

PACIFIC CREST TRAIL

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Hat Creek Route

The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail extends 2,600 miles from Mexico to Canada. It passes through twenty-three National Forests, seven National Parks, Bureau of Land Management land, and portions of State, local, and private land.

The PCT, as it is often called, was established as a part of the National System Act of October 2, 1968. The idea of a hiking and horseback-riding trail that would extend through the western United States, from north to south, was first conceived in the 1920's. This trail has become the main south to north route between Mexico and Canada for hikers and equestrians.

The Hat Creek Ranger District offers fifty-eight miles of trail that winds through scenic vistas and geologic wonders. Elevations range from 5,500 feet in the south to 3,200 feet to the north. Portions of the trail are under snow until late spring. It's a good idea when planning your trip to give us a call to find out about trail conditions. The following information provides details about the trail going through Hat Creek Ranger District.

The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail leaves Lassen Volcanic National Park and resumes its course through Lassen National Forest near upper Hat Creek and Badger Mountain. The last opportunity to obtain drinking water is near the National Park boundary. Take the trail that leads west from the self service register at the Park boundary and hike approximately one quarter mile to upper Hat Creek.

The PCT continues north on the Hat Creek Ranger District after leaving the National Park. Approximately one mile from the boundary the trail leaves its old location along the base of Badger Mountain and follows a new course, constructed in 1991, through the West Badger Plantations and over to Hat Creek. It continues along upper Hat Creek, past Twin Bridges, to Potato Butte road. At that point the trail is within one tenth of a mile from the town of Old Station. It is an easy walk to Old Station Post Office, general store, pizza parlor and resort.



View north to Mt. Shasta from Hat Creek Rim

Continuing from the Potato Butte road, the PCT parallels State Highway 44/89, passes through the Spattercone Crest Geological Area and continues on to the crossing of Highway 44. From this crossing of Highway 44, the trail climbs the Hat Creek Rim to the new Rim Overlook and the Mud Lake Trailhead. At this point the trail is without drinking water for approximately 26 miles.

The PCT traverses the Hat Creek Rim, through the Lost Fire burn and continues north, dropping off the rim, crossing Six Mile Hill road near the old Conrad ranch and down to Baum Lake. This PG&E lake is located among oaks and mixed conifer forests at an elevation of 3,200 feet. Drinking water is available at the Crystal Lake Fish Hatchery.

From Baum Lake the Pacific Crest Trail continues north, crosses State Highway 299 East, through oak and pine forests to Arkright Flat and on past the south side of Lake Britton, another PG&E lake. After leaving the bluff overlooking Lake Britton, the PCT crosses State Highway 89 and enters McArthur-Burney Falls State Park. By walking a short distance north from the highway crossing, hikers will find a store, camping, showers and drinking water at the State Park.

After leaving Burney Falls cross the dam at Lake Britton and continue on towards Rock Creek. Water is available in Rock Creek at the PCT bridge and campsites can be found upstream approximately one quarter mile. The PCT continues its gradual climb through the mixed conifer forest of this area, past Screwdriver Creek and on to Peavine Creek, where it leaves the lands managed by the Hat Creek Ranger District.

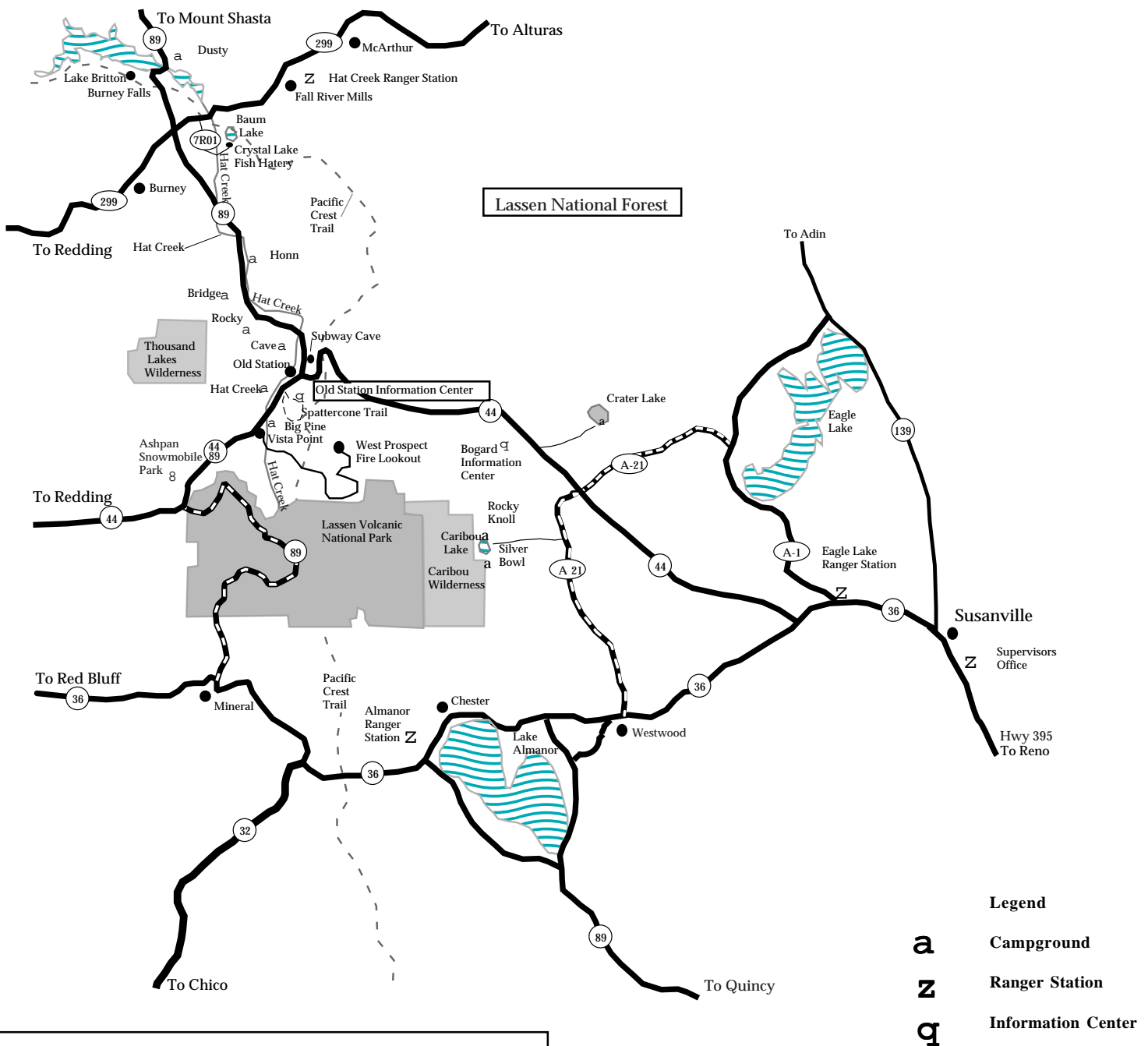


United States
Department of
Agriculture



Pacific
Southwest
Region

Lassen National Forest
Hat Creek Ranger District



Pacific Crest Trail Association

The Pacific Crest Trail Association is a great source for information about the trail. They are a partner with the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management in protection and management of the trail. They also are the primary source for permits, maps, guides, books, videos and trail condition information. PCTA also sponsors public service volunteer projects. Contact them for more information at: Pacific Crest Trail Association, 5325 Elkhorn Blvd., PMB #256, Sacramento, CA 95842-2526 (916) 349-2109, FAX (916) 349-1268. They also have an automated phone system (888) PC-TRAIL (728-7245) Email: info@pcta.org, web site: www.pcta.org

Lassen National Forest, Hat Creek Ranger District, P.O. Box 220, Fall River Mills, CA 96028 530-336-5521. Our office is open 8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. Mon. - Fri. The Old Station Visitor Information Center is open on weekends in the Spring & Fall and seven days a week during the Summer season.

- Legend**
- a** Campground
 - Z** Ranger Station
 - q** Information Center