

Shasta-Trinity National Forest

United States Forest Service



Fall/Winter 2016-2017



View of Mt Shasta

Welcome to the Shasta-Trinity National Forest!

The Shasta-Trinity National Forest (STNF), the largest in California, was established by President Theodore Roosevelt's proclamation of 1905. Initially, there were two forests; the Trinity National Forest (headquartered in Weaverville) and the Shasta National Forest (headquartered in Mt. Shasta City). The two forests were combined into one in 1954.

The STNF encompasses 2.1 million acres with over 6,278 miles of streams and rivers. It ranges from 1,000 in elevation (Shasta Lake and its general area) to the spectacular Mt. Shasta with its impressive elevation of 14,162 feet.

The STNF includes portions of five designated Wilderness Areas: Castle Crags, Chanchellulla, Mount Shasta, Trinity Alps and Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel. The main branch of the Trinity River is a designated Wild and Scenic River which runs through the forest. A 154 mile section of the Pacific Crest Trail runs in an east - west direction across the STNF. The Trinity Heritage and the Trinity River Scenic Byways are two scenic drives in the area.

The huge STNF offers a wide range of recreational activities. Some of these include hiking, backpacking, mountain climbing, horseback riding, camping, boating, fishing, sightseeing, downhill skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling.

In this Issue:

- Fire Recovery Efforts help Reduce Wildfire Impact
- All in a Summers Days Work
- When the snow flies....

A Note from the Forest Supervisor

I have been out on the various districts on the Forest this summer and continue to be amazed at the level of work being accomplished in all of the program areas. The work varies greatly ranging from being labor intensive and arduous to tasks requiring a very high level of skill! I truly think the public gets a good bang for their buck from Shasta-Trinity employees and I want to thank you for your continual efforts and professionalism.

I am only exposed to a certain percentage of work happening on the Shasta-Trinity through site visits and briefings, but I am getting a strong feeling of how much of the work involves helping others in time of need. Our employees rescue the general public injured and in perilous places on the top of Mount Shasta; our employees respond to wildfires in the deepest canyons or toughest ridges and then turn around and assist the public in emergency situations along freeways; and our employees pack in food provisions for backcountry trail crews on a weekly basis without breaking the eggs! The list goes on and on and I am well aware that much of our work goes unnoticed...unless it is not done. Many times the work that goes unnoticed is as important as the most visible work we do.

Thank you for being attentive to your own safety. The risks you decide to take are yours and every decision or action you take has some form of risk tied to it. As we move through the heat of summer please continue to be very mindful of all those decisions on a daily basis.

- Dave Myers

Shasta Trinity National Forest

Supervisor Office

Shasta-Trinity National Forest
3644 Avtech Parkway
Redding, CA 96002
(530) 226-2500
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/stnf/>



C-130 MAFFS dropping fire retardant

Northstate Gains Additional Firefighting Capabilities

Beginning this fire season the U.S. Forest Service Redding Attack Airbase will be host to the refueling operations for Department of Defense C-130s equipped with Modular Airborne Firefighting Systems, known as MAFFS. Having the ability to refuel here in Redding will reduce flight times to many areas of the north state by an estimated 60 minutes.

MAFFS are portable fire retardant delivery systems that are inserted into military C-130 aircraft to convert them into large air tankers. Military C-130s equipped with the systems can drop up to 3,000 gallons of fire retardant on wildfires. They can discharge their entire load in under five seconds or make variable drops. Air tankers drop fire retardant that reduces the intensity and rate of spread of wildfires aiding firefighters in fireline construction.

“In what could be shaping up to be another heavy wildfire season having a quicker turnaround for the MAFFS ensures that we have a more efficient air tanker response in support of ground resources,” said Forest Service Air Tanker Base Manager Jeff Ridley. “Maintaining an efficient aerial firefighting capability is just another tool in our toolbox which can provide support to the firefighters on the ground.”

For the last several years Redding has been one of the busiest bases in the nation. Over 1,000 missions of individual flights of air tankers carrying one to 2 million gallons of retardant flown per year. The addition of the MAFFS program will only increase these statistics.

Engineering Crews Hard at Work across the Forest

Across the forest, engineering crews have been hard at work this past summer/fall repairing roads, fixing waterlines, and replacing culverts.

In Weaverville, an old waterline that was severely impacted by roots from a nearby tree was removed and replaced with a new waterline. The new higher grade material waterline was rerouted to ensure steady water flows to the Ranger Station for years to come.

The east zone crew replaced a culvert for one of our partner agencies – Transmission Agency of Northern California. The previous culvert that had been in place for quite some time eventually washed out and needed replacement to allow for more effective water drainage of the surrounding area.



Newly replaced culvert

The west zone crew has been hard at work prepping to begin work fixing many of the roads damaged during the 2015 fire season in the vicinity of Hyampom. Other road repair projects are well underway and being funded by Burned Area Emergency Response funds.

Over the past few years, the outer edge of Whalen Road near Castella has begun to erode. The east zone crew removed earthen materials on the inner side of the road and began realigning the road to re-stabilize the road. Repaving of the new road will begin in late August.



*Re-aligned Whalen Rd
Photo's courtesy of Cris Smrynos*

Shasta Trinity National Forest

Supervisor Office

Fire Recovery Efforts help Reduce Wildfire Impact

After a wildfire, a Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) process will frequently occur. What is BAER? To a certain extent, it is a form of erosion control. The purpose of BAER is...

1. To determine if emergency resource or human health and safety conditions exist.
2. To alleviate emergency conditions following wildfire to help stabilize soil; to control water, sediment, and debris movement; to prevent permanent impairment of ecosystem structure and function, and to mitigate significant threats to health, safety, life, property, or downstream values.
3. To monitor the implementation and effectiveness of prescribed emergency treatments.

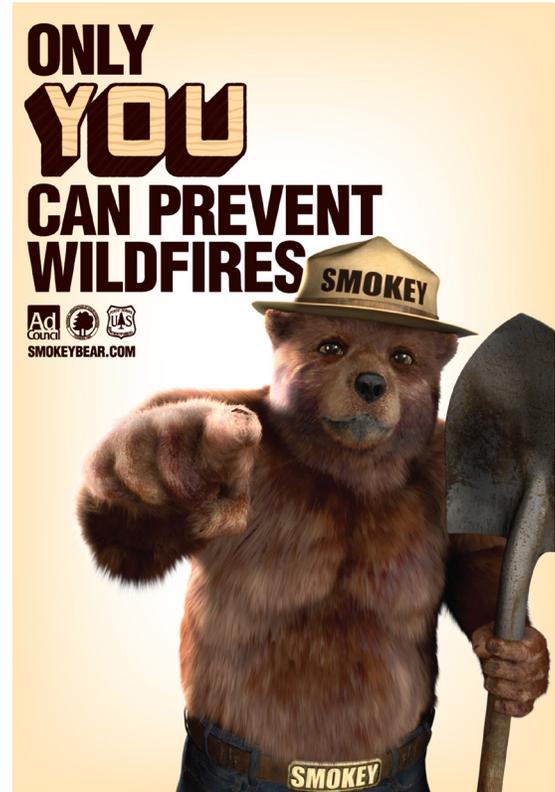
BAER can also be described as an emergency watershed stabilization program used to respond to fire damage. A team (BAER team) is formed consisting of resource specialists (soils scientists, hydrologists, geologists, biologists, archeologists, engineers, etc.) that determine if emergency resource or health and safety, conditions exist and then formulate a stabilization plan to protect resources from the first year damaging storms.

The Burn Area Report (2500-8 form) is an emergency action plan and funding request to immediately address watershed emergencies of erosion, landslides, mudflows affecting critical resources. The report consists of effects of the fire on the watershed, values at risk, treatments to address the values at risk, and the cost breakdown for all treatments (funding request). It also addresses monitoring implementation and effectiveness of prescribed emergency treatments.

Did you know?

For 2015, a total of over 68,151 wildland fires consumed over 10 million acres of land across the United States.

Source: <http://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/>



Marijuana - A Growing Problem

Snowmobile Trails - The Shasta-Trinity offers a snowmobile staging area that accesses 260 miles of groomed and ungroomed trails on three National Forests, as well as plowed parking and a restroom at Pilgrim Creek Snowmobile Park, northeast of McCloud.

Cross-country/backcountry skiing - Cross country skiing has become a very popular winter sport for many people. Cross country skiers enjoy a high degree of solitude and physical challenge. It is not an expensive sport and anyone can participate, no matter what their level of experience.

On Mt. Shasta there are three miles of marked ski trails at Bunny flat and at Sand Flat and unlimited backcountry skiing potential. Groomed trails can be found adjacent to the Mt. Shasta Board & Ski Park. For related information, visit the website for the Mt Shasta Nordic Center. No attempt is being made, however, to identify all possible Cross country ski areas. Cross country skiers are free to go anywhere they choose on the National Forests.

Trinity River Management Unit

Weaverville Ranger Station

Big Bar Ranger Station (Currently closed)

Weaverville Ranger Station

P.O. Box 1190

Weaverville, CA 96093

(530) 623-2121

711 (TTY)

Easy Summer Fun

This past July employee's got a break from their normal day-to-day duties to learn about collecting native grass seeds. The seeds collected are for the Trinity River Restoration Program. Lusetta Sims, a Botanist with the forest, along with Shanon Hankin, seasonal botanist, Monica Irwin, Regional G&A specialist and Misty Whitehurst, WO G&A specialist ventured to the Long Canyon Road area to collect blue wild rye (*Elymus glaucus*) and Stillman's needlegrass (*Stipa stillmanii*).



Elymus glaucus seeds

Lusetta taught the employees how to collect the native seeds by showing them how to recognize the target species, make sure there is a sufficient number of plants to be sampled and how to collect the seed at maturity. Other seed collections methods used by the Forest Service include how to prevent contamination and the proper techniques for caretaking of the seed collected. The mature, dry seeds are collected into either cloth or brown paper bags. Larger collections can be made by using plastic buckets and then transferred into bags.

Field data was also collected as the native seed collections are tracked in the Forest Service nursery up to several generations for use in future projects. Native seed collections support Forest Service policy for forest projects and partnership restoration goals. Public policy now requires the use of locally adapted native plants as the first choice when roadsides and/or disturbed areas are being revegetated.

Did you know?

Names like Hawkin's Bar, Big Bar and French Bar do not advertise fine drinking establishments. What they refer to is a river bar: a ridge of gravel slightly above the surface of the river that contained gold. They also provided some of the few flat areas on which to build within these steep mountains.

Rafting, Hiking and Kids Goin' Fishing!

It has been a busy recreation season on the Trinity River Management Unit. Recreational Outfitters and Guides saw more visitors hitting the water and the woods this season than in recent past years. This Memorial Day weekend the Trinity Alps Wilderness saw over 400 hikers on its many trails in and out of the wilderness - most without the use of an outfitter guide.

To kick off the season the Trinity Lakes Lions Club held their annual kids fishing derby at Carville Pond located at the north end of Trinity Lake in May. There was an amazing turnout of parents, family members, and friends all committed to passing on and sharing their fishing skills and memories to all children involved. USFS Coffee Creek Fire Station personnel joined in to assist with the event.

Not to be outdone, USFS Mule Creek Station personnel helped out at this years Lewiston Lake Lions Club annual fishing derby for kids in June, and the Burnt Ranch Station personnel assisted with the Willow Creek Fire Safety Councils fishing derby for kids. This event is held annually in Burnt Ranch at Skycrest Lake, a privately owned resort surrounded by National Forest System lands.



Helping out at the Carville Pond

Shasta McCloud Management Unit

McCloud Ranger Station

Mt Shasta Ranger Station

McCloud Ranger Station
P.O. Box 1620
McCloud, CA 96057
(530) 964-2184
711 (TTY)

Mt. Shasta Ranger Station
204 West Alma
Mt. Shasta, CA 96067
(530) 926-4511
711 (TTY)



A Message from the Shasta-McCloud Management Unit

As summer wanes our thoughts turn to fall colors, cold nights, autumn activities, and the smell of wood smoke. With the change of seasons come some reminders from the Shasta-McCloud Management Unit.

- **Mountaineering.** If you are attempting to climb Mt. Shasta, be prepared for cold temperatures, windy conditions, and sudden changes in the weather. It is not unusual to see fresh snow on the mountain in late September or early October.
- **Hiking and hunting.** Hikers are reminded that archery season opens on our unit around the middle of August and runs through mid-September, followed by general rifle season through most of October. Be aware and don't forget your dog's safety.
- **Scenic drives.** Fall colors come on with the colder nights. The best colors on our unit occur at elevations of 4,000 feet and lower because that is where most of the deciduous trees and shrubs grow. Take a scenic drive up the lower section of Castle Lake Road or just past Lake Siskiyou on Forest Road 26 and you should see good color. Peak season usually occurs during the first two weeks in October.
- **Forest products.** If you plan to gather Matsutake mushrooms this fall, you will need to obtain a permit from the McCloud Ranger Station. Please call 530-964-2184 for details. Woodcutting really picks up during the cooler weather of autumn. 2016 permits are valid until December 31st, so use up those tags!

- **Camping out.** Campgrounds on the Shasta-McCloud Management Unit will start closing for the season in October and November. McBride Springs closes at the end of October. Panther Meadows closes November 1st. Fowlers, Cattle Camp, Ah-Di-Na and Sims Flat close November 15th. After that, folks may choose to disperse camp on National Forest lands, but please check to see if fire restrictions are still in effect.

When the Snow Flies....

Winter wraps the forest in white and creates an entirely different mood. Enjoyable winter activities include:

Snowmobile Trails - The Shasta-Trinity offers a snowmobile staging area that accesses 260 miles of groomed and ungroomed trails on three National Forests, as well as plowed parking and a restroom at Pilgrim Creek Snowmobile Park, northeast of McCloud.

Cross-country/backcountry skiing - Cross country skiing has become a very popular winter sport for many people. Cross country skiers enjoy a high degree of solitude and physical challenge. It is not an expensive sport and anyone can participate, no matter what their level of experience.

On Mt. Shasta there are three miles of marked ski trails at Bunny flat and at Sand Flat and unlimited backcountry skiing potential. Groomed trails can be found adjacent to the Mt. Shasta Board & Ski Park. For related information, visit the website for the Mt Shasta Nordic Center. No attempt is being made, however, to identify all possible Cross country ski areas. Cross country skiers are free to go anywhere they choose on the National Forests.

Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area

Shasta Lake Ranger Station

Shasta Lake Ranger Station
14225 Holiday Drive
Redding, CA 96003
(530) 275-1587
711 (TTY)

All in a Summer Days Work

This past summer the fisheries department on the District spent a majority of their field days conducting Redband trout monitoring and amphibian surveys. Over the past 20 years the Redband trout, a native trout species in the upper McCloud River basin, has gone from a decline in population as a result of being pushed out by non-native trout species, to now relatively stable population through active management practices such as monitoring and removal of predators. At survey areas along certain areas of creeks and rivers, fish are temporarily removed from the water so technicians can gather information such as species, weight, and size. Other information collected on scene during the survey are the water or stream depth, stream width, substrate composition and habitat quality. During the surveys, Brown trout, a non-native trout which feed on the Redband trout are removed for disposal. Data that has been collected is then compared against previously collected information to monitor trends in fish numbers as well as shifts in fish community structure. Fisheries technicians have also been conducting amphibian



Redband trout

surveys at various lakes located along the Trinity Divide and in the Trinity Alps Wilderness. Historically these lakes did not originally contain fish, but after a robust stocking program that began in the late 1800's many of these lakes now contain introduced trout. Technicians visit various lakes to note the presence or absence of fish and identify and document the various life stages of amphibians observed. This information can give us an indication of how amphibians are doing in these areas and help California Department of Fish and wildlife in formulating future management decisions regarding basin management plans and subsequent fish stocking decisions.



Bald eagle

A National Treasure in the Sky

If you have spent time at Shasta Lake over that past few years, there is a good chance that you've seen one of our nation's iconic figures flying in the skies around the lake and surrounding forest. That iconic figure is the bald eagle. Bald eagles are commonly seen around the shorelines of Shasta Lake and other lakes throughout the forest because fish are their primary source of food. They also feed on other waterfowl and small mammals. Bald eagles at Shasta Lake nest in large ponderosa pines, within a half mile of the lake. The bald eagle population at Shasta Lake is doing well. From a low of only one nesting pair in 1970, the bald eagle population has grown steadily to our current population of nearly 30 nesting pairs. At the present time, Shasta Lake has the largest nesting population of bald eagles in the state. During the mid-winter bald eagle survey in January 2016, a total of 70 bald eagles were counted on Shasta Lake. Here are some bald eagle fun facts:

- Bald eagles are year-round residents here.
- Nests can be up to nine feet across and weigh over a ton
- Height is three feet with a wingspan up to 90 inches
- Females are larger and heavier than males
- Once paired, usually remain together for life

Did you know?

Adult bald eagles usually nest every year and lay one to three eggs. Once hatched, chicks remain in the nest for approximately 12 weeks.

South Fork Management Unit

Hayfork Ranger Station

Yolla Bolly Ranger Station (Located in Platina)

Hayfork Ranger Station
P.O. Box 159
Hayfork, CA 96041
(530) 628-5227
711 (TTY)

Yolla Bolla Ranger Station
2555 State Highway 36
Platina, CA 96076
(530) 352-4211
711 (TTY)

Year-Round Recreation at Your Doorstep

Early fall on this unit generally provides for warm days and cooler nights, though there can be some lingering hot temperatures. Many people find recreating during this season more enjoyable as the weather is more temperate and the trails, campgrounds, and roads tend to have fewer people using them on a regular basis. The exception would be during hunting season, when forest roads might be heavily traveled, campgrounds and dispersed camps occupied with hunting parties, and hunters could be out on the trails. It is always a good idea to dress in bright colors when hiking during this time of the year.

As the season progresses, temperatures fall, leaves change color and wet weather returns. It is important to be prepared for temperature changes by bringing weather appropriate gear on recreation outings. Wet weather can make creeks, streams, and rivers swell and what was an easy water crossing on the way in might not be safe on the way out. Rain in the lower valleys can turn into snow at the higher elevations. Many of the roads in the District become impassible due to snow, but provide places for snowshoeing or even cross country skiing. Be mindful of the forecast, plan accordingly, and most of all, have fun and enjoy!



Black Rock Lake

Did you know?

The South Fork of the Trinity River begins high in the mountains of the Yolla-Bolly Middle Eel Wilderness and flows northward towards the westerly flowing Trinity River.



South Fork National Recreation Trail

Stepping Back into History along a National Recreation Trail

The South Fork of the Trinity River is one of the wildest and most scenic rivers in Northern California. It's headwaters begin in the highest portions of the Yolla Bolla-Middle Eel Wilderness and flow northward to the main stem of the Trinity River. This is rugged, mountainous country and is lightly populated. A visit to this area is like stepping back 50 years in time.

The most widely used portion of the South Fork of the Trinity River National Recreation Trail begins at the Scotts Flat dispersed campground south of Forest Glen and follows the river south (upstream) for 7.2 miles to the mouth of Smokey Creek. Along this stretch, you will encounter a swinging footbridge which crosses the river at Scotts Flat Campground, numerous small creek crossings, some with foot bridges and some without, spectacular views from bluffs along the river, deep forests of fir, pine and oak, open meadows and lots of very scenic river corridor. The trail, which was once an old narrow gauge wagon road to a water-powered sawmill, has gentle grades and therefore makes for very enjoyable family hiking. A longer hike is available if you continue on up river on the same trail for ten miles to the Double Cabins site at the Wild-Mad Road (FS 29N30). Each season offers new scenery to enjoy along the trail. If you plan on overnight camping, don't forget to pick up your free California Campfire permit available at any Forest Service office.

General Forest Information



Shasta Trinity National Forest

Supervisor Office
3644 Avtech Parkway
Redding, CA 96002
(530) 226-2500
711 (TTY)

Forest Supervisor

Dave Myers

Visit our website or scan our QR code

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/stnf>



Follow us on social media:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/USFSShastaTrinityNF

Twitter: twitter.com/ShastaTrinityNF

This newsletter was edited and produced by the Public Affairs Staff of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

The mission of the U.S. Forest Service, part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Season of Use

Most recreation sites within the STNF are open from May 15 through September 15. During the remainder of the year, some sites may be kept open as needed or as weather permits. Recreational facilities that remain open will offer reduced services. Some water systems are turned off during the winter months.

Length of Stay

Camping at improved campgrounds is limited to the maximum number of days posted at the site (generally no more than 14 days). Camping outside of improved campgrounds (dispersed camping) is limited to thirty (30) days within a one (1) year period, starting with the first day of occupancy.

Campfire Permits

Campfire permits are required outside of a designated campsite and may be obtained free of charge from your nearest Forest Service, CalFire or Bureau of Land Management office.

Fees

Family campground fees range from \$10 to \$50 per day, depending on the types of services offered. Group campground fees range from \$30 to \$110 per night. Fee listings for individual campground are available upon request. There is a \$5 fee for a second vehicle (if space allows) at some sites.

Dispersed Camping

Generally, dispersed camping is allowed outside of developed sites within the STNF unless otherwise posted. The exception to this is Lewiston Lake where camping is prohibited within 1/4 mile of the high water mark with no exceptions.

Fuelwood Cutting

The Shasta-Trinity National Forest is open all year to fuelwood cutting unless otherwise restricted by the permit or special Forest Order closures. Be sure to call the forest fuelwood telephone recording for the daily fire restrictions that may be in effect the day you want to cut fuelwood. The cost for a personal use fuelwood cutting permit is \$5 per cord with a minimum charge of \$20. A maximum of 12 cords may be purchased per individual per year. Permits can be obtained by visiting the Supervisors Office or any Ranger Station during normal business hours.

Pets

Pets are allowed in the recreation areas unless posted. They must be on a leash not longer than six feet, or otherwise under physical restrictive control when in a developed site.

Fireworks and Firearms

It is prohibited to discharge a firearm or any other implement capable of taking human life, causing injury, or damaging property: (1) in or within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site, or occupied area, or (2) across or on a Forest developed road, or a body of water adjacent thereto, or in any manner or place whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result of such discharge. (261.10d)

It is illegal to discharge or ignite a firecracker, rocket or other firework, or explosive on all National Forest lands (261.14d), and in Shasta County.