

River Access Trails



Smith River National Recreation Area Six Rivers National Forest

Discover and enjoy the extraordinary beauty of the lucid jade-green waters of the Smith River as you walk the numerous trails to its banks. A short walk will take you to great fishing holes, inviting swimming and sunbathing beaches, awesome rock canyons, or “put-in” points for rafters and kayakers. Explore seven spots along South Fork Road and ten off Highway 199 on the Middle or South Forks of the Wild and Scenic Smith River in the **Smith River National Recreation Area**.

South Fork Road River Trails

Slant Bridge mile post .25 South Fork Road
Boat Ramp 220' trail
Parking for 6 vehicles

Launch your boat or enjoy the fishing, swimming, and sunbathing opportunities at this Middle Fork river access. Restroom facilities available at boat-trailer parking lot.

Second Bridge/Forks mile post .25 South Fork Road
668' and 994' trails
Parking for 12 boat trailers and 10 vehicles
Vault toilets

A trail leads south from the restroom/parking area and splits, with the left trail taking you to a great beach on the South Fork and swimming, sunbathing, fishing, and rafting/tubing opportunities. Take the trail to the right and arrive at the picturesque confluence of the Middle and South Forks of the Smith River. Stretch out on the rock cliffs and admire the scenery.

Craig's Beach mile post 2.1 South Fork Road
400' trail
Parking for 20 vehicles
Portable toilet in summer

Enjoy sunbathing and swimming at this turn on the South Fork and views from the upper banks of a beautiful rock canyon. Downstream from this point is a challenging kayaking route (Class 5 rapids), recommended only for the most experienced kayakers. Fishing is not allowed between Craig's Creek and Tryon Bridge (Second Bridge).

Redwood Flat mile post 12.3 South Fork Road
530' trail
Parking for 5 vehicles

This very steep trail leads you to a spectacular place on the South Fork where fishing, swimming, sunbathing, tubing, and rafting opportunities await.

Steven Bridge mile post 13.0 on South Fork Road
700' trail
Parking for 5 vehicles

Follow this very rocky trail to fishing holes and sunbathing spots as well as tubing and rafting opportunities.

Goose Creek mile post 13.6 on South Fork Road
400' trail
Parking for 6 vehicles

Gorgeous pools of crystal green water beckon swimmers, fishermen, and rafters while sunbathers may admire the scene from the rocks above.

Welcome to the **Smith River National Recreation Area**, located within the Six Rivers National Forest and managed by the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture. This 305,337 acre National Recreation Area (NRA) was designated by Congress in November 1990 to protect the area's special scenic value, natural diversity, cultural and historical attributes, wilderness, wildlife, fisheries, and the Smith River watershed's clean waters. The Forest Service has been designated as the steward of the NRA to provide recreational opportunities and to manage this diverse area for all of its valuable resources.



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region

Six Rivers National Forest
Smith River National Recreation Area

Highway 199 River Trails

Myrtle Beach

mile post 7.2 on Hwy 199
586' trail

Parking for 20 vehicles
Portable toilet in summer

Swimmers and sunbathers will enjoy this wide, sandy beach at the Myrtle Creek/Middle Fork confluence. Opportunities for fishing and tubing as well.

Middle Fork Gorge

mile post 9.1 on Hwy 199
55' trail

Parking for 7 vehicles

A rocky gorge and Class 5 rapids downstream from this beach make this a takeout point for kayakers. Fish, swim, sunbathe, and look at the sights along this lovely stretch of river.

Hardscrabble Creek

mile post 11.1 on Hwy 199
135' trail

Parking for 10 vehicles

With only a short walk you'll find a place to fish, swim, or sunbathe or float downstream in a tube or raft.

Mary Adams

mile post 11.9 on Hwy 199
on west side of bridge
280' trail

Parking for 20 vehicles
Portable toilet in summer

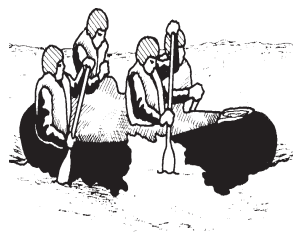
Visit the sandy beaches near MAP bridge to fish, swim, and sunbathe, or float downstream in a tube or raft.

Panther Flat Picnic Area

mile post 16.75 on Hwy 199
90' trail

Parking for 21 vehicles
Vault toilets

Picnickers will appreciate the tables just above Middle Fork Smith River and the many water spigots available close by. An impressive wall of rock provides a backdrop to a beautiful beach and spots to swim, fish, or sunbathe. Visitors may also camp in the Panther Flat Campground and explore the river via kayak, raft, or inner tube.



Madrona

mile post 19.2 on Hwy 199

Parking for 10 vehicles
portable toilet in summer

Visitors may drive right to this picnic spot on the Middle Fork Smith. Grassy Flat Campground is across the river. Try fishing from the shore or float downstream in kayak, raft, or inner tube.

Sandy Beach

mile post 20.9 on Hwy 199
255' trail

Parking for 10 vehicles
portable toilet in summer

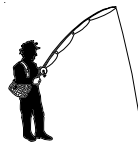
A very nice sandy beach invites sunbathers and swimmers and the Middle Fork Smith River provides a water trail for kayak, raft, or inner tube.

Patrick Creek Picnic Area

mile post 22.0 on Hwy 199
350' trail

Parking for 7 vehicles
Flush toilets

In the 1930s the Civilian Conservation Corps created walls and walkways, firepits and buildings from rocks and mortar in a creative design on the banks of the Middle Fork where the river is joined by Patrick Creek. Much of the original rock work remains, making this river access and picnic spot especially wonderful. Many sandy beach niches provide perfect spots for enjoying the sun and water. A barrier-free trail under the bridge connects the Campground and Lodge and also leads to a universal access fishing platform.



Eagle Eye Mine

mile post 23.1 on Hwy 199
170' trail

Parking for 6 vehicles



The rocky canyon walls along this stretch of the Middle Fork make this a beautiful setting for swimming and sunbathing. Fishing is allowed only in certain seasons, but the views are terrific year round.

Cedar Rustic

mile post 23.5 on Hwy 199
290' trail

Parking for 3 vehicles

One more gorgeous spot to experience the beautiful Smith River! Bask in the sun and swim the waters of the Middle Fork. Check California fishing regulations for the fishing season at this spot.

US Highway 199 Access	Mile Post Hwy 199	Trail length				
Myrtle Creek Beach	7.2	586'	yes	yes	kayak	summer
Middle Fork Gorge	9.1	55'	yes	yes	kayak takeout	no
Hardscrabble Creek	11.1	135'	yes	yes	kayak	no
Mary Adams	11.9	280'	yes	yes	kayak	summer
Panther Flat Picnic Area	16.75	90'	yes	yes	kayak	yes
Madrona	19.2	40'	yes	yes	kayak	summer
Sandy Beach	20.9	255'	yes	yes	kayak	summer
Patrick Creek Picnic Area	22.0	350'	yes	yes	kayak	yes
Eagle Eye Mine	23.1	170'	summer	yes	no	no
Cedar Rustic	23.5	290'	summer	yes	no	no

South Fork Road Access	Mile Post S. Fork Rd.	Trail Length				
Slant Bridge Boat Ramp	.25	220'	yes	yes		yes
Second Bridge	.25	668'	yes	yes	no	yes
Forks	.25	994'	yes	yes	no	yes
Craig's Beach	2.1	400'	no	yes	kayak	summer
Redwood Flat	12.3	530'	yes	yes	no	no
Steven Bridge	13.0	700'	yes	yes	kayak	no
Goose Creek	13.6	400'	yes	yes	kayak	no

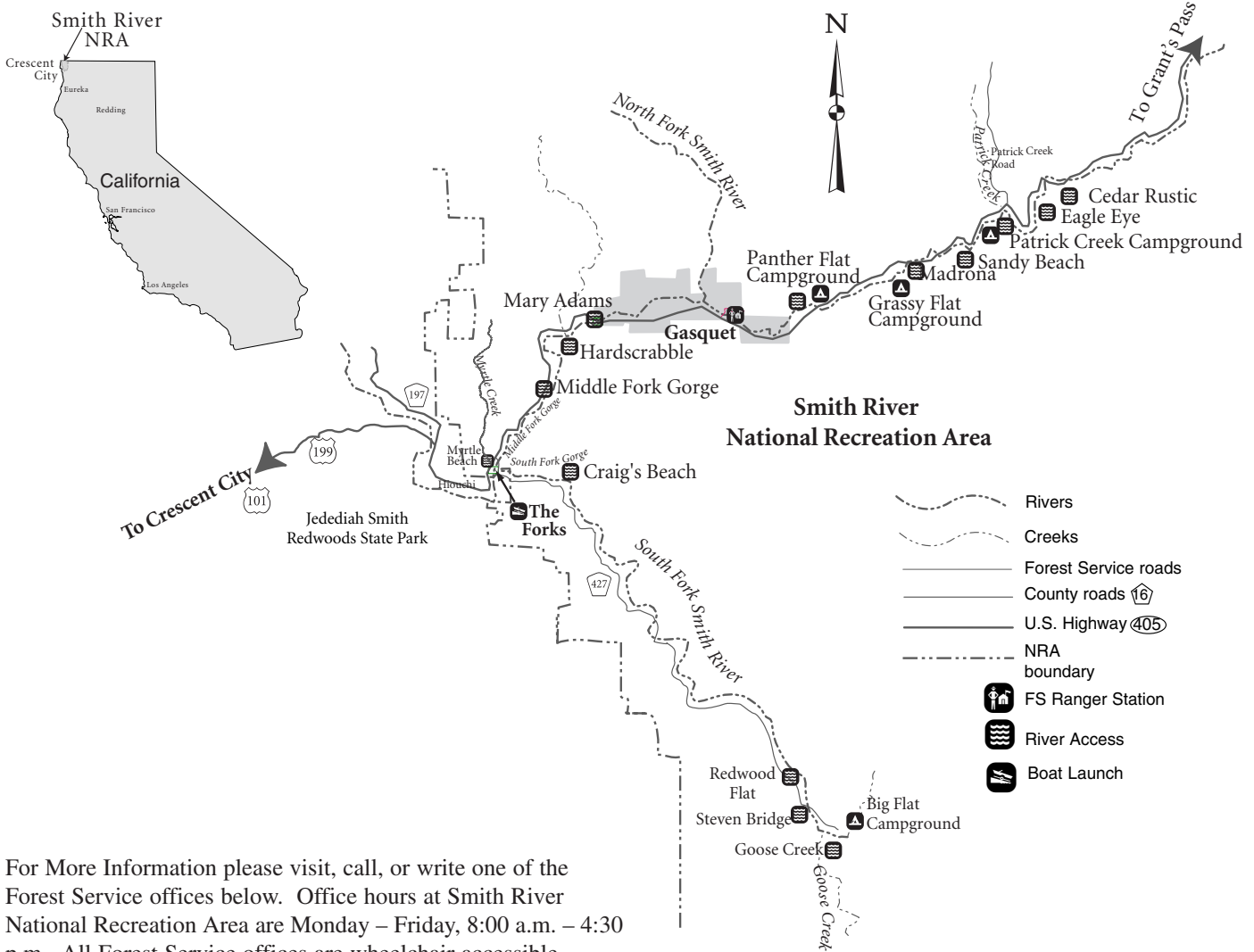
Protect Yourself:

- ◆ 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 extremely slippery when wet. Be careful!
- ◆ Never dive without verifying water depth. River levels can change dramatically in a short time.
- ◆ Drink lots of water. (Water from the river must be boiled five minutes before drinking.) **Avoid alcoholic drinks**—they alter your judgment, your reaction time and dehydrate you.
- ◆ Wear a hat; use sunscreen often and insect repellent as needed.
- ◆ Learn to recognize and avoid poison oak. It is common along river banks.
- ◆ Follow federal and state laws requiring canoes, kayaks, and inflatable rafts to carry a Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device.
- ◆ Wear footgear to protect yourself from fish hooks or glass which could hide on the banks or bottom of the river.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Water depth and swiftness can increase quickly to dangerous levels. Always exercise caution and good sense.
- ◆ Kayakers and rafters: contact the Smith River NRA Visitor Center for complete information on river classifications, water levels, put-in and takeout points on the Smith River.

Protect Your River Environment:

- ◆ Pick up and pack out all trash, including gum, orange and banana peels, cans, bottles, cigarette butts, and foil to preserve the beauty of the Smith River.
- ◆ Where no toilet facilities exist, select a spot at least 100' away from the river, dig a 6-8" hole, and cover waste with soil or rocks. Keep our river clean!

- ◆ Permits are required for campfires, camp stoves, lanterns, and barbecue grills. Campfire permits are free and available at any Forest Service office.
- ◆ Tread lightly on river trails and access areas, leaving no permanent imprint of your visit. Please stay on trails.



For More Information please visit, call, or write one of the Forest Service offices below. Office hours at Smith River National Recreation Area are Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. All Forest Service offices are wheelchair accessible.

Smith River National Recreation Area

10600 Highway 199
 P.O. Box 228
 Gasquet CA 95543
 707-457-3131 (also TTY#)

Six Rivers National Forest

Supervisor's Office
 1330 Bayshore Way
 Eureka CA 95501
 707-442-1721 (also TTY#)

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