

# **2019 Chemeketan Outing Guide Lassen Volcanic National Park**

**88th Annual Outing  
July 27 to August 10, 2019**



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Introduction and Camp Procedures by  
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Hiking Guide by  
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Cover photo: Lassen Peak over Helen Lake

# Introduction

The Chemeketan Annual Outing is a two-week cooperative camping adventure featuring daily hikes and other activities. The Outing has been a Chemeketan tradition since the club's formation in 1928, and it has been a signature event every year except those during WWII.

The Outing is intended to provide a maximum of vacation pleasure at a minimum of cost and camp chores. Cooks and pots and pans washers are hired to do the most time-consuming chores. All other duties are shared by participants to provide a low-cost outdoor experience. This guide should answer most of your questions.

This year's Outing site is just north of Lassen Volcanic National Park in northern California. As the southernmost section of the Cascades and an active part of the Pacific "Ring of Fire," it offers a real diversity of hiking opportunities ranging from easygoing to strenuous. The area is unique in its vistas, lakes, wildlife, and geologic features. Lassen was the fifteenth national park established by Congress (in August 1916) and started as two separate national monuments designated by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1907: Cinder Cone National Monument (northeast corner of today's park) and Lassen Peak National Monument.

Lassen Volcanic National Park is one of the few areas in the world where all four volcano types can be found: plug dome, shield, cinder cone, and strato-volcano. Tree ring analysis indicates the most recent eruption at Cinder Cone was in 1666. Lassen Peak's recent eruptions, minor and major, occurred from May 1914 to 1921. A new crater was formed and a great deal of lava and ash were released. Individual heroism prevented any deaths in 1914 and 1915, but several houses along creeks were destroyed. The Hat Creek valley is an example where settlers narrowly escaped as they ran for higher ground, including a homesteader living in a tent along Hat Creek in May of 1915 who alerted neighbors to the mudflow coming - a 12-foot high wave with wind and crashing logs and rocks in the flood.

The now picturesque Hat Creek originates on the northeast slopes of Lassen Peak. It flows northerly and joins the Pit River near Burney Falls.

Other hiking opportunities in the area are the Caribou Wilderness, adjacent to the east side of Lassen Volcanic National Park, and Thousand Lakes Wilderness, northwest of the National Park.

**Campsite:** The 2019 Outing site will be at Hat Creek Group Campground (elevation 4,390 ft) within the Hat Creek Ranger District of the Lassen National Forest, about twelve miles north of the Manzanita Lake entrance to Lassen Volcanic National Park. The campground, adjacent to Hat Creek, is flat with some shade provided by a mixed coniferous forest. Drinking water is available from pumps in camp. Campers are advised to bring a 3 to 5-gallon container to fill for their personal water supply at their tent. The club used this campsite for their outings in 1992 and 2003.

**Getting There:** The drive from Salem totals about 400 miles, taking about 7 hours. From I-5 southbound in northern California, just south of the town of Mount Shasta, take Exit 736 east. Continue on CA-89 (the Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway) for 78 miles to the campground (15 miles south of the town of Hat Creek and 1.2 miles south of Old Station). After going through Old Station, watch for the turnoff to Hat Creek Campground on the right. The Group Camp is at the far end of the campground. We have Group Sites 1, 2, and 3 reserved.

**Carpooling to camp is especially important this year:** Due to high per-vehicle campsite charges, campers are strongly encouraged to carpool.

**The campsite will be available on Friday, July 26 for first week campers who wish to arrive early, but no meals are provided until supper on Saturday, July 27.**

**Weather:** During August the average high temperature is 81 F, average low 41 F, and average rainfall 0.3 inches.

**Truck Loading / Unloading:** Campers who live in the Salem area are expected to help with the loading and/or unloading of the truck. Loading will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 25 and unloading at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 11 at Bridges Storage, 4370 Silverton Road NE, just east of Lancaster Drive. Bring your work gloves!

**Nearby Camp Services:**

Cell Coverage: Locals say cell phone service is not reliable in the Old Station/Hat Creek Campground area but there are reliable spots that you can drive to.

Auto Gas: Available in Old Station – one mile north on CA- 89. Also at Manzanita Lake Camp Store in the Park.

Showers: The club will set up portable showers in camp. Offsite pay showers (\$3) are also available at Hat Creek Resort - RV Park just south of our camp, and at Manzanita Lake Camp Store.

Stores: Hat Creek Resort and Manzanita Lake have camp stores. There is a Safeway in Burney, 28 miles northeast.

Electricity: There is no electricity in camp.

Laundry: Hat Creek RV Park and Manzanita Lake Camp Store have coin-op machines and there is a laundromat in Burney.

Restaurant: JJ's Café – Old Station

**Hiking:** Hiking is the main activity of the Outing and the Hiking Guide that follows contains descriptions of hikes and specifics about signing up for and leading hikes. There will be a number of hikes each day. Anyone can start a sign-up sheet and organize a hike. During the Outing, leaders are not expected to have scouted or have intimate knowledge of the trail. All hikers are responsible for their own safety and for knowing where they are on the trail. Hikers should wear appropriate footwear and carry or wear appropriate clothing including rain gear. Hiking groups should have a minimum of three hikers. Carpooling for hikes is the norm and riders are expected to reimburse their driver for costs. All groups are to sign out for hikes and any other activities out of camp, and to sign back in after returning so the Outing Hike Coordinator can take appropriate action in case a group fails to return.

**Park Entrance Fee:** Entrance to the National Park requires a \$30 per-vehicle pass that can be purchased at park entrances and will be good for a week. One valid Senior Pass (persons 62 and older can pre-purchase) is also good for the entire vehicle.

## **Non-Hiking Activities:**

### **Fishing**

Hat Creek is a trophy trout fishing stream and there are other rivers and lakes within reasonable driving distance. Types of fishing on Hat Creek - shore, fly, spin, bait. California fishing licenses may be purchased online or at Hat Creek Resort or Old Station Fill Up.

### **Swimming and Kayaking**

Hat Creek in camp is 43 degrees year-round and has some swift places – not the best for swimming or boating but spots for cooling off can be found.

McArthur-Burney Falls State Park is a 30-minute drive from camp. It has a \$10 per vehicle entrance fee. Lake Britton in the state park has good swimming and boating. Kayak rental concessionaire: 530-335-5713. General info: 530-335-2777.

Manzanita Lake is in Lassen Volcanic National Park – swimming and boating 14 miles from camp. Kayak rentals available.

Summit Lake is in Lassen Volcanic National Park 25 miles from camp.

### **Visitor Centers / Museums**

Old Station Visitor Information Center and Discovery Gardens, 13435 Briars Way, Old Station, 530-335-7517

Lassen Volcanic National Park:

Historic Loomis Museum near Manzanita Lake, open 9 am-5 pm daily. Benjamin Loomis documented Lassen Peak's most recent eruption cycle and photographed the eruptions.

He explored and developed an extensive museum collection. Artifacts and photographs of the 1914-1915 eruption are displayed in the museum.

Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center near the southwest entrance, open 9 am-5 pm daily.

### **Sightseeing**

Lassen Volcanic National Park is rich in hydrothermal sites, many of which can be seen from the 30-mile National Park Highway driving tour. Self-guided auto tour guides can be picked up at visitor centers. Watch for views of Lassen Peak from Manzanita Lake, as well as steam vents and boiling mudpots further into the park at Bumpass Hell and Sulfur Works.

The picturesque Burney Falls area and Lake Britton are worth a day or half day. They are part of McArthur-Burney Falls State Park (\$10 per vehicle entrance fee).

## **Birding**

According to the National Park Service, Lassen provides habitat for approximately 216 species of birds, of which 96 have been known to breed in the park. The park has one bald eagle territory and one peregrine falcon eyrie. The Park Service monitors Northern goshawk nests annually and bufflehead populations. Lassen Volcanic National Park is one of the few areas this duck breeds in Northern California.

Lassen Bird List link: <https://www.nps.gov/lavo/learn/nature/upload/Lassen-Bird-List.pdf>

## **Star Gazing**

Due to naturally dark skies Lassen stargazing is optimal. There may be ranger-led stargazing nights. The Lassen Dark Sky Festival is the weekend of August 2-3 in the National Park (new moon will occur July 31<sup>st</sup>). Special programs, presentations, and hikes will be offered during the festival. The Perseid meteor shower peaks August 12-13, but the moon will be almost full then.

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## **Emergency Contacts:**

- Shasta County Sheriff (has Search & Rescue) 530-245-6540
- California Highway Patrol, Redding Office - 2503 Cascade Blvd 530-225-0500
- Lassen Volcanic National Park 530-595-4480
- Mercy Medical Center (has ER), 914 Pine St, Mt Shasta 530-926-6111
- Burney Health Center, 20641 Commerce Way, Burney (no ER)
- Camp Governor - responsible for the smooth operation of the camp

# Camp Procedures and Duties

**Meals:** A hot breakfast, dinner and a brown bag lunch, including vegetarian entries, will be provided from the first Saturday (July 27) dinner through the last Saturday (August 10) lunch. Dishes and utensils are provided. Backpackers are responsible for their own food while away from camp. No reduction in rates is made for campers who substitute their own food items, or for meals not taken. You may return for seconds after all other campers have been served, including the cooks and servers.

Breakfast is served at 7:00 am. Coffee and other hot drinks will be available earlier in the dining area. When the breakfast line starts, campers enter the dining tent and pick up tray, utensils, etc. and proceed through the serving line. Servers fill your tray per your request.

Dinner is served at 6:00 pm. The procedure is identical to breakfast. If you will be late for dinner, consider a restaurant or make other arrangements.

If you plan to miss a meal, please let the cooks know.

Please do not enter the kitchen unless you are working or on legitimate business.

Dishwashing - After eating, go to the dishwashing area outside. Scrape your own tray as clean as possible into the garbage cans using the provided scrapers and your napkin. Wash and rinse your dishes and utensils. The dishwashing crew will sterilize, dry and return them for reuse. You may wash personal items but should not send them through the sterilizer.

Lunch is self-prepared from a variety of foods set out on tables near the dining tent before breakfast. Lunch food will be in place at 6:15 am and removed at 6:45 am. Lunch workers make their own lunches prior to opening the line. You are welcome to take whatever you need, but please take only what you need. Chemeketans practice conservation by reusing baggies and paper sacks as practical. Campers are encouraged to bring reusable lunch containers and lunch bag.

To prevent contamination and food related illnesses, wash your hands carefully with soap prior to entering the food tent or making a lunch. Ensure that children's hands are washed. Use the provided utensils when taking food - do not put fingers in containers. Hand washing stations will be conveniently located. **Water from the hand washing stations is not potable.**

**Personal trash:** Campers may generally dispose of their trash in camp garbage cans, but should take any cans and bottles home with them. Do not leave them for camp recycling.

**Campfire Meetings:** Each evening at 7:30 there will be a campfire meeting. (The actual fire may be dispensed with if conditions dictate.) The purpose of this meeting is to relate important information and to report on hikes and activities. Attendance is strongly advised. On occasion,

entertainment, informational presentations or sing-alongs will be offered. The meeting ends with the singing of Taps.

**Camp Set-up and Take-down:** It is essential to smooth operation of the camp that all campers fulfill their assigned duties and help set up and dismantle the camp. First week campers should arrive on Saturday, July 27 early enough to help set up camp. Set up will start by 9 am. The site will be available on Friday, July 26 for those who wish to arrive early. Second week campers may arrive after breakfast on Saturday, August 3. Camp take-down will start on Friday evening, August 9 and continue with truck loading on Saturday morning. All second week campers are expected to remain in camp on the last day to help with the take-down until the truck is loaded, which is usually completed well before noon.

**Pets:** Dogs or other family pets or service animals are not allowed at the Outing.

### **Suggested Equipment List**

Tent	Day pack/essentials/first aid	Juice/water bottles
Sleeping bag	Insect repellent	Coffee cup
Air mattress	Sunglasses	Toiletries
Pillow	Sun block	Soap, towel
Appropriate clothes	Flash light/headlamp,	Small bucket or dishpan
Hiking boots	batteries	Clothesline, pins
Rain gear	Camera	Camp chair
Swim suit	Maps/compass	Alarm clock
Water container 3-5 gallons	Lunch containers	Binoculars
	Solar shower bag	Work gloves

## Camp Duties

The Outing is a cooperative enterprise. Participants share duties such as dishwashing, food serving, lunch prep and sanitation. Duties are assigned prior to camp and posted in the activity pavilion. Please check your assigned duties shortly after arriving at camp, because your duties may start before the first meal. If you are going to arrive for camp late or leave early, be sure to indicate on your registration form or notify the Outing Chair or Governor. Camp duties are described below. If you have questions, ask the Governor.

**Campfire Set up:** If fires are permitted, make sure enough wood is by the fire ring for the evening campfire. Have two buckets of water and a shovel nearby. Light the fire early and keep it going. Extinguish the fire after the group has disbanded. Weather conditions or local restrictions may restrict fires, check with the Governor.

**Dishwashing:** Dishwashers eat first (go to the front of the serving line) and should be on duty as soon as any campers finish eating. Six people are normally assigned to this duty per meal. Wear long pants, closed-toe shoes and use the provided water-proof gloves and aprons as appropriate.



An experienced person (the first person on the duty roster) is designated as leader. The lead dishwasher will be responsible for organizing the shift and ensuring that the job is properly completed. Start by filling the wash and rinse pans with hot water and putting soap in the wash pans. Change the wash and rinse water when they become too dirty or cool. To do this, dispose of the prewash water, then the used wash water is poured into the prewash basin, and the first rinse water into the wash basin (add soap), second rinse becomes first rinse and last rinse is filled with clean hot water. Washed dishes are stacked in the sterilizer basket, immersed in the sterilizer boiler for one minute and emptied onto the drying table. After the dishes have air dried, they are packed into the plastic storage bins and returned to the dining area. The utensils are rinsed in a bucket and sorted into their carriers, handles up. The carriers are then placed in the sterilizer for one minute, removed to air dry and returned to the dining area. When all dishes have been washed, empty the dish and rinse water into the designated area, rinse the basins and place them upside down on the dishwashing tables. Staff will tend to the boilers and sterilizers.

**Pots and Pans:** Pots and pans washers also go to the head of the meal line and after eating report to the staff for directions. (Thirty minutes before each meal, pots and pans staff will fill the sterilizer basins and light the boiler and sterilizer burners.)

**Janitor:** The two persons assigned to janitor duty clean and restock the toilets and hand wash stations. They keep a supply of tissue in each toilet and keep them clean and free of litter. They sweep the floor, wipe the seats with disinfectant wipes, and empty the trash as needed, preferably when demand is low.

**Servers:** This is a before and after meal duty. Breakfast and dinner servers report to the kitchen for duty a half hour before the meal. They wipe down all tables and place napkins, condiments and other necessary items on the tables. They assist the cooks as needed and serve the food, listening to campers' requests to avoid waste. Servers eat after serving the campers. After eating, servers wipe down the tables again, clean containers and help put away food.

**Evening Lunch Prep:** Evening lunch duty people go to the head of the dinner line. After eating, report to the lunch truck to prepare food for the following day's lunch. Follow the lunch supervisor's directions. Directions are also posted on the wall of the truck. Take all dirty dishes and utensils to the pots and pans wash area.

**Morning Lunch Prep:** Morning lunch duty people report to the lunch truck at 6:00 AM. Wipe down the lunch tables. Follow the lunch supervisor's directions for stocking the tables with food, drinks and supplies. Make your own lunches prior to opening the line at 6:15 AM. Watch the tables and keep them replenished. Combine remaining food onto one table when the lunch line begins to thin out. At 6:45 AM remove the remaining food from the tables and store it properly in the truck. Take all dirty dishes to the pots and pans wash area and wipe down the tables.

**Garbage and Recycling:** This is a two-part duty - morning and evening. After each meal empty the garbage cans in the kitchen, dining and washing areas, twist the bags closed and transport them to the dumpster as needed. Place fresh bags in the garbage cans. Break down

cardboard boxes, remove the bottoms from cans and flatten them then place all in the designated recycle area. Check with the cook for additional duties.

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Questions? Contact:

Outing Chair Ken Ash [mrkenash@comcast.net](mailto:mrkenash@comcast.net) 503-507-7844

Registrar/Treasurer Susan DeLaune [sdelaune2@gmail.com](mailto:sdelaune2@gmail.com) 503-378-1456

Other Outing Committee members:

David Adelman, Food Coordinator

Blanka Trunckova, Lunch

Mary Coleman, Lunch

Roz Shirack, Outing Guide

Janet Adkins

Rick Cooper

Mary Liepins

George Adkins

Nancy Rockwell

John Eibert

Carol Doolittle

## Have a great Outing!

### **Taps**

Day is done  
Gone the sun  
From the lakes  
From the hills  
From the sky  
All is well  
Safely rest  
God is nigh

# Hiking Guide

The purpose of this Hiking Guide is to provide a brief description of the best hikes in the area and driving directions to trailheads. **It does not replace the need for a map and compass to navigate the trails.**

## **How to Sign-Up for Hikes:**

Hikes planned for each day are listed on sign-up sheets in the Hikes Notebook at the Activity Pavilion. Hikers are welcome to sign-up for any hike that they are able to complete. If you have questions, check with the listed hike leader.

Each trip should have a designated hike leader and a minimum of three people total (for safety). Anyone can take responsibility for being a hike leader and start a sign-up sheet for a hike. Leaders should describe the trip on the sign-up sheet in enough detail so we can find you in the event you don't show up for dinner. If you plan to return late, please note that on the sign-up sheet. Hike leaders: please leave some space on your sign-up sheet for new hikers. When a group returns from a hike, remember that it is each person's responsibility to **sign back in**.

There will be maps and guidebooks at the Activity Pavilion for reference to help you plan your hike. Please leave these reference materials at the table. Tip: take photos of the guidebook narrative and/or map to use during your hike.

**What to Take:** Hikers should wear footwear appropriate to the trail conditions. Many of the trails in the Lassen Peak area are rocky. High top boots are advised. Waterproof boots are advised for hiking across low streams. Wear or carry appropriate clothing including a warm jacket and rain gear. Carry food, water, a map, compass, flashlight or headlamp with extra batteries, lighter or matches in a waterproof container, solar blanket and/or ground insulation, insect repellent, mosquito head net, sunscreen, first aid kit, pocket knife, and whistle.

**References:** [Day Hiking Mount Shasta, Lassen & Trinity Alps Regions](#) by John Soares, 2018.  
[Lassen Volcanic National Park](#) by Mike White, 2016.

**Maps:** Trails Illustrated Lassen Volcanic National Park, 2014.

Maps and hiking books can be purchased at Old Station Visitor Center near camp or at Loomis Museum near the Lassen Volcanic National Park Manzanita Lake entrance station.

Free USGS Quad maps and topo maps are available for printing at:  
[http://data.fs.usda.gov/geodata/rastergateway/states-regions/regions\\_zoom.php?regionID=r6](http://data.fs.usda.gov/geodata/rastergateway/states-regions/regions_zoom.php?regionID=r6) and  
[www.digital-topo-maps.com](http://www.digital-topo-maps.com)

Contact Old Station Visitor Center and Ranger Station for trail and road conditions in Lassen National Forest: 530-335-7517 or [www.fs.usda.gov/lassen](http://www.fs.usda.gov/lassen).

Contact Lassen Volcanic National Park for trail and road conditions within the National Park: 530-595-4480 or [www.nps.gov/lavo](http://www.nps.gov/lavo).

**Hike Ratings:** Hikes are described as easy, medium, or hard, generally defined as:

**Easy:** Up to 5 miles roundtrip and up to 1,000 feet of elevation gain.

**Medium:** 6 to 10 miles roundtrip and 1,000 to 2,000 feet of elevation gain.

**Hard:** Over 10 miles roundtrip and over 2,000 feet of elevation gain.

**Note that many hikes start at over 6,000 feet, so factor elevation, as well as elevation gain, into your choice of hikes.**

Lassen Peak area is high, dry and prone to afternoon lightning storms. If thunderheads build, get off of high peaks, ridges, and passes, and out of lakes. Fortunately, most hikes can be completed before mid-afternoon when most lightning risk occurs.

Many trails offer a range of hikes from easy to hard, depending on how far you want to go. Even if you want an easy hike, read the descriptions of the harder hikes to see if there is a nice lake, meadow or other point of interest along the way that can be reached on an easier hike.

Most of the hikes are described as out and back hikes or loops. There are many more options for longer loops, shuttles, or cross-key hikes you can plan by checking your map.

Driving directions to trailheads start at the Hat Creek Campground entrance on Hwy 89. Driving distance is an estimate and is reported as one way.

## Lassen National Forest

The five hikes in this section are a short distance north of camp. All trails have a toilet at or near the trailhead.

### 1. Splatter Cones Loop

**Easy**

Hiking Distance: 1.7 miles RT

Elevation Gain: 200 feet

Driving Distance: walk from camp

Walk across Hwy 89 and look for the trailhead on the south edge of the Splatter Cones parking lot. This trail has no shade so come prepared. This is a self-guided interpretive trail that is a great way to learn about the volcanic features of the Lassen Peak area. Pick up a brochure to guide you clockwise around the numbered posts on the loop. The trail goes south a short distance, crosses the Pacific Crest Trail, then arrives at the loop junction in .2 mile. Turn left for the clockwise loop. The trail reaches the first splatter cone at .7 mile. These platy cones formed when molten lava erupted from vents like a fountain and then fell back around the vent, flattening on impact. The largest cone has a crater 70 feet in diameter. Views of the surrounding volcanic landscape

include Lassen Peak and Chaos Crags to the south, Sugarloaf Peak to the northwest, and the lava plains of Hat Creek Valley.

## **2. Subway Cave** **Easy**

Hiking Distance: .5 mile RT

Elevation Gain: minimal

Driving Distance: 1.9 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Turn left onto Hwy 89 for 1.8 miles. Turn right for .1 mile to the Subway Cave parking area. Follow the signs to the cave entrance. Entrance is free.

Bring a jacket and **two** headlamps or flashlights per person to explore this dark, 46-degree cave. The cave is actually a 1,300-foot long lava tube. Its ceiling height varies from 6 to 16 feet high. The floor is rough and uneven. There are stairs at its entrance and exit. The lava tube formed when fluid basalt flowed north down Hat Creek Valley. Lava on the surface cooled and hardened first. Molten rock underground stayed hotter and continued to flow until it drained away, leaving the tube-shaped cave. The cave openings at each end formed when thinner areas of the tube ceiling collapsed.

Follow the interpretive signs that describe features of the cave. After moving through the dark cave, you will finally see light at the end of the tube at Rattlesnake Collapse. At the exit take a sharp right turn on a path back to the cave entrance and parking lot. Or turn left for a longer path that loops back to the south end of the parking lot.

Subway Cave can be combined with several other trails in the area. These remain easy hikes if you set up a shuttle as described in hikes #3 and #4 below.

## **3. Hat Creek Rim to Subway Cave** **Easy**

Hiking Distance: 3 miles one-way with car shuttle

Elevation **Loss**: 650 feet

Driving Distance: 5.5 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Drive to Subway Cave as in hike #2 and leave a car. Backtrack south on Hwy 89 for .3 mile. Turn left onto Hwy 44 East for 2.8 miles. Turn left onto the Rim Overlook access road for .4 mile to the parking area. Rim Overlook has interpretive panels, view scopes, and vault toilets. Bring a jacket and **two** headlamps or flashlights per person for the hike through the cave.

This downhill hike starts high (4,900 ft) with great views of Mount Shasta to the north; Burney Mt. to the northwest; Sugarloaf Peak due west; and Lassen Peak, Chaos Crags and closer in Frenner Peak to the south. On a clear day you can see Oregon's Mount McLoughlin and the rim of Crater Lake to the distant right of Mount Shasta.

Rim Overlook sits on a fault line that dropped Hat Creek Valley nearly 700 feet. Find the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) that runs through the parking lot. Start hiking south on the PCT for 2.8 miles. The trail passes through mountain mahogany, manzanita, sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and occasional ponderosa pines and Jeffrey pines. The PCT is sunny and dry, so start this hike early and bring plenty of water.

Continue on the PCT to the Rattlesnake Collapse exit of Subway Cave. Walk through the 1,300-foot long cave as described in hike #2.

#### **4. Hat Creek and Subway Cave**

##### **Easy**

Hiking Distance: 4.8 miles one-way with car shuttle

Elevation **Loss**: 450 feet

Driving Distance: 9.1 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Turn left onto Hwy 89 for 5.5 miles. Turn left into Bridge Campground and leave a car in the small day-use area on the east side of the road. Drive south on Hwy 89 for 3.6 miles and turn right into Cave Campground. Drive 50 feet into the campground to the small parking lot on the left.

Start the hike north along Hat Creek and finish with a cool walk in Subway Cave in the midday heat. To start the hike find campsite 4 on Hat Creek. Cross Hat Creek on a wooden bridge, then turn right onto the rock-lined trail. This delightful trail follows tumbling Hat Creek downhill through mixed forest of western junipers, incense cedars, white firs, ponderosa and Jeffrey pines, white alders, and aspen. At .7 mile look for a small waterfall surging through a narrow, mossy gorge. Lassen Peak is seen to the south and Sugarloaf Peak to the west. Mount Shasta is soon seen to the north. Hat Creek descends into a canyon that deepens as you continue downstream. After 4.3 miles the trail enters Bridge Campground.

Drive back south on Hwy 89 to Cave Campground where you left a car. Retrieve your jacket and **two** headlamps or flashlights per person for the cave. Walk across the highway and 300 yards down the access road to Subway Cave (see hike #2).

#### **5. Burney Falls**

##### **Easy**

Hiking Distance: 4.9 miles RT

Elevation Gain: 300 feet

Driving Distance: 28.7 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Turn left onto Hwy 89 for 28.7 miles. Turn left into McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park (\$10 per vehicle entrance fee) and park on the right. You can purchase the Falls Trails brochure at the entrance station to help navigate the several connected trails.

Burney Falls is guaranteed to impress because it is fed by a huge underground reservoir, rather than by rain or snow melt. One hundred million gallons per day flow over this 129-foot falls.

Walk to the Falls Overlook to view the falls from above. Then take the paved path down to the base of the falls. There are interpretive signs along the way. Follow the side path 100 yards to the edge of the large splash pool. Return to the main trail and hike downstream on the Burney Creek Trail for .8 mile to a swimming beach on Lake Britton. Retrace your steps to Rainbow Bridge. Cross the bridge, then immediately turn right (north) onto the PSEA trail. Follow this trail along the creek to where it flows into Lake Britton. Turn around and retrace your steps, past Rainbow Bridge, and continue south another mile past the falls and nearby bridge to a junction with the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). Merge with the PCT and follow it southeast for .7 mile and cross the PCT Bridge over Burney Creek. Immediately turn left onto the Headwaters Trail (leave the PCT) for .6 mile back to the falls and parking lot.

## Lassen Volcanic National Park

The 17 hikes in this section are within Lassen Volcanic National Park and require a \$30 per-vehicle pass (good for a week) purchased at park entrances or self-pay stations. Entrance is free with a Senior Pass. All trails in this section have a toilet at or near the trailhead.

### **6. Manzanita Lake, Reflection Lake, & Lily Pond** **Easy**

Hiking Distance: 3.5 miles RT

Elevation Gain: 100 feet

Driving Distance: 13.5 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Turn right onto Hwy 89 for 13 miles. Enter the National Park and pass through the Manzanita Lake Entrance. Drive another .5 mile and turn right into the Loomis Visitor Center parking lot.

Begin this hike at the Loomis Visitor Center and Museum, which is well worth a visit to learn more about this fascinating area. Bring your binoculars because the lakes and varied habitat make this the best birding site in the National Park. Find the Manzanita Lake trail by the Visitor Center. Hike this 1.8-mile loop clockwise. Continue to the northwest side of the lake for the best views of Lassen Peak and Chaos Crag, which may be reflected in the lake. A huge rock slide from Chaos Crag 300 years ago dammed Manzanita Creek and created Manzanita Lake.

Continue around the lake to the fork at the bridge over the creek. Keep left and go through the museum parking lot and cross the Park Highway. Find the Lily Pond trailhead and pick up an interpretive brochure that explains the 30+ numbered posts along the trail. Turn left to hike the .8-mile loop clockwise. The lake to the left is Reflection Lake, not the Lily Pond, so go right at the junction at .1 mile to continue north to the Lily Pond.

After completing this loop, head west on the adjoining .8-mile loop around Reflection Lake counterclockwise, retracing the first .1 mile of the Lily Pond loop. The north shore of Reflection Lake provides more mountain views reflected in the lake.

## **7. Chaos Crags and Lake**

### **Easy**

Hiking Distance: 4 miles RT

Elevation Gain: 1,000 feet

Driving Distance: 13.6 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Turn right onto Hwy 89 for 13 miles. Enter the National Park and pass through the Manzanita Lake Entrance. Drive another .5 mile and turn right onto Manzanita Lake Campground Road. Continue south on the campground road for .1 mile to the Crags Lake trailhead parking on the left.

This is a beautiful hike through mixed forest and over low glacial moraines. The trail crests a scenic ridge with wildflowers then descends a talus slope to pretty Crags Lake at the base of hulking Chaos Crags.

The trail starts near Manzanita Creek and has several spurs to the right to access the creek. The trail then leaves the creek, and descends to cross a small stream at .6 miles. After 1 mile begin a steep climb for .5 mile over low glacial moraines. The trail crests the ridge top at 1.9 miles, the high point of this hike (6,750 ft). Crag Lake is seen below. Chaos Crags loom 1,700 ft above the lake. Chaos Crags is a large lava butte two miles in diameter and nearly devoid of vegetation. Note Chaos Jumbles below, evidence of a massive avalanche off Chaos Crags about 300 years ago that extends 3 miles to Manzanita Lake. Views extend to the peaks of Thousand Lakes Wilderness to the north; and peaks of the Cascades and Klamath Mts to the west. Crags Lake is serene, except for the occasional rock slides from Chaos Crags. The lake's size depends on the previous winter's snowfall. If the lake looks inviting, pick your way down the rocky slope by heading to a flat area to the north. There may not be a good trail to follow down. Return the way you came.

## **8. Manzanita Creek**

### **Medium**

Hiking Distance: 7 miles RT

Elevation Gain: 1,200 feet

Driving Distance: 14.6 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Turn right onto Hwy 89 for 13 miles. Enter the National Park and pass through the Manzanita Lake Entrance. Drive another .5 and turn right onto Manzanita Lake Campground Road. Continue south on the campground road for .9 mile. Take loop D for .2 mile to the small parking area near site D31. If there is no room, park at the campground store, which you pass on your way in.



This hike takes you through pretty forest, wildflower meadows, and along tumbling Manzanita Creek to the base of Crescent Cliff. The trail does not start at Manzanita Creek. It starts on an old road, but soon angles up a lateral moraine through open forest. After about a mile Lassen Peak and Chaos Crags come into view. You reach Manzanita Creek at a bridge at 2 miles. Wildflowers become more plentiful here. Cross the bridge and continue hiking upstream. Loomis Peak with its colorful cliffs is seen. After hiking through small meadows, you come to a large wildflower meadow at 2.9 miles and cross a small stream. Wildflowers get even better for the next .5 mile to trail's end in a large wildflower meadow. Return the way you came.

## **9. Echo Lake, Twin Lakes and Rainbow Lake**

### **Medium**

Hiking Distance: 10 miles RT

Elevation Gain: 1,150 feet

Driving Distance: 26.1 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Turn right onto Hwy 89 for 13 miles. Enter the National Park and pass through the Manzanita Lake Entrance. Drive another 13.1 miles on Hwy 89 then turn left into the Summit Lake North Campground. Park in the day-use area. Walk toward the east end of the campground and look for the "Amphitheater" sign and the nearby trailhead.

This hike takes you through mixed forest to five pretty alpine lakes with some nice views of Lassen Peak. For a longer loop option with more lakes see hike #10.

The trail starts along the north shore of Summit Lake. It crosses a marshy area on a boardwalk. At the northeast side of the lake turn left at a fork onto the Echo Lake-Twin Lakes trail. The trail heads east away from the lake and uphill for .9 mile. At a fork stay to the right and reach Echo Lake at 1.7 miles. This is the smallest, but prettiest of the lakes. Mountain heather and other flowers line the shore. Hike along the shore and continue through forest and past two small ponds to Upper Twin Lake at 3.1 miles. The trail follows the north shore to a fork at 3.7 miles at the southwest side of Lower Twin Lake. Turn right and follow the south shore of Lower Twin. The trail soon meets and runs concurrent with the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) as it continues around the east shore of Lower Twin for .2 mile. At a junction at 4.4 miles turn right, leaving the PCT and lake to continue northeast to Rainbow Lake at 5.0 miles. Trails continue past Rainbow Lake, but this makes a nice stopping point for lunch and a swim. Fairfield Peak rises above Rainbow Lake to the north. Return the way you came. If you want to add a sixth lake on your return, shallow Swan Lake is just .5 mile south of Lower Twin on the PCT.

## **10. Cluster Lakes Loop**

### **Medium-Hard**

Hiking Distance: 11 miles RT

Elevation Gain: 900 feet

Driving Distance: 26.1 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Drive as in hike #9 to Summit Lake North Campground.

This trail provides a sampler of 12 of the Park's best alpine lakes. The north part of the loop goes through an area that was burned in the 2012 Reading Fire. Begin hiking as in hike #9 towards Echo Lake. Note the trail junction at .9 mile. The trail to the left is your return on the loop. Continue straight ahead to Echo Lake and the Twin Lakes as described in hike #9. At the junction when you first reach Lower Twin, turn left to follow the west shore of Lower Twin for .6 mile. At a junction turn left onto the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) for .4 mile, passing a patrol cabin on your right, to another junction. Turn left to leave the PCT and hike 2.1 miles into the Cluster Lakes Basin. You pass Feather Lake, Silver Lake and several smaller lakes on the way. At 6.7 miles is a junction near one of the Cluster Lakes. Turn left and pass Big Bear Lake and Little Bear Lake. Several miles further you reach the fork you passed near the beginning of the hike. Turn right and hike the final .9 mile back to the trailhead.

### **11. Kings Creek & Sifford Lake Loop** **Easy-Medium**

Hiking Distance: 6.3 miles loop

Elevation Gain: 500 feet

Driving Distance: 28.5 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Turn right onto Hwy 89 for 13 miles. Enter the National Park and pass through the Manzanita Lake Entrance. Drive another 15.5 miles on Hwy 89 to the parking area on the north side of the highway. Cross the road to find the trailhead.

Kings Creek flows from the south side of Lassen Peak and the Warner Valley. This hike follows the prettiest section of Kings Creek, through a wildflower meadow and past roaring Kings Creek Falls. It then climbs past Bench Lake up to the Sifford Lakes Basin, a collection of nine lakes.

Wooden steps lead from the road to a dirt trail that follows Kings Creek. The trail soon crosses a wildflower meadow to a fork at .5 mile. Note the trail to the right where you will return on the loop. For now stay left for a short distance to another fork. Turn right and climb down the rocky ledges above the creek for about .3 mile. **(Or turn left for a little longer trail that swings away from the creek to avoid the ledges, then returns to main trail.)** Kings Creek tumbles over a series of cascades through this section. At 1 mile stay left at the fork for 100 yards to the top of Kings Creek Falls. It falls 50 feet down a narrow chasm to the rocks below. After viewing the falls, return to the last fork, turn left to cross Kings Creek on a bridge, and continue on the Bench Lake Trail. The trail climbs steeply, but soon moderates. You pass under a talus cliff with two small caves near the top. You arrive at shallow Bench Lake .6 miles after crossing the creek. Continue climbing to a trail fork. Turn right and climb through switchbacks for .3 miles to a 3-way junction. Turn left (note this junction for your return) for .5 mile to the first Sifford Lake, a good swimming lake. You can stop here or look for a faint path going northwest .5 mile to the next Sifford Lake that is more isolated. There is a cluster of nine lakes that can be reached cross-country. When you are ready to complete the loop, return to the fork that was .5 mile below the first Sifford Lake. Turn left and hike downhill for 1.5 miles to cross Kings Creek. Soon after crossing the creek arrive at the fork in the wildflower meadow. Turn left for the final .5 mile to the trailhead.

## **12. Paradise Meadows and Terrace, Shadow, & Cliff Lakes** **Medium (or two easy options)**

Hiking Distance: 6.6 miles RT  
Elevation Gain: 1,600 feet  
Driving Distance: 32 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Turn right onto Hwy 89 for 13 miles. Enter the National Park and pass through the Manzanita Lake Entrance. Drive another 19 miles on Hwy 89 then turn right into the Terrace Lake Trailhead parking.

This hike includes two out-and-back easy trails. One to Paradise Meadows, the best wildflower meadow in the National Park (3.2 miles RT). The second to three beautiful alpine lakes (3.8 miles RT). They both fork from the same trail, as described below.

The trail heads north from the highway, descending through hemlock for .2 mile to a fork. Turn left at the fork to reach Paradise Meadows. The trail descends, steeply at times, through forest. Breaks in the trees give views of nearby Lassen Peak to the west. At 1.5 miles cross Hat Creek on a bridge, then reach a fork. Turn right and follow the stream a short way into Paradise Meadows that sit in a cirque basin. Reading Peak is seen to the south. Explore the boggy meadow to find 50 varieties of wildflowers. Come prepared for mosquitoes.

Return to the meadow fork, but before crossing Hat Creek, continue straight for a few hundred yards up stream to a little 20-foot waterfall. After viewing the waterfall, return to the fork, cross the creek, and return *uphill* 600 ft to the fork near the trailhead. Stay straight for .2 mile to return to the trailhead.

Or, to hike to the lakes, at the fork make a sharp left turn. You reach Terrace Lake in .5 mile. It is very scenic with its heather-lined shores and rocky cliffs. There is a sloped, grassy beach on the south shore. Much larger Shadow Lake is .1 mile beyond. The trail follows the south and east shores of Shadow Lake. As you hike along its east shore, look for reflections of Lassen Peak in the lake. The trail then turns east and away from Shadow Lake. At 1.5 miles turn right at a fork for .2 mile to the outlet stream of Cliff Lake. The lake is named for the cliff-face of Reading Peak, which rises 1,400 feet above Cliff Lake. The trail continues a short way to the west shore of the lake. Cliff lake, with its little forested island, is the prettiest of the three lakes and makes a nice lunch spot. Return to the trailhead the way you came, turning left at the fork near the trailhead.

## **13. Lassen Peak** **Hard**

Hiking Distance: 5 miles RT  
Elevation Gain: 2,000 feet  
Driving Distance: 34 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Turn right onto Hwy 89 for 13 miles. Enter the National Park and pass through the Manzanita Lake Entrance. Drive another 21 miles on Hwy 89 to the parking lot on the right. Trailhead is at the northwest corner of the parking lot.

Lassen Peak summit is the high point in the National Park at 10,457 ft. This is a short, but steep hike. However, most hikers did this trail when we last visited in 2003, so don't let the "hard" rating detour you. The trail is well graded and includes interesting interpretive signs along the way. Don't start this hike if thunderstorms are forecast. This is a very popular hike best done on a weekday with an early start.

Lassen Peak is a relatively young plug-dome volcano created 27,000 years ago. It is an active volcano, as evidenced by the many hydrothermal features in the area. It last erupted during the period 1914-17, and continued to steam until 1921.

The trail begins climbing through open forest, but most of the trail is exposed to the sun. There may be some wildflowers, but this is primarily a view hike. The trail begins to switchback up Lassen's flank at a steady grade. Near the top at the one and only junction, stay right for the final steep .1 mile to the summit. Or go left for .5 mile to explore the crater. Both options provide the same fantastic views: *all* of the peaks and many of the lakes in Lassen Volcanic National Park. Try to imagine ancient Mount Tehama, the 11,000-foot volcano that once stood 2 miles to the south. Remnants of its flanks include Brokeoff Mt to the southwest and Mount Diller, the sloping ridge north of Brokeoff Mt. There are also distant views of the Sierra Nevada spine to the south; Sacramento Valley and Coast Range to the west; Klamath Mts to the northwest; Mount Shasta to the north; and Warner Mts to the northeast.

From the summit look down on the Devastated Area to the northeast. This is where a 1-mile wide swath of forest was leveled by Lassen's eruption in 1915. On your return drive, stop in at the Devastated Area interpretive trail to walk through this area on a .4-mile loop.

#### **14. Bumpass Hell, Cold Boiling Lake, & Crumbaugh Lake Medium (Easy to Bumpass Hell: 3 miles RT, 450 ft gain)**

Hiking Distance: 7.6 miles RT

Elevation Gain: 1,200 feet

Driving Distance: 34 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Turn right onto Hwy 89 for 13 miles. Enter the National Park and pass through the Manzanita Lake Entrance. Drive another 21 miles on Hwy 89 to parking on the left.

**(Check before you go. As of June the 1.5-mile Bumpass Hell Trail was closed for repair. It may be open by early August. If not, drive 15.5 miles on Hwy 89, then turn left for .3 mile to the Kings Creek Picnic Area to start this hike from the other end.)**

This hike features bubbling and steaming hydrothermal features in Bumpass Hell, contrasted with gorgeous wildflower displays and good views of nearby Lassen Peak. Interpretive signs describe the interesting hydrothermal activity and geology. This a very popular hike best done on a weekday.

The trail starts along the road with nice views north across Helen Lake to Lassen Peak. The trail starts to climb and tops a ridge at 1.0 mile. Here you can look down to see and smell the volcanic features of Bumpass Hell below. Descend to hell and a trail junction. Stay on the boardwalk to explore this steaming 16-acres of hell. Ground water flowing over hot rocks boils into steam, which escapes through cracks and fumaroles. Sulfuric acid and other chemicals turn the eroding rocks yellow, red, and brown.

Return to the main trail and turn left (east). The trail soon starts a long descent to shallow Cold Boiling Lake at 3.2 miles. This lake is fed by springs that start out boiling hot deep within the earth, but cool by the time the water reaches the surface. The trail passes the lake and comes to a junction. Stay right and continue to descend another .6 mile through a wildflower meadow and across two inlet streams to Crumbaugh Lake surrounded by wildflower meadows. The view south across the lake is of Mount Conard. Return the way you came. Or you can leave a car at Kings Creek picnic area off of Hwy 89 and hike out about .6 mile to it from Cold Boiling Lake to avoid the climb back up to the Bumpass Hell Trailhead.

### **15. Sulphur Works and Ridge Lakes** **Easy-Medium**

Hiking Distance: 2.5 miles RT

Elevation Gain: 1,000 feet

Driving Distance: 41 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Turn right onto Hwy 89 for 13 miles. Enter the National Park and pass through the Manzanita Lake Entrance. Drive another 28 miles on Hwy 89 to parking on the right.

This trail begins with a tour of hydrothermal features at Sulphur Works, then does a steep climb of 1,000 feet in 1 mile to quiet Ridge Lakes with good views. The trail starts at 7,000 feet, so it may not feel like an easy hike.

Sulphur Works is an area similar to Bumpass Hell. It is the central vent of ancient Mount Tehama. Complete the .5-mile interpretive loop then return to the north side of the parking lot to find the Ridge Lakes Trail. The trail climbs through some wildflower meadows and patches of forest on the way up. Look for an active fumarole in the hillside on the right. The two Ridge Lakes are nestled in a glacial cirque. Enjoy good views of Brokeoff Mt and Mount Diller. A social trail continues northwest past the lakes. Return the way you came.

### **16. Mill Creek Falls** **Easy**

Hiking Distance: 3.2 miles RT

Elevation Gain: 350 feet

Driving Distance: 42 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Turn right onto Hwy 89 for 13 miles. Enter the National Park and pass through the Manzanita Lake Entrance. Drive another 29 miles on Hwy 89 to the Kohm Yahmah-nee Visitor Center and Southwest Campground on the left. Park close to the Visitor Center, which merits a visit after the hike. Walk into the campground and find the trailhead near site 19.

The trail starts on a paved path, but soon turns to dirt as it descends .3 mile through forest to West Sulphur Creek. It looks milky from mineral deposits from Sulfur Works upstream. Cross the creek on a bridge and climb gradually through open forest and wildflower meadows to the view point above Mill Creek Falls at 1.6 mile. Mill Creek Falls plunges down 75 feet, the longest fall in the National Park. Return the way you came. Or if you want a longer hike, cross the creek (no bridge) above the falls and continue 2.5 miles, passing lush wildflowers in Conard Meadows, to Crumbaugh Lake.

### **17. Brokeoff Mt. Hard**

Hiking Distance: 7.2 miles RT

Elevation Gain: 2,550 feet

Driving Distance: 42.5 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Turn right onto Hwy 89 for 13 miles. Enter the National Park and pass through the Manzanita Lake Entrance. Drive another 29.5 miles on Hwy 89 (.5 mile south of the Southwest entrance station) to the trailhead parking on the left. Cross to the west side of the road to find the trailhead.

Brokeoff Mt is the second highest peak in the National Park (9,235 ft), but the views are just as good as Lassen Peak. Also, this trail is prettier than Lassen's barren trail, as it offers forest, wildflowers, creeks, and a lake.

The trail starts on wooden steps up the hillside then soon crosses a creek and enters forest. It has three more minor creek crossings in the first half mile. It climbs through a series of wildflower meadows. At 1.3 miles just before the trail bends left to cross a creek, look for an unmarked trail on the right. Follow this trail uphill along an outlet stream for 250 yards to reach shallow Forest Lake ringed by trees, not recommended for swimming. Return to the main trail, which now climbs more steeply with increasingly good views. The trail works its way up the south and west flanks of the mountain. The upper portion of the trail is above timber line and has no shade so bring plenty of water. Brokeoff Mt is part of the remains of the collapsed caldera of ancient Mount Tehama, which stood at 11,000 feet before it erupted and was further eroded by glaciers. Sulphur Works seen below mark the volcano's main vent. A good close view of Lassen Peak is seen to the north with Mount Shasta in the distance. Lassen Peak is not part of the collapsed caldera, but rather a separate volcano that formed on the north flank of Mount Tehama. Huge Lake Almanor is seen to the south. This is a popular hike best done on a weekday.

**Note: Drive north from camp to reach the following three hikes, which leave from the Butte Lake Campground** in the northeast corner of the National Park. Use the self-pay station if you do not already have a valid entrance receipt or Senior Pass.

### **18. Cinder Cone** **Easy**

Hiking Distance: 5 miles RT

Elevation Gain: 850 feet

Driving Distance: 19.2 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Turn left onto Hwy 89 for 1.7 miles. Just after Old Station turn right onto Hwy 44 E, also called Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway, for 11 miles. Turn right onto gravel Butte Lake Rd for 6.5 miles to Butte Lake Campground. You will enter Lassen Volcanic National Park and must have a valid entrance receipt or Senior Pass. Otherwise, use the self-pay station. Park in the lot to the right near the boat launch.

This hike takes you past lava beds and up a large cinder cone and down into its crater. Panoramic views of surrounding peaks are seen from the cone's crater rim. The trail starts on the historic Nobles Emigrant Trail used to get to California in the 1850's. Look for an interpretive brochure at the trailhead. The trail goes through open Jeffrey pine forest beside a large lava bed. At .5 mile ignore the trail to the right to Prospect Peak. At 1.2 miles turn left at a junction and climb a steep .8 mile up loose cinders to the rim of Cinder Cone (6,900 ft). Enjoy the views of Lassen Peak, Prospect Peak, Chaos Crags, Brokeoff Mt, Reading Peak, and the Painted Dunes just west of Cinder Cone. The large lava beds below oozed out of the base of Cinder Cone when it began to form 400 years ago. Butte Lake to the north and Snag Lake to the south of the lava bed add to the contrast of the landscape. Continue around the crater rim to the southeast side and find the spur trail that descends into the crater. Return the way you came, or continue to Snag Lake for a longer hike (see hike #19).

### **19. Cinder Cone, Snag Lake, & Butte Lake Loop** **Hard**

Hiking Distance: 13.4 miles loop

Elevation Gain: 1,400 feet

Driving Distance: 19.2 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Drive as for hike #18 to Butte Lake Campground.

Hike to Cinder Cone as described in hike #18. After exploring the rim and crater, hike down the cone on its south side. At the base, stay left at two quick trail junctions. Do not rejoin the Nobles Emigrant Trail. At .4 mile past those junctions turn left and continue 1.5 miles along the Painted Dunes and lava bed to the shore of Snag Lake. The lake formed when the adjacent lava flow dammed Grassy Creek nearly 400 years ago and drowned the surrounding forest, hence the name. Continue along the west shore of Snag Lake for 1.5 mile. Stay left at a trail junction. Go .5 mile and stay left again at a trail junction. The trail curves east around the south end of the lake

and goes through wet wildflower meadows for .5 mile. Stay left again at the next trail junction to turn north. The trail soon returns to follow the lake's east shore for about a mile. The trail then leaves the lake and enters aspen groves as it descends for 3 miles to another junction. Turn left and soon follow the east shore of Butte Lake for 1.5 miles with nice views across the lake. Butte Lake also formed when lava dammed Grassy Creek. Cross the outlet stream and hike along the north shore of the lake for .9 mile back to the trailhead.

If you feel like jumping in a lake after a hot hike, try Bathtub Lake just .4 mile north of the trailhead parking lot. It is less visited and more secluded than Butte Lake.

## **20. Prospect Peak Medium-Hard**

Hiking Distance: 7.2 miles RT

Elevation Gain: 2,300 feet

Driving Distance: 19.2 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Drive as for hike #18 to Butte Lake Campground.

This hike begins on the Nobles Emigrant Trail, as in hike #18. After .5 miles turn right onto Prospect Peak Trail. The trail soon steepens its climb up Prospect Peak through open pine forest. Notice the camphor-scented coyote mint along the trail. Continue on this trail for 3.1 miles. The trail curves around the peak's south and west rim to the summit (8,338 ft). Prospect Peak is a cinder cone that capped the much larger shield volcano, which formed from lava eruptions that flowed over many square miles. From the summit you look down onto Cinder Cone, Fantastic Lava Beds, Painted Dunes, and Butte Lake and Snag Lake. Views from the summit also include Magee Peak and Burney Mt to the Northwest, with snowcapped Mount Shasta in the north. Try to pick out Oregon's Mount McLoughlin and the rim of Crater Lake to the distant right of Shasta. Chaos Crags and Lassen Peak are seen in the southwest with the Sacramento Valley, Coast Range and Klamath Mts beyond. Evidence of the 2012 Reading Fire is also seen.

If you have not already visited Cinder Cone, this is a good opportunity to do so.

**Note: Drive north from camp to reach the following two hikes, which leave from Juniper Lake** in the southeast corner of the National Park. These trailheads are a two-hour drive from camp, but allow you to explore this less used corner of the National Park. Use the self-pay station if you do not already have a valid entrance receipt or Senior Pass.

## **21. Horseshoe, Indian, and Juniper Lakes Loop (Plus Inspiration Point add-on) Medium**

Hiking Distance: 6.9 miles RT

Elevation Gain: 950 feet

Driving Distance: 74.5 miles one-way



Driving Directions: Turn left onto Hwy 89 for 1.7 miles. Turn right onto Hwy 44 E, also called Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway, for 28 miles. Turn right onto Mooney Rd for 18.2 miles. Turn right onto Hwy 36 W, for 13.2 miles to Chester. Turn right onto Feather River Dr. for .7 mile. Turn right onto Chester Juniper Lake Rd (Rd 318) for 12.7 miles (5.5 miles of pavement plus 7.2 miles of rough gravel/dirt road--OK for passenger cars) to road's end at the north end of Juniper Lake. Walk to the west side of the parking area to find the trailhead sign.

Begin hiking west toward Horseshoe Lake through open mixed forest with good views of Brokeoff Mt, Lassen Peak, and Chaos Crags straight ahead. At 1.4 miles you reach a junction near Horseshoe Lake. If you want to add a wildflower detour to the loop, stay to the right at the junction and soon cross Grassy Creek. At the fork immediately across Grassy Creek, turn right to hike along Grassy Creek. Plan to hike at least a mile down the creek for the best wildflowers. Retrace your detour route back to the main trail junction to resume the loop hike near the main camping area. A log cabin Ranger Station is near the junction. The loop trail follows the southeast side of Horseshoe Lake, which was sculpted by glaciers, then begins to climb steeply. Good mountain views soon open up to the west and north. At 2.8 miles turn left onto the .25-mile side trail to Indian Lake, a good swimming lake. The best spot is near a rocky point on the lake's north shore. Return to the main trail and watch for views of Mount Harkness straight ahead. At 4.1 miles turn left at a junction and soon reach Juniper Lake, the largest and deepest lake in the National Park. The trail turns north along the lake shore and passes through wildflowers for 2.3 miles back to the trailhead.

If you don't plan to hike up Mount Harkness, consider adding Inspiration Point (7,190 ft) to your day (1.4 miles roundtrip; 430 ft of gain). Trees have grown up on the Point, so it may not be as inspirational as in past years, but it still provides good views of Lassen Peak and other major mountains in the area. The trail leaves from the east side of the parking lot.

## **22. Mount Harkness**

### **Medium**

Hiking Distance: 5.4 miles Loop

Elevation Gain: 1,850 feet

Driving Distance: 73 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Turn left onto Hwy 89 for 1.7 miles. Turn right onto Hwy 44 E, also called Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway, for 28 miles. Turn right onto Mooney Rd for 18.2 miles. Turn right onto Hwy 36 W, for 13.2 miles to Chester. Turn right onto Feather River Dr. for .7 mile. Turn right onto Chester Juniper Lake Rd (Rd 318) for 11.2 miles (5.5 miles of pavement plus 5.7 miles of rough dirt road--OK for passenger cars). Turn left into Juniper Lake Campground and park in the lot on the right. Walk to site 5 to find the trailhead.

This hike is described as a loop to include a stroll along the wildflower-lined south shore of Juniper Lake. But it can also be done as a direct in and out hike to Mount Harkness in 3.6 miles roundtrip. If thunderstorms are in the forecast, do not do this hike.

The trail heads south and soon begins a long climb through mixed forest. After a mile you emerge onto open slopes of wildflowers and skirt a lava flow. At 1.5 miles turn left at a junction. The trail switchbacks up the final .3 mile to the broad summit (8,646 ft). Mount Harkness is a shield volcano built up from successive flows of basalt. It is topped by a cinder cone formed by more recent eruptions after the last glacial period. The summit trail circles the 100-foot deep crater. The summit offers panoramic views all around. Lassen Peak is most prominent. The long ridge extending south of Lassen marks the northwest flank of ancient Mount Tehama. The highest remnants of Tehama are Brokeoff Mt and Mount Diller. Looking east is the Caribou Wilderness.

The summit also has a staffed fire lookout. If staff is present, you may ask permission to climb the stairs to the lookout deck and enter.

After you have enjoyed the views from the summit, return to the trail junction and turn left to continue the loop toward Juniper Lake. Descend the steep rocky trail and re-enter forest. At a 4-way junction that is 1.6 miles from the summit, make a sharp right turn (northeast) toward Juniper Lake. The trail reaches the lake shore in .5 mile and continues along the shoreline for the final 1.3 miles to the campground. The trail ends near campsites 9 and 10. Follow the road .2 mile to the parking lot.

## Thousand Lakes Wilderness

Thousand Lakes Wilderness is 20 miles northwest from camp. There are only nine named lakes in this wilderness, but the many little ponds make it seem like a thousand. Two trails depart from Cypress trailhead that go to the three best lakes, plus many smaller ponds and a peak. Be prepared for mosquitoes around the lakes and ponds. Hikes in this Wilderness are limited to 25 people, rather than the usual 12. There are no wilderness permit boxes.

### **23. Everett Lake, Magee Lake, and Magee Peak Hard**

Hiking Distance: 13.2 miles RT

Elevation Gain: 3,100 feet

Driving Distance: 23.1 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Turn left onto Hwy 89 for 12.8 miles. Turn left onto Forest Road 26 (this road is .3 mile north of the Hat Creek Work Center). Follow Forest Road 26 through two 4-way junctions (usually signed for Cypress Trailhead) for 7.8 miles through areas of heavy fire damage. Turn left onto Forest Road 34N60 for 2.3 miles. Veer left at an unmarked Y junction to stay on Forest Road 34N60 for another .2 mile to the Cypress Trailhead at road's end.

The trail climbs along Eiler Gulch through open forest for 1.7 miles to the wilderness boundary. Shortly after entering the wilderness keep to the right at three different trail forks in the next 1 mile. The trail then climbs through switchbacks through mixed forest to a ridge top. At 4.2 miles

you come to shallow Twin Lakes, one of which is seen on the left side of the trail. Continue another .3-mile climb to Everett Lake a larger and better swimming lake. It is surrounded by forest and the steep face of Red Cliff. Crater Peak and Magee Peak are seen to the southwest. A short distance up the trail is smaller Magee Lake. A spur trail follows the west side of Magee Lake. Otherwise, turn right to continue on the main trail away from Magee Lake. The trail steepens as it climbs up a ridge through mixed forest and provides increasingly good views of the Thousand Lakes Valley. The trail crests the ridge at 6.3 miles. Turn right on a faint path (ignore the downhill trail to the left) to follow the crater rim for .3 mile to the summit of Magee Peak (8,549 ft). Enjoy the view of many peaks from Mount Shasta in the north to Lassen Peak in the south, and the many small lakes below.

If you can't stand to see a nearby peak taller than the one you are standing on, you can continue north cross-country on the ridge crest for .75 mile to Crater Peak (8,683 ft).

#### **24. Lake Eiler Loop** **Medium**

Hiking Distance: 8 miles RT

Elevation Gain: 1,100 feet

Driving Distance: 23.1 miles one-way

Driving Directions: Drive to Cypress Trailhead as in hike #23.

Hike as in hike #23 along Eiler Gulch for 1.7 miles. Shortly after passing the wilderness boundary, turn left at the first junction. Note the trail to the right, which is your return trail. At 2.3 miles you arrive at Lake Eiler. Stay left at a trail junction to follow the south shore of Lake Eiler, which has the best swimming spots. Continue to the east end of the lake. Note the good views of Crater Peak and Magee Peak to the southwest. The trail then turns south away from the lake. Turn right at a junction and hike 1 mile to shallow Barrett Lake. At Barrett Lake keep right at a junction for .7 mile to a 4-way junction. Continue straight (northwest) for .8 mile to intercept the trail you came in on, then turn left for the final 1.7 miles to retrace your route back to the trailhead.