



United States Department of Agriculture

# Lassen National Forest Visitor Guide 2017



Photo: Fishing at Eagle Lake, Lassen National Forest

## Welcome

The Lassen National Forest is one of 155 national forests across the United States and one of 18 national forests in California. Covering 1.2 million acres, it lies at the crossroads of the Modoc Plateau, the Great Basin, the Cascade Range, and the Sierra Nevada Mountains in northeast California. The Lassen National Forest is a tremendous public asset that provides a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities to forest visitors.

Enjoy relaxing and camping at our many campgrounds, fishing at Lake Almanor, Eagle Lake, and Hat Creek, or hiking the Pacific Crest Trail. You are sure to find that perfect activity that will leave you wanting more.

We invite you to explore the Lassen National Forest and discover the abundant adventures that await you.

**Supervisor's Office:**  
2550 Riverside Drive  
Susanville, CA 96130  
(530) 257-2151 TDD: (530) 257-6244

**Hat Creek Ranger District:**  
43225 Hwy 299E, PO Box 220  
Fall River Mills, CA. 96028  
(530) 336-5521

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

**Almanor Ranger District:**  
900 E. Hwy 36, PO Box 767  
Chester, CA 96020  
(530) 258-2141 (voice/TDD)



The Lassen National Forest has been an eyewitness to history. From the first Paleo-Indian hunter to follow big game through the area 12,000 years ago to the construction of a NASA-designed lookout tower in the 20th century, new people and new

technologies have always been a part of the forest landscape. Native peoples have called this area home for more than ten millennia, and their descendants still live, work, and carry on cultural traditions in forest communities. Euro-American explorers and emigrants came to the forest during the 1800s on foot, horseback, or driving ox carts laden with the possessions of their life's work. They settled in this country and scratched out a living farming, ranching, and harvesting timber. President Teddy Roosevelt officially



recognized the Lassen National Forest as part of a "forest reserve" system in the West in 1905. It formally became a "national forest" in 1908. People from all over the world continue to come to the forest to recreate on the ancient landscapes and in doing so, walk, hike, and bike the paths of history.

Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region



# Major Recreation Areas

## Hat Creek

In the shadow of Lassen Peak, six campgrounds and four picnic areas are nestled along 10 miles of Hat Creek. There are opportunities for fishing, hiking, camping, picnicking, and viewing wildlife. Hat Creek also has lava tubes, massive lava flows, and spattercones that reveal an exciting volcanic past.



## Lake Almanor

In a scenic mountain setting, Lake Almanor is one of the largest man-made lakes in California at 75 square miles. It offers opportunities for fishing, boating, water skiing, swimming, camping, and picnicking. The Almanor Recreation



Trail winds along the west side of Almanor, providing views of the lake, mountains, wildflowers, and wildlife. Family and group campgrounds, boat launch facilities, and private marinas are available.

## Eagle Lake

The second largest natural lake in California, Eagle Lake is framed by pine and sage. Camping, fishing, swimming, picnicking, and boating are popular activities. Family and group campgrounds, naturalist activities, marina, boat launch facilities, a store, a laundry area, and showers are available. The Eagle Lake Recreation Trail, 4.7 miles long, is ideal for bicycles or just a pleasant stroll. Eagle Lake is famed for its trophy trout.



## CAMPGROUND INFORMATION

### Developed Campsites

Lassen National Forest operates the recreation facilities at Almanor and Hat Creek Ranger Districts. Eagle Lake Recreation Area, which includes the marina, campgrounds, and day-use facilities, are operated by the Lassen College Foundation under a special use permit with the Lassen National Forest.

All campgrounds have fire rings, tables, and restroom facilities. Most developed campgrounds have a “host,” a resident camper who can provide campsite information, monitor campground use, and contact Forest officers in the event of problems.

### Reservations

Most Forest campgrounds are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Some have a loop or group area for reservation. Reservations for these campgrounds can be made online at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling toll free: Phone: 877-444-6777 TDD: 877-833-6777

### Accessible Fishing and Camping

Lassen National Forest offers a number of recreational facilities designed with accessibility in mind for persons with disabilities. Accessible fishing piers are located at Gallatin Beach and Gallatin Marina, as well as the Aspen Grove, Merrill, Eagle, Christie, and West Eagle (group) campgrounds. The breakwater at Eagle Lake’s Gallatin Marina is also fully accessible.

Accessible campsites are available at the Christie, Eagle, and Merrill campgrounds.

The Eagle Lake Recreation Trail is a 10-foot wide, 4.7-mile long trail winding through the pines, revealing scenic views of Eagle Lake. The Almanor Recreation Trail is an accessible trail that winds along the western edge of Lake Almanor, giving the visitor glimpses of the lake, wildlife, and the wooded landscape.

## Hat Creek Ranger District Developed Campsites

**Bridge:** On Highway 89. Fee, elevation 4000', 25 sites, no drinking water available. Season: late April - October.

**Big Pine:** On Highway 89. Fee, elevation 4500', 19 sites, hand-pumped water. Season: May - October.

**Cave:** On Highway 89. Fee, elevation 4300', 46 sites, water. Season: late April - October. 16 sites open all year.

**Dusty:** Off Highway 89. On gravel road on Lake Britton. Fee, elevation 3000', 7 sites which consist of 2 groups sites (up to 25 people) and 5 family sites (up to 10 people), no drinking water available, vault toilets. Operated by PG&E.

**Hat Creek (Hat):** On Highway 89. Fee, elevation 4300', 75 sites, water. Season: late April - October.

**Hat Creek Group:** On Highway 89. Fee, elevation 4300', 3 group sites, water, **reservation required**. Season: late April - October.

**Rocky:** On Highway 89. Fee, elevation 4000', 8 sites, no drinking water available. Season: late April - October.

**Honn:** On Highway 89. Fee, elevation 3500', 6 sites, no drinking water available. Season: late April - October.

### The Old Station Visitor Information Center

Open five days a week in the summer months.

**Friday – Sunday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**  
**Monday – Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

The friendly staff is ready to provide information on sightseeing, fishing, hiking, and camping opportunities in Lassen National Forest and the surrounding areas.

Flashlights are available to rent for a small fee for your tour of Subway Cave.

Call the Hat Creek Ranger District at (530) 336-5521 for more information.

## Almanor Ranger District Developed Campsites

**Alder Creek:** On Highway 32. Fee, elevation 3900', 6 sites, no drinking water available. Season: late April - Nov. 1, weather permitting.

**Almanor:** On Lake Almanor. Fee, elevation 4550', 103 sites, reservations available on 19 sites, accessible restroom at Almanor North, piped water. Season: May 1 - November 1, weather permitting.

**Almanor Group:** On Highway 89. Fee, elevation 4550', **reservations required**. Season: May 1 - November 1, weather permitting.

**Almanor Legacy:** On the west side of Lake Almanor. Fee, elevation 4500', 14 sites, RVs welcome, water and electric at each site but no sewer hookups. Season: May - October, weather permitting.

**Battle Creek:** On Highway 36. Fee, elevation 4800', 50 sites, piped water. Season: late April - November 1, weather permitting.

**Black Rock:** On Ponderosa Way. **No fee**, elevation 2100', 6 sites, stream water. Season: all year, weather permitting. Road not maintained November - May.

**Butte Meadows:** On Highway 914/22. Fee, elevation 4600', 13 sites, piped water. Season: late April - November 1, weather permitting.

**Cherry Hill:** On Highway 914/22. Fee, elevation 4700', 26 sites, hand-pumped water. Season: late April - November 1, weather permitting.

**Domingo Springs:** Off Highway 36. Fee, elevation 5060', 18 sites, piped water. Season: late May - November 1, weather permitting.

**Elam:** On Highway 32. Fee, elevation 4400', 15 sites, hand-pumped water. Season: mid April - November 1, weather permitting.

**Gurnsey:** On Highway 36. Fee, elevation 4700', 52 sites, piped water. Season: May 1 - November 1, weather permitting.

**Gurnsey Group:** On Highway 36. Fee, elevation 4700', piped water, **reservations required**. Season: May 1 - November 1, weather permitting.



**High Bridge:** Off Highway 36. Fee, elevation 5200', 12 sites, hand-pumped water. Season: late May - November 1, weather permitting.

**Hole-in-the-Ground:** Off Highway 36. Fee, elevation 4300', 13 spaces, piped water. Season: late April - November 1, weather permitting

**Potato Patch:** On Highway 32. Fee, elevation 3400', 32 sites, piped water. Season: April - November 1, weather permitting.

**Rocky Knoll:** At Silver Lake. Fee, elevation 6000', 18 sites, hand-pumped water. Season: late May - November 1, weather permitting.

**Silver Bowl:** At Silver Lake. Fee, elevation 6000', 18 sites, hand-pumped water. Season: late May - November 1, weather permitting.

**Soldier Meadows:** Off Road 308. Fee, elevation 4890', site numbers vary, no drinking water available. Season: late May - November 1, weather permitting.



The rich history of the Lassen National Forest is captured in the remnants and ruins left by past peoples for more than 12,000 years.

Archaeological sites and artifacts are protected by law. Look, but please do not disturb or remove traces of Lassen's past.

In the Lassen National Forest Heritage Program, visitors and volunteers to work side by side with professional archaeologists and historians to document, research, and preserve its past. Please contact the local Forest Service office for more information.

**Remember...**  
*the past belongs to the future,  
but only the present can protect it.*

## Eagle Lake Ranger District Developed Campsites

**Aspen Grove:** At south end of Eagle Lake. Fee, elevation 5100', 26 sites, tents-only campground, piped water. Season: May - September.

**Bogard:** Off Highway 44. **No Fee**, elevation 5600', 11 sites, hand-pumped water, maximum trailer length 25'. Season: May - October.

**Butte Creek:** Off Highway 44. **No fee**, elevation 5600', 10 sites, unimproved campsites; no drinking water available. Season: May - October.

**Crater Lake:** Off Highway 44. Seven miles of steep, rough road to campground, motorhomes and large trailers not recommended. Fee, elevation 6800', 17 sites, hand-pumped water, no gas motors on boats. Season: June - October.

**Christie:** At south end of Eagle Lake. Fee, elevation 5100', 69 sites, accessible facilities, piped water, some pull-through sites for large equipment (check with campground host). Season: May - September,

**Eagle:** At south end of Eagle Lake. Fee, elevation 5100', 50 sites, accessible facilities, piped water.

**Reservations only beginning May 15.** Season: May - September.

**Goumaz:** Off Highway 36 or 44. **No Fee**, elevation 5200', 5 sites, unimproved campsites for small equipment, drinking water available. Season: May - October.

**Merrill:** At south end of Eagle Lake. Fee, elevation 5100', 173 sites with full and partial hook-ups, longer spurs, dump station. Season: May - October.

**Roxie Peconom:** Off Highway 36. **No fee**, elevation 4800', 10 sites, park in lot and walk into camp sites, hand-pumped water. Season: May - October.

**West Eagle Group #1:** At south end of Eagle Lake. Fee, elevation 5100', maximum of 100 people, parking lot available, piped water. **Reservations only.** Season: May - October.

**West Eagle Group #2:** At south end of Eagle Lake. Fee, elevation 5100', maximum 75 people, parking lot available, piped water. **Reservations only.** Season: May - October.

# Outdoor Safety Tips

The most effective way to prevent mishaps is to adequately prepare for a trip. Knowledge of the area, weather, terrain, limitations of your body, plus a little bit of common sense can help ensure a safe and enjoyable trip.

**Be in good physical condition.** Set a comfortable pace as you hike. If your trip will be strenuous, get into good physical condition before setting out. If you plan to climb or travel to high elevations, make plans for proper acclimatization to the elevation.

**Check your equipment.** Keep your equipment in good working order. Inspect it before your trip.

**Think before you drink!** Pack your water in or purify through chemical treatment.

**Be weather wise.** Keep an eye on current and predicted weather conditions.

**Wear appropriate clothing.** Think of the trail conditions and the season. Dress in layers as conditions change.

**Travel with a companion.** You don't want to be by yourself in case of an emergency.

**Learn basic first aid.** Know how to identify and treat injuries and illnesses.

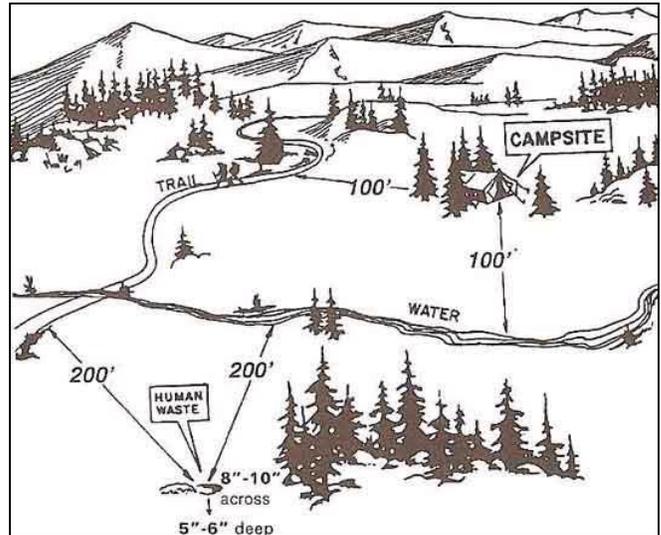
**Think about your footing.** Stay on developed trails or dry, solid, rock areas with good footing.

**Be alert for slippery areas.** Take your time to avoid tripping. Alcohol and cliffs don't mix! If you drink, stay away from the cliffs. Judgment, agility, and balance are all reduced by alcohol consumption.

**Make camp before dark.** Traveling after darkness has resulted in many accidents from falls, so travel only during daylight.



## Leave No Trace



**Please follow these principles when visiting the Lassen National Forest:**

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors

Thank you for keeping our public lands a resource for generations to come! For more information, please visit [About the Forest](#) on the Lassen National Forest Website or the Leave No Trace organization at <http://www.lnt.org>.

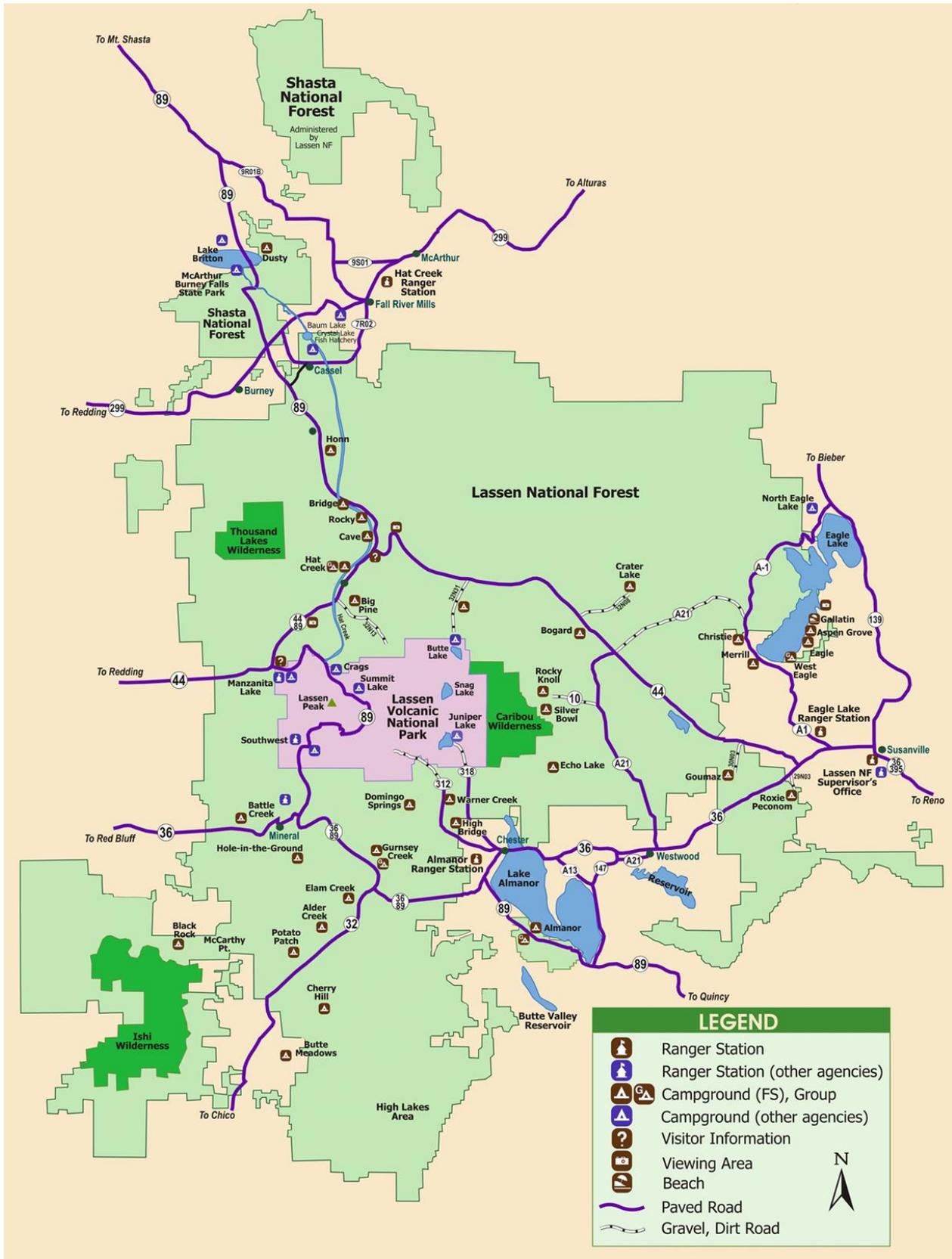
## Campfire Safety

**Obtain a California Campfire Permit** in person from any Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, or Cal Fire office **before** heading into the Forest.

When building your fire, clear all flammable material away from the fire area for a **minimum of 5 feet** in all directions. Select a **level spot** a safe distance away from trees, overhead branches, bushes, dry grass or logs to prevent escape of the fire.

Have a **responsible person** in attendance at all times. Have a **shovel available** at the campfire site for preparing and extinguishing campfires.

Extinguish campfires with water, using the **“drown, stir, and feel”** method.



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