



**United States Department of the Interior
California Department of Parks and Recreation**

Redwood National and State Parks

1111 Second Street
Crescent City, California 95531



L7617 (Redwoods Rising)

April 10, 2019

Dear Friend of the Parks:

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) and National Park Service (NPS), under the banner of Redwoods Rising, have jointly prepared draft environmental review documents (Initial Study/Negative Declaration and Environmental Assessments [ISND/EA]) for two restoration projects, the Greater Mill Creek and the Greater Prairie Creek ecosystem restoration projects. These documents comply with requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). CDPR and NPS are the lead agencies for the proposed projects.

- *PRAIRIE CREEK*: The parks propose to rehabilitate 9,200 acres in the Greater Prairie Creek watershed and restore ecosystem processes that have been degraded by historical land use. Rehabilitation would be accomplished through thinning second growth forests to reduce stand density and alter species composition to promote growth of remaining trees, understory vegetation, and development of multi-story canopy; removing or maintaining roads to reduce the potential for erosion and sedimentation into streams; restoring instream habitat complexity; and augmenting riparian corridors by planting native vegetation.
- *MILL CREEK*: The parks propose to complete vegetation management, aquatic restoration, and road removal activities over 34,080 acres within the Greater Mill Creek area. Vegetation management actions would include forest restoration through thinning; snag creation; crown manipulation; tree planting; manual and mechanical vegetation removal; flaming and torching; mowing, solarization, and covering; girdling; and fuels reduction. Abandoned logging roads and related road infrastructure would be removed. Proposed aquatic restoration would include placement of large wood in streams to enhance habitat and stream function.

The parks are hosting public meetings, from 6 to 8pm at the following locations, to answer questions about these projects:

- April 16 at the National Park Service North Operations Center, 500 Aubell Lane, Crescent City focused on the Greater Mill Creek project.
- April 17 at the Federal Office Building at 1655 Heindon Road, Arcata focused on the Greater Prairie Creek project.

The public meetings will be an open house format with park staff available to answer questions about the projects. Comment cards will be available.


The draft ISND/EA for each project area is also being circulated for public review and comment for a period of 30 days, beginning April 10, 2019. Your views and comments on this project are welcome. Copies of the draft ISND/EA for the **Greater Prairie Creek** project may be reviewed at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/GPC>, https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=980. Copies of the draft ISND/EA for the **Greater Mill Creek** project may be reviewed at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/GreaterMillCreek>, https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=980. Copies of both environmental documents can be found at the following locations:

- Arcata Library, 500 7th Street, Arcata
- California Department of Parks and Recreation, North Coast Redwoods District, 3431 Fort Avenue, Eureka
- California Department of Parks and Recreation, Northern Service Center, One Capitol Mall, Suite 410, Sacramento
- Del Norte County Library, 190 Prince Mall, Crescent City
- Humboldt County Library, 1313 3rd Street, Eureka
- Humboldt State University Library, 1 Harpst Street, Arcata
- McKinleyville Library, 1606 Pickett Road, McKinleyville
- National Park Service, South Operations Center, 121200 Highway 101, Orick
- Redwood National and State Parks, 1111 Second Street, Crescent City
- Thomas H. Kuchel Visitor Center, US-101 and Redwood Highway, Orick

If you have further questions regarding the public comment period or upcoming meetings, please contact Leonel Arguello at (707) 465-7780 or via e-mail at leonel_arguello@nps.gov, or Shannon Dempsey at (707) 445-5344 or via email at shannon.dempsey@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,


Steven Mietz, Superintendent
National Park Service


Victor Bjelajac, District Superintendent
North Coast Redwoods District
California State Parks