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# The Redwood Highway

SIGHTS & EXPERIENCES BETWEEN CALIFORNIA'S  
SOUTHERN HUMBOLDT COUNTY & CRESCENT CITY

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*Save The Redwoods*

L E A G U E®



**I**n the summer of 1917 when Highway 101 was under construction, three famous American scientists traveled north to see the redwoods.

They were concerned that the new highway might result in serious damage to the north coast's primeval redwood forest. They were especially concerned about the magnificent stand of very old, very tall redwoods on Bull Creek and the nearby Dyerville Flat. That area was already famous. John Muir and others considered it one of America's great scenic and natural treasures. But the whole area was privately owned, and absolutely no protective measures were yet in place.

Traveling alongside the Eel River north of Garberville, the three scientists were increasingly delighted by the beauty of the redwood forest. But delight turned to astonishment and silence when they reached Bull Creek and walked among its undisturbed ancient redwoods. All their lives they had known great forests, but in this grove—in the presence of such awe-inspiring beauty and serenity—they felt compelled to remove their hats and speak only in whispers.

That evening in their hotel in Arcata, the three scientists agreed that a state or national park was needed to save some part of the north coast redwood forest for future generations. As a first step, they wrote an impassioned letter to the Governor of California, asking him to make arrangements to protect some portion of the Eel River redwoods. The movement to save the north coast redwoods had begun. Save the Redwoods League was formed the next year.

The mission of Save the Redwoods League is to protect and restore redwood forests and connect people with their peace and beauty so these wonders of the natural world flourish. We are dedicated to the long-term protection of healthy redwood ecosystems. The League acquires redwood forests and connecting landscapes, supports forest science research, educates the public about redwoods, and is at the forefront of conservation planning and restoration in the redwood region. We work with California State Parks, the National Park Service and other agencies in establishing and expanding redwood parks and reserves.

This is a guide to just some of the redwood forests the League has helped protect. We hope you enjoy these sights and experiences along the Redwood Highway.



# Humboldt Redwoods State Park

First acquisition: 394 acres in 1921 | 302 acquisitions from 1921 to 2009, for a total of 50,961 acres

Save the Redwoods League launched its first campaign in August 1919 to acquire redwood acreage in the Eel River Basin for inclusion in a state or national park. Twelve more years passed, however, before the League was able to purchase any portion of the Bull Creek forest. That momentous step finally occurred in 1931 after prolonged and stormy negotiations, and after John D. Rockefeller, Jr. provided \$1 million to match other private gifts and state park acquisition funds. Known today as the Rockefeller Forest in Humboldt Redwoods State Park, the 10,000-acre Bull Creek tract is generally considered to be the largest contiguous old-growth redwood forest in the world.



### Suggested trips and sights:

**1-1.5 hours:** Head to Founders Grove (named for the founders of Save the Redwoods League). Founders Grove is a short half-mile nature trail that takes you through a gorgeous grove of old-growth redwoods. Hike the Mahan Plaque Loop Trail (0.5 mi.) which connects with the Founders Grove Trail. See if you can spot the albino redwood tree growing on Mahan Trail. At the end of the loop is a plaque honoring Laura and James Mahan, early Humboldt County activists in the movement to save the redwoods.

**1-1.5 hours:** Drive the scenic, low-speed Avenue of the Giants which meanders through this park for more than 30 miles. Along the way there are many points of historical interest. Look for the amazing roadside high-water marks that commemorate the floods that occurred here in 1955 and 1964. At each end of the Avenue, you can pick up a brochure and do a self-guided auto tour.

**Half-day:** Hike the Bull Creek Trails North and South. This eight-mile hike will take you through the famed Rockefeller Forest with occasional glimpses of beautiful Bull Creek.

**Half-day:** Along your drive through the Avenue of the Giants, stop at several of the stunning groves.

- The Women's Federation Grove was acquired by the League during the 1930s using funds donated by thousands of garden club members from across the nation. Look for the rustic four-sided Hearthstone Fireplace in the heart of the grove. It was

designed by Julia Morgan, architect of Asilomar and Hearst Castle.

- The League's highly successful memorial grove campaign began in 1921 with the Colonel Raynal C. Bolling Grove, which was named in honor of the first American soldier of high rank to be killed in combat during World War I.
- Lane Grove is another of the earliest groves acquired by the League. In August 1924, the grove was named in honor of Franklin K. Lane, a San Franciscan who served as Secretary of the Interior under President Woodrow Wilson. Lane also served briefly as president of the League before his death in 1921. He was replaced by John C. Merriam who went on to lead the organization for the next two decades.
- Take a detour on Mattole Road into Rockefeller Forest. Hike the Rockefeller Loop Trail at Lower Bull Creek Flats. Also on Mattole Road is the Giant Tree Day-Use Area where you can take another short hike across Bull Creek to see the Giant Tree and the Flat Iron Tree.

**All day:** If you have an entire day and you're a serious hiker, hike to Grasshopper Peak. The views are amazing, but you do have to work for them. Grasshopper Road (multi-use trail) is a difficult seven mile hike, pretty much straight up the mountain. There are plenty of hikes that can take up an entire day, but that aren't quite as difficult as Grasshopper. Visitor center volunteers are happy to recommend other options.



## Visit the Visitors Center

Make your first stop in any park the visitors center. The volunteers are very helpful and can answer any questions you might have. You can also get maps and details on park activities.



## Redwood National Park

**R**edwood National Park was established by Congress in 1968 and expanded in 1978. Today, it officially encompasses 131,983 acres, about half of which is actually in three state parks—Prairie Creek, Jedediah Smith, and Del Norte Coast Redwood State Parks—and is recognized as a World Heritage Site and an International Biosphere Reserve. In 2006, Stephen Sillett, Kenneth L. Fisher Chair in Redwood Forest Ecology at Humboldt State University, climbed, measured, and explored a very tall redwood tree in the national park. At 379.1 feet in height, it is now considered to be the tallest tree in the world. The League was an early supporter of Sillett’s research, which to the surprise of many has revealed a rich community of life in the crowns of old redwoods.

### Suggested trips and sights:

**1-1.5 hours:** Stroll the Lady Bird Johnson Nature Loop.

**Half-day:** Hike into Tall Trees Grove. The National Geographic Society located the then-tallest tree here in 1964, which was the impetus for the formation of Redwood National Park in 1968. Call the Orick RNP office at (707) 465-7765 to get the access code to the Tall Trees Access Road off of Bald Hills Road.

**All day:** Drive out Bald Hills Road and hike the Lyons Ranch Trail to get a sense of the grasslands and coastal range above the redwood forest. There are great vistas to the ocean and the tallest trees in the world.

<b>#2</b> on the map	created in	total acreage
	1968	131,983 acres

## Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

**A**t Prairie Creek, 58 miles north of Eureka, the redwood forest stands among a number of grass-covered prairies complete with free-roaming herds of Roosevelt elk. The Newton B. Drury Parkway, a scenic two-lane road through Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, was named in honor of the League’s long-time Executive Director, who successfully campaigned to keep the Division of Highways from building a new, high-speed freeway right through the heart of this park. Today, the new freeway bypasses the park to the east.

### Suggested trips and sights:

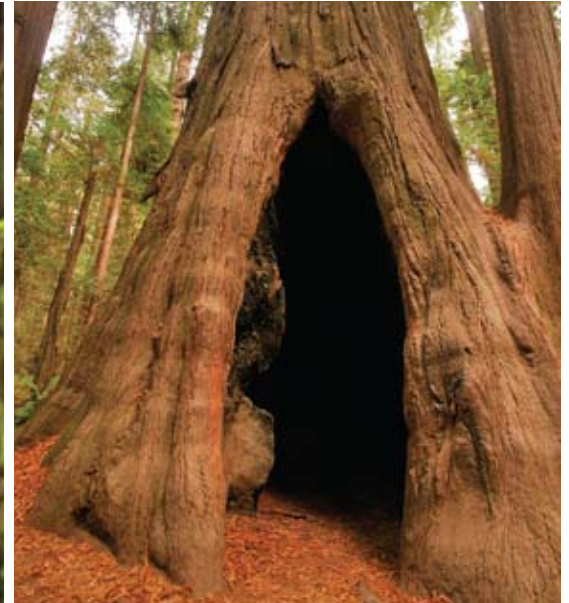
**1-1.5 hours:** Drive the scenic, two-lane Newton Drury Parkway. It’s about a 10-minute drive, but you’ll want to stop and take some of the short walks to visit the many amazing trees. Some League staff favorites include the Cathedral Trees Trail, the Corkscrew Tree Trail, the Foothill Trail from Big Tree to Cal Barrel Road and the Ah Paw Interpretive Trail.

**1-1.5 hours:** Elk Meadow is a good spot to sight the Roosevelt elk, which are native to the north coast. These animals, which weigh between 700 and 1,000 pounds, migrate around our coastal parks. It is estimated that there are approximately 2,000 elk living in the north coast region.

**Half-day:** Drive west to the end of Davison Road, off of Hwy 101, to Gold Bluffs Beach, which a herd of elk call home. From here, it’s a short walk into Fern Canyon, a unique half-mile-long, 100-foot-high canyon covered with cascading ferns. Take a step back in time in this setting that was used as a scenic backdrop in the Jurassic Park movies.

**All day:** From the visitor center, hike the James Irvine Trail out to Fern Canyon and back.

<b>#3</b> on the map	first acquisition	total acquisitions / acres
	166 acres in 1923	38 projects / 16,936 acres



## Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park and Mill Creek Forest

**D**el Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, 10 miles south of Crescent City, features a mixed forest of redwood and Douglas-fir, as well as a dramatic combination of redwood forest and coastal scenery. Since the 1920s, the highway alignment through this park has been the subject of debate between forest preservation interests and those who want a bigger, faster highway. Over the years, the League repeatedly employed Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., one of America’s foremost landscape architects, to work with state and local planners to come up with the best possible compromise.

In 2002, the League helped add the 25,000-acre Mill Creek redwoods watershed to Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park. Thanks to restoration work led by the League, this once logged area is now being returned to a magnificent state and is supporting endangered species such as coho salmon and the marbled murrelet.

### Suggested trips and sights:

**1-1.5 hours:** Just south of the park, drive west on Requa Road to overlook the mouth of the Klamath River. In September, there are usually great salmon runs, and there’s always good bird watching.

**Half-day:** Take an easy hike to Endert’s Beach, which has marvelous tide pools.

**Half-day:** Bike or hike the Historic Highway 101, which many consider one of the best biking experiences in northern California. The rugged Coastal Trail follows the route of old U.S. 101 as it winds along ocean bluffs through giant redwoods.

**All day:** Take the very strenuous Damnation Creek Trail down the bluffs to the ocean through some stunning old-growth redwood forest.



first acquisition  
157 acres in 1925

total acquisitions / acres  
17 projects / 28,261 acres

## Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park

**T**he first step toward creation of what is now Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park took place in 1929 when the 44-acre Frank D. Stout Memorial Redwood Grove was donated to the League by his widow. In 1945, the 5,000-acre National Tribute Grove was established in honor of all those who served in World War II.

### Suggested trips and sights:

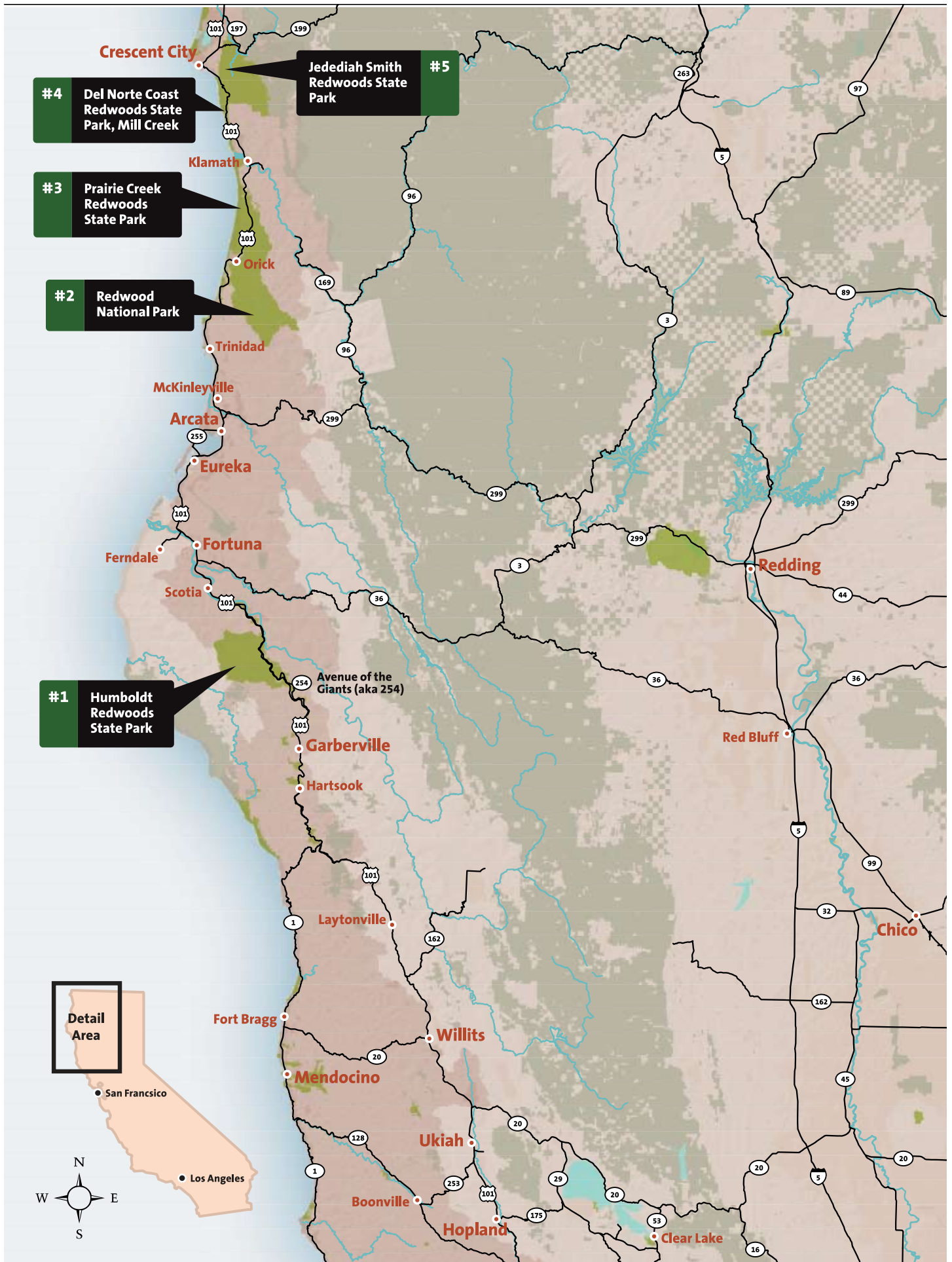
**1-1.5 hours:** Drive the narrow Howland Hill Road as it winds through the redwood forest to Stout Grove. Stop for a walk at Stout Grove or on any of the other trails off Howland Hill Road.

**Half-day:** Lounge on the Smith River on the north side of the Day Use Picnic Area.

**All day:** Hike the Boy Scout Trail, one of the most spectacular, pristine trails through old-growth forest and different environments, with miles of huge trees and a wonderfully remote feeling.



first acquisition  
44 acres in 1929  
total acquisitions / acres  
72 projects / 5,567 acres



# Amenities Along the Redwood Highway

## Crescent City

(7 hr. north of San Francisco)

### Ambrosia Grill

Front Street and M Street  
Located in a little strip mall  
next to Sherry's Boutique.  
(707) 964-2400

### Beachcomber Restaurant

1400 Highway 101 South  
(707) 464-2205

### Best Western Northwoods Inn

655 US Highway 101 S.  
(800) 780-7234

### Bistro Gardens

110 Anchor Way  
(707) 464-5627

### Cazaderos Family Mexican Restaurant

1461 Northcrest Drive  
(707) 464-2388

### Continental Bakery

503 L Street (on Highway 101  
South)  
(707) 465-5652  
Good for picnics and lunches.

### Good Harvest Café

525 Hwy 101 South  
(707) 465-6028

### Hampton Inn

100 A Street  
(707) 465-5400

### Northwoods Restaurant

675 Highway 101 South  
(707) 465-5656

### Thai House Restaurant

105 N Street  
(707) 964-2427

## Klamath/Orick

(6 hr., 30 min. north of SF)

### Ravenwood Motel & Vacation Rentals

151 Klamath Boulevard, Klamath  
(707) 482-5911

### Requa Inn

451 Requa Road, Klamath  
(707) 482-1425  
A delightful hotel that caters to  
the redwoods enthusiast.

### Elk Meadow Cabins

4 Valley Green Camp Road, Orick  
(866) 733-9637  
www.redwoodparklodge.com  
Great for groups. In Prairie  
Creek Redwoods State Park.

## Trinidad

(5 hr., 15 min. north of SF)

### Kahish's Catch Café

355 Main Street, Saunder's  
Shopping Center  
(707) 677-0390

### Larrupin Café

1658 Patrick's Point Drive  
(707) 677-0230

### Moonstone Grill

100 Moonstone Beach Road  
(707) 677-1616

### The Sunset Restaurant at Cher-ae Heights Casino

27 Scenic Drive  
(707) 825-2760

## Eureka/Arcata/ McKinleyville

(5 hr. north of SF)

### Daybreak Cafe

768 18th Street, Arcata  
(707) 826-7543  
Great for breakfast or brunch  
(not open later in the day).

### Golden Harvest Café

1062 G Street, Arcata  
(707) 822-8962

### Howard Johnson Express Inn

4700 Valley West Blvd.  
Arcata  
(707) 826-9660

### Northcoast Co-op

8th & I Streets, Arcata  
(707) 822-5947  
4th & B Streets, Eureka  
(707) 443-6027  
Organic groceries and deli.

### The Northcoast Environmental Center

575 H Street, Arcata  
(707) 822-6918

### The Plaza Grill

780 7th Street, Arcata  
(707) 826-0860

### Tin Can Mailman

1000 H Street, Arcata  
(707) 822-1307  
Great used bookstore in Arcata  
(open shorter hours than Bay  
Area bookstores).

### Tomo Japanese Restaurant

708 9th St, Arcata  
(707) 822-1717

### Carter House Inns

301 L Street  
Eureka  
(707) 445-1390

### Carmelas Mexican Restaurant

1701 Central Ave  
McKinleyville  
(707) 839-2435

### Holiday Inn Express

3105 Concorde Drive  
McKinleyville  
(707) 840-9305

## Scotia

(4 hr., 30 min. north of SF)

### Fisheries Center Tour

South side of town.  
(707) 764-4492

### Scotia Museum

Main Street  
(707) 764-5063  
Open Memorial Day through  
Labor Day.

## Ferndale

(4 hr., 50 min. north of SF)

### Curley's Grill

400 Ocean Drive  
(707) 786-9696

### Sweetness and Light

554 Main Street  
(707) 786-4403  
Small candy kitchen,  
specializes in truffles!

### The Victorian Inn

500 Ocean Avenue  
(707) 786-4949

## Garberville

(4 hr. north of SF)

### Benbow Inn

445 Lake Benbow Drive  
(707) 923-2124  
An absolutely lovely historic  
hotel.

### Calico Café

808 Redwood Drive  
(707) 923-2253

### Sicilito's Pizzeria

445 Conger Street  
(707) 923-2814

### Woodrose Café

911 Redwood Drive  
(707) 923-3191

## Willits

(2 hr., 30 min. north of SF)

### Burger Joint

Bright yellow drive-in, north  
end of town, west side of 101.  
Yummy burgers, egg rolls (yes,  
egg rolls) and milkshakes.

### Fuel

Willits is a great fuel stop if  
you're heading farther north.  
Less expensive options are at  
the town's north end.

## Ukiah

(2 hr. north of SF)

### Mendocino Environmental Center

106 West Standley Street  
(707) 468-1660

### Starbucks

(707) 463-2615  
Just off the Perkins Street exit.

### Super Taco

506 East Perkins Street  
(Perkins Street Exit)  
(707) 462-5979

### Ukiah Brew Pub

102 South State Street  
(707) 468-5898  
Boasts an all-organic menu,  
including wild-caught seafood  
and organic beer.

## Hopland

(1 hr. 45 min. north of SF)

### Bluebird Café

13340 Highway 101  
(707) 744-1633  
An excellent breakfast or lunch  
spot with fabulous salads and  
interesting burger options.  
Leave room for dessert!

### Hopland Brewery

13351 Highway 101  
(707) 744-1361

### Real Goods Store and Solar Living Institute

13771 Highway 101  
(707) 744-2017

# 5 WAYS YOU CAN HELP SAVE REDWOODS



## DONATE

to Save the Redwoods League.

## PLAN

an estate gift for Save the Redwoods League.

## TALK

to your friends about the League's work.

## VISIT

the redwood forest with friends and family.

## EXPLORE

volunteer opportunities in redwood parks.

To learn more, visit [SaveTheRedwoods.org/help](http://SaveTheRedwoods.org/help) or call us at (888) 836-0005.



Walk Among Giants<sup>SM</sup>

Save the Redwoods League protects and restores redwood forests and connects people with their peace and beauty so these wonders of the natural world flourish.

114 Sansome Street, Suite 1200  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
(415) 362-2352 (888) 836-0005  
[SaveTheRedwoods.org](http://SaveTheRedwoods.org)

### CREDITS

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