



Lassen Volcanic National Park Introduction

Lassen Volcanic National Park covers 165 square miles or about 106,000 acres, located in Lassen, Shasta, Plumas and Tehama counties. Located on the crest of the Southern Cascade Range in northern California, almost 79,000 acres are designated as wilderness area. With the removal of the bald eagle and peregrine falcon from the endangered species list, there are currently no federally listed threatened or endangered plant or animal species within the park. Lassen Volcanic National Park receives approximately 500,000 visitors per year.

Cinder Cone National Monument and Lassen Peak National Monument were established by proclamation of Theodore Roosevelt on May 6, 1907, to be administered by the U.S. Forest Service. Volcanic eruptions from Lassen Peak in 1914 and 1915 resulted in national publicity. The two monuments and surrounding areas were included in Lassen Volcanic National Park, established in 1916, administered by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior.

The National Park Service was established in 1916 by an Act of Congress, which directed the Service "...to promote and regulate the use of Federal areas known as national parks, monuments and reservations hereinafter specified, by such means and measures as to conform to the fundamental purposes of said parks, monuments and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

A definition of a national park may be helpful. National parks are usually spacious land areas essentially of primitive or wilderness character which contain scenery and natural wonders so outstanding in quality that their preservation remain intact for the benefit, enjoyment and inspiration of the people is of national concern. National parks are established only by an Act of Congress. National monuments can be established by Presidential Proclamation but are usually established by an Act of Congress.