

## Reserve Management

Federal legislation authorizing the Reserve directed that a long-term management plan be completed. The Resource Management Plan, completed June 2004, directs the agencies to “conserve and study the land, fish, wildlife, and forests...while providing public recreation opportunities and other management needs.” The plan addresses requirements for species management, conducting research and monitoring activities, public access, the provision of minimal facilities, and a management budget.

The Headwaters Forest Reserve is set aside to protect ecological and wildlife values, particularly stands of old-growth redwood and Douglas-fir trees. It provides habitat for the marbled murrelet and the northern spotted owl, both birds listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Reserve streams provide habitat for coho and Chinook salmon and steelhead trout also listed as threatened.

Wildlife biologists are using the Reserve to monitor marbled murrelets living in pristine forest habitats. Habitat conditions for spotted owls and other wildlife species are also monitored. Restoration projects are underway to improve forestry and wildlife habitats, including sediment reduction which improves instream conditions for fish species.

The recreation focus is on the development of new trails located on both the north and south ends of the Reserve which are maintained for visitor use.

Camping, horseback riding, motor vehicles, firearm use and hunting are not allowed in order to protect threatened species and to ensure public safety.

## Protect Your Resource

Crows, ravens, and jays are attracted to litter and prey upon the eggs of nesting birds such as the marbled murrelet.

**Please pack out ALL trash, including banana peels, orange peels, and apple cores.**

**Dogs are allowed in Headwaters only on the first 3 miles of the Elk River Trail. They must be on a leash or under voice control at all times.**



Marbled Murrelet

## For Further Information

### Bureau of Land Management

#### Arcata Field Office

1695 Heindon Road

Arcata, CA 95521

707-825-2300

[www.blm.gov/ca/arcata](http://www.blm.gov/ca/arcata)

### California Department of Fish & Game

619 Second Street

Eureka, CA 95501

707-445-6493

# Headwaters Forest Reserve

BLM



## Welcome to Headwaters Forest Reserve

The 7,474-acre Reserve is managed for the public by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the California Department of Fish and Game. The Humboldt County land was acquired for public ownership on March 1, 1999 from private owners.



South Fork Elk River

## Visiting Headwaters

To get to the north end of the Reserve along the Elk River take the Elk River Road exit off Highway 101, at the south end of Eureka. Turn right onto Elk River Road and drive approximately six miles to the Reserve parking area.

The Elk River trailhead (north end) is open all year. Parking is available at the trailhead parking lot.

The Salmon Pass trailhead (south end) is open for guided hikes from May 15 through November 15. For reservations and driving instructions contact the BLM Arcata Field Office at (707) 825-2300.

# Trail Information

## Elk River Trail

The first 3 miles follow a narrow stream corridor of public land that parallels the South Fork Elk River. The first mile is paved and accessible for those with limited mobility. Bicycles and dogs (under owner's control) are allowed on the first 3 miles. The last 2 1/2 miles wind beneath a closed tree canopy, ending at a small old-growth redwood grove. Please stay on the trail to avoid trespassing and to protect the area's natural resources.

**Distance:** It is 5 miles to old-growth and 1/2 mile through the old-growth loop, for a total 11-mile round trip.

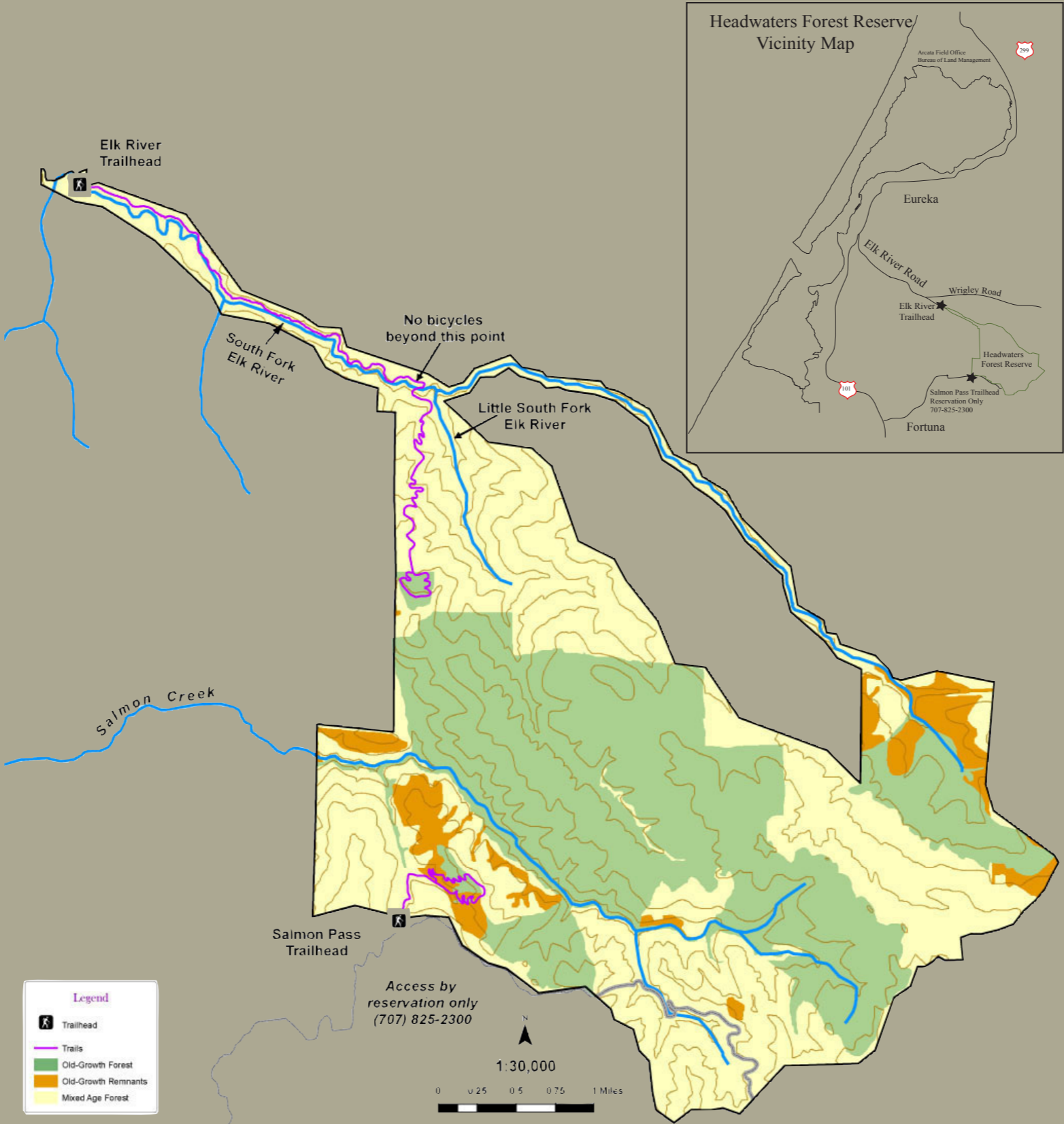
**Difficulty:** The first 3 miles traverse moderate terrain adjacent to the river. The remaining 2 1/2 miles are moderately strenuous. Plan 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 hours for the first 3 miles and 2 to 2 1/2 hours for the last 2 1/2 miles.

## Salmon Pass Trail

The first 1/2 mile passes through a young to mid-aged forest with views of restored watershed areas. The next 2 miles ascend through the old-growth redwood forest with a view across Salmon Creek to the largest stand of Douglas-fir within the Reserve. The trail then loops back as it descends through the old-growth.

**Distance:** Approximately 2 1/2 miles round trip.

**Difficulty:** This hike is considered moderately strenuous and takes 3 to 4 hours.



Old-Growth Loop, Elk River Trail



Northern Spotted Owl



Black Bear Paw Track