



California State Parks: Weekly Digest - July 15, 2022

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Photo of the Week



Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

This *Ariolimax* genus, more commonly known as a banana slug, is enjoying a rainy early July day in Fern Canyon.

Photo from Katie Talbot, Visitor



Submit your articles and photos for the Weekly Digest.



FIELD REPORT

Building Connections: North Coast Redwoods District Participates in Community Events

Story from: Kyle Buchanan, North Coast Redwoods District





Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation Summer Youth, Natural Resources Department-Habitat and Wildlife Division and Neth-li--ne, State Parks Watershed Interpreter Kyle Buchanan (third from left) and State Parks Peace Officer (Ranger) Simon DuRand (fifth from left). Photo from California State Parks.

With summer weather finally here, North Coast Redwoods District (NCRD) has been making connections with our local community at two recent events.

Senior Park Aide Interpreter Julian Farnsworth and Senior Park Aide Watershed Interpreter Kyle Buchanan brought Redwood National and State Parks to the community on Saturday, July 9, by hosting an education table at the Annual Orick Rodeo. Staff provided the community with information about how they can become involved with the park through attending interpretive events, completing Junior Ranger booklets or applying for various parks positions.

Then on Monday, July 11, the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation Summer Youth, Natural Resources Department-Habitat and Wildlife Division and Neth-li--ne, California State Parks Watershed Interpreter Kyle Buchanan and State Park Peace Officer (Ranger) Simone DuRand joined together to pick up trash at Pelican State Beach. At this northernmost state park unit in California, the group was able to work together to clean trash from the beach while also brainstorming for future collaborations between the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation (a federally recognized Tribe) and State Parks.

It is wonderful to build new opportunities for community collaborations and partnerships throughout NCRD. The more relevant and accessible parks feel to the local community, the more we are able to build and foster a sense of stewardship in both our visitors from afar and our neighbors from down the street.



Prairie Creek State Park Interpreter Julian Farnsworth (left) and Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park Watershed Interpreter Kyle Buchanan. Photo from California State Parks.

Backcountry Wilderness Trail Crew Learns Tips and Tricks From North Coast Redwoods District Staff

Story and photos from: Erin Gates, North Coast Redwoods District



The Siskiyou Mountain Club group learns about the collaboration with Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation on the interpretive exhibit designs at the Grove of Titans at Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park from Deputy District Superintendent Erin Gates, while Oregon Outdoors film crew shoots a segment for an upcoming video series.

The Grove of Titans trail and elevated walkway is attracting more than just visitors at Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park. Recently, backcountry wilderness trail crew [Siskiyou Mountain Club \(SMC\)](#) reached out to ask if they could have a guided hike out to the Grove of Titans.

The SMC group, made up of 18- to 25-year-old individuals, spend summers conducting trail work in the backcountry areas of southern Oregon and Northern California. They often are on "spikes" for more than two to three weeks, camping and conducting trail work in some of the most remote and primitive trails in the Siskiyou backcountry and beyond. On their days off, SMC Executive Director Gabe Howe provides opportunities for the trail crew to explore the surrounding area and wanted them to see the incredible trail design work of a front-country trail that has been making a lot of headlines.

County trail that has been making a lot of headlines.

North Coast Redwoods District (NCRD) staff Dee Dee Cathey (trail crew manager), Gary Asbury and Melody Vaughn (trail crew leads), and I provided the crew with an in-depth tour and discussion of the collaborative project, emphasizing the trail work required. We described how the material was hand carried in (over 128 tons) and how the realignment of the trail included the installation of multiple bridges and retaining walls and the laying over 1,300 feet of elevated walkway.

When [Oregon Outdoors](#), a Medford, Oregon-based video news segment from the Mail Tribune, heard that both trail crews were getting together out at the Grove, they also tagged along to shoot an upcoming episode about the great work that both of these crews do to build and maintain trails in this remote part of Northern California and southern Oregon.

Not only did the NCRD trail crew share some of their tips and tricks for trail design and bridge installation, but there may also be future opportunities for SMC to visit NCRD and learn directly from the crew during the "off season" months. Perhaps some of the SMC crew may consider a career with California State Parks trail crews once their season with SMC wraps up in the fall.



SMC group learns about the bridge construction techniques at one of the largest bridges installed along the entire 3-mile Mill Creek Trail, as part of the Grove of Titans trail project.

State Parks and Shasta Land Trust Celebrate New Partnership and Land Acquisition With Hike

Story from: Jared Zucker, Northern Buttes District



State Parks staff, Shasta Land Trust members and the public hiked around Lake Britton at McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park to celebrate the recent land acquired adjacent to the park. Photos from Shasta Land Trust.

At the end of 2021, California State Parks acquired 135 acres adjacent to McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park. With the acquisition came a new partnership with the Shasta Land Trust, which holds a conservation easement on the parcels. On Friday, June 29, California State Parks hosted the Shasta Land Trust's inaugural guided hike to celebrate the new partnership and showcase the park's ecological value, biodiversity and public recreation opportunities.

The Shasta Land Trust and members of the public were joined by State Parks Environmental Scientist Trish Ladd and Supervising Ranger Ryan Rزاب who provided an overview of the park's significant natural and cultural resource values, as they hiked to Pioneer Cemetery and Cemetery Cove through one of the newly acquired parcels.

The Shasta Land Trust acknowledged the importance of the new acquisition's connectivity to Lake Britton and the surrounding streams that make it an essential conservation zone for aquatic species like the river otter, western pond turtle, southern long-toed salamander, Pit-Klamath brook lamprey and waterfowl, as well as a variety of endangered and threatened species like Shasta crayfish and rough sculpin.

California State Parks and the Shasta Land Trust are excited to partner in protecting these lands.

Tehama County Students Explore William B. Ide Adobe State Historic Park