

State of California – The Natural Resource Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

2019058313

**TO:** Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**FROM:** Department of Parks and Recreation  
PO Box 2006  
Eureka, CA 95502-2006

**PROJECT TITLE:** Mill Creek Trail Improvements

**LOCATION:** Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park      **COUNTY:** Del Norte

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:** Re-route a section of the existing Mill Creek Trail in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park to provide official trail access via an elevated walkway into the now-popular, "Grove of the Titans". The project will also reconstruct a portion of the existing Mill Creek Trail from Howland Hill Road to the Hiouchi Trail. Work will:

For the reroute/elevated walkway:

- Use hand tools to remove all vegetation from the decking area prior to the installation of the walkway and retain to rehabilitate user created trails in and around the grove;
- Use hand tools to excavate no more than 12" deep to provide a firm base to level the mudsills or install aggregate, as needed, to raise the ground surface to establish a level sill;
- Install dark brown 10" x 12" x 10' fiber-reinforced recycled plastic lumber as mudsills, spaced 10' apart. In some locations, install two (2) or three (3) individual blocks of the same material where a single sill cannot be levelled;
- Use slotted beam seats to attach 10' to 20', light brown or tan, fiberglass I-beam stringers to the sills;
- Use small clips to attach 6' x 2' un-galvanized steel, open grid, serrated bar grating as decking to the stringers;
- Install a recycled rubber pad between the stringer and the decking pieces to dampen sound;
- Construct short ground segments to connect the elevated walkway to the existing trail; and
- Use vegetation cleared prior to the construction of the elevated walkway to rehabilitate and disguise the removed portion of trail.

For the Mill Creek Trail reconstruction:

- Realign approx. 400' of the existing trail;
- Install approx. 8,700<sup>2</sup> of compacted aggregate for trail surface hardening;
- Use fiber-reinforced recycled plastic lumber for the construction of retaining walls, stairs, puncheons, and bridges;
- Use redwood split stock from downed trees already stockpiled in the maintenance yard and milled lumber purchased from local vendors to construct the bridge decking and handrails; and
- Use vegetation cleared from the trail reconstruction footprint to rehabilitate and disguise all user created trails along the route.

Project construction work involving the use of tools and equipment capable of generating noise above ambient levels will adhere to seasonal restrictions identified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) 2006 guidelines to avoid harassment of marbled murrelets and northern spotted owls during the nesting season. All noise-generating activities will occur during the midday time period and not within 2 hours after sunrise or 2 hours before sunset.

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CEQA#: 12702

Project ID #635-17-023

**PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT:** California Department of Parks and Recreation  
**NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:** North Coast Redwoods District

**EXEMPT STATUS:**

Categorical Exemption      *Class:* 3 & 4      *Section:* 15303 & 15304

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** Project consists of the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures, and minor public alterations in the condition of land which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees included as "Trail construction or realignment" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR §15300.4.

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Victor Bjelajac      5/23/2019  
District Superintendent      DATE  
North Coast Redwoods District

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAY 23 2019

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