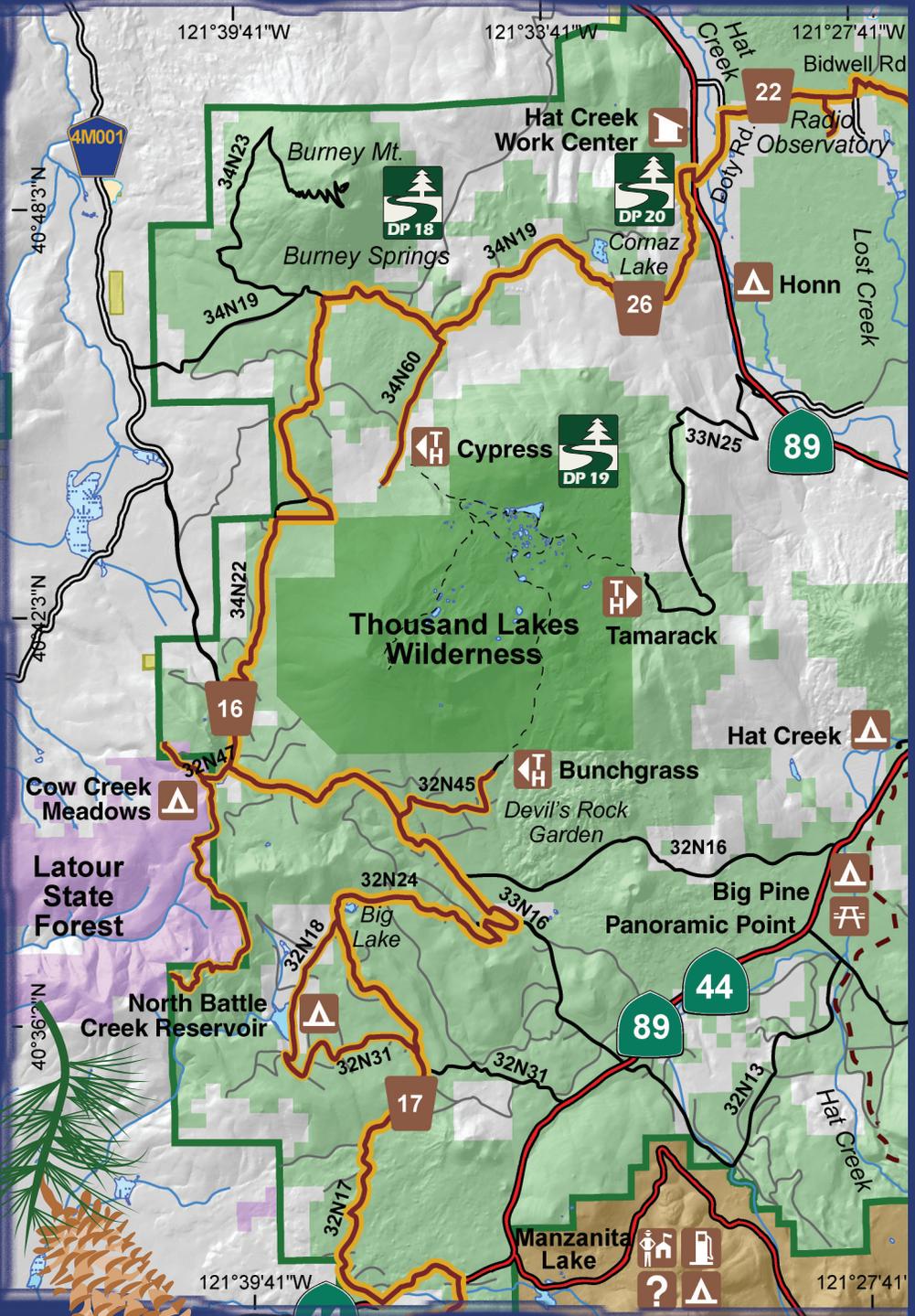
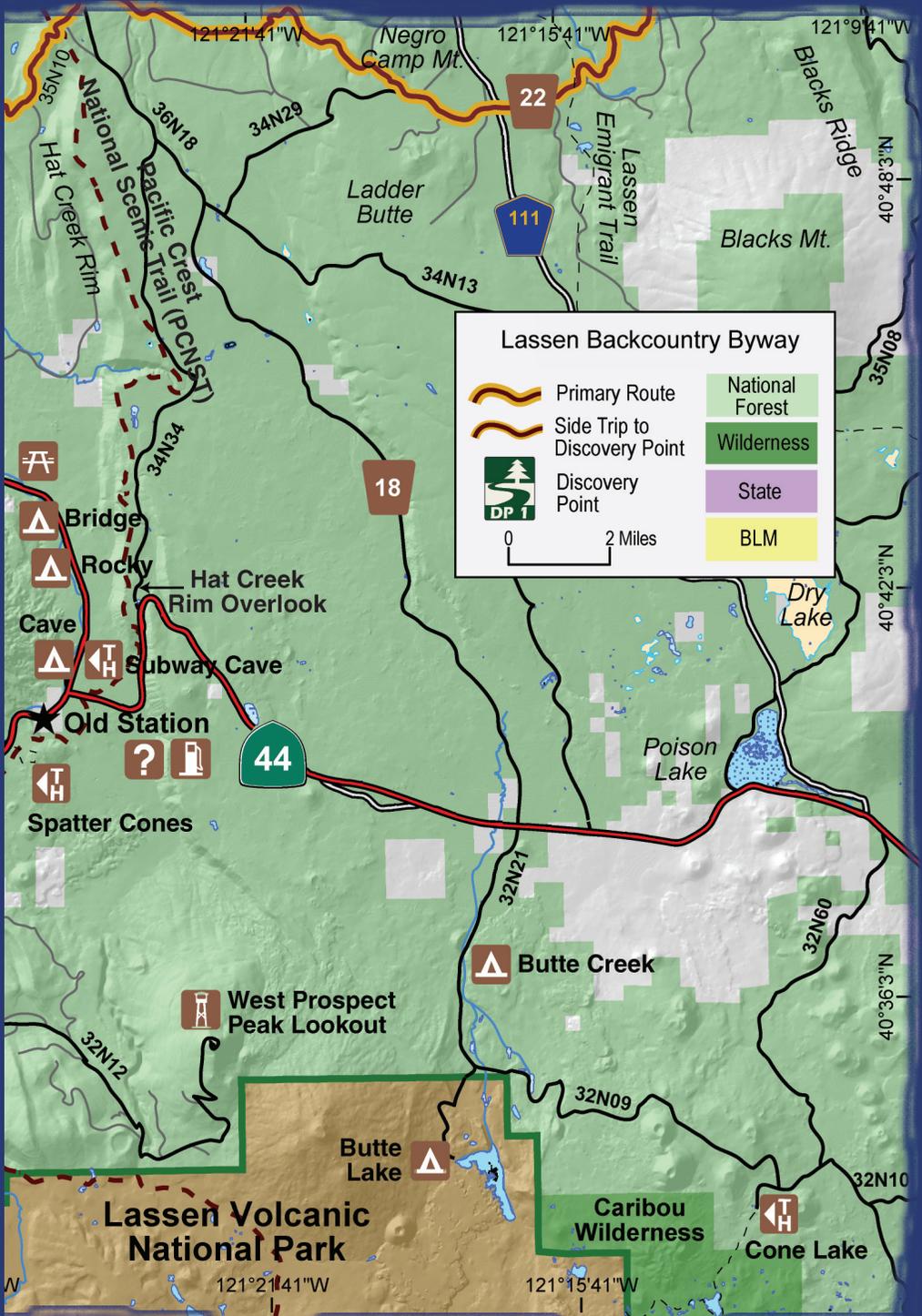


Thousand Lakes



The Wild Woods



Lassen Backcountry Byway

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

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 32N17. As you travel north on FS 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 32N17 and FS 32N31. Turn left on FS 32N31 and proceed north.



Mile 5.2

This is the intersection FS 32N31 and FS 32N24. Turn right on FS 32N24 and follow the Lassen Backcountry Byway signs.



If you prefer to go to North Battle Creek Reservoir Campground, turn left (staying on FS 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 32N24 and PFR 16, turn left.



Mile 19.6

Turn left onto FS 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 PFR 16, turn right and travel north on FS 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 PFR 26.



✦ 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. *Off Road Travel is Prohibited.*



**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 PFR
26.**

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

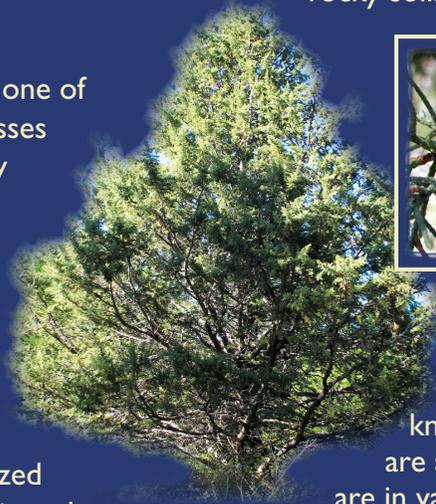
Despite its name, there are only seven major lakes within the Thousand Lakes Wilderness. But, there are many other small lakes and ponds, scattered about by receding glaciers.

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 to open cones and germinate.



☀ **Mile 35.4**

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



☀ **Mile 35.6**

Lat/Long 40° 47' 32"N,
121° 33' 27"W

Continue straight on PFR 26 to stay on the primary route.

⚡ **Side Trip - Driving**

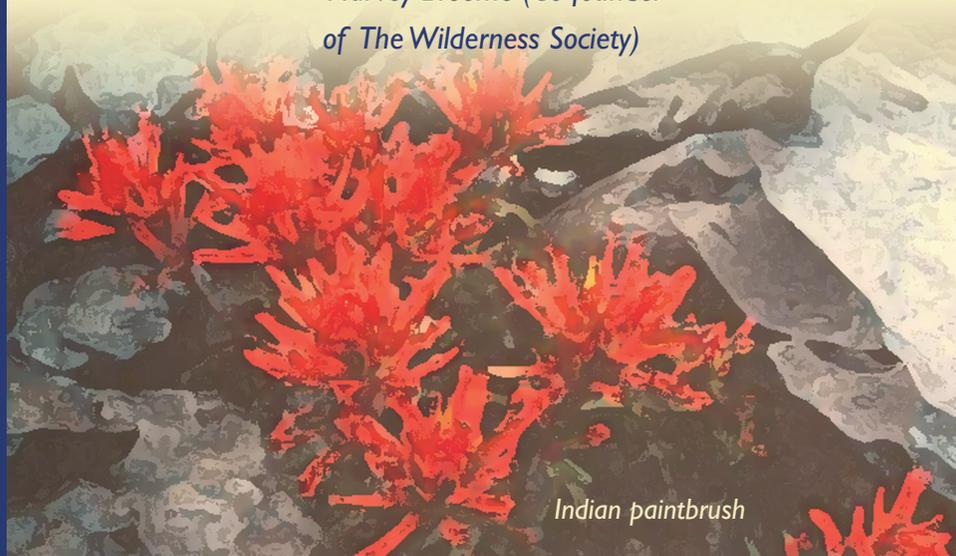
Follow FS 34N77 to take a short 1.3 mile trip to Cornaz Lake.

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 heading off to their northern breeding grounds. If you're lucky, you might



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

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**
PFR 26 intersects with two private roads. Turn left and then immediately turn right to follow the Lassen Backcountry Byway signs.

✦ **Mile 40.5**
Turn right on SR 89 where is intersects with PFR 26 and go south 0.2 miles.

✦ **Mile 40.7**
This is the intersection of SR 89 and Shasta County Road 6R200 (Doty Road).

