

# Volunteer Wilderness Ranger

Trinity Alps Wilderness • Big Bar & Weaverville Ranger Stations  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest



## The Trinity Alps... a very special place

**The area...** It is no coincidence that this portion of the Klamath Mountains is likened to and named after the famous Alps of Europe. The rugged granite peaks and ridges, permanent ice fields, pristine high mountain lakes and fragile meadows do indeed create a true alpine setting. In the Trinity Alps can be found around one hundred remote lakes and more than fifty peaks over 7,000' with the highest being 9,002' Thompson Peak. Other statistics are equally impressive. With over 585,000 acres it is the second largest wilderness in California, and among the ten largest in the United States. The Trinity Alps Wilderness occupies lands of three National Forests: the Shasta-Trinity with 400,000 acres, the Klamath with 160,000 acres, and the Six Rivers with 25,000 acres. Access is by way of eighty one trailheads which lead to a total network of over 600 miles of trails.

**The history...** During the Gold Rush, thousands of prospectors and miners poured into Northern California. Many of them wound up in the area we now call the Trinity Alps, where gold deposits rivaled those of the famed "Klondike" in Alaska and Canada. Evidence of all that mining activity, extending from the 1850s through to the 1940s, is everywhere in these mountains. Gold wasn't the only attraction however... Recognizing the area's unusual natural beauty, the Forest Service set this area aside as the Salmon-Trinity Alps Primitive Area in 1932 thus halting further development. It remained a primitive area for 52 years until finally, in the California Wil-

derness Act of 1984, Congress made it an official National Wilderness. Future history will show the present era as that during which the use of the Trinity Alps experienced a dramatic increase. The number of visitors has more than quadrupled over the past twenty years.

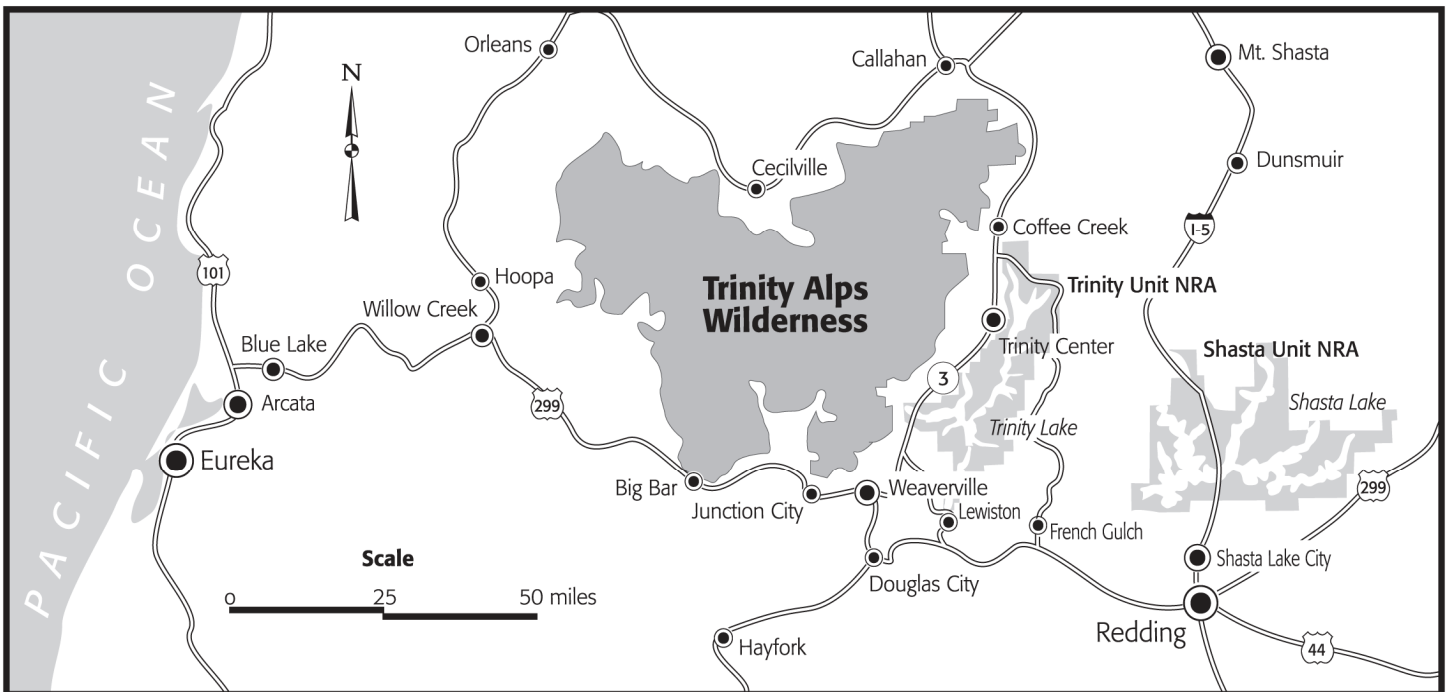
**Wilderness management...** Overall management direction for the Trinity Alps comes from the original policies which had already been an integral part of the Forest Service's management practices for those decades prior to 1964 during which the Forest Service set aside and managed many wilderness and primitive areas. Based on the 1954 Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, in 1966, issued regulations covering the management of those National Forest Lands which were part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. These regulations direct the Forest Service to manage wilderness resources; "To promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, to restore wilderness character of the land and its specific values of solitude, physical and mental challenge, scientific study, inspiration, and primitive recreation." Toward that end the Shasta-Trinity National Forest maintains a wilderness management program carried out to a late degree by the men and women who serve as Wilderness Rangers. It is their responsibility to accomplish most of the on-the-ground implementation of the acts, regulations and guidelines.

**The volunteer program...** With ever shrinking federal budgets, it is becoming more and more difficult to staff the wilderness management program with paid employees. To ensure that wilderness areas get the attention they need, the Forest Service is looking for dedicated people who are willing and able to volunteer one or more summers to serve as a Wilderness Ranger. Such volunteers receive no salary but do get a daily subsistence allowance and a uniform. The work typically consists of eight day backpacking tours into the Wilderness. The six days off between tours give you a chance to enjoy historic Weaverville, the Wild and Scenic Trinity River and Trinity and Lewiston Lakes. While on tour in the Wilderness, tasks include litter pick-up, campsite rehabilitation, use and condition surveys, site classification, minor trail maintenance, and constant public contact spreading the message of good

wilderness ethics. Wilderness rangers are also asked, on occasion, to assist the Sheriff's Department on search and rescue missions.

In addition to giving the satisfaction of helping to protect wilderness values, volunteering is an excellent way to learn about the Forest Service and its mission and to establish good job references. Anyone interested in joining this elite Volunteer Wilderness Ranger effort should contact:

US Forest Service  
 Weaverville Ranger Station  
 P.O. Box 1190  
 Weaverville, CA 96093  
 Attn: Jim Holmes or Mike McFadin  
 (530) 623-2121  
 711 (TTY)



**VICINITY MAP**  
 Trinity Alps Wilderness

**All Are Welcome**

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