

## November

- Mountains become cold and snowy
- Fall color peaks in Valley
- Irrigation releases into Cache Creek are eliminated and the creek becomes fordable until heavy rains occur
- Waterfalls on Table Mountain start flowing again after the first good rain
- [Ladybugs](#) converge in Deer Creek Canyon (Rocky Pool and Bigleaf Pool hikes) to overwinter. You may see them when the weather is nice
- Migratory waterfowl back at Gray Lodge. The birds congregate at the Gray Lodge refuge now and disperse after heavy rains flood the rice fields
- Best November hikes:
  - [Hat Creek Rim](#) -- some fall color peaking around Nov 1, often fresh snow on the surrounding peaks
  - [Cache Creek Ford](#) -- a little fall color peaking in mid Nov, creek ford likely low
  - [Yana Trail](#) -- moderate fall color 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> weeks of Nov
  - [T-Ford](#) -- some fall color usually peaking last week of Nov
  - [Gray Lodge](#) -- peak birds in Nov

## December

- Coldest month
- Shortest days
- Best December hikes
  - [High Bridge Hill](#) -- usually grass is greening the hills, and the creek still crossable before the winter rains
  - [Yahi Trail](#) -- the ford is often impassable in winter so early Dec may be last chance for a while
  - [Thomes Gorge](#) -- at its best around Christmas
  - [Inks Creek Point](#) -- sunset from the bluff overlooking the river beside a campfire is recommended. Sunsets come early in Dec

## January

- Second coldest month
- Wettest month
- Waterfalls are flowing well
- Best January hikes:
  - [Phantom Falls](#) -- lots of waterfalls
  - [Old Homestead](#) -- visits one waterfall which runs a day or two after heavy rain. Green and lush
  - [Many Waterfalls](#) -- very many waterfalls, especially for a day or two after heavy rain
  - [Inks Creek Point](#) -- open sunny hike, place for campfire and watch the sun set, view of Lassen Peak

## February

- Wildflower season starts

- Second wettest month. Waterfalls continue to flow well
- Best February hikes:
  - [Yana Trail](#) -- nice climate in Feb, beautiful walk through green grasslands in canyon along Sacramento River
  - [Old Homestead](#) -- visits one waterfall which runs a day or two after heavy rain. Green and lush. A few wildflowers by late Feb
  - [Many Waterfalls](#) -- very many waterfalls, especially for a day or two after heavy rain. Some wildflowers by late Feb

#### March

- In late March wildflowers reliably peak at [Table Mountain](#) and [Upper Bidwell Park](#)
- Best March hikes:
  - [Annie Bidwell](#) -- outstanding wildflowers, no creek crossing for this hike
  - [Paynes Creek Point](#) -- some wildflowers, views of snowy mountains
  - [Indian Creek Hill](#) -- a good time for this hike
  - [Phantom Falls](#) -- outstanding wildflowers
  - [Many Waterfalls](#) -- outstanding wildflowers
  - [Yana Trail](#) -- some wildflowers, perfect weather

#### April

- If rains kept ground moist throughout March, wildflowers will peak in early April at Table Mountain and Upper Bidwell Park. Superblooms may occur
- Peak [tick](#) season. They are most common in Feather River Canyon and Upper Park hikes. We have never found any ticks on any High Country hikes.
- Best April hikes:
  - [T-Ford](#) -- the creek ford at T more likely easy to cross than it has been for a while, great variety of wildflowers sometimes 70 species
  - [Arkright Springs](#) -- remote Pacific Crest Trail, Burney Falls, may be pelicans
  - [Cache Creek Ridge](#) -- green, likely to be dry spell during April so muddy trail will dry
  - [Cache Creek Ford](#) -- creek may be low, green, some flowers
  - [Chips Creek](#) -- perfect weather, snow on the mountain, green in the canyon

#### May

- [Darmara](#) bloom up out of the creek Deer Creek Canyon hikes: [Rocky Pool](#), [Bigleaf Pool](#)
- Butterflies peak in foothill hikes especially when about 80F
- Flower season peak moves up to the higher foothills
- High Country season starts when snow has melted at [Jonesville Canyon](#). In 2020, Jonesville went to zero snow when [Humbug Snow Pillow](#) was measuring 9-inches Snow Water Content. This usually occurs sometime in May.
- Best May hikes:
  - [Rocky Pool](#) -- peak wildflowers, butterflies on warm days
  - [Chips Creek](#) -- butterflies, cool water
  - [Pauls Creek Point](#) -- peak wildflowers, good weather

- [T-Ford](#) -- past peak wildflowers, creek crossing likely easy
- [Hat Creek Rim](#) -- peak wildflowers last week of May

## June

- Hot in the Valley & Foothills, still snow melting in the High Country
- Longest days, high UV index
- [Humboldt Lilies](#) bloom in early June upper Yahi Trail and Old Homestead hikes
- Best June hikes:
  - [Mount Linn](#) -- snow melts earlier here than in the Cascade Range
  - [Jonesville Canyon](#) -- lowest elevation of the High Country hikes. Flowers peaking
  - [Cub-Butt Divide](#) -- often some snow patches until late June. Good wildflowers
  - [Devils Kitchen](#) -- lowest elevation of the Lassen NP hikes. Lassen National Park [snow melt info](#)

## July

- Snow likely melted from all but the highest elevation hikes
- Hottest month
- PCT thru hikers passing through our area
- In early July wildflowers peak in High Country: Saucer Lake, [Jonesville](#)
- Mosquitos peak in High Country, especially Caribou Wilderness: Posey Lake, Black Lake
- Best July hikes:
  - [Mount Linn](#) -- great hike. Relatively mosquito-free.
  - [Conard Meadows](#) -- peak wildflowers. Fewer mosquitos than most hikes.
  - [Brokeoff Mountain](#) -- peak wildflowers. Best just after the snow has all melted (about mid July). Relatively mosquito-free.

## August

- [Perceids](#) meteor shower
- Second hottest month
- Still wildflowers along [Conard Meadows](#) and [Hat Creek Headwaters](#) hikes
- Wildflower season ends by September
- Best Aug hikes
  - [Green Island Lake](#) -- there is a huge boulder above the SW side of the lake that is smooth and one can lay on it and gaze at the night sky
  - [Mount Linn](#) -- West Knob or Mount Linn summit campsites perfect for meteor shower
  - [Hat Creek Headwaters](#) -- very good late summer wildflowers
  - [Twin Meadows](#) -- snow has melted even in very snowy years. Great downhill hike

## September

- UV intensity much reduced from June Solstice, good time for higher peaks
- Most of snow melted off Lassen Peak
- Mosquito season is past
- Weather starts to cool
- Sunset opposite [full moon](#) on [Lassen Peak](#)
- Best September hikes:

- [Posey Lake](#) -- bugs are gone, outstanding camp sites at Posey and Long Lakes
- [Saucer Lake](#) -- one of the best loop hikes, closer than Lassen Park hikes
- [Grassy Swale](#) -- Kings Creek is finally low enough for easy crossing on this excellent hike
- [Lassen Peak](#) -- outstanding for hike up for sunset, can hike down in moonlight
- [Magee Peak](#) -- outstanding after a early fall rainstorm has passed through

#### October

- Fall color peaks in High Country
- First dustings of snow likely
- Late October or early November the High Country snows-in for the winter. Check amount of snow at the [Humbug Weather Station](#) and the [Lower Lassen Peak Weather Station](#)
- Best October hikes:
  - [Green Island Lake](#) -- Western Blueberries bushes varied pastels of fall color. Also colorful Aspens and Bilberries. Aspens, Mountain Dogwood, Bigleaf Maple and Black Oak in color along the drive. Best first two weeks of October
  - [Jonesville Canyon](#) -- Black Cottonwoods yellow fall color. Aspens, Mountain Dogwood, Bigleaf Maple and Black Oak in color along the drive. Best the middle two weeks of October
  - [Chips Creek](#) -- Bigleaf Maple bright yellow fall color. Best the last two weeks of October
  - [Cub-Butt Divide](#) -- good for sunset hike, view of Lassen Peak