

Redwood National Park CA

Domain name: PNW NEON – Domain 16

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Web page: <http://www.nps.gov/redw/>

Location: 41.166 N, -123.983 W

Ecological Themes: Research at this site can address NEON themes related to Climate, Land Use, Biodiversity and invasives, Aquatic (stream and river), Coastal Instability, and the oceancontinent interface.

Site History and Characteristics: Redwood National Park provides representation of the mildest and most productive and southerly segment of the PNW Domain. Massive forests of coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and associated conifers and hardwoods and coastal ecosystems, including headlands, wetlands, and beaches, characterize the park. The massive coniferous forests include the greatest organic matter accumulations and tallest trees in the world. Redwood National Park was established in 1964 and includes both virgin and logged lands; it is associated with several long-established California state parks that include preserved forest and coastal ecosystems. There is a long history of scientific research in these parklands that continues to the present. This includes research on the forest ecosystems and constituent tree and other species, geology and geomorphology, and hydrology. There is also extensive research underway on ecological restoration within the park and on other state and private properties.

Gradients and Themes: The primary relationship of Redwood National Park to national ecological research is the importance of this site in representing one of the extremes of the environmental gradient (mild, highly productive) within the highly heterogeneous PNW domain and providing a southerly coastal site in the domain for addressing coastal instability, oceangenerated windstorms, and atmospheric inputs/outputs from the North American continent.

Existing facilities: There are existing facilities in Redwood National Park and associated state parks that could provide support for national ecological research -based activities. Humboldt State University (Aracta CA) is located 50-75 km south of this park complex and has the potential to provide significant logistical support of and collaboration with national ecological observatory activities at the site.