

# The Holiday Herald

Northern California, Nevada and Oregon

15-16 December 2017 + Earlier Years

## Season's Greetings

Ten thousand-foot (3,000 m) Mount Rose and the Carson Range in Nevada are snow- and cloud-capped as seen from the California side of Lake Tahoe at Emerald Bay, 6,200 feet (1,900 m) at lake level. There hasn't been a snowfall in this region – where real snowfalls are measured in feet, not inches – since before Thanksgiving. El Dorado County, Tahoe National Forest. Picture shot Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017. I posted a one-minute YouTube video of this Lake Tahoe visit at <https://youtu.be/2Ud0h1KmuSM>.



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This time last year I was in the Sierra to shoot pictures for my holiday newsletter at the conclusion of a five-year drought ended by record snow.

When I returned a week ago, it was amid worry across California that we've begun a new drought. There was nothing I could do to change the color of the scenery for my photos, but the Sierra is spectacular whether white or green.

The first, second and last pictures of this newsletter were shot on this year's holiday photo shoot; the remaining seven were from some of the eight previous year's trips to try and capture photographically the scenery symbolic of this season. The date of each picture is at the end of the caption and an archive of all my holiday newsletters – as well as my other newsletters – is on my website at [www.jodymeacham.com/newsletter-archive](http://www.jodymeacham.com/newsletter-archive).

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Skiers at Kirkwood descend from 9,800-foot (2,990 m) Thimble Peak. Kirkwood's base elevation of 7,800 feet (2,380 m) is the highest of any Tahoe-area ski resort making it one of the few places I could find to shoot snow. Alpine County, El Dorado National Forest. Shot Friday, Dec. 15, 2017.



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Wherever I go to shoot the pictures, this trip has become one of my favorite fixtures of Christmas, which is the holiday my family celebrates this time of year. The drive and the scenery are inspirational, but I play carols on Pandora along the way to completely submerge myself in sound as well as sight.

My wish for the relatives, friends and colleagues – among them Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus and non-religious folks – who receive this newsletter are that you enjoy the holidays that are yours as much as I enjoy creating this vision of our common season.

Snow fills the upper Sacramento River Canyon at Mount Shasta City where the river flows out of Siskiyou Lake. Siskiyou County. Shot December, 2010.





A barn and out buildings in the early morning on a farm in Chiloquin, Oregon, near Crater Lake National Park. Klamath County, Sun Pass State Forest. Shot Dec. 20, 2013.





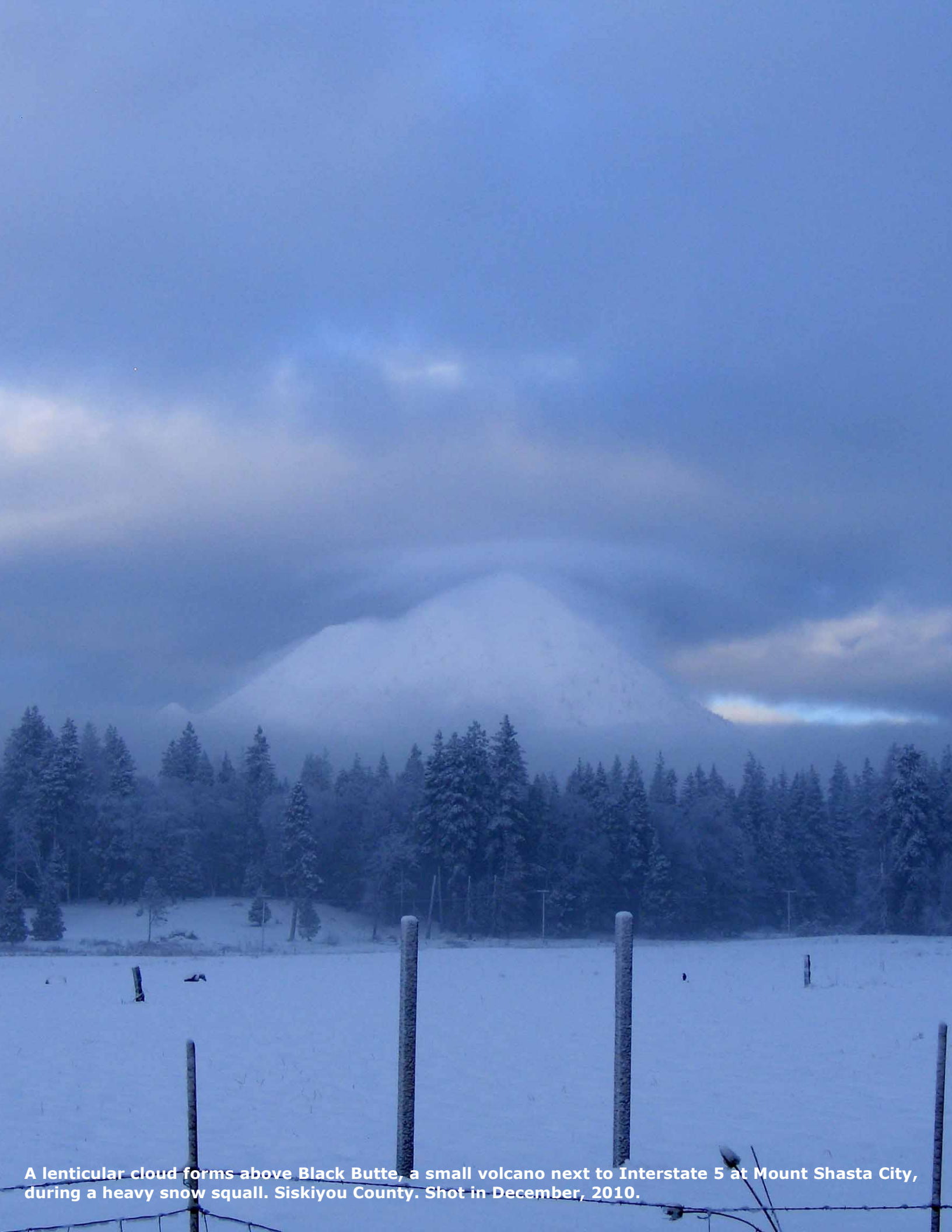
**U.S. Highway 97 runs alongside frozen Klamath Lake just north of Klamath Falls, Oregon. The mountain in the background is 14,180-foot (4,320 m) Mount Shasta, California's tallest volcano, 80 miles to the south. Klamath County. Shot Dec. 19, 2013.**





Trees burdened by heavy snow stand in Lassen Volcanic National Park in the California Cascade Range. Tehama County. Shot in December, 2010.

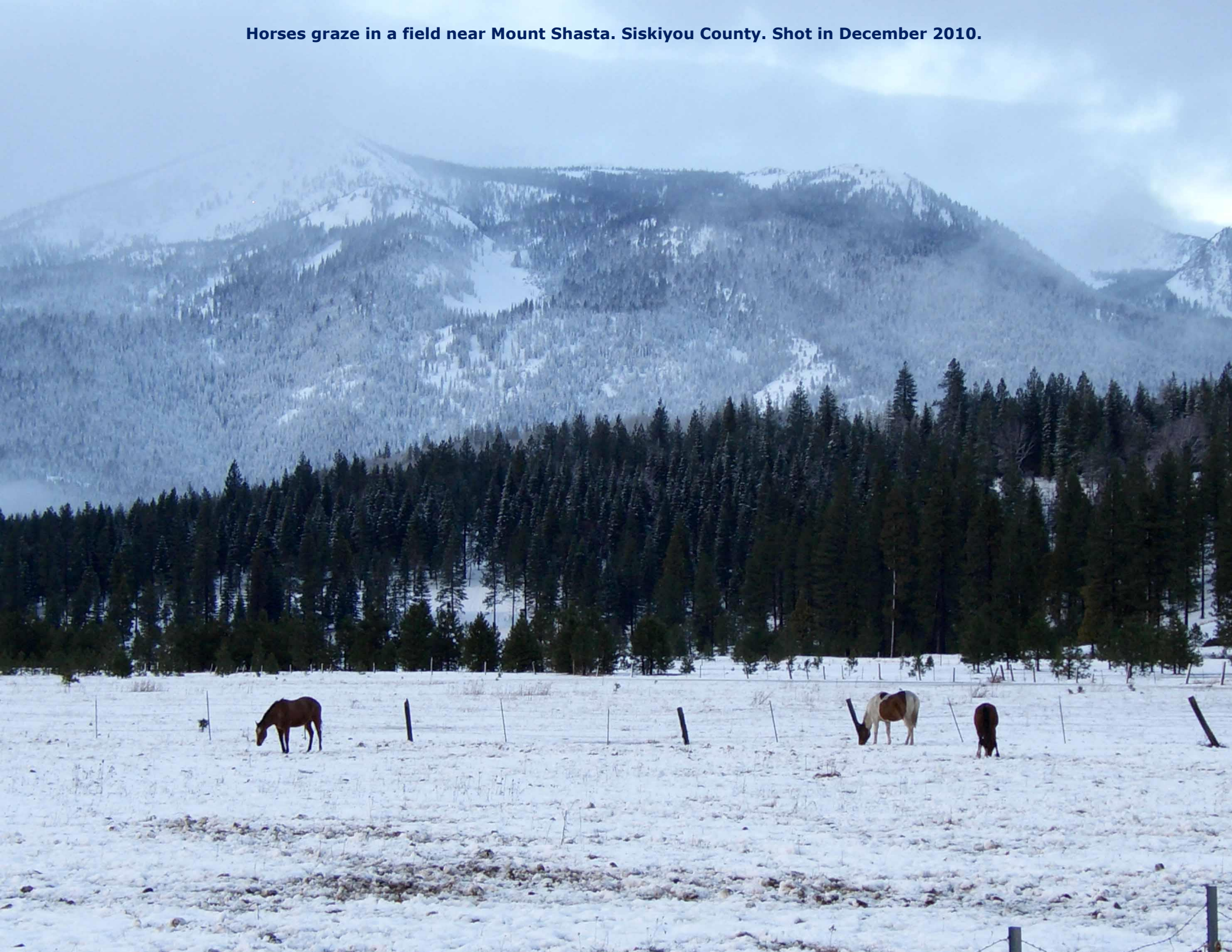




A lenticular cloud forms above Black Butte, a small volcano next to Interstate 5 at Mount Shasta City, during a heavy snow squall. Siskiyou County. Shot in December, 2010.



Horses graze in a field near Mount Shasta. Siskiyou County. Shot in December 2010.







Sun begins to break up a snowstorm over Lake Tahoe. Washoe County, Nevada, Lake Tahoe State Park. Shot Dec. 19, 2015.





**The snow-capped Sierra Nevada to the west towers over Hope Valley below Lake Tahoe. The notch between the near mountain on the right and the center peak in the distance leads to Kit Carson Pass, elevation 8,574 feet (2,613 m). Alpine County, El Dorado National Forest. Shot Friday, Dec. 15, 2017.**