



# Peak Experiences

The official newspaper  
of Lassen Volcanic National Park

November 2002-April 2003



Chaos Crags (Photo by Shanda Ochs)

## Fall and Winter Offerings

AT THE EDGE OF LASSEN'S WILDERNESS, THE solitude can be so deep that your ears ring with the absence of sound. On mornings after snowfall, the landscape glints as if the sky had overturned, spilling the Milky Way across the soaring peaks.

As the sun climbs, things began to stir in the Park. Clark's nutcrackers call to each other across the Chalet parking lot. The nightly forays of foxes and pine martens are revealed by prints in the snow. By lunch time, giddy children are making their own tracks, sliding down the slopes like otters.

Whether you are looking for a contemplative snowshoe trip, family snowplay, or challenging telemark runs, Lassen Volcanic has it all. Although park roads close, the Park is open year-round. Intermittent fall snowstorms usually close the main Park Road at Sulphur Works near the Southwest Entrance and the Devastated Area near the north end of the Park. The road usually closes for the season by late October to mid-November, providing visitors with auto-free opportunities to see another, quieter side of the Park. Here are just a few suggestions to get you started!

**Fall Hiking & Camping:** This is a gorgeous time to visit the Park, with fall colors often persisting through early November. Until serious snowfall begins, you can enjoy fabulous hiking throughout the Park without the heat or crowds of summer. Manzanita Lake and Warner Valley Campgrounds are open (without drinking water) until snow covers the ground.

**Beginning-Intermediate Ski & Snowshoe Routes** abound in the Manzanita Lake area (elevation 6,000 feet). The road usually is plowed from the North Entrance to the Loomis Ranger Station (one mile). Over 15 miles of cross-country ski trails begin at the Loomis Ranger Station. All trails are marked



Skiers and snowshoers (NPS Photo)

Loomis Ranger Station is open weekends and holidays for information, maps and books.

**Snowplay:** The Park Road is plowed one mile from the Southwest Entrance to the Lassen Chalet. Tobogganing, sledding, and tubing are allowed near the Lassen Chalet (elevation 6,700 feet) and snowboarding is allowed ¼ mile from the Chalet.

**Intermediate-Advanced Skiers and Snowshoers** delight in the steep terrain and sweeping views from the snow-covered Park Road. See page 4 for touring routes.

**Snow Camping** is available at the Southwest Campground for an \$8 fee. Water and restrooms are available nearby. See page 2. Free permits for wilderness snow camping are available at contact stations.

**Snowshoe Walks and Winter Survival Programs** are available at the Lassen Chalet. Snowshoe walks are also available at Manzanita Lake. See page 2.

and most are groomed after a new storm. More experienced skiers can access more challenging mountainous terrain from this area. See page 5 for suggested routes. The



Chaos Crags touring route at dusk

(Photo by Shanda Ochs)

**Need more information?** Park Headquarters in Mineral is open Monday through Friday (closed holidays) for information, maps and books.

If Lassen's charms inspire you to offer something in return, here are a few ways you can help preserve and protect your Park, while keeping in touch with park news and events:

- Join the Lassen Loomis Museum Association (p. 6)
- Join the Lassen Park Foundation (p. 6)
- Volunteer Programs (p. 5)
- Seasonal Employment (p. 6)

We hope you have a memorable stay in the Lassen area and that you will come back soon.

### Welcome!

It's remarkable how blue the skies can be at Lassen Volcanic National Park during the fall and winter seasons. Fall colors are soon blanketed in deep snow that glistens on clear winter days. There is such beauty for you to see and enjoy during all seasons at Lassen Volcanic National Park.

Whether you choose to cross-country ski, snowshoe, camp or just play in the snow, make your visit safe and enjoyable by planning ahead. Our staff can provide details about trails, ranger-led programs, and weather, road and avalanche conditions.

We continue to make progress to preserve and protect Lassen's precious resources and provide more opportunities for our visitors to enjoy the Park. On July 16, 2002 the new Lassen Volcanic National Park General Management Plan (GMP) was published in the Federal Register. Therefore our plan now has final approval and is officially legal. This plan provides the long-term direction for resource preservation and visitor use. One of the major projects identified in the GMP is the replacement of the Chalet with the construction of a new Southwest Visitor Services Facility. This new facility will provide for the first time a year-round visitor center facility for Lassen Volcanic National Park. We are excited that the planning and design of this new visitor facility begins in early October, 2002, with construction scheduled to begin in early summer of 2005.

Our Fee Demonstration Program allows your entrance fee and camping fee dollars to continue to provide needed funds for visitor facility improvements and resource protection projects. Projects that improve campgrounds, provide new wayside exhibits, rehabilitate disturbed natural areas are just a few that are underway.

We hope your visit is enjoyable and you plan to return again and again. Please remember your role to protect and preserve this special place for everyone.

Marilyn H. Parris  
Superintendent

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Lassen Volcanic National Park  
P.O. Box 100  
Mineral, CA 96063







National Park Service  
U. S. Department  
of the Interior



Established first as Cinder Cone and Lassen Peak National Monuments in 1907, Lassen Volcanic became a national park in 1916 because of its significance as an active volcanic landscape. Lassen Peak began erupting in 1914, had its most spectacular activity in 1915, and had minor activity until 1921. All four types of volcanoes in the world, plus active geothermal areas, are found in Lassen Volcanic's 106,000 acres. Lassen Peak may be the largest plug dome volcano in the world. It is considered to be dormant today.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### EMERGENCIES

Dial 911

#### INFORMATION

##### Park Headquarters (Mon.-Fri.)

(530) 595-4444

Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD):

(530) 595-3480

##### Loomis Ranger Station

##### (Call on Weekends, Winter Only)

(530) 595-4444 ext. 5187

#### FAX NUMBER

(530) 595-3262

#### PARK WEB SITE

<http://www.nps.gov/lavo>

#### MAILING ADDRESS

Lassen Volcanic National Park

P.O. Box 100

Mineral, CA 96063-0100

#### LOST & FOUND/ PROTECTION RANGER ASSISTANCE Park Dispatch

(530) 595-4444 ext. 5151

##### Loomis Ranger Station

##### (Call on Weekends, Winter Only)

(530) 595-4444 ext. 5187

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

# You Need To Know

## For Your Safety

- Please remember that Lassen Volcanic National Park is a wild area with natural wonders that are also potential hazards
- The National Park Service cannot guarantee your safety
- Bring a first aid kit, high energy food, water, and extra clothing
- Prepare for the unexpected – equipment failure, injury or illness and wet winter storms can turn a day trip into an agonizing ordeal

## Roads

- Carry tire chains in your vehicle
- The Loomis Ranger Station is at 6000' elevation and the Lassen Chalet is at 6700' elevation
- Be alert for icy road conditions and drifting snow

## Park Road Closures

- Call Park Headquarters for current road information at (530) 595-4444
- Park Road (the main road that connects Highway 89 through the Park) usually closes by late October for the season due to snow
- Plowing usually begins on the Park Road in early April; the road usually opens by mid-June
- The Butte Lake, Warner Valley and Juniper Lake roads close for the season due to snow by late October and usually reopen by late June

## Trails

- Call Park Headquarters for current trail information at (530) 595-4444; if you have Internet access, click on the "Roads & Trails" link at [www.nps.gov/lavo](http://www.nps.gov/lavo) for updates
- Sulphur Works area may be closed due to hazardous conditions
- Be aware that thermal areas may be covered by snow and that the snow may be dangerously thin and could collapse at any time
- Do not walk or ski across lakes
- Skiers, snowshoers and hikers should make and maintain separate tracks in the snow
- Do not leave valuables in vehicles
- Use garbage cans and pack out all litter
- Snowmobiling is not permitted anywhere within the boundaries of Lassen Volcanic National Park. Please ask a ranger about snowmobile trails outside the Park.

Pass Type	Price	Notes
Vehicle	\$10	Valid for 7 days
Individual	\$5	On foot, bicycle, motorcycle or horse Valid for 7 days
Lassen Annual Pass	\$20	Covers entrance fee at Lassen Volcanic N.P. and day use fee at Whiskeytown N.R.A. Valid for one year from month of purchase
National Parks Pass 365 days - more than 380 ways to experience your America	\$50	Covers all national parks with entrance fees (not valid for camping, tours, or concession charges) Valid for one year from month of purchase
Golden Eagle Pass	\$65	Covers entrance fees at all Federal Fee Areas (available as a National Parks Pass with \$15 upgrade hologram sticker) Valid for one year from month of purchase
Golden Age Pass	\$10	For U.S. citizens and permanent residents that are 62+ years Lifetime pass
Golden Access Pass	Free	For permanently disabled U.S. citizens and permanent residents Lifetime pass
- Non-profit organizations \$5 per person over 16 years of age; minimum \$10 - Commercial tour fees based on seating capacity of vehicle - For more information contact the Fee Office at (530) 595-4444 ext. 5184		

## Snowplay

- Snowplay slopes are steep and sometimes icy; choose snowplay areas carefully
- Snowboarding, sledding, and tubing can be dangerous; please act responsibly
- Jump building is prohibited within ¼ mile of the Lassen Chalet

## Campground

- The Southwest Campground is open for snow camping with restrooms and water available nearby at the Lassen Chalet; park only in the designated overnight parking area
- Fires and fire pans are not permitted
- There is an \$8 per night camping fee payable at the entrance station

## Accessible Facilities

- Park Headquarters in Mineral: Information Desk, restroom, water fountain
- Manzanita Lake: Loomis Ranger Station, restroom



## Lost and Found

- Report lost items or turn in found items at Park Headquarters or Loomis Ranger Station

## Pets

- Pets are not permitted away from plowed roads or parking areas and must be on a leash and restrained at all times



For a complete listing of park rules and regulations, please ask at Park Headquarters or the Loomis Ranger Station.

# Ranger-Led Activities

## Snowshoe Walks

Join a park ranger for a one to two mile adventure exploring winter ecology or Lassen's geologic history. Wear boots and dress warmly. Participants must be at least eight years old and be able to withstand moderate physical exertion at the 7000' elevation. Snowshoe walks are first-come, first-served.

#### SOUTH SIDE

Snowshoe walks are held on Saturdays from January 4 through April 5. Meet the ranger at 1:30 p.m. by the snowshoe sign outside the Lassen Chalet for this 1½ to two-hour program.

#### NORTH SIDE

Snowshoe walks are held from on Saturdays and Sundays from December 22 through February 16. Meet the ranger at 12:30 outside the Loomis Ranger Station for a one-hour walk.



Ranger-led program at Sulphur Works

(NPS Photo)

The acquisition and maintenance of the snowshoes has become quite expensive. A \$1 donation is requested for each pair of snowshoes used. Snowshoes are provided for the ranger-led walk only.

## Other Programs

Join a ranger for a program on minimum impact camping or winter survival in the southwest area of the Park. Programs are held on Sundays from December 22 through April 6. Meet at 12:30 p.m. outside the Lassen Chalet for this one-hour program.

## Group Programs

Snowshoe walks for schools and organized groups of 10 or more persons require reservations well in advance. Reservations can be made as early as November 1 at 8 a.m. for winter school or group programs (dates fill quickly). Programs cover topics such as winter ecology, winter survival, and snow shelters. For more information, please telephone (530) 595-4444 ext. 5133, Monday through Friday.



# Into the Backcountry

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIERS AND snowshoers who venture into Lassen's backcountry can expect spectacular vistas and snowy solitude. Adequate preparation and precaution may ensure a safe and enjoyable experience. Call Park Headquarters or the Loomis Ranger Station in advance for information on snow, weather, and backcountry conditions.



Porcupine feeding in a red fir tree

## Day Users

- Always sign in/out on trail register stands at the Lassen Chalet in the Southwest area and at the trailhead by the Loomis Ranger Station in the Manzanita Lake area
- Registration is helpful should search and rescue assistance be necessary

## Overnight Users

- A backcountry permit is required; ask about areas closed to camping
- Backcountry permits are available at Park Headquarters in Mineral (open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed holidays) or by calling (530) 595-4444 ext. 5134; permits are available during office hours on weekends at park entrance stations
- Park in designated overnight parking area ONLY; vehicles can be damaged by snow removal equipment if parked in other areas

## Pets, Fires, Litter

- Pets are not permitted in the backcountry or in any unplowed areas
- Open fires and fire pans are not permitted; use campstoves only
- Carry out all litter
- Dig latrines and bury human waste at least one foot deep in snow away from trails and drainages; carry out all waste paper

## Water, Food, Clothing, Supplies

- Carry water; exercising in dry high-elevation air makes one particularly susceptible to dehydration
- Purify park surface water and melted snow before drinking by using 2-micron filters (or better) and boiling 5 minutes to avoid Giardia
- Potable water is available in the Lassen Chalet restrooms and at the restrooms near the Loomis Ranger Station (only small containers will fit under the faucets)
- Store food and trash in a canister or hang out of reach of animals
- Always carry waterproof cold weather gear, even on sunny days
- Layer clothing to maintain an even temperature; excessive perspiration can lead to hypothermia
- Carry a topographic map and compass and know how to use them
- Pack an emergency ski tip, complete extra binding, and repair manuals

## For Your Safety

- Always travel with a partner or a group
- Select a travel route familiar to at least one member of your party and equal to your experience and ability
- Be prepared for winter weather extremes (gale winds, subzero temperatures, blowing snow, whiteout conditions) which can kill unprepared travelers
- Postpone or terminate your trip if a storm is forecast or appears to be building; weather can be unpredictable and fast changing
- If caught in a storm, wait it out in a sheltered, avalanche-safe area until conditions stabilize
- Allow extra travel time during soft snow conditions
- Be aware that thermal areas may be covered by snow and that the snow may be dangerously thin and could collapse at any time
- In case of emergency, the nearest telephone or ranger is at the Lassen Chalet or Loomis Ranger Station
- Remember: your best chance of survival is to use your own resources; be prepared and stay alert

# Climate Statistics

### Sunrise and Sunset Times for Chester (times calculated for flat terrain)

Day	November		December		January		February		March		April	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
01	0635	1702	0708	1639	0728	1649	0714	1723	0639	1756	0549	1829
10	0645	1652	0717	1639	0727	1658	0705	1734	0625	1806	0635	1938
20	0657	1644	0724	1642	0723	1709	0652	1746	0609	1817	0620	1949

### PARK HEADQUARTERS, ELEVATION 4850' (BASED ON WEATHER DATA FROM 1929-1994)

	October	November	December	January	February	March	April
Average Maximum Temperature (°F)	71	57	48	48	50	54	62
Greatest Maximum Temperature (°F)	88	77	70	64	67	73	80
Average Minimum Temperature (°F)	29	20	15	15	15	20	24
Lowest Minimum Temperature (°F)	15	7	-12	-13	-7	-2	6
Average Snowfall (Inches)	1.0	10.5	27	31	30	31	11.25

### MANZANITA LAKE, ELEVATION 5850' (BASED ON WEATHER DATA FROM 1949-1994)

	October	November	December	January	February	March	April
Average Maximum Temperature (°F)	69	56	50	50	51	53	61
Greatest Maximum Temperature (°F)	87	78	66	66	68	68	78
Average Minimum Temperature (°F)	30	21	14	13	13	16	23
Lowest Minimum Temperature (°F)	10	2	-13	-13	-11	-7	-2
Average Snowfall (Inches)	3	18	31	34	28	33	14

The pine marten, a shy member of the weasel family, needs wild, roadless coniferous forests like those at Lassen Volcanic in order to survive



# Your Fee Dollars at Work

## Fee Demonstration Projects in Progress

- Bear-proof food storage lockers and trash receptacles are being installed in all the campgrounds to ensure the health and safety of park visitors and bears and other wildlife.
- Disturbed natural areas are being rehabilitated to preserve native plants and animals.
- New wayside exhibits are being designed and constructed and will be installed throughout the park.
- Design is underway for a new Southwest Entrance Station.
- Our park web site is being enhanced for your virtual visits! Read about Fee Demonstration projects on-line at [www.nps.gov/lavo/feedemo.htm](http://www.nps.gov/lavo/feedemo.htm).



## Completed Fee Demonstration Projects

- The plaza and parking lot at the Loomis Museum provides enhanced features to visitors, including a wheelchair-accessible ramp into the museum.
- A water treatment plant has been built to restore potable water to campers at Butte Lake Campground.
- New and improved trail and campground signs have been constructed and installed throughout the Park.
- Permanent museum exhibits in Loomis Museum display Native American baskets, historical objects, and geologic specimens.



# Cross-Country Ski and Snowshoe Routes

It is strongly recommended that visitors exploring Lassen's backcountry carry a topographic map and compass. Consult pages 2, 3, and 8 for regulations, registration, and safety information.

Virtually the entire Park is open to the skier or snowshoer. These routes provide a variety of terrain and scenery. Sudden storms or avalanche conditions may be encountered. The wise winter traveler will turn back at any sign of inclement weather. Terrain and snow character usually require winter mountaineering experience and equipment for advanced level routes.

## Park Road from Southwest Area

**Classification:** Beginner to advanced  
**Distance:** Lassen Chalet to Lake Helen 6.2 mi., to road summit at base of Lassen Peak 7 mi., to Kings Creek Meadows 11.6 mi., to Summit Lake 16.5 mi., to Hat Lake 19 mi., to Manzanita Lake 30 mi.

**Elevation:** Start (Lassen Chalet) 6700', high point 8500', Manzanita Lake 5850'

**Average Skiing Time (one way):** Lake Helen 3 hrs., Kings Creek 5 hrs., Summit Lake 8 hrs., Manzanita Lake 2 days

The route starts at the Lassen Chalet and follows the unplowed Park Road through the Park to Manzanita Lake. Hazardous, steep side hills with icy conditions may be encountered. The Diamond Peak area has a history of avalanches. This area should be avoided by using the marked "cutoff" trail just north of Windy Point (see map below). By midwinter in the high, open country between the head of Little Hot Springs Valley and Reading Peak, it is difficult to find any trace of the road. High winds and

whiteout conditions are common in this same area during winter storms. The road crosses several avalanche paths as indicated on the map below. Terrain off the roadway is generally steep south of Kings Creek and gentle northward. Good overnight snow camping areas (with backcountry permit) can be found a short distance from the road north of Diamond Peak, near Emerald Lake and Lake Helen, Kings Creek Meadow, Summit Lake and Hat Lake. This route offers the best access into the heart of Lassen's backcountry.

## Ridge Lakes

**Classification:** Advanced intermediate

**Distance:** 2.5 mi. round trip

**Elevation:** Start (Sulphur Works) 7000', high point 8000'

**Average Skiing Time (one way):** 1 hr.

To reach this trail, follow the unplowed Park Road from Lassen Chalet about ¾ mi., cross the bridge just before reaching Sulphur Works, then turn left (northwest) away from the road and follow the drainage just west of the Sulphur Works thermal basin. The trail climbs rapidly to the Ridge Lakes basin. Several good camping spots (with backcountry permit) can be found on the north shore of Ridge Lakes. If weather is severe, more protected camping can be found about ¾ mi. below Ridge Lakes along its outlet creek. Avoid the area just south of Ridge Lakes during periods of avalanche danger. The trail loops north from Ridge Lakes to rejoin itself about ¾ mi. below the basin.

## Lassen Peak

**Classification:** Advanced – ice axe, crampons, and climbing rope may be needed

**Distance:** 2.5 mi. one way from base to summit

**Elevation:** Start 8500', summit 10,457'

**Average Skiing Time (one way):** 3 hrs. from base to summit – varies with weather conditions

Follow the unplowed Park Road from Lassen Chalet (see directions under "Park Road from Southwest Area"). Travel past Lake Helen to the road summit at the south base of Lassen Peak. Angle left (north) working your way up a moderately steep south facing slope to a shelf about ¼ mi. north of the road. You should see a well-defined ridge running northwest to the peak summit from the flat you are on. Follow this ridge (summer trail route) up to the summit. Since Lassen Peak is the highest in the Park, high winds and whiteout conditions can develop rapidly, sometimes without warning.

## Forest Lake

**Classification:** Intermediate

**Distance:** 1 mi.

**Elevation:** Start 6,500', high point 7,500'

**Average Skiing Time:** 2 hr.

**Description:** The ski trail is marked by placards with orange diamonds on a white background. These markers are pointed in the direction of travel. The trail begins at the Lassen Chalet and follows the



unplowed Park Road 100 yds, then turns left (south) and follows a shallow bowl several hundred yards until another larger bowl is reached. At this point the trail turns right (west) and passes through the bowl to a flat area. Look for a ridge on the right (north). Follow the crest of the ridge toward the west until the trail markers indicate a turn to the left (south) up a steep face. Follow the markers to the southwest, staying above some large open areas to the south. On reaching the next ridge, turn right (west) and follow the ridge to the open bowl area beneath Mt. Brokeoff. Do not travel into the bowl--turn left (south) and follow the markers to Forest Lake.

## Brokeoff Mountain

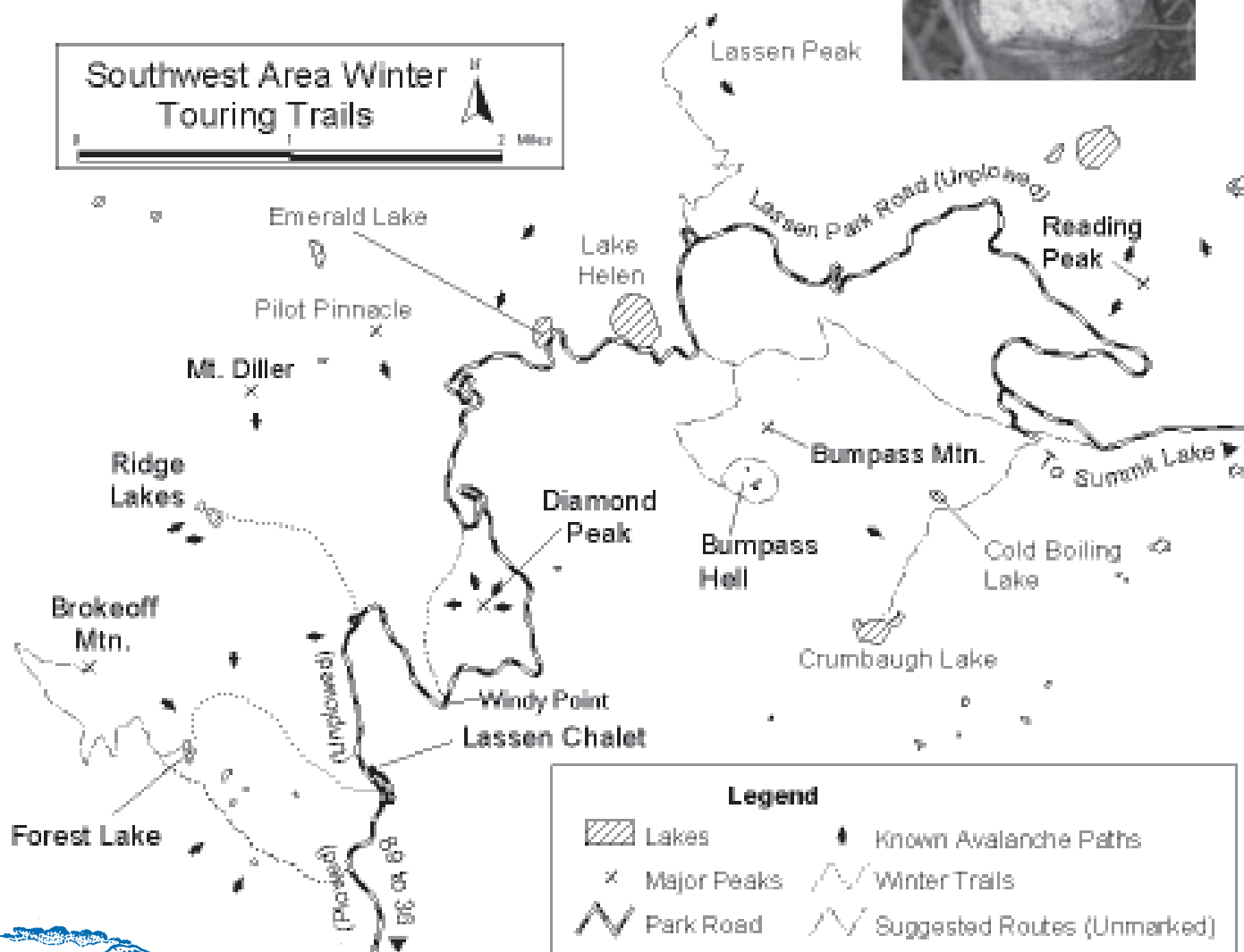
**Classification:** Advanced – may require ice axe, crampons, and climbing rope

**Distance:** 4 mi. one way

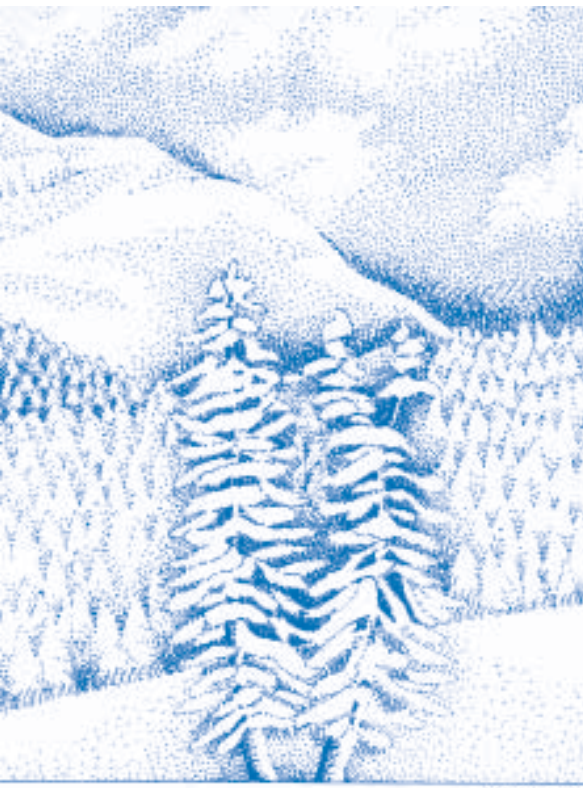
**Elevation:** Start 6650', summit 9250'

**Average Skiing Time (one way):** 4 hrs. to summit – varies with weather conditions  
Park at the Lassen Chalet and walk back about ¼ mi. to the trailhead. Follow the summer trail route (no visible markers), cross the road and travel southwest about ¼ mi. up to the base of Brokeoff Mountain's southeast ridge. Angle right (northwest) following the base of the ridge and Forest Lake drainage toward Forest Lake. After about 1 mi. (before reaching Forest Lake) look for a small side canyon that forks to the left and up toward Brokeoff Mountain summit. Once at the head of this small side canyon (another ½ mi.), angle left (southwest) toward the southeast ridge of Brokeoff Mountain. Once on top of this ridge, travel toward the summit – stay on the moderately steep southwest facing slope to the summit of Brokeoff Mountain. Summit conditions are often high winds and whiteout conditions during inclement weather. Large, overhanging snow cornices at the summit make any approach to the edge extremely dangerous – stay back at least 30 feet from the edge.

*While touring Lassen's backcountry, keep your eyes open for signs of wildlife, such as this fresh porcupine chew on a fir tree*







## Manzanita Lake Snowshoe Loop

**Classification:** Beginner  
*This trail is recommended for foot traffic only, not skiing*  
**Distance:** 1.6 mi. around lake  
**Elevation:** Start 5800', high point 5850'  
**Average Time (round trip):** 1 hr.  
 The route starts near the Loomis Ranger Station and circles the lake.

## Nobles Emigrant Trail

**Classification:** Beginner to intermediate  
**Distance:** 7 mi.  
**Elevation:** Start 5850', high point 6350'  
**Average Skiing Time (round trip):** 3-4 hrs.

The trail starts at the Park Road across from the Loomis parking area. The route

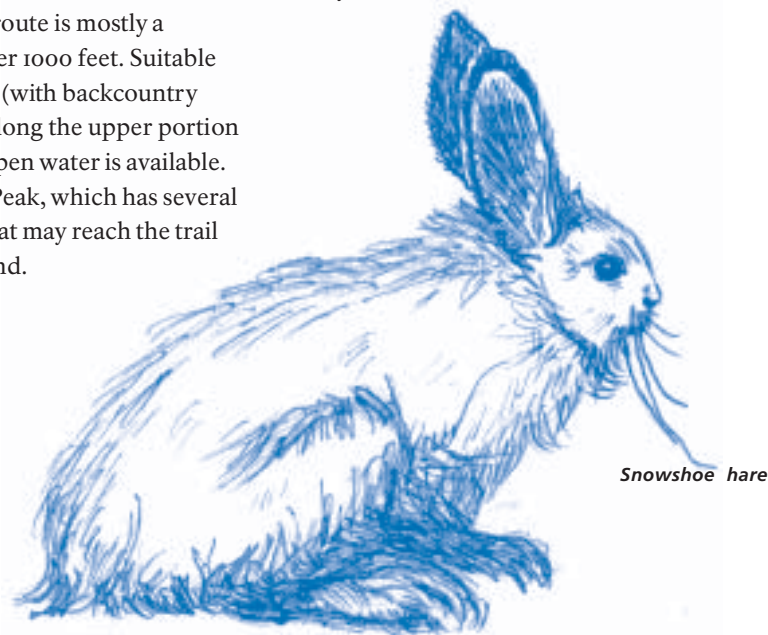
joins the historic Nobles Emigrant Trail at the base of Table Mountain. The trail then climbs a portion of the southeast flank of Table Mountain and continues through heavy fir forest at a gradual descent, then rejoins the Park Road at Sunflower Flat. Turn right to follow the Park Road back to make a loop.

## Manzanita Creek

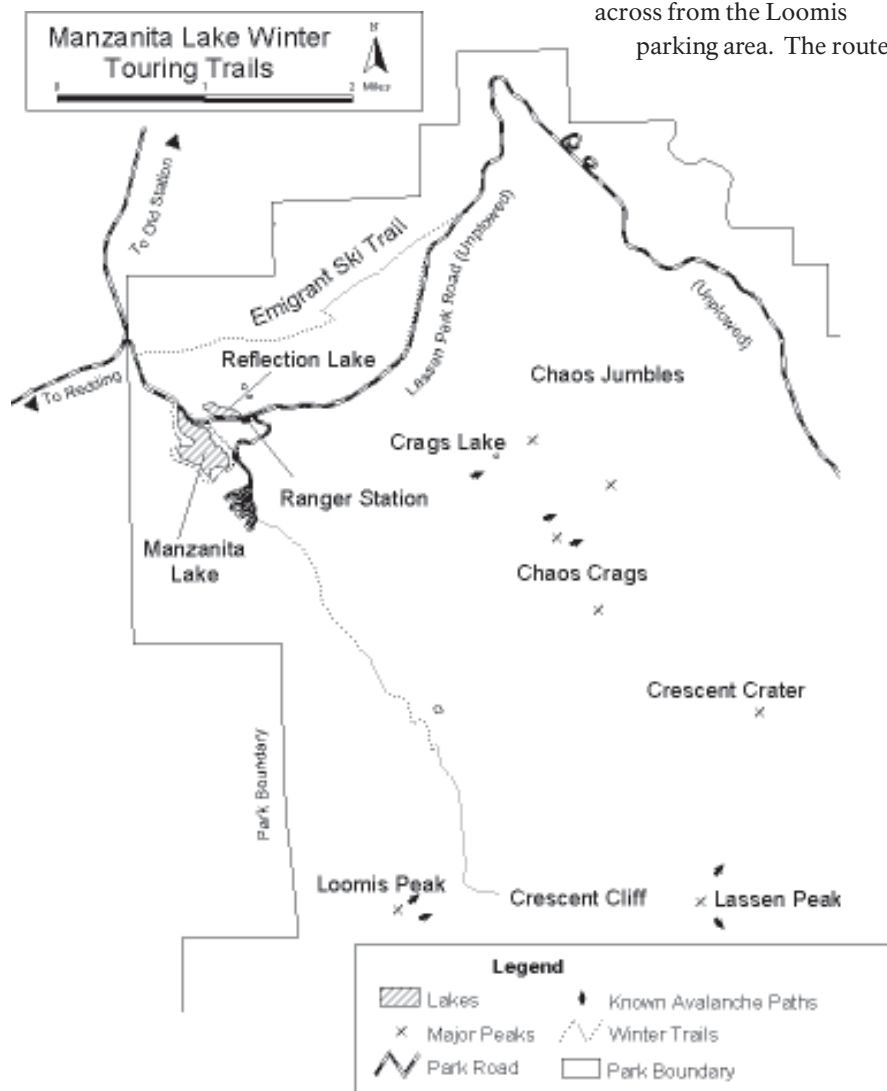
**Classification:** Intermediate  
**Distance:** 7.5 mi.  
**Elevation:** Start 5850', high point 7400'  
**Average Skiing Time (round trip):** 6 hrs.  
 The trail leaves from the Loomis Ranger Station, crosses the footbridge, and turns right onto the Manzanita Lake Campground road. Travel through the campground to the Manzanita Creek trailhead sign. The route is mostly a gradual climb of over 1000 feet. Suitable snow camping sites (with backcountry permit) are found along the upper portion of this trail where open water is available. Beware of Loomis Peak, which has several avalanche chutes that may reach the trail toward the upper end.

## Near the Park: McGowan Lake & Nanny Creek

**Classification:** Beginner to intermediate  
**Distance:** 5 mi. to Nanny Creek  
**Elevation:** Start (Highway 89) 6080', end (Highway 36) 5110'  
**Average Skiing Time (one way):** 2 hrs.  
 The trail leaves Highway 89 on the unplowed McGowan Lake Road (3.5 miles south of the Lassen Chalet). The route is marked with blue and white ski touring signs and proceeds across a flat and slightly descending landscape. Skiers will pass through largely forested areas with some meadow clearings, ending at Highway 36 at Nanny Creek. The trail does not go to McGowan Lake which is on private property. This trail makes for a good one way ski if vehicles are available for shuttle.



Snowshoe hare



# Be A Volunteer At Lassen Volcanic National Park

Would you like to help this and future generations continue to enjoy Lassen? Consider becoming a volunteer. You can make a difference in your life, in the lives of others, and in the way Lassen Volcanic National Park is managed and protected. You can develop new skills, gain experience that may enrich your life, and make new friends with those who share your interests and appreciation of the great outdoors. The Park has a variety of volunteer positions and projects.

**Campground Host:** Live and work in one of seven campgrounds. Share park information with other campers, check compliance of regulations, and keep statistics. A self-contained RV or motorhome is needed.

**Interpretation Assistant:** Learn about the Park's cultural and natural history and share this information with others. Assist with visitor activities or help staff visitor contact stations.

**Natural Resources Assistant:** Collect and analyze data on water quality, vegetation, or wildlife.

**Cultural Resources/Park Collections Assistant:** Assist in cataloging and caring for the Park's museum and photographic, slide, and digital image collections. Help maintain and catalog the reference books and publications of two small libraries.

**Maintenance:** Assist in maintaining, repairing, and upgrading trails, roads, equipment, and facilities.

**Clerical Assistant:** Use your organizational skills to assist park staff with general administrative duties.

**Group Projects:** Help with various research and backcountry projects. Crews of varying size and time commitment are needed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS COORDINATOR  
 LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK  
 POST OFFICE BOX 100  
 MINERAL, CA 96063-0100

(530) 595-4444 EXTENSION 5133

## Park Mission

"...to conserve, preserve and protect Lassen Volcanic National Park and its geological, biological and cultural resources for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of present and future generations."





# Park Partners



The **Lassen Loomis Museum Association** is dedicated to making your visit a memorable learning adventure. The Association publishes and sells books and other items on the flora, fauna, and history of the park. Profits are used to supply books, posters, maps, and videos to the park's libraries and visitor centers and to support the park's mission, museum exhibits, and other special projects.

I want to invest in the Lassen Loomis Museum Association. I've checked my annual membership option below and will send my check to: Lassen Loomis Museum Association, P.O. Box 220, Mineral, CA 96063.

Membership	Benefits	Investment
<input type="checkbox"/> Manzanita Lake	10% Discount on All Merchandise	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Chaos Crags	Plus a seven day Park Pass	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Diamond Peak	Plus "Flowers of Lassen" Book	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Emerald Lake	Plus a season Park Pass	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Brokeoff Mountain	Plus "Ishi, the Last Yahi" Video	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Lassen Peak	Plus a National Parks Pass	\$1,000

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

A portion of your donation may be tax deductible. Please make checks payable to the **Lassen Loomis Museum Association**. For more information about memberships and publications, please call (530) 595-3399 or visit our web site, [www.lassenloomis.info](http://www.lassenloomis.info).

Lassen Park Foundation, a private, nonprofit foundation, was founded in 1984, for the purpose of providing support for projects in Lassen Volcanic National Park and Lassen National Forest.



Authorized by the National Park Service and working in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, the Foundation is able to assist with park needs such as enhanced interpretive and educational activities, trail restoration, wildlife research, and cultural resource projects.

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Mail to **Lassen Park Foundation, P.O. Box 3155, Chico, CA 95927-3155**, or telephone (530) 898-9309. Donations are tax deductible.  
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# Nearby Businesses

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## South of Park, Highways 36 & 172: Mill Creek

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# Employment at Lassen Volcanic National Park

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## SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT

Lassen Volcanic National Park is looking for hard-working people interested in temporary work with the National Park Service between May and mid-October. Positions offered usually include visitor services, interpretation, fire management, law enforcement, maintenance, trail work, biological research...and more!

Seasonal employment is a great way to get experience working in the National Park Service, contribute to the National Park Service Mission, learn more about our national heritage, and work in beautiful and fascinating places.

To get more information, contact Lassen's Human Resources office at (530) 595-4444 extension 5142. Job openings are posted on the USAJobs web site, [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov). Hiring for summer positions usually begins in January.

## STUDENT TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Lassen Volcanic National Park is very interested in hiring college students for its summer season! In order to qualify for employment, students must be currently enrolled on a full-time or half-time basis in an accredited institution of higher learning. Students must send the following materials to:



STEP seasonal employee and Volunteer at the Loomis Museum (NPS Photo)

**Lassen Volcanic National Park Human Resources**  
 PO Box 100  
 Mineral, California 96063

- A cover letter noting the "STEP" program, your dates of availability, and the positions of interest
- A detailed multipage resume of work history
- A photocopy of your most recent college transcripts

(Positions filled under the STEP program are Park Ranger, Visitor Use Assistant, Laborer, Maintenance Worker, Forestry Technician, Clerical, and Natural Sciences.)

Lodging, meals, gifts, and services are available near Lassen Volcanic National Park. Inquiries or reservations should be directed towards the individual business. These businesses' donations helped pay for this issue of *Peak Experiences*.





Southeast of Park, Highway 36: Chester & Lake Almanor



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North of Park, Highways 44 & 89: Old Station & Hat Creek

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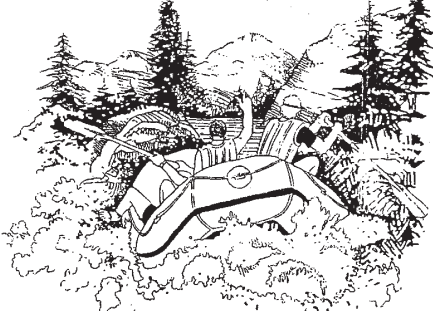
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Northwest of Park, Highway 44: Viola

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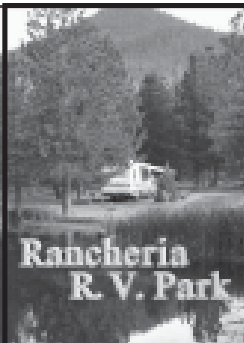


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West of Park, I-5: Red Bluff



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For Information Contact:  
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# Be “Avalanche Aware”

ALWAYS OBTAIN WEATHER AND avalanche information before entering the Park’s backcountry. At times, backcountry travel may not be advised due to high or extreme avalanche conditions.

## Storms

- 80% of all avalanches occur during or soon after a storm

## Snowfall

- Snow falling at a rate of 1” or more per hour increases avalanche danger rapidly
- With high winds, leeward slopes can become dangerously loaded with snow, even with just a few inches of snowfall

## Weather Conditions

- Rapidly changing weather conditions (wind, temperature, precipitation) can cause unstable snow

## Sounds

- Unstable snow can settle beneath a skier’s weight with a “whumff”

## Recent and Prior Avalanche Activity

- If you see a new avalanche, suspect

dangerous conditions

- Avoid old slide paths, steep open gullies/slopes; watch for areas with small trees bent over and trees with broken limbs

## Route Selection

- If you must cross a dangerous slope, stay high and near the top; avoid avalanche fracture lines
- If you must climb or descend a dangerous slope, go straight up or down; do not traverse back and forth
- Areas of dense timber, ridges, or rocky outcrops can be safer; use them for lunch and rest stops
- Spend as little time as possible on open slopes
- Only one person should cross a dangerous slope at a time
- Remove ski pole and ski safety straps and loosen all equipment
- Put on a hat and mittens and fasten clothing securely
- Each person should carry a shovel
- Carry and learn to use an avalanche transceiver
- Report any unstable areas to a ranger



Steep slopes and snow cornices on Bumpass Mountain

(NPS Photo by Kathleen Pietras)

## If You Are Caught In An Avalanche

- Discard all equipment
- Make swimming motions and try to stay on top, working your way to the avalanche’s side
- If you are pulled beneath the surface, keep your mouth closed
- As you begin to slow to a stop, make air space in front of your face with your hands; keep your arms close to your body
- Try to remain calm; you will use less oxygen

## If You Are A Survivor

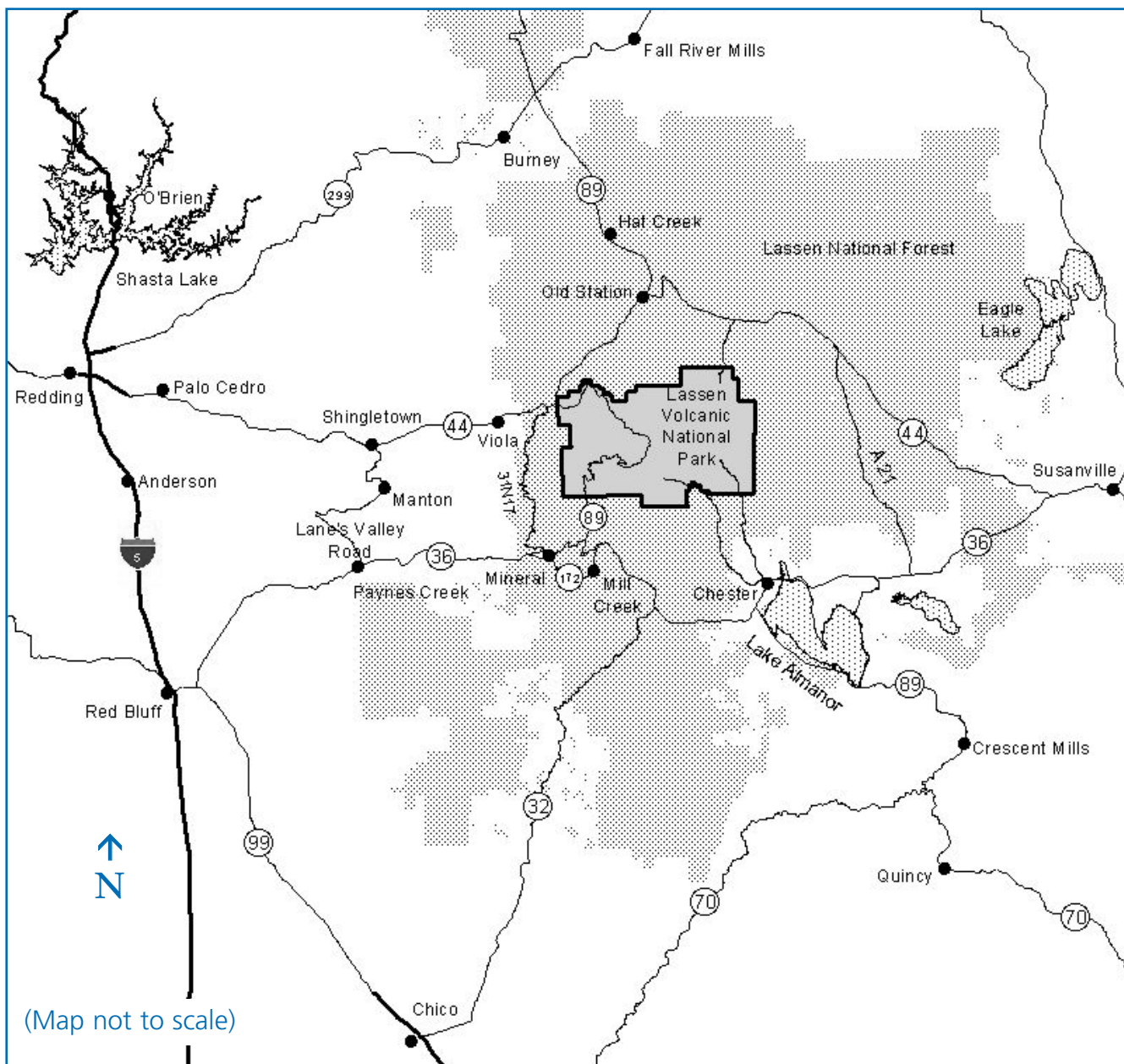
- Mark the place where you last saw the person buried and search directly downslope
- Probe the snow in an even line across the snowfield using ski poles, shovels, or skis
- If you can, send someone for help
- If you are alone, do not abandon your search and go for help unless it is minutes away; the buried person has less than a 50% chance of survival after 15 minutes

## United States Avalanche Danger Descriptors

Always plan ahead when traveling into the backcountry. Before leaving home, you can learn more about avalanche safety and check on current conditions in the Lassen area by calling Park Headquarters. The Mt. Shasta Avalanche Hotline at (530) 926-9613 (Lassen’s conditions are similar to Shasta’s) and the National Avalanche Center’s website, [www.avalanche.org/~nac](http://www.avalanche.org/~nac), are also excellent sources for safety tips and information on avalanche danger.

Check weather reports and avalanche conditions posted at the Chalet and Loomis Ranger Station. Lassen Volcanic uses the standard color-coded system shown at right.

Danger Level	Avalanche Probability and Avalanche Trigger	Degree and Distribution of Avalanche Danger	Recommended Action in the Backcountry
<b>LOW (green)</b>	Natural avalanches very unlikely. Human triggered avalanches unlikely.	Generally stable snow. Isolated areas of instability.	Travel is generally safe. Normal caution is advised.
<b>MODERATE (yellow)</b>	Natural avalanches unlikely. Human triggered avalanches possible.	Unstable slabs possible on steep terrain.	Use caution in steeper terrain on certain aspects
<b>CONSIDERABLE (orange)</b>	Natural avalanches possible. Human triggered avalanches probable.	Unstable slabs probable on steep terrain.	Be increasingly cautious in steeper terrain.
<b>HIGH (red)</b>	Natural and human triggered avalanches likely.	Unstable slabs likely on a variety of aspects and slope angles.	Travel in avalanche terrain is not recommended. Safest travel on windward ridges of lower angle slopes without steeper terrain above.
<b>EXTREME (black)</b>	Widespread natural or human triggered avalanches certain.	Extremely unstable slabs certain on most aspects and slope angles. Large, destructive avalanches possible.	Travel in avalanche terrain should be avoided and travel confined to low angle terrain well away from



## Lassen Volcanic NP Area Road Map

### Gear Up For Safe Driving In Snow Country!

Please remember that high-elevation roads are often icy or snow-covered during the fall and winter and can be very hazardous, especially when temperatures drop during the evening and early morning hours.

The 17 Road (31N17 from Mineral to Viola), A-21, and other US Forest Service and county roads close for the winter. Call Lassen Volcanic National Park Headquarters prior to your trip to find out which roads will be closed when you arrive. You may also request a “shortcut” map showing the lower elevation winter route between the south and north sides of the Park.

Carry tire chains in your vehicle from October through May. Chain requirements can be instituted at any time; even four-wheel drive vehicles with snow tires can be required to chain up. Watch for highway advisories posted in Red Bluff and Redding. Caltrans will post chain requirements on Highways 36 and 44.

To check for chain requirements, road closures, or other highway advisories before your trip, call the Caltrans Highway Information Network at 1-800-427-7623 or go to the Caltrans website at [www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo). Caltrans also offers important tips for winter driving in snow country at [www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo/wntdrdrv.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo/wntdrdrv.htm).

Have a safe and enjoyable trip! We look forward to seeing you in the Park.