

National Park Service  
2003 Environmental Achievement Awards  
Honorable Mention

**California Guest Services, Inc., Concessioner**  
Lassen Volcanic National Park

California Guest Services, Inc. is a small business concessioner serving visitors to Lassen Volcanic National Park. Despite the fact that many small concessioners see greening their operations as a potentially costly endeavor, California Guest Services has made significant commitments to solid waste reduction and environmentally preferable purchasing. The following lists some of the company's noteworthy accomplishments:

- Reduced use of solid waste disposal services and moved their own recyclables out of the Park. In the first year they:
  - Cut tipping fees and put 17,000 fewer pounds of traditional trash in the county land fill, a 50% improvement;
  - Recycled 243 lbs. of aluminum cans, 3,354 lbs. of colored glass, 678 lbs. of plastic, 238 lbs. of tin, 164 lbs. of newsprint, 7,820 lbs. of cardboard, and 4,800 lbs. of paper; and
  - Recycled 50 gallons of used motor oil and 72 gallons of used cooking oil and grease; both products were re-refined and reused.
- Required that their purchasing department seek out environmentally friendly products, including products that have been evaluated by the National Park Service and other agencies.
- Influenced manufacturers, through perseverance and purchasing loyalty, to create and ship more biodegradable items with higher post consumer content such as trash liners, wax-free unbleached drinking cups, and soy-based eating utensils.
- Requested vendors to eliminate styrofoam packaging from shipping crates, and instead use biodegradable products such as paper strips and reusable foam. Reusable items are returned by roundtrip freight agreements.
- Conducted Environmental Stewardship campfire presentations at the Manzanita Lake Campground. These presentations inform visitors about California Guest Services and their commitment to greening their operations. Company personnel and Park Interpretive staff have collaborated on the content of these presentations.