

LASSEN

National Forest



Backcountry Discovery Trail

GUIDE

Get Ready to Explore!

Drive 187 miles of unparalleled beauty.

Discover a geological playground.

Hike to alpine snowfields.

Relax at quiet lakes while raptors soar overhead.

Trace the footsteps of Gold Rush emigrants.

Discover the heritage of northern California.

Welcome to the Lassen National Forest Backcountry Discovery Trail!

Know Before You Go

The Lassen Backcountry Discovery Trail was established to invite exploration of the remote areas of the Lassen backcountry. The Trail generally follows gravel and dirt roads and is intended for high clearance street-legal vehicles. Expect rough road conditions and slow travel through remote country. Be prepared for downed trees or rocks on the road. Much of the route is under snow in the winter and early spring. There are no restaurants, grocery stores, or gas stations along the main route and cell phone coverage is intermittent.



Volcanic views

Stay Current

Off-road motor vehicle travel is prohibited in the Lassen National Forest; please stay on designated routes. Call any forest office for updated road condition and project work information that may affect your travel plans. Periodic updates to the Trail maps in this Guide may occur to reflect changes in vehicle use or other revisions. Map updates and other Lassen Backcountry Discovery Trail information may be found at: www.fs.fed.us/r5/lassen/

Your Planning Checklist

- ✓ Lassen National Forest Visitor Map
- ✓ Adequate food, water, and fuel
- ✓ Friends to share the fun, and assist in an emergency
- ✓ Insect repellent and first-aid kit
- ✓ Know how to identify poison oak
- ✓ Toilet paper and shovel to bury human waste
- ✓ GPS unit, binoculars, and camera
- ✓ Campfire permit if you plan to use a fire, barbecue, or camp stove (available for free at most Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Forestry/Fire Protection offices or fire stations). Check for fire restrictions.



treadlightly!®



Travel only where permitted
Respect the rights of others
Educate yourself
Avoid streams, meadows, and wildlife
Drive and travel responsibly

**It's your key to
continued access
to public lands.**

*Want to camp?
Need gas or supplies?
See pages 58-59 for a listing of
services near the Lassen Backcountry Discovery Trail.*

This Guide has five color coded maps to help you navigate from south to north. However, you should also purchase the Lassen National Forest Visitor Map (at any forest office) that shows the main route along with other intersecting roads.

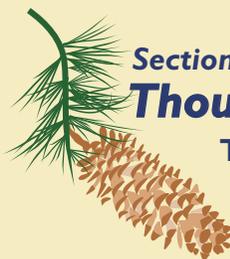


Lassen Backcountry Discovery Trail markers are posted along the main route to help with wayfinding. Also, look for Discovery Points on the maps and corresponding text in the Guide. Discovery Points are places to explore, relax, learn, or to just enjoy the view.

Section 5, Pages 48 ~ 57
From Valley to Valley
 Emigration in Earnest



Section 4, Pages 40 ~ 47
Thousand Lakes
 The Wild Woods



Section 3, Pages 32 ~ 39
The Crossroads
 An Evolving Landscape



**Lassen Backcountry
 Discovery Trail**

-  **Primary Route**
-  **Side trip to Discovery Point**
-  **Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway**
-  **State Highway**

Section 2, Pages 18 ~ 31
Land of Ishi
 Guide of the
 Yahi Yana Indians



Section 1, Pages 8 ~ 17
Sierra Nevada
 A Gathering
 of Forces





Navigating the Trail

Traveling the entire 186.1 miles will take 4-5 days. There are five sections; each begins at Mile 0.0 and subsequent mileages are noted at key intersections and Discovery Points. Estimated driving times include periodic stops for exploration.

Sections are described starting at the south end of the route and traveling north, and include the paved links of the trail. If your odometer begins to differ from the numbers listed, reset it to stay close to the recorded distances.

Section 1: Sierra Nevada – A Gathering of Forces

Driving Time: 6 hours

Begin: Mile 0.0 - Plumas/Lassen NF boundary, FS Road 26N49

End: Mile 37.0 - SR 32/FS Road 27N06

Section 2: Land of Ishi – Guide of the Yahi Yani Indians

Driving Time: 8 hours

Begin: 0.0 - SR 32/FS Road 27N0

End: Mile 59.4 - SR 36/Tehama County 232A

Section 3: The Crossroads – Land of Transformation

Driving Time: 4.5 hours

Begin: Mile 0.0 - SR 36/31N17

End: Mile 21.9 - SR 44/FS Road
31N17 (FS Road 17)

Section 4: Thousand Lakes – The Wild Woods

Driving Time: 6 hours

Begin: Mile 0.0 - SR 44/FS Road 32N17 (FS Road 17)

End: Mile 40.7 - SR 89/FS Road 34N19 (FS Road 26)

Section 5: From Valley to Valley – Emigration in Earnest

Driving Time: 3 hours

Begin: Mile 0.0 - SR 89/Shasta County 6R200 (Doty Road)

End: Mile 27.1 - FS Road 22/Lassen County 404 (Little Valley)



Antelope Creek

For More Information

Call or visit any of these offices for current road condition information, or to purchase a Lassen National Forest Visitor Map:



Lassen Peak from the Peligreen OHV Trail

Lassen National Forest

2550 Riverside Dr.
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 257-2151
www.fs.fed.us/r5/lassen/

Almanor Ranger District

PO Box 767
Chester, CA 96020
(530) 258-2141

Eagle Lake Ranger District

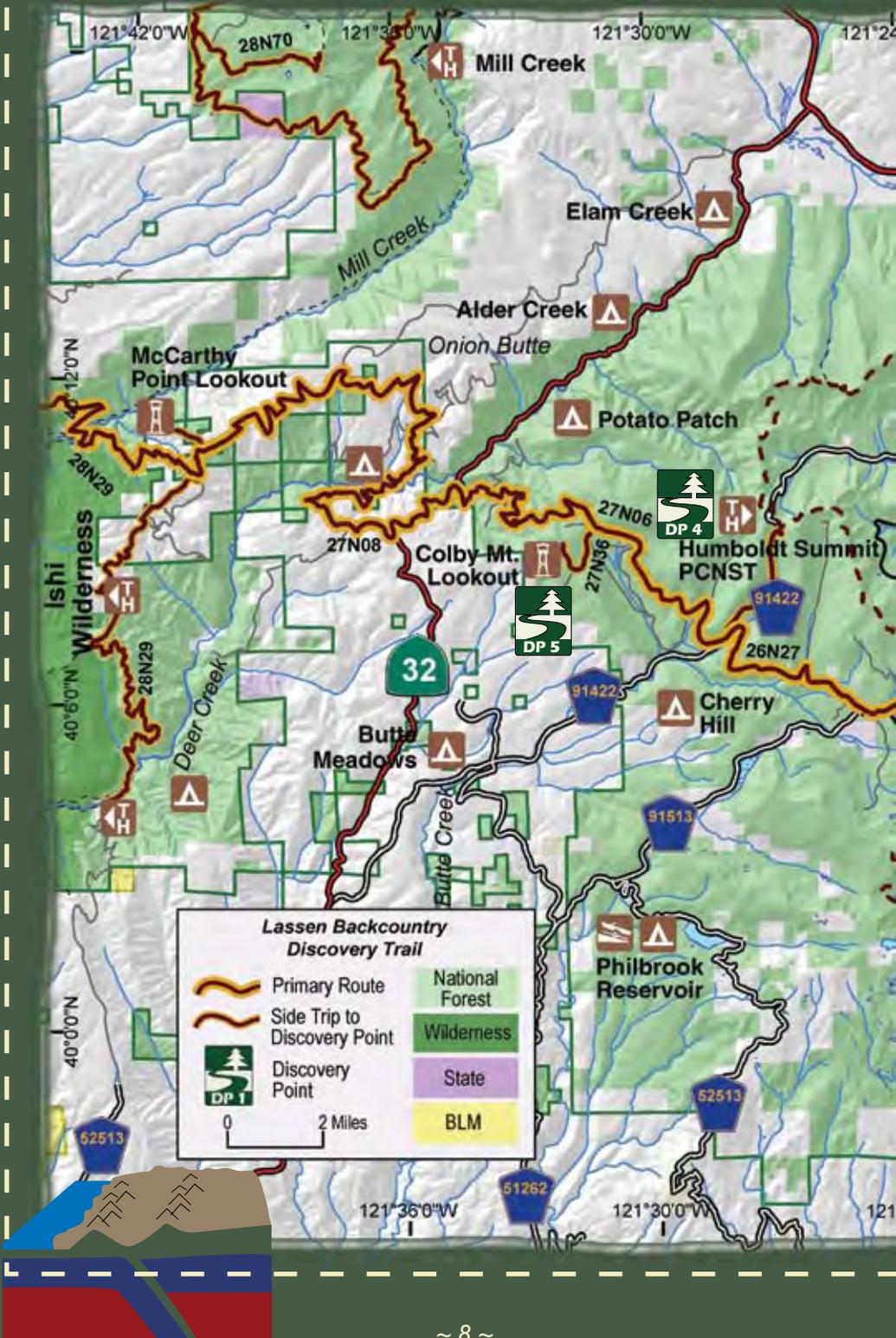
477-050 Eagle Lake Road
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 257-4188

Hat Creek Ranger District

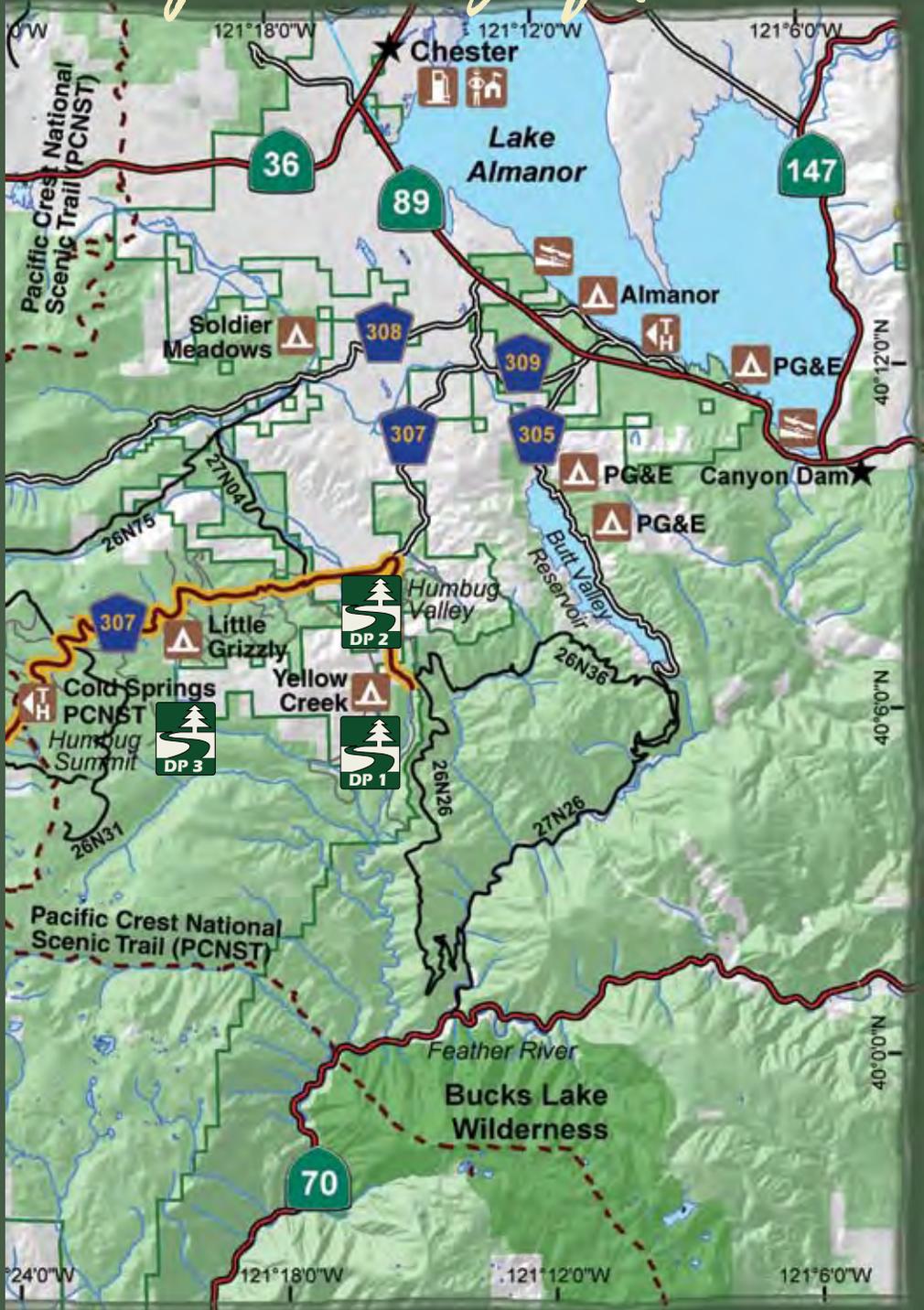
PO Box 220
Fall River Mills, CA 96028
(530) 336-5521



Sierra Nevada



A Gathering of Forces



Sierra Nevada

A Gathering of Forces



Section I

Discovery Points 1-5

Distance - 37.0 miles

*Crashing continents and exploding volcanoes, mountains growing and eroding. Deep turbulences within the earth have generated forces at the western edge of the North American continent over the last 200 million years, strong enough to bring a mountain range into being. **Welcome to the Sierra Nevada!***

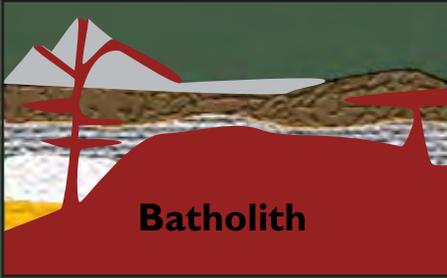
Reading Earth's Forms

Sierra Nevada geology is perfectly revealed in the first 37 miles of the Lassen Backcountry Discovery

Trail. Running 250 miles long and 50 miles wide, the range tilts up along its eastern edge, exposing its history in huge granite boulders. Look for mica, quartz, and feldspar soils – remnants of granite that have succumbed to ages of weather.

Look also for evidence of the vast inland sea that once weighed heavily on this part of the earth's crust. You'll see clues in plant and animal fossils, pushed upward by molten magma as it slowly cooled beneath the earth's surface.





Once cooled, this magma became a mass of rock called a **batholith**, and extends hundreds of miles deep.

Another clue to the Sierra Nevada's geologic history is the occurrence of unusual plant species on the east sides of Yellow and Grizzly Creeks, many

of which are on the Forest Service's Sensitive Plant list. These plants can live here courtesy of **rare serpentine soils**. Serpentine soils originated as muddy ooze in the Pacific Ocean that got scraped off the oceanic plate when it was forced over the continental plates.

Serpentine soil plant species in this area

- ☞ *Cut-leaved ragwort (Packeria eurycephala var. lewisrosei)*
- ☞ *Feather River stonecrop (Sedum albomarginatum)*
- ☞ *Constance's rock cress (Arabis constancei)*
- ☞ *Follett's monardella (Monardella folletti).*



Cut-leaved ragwort

These plants receive special emphasis by land managers to ensure their conservation.

As you travel the Lassen Backcountry Discovery Trail, look for more signs of the earth's inner muscle and clout underlying the splendor of the mountains.



Mile 0.0

Lat/Long 40° 6' 44"N, 121° 14' 6"W

To reach the beginning of the Lassen Backcountry Discovery Trail, travel SR 89 along Lake Almanor. Turn west on Plumas County 308 for 0.6 miles, then left on Plumas County 307 for 6.4 miles. You are now at Mile 3.7 on the primary route and may wish to start your travels here.





To reach Mile 0.0, turn left on FS Road 26N26 and go 3.1 miles to FS Road 26N49 (not shown on map). Turn left and drive to Mile 0.0 at the boundary between the Lassen and Plumas National Forests. The Lassen Backcountry Discovery Trail begins here!



Yellow Creek ~
California Wild
Trout Stream



Mile 0.7
Lat/Long 40° 6' 32"N,
121° 14' 12"W

Thanks to a partnership among Pacific Gas and Electric, California Department of Fish and Game, and the Forest Service, the lower 12 miles of Yellow Creek have been restored and established as a state

wild trout stream and a trophy brown trout fishery. For regulations and maps, contact the California Department of Fish and Game.

Why not spend the night at Yellow Creek Campground? This 12-unit campground is operated by Pacific Gas and Electric and has restrooms and potable water.



Humbug
Valley



Mile 3.3
Lat/Long 40° 08' 31"N,
121° 14' 39"W

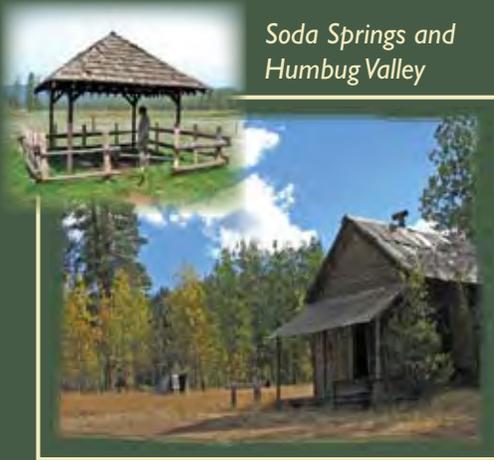
Long before the arrival of Euro-Americans, the Humbug Valley and Soda Springs were used by the Maidu Indians for ceremonial purposes. The Maidu people still live and work in the northern Sierra Nevada and foothill regions.



Yellow Creek

Settlers, miners, and homesteaders arrived in the late 1840s, but only a few families wintered in the valley. That changed after the Humbug Valley Wagon Road was built in the early 1850s to link Big Meadows (now Lake Almanor) with Oroville. By 1854, an estimated 3,300 people and 83,000 head of livestock had traveled the road. It was later used

by gold seekers in the late 1850s traveling from California to the Idaho gold fields.



Soda Springs and Humbug Valley

left. There is no restroom or potable water.



Mile 15.0

This is Humbug Summit, the end of Plumas County 307 and the beginning of Butte County 91513. The primary route continues on Plumas County 91513. Turn right on FS Road 26N27.



Penstemon (*Penstemon speciosus*)



Mile 3.7

Turn left on Plumas County 307



Mile 5.6

At this intersection, FS Road 27N04 is to your right and FS Road 26N08 to your left. Continue straight on the graveled Plumas County 307.



Mile 5.7

You're at the intersection with FS Road 27N37. Stay right and continue climbing the hill on Plumas County 307.



Mile 9.4

Little Grizzly Campground access on FS Road 26N32 is on the



Mile 15.5

Lat/Long 40° 06' 04"N, 121° 23' 13"W

Here is one of the many points on the Lassen National Forest where you can access the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, a 2,650-mile nationally designated route connecting Mexico to Canada. Motorized and mechanized vehicles are prohibited.



Take a look at the green lichen on the fir tree trunks. It stops growing at about six feet – the average level of the winter snow pack!



Mile 21.9

Turn left onto Butte County 91422 (paved) to follow the main Lassen Backcountry Discovery Trail route.

Or, turn right on 91422 (gravel) and go 3.4 miles east to Humboldt Summit.



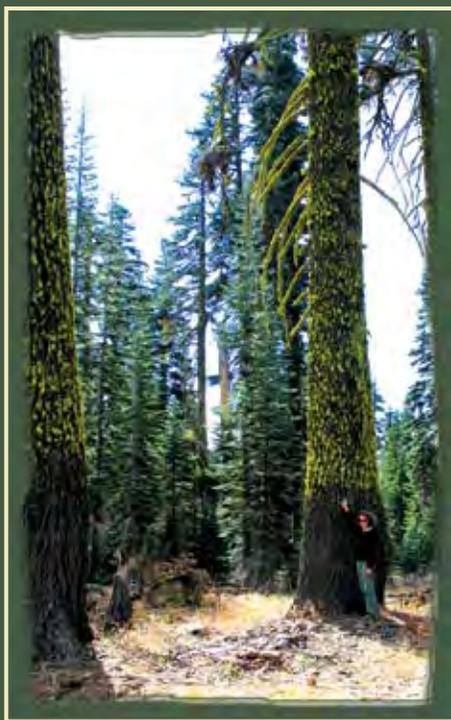
Side trip

Elevation 5,388 feet

**Lat/Long 40° 07' 12"N,
121° 27' 22"W**

**Lassen Peak (10,457 feet)
is visible in the Cascade
Range.**

In 1863, a toll road was constructed from Chico to Honey Lake. The road ran north from Chico through Butte Meadows, over Humboldt Summit, and then easterly along Butt Creek to the present town of Westwood. It then joined Nobles' Road in Susanville. Follow the



Winter snow pack prevents lichen growth

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail a down a short distance from the summit to see stone retaining walls - remnants of the original wagon road.

Consider the following conditions for early travelers:

*“The first saddle train from Chico to Idaho, via Susanville, left Chico on April 3, 1865 in command of Captain Pierce ... Passengers riding on the hurricane deck of a mule paid a fare of \$66. This included the use of a roll of blankets to sleep under and the carrying of a supply of provisions.”
(Merrill Fairfield, A History of Lassen County, 1916)*



Remnants of Humboldt Toll Road



"Turpentine tree"

Along Section I of the Lassen Backcountry Discovery Trail, you might see scarred ponderosa pines. These pines were tapped for their pitch, used to make turpentine during the Civil War. South Carolina's secession deprived the Union of resins and turpentine used in treating and sealing the wooden warships. The Sierra Nevada ponderosa pines provided a ready alternative source and, until the Civil War ended, men swarmed into the forests to tap it.



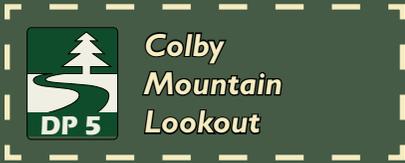
When you descend Humboldt Summit, turn right onto 91422. Go 3 miles to the intersection with 27N06. Stay to the right on 27N06.





Mile 27.7

Colby Mountain Lookout can be accessed from this intersection. Turn left on 27N36 and drive 1.7 miles to the Forest Service Lookout.



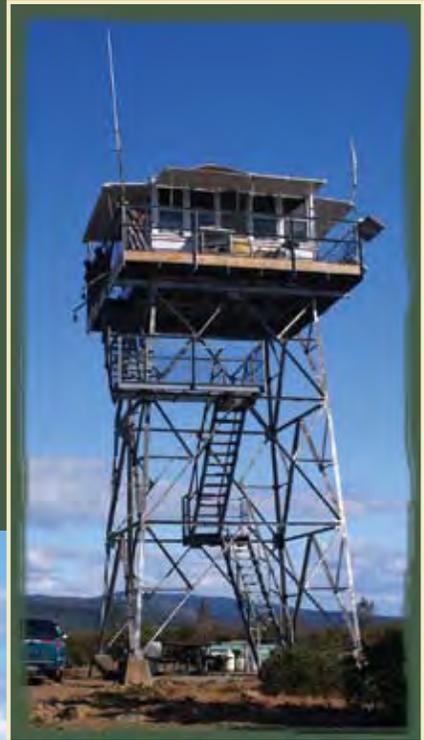
Side trip

**Elevation 5,597 feet
Lat/Long 40° 07' 12"N,
121° 30' 44"W**

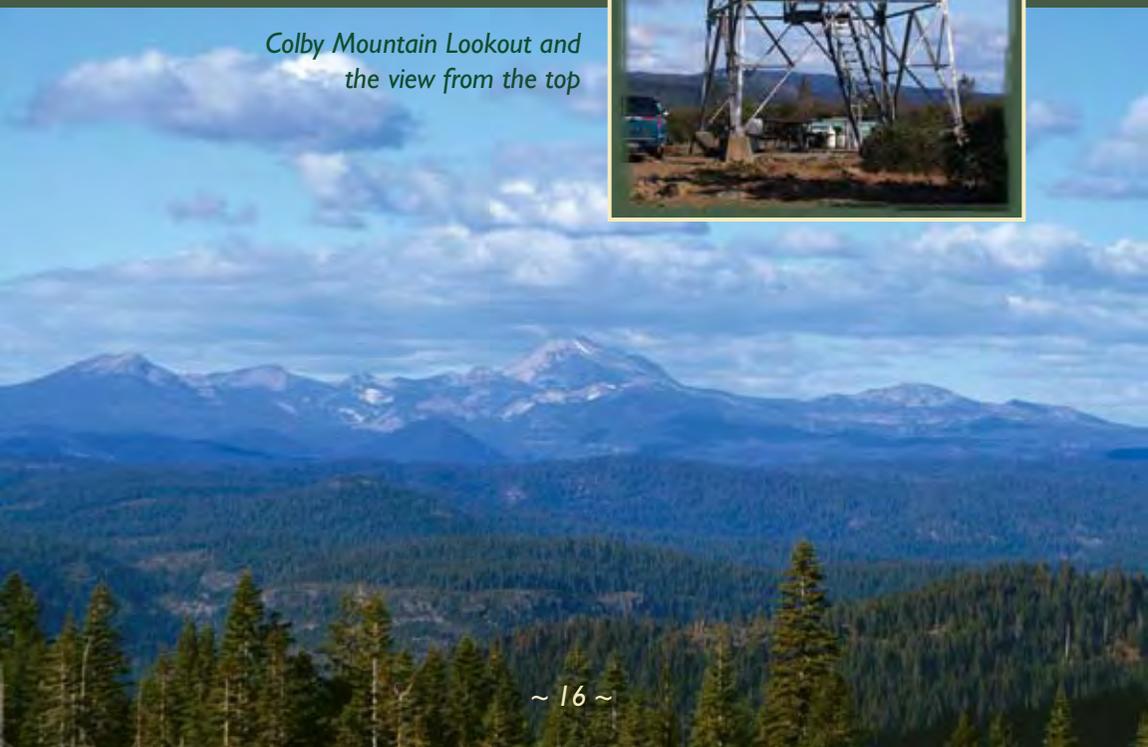
Originally built in 1912 and replaced by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1934, the Colby Mountain structure is now on the National Historic

Lookout Register. Summer visitors can climb the tower and learn more of its history.

As you drive to the Lookout, you may see orange trail markers high in the trees. This road is a popular winter trail for snowmobilers and cross-country skiers.



Colby Mountain Lookout and the view from the top





Mile 34.4

Lat/Long 40° 9' 47"N,
121° 33' 42"W

To start the "Land of Ishi" section of the Lassen Backcountry Discovery Trail, turn left onto SR 32 (paved) and head toward Chico, CA. Turning right will take you back to Chester (29 miles).



Be prepared for water crossings.
(Photo at Antelope Creek)



Going to the right, you will cross Deer Creek in 0.9 miles. After another 1.5 miles (2.6 miles from the main route), you will see Potato Patch Campground on Deer Creek. This newly reconstructed campground has 30 paved

camping spurs, vault restrooms, potable water, and a trail to a picnic area along the creek.



Mile 37.0

This is the intersection of SR 32 and FS Road 27N08. Gas, food, and lodging are available in Chico, 36 miles west.

Remember: The past belongs to the future, but only the present can preserve it.



Traveling the Lassen Backcountry Discovery Trail, you may find evidence of prehistoric and historic peoples. Explore the Trail, but leave artifacts and sites as you found them. Removing artifacts, even a single arrowhead or bottle, destroys these ancient stories, much like ripping pages from a book. Vandalizing, excavating, or collecting at archaeological sites are crimes punishable by fines and imprisonment.



Land of Ishi



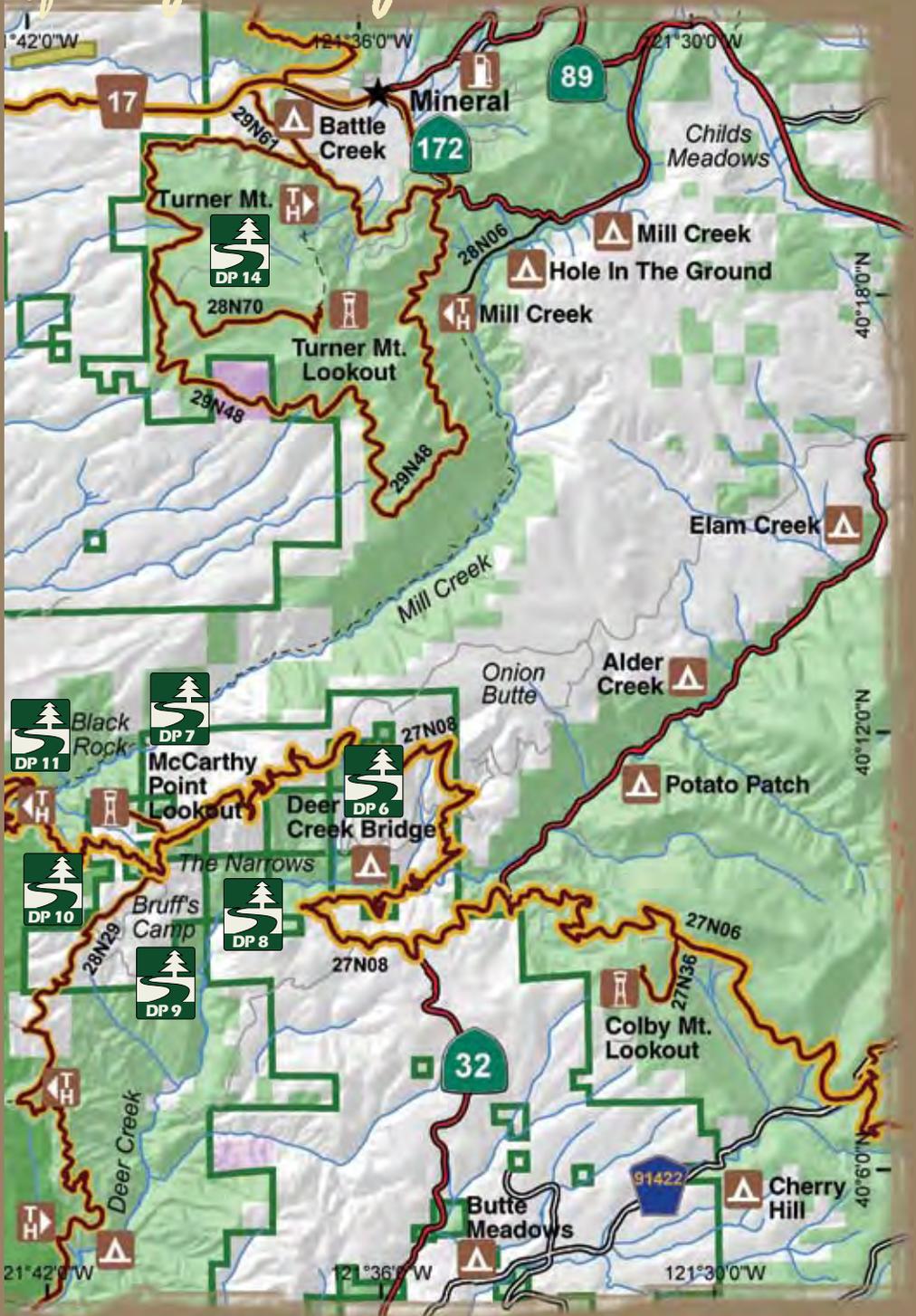
**Lassen Backcountry
Discovery Trail**

	Primary Route		National Forest
	Side Trip to Discovery Point		Wilderness
	Discovery Point		State
			BLM

0 2 Miles



Guide of the Yahi Yana Indians





Land of Ishi

Guide of the Yahi Yana Indians

Section 2

Discovery Points 6 ~ 14

Distance ~ 59.4 miles

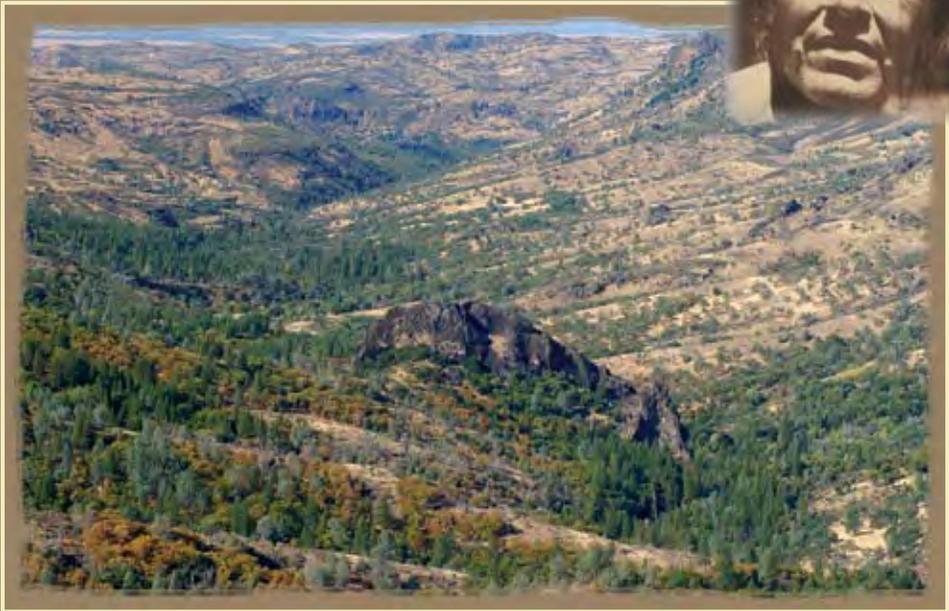
*It is a land at times excessive with luxuriant wildflowers; in places it displays fantastically bizarre remnants of a volcanic past. Salmon paint a rainbow in the creeks and deer trace a migration pattern over 2,500 years old. For longer than human memory, people have coaxed a life out of this landscape. **This is the Land of Ishi.***

(Ishi photos courtesy of the Phoebe Hearst Museum of Anthropology)

People in the Wilderness

Today, the Ishi Wilderness is a Congressionally designated portion of this region, set aside to preserve its primitive character and provide opportunities for solitude. But in ancient times, people used this area in more utilitarian ways. Aboriginal peoples lived here for over 10,000

Ishi, last survivor of the Yahi Yana Indians



The Land of Ishi

years, pounding stone tools out of obsidian and shaping the forest through the daily requirements of making a living. The Yahí Yana Indians called it home for a short 2,000 years; they were followed by emigrants on their way to the promise of gold in the Sacramento Valley. The 1930s saw the Civilian Conservation Corps build a 700-mile fuel break to thwart wildfires from racing across the mountains. Then the military arrived in the 1940s with the intent of using this fire suppression tool as a supply line, should the Japanese invade.

Think about what brought you to this country today. Is it the chance to wind through 65 million year old volcanic monuments framed by rugged canyons? Are you hoping to unwind under the cool shade of a high elevation cedar or red fir, with hopes of spotting a quail or a long tailed weasel? Maybe you will search for deer or black bear in the blue oak and foothill pine of the mid elevation woodlands, or gaze over the lower grasslands where rising heat warps the air.

Your travels along the Lassen Backcountry Discovery Trail will continue the history of people in this land.



Caution! Rattlesnakes and poison oak are common in this area.



Mile 0.0

At the intersection SR 32 and FS Road 27N08, you are 36 miles east of Chico and 29 miles west of Chester. Follow the Lassen Backcountry Discovery Trail signs on the gravel road.

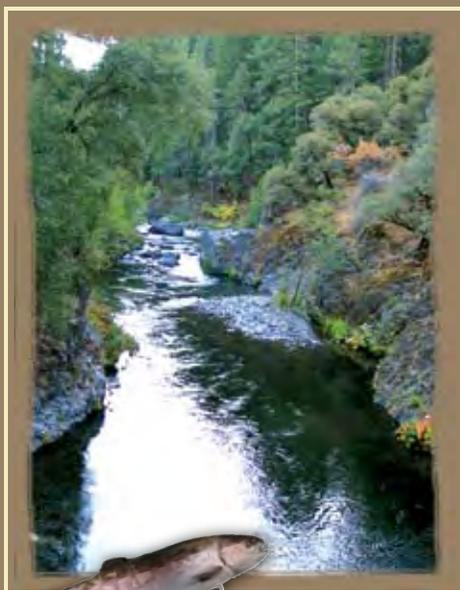


*Deer Creek
Bridge*



Mile 5.5

**Lat/Long 40° 09' 51"N,
121° 35' 45"W**



Deer Creek

This perennial stream provides one of the major salmon and steelhead spawning habitats in the Sacramento River drainage system.



At certain times of the year, migrating fish can be spotted from the bridge. If you fish, check with the Department of Fish and Game for the special regulations at Deer Creek. There is an unimproved campground across the bridge, but no potable water.



Mile 9.4

You are at the Panther Creek Crossing.



Mile 13.1

At the junction with FS Road 28N20, continue to the left on FS Road 27N08.



Mile 16.4

Access McCarthy Point Lookout from the junction of FS Road 27N08 and FS Road 27N21. Turn right and go 1.1 miles. Park at the gate for a short walk to the Lookout.

To continue on the primary route, go straight on FS Road 27N08.



McCarthy
Point Lookout



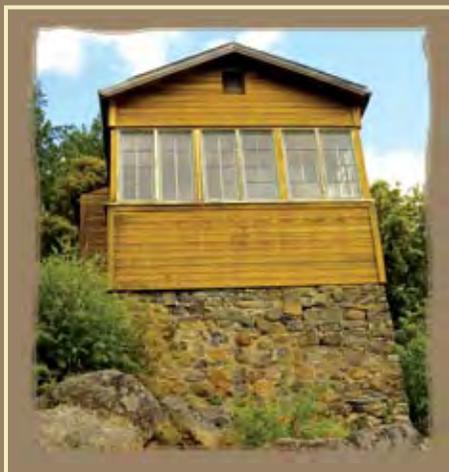
Side trip

Elevation 3,800 feet

Lat/Long 40° 10' 49"N,
121° 39' 27"W

The Civilian Conservation Corps constructed this “room with a view” in 1936, and the Forest Service used it for fire observation until the mid 1960s. In 1994, the Forest Service and volunteers from Passports In Time (PIT) restored the structure to its original condition.

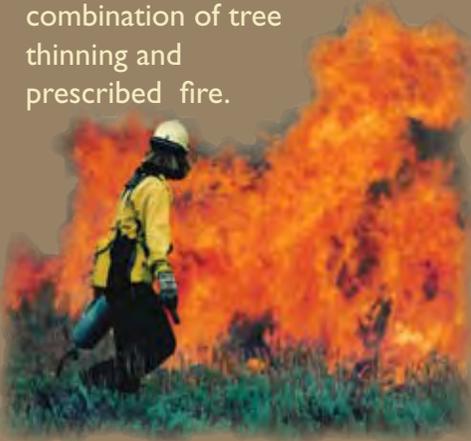
Interested in spending the night? Visit www.recreation.gov for reservations, or contact the Almanor Ranger District in Chester (530-258-2141) for more information. **Please respect the privacy of those who are renting the cabin.**



McCarthy Point Lookout

Between the McCarthy Point Lookout to approximately mile 35.0, you'll pass the remains of the Gun II wildfire. Although this fire occurred recently (1999), the effects of fire on landscapes are as old as time. Centuries of

prehistoric and historic human caused fires and harvesting have shaped the composition of the forest. Today, land managers focus on returning forests to historic conditions using a combination of tree thinning and prescribed fire.



Mile 17.2

**Lat/Long 40° 10' 26"N,
121° 40' 01"W**

You have been traveling the “Lassen Trail” for the last seven miles. Peter Lassen pioneered this route in 1848 and led several wagon trains along it the following summer. More than 6,000 emigrants followed his trail to reach the Sacramento Valley gold fields. Eventually, shorter routes were established across the Sierra Nevada and the Lassen Trail was abandoned after 1850.

From this narrow ridge, you can see north into Mill Creek Canyon and south over Deer Creek Canyon. In 1848-50, wagons had to negotiate this ridge on a trail barely 30 feet wide. The experience of negotiating this fine line between canyons must have caused stomachs to roil and heads to spin - almost every diary written along this route tells of this spot. In “*Recollections and Opinions of an Old Pioneer*” (1880), Peter H. Burnett remembers:

*View from the Narrows
looking into Mill Creek*



“Old Peter Lassen insisted that our wagons should keep on the top of the ridges, and not go down to the water ... Our pilots ... discovered a strip of ground, about thirty feet wide, between the heads of two immense and impassable ravines, and connecting the ridge we were compelled to leave with another. It was like an isthmus connecting two continents.”

For more information on the Lassen Trail, visit Trails West at www.emigranttrailswest.org.



Mile 17.6

Lat/Long 40° 09' 55"N,
121° 40' 33"W

You are now at the end of FS Road 27N08. Turn right onto FS Road 28N29 to follow the primary route, or go straight for 0.7 miles to Bruff's Camp.



Bruff's Camp



Side trip

Lat/Long 40° 9' 57"N,
121° 40' 24"W

Look closely to find a small sign on the south side of the road showing the location of Bruff's Camp. A short hike will bring you to several monuments marking the camp of J. Goldsborough Bruff who led a company of emigrants to this spot in October 1849.

By this time in their journey, the company lacked the draft mules needed to continue to the gold mines of the Sacramento Valley. Bruff decided to send the rest



of the group on foot while he remained at the camp to guard their wagons. Bruff reported:

“Our mules are so reduced ... I shall direct the wagons left here with all their contents, except actual necessities the men can conveniently take in with them ... But who would remain here? there was the rub! ... I would not only volunteer to remain here and take charge of the company and private property they should leave in the wagons, Until they could send out for them, but that I would also lend them my fine strong horse ...”
(Gold Rush: The Journals, Drawings, and Other Papers of J. Goldsborough Bruff, April 2, 1849 - July 20, 1851).

Bruff remained at this camp during the winter of 1849-1850, befriending other wagon trains and relief parties that traveled the trail. Tragedy struck one group in the early hours of October 31, 1849 when a large oak tree, “decayed near the ground...and heavy with moisture” fell across a tent sheltering four men. Two were killed instantly. The other two were not as fortunate and died later.

The monuments pay tribute to those who bore the hardship of this passage.

 **Return to the intersection of FS Road 28N29 and FS Road 27N08 and**

continue on the primary route. Alternately, you can continue south along Deer Creek to enjoy scenic vistas and impressive spring wildflowers. There is an unimproved campsite approximately 0.5 miles northeast of the Deer Creek Trailhead.



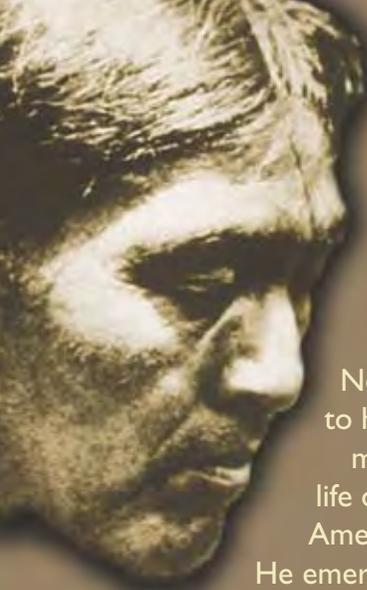
Mile 20.5 – Mile 25.7



View of Ishi Wilderness from Deer Creek

As you descend the ridge, you will enter a rugged area seemingly inhospitable to humans. However, people have occupied this land for more than 10,000 years. Some may have been ancestors of the Yahi Yana who called this home for 2,000 years. The Ishi Wilderness is named for the last survivor of this tribe.





Ishi (meaning “man”) is believed to be the last Native American in North America to have lived the majority of his life outside Euro-American culture.

He emerged from the wild on August 19, 1911 near Oroville, California where a sheriff took him into custody for his own protection.

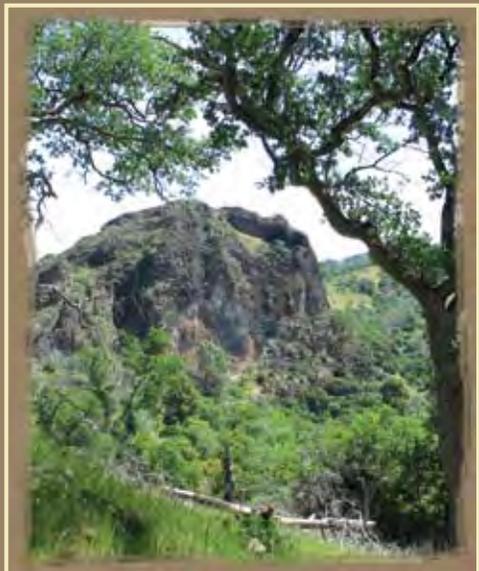
Ishi later went to live at the Museum of Anthropology at the University of California, San Francisco where he stayed until his death from tuberculosis in 1916. Ishi was studied closely by anthropologists to help them understand Yana culture and language. He even guided them back to his ancestral homeland, at one point, identifying a campsite that nobody had seen in 80 years.

When Ishi died, his real name died with him because in his society it was taboo to say your own name. In 2000, members of local tribes were able to finally return his remains to an undisclosed location in the Ishi Wilderness, completing the circle of his life.



Mile 21.7
Lat/Long 40° 11' 01”N,
121° 42' 30”W

Black Rock is the prominent rock near the bottom of the canyon where, for centuries, it served as a hunting camp. The forest understory of Himalayan berry, box elder, mugwort, and California wild grape were sources of wildlife forage, while the oak and montane chaparral served as a screen for hunters. Valley oak, bay, foothill pine, western sycamore, and Fremont cottonwood provided shelter for many species, and food for both wildlife and humans.



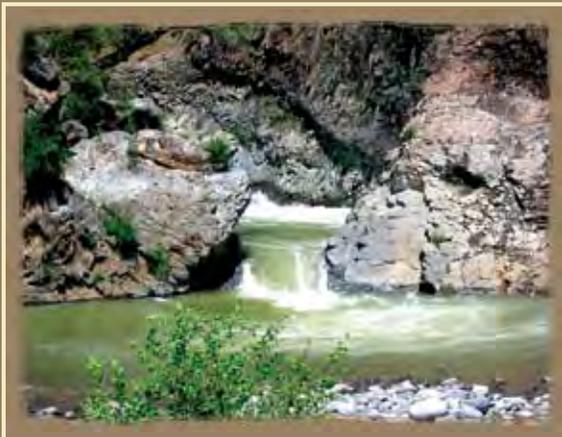
Black Rock

Black Rock is volcanic plug dome, similar to Lassen Peak. As the feeding pipe or “throat” of a plug dome volcano cools, it remains under the pressure of the crust above it. This results in denser rock that is more resistant to erosion than the surrounding volcano cone.



◆ Mile 22.7
Lat/Long 40° 11' 01"N,
121° 42' 41"W

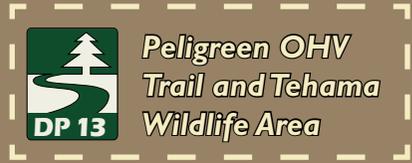
Historically, millions of salmon crowded the streams of the western Sierra Nevada each year. Today, dams and stream diversions prevent salmon from reaching their upstream spawning grounds. Mill, Deer, and Antelope Creeks are among a handful of streams that still support salmon runs for spring



Mill Creek

and fall-run Chinook and winter-run steelhead trout.

Mill Creek is the northern trailhead into the Ishi Wilderness (mechanized and motorized equipment is not allowed). Black Rock Campground has five sites, a vault toilet, and tables overlooking Mill Creek, but no potable water.



↙ Side Trip
Mile 30.3
Lat/Long 40° 14' 04"N
121° 46' 33"W
Turn left at the intersection of FS Road 28N57 with FS Road 28N29 to begin the Peligreen Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Trail. Or, continue straight to stay on the primary route.

This OHV trail is a challenging driving experience. Four-wheel drive vehicles are required and the buddy system (at least two vehicles equipped with hand held radios) is recommended. *Please stay on the trail – travel off the designated route causes resource damage.*





Peligreen OHV Trail Area

The Peligreen OHV Trail follows the Mill Creek Canyon Rim for 10 miles to the State Tehama Wildlife Area. This section borders the Ishi Wilderness boundary and includes several unimproved campsites. Spend the night at Black Oak Grove and enjoy an easy hike to Table Mountain, overlooking Mill Creek in the Ishi Wilderness.

Further along the OHV trail, you enter the California Tehama Wildlife Area - 46,862 acres of oak woodland, grassland and chaparral with rugged canyons that serve as winter range for black-tailed deer, wild boar, and turkeys. Travel may be restricted and the North Fork of Antelope Creek may be impassable during certain times of the year. Check with the Wildlife Area Office in Paynes Creek at (530) 597-2201 for more information. Camping is also available in the Wildlife Area.

The Peligreen OHV Trail turns southwest on TR201, then north on TR107. Follow FS Road 28N24 north to Tehama County 774A. There is a low-water ford at the

The California Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs recommends the following minimum requirements before you begin your trip:

- ✓ Roll bar, full cage, or factory installed hard top
- ✓ Parking brake or micro lock
- ✓ Tow strap or rope (recommend rated at 2 times the vehicle weight)
- ✓ Spare tire equal to, or within 3 inches of, existing tires on the vehicle (no temporary spares)
- ✓ Seat belts for all passengers
- ✓ Antenna(s) must not exceed 4'6" except when longer antennas/whips are required by certain areas
- ✓ Adequate attachment points front and rear (tow balls are not generally recommended)
- ✓ Jack and lug nut tool
- ✓ Battery hold downs (no bungee cords)



North Fork of Antelope Creek. During very wet winters, the water may be too high and swift for you to safely cross. You rejoin the primary route at mile 46.4, back on FS Road 28N29.

✦ **Continuing on FS Road 28N29 from the Peligreen OHV Trail, you will cross the south, middle, and north forks of Antelope Creek, and wind your way to SR 36 (along Tehama County 232A). At this point you are 7.6 miles west of Mineral where you will find food, gas, lodging, and a private campground.**

✦ **Lassen Volcanic National Park headquarters is in Mineral, where you will find information on the Park and the Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway (SR 89).**

Ponderosa Way

For much of your journey through the Land of Ishi, you have been traveling on Ponderosa Way (FS Road 28N29). Originally called the “Ponderosa Way and Truck Trail,” it was one segment of a 700-mile fuel break that stretched from the Pit River in the north to Kings River in the south. It was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps



Ponderosa CCC workers relax with their guitars and faithful companions

in the 1930s to limit the spread of catastrophic wildfire across the Cascade and Sierra Nevada ranges.

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, Ponderosa Way was identified as a north-south route to get military personnel, vehicles and supplies through to the western states, should the Japanese be successful in taking the coast. Many of the Sierra Nevada fire lookouts (such as McCarthy Point) were used to detect the approach of enemy planes from the west.

✦ **To continue on the Lassen Backcountry Discovery Trail, turn right onto SR 36 and go 6.2 miles to begin Section 3: “The Crossroads - A Land of Transformation.” Turn left onto SR 36 and you are 35.4 miles east of Red Bluff on Interstate 5.**



Or, you can take the Turner Mountain Loop described below.



Side Trip
Mile 59.4
Lat/Long 40° 20' 57"N,
121° 37' 38"W

Battle Creek Campground, just west of Mineral, is a great starting point for travel along the Turner Mountain Loop, including Turner

Mountain. The Forest Service campground has 50 campsites, flush restrooms, potable water, and a small picnic area.



To begin the Turner Mountain Loop, go into the community of Mineral; turn right on SR 172 at the gas station and proceed to Mineral Summit, 2.1 miles. Turn right on FS Road 29N48 (gravel) and circle the mountain - a trip of 25 miles.



Turner Mountain Lookout, circa 1930



On the Turner Mountain Loop



On the west side of Turner Mountain, you can turn right on FS Road 28N70 and go up the mountain for 3.8 miles to reach the lookout (6,893'). There are spectacular views of Mill Creek Canyon from the road and of Lassen Volcanic National Park from the top of the mountain.



Proceed toward the community of Mill Creek and follow the signs to Hole-in-the-Ground Campground on FS Road 28N06. Turn left on FS 28N06B to reach the campground.



The main road continues down the canyon to its end at the Mill Creek Trailhead, 4.8 miles after leaving the paved road. This 13.1 mile non-motorized trail will take you down Mill Creek to Black Rock.



Flannel bush

In winter, the Turner Mountain Loop is part of the Morgan Summit snowmobile trail system.



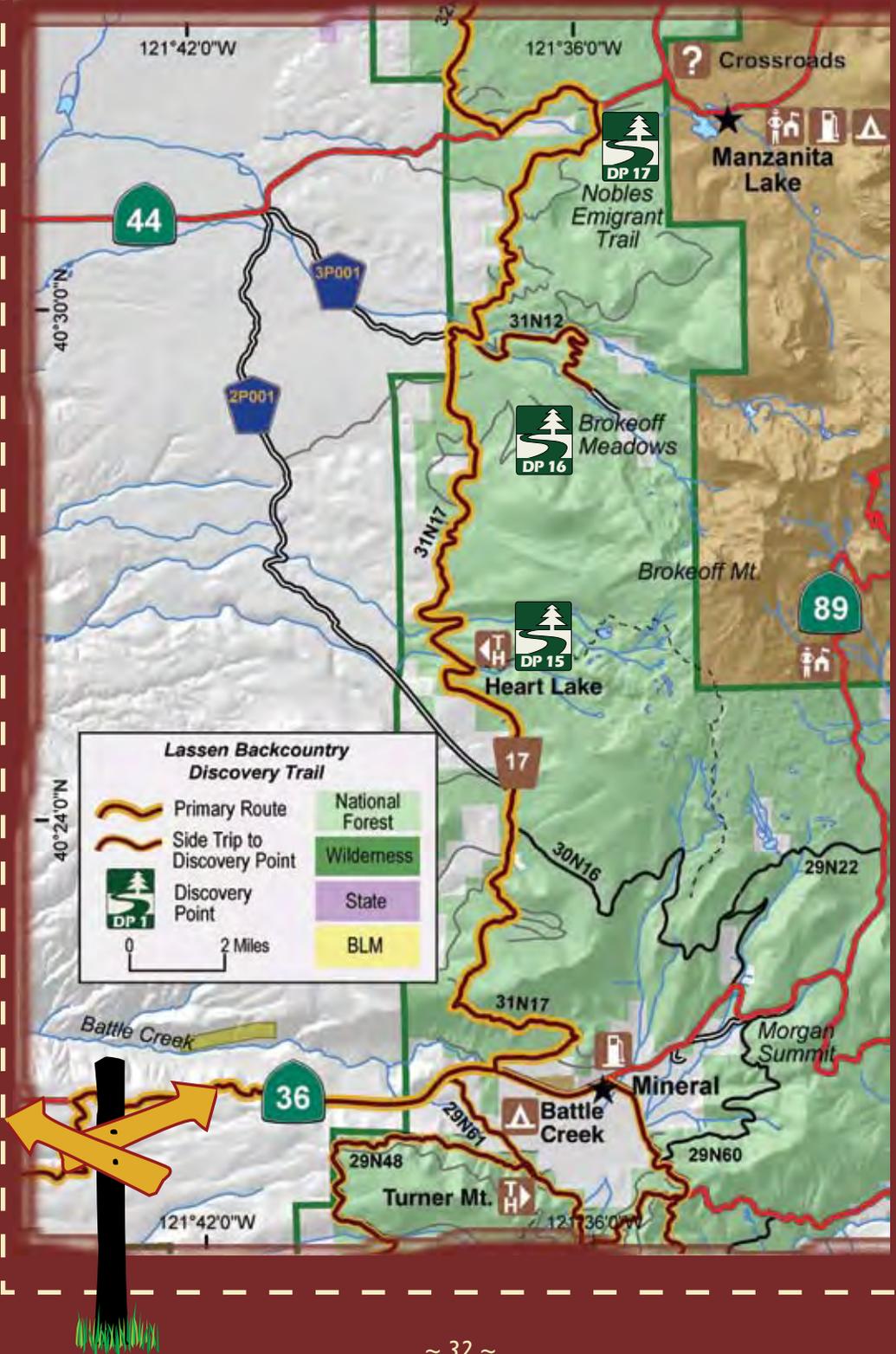
The Largest Deer Herd in California

The Tehama deer herd is the largest migratory herd in the state, summering in the Lake Almanor area and in Ishi country year-round.

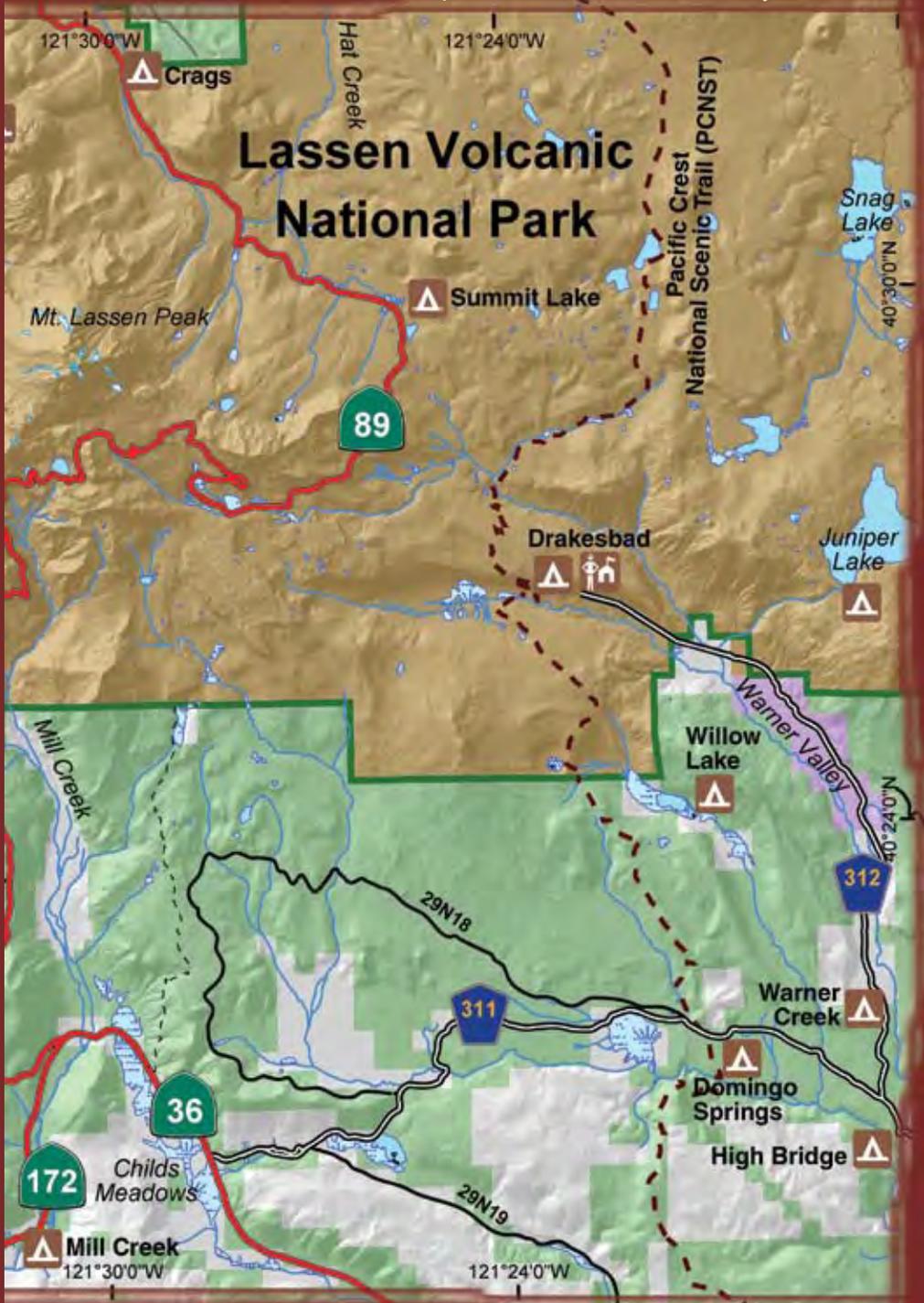
Zooarchaeologists believe that this migratory pattern may have been used for 2,500 years. Using dental increments in deer teeth (much like tree rings), researchers believe the deer were hunted during the early spring and late fall, matching the same migration pattern that exists today.



The Crossroads



An Evolving Landscape



The Crossroads

An Evolving Landscape



Section 3

Discovery Points 15 ~ 17

Distance ~ 21.9 miles

Here, the granitic Sierra Nevada Mountains join the volcanic Cascade Range. Here, emigrants to the Sacramento Valley crossed each others' paths on their way to the same destination. Here, cattle and sheep trekked through a chute of manzanita on their way to greener pastures. Here, you are at The Crossroads.

A Volcano Became a Forest

Lassen Peak makes a stunning appearance in this section of the Lassen Backcountry Discovery Trail.

But, it wasn't always the spectacle that it is today. Lassen Peak was not part of this landscape 400,000 - 600,000 years ago when a larger volcano known as Mt. Tehama (Brokeoff Volcano) dominated the area at 11,500 feet high. A mere 27,000 years ago, Lassen Peak formed at the base of ancient Mt. Tehama through a series of eruptions of thick pasty lava called dacite. Eventually the thick lava cooled and plugged its dome when it had grown to over 10,400 feet - possibly the largest dome volcano in the world.

Volcanic rock produces acidic soils, favorable for pine and fir trees. Toward the end of the

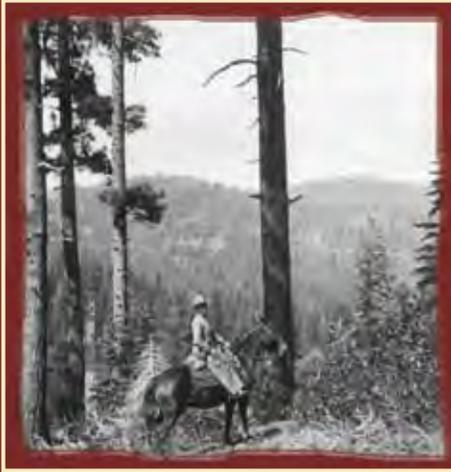


19th century, Congress began to understand the importance of these and other timber resources to the health and welfare of the nation – we were at a crossroads of conservation. Over 200 western land conservation bills were debated between 1871 and 1897!

(also signed as FS Road 17). Turn north onto the gravel road.



**Heart Lake
National
Recreation Trail**



In 1908, the Lassen Peak Forest Reserve and parts of the Diamond Mountain Forest Reserve were combined to create the Lassen National Forest.

Here, the Lassen Backcountry Discovery Trail crosses through forests of beauty, awe, and inspiration.

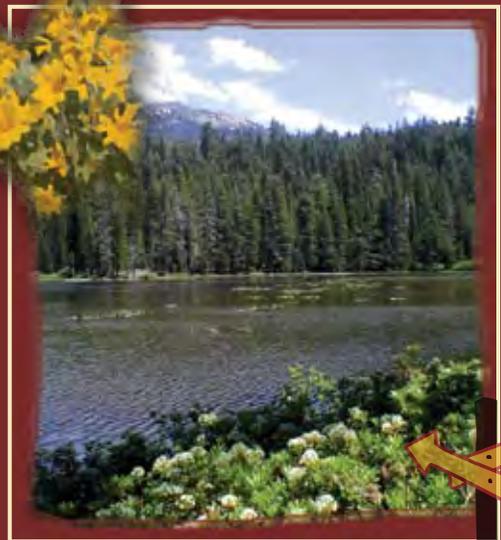


Mile 0.0
Lat/Long 40° 21' 00"N,
121° 37' 32"W
Begin this section at the
intersection of SR 36
and FS Road 31N17



Mile 9.6
Lat/Long 40° 25' 44"N,
121° 37' 47"W

From the trailhead, hike 1.8 miles (and up 1,000 feet) to reach Heart Lake, elevation 6,584 feet. For the first .25 mile, you'll follow the rambling sound of South Fork Digger Creek, shaded by giant sugar pine and cedar trees. Near the top, the trail opens into a flower-studded meadow. At the heart-shaped lake, you'll be rewarded with stunning views of Lassen Peak reflecting off the water.



Heart Lake



As you continue your journey north on the primary route, you will see not only Mt. Shasta, but also the Sacramento Valley and the Trinity Alps. You can enjoy these tremendous views for the next several miles.



Side Trip
Mile 16.9
Lat/Long 40° 28' 54"N, 121° 35' 49"W
Brokeoff Meadows Access
Turn right on 31N12 and travel four miles to scenic Brokeoff Meadows.

Volcanoes have been active in this region for over 3 million years. Brokeoff Mountain (behind you) is the jagged remnant of Mt. Tehama after glaciers, hydrothermal activity and erosion carved away much of



Brokeoff Meadows and Mountain

A Volcano Erupts!

The most recent eruption of Lassen Peak was on May 22, 1915, when the force of the explosion blew volcanic ash 200 miles to the east. It was the last large Cascade Range explosive volcanic event until the Mount St. Helens eruption in 1980.

Photo by R.E. Stinson, courtesy of the National Park Service



the volcano, leaving only remnants of its base.

Enjoy a leisurely picnic with Brokeoff Mountain as your backdrop. For an extended stay, there is an unimproved campsite adjacent to Brokeoff Meadow on the east side.

Please keep your vehicle on the road to protect the meadow.

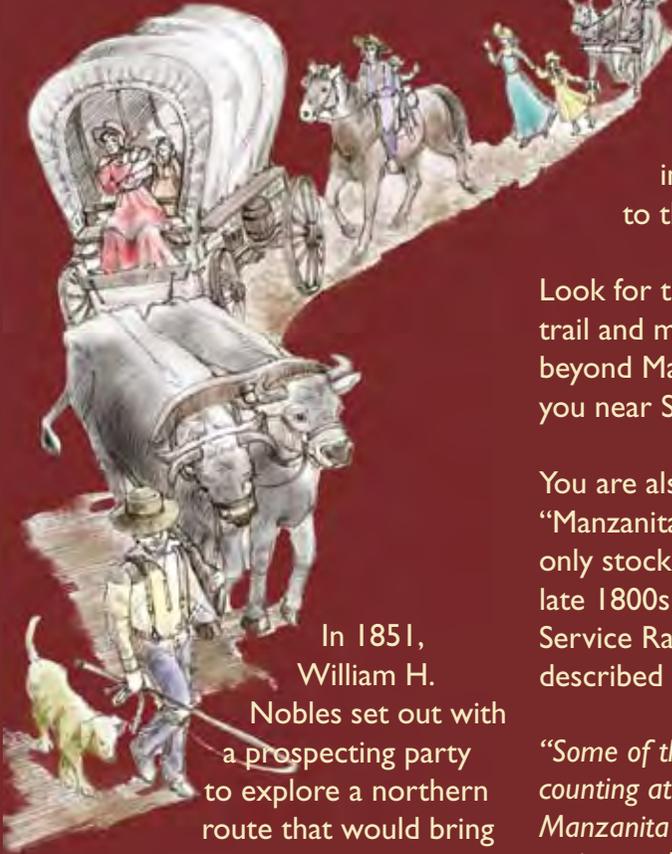


**Nobles
Emigrant
Trail**



Mile 21.7

**Lat/Long 40° 32' 18"N,
121° 35' 45"W**



In 1851,
William H.

Nobles set out with

a prospecting party
to explore a northern
route that would bring

emigrants from points east into
Shasta City. His party included
Peter Lassen who had already
pioneered a southern route around
Lassen Peak into this valley.

Wagon trains on these two trails
would pass each other where
the trails converged, just east of

Manzanita Creek. Those going
south on Lassen's route would drop
into the valley to the southwest
of Lassen Peak. Those going north
on Nobles Trail would arrive to
the northwest of Lassen
Peak. All were headed
for California, but going
in opposite directions!
However, the Lassen
route was soon
abandoned and the
Nobles Trail became an
important thoroughfare
to the northern mountains.

Look for the historic emigrant
trail and marker on the right just
beyond Manzanita Creek and as
you near SR 44.

You are also in the area of the
"Manzanita Chute," one of the
only stock driveways during the
late 1800s and early 1900s. Forest
Service Ranger Robert Abbey
described it in 1908:

*"Some of the bands of cattle I missed
counting at Deer Flat I would count at
Manzanita Chute. This chute was the
main travel road and stock driveway,
approximately 100 feet, more or less,
wide and 2 1/2 or 3 miles long with
dense manzanita 5 or 6 feet high on
both sides. The sheep were driven in
bands of 1800, 2000 or 2500."
(Early Day Experiences in the
U.S. Forest Service, Robert Harvey
Abbey, 1932)*





Before the road existed, sheep battled thick manzanita and negotiated treacherous rocks through the “Chute”



Mile 21.9

**Lat/Long 40° 32' 18”N,
121° 35' 44”W**

This is the intersection of SR 44 and FS Road 31N17 (FS Road 17). To continue on the primary route, turn left on SR 44 for 1.6 miles, then turn right on 32N17 going north. This is the beginning of Section 4: “Thousand Lakes – The Wild Woods.”



To visit Lassen Volcanic National Park, turn right on SR 44 and go 1.0 mile. The Lassen Crossroads Information Station near the Park entrance can help with additional trip planning. Manzanita Lake area has

gas, groceries, and a 179-unit campground, open seasonally.



Continue north on SR 44/89 for 13.0 miles to Old Station and gateway to the Hat Creek Recreation Area. Gas, food, and lodging are also available here.

The Hat Creek Recreation Area has several developed campgrounds, scenic vistas, picnic areas, Subway Cave, and Hat Creek, an unusual spring fed trout fishery.

Winter time offers the Eskimo Hill snow play area and Ashpan snowmobile staging area and warming hut along SR 44. For more information, stop by the Old Station Visitor Center, open late spring to late fall.

Color and Critters
along the
Lassen Backcountry
Discovery Trail



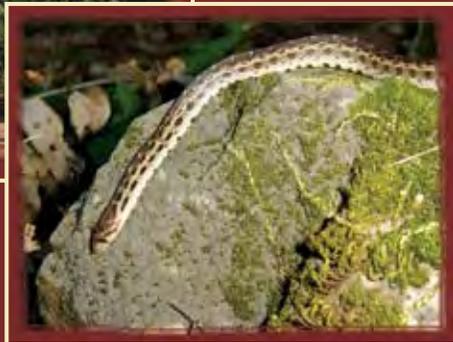
Yellow mariposa lily
(*Calochortus superbus*)



Sugar pine (*Pinus lambertiana*)



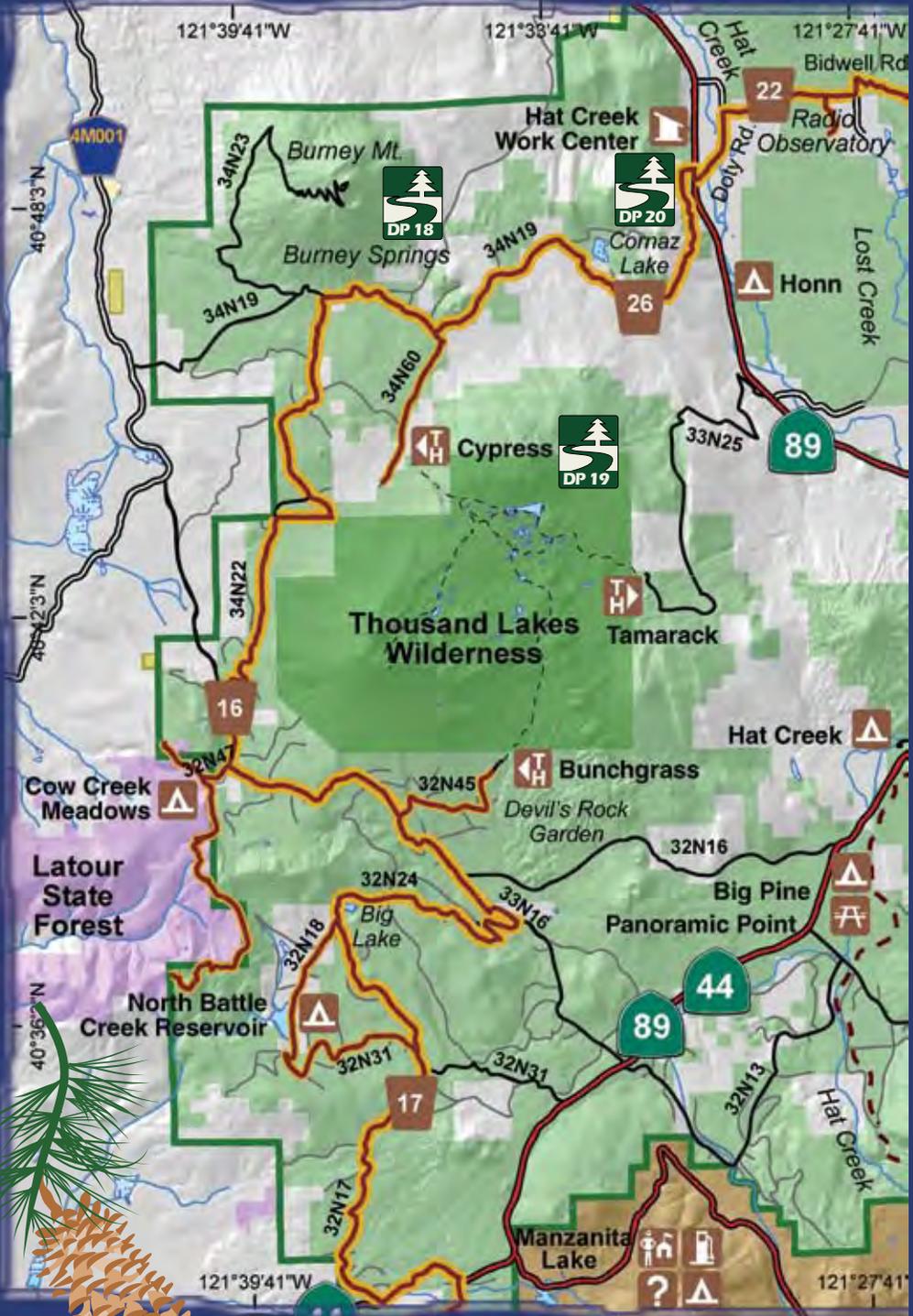
Mountain lion (*Felis concolor*)



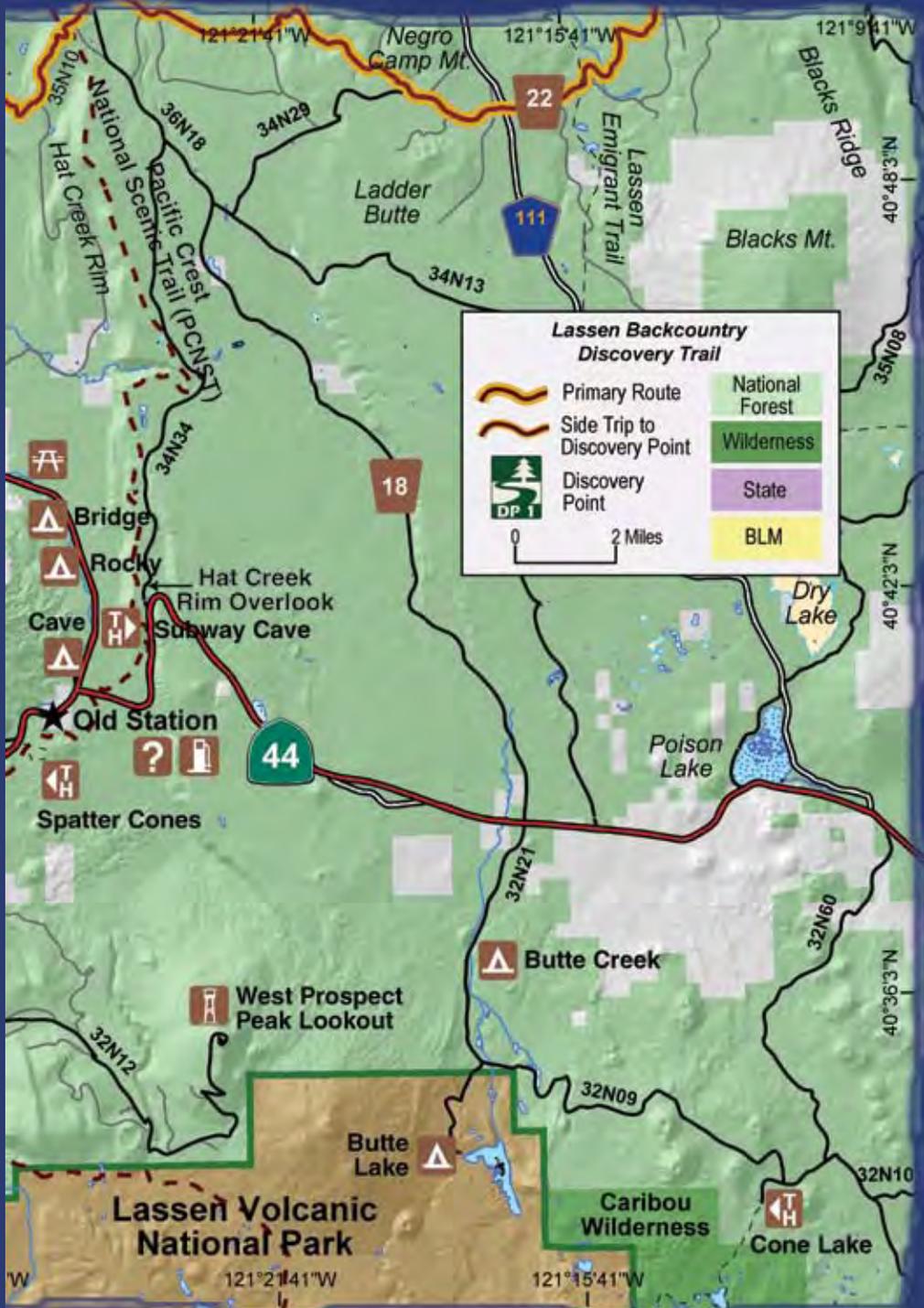
Gopher snake
(*Pituophis melanoleucus*)



Thousand Lakes



The Wild Woods



Thousand Lakes

The Wild Woods



Section 4

Discovery Points 18 ~ 20

Distance ~ 40.7 miles

*Clear, sinuous creeks surprise travelers in this arid landscape. Craggy ravines and alpine lakes remember the torment of glaciers sculpting their forms. The Baker cypress tree craves the dancing flames of a fire to open its cones for a new generation of seedlings. **The woods are wild in the Thousand Lakes.***

Where the Wild Places Are

The wild woods of the Thousand Lakes exist in different geopolitical forms. While some parts of this region are simply wild, there is a core area protected as a Wilderness with a capital "W." Wilderness is eloquently – even poetically - described in the 1964 Wilderness Act as "an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself

is a visitor who does not remain ... these lands be managed for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness..."

In the Thousand Lakes Wilderness, wildlife is unfettered; trees are uncut; roads and structures go unbuilt; and mechanized equipment is left at the trailhead. As such, wildernesses are a priceless inheritance that Americans can carry into our future.



Black bear with cubs (Photo courtesy of Anan Interpretive Staff)

As you enjoy your travels through the wild woods, tread lightly and leave no trace that wind and water cannot erase.

✦ **Mile 0.0**
Lat/Long 40° 31' 58"N,
121° 37' 16"W

The Thousand Lakes section begins at the intersection of SR44 and FS Road 32N17. As you travel north on FS Road 32N17, take a minute at Mile 2.0 to look back at the impressive view of Lassen Peak.

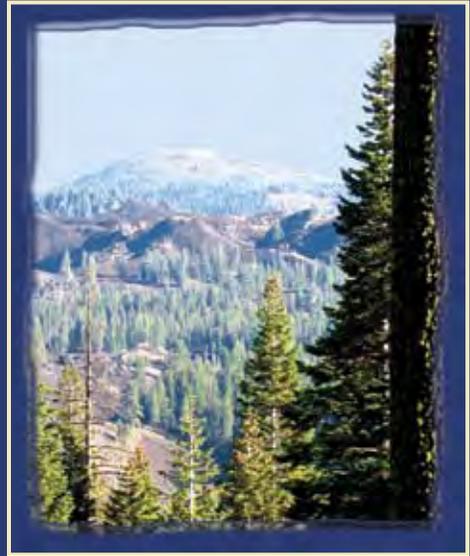
✦ **Mile 5.0**
You are at the intersection FS Road 32N17 and FS Road 32N31. Turn left on FS Road 32N31 and proceed north.

✦ **Mile 5.2**
This is the intersection FS Road 32N31 and FS Road 32N24. Turn right on FS Road 32N24 and follow the Lassen Backcountry Discovery Trail signs.

✦ If you prefer to go to North Battle Creek Reservoir Campground, turn left (staying on FS Road 32N31) and go

2.8 miles to the PG&E campground.

✦ **Near Mile 11.6, there is a glimpse of the Devil's Rock Garden and lava flows as you descend into Bunchgrass Valley.**



Devil's Rock Garden

✦ **Mile 13.1**
At the intersection FS Road 32N24 and FS Road 33N16, turn left (FS Road 16).

✦ **Mile 19.6**
Turn left onto FS Road 32N47 and arrive at Latour State Forest at Cow Creek Meadows in 0.3 miles. There are three unimproved campsites and a vault toilet along Cow Creek.



✦ From FS Road 16, turn right and travel north on FS Road 34N22 for a view of Burney Mountain. Considered a “special volcano” by the US Geological Society, Burney is a large dacite dome cluster. There are five separate domes built on top of each other, dated at 230,000 years old.

✦ Mile 29.3
Turn right at the intersection of FS Road 34N19 (also signed as FS Road 26).



Burney Springs

✦ Mile 31.2
Lat/Long 40° 36' 50"N,
121° 37' 22"W

Early settlers were drawn to Burney Springs because of the clean, cool water in an otherwise dehydrated landscape. Emigrants had forged a road by 1882 and in 1886, Amelia L. Chase homesteaded Burney Springs. Imagine having to ride five miles by horse in this remote area to borrow a cup of sugar from your nearest neighbor!



In 1941, the Forest Service acquired the homestead, which is in a sensitive riparian area. Springs, meadows, and other wet areas are particularly vulnerable to wheeled-vehicles. *Please keep your vehicle on the road to protect this valuable habitat.*



**Cypress Trailhead,
Thousand Lakes
Wilderness**



Mile 32.8

**Lat/Long 40° 46' 14"N,
121° 35' 56"W**

**To stay on the primary
route, continue on FS
Road 34N19 (FS Road 26).**

**Or, you can turn right on
FS Road 34N60 and go
2.7 miles to the Cypress
Trailhead.**

Despite its name, there are only seven major lakes within the Thousand Lakes Wilderness. But, there are many other small lakes and ponds, scattered about by receding glaciers.

Thousand Lakes was one of the original wildernesses designated in 1964 by the Wilderness Act, and is dominated by 8,677-foot Crater Peak, the highest point in the Lassen National Forest. This 16,335-acre wilderness is recognized for its striking volcanic and glacial formations, alpine lakes, rocky ravines, and fragrant stands of lodgepole pine, white and red fir, and willowy hemlock.



Magee Lake

Can you identify the Baker cypress (*Cupressus bakeri*) along the road? This species is considered threatened in Oregon and rare in California (by the California Native Plant Society). Look for a small or medium size conifer, similar to the common western juniper, but with small cones rather than berries. It grows in chaparral and lower montane forests, often in rocky soils.



*Baker cypress
and cone*

Nearly all known locations are along roads and are in various stages of being overgrown by the surrounding vegetation. The Baker cypress requires the heat of a fire for its cones to open and reseed.





Mile 35.4

You are at the intersection of FS Road 26 and FS Road 35N35. Turn right on FS Road 26.



Mile 35.6

Lat/Long 40° 47' 32"N,
121° 33' 27"W

Continue straight on FS Road 26 to stay on the primary route.



Or, follow FS Road 34N77 to take a short 1.3 mile trip to Cornaz Lake.

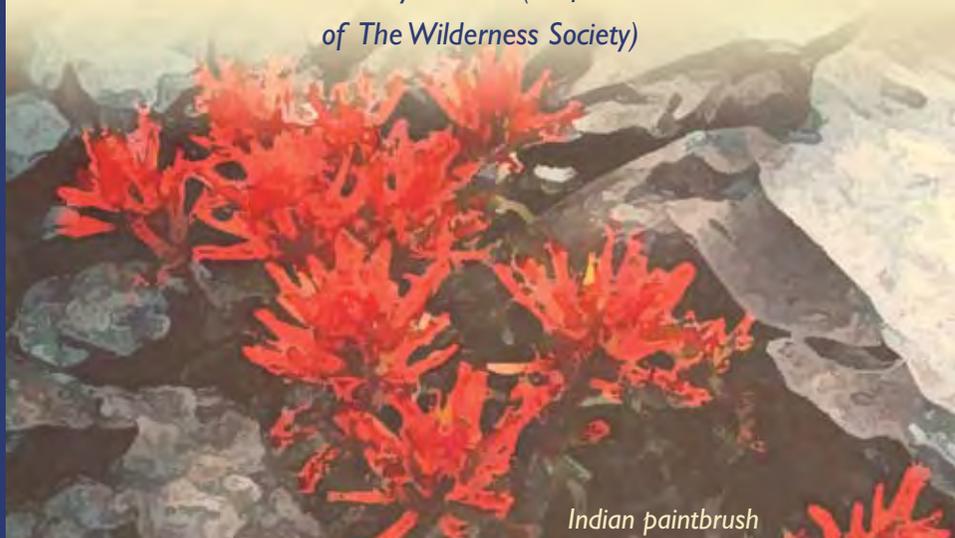
When the snow has melted in late spring, the lake reflects the snowy peaks of the Thousand Lakes Wilderness and Burney Mountain. Spring migrations of waterbirds stop here for food and rest before

Cornaz Lake



These are islands in time – with nothing to date them on the calendar of mankind. In these areas it is as though a person were looking backward into the ages and forward untold years. Here are bits of eternity, which have a preciousness beyond all accounting.

~ Harvey Broome (Co-founder of The Wilderness Society)



Indian paintbrush

heading off to their northern breeding grounds. If you're lucky, you might see osprey or eagles soaring above. Summer finds Cornaz Lake ringed with wildflowers, but by fall, nearly all the water has drained or evaporated, leaving just enough mud to record the visits of animals to the shores.

✦ There are unimproved camping spots near the lake before you descend into the Hat Creek

Valley.



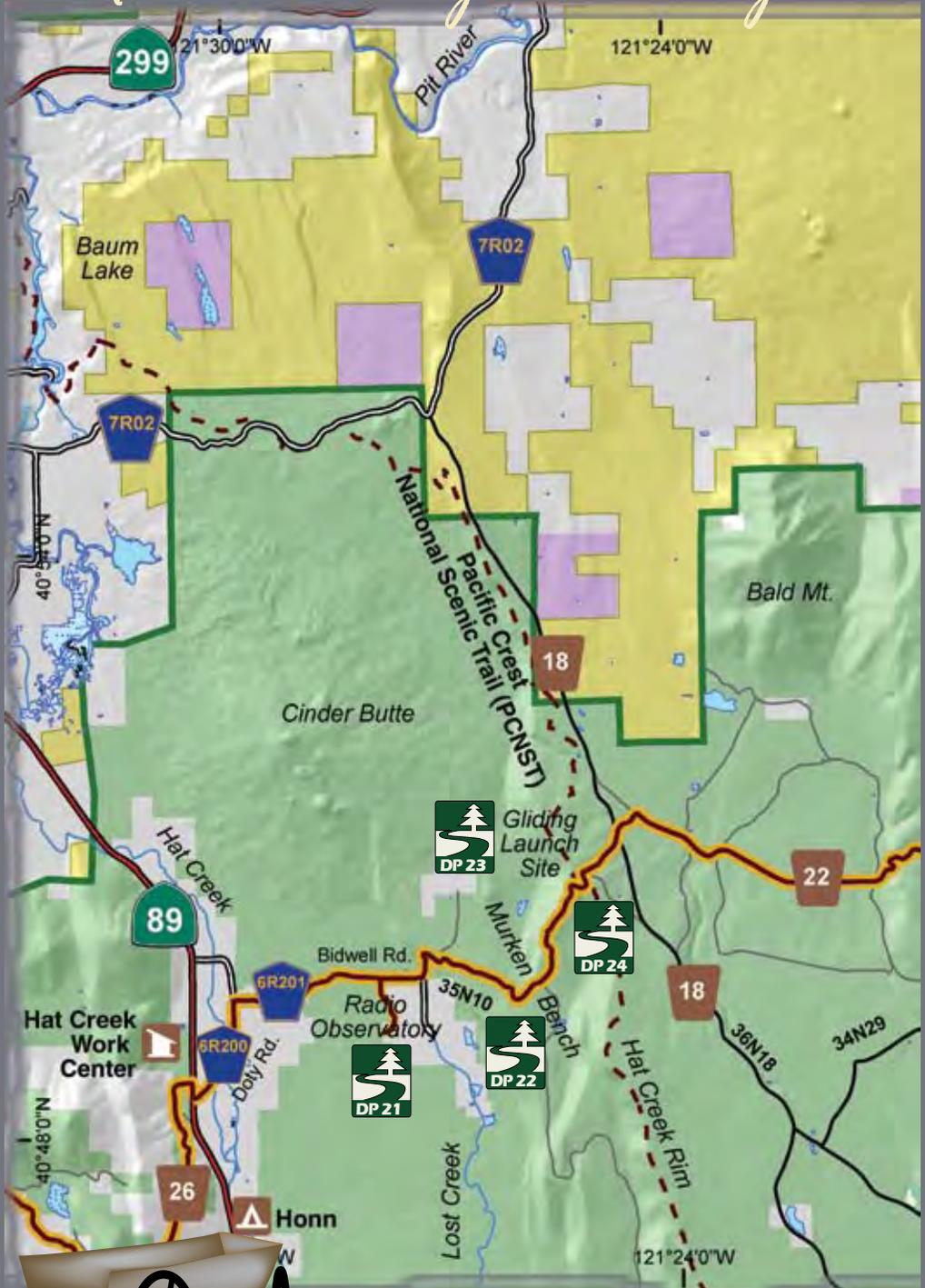
Mile 37.0
FS Road 34N19 (FS Road 26) intersects with two private roads. Turn left and then immediately turn right to follow the Lassen Backcountry Discovery Trail signs.



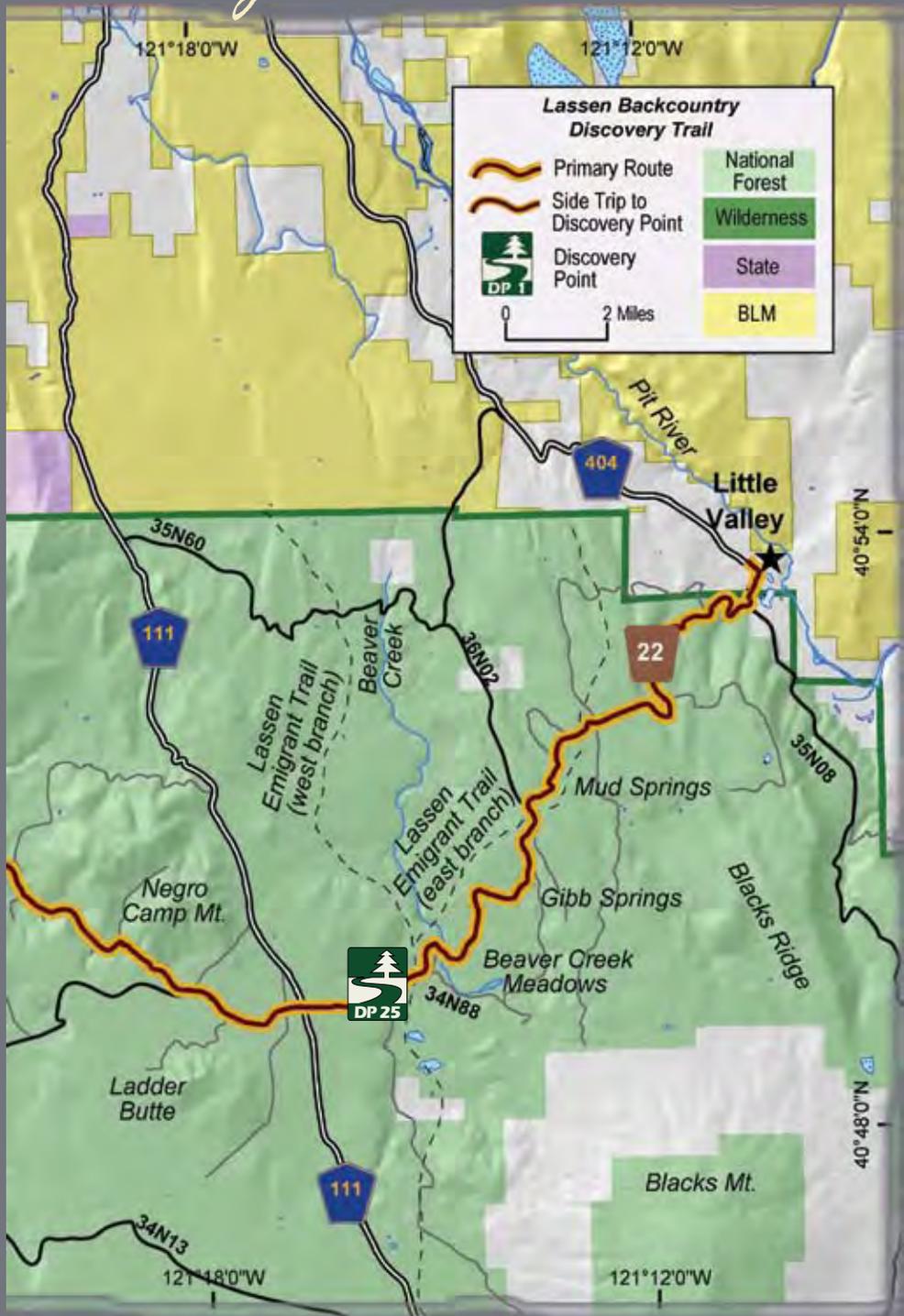
Mile 40.5
Turn right on SR 89 where is intersects with FS Road 26 and go south 0.2 miles.



From Valley to Valley



Emigration in Earnest



From Valley to Valley Emigration in Earnest



Section 5

Discovery Points 21 ~ 25

Distance ~ 21.7 miles

The valleys of this region were major thoroughfares for the deluge of emigrants in the 19th century. Linking vale to dell, using rivers as high-speed transit, these pioneers were intensely focused on finding the quickest route to the bullion of the Sacramento Valley. **From valley to valley, this land remembers an earnest emigration.**

Mapquest[®], circa 1800

During the 1800s, Hat Creek served as a southern “cut-off” from the Pit River allowing emigrants to travel southwest into the Sacramento Valley. Imagine their dismay upon reaching the Hat Creek Rim with the valley floor 900 feet below! This escarpment was caused by opposite sides of a fracture, leaving behind a vertical fault much too steep for the oxen teams and their wagons to negotiate. The path that was eventually developed coincides

closely to the Highway 44 route today.

In 1848, Peter Lassen and a small party set out to blaze a new trail into the Sacramento Valley and to his ranch near Deer Creek. They got lost, but were eventually able to join up with other gold seekers and find a route to his land. His trail became known as the “Death Route” and was abandoned within two years.



Photo of Peter Lassen, courtesy of the Lassen County Historical Society

Settlement in Fall River and Big Valley also began to take shape during this time. In 1855, Sam Lockhart built a connecting road between the Nobles Emigrant Trail and Red Bluff, spurring even more small towns. Fort Crook (1857) was established near the town of Fall River Mills with horse soldiers from this military compound traveling this same road.



View from Gibbs Spring

The Lassen Backcountry Discovery Trail crosses pieces of these early travelers' routes. On your journey through this timeless land, perhaps you will find your own route to discovery?



Milepost 0.0

**Lat/Long 40° 48' 24"N,
121° 30' 48"W**

Section 4 begins at the intersection SR 89 and Shasta County Road 6R200, Doty Road. Turn left onto the Doty Road and continue east.

Heading east, the landscape changes from green pasture to pine forest. Then, "sagebrush steppe" becomes obvious as western juniper and sagebrush replace pine trees and mountain mahogany. You're in the western Great Basin, which averages only 4-11 inches of rain per year. Compare that to the Cascades that get 48-50 inches per year!

Work's Work

One of the first Euro-American explorers in this region, John Work believed his 1832 expedition would be the first to trap the creeks and rivers said to be full of beaver. They were bitterly disappointed to find instead the remains from Ewing Young's expedition that had come through a year before. Few animals remained. On his trek through Hat Creek Valley, Work made camp near the current Forest Service Hat Creek Work Center where he wrote in his journal for November 12, 1832: "Proceeded 5 miles up the river [Hat Creek] to another small plain at the foot of the mountains where we encamped; it would have been too long to cross the mountains with our poor lame horses".



✦ There are two privately owned campgrounds nearby, one to the right of Mile 0.2 and the other 6.0 miles south of Mile 0.0 on SR 89. Honn Campground (Forest Service) is located 1.5 miles south on SR 89. Gas, food, and lodging are available in Old Station (12 miles south on SR 89) and Burney (15.0 miles north on SR 89 and 299). Food, lodging, and supplies (but no gas) are also available in Hat Creek at both ends of the Doty Road loop off SR89.

✦ **Mile 1.3**
At the intersection of Shasta County Road 6R200 (Doty Road) with Shasta County Road 6R201 (Bidwell Road), turn right and go east.



✦ **Mile 3.2**
Lat/Long 40° 49' 36"N, 121° 28' 14"W

A new kind of radio telescope is being built in the Hat Creek Valley. The telescope will ultimately include 350 dishes, each 20 feet in diameter, and will be one of the most powerful telescope arrays in the world. The large number of dishes provides unprecedented sensitivity for the detection of weak signals from space, including signals generated by extraterrestrial civilizations. The project is a joint effort between the U.C. Berkeley and the SETI Institute (Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence). Financing is provided in part by the Paul Allen Foundation with additional funds from other private donors.

Although the Allen Telescope Array is the most recent scientific instrument constructed at the Hat Creek Radio Telescope, the observatory has been in operation since the 1960s. During the 1970s and 1980s, research and development of interferometer



Hat Creek Radio Observatory

technologies were undertaken. In the late 1980s and early 1990s the Hat Creek interferometer was the fastest, highest resolution millimeter-wave interferometer in the world. Among the discoveries at HCRO the presence of water, formaldehyde, ethyl alcohol, and other complex molecules were detected in interstellar space.

To better understand their activities and plans for the future, you can visit the observatory Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. where you can see the antenna array and watch an informational video. You may also visit the SETI website: www.seti.org and click on Allen Telescope Array.

✦ **After leaving the Hat Creek Radio Observatory, turn right and continue east on FS Road 35N10 (FS Road 22). At the end of the pavement, turn left and start up the steep Murken Bench.**

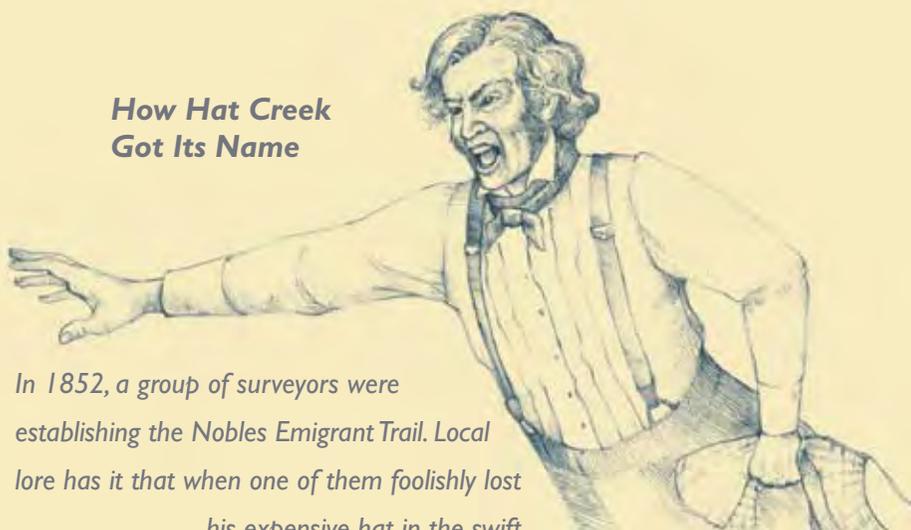


Murken Bench

✦ **Mile 3.8
Lat/Long 40° 49' 50"N,
121° 27' 39"W**

As you ascend Hat Creek Rim, stop at the first switchback for

How Hat Creek Got Its Name



In 1852, a group of surveyors were establishing the Nobles Emigrant Trail. Local lore has it that when one of them foolishly lost his expensive hat in the swift



waters, he “turned the air blue with his sulfurous comments.” In a mock ceremony, his laughing partners named the stream “Hat Creek.”



views of the lava flows and cinder cones fields. Looking south, let your eyes follow the rift at the base of the Rim. This geological fault is practically brand new – only tens of thousands of years old! Compare it to the older faults around the rim and others to the east that eroded millions of years ago and are now covered with vegetation.

On the left side of the road just past the corner, note the unusual circular pattern in the lava. Its ropey texture is typical of pahoehoe lava. As molten lava oozes out of cracks in a flow, it fans out in spherical designs. This lava traveled 14 miles from its source near Old Station, flowing mostly underground in lava tubes and tongues. The slab was originally horizontal, but was tipped nearly vertical by the geological energies that formed Hat Creek Rim.



Pahoehoe-like lava

Lava tubes are common in the Hat Creek Valley, created when the outer surface of a river of basaltic lava cools and hardens, and the



Volcanic Rocks We Use

Obsidian (volcanic glass) was used by prehistoric people for arrowheads, scrapers, and knives. Basalt, another type of lava, was used as a stone tool by aboriginal peoples, although it was not as prized as obsidian. Today, volcanic cinders are used by the California Department of Transportation on icy and snow covered roads.

hotter interior continues to flow. When the flow stops and the outer surface thins, it cracks and breaks, falling into the void where the lava once flowed. See if you can find where the black lava flow ends and the green valley begins.

Changes in plant life above ground tell what's going on underground. Curleaf mountain mahogany (the clusters of small trees) and green moss tend to grow on or near lava tubes, which are cool and moist inside.

To get a closer look at the spatters of lava ejected from the volcano's vents, hike the Spatter Cones Trail (1.5 miles south of the SR 44/89 intersection at Old Station). Or, visit Subway Cave (0.25 miles north of this intersection) and walk a 0.35 mile trail through a subterranean cave, created by the cooling lava.



*What You
See From Here*



Mile 7.2
Lat/Long 40° 50' 30"N,
121° 25' 37"W

A short side trip to a hang gliding site on the north side of the road will reward you with magnificent views. Start by looking left along the top of Hat Creek Rim. Turning to your right, you can see West Prospect Peak, Lassen Peak,

Sugarloaf Peak and Thousand Lakes Wilderness, Hat Creek Valley, Hat Creek Radio Observatory, Burney Mountain, Mount Shasta, and the Medicine Lake Highlands.

During favorable weather, gliders soar over the valley and land below where the windssocks wave.



**Return to Mile 7.2, turn
left and continue uphill.**



*Hat Creek
Rim*



Mile 7.4
Lat/Long 40° 50' 26"N,
121° 25' 36"W

Welcome to the top of the Hat Creek Rim! You are on top of an excellent example of a fault, where the earth's crust has been shifted

Sugarloaf Peak

Thousand Lakes
Wilderness

Burney Mountain

vertically along fractures. These fractures are caused by forces deep beneath the surface that can shape and move entire continents. The floor of Hat Creek Valley is over 900 feet lower than the top of the Rim. A million years ago, they were at the same elevation!

✦ **Mile 7.7**
Lat/Long 40° 50' 36"N,
121° 25' 26"W

You are crossing the Pacific Crest Trail. Here, hikers are halfway from Mexico to Canada on their 2,650-mile journey.

✦ **Mile 7.8**
At the Y-intersection with FS Road 34N18 (also signed FS Road 18), stay left on FS Road 22 and watch for Backcountry Discovery Trail signs.

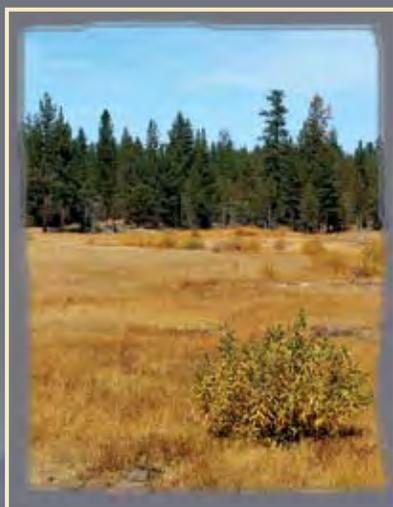
✦ **Mile 8.4**
Go straight ahead , past the intersection with FS Road 18.

✦ **Mile 8.7**
Go straight ahead for 0.1 mile to the intersection of FS Road 22 and 35N72. Turn right at the T-intersection and go east on FS Road 22.

✦ **Mile 16.9**
Continue straight ahead,

past the intersection with Lassen County 111.

✦ **Mile 19.0**
Go straight ahead on the primary route. Or, at the intersection with FS Road 34N88, turn right to reach the Beaver Creek Pasture Campground in 1.5 miles. At this site, there are no restrooms, water, or structures.



Beaver Creek Meadows



✦ **Mile 19.1-22.4**
Gibb Springs Lat/Long 40° 50' 30"N, 121° 13' 57"W (Mile 20.7)
Mud Springs Lat/Long 40° 51' 37"N, 121° 13' 27"W (Mile 22.4)

From here at the Beaver Creek Crossing, to the end of the Lassen Backcountry Discovery Trail at Little Valley, you generally follow the 1849 Emigrant Trail.

Mud Springs and Gibb Springs were undoubtedly important stops on the Trail where travelers could get water and graze their stock. This is also Peter Lassen's ill-fated point of disorientation during his search for the route west into the Sacramento Valley.



Caution! No potable water here.



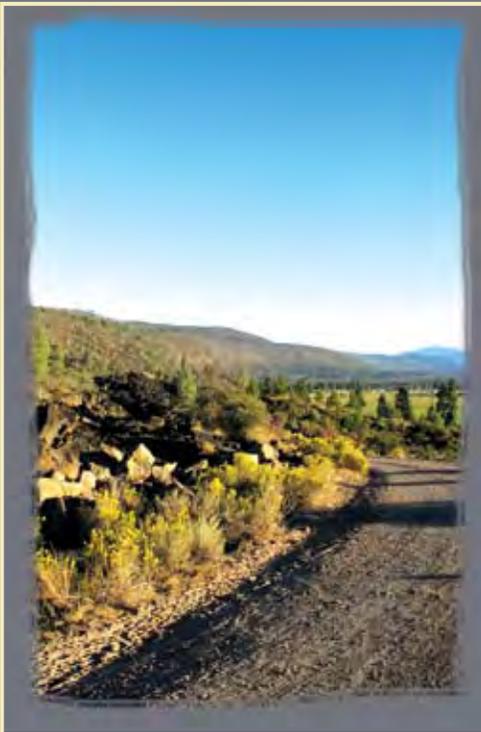
Mile 27.1

Lat/Long 40° 53' 44"N, 121° 10' 46"W

Turn left at the T-intersection and go 0.6 miles to the railroad tracks.

You have reached the end of the Lassen Backcountry Discovery Trail! Your journey has taken you through landscapes both beautiful and bizarre; its stories are a

part of our collective and priceless heritage. Enjoy, understand, appreciate, remember, and retell your discoveries!



Our modern emigrant trail ?

You are now part of the story of this land.



To exit Little Valley, go north on Lassen County 404 to SR 299 near McArthur, or return to Hat Creek. Gas and restaurants are located in McArthur in 20 miles. Lodging can be found in Fall River Mills, 25 miles from Little Valley.



Want to camp? Need gas or supplies?

All government recreational facilities are open seasonally unless otherwise noted.

Section 1: Sierra Nevada ~ A Gathering of Forces

Yellow Creek Campground (Pacific Gas and Electric)

12 campsites, potable water

www.pge.com/about_us/environment/recreational_areas

(916) 386-5164

Section 2: Land of Ishi ~ Guide of the Yana Yahi Indians

Black Rock Campground (Forest Service)

5 campsites

www.fs.fed.us/r5/lassen/

(530) 258-2141

Potato Patch Campground

(Forest Service)

30 campsites, potable water

www.fs.fed.us/r5/lassen/

(530) 258-2141

Battle Creek Campground

(Forest Service)

50 campsites, potable water

www.fs.fed.us/r5/lassen/

(530) 258-2141

Community of Mineral, SR 36

Store, gas, lodging, restaurant, private campground



Potato Patch Campground

Section 3: The Crossroads ~ An Evolving Landscape

Manzanita Lake Campground (Lassen Volcanic National Park)

179 campsites, potable water, showers, gas, store, RV dump station

www.nps.gov/lavo

(530) 595-4444

Section 4: Thousand Lakes ~ The Wild Woods

Hat Creek Campground (Forest Service)

75 campsites, 3 group sites,

potable water

www.fs.fed.us/r5/lassen/

(530) 336-5521

Cave Campground at Old

Station (Forest Service)

46 campsites, potable water

www.fs.fed.us/r5/lassen/

(530) 336-552



Can you find the lizard?

Community of Old Station, SR 44 and 89

Store, 24-hour gas, restaurant, Post Office, Forest Service Visitor

Center, and RV dump station

PG&E North Battle Creek Reservoir Campground

www.pge.com/about_us/environment/recreational_areas

(916) 386-5164

Latour State Forest (California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection)

3 campsites

LaTour State Forest

875 Cypress Avenue

Redding, CA 96001

(530) 225-2438

Section 5: Valley to Valley ~ An Earnest Emigration

Honn Campground (Forest Service)

6 campsites, potable water

www.fs.fed.us/r5/lassen/

(530) 336-552

Community of Hat Creek, SR 89

Store, restaurant, and Post Office

For more information or to purchase a Lassen National Forest Visitor Map, call or visit any of these national forest offices:

Lassen National Forest

2550 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 257-2151
www.fs.fed.us/r5/lassen/

Almanor Ranger District

PO Box 767
Chester, CA 96020
(530) 258-2141

Eagle Lake Ranger District

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

Hat Creek Ranger District

PO Box 220
Fall River Mills, CA 96028
(530) 336-5521

Traveling Indian Territorial Lands



Travelers on the Lassen Backcountry Discovery Trail will cross the traditional territories of Native American tribes whose members still hold a deep spiritual and cultural connection to the land. Please respect these lands and their people.

The Lassen National Forest would like to thank our partners for their generous contributions to the Lassen Backcountry Discovery Trail Guide



California Department of Parks and Recreation,
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division



California Nevada
Snowmobile Foundation



Lassen Park Foundation



Northwest Interpretive Association



California newt

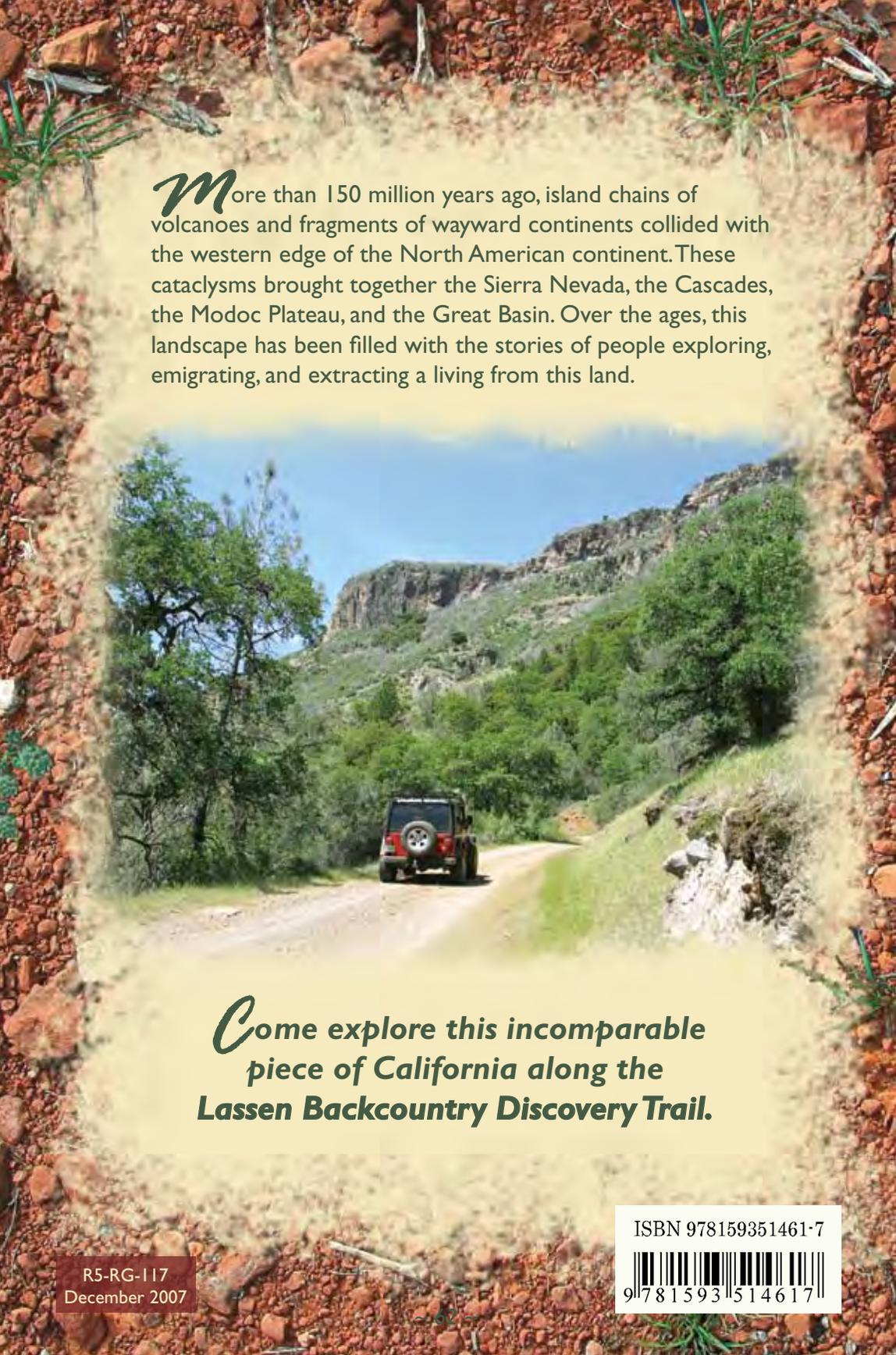
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*M*ore than 150 million years ago, island chains of volcanoes and fragments of wayward continents collided with the western edge of the North American continent. These cataclysms brought together the Sierra Nevada, the Cascades, the Modoc Plateau, and the Great Basin. Over the ages, this landscape has been filled with the stories of people exploring, emigrating, and extracting a living from this land.

*C*ome explore this incomparable piece of California along the **Lassen Backcountry Discovery Trail.**

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