



# PUBLIC ACCESS COASTAL BLUFFS, TRAILS & BEACHES

IN SOUTHERN  
MENDOCINO COUNTY

Featuring coastal access sites  
managed for the public by:

**REDWOOD COAST LAND  
CONSERVANCY**

In partnership with  
**California Coastal Commission**  
and

**California State Coastal  
Conservancy**

## REDWOOD COAST LAND CONSERVANCY

RCLC is a local land trust supported by local volunteers and contributors near and far. In partnership with the California State Coastal Conservancy and other funders, the RCLC manages four scenic public access locations between Gualala and Point Arena.

RCLC envisions a protected and restored Mendonoma coast conserved for public enjoyment and appreciation of its natural beauty, abundant diversity of wildlife, and rich cultural history.

RCLC relies on private contributions. To learn more about RCLC projects and events, make an online donation, or check out volunteer opportunities, visit us online at [www.rclc.org](http://www.rclc.org).



Photo by Anne Hanlon

## COASTAL ACCESS IN SOUTHERN MENDOCINO COUNTY



# GUALALA BLUFF TRAIL



## How To Get There:

(Walk-in access only) Park in downtown Gualala and access the trail either through the Surf Motel parking lot directly across from the Chevron Station or from the Hotel Breaker lot directly across from the historic Gualala Hotel.

The Gualala Bluff Trail is a scenic quarter-mile walk in downtown Gualala extending along the bluff at the mouth of the Gualala River.

Seabirds and shorebirds flock to the estuary where they find excellent fishing. River otters are year-round residents, and whales and dolphins moving along the coast can occasionally be spotted in the shallow waters.

Walk above the riverside among native plantings and witness the ever-changing sandbar of the Gualala River mouth and the natural lands of Sonoma County Regional Park just across the river beyond the Mendocino County line.

# COOKS BEACH



Bob Rutemoeller

## How To Get There:

Cooks Beach is located about three miles north of Gualala. Turn west off Highway One at County Road CR526 at mile marker 3.14 and drive a short distance where you can park and walk down the Bonham Trail to the beach.

During the summer, Cooks Beach invites many visitors with its gentle waves, wide crescent beach, and shallow pools. During winter storms, the calm character of the beach is suddenly transformed by turbulent surf and gusting winds.

A bluff top viewing area provides spectacular scenery and the prospect of whale sighting for the passing traveler or local resident. A redwood bench at the bluff offers views of offshore rocks and islands of the California Coastal National Monument.

# HEARN GULCH PRESERVE



Anne Hanlon

## How To Get There:

Located on Highway One about fifteen minutes north of Gualala at mile marker 10, exactly ten miles north of the Mendocino County line. Park at the pullout to walk out to the bluff edge or take the trail down to the beach.

Hearn Gulch provides a panoramic view of the Pacific Ocean and a close-up look at the dramatic sea stacks and crashing waves below. A trail provides access to the small pocket beach at the north end of the bluff. Hearn Gulch Preserve overlooks Saunders Reef State Marine Conservation Area, a Marine Protected Area that conserves a complex and highly productive rocky reef and kelp habitat.

Plans are underway to extend the Preserve northward and build a trail connection to Schooner Gulch State Park.

# MILL BEND RIVER ACCESS



Craig Tobley

## How To Get There:

A short unpaved road at mile marker .02 just north of the bridge leads to the boat launch on the west side of Highway One. The road is closed to vehicles after sunset, but kayaks can still be carried in or out.

Mill Bend, where the Gualala River curves to meet the sea, is the latest conservation project of RCLC, which plans to protect and restore this beautiful site and provide public access to the river.

As the scenic gateway to the Gualala River, the 113-acre Mill Bend property offers riverfront access to wetlands, a coastal redwood forest, and a vital estuary abundant with birds, fish and other wildlife. Limited access to the Mill Bend property is already available on the western side of Highway One near the bridge that crosses the river.

**YES! I want to help RCLC conserve the natural environment on the Mendonoma Coast.**

Here is my contribution in the amount of:

- \$35     \$50     \$100
- \$250     \$500     Other: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to designate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ of my contribution for:

- Campaign to Preserve Mill Bend
- Annual Fund to support RCLC
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*Your gift is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.*

**You may make a gift online on our secure donation page at [www.rclc.org](http://www.rclc.org).**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to know about volunteer opportunities  
(please fill out contact information above)

My check is enclosed (Payable to RCLC.)

Please mail  
to:  
RCLC  
PO Box 1511  
Gualala, CA  
95445