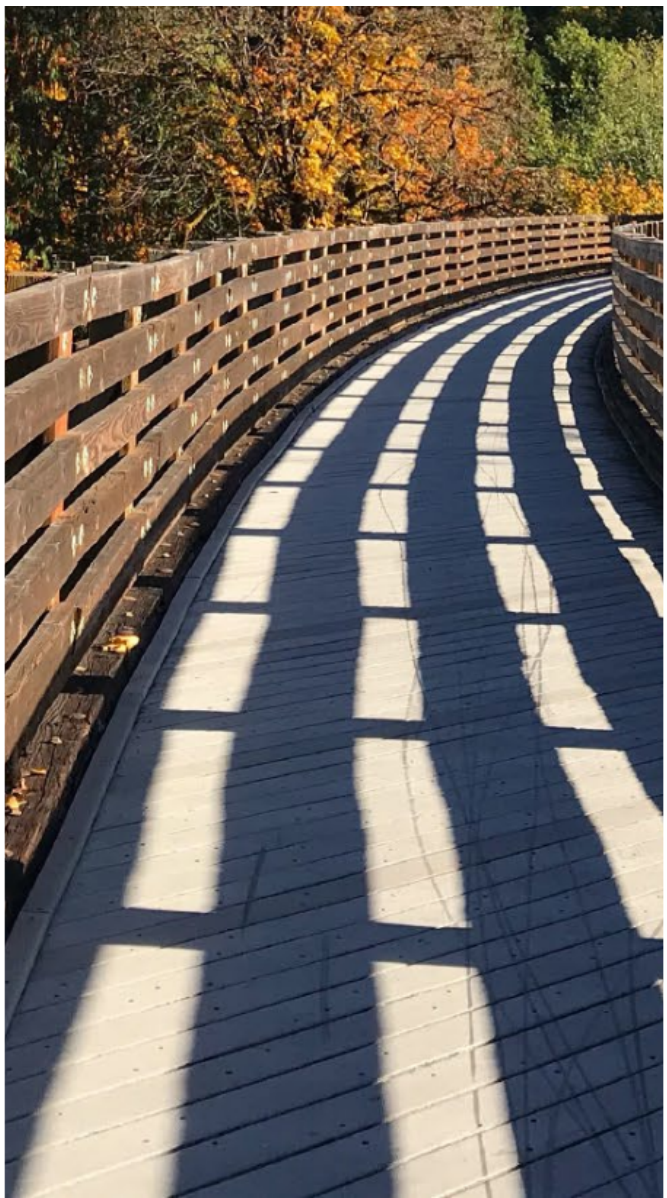
TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

2025

TrailLink Unlimited

Guides



Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail

California

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Overview An outing on the Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail rewards trekkers with eye-catching Northern California scenery

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An outing on the Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail rewards trekkers with eye-catching Northern California scenery and signs of wildlife. The 25.3-mile packed gravel-and-dirt trail connects the historical logging towns of Susanville and Westwood on a remote route that passes through tunnels and crosses the Susan River on numerous bridges.

Those who visit the Saturday of Columbus Day weekend will enjoy the Lassen Land and Trails Trust's annual Rails to Trails Festival in Susanville. The festival, which raises funds to support the region's trails, includes live music, a chili cook-off, handcar races, and other fun family activities.

The trail also hosts an annual marathon and ultra-marathon race along the route.

When visiting, remember there are no services between Susanville and Westwood. Spring and fall weather can be fickle, as the trail elevations range from 4,100 to 5,500 feet. The U.S. Forest Service, which manages the 18 trail miles west of Devils Corral, allows snowmobiling when winter conditions permit. Primitive camping is allowed throughout.

About the Route

Before leaving off from the Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail's main access point in Susanville, trail users can check out the Lassen Land and Trails Trust, which is housed in a 1927 vintage railroad depot in Susanville. Across the street, the trail heads west and begins a gentle climb along the rushing Susan River. The eastern 7 miles are the most popular, as the trail passes through a semiarid, rocky canyon where the compacted surface is wheelchair accessible. For those who wish to take a slightly different route, the Singletrack Southside Trail traces the south bank of the river through the canyon.

Trees on the riverbank make this a colorful journey in the fall, and the route crosses several bridges and passes through two tunnels in the canyon. Jumbles of sticks and earthen mounds along the river mark beaver and muskrat dams and lodges, and sharp-eyed trail users might see raccoons, mule deer, porcupines, and coyotes at dawn or dusk. More than 100 bird species have been documented here.

The trail emerges from the canyon at the Devil's Corral trailhead on CA 36. Leaving the Great Basin Desert habitat behind, the trail enters the pine and fir forests of the Sierra Nevada and Cascade ranges. The 9,000-acre Hog Fire that swept the area in 2020 has left scorched patches in this once-dense woodland.

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States: California
Counties: Lassen
Length: 25.3miles
Trail end points: Richmond Rd. (Susanville) to Mason Station (Westwood)
Trail surfaces: Dirt,Gravel
Trail category: Rail-Trail
Trail activities: Fishing,Wheelchair Accessible,Horseback Riding,Mountain Biking,Walking,Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail runs between Richmond Rd. (Susanville) and Mason Station (Westwood), with parking available at both ends of the trail.

Parking is available at:

- 115-200-26-11 (Susanville)

See the TrailLink map for all parking options and detailed directions.

The Lassen Rural Bus provides a bike-rack-equipped bus service between Westwood and Susanville.

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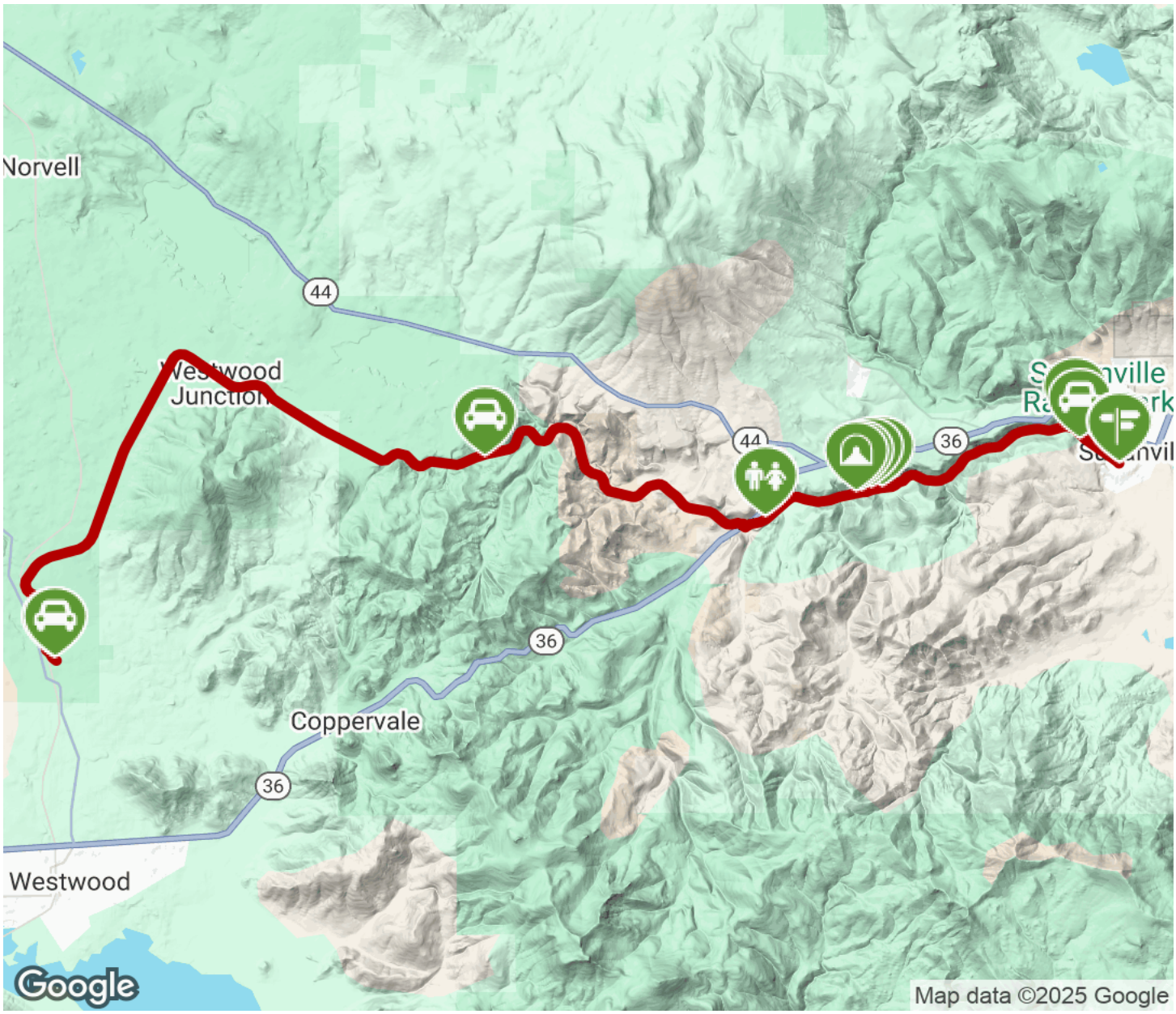

Trailhead Restroom Parking Water Fountain Tunnel

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