



Del Norte County

BATTERY POINT LIGHTHOUSE

Del Norte County features some of California's most stunning and pristine natural areas—magnificent redwood forests, rugged beaches that display both the power and serenity of the Pacific Ocean, and the wild, scenic, undammed Smith River, the freest-flowing river in the State. The County is home to a wide diversity of wildlife and a must-visit for people who want to experience nature up close. Nature also sustains the commercial and sport fisheries sheltered by Crescent City Harbor, recently rebuilt with a visitor-friendly waterfront.

POPULATION: >27,000

LENGTH OF COASTLINE: 37 Miles

CONSERVANCY PROJECTS: >50

CONSERVANCY FUNDING: >\$16 million

The Coastal Conservancy has worked with the people of Del Norte County for more than 30 years to protect its abundant natural resources and make its coastal areas more accessible and enjoyable for residents and visitors. The Conservancy has helped restore and protect historic spawning and rearing habitat for salmon and steelhead trout on many of the County's streams. It has supported considerable work to help residents and visitors get to and enjoy the Crescent City Harbor area, the iconic Battery Point Lighthouse, and other parts of the County's spectacular coast.

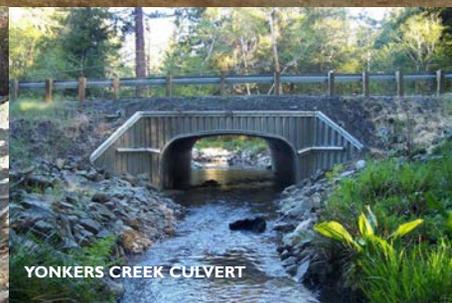
The Conservancy intends to continue its work with the people of Del Norte County to:

- Provide outdoor recreational opportunities for residents and visitors
- Protect and enhance the coastal fisheries that support commercial, sport, and tribal economies
- Protect and improve the health of wildlands and waterways
- Meet the challenges posed by rising seas and a changing climate

Beaches, Trails, & Waterfronts

The Coastal Conservancy has long worked with Del Norte County communities to make beaches, parks, and natural areas more accessible to residents and visitors. It has helped revitalize the Crescent City Harbor area, restore the Battery Point Lighthouse, and build additions to the California Coastal Trail with the ultimate goal of connecting all parts of the County's coast.

- The Conservancy has helped Crescent City with major repairs to the **Battery Point Lighthouse**, the oldest lighthouse on California's north coast and a tourist attraction that draws more than 15,000 people annually. The Conservancy also funded repair of the pedestrian pathway that leads to the lighthouse, a new trail from Battery Point to the base of the B Street Pier, and a beach stairway, wheelchair-accessible ramp, and observation platform at Battery Point.
- In the 1990s the Conservancy supported construction of trails, a picnic area, and landscaping at Crescent City's **Beachfront Park**, and upcoming improvements will soon provide visitors with a stairway to the beach, a wheelchair-accessible ramp to the beach, a new paved picnic area, and additional parking.
- The Conservancy was a major funder of Crescent City's extension of the **California Coastal Trail** from the City's Cultural Center, just east of Beachfront Park, to the Crescent City Harbor. The new trail is accessible to pedestrians and bicycles and includes a bridge across Elk Creek, restrooms, and a parking area.
- Since the mid-1980s the Conservancy has helped the Crescent City Harbor District repair and revitalize the **Crescent City Harbor** area. To encourage tourism at the harbor, the Conservancy has funded ongoing construction of the Inner Boat Basin Promenade, four viewing platforms, a half-mile section of the **California Coastal Trail**, glass-paneled wind shelters, and other visitor amenities. To help sustain the harbor's commercial fishing industry, the Conservancy commissioned a 2010 **profile of the local fishing community** prepared by the California Sea Grant College Program.
- Along Pebble Beach Drive, just north of Crescent City, the Conservancy helped the County construct parking areas and pathways to **Pebble Beach** opposite the spectacular **Castle Rock**.
- At **Point St. George** the Conservancy is funding improvements to and designation of a two-mile section of the **California Coastal Trail**. It earlier helped improve a parking area at **Garth's Beach**.
- The Conservancy supported visitor-serving improvements to **Kellogg Road Beach** north of Lake Earl and **Clifford Kamph Memorial Park** north of Smith River.
- Conservancy-funded planning efforts have been undertaken to increase use and enjoyment of public lands on the **Tolowa Coast** from Point St. George to the Lake Earl Wildlife Area.



Natural Lands & Waterways

The Conservancy has helped protect and improve many of Del Norte County's natural lands and restore its fish and wildlife habitats. This work has opened scenic wildlands to the public, improved water quality in rivers and streams, and helped sustain healthy runs of salmon and trout for commercial, recreational, and tribal fisheries.

- Conservancy funding helped purchase the 25,000-acre **Mill Creek Forest** addition to **Del Norte Redwoods State Park**, which is home to at least 23 species of animals listed as imperiled. Additional funding from the Conservancy is restoring fish habitats within the property along **Mill and Rock creeks**, tributaries of the **Smith River** that offer some of the best opportunities to protect endangered coho salmon in coastal California.
- The Conservancy funded the County's purchase of a highly scenic 340-acre shoreline property adjacent to Del Norte County Airport/Jack McNamara Field on **Point St. George**. The property contains rare plant and animal habitats and an ancient home of the Tolowa People—the earliest known site of human habitation within the northern California-southern Oregon coastal region. The purchase also provided an open-space buffer required for continued commercial operation of the airport.
- Conservancy funding supported the Yurok Tribe's extensive restoration work along **McGarvey Creek**, a tributary of the **Lower Klamath River**, whose salmon and trout habitats had been degraded for decades by erosion of sediments from neighboring timberlands. Nearby the Conservancy is helping with the purchase of more than 4,000 acres in the watershed of **Blue Creek**, another Lower Klamath tributary, for management as a salmon sanctuary by the Yurok Tribe. Conservancy-commissioned studies have helped guide other restoration efforts in the Lower Klamath's watershed and have provided critical information regarding the effects of removing upstream dams on the river that are barriers to historic spawning grounds for salmon.
- The Conservancy supported the resolution of development conflicts in the **Pacific Shores** subdivision near **Lake Earl** with funding to assist in the retirement of some of the 1,500 undeveloped lots within the area's dunes and wetlands.
- The Conservancy supports comprehensive efforts to remove **barriers to fish migration** in Northern California streams. In Del Norte County, projects have included replacement of culverts on **Peacock and Griffin creeks**, tributaries of the Smith River; and on **Yonkers and Jordan creeks**, tributaries of Lake Earl, along with restoration of **Yontocket Slough**, just south of the Smith River estuary. These projects have opened miles of historic spawning and rearing habitat for salmon and trout.



SMITH RIVER

Marilyn M



BEACHFRONT PARK FROM THE GAZEBO ON THE 4TH OF JULY

James LeVaque



PEBBLE BEACH IN CRESCENT CITY

monanashelby



CRESCENT CITY HARBOR

Doug Kerr

“The Coastal Conservancy has been an essential partner in protecting and restoring the precious resources in the northernmost part of California’s coast. Redwoods, salmon, wetlands, and, most recently, the Crescent City Harbor have all benefited from its strategic investments.”

Grant D. Werschull, Executive Director
Smith River Alliance



CASTLE ROCK FROM PEBBLE BEACH, CRESCENT CITY

The Coastal Conservancy is a State agency, established in 1976, that protects and improves natural lands and waterways, helps people get to and enjoy coastal areas, and sustains local economies along California's coast. The Conservancy works along the entire length of the coast, within the watersheds of rivers and streams that extend inland from the coast, and throughout the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The Conservancy is non-regulatory and achieves its goals by joining forces with local communities, nonprofit organizations, other government agencies, businesses, and private landowners.

CONSERVANCY PROJECTS :

- Protect, restore, and improve natural areas and wildlife habitat
- Help people get to and enjoy the outdoors by building hiking and biking trails, acquiring and improving parks and beaches, and creating campgrounds and hostels
- Keep our waterways clean and healthy for people and wildlife
- Help communities revitalize their waterfronts
- Support floodwater management and integrate flood-control projects into the life of a community
- Conserve commercial fisheries, working farmland, and forests.

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