

**HI, I'M SLICK THE BANANA SLUG!**  
**WELCOME TO PRAIRIE CREEK**  
**REDWOODS STATE PARK!**

**QUEST TRAIL INFORMATION:**

**Start:** Prairie Creek Visitor Center

**Contact:** Prairie Creek Visitor Center  
 (707) 488-2039

[www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=415](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=415)

**Quest Trail Name:** Prairie Creek Trail

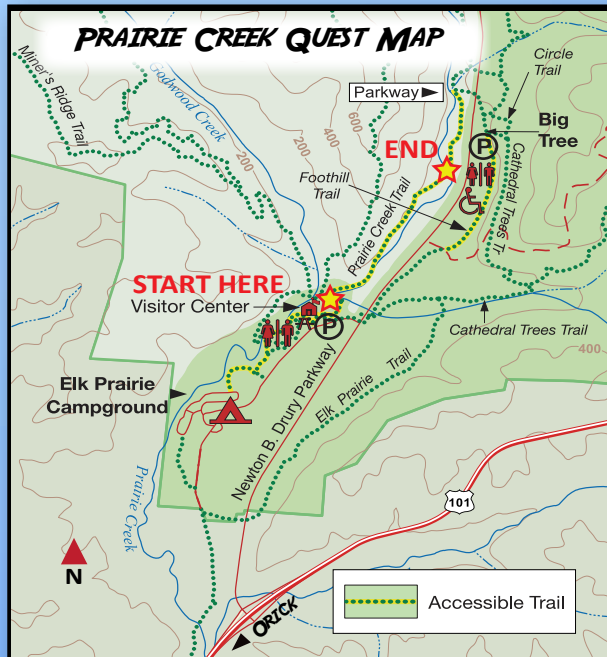
**Total Length:** ~1.5 miles RT / ~1 hour (the whole loop is ~ 2.5 miles: Prairie Creek Trail to Big Tree (cut over at "Parkway" sign) and back on the Foothill Trail to the Visitor Center)

**Difficulty:** Easy, wheelchair accessible

**Driving Directions:**

**Northbound on HWY 101**, about 5 miles north of Orick, take the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway Exit and the Visitor Center is about a mile in on the left.

**Southbound on HWY 101**, about 5 miles south of Klamath, take the Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway Exit and the Visitor Center is about 6 miles in on the right.



**HOW TO QUEST:**

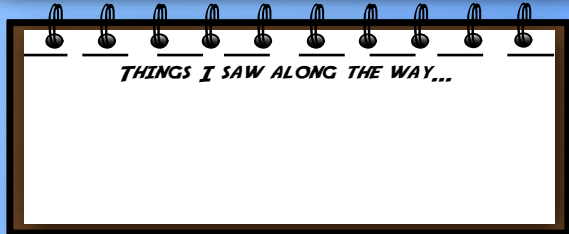
You are holding a treasure map! Follow the movement clues (*italicized*) between stops (numbered) and discover the natural and cultural treasures within this forest. At your final stop you will find your Quest Clue, this is the "key" to your prize (see below for your next step)! Have fun, be safe, and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

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

Finish the loop or head back the way you came. Then take your clue to the **Prairie Creek Visitor Center** and claim your prize. If the Visitor Center is 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!**



**REDWOOD EDVENTURES QUEST**

Cover Photo: Jon Parmentier; Inside Photo: Dave Jones

**PRAIRIE CREEK REDWOOD STATE PARK**



Developed in collaboration with the Environmental Education and Interpretation Practicum class, Humboldt State University, 2013.

Revised 4/2017

**PRAIRIE CREEK TRAIL**

# DISCOVER THE DIVERSE HABITATS EXISTING AND PERSISTING ALONG PRAIRIE CREEK TRAIL



To begin the Quest face the Visitor Center then look right, see the big trail sign at the far end of the parking lot? Walk towards it to begin!

**1** Look to the meadow where you will see, The forest ends, leaving an open prairie. Here the elk come out of the woods to graze, Native Yurok burned this space with a controlled blaze. We continue the practice today to sustain meadow phase.

*Facing the sign, follow the path on the right, Continue until Prairie Creek is in your sight.*



**2** What animals thrive in Prairie Creek? You may see salmon, who are strong and sleek. They come in winter to spawn here, These fish persist by returning year after year.

*Follow a few winding curves on the trail, Stop at two bordering giants who tell a tall tale.*

**3** What's your favorite fruit to eat? Evergreen huckleberry is a wild treat. This unique berry thrives here, Their leaves stay green throughout the year.

Walk around the next curve to continue the quest. Stop, when you see a large redwood in whose forest we are guests.



Evergreen Huckleberry

**4** Once upon a time this giant redwood may have become A canoe for the Yurok tribe to paddle their way home. Marbled Murrelets use this tree for nest and nursery, These tiny sea birds have used these broad branches for many a century.

*Forks in the trail approach turn right on to the Prairie Creek Trail, Stop when you see signs of fire's spread.*

**5** Look closely at all these century old char marks around, Despite scars, these persistent fire-resistant giants astound. Too little fire causes harm, just as ones large in scale do. Small managed fires can help the forest prevail.

*Continue on, this next stop is a farther walk, Look for two tunnels through fallen logs at which to gawk.*

**6** Old growth trees stand tall season after season, Although ancient redwoods still topple for a windy reason. Strong winds sometimes cause them to fall, Just part of life in the forest's great hall.

*You're getting close to the finish of the quest, Stop at the second bridge and take a rest.*

**7** This habitat normally does well all on its own, But some species won't survive alone. Here scientists use monitoring techniques to track the health of the creek Ensuring salmon migration returns to its peak.

*Look under the roof of the small shack ahead; Please write the phrase below, but let it remain unsaid!*

**WRITE YOUR  
QUEST CLUE HERE:**

