Experience Lassen Volcanic National Park!

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 glimmers 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 red fir forest. 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 snow play, or challenging telemark runs, Lassen Volcanic National Park has a lot to offer. Although the Main Park Road through the park usually closes by mid-November, the park is open year-round. Throughout the winter the Main Park Road is plowed to the Southwest Entrance Station on the south side of the park and to the Loomis Museum on the north side of the park. The winter season provides visitors auto-free opportunities to see another, quieter side of the park.

Welcome

I would like to personally welcome you to Lassen Volcanic National Park, may you enjoy all that it has to offer. Even though the majority of our visitors come in the summer, those that visit during the winter discover a very special place. The landscape is blanketed in deep snow that reveals its brilliance on sunny, blue-sky days. Snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and snow play activities are the most popular ways to enjoy this season’s beauty and solitude.

This past fall I arrived from Bandelier National Monument to serve as Lassen’s new park superintendent. I am very excited to be here and look forward to the completion of our new visitor center near the southwest entrance. Once we cut the ribbon next fall you will be able to visit the facility throughout the year and discover what makes each season so wonderful at Lassen Volcanic National Park.

Please make your visit safe and enjoyable by planning ahead. Our staff can provide details about trails, ranger-led programs, weather forecasts, and road and avalanche conditions. Remember to help protect and preserve this magnificent park during your visit.

Darlene Koontz
Superintendent

Mountain Hemlock

This newspaper is made possible by a donation from the Lassen Association.

www.lassenloomis.info

CONTENTS:

Contact Information, Visitor Center Update • page 2
Ranger-led Activities • page 2
Fall and Winter Activities • page 2
Know Before You Go, Into the Wilderness • page 3
Weather and Climate Data • page 3
Ski & Snowshoe Routes • pages 4-5
Local Businesses • pages 6-7
Area Roads and Driving Safety • page 8
Lassen Volcanic National Park
Established first as Cinder Cone and Lassen Peak National Monuments in 1907, Lassen Volcanic became a national park in 1916 because of its significance as an active volcanic landscape. Lassen Peak began erupting in 1914, had its most spectacular activity in 1915, and experienced minor activity until 1921. All four types of volcanoes in the world plus active hydrothermal areas are found in the park’s 106,372 acres. Lassen Peak is one of the largest plug dome volcanoes in the world. It is considered to be active today.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Emergencies - DIAL 911
Information
Park Headquarters (year-round)
(530) 595-4444
Fax Number
(530) 595-3262
Park Website and E-mail
Address
www.nps.gov/lavo/
lavo_information@nps.gov
Mailing Address
Lassen Volcanic National Park
P.O. Box 100
Mineral, CA 96063-0100

Fall and Winter Activities

Beginner-Intermediate Ski and Snowshoe Routes abound in the Manzanita Lake area (elevation 6,000 feet). The road is regularly plowed from the North Entrance to the Loomis Ranger Station (one mile). Over 15 miles of cross-country ski trails begin at the Loomis Ranger Station. More experienced skiers can access challenging mountainous terrain from this area. See page 5 for suggested routes. The Loomis Ranger Station is open intermittently on weekends and holidays for information, maps, and books.

Intermediate-Advanced Skiers and Snowshoers delight in the steep terrain and sweeping views from the snow-covered Main Park Road (usually accessed from the Southwest Area). See page 4 for touring routes.

Fall Hiking: This is a gorgeous time to visit the park, with fall colors often persisting through early November. Until serious snowfall begins, you can enjoy fabulous hiking throughout the park without the crowds of summer.

Ranger-Led Activities At Manzanita Lake

Snowshoe Walks and Winter Hikes
Join a park ranger for a one to two mile adventure exploring winter ecology and Lassen’s geologic history in the Manzanita Lake area. Wear boots and dress warmly. Participants must be at least eight years old and able to do moderate physical exercise. Participation is first-come, first-served.
The walks are held Saturdays and Sundays from December 22 through March 16. Meet the ranger at 10:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. outside the Loomis Ranger Station at Manzanita Lake. The walks are 1 ½ to 2 hours in length. The route and type of walk is determined by snow conditions.
For safety reasons infants and children in carriers are not allowed on snowshoe walks.

VISITOR CENTER UPDATE
Construction of Lassen Volcanic National Park’s new visitor center (pictured above on October 12, 2007) began in April 2007. Slayden Construction Group Inc. of Slayton, Oregon is managing the project which includes an 8800 sq ft. facility, enhancements to the water and wastewater systems, a parking lot overlay, an amphitheater, an auditorium, energy-saving technology, and other utilities. The building will be the park’s first year-round visitor center and will include a 24 hour trip planning vestibule. The building will be a showcase example of green building construction practices and will be a top-tier level LEED certified building. The grand opening is expected during the Fall of 2008.
You Need To Know

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. Wet winter storms can turn a day trip into an agonizing ordeal.
- An emergency phone is available at the Southwest Entrance Station.
- A pay phone is available in the Loomis plaza at Manzanita Lake.

Roads
- Carry tire chains in your vehicle.
- The Loomis Ranger Station is at the 6000’ elevation and the southwest entrance is at the 7000’ elevation.
- Be alert for icy road conditions and drifting snow.

Park Road Closures
- Call Park Headquarters for current park road information at (530) 595-4444.
- The Main Park Road usually closes by mid-November for the season due to snow. Visit the road conditions and spring road opening webpage at: http://www.nps.gov/lavo/ParksRoadsAndTrails.htm
- Plowing usually begins on the Main Park Road in early April, the road usually opens by mid-June.
- The Butte Lake, Warner Valley and Juniper Lake roads close to vehicle traffic for the season due to snow by late October and usually reopen by late June.

PARK HEADQUARTERS (ELEVATION 4850’)

· Potable water is not available at the Southwest Parking Area. Potable water is available (or better) and boiling 5 minutes to avoid Giardia
- Purify park surface water and melted snow before drinking by using 2-micron filters
- Boil water
- Carry water; exercising in dry high-elevation air makes one particularly susceptible to dehydration
- 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
- 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; whitout conditions) which can kill unprepared travelers
- Postpone or terminate your trip if a storm is forecasted 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 hydrothermal 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 Southwest Parking Area or Loomis Ranger Station
- Remember: your best chance of survival is to use your own resources; be prepared and stay alert
- When accessing the plowed sections of the road during the spring road opening, please use extreme caution. Avalanches and rockslides can occur at any moment.

Cross-country skiers and snowshoers who venture into Lassen’s backcountry can expect spectacular vistas and snowy solitude. Adequate preparations and precautions may ensure a safe and enjoyable experience. Call Park Headquarters in advance for information on snow, weather, and backcountry conditions.

Day Users
- Always sign in/out on trail register stands in the Southwest Parking 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.

Overnight Users
- A Wilderness permit is required; ask about areas closed to camping
- Wilderness 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; permits are available after hours and on weekends at the Loomis Ranger Station, Park Headquarters, and at the Southwest Entrance Station. An application for a Wilderness permit can be found at http://www.nps.gov/lavo/
- Park in designated overnight parking area ONLY; vehicles can be damaged by snow removal equipment if parked in other areas

Pets, Fires, Litter
- Pets are not permitted in the backcountry
- Open fires and fire pans are not permitted; use campstoves only
- Carry 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

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 not available at the Southwest Parking Area. Potable water is available (or better) and boiling 5 minutes to avoid Giardia
- Potable water is available near the Loomis Ranger Station (only small containers will fit under the faucets)

Into the Wilderness

Climate Statistics

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Sunrise and Sunset Times for Chester
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Lassen Volcanic National Park Peak Experiences 3
Cross-Country Ski and Snowshoe Routes

Virtually the entire park is open to the skier or snowshoer. Most routes described below are accessible with snowshoes or skis with climbing skins. Summit conditions on the various peaks may require an ice axe or crampons. 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.

Visitors exploring Lassen’s backcountry in the winter should take special precautions. Heavy snowfall and rugged terrain create serious avalanche conditions throughout the park. In addition to the ten essentials, it is strongly recommended that all visitors carry avalanche gear. This includes: basic knowledge of route finding and snow science, a probe pole, avalanche beacon, and a lightweight shovel.

No backcountry camping is allowed within one-half mile of the plowed areas. All skiers and snowshoers are asked to sign in/out for day and overnight trips. Registers are located near the bulletin boards at the Loomis Ranger Station and Southwest Entrance Station. Common courtesy asks that snowshoers and snow players stay out of cross-country ski tracks.

Main Park Road from Southwest Area

Classification: Beginner to Advanced  
Distance: Southwest Parking Area to Lake Helen 6.2 mi., to road summit at 8500', to Kings Creek 5 hrs., Summit point 8500', Manzanita Lake 5850'  
Elevation: Start (Southwest) 7000', high point 8000'  
Average Skiing Time (one way): 1 hr.

The trail loops north from Ridge Lakes to join itself about ¾ 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 ¾ mi. below the basin.

Lassen Peak

Classification: Advanced  
Distance: 20 mi. round trip  
Elevation: Start 6700', summit 10,457'  
Average Skiing Time (round trip): 3 days

The safest route up the mountain follows the summer trail through the forested section and continues on the south ridge to the summit. Weather conditions on Lassen Peak can deteriorate rapidly, creating whiteout conditions and high winds.

Forest Lake

Classification: Intermediate  
Distance: 1 mi  
Elevation: Start 6700', high point 7500'  
Average Skiing Time: 2 hr.

The annual weight of a heavy snow load has bent this large red fir.

Southwest Area Winter Recreation Map

Sulfur emissions are prevalent throughout the Sulphur Works Area. These heated gases melt out snow caverns which may be unrecognized due to new snow covering the openings.

Fatalities have occurred from visitors breaking through snow and falling into these heated caverns. Multiple vents can occur in terrain that appears to be skiable.

Know where the vents are and use caution throughout the area.

The safest route up the mountain follows the summer trail through the forested section and continues on the south ridge to the summit. Weather conditions on Lassen Peak can deteriorate rapidly, creating whiteout conditions and high winds.

Brokeoff Mountain

Classification: Advanced  
Distance: 4 mi. one way  
Elevation: Start 6650', summit 9250'  
Average Skiing Time (one way): 4 hrs.

Most skiers access the summit via the southwest ridge. Nevertheless, getting onto this ridge can be difficult as the various routes inevitably take a traveler through hazardous canyons. Traditional routes often use the Forest Lake trail or the summer trail which begins near the park entrance. Numerous avalanche paths exist on all aspects of the mountain. Travelers should use extreme caution. Many skiers reserve travel on Brokeoff Mountain until spring when snow conditions traditionally stabilize.

Summit conditions during inclement weather often include high winds with little or no visibility. Large, overhanging snow cornices at the summit make any approach to the edge extremely dangerous.
**Lake Manzanita Sounds**

cause unstable snow.

- Rapidly changing weather conditions become dangerously loaded with snow,
- With high winds, leeward slopes can become dangerously loaded with snow,
- Snow falling at a rate of 1” or more per hour increases avalanche danger rapidly,
- When new snow falls on top of old snow, the avalanche danger is much higher.
- 80% of all avalanches occur during or soon after a storm.
- Backcountry travel may not be advised due to high or extreme avalanche conditions.
- At times, backcountry (see Color Avalanche Danger Descriptors on back page). At times, backcountry travel may not be advised due to high or extreme avalanche conditions.

_**Deserters on back page)_.

**Be “Avalanche Aware”**

ALWAYS obtain weather and avalanche information before entering the park’s backcountry (see Color Avalanche Danger Descriptors on back page). At times, backcountry travel may not be advised due to high or extreme avalanche conditions.

**STORMS**

- 80% of all avalanches occur during or soon after a storm.
- When new snow falls on top of old snow, the avalanche danger is much higher.

**SLOWFALL**

- Snow falling at a rate of 1” or more per hour increases avalanche danger rapidly.
- With high winds, leeward 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 “whumff.”

**RECENT AND PRIOR AVALANCHE ACTIVITY**

- If you see a new avalanche, suspect dangerous conditions.
- Avoid old slide paths, steep open gullies/ slopes, watch for areas with small trees bent over and trees with broken limbs.
- 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 rest stops.
- Only one person should cross a dangerous slope at a time.
- Snow softens as the day grows warmer, this can make a return trip more difficult.
- Each person should carry a shovel.
- Carry and learn to use an avalanche transceiver.

**IF YOU ARE CAUGHT IN AN AVALANCHE**

- Report any unstable areas to a ranger.

**IF YOU ARE CAUGHT IN AN AVALANCHE**

- Discard all equipment.
- Make swimming motions and try to stay on top, working your way to the avalanche’s side.
- If you are pulled beneath the surface, keep your mouth closed.
- As you begin to slow to a stop, make air space in front of your face with your hands, keep your arms close to your body.

**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.

**Near the Park: McGowan Lake & Nanny Creek**

Classification: Beginner to Intermediate

**Distance:** 5 mi.

**Elevation:** Start (Highway 89) 6080’, end (Highway 36) 5110’

**Average Skiing Time:** One way: 2 hrs.

**The trail leaves Highway 89 on the unplowed McGowan Lake Road (3.5 miles south of the Southwest Entrance Station).**

**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 good one way ski if vehicles are available for shuttle.**

**Manzanita Lake Snowshoe Loop**

Classification: Beginner

**This trail is recommended for foot traffic only, not skiing**

**Distance:** 1.6 mi. around lake

**Elevation:** Start 8800’, high point 8850’

**Average Time (round trip):** 1.5 hr.

**The route starts near the Loomis Ranger Station and circles the lake.**

**Pine Martens have adapted to harsh winters and are active all winter long.**

**Manzanita Creek**

Classification: Intermediate

**Distance:** 7.5 mi.

**Elevation:** Start 8850’, high point 7400’

**Average Skiing Time (round trip):** 5 hrs.

**The trail leaves from the Loomis Ranger Station, crosses the footbridge, and turns right onto the Manzanita Lake Campground road.**

**Travel through the campground to the Manzanita Creek trailhead sign.**

**The route is mostly a gradual climb of over 1000 feet. Suitable snow camping sites are found along the upper portion. Be sure to obtain a wilderness permit. Beware of Loomis Peak, which has several avalanche chutes that may reach the trail toward the upper end.**

**Manzanita Lake Area Winter Recreation Map**

**Pine Martens have adapted to harsh winters and are active all winter long.**

**Lake ice is dangerous and unstable. Lake shores may be difficult to recognize due to snow.**

**Please stay off lake ice.**
NEARBY BUSINESSES

Lassen Volcanic National Park does not endorse the organizations and enterprises listed below, but we wish to thank them for their generous support in producing this publication as a visitor service.

South of Park, Highway 36: Mineral and Mill Creek

Lassen Mineral Lodge

Historic Lassen Mineral Lodge

COME INTO OUR HOME

Motel * General Store * Restaurant

Cocktails * Outdoor Dining Patio * Gifts

Souvenirs * Liquor * Fishing Supplies

Cross-Country Ski and Snowshoe Rentals

Open All Year

(530) 595-4422
(220) 586-442 Fax

www.mineralodge.com

Located 9 miles from Lassen Volcanic National Park’s Southwest Entrance.

35018 Hwy 89, PO Box 162

Mineral, CA 96063

Family owned and operated.

West of Park: Manton

Alger Vineyards & Winery

Located at the Gateway to Mt. Lassen

Tasting Room Now Open

Saturday & Sunday 11:00–3:00

Local Red Wine Tasting. $5 tasting fee with complimentary glass.


A special invitation for you to join us for the day. Please feel free to bring a friend. Bring your invitation to enter a drawing for a wine club.

31636 Forward Rd, Manton.
530-474-9400

www.algervineyards.com

Southeast of Park, Highway 36: Chester and Lake Almanor

West of Park, I-5: Red Bluff

Mineral Station

530-595-3222

gas - groceries

beer - deli - pizza

gifts - internet access

http://mineralstation.com

Volcano Country Camping & R.V.

* Full R.V. Hook-ups
* Tent Camping & Laundry
* Hot Showers & Post Office
* Propane & Dump Station
* Checking is at the Lassen Mineral Lodge General Store

www.volcanocountry.com

McGovern’s Mt. Lassen Chalets

Mineral, Calif

Our 3 or 4 bedroom homes can accommodate groups up to 30.

(530) 586-3241; (415) 897-8377
Cell: (415) 328-3279

www.mtlassenchalets.com

This paper brought to you by a generous contribution from the Lassen Association and these local businesses.
This past year, with the help of volunteers, employees, and visitors like you, the Park recycled 38.4 tons of plastic, glass, aluminum, tin and paper. The Park recycled some materials that may surprise you … the demolition of underground sewage tanks at Warner Valley and Manzanita Lake Campgrounds yielded 550 tons of asphalt and 60 tons of concrete which were crushed into usable 3/4 inch road base. Lassen Volcanic National Park recycled or reused a grand total of more than 648.5 tons of material in 2006.

As you deposit empty containers in our green recycle bins, you are not only keeping more trash out of landfills, but also saving energy, which will reduce our contributions to global warming and climate change. It takes less energy to make new cans and bottles from recycled materials than from raw materials extracted from the earth.

DID YOU KNOW? Lassen Volcanic National Park straddles a crossroads of four great geologic and biologic provinces—the Cascade Range, the Sierra Nevada, the Central Valley of California, and the Great Basin.

DID YOU KNOW? Lassen Volcanic National Park started as two separate national monuments designated by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1907: Cinder Cone National Monument and Lassen Peak National Monument.

For information on how to join our mission visit our online membership program at www.lassenloomis.info. Or contact us directly at (530)595-3399 or lassenassociation@yahoo.com.

The Lassen Association (LA) has assisted the National Park Service since 1939 in providing park visitors with interpretive and educational merchandise regarding the many and varied features of the park.

Join the Green Team, Recycle!

This year, with the help of volunteers, employees, and visitors like you, the Park recycled 38.4 tons of plastic, glass, aluminum, tin and paper. The Park recycled some materials that may surprise you … the demolition of underground sewage tanks at Warner Valley and Manzanita Lake Campgrounds yielded 550 tons of asphalt and 60 tons of concrete which were crushed into usable 3/4 inch road base. Lassen Volcanic National Park recycled or reused a grand total of more than 648.5 tons of material in 2006.

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This newspaper is printed on recycled paper (50% recycled material). Please recycle again.
Migrate, Hibernate, or Tolerate?

Wild animals have three main methods to deal with winter. They can leave it by migrating; they can avoid it by hibernating or they can live with it by tolerating and adjusting to its severe conditions.

Many animals migrate. More than 83 species of birds nest in the park. Most of these birds leave northeastern California before winter sets in and return in spring. Western tanagers fly as far south as Costa Rica. Many songbirds, from swallows to warblers, fly to western Mexico for the winter. How many people do you know who head south to places like Florida when winter weather arrives?

Spending winters in the tropics conjures up images of sun bathing on a balmy beach. For birds, however, winter is no vacation. Birds of all sizes fuel their long distance flights by burning fat, so they must store body fat prior to migration and eat enough to replenish this fat as it is burned. Travel to and from nesting areas is full of perils, including storms, predators, obstacles such as radio towers, and the search for food in unfamiliar landscapes.

Many flying animals choose not to migrate during Lassen’s harsh winters. Some insects, such as Lassen’s California tortoise shell butterflies, survive the winter by producing glycerol, a form of sugar that resists freezing. On cold nights, birds such as the Mountain Chickadee enter a controlled hypothermia; lowering their body temperatures allows them to save fat that would have been burned to maintain their normal high body temperature.

Hibernation is a strategy used by animals including bears, bats, golden-mantled ground squirrels, and chipmunks. In the fall, bears put on fat by gorging on berries and pinenuts. While bears are denning, their temperatures can drop 15º F and their bodies slow down to reduce energy consumption. Even so, bears will burn 15 to 40 percent of their body fat over the winter, requiring a bear to consume 20,000 calories a day or more in preparation for winter hibernation. Bears may wake up, but do not have to eat, urinate, or defecate. Female bears can give birth during hibernation.

Animals that confront winter have a wide variety of adaptations for survival. Adding fat and gaining weight for hibernation are adaptations. Storing food is a common behavioral adaptation. Beavers stash twigs underwater where they will be available all winter. Pikas, the “haymakers of the mountains,” dry grasses they collect in summer for consumption under winter’s blanket of snow.

Many small animals take advantage of the insulating value of the snow. Once the snow cover is about eight inches deep, the temperature at ground level becomes almost constant regardless of how cold it gets above. Voles remain active all winter by living under the snow where their food is still available and they can build warm nests of grass. Unfortunately for voles, weasels will successfully hunt them in their own tunnels, even using the nests as sleeping quarters, and lining the nest with the fur of the previous occupants.

Surviving the winter season can be challenging for not only Lassen’s wildlife, but for park visitors as well. Visitors must also be prepared to deal with rigors of winter.

Avalanche Danger Color Coded System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Danger</th>
<th>Avalanche Probability and Avalanche Trigger</th>
<th>Degree and Distribution of Avalanche Danger</th>
<th>Recommended Action in the Backcountry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LOW (green)</td>
<td>Natural avalanches very unlikely. Human triggered avalanches unlikely.</td>
<td>Generally stable snow. Isolated areas of instability.</td>
<td>Travel is generally safe. Normal caution is advised.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MODERATE (yellow)</td>
<td>Natural avalanches unlikely. Human triggered avalanches improbable.</td>
<td>Unstable slabs possible on steep terrain.</td>
<td>Use caution in steeper terrain on certain aspects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIGH (red)</td>
<td>Natural and human triggered avalanches likely.</td>
<td>Extremely unstable slabs certain on most aspects and slope angles. Large, destructive avalanches possible.</td>
<td>Travel in avalanche terrain is not recommended. Safest travel on windward ridges of lower angle slopes with steep snow.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXTREME (black)</td>
<td>Widespread natural or human triggered avalanches certain.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Avalanche path run-outs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

The main park road that connects with Highway 89 is closed throughout most of the winter. The road is plowed to the Southwest Parking Area from the Southwest Entrance and to the Loomis Ranger Station from the north Entrance Station. Visit the website for road status at: http://www.nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/current_conditions.htm for up-to-date information. The 17 Road (31N17 from Mineral to Violah) other U.S. Forest Service, and some county roads close for the winter.

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Carry tire chains in your vehicle from October through May. Chain requirements can be instituted at any time; even four-wheel drive vehicles with snow tires can be required to chain up. Watch for highway advisories posted in Red Bluff and Redding. Caltrans will post chain requirements on Highways 36 and 44.

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/wmtdriv.htm.

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