

10/29/65

HUMB. CO. COLLECTION

Redwood National Park-1965
LIBRARY. HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

CITIZENS FOR A REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK

Statement of Policies
and Program

The objectives of this organization are as follows:

1. To promote the establishment of a Redwood National Park of a size of least 35,000 acres of virgin, redwood, plus whatever adjacent areas are required for its protection.
2. To insure that any park constitutes an area of optimum ecological integrity.
3. To work for the participation of local citizens in economic opportunities offered by any park established.
4. To work for equitable reimbursement of local tax losses.
5. To work for equitable reimbursement from the federal government for any property loss and/or land acquisition.
6. And to urge immediate action in order to assure the availability of an adequate stand of virgin redwoods for national park purposes.

This document is a detailed explanation of the ideals, concepts, factual information which have lead to the formation of our organization and the adoption of the above objectives.

Adopted for publication by the Board of Directors July, 1965.

Preamble

In recent months a proposal which has long been a dream of many conservationists and one which has been brought forward from time to time during the last-half century has been given new and more definite forms in several proposals for a national redwood park in the north-coastal region of California. Begun through a study by the National Park Service with funds from the National Geographic Society, its first report, The Redwoods, has received much comment both locally and nationally. The park movement has gained impetus by the presentation of other more or less ambitious alternatives than the proposals outlined by the National Park Service. Such additional proposals have been put forth by the American Forestry Association, the Sierra Club, and the Save-the-Redwoods League. Other proposals for redwood preservation have been offered by local timber interests, the California State Division of Beaches and Parks, and the California Natural Resources Agency.

An obvious attempt has been made to give the impression that there is nearly unanimous opposition in northern California counties to any appreciable expansion of redwood parks. This impression is furthered by the inability of many to find a way of making their position known. It is the conviction of this organization, however, that if free discussion of the facts can occur, and if all sides can be fairly given a voice, considerable feeling in favor of a national park of substantial size and of high quality will become manifest in Humboldt County, no less than elsewhere. Further, and most important, we feel that a forum is essential for those who favor a national park to insure constructive planning that will result in the best possible park from a local as well as a national point of view.

Citizens for a Redwood National Park has been organized within the redwood region to provide local support for a national park and to show that a park will not be a detriment as commonly portrayed. Instead, it will be a scenic sanctuary with multiple benefits for this and future generations.

Specifically, the purpose of this organization is to work for the establishment of a national park containing a minimum of 35,000 acres of virgin redwood in solid sizeable blocks necessary for its ecological protection and integrity. Underlying our convictions that this is a worthy and wise course of action are four basic beliefs:

1. PARKS ARE IMPORTANT. THEY HAVE FUNDAMENTAL VALUES BASIC IN OUR SOCIETY.
2. TO ATTAIN THESE VALUES FOR A MAXIMUM NUMBER OF THE NATION'S FUTURE CITIZENS, THERE IS A NEED FOR PRESERVATION OF ADDITIONAL VIRGIN REDWOOD---NOW. WE CANNOT DELAY.
3. REDWOOD GROVES AND FORESTS ARE OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE AND THEREFORE THE PRESERVATION OF IMPORTANT PORTIONS OF THIS HERITAGE IS A NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

4. A NATIONAL PARK SHOULD NOT BE ESTABLISHED FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF REALIZING FROM IT SOME ECONOMIC GAIN. IF ACCOMPANIED BY ADEQUATE LOCAL AND REGIONAL PLANNING FOR THE PROPER MANAGEMENT OF ALL RECREATIONAL AND SCENIC RESOURCES OF THE REGION, SUCH A PARK CAN FORM A FUNDAMENTAL PART OF A RECREATIONAL INDUSTRY FROM WHICH LOCAL COMMUNITIES CAN DERIVE PERMANENT AND INCREASING ECONOMIC BENEFITS.

Available information to support these positions follow.