

HI, I'M SAMMY THE SALMON!  
**WELCOME TO GRAY FALLS,  
SIX RIVERS NATIONAL FOREST!**

**GRAY FALLS QUEST TRAIL INFORMATION:**

**Start:** Gray Falls Day Use Picnic Area, Burnt Ranch, CA.

**Contact:** Lower Trinity Ranger District, Six Rivers National Forest, (530) 629-2118  
[www.fs.usda.gov/srnf/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/srnf/)

**Quest Trail Name:** Gray Falls Trail

**Total Length:** ~1 mile RT / ~1 hour

**Difficulty:** Moderate to steep with stairs (~300' elevation change)

**Driving Directions:**

**Eastbound on HWY 299**, about 12 miles east of Willow Creek (between Hawkins Bar and Burnt Ranch) turn left at the "Gray Falls, Six Rivers National Forest (Day Use Only)" sign. Then follow the gravel road to your right and park in the Day Use Picnic Area (with toilet & picnic tables).

**Westbound on HWY 299**, about 2 miles west of Burnt Ranch turn right at the "Gray Falls, Six Rivers National Forest (Day Use Only)" sign (see gravel road directions above).

**HOW TO QUEST:**

You are holding a treasure map! Follow the movement clues (*italicized*) between stops (numbered) and discover the natural and cultural treasures within this forest. At your final destination you will find your Quest Clue, this is the "key" to your prize (see the "Now that you've finished..." section for your next step)! Have fun, be safe, and stay on marked trails on this adventure.

**Beware! Poison Oak** is found off-trail in this area year round...



spring, summer, fall, and winter!



**NOW THAT YOU'VE FINISHED  
YOUR QUEST:**

Go to the Six Rivers National Forest Office (all open M-F 8 to 4:30) at the Lower Trinity Ranger District (580 HWY 96, Willow Creek) to display your Quest Clue and claim your prize. If they are closed, log on to the Redwood EdVentures website (below) and we'll mail your prize to you.

**WHERE WILL YOUR NEXT QUEST TAKE YOU?**

The journey you've just completed is one of many Redwood EdVentures Quests. Find Quest locations and download free copies at

[www.redwood-edventures.org](http://www.redwood-edventures.org).

Teachers, students, and families can also explore hundreds of outdoor places and educational opportunities on the beautiful Redwood Coast. Find out why **nature is closer than you think!**



THINGS I SAW ALONG THE WAY...



**Rivers to  
Redwoods**  
CHILDREN'S FOREST



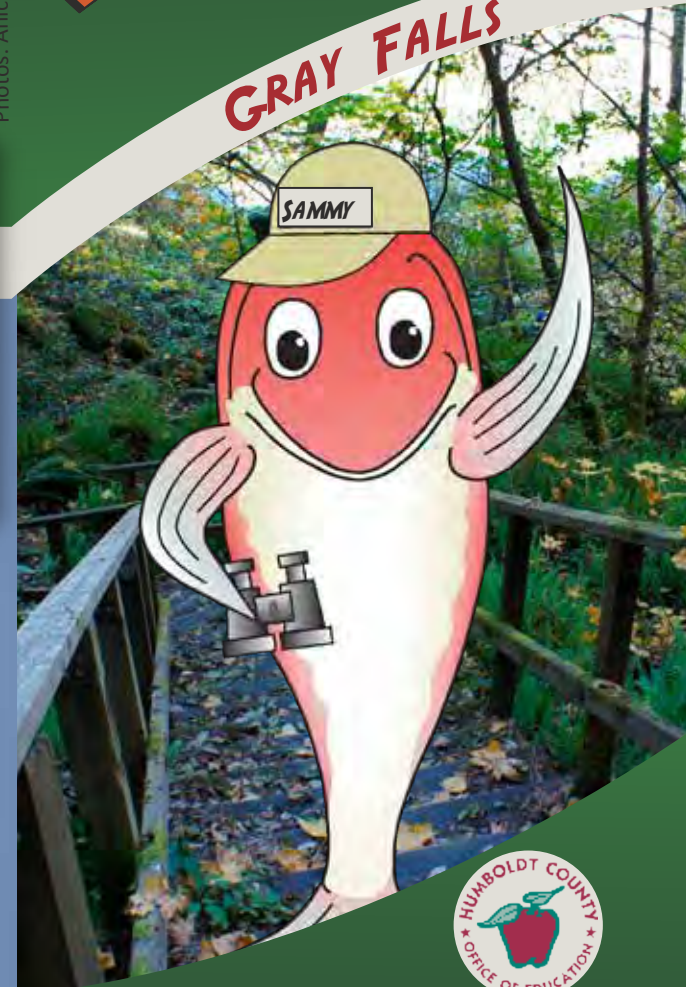
This Quest was created with the invaluable help of Michaela Walston's students at Creekside Arts and Education, part of the Mattole Unified School District. Thank you for providing insights into the secrets of this wonderful area and your beautiful artwork!

Produced in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service,  
which is an equal opportunity service provider and employer.  
Revised 8/18/15

**REDWOOD  
EDVENTURES  
QUEST**

**GRAY FALLS**

Photos: Anica Williams



**GRAY FALLS  
ADVENTURE**  
**SIX RIVERS NATIONAL FOREST**



Begin this quest at the  
Gray Falls Day Use Picnic Area

Seek your path's start  
As you walk through the trees  
You will come to two paths  
But don't be deceived  
Take the one on the left (It's a gentle grade)  
With 9 wooden steps to guide you on your way  
At the bottom of the 9th wooden step  
Take about 25 big steps and look to your right  
Behold a Douglas-fir tree in sight.



# DISCOVER THE MYSTERIES OF GRAY FALLS!

- 1 Feel the deep ridges in this fir tree's bark  
Not a true fir but a question mark!  
The Latin name is **Pseudotsuga menziesii**, false fir,  
A unique category on its own.  
Where animals such as grey squirrels depend upon its cone  
Look around on the ground  
Find the cone that looks like mice tails pointing downward  
Lore has it that the mice escaped a great fire  
Finding shelter in the cone's quagmire.

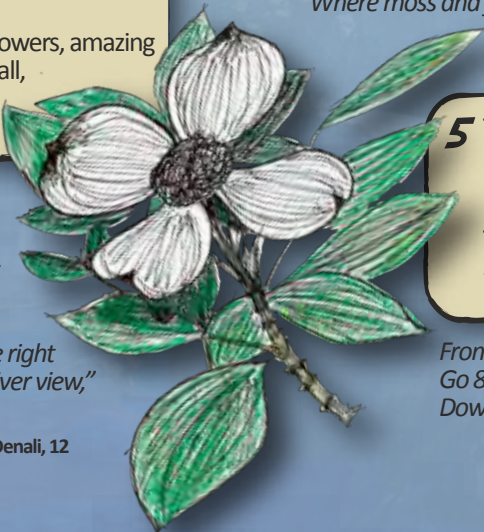


Douglas Fir Cone  
Drawing by: Denali, 12

Descend down the trail, and you will find  
Maples, firs, and oaks of all kinds.  
Go down thirty more wooden stairs, to where the trail splits.  
Take a right and walk onto the bridge.

- 2 This bridge made in the 1930s of cement  
Stone mortar, moss growing, is a marker of its age  
In a time when CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) workers,  
Worked hard and made an honest wage.

**Dogwood** grows next to this landmark  
In times of Spring, you might see the white flowers, amazing  
Not so, these are bracts, not flower petals at all,  
Read between the leaves  
And find greenish yellow flowers very small.



Dogwood  
Drawing by: Denali, 12

Walk down the trail, descend 6 more wooden steps  
Past the dead trees, an animal home  
Or a place for a GNOME!  
Be sure to stay to the left, don't take the trails to the right  
Down 9 wooden steps & find the bench with the "river view,"  
Sit down and enjoy the sunlight!

- 3 Safety first, stay away from the edge!  
Believe it or not there used to be a giant footbridge  
Not too far from this site, and with much fright  
Horses and people walked over a narrow, high line  
Sadly it was removed and now there is little sign.

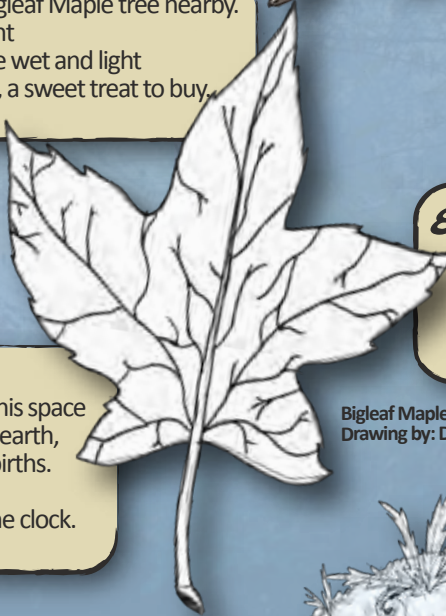
Count 26 wooden steps as you go downhill  
On your left a watershed where big leaved trees grow  
See the difference in place, various trees all around  
Wait for fall, leaves turning, a rather colorful show.

The opening of the New River trail's  
Trinity River bridge in 1914.  
(TCHS photo courtesy of Lowrie Gifford)



- 4 Look on the ground and you'll know that there is a Bigleaf Maple tree nearby.  
With the autumn chill, its leaves turn yellow and bright  
These trees love to grow along creeks where it's more wet and light  
The sap can produce maple syrup, sold in the market, a sweet treat to buy.

Go down 9 wooden steps to the break, don't trip and fall  
Stay awake and aware, watch out for roots and stay on the trail  
Descend 7 more wooden steps and look for a sitting rock  
Where moss and ferns prevail.



Bigleaf Maple Leaf  
Drawing by: Denali, 12

- 5 This rock covered in green moss,  
Has sat in this place for years, without leaving this space  
Moss was one of the first plants to ever live on earth,  
540 million years ago, way before any human births.  
Their shallow roots attach to the rock,  
Staying green and lush with moist air around the clock.

From the mossy rock where ferns grow  
Go 8 wooden steps down, a clue will show  
Down the wooden steps 1, 2, 3, now we are at the old Madrone tree.

Mossy Rock  
Drawing by: Denali, 12



- 6 Run your hand along my reddish bark  
I am smooth underneath my peeling skin.  
See the black marks at the base of me  
A fire survivor gratefully.  
Guess my age, my name is **Madrone**  
Bolder than most of this forest alone!

Go down the stairs  
Do not climb the rock, or turn off course  
Stop when you reach the river overlook, at trail's bend.



Salmon  
Drawing by: Iris, 11

- 7 See the river in front of you  
It's a habitat for **Chinook**  
Spawning season in fall  
A long way for a fish to haul!  
Eggs are laid in "redds"  
A salmon cycle gets ahead.

Go down the staircase from the tree  
Down to the river bar, not too far  
You will see the river beach and maybe a hawk  
Stay on the sand, be safe and stay off the rocks.

- 8 Salmon travel from the ocean through the Klamath River mouth,  
Up the Trinity River turning right and south.  
Laying their eggs on this pebbled floor  
Where bald eagles hunt for fish and more.  
These rocks that you see are classic,  
Formed in the period called "Jurassic."

Your quest is nearly through but you have something left to do...  
Turn back around and march back up the staircases,  
be sure to count each of the staircase steps aloud.  
**Write the number down below, this is your Quest Clue!**

**WRITE YOUR  
QUEST CLUE HERE:**