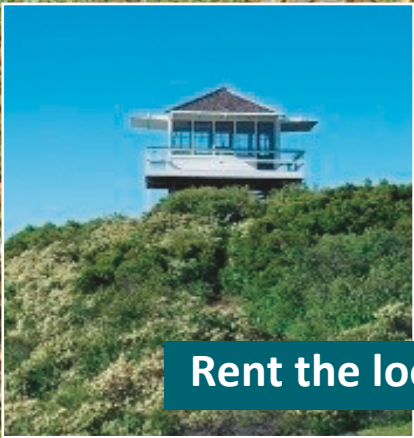
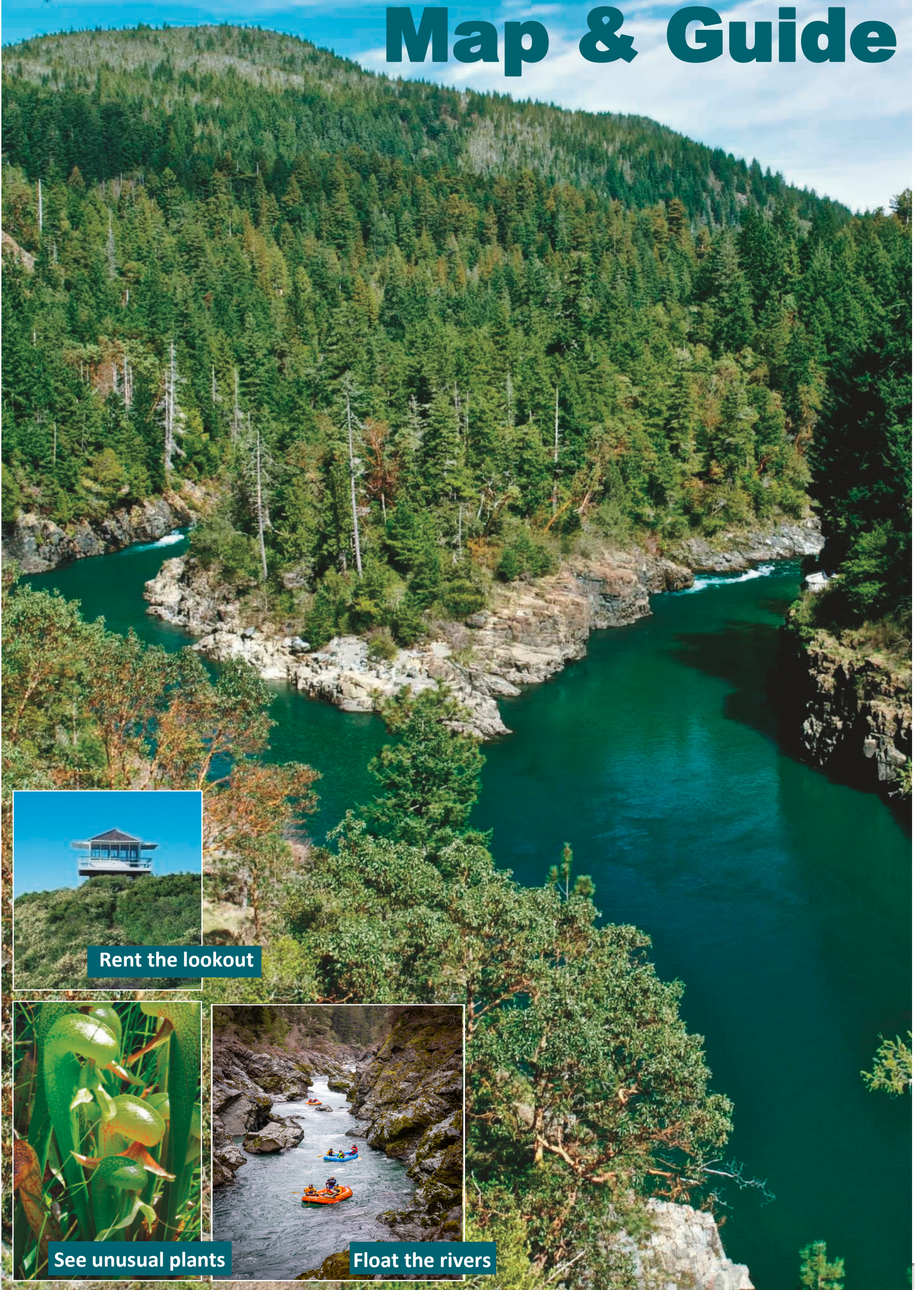


Smith River

National
Recreation
Area

Map & Guide



Rent the lookout



See unusual plants



Float the rivers



“The Forks”—confluence of the Middle and South forks of the Smith River/
John 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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November 2023

Designed by : Sue Pappalardo
Editor: Travis Graves

Redwood Parks Conservancy is a non-profit cooperating association established to foster understanding, enjoyment and stewardship of our parks and public lands through educational outreach, visitor services and support of our partners entrusted with the care of public lands along California’s north coast. Proceeds from visitor center and online store sales, as well as fundraising events, are returned to these special places to provide interpretive and educational programs and materials, including this visitor guide. Contact us: (707) 464-9150.

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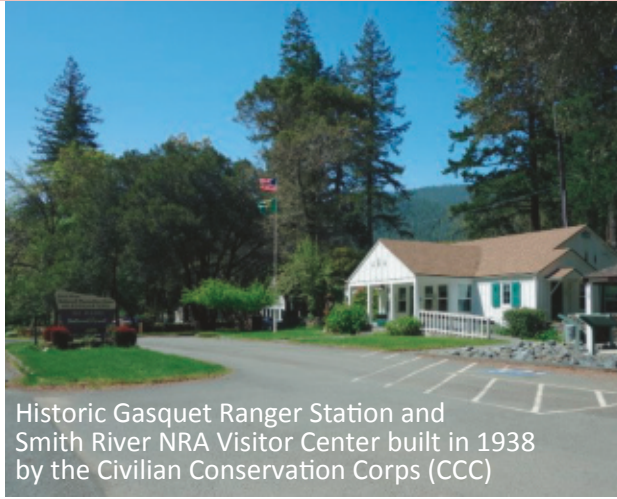


Front cover photos:

Background: “The Forks” (confluence of the Middle and South Forks of the Smith River) from Highway 199, milepost 6.5/Jon Parmentier.

Insets: Bear Basin Butte Lookout/USFS; California pitcher plant, also called cobra lily or *Darlingtonia (Darlingtonia californica)* /Jon Parmentier. South Fork Gorge from South Fork Road, /Trevor Meyer Photography.

All other photos by Sue Pappalardo or as labeled.



Historic Gasquet Ranger Station and Smith River NRA Visitor Center built in 1938 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

Welcome to the Smith River National Recreation Area!

This special place in northwest California offers visitors spectacular scenery, pristine wilderness areas, unique botanical areas, hundreds of back-country roads, more than 70 miles of trails, plus the Wild and Scenic Smith River and its clear jade-green waters. Redwood National and State Parks are close by and Siskiyou Wilderness and Pacific Ocean are within 20 miles. This 305,337-acre National Recreation Area (NRA) was designated by Congress in November 1990 to protect the area’s 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 its valuable resources.

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 Wild and Scenic River Systems in the United States.

The Smith River National Recreation Area makes up most of the Gasquet Ranger District and is part of the Six Rivers National Forest. For more information, please visit, call, or write one of the Forest Service offices below. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturdays 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. June—September. All Forest Service offices are wheelchair accessible.

Smith River National Recreation Area
10600 U.S. Highway 199
P.O. Box 228
Gasquet, CA 95543
(707) 457-3131 (also TTY#)
Six Rivers National Forest
1330 Bayshore Way
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 442-1721 (also TTY#)
www.fs.usda.gov/srnf
www.facebook.com/USFSsixRiversNF

Scan for more information on Six Rivers National Forest recreation at:
www.fs.usda.gov/srnf



Services

Smith River National Recreation Area

Facilities: Visitor center, five campgrounds, one cabin lookout rental, three picnic areas, restrooms, interpretive displays, hiking trails, and river access trails.

Visitor center: 10600 U.S Highway 199 (milepost 14.45), Gasquet, California, Latitude-Longitude Coordinates: 41.844625, -123.965691. Information, maps, videos, exhibits, books, souvenirs, lost and found.

Showers (coin-op): Panther Flat Campground.

Drinking water: Panther Flat and Patrick Creek Campgrounds, and the visitor center.

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

Local Towns/Proximity to NRA Visitor Center

Gasquet/0.15 miles west: Gasquet Ranger District HQ and visitors center, Convenience store with groceries, drinks, liquor, coffee, prepared food, and firewood; airfield; post office; river access at Margie's, and vacation rentals.

Hiouchi/9 miles west (11 minutes): Gas station/ convenience store, restaurant, motel, RV park, wood carving and antique shops, vacation rentals, state park campground, national and state parks visitor center.

Crescent City, CA/19 miles west (25 minutes): Small, full-service coastal 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): Very small town with a convenience store/gas station, post office, restaurant, and a few motels, RV parks, and resorts.

Brookings, Oregon/32 miles west (40 minutes) Small, full-service coastal town with a hospital, medical clinics, large-chain department store, and many choices of restaurants, lodging, and supermarkets.

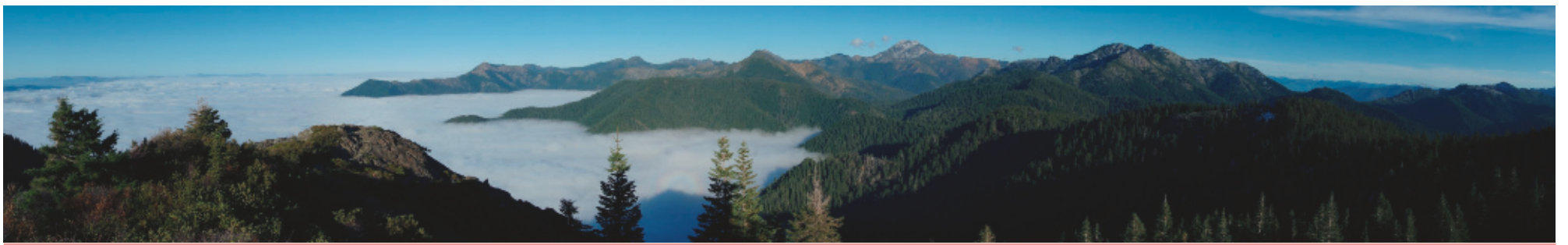
Cave Junction, Oregon/35 miles east (42 minutes): Small town with the Illinois Valley visitor's center (Oregon Caves), a supermarket, medical clinic, and post office; and a few gas stations, restaurants, motels, resorts, RV parks, resorts, and campgrounds.

Grants Pass, Oregon/65 miles east (1 hour and 20 minutes): Medium sized, full service city.

Nearby Parks with Camping

Redwood National and State Parks, 1111 Second Street, Crescent City, California 95531, (707) 465-7335. Includes Jedediah Smith, Del Norte Coast, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Parks. All have flush toilets and showers (showers for campers only).

Del Norte County Parks, Crescent City, California, (707) 464-7213. Includes Florence Keller, Ruby Van Deventer, and Clifford Kamph County Parks. All have flush toilets and 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 14). (Note: All prices subject to change.)

The Interagency Senior Pass (\$80) is a lifetime pass for citizens or permanent residents of the U.S., age 62 or older.

The Interagency Access Pass is a lifetime pass free to citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. who have a permanent disability, regardless of age.

Golden Age Passports and Golden Access Passports: no longer issued but still accepted; they work the same as interagency 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 a 50% discount on camping fees.

Interagency Annual Passes (\$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). **Annual passes are not valid for camping discounts.**

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

Permits

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 PreventWildfireCA.org.

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

Forest Products for personal use may be collected in the Smith River NRA without a permit. Please see <https://www.fs.usda.gov/srnf> for details.



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

Maps

Hiking, 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.

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

Owners are responsible for cleaning up after their animals. Pets must be always restrained or on a leash while in developed recreation sites. (§ 261.16j)

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. (§ 261.16l)

Firearms

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

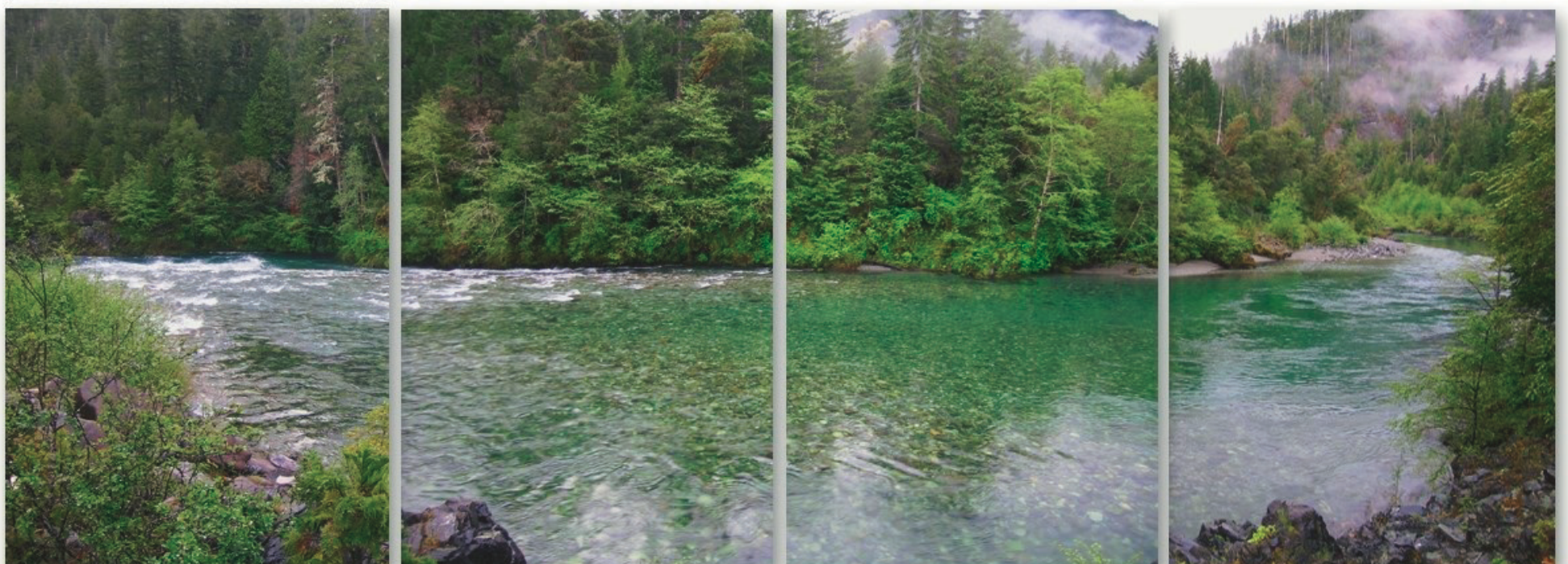
- (1) In or within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site or occupied area, or
- (2) Across or on a National Forest System road or a body of water adjacent thereto, or in any manner or place whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result in such discharge, or
- (3) Into or within any cave. (§ 261.10d)

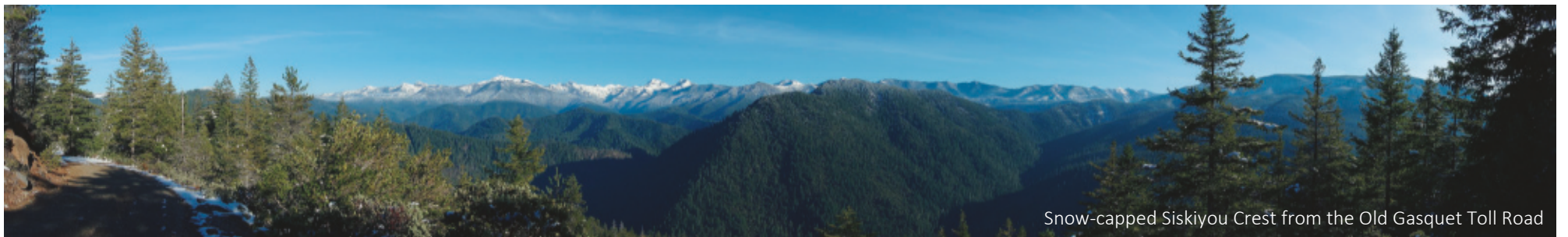
Fireworks

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

Weather

For current weather, call the Smith River NRA. Summers are dry with warm temperatures, around 80-100° Fahrenheit (27-38°C). The rainy season normally runs from October through April with an average annual rainfall of 90+ 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.





Snow-capped Siskiyou Crest from the Old Gasquet Toll Road

Protect Yourself, Protect Your Forest

Water that appears to be 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.

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

Fleas can carry Plague. They pass on the disease from an infected rodent. Do not feed rodents or rest or camp near burrows, and protect your pets.

Poison oak contains an oil that causes an allergic reaction in many people; an itchy rash results. The plant grows in the lower elevations of the NRA. It has brown branches with no prickles or thorns. Leaves are in groups of three; the emerging spring growth is reddish-brown, soon turning green. In late summer and fall leaves turn shades of orange, red, pink, and yellow before dropping, then branches remain bare until spring. To prevent exposure, learn to recognize and avoid the plant and wear long pants and sleeves.



Poison Oak, Inset: fall foliage.

If exposed, wash with a non-oily soap or Tecnu, a commercial cleanser.

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. Stay aware of the animals 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 aggressively.



Mountain Lion

Leave no trace

- 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 6-8" 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.

Never Feed Wildlife

Feeding wildlife is dangerous to you, other humans, and the animals. It's also against the law! A fed bear that becomes habituated to humans often has to be killed. Bears and other

critters become a problem when visitors are careless with food storage. Store food and scented items in a vehicle out of sight. 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 should be properly stored. 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 by staying on established trails, and cleaning mud and debris from shoes, pets, livestock, and tires before and after exploring the forest. Some roads may be closed during the wet season, usually mid-October to mid-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 mudsnail and quagga mussel. Never release plants, fish, or other animals into a body of water unless they came from that body of water. When leaving water, remove any visible mud, plants, fish, or other animals from recreational equipment and drain water before transporting.



View of the North Fork of the Smith River canyon at milepost 12.77



View from Ship Mountain Lookout

Things to Do



In an Hour or Two

- See “The Forks” ...page 11
- Swim at any River Access.....11
- Watch fish at Shelly Creek.....12
- Picnic at Panther or Patrick.....this page
- Take a Scenic Drive.....this page
- Take a short walk:
 - Patrick Creek Trail.....7
 - Darlingtonia Trail.....7
 - Myrtle Creek Trail.....10
 - Stoney Creek trail.....10

In a Half-Day

- See the view from a lookout.....this page
- Take a scenic drive.....this page
- Picnic at Chimney Flat.....this page
- Explore Bear Basin Butte Botanical Area.....this page
- Hike out a trail for a few hours.....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 (County Road 305).

Myrtle Creek: This area sits on the boundary between the Siskiyou Mountains and the Coast Range, 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 17N05/16 and 16N02.

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

Visit a Lookout

360 degree views; mountains, peaks, ocean. See banner photos pages 3, 5, 14, and 15

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

Bear Basin Butte: If you are not the renter, you must walk in 1/2 mile from gate; please be respectful of occupants. Directions & photos pages 14, 15.

Siskiyou Wilderness

Features panoramic mountain views, high mountain lakes, rocky peaks, creeks, and meadows. Accessed via Doe Flat, Island Lake, 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.

Scenic Drives

Take a drive to see sweeping mountain vistas, snow-capped peaks, rivers, creeks, lush forest, pine-dotted grasslands, deep canyons, wildflowers, wet meadows, unusual plants, fall foliage, and even fish. Higher elevations may have snow in winter. Roads may be rough and/or have fallen rock, but 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 min. Starts at the Highway 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 6.5. View Myrtle Beach at milepost 7.2 (intersection with South Fork Road). A .5-mile side trip on South Fork Rd 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 confluence. On Highway 199 at mileposts 8.2 and 8.4 are turnouts and vista points overlooking the rocky gorge and rapids. Another popular turnout is at milepost 10.5. Get wet using the many river access trails along Highway 199: Middle Fork Gorge, Hardscrabble, Mary Adams, Margie’s, Madrona, and more—check out river access trails on page 11.

2) Jawbone Rd/Ship Mountain/South Fork Road 61.2 miles/2.5 hours. Close-up views of the Siskiyou Crest with the Marble Mountains in the distance, the Four Brothers, Big Flat, and the South Fork of the Smith River. A .6-mile side trip to Ship Mountain provides 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:** East on Hwy 199, 10.3 mi; Little Jones Creek Rd (Jawbone Rd/FS 16/17N05) 9.7 mi; South on FS 16N02 to Ship Mountain Lookout access Road, 7 mi; continue on 16N02 and Big Flat Road (CR 405) to South Fork Road (CR 427) 13 mi, South Fork Road 14 mi; east (right) on Hwy 199 7.2 mi. to Gasquet.

3) French Hill, Big Flat, and South Fork Roads 49 miles/2.5 hours. River, creek, lake, meadows, and mountain views. **Directions:** Hwy 199 west 7.2 miles; South Fork Road (CR 427), 14 miles; Big Flat Road (CR 405) 13.4 mi; French Hill Road (CR 411) 12.3 mi.; Hwy 199 east 2.2 mi.

4) Red Mountain Road 41miles/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 mi; G-O Road 11 miles; Red Mountain Road (14N01) 9.2 mi.

(continued on page 12)

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 with creek on one side. **Directions:** 7.2 miles west on Hwy 199; 14.1 mi on South Fork Road; .85 mi on Big Flat Road (CR 405) to milepost 2.85; left on 15N57 to end.

Other Activities

Hunting is allowed in season and is regulated by the 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 Vehicle (OHV) riding is allowed on certain roads; pick up a free Motor Vehicle Use Map at the visitor center or download it from the forest website (www.fs.usda.gov/srnf). All 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 occasionally seen. See page 12 for fish watching.

Gold panning and rock collecting: Mineral extraction of any kind and type is prohibited with the NRA.

Snow play: Winter brings snow to the upper elevations of the forest; bring your skis or snowshoes. Snowmobiles are allowed on FS roads.

See the Redwoods

Redwood trees are smaller and patchy in the NRA when compared to parks to the west. There are 2, 3 and 4 trunk redwoods at the intersection of Gasquet Mountain Road and US Highway 199. Some of the NRA’s largest redwood trees are up hill from The Forks parking. Short walks along the old roadbeds across from Myrtle Beach parking lot lead into stands with redwoods, walk straight for an easy walk to the creek redwoods or turn right and walk uphill for a redwood forest to yourself. There are several redwood trees resprouted from stumps close to the highway near mile 9.44 along the lower parts of the old roadbed. For a longer walk visit the redwood stands just beyond the one-mile mark on Craig’s Beach trail. The Craig’s Creek Trail redwoods include a redwood with 6 lives, one you can stand in, and a multi-trunk tree with at least 9 lives. The most famous redwood stands can be found west of the NRA in the cooler-wetter forest areas of the state and national parks.

Camping



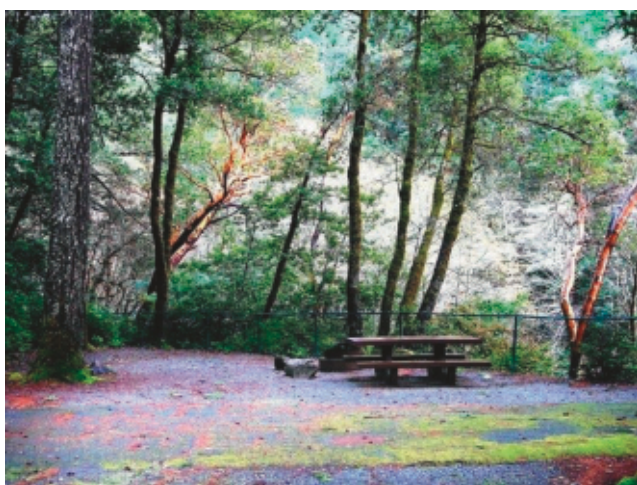
Welcome Campers! Discover a very special place in the Smith River National Recreation Area in northwest California. Our campgrounds are along or near the picturesque Smith River, renowned for its crystal green waters and rugged rock canyons.



Swimming hole at Panther Flat Campground

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
Patrick Creek	Summer	13	\$14	\$5	\$7.00	20-56	Flush	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Grassy Flat	Summer	19	\$10	\$5	\$5.00	21-38	Vault	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Panther Flat	All Year	39	\$15	\$5	\$7.50	25-82	Flush	Yes	Coin-op	Yes	Yes	Yes
Big Flat	Summer	23	\$8	\$5	\$4.00	37-68 2 Pull-through @ 90 & 120	Vault	No	No	Yes	Nearby	No
North Fork	All Year	5	\$8	\$5	\$4.00	43-50	Vault	No	No	No	Nearby	No

* All tires on the spur.



Patrick Creek Campground

Developed Campgrounds are located adjacent to rivers in forested areas. The ideal camping time in the Smith River NRA is May to October before the winter rains begin. Developed campgrounds are equipped with vault or flush toilets, fire rings, tables, parking for two vehicles, and drinking water, unless otherwise noted. All campgrounds have accessible restrooms. Sites will accommodate trailers and motor homes, check length limit on table, electric, water, or sewer hookups are not available. Family campsites accommodate up to eight people per site, with a maximum of two vehicles. A fee is charged for the second vehicle. A vehicle is: a motor-home 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, where available, 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.

Campground hosts provide a warm welcome and information to campers. Please contact them if you have any questions. If you are interested in serving as a campground host, please contact any Forest Service office.

Dump Stations: Redwood Meadows RV Resort, 7 miles west of Gasquet on Highway 199 and Shoreline RV Park, Crescent City, 19 miles southwest of Gasquet; both charge fees. The nearest free public dump station: 57 miles south of Crescent City at the Caltrans rest area on U.S. Highway 101 in Trinidad between Patrick's Point Drive undercrossing and Seawood Drive, milepost 105. Lat/Long: 41.124859, -124.149959.

Panther Flat Campground is the largest and most popular Smith River NRA campground. All campsites, restrooms, and showers are accessible. 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 Highway 199 to milepost 16.75.

Patrick Creek Campground has a special charm, with its historic steps, rock walls, restrooms, and sunken campfire circle built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. It's located 7.5 miles east of the Smith River NRA Visitor Center at milepost 22.0 on Highway 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 Smith River.

Grassy Flat Campground is located 4.5 miles east of the visitor center at milepost 18.87 on Highway 199. It's near the Middle Fork of 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 Highway 199, offers a sandy beach and swimming hole with parking at river level.

Big Flat Campground is a quiet, semi-shaded campground bordered by Hurdgyurdy 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 Highway 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 County Road 405 for 0.2 mile and left again on Forest Road 15N59.

North Fork Campground is a quiet, semi-shaded, remote campground bordered by 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 Highway 199 2.6 miles. Turn right onto Forest Road 17N49 and travel 7.7 miles. Turn right onto County Road 305 and travel east 15 miles to Forest Road 18N28 just past the North Fork Bridge. Follow 18N28 to campground.

Dispersed camping, also called primitive, rustic, or undeveloped camping, is for those who prefer to "rough it." Most of the NRA, outside of developed day use areas, is open for camping unless specifically prohibited. No services or amenities are provided for rustic campers and you must camp at least .25 mile from developed campgrounds. Dispersed camping is limited to 14 days in any one site, and thirty (30) days total per Ranger District, per calendar year, within the Six Rivers National Forest.

Remember to keep motor vehicles on designated roadways.

Contact the Visitor's Center for any questions or recommendations for camping locations e.g., ,backpacking, biking, car, trailer, or RV.

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 6-8" 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 certain your campfire is DEAD OUT before you leave.
- Store food properly—remember the bears, birds, and other animals.
- In campgrounds that provide water, please carry water back to your campsite for cleaning or washing—the pump area is not a kitchen sink!



Big Flat Campground



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.

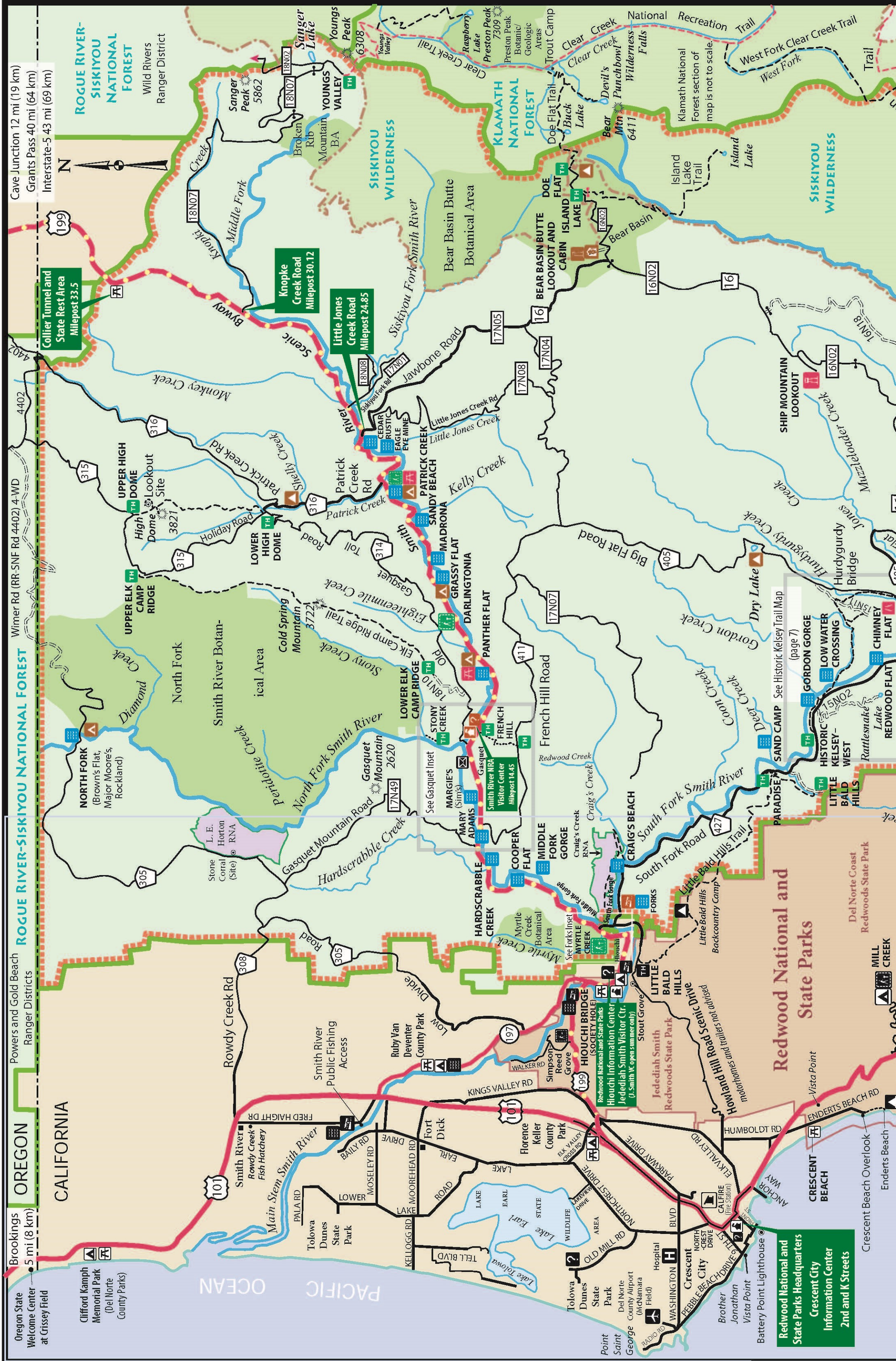


South Kelsey Trail/Jon Parmentier

Trails accessed via U.S. Highway 199 (SouthFork Rd CR 427)

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; TH=trailhead; DT=driving time	Elevation in Feet & Difficulty	Difficulty: Easy Moderate Difficult Foot/Wheelchair Bicycle Horse Motorcycle Interpretive Trail	Usage & Permitted Use
Gunbarrel 3E01	1.3	From Gasquet take Hwy 199 east 10.2 miles, turn on to Little Jones Creek Rd (17N05). Stay on paved road 17N05, 9.7 miles. Turn right on 16N02, 4.7 mi go right on 16N18, go 4 mi. Right on 15N34 to TH.	Begin 2500 End 1400 	Trail starts on ridge and travels steeply downslope to Gunbarrel Camp at the South Fork of Smith River; meets South Kelsey Trail on other side of river. Trailhead may also be accessed via South Fork Road and FS16. Gunbarrel Camp is fairly large.	Low
Island Lake 4E05	6.47	Follow directions to Doe Flat trail head. Island Lake trail head is 0.5 miles before Doe Flat trail head.	Begin 4300 End 5000 	Follow old road down to headwaters of South Fork Smith River and small waterfall. After crossing river, steep trail travels through old-growth fir trees, climbing about 2000 feet in next four miles. Water scarce from river to lake. Picturesque lake with an island.	Low
Doe Flat* 4E04	4.6	From Gasquet take Hwy 199 east 10.2 miles, and turn right(east) on Little Jones Creek Rd (17N05). Stay on 17N05, 20.5 miles. Turn left at the "T" on 16N02 to trail head. DT: 1 hour.	Begin 4400 End 3200 	Trail descends on old road for .5 mile, then contours slope to Devil's Punchbowl turnoff and descends to Trout Camp/Clear Creek Trail. Mileage to: Buck Lake Trail 1.4; Devil's Punchbowl Trail, 3.2; Trout Camp 4.6. Conifer forest, creeks, vine maple (fall color). Three walk-in campsites, vault toilet at trailhead. No water.	High
Buck Lake* 4E04	1.6	Follow directions to Doe Flat trailhead.	Begin 3900 End 4300 	Follow 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) on north side of lake, one on south side (cross-country).	High
Devil's Punchbowl 4E04	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.	High
Young's Valley 5E02	2.8	Hwy 199 east 16 mi; 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 ground clearance recommended on last mile. Wet season closure. DT: 2 hours.	Begin 5400 End 4500 High 5440 	Trail formerly a road. Young's Valley is a large meadow. Camp here and hike Raspberry Lake, El Capitan Lake, Clear Creek, and Twin Valley Trails for spectacular views. Good campsites at west (lower) end and north side of meadow. Water nearby at Clear Creek.	Moderate
High Dome * 3E02	4	Lower TH (7a): Hwy 199 east 7.5 mi; 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; 25 min. Upper TH (7b) : Continue up CR 315 for 5.8 miles; DT: 55 minutes. Rocky gravel road; access may be limited by snow in winter/spring.	Upper TH 3500 Lower TH 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, ocean in distance; side trail to ruins of former fire lookout platform. Trail descends to crossing of Patrick Creek and lower trailhead; crossing may be difficult in wet season.	Low
Elk Camp Ridge* 2E04	8.2	Lower TH: Hwy 199 west 0.15 mi; Middle Fork Gasquet Rd 0.4 mi; becomes North Fork Rd at Azalea Ln, continue up hill 0.2 mi; 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 0.1 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 Oregon. Panoramic views of high mountain peaks, North and Middle Forks of the Smith River, ocean in distance on clear days. Views are more immediate from upper trailhead. Access to upper trailhead may be blocked by snow in winter. Unobstructed views are one mile in from either trailhead. Vegetation is stunted due to serpentine soil. Some burned-over areas.	Low
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 interpretive trail from Patrick Creek Lodge to Patrick Creek Campground. Pick up brochures at lodge, campground, or NRA visitor center in Gasquet; 3 themes: land, river, people. Side spur leads to a fishing platform at Patrick Creek-Middle Fork confluence.	Moderate
Darlingtonia 2E01	.3	Hwy 199 east 3.45 miles to MP 17.9. Sign on Hwy 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 interpretive brochure at trailhead or visitor center.	High
French Hill* 2E25	2.8	Lower TH (11a): just east of office, across Hwy 199. Upper TH (11b): Hwy 199 west 2.2 miles to MP 12.23; French Hill Road 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 mi from lower TH. Views of Smith River canyon at 1.5 mi from lower TH and .5 from upper TH; Rhododendrons, wild iris bloom May and June. Distant views of Siskiyou Crest.	Low

Continued on page 10



Cave Junction 12 mi (19 km)
Grants Pass 40 mi (64 km)
Interstate-5 43 mi (69 km)

ROGUE RIVER-SISKIYOU NATIONAL FOREST
Wild Rivers
Ranger District

ROGUE RIVER-SISKIYOU NATIONAL FOREST

OREGON
CALIFORNIA

Brookings 5 mi (8 km)
Oregon State Welcome Center at Crissey Field

Clifford Kamph Memorial Park (Del Norte County Parks)

Tolowa Dunes State Park

Smith River Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery

Fort Dick

Lake Earl State Park

Wildlife Area

Point Saint George County Airport (widamara Field)

Hospital

Brother Jonathan Vista Point

Battery Point Lighthouse

Redwood National and State Parks Headquarters
Crescent City Information Center
2nd and K Streets

Redwood National and State Parks

Historic Kelsey Trail Map
(page 7)

SHIP MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT

SISKIYOU WILDERNESS

ROGUE RIVER-SISKIYOU NATIONAL FOREST

NORTH FORK
(Brown's Flat, Major Moore's, Rockland)

UPPER ELK CAMP RIDGE

UPPER HIGH DOME
Lookout Site

LOWER HIGH DOME

PATRICK CREEK SANDY BEACH

BEAR BASIN BUTTE
LOOKOUT AND CABIN ISLAND LAKE

DOE BEAR BASIN BUTTE

BEAR BASIN

WILDERNESS

WILDERNESS

SMITH RIVER
Public Fishing Access

SMITH RIVER BOTANICAL AREA

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Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery

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Trails

South Kelsey Trail/Jon Parmentier

Trails accessed via U.S. Highway 199					
Trail Name	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; mi=mile TH=trailhead; DT=driving time	Elevation in Feet & Difficulty	Difficulty: Easy Moderate Difficult Foot Bicycle Horse Motorcycle Interpretive Trail	Usage & Permitted Use
Stony Creek 2E19	.5	Hwy 199 west .15; Gasquet Middle Fork Rd .4, becomes North Fork Rd at Azalea Ln, continue 1 mi; Stony Creek Trail Rd .1 mile. TH on right. TH in a residential area; please follow signs and 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 Darlingtonia, Rhododendrons, azaleas, orchids, and fawn lilies.	Moderate
Myrtle Creek 1E01	1	Hwy 199 west 7.3 miles to MP 7. Turn left onto the turnout just past Myrtle Creek bridge. Park here 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 Darlingtonia and many fern species.	Moderate
Trails accessed via South Fork Road (County Road 427)					
Craig's Creek* 1E02	3.7	Hwy 199 west 7.2 miles; South Fork Road 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 Smith River.	Low
Paradise 2E02	1.1	Hwy 199 west 7.2 miles; South Fork Road 7.3 miles. DT: 30 minutes.	Begin 450 End 950 	Does this trail lead to Paradise? Actually, it ascends from Paradise Flat (Seven Cabins) across road adjacent to river, once the location of lodging facility and rest stop along a pack route to Haines Flat. Trail connects to Little Bald Hills Trail at mile 1.2. Beautiful views of river and Siskiyou Mountains to east.	Low
Little Bald Hills 1E03	9.6	Hwy 199 west 7.2 miles; South Fork Road (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 Road (see above).	Begin 560 End 100 (State Park) High 2000 	Trail is an old road, the north half (4.5 mi) in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, south half (5.1 mi) in 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.	Low
Historic Kelsey Trail (Old South Kelsey Trail)* 2E23	8.4	West TH (17a): Highway 199 7.2 miles, South Fork Road (CR 427) 9.2 miles. East TH (17e): Continue 4.9 miles on South Fork Road; Big Flat Road (CR 405) .4 to MP 2.36. DT: 55 minutes. Nine other access points: see table and map pages 15-16.	Low 500 High 1520 	Historic trail used by Native Americans and European settlers. River/creek views and access; lush alder, maple along streams, evergreen forest on slopes; some old growth; meadows. Vault toilets at Chimney Flat and Big Flat Campground.	Low
South Kelsey National Recreation Trail* 4E06	NRA 15.8 KNF 12	Highway 199 7.2 miles, South Fork Road (CR 427) 13.7 miles; FS 15 (15N01, G-O Road) 3.51 miles; FS 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/spring, trailhead is occasionally inaccessible and Eightmile Creek usually inaccessible. Creek crossings may be difficult during wet season. Trail may also be accessed via the Gunbarrel Trail—see page 7 (wet season closure).	Begin 1280 Low 1040 Buck Creek High 5775 Baldy Peak 	Historic pack trail from Crescent City to Yreka. Currently maintained for 7.9 miles from TH to Harrington Creek. 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. Thee-sided shelter at Buck Creek; bridge over creek. Trail unmaintained beyond Harrington 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 Klamath National Forest for 12 miles.	Moderate
McClendon Ford* 3E03	1.2	Follow directions to South Kelsey National Recreation Trail and go left at trail intersection. Horse Creek crossing may be difficult in wet season. 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 Smith. Trail features old-growth fir and cedar, river views, and lush understory.	Low
Summit Valley* 3E07	7.9	Highway 199 7.2 miles, South Fork Road (CR 427) 13.7 miles; FS 15 (15N01, G-O Road) 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 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.	Moderate

Continued from page 7



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.

U.S. Highway 199 River Trails						
Name	Mile post	Trail Length	Use	Parking Spaces	Toilets	Description
Cedar Rustic	23.5	290'	Low	3	No	Small pool and 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	No	Small sand/gravel beach, 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	Paved path leads to a fishing platform at confluence of the Smith River and Patrick Creek. Deep, cold pool below platform; gravel beach exposed at low water levels. Another trail leads in opposite direction from picnic area to shallow area of river and sandy beach .
Sandy Beach	20.9	255'	High	10	Vault	Medium-sized sandy beach. Follow 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 opposite bank leads to it from Grassy Flat Campground.
Grassy Flat	18.87	650'	Med	20	Vault	Trail leads from campground to small gravel beach and deep pool; last part of trail is steep.
Panther Flat Picnic Area	16.75	90'	High	21	Vault	Walk upstream along road to reach pool with impressive rock wall as a backdrop; small sandy beach. Walk downstream through picnic area to reach larger pool; tiny mud beach.
Margie's	12.86	370'	Med	10	Vault	Gentle trail slope affords easy access for rafts and kayaks. Small mud/sand beach. Deep pool. Adjacent to and in view of highway.
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	No	Calm, deep pool with small sandy beach and gravel bar on the opposite side. A second trail 330 feet west along road leads over a rock outcrop to a small, sandy beach and a few mini-beaches.
Cooper Flat	10.1	200-1,260'	Low	6	No	Park along highway or drive down gravel road 1/10 mile to creek; do not drive beyond creek. Follow old roads and trails to rock outcrops along river. No beaches.
Middle Fork Gorge	9.1	150'–600'	Med	7	No	Walk down dirt road to access two short trails leading to river. Road ends at large gravel beach; small, sandy beaches just downstream. Rocky gorge and Class 5 rapids farther downstream.
Myrtle Beach	7.2	586'	High	20	Vault	Medium-sized sandy beach; deep pool, rock walls. Vault toilet is halfway down the trail.

South Fork Road River Trail Access						
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	Same as above.	Same as above.	Trail starts at parking area at top of the boat ramp and leads to a small beach on the Middle Fork opposite Myrtle Beach. Park at boat lot in rainy season.
Forks: South Fork	.25	668'	High	Same as above.	Same as above.	Also called “Second Bridge.” Trail leads southeast from parking area to a large sandy beach on the South Fork. Paddle placid water upstream through a half-mile of rock-walled gorge.
Forks: Confluence	.25	994'	Med	Same as above.	Same as above.	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; large pool with small, sandy beach at downstream end. Primitive campsites. 120' X 150' parking lot easily accommodates equestrian trailers.
Gordon Gorge	10.1	.5 mile	Low	2	No	Rock walls, pool, small gravel beach. Trail is extremely steep. Creek running down and across a small section of trail may be difficult to pass in rainy season without getting wet.
Historic Kelsey Trail	10.5	1 mile	Low	10 at MP 10.6	No	Low water crossing of Historic Kelsey Trail. Strong current, rocky bottom, no beach. Large pool is downstream; rock-hop down along opposite bank.
Redwood Flat	12.3	1,000'–2100'	Low	5	No	Trail leads 370' to campsite, then left to intersect trail running parallel to river. Three spur trails off of it access the river at 550', 650' (leads to rock outcrop), and 1650' (steep, rocky chute).
Steven Bridge	13.0	700'	Low	5	Vault	Follow the wood-chipped path at the northwest end of parking lot to gravel bar with small patch of sand. Small waterfall on opposite side.
Goose Creek	13.6	400'	Low	6	No	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. Mossy rock cliff on opposite side.

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



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 U.S. Forest Service

Since the turn of the century, the numbers of salmon and steelhead have steadily declined. Many populations are now threatened. The highest-quality freshwater habitat left for wild-spawning fish is within national forests. As the one of the largest single undammed Wild and Scenic River system in the United States, the Smith River National Recreation Area plays a major role in preserving the quality and quantity of this important habitat refuge.

Forest Service efforts are also aimed at improving the habitat's capability to produce young salmon migrating to the sea, or smolts. 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.

If you were a fish, wouldn't you want your nursery clean?

Of course! But many of the things people do along the river may "dirty up the fish nursery." Here are some things you can do to ensure their nursery stays clean:

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 trees, shrubs and stream banks causes soil erosion, which 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 3. Visit <https://Int.org/learn/7-principles> for more information.

Think about how your actions can affect the future of fish and fishing in California and the scenic beauty of the river and forest.

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. Regulations can be found online, at www.wildlife.ca.gov

Best places to watch fish spawn (Oct-Dec):

Shelly Creek Camp

Directions: Hwy 199 east 7.5 miles; left on Patrick Creek Rd (CR 316), continue to 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.

Patrick Creek Picnic Area

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



	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; resident and sea run
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	Varies
Spawning Time	October to January	October to January	Soon after arriving	Spring	Winter and Spring
Freshwater	3-6 months	Over a year	1-2 years	Entire life	Entire life / Intermittent
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.	

Scenic Drives (continued from page 5)

5) G-O (Gasquet-Orleans) Road. 40 miles one way/1.5 hours. **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.

6) Knopki Creek Rd to Sanger Lake and Peak. 30.2 miles one way/1.5 hours. Peaks, lake, expansive views. **Directions:** Highway 199 east 15.3 mi; Knopki Creek Rd (18N07) 13.3 mi; bear left at "T" to stay on 18N07 and go .3 mi to Sanger lake parking & another 1.2 mi to saddle below Sanger Peak. .5-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, Smith River, fall foliage, creeks, fish (see above). **Directions:** Hwy 199 west .15 mi; Middle Fork Gasquet Rd (318) .4 mi; becomes North Fork Rd at Azalea Ln, continue up hill .2 mi; right on Old Gasquet Toll Rd (314) continue 13.5 mi; cross bridge over Patrick Creek and continue .5 mi; right on Patrick Creek Rd (316) continue 3.1 miles to Hwy 199; Hwy 199 west 7.5 mi to NRA visitor center.

8) Patrick Creek Road/Weimer 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; Patrick Creek Rd (CR 316) 3.1 mi; bear right and continue on Patrick Creek road 8.3 mi; left onto Wimer (4402) Rd and go 1.9 mi; left onto Holiday Rd (CR315) 10.1 mi; left onto Old Gasquet Toll Rd (CR 314), cross bridge and continue .4 miles; right onto Patrick Creek Rd (CR316); continue 3.1 miles to Hwy 199. **Caution:** Some parts of Holiday Road are steep and rough.

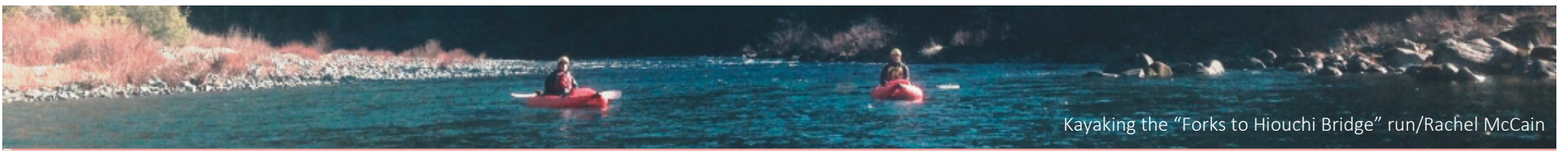
9) North Fork. 22.6 miles/1.5 hrs. one way. Open pine forest, meadows, ocean in the distance; wildflowers and fragrant azaleas in spring. Gaze down into the deep canyon of the North Fork of the Smith River. Much of the North Fork was burned over in the Biscuit Fire of 2002, exposing red peridotite and blue-green serpentinite rock and leaving behind a forest of skeletons (see photo on page 4 of view at milepost 12.77). End at the North Fork River Access (see photo, back cover). Vegetation is sparse and stunted in this area due to the inhospitable serpentine soil. **Directions:** Hwy 199 west 2.9 mi; Gasquet Mountain Road (17N49) 7.7 mi; right on Low Divide Road (CR 305) 12 mi. From intersection of 305 and 17N49, option of returning via Low Divide Road to North Bank Road (CR 197) 11.4 mi/40 min; or to Highway 101 at town of Smith River via Rowdy Creek Rd 8 mi/30 min.

Water Safety Tips

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 footwear to protect you from fish hooks or glass on the banks or bottom of the river.
- There are no lifeguards on the river.

continued on page 13



Kayaking the "Forks to Hiouchi Bridge" run/Rachel McCain

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 Jed Smith State Park campground (fee), Hiouchi Bridge, Ruby Van Deventer County Park, or county boat ramp near Smith River (town).

Whitewater opportunities occur in winter and early spring. Consult the following websites for more information: Dreamflows.com and Cacreeks.com.

Tubing is possible on the easier runs in summer; however, numerous rocks and shallow riffles make for a bumpy ride. Still water paddling can be enjoyed in the river canyons during the summer months. Due to cool water temperatures, a wet suit is recommended.

Suggested Easy Run (Rating 1-3)

Forks to Hiouchi Bridge
(Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park)
2.4 to 4 miles/3 to 4 hours.

Jedediah Smith State Park is on Hwy 199 at milepost 4.9.
Campground, 2.4 miles (fee area)
Picnic Area, 3.4 miles (fee area)
Hiouchi Bridge (Society Hole), 4 miles

Water Safety Tips (continued from page 12) •

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, try to get warm and seek medical attention.

Water from the river must be purified before drinking.

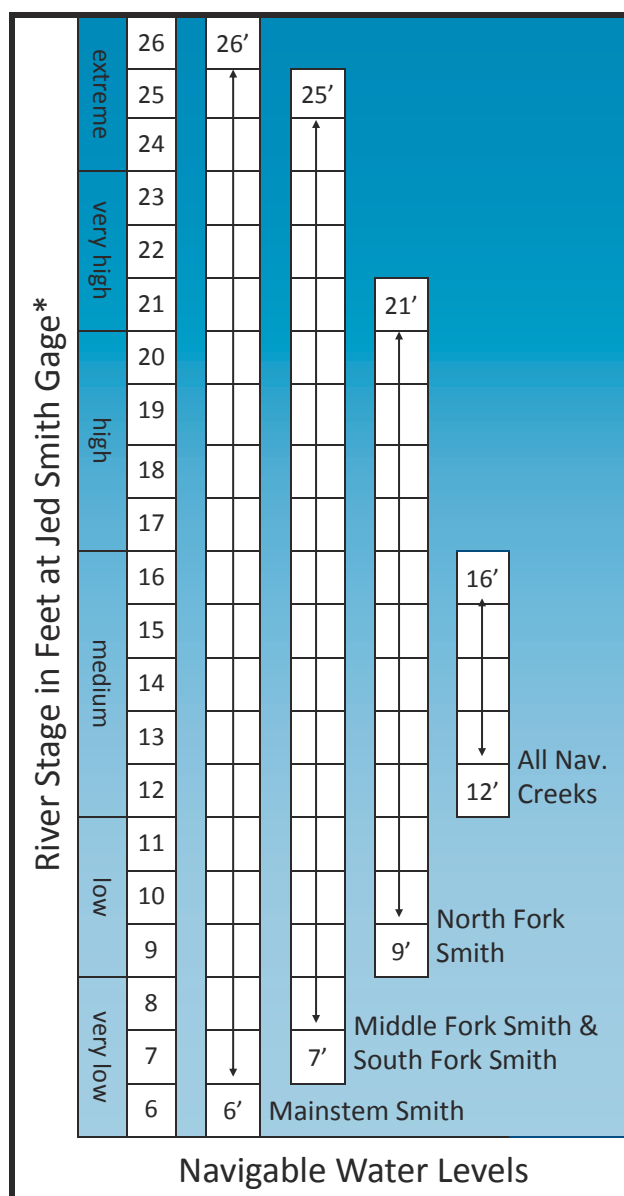
Avoid alcoholic drinks—they alter your judgment, your reaction time, and dehydrate you.

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 their web site at <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 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.



*Find river stage at <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis>

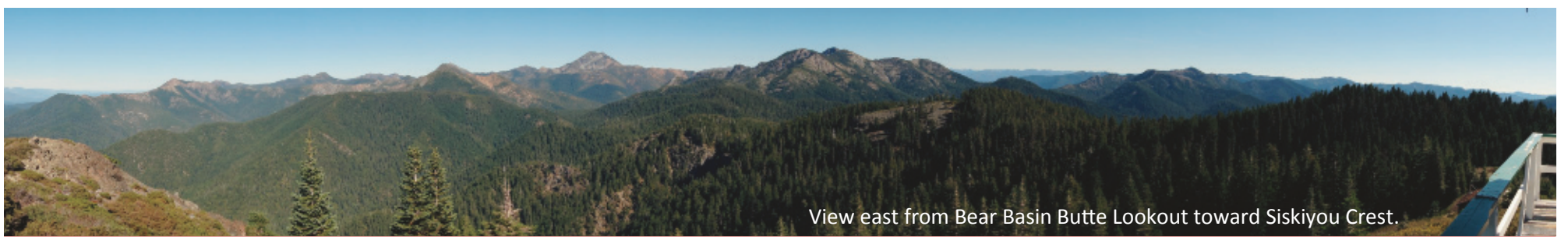
Smith River Navigable Runs (at medium flow)

Drainage	Put-in	Take-out	Length (miles)	Rating
North Fork Smith	Horse Creek	North Fork	9.6	4
	North Fork	Gasquet	13	4
Baldface Creek	Frantz Meadow	North Fork	12	4-5
Diamond Creek	End of Road	Gasquet	15.3	4
Middle Fork Smith	Knopki Cr.	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
	M. Fork Gorge	Forks	2.4	4-5
Patrick Creek	Bridge at P.C.Fork	Mouth of Creek	3.2	4
Hardscrabble Creek	End of Road	Mouth of Creek	4.9	4-6
South Fork Smith	Island Lake Trail	S. Kelsey Trail	15.9	4-6
	S. Kelsey Trail	Steven Bridge	6.5	4-5
	Steven Bridge	Sand Camp	5.3	3
	Sand Camp	S. Fork Gorge	6.1	3
	S. Fork Gorge	Forks	1.8	4-5
Hurdygurdy Creek	Hurdygurdy Forks	Mouth of Creek	9.5	4-6
Goose Creek	Rocky Saddle	Saddle Road	9.9	4-6
	Saddle Road	Steven Bridge	5.6	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

Lake	Size in acres	Elevation in feet	Max Depth	Brook Trout	Rainbow Trout	Township	Range	Section	Location & Notes
Dry Lake	3.25	1500	9.5	-	🐟	16N	3E	31	On County Route 405 (Big Flat Road), 5 miles north of County Route 427 (South Fork Road). Accessible year-round.
Harrington Lake	2	5200	4	-	-	15N	4E	23	16-mile hike on South Kelsey Trail (last 8 miles unmaintained); trailhead on Route 15N39, 2 miles from Route 15/15N01 (G-O Road).
Island Lake	3	5000	14	-	🐟	16N	4E	24,25	6.47-mile hike to end of Island Lake Trail; trailhead in Bear Basin on Route 16N02, 3 miles east of Route 17N05/16.
Muslatt Lake	1	1200	45	-	🐟	15N	3E	20,21	East of the Big Flat area at end of Route 15N36, about 1 mile from Route 16/16N02. Accessible year-round.
Rattlesnake Lake	2.1	1597	11	-	-	15N	2E	16	On Route 15N02, 2 miles from County Route 427 (South Fork Road). Covered with pond lilies; abundant bullfrogs; not stocked with fish.
Sanger Lake	6	5100	25	🐟	🐟	17N	5E	5	On Route 18N02, .5 mile north of Route 18N07 (Knopki Creek Road). Wet season gate closure limits vehicle access.
Buck Lake	6	4300	N/A	-	🐟	16N	9W	1	1.7-mile hike from Doe Flat trailhead (see below for location).
Devil's Punchbowl	14	4750	N/A	-	🐟	16N	8W	6	4.4-mile hike on Doe Flat and Devil's Punchbowl trails; Start at Doe Flat trailhead in Bear Basin at end of road 16N02.
Raspberry	10	6125	N/A	🐟	🐟	17N	8W	22	7-mile hike on Young's Valley & Raspberry Lake trails; trailhead on Rd 18N02,



View east from Bear Basin Butte Lookout toward 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) through rental of a historic fire lookout and a 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 U.S. 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 that time.



Lookout in 1950 on Camp Six



Lookout today on Bear Basin Butte



Cabin Storage Room and Counter



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

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 Road 16N02 south for seven miles.

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 until September 30th, depending on weather.

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

Reservations

Reserve through www.Recreation.gov, or call 1-877-444-6777.

Reservations may be made up to six months in advance. Dates for July through September fill fast! Reserve as soon as they become available.

Think safety

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

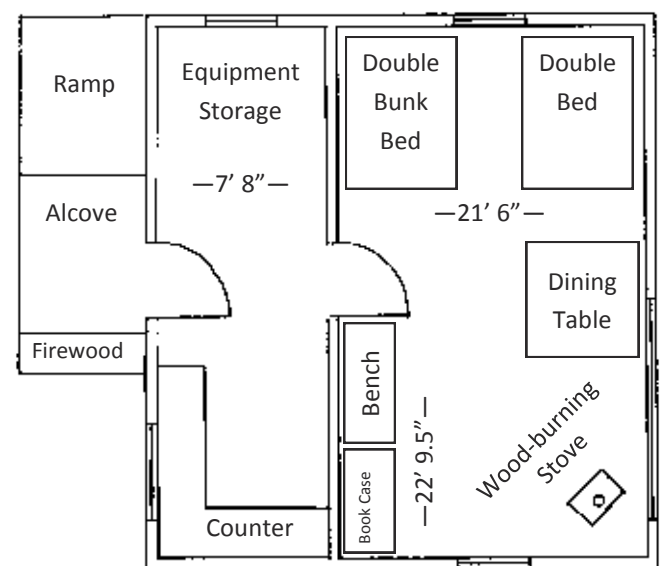
Accessibility

The cabin, toilet, and picnic area are barrier-free; outside areas are graveled. The 250-foot path to the lookout is steep narrow and uneven; the lookout is accessed by 13 stair steps.

Directions

Take Highway 199 to milepost 24.85, ten miles east of Gasquet. Turn onto Little Jones Creek Rd. Stay on the paved road (FS16/17N05 Jawbone Rd) for 9.7 miles. Turn left on 16N02 and go .5 miles. Locked gate to lookout access road is on left.

Lat/Long.: 41.808585, -123.741347



Cabin Floor Plan



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

The Story of the Smith

By Sue Pappalardo

(NRA) is best known for the river itself, with its crystal-clear waters and prime fish habitat. Less well-known is the 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 onto the North American continent millions of years ago. The seafloor brought with it a bit of underlying rock from the earth's middle layer, the mantle. These rocks from the seafloor that have been thrust onto land are called "ophiolites." The journey to land is rather brutal for ophiolites and they often arrive fragmented and missing parts. 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 it turns 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 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. 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* (*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. Due to the thin soil, there isn't much sediment washing into the river. The Smith River and its tributaries provide ideal habitat for fish species that need clear water to spawn.

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 its 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. Today, all mining activities are prohibited on the NRA.

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. Today, you can travel the toll road that Horace Gasquet built. (page 12).

The Smith River has been home to the Tolowa people since 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.

Historic Kelsey Trail (Old Kelsey Trail, Old South 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 Marker (MP) or Road	# of Parking Spaces	Difficulty: Easy Moderate Difficult Permitted Use: Foot Bicycle Horse
Boulder Creek 2 miles 480-720'	1	17a: Western trailhead	17a: MP 9.2	17a: 6	River views through trees. Steep .25-mile grade at east end. Gordon Gorge Spur Trail (2E17) at east end drops steeply for .25 mile down to beautiful hole and small beach on the river; a small creek flowing down short section of Gordon Gorge trail
	2	17b: East end of Boulder Creek section	17b: MP 10.1	17b: 2	

There is a break in the trail between the Boulder Creek and Ford to Canthook sections; through-hikers must walk 0.3 mile 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 total 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. Roadside parking.
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Access points off Big Flat Road (County Road 405)—gravel, low clearance; 21-23 miles/50-60 minutes from Gasquet*

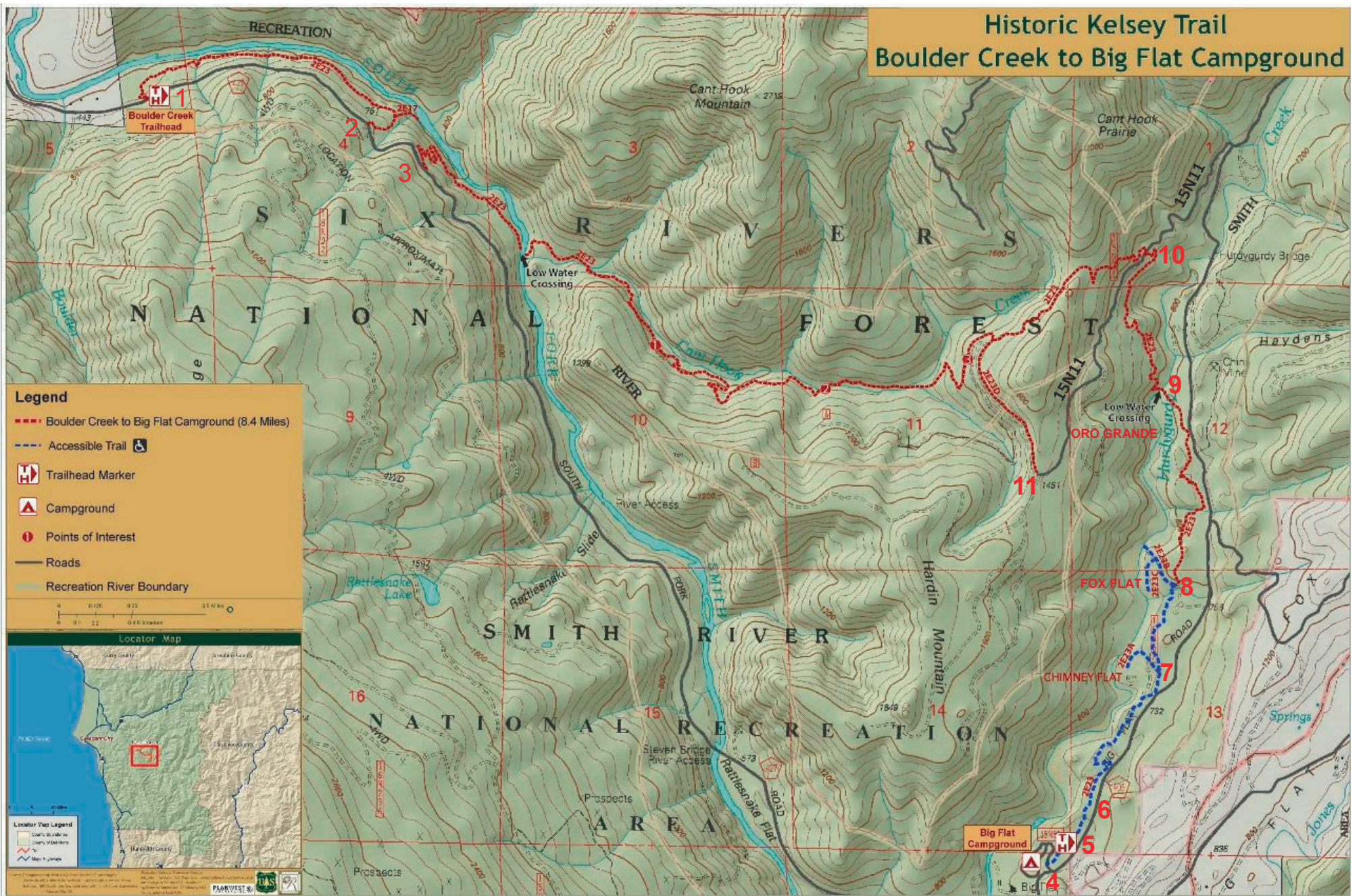
Accessible 2 miles 720'	4	Big Flat Campground	MP 2.16	None	Accessible trail has hardened surface and low to moderate grade.
	5	Big Flat Trailhead	MP 2.36	4	Main (eastern) trailhead. Parking lot.
	6	Unmarked Parking Lot	MP 2.50	3	Small, unmarked parking lot, not obvious from the road. Parking lot.
	7	Chimney Flat Picnic Area	MP 2.85 15N57	14	Large meadow bordering Hurdygurdy Creek with creek access, picnic tables, grills, and a vault toilet. Day use only, no camping. Road 15N57 off of 405 leads to parking lot. Spur trail 2E23A ascends from picnic area to main trail. Parking lot.
Ford to Canthook; Accessible	8	Fox Flat	MP 3.31 15N56	8	Road 15N56 off of 405 leads to a parking lot where the All-access 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.
Ford to Canthook	9	Oro Grande/ Hurdygurdy Creek Low Water Crossing	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 405; others park along 405. Roadside parking.

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	10	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.
	11	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.

*From the Smith River NRA Visitor Center in Gasquet, CA go 7.2 miles west on Highway 199, turn left on South Fork Road (427), and go 9.2 miles to reach the western trailhead (16-A); for the eastern trailhead & other access points off 405 and 15N11, continue 4.9 miles on South Fork Road and turn left on 405.

Historic Kelsey Trail Boulder Creek to Big Flat Campground



Bear Basin Meadow



Jawbone Road (17N05/16)



North Fork River Access



Sandy Beach River Access



Sanger Lake



Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
Six Rivers National Forest

This guide was made possible by a generous donation from Redwood Parks Conservancy. Produced in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, which is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.