

# GREATER MILL CREEK ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT

## Introduction and Overview



Under the umbrella of Redwoods Rising, the National Park Service (NPS) and California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) are continuing the planning process for restoration efforts in the Greater Mill Creek (GMC) area through vegetation management, aquatic restoration, and road removal activities. CDPR and NPS have prepared a joint Initial Study/Negative Declaration and Environmental Assessment (ISND/EA) to fulfill the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act and National Environmental Policy Act, respectively. As part of this planning effort, CDPR and NPS have also assessed the effects of restoration activities on cultural resources under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and California Public Resources Code Section 5024, respectively.

The GMC Ecosystem Restoration Project (Proposed Action) is located within Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP), primarily in Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park (DNCRSP), with a portion in Redwood National Park. Over 27,000 acres of forest within DNCRSP were commercially logged through 2000. These forests are now unnaturally dense and progression towards late-seral habitat is hindered, species diversity is reduced, and the spread of invasive exotic plants threatens to alter vegetation communities. Unmaintained logging roads, skid trails, and stream crossings are eroding, leading to fill material entering nearby stream channels. Past commercial logging has degraded aquatic habitat and resulted in a lack of large wood in the project area, which is important for habitat function.

The flowchart to the right shows the general order of ecosystem restoration activities that would occur within a given area that uses heavy equipment. Road removal and aquatic restoration activities would not be restricted to the phased areas.



### ISND/EA Milestones

