

Redwood National Park-1966
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p. 1

CITIZENS FOR A REDWOODS NATIONAL PARK December 12, 1966 Box 713, Arcata, Calif.

THE END IN SIGHT? -- After two and one half years of fighting for a Redwoods National park we feel that the end is near and the possibility of a victory for conservation seems highly possible. Evasive tactics are over and the Congress convening in January must come to grips with the Redwoods Park legislation. This is a mandate not only from the voters of the country but from the members of both Houses as well.

However, the great danger to our cause at this crucial period is not from the opposition but from our own ranks instead. This danger is overconfidence and complacency. We must not drop our guard nor ease up on our efforts to see this fight through to the finish. The battle looming up next month, although the last, may well be the most critical so we will continue sending letters to congressmen, senators, and members of the Interior Department. We must tell them over and over again that we will not concede to the wayward plans of the lumber industry, but that a National Park of proper size and in the correct location is what we want, not only for ourselves and our children, but for generations to come.

BULLETIN TO BE PRODUCED BY CRNP -- CRNP is now busily preparing its biggest project to date-- a "publication." In this album (bulletin, brochure--call it what you may) CRNP will describe in text and photo essay the reasons why this bountiful land of the "last Redwoods" (virgin, mind you) must be given protection now. It is a heritage which you and the 90th Congress must work together on saving--not passing on to others and a 91st Congress to salvage. We are doing all we can in time to make this project a worthy one, and have established 1 February 1967 as the deadline. It is hoped that you see value in such an accomplishment by CRNP and will work with us to make it possible. Give as generously as you can--and state in your letters whether your donation is to go to completing this project--before it is too late to help save what America deserves to have as an addition to the National Park System. Thank you.

CHRONOLOGICAL REVIEW OF CRNP ACTIVITIES -- Since the May 1966 issue of our NEWSLETTER the following have been accomplished:

May 12. Representatives of the Izaak Walton League were conducted on an aerial survey of the proposed park areas.

Early June (first week). Complete exploration of Redwood Creek within the boundaries of the Sierra Club proposal.

June 14-15-16. Coordinated news media for coverage of Redwood Marchers (ACT). Included were local press, local TV, outside free-lance writer and outside free-lance photographer. Interviews by Terry Drinkwater for Walter Cronkite CBS-TV news. Flight over Redwood Creek for coverage by CBS photographer. CBS interview with CRNP president subsequently televised nation-wide on 17 June.

June 17-18. Presented statements at field hearings conducted by the Senate sub-committee on Parks and Recreation held in Crescent City. Interpreted park values to Senator Moss of Utah during sub-committee's helicopter flight over proposed park areas.

July 13-14-15. Presented testimony, photographs and maps at hearing held at Humboldt State College, Arcata, conducted by Committee on Natural Resources (state) headed by Assemblyman Z'berg.

July (late). Made complete photographic comparisons of recent logging damage to both major park proposals.

August (late). Exploration of Redwood Creek, particularly Bridge Creek area.

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(CRONOLOGY)

August 17. Hearing by Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs in Washington D. C. CRNP unable to attend.

Sept. 8. "Moratorium" on cutting in proposed park areas announced in news. CRNP became self-appointed inspector.

Sept. 29. Aerial, geological, reconnaissance over lower Redwood Creek watershed.

October. Photographic (fall colors) and botanical expeditions on Redwood Creek.

Oct. 27. Attended HSC lecture forum on Redwoods National Park. Speaker was Simpson Timber Co. Timberlands Manager.

Nov. 5-6 and 12-13. Established that "moratorium" was being violated by Georgia-Pacific Corp.

Nov. 10 and 29. Upon invitation of Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, CRNP president and representative served on study committee of Congressman Clausen's concept of "Redwood Park and Seashore" plan.

THE FOREST CANNOT BE SEEN FOR THE TREES! -- Curiously, overemphasis on Redwood specimen trees has led to some strange value-standards for a National Park. There are those who insist that "the best have already been saved in the California State parks." And we inquire, the best what? The best forest? No, we are told, the best trees. Others insist that there are such things as "park type trees" and "commercial forests." This to us suggests that someone is trying to swing us back to looking at the trees.

We must insist on having a forest in our National Park. A complete--ecologically complete--forest with all age classes of trees represented and with slope types as well as those of the alluvial flats. We consider them all to be "park type." We further must insist that our forest be protected by securing a drainage area as intact as is possible.

FREEWAYS AND PARKS -- We must ever be vigilant to the freeway threat, and be reminded that the California state redwood parks are not yet safe from this menace. Two of the four major parks are already sliced through by freeways and the other two still are threatened. A wilderness experience can not be had where the roar of freeway traffic is to be heard. And the only remaining Redwood wilderness certain never to be invaded by freeways or their noises is in Redwood Creek.

FOREST PRACTICES -- The recent "meddlings" of conservationists in the redwood region have resulted in the exposure of many serious malpractices in the handling of our forest land resources. The weaknesses in the California Forest Practices Act are perhaps in large part to blame. There simply are no real laws on which violators can be tried and convicted. Such rules as there are seem only to be enforceable as "gentlemen's agreements." Because of this, or at least until changes are made, the private lands contiguous to a National Park, or surrounding the State parks, cannot be controlled and the fate of the parks becomes questionable. Thus the importance of including a drainage within a National Park.

SUSTAINED YIELD -- There is such a thing as "sustained yield" in spite of articles suggesting it as a myth. The best example is that of a Christmas tree farm. Only the tops of growing trees are cut off for each crop and the trees continue to grow and produce a new top for the next year's market. The tax base isn't benefitted much, however, since the trees never mature--and taxes are assessed only on mature trees in California. But this is at least one way to have "redwoods forever," presuming that redwoods were to become popular as Christmas trees.

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A REDWOOD FOREST WILDERNESS -- All too often, opponents of a real Redwoods National Park equate the adequacy of Sequoia sempervirens' protection with the total milage of trees by the road--a biologically and aesthetically shallow criterion. A Redwoods National Park in the lower Redwood Creek drainage basin would encompass many miles of roads passing through a virgin forest (not just groves) environment, yet still leave true wilderness. Little Lost Man, Devils, Elam, and McArthur Creeks are nearly virgin watersheds which can be managed for permanent wilderness values if the National Park Service so decides.

The ultimate wilderness experience, however, lies in a portion of Redwood Creek itself. This section, called the Emerald Mile, knows not the bulldozer or chainsaw. The Emerald Mile (actually more than two miles in length) can be reached by walking upstream from the "tallest trees" three and a half miles to Redwood Creek's junction with Bridge Creek. This can be easily done with no more than knee-deep wading all summer long from mid-June up to the time when early winter rains raise the water level.

After passing Bridge Creek, you quickly leave behind any signs of man's existence including your own tracks left in the soft sand. Silver Falls, a lovely little cascade, tumbles into Redwood Creek a half mile up. Another short mile and a sharp bend later, the heart of the Emerald Mile surrounds you with an unforgettable wilderness experience. In any direction, virgin redwood forests reach out to distant ridgetops before meeting road or "logger's meadow"--a sea of stumps. A wilderness grove of redwoods, some reaching over 350 feet high, is an invitation to explore. The usual discards of man and signs (an often accepted form of littering) will not greet you here.

Further up the canyon tightens, marking an end to the Emerald Mile and the quiet placid Redwood Creek so far experienced along its lower stretches. Clear cold waters tumbling from pool to pool, interspersed by an occasional cataract filling the canyon with the roar of a new temperament, sets the mood for six more miles of Redwood Creek as a wild river--and resembling a high mountain stream in all its glory. Blacktail deer, black bear, bobcats, and raccoons can be seen crossing and drinking from the river if you move slowly and quietly along--especially in the early morning and late evening hours.

For all the world, you are in a national forest or park; but in reality, you are trespassing on the lands of Georgia-Pacific Corp., Simpson Timber Co., and Arcata Redwood Co. which are not "open" for exploring and camping. To see the Emerald Mile, you must be willing to violate the loggers domain. Because so few people even know it exists, the Emerald Mile remains a "place no one knew." Let us all look to the day we may hike and camp here with the blessings of the National Park Service and with full knowledge our children can share the same experience.

THE NATURE OF CRNP -- Organized in Arcata on 16 Feb. 1965, its goals are: 1) to be a clear local voice of citizens in favor of such a park; 2) to develop and/or promote information on the park and to disseminate such to all interested; and 3) to exercise influence upon park proposals so that our local communities will have the greatest benefit from the creation of a national park in the redwoods.

CRNP receives donations and contributions to achieve its goals, and membership (\$5) is open to anyone.

READINGS OF INTEREST -- 'Doublespeak' among the Giant Redwoods' by Harold Gilliam in the S.F. Sunday Examiner & Chronicle, THIS WORLD, Dec. 11, 1966 (p. 34) is an excellent review debunking the purported "facts" in the anti-park article by Friggens in Reader's Digest, Dec. 1966 (The Great Redwoods Controversy).