



PEAK EXPERIENCES

November 2014 - May 2015

Finding Inspiration

America's spectacular national parks have long been a source of inspiration. In fact, these places are so inspiring, that numerous parks, including Lassen, have dedicated "inspiration points."

To increase access to the park's inspiring environment, Lassen introduced its Artist-in-Residence (AIR) program. The program seeks to deepen the relationship between artists and the park and create new connections through works of art.

Lassen's first AIR produced a digital illustration of Kings Creek Falls. Rocks and trees drawn only in black pencil, border a colorful, almost glowing oil rendering of the 30 foot falls. This work is a striking portrait of the powerful and contrasting ethereal nature of one of Lassen's most valuable resources.

As California continues to face an ever-challenging drought, works of art like *Running Colors* transport inspiration outside of park boundaries. Sent as a postcard or displayed on a wall, this image reminds us of why we conserve.

Our national parks preserve our cultural and natural history and serve as a legacy to be passed down from one generation to the next. Each of our protected places is in its own right a priceless work of art and with the right inspiration, we can all be curators of our national nature gallery.

-Darlene M. Koontz, Superintendent



Running Colors by AIR Melissa Lockwood

A New Way to Conserve Water

by Ranger Amanda Sweeney

Water is life. It comprises 71 percent of our planet's surface and 60 percent of our bodies. Water is vital to nourishment, agriculture, industry, electricity, transportation, recreation, and sanitation. How do we manage our freshwater supply which comprises just 3 percent of the water on this planet? We do what man has done for thousands of years—store it. We collect and use water from rainfall and snowmelt in reservoirs, both natural and artificial.

Mountain peaks and alpine meadows are some of the best natural reservoirs our planet affords. Winter blankets the exposed slopes, deep valleys, and sprawling lake basins with snow and ice. Unlike man-made reservoirs, these places require no barriers, floodgates, or concrete. The sun and gradually warming temperatures turn the tap, creating a slow, steady stream of life.

Lassen's volcanic peaks receive up to 52 inches of precipitation annually, which trickles into underground springs, flows into lakes, freezes into ice, or settles as snow. As gravity requires, this water eventually finds its way into one of four watersheds: Upper Feather River, Mill Creek, Pit River, or Battle Creek. All four flow into the Sacramento River, the largest river and watershed system in California.

Our changing climate is impacting the natural cycle of winter snow accumulation and slow summer water release. Warmer temperatures will cause what snow we do get to melt faster and earlier, making it more difficult to store. At Lassen alone, climate scientists predict a temperature increase between 3.6°F and 4.6°F by 2050. In the same period, a 25 percent loss is projected for the Sierra snowpack. How will this affect a state that receives as much as a third of its water supply from mountain snow?

The Sierra Nevada snowpack may be reduced by as much as 25% by 2050.

America has had many watershed moments in managing its natural resources. In the country's infancy, we had a unique opportunity to protect natural treasures that had not yet been swept up in industrialization and development. The decision to preserve these places was not obvious or easy. It took stalwart advocates, audacious leaders, and a new national ethic to bring about change.

Amid the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant Act and began a conservation movement that has continued for 150 years. Each act of preservation to follow, including the creation of Yellowstone National Park in 1872 and the establishment of both Lassen Volcanic National Park and the National Park Service in 1916, were drops in the nation's reservoir of protected places.

“We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it.”

Nearly a hundred years after the creation of our first national park, another set of forward-thinking leaders established a new protection for our wildest of wild lands. Upon signing the Wilderness Act in 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson said, “If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them something more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it.” Today, the National Wilderness Preservation System has grown to roughly 109 million acres, including 75% of Lassen Volcanic National Park.

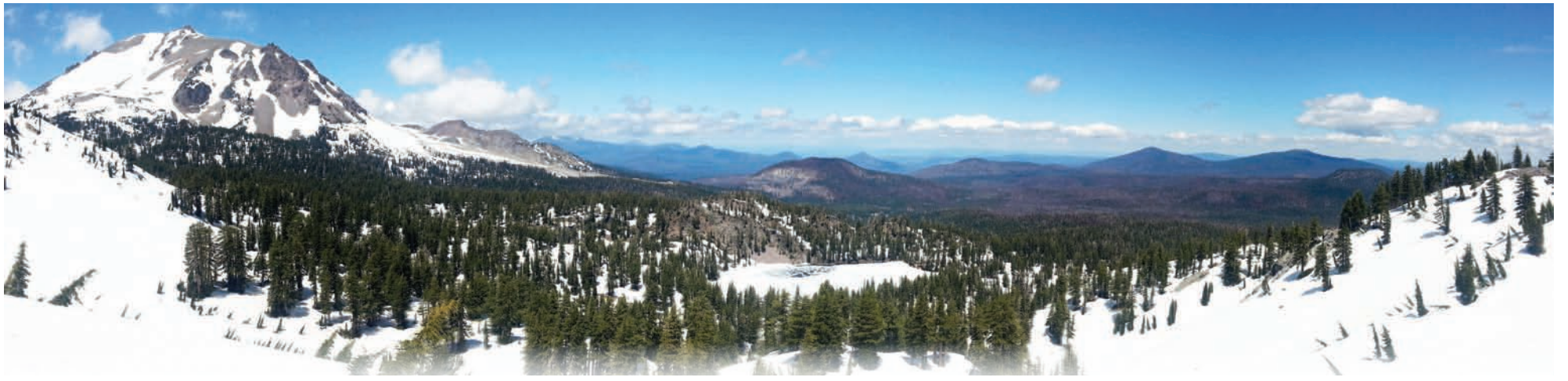
In just 106,000 acres, Lassen preserves the wilderness experience, provides haven to thousands of plant and animal species, retains a view of our disappearing dark night sky, sustains a Class 1 Airshed, and collects and distributes a priceless resource—water.

Water is inarguably a necessity; we can only survive three to five days without it. If we must have water to survive, does that extend to the natural systems that provide it? As we stand on the edge of yet another turning point in managing our finite natural resources, we must support a new world ethic to preserve not only what we treasure, but to ensure that the tap of life never runs dry.




Learn more at go.nps.gov/lavo/cc





GENERAL INFORMATION



Lassen Volcanic National Park
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Visitors are encouraged to contact the park via email during the winter season. Recorded information is available by phone.





Email Address
lavo_information@nps.gov

Website
www.nps.gov/lavo

Information Line
Phone: (530) 595-4480
Fax: (530) 595-6139

Mailing Address
Lassen Volcanic National Park
P.O. Box 100
Mineral, CA 96063-0100

Social Media
www.facebook.com/LassenNPS
www.youtube.com/LassenNPS
www.twitter.com/LassenNPS
www.flickr.com/LassenNPS



Road Closures

Lassen Volcanic National Park Highway usually closes by mid-November for the winter season due to snow. Butte Lake, Warner Valley, and Juniper Lake roads close to vehicle traffic for the season due to snow around late October and usually reopen in late June or early July. Plowing on the park highway usually begins in early April and continues through late June. More about spring road clearing on page 8.

Emergencies

If you have an emergency call 911. If phone service is not available, contact a park employee, go to the Loomis Ranger Station, or use the emergency phone in the 24-hour vestibule of the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center.

Gasoline

There is no fuel in the park during the winter season. The nearest gas station from the southwest entrance is in Chester, 30 miles east on SR-36. The nearest gas stations from the Manzanita Lake entrance are in Shingletown, 17 miles west on SR-44, or in Old Station, 13 miles east on SR-44.

Food

Lassen Café is open on selected weekends. Snacks and hot beverages are available during visitor center hours. See page 4 for more information. The nearest areas for food and supplies are Mineral, Chester, Shingletown, and Old Station (see above for distances).

Phones

Cell phone coverage in the park is spotty. An emergency phone is located in 24-hour vestibule of the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center (911 only).

Entrance Fees

Entrance fees are required year-round. A \$10 vehicle fee (valid for 7 days) may be paid at self-registration stations. Display your fee receipt, Lassen Annual pass, or Interagency Pass on your vehicle's dashboard.

Firearms

Visitors are responsible for understanding and complying with all applicable State of California, local, and federal firearms laws. Federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in this park identified by posted signs at public entrances. For more information, visit oag.ca.gov/firearms or contact the chief park ranger at (530) 595-6100.

Pets in the Park

Activities with pets are limited at Lassen. Pets must be restrained at all times and are not permitted in the park backcountry (including over snow), or inside visitor centers or other facilities. Vast public lands nearby offer outdoor opportunities with pets. Email us for more information.

Winter Safety

Winter adventure at Lassen involves risk. **Sled with caution; sledding is the number one cause of visitor injury in the winter season.** Learn more about how to prepare for a safe winter visit below.

Accessibility

The 24-hour vestibule in the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center and its restrooms are wheelchair-accessible. The Loomis Ranger Station and restrooms in the Loomis Plaza are also wheelchair-accessible.

Weather

With elevations from 5,650 feet to 10,457 feet, a wide variety of weather conditions occur in Lassen Volcanic. Expect a 5° temperature decrease for every 1,000 foot increase in elevation. Prepare for your visit; bring layered clothing, snow boots, a hat and gloves.

November	56/21 °F	February	51/13 °F
December	50/14 °F	March	53/16 °F
January	50/13 °F	April	61/23 °F

Camping

The Southwest Campground is open year-round. Fires and fire pans are not permitted in the winter; however self-contained barbecues are allowed in the paved parking area. The fee for snow camping or camping in a vehicle is \$10 per night. Please self-register at the entrance station. Wilderness permits are required for backcountry camping. Email us for more information.

Snowmobiling

Snowmobiling is not permitted anywhere within the boundaries of Lassen Volcanic National Park. Email us about snowmobile areas/trails outside the park.

Hydrothermal Areas

Sulphur Works is accessible to visitors year-round (snow travel required). For your safety, do not travel or camp near hydrothermal areas. The snow in these areas can look solid but may actually be a weak snow layer hiding pools of acidic boiling water. **Walking too close to these areas has resulted in severe injuries for previous visitors.**



Explore Safely

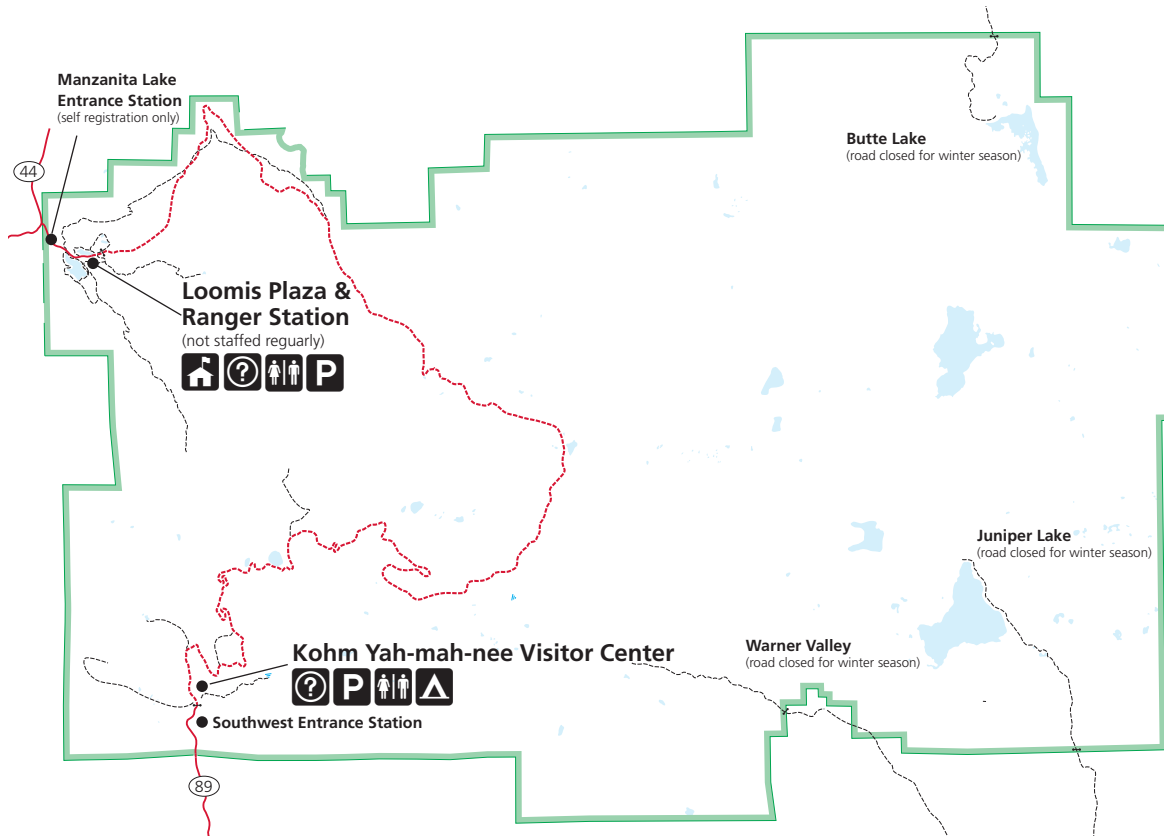
Safety is Your Responsibility

- Bring water
- Carry waterproof gear
- Pack layers for warmth
- Tell someone where you are going and when you will return
- Be avalanche aware
- Check the weather forecast
- Carry a map and compass





WINTER ADVENTURE



Winter Services

There are no fuel services in the park during the winter season.

Manzanita Lake Area

The Loomis Plaza is accessible year-round and provides access to the Loomis Ranger Station and an accessible restroom facility. The Loomis Museum is closed during the winter. The ranger station is not staffed regularly and does not offer information services. Call 911 in case of an emergency.

Southwest Area

The Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center is accessible year-round. See page 4 for winter hours and dates. A vestibule is open 24-hours and provides accessible restrooms, drinking water, an emergency phone (911 only), and a backcountry permit station.

Sulphur Works

Follow the park highway route one mile north from the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center to reach this steamy spot that is visible year-round. Snowshoes or skis are the easiest method of travel, although it is often possible to walk on a packed trail. Please be courteous and do not walk in ski tracks. For your safety, traveling or camping in or near hydrothermal areas is prohibited. Snow surrounding these areas can look solid but may actually be a weak layer hiding pools of acidic boiling water. **Walking too close to these areas has resulted in severe injuries for previous visitors.**

Nordic Skiing

Nordic skiers delight in the sweeping views from the park highway route and the gentle climb along Manzanita Creek. Be sure to bring equipment; rentals are not available in the park.

Backcountry Skiing/Snowboarding

Backcountry skiers and snowboarders will agree that Lassen offers spectacular terrain with an uncommon solitude. The southwest area offers the most challenging routes. Lassen's backcountry is recommended only for experienced backcountry skiers and snowboarders.

Snowshoeing

If you are new to snowshoeing, consider joining a ranger-led snowshoe walk (see page 4). For those more familiar with walking on snow, opportunities abound at both the north and south entrances. The Manzanita Lake area and the park highway route offer gradual climbs. Numerous routes out of the southwest area offer trails of greater difficulty, many with spectacular views. See pages 6-7 for route information.

Sledding

Excellent sledding hills can be found in the southwest area. Smaller hills can be found in the Manzanita Lake area, however sledders often head to Eskimo Hill snow play area located 1.5 miles east on Highway 44. **Sled with caution; sledding is the number one cause of visitor injury in the winter season.**

Winter Backpacking

Experience the splendor of Lassen's winter by snow camping. Enjoy unimpaird night sky watching and a silence and peace only a snowy park can offer. Wilderness camping permits are required. Self-registration is available outside the Loomis Ranger Station and in the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center 24-hour vestibule.

Additional Information

Be sure to bring snowshoes or skis; equipment rentals are not available in the park.

Snowshoes are provided for ranger-led snowshoes tours only. Lassen Ski Patrol members are available to assist most weekends with route and avalanche safety information. Look for the first aid symbol.

Avalanche Safety

Lassen is avalanche country. Each year avalanches claim more than 150 lives worldwide. Knowledge, information, and equipment are key to preventing and surviving avalanche accidents. Before you enter the winter wilderness, ensure that you have a solid understanding of avalanche awareness and carry avalanche gear including a shovel, probe, and transceiver (beacon). Be especially cautious during and after a snow storm. Spring road opening also warrants extra caution, as avalanches and rock slides can occur on plowed sections of the road at any time. A Lassen avalanche awareness guide is available at the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center.



Backcountry Ski Patrol



Here to Help

Lassen Volcanic National Park backcountry ski patrollers are ready to help you! Volunteer patrol members wear the universal first aid symbol and name tags. They can provide emergency assistance as well as information about routes, weather conditions, and general park information. You can often meet ski patrollers snow camping at the southwest or Devastated Areas. Look for the Backcountry Ski Patrol sign on their vehicles.





BASE CAMP

Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center

Make Lassen's year-round visitor center your base camp for your winter visit. Please note that the visitor center may close at any time due to inclement weather.

Winter Season: November 3 through March 31

Hours 9 am to 5 pm

Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas
Mondays and Tuesdays, excepting:
December 29-30, 2014
January 19, 2015 (MLK Day, fee free)
February 16, 2015 (President's Day)

Lassen Café & Gift

Nestled adjacent to the stone fireplace in the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center, Lassen Café offers a variety of delicious and healthy items as well as a variety of beverages including espresso drinks. Shop for gifts and souvenirs at Lassen Gift including art and crafts from local artists. Lassen Café & Gift will be open 9 am to 4 pm on the following dates only:

November 28-30, 2014
December 26-31, 2014
January 1-4, 17-19, 2015
February 14-16, 2015

Snacks and hot beverages are available at the Lassen Association bookstore outside of café hours.

Lassen Association Bookstore

Browse books, maps, trail guides, and videos about the park's natural and cultural history at the Lassen Association bookstore. The bookstore also offers a large selection of educational gift merchandise to enhance your park experience and take home as memories. All profits go directly to the park. Snacks and hot beverages are available for sale outside of Lassen Café hours. The bookstore is open during regular visitor center hours.

Delve into Lassen's Natural Wonders

Stroll through the exhibit hall and learn more about Lassen's volcanic nature. Make an earthquake or locate the ancient rim of eroded Brokeoff Volcano.

Ranger-led Snowshoe Walks

Dates

Saturdays and Sundays
January 3 through April 5, 2015

Time/Location

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Meet outside the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center

Cost

Suggested \$1 donation for snowshoe maintenance

Ages

8 years and older
Infants and children in carriers are not allowed for safety reasons

What to Bring

Boots, warm layers, water, lunch/snacks

There is something truly fantastic about walking on water – the frozen type that is. There is a simple joy in the feeling of floating on a surface that might otherwise engulf you and an unexpected sense of security when you dig your toes into a slippery slope. This man-made adaptation allows us to embrace a new form of freedom, enabling us to explore Lassen's vast winter landscape.

As it is easier to learn a new skill or activity if someone helps you take the first steps, Lassen offers ranger-led snowshoe walks to introduce you to the sport.

Ranger-led snowshoe walks are an excellent way to learn or practice snowshoeing techniques and explore Lassen in its winter form. As participant experience and fitness level may vary, so too does route and distance. At the beginning of each snowshoe walk, a ranger will demonstrate how to put on snowshoes and how to move around. Once the basic techniques are covered, the group heads out into the snow and the adventure begins.

Snowshoes provide a fun way to experience the wonder of walking on water. Snow creates a smooth surface that just beckons you to wander and explore wilderness in its purest form. Join us for a ranger-led walk and experience the feeling of floating for the first time or bring your own snowshoes and blaze a path all your own.



Lassen Film Festival

Saturday through Monday

January 17-19, 2015

Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center

Join us for the annual Lassen Film Festival, a celebration of outdoor fun and film. This free event features a selection of short and full-length films ranging in topic from volcanoes to astronomy. Entrance to the park is free on Monday, January 19 in commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Be sure to bring your snow clothing and equipment to enjoy snow play before and after the festival. For lunch, you may purchase a meal from Lassen Café or bring your own food to enjoy by the natural stone fireplace.



Entrance Fees

1-7 Day Vehicle Fee - \$10

Valid for six days from date of purchase.

Annual passes can be obtained at park entrance stations, at the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center, by phone, or online. To purchase a Lassen Annual Pass visit www.pay.gov or call (530) 595-6120. To purchase an interagency pass, visit store. usgs.gov/pass or call 888-ASK-USGS ext 1.

Lassen Annual Pass - \$25

Valid for one year from month of purchase. Also honored at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

Interagency Annual Pass - \$80

Covers all national park units and other federal recreation areas with entrance fees. Valid for one year from month of purchase.

Interagency Access Pass - Free

Free lifetime pass for U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are permanently disabled.

Interagency Senior Pass - \$10

Lifetime pass for U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are 62 years or older.

Military Annual pass - Free

Free annual pass for active military members and their dependents.



TAKE PART

4.5°F: Where Do We Go From Here?

by Ranger Allison Reeves Jolley

In the summer months, people flock to Lassen Volcanic National Park to enjoy its spring-like temperatures and snow-kissed breezes. To many, the park offers a respite from the much warmer surrounding valleys. Similarly, the park's native plants and animals prefer Lassen's cool summers and are well-adapted to survive its long, snowy winters.

Problems arise, then, when we consider that Lassen's temperatures are predicted to rise as much as 4.5°F by 2050. While a rise of less than 5°F over the next few decades might seem trivial, plants and animals illustrate otherwise. In this scenario, mountain dwellers would need to move "up the mountain" about 16 feet in elevation per year to reach the conditions for which they have adapted. In locations with flat terrain—like California's Central Valley—plants and animals will need to move about 3.7 miles per year to reach the right climate. While these numbers might sound minuscule to you, consider that these distances are at least 10 times farther than most species' natural range of movement.

Lassen's temperatures are predicted to rise as much as 4.5°F by 2050.

Consequently, you might wonder what Lassen is doing about its changing climate. One way to tackle a problem is through research. Park staff are testing global and regional predictions against Lassen's local realities; investigating the specific climate-related needs of the park's plants and animals; and monitoring species to establish a baseline against which to measure change.

Among Lassen's diverse cast of characters, three are likely to be the most sensitive to climate change. The American pika (*Ochotona princeps*), the whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*), and the Lassen copper moss (*Haplodontium tehamensis*) may be the proverbial canaries in a coalmine, providing measurable evidence of climate change impacts in the park. Monitoring and researching the above indicator species requires asking a lot of questions, such as:

- Are pika, the smallest member of the rabbit/hare family, moving up in elevation due their inability to tolerate temperatures higher than 81°F?
- Is whitebark pine tree health decreasing more readily due their pests' (like the blister rust fungus and the mountain pine beetle) ability to survive shorter winters?
- Is the endemic Lassen copper moss at risk of extinction due to a less persistent snowpack?
- Will the quality of Lassen's air and water decrease with our changing climate?

We would like to know the answers to these questions now; however, monitoring and research are a slow, steady affair. In the meantime, Lassen, along with the entire National Park Service, is making changes to respond to the immediacy of climate change. The park's greening plan includes actions to improve energy efficiency, reduce energy use, educate staff and the public about climate change, and mitigate impacts to park resources. We will continue to seek out new, innovative approaches; however, global climate change didn't originate in Lassen Volcanic National Park, nor can its solutions.

Visitors are reducing their carbon footprint by choosing to change the way that they experience the park.

Another important question thus arises: What are caretakers like you doing to protect your park? The responses are diverse, inspired, and will make a difference. Visitors are reducing their carbon footprint by choosing to change the way that they experience the park. Hundreds of people have left their vehicle behind and explored the park highway via foot or bicycle on vehicle-free days. This past summer, visitors and rangers brainstormed on what changes they would enjoy instituting at home to help keep Earth's climate more stable. Buying local food, bicycling, and even children volunteering to watch less television were among the many varied answers. How will you protect the parts of Lassen you came to see?

Thanks Partner!

Lassen Association

The Lassen Association is a non-profit partner that supports and assists Lassen Volcanic National Park in research, interpretation, and conservation programs. Lassen Association promotes the discovery of Lassen Volcanic, enriches the experience of visitors, and supports the preservation and protection of the park for future generations.

During the winter season, the Lassen Association bookstore, located within the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center, offers books, maps, trail guides and videos about the natural and cultural history of the park. The bookstore also offers a large selection of educational gift merchandise to enhance your park experience and take home as memories. All profits go directly to the park.



Lassen Association
(530) 378-1495
lassenassociation@yahoo.com
www.lassenassociation.org

Lassen Park Foundation

The Lassen Park Foundation provides support to preserve and interpret the special natural and cultural resources of Lassen Volcanic National Park and its environs for future generations.

With the generosity and dedication of our supporters, the non-profit Park Foundation has provided funding for projects including the Youth Camping program for at-risk youth, Lassen Peak trail restoration, the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center, the Lassen Crossroads interpretive area, and the winter snowshoe education program.

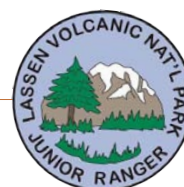
Please become a Friend of Lassen by contributing to the Lassen Park Foundation! Your donation is tax-deductible.



Lassen Park Foundation
(530) 378-2600
info@lassenparkfoundation.org
www.lassenparkfoundation.org



Join the Club!



Become a Junior Ranger

Kids between the ages of 7 and 12 are invited to participate in our Junior Park Ranger program. Choose from a variety of activities while learning more about Lassen Volcanic National Park. Kids who complete the Junior Ranger program can earn a patch. Our younger explorers are welcome to participate in the Lassen Volcanic National Park Chipmunk Club. Kids can learn more about wildlife in the park and earn a Chipmunk Club sticker.





MANZANITA LAKE ROUTES

Northwest Park Road Route

Lassen Volcanic Highway opens to skiing and snowshoeing beyond the Loomis Plaza during the winter season road closure. The route follows the snow-covered road, with several destinations along the way.

Destinations beyond the Craggs Campground area are recommended for overnight trips only. Above Kings Creek, the route enters an area that is subject to extreme avalanche danger. Heavy and deep snow and steep terrain require advanced skiing and mountaineering skills. This area is not recommended for the novice skier or snow camper. The summit of the park road climbs to 8,500 feet in elevation and provides spectacular views of the region. Allow a minimum of three days to cross the park.

Craggs Campground

Distance: 4.4 miles one way
Elevation Gain: 200 feet
Estimated Time: 3-4 hours

Hot Rock

Distance: 7.7 miles one way
Elevation Gain: 400 feet
Estimated Time: Overnight

Summit Lake

Distance: 12.2 miles one way
Elevation Gain: 1,200 feet
Estimated Time: Overnight

Road Summit

Distance: 21.6 miles one way
Elevation Gain: 2,700 feet
Estimated Time: 2 days one-way

Beginner Routes

Manzanita Lake Snowshoe Loop

This trail is not recommended for skiing

Distance: 1.5 mile loop
Elevation: 5,800 to 5,850 feet
Average Time: 1.5 hours

Begin near the Loomis Ranger Station and circle the lake in either direction. This route provides excellent views of Lassen Peak and Chaos Craggs. Please stay off lake ice, it is unstable and shores may be difficult to recognize under snow.

Manzanita Campground Loop

Distance: 1.5 mile loop
Elevation: 5,800 feet
Average Skiing Time: 1.5 hours

Cross the footbridge by the Loomis Ranger Station, turn right and follow the road to the campground for approximately a quarter mile to where it turns to the right through a set of large rocks. The trail covers a half-mile loop through several sections of the campground.

Reflection Lake Route

This trail is not recommended for skiing

Distance: 0.5 mile loop
Elevation: 5,800 feet
Average Time: 30 minutes

Begin at the shore across the highway from the Loomis Museum and circle the lake in either direction. It may be necessary to follow the park highway for a short section of the lake edge closest to the road. Please stay off lake ice, it may be unstable and shores can be difficult to recognize under snow.

Intermediate Routes

Chaos Jumbles Area

Distance, elevation gain and times vary
Head up the park road for approximately a half-mile to an open area of stunted trees. Veer to the right up toward Chaos Craggs. Here the undulating topography slopes up into the bowl of the Craggs. The terrain is easy to moderately difficult with excellent views at the higher elevations.

Chaos Craggs Trail

This trail is not recommended for skiing

Distance: 4 miles round-trip
Elevation Gain: 5,290 to 6,650 feet
Average Time: 3-4 hours

Cross the footbridge by the Loomis Ranger Station, turn left and follow the road to the Chaos Craggs Trailhead sign. Follow yellow tree markers as the trail climbs steeply up to a ridge. If you decide to descend to Craggs Lake, beware of potential rock falls and high winds.

Nobles Emigrant Trail

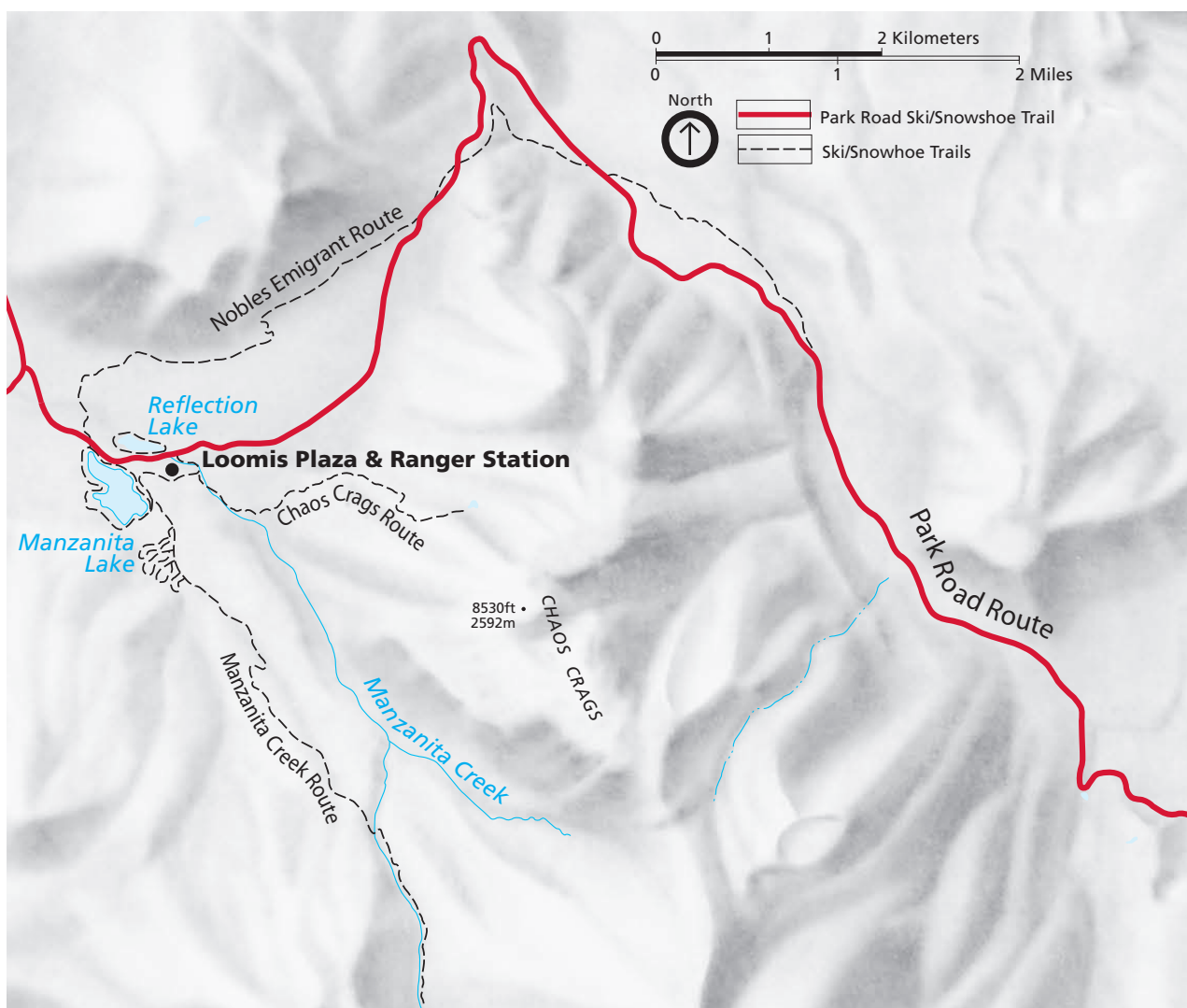
Distance: 7 miles round-trip
Elevation Gain: 5,875 to 6,275 feet
Average Skiing Time: 3-4 hours

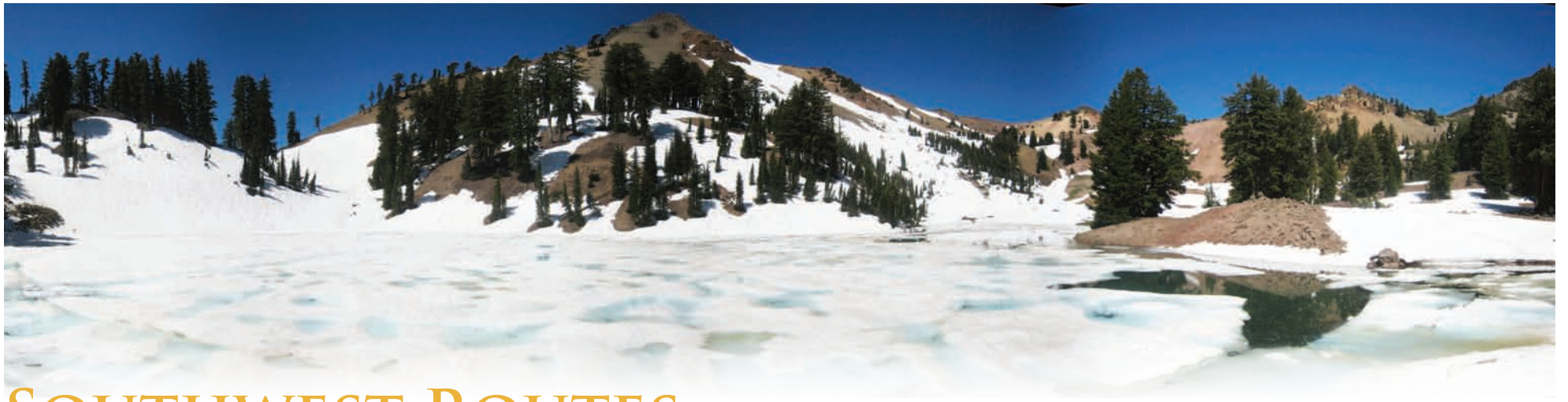
Pick up the trail north of Reflection Lake or at the trailhead off a service road west of Reflection Lake. Follow the orange tree markers along the base of Table Mountain. The trail climbs over a flank of Table Mountain into a thick fir forest and rejoins the park highway three miles east of the Loomis Plaza at Sunflower Flat. Return the way you came or via the park road to make a loop.

Manzanita Creek

Distance: 7.5 miles round-trip
Elevation: 5,850 to 7,400 feet
Average Skiing Time: 6 hours

From the Loomis Ranger Station, cross a footbridge, then turn 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 approximately 1,000 feet. Beware of avalanche chutes off of Loomis Peak that may reach the upper end of the trail.





SOUTHWEST ROUTES

Beginner Routes

Sulphur Works

Distance: 2 miles round-trip

Elevation: 6,700 to 7,000 feet

Average Skiing Time: 1 hour

The boiling mudpots and steam vents at Sulphur Works are active year-round. Follow the park highway route northwest from the southwest parking area. The left side of the route is bordered by steep side hills, be aware of avalanche danger. For your safety, do not travel or camp in or near hydrothermal areas. The snow surrounding these areas may look solid, but may actually be a weak snow layer hiding pools of acidic boiling water. Traveling too close to hydrothermal areas has resulted in severe injuries for previous visitors.

Nanny Creek via McGowan Ski Trail

Located in adjacent Lassen National Forest

Distance: 5 miles to Nanny Creek one-way

Elevation: 6,080 to 5,110 feet

Average Skiing Time: 4 hours

The McGowan ski trail is located in Lassen National Forest, 3.5 miles south of the southwest entrance. Marked routes travel across a flat and slightly descending landscape. Follow a loop to the north or ski through to Highway 36 at Nanny Creek. The trail does not go to McGowan Lake, which is on private property. This main route makes for a good one-way ski route if vehicles are available for shuttle.

Intermediate Routes

Ridge Lakes

Distance: 4 miles round-trip

Elevation: 7,000 to 8,000 feet

Average Skiing Time: 4 hours

Follow the park highway route from the southwest parking area about ¾ mile and cross the bridge before Sulphur Works. The route begins at the north end of the flat area to the left. The route climbs rapidly along the east side of West Sulphur Creek to the Ridge Lakes basin. Several good camping spots can be found on the north shore of Ridge Lakes. If weather is severe, more protected camping can be found about ¼ mile below Ridge Lakes along its outlet creek. Avoid the area south of Ridge Lakes during periods of avalanche danger.

Mill Creek Falls

Distance: 3.2 miles round-trip

Elevation: 6,700 to 6,600 feet

Average Skiing Time: 3 hours

This route is marked with tree markers, however the route is difficult to follow if you are unfamiliar with the summer trail. Travel east of the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center toward West Sulphur Creek. In about ¼ mile a bridge crosses the creek and should be avoided when snow-covered. The route climbs steeply before veering right (south) into the red fir forest. In another ¼ mile, the trail turns left (east) and continues through a series of rises and dips parallel to East Sulphur Creek. Two bridges cross above the waterfall and should be avoided during the winter season.

Advanced Routes

Brokeoff Mountain

Distance: 7 miles round-trip

Elevation: 6,650 to 9,250 feet

Average Skiing Time: 8 hours

Most skiers access the summit via the southwest ridge. Getting onto this ridge can be difficult as the various routes pass through hazardous canyons. Traditional routes use the Forest Lake route or the summer trail that begins near the park entrance. Numerous avalanche paths exist on all aspects of the mountain. Travelers should use extreme caution. Many skiers reserve travel on Brokeoff Mountain for spring when snow conditions traditionally stabilize. Summit conditions during inclement weather often include high winds with little or no visibility. Be cautious of overhanging cornices at the summit.

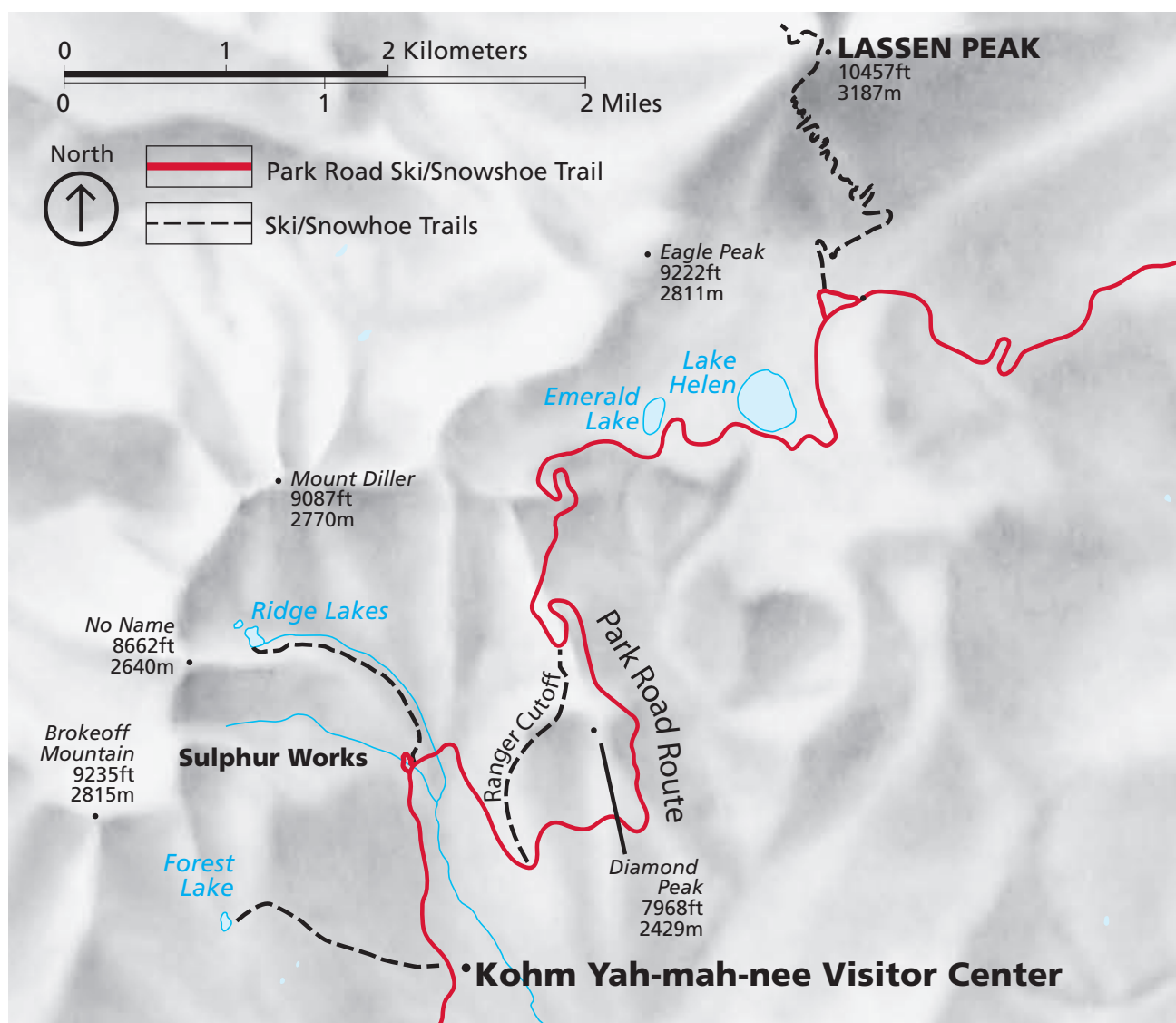
Lassen Peak

Distance: 20 miles round-trip

Elevation: 6,700 to 10,457 feet

Average Skiing Time: 3 days

Most skiers and snowshoers allow three days to summit Lassen Peak in the winter. A possible itinerary includes Lake Helen, summit Lassen, and return. Be prepared for high winds in the Lassen Peak and Lake Helen areas. Conditions on the mountain are most stable in early morning hours; afternoon travel is not recommended. The safest route up the mountain follows the summer trail through the forested section and continues on the southeast ridge to the summit. Weather conditions on Lassen Peak can deteriorate rapidly, creating white out conditions and high winds.



Southwest Park Road Route

Lassen Volcanic Highway is open to skiing and snowshoeing beyond the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center during the winter season road closure. The route follows the snow-covered road, with several destinations along the way.

The southwest area of the park is primarily composed of steep terrain and sections of the road are prone to avalanche danger. Travel outside of the road corridor is recommended only for experienced winter travelers.

The Diamond Peak area (including the eastern slope above Sulphur Works) is extremely avalanche prone. This area should be avoided by using the marked "Ranger Cutoff" route just north of Windy Point.

By mid-winter it is difficult to find any trace of the road between the Little Hot Springs Valley and Reading Peak. High winds and white out conditions are common in this area during winter storms.

Destinations beyond Lake Helen are recommended for overnight trips only. Good overnight snow camping areas can be found a short distance from the road north of Diamond Peak and near Emerald Lake and Lake Helen.



WINTER TRAVEL

Directions Around the Park

Lassen Volcanic National Park Highway is closed to vehicles in the winter and early spring. Follow the directions below for travel between the southwest and Manzanita Lake entrances. RVs and trailers are advised to use I-5 via state routes (SR) SR-44 and SR-36, or travel around the east side of the park. For directions from Manzanita Lake to the southwest entrance, follow the directions above in reverse—be sure to reverse left and right turns.

Travel Around the West Side of the Park

This route is the shortest route around the park. This windy road is not recommended for RVs and trailers. **Average travel time is one hour and 45 minutes.**

1. From the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center, head south on Lassen National Park Highway/SR-89 for 4 miles.
2. Turn right (west) on SR-36. Continue for 23 miles.
3. Turn right (north) onto Lanes Valley Road. A large road sign on the north side of the highway marks the turnoff approximately one mile before the town of Paynes Creek. Continue for 7 miles.
4. Turn right onto Manton Road/Co Rd A6. Continue for 7 miles.
5. In Manton, turn left onto Wilson Hill Road. Continue for 1.5 miles.
6. Turn left to stay on Wilson Hill Road. Continue for 6 miles.
7. Turn right (east) onto SR-44. Continue for 17 miles.
8. Turn right (south) into the park. Continue 1 mile to the Manzanita Lake entrance.

Travel Around the East Side of the Park

This route is slightly longer than the west route, however it has fewer curves and is appropriate for RVs and trailers. **Average travel time is two hours.**

1. From the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center, head south on Lassen National Park Highway/SR-89 for 4 miles.
2. Turn left (east) on SR-36. Continue 38 miles to CR A21/Mooney Road located in the town of Westwood. Continue for 18 miles. Please note that CR A21 may close during heavy snowfall. In the case of closure, follow SR-36 to the SR-44 junction just west of Susanville.
3. Turn left (west) onto SR-44. Continue for 28 miles.
4. Turn left (west) onto SR-44/89. Continue for 13.5 miles.
5. Turn left (south) into the park. Continue 1 mile to the Manzanita Lake entrance.

Winter Preparedness

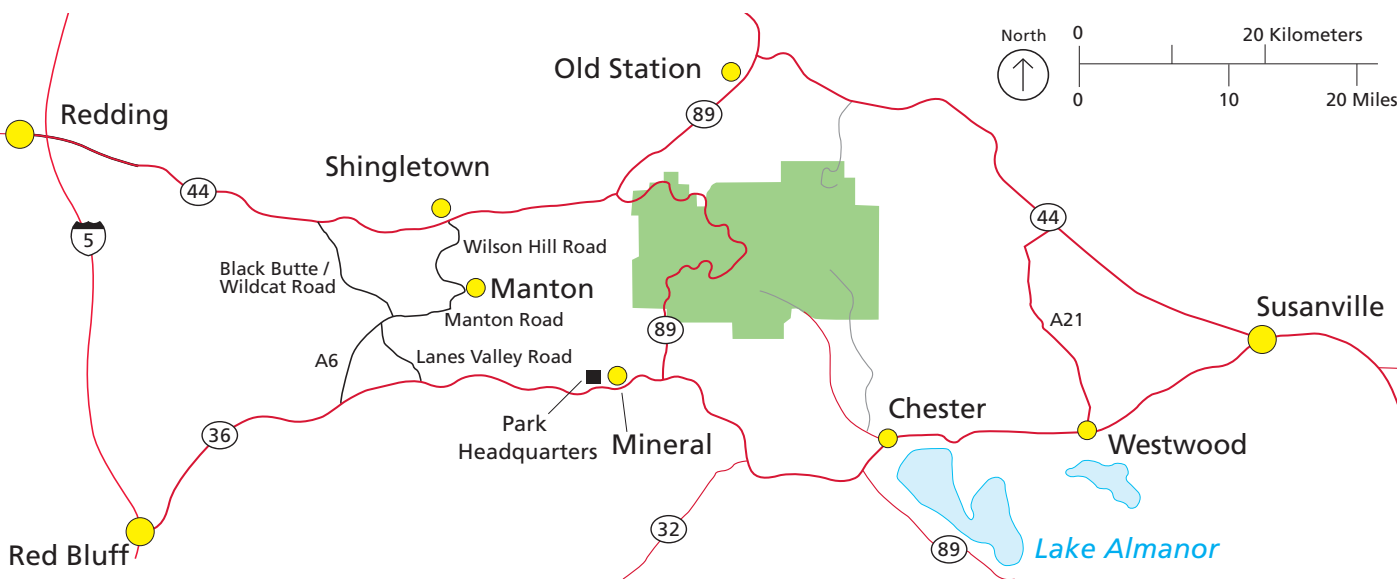
Lassen Volcanic National Park Highway between SR-44 and SR-36 is closed through most of spring. The road is plowed to the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center from SR-36 and to the Loomis Plaza from SR-44. Visit the website for road status at: go.nps.gov/lavo_current for up-to-date information.

Be prepared for ice or snow conditions at high elevations during the fall and winter seasons. Conditions can be very hazardous, especially when temperatures drop during the evening and early morning hours. **Carry tire chains in your vehicle from October through May.**

Spring Road Clearing

Clearing of the park highway usually begins in April and on average takes about two months before the road opens to through traffic. Predicting when the road will open is not possible, even in late spring, because weather in April and even May can affect plowing progress significantly. See the chart below for opening and closing dates for the last ten years.

Year	Date plowing began	Date road opened	Date road closed
2004	Mar 11	May 27	Oct 28
2005	Apr 4	Jun 2	Nov 8
2006	Apr 3	July 6	Nov 11
2007	Apr 2	May 18	Dec 6
2008	Mar 31	May 18	Dec 12
2009	Apr 13	Jun 4	Nov 18
2010	Apr 19	Jul 8	Oct 23
2011	Apr 19	Jul 16	Nov 22
2012	Apr 21	June 1	Nov 19
2013	Mar 21	May 24	Dec 18
2014	Apr 2	May 19	



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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