



Arcata Field Office

California

The Bureau of Land Management Arcata Field Office manages 220,000 acres in Humboldt, Mendocino, Trinity, and Del Norte Counties, California. These lands include five designated Wilderness Areas, 32 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers, seven Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), and three National Monuments/National Conservation Areas.

TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Tribal engagement and co-stewardship are high priorities for the Arcata Field Office which manages public lands within the ancestral territories of the Bear River Band, Big Lagoon Rancheria, Blue Lake Rancheria, Cahto Tribe, Elk Valley Rancheria, Hoopa Valley Tribe, Karuk Tribe, Resighini Rancheria, Round Valley Indian Tribes, Sherwood Valley Rancheria, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria, Wiyot Tribe, and the Yurok Tribe.

HEADWATERS FOREST RESERVE

In 1999, after a decade-long grassroots effort to protect the world's last unprotected and intact, old-growth redwood forest ecosystem, Congress established the 7,472-acre Headwaters Forest Reserve. Several threatened species call Headwaters home, including coho salmon, the northern spotted owl, and the marbled murrelet.

KING RANGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

The King Range National Conservation Area is a spectacular meeting of land and sea as mountains thrust straight out of the surf, with the 4,0888 foot King Peak only three miles from the ocean. The Nation's first National Conservation Area designated by Congress. Established in 1970, the King Range NCA encompasses 68,000 acres along 35 miles of California's Lost Coast and includes 43,000 acres of designated wilderness.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL NATIONAL MONUMENT

Designated in 2000, the California Coastal National Monument provides unique coastal habitat for marine-dependent wildlife and vegetation on more than 20,000 rocks, islands, exposed reefs, and pinnacles along the California coastline from the border with Mexico to the Oregon state line. In addition, three of the six onshore units of the monument are managed by Arcata Field Office, and include Trinidad Head Lighthouse (13 acres), Waluplh-Lighthouse Ranch (8 acres), and Lost Coast Headlands (453 acres).



California Coastal National Monument

WILDERNESS, WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS, & WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

Approximately 52 percent of the Arcata Field Office's land base is designated as Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, and Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Wilderness Areas

Elkhorn Ridge, King Range, South Fork Eel River, Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel, and Yuki (all within Mendocino County), and King Range (in Humboldt County) totaling 93,000 acres.

Wilderness Study Areas

Eden Valley and Big Butte Wilderness Study Areas totaling 7,700 acres.

Wild And Scenic Rivers

32 miles of designated Wild and Scenic Rivers along six river corridors with 24 distinct segments including the Klamath River, Mainstem Eel River, North Fork Eel River, Middle Fork Eel River, South Fork Eel River, and the Van Duzen River (an Eel River tributary).

RECREATION AREAS

Samoa Dunes Recreation Area

Samoa Dunes Recreation Area, popular for surfing, fishing, picnicking and a family destination area is 400 acres of coastal beach and dunes managed in partnership with the City of Eureka. The area includes 220 acres of terrain for off-highway or OHV riding, with developed trails and 4X4 obstacles. The 100-acre wetland area accommodates interpretive, pedestrian-only hiking trails, and 40 acres are set aside for protection of endangered native plant habitat.

Ma-Le'l Dunes

Ma-le'l Dunes is cooperatively managed by the BLM and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Humboldt Bay Refuge. In 2021, it was designated as a National Natural Landmark by the National Park Service for its outstanding coastal dune ecosystem.

The southern portion (206 acres) is managed by the BLM and provides public access for hiking and horseback riding.

Mike Thompson Wildlife Area South Spit Humboldt Bay

The Mike Thompson Wildlife Area, South Spit Humboldt Bay receives about 80,000 visits annually, and is popular for fishing, hunting, equestrian use, and beach combing. The BLM cooperatively manages the South Spit through partnerships with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Humboldt County, the Wiyot Tribe, Bear River Band, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Humboldt Bay Refuge, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These partners have worked together in making improvements and providing public access, while protecting sensitive resources.

Lacks Creek Recreation Area

Lacks Creek recreation area includes 8,673 acres of BLM-managed public lands. Working cooperatively with partners like the Redwood Coast Mountain Bike Association, 11 miles of mountain bike, hiking, and equestrian trails have been constructed. The area offers two developed campgrounds, several trailheads, and equestrian facilities.

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Seven Areas of Critical Environmental Concern totaling 15,225 acres have important historical, cultural, and natural significance.

Butte Creek: 2,255 acres	Gilham Buttes: 2,621 acres
Iaqua Buttes: 1,074 acres	Mill Creek: 955 acres
Lacks Creek: 7,373 acres	Ma-le'l Dune: 150 acres
Mattole Beach: 797 acres	Grand Total: 15,225 acres

OTHER KEY STATISTICS

Did you know the Arcata Field Office also has:

- 246 non-contiguous parcels of scattered public land tracts
- 45 miles of coastline
- 32,808 acres of Grazing Allotments: 11 active allotments, about 2,050 animal unit months or AUMs utilized per year
- Rights of Ways including: 114 roads, 16 power lines, 9 water facilities, 12 communication sites, and 9 communication lines

MAINTAINED ROADS

Maintenance responsibility for over 153 miles of improved roads across private and public lands that provide access to a variety of public and private users. Severe winter storms, persistently wet conditions, aging infrastructure, and limited maintenance funding present ongoing challenges. Without maintenance, roads can be a significant source of sediment that can impact aquatic habitat conditions.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES & ANADROMOUS FISH

The Arcata Field Office boasts habitat for 18 threatened and endangered species in the planning area, including northern spotted owl, western snowy plover, and marbled murrelet. Fishery biologists monitor threatened Chinook and coho salmon, and steelhead in the Eel River, Mattole River, Lacks Creek, and South Fork Elk River watersheds. Winter and spring Spawner surveys inform overall population trends while summer time snorkel surveys indicate spawning success and nursery habitat use. The fisheries program looks at instream habitat conditions and implements restoration projects to improve fish recovery, ensuring the long-term survival.

FORESTRY AND FUELS

The Arcata Field Office is working to restore landscapes while increasing safety to residents and decreasing the risk of devastating wildfires. Forest health treatments are designed to restore degraded ecosystems like prairies and oak woodlands. Since 2019, over 2,300 acres in the Headwaters, the King Range, Travis Ranch, Red Mountain, and Lacks Creek have been treated with a combination of funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law or BIL, BLM, and grants from CalFire and the California Climate Initiative. Additional projects, in partnership with local Tribes and organizations to increase pace and scale of restoration, are planned throughout the field office.

HISTORIC LIGHTHOUSES

The BLM-managed coastal areas include all of the Humboldt County pre-existing and present-day historic lighthouse sites:

Humboldt Harbor Lighthouse (est. 1855), Cape Mendocino (est. 1868), Trinidad Head (est. 1871), Table Bluff (est. 1892), and Punta Gorda (est. 1911). BLM manages these historic sites with assistance from partners: Trinidad Museum Society, Friends of the Lost Coast, and Cape Mendocino Lighthouse Preservation Society, Trinidad Rancheria, and the city of Trinidad.

