

# NEWS



**Forest Service**

*United States  
Department of  
Agriculture*

**Lassen National Forest**

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## **RECREATION TIPS FOR THE FOURTH**

Susanville, CA, June 25, 2003.... Summer is in full swing on the Lassen National Forest, and if you are traveling to the woods this July 4<sup>th</sup>, the forest is a good place to head. Campgrounds are open and ready for holiday travelers.

“All campgrounds are open now and I’d like to encourage people to visit us,” said Ed Cole, Forest Supervisor, “The Lassen is a great place to spend the Fourth!”

The Lassen National Forest has forty campgrounds to welcome visitors, ranging from fully developed sites with convenient facilities and close to shopping and other services, to more out-of-the-way places for those who like to “rough it” a little—or a lot.

Lake Almanor is always a popular destination for the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday, with people coming to enjoy the fireworks and nearby festivities in Chester. If you are looking for someplace a little less crowded but with all the amenities of the Forest’s Lake Almanor campgrounds, try Eagle Lake, just sixteen miles from Susanville. Five campgrounds are nestled among pines at the south end of the lake, including one for groups and one for tents-only. If you have a boat or would like to rent one, a full service marina is available. Eagle Lake is home to the unique--and—large eagle lake trout, so if you are a fisherman, bring your rod.

A little further north, not far from Redding is the scenic Hat Creek recreation area. Four campgrounds hug the creek, waiting for the fisherman’s line or just a quiet walk. Not far away is Subway Cave, an easy exploration of a lava tube, and Spattercone trail, a nature hike offering fascinating insights into the areas volcanic heritage. The nearby small towns of Old Station and Hat Creek are convenient stops to pick up supplies. Visitors often stop at the Old Station visitor’s center to gather more information about the surrounding area.

A little further off the beaten track are campgrounds like Cherry Hill along Butte Creek; Hole-in-the-Ground along Mill Creek; and Crater Lake, nestled by a small lake in the throat of an old volcanic crater. These and other picturesque places are a great way to spend a week or a weekend. The facilities are limited though, and large RVs are probably not a good idea.

Many campgrounds are first come-first serve, so whichever campground you decide on, the earlier you come the better chance you will have of finding the perfect site. Lake Almanor, Eagle Lake and the Hat Creek area all do have some reservation campgrounds. For reservations call 1-877-444-6777 or go online at [www.reserveUSA.com](http://www.reserveUSA.com).

The Ishi Wilderness is open, however, it can get hot during summer months, and there is little water available. The best times to visit the Ishi are spring or fall, when temperatures are lower. The Caribou Wilderness and the Thousand Lakes Wilderness are open.

While visiting the Forest, take some time out to discover one of our many trails. The Lassen National Forest has 416 miles of trails, and there is bound to be one that is just right for you and your abilities. Maybe a hike on the Bizz Johnson Trail is the ideal way to spend a day. Trailheads are available in Susanville, Gomez, Devils Canyon, and Westwood. Or perhaps a leisurely bike ride on the South Eagle Lake Trail, or Lake Almanor Trail. Both of these trails are paved which makes for easy riding of bikes of wheelchairs alike, or even for walking. Contact the nearest Forest office for more information on the best hiking adventure for you.

“I’d like to extend an invitation to those considering July 4<sup>th</sup> camping holiday to come visit the Lassen national Forest,” Ed Cole, Lassen National Forest Supervisor, “Between the Forest, the National Park and the local communities, there is quite a bit to see and do.”

While the Forest welcomes visitors, Forest Officials remind visitors that fireworks are illegal on federal lands and ask that they leave fireworks at home.

Those with questions are urged to contact any of the Forest offices. Telephone and office hours over the holiday are:

- Almanor Ranger District: 530-258-2141 Open Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Hat Creek Ranger District: 530-336-5521 Open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed July 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Old Station Visitors Center: 530-335-7517. Open 7 days a week, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Eagle Lake Ranger District: 530-257-4188. Open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed July 4<sup>th</sup>.

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