

Redwood Forest in Transition

When redwood trees are damaged, due to logging or fire, new buds sprout from dormant trunks. These sprouts are genetic copies of the original tree. If redwoods are related in this way, how old do you think this forest really is?

The old-growth trees in this area were logged until 1927. Today's forest is crowded with "young" redwoods that sprouted up like grass after logging stopped.

It will take centuries for many of these trees to die, creating the spaciousness of an old forest. In five hundred years, the remaining trees could reach 300 feet in height. The spreading canopy will shut out more light and the understory will eventually attain old-growth conditions.

This protected forest provides an opportunity for your descendants to observe and enjoy old-growth redwood forest recovery.



A redwood stump with redwoods growing from its old roots.



Photo Credit: Wonacott, c1925 / Mendocino County Museum

Old-Growth Redwood Forest. Notice the distances between trees in this early 1900s photo.



Young trees growing up crowded in an old clearcut.

Plants of the Redwood Forest



Tan Oak
Lithocarpus densiflorus



Redwood Sorrel
Oxalis oregana



False Lily of the Valley
Maianthemum dilatatum



Rhododendron
Rhododendron macrophyllum



Thimbleberry
Rubus parviflorus