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REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK

and
Jedidiah Smith Redwoods
State Park
Del Norte Coast Redwoods
State Park
Prairie Creek Redwoods
State Park

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Elm Tree Grove



Tallest known tree in the world

TRAILS

Highways and side-roads provide views of forest and ocean as good or better than any on the trails. But the trails are more peaceful. And somehow a view seems finer when attained in the natural, non-mechanized manner.

Nooks and crannies of the park area are probed by 30 trails totalling over 100 miles. Some are thronged, others lonesome. Some require merely a leisurely hour, others can fill a long, rich day, and one is best done as an overnight backpack. For a full listing consult maps issued at information offices, or ask the rangers, who always are happy to share their favorite walks. (But not with pets, which



Redwood Creek near Tall Tree Grove

Among the short paths are self-guiding nature trails with brochures keyed to points of interest on the way. The Revelation Trail is designed for the blind as well as the sighted, a wood-and-rope hand-railing running the ¼-mile length, "touchable" features keyed by knots in the rope to a Braille guidebook.

Solitude is assured on many of the half-day or all-day tramps, notably the Rhododendron Trail. The James Irvine Trail goes overland 4½ miles to Fern Canyon, and the Boy Scout Trail to a charming little waterfall. The 4-mile Coastal Trail from Requa to False Klamath Cove wanders along grassy hillsides and through spruce forests, out on bluffs offering broad ocean panoramas.

The Redwood Creek Trail leads in 8 miles to the world's tallest known trees. Though the round-trip can be done in a day, most hikers carry overnight gear and camp on a friendly gravel bar.

When measured in 1963 by the National Geographic Society, the Tall Tree was approximately 600 years old and was 367.8 feet tall and 14 feet in diameter. The top 15 feet or so are dead and should part of this section break off during a high wind, the title would pass to the second-tallest tree, a half-mile down the creek. (The third- and sixth-tallest trees also are in the national park.)

The future of the Tall Tree Grove is in doubt. Though in the lower Redwood Creek valley the park bulges out to extend from ridgetop to ridgetop, upstream the boundary comes within a quarter-mile of the creek on both sides and at several points logging is in sight or sound from the trail. Outside the park the bulk of the valley already has been clearcut or will be by 1980 or so. The big question is: has Redwood Creek been destabilized and will it follow the example of Bull Creek?

