There will be ranger-led snowshoe walks and winter backcountry safety and avalanche programs at Lassen Volcanic National Park this winter and holiday season. "We are pleased to offer these activities to our visitors," said Superintendent Marilyn H. Parris. "This is a special time in the park when the snow blankets the terrain and summer activities give way to winter pursuits." Programs on winter backcountry safety and avalanches will be presented on Sundays, December 24 through April 8. Programs last about an hour.

Snowshoe walks will be offered on Saturday, December 30 at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. during the holidays and then on Saturdays, January 6 through April 7 at 1:30 p.m. Programs last one and one-half to two hours and are open to those age eight and older. Walks vary in route and distance depending on the group, weather and snow conditions. Snowshoes are provided and a $1.00 donation is requested for their purchase and maintenance.

Meet rangers at the Lassen Chalet near the parks southwest entrance. Dress in layers for winter conditions and wear warm boots. These activities are for individuals and families only. Organized groups interested in scheduling programs can call (530) 595-4444 extension 5133.

The Manzanita Lake area near the northwest entrance offers 15 miles of marked cross-country ski trails that are ideal for beginning to intermediate skiers. All visitors are encouraged to prepare for winter travel in the mountains. Carry proper clothing, emergency food and water supplies, blankets, first aid kits and tire chains in your vehicle. Call ahead for the latest weather and road conditions.

For program information and road and weather conditions, contact Park Headquarters at (530) 595-4444. Park Headquarters in Mineral is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

The Loomis Ranger Station at Manzanita Lake is open (from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, December 16 through January 1 and then open weekends and holidays through mid March).

For information about the Manzanita Lake and Butte Lake areas, contact the Loomis Ranger Station at (530) 595-4444, extension 5187 during their operating hours.