



HI, I'M SLICK THE BANANA SLUG!
**WELCOME TO THE HEADWATERS
FOREST RESERVE!**

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 area. 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.

HEADWATERS FOREST RESERVE QUEST TRAIL INFORMATION:

Start: At the *Headwaters Quest Box* (a quarter mile up the Elk River Trail)

Contact: Julie Clark, Headwaters Park Ranger:
(707) 825-2317

<http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/arcata/headwaters.html>

Quest Trail Name: Elk River Trail

Total Length: ~2 miles RT/ ~1 hour

Difficulty: Easy (mostly paved)

Driving Directions:

Take Exit Herrick Ave/ Elk River Rd. (# 702) from HWY 101 (just south of Eureka).

Northbound, turn right, then right again onto Elk River Road and drive approximately 6 miles to the Elk River Trailhead parking area.

Southbound, turn left over the overpass and then right onto Elk River Road (see directions above).

NOW THAT YOU'VE FINISHED YOUR QUEST:

Go to the Arcata Field Office (1695 Heindon Rd, Arcata; phone: (707) 825-2300, open M-F) to 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. 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...

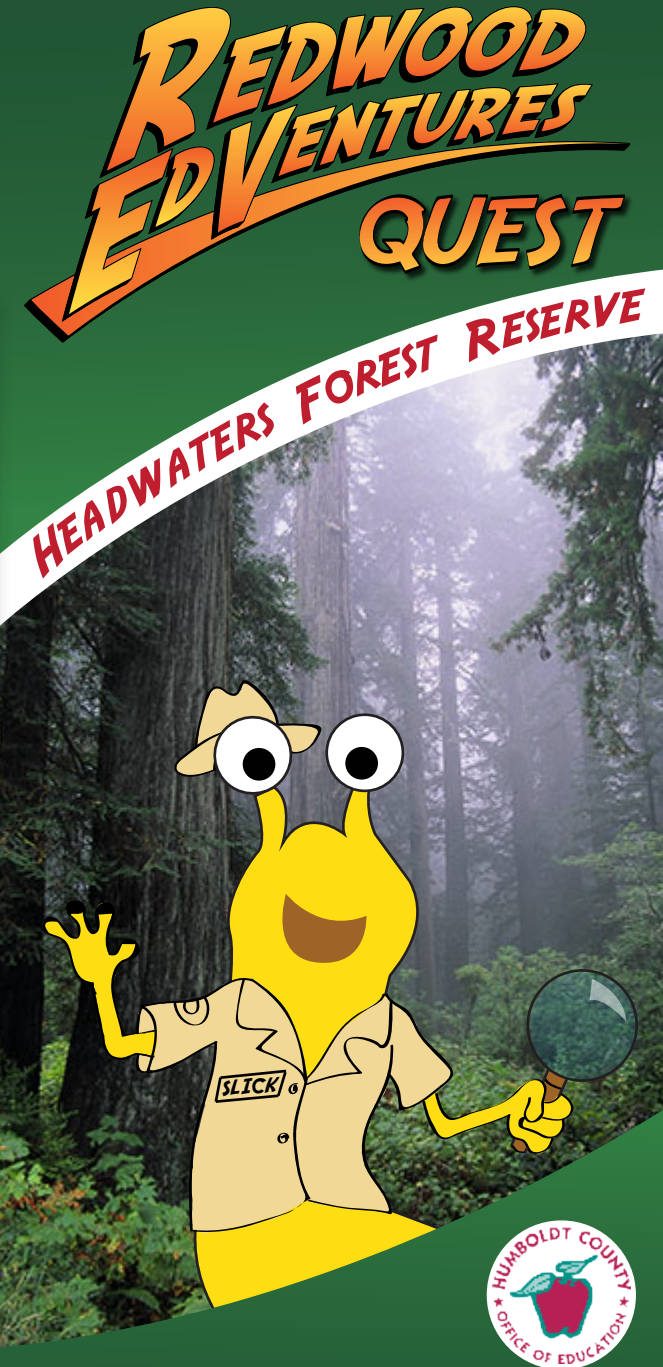
HEADWATERS FOREST RESERVE



**Rivers to
Redwoods**
CHILDREN'S FOREST



Produced in cooperation with the USDA
Forest Service, which is an equal opportunity
service provider and employer.



**HEADWATERS
THROUGH TIME**

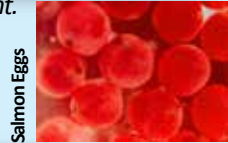
Begin this quest at the **Headwaters Quest Box**
(a quarter mile up the Elk River Trail)

*Creatures and people called this place home.
Discover their habitat where the fir trees grow.
Veer right down this gravel trail, walk into the shade.
Take 50 GIANT steps, look left and high to the
nest that was made.*



1 See that pile of debris in the notch of the tree?
Why that's a home but not for you and me.
Far overhead a spotted owl hovers,
while a little wood rat burrows for cover.

*Wind your way through the woods, skip past the path to the right.
Follow the hill past the hairpin, listen to river sounds delight.
Take a right turn and behold Elk River in sight.*



2 Now look for signs old and new.
To your left a chicken coop, ahead the salmon cycle renewed.
In the river, salmon and steelhead make a nursery called the "redd."
When the fish mature, wildlife will be fed.
What was once the backyard of Loleta and Charlie Webb
Is now a web of life where the habitat gets ahead.

*Backtrack to the path and then turn right, prepare your feet for a rather short hike.
Look in time, many years back, imagine the click clack of trains on the track.
Merge right on the main trail (paved), walk one eighth of a mile.
Keep an eye out for a Train Barn, go ahead and stop for a while.*

3 This restored barn once housed a train.
Over the decades it has weathered wind and rain.
In 1937, the mill shut down, its residents up and left the town.
For years this building stood deserted and forlorn.
Within someone's mind an idea was born:
"Let's move it and make it a learning place, for all who wish to share this space."
The barn is again new, inside the Falk stories accrue.

*Walk further upstream with the river on your right, through a wooded area that blocks the sunlight.
Look to your left and to your right, point to stumps within your sight.
Notice the stumps on both sides of you; notice the sprouts on them, both old and new.
Pause at the sign on your left hand side, notice the burl drawing it provides.*

DISCOVER THE HABITAT AND HOME OF THE HEADWATERS FOREST RESERVE!

4 Burl is for the new sprouts to unfurl.
These sprouts tell a story all of their own; each one is a tree clone.
A perfect copy of a mature redwood tree, though it will be many years
before we can see.

*From the redwood stump where new sprouts nestle,
Walk one eighth of a mile down the trail past the picnic bench,
Toward the site of an old train trestle.
Sit on the bench by the trail, look up river to see evidence of a rail.*

5 The train moved logs to the mill and lumber to the bay,
Returning to Falk at the end of the day.
Train logging gave way to tractors and trucks,
Gravel roads replaced rails to move logs to the mill without fail.

*Look to your left as you walk up the trail,
You may see an old logging road on the side of the hill.
Continue until the trail makes a bend that is dramatic.
You can view a drainage cleared of silt, making salmon quite ecstatic.*

6 In the early 1900s trains used tall bridges or trestles to avoid winter muck.
By the 1920s, the piles of dirt and wood that you see supported logging trucks.
The "Humboldt Crossings" filled the river with dirt.
For spawning salmon, muddy water can hurt.
In order to correct a harsh situation,
The "Humboldt Crossing" was removed by tractor excavation.
The drainages are now restored to their natural shape,
Increasing spawning salmon's landscape.

*Travel around the bend and up a slight grade,
Beneath the maple boughs providing cold shade.
Continue down the trail, but please don't lag until you reach the prominent snag.
You will see a rather tall stump, what used to be a tree,
Look at all the life growing on it abundantly.*



7 This snag is covered with plant diversity.
Count the species that you can see.
Licorice fern, leather fern, huckleberry and salal:
These are a few of the plants, but not all.
The pale lichen is both an algae and a fungus,
Rather small compared to the snag that is humongous.
Lichen's algae contains chlorophyll, providing photosynthesis.
Fungus keeps algae moist, which by itself would shrivel and crisp.
This primitive plant species is millions of years old,
Existing long before the story of Falk could be told.

*Go upstream, walk past the green mossy tree.
Bigleaf maple is my name, you see.
Today we continue on feet where a bend in the river we will soon meet.
Peer through the maple branches into the shaded pool,
that protects young salmon by keeping the water cool.*

8 In the dark, murky waters young salmon feed upon insects
And spiders that fall from the leaves.
Salmon come home to this river from out in the ocean,
Laying their eggs safely in the river's swift motion.

*Follow the path once again into history,
Where the forest around you holds a mystery.
Stroll through a hundred years in time.
Town activity bustled all around you.
Above the heads of loggers marbled murrelets,
Now threatened, once flew.
Round the curve and to the left, stop at the sign,
see Falk's early years while you rest.*

9 The blacksmith's home housed a family of four,
Where Evande Miller looked out her door.
Over the lumber stacks Evande would peek,
At the boys of the town playing hide and go seek.

*Fix your eyes to the right of the sign. Look at the ground.
Besides bushes and plants what do you see? Evidence of
Falk amidst the weeds?*

**WRITE YOUR
QUEST CLUE HERE:**
