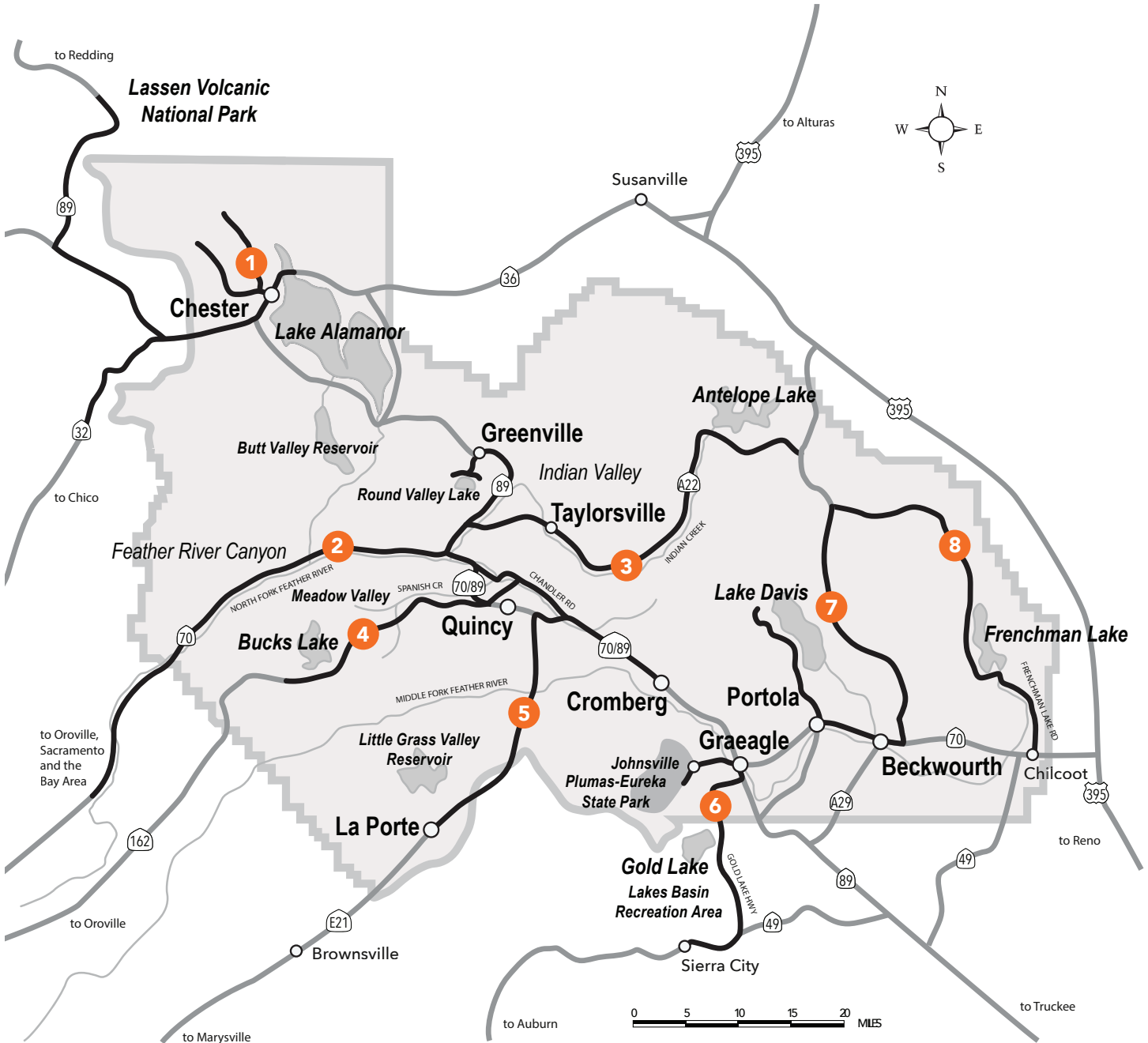


# Awesome Autumn Map

## Plumas County



## 1 Chester, Lake Almanor Area

Lake Almanor and its magnificent views of Lassen Peak make it a popular base camp for awesome autumn drives. Start out on Main St. in Chester, where cottonwoods and domestic maples grace the highway and banks of the Feather River. Miles of reddened dogwood are found east and west on Hwy 36. Turning onto Feather River Dr. at the fire hall, you'll be rewarded with glowing birch and aspen along forest roads to Warner Valley, Bennet Creek, and Juniper Lake.

East of Chester, follow Hwy 36 to Hwy 32, which parallels Deer Creek. Enjoy the alders, oaks, and Indian rhubarb along the creek.

Another great drive is into Lassen Volcanic National Park on Hwy 89, for aspen, thermal pools, and stunning landscapes.

## 2 Feather River Canyon

The Feather River Scenic Byway (Hwy 70), from Oroville to Quincy is a breathtaking gateway to Plumas County. It's a 75-mile drive featuring steep rugged walls, river, unique feats of railroad and hydro-power engineering, and autumn colors at every turn. Masses of golden oak flanked by blazing dogwood, big leaf maple, redbud, and occasional aspen bring color to the mountainsides.

Foliage generally turns later in the canyon due to lower elevations. There are many gorgeous autumnal hikes along the river and Spanish Creek.



## 3 Indian Creek, Indian Valley

This pastoral drive follows Indian Creek, beginning at the intersection of Hwys 70 and 89, heading north toward Greenville. One side of the road has hillsides covered with orange oak, red chokecherry, and dogwood; on the other, the crystalline waters of the creek are lined with amber willow and flaming red Indian rhubarb.

Nearing Taylorsville, the entire valley is visible at the base of Mt. Hough. Broad bands of oak and aspen descend the mountain ravines, resembling giant saffron waterfalls. You can continue the drive beyond Antelope Lake, or return to Hwy 89 and head north. The road up to Round Valley Lake is worth a trip to view large groves of dogwood, big leaf maple, and cottonwood.

## 4 Quincy, Bucks Lake Area

Stately ornamental silver maples, liquid ambers, sycamores, locust trees, and Virginia creepers adorn downtown Quincy, framing its grand courthouse and historic homes with autumn splendor.

Take Quincy Junction Rd. to Chandler Rd. for spectacular valley vistas of oak and cottonwood.

Head up Bucks Lake Rd., home to large masses of dogwood and big leaf maple, with worthy side trips on unpaved roads out of Meadow Valley. Follow the Big Creek route and continue a few miles past Bucks Lake, where there are several beautiful groves of aspen and creek willow.



## 5 La Porte Road, Cromberg

Just east of Quincy, turn south on La Porte Rd. and drive less than a mile to the old Thompson Ranch. The steep 45-minute drive to the former gold rush town of La Porte is a spectacular fall color excursion that winds along canyons and meadows, crossing the wild and scenic Middle Fork Feather River and passing an historic bridge.

Hwy 70 to Cromberg, you'll see dazzling colors of oak, cottonwood, and dogwood.

## 6 Graeagle, Lake Basin Recreation Area

Cottonwoods, willow, and aspen turn yellow to gold along the Middle Fork Feather River around Graeagle, where golfers also can take in fabulous foliage on the area's forest-laden courses. Take a short drive on County Rd., A14, leading to the charming town of Johnsville and Plumas Eureka State Park.

One of the most beautiful destinations is over the Gold Lake Hwy into the pristine, rugged Lakes Basin Recreation Area. Aspen, cottonwoods, and a myriad of ground cover provide the luminous color that contrasts starkly against granite peaks and sparkling alpine lakes. The drive past the Sierra Buttes and into Sierra City continues the dramatic show along the Yuba River on Hwy 49.

## 7 Portola, Lake Davis, Beckwourth

Groves of bright yellow aspen are the highlight on the short trip to Lake Davis. Follow West St. north from Portola, and meander along the unpaved west side of the lake.

Hwy 70 heading east of Portola, large golden cottonwoods frame the road as it parallels the Feather River.

At Beckwourth, turn north onto the Beckwourth-Genesee Rd., and continue after it turns to gravel into the resplendent Clover Valley. Aspen, oak, willow, deer brush, and bitter cherry are abundant on this quiet drive, which can be combined into a longer loop with #8, below.

## 8 Little Last Chance Creek, Frenchman Lake

Unique formations of dark volcanic rock form an exquisite backdrop for neon yellow aspen found on the road to Frenchman Lake.

For a wide range of colors, species and vistas, venture off-road on a rewarding three hour loop trip, about 35 miles, beginning or ending at Beckwourth-Genesee Rd. (see #7). From Beckwourth, continue past Crocker campground to a Y-intersection and turn right back onto pavement.

Travel about five more miles, passing the Conklin Park campground and turn right at the sign to Milford.

Go about 100 yds. and make a right onto 28BN03, which will follow Ferris Creek and

Last Chance Creek. Continue south to Frenchman Lake. The route becomes 25N11, following the lake's west shore and returns to Frenchman Lake Rd. that intersects Hwy 70.

