



United States Department of Agriculture

Lassen National Forest Visitor Guide 2022



USDA Photo by Ariel French: Lake Almanor - Lassen National Forest, Almanor Ranger District.

Welcome

The Lassen National Forest is one of 155 national forests across the United States and one of 18 national forests in California. Covering 1.2 million acres, it lies at the crossroads of the Modoc Plateau, the Great Basin, the Cascade Range, and the Sierra Nevada Mountains in northeast California. The Lassen National Forest is a tremendous public asset that provides a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities to forest visitors.

Enjoy relaxing and camping at our many campgrounds, fishing at Lake Almanor, Eagle Lake, and Hat Creek, or hiking the Pacific Crest Trail. You are sure to find that perfect activity that will leave you wanting more.

We invite you to explore the Lassen National Forest and discover the abundant adventures that await you.

Supervisor's Office:

2550 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 257-2151 TDD: (530) 257-6244

Hat Creek Ranger District:

43225 Hwy 299E, PO Box 220
Fall River Mills, CA. 96028
(530) 336-5521

Eagle Lake Ranger District:

477-050 Eagle Lake Road
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 257-4188

Almanor Ranger District:

900 E. Hwy 36, PO Box 767
Chester, CA 96020
(530) 258-2141 (voice/TDD)



The Lassen National Forest has been an eyewitness to history. From the first native hunter to follow big game through the area 12,000 years ago to the construction of a NASA-designed lookout tower in the 20th century, new people and new technologies have always been a part of the forest landscape. Native peoples have called this area home for more than ten millennia, and their descendants still live, work, and carry on cultural traditions in forest communities. Euro-American explorers and emigrants came to the forest during the 1800s on foot, horseback, or driving ox carts laden with the possessions of their life's work. They settled in this country and scratched out a living farming, ranching, and harvesting timber. President Teddy Roosevelt officially



recognized the Lassen National Forest as part of a "forest reserve" system in the West in 1905. It formally became a "national forest" in 1908. People from all over the world continue to come to the forest to recreate on the ancient landscapes and in doing so, walk, hike, and bike the paths of history.

Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region



Major Recreation Areas

Hat Creek

In the shadow of Lassen Peak, six campgrounds and four picnic areas are nestled along 10 miles of Hat Creek. There are opportunities for fishing, hiking, camping, picnicking, and viewing wildlife. Hat Creek also has lava tubes, massive lava flows, and spattercones that reveal an exciting volcanic past.



Lake Almanor

In a scenic mountain setting, Lake Almanor is one of the largest human-made lakes in California at 75 square miles. It offers opportunities for fishing, boating, water skiing, swimming, camping, and picnicking. The 11 mile Lake Almanor Recreation Trail winds along the west side of Almanor, providing views of the lake, mountains, wildflowers, and wildlife. Family and group campgrounds, boat launch facilities, and private marinas are available.



Eagle Lake

The second largest natural lake in California, Eagle Lake is popular for its camping, fishing, picnicking, and boating activities. Family and group campgrounds, naturalist activities, marina, boat launch facilities, a store, a laundry area, and showers are available. The Eagle Lake Recreation Trail, 5 miles long and 10 foot wide, is ideal for bicycles or a pleasant stroll. Eagle Lake is famed for its trophy trout.



CAMPGROUND INFORMATION

Developed Campsites

Lassen National Forest operates the recreation facilities at Almanor and Hat Creek Ranger Districts. Eagle Lake Recreation Area, which includes the marina, campgrounds, and day-use facilities, are operated by the Lassen College Foundation under a special use permit with the Lassen National Forest.

All campgrounds have fire rings, tables, and restroom facilities. Most developed campgrounds have a “host,” a resident camper who can provide campsite information, monitor campground use, and contact Forest officers in the event of problems.

Reservations

Most Forest campgrounds are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Some have sites or group area for reservation. Reservations for these campgrounds can be made Online at www.recreation.gov or by calling toll free: Phone: 877-444-6777 TDD: 877-833-6777

Accessible Fishing and Camping

Lassen National Forest offers a number of recreational facilities designed with accessibility in mind. Accessible fishing areas are located at the Gallatin Marina and along the breakwater at the Marina. Due to current lake levels, the shoreline has limited access from the campgrounds or the Christie Day Use area.

Accessible campsites are available at the Christie, Eagle, Merrill, Almanor and Legacy campgrounds.

Lassen National Forest partners with the Bureau of Land Management in maintaining The Bizz Johnson Trail that winds 25.4 miles through the Susan River Canyon from the Susanville Railroad Depot to Mason Station north of Westwood, CA. Hiking, jogging, mountain biking and horseback riding are activities to be enjoyed on the trail.

Hat Creek Ranger District Developed Campsites

Bridge: On Highway 89. Fee, elevation 4000', 25 sites, no drinking water available. Season: late April - October.

Big Pine: On Highway 89. Fee, elevation 4500', 19 sites, hand-pumped water. Season: May - October.

Cave: On Highway 89. Fee, elevation 4300', 46 sites, water. Season: late April - October. 16 sites open all year.

Hat Creek (Hat): On Highway 89. Fee, elevation 4300', 75 sites, water. Season: late April - October.

Hat Creek Group: On Highway 89. Fee, elevation 4300', 3 group sites, water, **reservation required**. Season: late April - October.

Rocky: On Highway 89. Fee, elevation 4000', 8 sites, no drinking water available. Season: late April - October.

Honn: On Highway 89. Fee, elevation 3500', 6 sites, no drinking water available. Season: late April - October.

The Old Station Visitor Information Center

Open five days a week, April through December.

Thursday - Monday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Closed: Tuesday & Wednesday

The friendly staff is ready to provide information on sightseeing, fishing, hiking, and camping opportunities in Lassen National Forest and the surrounding areas.

Flashlights are available to rent for a small fee for your tour of Subway Cave.

Call the Hat Creek Ranger District at (530) 336-5521 for more information.



Old Station Visitor Information Center - Old Station, CA

Almanor Ranger District Developed Campsites



Alder Creek: On Highway 32. Fee, elevation 3900', 6 sites, no drinking water available. Season: late April - early September weather permitting.

Almanor: On Lake Almanor. Fee, elevation 4550', 103 sites, reservations available on 19 sites, an accessible restroom at Almanor North, piped water. Season: May 1 - early Sept., weather permitting.

Almanor Group: On Highway 89. Fee, elevation 4550', **reservations required**. Season: May 1 - late Sept., weather permitting.

Almanor Legacy: On the west side of Lake Almanor. Fee, elevation 4500', 14 sites, RVs welcome, water and electric at each site but no sewer hookups. Season: May - October, weather permitting.

Battle Creek: On Highway 36. Fee, elevation 4800', 50 sites, piped water. Season: late April - October, weather permitting.

Black Rock: On Ponderosa Way. **No fee**, elevation 2100', 6 sites, stream water. Season: all year, weather permitting. The road not maintained November - May.

Butte Meadows: On Humboldt Road. Fee, elevation 4600', 13 sites, piped water. Season: late April - mid October, weather permitting.

Cherry Hill: On Humboldt Road. Fee, elevation 4700', 26 sites, hand-pumped water. Season: late April - late Sept., weather permitting.

Domingo Springs: On Feather River Drive. Fee, elevation 5060', 18 sites, piped water. Season: late May - October, weather permitting.

Elam: On Highway 32. Fee, elevation 4400', 15 sites, hand-pumped water. Season: late April - late October, weather permitting.

Gurnsey: On Highway 36. Fee, elevation 4700', 52 sites, piped water. Season: May 1 - early Sept., weather permitting.

Gurnsey Group: On Highway 36. Fee, elevation 4700', piped water, **reservations required**. Season: May 1 - early Sept., weather permitting.

High Bridge: On Feather River Drive. Fee, elevation 5200', 12 sites, hand-pumped water. Season: late May - September weather permitting.

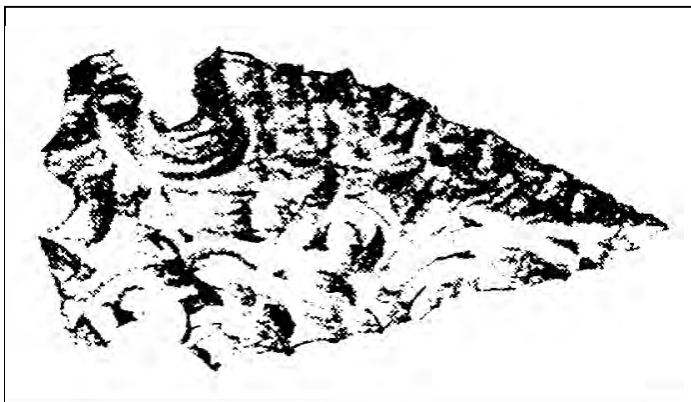
Hole-in-the-Ground: Off Highway 172. Fee, elevation 4300', 13 spaces, piped water. Season: late April - early October, weather permitting

Potato Patch: On Highway 32. Fee, elevation 3400', 32 sites, piped water. Season: April - early October, weather permitting.

Rocky Knoll: At Silver Lake. Fee, elevation 6000', 18 sites, hand-pumped water. Season: late May - late Sept., weather permitting.

Silver Bowl: At Silver Lake. Fee, elevation 6000', 18 sites, hand-pumped water. Season: late May - late Sept., weather permitting.

Soldier Meadows: Off Plumas County Road 308. Fee, elevation 4890', site numbers vary, no drinking water available. Season: late May- October, weather permitting.



The rich history of the Lassen National Forest is captured in the remnants and ruins left by past peoples for more than 12,000 years.

Archaeological sites and artifacts are protected by law. Look, but please do not disturb or remove traces of Lassen's past.

In the Lassen National Forest Heritage Program, visitors and volunteers to work side by side with professional archaeologists and historians to document, research, and preserve its past. Please contact the local Forest Service office for more information.

Remember...
*the past belongs to the future,
but only the present can protect it.*

Eagle Lake Ranger District Developed Campsites

Aspen Grove: At the south end of Eagle Lake. Fee, elevation 5100', 26 sites, tents-only campground, piped water. Season: May - September. Reservations beginning May 15.

Bogard: Off Highway 44. **No Fee**, elevation 5600', 13 sites, including 4 with facilities for equestrian use. Maximum trailer length 25'. Season: May - October.

Butte Creek: Off Highway 44. **No fee**, elevation 5600', 10 sites, unimproved campsites; no drinking water available. Season: May - October.

Crater Lake: Off Highway 44. Seven miles of steep, rough road to campground, motor homes and large trailers not recommended. Fee, elevation 6800', 16 sites, hand-pumped water, no gas motors on boats. Season: June - October.

Christie: At the south end of Eagle Lake. Fee, elevation 5100', 69 sites, accessible facilities, piped water, some pull-through sites for large equipment (check with campground host). Season: May - September. Reservations beginning May 15.

Eagle: At the south end of Eagle Lake. Fee, elevation 5100', 50 sites, accessible facilities, piped water. Season: May - October. Reservations beginning May 15.

Goumaz: Off Highway 36 or 44. **No Fee**, elevation 5200', 5 sites, unimproved campsites for small equipment, drinking water available. Season: May - October.

Merrill: At the south end of Eagle Lake. Fee, elevation 5100', 173 sites with full and partial hook-ups, longer spurs, dump station. Season: May - October. Reservations beginning May 15.

Roxie Peconom: Off Highway 36. **No fee**, elevation 4800', 10 tent sites, park in the lot and walk into campsites, hand-pumped water. Season: May - October.

West Eagle Group #1: At the south end of Eagle Lake. Fee, elevation 5100', maximum of 100 people, parking lot available, piped water. **Reservations only**. Season: May - October.

West Eagle Group #2: At the south end of Eagle Lake. Fee, elevation 5100', maximum of 75 people, parking lot available, piped water. **Reservations only**. Season: May - October.

Outdoor Safety Tips

The most effective way to prevent mishaps is to adequately prepare for a trip. Knowledge of the area, weather, terrain, limitations of your body, plus a little bit of common sense can help ensure a safe and enjoyable trip.

Be in good physical condition. Set a comfortable pace as you hike. If your trip will be strenuous, get into good physical condition before setting out. If you plan to climb or travel to high elevations, make plans for proper acclimatization to the elevation.

Check your equipment. Keep your equipment in good working order. Inspect it before your trip.

Think before you drink! Pack your water in or purify through chemical treatment.

Be weather wise. Keep an eye on current and predicted weather conditions.

Wear appropriate clothing. Think of the trail conditions and the season. Dress in layers as conditions change.

Travel with a companion. You don't want to be by yourself in case of an emergency.

Learn basic first aid. Know how to identify and treat injuries and illnesses.

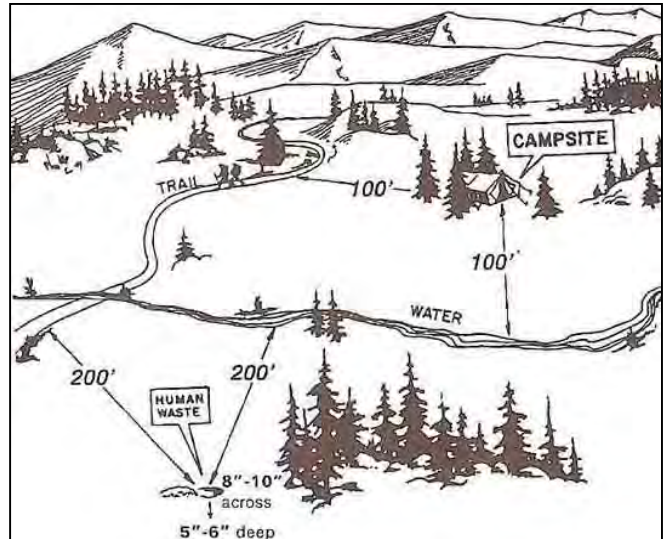
Think about your footing. Stay on developed trails or dry, solid, rock areas with good footing.

Be alert for slippery areas. Take your time to avoid tripping. Alcohol and cliffs don't mix! If you drink, stay away from the cliffs. Judgment, agility, and balance are all reduced by alcohol consumption.

Make camp before dark. Traveling after darkness has resulted in many accidents from falls, so travel only during daylight.



Leave No Trace



Please follow these principles when visiting the Lassen National Forest:

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors

Thank you for keeping our public lands a resource for generations to come! For more information, please visit [About the Forest](http://www.lnt.org) on the Lassen National Forest Website or the Leave No Trace organization at <http://www.lnt.org>.

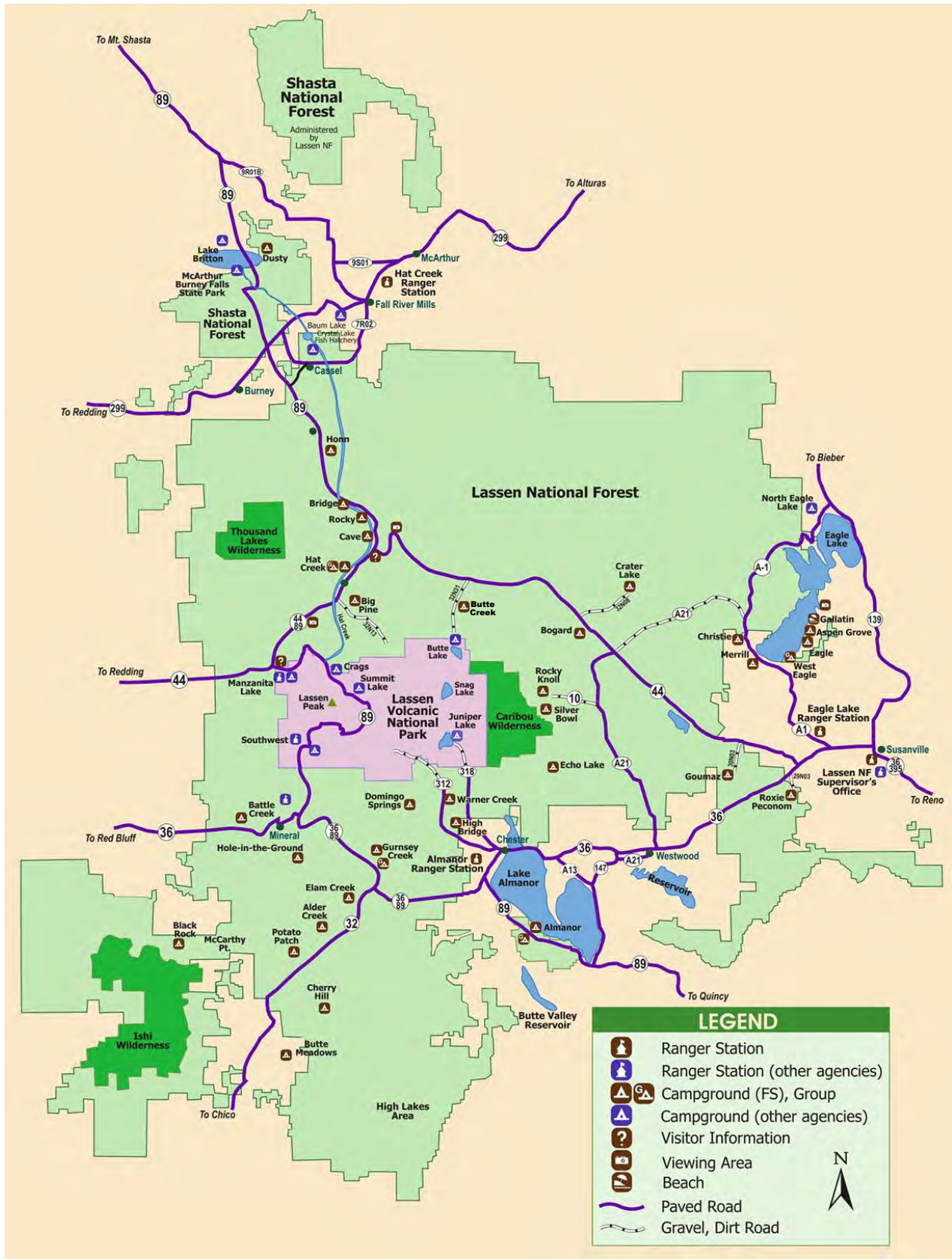
Campfire Safety

Obtain a California Campfire Permit in person from any Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Cal Fire office **before** heading into the Forest, or at <http://www.preventwildfireca.org>.

When building your fire, clear all flammable material away from the fire area for a **minimum of 5 feet** in all directions. Select a **level spot** a safe distance away from trees, overhead branches, bushes, dry grass or logs to prevent an escape of the fire.

Have a **responsible person** in attendance at all times. Have a **shovel available** at the campfire site for preparing and extinguishing campfires.

Extinguish campfires with water, using the “**drown, stir, and feel**” method.



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