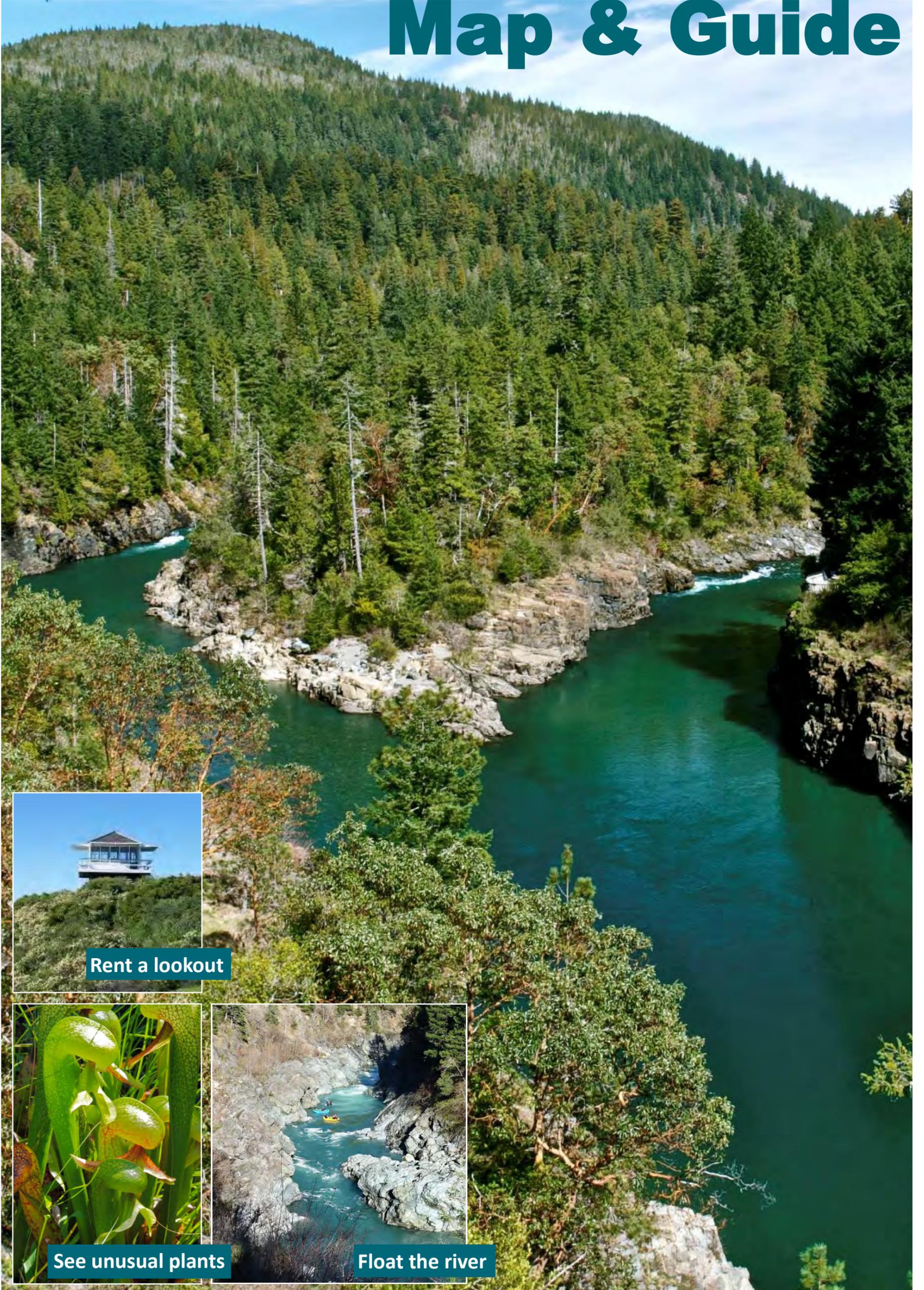


Smith River

National
Recreation
Area

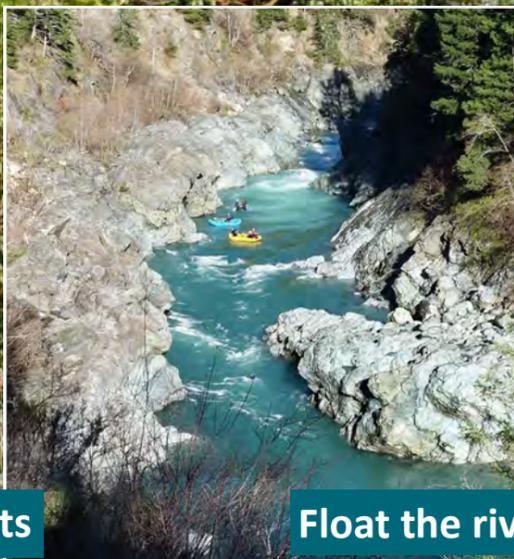
Map & Guide



Rent a lookout



See unusual plants



Float the river



“The Forks”—confluence of the Middle and South Forks of the Smith River/
Jon Parmentier

About the Area

The Smith River was named after Jedediah Smith, an American explorer who reached the river in June 1828.

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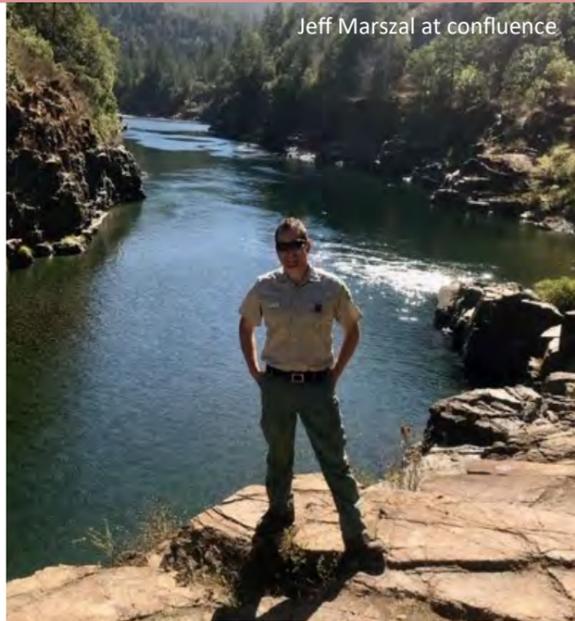
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Scan this QR code with your mobile device to visit the Six Rivers' website at www.fs.usda.gov/srnf.



Photo Credits: Front cover: Confluence of the Middle and South Forks of the Smith River (“The Forks”) from Hwy 199, milepost 6.55/Jon Parmentier. Insets: Bear Basin Butte Lookout/USFS; *darlingtonia* (*Darlingtonia californica*), also called California pitcher plant or cobra lily/Jon Parmentier; Middle Fork Gorge from Hwy 199, milepost 8.2/Sue Pappalardo. All other photos by Sue Pappalardo or as labeled.



Jeff Marszal at confluence

Welcome to the Smith River National Recreation Area!

As the district ranger of the Smith River National Recreation Area, I welcome you to this very special place in northwest California. The Smith River National Recreation Area offers visitors a world-class recreational experience with our spectacular scenery, pristine wilderness areas, unique botanical areas, hundreds of accessible back-country roads, more than 70 miles of hiking trails, mountain bike trails, fishing opportunities, white-water rafting, and the gem of the Wild and Scenic Rivers system—the Smith River—with its clear, free-flowing jade-green waters. The Smith River is the only major river system in California that flows freely and naturally for its entire length. It is also one of the largest, single, undammed river systems in the United States. Redwood National and State Parks are close by and the Siskiyou Wilderness and Pacific Ocean are within 20 miles.

It was because of these outstanding qualities that this 305,337-acre national recreation area (NRA) was designated by Congress in November 1990, to protect the area’s scenic value, natural diversity, fisheries, wildlife, cultural and historical attributes, wilderness, and the Smith River watershed’s pristine water. As stewards of the Smith River NRA, the Forest Service is committed to providing recreational opportunities and managing this highly diverse area for all its treasured resources. As part of that, the Smith River NRA along with stakeholders and partners, including the Smith River Collaborative, work together to restore wildlife habitat, reduce fuels buildup, and increase recreational capacity and opportunities on the Smith River NRA.

These collaborative efforts, and all of our work, are focused on protecting the resources and providing you with outstanding recreational opportunities to experience your public lands. So please, we invite you to safely enjoy your national forests, as they depend on active and engaged land stewards... like you!

Jeffrey Marszal
District Ranger

Services

Smith River National Recreation Area

Facilities: Visitor center, five campgrounds, one cabin lookout rental, three picnic areas, restrooms, interpretive displays, and boat launch.

Visitor center: 10600 US Highway 199 (milepost 14.45), Gasquet, California. Latitude-Longitude Coordinates: 41.844625, -123.965691. Information, maps, videos, exhibits, books, souvenirs, and lost and found. Open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Showers (coin-op): Panther Flat Campground.

Drinking water: Visitor Center and Panther Flat Campground (year-round), and Patrick Creek Campground (summer season).

Cell phone service: Variable depending on your location and carrier; the NRA is serviced mostly by US Cellular and Verizon. Service is generally good along Hwy 199 and in the higher elevations; little or no service in canyons, especially along South Fork Road.

WiFi: Closest available WiFi is at the Gasquet Market just west of the FS Visitor Center.

Local Towns and Proximity to Smith River NRA Visitor Center

Gasquet—0.15 miles west: Convenience store with groceries, drinks, liquor, coffee, prepared food, and firewood; café with hamburgers, grilled sandwiches, and ice cream; post office; wood carving and antique shops; and vacation rentals.

Hiouchi—9 miles west (11 minutes): Gas station/convenience store with groceries, prepared food, liquor, espresso, ice, propane, diesel, firewood, souvenirs, fishing tackle, and fishing licenses; café serving breakfast and lunch; motel; RV (recreational vehicle) park; wood carving and antique shops; vacation rentals; Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park campground and picnic area; Redwood National and State Parks visitor centers.

Crescent City—19 miles west (25 minutes): Small, full-service town with a hospital, medical clinics, large-chain department store, and many choices of restaurants, lodging, and supermarkets.

O’Brien, Oregon—27 miles east (32 minutes): Small town with a convenience store/gas station, post office, restaurant, motels, RV parks, resorts.

Cave Junction, Oregon—35 miles east (42 minutes): Small town with a supermarket, medical clinic, post office, Forest Service visitor center; gas stations, restaurants, motels, RV parks, resorts, and campgrounds.

Grants Pass, Oregon—65 miles east (1 hour and 20 minutes): Full services; hospital; Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management office.

Nearby Parks with Camping

Redwood National and State Parks, 1111 Second Street, Crescent City, California 95531, (707) 464-6101. Includes Jedediah Smith Redwoods, Del Norte Coast Redwoods, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Parks. All have flush toilets and coin-op showers (campers only).

Del Norte County Parks, Crescent City, California, (707) 464-7213. Includes Florence Keller, Ruby Van Deventer, and Clifford Kamph County Parks. Flush toilets; no showers.



Know Before You Go

Above the clouds—fog blankets the valleys below Bear Basin Butte.



Stony Creek flows into the North Fork of the Smith at the end of the Stony Creek Trail.

Federal Recreational Lands Passes

The Smith River NRA does not charge a fee or require a pass for day-use or primitive camping. Fees are charged only for use of developed campgrounds (page 6) and the cabin/lookout rental (page 18). Note: All prices are subject to change.

Interagency Senior Pass (\$20 / \$80): choose between an annual or lifetime pass for citizens or permanent residents of the United States, age 62 or older.

Interagency Access Pass: a lifetime pass free to citizens or permanent residents of the United States, who have a permanent disability. Proper documentation is required to obtain this pass.

Golden Age Passports and Golden Access Passports: no longer issued, but still accepted; they work the same as the Senior passes.

Holders of the above passes receive access to and use of many other Federal recreation sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees, as well as 50% discount on eligible camping fees.

Interagency Annual Pass (\$80) are sold at the Smith River NRA visitor center. This pass includes entrance or standard amenity fees at many Federal recreation sites (the NRA does not charge these fees). **The annual passes are not valid for camping discounts.**

Obtain Passes in person at national forest offices and at many other federal recreation agencies; by mail through USGS (inquire at 1-888-275-8747); via email at fedrecpass@usgs.gov; or online at **The USGS Store**, <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/index.html>.

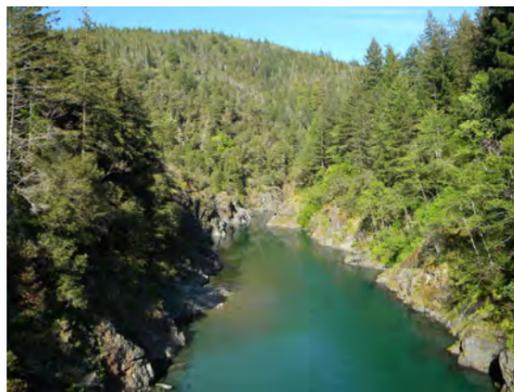
Permits

Campfire permits are necessary if you plan to build a campfire or use an outdoor camp stove, gas lantern, or barbecue away from a developed campground. Permits are not required within developed campgrounds and picnic areas; however, campfires are allowed only in designated fire pits.

Permits are free and can be obtained at any Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, or Cal Fire office in California. They are also available at Redwood National and State Parks visitor centers in Crescent City and Hiouchi; in Oregon at Forest Service offices in Cave Junction and Grants Pass; or online at www.PreventWildfireCA.org.

Forest products permits are available for collecting firewood, mushrooms, and various plants. The minimum charge is \$20.

Mushrooms for personal use may be collected in the Smith River NRA without a permit, limited to one gallon per person per day up to a yearly maximum of five gallons.



View up the South Fork gorge from the "Second Bridge" (milepost .5 on South Fork Road (CR 427).

Maps

Wilderness, national forest, and road maps are available at the Smith River NRA Visitor Center; some are for sale, others are free. Maps are also available online at The USGS Store (store.usgs.gov) or the National Forest Map Store (www.nationalforestmapstore.com).

Marijuana

The possession or use of marijuana and other controlled substances upon your national forests is a violation of federal law. All sections of the Controlled Substance Act will be strictly enforced within the jurisdiction of the USDA—Forest Service.



Yellowjacket Creek on South Kelsey Trail/Jon Parmentier

Pets and Animals

Pets must always be restrained or on a leash no longer than six feet at all times while in the NRA.

Saddle or pack animals are allowed in recreation sites only where authorized by posted instructions. Hitching, tethering, or hobbling a horse that causes damage to live trees, soil, or water is prohibited.

Firearms

Do not discharge a firearm or any other implement capable of taking human life, causing injury, or damaging property:

(1) in or within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site or occupied area, or (2) across or on a National Forest System road or a body of water adjacent thereto, or in any manner or place whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result in such discharge, or (3) into or within any cave.

Fireworks

Using an explosive is prohibited in the Six Rivers National Forest. This includes fireworks, firecrackers, rockets, and other explosives.

Weather

Summers are dry with warm temperatures, around 80-100° F (27-38°C). The rainy season normally runs from October through April with an average annual rainfall of 90-plus inches. Temperatures in the winter may drop into the 30s and 40s (1-10°C) with occasional snow in the lower elevations and several feet of snow in the higher elevations. For current weather, call the Smith River NRA. For a complete forecast, call the local National Weather Service recording, 707-443-7062 or visit weather.gov.



South Fork of the Smith below Hurdygurdy Creek/Grant Werschull



Snow-capped Siskiyou Crest from the Old Gasquet Toll Road

Protect Yourself, Protect Your Forest

Water that seems crystal clear can contain harmful microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, *Giardia*, and *Cryptosporidium*. Most developed campsites provide safe drinking water; however, remote sites without water will require visitors to bring their own. Water taken from above-ground sources such as lakes, springs, rivers, and streams should be purified prior to drinking. Treatment methods include boiling, mechanical filtration/purification, exposing to UV light, and chemical purification.

Sun Protection. Wear a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, and lip balm to protect your skin from wind or sun damage.

High winds can cause trees and branches to fall. Move to open areas during windy conditions.

Forest roads are narrow, winding, and may be rough. Stay to the right at all times. Carry a map and drive with your lights on. Maintain sufficient tire tread to prevent rock punctures.

Ticks carrying Lyme disease occur in the area. Stay on trails and check clothing frequently; wear light-colored clothes to enhance visibility. Wear long sleeves and pants, and use insect repellent. Tuck pant legs into socks and shirts into pants. Inspect your body thoroughly after hiking. If you are bitten, save the tick. If you get sick, seek medical help and bring the tick in to be tested for the disease.



Tick

Mosquitoes can be pesky in the warm season. Wear insect repellent and loose clothing.

Plague is carried by fleas that pass on the disease from infected rodents. Do not feed rodents; or rest or camp near their burrows.

Poison oak contains an oil that causes an allergic reaction in many people, resulting in an itchy rash. The plant is abundant in the lower elevations of the NRA. It grows as a shrub or vine and has gray to red-brown branches with no thorns. The leaves are in groups of three and are shiny with wavy, lobed, or smooth edges. The emerging spring growth is reddish-brown and becomes green as the leaves mature. In late summer and fall, leaves turn shades of orange, red, pink, and yellow before dropping, then branches remain bare until spring. If exposed, wash with a non-oily soap or Tecnu, a commercial cleanser.



Poison Oak; Insets: fall foliage, emerging growth, flowers.

Black Bears and Mountain Lions are present in the NRA. Like any wild animal, they can be dangerous. To prevent an encounter: hike in groups; keep children in sight—do not let them run ahead on the trail; keep a clean camp; be alert to your surroundings; and make noise while hiking. If you meet a bear or mountain lion: do not run, crouch, or bend over; remain calm and give the animal a chance to leave the area; be aware of the animal's location and slowly back away; stay together and pick up small children immediately. If the animal approaches, yell loudly, wave arms, and throw objects. If attacked, fight back!



Mountain Lion

Leave No Trace

Be prepared for unexpected emergency situations. Weather at high elevations can change rapidly. Stay on designated trails.

Pick up and pack out all trash so that those who follow you may enjoy a natural forest environment. Please do not burn trash.

Bury all human waste 6 to 8 inches deep and at least 200 feet from water, camp, and trails. Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.

Keep your fires small and use existing fire rings. Always make certain your campfire is DEAD OUT before you leave.

Take only pictures, leave only footprints. Disturbing, defacing, or collecting any cultural artifact or natural resource is prohibited. (For exceptions see Permits pg. 3)

Be considerate of other visitors.

Never Feed Wildlife

Feeding wildlife is dangerous to you, other humans, and the fed animal. It's also against the law! A fed bear that becomes habituated to

humans often has to be killed. Bears and other animals ordinarily become problems in campgrounds only when visitors are careless with food storage.

Store food items in your vehicle's trunk or inside the car. Car windows should be closed and food items covered to limit visibility to curious creatures.

Bears consider all products with an odor as food—toothpaste, suntan lotion, insect repellent, even chewing gum—so properly store your food. Along the trail, hang food from a line or tree branch at a minimum height of 12 feet to help safeguard your edibles.

Feeding ravens and jays results in increased populations of these predatory birds, threatening endangered species like marbled murrelets and snowy plovers.

Invasive Plants and Diseases

Sudden oak death, *Phytophthora ramorum*, is a disease killing millions of oak and tanoak trees in California and Oregon.

Port-Orford-cedar root disease, caused by the root-rotting organism, *Phytophthora lateralis*, is killing Port-Orford-cedar trees throughout their limited range. Non-native invasive plants such as Scotch broom and English ivy compete with native plants and alter ecosystems. You can help: stay on established trails; clean mud and debris from shoes, pets, livestock, and tires before exploring your forest. Some roads may be closed during the wet season, usually mid-October to late-May, to prevent Port-Orford-cedar root disease from spreading into uninfected areas. Please respect road closures.

Aquatic Hitchhikers

Help prevent the spread of invasive species such as New Zealand mudsnails and quagga mussels. Never release plants, fish, or other animals into a body of water unless they came from that body of water. When leaving the water, remove any visible mud, plants, fish, or other animals from recreational equipment and drain water before transporting. Clean, dry, and dry all equipment and clothing that comes into contact with water.



View into the North Fork of the Smith River canyon from Low Divide Road (CR 305) /Jon Parmentier



View from Ship Mountain Lookout

Things to Do...



...In an Hour or Two

- Picnic at Panther or Patrickthis page
- Forest Ranger-Led Programs.....this page
- Take a Scenic Drivethis page
- Take a short walk:
 - Patrick Creek Trail 7
 - Darlingtonia Trail 7
 - Myrtle Creek Trail 10
 - Stony Creek Trail 10
- See “The Forks” page 11
- Sunbathe at Madrona River Access..... 11
- Watch fish at Shelly Creek..... 12

...In a Half-Day

- See the view from a lookout.....this page
- Take a scenic drivethis page
- Picnic at Chimney Flatthis page
- Explore Bear Basin Butte Botanical Area.....this page
- Take a short hike on long trail..... 7

...In a Full-Day

- Hike to Devil’s Punchbowl or Young’s Valley..... 7

Special Places

Botanical Areas

North Fork: Set aside for its high diversity of rare plants and plant communities due to the unusual serpentine soils in the area. Accessed via Low Divide-Wimer Road (CR 305).

Myrtle Creek: This area sits on a boundary between serpentine and normal soil types so the differing effects on vegetation are easy to compare. Accessed via Myrtle Creek Trail.

Bear Basin: Features abundant wildflowers in summer, a wet meadow, and fourteen species of conifers (cone-bearing trees). Accessed via roads 16 / 16N02.

Broken Rib: Features a high concentration of conifers and numerous mountain peaks. Skirted by Road 18N07—no roads or trails lead in.

Visit a Lookout

360° views: mountains, peaks, ocean. See banner photos pages 3, 5, 18 and 19.

Ship Mountain: Working lookout. Visitors welcome, daylight hours. Staffed Monday through Friday during fire season (about mid-June to mid-October). Accessed via Road 16N02. See drive #2 for directions. See photo this page.

Bear Basin Butte: Recreational lookout. If you are not the renter, you must walk in one-half mile from the gate; please be respectful of occupants. See page 18 for directions and photos.

Siskiyou Wilderness

Accessed via Doe Flat, Island Lake, South Kelsey, and Young’s Valley trails. The Doe Flat trail leads to the popular destinations of Devil’s Punchbowl, Trout Camp, Wilderness Falls, and the Clear Creek trail. Young’s Valley trail leads to Young’s Valley and Raspberry Lake. These destinations are in the Klamath National Forest. Camping limit is 14 days. No permit is required. Motorized/mechanized use is prohibited in wilderness areas. Visit www.wilderness.net to learn more about hiking and camping in a wilderness area.

Picnic Areas

Directions are from the Smith River NRA visitor center in Gasquet.

Panther Flat: River view; two Olympic-sized, rock-walled swimming holes, one downstream and one upstream from picnic area. **Directions:** 2.3 miles east on Hwy 199, at milepost 16.75 (Panther Flat Campground).

Patrick Creek: Check out the rock walls and walkways created by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workmen from Camp Gasquet in the 1930s. Walk the paved .2-mile interpretive trail from the picnic area to the river and then under the highway to Patrick Creek Lodge. **Directions:** 7.45 miles east on Hwy 199, at milepost 22.0 (Patrick Creek Campground).

Chimney Flat: Large meadow bordered by Hurdygurdy Creek. **Directions:** 7.2 miles west on Hwy 199; 14.1 miles on South Fork Road (CR 427); .85 miles on Big Flat Road (CR 405) to milepost 2.85; left on 15N57 to parking area.

Other Activities

Forest Ranger-Led Programs: Inquire at the NRA office for seasonal programs that may be available during your visit. Programs are free and all ages are welcome. Programs may range from guided hikes to evening programs at one of our campgrounds.

Hunting is allowed in season and is regulated by California Department of Fish and Wildlife; pick up a free regulation book at the visitor center.

4-wheeling: Wimer Road (CR 305 and Siskiyou Forest Road 4402) and Sourdough Camp on the Siskiyou National Forest are popular and challenging destinations.

Off-highway vehicles (OHV) are allowed on certain roads; download it from the Forest website (www.fs.usda.gov/srnf). Non-street legal vehicles must have a green sticker from the California Department of Motor Vehicles.

Biking and horseback riding are allowed on all roads and some trails; check the trail guide, pages 7 and 10.

Watchable wildlife: There are no designated areas, but visitors often see bear, grouse, and quail. Mountain lions are seen occasionally. See page 12 for fish watching.

Gold panning and rock collecting: Please check at the visitor center for current policies.

Snow play: Winter brings snow to the upper elevations of the forest; bring your skis or snowshoes. Snowmobiles are allowed on roads unless closed for Port-Orford-cedar management.

See the Redwoods

Redwood trees are found in the NRA, but they are not as abundant and most are not as large as in Redwood National and State Parks. Small pockets of redwoods grow near Big Flat, along Hwy 199 west of Gasquet, on French Hill, along Craig’s Creek, Myrtle Creek, and Historic Kelsey trails. The best place to see large groves is in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, and along Howland Hill Road. This narrow, unpaved 5.5-mile scenic drive is suitable for passenger cars, but motorhomes and trailers are not recommended. To get there from the NRA visitor center, go 7.2 miles west on Hwy 199 (to milepost 7.2), then turn left on South Fork Road; after .5 miles turn right and go 1.2 miles. For a .5-mile walk through a spectacular grove, stop at Stout Grove, a mile in on the scenic drive.

Scenic Drives

Take a drive to see sweeping mountain vistas, streams, wildflowers, wet meadows, fall foliage, and even fish. Higher elevations may have snow in winter. Roads may be rough and/or have fallen rock, but most are navigable with two-wheel-drive vehicles. Make sure you have sufficient tire tread to avoid punctures.

Directions, mileage, and drive times are from the Smith River NRA Visitor Center, in Gasquet (except for the Smith River Scenic Byway).

1) Smith River Scenic Byway 35 miles/45 minutes one way. Starts at the Hwy 199/Hwy 101 junction and continues to the Oregon border. Follow the emerald ribbon of the Smith up its rugged canyon. Drive through impressive redwoods for the first four miles. Your first view of the river is at milepost 4.2, the Hiouchi Bridge. Enter the NRA at milepost 6.38 and look to your right to view the Forks at milepost 6.55. View Myrtle Beach at milepost 7.2 (intersection with South Fork Road). A .5-mile side trip on South Fork Road takes you over two bridges with views of the Middle and South Forks. Between the two bridges is the Forks Boat Launch with trails taking you to beaches and to The Forks (photo, page 2). Back on Hwy 199, at mileposts 8.2 and 8.4, are turnouts where you can view spectacular rapids crashing through a rocky gorge. Another large turnout is at milepost 10.5. Get down to the water via the many river access trails along Hwy 199: Middle Fork Gorge, Hardscrabble, Mary Adams, Margie’s, Madrona, and more—check out river access trails on page 15.

2) Jawbone Rd closed at milepost 8 until further notice. South Fork/Ship Mountain Roads 61.2 miles/2.5 hours. Close-up views of the Siskiyou Crest with the Marble Mountains in the distance; views of the Four Brothers, Big Flat, and the South Fork of the Smith River. A .6-mile side trip to Ship Mountain will get you expansive views in all directions and the ocean in the distance. **Caution:** the last few feet up to the lookout are steep; use 4-wheel drive or park at the toilet and walk up. **Directions: From 199 to South Fork Rd (CR427)** take FS 16N02 to Ship Mountain Lookout access road, 7 miles; continue on 16N02 and Big Flat Road (CR 405) to South Fork Road (CR 427), 13 miles; South Fork Road, 14 miles; east (right) on Hwy 199, 7.2 miles to Gasquet.

3) French Hill, Big Flat, and South Fork Roads 49 miles/2.5 hours. Mountain views from on high, rivers, creeks, meadows, and a small lake. **Directions:** Hwy 199 west, 7.2 miles; South Fork Road (CR 427), 14 miles; Big Flat Road (CR 405), 13.4 miles; French Hill Road (CR 411), 12.3 miles; Hwy 199 east, 2.2 miles.

4) Red Mountain Road 41 miles/1.5 hours one-way. Panoramic views, Klamath River mouth, ocean, red serpentine (peridotite) rock, azaleas. **Directions:** Hwy 199 west, 7.2 miles; South Fork Road, 13.7 miles; G-O Road (Rd 15), 11 miles; Red Mountain Road (14N01), 9.2 miles.

5) G-O (Gasquet-Orleans) Road. 40 miles/1.5 hours one-way. **Directions:** Hwy 199 west, 7.2 miles; South Fork Road (CR 427), 13.7 miles; G-O Road. 18.2 miles to end. **Caution:** Parts of the G-O Road have lots of fallen rock.

(continued on page 16)

Camping



Welcome Campers!

Discover a very special place in the Smith River National Recreation Area in northwest California. Our campgrounds are along or near the picturesque Smith River, renowned for its crystal green waters and rugged rock canyons.



Swimming hole at Panther Flat

Campground	Season	# of Sites	Fee per night	Extra Vehicle	Day Use of Campsite	Spur Lengths* (in feet)	Toilets	Potable Water	Showers	Garbage Service	River Access	Reservable
Panther Flat	All Year	38	\$15	\$5	\$7.50	25-82	Flush	Yes	Coin-op	Yes	Yes	Yes
Grassy Flat	Summer	19	\$10	\$5	\$5.00	21-38	Vault	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Patrick Creek	Summer	13	\$14	\$5	\$7.00	20-56	Flush	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Big Flat	Summer	23	\$8	\$5	\$4.00	37-68 2 Pull-through sites, 90 & 120 feet	Vault	No	No	Yes	Nearby	No
North Fork	All Year	5	\$8	\$5	\$4.00	43-50 Road not advised for trailers	Vault	No	No	No	Nearby	No

* Spur lengths may include an additional three feet of overhang into the campsite while maintaining all tires on the spur.



Patrick Creek Campground

Developed campgrounds:

Located adjacent to rivers in forested areas. The ideal camping time in the Smith River NRA is May to October. Developed campgrounds are equipped with vault or flush toilets, fire rings, tables, parking spurs, and drinking water, unless otherwise noted. Most sites will accommodate trailers and motorhomes (check length limit on table), but no electric, water, or sewer hookups are provided. Standard campsites accommodate up to eight people per site, with a maximum of two vehicles. NOTE: A per night fee is charged for the second vehicle. A vehicle is: a motorhome towing another vehicle, a single car or motorcycle, or a vehicle towing a trailer. Campground fees vary depending on the services provided. No campground may be occupied for more than 14 days per calendar year by the same party. Campers must check out by 2 p.m.

Reservations may be made up to six months in advance online at www.recreation.gov or by phone at 1-877-444-6777, TDD: 1-877-833-6777, INTL: 1-518-885-3639. Same-day reservations are not available.

Campground hosts provide a warm welcome and information to campers. If you are interested in serving as a campground host, please contact any Forest Service office, or search online at www.volunteer.gov for opportunities.

Dump Stations: Redwood Meadows RV Resort, 7 miles west of Gasquet, on Hwy 199; and Shoreline RV Park, Crescent City, 19 miles southwest of Gasquet; both charge fees. Private RV parks and some state parks have dump stations that are only available to campers. Nearest free public dump station: 57 miles south of Crescent City at the Caltrans rest area on US Hwy 101 in Trinidad, between Patrick's Point Drive undercrossing and Seawood Drive, milepost 105.

Lat/Long: 41.124859, -124.149959.
Accessed only from northbound direction.

Panther Flat Campground is the largest and most popular Smith River NRA campground. Just below the campground is Panther Flat Picnic Area, a no fee day-use area with picnic tables, grills, and water. It has a lovely view of the Smith River with access to swimming and fishing holes. Both the campground and picnic area are open all year. From the visitor center, travel 2.5 miles east on Hwy 199 to milepost 16.75.

Grassy Flat Campground is located 4.5 miles east of the visitor center at milepost 18.87 on Hwy 199. It is near the Middle Fork of the Smith River. A short but steep trail leads to a nice swimming hole and gravel beach. Madrona River Access, a .5-mile drive east on Hwy 199, offers a sandy beach and swimming hole with parking at river level.

Patrick Creek Campground has a special charm, with its steps, rock walls, restrooms, and sunken campfire circle built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Located 7.5 miles east of the Smith River NRA Visitor Center at milepost 22.0 on Hwy 199. Patrick Creek Lodge is directly across the highway. Adjacent to the campground is Patrick Creek Picnic Area, a no fee day-use area with good river access. A paved, accessible .2-mile trail leads to a fishing platform at the confluence of Patrick Creek and the Middle Fork of the Smith River.

Big Flat Campground is a quiet, semi-shaded campground bordered by Hurdygurdy Creek—the perfect place to “get away from it all.” Several nice South Fork river access points are within a half mile. There is garbage service, but no water. From the visitor center, travel west on Hwy 199, 7.2 miles. Turn left (south) on South Fork Road. Stay left past the second bridge and continue on South Fork Road to milepost 14.1. Turn left on CR 405 for .2 miles and left again on 15N59 (the campground entrance road).

North Fork Campground is a quiet, semi-shaded, remote campground bordered by the North Fork of the Smith River. This is a popular place to stay before rafting the wild North Fork. There is no water or garbage service. From the visitor center, turn right and travel west on Hwy 199, 2.6 miles. Turn right onto 17N49 and travel 7.7 miles. Turn right onto CR 305 and travel east 15 miles to 18N28 just past the bridge over the North Fork. Follow 18N28 to the campground. High-clearance vehicles are recommended.

Dispersed camping, also called primitive, rustic, or undeveloped camping, is for those who prefer to “rough it.” Most of the NRA is open for camping unless specifically prohibited. No services or amenities are provided for dispersed campers and you must camp at least .25 mile from developed campgrounds, facilities, and roads. Dispersed camping is limited to 14 days per site, unless otherwise specified, and 30 days within Six Rivers National Forest.

Suggested areas for dispersed camping:

- Patrick Creek Road (CR 316) off Hwy 199 at milepost 22.
- Big Flat Road (CR 405).
- Siskiyou Fork Road (18N08 and 17N01), off Hwy 199 at milepost 25.44. Note: 17N01 may be mislabeled as 17N07 on some maps.
- Knopki Creek Road (18N07), off Hwy 199 at milepost 30.12.
- Doe Flat trailhead at end of 16N02.
- Madrona River Access, Hwy 199, milepost 19.2. Three established sites, 7-day limit.

Campers are reminded to:

- Pick up and pack out all trash so that those who follow you may enjoy a natural forest environment. Please do not dispose of trash by burning.
- Bury all human waste 6 to 8 inches deep and at least 200 feet from any river or stream.
- Obtain a campfire permit to use a campfire, gas lantern, barbecue, and/or camp stove (see permits, on page 2). Always make sure your campfire is DEAD OUT before you leave.
- Store food properly—remember the bears!
- Follow all “Leave No Trace” principles. See page 4 and/or visit <https://lnt.org/learn/7-principles>.
- In campgrounds that provide water, please carry water back to your campsite for cleaning or washing—the hydrant area is not a kitchen sink!

Accessibility

All NRA campground restrooms and the following campsites meet Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines (FSORAG):

Panther Flat: Sites 15, 17, 18, 19, 30, and 31.

Grassy Flat: Sites 7 and 14.

Patrick Creek: Sites 2, 3, and 12.

Big Flat: All sites except 13, 15, 17, 18, and 21.

View guidelines at:

www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/accessibility/



Historic Kelsey Trail (Trail #2E23) Access Points



Access points off South Fork Road (County Road 427)—paved; 16-19 miles/35-40 minutes from Gasquet*

Section, Miles One Way, Elevation	# on Map	Access Point Name or Number	Nearest Milepost (MP) or Road	# of Parking Spaces	Difficulty: Easy Moderate Difficult	Permitted Use: Foot Bicycle Horse
Boulder Creek 2 miles, 480-720'	1	Boulder Creek/ West Trailhead	MP 9.2	6		River views through trees. Steep .25-mile grade at east end. Gordon Gorge Spur Trail (2E17) at the east end drops steeply for .25 miles down to beautiful hole and small beach on the river; a small creek flowing down a short section of the Gordon Gorge trail may be difficult to cross in the wet season. Roadside parking.
	2	East end of Boulder Creek section	MP 10.1	2		

There is a break in the trail between the Boulder Creek and Ford to Canthook sections; through-hikers must walk .3 miles along South Fork Road.

Ford to Canthook 4.4 miles, 440-1520'	3	Ford	Access point at MP 10.5, parking at MP 10.6	10		Drops 1 mile to the South Fork of the Smith River, fords it, climbs up Canthook Creek and over the ridge into the Hurdygurdy Creek basin where it joins the Accessible section at Fox Flat ; 4.4 miles from South Fork Road to Fox Flat. Ford difficult due to rocky bottom and strong current, passable only at low-water levels, which may be up to 2.5-feet deep. Old-growth Douglas fir and Port-Orford-cedar along Canthook Creek. Creek crossings may be difficult during the wet season. Roadside parking.
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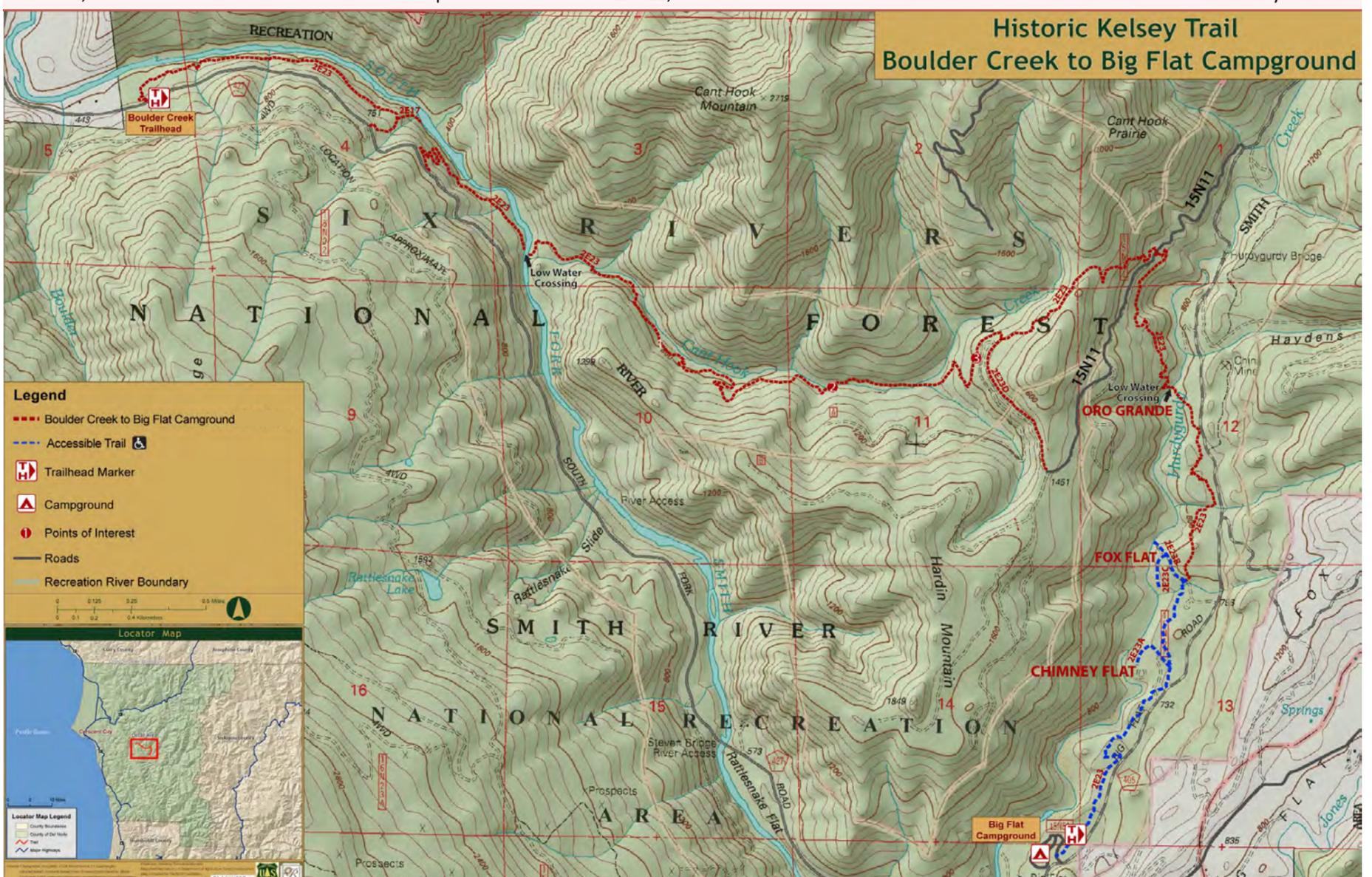
Access points off Forest Service Road 15N11 (off 405 at MP 4.98)—gravel, high clearance; 25-26 miles/1.2 hours from Gasquet*

Ford to Canthook	4	Spur trail 2E23D	1.5 miles south CR 405	4		Former road, accesses main trail; map and interpretive panel at junction with main trail. Forested, some views of mountains. Roadside parking.
	5	15N11 crossing	.6 miles south of CR 405	3		Point where trail crosses Road 15N11. Historic flume once used for hydraulic mining is located just downslope (south). Roadside parking.

Access points off Big Flat Road (County Road 405)—gravel, low clearance; 21-23 miles/50-60 minutes from Gasquet*

Ford to Canthook	6	Hurdygurdy Creek Low-Water Crossing/ Oro Grande	MP 3.92 15N55	5		Access to low-water crossing of Hurdygurdy Creek; lush streamside forest and open grassy areas; good campsites. High-clearance vehicles may access parking along and at end of Road 15N55 off of CR 405; others park along CR 405.
Accessible 2 miles, 720' Hardened surface and low to moderate grades.	7	Fox Flat	MP 3.31 15N56	8		Road 15N56 off of CR 405 leads to a parking lot where the Accessible and Ford to Canthook sections join. Spur trail 2E23B leads to a bench overlooking the creek. Spur trail 2E23C leads to Fox Flat, an open area bordering the creek. Parking lot.
	8	Chimney Flat Picnic Area	MP 2.85 15N57	14		Large meadow bordering Hurdygurdy Creek with creek access, picnic tables, grills, and a vault toilet. Spur trail 2E23A ascends from picnic area to main trail. Day use only, no camping. Road 15N57 off of CR 405 leads to parking lot.
	9	Unmarked Parking Lot	MP 2.50	3		Small, unmarked parking lot, not obvious from the road.
	10	Big Flat/East Trailhead	MP 2.36	4		Main trailhead at the east end of the trail. Parking lot.
	11	Big Flat Campground	MP 2.16	None		Entrance road to Big Flat Campground. Serves as trail access for campers. No parking.

*From the Smith River NRA visitor center in Gasquet, go 7.2 miles west on Highway 199, turn left on South Fork Road (CR 427), and go 9.2 miles to reach the western trailhead; for the eastern trailhead and other access points off CR 405 and 15N11, continue 4.9 miles on South Fork Road and turn left on CR 405. CR=County Road.

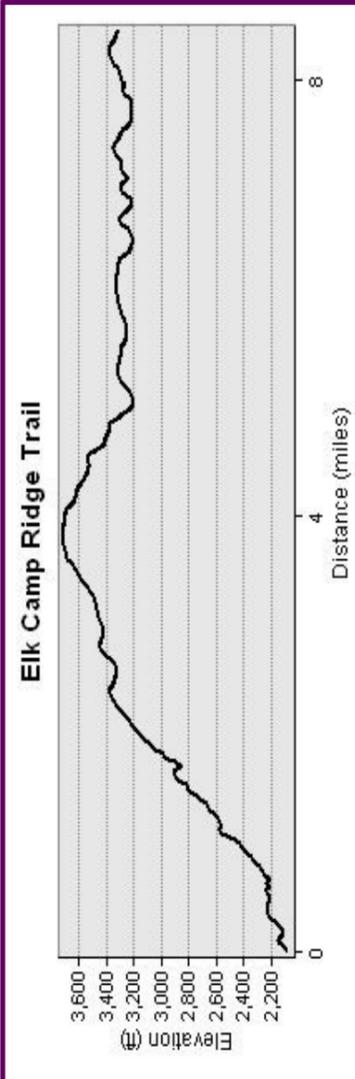




Mountain Biking Trails

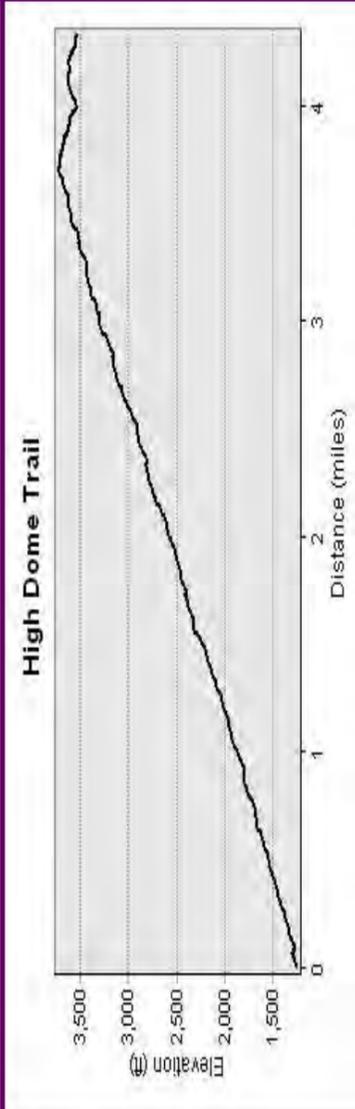
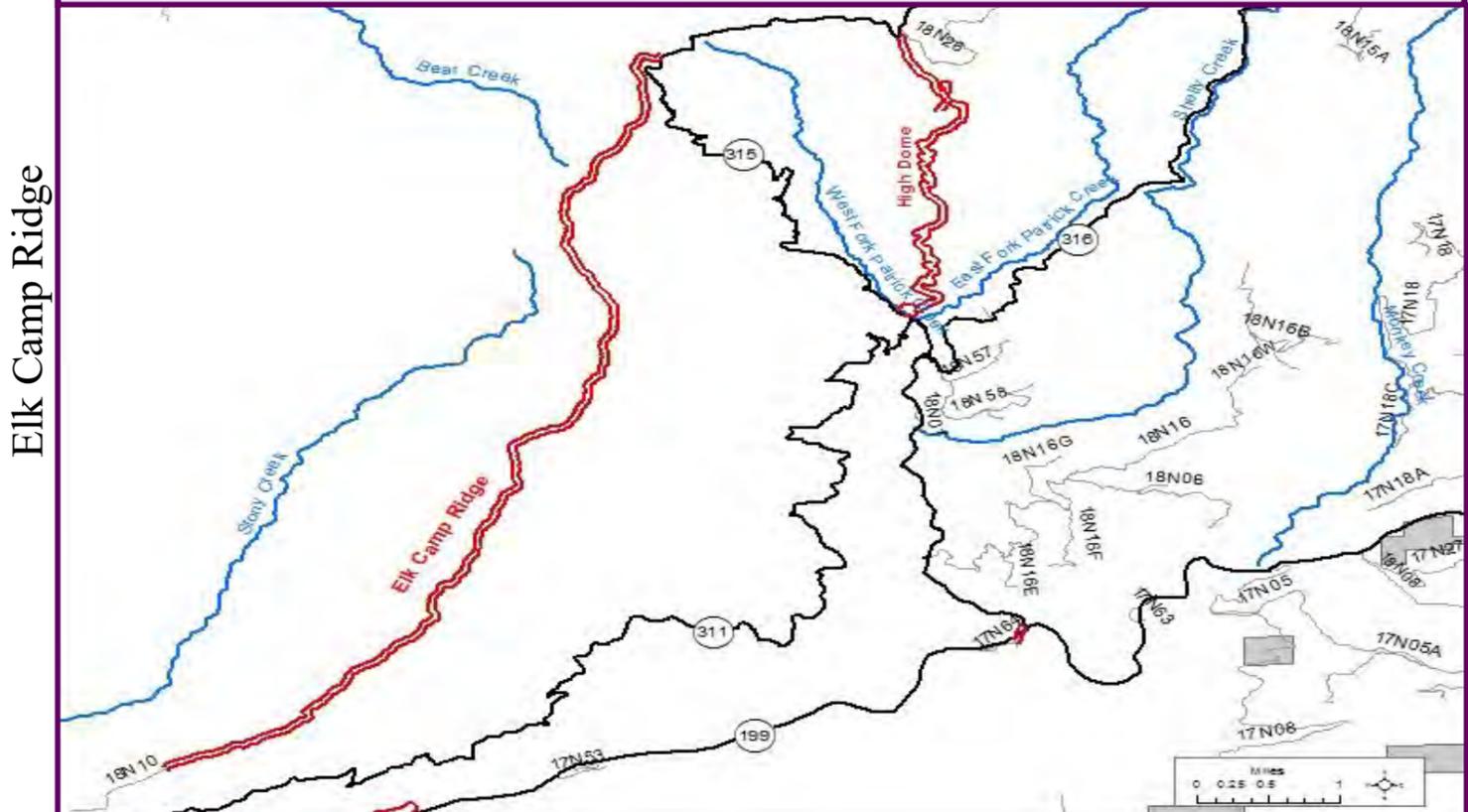
Mountain Biking is becoming more popular in the SRNRA. Many trails are rideable all year long and offer stunning views of distant snowy peaks of our wilderness and botanical areas. In spring, summer, and fall our forests and wildflowers offer unparalleled beauty. With over 30 miles of single track and many more miles of roads, there is something here for all levels of riding. Our Smith River also provides many opportunities to swim in deep emerald pools as part of your day. We have described five of the best routes below for you to explore.

Trails accessed via US Highway 199



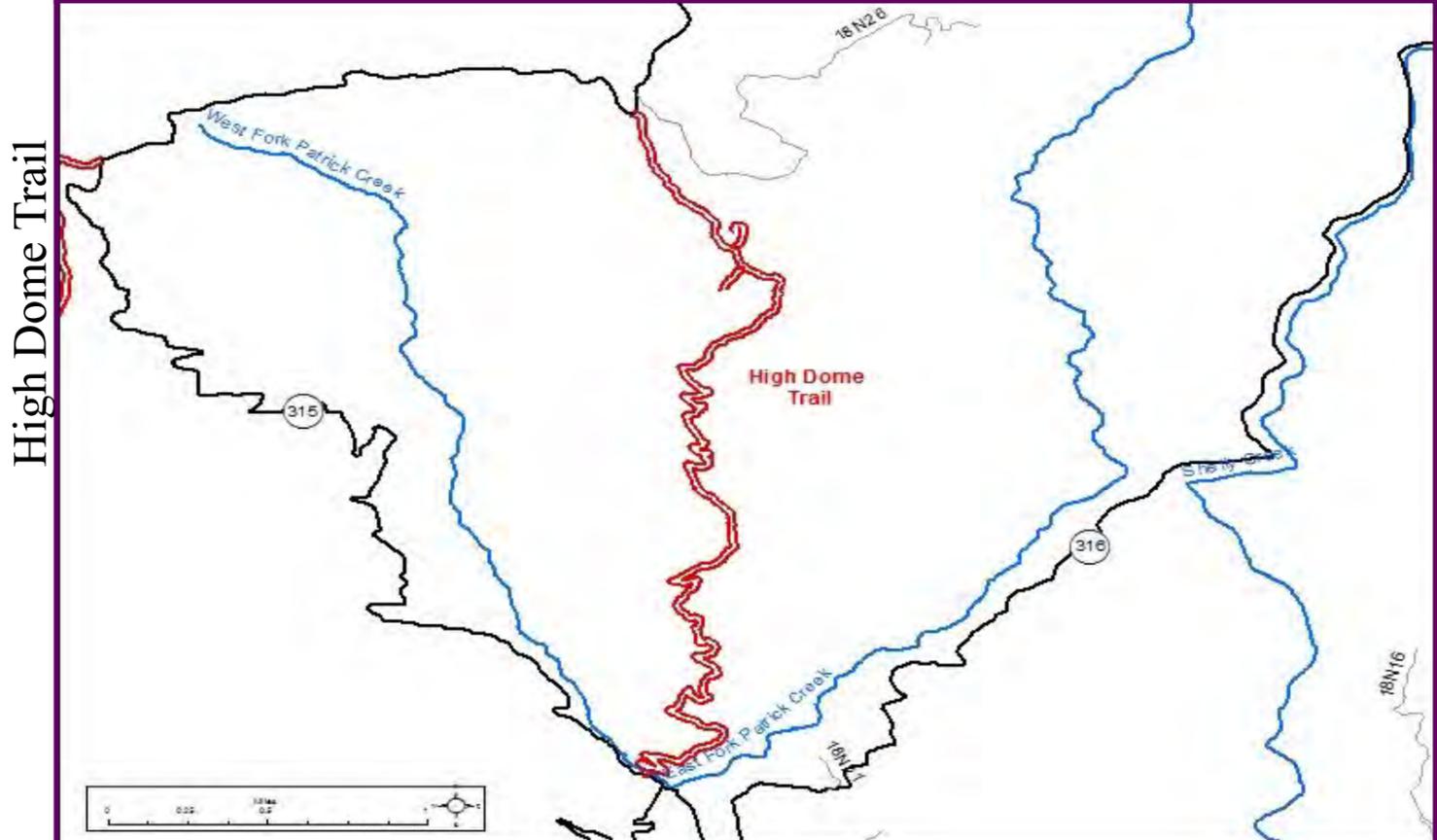
Elk Camp Ridge

A challenging trail for the expert rider that seeks a physical and technical ride to test their skills. This ridge trail offers views of the Siskiyou Wilderness to the east and the North Fork Botanical Area, Kalmiopsis Wilderness, and the Pacific Ocean to the west. Beginning on top of a serpentine ridge you will follow an old rocky road through a sparse Knobcone Pine forest that eventually turns to a single track. Some uphill rocky areas may need to be hiked adding to the physical challenge. Downhill drops through boulders will test your maneuvering and balance. There are no stream crossings on this ridge trail which ends about four miles from Gasquet. For stunning views of snowcapped wilderness try this trail in the winter. If you seek views of wildflowers try spring and summer. 8.2 miles.



High Dome Trail

A mostly downhill ride recommended for experienced and expert riders only. The trail starts off with four short hills which at times may require the rider to dismount and walk. As riders reach the top they'll come to a large meadow that offers views to the east of the Siskiyou wilderness. From there, the next 3.5 miles will take riders through a mixed oak / fir forest. Throughout this section of downhill single track riding keep a lookout for small logs and brush that may be across the trail, as well as sharp switchbacks. This trail is not recommended in the winter as winter rains may cause Patrick Creek to swell and may be both difficult and dangerous to cross. A few miles west of the High Dome trail is Upper Elk Camp Ridge trail, for a longer adventure both trails can be completed in one day. 4 miles.



Continued on page 13

Trails



Important New Information: The 17N05 road (Jawbone) is closed eight miles southeast from its junction with Hwy 199 due to storm damage. Access to Bear Basin Butte, Doe Flat, and Island Lake Trailheads are available from the following alternate route: From Gasquet take Hwy 199 west 7.2 miles to South Fork Rd (CR 427), proceed 14 miles towards Big Flat, continue to cattle guard to access FS 16N02 (Ship Mountain Road), continue on 16N02 to trailhead.

Impressive vistas of mountain tops and river canyons, solitude, delicate wildflowers, unusual rock formations, challenging exercise—whatever trail experience you seek—you'll find these opportunities and more in the Smith River National Recreation Area. Whether you enjoy a leisurely stroll through the forest or a rigorous backpacking trek, the 70+ miles of Smith River NRA trails offer a multitude of opportunities. Some trailhead access roads are closed as noted during the wet season—usually between late October and mid-June—to prevent Port Orford cedar root disease.



South Kelsey Trail between the trailhead and Buck Creek/Jon Parmentier

Trails accessed via US Highway 199

Trail Name & Number	Trail Miles One Way	Directions (Road/Miles on) and Driving Time from NRA Visitor Center in Gasquet FS =Forest Service road; CR =County road MP =milepost marker; Hwy =highway TH =trailhead; DT =driving time	Elevation in Feet & Difficulty	Difficulty: Easy Moderate Difficult Foot Bicycle Horse Motorcycle Interpretive Trail	Usage & Permitted Use
Gunbarrel 3E01	1.3	See above Important New Information	Begin 2500 End 1400 	Trail starts on a ridge and travels steeply downslope to Gunbarrel Camp at the South Fork of the Smith River; trail fords the river and meets the South Kelsey Trail on the other side. Gunbarrel Camp is fairly large. Not recommended for stock.	Low Use
Island Lake 4E05	6.47	See Above Important New Information DT: 2.5 hours.	Begin 4300 End 5000 	Follow an old road down to headwaters of South Fork of Smith River and a small waterfall. After crossing the river, a steep trail travels through old-growth fir trees, climbing about 2,000 feet in the next four miles. Water is scarce from the river to the lake. Picturesque lake with an island. Not recommended for stock.	Low Use
Doe Flat 4E04	4.6	See Above Important New Information DT: 2.5 hours.	Begin 4400 End 3200 	Trail descends on an old road for .5 miles, then contours the slope to the Devil's Punchbowl turnoff and descends to the Trout Camp/Clear Creek Trail. Mileage to Buck Lake Trail, 1.4 miles; Devil's Punchbowl Trail, 3.2; Trout Camp, 4.6. Conifer forest, creeks, and vine maple (fall color). Three walk-in campsites and vault toilet at trailhead (no water).	High Use
Buck Lake	1.6	Follow directions to Doe Flat trailhead.	Begin 3900 End 4300 	Follow the Doe Flat Trail for 1.4 miles and take the Buck Lake Trail for .2 miles to a high-elevation lake. Excellent fishing. Four campsites (one very small) are on the north side of the lake. Hike along/above east shoreline to reach a camp on south side.	High Use
Devil's Punchbowl	4.4	Follow directions to Doe Flat trailhead. Hike the Doe Flat Trail for 3.2 miles. Turn right (south) onto Devil's Punchbowl Trail and follow it for 1.2 miles to the lake. To reach Trout Camp continue on the Doe Flat Trail for 1.4 miles.	Begin 4000 End 4750 High 4800 	Steep trail with many switchbacks, but can be enjoyed by the average hiker at a slow, steady pace. Two picturesque lakes and spectacular views of surrounding mountain peaks and valleys make this hike popular. Not recommended for stock.	High Use
Young's Valley 5E02	2.8	Hwy 199 east, 16 miles; Knopki Creek Rd (FS 18N07), 6 miles, stay to right at "Y" and continue on 18N07 for another 8 miles. Turn right at "T" and go 1 mile to end. High clearance recommended on last mile. Wet season closure. DT: 2 hours.	Begin 5400 End 4500 High 5440 	This trail was formerly a road. Young's Valley is a large meadow. Camp here and hike into the Siskiyou Wilderness on the Clear Creek, Raspberry Lake, El Capitan Lake, or Twin Valley Trails for spectacular views. Good campsites are at the west (lower) end and north side of the meadow. Water is nearby at Clear Creek.	Med Use
High Dome 3E02	4	Lower TH: Hwy 199 east, 7.5 miles; Patrick Creek Rd (CR 316), 3.1 miles; Old Gasquet Toll Rd (CR 314), .5 mile; right on Holiday Rd (CR 315). Trailhead on right, parking on left. DT: 25 minutes. Upper TH: Continue up CR 315 for 5.8 miles. DT: 55 minutes. Rocky gravel road; access may be limited by snow in winter/spring.	Upper 3500 Lower 1255 High 3700 	Within .75 miles of upper trailhead are High Dome, a natural grass meadow; views of rolling mountains, high peaks of Siskiyou Crest, and the ocean in the distance; and a side trail that leads to ruins of former fire lookout platform. The trail descends to a crossing of the west Fork of Patrick Creek and the lower trailhead; crossing may be difficult in the wet season.	Low Use
Elk Camp Ridge 2E04	8.2	Lower TH: Hwy 199 west, .15 miles; Middle Fork Gasquet Rd, .4 miles; becomes North Fork Rd at Azalea Ln, continue up hill, .2 miles; Old Gasquet Toll Rd (CR 314), 2.4 miles; FS 18N10 (rough gravel road), 1.4 miles. DT: 20 minutes. Upper TH: Follow directions to High Dome Lower TH and continue up CR 315 for 4.25 miles. Walk up old road on left .1 mile. DT: 45 minutes. Rocky gravel road; access may be limited by snow in winter/spring.	Lower TH 2100 Upper TH 3400 Low 2100 High 3740 2500-foot climb 	Originally a pack train trail between Crescent City and gold mines in the Illinois Valley in Oregon, this scenic trail presents panoramic views of high mountain peaks, the North and Middle Forks of the Smith River, and the ocean in distance on clear days. Views are more immediate from the upper trailhead. Access to the upper trailhead may be blocked by snow in winter. Unobstructed views are one mile in from either trailhead. Vegetation is stunted due to the serpentine soil. Some areas are burned-over.	Low Use
Patrick Creek 3E16	.25	Hwy 199 east, 7.5 miles to MP 22.0; park in Patrick Creek Picnic Area. Park at the back of the Patrick Creek Lodge parking lot when picnic area is closed. DT: 15 minutes.	834 	Paved trail from Patrick Creek Lodge to Patrick Creek Campground. Pick up brochures at the lodge. Choose from three themes: land, river and people. A side spur leads to a fishing platform at the Patrick Creek-Middle Fork confluence.	Med Use
Darlingtonia 2E01	.3	Hwy 199 east, 3.45 miles to MP 17.9. Sign on highway says "Botanical Trail." Trailhead and parking lot on north side of road. DT: 5 minutes.	Low 550 High 560 	See a thriving community of carnivorous California pitcher plants (<i>Darlingtonia californica</i>) in their bog environment surrounded by azaleas and cedars; gravel trail surface; two viewing platforms. Pick up an interpretive brochure at the visitor center.	High Use

Continued on page 12



Trails

South Kelsey Trail/Jon Parmentier

Trails accessed via US Highway 199

Trail Name & Number	Trail Miles One Way	Directions (Road/Miles on) and Driving Time from NRA Visitor Center in Gasquet FS =Forest Service road; CR =County road MP =milepost marker; Hwy =highway TH =trailhead; DT =driving time	Elevation in Feet & Difficulty	Difficulty: Easy Moderate Difficult Foot Bicycle Horse Motorcycle Interpretive Trail	Usage & Permitted Use
French Hill 2E25	2.8	Lower TH: just east of office, across Hwy 199. Upper TH: Hwy 199 west, 2.2 miles to MP 12.23; French Hill Rd, 4.48 miles. TH on left. DT: 15 minutes.	Lower TH 400 Upper TH 2000 	Old pack trail to Camp Six; switchbacks up slope between Hwy 199 and French Hill Rd. Shady forest, ferns. Small creeks at .25 and 1.25 miles from lower TH. Views of the Smith River canyon at 1.5 miles from lower TH and .5 from the upper TH. Distant views of the Siskiyou Crest. Rhododendrons and wild iris bloom in May and June.	Low Use
Stony Creek 2E19	.5	Hwy 199 west, .15 miles; Middle Fork Gasquet Rd, .4 miles, becomes North Fork Rd at Azalea Ln, continue 1 mile; Stony Creek Trail Rd, .1 mile. TH on right. TH in residential area; please follow signs, respect private property. DT: 5 minutes.	Begin 450 End 400 	Shaded trail parallels the North Fork of the Smith River and ends at the Stony Creek confluence. Excellent fishing holes and views of the river at trail's end. Wide variety of spring wildflowers including rhododendrons, azaleas, orchids, fawn lilies, and the California pitcher plant (<i>Darlingtonia</i>).	Med Use
Myrtle Creek 1E01	1	Hwy 199 west, 7.3 miles to MP 7.07 Turn left onto the turnout just past Myrtle Creek bridge. Park there and cross Hwy 199 to reach trailhead (be careful!). DT: 15 minutes.	Begin 200 End 300 	Follows historic mining flume and spotlights mining, cultural, and geologic history of Myrtle Creek, where more than 100 years ago a miner found a 47-ounce gold nugget the size and shape of an axe! Today's treasures include wildflowers and unusual plants, such as the California pitcher plant (<i>Darlingtonia californica</i>) and many fern species. Fifteen interpretive panels; brochure available at the visitor center.	Med Use

Trails accessed via South Fork Road (County Road 427)

Craig's Creek 1E02	3.7	Hwy 199 west, 7.2 miles; South Fork Rd, 2.0 miles. DT: 15 minutes.	Begin 200 End 200 Low 200 High 600 	Miners and pack animals followed this trail in the late 1800s. As you climb to vista points high above the South Fork of the Smith River, notice the dramatic changes in vegetation. Spectacular view of a bend in the river at 1.75 miles. Redwood trees in drainages. Rhododendron, iris, paintbrush, and other wildflowers in spring; gentian in August. Trail ends at confluence of Craig's Creek and South Fork of the Smith River.	Med Use
Paradise 2E02	1.1	Hwy 199 west, 7.2 miles; South Fork Rd, 7.3 miles. DT: 30 minutes.	Begin 450 End 950 	Does this trail lead to Paradise? Actually, it ascends from Paradise Flat (Seven Cabins), the area across the road and adjacent to the river. That spot was once the location of a lodging facility and rest stop along a pack route to Haines Flat. The trail connects to Little Bald Hills Trail at mile 1.1. Beautiful views of the river and Siskiyou Mountains to the east.	Low Use
Little Bald Hills 1E03	9.6	Hwy 199 west, 7.2 miles; South Fork Rd (CR 427), 7.9 miles; 16N23, .9 miles (very rough road). DT: 30 minutes. Trail begins at Rock Creek ford. For easier trailhead access and to avoid the ford, take a shortcut on the Paradise Trail, which begins on South Fork Rd (see above).	Begin 560 End 100 (State Park) High 2000 	Trail is an old road, the north half (4.5 miles) in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, the south half (5.1 miles) in the NRA. The open prairies ("bald hills"), fringed by pine and fir trees, provide an excellent spot for seeing birds of prey in action. South trailhead begins at ford of Rock Creek; water level is unpredictable. Camping available with permit by REDW.	Low Use
Historic Kelsey (Old South Kelsey) 2E23	8.4	West TH: Hwy 199, 7.2 miles, South Fork Rd (CR 427), 9.2 miles. East TH: Continue 4.9 miles on South Fork Rd; Big Flat Rd (CR 405), .4 miles to MP 2.36. DT: 55 minutes. There are nine other access points: see table and map page 7.	Low 500 High 1520 	Historic trail used by Native Americans and European settlers. Trail features river/creek views and access; lush alder and maple along streams; evergreen forest on slopes; some old-growth trees; a large meadow at Chimney Flat (day use only); and open, grassy areas at Oro Grande. Vault toilets at Chimney Flat and Big Flat Campground.	Low Use
South Kelsey National Recreation Trail 4E06	NRA 15.8 KNF 12	Hwy 199, 7.2 miles, South Fork Rd (CR 427), 13.7 miles; FS 15 (15N01/Gasquet-Orleans Rd/G-O Rd), 3.51 miles; 15N39, 2 miles. Picnic tables, vault toilet, and parking for 10 vehicles at TH. Walk down trail .3 miles and go right at intersection. DT: 1 hour. Due to ice and snow in winter and spring, trailhead is occasionally inaccessible. Trail may also be accessed via the Gunbarrel Trail, but the trailhead is closed during the wet season—see the Gunbarrel Trail entry on page 7 for more information.	Begin 1280 Low 1040 Buck Creek High 5775 Baldy Peak 	Historic pack trail from Crescent City to Yreka. Follows South Fork of Smith River for 7.6 miles, affording numerous river accesses for trout fishing. Camping opportunities: Buck Creek at mile 1.5, Elkhorn Bar at mile 3.2, Eightmile Creek at mile 4.2, and Gunbarrel camp (across river from Harrington Creek) at mile 7.9. Three-sided shelter at Buck Creek; bridge over creek. Mileages to Baldy Peak, 5.1 (lookout site/views); Bear Wallow Trail (#4E20), 5.9 (.3-mile side trail to shelter site); Harrington Lake/Boundary Trail (#4E50, unmaintained), 7.9. South Kelsey Trail continues on the Klamath National Forest for 12 miles. The Siskiyou Wilderness boundary is just past Buck Creek. NOTE: Creek crossings may be difficult during the wet season and Eightmile Creek is usually inaccessible.	Med Use
McClendon Ford 3E03	1.2	Follow directions to South Kelsey National Recreation Trail and go left at trail intersection. DT: 1 hour.	Begin 1050 End 700 	A side trip from the South Kelsey Trail, this trail follows the river to a gravel beach and beautiful pool on the South Fork of the Smith. Trail features old-growth fir and cedar, river views, lush understory plants, and cascading creeks. NOTE: Horse Creek crossing may be difficult in the wet season.	Low Use
Summit Valley 3E07	7.9	Hwy 199, 7.2 miles, South Fork Rd (CR 427), 13.7 miles; FS 15 (15N01/Gasquet-Orleans Rd/G-O Rd), 15 miles; TH is on left. DT: 1.5 hours. Wet season closure. Trail may also be accessed at the other end off of the South Kelsey Trail about 3 miles from the TH.	Upper TH 4600 Lower TH 1160 High 4954 	Trail is old road for first mile, then travels through mountain meadows that fill with flowers in late spring. Summit Valley (3-acre meadow) and shelter remains are 2 miles from upper TH; Summit Valley lookout site is .25-mile side trip to right after climbing out of valley. Views of ocean, Siskiyou Mountains, Mt. Shasta. Remainder of trail descends to and ends at South Kelsey Trail near Elkhorn Bar. No reliable water between Summit Valley and the South Kelsey Trail.	Med Use

Continued on page 9



Siskiyou Wilderness/USFS

Mountain Biking Trails

Trails accessed via South Fork Road (County Road 427)

	<p>Craigs Creek Trail</p> <p>This trail is great for experienced riders offering a variety of challenges. Following along an old mining trail riders will travel through Douglas Fir, Knobcone, Oak, and Redwood mixed forests, with occasional river views. Although easily navigable, riders will find an abundance of tree roots along the trail and areas that are narrow and exposed. Two miles up the south fork of the Smith River you'll come to the confluence of Craig's Creek. There are several water access points nearby that offer great swimming opportunities. 7 miles.</p>
	<p>Paradise / Little Bald Hills</p> <p>This combination trail takes you through a botanical wonderland of flowers and forest with great views of the South Fork Smith River. The trail begins with 1.1 miles of switchbacks up the Paradise trail to the Little Bald Hills trail. You'll ride on an old road that offers a gradual uphill single track ride for the next 5 miles. Crest the grassy hilltop meadow and Jeffery Pine forest where a short walk will offer views of the Pacific Ocean and the Mill Creek Water shed. From there, you'll ride down four miles through a Douglas Fir forest into the Redwoods of Jedediah Smith State Park. Ride in the spring for abundant views of wildflowers. You can extend your ride by returning down South Fork Road to your vehicle or by riding Howland Hill Rd to Crescent City. Use extreme caution as these roads offer two-way traffic on narrow roads. 10.7 miles.</p>
	<p>South Kelsey</p> <p>This partly wheelchair accessible trail is great for novices and families, taking riders up to Hurdy Gurdy Creek. The trail leaves out of Big Flat campground and parking is available further down the road. The trail features a mostly flat ride with a few short moderate hills. Several mini side trails branch off of South Kelsey providing an opportunity to explore Chimney Flat, Oro Grande Mine, and stream access points. Including side trails; 3 miles.</p>



Fuels Reduction on the NRA

By Sheila Balent

In August 2001, the Del Norte County communities of Gasquet, Hiouchi, Big Flat, and Rock Creek were listed in the Federal Register (Vol. 66, No. 160) as Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) communities at high risk from the threat of wildfire. This distinction identifies these communities as *priority communities* for fuel treatments under the National Fire Plan. In addition, the North Fork of the Smith River Watershed, adjacent to and directly north of Gasquet, is a municipal watershed, which is also emphasized for protection within the core principles of the Western Governor's 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy (August 2001).

Since 2001, many efforts have been made to reduce fuels across the landscape to help protect these communities at risk of wildfire. In 2005, the Del Norte Fire Safe Council completed their Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The CWPP identified and prioritized projects to reduce wildfire risk through hazard fuels reduction, community education, and pre-fire suppression in Del Norte County. It also identified values at risk and mitigations to reduce risks from wildfire in the county. The CWPP was developed using a collaborative process involving



By S. Balent



By S. Balent



By S. Balent

local, tribal, state, and federal government agencies, fire protection districts, landowners, and interested publics. Nine community meetings were held throughout the county to determine what the local fire safety issues were and to prioritize projects for agency and community action. Since this process was started, several vegetation and fuels management projects have been developed and designed.

Fuels reduction activities within the WUI areas are designed to reduce the amount of fuels around communities and provide additional defensible space and strategic control lines for firefighters to assist with the control efforts if a wildland fire threatens a community and surrounding areas. Projects are being designed that remove the understory ladder fuels and dead/down fuels that could become hazardous in cases of extreme fire behavior. Methods to remove these fuels include thinning, handpiling and burning, and low-intensity understory burning. The low-intensity understory burns or *prescribed burns* are only conducted when environmental conditions are right to reduce the fuel loads and help restore fire's natural role in the ecosystem.

Kids Corner

Going on a hike?

Think about the items you might take with you! Circle the items you'll bring. Put an X on the items to leave at home.



(See page 20 for answers.)

Word Search

Help Smokey and Woodsy find all the words!

X	N	S	D	G	H	H	T	S	G	W	H	W	Q	V
D	U	R	A	N	G	E	R	F	P	O	B	S	V	S
S	A	F	E	T	Y	S	Y	I	C	O	E	R	E	M
K	G	C	P	Q	F	W	L	R	B	D	A	A	R	I
Q	J	Q	C	R	S	Y	V	E	U	S	R	U	I	T
T	C	E	P	S	E	R	M	F	O	Y	H	P	F	H
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W	P	S	L	W	F	J	A	G	Y	W	W	E	L	I
I	Q	M	J	G	B	T	Z	H	I	L	E	V	I	V
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F	X	F	O	R	E	S	T	L	A	X	I	O	S	W
E	G	N	T	L	Z	I	J	O	A	Z	J	N	K	J

BEAR
CAMP
FIRE
FIREFIGHTERS
FOREST
MATCHES
PREVENTION
RANGER
RESPECT
SAFETY
SMITHRIVER
SMOKEY
WILDFIRE
WILDLIFE
WOODSYOWL

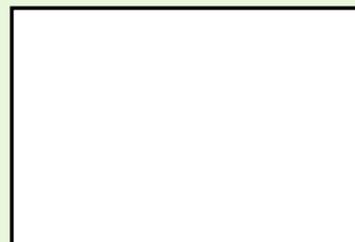


Lend a Hand - Care for the Land

Hi there! I'm Woodsy Owl and I am in search of friends that can help me "Lend a hand - Care for the Land". Are you a friend that can help? Together we can we can help keep our Earth clean and healthy! By taking small steps we can make sure there is clean air and water for all living creatures, even you! How can you help you ask...



Create a poster to teach others to care for the land!



What will you do? Use the space to draw or write how you will help care for the land.



Plant a tree! Trees provide oxygen and reduce noise pollution.



Woodsy's 4 Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot (compost).



Mary Adams River Access

River Access Trails



These short trails lead to great fishing and swimming holes, beaches, rock canyons, and “put-in” points for boaters. Trails are unmaintained and **may** be rough.

US Highway 199 River Access Trails

Name	Mile-post	Trail Length	Use	Parking Spaces	Toilets	Description
Cedar Rustic	23.5	290'	Low	3	None	Small pool with small trickling waterfall. Small sandy beach, shaded. Fishing allowed end of May through October only; check California fishing regulations for exact dates.
Eagle Eye Mine	23.1	170'	Low	6	None	Small sand/gravel beach and small pool. Rocky canyon walls. Fishing allowed end of May through October only; check California fishing regulations for exact dates.
Patrick Creek Picnic Area	22.0	350'	Med	7	Flush	A paved path leads to a fishing platform at the confluence of the Middle Fork of the Smith River and Patrick Creek. A deep, cold pool is below the platform; gravel beach exposed at low water levels. Another trail leads in the opposite direction from the picnic area to a shallow area of the river and a sandy beach .
Sandy Beach	20.9	255'	High	10	Vault	Medium-sized sandy beach. Follow the trail upstream to reach a rocky cascade and deep pool.
Madrona	19.2	40'	High	10	Vault	Parking is nearly at river-level. Large, sandy beach. Shallow pool. Follow trail downstream to a deeper pool; another trail on the opposite bank leads to it from Grassy Flat Campground.
Grassy Flat	18.87	650'	Med	20	Vault	Trail leads from the campground to a small gravel beach and deep pool; last few feet of trail are steep.
Panther Flat Picnic Area	16.75	90'	High	21	Vault	Walk upstream along the picnic area road to reach a pool with an impressive rock wall as a backdrop and small sandy beach. Walk downstream through the picnic area to reach a larger pool and tiny mud beach.
Margie's (Sim's Camp)	12.86	370'	Med	10	Vault	Deep pool with small mud/sand beach. Adjacent to and in view of the highway. Gentle trail slope affords easy access for rafts and kayaks. Screened clothes-changing area.
Mary Adams	11.9	280'	High	20	Vault	Beach is mostly gravel/cobble with patches of sand at both ends. Rock-studded pools downstream.
Hardscrabble Creek	11.1	135'	Med	10	None	Calm, deep pool with a small sandy beach and gravel bar on the opposite side. A second trail 330 feet west along the road leads over a rock outcrop to a small sandy beach and a few mini-beaches.
Cooper Flat	10.1	200 to 1,260'	Low	6	None	Park along the highway or drive down the gravel road .1 miles to the creek; please do not drive beyond the creek. Follow old roads and trails to reach rock outcrops and fishing holes along the river. No beaches.
Middle Fork Gorge	9.1	150 to 600'	Med	7	None	Walk down the dirt road to access two short trails leading to the river. Road ends at a large gravel beach; small sandy beaches just downstream. A rocky gorge and Class 5 rapids is farther downstream.
Myrtle Beach	7.2	586'	High	20	Vault	Medium-sized sandy beach; deep pool with rock walls. Vault toilet is halfway down the trail.

South Fork Road River Access Trails

Name	Mile-post	Trail Length	Use	Parking Spaces	Toilets	Description
Forks: Boat Ramp	.25	220'	High	12 Boats 10 Car	Vault	Launch your drift boat here. Ramp does not reach the water except at very high water levels, requiring some bumping over cobbles. Toilets at parking lot.
Forks: Middle Fork	.25	220'	Med	12 Boats 10 Car	Vault	Trail starts at the parking area at the top of the boat ramp and leads to a small beach on the Middle Fork opposite Myrtle Beach. Park at the boat lot in the rainy season.
Forks: South Fork	.25	668'	High	12 Boats 10 Car	Vault	Also called “Second Bridge.” Trail leads southeast from the parking area to a large sandy beach on the South Fork. Paddle placid water upstream through a half-mile of rock-walled gorge in summer season.
Forks: Confluence	.25	994'	Med	12 Boats 10 Car	Vault	Watch the Middle and South Forks meet from atop rock cliffs (photo page 2). Sunbathe on a patch of sand or flat rock slab; or rock-scramble down to the water.
Craig's Beach	2.1	400'	Med	20	Vault	Beach is mostly cobble with a few patches of sand. Site is within a no-fishing zone (mouth of Craig's Creek to Tryon Bridge). Advanced kayaking route is downstream (South Fork Gorge).
Sand Camp	7.3	460'	High	20	Vault	Sand/cobble beach. A large pool with a small sandy beach is at the downstream end. Primitive campsites. 120' by 150' parking lot easily accommodates trailers.
Gordon Gorge	10.1	.5 miles	Low	2	None	Rock walls, pool, small gravel beach. The trail is extremely steep. A creek running down and across a small section of the trail may be difficult to pass in the rainy season without getting wet.
Low Water Crossing	10.5	1 mile	Low	10 at MP 10.6	None	Low-water crossing of Historic Kelsey Trail. Strong current, rocky bottom, no beach. A large pool is downstream; rock-hop down to it along the opposite bank.
Redwood Flat	12.3	1,000 to 2100'	Low	5	None	Trail leads 370' to a campsite, then left to intersect a trail running parallel to the river. Three spur trails off of it access the river at 550', 650' (rock outcrop), and 1650' (steep, rocky chute drops to gravel beach).
Steven Bridge	13.0	700'	Low	5	Vault	Follow the wood-chipped path at the northwest end of the parking lot to a gravel bar with a small patch of sand. Small waterfall on opposite side.
Goose Creek	13.6	400'	Low	6	None	A bathtub of crystal green water beckons swimmers while sunbathers may gaze from the rocks above. A small sand/gravel beach sits behind the rocks. A mossy rock cliff is on the opposite side.

County Road 305 River Access Trails

Name	Mile-post	Trail Length	Use	Parking Spaces	Toilets	Description
North Fork (Brown's Flat, Major Moore's, Rockland)	24.1	70 to 250'	Low	10	Vault	Launching point for rafts and kayaks running the North Fork of the Smith. Small, sandy beach on upstream end, cobbles elsewhere. Dramatic rocky setting (see photo back cover). Directions: Hwy 199 west, 2.6 miles; 17N49, 7.7 miles; CR 305, 15 miles; 18N27, .1 miles.



Fish of the Smith



World-Class Fish & World-Class Fishing

Fishing on the Smith River is described as *World-Class* both because of the potential for trophy-size fish and the challenge of landing one. The largest steelhead caught (and recorded) in California weighed 27 pounds 4 ounces and was captured on the Smith, as was the second largest Chinook salmon at 86 pounds!

Role of the US Forest Service: Since the turn of the century, the numbers of salmon and steelhead have steadily declined. Many populations are now extinct, or close to extinction. The highest-quality freshwater habitat left for these wild-spawning fish is within national forests. As one of the largest single undammed Wild and Scenic River systems in the United States, the Smith River National Recreation Area plays a major role in preserving the quality and quantity of this important habitat. Forest Service efforts are also aimed at improving the habitat's capability to produce as many smolts—young salmon migrating to the sea—as possible. Restoring, maintaining, and in some cases, improving stream habitat within forests is an important part of this strategy to rebuild and protect salmon and steelhead populations.

Here are some things you can do to help:

- **Camp at least 100 feet from the river.** Vehicles driven and parked too close to a stream compact the soil, kill vegetation, and erode banks. This ruins a beautiful scene and destroys fish habitat.
- **Leave wood and rocks along the edge of the water.** These help slow down fast-moving water, provide shelter for fish and amphibians, and create sanctuaries from predators (birds and larger fish).
- **Stay on established river trails.** Trampling along stream banks causes soil erosion that increases sedimentation in streams and smothers eggs and young fish in the gravel.
- **Pack out your trash.** Never leave behind used fishing line. Birds and other animals can become entangled in it.
- **Use "Leave No Trace" principles.** See page 4 and/or visit <https://lnt.org/learn/7-principles>.

Fishing Licenses and Regulations: Anglers must possess a valid California fishing license and adhere to California Department of Fish and Wildlife seasons and regulations. The closest place to the NRA to get a license is the Hiouchi Hamlet (Chevron station/store), nine miles west of Gasquet, on Hwy 199. Pick up a free regulation book at the NRA visitor center.

Best places to watch fish spawn (Oct-Dec). (directions from the visitor center in Gasquet):

Shelly Creek Camp

Directions: Hwy 199 east, 7.5 miles; left on Patrick Creek Road (CR 316), continue 2.25 miles to bridge over Shelly Creek. Look for fish in the pool at the Patrick/Shelly Creek confluence and in Shelly Creek below and upstream of the bridge. Vault toilet at the camp.

Patrick Creek Picnic Area

Directions: 7.5 miles east of Gasquet, on Hwy 199. This facility is closed during spawning season; park outside the gate and walk in. Short trails lead to the river. Restrooms closed.

Additional opportunities may be available in Redwood National and State Parks; please call the park for information, (707) 465-7335.

Scenic Drives (continued from page 5)

6) Knopki Creek Rd to Sanger Lake and Peak. 30.2 miles/1.5 hours one way. Peaks, lake, expansive views. **Directions:** Hwy 199 east, 15.3 miles; Knopki Creek Road (18N07), 13.3 miles; bear left at "T" to stay on 18N07 and go .3 miles to Sanger lake parking and another 1.2 miles to the saddle below Sanger Peak. Half-mile hike to peak.

7) Old Gasquet Toll Road/Patrick Creek Road. 25 miles/1.5 hours. Views of the Siskiyou Mountains, High Dome Meadow, the Smith River, fall foliage, creeks, and fish. **Directions:** Hwy 199 west, .15 miles; Middle Fork Gasquet Road (CR 318), .4 miles; becomes North Fork Rd at Azalea Lane, continue up hill .2 miles; right on Old Gasquet Toll Road (CR 314), continue 13.5 miles; cross bridge over Patrick Creek and continue .5 miles; right on Patrick Creek Road (CR 316), continue 3.1 miles to Hwy 199; Hwy 199 west, 7.5 miles to NRA visitor center.

8) Patrick Creek Road/Wimer Road/Holiday Road. 27 miles/2 hours. Dramatic views into the North and Middle Fork of the Smith River canyons; mountain peaks, fall foliage, creeks, fish (see above). **Directions:** Hwy 199 east, 7.5 miles; left on Patrick Creek Road (CR 316), 3.1 miles; bear right and continue on Patrick Creek Road for 8.3 miles; left onto Wimer Road (4402), 1.9 miles; left onto Holiday Road (CR 315), 10.1 miles; left onto Old Gasquet Toll Road (CR 314), cross bridge and continue .4 miles; right onto Patrick Creek Road (CR 316), continue 3.1 miles to Hwy 199. **Caution:** Some parts of Holiday Road are steep and rough with loose rock.

9) North Fork. 22.6 miles/1.5 hours one way. Open pine forest, meadows, ocean in the distance; wildflowers and fragrant azaleas in spring. Gaze down into the deep canyon of the North Fork of the Smith River. Much of the North Fork was burned over in the Biscuit Fire of 2002, exposing red peridotite and blue-green serpentinite rock and leaving behind a forest of skeletons (see photo on page 4 of view from Low Divide Road). End at the North Fork River Access (see photo, back cover). Vegetation is sparse and stunted in this area due to the serpentine soil. **Directions:** Hwy 199 west, 2.9 miles; Gasquet Mountain Road (17N49), 7.7 miles; right on Low Divide Road (CR 305), 12 miles. Optional routes to and from the intersection of CR 305 and 17N49: to/from North Bank Road (State Route 197) via CR 305, 11.4 miles/40 minutes; and to/from Hwy 101 at the town of Smith River via Rowdy Creek Road, 8 miles/30 minutes.



male Chinook Salmon

female Chinook Salmon

male Coho Salmon

female Coho Salmon



Steelhead Trout



Rainbow Trout



Cutthroat Trout

Artwork by Rick Bennett

	Chinook (King) Salmon	Coho (Silver) Salmon	Steelhead Trout	Rainbow Trout	Cutthroat Trout
Weight and Size at Maturity	Most are 10-50 pounds; 24-60"	Varies from 1-12 pounds; 17-38"	Most are 4-8 pounds; up to 45"	Wide range of sizes depending on habitat; 8-18"	
Distribution in Smith River basin	Lower ends of large tributaries of all forks	Lower mainstem tributaries; slower & smaller streams than Chinook	All forks plus smaller streams	Throughout; common in upper ends of tributaries upstream of salmon and steelhead barriers	Throughout; more visible January thru October
Spawn Once and Die?	Yes	Yes	Some do; others 3-4 times	No	No
Migration Time	After first fall rains	Fall	Winter/early spring	Resident	Resident
Spawning Time	October to January	October to January	Soon after arriving	Spring	Winter and Spring
Freshwater Residence	3 to 6 months	Over a year	1 to 2 years	Entire life	Entire life
Ocean Residence	2 to 4 years	2 years	1-3 years	For more info, pick up a "Fish of The Smith River" brochure at the visitor center.	



Boating and Lakes



Boating

The Smith River is best suited for hard-shell kayaks, inflatable rafts and kayaks, and whitewater canoes. Drift boats are suitable from the Forks boat ramp to the mouth; take out at Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park campground (fee), Hiouchi Bridge (Society Hole), Ruby Van Deventer County Park, or the Smith River Public Fishing Access at 3145 South Fred D Haight Drive, Smith River, California.

Whitewater opportunities occur in winter and early spring. Consult the following websites for more information: www.dreamflows.com and www.cacreeks.com.

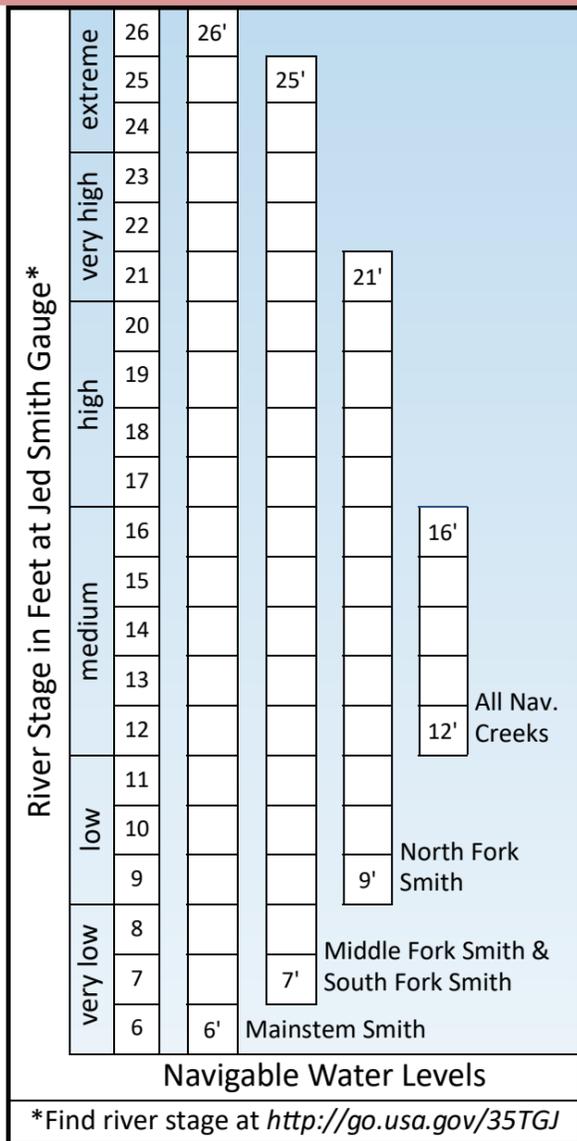
Tubing is possible on the easier runs in summer; however, numerous rocks and shallow riffles make for a bumpy ride. Care must be taken to "lift up" when encountering submerged rocks. Summer water temperatures range from 64 to 72° F (18-22°C); a wet suit is recommended.

Suggested Easy Run (Rating 1-3)
3.4 miles/3 to 4 hours.

Put-in: Forks Boat Ramp

Take-out: Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, Hiouchi Bridge River Access (Society Hole), on Hwy 199 at milepost 4.9. Access road is on the northwest side of the bridge.

Optional take-outs to shorten the run are at the park campground or picnic area (fee).



Smith River Navigable Runs (at medium flow)				
Drainage	Put-in	Take-out	Length (miles)	Rating
North Fork Smith	North Fork	Margie's (Sim's)	14.7	4
Middle Fork Smith	Knopki Creek Bridge	Siskiyou Gorge	7.3	4
	Siskiyou Gorge	Patrick Creek	0.9	5
	Patrick Creek	Panther Flat	6.1	4
	Panther Flat	Margie's (Sim's)	4.1	2-3
	Margie's (Sim's)	M. Fork Gorge	3.9	2-3
Patrick Creek	M. Fork Gorge	Forks	2.4	4-5
	Lower High Dome Trail	Mouth of Creek	3.2	4
South Fork Smith	Steven Bridge	Sand Camp	5.3	3
	Sand Camp	S. Fork Gorge	6.1	3
	S. Fork Gorge	Forks	1.8	4-5
Mainstem Smith	Forks	Hiouchi Bridge	3.4	1-2
	Hiouchi Bridge	Mouth	12.5	1-2

Inquire at the Smith River NRA visitor center for detailed information on these runs. **Ratings:** 1–Easy, 2–Novice, 3–Intermediate, 4–Advanced, 5–Expert, 6–Extreme.

Lakes

The NRA has several small lakes to test your luck and skill at fishing. Some lakes are stocked; for the fish-plant schedule, contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife at (530) 225-2146 or visit <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FishPlants/>.

Some trails that begin in the NRA lead to lakes in the Klamath National Forest (Buck, Devil's Punchbowl, El Capitan, and Raspberry) or the Orleans District of the Six Rivers National Forest (Flatiron Lake).

California Sport Fishing Regulations apply at all lakes. No special closures or rules apply to any of these lakes, but tackle and possession limits are in effect. Lakes are open to fishing year round, weather and road conditions permitting. Please use lead-free tackle to protect wildlife.

Water Safety Tips

- Always swim with a buddy, never alone. There are no lifeguards on the river.
- **Be especially watchful of children.** Fast currents can quickly overwhelm a child and carry them downstream.
- Rocks may be slippery when wet. Be careful!
- Never dive without verifying water depth. River levels can change dramatically in a short time.
- Wear footgear to protect you from fish hooks or glass on the banks or bottom of the river.
- Water depth and swiftness can increase quickly to dangerous levels. Always exercise caution and good sense.
- Follow federal and state laws requiring canoes, kayaks, and inflatable rafts to carry a Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device.
- Overexposure to cold, especially cold water, causes hypothermia—the lowering of body temperature levels. Symptoms are loss of coordination, uncontrollable shivering, and listlessness. If any of these symptoms occur, get out of the water, dry off, and get medical attention.
- Learn to recognize and avoid poison oak. It is common along river banks (see page 4).
- Drink lots of water. Water from the river must be purified before drinking. **Avoid alcoholic drinks**—they alter your judgment, reaction time, and dehydrate you.

Lake	Size in Acres	Elevation in Feet	Max Depth	Brook Trout	Rainbow Trout	Township	Range	Section	Location & Notes
Dry Lake	3.25	1,500	9.5	-		16N	3E	31	On CR 405 (Big Flat Road), 5 miles north of CR 427 (South Fork Road). Accessible year-round.
Harrington Lake	2	5,200	4	-	-	15N	4E	23	16-mile hike on South Kelsey Trail (last 8 miles unmaintained); trailhead on 15N39, 2 miles from 15/15N01 (G-O Road) (see South Kelsey Trail, page 12).
Island Lake	3	5,000	14	-		16N	4E	24,25	6.47-mile hike to end of Island Lake Trail; trailhead in Bear Basin on 16N02, 3 miles east of 17N05/16 (details on page 9, Island Lake Trail).
Muslatt Lake	1	1,200	45	-		15N	3E	20,21	East of the Big Flat area at end of 15N36, about 1 mile from 16/16N02. Accessible year-round.
Rattlesnake Lake	2.1	1,597	11	-	-	15N	2E	16	On 15N02, 2 miles from South Fork Road (CR 427). Covered with pond lilies; abundant bullfrogs; not stocked with fish.
Sanger Lake	6	5,100	25			17N	5E	5	On 18N02, .5 miles north of 18N07 (Knopki Creek Road). See details on page 16, Scenic Drives. Wet season gate closure limits vehicle access.
Buck Lake	6	4,300	No	-		16N	9W	1	1.7-mile hike from Doe Flat trailhead (see below and page 9).
Devil's Punchbowl	14	4,750	No	-		16N	8W	6	4.4-mile hike on Doe Flat and Devil's Punchbowl trails. Start at Doe Flat trailhead at end of 16N02, 3.5 miles east of 17N05/16 (details on page 9).
Raspberry Lake	10	6,125	No data			17N	8W	22	7-mile hike on Young's Valley and Raspberry Lake trails. Start at Young's Valley trailhead (details on page 9). Wet-season gate closure limits vehicle access.



View east from Bear Basin Butte Lookout toward the Siskiyou Crest.

Bear Basin Butte Lookout and Pierson Cabin



Solitude, awe-inspiring views, a quiet haven away from the crowd, the opportunity to feel what it's like to live in a fire lookout... you can experience life at the top of Bear Basin Butte (elevation 5,303 feet) by renting the historic fire lookout and new 1930s-style cabin.

A Room with a View

Take in a panorama of the Siskiyou Crest to the east and rolling mountains to the west. Wisps of clouds and fingers of fog may move among the peaks and valleys, emphasizing the many contours of this striking landscape (photo, page 3). Imagine watching a sunrise or sunset, stargazing, or even viewing an approaching storm from this magnificent vantage point!



Lookout Interior



Cabin Picture Window



Cabin Main Room



Picnic Area

The Facility and Its Story

The lookout was originally built five miles west on French Hill at Camp Six by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1935. It was part of US Forest Service fire-detection operations through the 1990s. In 1997, it was moved to Bear Basin Butte for recreational use. The cab was rehabilitated and the tower reduced from its former height of 30 feet to 6 feet. The Pierson cabin was constructed at the same time.



Lookout in 1950 on Camp Six/USFS



Lookout today on Bear Basin Butte/USFS



Cabin Storage Room and Counter



Lookout, cabin, parking area, and eave of toilet building

Amenities

Furnished cabin and lookout, picnic area, wood stove, firewood, and vault toilet. No water or power.

Fees

- \$75 per night when lookout is open, generally July 1 to October 15, depending on weather.
- \$35 when lookout is closed (cabin still available).

Above rates are for 1 to 8 persons. \$5 extra per night for each additional person up to a maximum of 12 people.

Reservations

The facility is rented from July 1 through September 30. Reservations are required and may be made up to six months in advance. Book as early as you can; dates fill fast, often as soon as they become available online. Reserve through www.recreation.gov, 1-877-444-6777.

Safety

Be prepared for wind, sun, lightning, weather extremes, bugs, bears, and narrow, gravel access roads.

Accessibility

Outside areas are graveled; the cabin entrance has a ramp; the toilet is accessible according to Forest Service guidelines (view at www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/accessibility/). The 250-foot path to the lookout is steep and unpaved. The lookout is accessed by 13 stair steps.

Directions

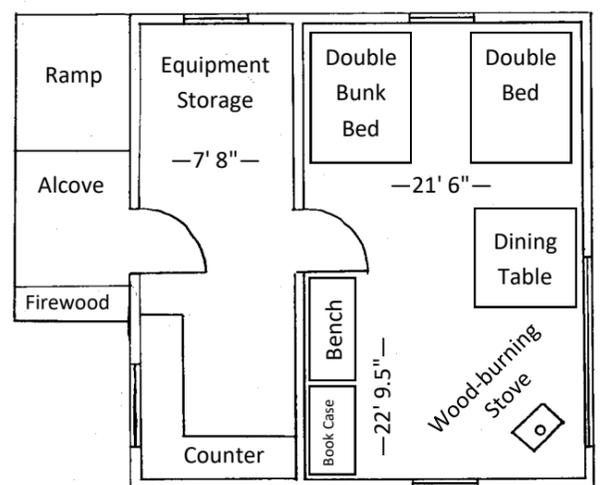
Important New Information: The 17N05 road (Jawbone) accessing Bear Basin Butte is closed at the eight mile marker due to storm damage. Bear Basin Butte is accessible from the following alternate route: From Gasquet take Hwy 199 west 7.2 miles to South Fork Rd (CR 427), proceed 14 miles towards Big Flat, continue to cattle guard to access FS 16N02 (Ship Mountain Road), continue on 16N02 to the gated access road. Lat/Long: 41.808585, -123.741347.

Things to See and Do in the Area

The Butte itself sits within the Bear Basin Butte Botanical Area, home to over 14 species of conifers (cone-bearing trees) and an unusual and beautiful array of wildflowers and plants.

Siskiyou Wilderness trailheads are only three miles from the lookout providing access to Buck Lake, Devil's Punchbowl, Clear Creek Recreational Trail, and Island Lake.

Visit Ship Mountain Lookout for another awe-inspiring view. Follow 16N02 south for seven miles.



Cabin Floor Plan



View south from Bear Basin Butte Lookout with the Pierson Cabin in view.

Lookouts, A History

By John Dean

The Gasquet District has a rich history of Fire Lookouts. Our district was originally part of the Siskiyou National Forest and at some point throughout its existence there were 11 lookouts that were staffed seasonally! Some were commissioned in the '20's and decommissioned in the '40's. Others lasted until the '50's and '60's. Some locations can be visited and evidence of the old lookouts can still be found at those sites.

Ship Mountain is made up of four peaks called "The Four Brothers". The lookout was originally on Brother #2, but in 1968 it was moved to Brother #3 in the form of a WWII vintage radio trailer. It stayed in that form until 2006 when the present two-story structure was built.

I started staffing Ship Mountain in 1990 and was the happiest guy in the country when I took possession of the new lookout in 2008. In place of cracked and ill-fitted screens and windows. I now have heat on cold days and a breeze on warm ones. There is a four-burner cooktop, refrigerator, and a dry sink. It is the most modern lookout I have ever seen!

The job of a lookout requires learning how to use an Osborne Firefinder. A Firefinder is an instrument that determines the directional bearing of smoke in order to alert fire crews to a wildland fire. Although it is easy to learn how to use such a device, it takes years of experience to master the skill.

When reporting a fire our dispatch center requires various types of information including the azimuth; or degrees from a lookout that are given by the Firefinder. Next they'll need a legal description of the location. This is given by naming townships, ranges and sections, these are also determined on the Firefinder. Lastly, dispatch is going to need a geographic description (ie. Sanger Lake area), distance from the lookout, description of smoke (volume, direction, color, and change in size/shape), and available road access. Once this information is given

to our dispatch center, they'll give the fire its name.

Perfecting the use of a Firefinder is just part of what it takes to be a great lookout! It is also important to be familiar with the road systems on the district; locations of roads that may not be on the map, roads that are overgrown, or have been decommissioned. A great lookout also needs to know where the water sources are along with the fire history of the district.

If you have ever hiked in a very hot environment such as the desert you may have seen things that were not actually there, this is called a mirage. When surveying the land as a lookout you too may see things that are not as they seem. A "water dog" for instance is an area of water vapor that can have the appearance of smoke. The natural landscape of the terrain can also create shadows that can trick the untrained eye. Knowing the landscape and identifying smoke and its characteristics is a huge part of the job. It is also critically important to be able to competently and confidently use the radio equipment and in proper radio procedures, as well as the weather observation equipment.

During the course of the day I complete a 360-degree look around from the inside of the lookout every 20 minutes. Then I complete a 360-degree look around outside the lookout every hour. I focus on the areas where people are found; along roadways, off-grid residential areas, and popular primitive camping areas. Of course, I'm looking over the district more informally all the time. I am not necessarily looking specifically for smoke – after nearly 30 years, I have gotten to the point where I am just looking for something that shouldn't be there.

On our district, lightning is the primary cause of our fires. In 1994 a storm came through that resulted in 36 fires on our district alone. Fortu-

nately, the marine influence caused by the nearness of the ocean creates an increase in humidity and moisture which reduces the number of fires we get in a season.

In 2015 I woke in Gasquet to a thunder and lightning show at about 2AM. I thought I might as well get up to the lookout and by 4AM I was calling in "glows" as best I could in the dark. By 5AM I was reporting discolorations as "hinky-looking" areas in the darkness that looked as though they may be fires. When six o'clock rolled around I was already reporting actually smoke columns. Since I was able to get those early calls in, our district was the first to get resources like helicopters and fixed wing aircraft to assist firefighting efforts. I remember calling in more than four fires that morning, including the Gordon Fire.

Later that season there was another "lightning burst" and that turned in to the Gasquet Complex which consisted of the Williams, Feeder, Summit, Coon, and Bear Fires. Most of them were in the Siskiyou Wilderness and most of the firefighting effort was concentrated on the forest land outside of the wilderness. The fall and winter rains were required to put out those fires.

Every season presents different challenges and opportunities for lookouts. We have to be on our toes and take our job seriously at all times. People's lives may depend on it. Naps are a no-go but reading books, manuals, and other material is an option providing you don't become too engrossed.

Over the years some areas of the job continue to evolve but most stay fairly consistent. For those that choose to live at the lookout, they have the privilege of being the first to see the sun rise and the last to see the sunset over the ocean.

(continued on page 20)

The Story of the Smith

By Sue Pappalardo

The Smith River National Recreation Area (NRA) is best known for the river itself, with its crystal-clear waters and prime fish habitat. Less well-known is its high diversity of plant life and unusual geology. Like many other areas of special significance, the NRA's qualities are derived from one thing—the land.

The NRA's "land" is actually a slab of ancient seafloor. Movements in the earth's crust—the same ones that cause earthquakes—thrust it, and parts of the underlying mantle, onto the North American continent millions of years ago. These rocks from the seafloor are known as "ophiolites." The journey to land is rather brutal for ophiolites and they often arrive fragmented. However, the NRA sits on the Josephine Ophiolite, which survived its trip relatively intact. It is one of the best exposed and most complete ophiolites on earth.

The earth's mantle is comprised mainly of a greenish-black rock called peridotite. When exposed to the elements above-ground, it weathers to a warty red to orange rock. Exposure to underground water turns it into a grayish-green to bluish-black-colored rock called serpentinite. The term "serpentine" is commonly used to include both peridotite and serpentinite and the soils formed from them. Serpentine is somewhat uncommon on the earth's surface, but it covers

about half of the NRA; the remainder is mostly the gabbro, basalt, and sedimentary rock layers of the seafloor. The Smith River has cut down through the serpentine and seafloor layers, leaving behind deep canyons and spectacular gorges. Traveling the Smith River Scenic Byway (page 4) takes you on a tour through these rocks that once lay beneath the sea.

Serpentine soils are thin and dry, high in magnesium and iron, low in calcium and other nutrients, and full of heavy metals including nickel, chrome, copper, and cobalt. This is just the opposite of what most plants need for good growth. The result is sparse and stunted vegetation. Some plants have adapted to serpentine's unique environment and are found nowhere else; they are uncommon because their habitat is uncommon. The NRA has many of these plants, including the wetland plant, *Darlingtonia californica*, also called the California pitcher plant or cobra lily.

The NRA also has a high diversity of conifer (cone-bearing) trees; in part, because of serpentine soils, but mainly due to the glacial-free setting and wide differences in elevation.

Fish need clear water to reproduce and the Smith and its tributaries provide ideal habitat for them. Again, the land is the reason. Because of

the thin soil, there isn't much sediment washing into the river.

Clarity of water also affects its color. The clearest waters reflect blue light, while the next clearest reflect green light. The Smith's own crystalline water generates striking blue and green hues.

The wealth of heavy metals found in the Josephine Ophiolite attracted European settlers to the area in the 1850s. Gold, copper, chrome, and mercury were all extracted. New mining claims were prohibited when the land was designated as a national recreation area in 1990.

The town of Gasquet was established in 1857 by a Frenchman named Horace Gasquet. He came seeking his fortune in gold, but soon realized that his "gold" was in providing supplies, lodging, transportation, and recreation to the miners. You can travel his toll road today for free (page 12).

The Smith River has been home to the Tolowa people long before Europeans arrived. Their village sites are located in several places along the river, most notably in the Gasquet, Big Flat, Hiouchi, and river mouth areas.

Today, the NRA is managed for recreation and resource protection and enhancement. Some timber is harvested as a byproduct of forest restoration projects and firebreak construction.

Lookouts, A History

(continued from page 19)

We see lots of wildlife traveling to and from the lookout. I have seen mountain lions, fishers, ringtails, bobcats with kittens, foxes with kits, and lots of deer and bears. Once, I even saw what our wildlife biologist identified as a mountain beaver. At times I envy the old-timers who had to cook on a wood stove and hike or ride a horse out the fires, and live in isolation for weeks at a time. However, I am appreciative for my modern conveniences as well.

Through dedication, hard work, and focus fire lookouts help keep forests' and their surrounding communities safe. No amount of modern technology can ever be more accurate or quicker than the trained human eye for spotting fires.



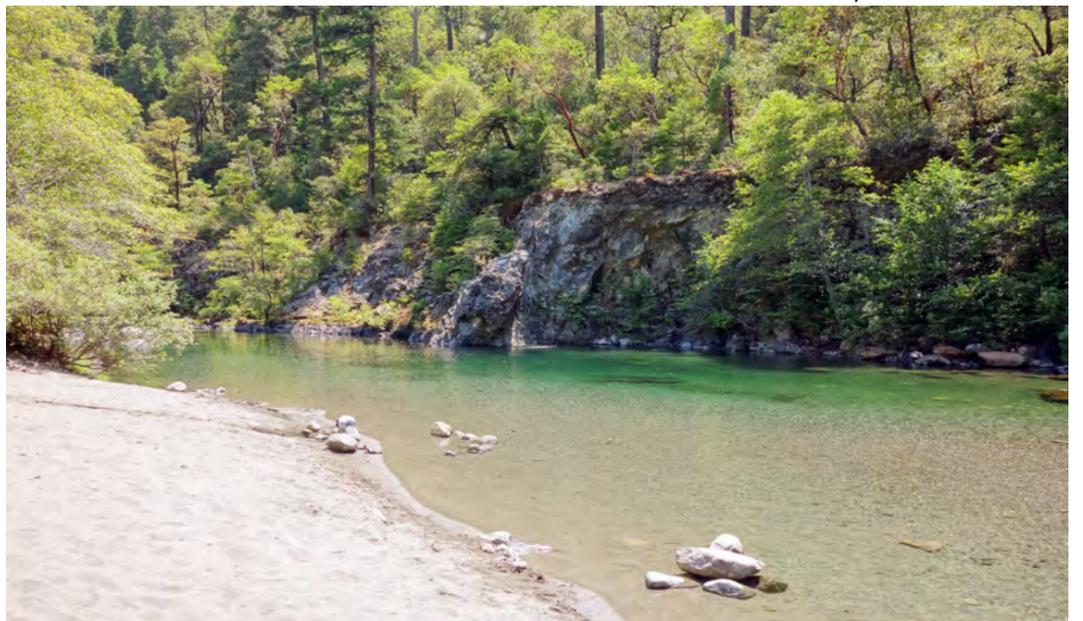
Bear Basin Meadow



Above: Fall foliage on the Jawbone Road (17N05/16)



North Fork River Access



Below: Sandy Beach River Access



Sanger Lake

Kids Corner - Answer Key

Going on a hike?

Word Search

X	N	S	D	G	H	T	S	G	W	H	W	Q	V		
D	U	R	A	N	G	E	R	F	P	O	B	S	V	S	
S	A	F	E	T	Y	S	Y	I	C	O	E	R	E	M	
K	G	C	P	Q	F	W	L	K	B	D	A	A	R	I	
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E	G	N	T	L	Z	I	J	O	A	Z	J	N	K	J	

- BEAR
- CAMP
- FIRE
- FIREFIGHTERS
- FOREST
- MATCHES
- PREVENTION
- RANGER
- RESPECT
- SAFETY
- SMITHRIVER
- SMOKEY
- WILDFIRE
- WILDLIFE
- WOODSYOWL



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Proceeds from visitor center and online sales, as well as fundraising events, are returned to these special places to provide interpretive and educational programs and materials, including this visitor guide.

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