



REDWOOD
NATIONAL & STATE
PARKS

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On the Wild Side

California Brown Pelican: Bird of Perpetual Wonder

By Kristin Schmidt, Wildlife Biologist

Whether flying in linear formation, dive-bombing a school of fish, or loafing on the shoreline, brown pelicans inspire renewed wonder with each observation. Their massive stature and rather odd appearance delight even the most seasoned bird watchers. We are fortunate to have brown pelicans as a regular part of our coastal backdrop for a good portion of each year.

Our California brown pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*) occur along the Pacific Coast from the Canadian border to southern Mexico. Two other subspecies of brown pelicans occur in the United States. The Eastern brown pelican (*P. o. carolinensis*) occurs along the Atlantic coast from Virginia to the mouth of the Amazon. The Caribbean brown pelican (*P. o. occidentalis*) occurs along the Gulf

CURATOR'S CORNER

40 Years Ago: Redwood National Park Celebrates Anniversaries

By Bow O'Barr, Park Curator

2008 heralds the 40th anniversary of the creation of Redwood National Park and the 30th anniversary of the park expansion.

Here are a few of the historical photos and quotes from the events of 1968, and President Jimmy Carter's signing statement for the expansion of Redwood National Park ten years later.

You can discover the history of the creation and expansion of the park for yourself in the park archives on the 2nd floor of the South Operations Center. Curator Bow O'Barr can guide you through the park museum collections to learn more about this piece of park, and park service, history.

The Bill Was Signed October 2, 1968?

Below are photos from the White House signing ceremony for the Act creating Redwood National Park. Photos by White House photographer Cecil Stoughton.



Lady Bird Johnson greets Interior Department officials while President Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) shakes hands with John B. DeWitt, assistant secretary of Save-the-Redwoods League.



LBJ tells a full house:

"I believe this act establishing the Redwood National Park in California will stand for all time as a monument to the wisdom of our generation. It is a great victory for every American in every State because we have rescued a magnificent and a meaningful treasure from the chain saw. For once we have spared what is enduring and ennobling from the hungry and hasty and selfish act of destruction.

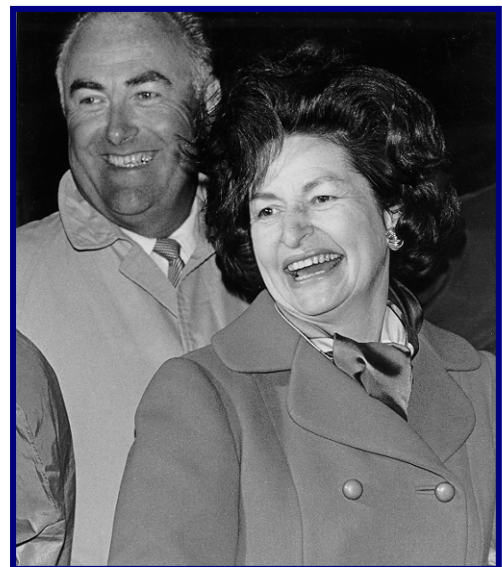
The redwoods will stand because the men and women of vision and courage made their stand--refusing to suffer any further exploitation of our national wealth, any greater damage to our environment, or any larger debasement of that quality and beauty without which life itself is quite barren.

The Redwood National Park will contain some 58,000 acres. Its boundaries will surround three State Parks. With the approval of the California Legislature, these may some day become part of this great National Park System.

From: Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States Lyndon B. Johnson 1968 – 1969; PP 1000 – 1001.



LBJ signs the Bill creating Redwood National Park.



Lady Bird Johnson with Congressman Don Clausen at the dedication of Redwood National Park.





Mrs. Johnson meets Tolowa dancers at the park dedication celebration.



Lady Bird unveils the park dedication plaque on November 25, 1968.



Young environmentalists at the park dedication, under the mentorship of Sierra Club President Martin Litton, protest certain aspects of the final park.

The Act expanding Redwood was signed into law ten years after establishment of the National Park. The following is President Jimmy Carter's statement on signing the Act on March 27, 1978.



JIMMY CARTER

XXXIX President of the United States: 1977-1981

Redwood National Park Expansion Bill Statement on Signing H.R. 3813 Into Law.

March 27th, 1978

I take great pleasure today in signing into law H.R. 3813, which expands the boundaries of the Redwood National Park in California. Enactment of this bill implements one of the recommendations in the environmental message I sent to Congress last year.

This act will permit more people to visit the magnificent groves along Redwood Creek that contain the world's tallest trees and will ensure that those trees are adequately protected. The existing park will be nearly doubled in size by the addition of 48,000 acres of land. Some of the land to be acquired has been damaged by logging operations, and this bill will enable the Secretary of the Interior to restore it to as close to its natural state as possible.

I commend the many supporters of this important legislation. I especially want to thank Representative Phillip Burton and Senator Alan Cranston, both of California, and Senator James Abourezk for their leadership and commitment to the passage of this bill. Thanks also to Secretary Andrus, who made support of this legislation one of the first acts of this administration, and to Senator Clifford Hansen for his help in guiding the bill through the Senate.

At the same time, however, I must express my serious concerns with the extraordinary worker protection provisions contained in H.R. 3813. During the consideration of this bill, this administration repeatedly stated its firm resolve to ensure that the full range of existing Federal assistance benefits would be made available to individuals and communities adversely affected by the park expansion. I believe that in the absence of overriding national policy considerations, all workers who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own should be treated equally by the Federal Government.

COLLECTION:
*Public Papers
of the Presidents*



Jimmy Carter
1978: Book I

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We can commemorate anniversaries of the history of preserving coast redwoods in just about every season of the year. Here are some dates to remember as we move into the New Year.

January 9 – Muir Woods National Monument celebrates its 100th birthday.

March 16 – California Governor Gage signed a bill in 1901 creating California Redwoods State Park, known today as Big Basin Redwood State Park. Land in Santa Cruz County was purchased by the State in September of the following year.

March 27 – The 30th anniversary of the Redwood National Park expansion legislation.

May 18 – The Sempervirens Club (now Sempervirens Fund) was formed on this date in 1900.

May 25 – The California State Park system was created in 1927 to manage, among other things, coast redwood parks. The park system was promoted by many of the same people who served on the board of Save-the-Redwoods League.

June 3 – Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park was created by the State Legislature in 1929.

June 15 – Save-the-Redwoods League is 90 years old.

August 23 – Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park was created on this date in 1923.

October 2 – The 40th Anniversary of the creation of Redwood National Park.

October 26 – Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park was created on this date in 1925.

November 25 – Lady Bird Johnson dedicates Redwood National Park in 1968.

Take a moment to reflect during the coming year on these anniversaries.

For web information check out:

<http://www.nps.gov/muwo/planyourvisit/muir-woods-centennial.htm>

<http://www.savetheredwoods.org/>

<http://www.sempervirens.org/index.html>

<http://www.parks.ca.gov/parkindex/>

