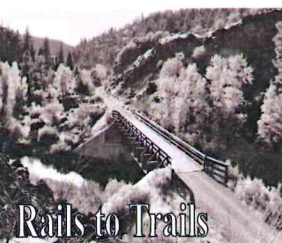


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"The Bizz"

Historically, the railroad provided a link through the canyon between Susanville and Westwood. Today the line still links the towns by way of the "Bizz". Local residents and visitors enjoy the scenic beauty of the Susan River Canyon and surrounding forests when they visit the Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail.



For More Information:

Susanville Depot Trailhead Visitor Center and Museum

Located at 601 Richmond Road, Susanville, this is the main trailhead and visitor center which is operated by the Lassen County Chamber of Commerce. The depot provides trail information, interpretive displays, and videos, and includes a bookstore and gift shop. Bike rentals are available in Susanville. Contact the Chamber of Commerce at: (530) 257-4323.



Lassen County Visitor Center, Westwood Station

Located at 462-885 Third St. in Westwood, the visitor center is a replica of the historic Westwood Railroad Depot. It houses interpretive displays and visitor information about Westwood and Lassen County. Call (530) 256-2456 for current operating hours.

Bureau of Land Management, Eagle Lake Field Office:

Contact at (530) 257-0456 or on the internet at: <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/eaglelake.html>

Lassen National Forest, Eagle Lake Ranger District:

Contact at (530) 257-4188 or on the internet at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/lassen/recreation/>.

Other Rail Trail Information

Visit: www.traillink.com to search through approximately 2,000 trails nationwide.

Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail



Bike • Hike

Run • Ride • Ski

California • Eagle Lake Field Office

The Bizz Johnson Trail

The trail is named for Harold T. "Bizz" Johnson who served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1958 to 1980. Congressman Johnson was instrumental in the successful establishment of this Rails to Trails project.

The trail winds 25.4 miles through the rugged Susan River Canyon from the eastern-most trailhead at the Susanville Railroad Depot to the west end trailhead at Mason Station, 4.6 miles north of Westwood. It follows the old Southern Pacific Railroad's Fernley and Lassen branch line. The trail features 12 bridges, two tunnels and beautiful views of the surrounding mountains. The trail is used for multiple activities, including hiking, jogging, mountain bicycling, and horseback riding. In the snowy winter months, cross-country skiers and snowmobiles use the upper reaches.



Fernley & Lassen Railroad History

Completed in 1914, the Fernley and Lassen branch line served the newly developed logging community of Westwood, home to the Red River Lumber Company. Central Pacific Railroad and later Southern Pacific Railroad, operated the line and provided the essential link between the Westwood mill, and the railroad's main line in Fernley, Nevada. The line carried logs and milled lumber for over 40 years. Passenger service ended in 1933. By the 1940's the Red River Lumber Company in Westwood operated the world's largest pine mill.

The Red River Lumber Company sold the Westwood mill in 1944. Fruit Growers Supply Company operated the mill until 1956. When the mill closed the need for the railroad line ended. In 1976, the Bureau of Land Management, with the support of the Lassen National Forest and many community groups, initiated the Rails to Trails conversion. In 1978, Southern Pacific Railroad legally abandoned the unused line, which is now managed as a National Recreation Trail by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service.

Today, Westwood is a quiet mountain town boasting a 25-foot tall, redwood statue of Paul Bunyan, a reminder of the historical importance of logging to the community. Interpretive displays are located at the Westwood museum explaining the golden era of logging and railroading. The western half of the Fernley and Lassen branch line was once alive with logging camps, spur lines and switching stations. Now only remnants of these historic activities can be seen along the trail.

Trail Use & Regulations

Management

The Bureau of Land Management's Eagle Lake Field Office, and Lassen National Forest's Eagle Lake Ranger District manage the trail.



Accessibility

The trail surface is compacted dirt and small gravel. There are two short steep grades under Highway 36 at Devil's Corral that exceed three percent. A 1/4 mile accessible trail links the Hobo Camp Trailhead to the Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail. For details on accessibility, contact the Bureau of Land Management or the Lassen National Forest in Susanville. For information on other rail trails contact the Rails to Trails Conservancy, a Washington D.C. based rail trail advocacy group at (202) 331-9696.

Bicycling

Mountain or "fat tire" bicycles are excellent for trail use. The gravel and dirt trail is relatively level with approximately three percent grade. Please use caution when crossing bridges and traveling through the two dark tunnels, 400 and 800 feet long.

Fishing

The spring and early summer are the best times to fish for the Susan River's rainbow and brown trout. This beautiful trail provides easy access to the Susan River and great scenery, an excellent place for family hiking and fishing. The California Department of Fish and Game stocks the river with rainbows from late April into July.

Equestrian

Horseback riders love this trail. All bridges on the trail are suitable for equestrian crossings. The trail has two tunnels that may be bypassed on riverside routes.

Hiking

Whether you are hiking the full 25.4 miles from Susanville to Mason Station, 4.6 miles north Westwood, or are in need of a stroll, you will find a variety of scenery and wildlife along the trail. Day hikes are popular and can be started from many of the trailheads shown on the map. The trail is also an easy route for backpacking. Users can enjoy the trail without backtracking by arranging a one-way shuttle between trailheads.

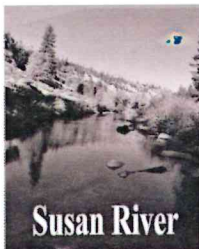
Camping

The Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail is an inviting place to camp. Please respect the following camping regulations:

- Camping *is allowed* up to three days on the BLM lands between Susanville and Devil's Corral provide you are at least one mile from the Hobo Camp or Devil's Corral Trailhead.
- Camping *is allowed* for 14 days on National Forest lands.

Campfire

A permit is needed for campfires. Permits can be obtained from the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, or the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Fires are allowed in two designated areas between Susanville and Devil's Corral, at Hobo Camp picnic area and Cheney Creek primitive campsite area. West of Devil's Corral please follow seasonal fire restrictions.



Trash - Pack it in / Pack it out

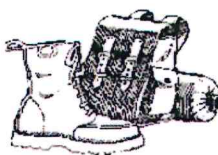
- Do not bury or burn your trash. Animals uncover, eat and scatter buried trash!
- Please help pick up what others have left. Together we can keep the trail beautiful and leave the area cleaner than we find it!

Sanitation

- Do not use soap or detergents in or around the river.
- River water is not suitable for drinking.
- Human waste and toilet paper *must* be completely covered in a hole six to eight inches deep, at least 100 feet from the water or trail.

Leave No Trace

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Pack out what you pack in
- Minimize use & fire impact
- Camp and travel on durable surfaces to help reduce vegetation damage



Shuttles Between Trailheads

(not regularly scheduled)

Contact the Susanville railroad depot at: (530) 257-4323 or Lassen Rural Bus at: (530) 252-7433 for shuttle information. Susanville cab companies will also shuttle small groups when prearranged.

Motor Vehicles

Motor vehicles are prohibited between Susanville and the last Susan River crossing (2.4 miles west of Goumaz). Snowmobiles are allowed west of Goumaz. All vehicles are prohibited from traveling in the Susan River or on the river banks.

Firearms

Firearm discharge is prohibited on or across the trail and at all trailheads. Hunting is allowed off the trail in accordance with California state codes.

Mountain Lions & Black Bears

These animals are present in the area and may be seen on the trail. For information on mountain lion and black bear encounters, please contact the California Department of Fish and Game, (530) 254-6808.

Trail Courtesy Tips / Share the Fun

- Bicyclists yield to walkers.
- Walkers and bicyclists yield to horseback riders.
- Let other users know when you're approaching so you don't startle them or their animals.
- Please avoid the trail when it is wet, particularly when riding a bike or horse; serious and lasting damage may occur.
- Please avoid walking in cross country ski tracks.
- Please leash your pet when encountering other users.
- Please remove pet waste from the trail.

Winter on the Bizz

Cross-Country Skiing

Higher elevations (4,760 feet to 5,500 feet), shading, and northern exposures provide for cross country skiing on the 18.5-mile segment west of Devils Corral (see the map). For a scenic flat and down hill ski; start at Highway 44 and Goumaz Road, ski National Forest roads to the trail at Goumaz (3 miles), then follow the trail east to Devil's Corral (6 miles). This route is one-way and requires return transportation.

The best public access areas are from Goumaz Road near Hog Flat Reservoir, 7 miles west of the Junction of Highway 44 and 36; Highway 36 at Devil's Corral Trailhead; and at the Susanville Depot and Miller Road trailheads in Susanville. A plowed pull off and parking area is available on the south side of Highway 44 at Goumaz Road. Check the local weather conditions before planning a cross-country ski trip.