

11. Redwood Community

Coast Redwoods, *Sequoia sempervirens*, can only be found in coastal valleys between Big Sur and Southern Oregon. They are the tallest trees in the world with a record height of 380 feet. This old growth redwood tree you are viewing was named "Eagle Tree" for an eagle's nest it once held. Notice the large branches at the top that are growing out and then up like another tree. These grow from burl wood. These are called reiterated trunks and can house a separate ecosystem of plants and animals that never touch the ground. Some old growth redwoods have as many as 130 mini trees growing from their crowns. Marbled Murrelets fly inland from the sea to nest on the large reiterated trunks of old growth trees.

12. California Bay Tree

(*Umbellularia Californica*) This magnificent specimen arching over the road could probably produce enough bay leaves to flavor a million pots of spaghetti sauce! Find a leaf and smell it. The Native Americans used the leaves to cure headache, toothache or earache, though the smell of the leaves is so strong it could also cause a headache. In addition to being a spice, the bay leaves help repel fleas. The wood (also known as Myrtle wood) is used in fine woodworking and carving.

13. Sharing the Land

The farms you are now passing are on private property adjacent to the State Park. Waddell Valley's rich topsoil has been brought down by the creek and deposited for centuries here in the creek's flood plain. Dry land farmed tomatoes, lettuce, chard and broccoli are just a few of the crops grown on these organic farms.

14. Who Makes These Holes?

Sapsuckers (a woodpecker-like bird) pound away at these English Walnut trees making holes in a dotted line hoping the sap will run and trap insects. The bark is thin and it is easy for the sapsuckers to pound holes. They return to feed on the sticky sap and also the ants that are attracted to it.



15. Grassland Succession

Grasslands are usually kept clear of shrubs by grazing or periodic fires. The Ohlone people would burn the grasslands every year so that more wildflowers could grow and the seeds could be harvested. Later, grazing kept the bushes from growing. Now coyote bush and lupine are reclaiming this land.

Please return the brochure when you are finished with your hike.

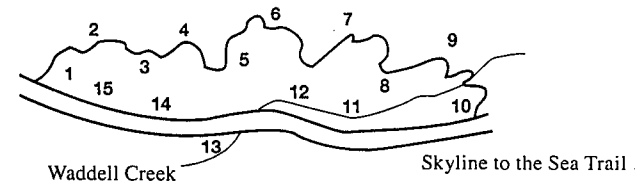
Rancho del Oso 3600 Highway 1
Davenport, CA 95017 For more information
call the park interpreter at (831) 427-2288
www.ranchodeloso.org



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Rancho del Oso 3 Mile Self-Guided Trail Loop



1. Native Monterey Pine Forests are Rare

This area is one of only four areas in the world where Monterey Pines are native. Since they are the fastest growing pine species and adaptable to many climates,

they are grown world wide. Much of New Zealand, Australia and Scotland have been reforested with Monterey Pines.

Many of these trees are dead or dying from a fungal infection called pitch canker. These dead trees are called "snags" and are important because they provide homes to owls and woodpeckers.

2. Coastal Scrub

Coastal scrub is often called "soft chaparral". These plants do not have to be as drought tolerant as inland chaparral plants, as they get moisture from the fog. Bushes, such as coyote

bush, California Sage and Sticky Monkey Flower, share the terrain with California Poppies and Hedge Nettle.



3. Farming History

When Theodore Hoover (brother of President Herbert Hoover) bought this valley in 1912, it had already been farmed for several generations. Vegetables were grown here, cattle and pigs were raised and there was a logging operation. Today his family leases the land to organic farmers who continue to use the unique climate of the valley to grow an abundance of vegetables and fruits.

4. Before Our Eyes This Hillside of Rock is Becoming Soil.

Notice all of the crumbling rock at your feet. This rock is soft and breaks easily. Water and wind take pieces of rock away. Plants take advantage of minerals released and grow into the cracks. As they grow, their roots make more cracks in this outcrop of mudstone and shale.

5. The Coastal View

Cañada de la Salud, Spanish for Canyon of Health, was the first name given to this valley. The explorer Gaspar de Portola arrived here in 1769 during his search for the San Francisco Bay. His crew was ill from scurvy. Imagine the captain asking your opinion on what he might do to heal them from their sickness.

Any guesses on how to heal the crew?*

*They were healed by the vitamin C in blackberries.

6. Poison Oak

Notice the beautiful vines of poison oak climbing these trees to get enough sun. Because of its diverse growth habit poison oak can grow in sunny or shady areas and be a vine, bush or low growing groundcover. Many people confuse poison oak with blackberries. Look for rounded edges on poison oak leaves and small thorns on blackberries. Look, but don't touch!



7. California

Buckeye

These trees grow where there is plenty of seasonal water. To adapt to dry summers they lose their leaves. They produce a shiny dark brown nut that looks like a buck's eye. Native Americans used the tannins from ground up buckeyes to stun fish in streams. With much work, they could leech the poisonous tannins out of the buckeyes and grind them into meal for food.



8. Mr. Waddell and the Bear

In the 1870s this valley was valuable for its lumber. William Waddell was a lumberman. This area was once an open field where the cattle grazed and grizzlies roamed. Mrs. Waddell would sit with a shotgun to ward off bears.



Notice that all of the surrounding fir trees are fairly young. When grazing stopped, succession

happened quickly and trees took over the grasslands.

One day Mr. Waddell and his dog went hunting. His dog ran ahead and then came racing back. Before William had time to react, a grizzly bear had taken hold of his leg. Somehow he managed to escape from that bear, but unfortunately he died 5 days later from the infection in his wounds. Grizzly bears are now gone from California, but the ranch bears the name "Oso" meaning bear in Spanish. The creek and beach bear Mr. Waddell's name.

9. Water's Edge

Fish like the Coho Salmon depend on fresh water to lay their eggs. Deep waters provide a place for big fish to hide and shallow waters with gravel bars provide a place for fish to lay their eggs. Disturbances in the water such as pollution and trash can affect many generations to come.



10. Riparian Community

Alder trees are standing guard holding the creek's banks in place and sheltering the waters from the full strength of the sun. The shade shelters the salmon and steelhead fry as they need cool water to develop. Alder trees thrive on large amounts of water.