Area Adventure
Hat Creek Ranger District
Lassen National Forest

Welcome

The following list of recreation activities are available in the Hat Creek Recreation Area. For more detailed information please stop by the Old Station Visitor Information Center, open April - December, or our District Office located in Fall River Mills. Give us a call year-around Mon.-Fri. at (530) 336-5521. Enjoy your visit to this very interesting country.

Subway Cave - See an underground cave formed by flowing lava. Located just off Highway 89, 1/4 mile north of Old Station junction with Highway 44. The lava tube tour is self guided and the walk is 1/3 mile long. Bring a lantern or strong flashlight as the cave is not lighted. Sturdy Shoes and a light jacket are advisable. Subway Cave is closed during the winter months.

Hat Creek Rim Overlook - Nearly 1 million years ago, active faulting gradually dropped a block of the Earth’s crust (now Hat Creek Valley) 1,000 feet below the top of the Hat Creek Rim, leaving behind this large fault scarp. This fault system is still “alive and cracking”.

A heritage of the Hat Creek area’s past, it offers magnificent views of Hat Creek Valley, Lassen Peak, Burney Mountain, and, further away, Mt. Shasta.

Spattercone Trail - Walk a nature trail where volcanic spattercones and other interesting geologic features may be seen. The trailhead and parking area are located just inside the Sanitary Station across the highway from Hat Creek Campground on Highway 89 in Old Station. The trail has a round trip distance of 1.5 miles. Because the trail is not shaded we suggest you take this adventure in early morning or late afternoon hours.

This new site is located off Highway 44, 3 miles east of the junction of Highway 89/44 near Old Station. Hat Creek Rim Overlook offers interpretive signs, community wide information, parking for RV’s, restrooms and picnic sites with plenty of views.
**Vista Point** - The southern extent of the Cascade Mountains may be seen from this point. Get a good photo of Lassen Peak from the photo trail. Vista Point is located in a northbound paved turnout along Highway 44/89 four miles south of Old Station Post Office.

**Deer Hollow Plantation** - About 100 years ago fire raged through Deer Hollow consuming everything in its path. This self-guided nature trail tells the story of how people and nature are working together to bring back the timber. The trail is an easy walking 150 yard loop and should take you about 10 minutes. It starts and ends at the Vista Point.

**West Prospect Fire Lookout** - Learn how forest fires are detected while enjoying a panoramic view of northern Lassen Park and surrounding Lassen National Forest. Turn off Highway 89 one mile south of Big Pine Campground and travel 12 miles to reach the lookout. Trucks are advised. Open during the summer, seven days a week. Lookout hours are 9:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

**Nobles Trail** - This historical trail was established in 1851. A prospecting party led by Nobles crossed from Indian Valley to Honey Lake Valley. Nobles was later hired to shift the stream of immigrants to the town of Shasta.

The trail continues on through Susanville, past the north side of Lassen Volcanic National Park, and ends at Redding. An alternate route that Nobles used, goes through the Old Station area. You will see markers of this trail at Hat Creek Campground and Eskimo Hill.

**Fishing Access Trail** - This is a four mile trail between Cave and Bridge Campgrounds adjacent to Hat Creek. This trail shows off the multicolored wildflowers growing in the Hat Creek area. You'll also find some of the best fishing holes around.

**Big Springs** - This is where most of the volume of water comes into Hat Creek. The spring waters originate here. This is an excellent fishing area and you're likely to spot some interesting wildlife too. This area is 1/2 mile south of the Old Station Post Office off Highway 89/44.

**Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail** - The PCT extends 2,600 miles from Mexico to Canada. The Hat Creek Ranger District offers 62 miles of trail that winds through scenic vistas and geologic wonders. A new portion of the trail was established to offer the hiker an easier access to the town of Old Station where the U.S. Post Office is located. A reminder - drinking water is not available on the 26 mile section of trail that traverses HC Rim. If you're planning a trip, gives a call to find out how the conditions are.

**Thousand Lakes Wilderness** - This small 16,335 acre wilderness is located within the southern portion of the Cascade Mountain Range. Twenty-two miles of maintained trails reveal volcanic and glacial formations, rocky ravines, mountain slopes, open meadows, and stands of lodgepole pine and red fir. The summer use period is approximately June 15 to October 15, although snowstorms can arrive at any time. Be prepared.
Other area adventures - Within close proximity to Hat Creek Recreation area are Lassen Volcanic National Park, McArthur Burney Falls State Park, Crystal Lake Fish Hatchery and the Radio Astronomy Observatory. “The Crossroads” is an important stopping point to see highlights of Lassen National Forest and Lassen Volcanic National Park. This innovative center provides up-to-date information and unique interpretive adventures. The “Crossroads” is located at the north entrance to Lassen Volcanic National Park, junction of Highway 44/89.

For More Information Please Contact

Hat Creek Ranger District Office
P.O. Box 220, 43225 Highway 299E
Fall River Mills, Ca.  96028
(530) 336-5521

Lassen National Forest Supervisor’s Office:
2550 Riverside Drive
Susanville, Ca.  96130
(530) 257-2151

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

Almanor Ranger District
900 Main Street, P. O. Box 767
Chester, CA  96020
(530) 258-2141

More Adventures on Lassen National Forest:  
Eagle Lake - The second largest natural lake in California. Eagle Lake is framed by pine in the south and sage in the north. Camping, fishing, swimming, water-skiing, and boating are popular activities. Take a look at the new Osprey Point Overlook, and ride the bike trail.

Lake Almanor - At 75 square miles, one of the largest man-made lakes in California. Fishing, boating, water-skiing, and camping are available. Ride your bike or rollerblade on the new 9 mile Interpretive trail along the Lake Almanor shoreline.