

Devon Sacca

Mark Long

3 Page Essay

1 February 2016

For Your Everyday Tree Lover

Muir Woods is a national monument in California. It is one of the most spiritual, and peaceful places I have ever traveled too. Muir Woods consists of redwood trees that can grow up to 260 feet high and 14 feet wide. This beautiful monument has been around for a very long time and will only continue to be around if we continue to take good care of it. The main attraction of Muir Woods are the coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) trees. Most of the redwoods in the monument are between 500 and 800 years old. The oldest is at least 1,200 years old. Due to the monument being so close to the Pacific Ocean, the forest's ecosystem is greatly affected by the moist environment. The fog is also vital for the growth of the redwoods as they use moisture from the fog during the summer. Muir Woods usually has very rainy winters and dry summers, except for the fog that passes through the trees.

Muir Woods was established to honor the memory of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the thirty-first President of the United States. The idea to honor the president at Muir Woods was proposed by the Save-the-Redwoods League, a non-profit conservation organization that is devoted to protecting redwood land. Delegates from all over the

world met to draft and sign the Charter of the United Nations. The delegates held a ceremony in tribute to his memory in Muir Woods Cathedral Grove, where a dedication plaque was placed in his honor. The event took place on May, 19 1945.

Muir Woods is also home to a large number of birds, mammals, and fish. There are about 50 species of birds, which is a low number for this monument due to the lack of insects. The most common bird seen is the Northern Spotted Owl. Many mammals call Muir Woods home as well, ranging from deers to chipmunks alike.

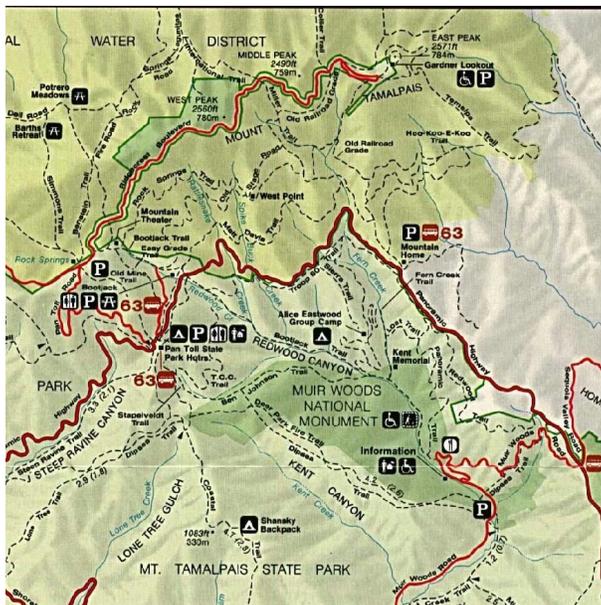
Muir Woods has many hiking trails that vary in distance and in difficulty. The monument has a number of paved walking trails for everyone to experience. Other trails lead to creeks and higher up the mountain as well. Some of the more popular trail names are, Bootjack trail, Ben Johnson trail, Hillside trail, Fern Creek trail, Ocean View trail, and Dipsea trail. The staff at the monument hold different events, including discussions on the watershed, wildflowers, and tidepools. Moonlight walks are also held on nights with a full moon. Muir Woods National Park was declared a national monument in 1908.

I traveled to this monument with my two younger brothers and both my parents. We got to explore some of the more popular trails at the monument. Every tree had a different style and vibe, it was almost as if we were in an enchanted forest.

My favorite part about touring the trails was being able to touch and understand how long these trees have been around for. Muir Woods was one of the most beautiful, peaceful, and calming places I have ever been too. When I simply step foot towards the entrance of the monument I felt a peaceful lure pull me towards the forest. I am

fortunate enough to say that I have not only visited this beautiful monument, but been

able to truly experience all of its spiritual beauty.



Work Cited

United States. National Park Service. "Muir Woods National Monument (U.S. National Park Service)." *National Parks Service*. U.S. Department of the Interior, 22 Jan. 2016. Web. 01 Feb. 2016. <<http://www.nps.gov/muwo/index.htm>>.

"Muir Woods National Park." *Muir Woods National Park Muir Woods National Monument RSS*. N.p., n.d. Web. 01 Feb. 2016. <<http://www.muirwoodsnationalpark.com/>>.

"Muir Woods National Monument." *Calendar RSS*. N.p., n.d. Web. 01 Feb. 2016. <<http://www.parksconservancy.org/visit/park-sites/muir-woods-national-monument.html>>.