Connect with Nature

Fall 2009

10 Siskiyou Things to Do!

A connection with nature, whether it's hiking, fishing, camping, hunting, or simply playing outside, helps children and adults alike develop positive attitudes and memorable experiences.

The Service declared that "connecting people with nature" is among the agency's highest national priorities. The Yreka Fish and Wildlife Office is one of many U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offices across the nation offering a variety of local programs to help connect people with nature.

To kick off the local program, the Yreka FWO is providing a list of 10 things that you can do to enjoy nature locally. Individuals who participate in at least one activity are eligible to receive t-shirts, backpacks, and other prizes at the Yreka FWO.

To receive prizes, participants must submit an essay or photos (with captions) describing their experiences with the places or activities listed below. A selection of these photos and essays will be featured on the Yreka FWO website at www.fws.gov/yreka.

For more information contact Yreka FWO Connecting People with Nature Coordinator Jennifer Jones at (530) 842-5763 ext. 109.

1. Take an Autumn Bike Ride

Enjoy the fall colors while cycling on scenic country roads and mountain trails. John Phelan of Yreka's Badger Mountain Bike shop recommends that riders check out the 24 mile loop in the Scott Valley (see map on reverse side) or explore the two-to-12 mile network of trails above Greenhorn Reservoir. For more information, or for other ideas on where to bike, contact Bader Mountain Bike at (530) 842-5420.

USFWS

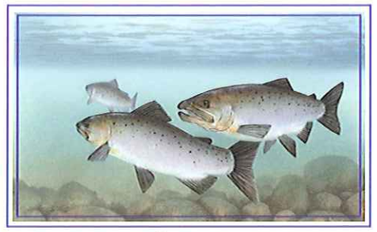
Let's Go Outside!

2. Explore the Geology of Little Glass Mountain

Little Glass Mountain was formed about 1,000 years ago when lava escaped out of one of the vents of Medicine Lake Volcano. Because of its relatively recent formation, the volcanic glass flow provides a unique view of an intact flow of broken obsidian and pumice. Little Glass Mountain is located 20 miles from Macdoel and summits at 6,801 feet. Please be cautious when walking on volcanic glass and check on conditions with the Klamath National Forest, Goosenest Ranger District at (530) 398-4391.

3. Fall Salmon Migration Field Trip

As part of the annual open house at the Iron Gate Hatchery, area residents can spend a few hours with state and federal biologists to learn more about the amazing journey of local Klamath River anadromous (sea-going) fish, including coho salmon, Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. The open house is scheduled for Saturday, October 24. Call Jennifer Jones at (530) 842-5763 to RSVP for a formal tour, or contact the California Department of Fish and Game's Iron Gate Fish Hatchery at (530) 475-3420.



USFWS/Timothy Knepp

4. New Gardens at Greenhorn Park

Greenhorn Park is getting a sprucing up from the Siskiyou Arboretum, with pocket gardens and interpretive trails that will identify local native trees, shrubs and flowers. The unveiling of the first trail and native plant demonstration garden is scheduled for October 10 at 10 a.m. Experience the beauty of Siskiyou natives at the grand opening, or volunteer to help get the next gardens started. Contact Tiffany Paine at (530) 842-3808 for more information.

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5. Adventure at Pluto Caves

The hollow lava tubes at Pluto Caves were created about 190,000 years ago during one of Mt. Shasta's many eruptions. This exursion makes for a great day trip where you can explore the caves, take in great views of Mt. Shasta, and enjoy an easy hike through sage brush and junipers. Take county road A-12 to three miles west of Hwy 97, watch for a poorly marked turnoff to the caves on the south side of the road, and drive a short distance to a parking area and trailhead. Wear sturdy shoes, and bring headlamps and flashlights.

6. Experience the Splendor of the Lower Klamath and Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuges

Of all the wetlands in the American West, none provide more feeding, nesting and resting habitat than the wetlands that make up the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex, two of which are located in Siskiyou County. Visit the refuge in October and November for a front row seat to one of nature's greatest shows as millions of birds -- eagles, ducks, swans, and a host of other birds -- fly into the area. For more information, contact the Refuge Visitor Center at (530) 667-2231.

USFWS/Tupper Ansel Blake

7. Hike to the Falls on the McCloud River

Enjoy the fall colors and a cool dip with a hike to the splendid waterfalls along the McCloud River near the historic town of McCloud, east of Mt. Shasta on Highway 89. This trail is accessed at several points along the McCloud River Loop Road and skirts the upper portion of the McCloud River. There are three falls within two river miles. The Middle Falls is considered by many to be one of the most spectacular river falls in northern California. A picnic area and swimming hole is located at the Lower Falls. For the latest on conditions and directions to the falls, contact the Shasta-Trinity National Forest at (530) 964-2184.

USFWS/Steve Hillebrand

8. Siskiyou Orchards and Pumpkin Patches

There are several orchards and pumpkin patches in the area to delight visitors of all ages this fall. What better way to connect kids with nature than spending time at a farm or orchard where kids can enjoy the sights and sounds of a working farm. For more information contact: Hunter Orchards in Grenada at (530) 436-2532; Papa's Pumpkin Patch in Weed at (530) 938-2755; or the McCloud River Railroad Pumpkin Train in McCloud at (530) 964-2142.

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9. Night Sky Camp Out at Shafter Campground

Even in rural Siskiyou County, light pollution from nearby towns obscures the view of would-be star gazers. Pitch a tent and stay the night at local Shafter Campground along Highway 97 in the Klamath National Forest to ensure amazing views of the night sky. Don't miss the Orionid meteor shower on October 21. Contact the Klamath National Forest, Goosenest Ranger District at (530) 398-4391.

10. Express Yourself through a Nature Art Project

Siskiyou County has a lot of natural beauty to inspire us. Show your artistic side by creating original artwork such as a drawing, sketch, sculpture, painting, or photograph. Submit copies of your work to the Yreka FWO by November 30, 2009. Children 18 and under are also encourage to submit their work to the "Get to Know" calendar contest (www.gettoknow.ca/us/contest/), which kicks off on September 26, 2009.

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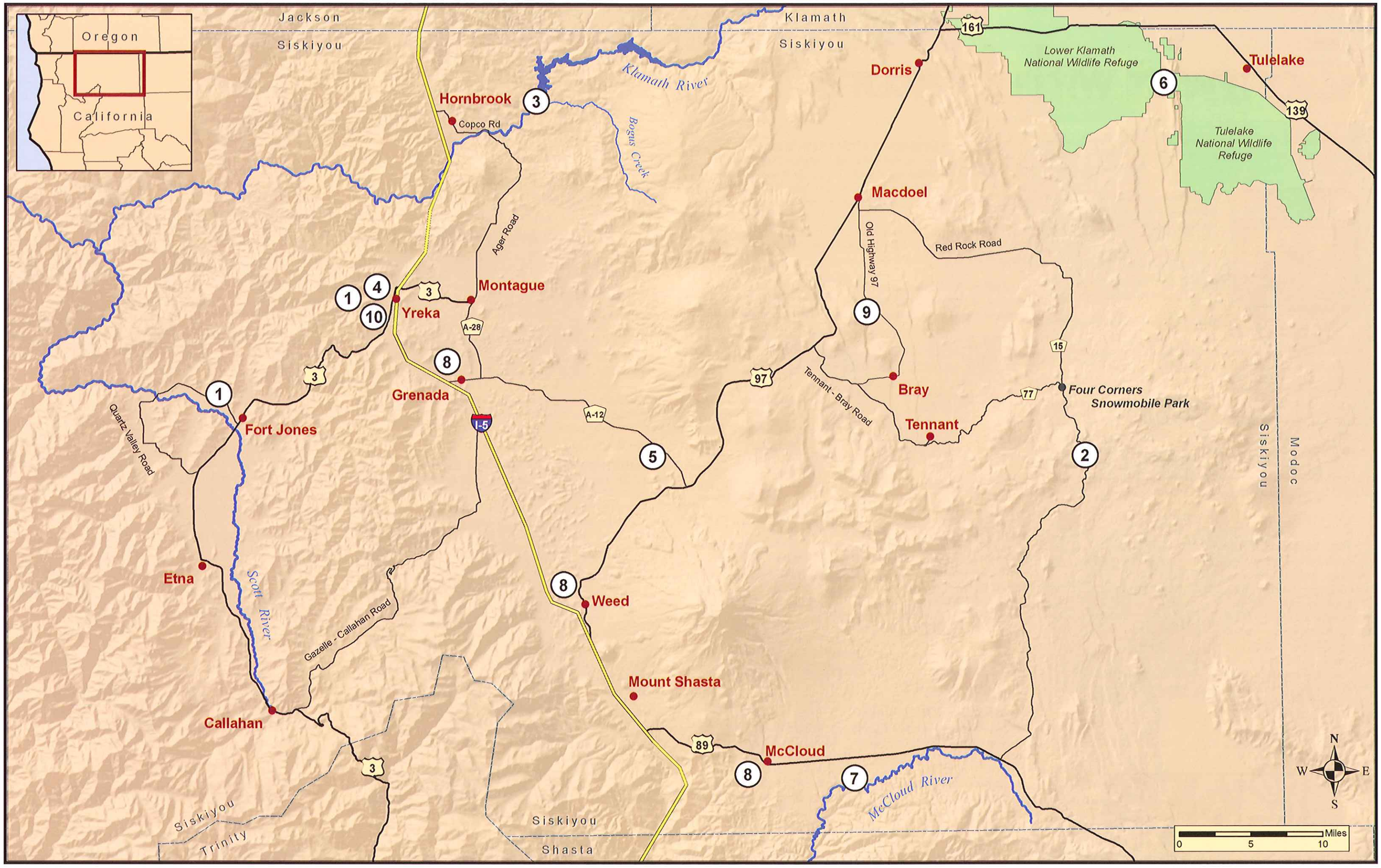
(530) 842-5763
www.fws.gov/yreka



Oregon
California
Jackson
Siskiyou
Klamath
Siskiyou
Klamath River
Bogus Creek
Hornbrook
Copco Rd
Dorris
Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge
Tulelake
Tulelake National Wildlife Refuge
Macdoel
Old Highway 97
Red Rock Road
Ager Road
Montague
Yreka
Grenada
Fort Jones
Quartz Valley Road
Bray
Tennant - Bray Road
Tennant
Four Corners Snowmobile Park
Etna
Scott River
Gazelle - Callahan Road
Weed
Mount Shasta
Callahan
McCloud
McCloud River
Siskiyou
Trinity
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Shasta
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