

DRAFT PLUMAS COUNTY ACCESSIBLE RECREATION POSSIBILITIES

**THIS IS A DRAFT WORKING LIST OF POSSIBILITIES, NOT GUARANTEED TO BE ACCESSIBLE BY WHEELCHAIRS. Basically, it's a rough working list of places I'd like to go to and see just how 'accessible' they actually might be. So, if you use this list, keep in mind the location may turn out to be obstacle-filled and unsuitable.*

We haven't taken a trip to Plumas County recently so I have no reviews of accessible recreation spots to share. What I do have, is a list of possibilities.

Plumas County has absolutely gorgeous scenery and friendly people. Fall is a particularly great time of the year to visit this area.

Good information resources about Plumas County:

<http://plumascounty.org/>

<http://www.lakealmanorarea.com/bird--nature-watching.html> in particular look at the section on birding for photo opportunities.

SCENIC DRIVES:

<http://plumascounty.org/Group-Tours-in-Plumas-County>

Scenic drives can be enjoyed by everyone, no matter what your physical abilities might be. I encourage everyone to make sure their vehicles are tuned for trips, and you should carry extra food, water, and possibly some overnight supplies. Take paper maps whenever possible. Plumas is not a highly populated county. If you take a back road and get stuck, you could be there a while. Cell service is spotty. GPS is NOT reliable. <http://plumascounty.org/Scenic-byways-Highway-70>

Let people know where you are going and when you expect to return. I know this lessens the spontaneity aspect of the day, but safety first. People go missing every year and not all of them get found. You might even consider taking something like a Personal Locator Beacon (like hikers do) if you plan to do significant backroad driving.

Please don't be in such a hurry. This is gorgeous country and if you focus too much on your 'schedule' you'll miss a lot of really fun serendipities. Allow extra time. Go ahead and stop here and there. Admire the view. Scenic drives are not about 'getting there'.

If you have an SUV and some back road experience, why not explore **Plumas County Backcountry Discovery Trail** (USFS): A 62 page guide to back country roads with fabulous scenery. The northern end of the 'trail' system is in Lassen County.

Pack a lunch, grab your camera, and enjoy! (Do let someone know where you will be going and when you will be back. These are lonely roads.) <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/plumas/recreation>
https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5428383.pdf

Highway 32 from Chico to Highway 36 and Highway 70 up the Feather River Canyon. These are both state highways, and I think they are very, very attractive drives. We drove up 32 recently from Chico. I

had forgotten just how pretty these less travelled mountain highways really are. Highway 70 carries a bit more traffic, but again, a beautiful way to get from the Sacramento Valley region into the high country. Enjoy!

TRAILS of All Sorts

Like many of the counties with an abundance of public lands, there are all kinds of trails and back roads to explore in Plumas County. The region is popular with hikers, backpackers, mountain bikes, and walkers, too. Hunting is a way of life here. Photographers will find inspiration at every turn.

Lake Almanor Recreation Trail: The trail winds through a mixed conifer forest with spectacular views of Lake Almanor, Dyer Mountain, and Lassen Peak. Watch for wildlife There's a lot more to do here than just look around

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/lassen/recarea/?recid=11327>

<http://www.onlyinyourstate.com/northern-california/the-underrated-lake-norcal/>

Tours: But wait, there's more: Area trails and tours

<http://www.lakealmanorarea.com/scenic--historic-tours.html>

Lassen National Park: There are a few short (but worthy) wheelchair accessible trails in Lassen National Park. **Accessibility list:** <https://www.nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm>

Plumas National Forest Trails:

Frazier Falls Trail: paved ½ mile trail to falls overlook is wheelchair accessible, best in spring (May, June)

<http://www.calexplornia.com/frazier-falls-premiere-waterfall-lakes-basin-rec-area/>

Gold Lake Trail: Gold Lake Trail (at Silver Lake Campground) is considered an "easy" trail at 1.5 miles long with approximate hiking time of 30 minutes and both swimming and fishing can be found at Bucks Lake. Gold Lake Trail also accesses the Bucks Lake Wilderness portion of the Pacific Crest Trail. Note that the campground is tent camping only.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/plumas/recreation/hunting/recarea/?recid=21876&actid=54>

Trains and Rail Fans: There are some really unique rail engineering sights in Plumas County. People from all over come to get a that special photo <http://www.plumascounty.org/Trains-railroads-railfanning>

CAMPING OUT

My best guess for ADA camping facilities will be private campgrounds and PG&E campgrounds [<http://recreation.pge.com/home.asp>] with the USFS campgrounds ranking last as the least wheelchair friendly. [<http://plumascounty.org/PlacesToCampByAreaList.asp>] If possible pre-scout your location to meet your particular accessibility needs.

Conditions change seasonally, and a number of great camping spots were out of service for 2017 due to the severity of spring storms. For your peace of mind, I urge you to call the agency/district as a part of your trip planning.

The Lake Almanor Area Chamber of Commerce web site provides an excellent overview of the whole area. <http://www.lakealmanorarea.com/>

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Plumas National Forest:

It would have been really helpful if each and every national forest would post their wheelchair accessible campgrounds, fishing platforms, trails and other amenities. I don't mean to be harsh, but USFS web site information is often years out of date, incomplete.

List of Plumas Forest campgrounds:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/activity/plumas/recreation/camping-cabins/?recid=11182&actid=29>

After going through the USFS posted list, these are the campgrounds mentioning accessible sites. Keep in mind the information about 'accessibility' may have changed due to recent weather or simply be out of date. Always call the associated District for specifics before hitting the road.

These locations are identified as accessible in USFS literature. There may be more. This is a list of possibilities, not certainties.

Frazier Falls Trail: paved ½ mile trail to falls overlook is wheelchair accessible, best in spring (May, June)
<http://www.calexplornia.com/frazier-falls-premiere-waterfall-lakes-basin-rec-area/>

Lake Davis Recreation Area: 7 miles north of Portola
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/plumas/recarea/?recid=71113>

The USFS web site indicates that the 3 campgrounds (Grasshopper Flat, Grizzly, Lightning Tree) each have several wheelchair accessible sites, but this is not confirmed at Recreation.gov.

Lake Basin Recreation Area: Located nine miles southwest of Graeagle, California, this recreation area has special geological features.
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/plumas/recarea/?recid=71116>

Lakes Basin Campground: Located nine miles southwest of Graeagle, California, this recreation area has special geological features. There is breathtaking scenery and over 20 small lakes nearby, most of which are accessible by hiking trails. This area provides a multitude of recreational activities including camping, fishing, boating, hunting, mountain biking, horseback riding, picnicking, hiking, backpacking, swimming, windsurfing and nature study. In the winter visitors can ice fish, snowmobile, cross-country ski and showshoe. Four universally accessible sites, accessible toilet facilities.
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/plumas/recreation/recarea/?recid=11199&actid=29>

Gold Lake Campground:

This campground has 37 sites with tables, fire rings, food lockers and toilet facilities. Garbage service is provided. There is no water. Mentions accessible toilet, but did not discuss campsites.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/plumas/recreation/recarea/?recid=11197&actid=29>

Gold Lake Trail: Gold Lake Trail (at Silver Lake Campground) is considered an "easy" trail at 1.5 miles long with approximate hiking time of 30 minutes and both swimming and fishing can be found at Bucks Lake. Gold Lake Trail also accesses the Bucks Lake Wilderness portion of the Pacific Crest Trail. Note that the campground is tent camping only.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/plumas/recreation/hunting/recarea/?recid=21876&actid=54>

Goose Lake Campground: Lakes Basin Recreation Area

There are 13 campsites with fire rings. Most have tables, and some have food lockers. Garbage service is provided. There is no water. Mentions accessible toilet, but did not discuss campsites.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/plumas/recreation/recarea/?recid=11205&actid=29>

Rogers Cow Camp:

Rustic campground with 6 sites, off 23N15 road, northwest of the Oro-Quincy Highway (Highway 162). The site features a hand pump drinking water well, vault toilet, picnic tables and fire rings. All sites have accessible features, one site is fully accessible.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/plumas/recreation/ohv/recarea/?recid=74989&actid=32>

Chilcoot Campground

Located in the headwaters of the Feather River, Frenchman Lake is only 38 miles northwest of Reno, NV, and 26 miles northwest of Portola, CA. 2 units are accessible, they are equipped with table, grill, fire rings, water spigot, a level hardened pad (1 site has a concrete pad) and a path of travel to accessible toilet building. 5 sites are walk-in, the other 38 sites are easily accessible.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/plumas/recreation/recarea/?recid=11191&actid=29>

Big Cove Campground

This campground has 38 sites, 15 are reservable. Sites include lake side sites, shaded sites and open unshaded sites. There are eleven sites that are accessible. Some bathrooms are accessible. Take Highway 395 North from Reno NV. to Highway 70 West. Proceed west to Chilcoot CA. Head North at Chilcoot 7 miles to Frenchman Lake. Cross the Dam and proceed to the campground entrance on the left.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/plumas/recreation/recarea/?recid=11194&actid=29>

Spring Creek Campground:

Located in the headwaters of the Feather River, Frenchman Lake is only 38 miles northwest of Reno, NV and 26 miles northeast of Portola, CA. This campground offers 12 reservable sites of the 35 total sites. There are two fully accessible campsites with paved access, grills, tables and paved pad.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/plumas/recreation/recarea/?recid=11193&actid=84>

Little Grass Valley Recreation Area

The Feather River Ranger District manages 8 family campgrounds around Little Grass Valley Reservoir. There are approximately 323 camping units. There is a wheel chair accessible fishing ramp by at the dam and there may be a fishing trail (but I haven't found it yet).

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/plumas/recarea/?recid=71118>

[check the rest of the campgrounds at Little Grass Valley for accessibility]

Halsted Campground

Halsted Campground is located 17 miles west of Quincy on Hwy 70, near Twain. There are 20 single family campsites, each with a table and fire ring; 8 of these sites have electrical hookups and 4 sites are universally accessible sites.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/plumas/recreation/recarea/?recid=11246&actid=29>

Cottonwood Springs Group Sites

Located in the headwaters of the Feather River, Frenchman Lake is only 38 miles northwest of Reno, NV, and 26 miles northwest of Portola, CA. Loop B is fully accessible with flush toilets.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/plumas/recreation/recarea/?recid=11190&actid=29>

Frenchman Recreation Area

Located in the headwaters of the Feather River, Frenchman Lake is only 38 miles northwest of Reno, NV, and 26 miles northwest of Portola, CA.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/plumas/recarea/?recid=71114>

[check the rest of the campgrounds for accessibility]

Spanish Creek Campground

Spanish Creek Campground has 21 sites and is located off of State Highway 70, just 8 miles west of Quincy. Accessible sites available

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/plumas/recreation/recarea/?recid=11247&actid=29>

North Fork Campground

North Fork Campground is located two miles north of Highway 70, on Caribou Road, 32 miles west of Quincy. There are 21 single family campsites, each with a table, fire ring and bear box. In spring of 2014, the campground opened with new restroom facilities, showers, electrical hookups and enhanced universal accessibility at selected sites. Dump facilities on site.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/plumas/recreation/recarea/?recid=11244&actid=29>

Antelope Lake: <http://www.water.ca.gov/recreation/locations/antelope/antelopecontent.cfm>

Frenchman Recreation Area: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/plumas/recarea/?recid=71114>

<http://plumascounty.org/PlacesToCampByArea.asp?A=94EB31AA-63E4-4099-AE1B-4DC1D5F16500&P=LA&G=94EB31AA-63E4-4099-AE1B-4DC1D5F16500>

Eastern Plumas Chamber of Commerce very kindly mentions accessibility information on their pages.

<http://www.easternplumaschamber.com/camping--rv-parks.html>

PG&E Campgrounds:

Since PG&E recreation locations are typically constructed to the ADA standards of the time. There are a number of PG&E campgrounds around the Chester and Lake Almanor area. Most locations will have one or more ADA accessible campsites. You can get detailed information through PG&E's reservation system. Have patience, and you will prevail!

<http://recreation.pge.com/home.asp>

One example : Rocky Point Campground at Lake Almanor has ADA accessible campsites.

BLM

BLM does not appear to have public lands within Plumas County. BLM does have facilities in Lassen County, including a campground at Eagle Lake in Lassen County.

NATIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

Lassen National Park, Entrance from Highway 36

Lassen National Park Accessibility list: <https://www.nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm>

Before you go, check conditions at the Park. In 2017 the road through the Park didn't open until the last weekend in July due to the heavier than usual snow year. If you are entering the Park from Highway 36, then you'll be near the new Visitor Center and Park Headquarters. Do stop in. Gather maps as there will be places you'll definitely want to stop and see. Several of the attractions are disability friendly.

Even if you never get out of the car the drive through the Park is spectacular. There are plenty of roadside pullouts, so go ahead and park and enjoy the view. If you enjoy photography, plan to spend the whole day (or more) in the Park.

The Park has accessible cabins, campgrounds, picnic areas, and a few trails that are wheelchair accessible. Manzanita Lake is practically iconic in terms of being photographed. You'll find wildflowers here in late summer, and lush mountain meadows.

Wildlife Photography Opportunities

Once upon a time we lived on the east shore of Lake Almanor. That 'place' no longer exists, but I still have the memory of gorgeous sunsets over the Lake. Lake Almanor has some really wonderful birding opportunities, which means bring your camera! But don't just take my word for it.

Wildlife Viewing in Plumas County

Birding: <http://www.lakealmanorarea.com/bird--nature-watching.html>

Crocker Meadows Wildlife Area: Located 5 miles east of Portola and three miles north of Beckwourth in the northwest corner of Sierra Valley. There are no facilities, but there is a road through the area which may provide photo opportunities. Crocker Meadows Wildlife Area provides ideal conditions for deer foraging and fawning. The area is mostly montane chaparral habitat dominated by sagebrush and bitterbrush. Common wildlife species include mule deer, mountain quail, jackrabbit, coyote, gray fox, raccoon, and a variety of hawks. For more information, call the North Central Region Rancho Cordova office at (916) 358-2900

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Lands/Places-to-Visit/Crocker-Meadows-WA>

Watchable Wildlife:

Two locations in Plumas County are part of the Watchable Wildlife national network of viewing sites, identified by the brown road sign with the white binoculars symbol.

Antelope Lake/Indian Valley: <http://www.cawatchablewildlife.org/viewsite.php?site=21&display=q>
and <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/plumas/recarea/?recid=13389>

Lake Davis Recreation Area: <http://www.cawatchablewildlife.org/viewsite.php?site=108&display=q>
And <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/plumas/recreation/fishing/recarea/?recid=71113&actid=44>