OLSEN BARN MEADOW PRESERVE





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Birding

Spring and summer are optimal birding seasons for migratory birds like American White Pelicans, Clark's and Western Grebes, and Greater Sandhill Cranes. In winter look for raptors like Northern Harriers and Red-tailed Hawks.

Spring/Summer

- * Yellow Warblers
- * Willow Flycatchers (endangered)
- * Lots of other songbirds

Fall/Winter

- * Bald Eagles
- * Osprey
- * Barn Owls or Great-horned Owls (in the barn!)

Fishing

Fishing is popular along the banks of the North Fork Feather River. Use caution on the riverbanks as they can become unstable, especially during rainstorms. Fishing is open on the North Fork Feather River the Saturday preceding Memorial Day and until November 15. A catch and release ethic is strongly encouraged. Follow all CA fishing regulations.

Cross-Country Skiing

The rolling and mostly flat meadow of the Preserve makes for a scenic and beginner-friendly cross country ski course in winter and early spring. Take laps around the barn or head out to the railroad trail for a longer trip.

Fall Foliage

Cottonwood trees, large willow stands, and golden grasses offer a dazzling display of color. Generally, the best times to view the fall colors are between late September and early November but vary each year.

Photography

The Olsen Barn Meadow has big views of the Caribou Wilderness, Mt. Lassen Volcanic National Park, and Lake Almanor. The meadow path to the historic barn makes for a lovely stroll with camera in hand. Continue along the old ranch road to explore the riparian forest and railroad trail along the river. Share your photos with us! #olsenbarnmeadow

Swimming

The North Fork is clear, cold, and refreshing on a hot summer's day. The river can also be swift so use caution and only swim if accompanied by other people. The river spots near the Olsen Barn have steep banks. This is NOT a good place to swim with small children.

Walking Trails

The Preserve has mowed walking paths and trails for pedestrians and bikes. Please stick to mowed paths in spring and summer as nesting birds may be in the tall grass.