

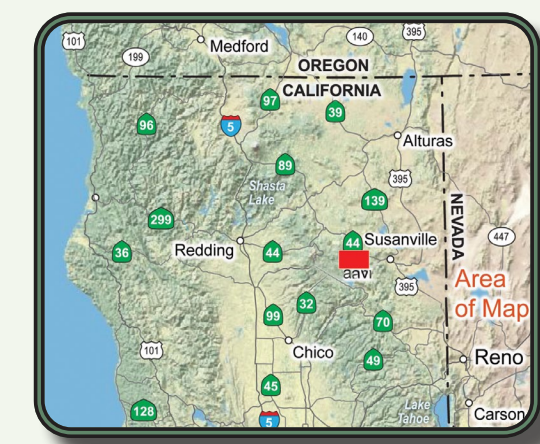


Bizz Johnson

National Recreation Trail

Map & Guide

Protect your public lands and resources by staying on designated routes and trails!



For more information contact:

**Bureau of Land Management
Eagle Lake Field Office**
2550 Riverside Dr.
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 257-0456
www.blm.gov/visit/bizz-johnson

**Lassen National Forest
Eagle Lake Ranger District**
477-050 Eagle Lake Rd,
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 257-4188
www.fs.usda.gov/lassen

Lassen Land and Trails Trust
Historic Susanville Railroad Depot
601 Richmond Rd.
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 257-3252
www.lassenlandandtrailstrust.org

Hospital Information

Banner Lassen Medical Center Emergency Room

1800 Spring Ridge Dr.
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 252-2000

Directions: From the Bizz Johnson Trail's, Susanville trailhead at 601 Richmond Road, drive north to Main Street. Turn right on Main Street, follow .28 miles to Ash Street/ CA Hwy 139. Turn left and drive another 1.87 miles to Spring Ridge Drive. Turn right follow road for .17 miles to hospital.

Northeastern Rural Health Clinic - Urgent Care (just past Banner Lassen Hospital)

1850 Spring Ridge Dr.
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 251-5000

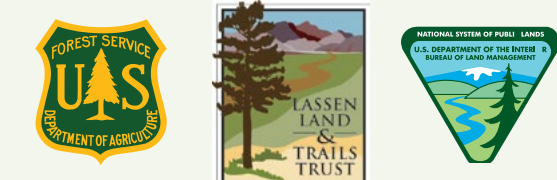
Call for hours of operation and directions.

Emergency Contact:

- Police, Fire, Ambulance, Emergencies:
DIAL 911

Non-Emergency Contact:

- Lassen County Sheriff's Department
Non-Emergency**
(530) 257-6121
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Lassen County**
(530) 254-6644



The Bizz Johnson Trail's gentle gravel surface is ideal for walking, running, strollers, wheelchairs and bicycles with wide tires.

Welcome to The Bizz

The Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail is a scenic 25.4 mile "rail trail" ideal for hiking, running, biking, horseback riding, cross country skiing and snowshoeing. The trail connects Susanville, California with Mason Station, a railroad junction 4.5 miles north of Westwood, California. The trail follows the former Southern Pacific Railroad grade, built in 1913-1914, through the Susan River Canyon for 16 miles and then passes through a ponderosa and Jeffery pine forest on the southeast end of the Cascade Range. This "east side" pine forest is snowy in winter but very dry in the summer.

Traveling west up the trail from Susanville, the trail crosses the Susan River 12 times on old railroad bridges, passes through 2 tunnels and crests at 5,580 feet at Westwood Junction, the site of former lumber railroad spur lines. The trail then descends gradually to its terminus at Mason Station, 4.5 miles north of Westwood.

Many bike riders arrange to be dropped off at the western end of the trail and ride east to Susanville climbing only 300 feet to Westwood Junction then enjoying 1,355 feet of descent on the ride down through the Susan River Canyon to the Susanville.

You can arrange your own shuttle or take advantage of Lassen Rural Bus's West County route, Monday through Saturday. For current schedules and bus stop information, call 530-252-7433 or check their website.

Trail users often begin their bike rides at the junction of Lassen County Road A-21 and Highway 36 and ride north on the wide shoulder of the lightly used paved road 2.9 miles to a well-marked dirt road that takes them a half-mile to the Mason Station Trailhead. There, a short trail connects to the Bizz Johnson Trail.

The Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Lassen National Forest. The Historic Susanville Rail Road Depot Trailhead and visitor center is owned and operated by Lassen Land and Trails Trust in partnership with the BLM.



There are two tunnels and twelve bridges on the trail

Trail History

The trail is named for Harold T. "Bizz" Johnson, who served northern California in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1958 to 1980. For many years his district extended from Sacramento to Oregon and from the Pacific Ocean to the Nevada line, an area larger than many states. Bizz was instrumental in securing funds in 1980 for BLM to purchase Southern Pacific Railroad lands that the railroad retained after legally abandoning the rail line itself.

The trail follows the railroad grade of Southern Pacific Railroad's Fernley and Lassen Branch Line that connected the new lumber town of Westwood with the transcontinental railroad in Fernley, Nevada. Railroad operations ended in 1956. The rail line was officially abandoned in 1978 and the BLM, working with the Lassen National Forest worked to convert the line into a recreational trail. More on the history of this trail is available in a brochure available from the BLM or Lassen Land and Trails Trust's historic Susanville Railroad Depot visitor center on the east end of the trail in Susanville.

South Side Trail

South Side Trail is a scenic 7-mile single track trail south of the Susan River starting 0.6 miles west of Susanville at the Hobo Camp Trailhead's upper parking lot and extending to the Devil's Corral Trailhead, 7 miles west of Susanville on California



View of the Bizz Johnson Trail from South Side Trail.

State Highway 36.

A short connector trail from the Bizz Johnson Trail begins directly west of the old steel-sided railroad bridge over the Susan River at Hobo Camp. There are two well-signed connections between Hobo Camp and Devil's Corral. These allow for loops of 4, 5, 8, and 14 miles on the smooth gravel surfaced Bizz Johnson Trail and the dirt single-track South Side Trail.

The west end connection is 7 miles west of Hobo Camp Trailhead and just south of the Devil's Corral Trailhead where a small bridge provides a Susan River crossing from late spring through late fall. The small bridge is removed when high river flows may occur in the winter and spring. Connections between South Side Trail and the Bizz Johnson Trail are available at the east railroad tunnel year round and between the twin bridges (see map).

Trail Use Enjoyment

The Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail is in a remote and rural area. There are no towns or services along the trail. Services are available only in the towns at each end of the trail.

Plan on being self-sufficient as you enjoy exploring the trail. Check weather forecasts and pack for changing weather. A hot day can become cold and windy if afternoon thunderstorms develop. Pack food and water and layers of clothing subject to conditions. Call ahead to check current conditions. The Bureau of Land Management, 530-257-0456, manages the eastern end of the trail and the Lassen National Forest, 530-257-4188, manages the western end. The trail gains 1,355 feet in elevation from east to west.

Please stay off the trail when it is wet or muddy to avoid leaving deep footprints, bike tire ruts and horse-hoof "post holes" that become a hazard to other trail users. If you are damaging the trail, turn around and travel back off the trail, minimizing trail damage on your return.

Activities and Trail Highlights

Hiking, Biking, Running and Horseback Riding

The Bizz Johnson Trail is ideal for all these activities. The broad 8-foot wide gravel trail is adjacent to the Susan River for 16 miles and then passes through a pine forest for 9 miles west of the Susan River. The trail accommodates a mixture of trail users. Most use is within the first two miles upstream and west of Susanville. Some days you may have the trail all to yourself. There is ample room for horse trailers at all of the drive-in trailheads (see map).

Trail Courtesy

Let others know when you are overtaking them with a friendly greeting. Talk to horseback riders and ask them where they would like you to be when passing one another.



South Side Trail - seven miles of sweet single track connects to the Bizz Johnson Trail in five places providing good opportunities for loop rides.



Horseback riders enjoy the "Bizz" and the South Side trails.

Tunnels and Bridges

The trail crosses the Susan River 11 times on historic railroad bridges over 100 years old, and on one new bridge built in 2005. It also passes through two timber-lined tunnels, 400 and 800 feet long. To see better inside the tunnels, take off your sunglasses. You can also use a flashlight or a bike light.

Bike Shuttles

The Lassen Rural Bus West County Route provides service to three trailheads Monday through Saturday using bike rack-equipped buses. Call 530-252-7433 for current schedules or check their website. During the summer and fall shuttles for groups may be arranged by calling the BLM Eagle Lake Field Office, 530-257-0456.

Trash and Sanitation

Pack out what you pack in. Bury human waste at least 6 inches deep.

Dogs

Please control your dogs! Leash your dogs when encountering other people on the trail. When at trailheads and high use areas, pick up and pack out dog waste.

Winter Sports

Cross country skiing and snowshoeing are great activities on the Bizz Johnson Trail. Snow coverage is best at the higher, shaded segments west of Highway 36, upstream of the Devil's Corral Trailhead. There are also good opportunities after significant snowfall in the lower Susan River Canyon between Devil's Corral and Susanville.

Ice-covered rocks in the river, icicles on ledges and in the tunnels, and beautiful snow make this a gorgeous place to cross country ski or snowshoe.



The Bizz is great for a family to enjoy a day of biking. Wide mountain bike tires work best for the gravel surface.

Please avoid walking or snowshoeing in tracks set by cross country skiers. They work hard to set ski tracks, so make your own boot or snowshoe tracks separate from the ski tracks.

Wildlife

Enjoy wildlife but observe animals from a distance. Bears, mountain lions and wolves live in this area and generally avoid human interaction. Avoid confronting animals. If you feel threatened, make yourself appear large by holding something like a shirt or jacket over your head, back away and if necessary talk harshly and throw rocks if needed. Before you enjoy the trail, check California Department of Fish and Wildlife guidelines for encountering one of these wild creatures: wildlife.ca.gov/Keep-Me-Wild wildlife.ca.gov/keep-me-wild/lion wildlife.ca.gov/keep-me-wild/bear

Motor Vehicles

Motor vehicles are prohibited between the Susanville Trailhead and the last bridge over the Susan River 2.4 miles west of Goumaz. Snowmobiles are allowed on the trail west of the last bridge west of Goumaz.



The trail is great for cross country skiing when there is adequate snow cover.

Leave No Trace

While out enjoying the beauty of the trails, please help keep them clean and attractive by following the seven principles of Leave No Trace. See them here: www.lnt.org.

Camping

Dispersed camping is allowed along the trail. In the lower Susan River Canyon campers must be at least one mile west (upstream) of the Hobo Camp Trailhead or one mile east (downstream) from the Devil's Corral Trailhead.

There is a 3-day limit along the first 7 miles of the trail from Susanville to Devil's Corral. There is a two-week camping limit west of Devil's Corral in the Lassen National Forest.



The Bizz Johnson Marathon is a popular running event in the fall.

Goumaz Trailhead, midpoint of the trail has a developed campground with five campsites, drinking water and a toilet.

NO CAMPFIREs are allowed in the first 7 miles west of Susanville except in the Hobo Camp picnic area and in the fire ring at the primitive campsite at Cheney Creek. Campfires may be prohibited during periods of high fire danger.

Campfire permits are required. They are available online or at the BLM, Forest Service and CAL FIRE offices.

The Nearest Forest Service campground is Roxie Peconom Campground. Drive 2 miles west of Devil's Corral Trailhead on Highway 36. Then turn left and drive 2 miles south on Forest Service road 29N03. The Eagle Lake Recreation Area (16 miles north on Lassen County Road A-1) has 5 developed campgrounds by Eagle Lake. There are commercial RV parks in Susanville and Standish.

The entire eight-foot wide trail is flat or on a gentle grade no steeper than 3 percent except where the trail is routed under Highway 36 at Devil's Corral. Call the BLM at 530-257-0456 for recommendations on how to avoid this segment. The western 10 miles starting at Mason Station Trailhead climbs 300 feet to Westwood Junction then the remaining 15 miles descend 1,355 feet between Westwood Junction and Susanville.

The eastern seven miles of the trail between the Devil's Corral Trailhead and Susanville are compacted and well-suited for manual and powered wheelchairs after spring maintenance occurs. It's best to travel from west (Devil's Corral Trailhead) to east (Susanville) to take advantage of the flat or downhill grades.

For short trips up and back on the trail near Susanville, the Hobo Camp Trailhead offers easy trail access via an accessible connection path. The trail is also accessible from the Susanville Trailhead on Richmond Road by the caboose and railroad depot.

Accessibility

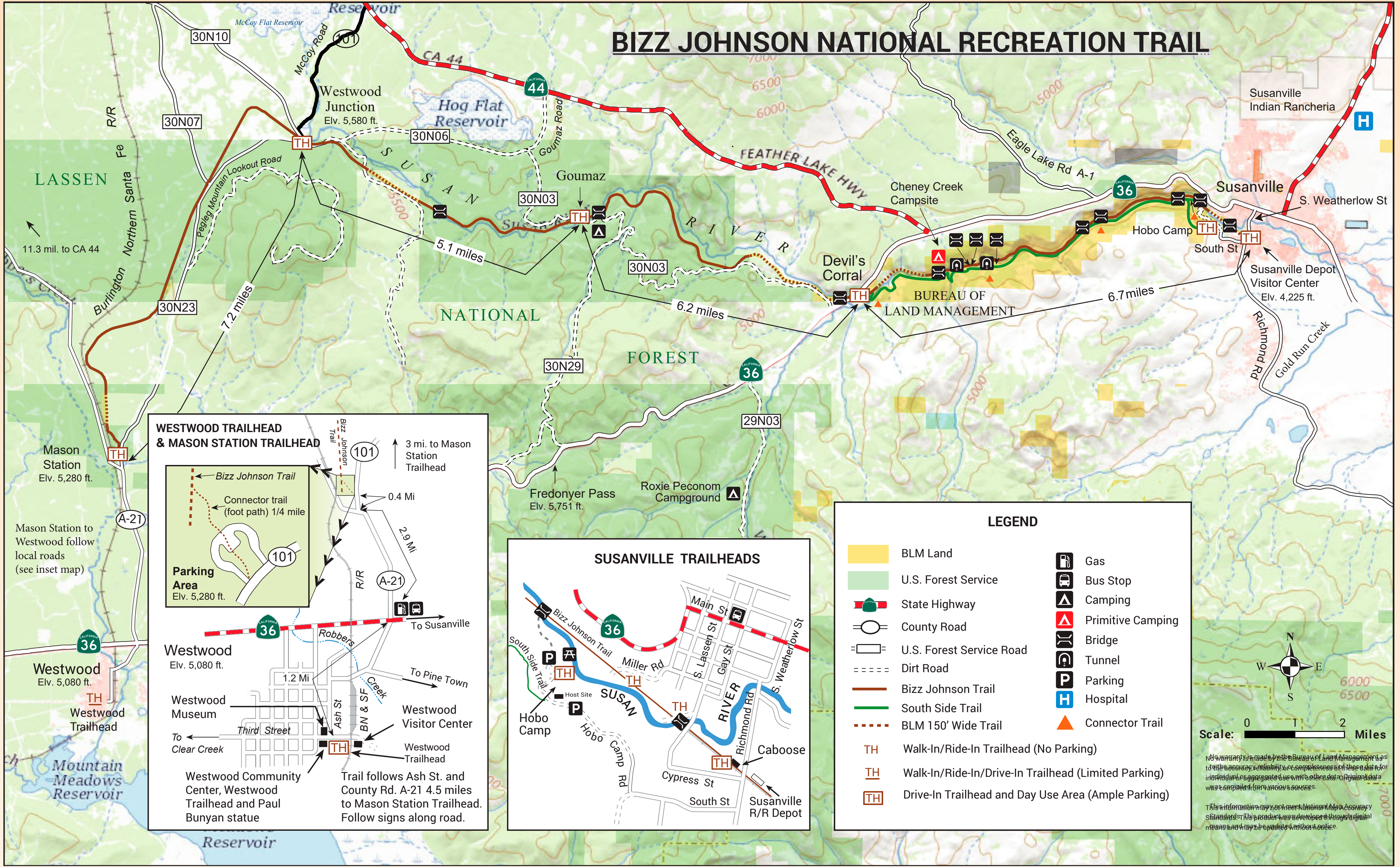
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Firearms

Shooting is prohibited on or across the trail and at all trailheads. Hunting is allowed off the trail in accordance with state codes. For more information go to: www.oag.ca.gov/firearms/regs



Trailheads

Westwood Trailhead is a kiosk/bulletin board in front of the community center on 3rd street in Westwood and beside the large statues of Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox.

The Westwood Museum, 311 Ash Street, has lots of great photos and exhibits about the logging history of Westwood. Call (530) 256-2233 for hours of operations. To contact the Westwood Visitor Center, 3rd and Ash Street, call (530) 256-2456. To reach the Bizz Johnson Trail from Westwood follow Ash Street 1.2 miles north to Highway 36 and Lassen County Road A-21 then continue north 3.3 miles to the Mason Station Trailhead (see inset map).

Mason Station Trailhead is the western terminus of the trail. Many bike riders start at Mason Station and ride up a gentle climb, gaining 300 feet in 7.5 miles. Riders then enjoy a 1,355 ft descent on the remaining 18 miles back to Susanville along the scenic Susan River.

If using Lassen Rural Bus for a bike shuttle, the bus stop is at the junction of Highway 36 and Lassen County Road A-21. Bike riders then ride north 2.9 miles on the paved road to Lassen County Road 101 just before the railroad tracks, turn right and follow the dirt road .4 miles to the Mason Station Trailhead.

Goumaz Trailhead, the midpoint of the trail, is both a trailhead and a campground with five improved campsites, a vault toilet and drinking water, spring through fall. The narrow and shallow Susan River is adjacent

and makes this a popular campsite for fishing in the spring. It is popular for groups who want to make a two-day trip on the trail.

Devil's Corral Trailhead is 7 miles west of Susanville on Highway 36. It is a popular starting point for an easy 6.7 mile downhill hike, bike or horseback ride back to Susanville.

Devil's Corral Trailhead is shaded and open year round. Access can be somewhat limited in winter, but still has parking for cross country skiers and snowshoes.

Hobo Camp Trailhead is about a half-mile west of Susanville on the trail. To drive there from Susanville's Main Street, go south on Weatherlow Street which becomes Richmond Road. Follow south 0.5 miles, turn right on South Street then right on Hobo Camp Road.

This trailhead is in a scenic pine grove with picnic tables, fire pits and grills, a vault toilet and a water spigot at the upper parking area.

Hobo Camp is open from 8 a.m. to dusk. Closing times change with the seasons and are posted.

Susanville Trailhead is the trail's eastern terminus directly west of Richmond Road. The historic Susanville Railroad Depot east of Richmond Road is owned and operated by the BLM's partner, Lassen Land and Trails Trust.

The Depot has interpretive exhibits that tell the history of the trail and can be viewed when the depot is open. The building is staffed mostly by volunteers and hours are limited. Call 530-257-3252 to check hours.

Across Richmond Road to the west, the Bizz Johnson Trail begins. Here you will find an historic railroad caboose and segments of original railroad tracks parallel to the trail that are reminders of the trail's railroad heritage. There is parking at the trailhead and at the Depot.

