Peak Experiences

Fall and Winter Offerings

**At the Edge of Lassen’s Wilderness, the Solitude can be so deep that your ears ring with the absence of sound. On mornings after snowfall, the landscape glints as if the sky had overturned, spilling the Milky Way across the soaring peaks.**

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

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

### Fall Hiking & Camping:

- **Fall Hiking**
- **Camping**

- **Beginning-Intermediate Ski Trails**
- **Intermediate-Advanced Ski Trails**
- **Snowshoe Trails**

**Snowplay:** The Park Road is plowed one mile from the Southwest Entrance to the Lassen Chalet. Tobogganing, sledding, and tubing are allowed near the Lassen Chalet (elevation 6,200 feet) and snowboarding is allowed ½ mile from the Chalet.

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

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

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**Welcome!**

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

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

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

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

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

Marylin H. Parks
Superintendent

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**Look Inside:**

- Contact Information
- You Need To Know
- Ranger-Led Activities
- Into The Backcountry
- Climate Data
- Your Dollars at Work
- Touring Routes
- Park Partners
- Nearby Businesses
- Avalanche Danger
- Area Roads, Driving Safety

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**National Park Service**

U.S. Department of the Interior

Lassen Volcanic National Park

P.O. Box 100

Mineral, CA 96063

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

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

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

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

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Chaos Crags (Photo by Shanda Ochs)

Chaos Crags touring route at dusk (Photo by Shanda Ochs)
For Your Safety
- Please remember that Lassen Volcanic National Park is a wild area with natural wonders that are also potential hazards
- The National Park Service cannot guarantee your safety
- Bring a first aid kit, high energy food, water, and extra clothing
- Prepare for the unexpected – equipment failure, injury or illness and wet winter storms can turn a day trip into an agonizing ordeal

Ranger-Led Activities
Snowshoe Walks
Join a park ranger for a one to two mile adventure exploring winter ecology or Lassen’s geologic history.

Snowplay
- Snowplay slopes are steep and sometimes icy, choose snowplay areas carefully
- Snowboarding, sledding, and tubing can be dangerous, please act responsibly
- Jump building is prohibited within 1/4 mile of the Lassen Chalet

Other Programs
- Join a ranger for a program on minimum impact camping or winter survival in the southwest area of the Park
- Programs are held on Sundays from December 2 through April 6. Meet at 12:30 p.m. outside the Lassen Chalet for this one-hour program.

Group Programs
Snowshoe walks for schools and organized groups of 10 or more persons require reservations well in advance. Reservations can be made as early as November 1 at 8 a.m. for winter school or group programs (dates fill quickly). Programs cover topics such as winter ecology, winter survival, and snowshoes. For more information, please telephone (530) 595-4444 ext. 5135, Monday through Friday.
**Into the Backcountry**

**Cross-Country Skiers and Snowshoers**

- Bear-proof food storage lockers and trash receptacles are being installed in all the campgrounds to ensure the health and safety of park visitors and bears and other wildlife.
- Disturbed natural areas are being rehabilitated to preserve native plants and animals.
- New wayside exhibits are being designed and constructed and will be installed throughout the park.
- Design is underway for a new Southwest Entrance Station.
- Bear-proof food storage lockers and trash receptacles are being installed in all the campgrounds to ensure the health and safety of park visitors and bears and other wildlife.

**Day Users**

- Always sign in/out on trail register stands at the Lassen Chalet in the Southwest area and at the trailhead by the Loomis Ranger Station in the Manzanita Lake area.
- Registration is helpful should search and rescue assistance be necessary.
- Dig latrines and bury human waste at least one foot deep in snow away from trails and drainages; carry out all waste paper.

**Overnight Users**

- A backcountry permit is required, ask about areas closed to camping.
- Backcountry permits are available at Park Headquarters in Mineral (open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; closed holidays) or by calling (530) 595-4444 ext. 534.

**Pets, Fires, Litter**

- Pets are not permitted in the backcountry or in any unplowed areas.
- Open fires and fire pans are not permitted, use campstoves only.
- Carry out all litter.
- Dig latrines and bury human waste at least one foot deep in snow away from trails and drainages; carry out all waste paper.
- Always sign in/out on trail register stands at the Lassen Chalet in the Southwest area and at the trailhead by the Loomis Ranger Station in the Manzanita Lake area.
- Always carry waterproof cold weather gear, even on sunny days.
- Layer clothing to maintain an even temperature; excessive perspiration can lead to hypothermia.

**Fee Demonstration Projects in Progress**

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

**Water, Food, Clothing, Supplies**

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

**For Your Safety**

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

**Climate Statistics**

**Manzanita Lake, Elevation 5850’ (Based on Weather Data from 1949-1994)**

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**Park Headquarters, Elevation 4850’ (Based on Weather Data from 1929-1994)**

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**Sunrise and Sunset Times for Chester**

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**Completed Fee Demonstration Projects**

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

**Fee Dollars at Work**

- 100% of your fee dollars are used to provide maintenance funding for project at Lassen Volcanic National Park.
- Projects funded with Fee Demonstration dollars provide you with enhanced values that have been shown to protect your health and safety while you visit.
- Fee dollars are used to help protect natural and cultural resources for you and future visitors.

**Lassen Volcanic National Park Peak Experiences**

- Cross-country skiers and snowshoers who venture into Lassen’s backcountry can expect spectacular vistas and snowy solitude.
- Adequate preparation and precaution may ensure a safe and enjoyable experience.
- Call Park Headquarters or the Loomis Ranger Station in advance for information on snow, weather, and backcountry conditions.
Cross-Country Ski and Snowshoe Routes

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

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

**Park Road from Southwest Area**

**Classification:** Beginner to advanced  
**Distance:** Lassen Chalet to Lake Helen 6.2 mi., to road summit at base of Lassen Peak 7 mi., to Kings Creek Meadows 1.6 mi., to Summit Lake 16.5 mi., to Hat Lake 19 mi., to Manzanita Lake 30 mi.  
**Elevation:** Start (Lassen Chalet) 6700', high point 8500', Manzanita Lake 850'  
**Average Skiing Time:** 1 hr.  
**Description:** To reach this trail, follow the unplowed Park Road through the Park to Manzanita Lake. Hazardous, steep side hills with icy conditions may be encountered. The Diamond Peak area has a history of avalanches. This area should be avoided by using the marked “cutoff” trail just north of Windy Point (see map below). By midwinter in the high, open country between the head of Little Hot Springs Valley and Reading Peak, it is difficult to find any trace of the road. High winds and whiteout conditions are common in this same area during winter storms. The road crosses several avalanche paths as indicated on the map below. Terrain off the roadway is generally steep south of Kings Creek and gentle northward. Good overnight snow camping areas (with backcountry permit) can be found a short distance from the road north of Diamond Peak, near Emerald Lake and Lake Helen, Kings Creek Meadow, Summit Lake and Hat Lake. This route offers the best access into the heart of Lassen's backcountry.

**Ridge Lakes**

**Classification:** Advanced intermediate  
**Distance:** 2.5 mi. round trip  
**Elevation:** Start (Sulphur Works) 7000', high point 8000'  
**Average Skiing Time:** (one way): 1 hr.  
**Description:** To reach this trail, follow the unplowed Park Road from Lassen Chalet about ¼ mi., cross the bridge just before reaching Sulphur Works, then turn left (northwest) away from the road and follow the drainage just west of the Sulphur Works thermal basin. The trail climbs rapidly to the Ridge Lakes basin. Several good camping spots (with backcountry permit) can be found on the north shore of Ridge Lakes. If weather is severe, more protected camping can be found about ½ mi. below Ridge Lakes along its outlet creek. Avoid the area just south of Ridge Lakes during periods of avalanche danger. The trail loops north from Ridge Lakes to rejoin itself about ¼ mi. below the basin.

**Forest Lake**

**Classification:** Intermediate  
**Distance:** 1 mi.  
**Elevation:** Start 6,500', high point 7,500'  
**Average Skiing Time:** 2 hr.  
**Description:** The ski trail is marked by placards with orange diamonds on a white background. These markers are pointed in the direction of travel. The trail begins at the Lassen Chalet and follows the unplowed Park Road 100 yds, then turns left (south) and follows a shallow bowl several hundred yards until another larger bowl is reached. At this point the trail turns right (west) and passes through the bowl to a flat area. Look for a ridge on the right (north). Follow the crest of the ridge to the west until the trail markers indicate a turn to the left (south) up a steep face. Follow the markers to the southwest, staying above some large open areas to the south. On reaching the next ridge, turn right (west) and follow the ridge to the open bowl area beneath Mt. Brokeoff. Do not travel into the bowl—turn left (south) and follow the markers to Forest Lake.

**Brokeoff Mountain**

**Classification:** Advanced—may require ice axe, crampons, and climbing rope  
**Distance:** 4 mi. one way  
**Elevation:** Start 6650', summit 9250'  
**Average Skiing Time:** (one way): 4 hrs. to summit—varies with weather conditions  
**Description:** Park at the Lassen Chalet and walk back about ¼ mi. to the trailhead. Follow the summer trail route (no visible markers), cross the road and travel southwest about ¼ mi. up to the base of Brokeoff Mountain's southeast ridge. Angle right (northwest) following the base of the ridge and Forest Lake drainage toward Forest Lake. After about 1 mi. (before reaching Forest Lake) look for a small side canyon that forks to the left and up toward Brokeoff Mountain summit. Once at the head of this small side canyon (another ½ mi.), angle left (southwest) toward the southeast ridge of Brokeoff Mountain. Once on top of this ridge, travel toward the summit—stay on the moderately steep southwest facing slope to the summit of Brokeoff Mountain. Summit conditions are often high winds and whiteout conditions during inclement weather. Large, overhanging snow cornices at the summit make any approach to the edge extremely dangerous—stay back at least 30 feet from the edge.

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

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

Nobles Emigrant Trail

Classification: Beginner to intermediate
Distance: 7 mi.
Elevation: Start 5850', high point 6350'
Average Time (round trip): 3-4 hrs.
The trail starts at the Park Road across from the Loomis parking area. The route joins the historic Nobles Emigrant Trail at the base of Table Mountain. The trail then climbs a portion of the southeast flank of Table Mountain and continues through heavy fir forest at a gradual descent, then rejoins the Park Road at Sunflower Flat. Turn right to follow the Park Road back to make a loop.

Manzanita Creek

Classification: Intermediate
Distance: 7.5 mi.
Elevation: Start 5850', high point 7400'
Average Skiing Time (round trip): 6 hrs.
The trail leaves Highway 89 at the base of Table Mountain and continues through heavy fir forest at a gradual descent, then rejoins the Park Road at Sunflower Flat. Turn right to follow the Park Road back to make a loop.

Near the Park: McGowan Lake & Nanny Creek

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

Be A Volunteer At Lassen Volcanic National Park

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS COORDINATOR
LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK
POST OFFICE BOX 100
MINERAL, CA 96063-0100
(530) 595-4444 EXTENSION 5133
Lassen Volcanic National Park is looking for hard-working people interested in temporary work with the National Park Service between May and mid-October. Positions offered usually include visitor services, interpretation, fire management, law enforcement, maintenance, trail work, biological research...and more!

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

To get more information, contact Lassen’s Human Resources office at (530) 595-4444 extension 542. Job openings are posted on the USAJobs web site, www.usajobs.opm.gov. Hiring for summer positions usually begins in January.

STUDENT TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

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

Nearby Businesses

South of Park, Highway 36: Mineral

Mineral (530) 595-3347
38361 Hwy. 36 E.
Mineral, CA 96063

Volcano Country Camping & R.V.

South of Park, Highways 36 & 172: Mill Creek

McGovern's Mt. Lassen Chalets

Mineral Resort
(530) 595-4422
9 miles from South entrance of Volcanic Park
Open Year Round - Fully equipped 3 or 4 bedroom homes, can accommodate groups up to 10.

Frank, Gretta and Julie McGovern
www.mlachtenalets.com

Lassen Mineral Lodge

Located 9 miles from Lassen Volcanic National Park's Southwest Entrance on Ewy. 36 E. P.O. Box 160 Mineral, CA 96063

South of Park, Mineral

Lassen Loomis Museum Association

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

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

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<td>Plts a seven day Park Pass</td>
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<td>Lassen Peak</td>
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A portion of your donation may be tax deductible. Please make checks payable to the Lassen Loomis Museum Association. For more information about memberships and publications, please call (530) 595-3399 or visit our web site, wwwlassenloomis.info.

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

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

Enclosed is my donation in the amount of $________

Please send me more information about the Foundation:

Name
Address
City State Zip

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

Please make checks payable to the Lassen Park Foundation.
Publication of Peak Experiences is made possible by a donation from the Lassen Loomis Museum Association.

Printed with soy-based ink on recycled paper by Paradise Post Printing of Paradise, CA.
Be “Avalanche Aware”

Always obtain weather and avalanche information before entering the Park’s backcountry. At times, backcountry travel may not be advised due to high or extreme avalanche conditions.

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

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

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

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

Recent and Prior Avalanche Activity
- If you see a new avalanche, suspect recent and prior avalanche activity
- Sounds (wind, temperature, precipitation) can cause unstable snow

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

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

If you can, send someone for help
- If you are alone, do not abandon your search and go for help unless it is minutes away, the buried person has less than a 50% chance of survival after 15 minutes

Lassen Volcanic NP
Area Road Map

Gear Up For Safe Driving In Snow Country!

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

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

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