



Lassen Volcanic Wilderness Camping

While this area may appear remote and deserted, each year thousands of visitors camp in the Lassen Volcanic wilderness. Anywhere you walk or camp will be used by many others. Please observe the following rules and regulations.

OBTAINING A PERMIT

Backcountry permits are required for overnight camping in the wilderness. Wilderness permits are NOT needed for camping in developed campgrounds. Free permits are available at Ranger Stations, Visitor Centers and some trailheads. Please call (530) 595-4480 for more information.

TRAIL REGULATIONS

Pets, weapons, bicycles and vehicles are prohibited on trails. Overnight backpacking groups are limited to 10 people. Larger groups must split into groups of 10 or less, travel and camp apart and maintain a distance of 1/2 miles at all times.

LEAVE NO TRACE

When traveling in the backcountry, please follow the Leave No Trace principles:

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable Surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Respect wildlife & be considerate of other visitors.

PLAN AHEAD AND BE PREPARED

Research your route and obtain maps. Carry the 10 Essentials (flashlight, map, compass, extra food, extra clothing, sunglasses, first aid kit, knife, waterproof matches and fire starter). Bring extra water, as the high elevation and dry air easily lead to dehydration. Remember you are dependent on your own resources for survival.

High elevations and mountainous terrain create the potential for thunderstorms or snow during any month of the year. Bring layers of synthetic or wool clothing to stay warm and always watch for sudden weather changes.

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPSITES

Camp on durable surfaces (i.e. rock, snow, bare pine needles) at least 100 feet from any water source, and 300 feet from other campers. When possible, camp in previously used campsites. Please do not make campsites "improvements". Subalpine meadows are fragile and should be avoided. Backcountry camping with stock is not allowed.

Backcountry camping is NOT allowed within 1/2 miles of roads and within 1/4 miles of all geothermal areas. Active geothermal sites include but are not limited to: Sulphur Works, West Sulphur Creek Basin, Fart Gulch, Little Hot Springs Valley, Bumpass Hell, Cold Boiling Lake, Devil's Kitchen, Hot Springs Creek, Boiling Springs Lake and Terminal geyser.

Additionally, the following areas are CLOSED TO CAMPING 1/4 MILE IN ALL DIRECTIONS. Reasons for closure include: area is too close to automobile access or developed areas, area is too fragile to sustain the impact of camping without damage occurring, day-use visitors in this area are too numerous to permit camping, terrain and/or vegetation barriers do not allow for suitable campsites or the area shows signs of deterioration due to overuse.

The camping restrictions map also highlights areas closed to camping.

- Cascade Springs
- Cinder Cone/Painted Dunes
- Cliff Lake
- Crags Lake
- Kings Creek Meadow - Upper & Lower
- Hat Creek Cabin
- Echo Lake
- Kings Creek Falls
- Crumbaugh Lake
- Lassen Peak
- Little Willow Lake
- Mt. Harkness Summit
- Trail from Summit Lake to Echo Lake

CAMPFIRES

Campfires are NOT allowed in the backcountry to protect fragile park resources. At high elevations, wood gathering depletes organic material necessary to provide future nutrients for plant growth. **Please use BACKPACKING STOVES ONLY.**

PARKING

For overnight parking, please park at Ranger Stations when possible. Please do not park in camping areas. If a parking area is not available, please ensure that your vehicle is not blocking the road or any entrances/exits. Appropriate parking areas include:

- Summit Lake – Summit Lake Ranger Station
- Butte Lake – Day use/Picnic Parking Area
- Juniper Lake – Juniper Lake Ranger Station or Inspiration Point Trailhead
- Warner Valley – Trailhead parking Area

FOOD STORAGE

All food, garbage, and any scented articles must be properly secured day and night. Scented items include flavored drinks, toiletries, insect repellent, first aid kits, etc. Failure to properly secure your property may result in a \$150 fine and/or the confiscation of these items.

The use of animal resistant food canisters or hanging food is REQUIRED. If using a canister, place all required items in the container, lock the lid and leave it 100-200 feet from your campsite.

You may also hang your food from a tree by suspending it 12 feet off the ground and 10 feet away from the nearest branch. We recommend using two 50 foot lengths of rope.

1. Tie a rock to the end of a rope and throw it over a tree branch.
2. Tie tail end of rope to tree. Tie food in middle of rope and throw rock over second tree branch.
3. Pull on rock end of rope to raise food.
4. Secure end of rope with rock to tree.

WASTE

- Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 100 feet from water, camp, and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
- Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.
- Pack out all trash, leftover food, and garbage. Leave nothing behind.

WATER

- Giardia, a microscopic organism that causes severe illness when ingested has been found in park water sources. Filter or treat all drinking water, or bring to a rolling boil for five minutes.
- Wash dishes and bathe at least 100' away from any water source and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Do not wash dishes in streams or lakes, even "biodegradable" soap will not break down in the cold temperature of Park water. Scatter strained dishwater.

TRAVEL ON DURABLE SURFACES

The popularity of Lassen Volcanic wilderness has resulted in sprawling campsite areas, lakeside damage, and secondary trails. In order to aid the recovery of these areas, Park employees and volunteers have blocked secondary trails with rocks or sticks. Please do not enter these recovering areas.

LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

Allow others a sense of discovery by leaving rocks, plants, archaeological artifacts, and other objects of interest as you found them.

The future of Lassen Volcanic Wilderness is in your hands, or more accurately, where you place your feet... Take extreme care to Leave No Trace by staying on trails and in previously used campsites. Enjoy your park!