

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE SMITH RIVER NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, CALIFORNIA

LOCATION: The Smith River National Recreation Area is located in the extreme northwestern corner of California. The NRA covers some 447 square miles in the watershed of the Smith River, entirely within the Six Rivers National Forest. The Park HQ is situated in Gasquet, on US-199, the Smith River National Scenic Byway. Elevations at the HQ are around 385 feet above sea level, but the surrounding Siskiyou Mountains rise up to several thousand feet higher. The NRA adjoins both the Siskiyou Mountains Wilderness across the divide in Klamath National Forest, and Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, downstream on the river. The Smith River is a National Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:32	10:34	11:55	13:19	14:32	15:10	14:54	13:52	12:32	11:08	9:53	9:13
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	3:51	5:00	6:58	8:42	9:05	10:21	9:24	8:13	7:51	6:20	4:37	3:38
AREA OF BLUE SKY	26%	27%	32%	35%	35%	41%	42%	40%	46%	42%	31%	29%
LOW FOR MONTH	28°	28°	28°	30°	34°	38°	43°	43°	38°	33°	30°	28°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	39°	40°	40°	42°	45°	48°	50°	50°	48°	45°	43°	39°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	53°	55°	57°	60°	61°	65°	67°	67°	68°	65°	59°	54°
HIGH FOR MONTH	66°	69°	71°	75°	78°	80°	78°	80°	86°	86°	72°	66°
FROSTY MORNINGS	29%	25%	19%	13%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	13%	26%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	67%	67%	63%	59%	59%	60%	60%	64%	60%	64%	67%	71%
DRY DAYS	48%	46%	52%	63%	74%	87%	97%	97%	83%	77%	60%	52%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	48%	47%	57%	74%	82%	92%	99%	98%	90%	81%	62%	53%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	2.08	2.08	1.57	1.00	0.66	0.29	0.05	0.06	0.36	0.87	1.75	1.98
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	3%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%	2%	2%	2%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	9%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	15%	20%	22%	20%	13%	11%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 56% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 40% in December and January, to a high of 68% in June. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 26° at some clear and calm winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 88° on some summer afternoon. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be a bit cooler than actual ones, because of the combination of temperature and humidity. A foggy day in the table is one in which—at some time of day—an object a half-mile away is invisible due to the fog. Anything more transparent than that is considered merely haze or mist. Local sunshine, temperatures, and humidity vary from site to site, depending upon how much fog and low cloud that particular site gets. This, in turn, is dependent upon distance from the sea, elevation, and peculiarities of local topography. This fog moves in from the Pacific and up the river valley at night, and usually (but not always) burns off about noon of the next day. The higher slopes may be above the fog belt, but the redwoods themselves are rarely found far from fog. Warm clothing is useful even during the summer.