

NEWS



Forest Service

*United States
Department of
Agriculture*

Lassen National Forest

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RECREATION TIPS FOR THE FOURTH

Susanville, CA, June 24, 2004.... Summer is in full swing on the Lassen National Forest, and if you are traveling to the woods this July 4th, the campgrounds are open and ready for holiday travelers.

The Lassen National Forest has 40 campgrounds to welcome visitors, ranging from fully developed sites with convenient facilities 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. Visitors are reminded that fireworks are illegal on federal lands to leave fireworks at home.

Lake Almanor is always a popular destination for the July 4th holiday, with people coming to enjoy the fireworks and nearby festivities in Chester. If you are looking for someplace a little less crowded, try Eagle Lake, just 16 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 provides great fishing as it is home to the unique and large Eagle Lake Trout.

A little further north, not far from Redding is the Hat Creek recreation area. Three 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. Visitors are reminded to bring a flashlight to explore the cave. 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 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 great locations to spend a week or a weekend. These 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 areas do have some reservation campgrounds. For reservations call 1-877-444-6777 or go online at www.reserveUSA.com.

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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. 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 and for walking. Contact the nearest Forest office for more information on the best hiking adventure for you.

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 Friday, 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 Monday, July 5th.
- Old Station Visitors Center: 530-335-7517. Open 7 days a week, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Eagle Lake Ranger District: 530-257-4188. Open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed Monday, July 5th.

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