

## Existing Condition Situation

### Recreation

Abstract: California is an outdoors-minded state. Both its climate and the diversity of its natural environment lend themselves to an extraordinary variety of outdoor activities. Californians camp, hike, ski, swim, play ball, picnic, sightsee, drive for pleasure, bicycle, jog, fishing, bird watch, and go boating in huge and ever-increasing numbers.

The majority of the outdoor recreation activities on public land occur close to home in parks and recreation areas operated by cities, counties, and special districts. These areas total more than one-half million acres. The remaining recreation activities on public lands took place on state areas and on the federal government's park and multiple-use lands. State parks and other state administered recreation lands include more than 1.3 million acres. Federal recreation and multiple use lands encompass more than 43 million acres, or more than 43 percent of the state's land area.

Outdoor recreation is very important to the physical and economic well-being of the state's citizens. More than 76 percent of Californians feel that outdoor recreation is important to the quality of life in the state. The public also finds other values in parks and recreation. Almost 74 percent believe parks and recreation areas bring jobs and money into their local communities. More than 51 percent believe these park and recreation facilities and programs help reduce crime and juvenile delinquency. About one-half of California's citizens are satisfied with the public parks and outdoor recreation facilities available to them today ([State of California Outdoor Recreation Plan, 1993](#)).

From 1900-2000 (century) the nation's population tripled from 76 million to 281 million. Of future population growth 81 percent will be minority. From 1990 to 2000 California's population increased 13.6 percent. In the United States 12.6 percent of the population is 65 years or older. In California 10 percent of the population is 65 years and older, with projection to 13 percent by 2025 (US Census Bureau, 2000).

Lassen National Forest offers a year-round variety of recreation opportunities, including camping, hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, driving for pleasure, picnicking, snowmobiling, skiing (alpine and cross-country), and off-highway vehicle use.

Maintaining a viable road system is the key to our ability to provide diverse recreational experiences in a safe, convenient, environmentally responsible and cost effective way. ~~Key-Major~~ routes generally consist of Forest Service Maintenance level 3, 4 and 5 roads that provide access to large areas across the Forest and to significant recreational destinations such as campgrounds, picnic sites, and trailheads. ~~Providing transportation systems that allow~~ Roads provide forest visitors access to key destinations throughout the Forest from large highly developed campgrounds to wilderness trailheads. ~~via a safe~~ Safe, well maintained, and signed travel ways ~~will~~ contribute to a more satisfying recreation experience ~~for forest visitors~~.

The Lassen National Forest is ranked thirteenth out of 18 Forests in the Region for recreation use. Streams, natural lakes, and man-made reservoirs are major attractions. Lake Almanor, Silver Lake, Eagle Lake, Deer Creek, Mill Creek and Hat Creek, receive the heaviest use ([Lassen National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, 1993](#)).

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) provides a framework for classifying various outdoor recreation opportunity environments. The figures below represent an inventory of ROS classes on the Forest. The Forest is mostly in the Roaded Natural ROS class:

<i>ROS class</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Primitive	3,393
Semi-Primitive non-motorized	146,387
Semi-Primitive motorized	59,350
Roaded Natural	910,774
Rural	9,681

**Developed Recreation:** ~~the~~The Forest has 64 developed public recreation facilities, of which four are campgrounds operated by Pacific Gas & Electric Company. Since 1993, all Forest Service fee-generating facilities have been operated under a concessionaire permit. Depending on convenience facilities, campgrounds are either fee or non-fee; daily fees vary from \$10 to \$15. Campground use follows the same pattern each year; campgrounds are open from spring to fall as visitation occurs primarily from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Many campgrounds fill to capacity on weekends and holidays. The most desirable campsites are along lakes and streams.

Other facilities provided on the Forest include boat launches, day use/picnic areas, beaches, group camps, visitor centers, four winter Staging Areas for snowmobiling, cross country skiing trails, McCarthy Point Lookout rental, interpretive trails/displays, outdoor classrooms, and un-staffed roadside displays.

There is a need to rehabilitate campgrounds and campsites to meet current industry standards, meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and provide for a safe and more enjoyable experience.

The Forest administers special use permits for private recreational use: 400 recreation residences within nine separate tracts; five organizational camps, a small ski area, a marina, and a wide variety of non recreation related special use authorizations for utility lines, communication sites, apiary, road use, short term recreation events (endurance rides, biking events, bass tournaments, etc.), and outfitter and guide ventures. The Forest also provides for large group gatherings through the Non-Commercial Group Use authorizations for weddings, family reunions, and service club gatherings and youth events.

During the last two decades, most types of developed recreation increased in popularity. Winter sports uses increased the most; campgrounds, organization sites, and recreation residence sites uses were static. Overall recreation use seems to fluctuate up and down, without a sustained trend. Statewide data on outdoor recreation suggest that, in the long run, use is primarily a function of population in the market area. Most Forest recreationists are California residents and are fairly evenly distributed throughout the state. There has been increased use of the forest from Nevada residents in recent years. Population projections for the State of California, therefore, serve as a good estimator of changes in use for most kinds of recreation. Trends and indicators show the need for public road access to the National Forests to meet current and future demands.

**Dispersed ~~recreation~~Recreation:** ~~the~~The Forest provides a wide variety of high quality dispersed recreation opportunities. An estimated 40% of total recreation use is considered dispersed recreation. The most popular activity is motorized recreation travel, followed by fishing, camping, hunting, and hiking/walking. Most dispersed camping and fishing occurs near 40 lakes and along 120 miles of streams. Use is particularly heavy along Deer Creek, Hat Creek, and Mill Creek. The High Lakes Basin is popular for semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized recreation. The Forest is also popular for hunting, mostly deer and pronghorn antelope, and for waterfowl and upland bird hunting.

Most of the Forest is open to off-highway vehicles with ~~no~~minimal travel restrictions. Off-Highway vehicle (OHV) drivers especially use the 36 miles of designated four-wheel drive trails in ~~the two~~ semi-primitive motorized ROS areas: the High Lakes and Front Country OHV Areas. Wheeled OHV use is expected to increase significantly over the next decade. Winter oversnow use by both wheeled vehicles and



~~The Thousand Lakes Wilderness is located northwest of Lassen Volcanic national Park. It offers many clear lakes, 16,335 acres of contrasting topography and vegetation types, and 22 miles of trail. The wilderness is dominated by the 8,677 foot Crater Peak, the highest point on the Forest.~~

~~The 41,100 acre Ishi Wilderness lies in the southwest portion of the Forest in the transitional zone between the warm Sacramento Valley and the Sierra Nevada. It is the only wilderness that preserves a major area of the Sierra/Cascade foothill ecosystem. The story of Ishi, known as the last wild Indian in California has made the area popular. Mill Creek and Deer Creek flow through the rugged canyons providing spectacular scenery. There are 50 miles of trail in the Ishi.~~

Although, recreation is the most common use of wilderness, many people enjoy wilderness vicariously (Fisher, et al 1972). They may never set foot in wilderness, but still value its existence. Other wilderness uses include scientific study, educational, therapeutic, and cultural activities. Despite fluctuations in wilderness use, demand for wilderness has been stable and growing. The projected rate of increase in wilderness use on the Forest will closely follow the rate of population growth in California ([SCORP, 1998](#)).

~~The most recent visitor use survey of wilderness uses was completed during the field season of 2000 ([www.fs.fed.us/recreation/recuse/reports/year1/r5\\_lassen\\_final\\_082001](http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/recuse/reports/year1/r5_lassen_final_082001)). Wilderness was sampled 37 days on the forest. There were 88 percent male and 12 percent female visitors to Wilderness on the forest. See below for the age distribution.~~

#### ~~Age distribution of Wilderness visitors on Lassen National Forest.~~



~~The majority of the Wilderness visitors were ethnically white (69 percent) and almost 31 percent were American Indian. See below for race/ethnicity distribution.~~

### ~~Race/ethnicity of Lassen National Forest Wilderness visitors. NVUM 2000~~

~~The Wilderness visitors were from a wide variety of zip codes. The distribution of Wilderness visitor zip codes is shown below. There were 58 different zip codes reported.~~

~~The average length of stay in Wilderness on the forest was 38.5 hours. In addition, all visitors were asked on how many different days they entered into designated Wilderness during their national forest visit even if we interviewed them at a developed recreation site or general forest area. Of those visitors who did enter designated Wilderness, they entered 2.1 different days.~~

~~Six percent of those interviewed in Wilderness said they used the services of a commercial guide.~~

~~Visitors rated the condition of the natural environment as very important (4.9) and they rated their satisfaction with the condition of the natural environment as moderately satisfactory (3.2). This means the forest could increase visitor satisfaction on the condition of the natural environment. Eighty-eight percent of visitors said the condition of the natural environment was average and 7 percent said it was very good.~~

~~Wilderness visitors on the average rated their visit 7.5 (on a scale from 1 to 10) concerning crowding, meaning they felt there were few people there. None said the area they visited was overcrowded (a 10 on the scale) and two percent said there was hardly anyone there (a 1 on the scale). Ninety percent of visitors rated Wilderness crowding an 8 (getting crowded).~~

### Existing Wilderness Management

The Caribou Wilderness Management Plan and the Thousand Lakes Wilderness ~~MM~~Management Plan (USDA, 1976, 1977) guide the administration of the two pre-1984 wildernesses. Both plans contain specific direction to implement three management objectives common to both wildernesses:

1. Perpetuate natural conditions.
2. Provide for recreation consistent with natural processes, primitive conditions, and opportunity for solitude.
3. Provide freedom from rules and restrictions while preserving the wilderness resource.

The Forest prepared the Ishi Wilderness Implementation Plan in 1989 comprising the similar management objectives.

### Passive-Use Value

Passive-use value is divided into two components, existence value and bequest value. Existence value is the value or benefit people receive from knowing that a special place exists even though they may never visit it. Bequest value is the value or benefit received because a place, condition, or thing is available for active or passive use by others.

The Forest has ~~four~~ five types of existing or potential special areas. Roaded access is not a management emphasis in these areas.

1. Experimental Forests
2. Research Natural Areas (RNAs)
3. National Natural Landmarks (NNLs)
4. Special Interest Areas (SIAs)
5. Roadless Areas

÷

#### Experimental

- ~~1. Experimental Forests~~
- ~~2. Research Natural Areas (RNA's)~~
- ~~National Natural Landmarks~~
- ~~Special Interest Areas (Special Interest Areas is a general and informal category for some areas that have been given special attention and management direction by the Forest Service.~~

~~Experimental Forests: An experimental forests is an are~~ outdoor ~~laboratory laboratories~~ set aside for purposes of research and development of forest management techniques. The decision to establish experimental forests is made by the Chief of the Forest Service, rather than Forest Supervisor or Regional Forester. Therefore, forest planning does not consider any changes in their status.

Swain Mountain Experimental Forest covers about 6,000 acres of the true fir type on the Almanor Ranger District. The Blacks Mountain Experimental Forest covers about 10,252 acres of the eastside pine type on the Eagle Lake Ranger District.

Research Natural Areas (RNA<sup>2</sup>s): are areas set aside in perpetuity as baselines of natural ecological conditions. They are established by the Chief of the Forest Service for several reasons: 1) to contribute to the preservation of examples of all significant natural ecosystems for purposes of research and ecological study, 2) to provide gene pools; and 3) where appropriate to protect habitats of rare and threatened species of plants and animals (FSM 4063, R-5 Supplement 3).

Cub Creek RNA, 3,922 acres on the Almanor Ranger District representing mixed conifer timber type in the Cascade Range province.

Blacks Mountain RNA, 471 acres representing the interior ponderosa pine timber type and 50 acres in one area representing the open sagebrush vegetation type, all in the Cascade Range province.

The Forest has six candidate RNA<sup>2</sup>s:

1. Green Island Lake, 1,210 acres on the Almanor Ranger District representing a bog aquatic/botanical type in the Cascade Range province.
2. Indian Creek, 3,890 acres on the Almanor Ranger district representing the blue oak/digger pine type in the Cascade Range province.
3. Soda Ridge, 1,295 acres on the Almanor Ranger District representing the white fir type in the Cascade Range province.
4. Timbered Crater, 1,777 acres on the Hat Creek Ranger District representing the Modoc Cypress type and Northern Basalt Flow Vernal Pool type in the Modoc Plateau province.
5. Graham Pinery, 660 acres on the Almanor Ranger District representing the Pacific ponderosa pine type in the Cascade Range province.
6. Mayfield, 980 acres on the Hat Creek Ranger District representing the knobcone pine type in the Modoc Plateau province.

Until final selection and approval of RNA<sup>s</sup> by the Regional Forester and Chief, the Forest will manage all candidate areas to maintain their inherent qualities.

National Natural Landmarks: ~~is a~~ program ~~was~~ established to: 1) encourage the preservation of sites illustrating the geological and ecological character of the United States; 2) enhance the educational and scientific value of the site thus preserved; and 3) foster a greater concern in the conservation of the Nation's heritage.

The National Park Service conducts theme studies to identify potential sites that appear to meet the criteria for natural landmarks. On the Forest 21 areas were studied as potential National Natural Landmarks. Seven of them appeared eligible and are summarized below:

<i>Area</i>	<i>Feature</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Ranger District</i>
Bogard	Aligned cinder cones	5,120	Eagle Lake	
Deep Hole	Pit crater	100	Hat Creek	
Devil's Parade Ground	Black Oak vegetation type	710	Almanor	
Eagle Lake Area	Multiple features	40,280	Eagle Lake	
Hat Creek Valley	Volcanism and faulting	7,700	Hat Creek	
Murken Bench	Volcanism and faulting	43,737	Hat Creek	
Red Lake Mountain	Rare quartz-basalt	4,942	Hat Creek	

Special Interest Areas (S~~A~~I~~A~~<sup>2</sup>s) are broadly defined to include areas of unusual or outstanding botanical, aquatic, scenic, geologic, zoological paleontological, cultural, or other unique characteristics that may merit special attention and management.

Approximately 60 areas were identified as having significant values; fourteen appear eligible and are listed below:

<i>Area</i>	<i>Feature</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Ranger District</i>
Black Rock	Geologic	15	Almanor	
Crater Lake	Geologic	200	Eagle Lake	

Deep Hole	Geologic	100	Hat Creek
Deer Creek	Geologic	14,108	Almanor
Diamond Mountain	Scenic	5,399	Eagle Lake
Eagle Lake Area	Scenic/Geologic	40,280	Eagle Lake
Hat Creek Valley	Zoological/Botanic/ Geologic/Scenic	7,700	Hat Creek
High Lakes	Scenic/Geologic	17,054	Almanor
Homer/Deerheart	Scenic	1,480	Eagle Lake
Lake Britton	Cultural	600	Hat Creek
Montgomery Creek	Botanic	20	Hat Creek
Murken	Botanic	380	Hat Creek
Rock Creek Falls	Scenic	10	Hat Creek
Willow Lake Bog	Aquatic/Botanic	110	Almanor

The Forest has 15 roadless areas totaling 118,718 acres. The areas have special appeal to users who favor non-motorized recreation activities. Road construction has traditionally been difficult in roadless areas due to the level of conflict such proposals generate. New road construction is limited in these areas under current Forest Service policy.

### Social Issues

The Forest plays an important role in the lives of residents and visitors to the area. Long-time residents and newcomers prefer the natural setting and resources that the Forest provides.

All social groups utilize the Forest for recreation, hunting, and fuel wood gathering. The groups differ in several other land management demands and issues. There are four social groups and their relationship to Forest Management summarized below ([Lassen Nation Forest, Land and Resource Management Plan, 1993](#)):

**Ranchers:** Traditional ranchers prefer to preserve their rural lifestyle and retain local control over management of the Forest's commodity and amenity resources. They have strong ties to the Forest's lands and rely on them for range, wood and water as well as wildlife and fish.

**Timber Industry Workers:** The industry depends directly and heavily on the Forest. Its workers include loggers, mill workers, managers, and small business operators. Increased competition for jobs in a depressed lumber market is causing unemployment and threatening economic survival of small logging operators. Industry workers favor intensive and efficient timber production and development of the Forest commodity values. They also value its recreational opportunities, hunting, fishing, and fuel wood gathering.

**Government Workers:** Attitudes and values include those of the other groups, but in general government workers share an interest in public policy and Forest management, in protection of its amenity resources and in orderly economic development. The government sector is one of the largest employers in the Forest.

Urban Emigrants: Within the last two decades urban emigrants have greatly modified the local communities. They are drawn from most other social groups and include retirees, second-home owners, professionals, small businesspersons, government workers, and craftsmen. An activist component of this group has deep concerns for environmental preservation, participation in political circles, and demands involvement in Forest policy decisions.

### Description of Visitors

~~The following information is based on data collected as part of a National Visitor Use Monitoring survey conducted as a pilot program on the Lassen National Forest in 1999.~~

~~Basic descriptors of the forest visitors were developed based upon those visitors interviewed then expanded to the national forest visitor population. The Lassen National Forest participated in the National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) project from January 1 through December 31, 2000. The forest was assigned 182 sample days and accomplished 100 percent of them. A total of 610 visitors were contacted on the forest during the sample year. About 81 percent of those interviewed said their primary purpose on the forest was recreation.~~

~~During their visit to the Lassen National Forest, the top five recreation activities of the visitors were viewing scenery and wildlife, general relaxation, hiking/walking, fishing, and developed camping. Each visitor also picked one of these activities as their primary activity for their current recreation visit to the forest. The top primary activities were: fishing, other non-motorized activities such as swimming, games and sports, developed camping, and driving for pleasure (see the following table). Note that the results of the NVUM activity analysis do not identify the types of activities visitors would like to have offered on the national forests. It also does not tell us about displaced forest visitors, those who no longer visit the forest because the activities they desire are not offered.~~

**Activity Participation and Primary Activity for the Lassen National Forest**

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Percent participation</u>	<u>Percent who said it was their primary activity</u>
<u>Camping in developed sites (family or group)</u>	<u>26.1</u>	<u>9.2</u>
<u>Primitive camping</u>	<u>4.0</u>	<u>2.0</u>
<u>Backpacking, camping in unroaded areas</u>	<u>.7</u>	<u>.2</u>
<u>Resorts, cabins and other accommodations on FS managed lands (private or FS run)</u>	<u>5.0</u>	<u>2.0</u>
<u>Picnicking and family day gatherings in developed sites (family or group)</u>	<u>18.0</u>	<u>5.0</u>
<u>**Viewing wildlife, birds, fish, etc on national forest lands</u>	<u>8.0</u>	<u>2.0</u>
<u>**Viewing natural features such as scenery, flowers, etc on national forest lands</u>	<u>37.0</u>	<u>4.0</u>
<u>Visiting historic and prehistoric sites/area</u>	<u>12.0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Visiting a nature center, nature trail or VIS</u>	<u>7.6</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Nature Study</u>	<u>4.7</u>	<u>0.5</u>
<u>General/other- relaxing, hanging out, escaping noise and heat, etc.</u>	<u>34.0</u>	<u>6.3</u>
<u>Fishing- all types</u>	<u>27.2</u>	<u>20.9</u>
<u>Hunting- all types</u>	<u>3.2</u>	<u>6.2</u>
<u>Off-highway vehicle travel (4-wheelers, dirt bikes, etc)</u>	<u>6.9</u>	<u>3.0</u>
<u>Driving for pleasure on roads</u>	<u>21.0</u>	<u>9.0</u>
<u>Snowmobile travel</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>2.0</u>
<u>Motorized water travel (boats, ski sleds, etc)</u>	<u>8.0</u>	<u>3.1</u>
<u>Other motorized land/air activities (plane, other)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Hiking or walking</u>	<u>30.7</u>	<u>8.6</u>
<u>Horseback riding</u>	<u>0.4</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Bicycling, including mountain bikes</u>	<u>8.6</u>	<u>2.0</u>
<u>Non-motorized water travel (canoe, raft, etc.)</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Downhill skiing or snowboarding</u>	<u>3.6</u>	<u>3.3</u>
<u>Cross-country skiing, snow shoeing</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>1.0</u>
<u>Other non-motorized activities (swimming, games and sports)</u>	<u>20.0</u>	<u>14.0</u>
<u>Gathering mushrooms, berries, firewood, or other natural products</u>	<u>6.2</u>	<u>0.1</u>

\* less than 1 percent participation

\*\* first version of survey form used October through March had these two viewing categories combined as viewing scenery

Twenty-five percent of the last exiting recreation visitors interviewed were asked about the types of constructed facilities and special designated areas they used during their visit. The most used facilities were: non-motorized trails, boat launches, picnic areas and fishing docks. The most used specially designated areas were scenic byways and swimming areas.

Percentage use of Facilities and Specially Designated Areas on the Lassen National Forest

<u>Facility/ Area Type</u>	<u>Percent who said they used (National Forest visits)</u>
<u>Developed campground</u>	<u>41</u>
<u>Swimming area</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Hiking, biking, or horseback trails</u>	<u>40</u>
<u>Scenic byway</u>	<u>29</u>
<u>Designated Wilderness</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Visitor center, Museum</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>FS Office or other national forest site</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Picnic Area</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>Boat launch</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>Designated Off Road Vehicle area</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Other Forest roads</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>Interpretive site</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Organization camp</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Developed fishing site/ dock</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>Designated Snowmobile area</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Downhill Ski area</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Nordic Ski area</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Lodges/Resorts on FS land</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Fire Lookouts/Cabins FS owned</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Designated Snow play area</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Motorized Developed trails</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Recreation Residences</u>	<u>8</u>

Visitor use surveys conducted in 2000 document the following information:

About sixty-two percent of the Lassen National Forest visitors were male and 38 percent were female. Almost twenty percent of the visitors were under age 16 and not interviewed. About five percent of the visitors were over 70 years old and the 41-50 year old age group comprised 25 percent of the visitors.

*Gender distribution of Lassen National Forest visitors:*

<u>Gender Distribution of Lassen National Forest Visitors</u>		
<b>Gender</b>	62.4 percent males	37.6 percent females

*Age distribution of Lassen National Forest visitors:*

<i>Age Distribution of Lassen NF Visitors</i>	
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Percent in group</b>
Under 16	19.6
16-20	1.1
21-30	8.2
31-40	18.5
41-50	25.3
51-60	13.9
61-70	8.7
Over 70	4.7

No forest visitors were from another country. The survey did not collect country affiliation. Visitors most frequently reported zip codes are shown below. The forest can determine what percent of local visitor use they have by comparing the local Forest zip codes to those listed. The zip code data for the forest will also soon be available on a database. There were 185 different zip codes reported. This information can be used with programs such as “fipzip” for more extensive analysis.

<i>Zip Code</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
96130	44	12.9
95926	18	5.3
95928	9	2.6
96137	9	2.6
96003	7	2.0
96114	7	2.0
95973	6	1.8
96080	6	1.8
96001	5	1.5
95963	4	1.2
95965	4	1.2
95969	4	1.2
96020	4	1.2
96022	4	1.2
96088	4	1.2
89436	3	0.9
89511	3	0.9
94019	3	0.9
94558	3	0.9
96002	3	0.9
96097	3	0.9
96127	3	0.9

~~Average number of people per vehicle and average axle count per vehicle in survey~~

There was an average of 2.6 people per vehicle on the forest with an average of 2.1 axles per vehicle. This information in conjunction with traffic counts was used to expand observations from individual interviews to the full forest population of recreation visitors. This information may be useful to forest engineers and others who use vehicle counters to conduct traffic studies.

## Civil Rights and Environmental Justice

In the year 2000, ethnic composition (US census bureau) of the US was:

- 82% White
- 12.8% Black
- 0.9% Native Americans
- 4.1 % Asian/Pacific Islander
- 11.9% Hispanic origin (any race)

The racial and ethnic make-up of communities within the Lassen National ~~Forest~~ ~~are~~ ~~is~~ predominately white (88.6%). Persons of Hispanic origin constitute the largest ethnic minority group (5%), while Native American constitutes the largest racial minority group (8%) (1993, LRMP).

Visitors categorized themselves into one of 7 race/ethnicity categories--: 89 percent of the visitors were ethnically white and almost 5 percent were Hispanic (1993, LRMP).

### ~~Race/ethnicity~~ ~~Ethnicity~~ of Lassen National Forest ~~visitors~~

<i>Category</i>	<i>Total <del>percent</del>Percent <del>national</del>NF <del>forest</del> visits</i>
Black/African American	0.2
Asian	1.0
White	88.6
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.8
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	5.0
Other	4.4

Native Americans: Descendants of several indigenous hunting and gathering groups, Native Americans retain a distinct set of attitudes and beliefs along with long-standing ties to the Forest. Some Native Americans gather traditional natural products from Forest Lands and certain localities are used for the practice of religious rites. Native American groups and individuals have expressed strong concerns about Forest Management in the past when these traditional activities are threatened.

All ethnic and racial groups depend on the Forest for recreation, firewood, and sense of place, as a component of the rural lifestyle. Most minority employment is in resource-based industries, often seasonal.

