



New River Trail Guide



New River Vision Statement:
New River is a dynamic, ever changing system. New River and adjacent lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management are designated as an "Area of Critical Environmental Concern" (ACEC). The New River ACEC is managed to maintain biodiversity and quality of habitat for native communities of plants, birds, animals and fish. It provides protection to cultural sites and affords educational, interpretive, and recreational opportunities to the visiting public.

-1995 New River ACEC Management Plan

What is New River?

New River is a young river, formed less than 120 years ago. Local lore says that during the great flood of 1890, water raged into these lowlands. The great force behind that storm carved out a new northbound channel from the usually docile Floras Creek. A local rancher took a look and exclaimed: "It's a New River!" And so New River was born.



European beachgrass was introduced to this area in the 1930's to stop dune movement in order to protect human interests. It has spread like wildfire across the open sand, choking out native plants and critical habitat for rare wildlife. It has since created the western most dune between New River and the ocean, known as the foredune.

New River is in constant change. Some years it grows a few feet and some years a quarter mile! During winter storms, New River erodes away the sand, causing the river mouth to push further north across the dunes. As of 2003, New River was about ten miles long. Extreme high tides combined with floods can also cause the river to "breach" the foredune at different locations, forming temporary new mouths.

New River Today

New River is a 1200-acre Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) managed by the Bureau of Land Management. ACECs are areas where the BLM has determined that special management is required to protect unique plant, animal, and/or cultural resources. The New River ACEC is made up of four different sites along the coast: Storm Ranch, Floras Lake, Fourmile Creek, and Lost Lake. These sites provide a network of protection throughout the greater New River ecosystem.

Take time to explore the diverse, fragile environment of New River.

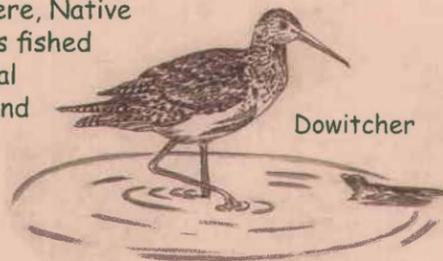
New River's Natural and Cultural Riches

New River offers excellent opportunities for visitors to experience an appreciation for coastal habitats and the species within them. A careful observer to the area may see a bald eagle, pied-billed grebe, rough-skin newt, tiger lily, dwarf brodiaea, or numerous other species. All of these plants and animals make their home within the ACEC.



These and other species live here as a result of New River's ever-changing, diversity of habitats. This constantly changing landscape includes such as the shifting of the dunes, the north-bound movement of the river, or simply the falling of a tree during a winter storm. Among the different types of habitat found along New River are: open sand dunes, shore pine forest, wetlands, meadows, estuaries, beachgrass, and mixed conifer and shrub lands. While on the trails, try to identify as many of these habitat types as possible. But remember, tread lightly and leave no trace.

Long before Europeans arrived here, Native Americans fished the coastal streams and estuaries for salmon, picked mussels, and hunted for



clams along the shores. Many plant species are abundant here and have been used not only for food, but for dyes, basket weaving, and clothing. The oldest period of Native American occupation dates from 3000 to 8000 years ago. The more recent occupation was by the Qua-to-Mah and Lower Coquille Indian Tribes, which dates from 900-1850 A.D.

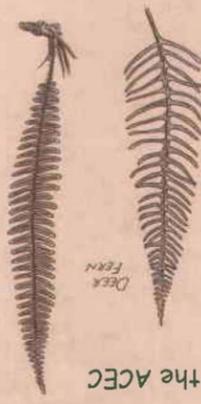
Enjoy your visit!



- Move slowly and quietly. The less wildlife see or hear you, the better your chances are of observing them.
- Do not pick native plants, including mushrooms, to help keep the area pristine.
- Stay on the trail to help reduce impacts to plants and animals.
- Leash pets at all times to minimize disturbance to wildlife and other visitors.

While at New River, please remember:

- Storm Ranch offers a learning center, trails, boat ramp, wildlife viewing, picnicking, drinking water, and restroom facilities for the visiting public.
- The Storm Ranch portion of the ACEC offers three miles of trails for hikers, equestrians, and bicyclists. Enjoy views of New River, the ocean, coastal mountains, and a variety of rare habitat types along the paths.

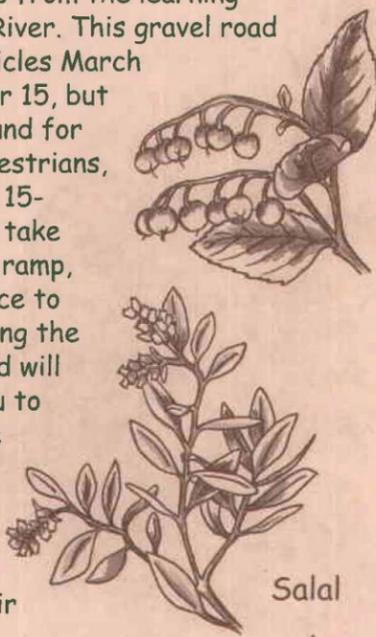


New River Trail System:

Trail Descriptions

A. The River Road

River Road leads from the learning center to New River. This gravel road is closed to vehicles March 15 to September 15, but is open year-round for foot travel, equestrians, and bicycles. A 15-minute walk will take you to the boat ramp, an excellent place to view wildlife along the river. River Road will also connect you to the Muddy Lake and Ocean View Trailheads. The road is easy to travel and is wheelchair accessible.



Salal

B. Muddy Lake Trail

The East Muddy Lake Trail begins a short distance down River Road from the Learning Center. After crossing the foot bridge, you will enter several different plant communities: an open meadow, a coastal shore pine forest, and finally out to the edge of a freshwater lake. A wildlife viewing platform is located here. It can also be accessed from River Road via West Muddy Lake Trail, which is wheelchair accessible. Along this portion of the trail, you will find a side trail that leads to an excellent spot along the river to view migratory waterfowl. River Road



Huckleberry

and Muddy Lake Trails combined are a perfect loop for those with limited time. This hike averages about 45 minutes.

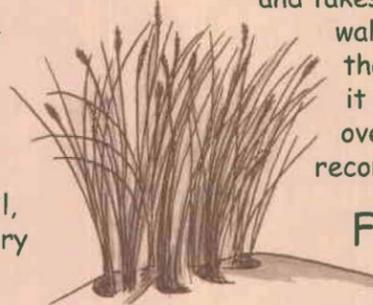
C. Old Bog Trail

This trail begins off of East Muddy Lake Trail in an open meadow. Enjoy vistas of the Coast Range and Pacific Ocean as you travel through salal and manzanita plant communities. At the end of the trail, you will find the Westmoor Cranberry Bogs. These bogs were planted around 1915 and are a significant historical resource. They are some of the oldest bogs in the area and contain the Stankevich variety of cranberry, developed at New River by crossing wild and domesticated vines. Average time to walk this trail is about 10 minutes.



D. Ocean View Trail

Travel through a dense forest as you listen to crashing ocean waves in the distance. Take the overlook for views of the river, ocean, and dune restoration work. Do you notice where European beachgrass has been removed along the foredune? This fast-growing plant was introduced in the 1930's to stop dune movement and protect human interests. The beachgrass has choked out many native plants and altered habitat for the threatened western snowy plover. Ocean



European Beachgrass

View Trail is a 15-minute walk that links to the Huckleberry Hill and North Trails. Combined with River Road, this hike makes an excellent loop from the learning center that averages about 1 hour.

E. Huckleberry Hill

Experience some of New River's largest dunes and best views from this trail. The trail links North Trail to Ocean View Trail and takes approximately 20 minutes to walk. It is considered more difficult than the other trails, because it requires walking in loose sand over rolling dunes. The trail is recommended for hikers.

F. North Trail

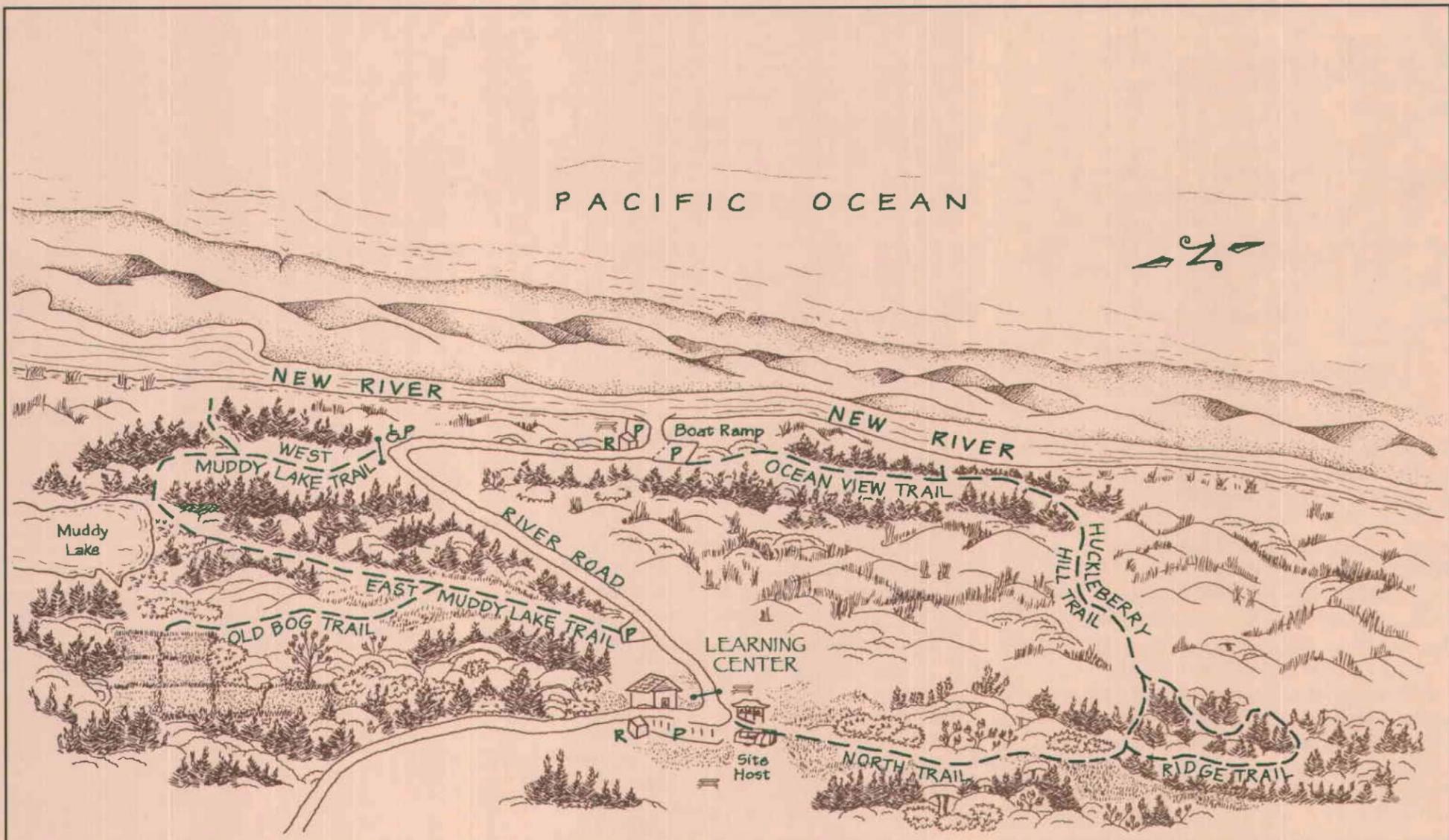
North Trail begins northeast of the learning center. This trail takes you by the old corrals of Storm Ranch, now bordered by manzanita and rhododendron. It is a 10-minute walk to the beginning of the Ridge and Huckleberry Hill Trails.

G. Ridge Trail

The terrain of the Ridge Trail carries you up and over a large stabilized dune, winding you through a shrub community of salal, manzanita, and huckleberry. The Coast Range is visible from some points along the trail. It takes approximately 15 minutes to walk and is a good way to add some distance to the North and Huckleberry Hill Trail system.

Note: The times shown to walk the trails are for one-way only. It takes approximately 2 hours to walk the entire trail system.

Welcome to New River



LEGEND: P - Parking &P - Handicapped Accessible R - Restroom [Picnic Table] - Picnic Area [Gate] - Gate [Dashed Line] - Trail [Solid Line] - Road