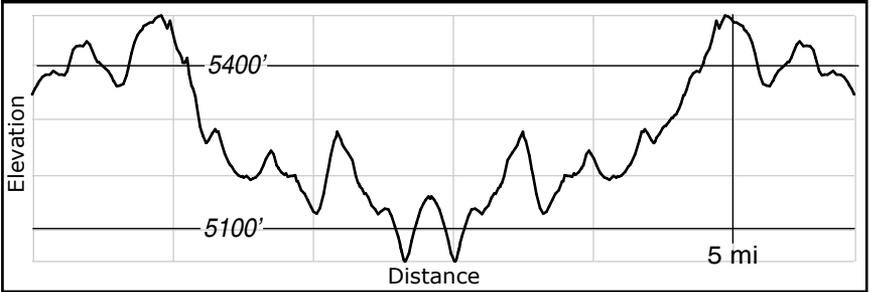
Getting there: Take US 101 north 9.4 miles. Take Exit 716A (SR-299/Weaver-ville/Redding/Blue Lake/Willow Creek) and take SR-299 east 37.8 miles. Turn left onto CA 96, go 13.8 miles, and turn right onto Big Hill Road. Go 13.5 miles, bearing right at the fork at 7.9, and turn right onto FR 10N02 (no sign). Go 1.2 miles and turn left onto FR 8N10 (high clearance only), signed "Wilderness Trail." Go 1.5 miles to the trailhead at the end. Approximate driving time, 1 hour 57 minutes.

The route: Just beyond the trailhead, turn left towards Mill Creek Lake. Bypass two obscure turnoffs to Mill Creek Lake on the right (1.1 and 1.2). The trail eventually crosses a small creek (2.4), turns right, and ends at a campsite on Domingo Creek (3.0). Backtrack to the northern lake loop junction and turn left (4.4). Loop back to the main trail (4.8) and turn left to return to the trailhead.





 **Red Cap Hole** 



Inland Mtns.

53 Red Cap Lake - Salmon Mountain

Length: 11.1 miles

Total ascent: 2400 feet

Elevations: 5350-6900 feet

Type: out and back

Land management: US Forest

Service Wilderness Area

Fee: none

Access constraints: snow

Dogs: no restrictions

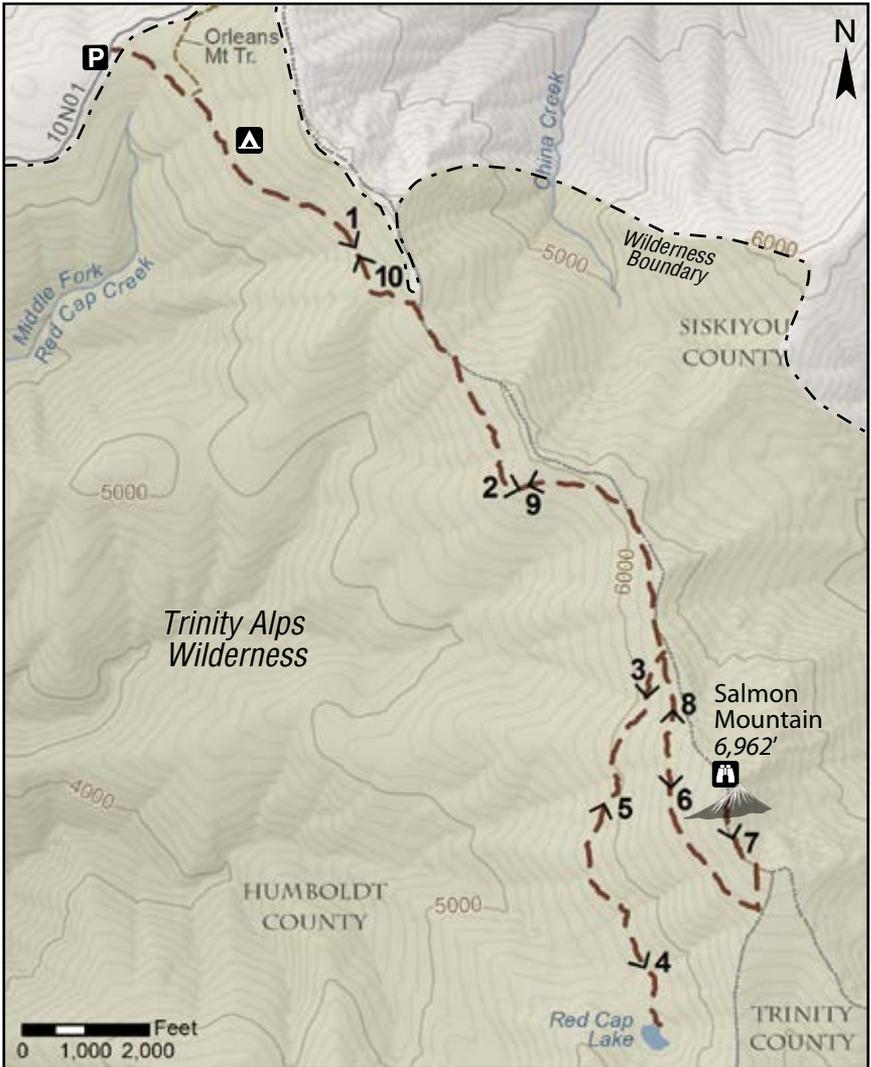
Restrooms: none

Description: Red Cap Lake and Salmon Mountain are two of Humboldt's premier high-country destinations and either makes a fine day hike on its own. It may be possible to do them as a loop but the connecting trail is currently too overgrown to recommend, though an intrepid hiker might still be able to follow the route. Most of the hike traverses dense true fir and incense-cedar forest, while openings provide spectacular views extending east to Mt. Shasta and west to the Pacific. Salmon Mountain is the highest point in the county.

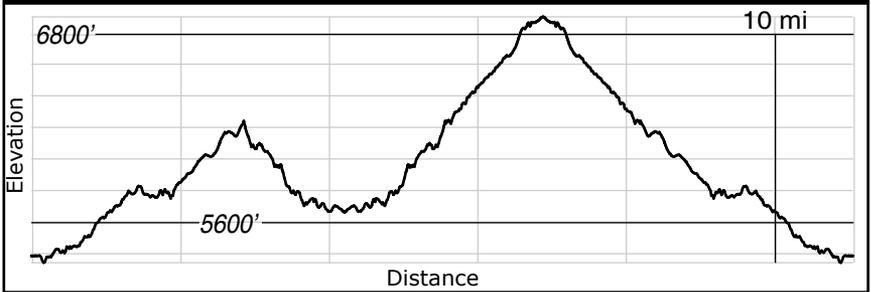
Getting there: Take US 101 north 9.4 miles. Take Exit 716A (SR-299/Weaver-ville/Redding/Blue Lake/Willow Creek) and follow SR-299 east 37.8 miles. Turn left onto CA 96 and go another 37.8 miles (yes, that's right). Turn right onto Red Cap Road immediately after crossing the Klamath River on the far side of Orleans; this road becomes FR 10N01. Go 18.8 miles to the Salmon Summit Trailhead on the left. Approximate driving time, 2 hours 32 minutes.

The route: Start out on the Salmon Summit National Recreation Trail (6E03). Bear right at the trail to Red Cap Lake (2.9). Turn around at the lake (4.2), return to the Salmon Summit Trail (5.6), and turn right. Look for a stone cairn on the left where the trail enters a burn (6.5); if you start going downhill, you've overshot. Make a hard left here, go through a gap in the trees, and continue in the same direction up the open slope to the ridge (6.7). Turn left and follow the clearest path along the ridgeline to the summit (6.9).





Red Cap Lake - Salmon Mountain



Inland Mtns.

54 Blue Lake to Fish Lake

Length: 5.8 miles	Access constraints: road closure
Total ascent: 1000 feet	Dogs: leashed in campground; otherwise no restrictions
Elevations: 1800-2700 feet	Restrooms: yes
Type: 69% loop	
Land ownership: US Forest Service	
Fee: none	

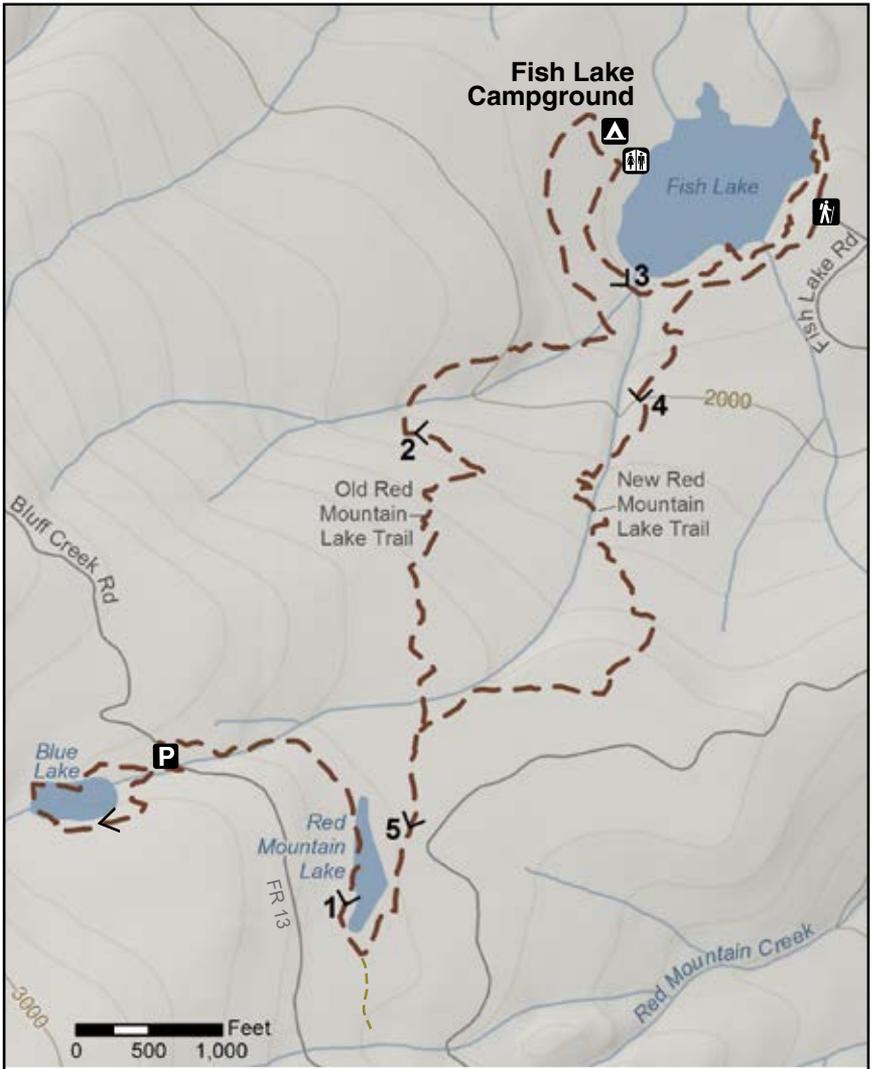
Description: Tucked into the Bluff Creek drainage, this great hike offers a taste of the incredible botanical diversity that characterizes the Klamath Mountain region. It is one of the best places in the county to see the beautiful, regional endemic Port Orford-cedar—and the effects of the fungal root rotting disease that is killing it. The route passes three mountain lakes and offers a view of the Klamath River valley. It is quite unlike any other hike in the county.

Getting there: Take US 101 north 9.4 miles. Take Exit 716A (SR-299/Weaver-ville/Redding/Blue Lake/Willow Creek) and follow SR-299 east 37.8 miles. Turn left onto CA 96 and go 27.4 miles. Turn left onto Forest Route 13(N01) and go 6.6 miles to the gravel parking lot at Blue Lake on the left. Route 13 is closed late September to mid-May to protect the cedars. Approximate driving time, 1 hour 50 minutes.

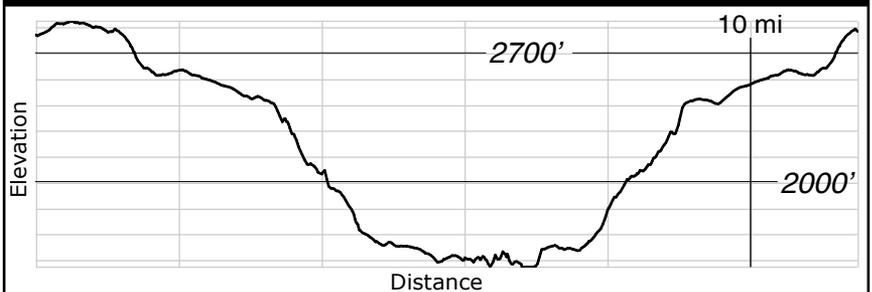
The route: Backtrack about 100 feet down the road and take the unsigned trail (Blue Lake Trail) on the right. Back at the parking lot after circling the lake (0.5), angle left across the road and pick up the trail, which angles to the right, on the other side. Stay left at the next junction (1.1). Keep left at the fork (1.4); you are now on the Old Red Mountain Lake Trail. The trail crosses a series of road beds; turn left on the 4th one, just above Fish Lake (2.4). Make a hard right onto the Fish Lake Campground road (2.7) toward sites 16-18. Turn right at the restroom onto the Fish Lake Trail (2.8). Bear right at the T (3.2). At the Fish Lake boat ramp (3.4), go up the road and turn right onto Fish Lake Road (3.5). Branch off to the right on the old road towards the Blue Lake Trail (3.6). Bear left at the unsigned trail going uphill (3.8); this is the New Red Mountain Lake Trail. Back at the junction with the Blue Lake and Old Red Mountain Lake trails (4.9), turn left and return to the start.



Port Orford-cedar



 **Blue Lake to Fish Lake**



Inland Mtns.

55 Lacks Creek

Length: 10.1 miles

Total ascent: 1900 feet

Elevations: 2250-3050 feet

Type: 63% loop

Land management: Bureau of

Land Management

Fee: none

Access constraints: snow

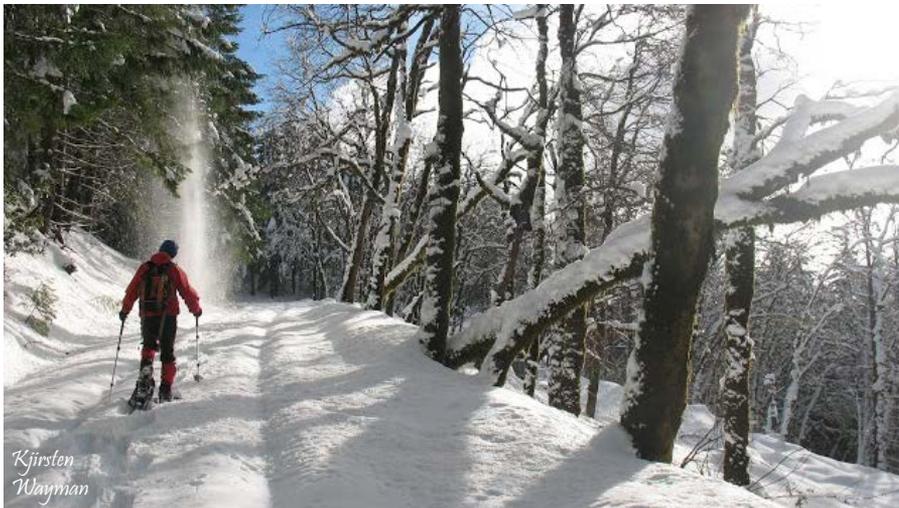
Dogs: no restrictions

Restrooms: yes

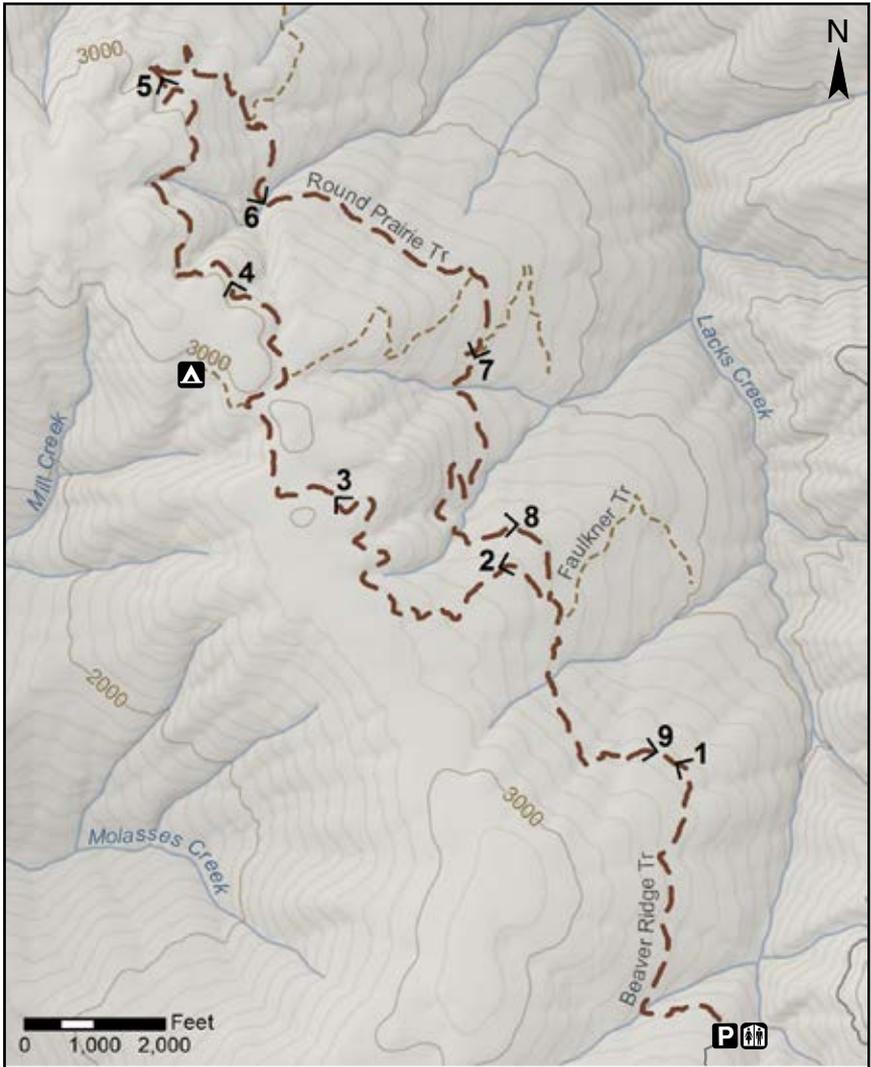
Description: Lacks Creek Management Area is one of Humboldt's newest public areas and thus still relatively unknown. The land was acquired to provide recreation resources and to aid in the restoration of the Redwood Creek watershed. The area is characterized by a mix of plant communities common in the mid elevations of the North Coast Range. This hike uses a collection of trails and service roads on the west side of the valley. More trails are being established in the area, so see the website and Volume 2 for updates and other options.

Getting there: Take US 101 north 9.4 miles. Take Exit 716A (SR-299/Weaverville/Redding/Blue Lake/Willow Creek) and follow SR-299 east 17.8 miles. Turn left onto Bair Road towards Redwood Valley and go 3.7 miles. Turn right towards Hoopa (still Bair Road) and go 5.9 miles. Turn left onto Lacks Creek Road, veering left at the intersection of Pine Ridge, Midslope, and Beaver Ridge roads, and go 2.3 miles to the end. Approximate driving time, 1 hour 15 minutes.

The route: Follow the Beaver Ridge Trail, which is well signed except at the 4th junction (3.7), where it goes left. Turn right onto the Round Prairie Trail (5.7). Turn right at a hairpin left turn (6.9) onto an unsigned trail. Return to the Beaver Ridge Trail (8.3) and turn left.



*Kirsten
Wayman*



Lacks Creek   



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - CONTACTS

Bureau of Land Management:

<http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/arcata.html>, 707-825-2300

California Department of Fish and Wildlife:

<https://r1.dfg.ca.gov/portal/>, askregion1@dfg.ca.gov, 707-445-6493

California State Parks:

<http://www.parks.ca.gov/>, info@parks.ca.gov, 800-777-0369

City of Arcata:

<http://www.cityofarcata.org/departments/environmental-services>,
707-822-8184

City of Eureka:

<http://ci.eureka.ca.gov/depts/pnr/trails/default.asp>, webmaster@ci.eureka.ca.gov, 707-441-4144

City of Ferndale:

<http://ci.ferndale.ca.us/facilities.html#parks>, cityclerk@ci.ferndale.ca.us, 707-786-4224

City of Trinidad:

<http://www.trinidad.ca.gov/departments-a-services/public-works.html>, 707-677-0223

Friends of the Dunes:

<http://www.friendsofthedunes.org/>, info@friendsofthedunes.org,
707-444-1397,

Humboldt County Department of Public Works:

<http://humboldt.gov.org/1392/Public-Works>, 707-445-7652

McKinleyville Community Services District:

<http://www.mckinleyvillecsd.com/parks-recreation>, mcsd@mckinleyvillecsd.com, 707-839-9003

McKinleyville Land Trust:

<http://www.mlandtrust.org/>, info@mlandtrust.org, 707-839-5263

Redwood National and State Parks:

<http://www.nps.gov/redw/index.htm>, 707-465-7335

US Fish and Wildlife Service:

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/humboldt_bay/, denise_seeger@fws.gov,
707-733-5406

US Forest Service:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/srnf/>, 707-442-1721

The Wildlands Conservancy:

http://www.wildlandsconservancy.org/preserve_eelriver.html, info@twc-ca.org, 707-672-4725

RECOMMENDED READING

Natural History

A Field Guide to California and Pacific Northwest Forests. John Kricher and Gordon Morrison. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 1998.

Common Birds of Northwest California. Kenneth Burton and Leslie Anderson. Redwood Region Audubon Society. 2013.

Conifer Country: A natural history and hiking guide to 35 conifers of the Klamath Mountain Region. Michael Kauffmann. Backcountry Press. 2012.

Coast Redwood: A natural and cultural history. John Evarts and Marjorie Popper. Cachuma Press. 2011.

California's Botanical Landscape: A pictorial view of the state's vegetation. Michael Barbour, Julie Evens, & Todd Keeler-Wolf. CNPS Press. 2016.

From the Redwood Forest: Ancient trees and the bottom line : a headwaters journey. Joan Dunning and Doug Thron. Chelsea Green Pub. Co. 1998.

Northwest California: A natural history. John Sawyer. University of California Press. 2006.

River of Renewal Myth & History in the Klamath Basin. Stephen Most. University of Washington Press. 2006.

Trees & Shrubs of the Pacific Northwest. Mark Turner and Ellen Kuhlmann. Timber Press. 2015.

Wild Trees. Richard Preston. Random House. 2008

Cultural History

Both Sides of the Bluff. Jerry Rohde. Humboldt County Historical Society. 2014.

The Legacy of Luna: The story of a tree, a woman and the struggle to save the redwoods. Julia Hill. Harper One. 2001.

Two Peoples, One Place. Ray Raphael and Freeman House. Humboldt County Historical Society. 2007.

See also the Humboldt County Historical Society's book inventory at <http://www.humboldthistory.org/booklist.html>.

	Length (mi.)	Ascent (ft.)	Max. elev.	Car shuttle	Fee	Access note	Dog-friendly	Restroom	Driving time	Bus access
Redwood National & State Parks										
1. Coyote Creek	8.4	1550	2900						1:32	
2. Dolans Prairie to Redwood Creek	13.2	3000	2400			●		●	1:09	
3. 44 Camp and Creek	11.1	2000	950			●		●	1:27	
4. Redwood Creek Trail	9.8	500	800	●		●		●	1:30	
5. Lost Man Creek	10.2	650	2250	●				●	1:10	
6. Rhododendron – Cathedral Trees	7.4	1600	1000					●	0:54	●
7. West Ridge – Prairie Creek	8.4	1100	850			●		●	0:53	●
8. James Irvine – Miner’s Ridge	7.6	1000	600			●		●	0:53	●
9. Fern Canyon – Friendship Ridge	8.0	900	800		●	●		●	1:19	
10. Trillium Falls to Lady Bird Johnson Grove	8.2	1700	1300					●	0:50	●
11. Skunk Cabbage	10.4	1250	550					●	0:51	●
12. McArthur Creek	13.5	2700	1300		●			●	0:46	●
Trinidad Area										
13. Humboldt Lagoons	8.4	450	300	●	●	●		●	0:48	
14. Patrick’s Point	5.1	900	250					●	0:30	●
15. Trinidad	6.3	950	350			●	●	●	0:25	●
Urban Corridor										
16. Hammond Trail – Hiller Park	5.1	150	100				●	●	0:17	●
17. Mad River Spit	5.8	50	50			●	●		0:24	●
18. Arcata Community Forest	6.9	1150	1100			●	●		0:12	●
19. Arcata Marsh	5.0	0	0			●	●	●	0:12	●
20. Manila Dunes to Ma-le’l Dunes	6.6	150	50					●	0:09	●
21. Bucksport to King Salmon	7.1	0	0				●	●	0:10	●
22. Eel River Spit	9.0	50	0			●	●	●	0:28	
23. Headwaters Forest	10.7	1700	1350				●	●	0:21	
24. Fortuna Riverfront	7.2	50	50				●	●	0:21	●
25. Russ Park	5.2	1550	650				●		0:27	
26. Eel River Estuary Preserve	8.5	0	0			●	●	●	0:32	
King Range										
27. Cooskie Creek – Punta Gorda	10.8	3200	2350			●	●		2:15	
28. Kinsey Ridge – Spanish Ridge	12.9	3250	2450			●	●		2:22	
29. Miller Loop	6.1	2200	3350			●	●		2:13	
30. King Peak	5.3	1950	4050			●	●		2:34	
31. Paradise Royale	11.1	3100	2550			●	●		1:49	
32. Shelter Cove to Horse Mountain Creek	13.0	3350	1550				●	●	1:50	
33. Chemise Mountain	6.9	1750	2550				●	●	1:41	
Southern Redwoods										
34. Richardson Grove	7.6	2000	1500		●	●		●	1:14	
35. Benbow to Garberville	5.9	600	650						1:09	●
36. Williford – Williams Grove	7.9	1300	1050			●		●	0:54	
37. Grasshopper Peak	15.0	3450	3350			●		●	0:50	●
38. River Trail	13.4	2300	450			●		●	0:46	●
39. Bull Creek Flats	9.8	400	350			●		●	0:46	●
40. Peavine Ridge	13.0	3000	2450					●	0:53	●
41. Johnson Trail Camp	10.8	1850	1550			●		●	0:53	
42. Baxter-Homestead Loop	6.3	1050	1150			●			0:56	
43. Indian Orchard – Pole Line	5.4	1250	1650			●		●	1:00	
44. Upper Bull Creek	12.9	2600	2800			●			1:18	
Inland Mountains										
45. Skull Camp Trail	11.7	3950	4000			●	●		2:03	
46. Dan East Trail	7.9	3200	5700			●	●		1:55	
47. Board Camp Mountain	10.6	2850	5150			●	●		1:35	
48. Grizzly Camp to Horse Linto Creek	8.8	2600	5050			●	●	●	2:01	
49. Patterson Meadows	6.5	1850	5150			●	●		2:03	
50. Crogan Hole	8.2	1350	5450			●			1:51	
51. Lookout Rock	5.9	1500	6200			●	●		1:57	
52. Red Cap Hole	5.9	1000	5450			●	●		1:57	
53. Red Cap Lake – Salmon Mountain	11.1	2400	6900			●	●		2:32	
54. Blue Lake to Fish Lake	5.8	1000	2700			●	●	●	1:50	
55. Lacks Creek	10.1	1900	3050			●	●	●	1:15	

Kenneth Burton - Author

Ken was born with incurable wanderlust and has always felt most at home outside. He grew up playing in the woods of Mill Valley, California, fascinated by everything natural but especially reptiles and amphibians. He got hooked on birds in college and has traveled the world as a tour guide, professional ornithologist, and hobby birder. In 2005, he moved to Humboldt County, where he found himself frustrated by the lack of information on local hiking opportunities. This book is the product of that frustration. Ken is also the author of *Common Birds of Northwest California*.



Jason Barnes - Cartographer



Originally from Michigan, Jason moved to Northern California to attain a certificate, and later a Masters in GIS. He served as an officer for the Northern California region of the American Society for Photogrammetry & Remote Sensing (ASPRS) for five years. While living in Humboldt County, Jason discovered the Trinity Alps Wilderness and Klamath Mountains and began using his GIS skills toward citizen science projects involving lake

bathymetry, glacier monitoring, and trail advocacy. When not hiking in the wilderness, he can be seen cycling the trails and roads of Humboldt County, exploring backroads on his dual-sport motorcycle, or capturing footage with his quad-copter. Jason is a co-author of the newest map set to the Bigfoot Trail.

Also Available from BackcountryPress.com



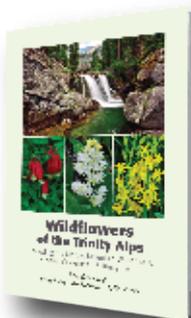
Conifer Country: A natural history and hiking guide to 35 conifers of the Klamath Mountain region

An innovative natural history and hiking guide that uses conifers as a lens to explore the astounding plant diversity in the Klamath Mountains.



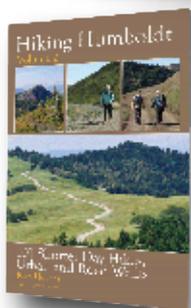
Conifers of the Pacific Slope: A field guide to the conifers of California, Oregon, and Washington

A contemporary field guide built to assist plant lovers in identifying one of the most intriguing and ancient groups of plants in the world.



Wildflowers of the Trinity Alps

This book features plants found within the premier wilderness areas of northwest California's Klamath Mountains. This collection is representative of the most common, beautiful, and unique species in one of the most biodiverse temperate mountain ranges in the world.



Hiking Humboldt Volume 2: 101 Short Day Hikes, Urban and Road Walks

Volume 2 presents walk descriptions, directions, maps, and photos of familiar favorites, hidden gems, and unexpected adventures.

An independent publisher of web and print media whose themes explore natural history, ecology, and the western landscape.



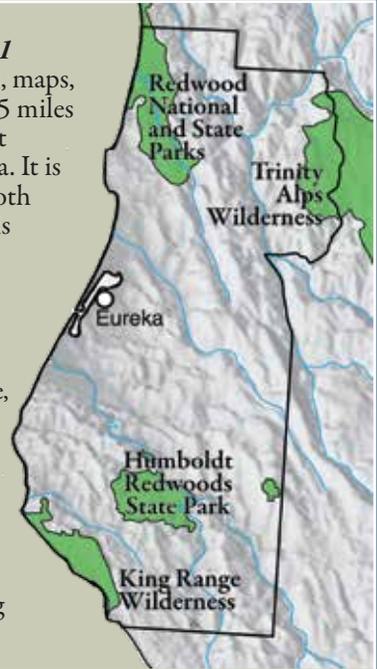


Hiking Humboldt Volume 1

presents descriptions, directions, maps, and photos of hikes that are 5-15 miles in length throughout Humboldt County in Northwest California. It is the first hiking guide to cover both coastal and inland regions of this diverse county.

This book introduces hikers to Humboldt County through:

- 55 day hikes, of five miles or more, from the coast to the mountains
- Accurate maps for each hike including elevation profiles and highlights along the trail
- Detailed written descriptions with directions to the trailhead and other particulars surrounding accessibility



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