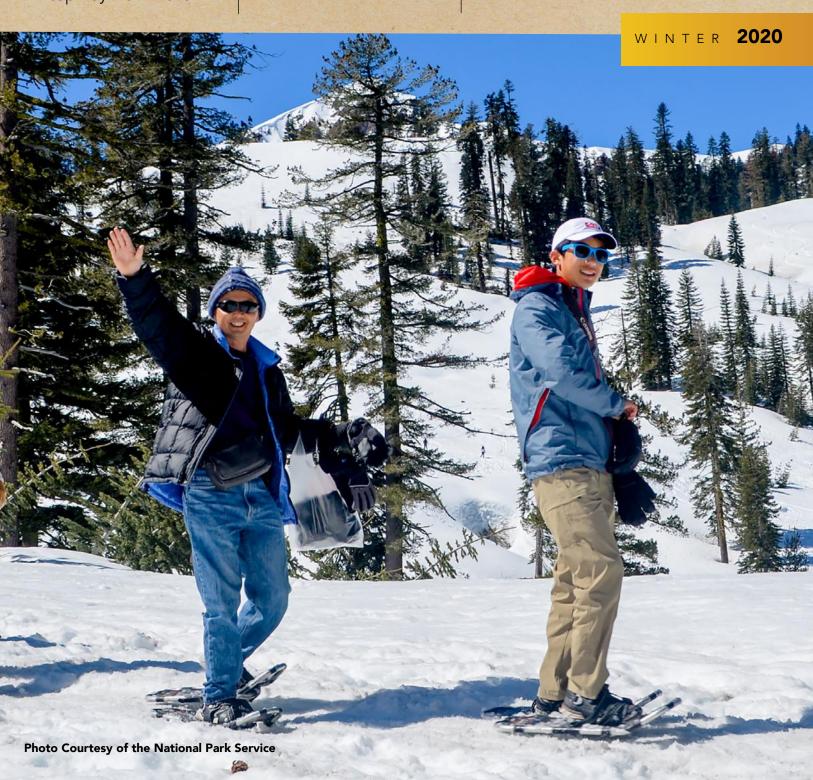


Sierra Nevada Red Fox Leap Day Non-Event Winter at Lassen Through the Years

Volcano Adventure Camp Review 2019





LEAP DAY NON-EVENT

After careful consideration our Event Committee has decided that it's time to come up with a winter event. Fundraising is such an integral part of what we do here at Lassen Park Foundation, and putting on community events is the exciting way we know how to do that. We even have an ideal date in mind to have a fundraiser: Leap Day, February 29, 2020!

The trouble is, during those winter months up at Lassen how and where do you put on an event?

Now that the snow has fallen we're all looking forward to skiing, snow shoeing, and yes even snow camping. We don't want to keep people inside at a fancy dinner in the evening, or in a parking lot at noon on Saturday talking to vendors in the cold... not when there's snow to play in. We want to make snow angels during the day, and to have hot cocoa and curl up with a good book in front of the fire in the evenings. As exciting as it sounds to put on an event, what we'd rather do is spend those cold winter days enjoying Lassen!

With that in mind, we decided to NOT have an event. Rather, we're having a Non-Event on Leap Day!

We want you to NOT come to an event. We want you to NOT buy a fancy outfit to wear, and NOT book a babysitter for the kids that night. We DON'T want you to give up your day in the snow, and we DON'T want you to give up curling up with a good book in front of the fire with hot cocoa in hand.

What we DO want you to do is to send us a donation for the amount you would have spent on that babysitter, or the outfit, or on your dinner, or the night in a hotel... Instead of going through all the trouble and cost that attending a fundraiser entails, we want you to take it easy this winter and do what YOU want to do! Just send us your donation and we'll take care of the rest.

This Leap Year Day, DON'T come to an event. Just send us your support!

This is our Leap Day Non-Event!

Leap day - 2/29/20

Avoid the crowd, play in the snow, or enjoy your cocoa at home. Stay home and raise funds!



https://lassenparkfoundation.ejoinme.org/LeapDayOptions

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

You can have an impact on Lassen Volcanic National Park and the experience of the park's visitors in your life time, and you can provide a gift that lasts forever, leaving a legacy that will continue your good work in perpetuity.

It is with mixed emotions that I share with you a recent estate gift to the Foundation of over \$50,000. While I'm saddened by the passing of one of our wonderful long-term supporters, and offer profound condolences to his wife and their family, I am immensely humbled and grateful for this bequest. The proceeds of this bequest will help grow the Lassen Park Foundation's Endowment Fund.

The purpose of the Foundation's Endowment Fund is to set aside and preserve capital that will generate income to support the ongoing operational costs of the Foundation. As many of you know, the Foundation not only raises funds to support capital projects in the park, like building the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center, but we also fund the Volcano Adventure Camp annually. The Foundation provides grants to underserved youth, and funds dedicated to National Park Service staff to operate the facility and provide interpretive services to campers.

This year we served a record number of kids in the Volcano Adventure Camp, and we are grateful to our donors who enabled this success through their generosity. In the coming year and beyond we hope to grow that success even more. Your contributions to the Endowment Fund will enable the Foundation to maintain the trend even in lean years when fund-raising may fall short.

I encourage you to consider the Lassen Park Foundation in your gift planning. The Foundation can accept gifts of equity, life insurance, real estate, personal property, or cash. Make Lassen Park part of your legacy.

Sincerely,

Pete Dailey, Chairman Lassen Park Foundation

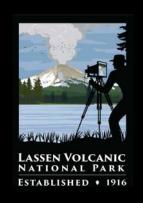


YOUTH CAMPING GRANTS AVAILABLE

Application Period: January 27 - March 31, 2020

Let us send your youth group on a 3-5 day camping trip at the Volcano Adventure Camp in Lassen Volcanic National Park! Apply by March 31, 2020 for a grant of up to \$1,000 to cover related camping trip costs including transportation, food, and camping supplies. Grant recipients select their camping dates in the 2020 season, have their park admission and campground fees waived, and are offered the personal assistance of an Interpretive Ranger to guide their group during their trip.

Apply online starting January 27th at www.LassenParkFoundation.org!



LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK 2020

www.nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/hours.htm

WINTER EVENTS

Non-Event Leap Day
February 29, 2020
Time: Whenever You Want
https://lassenparkfoundation.ejoinme.org/
LeapDayOptions

PARK WINTER HOURS

Now through April 28

Loomis Museum: Closed Manzanita Camper Store: Closed Kohm Yah-mah-nee: Open Wed-Sat, 9am-5pm Lassen Cafe & Gift: Weekends 11am-2pm

JANUARY 4 - MARCH 29

Ranger Led Snowshoe Walks Saturdays & Sundays 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Meet outside the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center. Space is limited!

SIERRA NEVADA RED FOX

Although once found throughout the Sierra Nevada and Southern Cascade mountain ranges, the Sierra Nevada red fox (SNRF) is now one of the rarest mammals in California. SNRF abundance and distribution declined dramatically in the last century. Today, the only known populations reside in Lassen Volcanic National Park and the surrounding Lassen National Forest (known as the Lassen area), the Sonora Pass area, and within Yosemite National Park.

SNRF is a genetically and geographically distinct subspecies of red fox that prefers to live at high elevations, usually above 5,000 feet. A handful of subtle adaptations aid its survival in harsh, winter conditions. Dense fur on its toe pads provides insulation and snowshoe-like float. An unusually dense winter coat provides warmth and insulation against the elements.

In the winter of 2018, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) biologists began an intensive camera survey effort in and around Lassen Volcanic National Park. By March, they had captured and collared one male and two female Sierra Nevada red foxes. These three foxes are the first of their kind captured in over a decade and offer hope of better understanding this state-listed threatened species. New sophisticated, lightweight



collars provide location information every three hours and have already generated rich data on the individuals' movements. Collected data will also provide insights into the ecology of the SNRF, including size and characteristics of its home range, how it uses habitat, where it dens, and its reproductive biology.

CDFW Environmental Scientist Jennifer Carlson discussed data gathered from the first collared fox. "We have already been surprised by the large area the fox has been using and the distance it has traveled—it has averaged over seven straight-line miles per day in very rugged terrain."

Success in current survey efforts may provide our best opportunity for understanding and fostering Lassen's native red fox. CDFW researchers Corrie McFarland, Maria Immel, Pete Figura, Jennifer Carlson, and Deana Clifford made a breakthrough in 2018 by locating the first identified SNRF den in recent California history.

Successful reproduction is key to SNRF recovery. Researchers estimate the Lassen area population consists of only about 20 individuals. Such a small number is likely too few to sustain a population under ideal conditions and could lead to in-breeding. Under better circumstances, they would disperse to other areas where they could mate with genetically distinct species.

CDFW researchers will continue to track the collared foxes and attempt to capture and collar additional SNRF in the Lassen area. You can assist with their efforts by reporting any red fox sightings in the park or in the Sierra Nevada, Southern Cascade, or Klamath



mountain ranges above 2,500 feet elevation.

Two decades of research in the Lassen area has resulted in only limited information about this elusive and rare animal. However, recent survey findings are providing a relative abundance of information. In the winter of 2018-2019, cameras detected foxes in two areas of the park, researchers identified two likely den sites—including a new site on Eagle Peak, observed two or possibly three pups, and gained a better understanding of the foxes' mating activities from collar data. CDFW staff plan to begin trapping efforts again in late-December or January in hopes of collaring as many SNRF as possible.

As we continue to learn more about SNRF, the species is afforded some protection in its listing as Threatened by CDFW. The Yosemite population has also been designated a Candidate Species for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

To help manage the SNRF species into the future, Lassen Volcanic National Park has joined other federal, state, academic, and non-government entities in the Sierra Nevada Red Fox Working Group. Through scientific study, the group strives to give the native Sierra Nevada red fox its best chance for recovery.

WINTER AT LASSEN THROUGH THE YEARS

Winter is here at Lassen Volcanic National Park, and snow-filled activities abound! In close competition with its volcanic wonders, Lassen Volcanic National Park's other long-term claim to fame has been its tremendous snowfall. The park has served generations of visitors as both a summer and winter playground.

The known history of skiing at Lassen begins with the Mt. Lassen Ski Club in October of 1931 when the club built a ski jump near Mineral and held the first meet sponsored by the park. In 1932 they began hosting ski competitions in the park, generating interest in winter sports at Lassen. In February 1933 the inaugural Mt. Lassen Ski Club Annual Amateur Ski Tournament took place. The first ski lift was installed in 1935, a portable single tow-rope and warming hut erected each winter at Sulphur Works. In April 1936, the Mt. Lassen Ski Club held its fourth annual ski meet at what had become known as the Sulphur Works Ski Area.

In 1947, Adlai Supan opened his own skiing operation including a cable lift on his inholding at Sulphur Works. To reach the new lift, skiers had to propel themselves about a mile beyond the Sulphur Works Ski Area on the snowed-in park highway. Finally, in 1956, after the skiing area had been re-established near where Kohm Yah-mah-nee is today, the National Park Service (NPS) authorized the long-sought chairlift, a poma style system consisting of demountable overhead towers with cables that carried suspended disks which skiers tucked between their legs to pull them up the slope.

The Lassen chalet was built in the mid-1960s as major redevelopment of the ski area was underway. The two-story A-frame structure featured a tall glass wall that provided warming skiers with an expansive view of the lower ski hill. In 1972, rangers began offering snowshoe tours from the chalet. These programs were popular, offering education and entertainment to the participants. This is still true today as rangers continue to lead snowshoe programs from the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center on the weekends during winter months.

The Lassen Ski Area was in its heyday in the 1970's and 1980's. It typically opened in November or December (snow permitting) and would remain open until April. The facility included the poma lift, two rope tows, six marked ski runs, a ski school, food service, and a ski shop. Between the 1960's and mid-1980's the park's wintertime

visitation more than doubled; many attribute that increase to the ski area.

Proposals to expand the ski area were originally included in discussions for the park's General Master Plan (GMP) in the late 1970's, but that changed as the GMP developed. It was a controversial time for the National Park Service and Lassen Volcanic National Park as conservation groups pushed to remove development in favor of preserving the natural status of the park, while other park goers pushed to increase recreation developments and expand the ski area to increase visitation during the winter months. In 1981 Regional Director Chapman approved Lassen Volcanic's



"On Mt. Lassen's wide open slopes, skiers wear face grease against sun" — From a 1942 LIFE Magazine article. Photo by Jervie Henry Eastman

new General Master Plan which forecast an eventual closure of the Lassen Ski Area, while in the interim calling for "minimal improvements" to the Lassen ski facility.

In 1985 when the Mt. Shasta Ski Area opened, there was a dramatic drop in winter visitation at Lassen. It steadily decreased, and by 1990 the Lassen Ski Area was no longer profitable. By April 1993 the park and park concessionaire agreed not to re-open the ski chalet due to two main factors: Mt. Shasta Ski Area's success, and the NPS initiative to move away from development in national parks. The lift was removed that year.

Despite these setbacks to downhill skiing, back country and cross-country ski activities and ranger-led snowshoe expeditions continued. Determined downhill skiers hiked up the hills to their favorite slopes, and families continued to enjoy the snow filled winters

through camping, tobogganing, and other snow play. In 1999 the park removed the chairlift foundations, and in 2003 restored the former ski area to its pre-development condition. The Lassen chalet was condemned and demolished in 2005, and the park began the process of building a new year-round visitor center. Lassen Park Foundation helped by raising \$500,000 toward the project, and the Kohm Yahmah-nee Visitor Center we now know and love was opened in 2008.

The parking lots at Lassen in winter are full, with adventurers looking to get fresh turns in Lassen's wilderness. More folks are going back country or cross-country skiing, split boarding, and snow shoeing. Split boarders use a snow board cut in half lengthwise, the halves functioning similarly to snow shoes while hiking uphill. They then cllip the halves back together, making a complete snowboard on which they zip down the hill.

Skiing in the park has steadily increased over the last 15 years as equipment becomes more affordable and lighter weight, increasing winter visitation. Nowadays, skiing in the park is an even more independent and solitary endeavor. "One of park ranger's jobs is to educate these new users on the risks of back country skiing, like avalanches and other hazards that are commensurate with solitary adventures into the park wilderness," says Kevin Sweeney, Chief of Interpretation and Education at Lassen Volcanic National Park.

For those seeking a more introductory experience in the snow, try the ranger-led snowshoe walks on weekends leaving from the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center. For those advanced and well-trained winter adventurers, an increasingly common winter challenge is to snow camp at the base of Lassen Peak, summit and ski back down to the KYVC the next day. Even without the much loved and remembered ski area, there are still many options for all levels of competence in the park during the winter season. Grab your hot cocoa, put on some warm clothes, and go explore your favorite national park this winter!



Sulphur Works Ski Hut 1940. Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

"BUMPASS HELL" PENDLETON BLANKETS

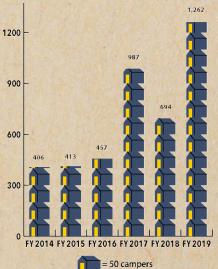
There are only a few "Bumpass Hell" Limited Edition Pendleton blanket left! Get yours before supplies run out by visiting our website at www.lassenparkfoundation.org and going to the "SHOP" page. The blankets retail for \$250 and can be shipped for \$17.95 or picked up for no additional cost at our office located in Anderson, Ca.



VOLCANO ADVENTURE CAMP REVIEW 2019

2019 was a fun year up at Lassen Volcanic National Park!

Lassen Park Foundation successfully funded over \$43,000 in grants to youth groups for camping at the Volcano Adventure Camp (VAC) in 2019. This resulted in 48 different youth focused organizations spending a 3-6 day trip in the park (a 51% increase over 2018). 925 youth (91% increase over 2018), ages 5 -18, had the opportunity to camp, hike, swim, learn and connect with nature and each other.



In total, over 1,200 people made connections with Volcanic National Lassen Park this summer and fall, thanks to our Youth Camping Program. Even with the drop in attendance in 2018 resulting from the devastating Carr Fire, the Youth Camping Program continues to demonstrate a tremendous growth in participation when compared to the numbers prior to 2017 (when the VAC opened).

In addition to the Youth Camping Grants, Lassen Park Foundation also funded

a Winter & Summer Intern at the park, a seasonal Youth Camp ranger, equipment for the camp, and funded avalanche training for security rangers. It was a busy year!

The youth groups came from all over California, and even Oregon and Nevada. They represented Boys and Girls Clubs, foster care homes, public and private schools, group homes, Boy and Girl Scouts, and numerous community based youth programs.



Nevada Outdoor School

The demographics for these campers included: low socio-economic status, inner city and rural communities, at-risk youth, and children with special needs. Accompanying them were 337 adults. Many groups were new participants this year, others have been coming to Lassen Volcanic National Park for many years. Mr. Flink, from James McKee Elementary in Elk Grove, accompanied his 27th (and last) class of 6th graders to camp in the park.

Park staff worked closely with each group to plan an itinerary specific to that group's needs. Group leaders chose from an extensive menu that included in-camp and field ranger led activities, public ranger programs, and activities conducted by the group leader.



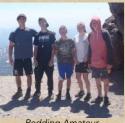
Girl Scout Troop 23



Boys & Girls Club, Silicon Valley

Ranger led activities included:

- Required orientation and closure meetings with the youth camp ranger
- Volcanoes of Lassen
- VAC and Lily Pond compass courses
- Campfire programs focusing on Leave No Trace principles, LVNP history, and Women's Roles in the Parks
- Discovery Hikes (Manzanita Lake, Lily Pond Trail, Paradise Meadows, Kings Creek Falls, Bumpass Hell)
- Rock Cycle Lessons
- History of the Devastated Area
- Ecology of Manzanita Lake



Redding Amateur Wrestling Crew (RAWC)

Many group leaders chose to have their campers complete the requirements to become Junior Rangers or members of the Volcano Club. The Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center and Loomis Museum were visited by most groups, with groups often completing the Discovery Hunts. Most groups completed one or more independent hikes. Cinder Cone, Lassen Peak and Kings Creek Falls were favorites. Approximately a third of

the groups took the opportunity to attend at least one public ranger program. The evening programs at Summit and Manzanita Lakes were well attended, as was the Pioneers program. Groups also opted to visit the Discovery Center during open hours.



Sierra Institue P-Crew

The Volcano Adventure Camp was staffed by one full time youth camp ranger and a summer intern. Two additional education rangers assisted on the youth camp ranger's lieu days. There was also volunteer assistance with the camp activities throughout the summer.



Eagles Soar Youth Activity League

A total of 197 ranger led, youth camp programs were conducted either in camp or elsewhere in the park, a 43% increase over 2018. The youth camp ranger and intern provided 3 guided hikes to VAC youth groups, 3 ranger-led programs per group, 19 non-VAC

educational programs, and provided staffing assistance at both the Loomis Museum and Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center.

Group leaders commented on the camp facilities, noting particular appreciation for the pavilions and shower facilities. Leaders also commented positively on the assistance received in planning their itineraries and on the diversity of experiences available to their groups.

Activities at the Volcano Adventure Camp helped build stewardship/respect for our public lands, teamwork, and responsibility.



James McKee Elementary



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MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS

View our full list of Board Members online at LassenParkFoundation.org



Liz Forsberg

Lizabeth Forsberg joined Lassen Park Foundation's Board of Directors in January, 2014. Liz is the owner of Moule's Tehama County Glass; she also serves on the Board for the Kelly Griggs Foundation and has previously served as a Board Member for the Tehama County Education Foundation and a Site Council Member for both Antelope Elementary and Berrendos Middle schools. Upon graduation from Red Bluff High, Liz attended CSU Sacramento where she studied Political Science and then enlisted in the US Air Force where she served as a flight medic and deployed to southwest Asia. Liz is married and has two daughters, both of whom are students at Red Bluff High.



Emilyn Sheffield

Emilyn Sheffield joined Lassen Park Foundation's Board of Directors in January, 2014. She is Professor and Co-Chairperson of the Department of Recreation Administration California State University, Chico. Through Dr. Sheffield's work in the Recreation and Parks Management at California State University, Chico, each year over 500 students volunteer their time and talents to public lands though Field School and Project Teams. She's excited about a second term of service on the board of directors for the Lassen Park Foundation because she has great respect and admiration for several board members, loves Lassen Volcanic National Park, and hopes to strengthen connections between CSU, Chico and the national parks and public lands in Lassen County.



Kenneth Wilsey

Kenneth Wilsey joined Lassen Park Foundation's Board of Directors in January, 2014. When Kenny was 7-years old his parents bought a cabin in Mill Creek, located just a few miles from the Lassen Volcanic National Park entrance off of Highway 36. Lassen Peak is where he learned to snow ski, Lassen National Forest is where he hiked, fished, ran, and explored... and he still does! Kenny says, "Mt. Lassen's beauty has remained unchanged and I still have the privilege and opportunity to share it with people all over the world as well as close neighbors." His family still has residences in Mill Creek along with their newer businesses, Highland's Ranch Resort and The Village at Childs Meadow. Kenny currently lives in Little Rock, Arkansas. He is employed by Dillards Dept. Stores which is headquartered in Little Rock, AR.

Lassen Park Foundation is seeking new Board Members. If you have an interest in serving on our Board of Directors please contact our office at (530) 378-2600 or via e-mail at info@lassenparkfoundation.org.

THANK YOU!

IN HONOR / IN MEMORY DONATIONS

In Honor:

- Steve, Maura and Kieran Buckley
- Steve & Clare Gaston
- Baby Goodin
- Parker Manning Family
- Mr. & Mrs. Jim McCann
- The Rose Center Physical Therapy
- Happy Birthday Shane
- John Sharrah
- Jeffrey & Carolee Wagner

In Memory:

- Kathleen Jo Bernadett
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All those listed as "In Honor" or "In Memory" have been recognized within the last 24 months.

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Donor contributions noted above were received within the last year.





Preserving the Lassen area's unique beauty for generations to come

PO Box 33 Anderson, CA 96007









SUPPORTRENEW APPRECIATEINSTILL WONDERDONATE

A contribution to the Lassen Park Foundation will be used towards supporting youth programs, enhanced interpretive and educational activities, trail restoration, wildlife research, park improvements and cultural resource development. Those who contribute to the Foundation support the Lassen Volcanic National Park and surrounding region, helping to preserve its unique beauty for generations to come, as well as enriching the experience of today's Lassen visitors.

Go to <u>www.lassenparkfoundation.org</u> or call us at **(530) 378-2600** to make a donation today. Or you can fill out the form below and mail to: PO Box 33, Anderson, CA 96007. **You make our Foundation possible!**

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