

Sierra Traveler

A Visitor's Guide to Your Public Lands

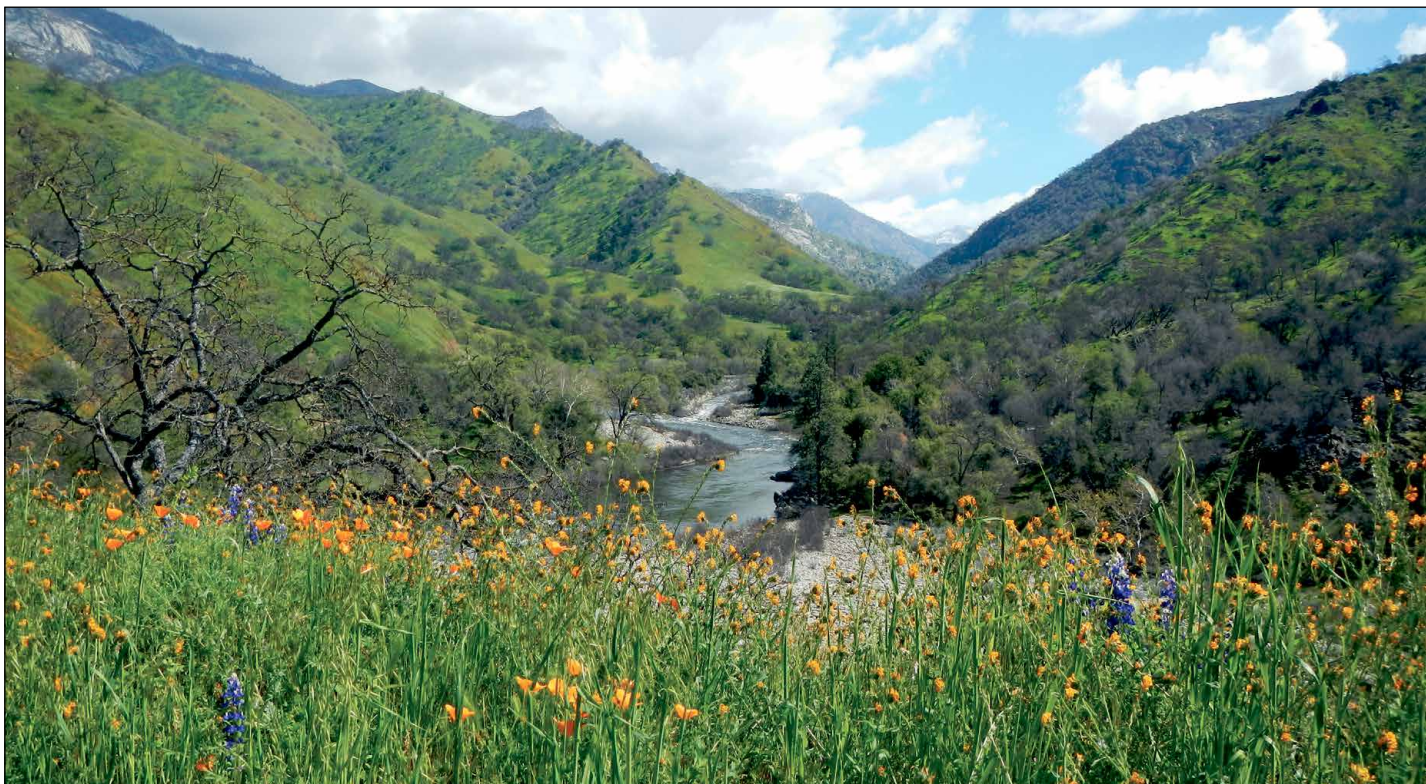


Photo by Robin Deitrich

What are you interested in doing in the Sierra?
Can we help you find what you want to do in the Sierra?

Sierra National Forest Supervisors Office
1600 Tollhouse Rd. Clovis, CA 93611
(559) 297-0706

High Sierra Ranger District
29688 Auberry Rd. Prather, CA 93651
(559) 855-5355

Bass Lake Ranger District
57003 Road 225 North Fork, CA 93643

The Sierra National Forest is nestled in the beautiful Sierra Nevada Mountains of Central California. Within the landscape it is easy to find a variety of wildlife and plant species. Along your journey in the Sierra you will also find spectacular lakes and pristine wilderness areas. The long history of the Sierra dates back to the Native people of the land.

Visit Your National Forest!

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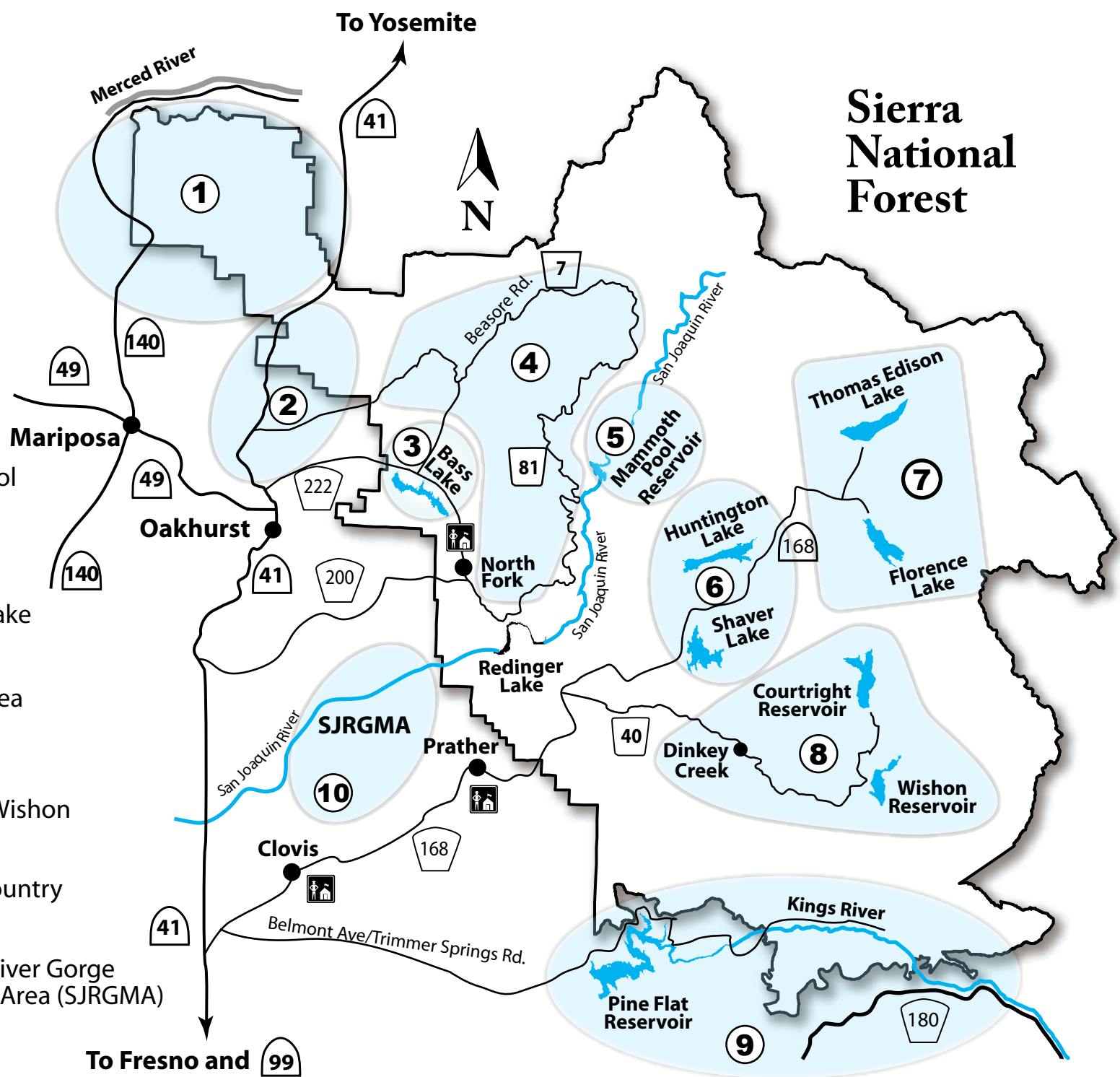
Find Your Destination

With the craggy, snow-capped peaks of the Sierra Nevada as your backdrop, we invite you to come and discover the “Heart of the Sierra.” Here you can experience the difference between just going away on vacation and actually getting away from it all. Whether you are exploring by vehicle, horse, bicycle, or on foot, you will find our Sierra destinations are just a few hours drive from the San Joaquin Valley.

On the map below we have highlighted 10 of the top travel destinations located between the Merced River on the North and the Kings River on the South. These destinations are located on public lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Army Corps of Engineers. On each destination page you will find information on camping, fishing, hiking and other things to do while visiting the area. Come stay a while and enjoy all that the Sierra has to offer!

Destinations

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Passes, Permits, and Camping

America the Beautiful Passes

Access Pass



The Access Pass is reserved for people that are permanent residents of the US, regardless of age, who have been determined to have a permanent disability. This pass provides discounts to people visiting National Parks, Forest and Grass Lands for camping, boat launching and specialized interpretive services. This pass is free to those who are eligible.

The Annual Pass



The Annual Pass is available to every resident in the United States that would like to apply. The cost for the pass is \$80 for one year access to all National Parks, Forest and Grass Lands. The pass can be used by two people that sign the back of the card. It permits entrance to parks and public lands, but no discounts on camping.

Fourth Grade Annual Pass



In hope to ignite the excitement of young children and get them outdoors to play, we invite children that are in fourth grade to get this one time only free pass to enter the National Parks, Forest and Grass Lands. Children must be present with their parents and are allowed to take their families with them when they are visiting the their National lands.

Senior Pass



The Senior Pass is reserved for people that are permanent residents of the United States and are the age of 62 or older. This pass provides discounts to people visiting National Parks, Forest and Grass Lands for camping, boat launching and specialized interpretive services. This pass cost \$10 as a onetime fee.

Volunteer Pass



This Volunteer Pass is given to the people that have worked with the National lands in hopes to preserve the great outdoors for future generations and have accumulated 250 hours as an adult and 100 hours if you are under 15 year of age. This pass will grant entrance to all National Parks for free with a discount on campgrounds and boat launching.

Military Pass



The Military Annual Pass can be issued to any active member of the United States Military. Anyone applying for this pass must have proper military identification. This pass can be renewed annually. The pass includes entrance to all National Parks, Forest and Grass Lands. This pass comes to no cost for applicants.

Camping Information

Reservations

Most campgrounds on the Sierra National Forest require reservations from May through September. The peak season for most campgrounds is Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Reservations are not needed after September 15, and most campgrounds close for the season at the end of September. Reservations may be made through the National Recreation Reservation System at 1.877.444.6777; TDD 1.877.833.6777 or online at www.recreation.gov.

The maximum stay in all campgrounds is 14 days with a 21 day maximum stay per ranger district, per calendar year. Most campgrounds fill quickly during holiday weekends, therefore visitors who do not have reservations should come prepared to camp in undeveloped areas.

Dispersed Camping

Campers may camp anywhere in the national forest, except for the Huntington Lake basin, Dinkey Creek recreation area, Bass Lake recreation area, Merced River canyon, and the Redinger Lake area. These areas require campers to be in designated areas. Camp 100 feet from any water source and if you do not have toilet facilities please bury human waste and pack out toilet paper with your garbage.

Campfires

Campfire permits are required when camping in undeveloped sites and when using a campfire or camp stove outside a recreational vehicle. Permits are free of charge and obtainable at any Forest Service office. During the summer months fire restrictions are often implemented due to dry conditions. Free campfire permits can be obtained online at: www.preventwildfireca.org/Campfire-Permit/. For more information contact your local Ranger District.

Camp Firewood

You may collect and cut firewood free of charge that is dead and laying on the ground. You can use a chain saw as long as it has an approved spark arrestor. Firewood bundles can also be purchased from California Land Management at their offices.

Campfire Safety

Follow these five easy steps to build a safe campfire:

1. If there is no fire pit, dig one away from overhanging tree branches.
2. Circle the pit with rocks.
3. Clear a five foot area around the pit down to the soil.
4. Keep a bucket of water and shovel nearby.
5. Before leaving your campsite ensure that your campfire is completely-out; pour water on the coals, stir the ashes until it is cold to the touch.

Know Before You Go

Pets Can Visit!

Pets are welcome in most areas of the Forest. We ask all visitors to keep pets under control at all times, for their safety and safety of others. If you are hiking, your pet should be on a leash. Share the trails by moving off with your pet when you come upon an equestrian. At night it is requested to keep pets enclosed in a vehicle or tent. Animals are not permitted in public swimming areas, with the exception of guide dogs. Do not leave pets alone in a closed vehicle during the day. Finally clean up after your pet, so other visitors can enjoy the same place that you did.



Keep pets on leash.

Is the Water Safe?

One hidden hazard you should know about is a disease that may be contracted from drinking untreated “natural” water. The disease is an intestinal disorder called Giardiasis (gee-ar-dye-a-sis). It can cause severe discomfort.

The disease is caused by a microscopic organism, Giardia Lamblia. There are several ways for you to treat water from streams to make it safe to drink. The most certain treatment to destroy giardia is to boil water for at least 3-5 minutes. Boiling will also destroy other organisms causing waterborne disease.

Chemical disinfectants such as iodine or chlorine tablets or drops are not considered as reliable as heat in killing giardia, although these products work well against most waterborne bacteria and viruses that cause disease. The amount of iodine or chlorine necessary to kill giardia depends on water temperature, pH, turbidity, and contact time between the chemical and the parasite.

Leaves of Three - Let it Be!



At elevations below 5,000 feet, poison oak can be found just about anywhere in the forest. Avoid touching the leaves and plant. If you do come in contact with the plant, immediately wash the area with cold water to remove the oils from your skin. If a rash develops, use over the counter medication or seek medical assistance.

Plan Ahead

Be prepared for anything; temperatures drop three degrees with every 1,000 feet increase in elevation. In the mountains, afternoon storms are common. Plan for warm, cool, cold, snow or rainy weather conditions. Also, please let a friend or family member know of your trip itinerary and when you are scheduled to return home.

Bear Country

Black bears are common in the Sierra National Forest and are a part of the natural environment. Some wild bears encountering careless visitors become reliant on humans as an easy source for food. Once a bear finds this easy food, it remembers and will return. The cycle of human-caused dependant and destructive bears can be broken if forest visitors follow rules for proper food storage at camps and in vehicles.

Proper Food Storage

- When bear-proof storage containers are available, please use them. Food should be sealed in airtight containers.
- In vehicles without trunks, all food and related supplies must be stored out of sight.
- Cover your food completely to hide it from a bears view.
- Clean the inside of your vehicle and remove any open drink containers and food (including food wrappers).
- Consider removing your child's car seat since they often have food spills and smell associated with them.
- Never leave food in your campsite unattended.
- Don't leave food or ice chests on your picnic table or in your tent.
- Keep a clean camp. Clean your campsite after each meal. Dispose of all garbage properly.

Douglas-Fir Tussock Moth

More than 20,000 acres of fir trees in the Southern Sierra were defoliated in the 1900's by the Douglas-fir tussock moth. Today, we're seeing another outbreak of the disease in the Sierra National Forest. The larvae of this moth feed on many types of fir trees, including the white fir. But that is not the biggest problem for outdoor enthusiasts; in its caterpillar stage, the tussock's hairs cause itching and rashes for many people. Do not touch or have contact with the caterpillars. If you develop a rash seek medical assistance.



Joseph Dougherty/ecology.org

Merced River

Welcome to the Merced River

The Merced River along Highway 140 is a popular scenic area. The main fork of the Merced River flows through steep river canyons in the Sierra National Forest and Yosemite National Park. The South Fork flows from high in the Sierras, through Wawona, down to Hite Cove. Being designated as a Wild and Scenic River affords the river extra protections.

Note: Temporary bridges around the Ferguson rock slide on Highway 140 limit vehicle length to 28 feet and cell phone use is mostly non-existent.

Main Fork

The main fork of the Merced River offers day use and camping along Highway 140 and Briceburg, with no overnight camping or fires except at designated sites. Limited access and seasonal high fire danger limits overnight camping to designated sites only. The Wild and Scenic River status adds a few extra conditions to fishing: for all species, only fish 12 inches or larger may be taken and only on artificial lures with barbless hooks. For more information visit www.dfg.ca.gov. White water rafting from Redbud to Bagby is managed and permitted by Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Contact BLM via internet at www.blm.gov.

Camping

Dirt Flat and Dry Gulch campgrounds are on the north side of the river near Foresta bridge. BLM administers three campgrounds below Briceburg: McCabe Flat, Willow Placer and Railroad Flat.

Day Use

Indian Flat is a day use area only. No overnight camping is permitted; site has toilets, tables, barbeque grills and paved roadways. Redbud is located at Foresta Bridge. There is also a BLM day use area at Briceburg.

Hiking

Hite Cove Trail offers spectacular early spring wildflower displays. The first 3/4 mile of the trail is private land. This moderate hike is 7.2 miles and ends at the remains of the old Hite Mine. Camping is allowed at Hite Cove, with campfire permits required. The Incline Road Trail follows 28 miles of the historic Yosemite Valley Railroad right-of-way on the north bank of the Merced River. Fallen railroad bridges may limit access when side streams are full and swift. *Remember that historic and prehistoric artifacts are not to be disturbed or removed and are protected by law. Violators will be prosecuted.*

South Fork of the Merced River

The South Fork is also accessed from the Jerseydale Area where campers can enjoy solitude and stage for equestrian, hiking and four wheel drive activities. Jerseydale campground is located twelve miles from Mariposa, across from the Jerseydale fire station.

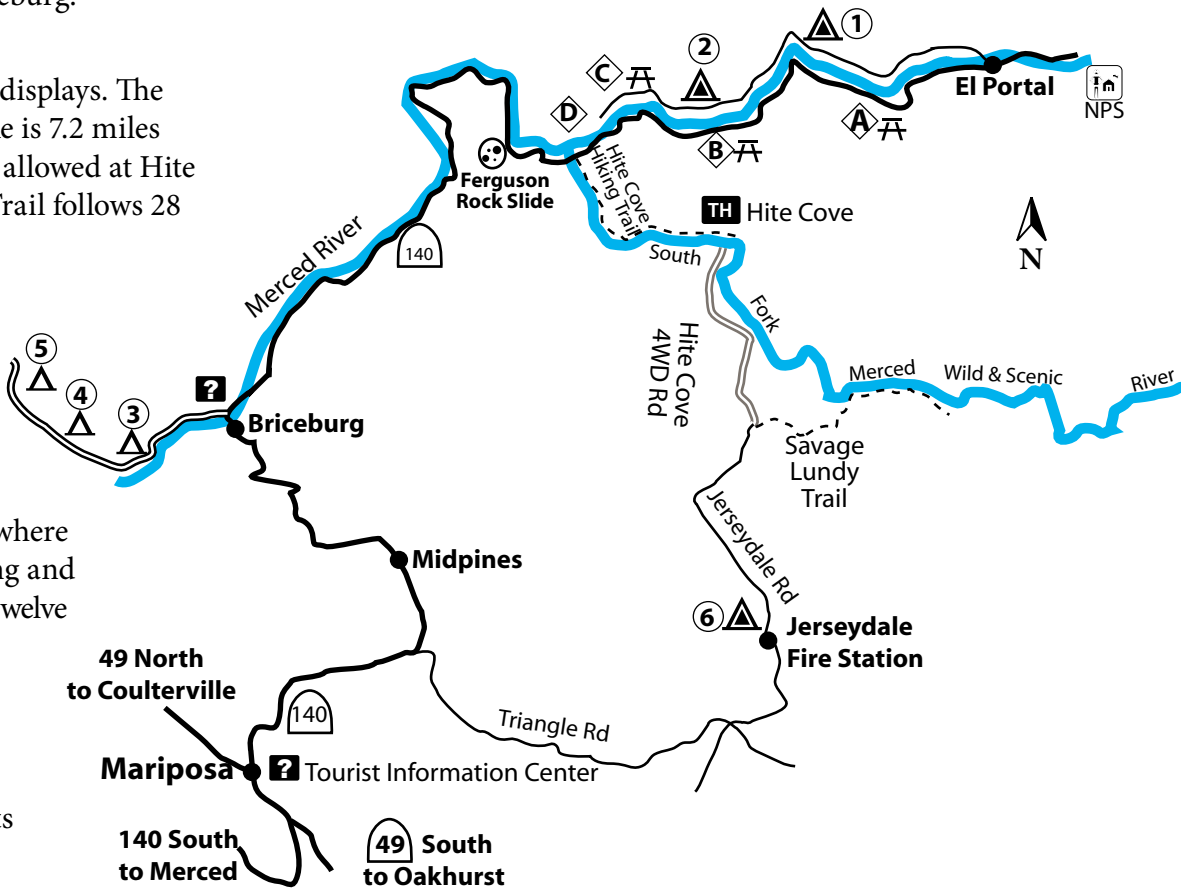
Savage/Lundy Trail

This trail is 3-miles long and is the most difficult trail in the area. The other trailhead is at the end of Jerseydale Road. Dispersed camping is allowed and camp fire permits are required.

Hite Cove History

The Ahwahneechee were the first inhabitants of Hite Cove area for more than one thousand years, using the area in winter and spring, and returning to their ancestral lands in Yosemite Valley in summer. In the 1850s, the Mariposa Battalion were the first European Americans to visit the area. By 1874 the facility had increased from a crude circular stone arrastra pulled by mules to a 20 unit stamp mill to break rock to extract the gold.

Merced River Campgrounds & Picnic Sites		Sites	Toilets	Water	Fee	Reservation	Handicap Accessible
Campgrounds ⚠							
①	Dirt Flat	5	•	•	•	•	•
②	Dry Gulch	4	•	•	•	•	•
③	McCabe Flat	14	•		•		•
⑤	Railroad Flat	9	•		•		•
④	Willow Placer	8	•		•		•
⑥	Jerseydale	10	•	•			
Picnic Sites 🍴							
ⓓ	Cranberry Launch	6	•				
ⓑ	Indian Flat	9	•		•		
ⓒ	McClendon Beach	6	•				
Ⓐ	Red Bud	5	•		•		



Yosemite South - Highway 41

Highway 41 Corridor

The Highway 41 corridor north of Oakhurst is traveled year-round by visitors enjoying area public lands. The Sierra National Forest offers camping, hiking, biking, riding and forest solitude, with the many campgrounds, trails, a historic logging railroad and giant sequoia grove.

Fish Camp Area

Fish Camp has two campgrounds, Summerdale, nestled in pine forest just south of Yosemite National Park, and Big Sandy, a more primitive site, allowing space to camp and enjoy. Stop and ride a real historical logging train at the Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad.

Lewis Creek

The Lewis Creek National Recreation Trail is a beautiful 3.7 mile passageway through a mixed conifer, oak and pacific dogwood forest with many wild western azaleas, all lending a beautiful and fragrant air in spring and early summer. Trailheads are located at each end and one in the middle of the trail, with elevation ranges from 4,240 to 3,360 feet, a change of 880 feet. Special features along the trail are Red Rock and Corlieu Falls and the historic lumber flume route.

Sky Ranch Road

Sky Ranch Road (FR 10) offers visitors a wide variety of outdoor activities with six campgrounds, offering a more primitive, old-fashioned camping experience. Kelty Meadow family campground and Texas Flat group campground are available for equestrian use.

Nelder Grove of Giant Sequoias

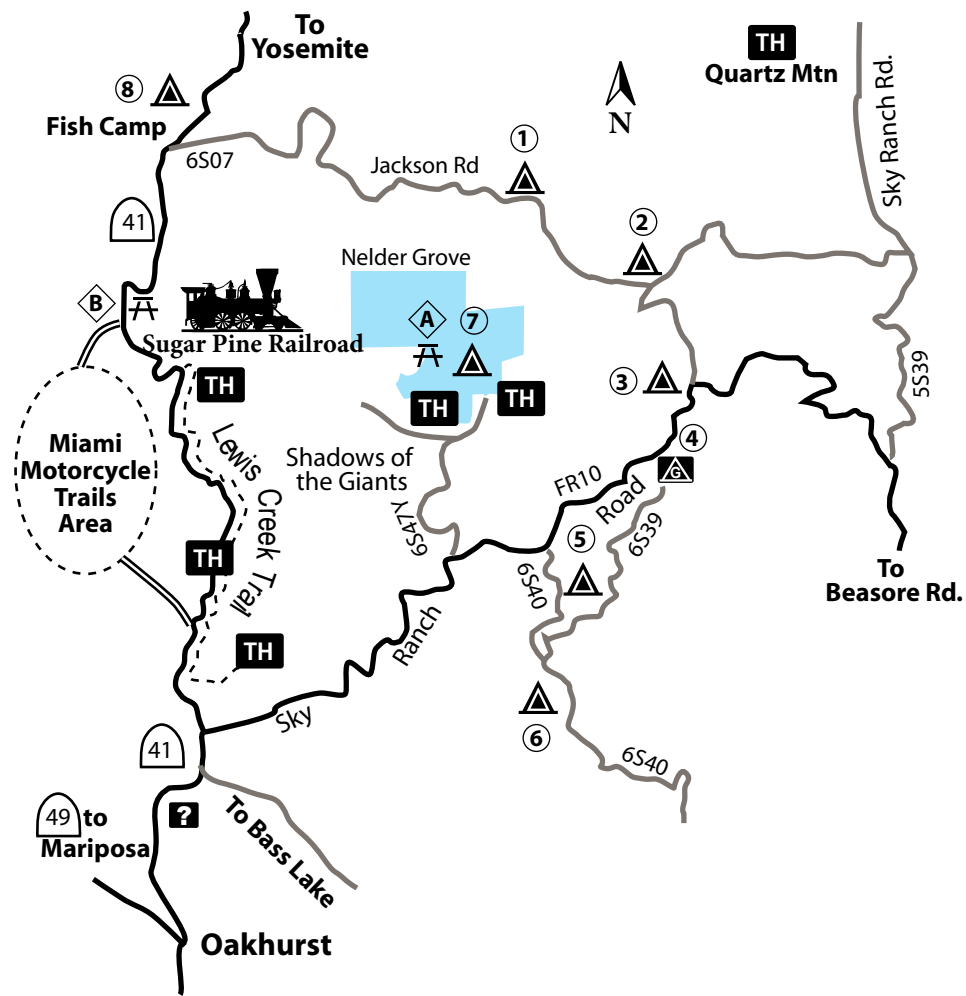
The jewel of the region is a designated Historical Area located in the center of a natural range of sequoia giganteum, with 106 mature giant sequoias. The campground area has several historic replicas and natural features: two restored cabins, life-size replicas of cross-log and two-pole logging chutes, several giant sequoia tree stumps left by the 1890s loggers, and a short walk to the “Big Ed” tree. An easy hike to the “Bull Buck Tree” will take you to a contender for the title of the “world’s largest tree.” The three-mile hike to the Graveyard of the Giants is a bit more challenging, revealing several large fire-killed sequoias and the Granddad and Grandkids Trees.

A few miles west is the Shadow of the Giants National Recreation Trail, a one-mile, self guided walk along the banks of Nelder Creek. The trail meanders through the forest with giant sequoias greeting travelers along the trail, offering peace and solitude. There is a toilet at the trailhead and a picnic site across the road at the Sierra Beauty tree.

Miami Motorcycle Area

This area has 60 miles of forest roads and trails for dirt bikes and all terrain vehicles. Trails have a maximum vehicle width of 40 inches and are used by hikers, bicycles and equestrians. Two staging areas are: Lone Sequoia, on the north end of the riding area, and, Kamook, on the south end. Dispersed camping is allowed, with campfire permits required. All must comply with California State DMV regulations for all riders and vehicles, with State Red Sticker and Green Sticker regulations in effect. Visit California State OHV web site at <http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/>.

Please, tread lightly on the land and pack home all that you bring.



Sky Ranch Road/ Yosemite South (Hwy 41) Campgrounds & Picnic Sites		Sites	Toilets	Water	Fee	Reservation
Campgrounds						
①	Big Sandy	18	•		•	
②	Fresno Dome	15	•		•	
⑥	Grey's Mountain	26	•		•	
③	Kelty Meadow	11	•		•	•
⑦	Nelder Grove	7	•			
⑤	Soquel	11	•		•	•
⑧	Summerdale	30	•	•	•	•
④	Texas Flat (Group)	4	•		•	•
Picnic Sites						
Ⓐ	Nelder Grove	7	•	•		
Ⓑ	Westfall	4	•			

Bass Lake

More than one hundred years ago, Bass Lake was not a lake at all, but a creek flowing through a lush meadow surrounded by pine tree covered hills and mountains. In 1900, the San Joaquin Electric Company built Crane Valley dam, mistakenly naming it “crane” for wildlife inhabitants that were really blue herons. After producing hydroelectricity, water flows to the San Joaquin Valley to irrigate farmlands. Prior to the mid-nineteenth century, this was the home of the Mono people, who settled along major stream drainages from Yosemite south to the Kaweah River.

Bass Lake is four miles long and a half mile wide, with a peak recreation season from end of May to mid-September. The area provides many enjoyable recreation opportunities: camping, water-skiing, personal watercraft riding, boating, fishing and hiking. Wildlife can be spotted year round in and around the lake, including eagles, osprey and herons.

Boating and Sailing

Located at 3,400 feet, Bass Lake is considered a “warm water” lake with summer temps reaching 80 degrees. Two boat launching facilities, mooring and rentals are available at marinas around the lake. A free public boat launch is available at the south end of the lake at Wishon. Madera County charges a fee for watercraft based on horsepower, register at the Sheriff’s tower.

Hiking

Bass Lake has multiple opportunities for family hikes. The “Way of the Mono” self-guided interpretive trail will take you back in time to the days of the first inhabitants of the valley. The trail is steep in places and has a spectacular view of the lake. Follow the trail and learn about how the native people lived. Willow Creek Trail is the most challenging. Do NOT walk off the trail on to the rocks in the creek as they are EXTREMELY slippery and the swirling pools are very dangerous. Goat Mountain and Spring Cove Trails will take you up the mountain to the fire lookout tower.

Camping

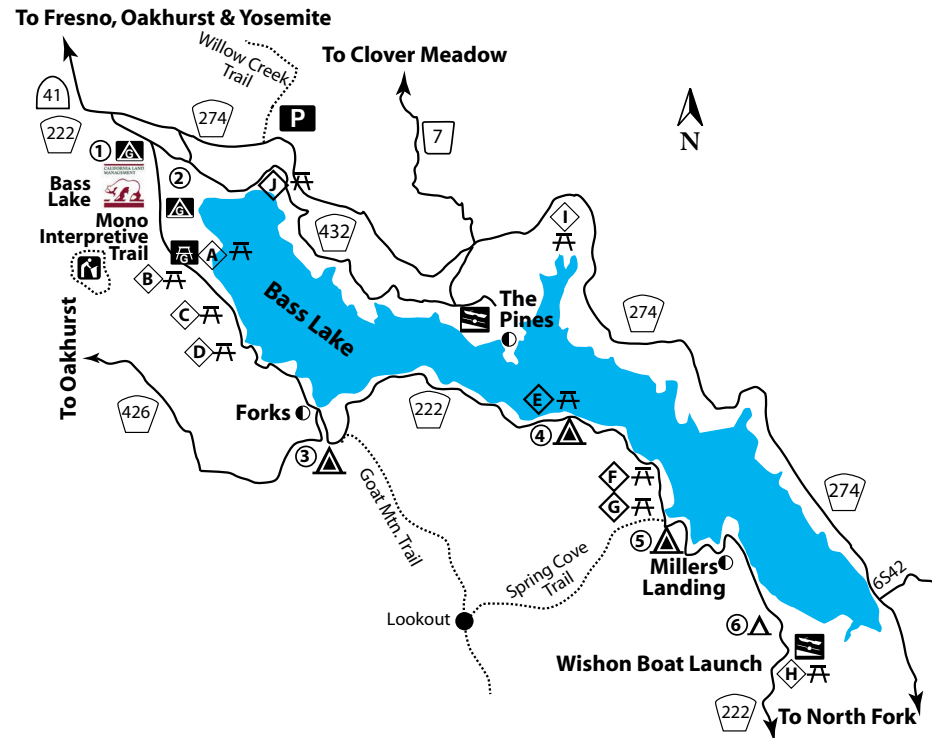
There are a variety of campgrounds and day use areas around the lake, with over 200 campsites and 10 day use areas. Two group camps and one group day use area provide plenty of room for large groups. There are no hookups or showers in campgrounds. Some sites accommodate RVs up to 35 feet in length and some have double sites for large families. Lupine-Cedar campground is open year-round. Advanced reservations are available by contacting the National Recreation Reservation System at 1.877.444.6777 or online at www.recreation.gov. California Land Management: 559.642.3212



Fishing

Bass Lake has over 16 different kinds of fish. The lake is open all year for fishing and State fishing regulations apply.

Interpretive Programs

Bass Lake means Summer Fun! Campers at Bass Lake are treated to a variety of interpretive programs including guided walks and evening campfires. California Land Management sponsors a variety of programs throughout Bass Lake during the summer. Presenters include local and renowned experts on such topics as astronomy, Native American cultures, history, archaeology, botany, wildlife, forestry, story telling and hydrology. Program schedules are posted at the Bass Lake Office and at campgrounds.



Bass Lake Campgrounds, Picnic Sites & Services		Sites	Toilets	Water	Fee	Reservation	Showers	Accessibility	Restaurant	Store	Lodging
Campgrounds 											
①	Crane Valley (Group)	7	•	•	•	•					
③	Forks	31	•	•	•	•		•			
④	Lupine/Cedar Bluff	113	•	•	•	•		•			
⑤	Spring Cove	63	•	•	•	•		•			
⑥	Wishon Point	47	•	•	•	•		•			
②	Recreation Point (Group)	4	•	•	•	•		•			
Picnic Sites 											
ⓑ	Denver Church	35	•	•	•			•			
ⓓ	Falls	6	•	•	•						
ⓔ	Lakeside	5	•	•	•			•			
ⓕ	Little Denver Church	7	•	•	•			•			
ⓕ	Pine Point	9	•	•	•						
ⓓ	Pine Slope	8	•	•	•						
ⓐ	Recreation Point Group	4	•	•	•	•					
ⓖ	Rocky Point	8	•	•	•						
ⓓ	Willow Cove	3									
ⓓ	Wishon	7	•	•							
Services											
ⓐ	The Pines Resort								•	•	•
ⓐ	Forks Resort								•	•	•
ⓐ	Millers Landing						•		•	•	•

Mammoth Pool Reservoir

A main destination point along the Sierra Vista National Scenic Byway, Mammoth Pool is a man-made reservoir on the San Joaquin River. The five mile long lake is open to camping, swimming, fishing, boating and hiking from mid-June until snow closes the road in October or November. The steep, narrow river canyon displays granite slopes rising 2,000 feet from chaparral to a pine forest. At 3,300 feet in elevation, the lake is very hot in the summer. Mammoth Pool Reservoir was created for hydroelectric power generation, with the dam built in 1958 by Southern California Edison Company. The lake was named after a large, natural pool up river from the location of the dam.

Boating and Sailing

A free public boat launch is available but not recommended for large boats. All boats are required to operate in a counter-clockwise pattern. No permit or registration is required. **To allow the annual migration of deer to their summer range, the lake is closed to boating and other activities from May 1st through June 15th.** Roads accessing Mammoth Pool are closed at Mammoth Pool campground and Chiquito Creek.

Boat Speed Limits

Speed limits on Mammoth Pool Reservoir are 5 mph from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m., year round; 20 mph from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., except from July 1st to September 10th when the speed limit is 35 mph on the main body of the lake to China Bar.

Camping and Day Use

Within 13 miles of the lake are seven campgrounds and two day use areas offering 98 camp sites. The Mammoth Pool campground is the closest to the lake, has piped water and 47 sites. Advanced reservations are available by contacting the National Recreation Reservation System at 1.877.444.6777 or online at www.recreation.gov. China Bar is a very primitive campground accessible only by boat or by hiking. In the summer, Wagner’s Resort offers a store and other amenities for visitors.

Fishing

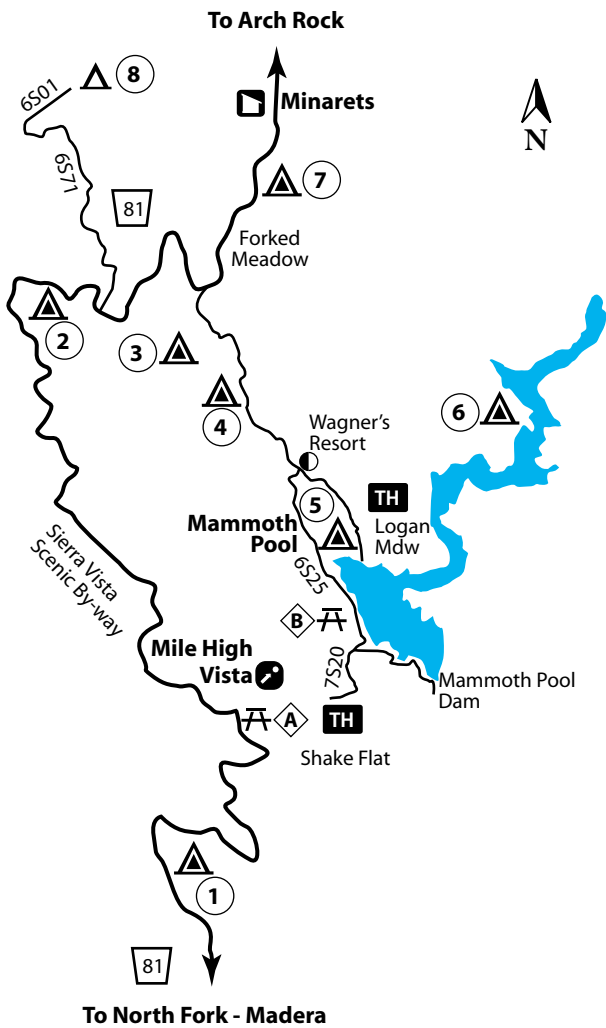
The long drive to Mammoth Pool readily rewards anglers with rainbow, eastern brook and brown trout. Fishing season is from mid-April to late fall. **No fishing when the lake is closed from May 1 through June 15th for deer migration.** State fishing regulations apply.

Swimming

There are no designated swimming beaches. **Caution:** *Water temperatures are very cold and will reduce a swimmer’s endurance.*

Fire Safety

Fire danger is extreme during the summer months. High temperatures, low humidity, high flammable vegetation along with morning and evening winds can create hazardous fire conditions. **Please be careful with fire.**



Mammoth Pool Campgrounds & Services		Sites	Toilets	Water	Fee	Reservation	Restaurant	Store
Campgrounds								
	China Bar (boat/hiking access only)	6						
	Little Jackass	5	•					
	Lower Chiquito	7	•		•			
	Mammoth Pool	47	•	•	•	•		
	Placer	8	•		•			
	Rock Creek	18	•	•	•	•		
	Soda Springs	18	•		•			
	Sweetwater	7	•		•	•		
Services								
	Wagners Resort						•	•
Picnic Sites								
	Mile High Vista	2	•					
	Windy Point	2						

San Joaquin River Gorge Management Area

The San Joaquin River Gorge Management Area contains almost 7,000 acres of public land along the San Joaquin River between Millerton Lake and Kerckhoff Reservoir. Magnificent table mountains and granite outcrops look down on the San Joaquin River. The Gorge is part of 15 million acres of public land in California managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Gorge has something for everyone to discover and enjoy. Facilities include picnic areas, hiking and equestrian trails, horse corrals, walk-in campgrounds and the San Joaquin River Gorge Learning Center.

Camping and Picnic Areas

Parking, campgrounds, days use areas and education facilities are located south of the River on the Fresno County portion of the management area. Currently there are no reservations or fees for walk-in camping or day use, but use of the group camp requires reservations and a special use permit. (Please call 559.855.3492 for details) Restrooms are primitive vault toilets. Pets must be on a leash or restrained and under their owner's control at all times.

Drinking water is available at both group camp and trailhead camp (see map and table). Stock water is available at horse camp (it has corrals and room for several horse trailers and vehicles). Group camp capacity is 200 people. One side has 6 tables and 2 large fire rings. The other side has a picnic area with 5 tables and NO fire rings.

Trailhead camp (see map) has 5 sites. Two triple sites, one double and two singles. It includes 2 accessible campsites and toilets, drinking water and garbage service.

Trails

Over 22 miles of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails are available within the Gorge. The trailhead is located on the Fresno side, off Smalley Road. The Gorge is a rugged area with challenging rocky trails and limited access. The entire Gorge is closed to off-highway vehicle use.

Hunting and Fishing

Hunting and fishing are permitted at the Gorge. State licenses are required and all hunters/anglers must obey all State Fish and Game regulations. In the interest of public safety, the entire management area is closed to target shooting.

Hands on the Land

BLM supports Hands on the Land, a national network of field classrooms connecting students, teachers, and parents to public lands all across America. A variety of cultural heritage and natural resource education programs offered at the Gorge meet California education standards and provide hands on learning experiences to students in grades K-12.

Wildlife

The Gorge is rich in wildlife. Common mammals include California mule deer, grey foxes, coyotes, rabbits and squirrels. If you're lucky you may see a bobcat, raccoon or badger. Common birds include California quail, mourning doves, scrub jays, woodpeckers, red-tailed hawks and turkey vultures.

Fire Prevention



During the hot dry summer months conditions are right for wildfires and fire prevention rules and regulations are in effect. The area's high susceptibility to fire make it necessary for our recreation users to be especially cautious with fire.

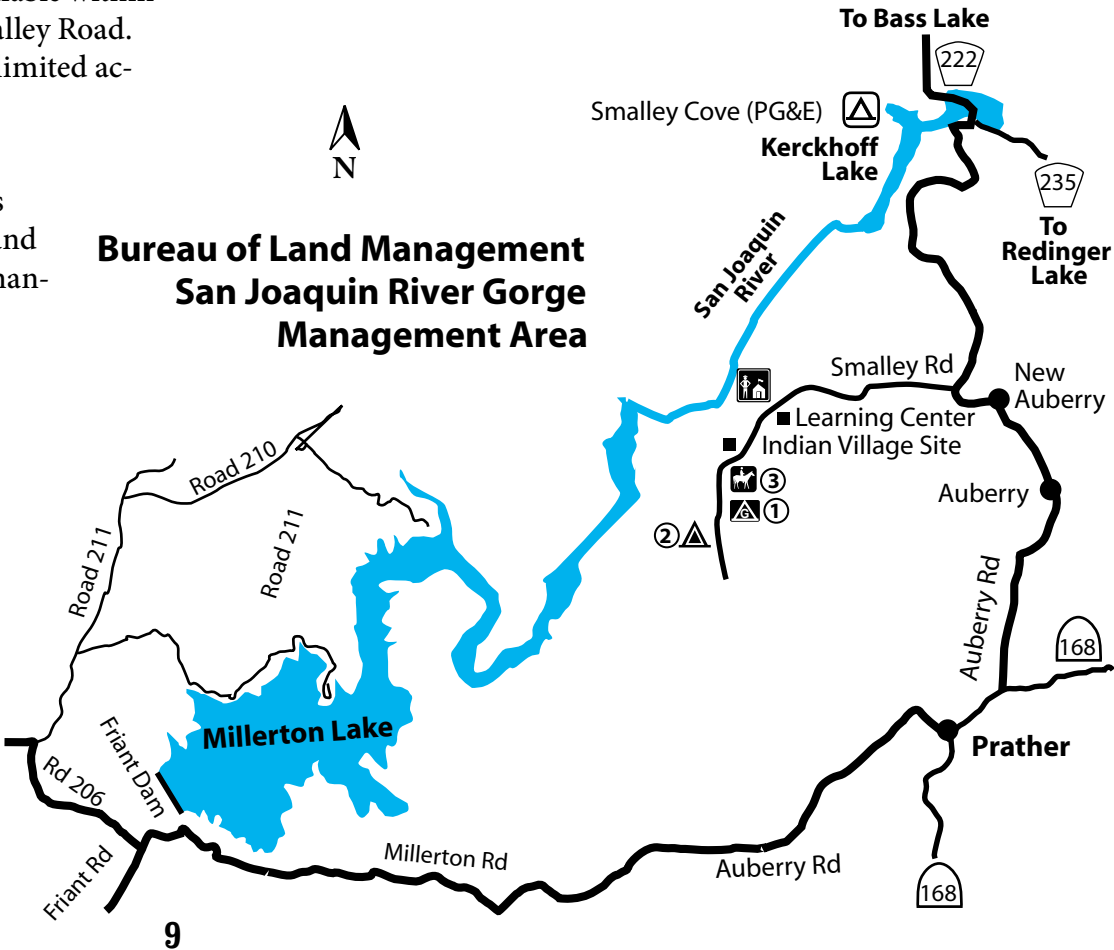
Telephones

There are no phones available in this area. The closest telephone service is located in Auberry.

Area Map

A map of the recreational area can be purchased at the Sierra National Forest Supervisor's office or any of their Ranger District offices. You may also order a copy from the BLM Bakersfield Field Office: 3801 Pegasus Dr. Bakersfield, CA 93308 or by calling us at 661.391.6000.

San Joaquin River Gorge Management Area Campgrounds		Sites	Toilets	Water
Campgrounds 				
①	Group (~200 people) 	1	•	•
②	Trailhead	5	•	•
③	Horse Camp	2	•	
(stock water and corrals at the site)				



Explore the Sierra Vista National Scenic Byway

Sierra Vista National Scenic Byway

Take a closer look at the beauty and spirit of the Sierra National Forest along the Sierra Vista National Scenic Byway. At first glance the byway may look like any other forest road, but look again and you will see the “Heart of the Sierra” with its splendid beauty, unprecedented recreation and fascinating history. Interpretive signs are located at each stop along the byway. Come join us and experience this truly unique scenic byway.



Redinger Lake

North Fork

Stop in at the Bass Lake Ranger Station in North Fork for information and maps on the scenic byway. Services are limited along the byway, so grab a picnic lunch and supplies at North Fork. Once you leave the Ranger Station, head east on Road 225 a short distance to the Sierra Mono Museum. The Mono are the original stewards of these lands, having lived in this area for over several thousands of years. Visiting the museum can give you a sense of the pre-European history of this region. Continue on Road 225 east to the Sierra Vista Scenic Byway which officially begins at the intersection of the Forest Route (FR 81) and the Italian Bar Road. A short side trip down Italian Bar Road will take you to the “Exact Center of California,” a geographical landmark. This landmark was confirmed in 1995 by California State University, Fresno.

1 Redinger Lake Overlook Area (3320’)

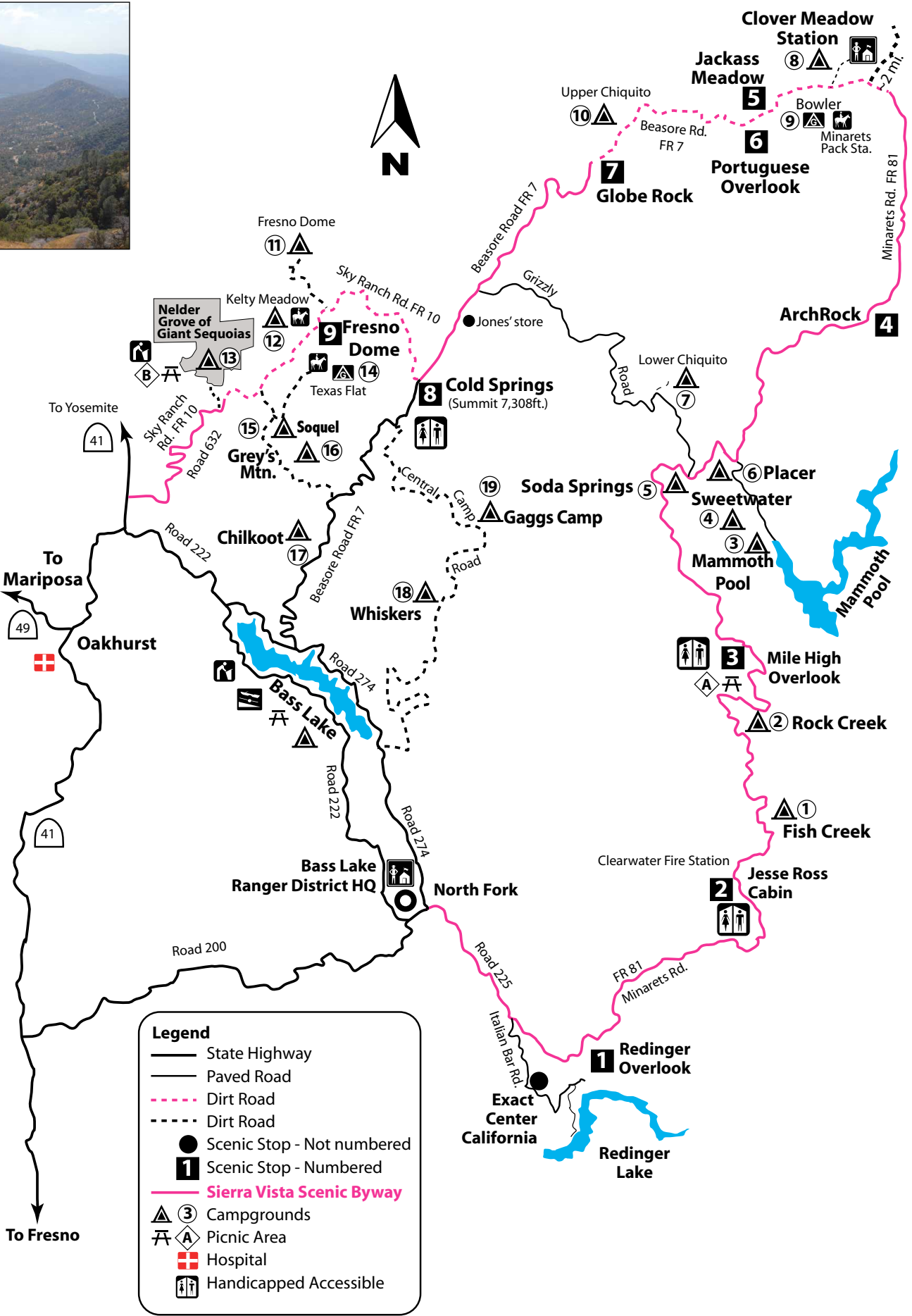
Outstanding views of Redinger Lake, the San Joaquin River and the surrounding Sierra Nevada Mountain Range can be seen at this site. This area of the San Joaquin River drainage provides a winter home for the San Joaquin deer herd. Deer move out of this area in the hot dry summer months migrating to higher country for food and water. This overlook also provides views of a series of dams, penstocks, tunnels, flumes and powerhouses, which provide electricity to Southern California. Billed as the “Hardest working water in the world,” the San Joaquin River continues into the fertile valley to irrigate crops and farmland. Continuing on, changes in forest ecosystems and elevation occur along the winding roadways. *Continue along FR 81 to the next stop.*

2 Jesse Ross Cabin

To enter this stop, turn left and travel a short distance to the parking lot. It’s a short hike to the cabin. This cabin was built in the late 1860s by Jessie Ross and is one of the oldest standing log cabins in Madera County. The log cabin displays various designs in foundation construction and log assembly brought to the western United States, exemplifying the pioneer spirit and technology of the mid-nineteenth century. Remnants of the original inhabitants of the area, the Mono people, can be seen at a nearby historical camping and acorn pounding site. The Mono developed and regularly used a foot trail across the Sierra Nevada to the Mammoth Lakes area for trading and for spiritual walks. It is still available for well-conditioned hikers. An accessible toilet is available at the parking lot. *Continue north on FR 81 to Stop 3.*

3 Mile High Vista (5300’)

A right turn off FR 81 leads to the Mile High Vista. Here find the most spectacular view of the Sierra Crest along the byway. At this stop you can view mountain peaks making up the “Heart of the Sierra,” the Minarets, Mount Ritter (13,157’), Mammoth Mountain, and 15 other named peaks over 10,000 feet. Below the vista is Mammoth Pool Reservoir and the San Joaquin River. Several granite domes such as Balloon Dome and Fuller Buttes tower above the canyon. Signs assist with locations of mountain peaks and other outstanding features at the vista. The Ansel Adams, Kaiser and John Muir Wilderness areas can be seen. Picnic tables and accessible toilets are available. *Return to FR 81 traveling north to the next stop.*



4 Arch Rock (6200’)

Along FH-8, about 20 minutes north of the Mammoth Pool turnoff, is Arch Rock, a unique geological feature resulting from wind and water erosion. This elevation is in the transition zone between the pine and red fir forest ecosystem. Arch Rock is easily accessible via a short walking trail to the viewing platform. Mount Tom, Kaiser Ridge and the John Muir Wilderness backcountry can be seen here. Sit for a moment and listen to the wind through the pine trees. *Continue north on FR 81 to the intersection of Beasore Road, Forest Road 7 at 7,000 feet, and turn left onto Beasore Road, to the next stop.*

5 Jackass Meadow (7,000’)

Just past the turnoff for Minarets Pack Station and Bowler campground is Jackass Meadow, one of the largest meadow complexes in the central Sierra Nevada. This has a stunning summer wildflower display and is a favorite picnic spot. Take a short walk along the trail to the viewing platform and seating for a spectacular view and rest. This elevation is in the lodgepole and red fir forest type which receives the most snowfall of all vegetative zones. Most of the moisture in the air drops out, producing heavy snow falls ranging from 35 to 65 inches. *Continued on page 12*

Sierra Vista Scenic Byway Camping & Picnic Sites		Sites	Toilets	Water	Fee	Reservation	Handicap Accessible	Horses Permitted
Campgrounds								
9	Bowler (Group)	12	•					
17	Chilkoot	14	•		•	•		
8	Clover Meadow	7	•	•				
1	Fish Creek	7	•		•	•		
11	Fresno Dome	15	•		•			
19	Gaggs Camp	12	•		•			
16	Grey’s Mountain	26	•		•			
12	Kelty Meadow	11	•		•	•		•
7	Lower Chiquito	7	•		•			
3	Mammoth Pool	47	•	•	•	•	•	
13	Nelder Grove	7	•					
6	Placer	8	•		•	•		
2	Rock Creek	18	•	•	•	•		
5	Soda Springs	18	•		•			
15	Soquel	11	•		•	•		
4	Sweetwater	10	•		•	•		
14	Texas Flat (Group)	4	•		•	•		•
10	Upper Chiquito	20	•					
18	Whiskers	8	•		•			
Picnic Sites								
A	Mile High	3	•		•		•	
B	Nelder Grove	2	•					

Find more information about the Sierra Vista National Scenic Byway on page 12.

Sierra Vista National Scenic Byway

6 Portuguese Overlook (7,200')

This stop is at Portuguese Creek right at the timberline. To the north are several great glacier carved granite domes. To the south is an expansive vista of Shuteye Ridge and Chiquito basin in a lodgepole pine and red fir forest. Red fir is also known as the Silver Tip Christmas tree because of the silver appearance of the new needles. Red fir is named for its deeply furrowed red bark.

Above the road is a glimpse of the higher elevation alpine zone offering few or no trees at the upper end of the red fir forest. Durable low growing plants, more adaptable to the short growing season, thrive here. *Return to the FR 7 to the next stop.*

7 Globe Rock (7152')

A geological oddity, Globe Rock is an improbably large granite sphere perched precariously – appearing to possibly roll away at any moment. This unique rock was created by the action of water freezing and thawing on the granite. Globe Rock may be seen from the road but the short walk to view this large boulder up close is well worth it. There is an undeveloped parking area on the west side of the road. The location has been visited for a long time as Mono people used it as an acorn processing area, evident by the bedrock mortar holes visible in the base rock. President Theodore Roosevelt was photographed here while on a hunting trip. *Continue on Beasore Road, FR 7 to the next stop.*

8 Cold Springs Summit (7308')

Continue past Jones' store, which has been around since the early 1900s. Services include meals, supplies, cabins and a campground during the summer. Cold Springs Summit is the highest point along the byway. Park, rest and then take a short walk along the trail to Cold Springs Meadow unveiling a spectacular view of Madera Peak (10,509'). *At Cold Springs Summit the byway leaves the Beasore Road, connecting with the Sky Ranch Road, FR 10.*

8 Fresno Dome Overlook (5,400')

Fresno Dome Overlook is the last developed stop on the scenic byway. Here you can get a wonderful view of Fresno Dome (7540'), a dominant granite dome standing alone above the forest north of Soquel Meadow. Follow the short paved walkway to the viewing area and learn about the geology of Fresno Dome.

Nelder Grove of Giant Sequoias (5300')

A special area along Sky Ranch Road you need to see is the Nelder Grove of Giant Sequoias Historical Area. The 1500 acre area is located two miles via a dirt road, in the center of a natural range of sequoia giganteum, with 106 mature giant sequoias.

Near the campground are several historic replicas and natural features: two restored cabins, life-size replicas of cross-log and two-pole logging chutes, several giant sequoia tree stumps left by the 1890s loggers, and a short walk to the "Big Ed" tree. Take an easy hike to see the "Bull Buck Tree," a con-

tender for the title of the "world's largest tree." The Buck's measurements are a height of 246 feet and a ground level circumference of 99 feet.

The three-mile hike to The Graveyard of the Giants reveals several large fire-killed sequoias. Watch for The Granddad and the Grandkids: a single isolated mature tree with one large branch outstretched like a protective arm, under which grow several young sequoias.

The Shadow of the Giants National Recreation Trail is a one-mile, self guided walk along the banks of Nelder Creek. The trail meanders quietly through the forest with giant sequoias greeting travelers along the trail offering peace and solitude.

Sky Ranch Road

The Sierra Vista National Scenic Byway follows down the Sky Ranch Road, ending at Highway 41.



Helpful Tips for Byway Travel

Services available along this route are very limited.

The Byway is along forest roads with a variety of road surfaces. Minarets Road (FR 81) is a winding two lane paved road from North Fork to the north end of the Beasore Road, best enjoyed at a casual pace.

The Beasore Road has eight miles of a graded dirt surface from the end of the Minarets Road to Muglar Meadow. Passenger cars can negotiate this section but travel on the rough surface is slow - about 15 miles per hour. The remainder of Beasore Road is paved. Traveling to Nelder Grove from Cold Springs Summit is a graded dirt road. A varied amount of flora and fauna can be seen year round.

When traveling any forest roads, be sure to come prepared for a variety of weather conditions. High elevations have summer thunderstorms with varying forms of precipitation. Bring extra food, clothing, blankets, flashlights and drinking water. Let someone know where you are going and your expected return. Cell phone use is NOT available in most locations along the byway.

Restroom facilities are in all campgrounds along the way and accessible toilets are available at Ross Cabin, Mile High Vista and Cold Springs Meadow. Some campgrounds located on the Scenic Byway are on a first-come, first-served basis, while others are reserveable via the National Reservation system.

There is no garbage service along the byway, pack home what you pack in, and leave no trace on the land.

Dinkey Creek/McKinley Grove

Dinkey Creek has long been a favorite area to visit on the Sierra National Forest. Many generations of families have enjoyed this mountain retreat.

Camping

Dinkey Creek campground has individual and group sites available for campers. Sites accommodate RV's up to 35 feet in length. Reservations can be made by site up to 8 months in advance and as late as one day before your arrival. Advanced reservations are available by contacting the National Recreation Reservation System at 1.877.444.6777 or online at www.recreation.gov. California Land Management office number: 559.841.2311.

Fishing

Dinkey Creek is a favorite spot for avid stream anglers looking to hook up a rainbow trout. The limit is 5 per day, 10 in possession. Fishing season begins the last weekend in April through November 15. You must have a valid California state fishing license. State fishing regulations apply.

Swimming

Dinkey Creek is a popular swimming area with large pools and sandy beaches for swimmers. Swimming is not recommended in spring due to high water levels. There is no lifeguard on duty.

Picnic Areas

Dinkey Creek has several picnic areas for day use. Dinkey Fisherman is located on the east side of the river below the Dinkey Creek Bridge. The other picnic areas are located in the campground and charge a fee for use.

McKinley Grove of Giant Sequoias

This small and quaint grove of 165 Giant Sequoias is named after President William McKinley, 25th President of the United States. The giant sequoia trees are found only along the western slope of the Sierra Nevada between 3,000 and 8,000 feet in elevation. They are the most massive of all living forms on earth and are estimated to be as old as 2,300 years.



Take a hike through the grove along the accessible trail and learn about these towering giants as well as other trees including the sugar pine, jeffrey pine, and white fir. The General Washington Tree is the largest of the grove. It is 65 feet in circumference and a small brook actually flows below the root system. Bring lunch and enjoy a picnic at one of the best kept secrets of the Sierra. Campsites are available nearby at Gigantea campground.

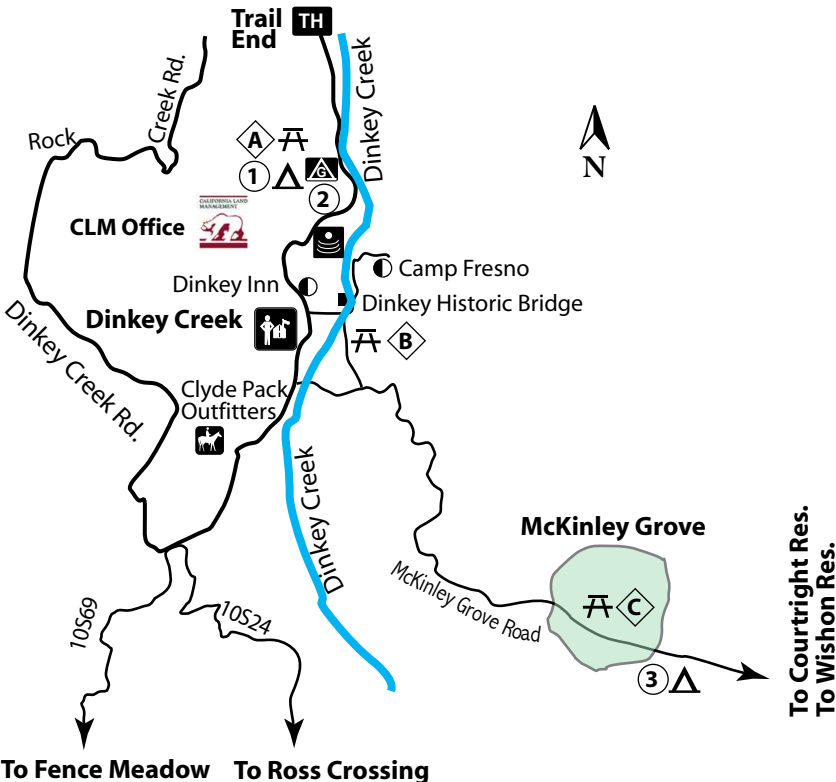


Historic Dinkey Creek Bridge. Built in 1938, it was the first "bowstring arch truss" bridge built in California.

Interpretive Programs

The Sierra National Forest is blessed with a richness of cultural and natural history. Stories abound of Native Americans, explorers and pioneers, and the forest is teeming with incredibly diverse plant and wildlife. The added bonus of crystal clear skies makes a perfect setting for inspiring star gazing! Throughout the summer, California Land Management sponsors a variety of interpretive programs on weekends at Dinkey Creek Campground. Presentations by knowledgeable local experts cover topics on the history, constellations, wildflowers, forestry and others. The scheduled programs are posted at the campground, and the Host can provide additional information. Evening programs are held at the amphitheater and guided walks start at the campground. Enrich your visit to Dinkey Creek by learning more about the area!

Dinkey Creek/ McKinley Grove Campgrounds, Picnic Sites & Services		Sites	Toilets	Water	Fee	Reservation	Restaurant	Lodging	Store
Campgrounds 									
①	Dinkey Creek	128	•	•	•	•			
②	Dinkey Creek (Group)	1	•	•	•	•			
③	Gigantea	10	•		•				
Picnic Sites 									
A	Dinkey Creek	4	•	•	•				
B	Dinkey Fisherman	8	•						
C	McKinley Grove	10	•						
Services									
①	Camp Fresno		•	•	•			•	•
①	Dinkey Creek Inn						•	•	•



Courtright and Wishon Reservoirs

Courtright Reservoir

Courtright Reservoir, at 8,200 feet in elevation is located in one of the most superb geological areas of California. Bare granite domes rise from the shores of Courtright Reservoir and above the deep canyon cut by Helms Creek located at the north end of the lake. Ice Age glaciers sculpted the mountain peaks, slopes and valleys giving them their unique present day shape. To the east Mt. Goddard rises majestically to 13,568 feet in elevation.



Camping Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) operates and maintains several campgrounds around the lake. On the west side, you will find Trapper Springs which provides single and double camp sites. Marmot Rock is located at the south end of the lake which provides 14 walk-in campsites. Both campgrounds are first come-first served, no reservations are accepted. A fee is charged for overnight camping. On the east side of the lake is Voyager Rock which is a primitive campground accessible only by boat or by high clearance, short wheel base Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV). This no fee campground has limited services.

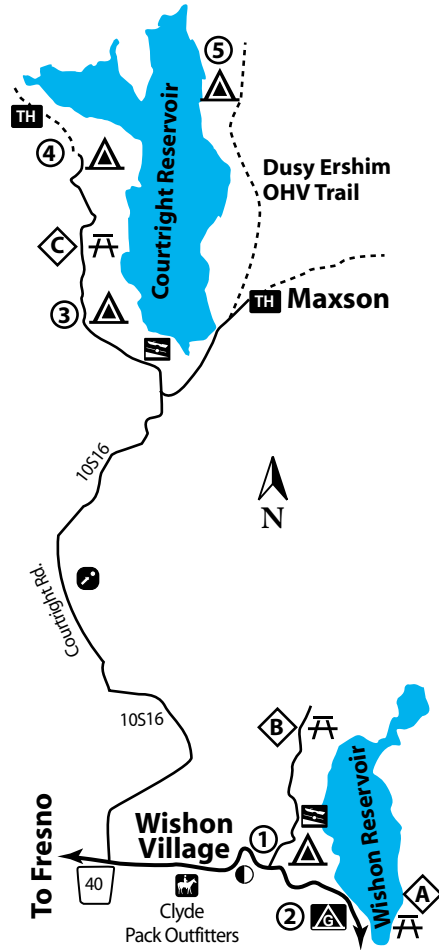
Fishing Courtright is an ultimate destination for avid anglers looking to hook up a brown, rainbow or eastern brook trout. The limit is 5 per day, 10 in possession. A public boat launching facility is available at the south end of the lake, no fees or permits are required. State fishing regulations apply.

Dusy Ershim Off Highway Vehicle Route At the Maxson trail-head is the beginning of the 31-mile Dusy-Ershim OHV route. Driving time for the entire route is 2 to 3 days. This route is recommended for advanced drivers ONLY, and not recommended for full size pickups, long wheel base vehicles or for traveling alone. Campfire permits are required.

Hiking and Equestrian Trails To the north and east of the lake are the Dinkey Lakes and John Muir Wildernesses. The Cliff Lake trail head provides access to the Dinkey Lakes, and the Maxson trail head provides access to the John Muir Wilderness and Kings Canyon National Park. Wilderness permits are required for overnight stay. Horseback riding and guided pack services are available.

Wishon Reservoir Wishon Reservoir, located at 6,600 feet in elevation was built in 1958 by (PG&E) as a part of the Kings River Project that includes a system of lakes, tunnels, steel penstocks and powerhouses that divert water from the Kings River to produce electricity. In 1984, the Helms Pumped Storage Powerhouse was added which uses water flowing downhill from Courtright to Wishon Reservoir to produce electricity during peak demand times.

Courtright/Wishon Campgrounds, Picnic Sites & Services		Sites	Toilets	Water	Fee	Reservation	RV Park w/hookup	Restaurant	Store
Campgrounds 				•					
①	Lily Pad	15	•	•					
③	Marmot Rock	15	•	•					
④	Trapper Springs	75	•	•					
②	Upper Kings (Group)	1	•			•			
⑤	Voyager Rock	14	•						
Picnic Sites 									
A	Coolidge Meadow	10	•						
B	Short Hair Fishing Access	12	•						
C	We Me Kute	8	•						
Services									
①	Wishon Village						•	•	•



Camping At Wishon you will find Lily Pad campground which is operated by Pacific Gas and Electric. Fifteen campsites are available first come-first served, no reservations are accepted. A fee is charged for overnight camping. There are active bears in the area so please store food properly and never feed the bears. Below the dam is the Upper Kings River group campground which accommodates groups of up to 50 people. Reservations are required. Contact PG&E at 916.386.5164.

Picnic and Fishing Access On the west side of the lake along Powerhouse Road numerous picnic and fishing access sites are available for day use. No fee is charged. Wishon Reservoir is an ultimate destination for avid anglers looking to hook up a brown, rainbow or eastern brook trout. The limit is five per day, 10 in possession. A public boat launching facility is available at the south end of the lake, no fees or permits are required. State fishing regulations apply.

Hiking and Equestrian Trails South of the lake, trailheads provide access to the John Muir Wilderness. Wilderness permits are required for overnight stay. Horseback riding and guided services are available.

Off Highway Vehicle Route (OHV) Just south of the lake you will find the Spanish OHV Route. This route is classified as More Difficult. It is an easy route for experienced drivers but a challenge for beginning drivers. The route encompasses loose dirt, some granite, a few rocks, and a little uphill. The route is 3.5 miles long and takes 4 hours to drive. This route is not recommended for van type OHV's or full size pickups, due to some tight maneuvering near the wilderness boundary.

Kings River Country

Pine Flat Reservoir Camping and Picnicking

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers manages Pine Flat Reservoir. The Corps maintains 97 campsites and group camping areas at Island Park Campground which are reservable year-round. Campsites are suitable for RV and tent camping. Conveniently located rest-rooms provide flush toilets and hot showers. Advanced reservations are available by contacting the National Recreation Reservation System at 1.877.444.6777 or at www.recreation.gov. For more information contact the Army Corps of Engineers at 559.787.2589.

Boating and Sailing Pine Flat is one of the most popular recreation lakes in the Central Valley. It's a great lake for water skiing and sailing. It has 67 miles of shoreline when full to capacity. There is one commercial marina on the lake located at Deer Creek recreation area. There is a fee to launch watercraft.

Fishing Pine Flat Reservoir offers a variety of gamefish, including large and smallmouth bass, spotted bass, rainbow trout, king (chinook) and kokanee salmon, catfish, crappie and bluegill. Fishing is permitted year round. All state fishing regulations apply.

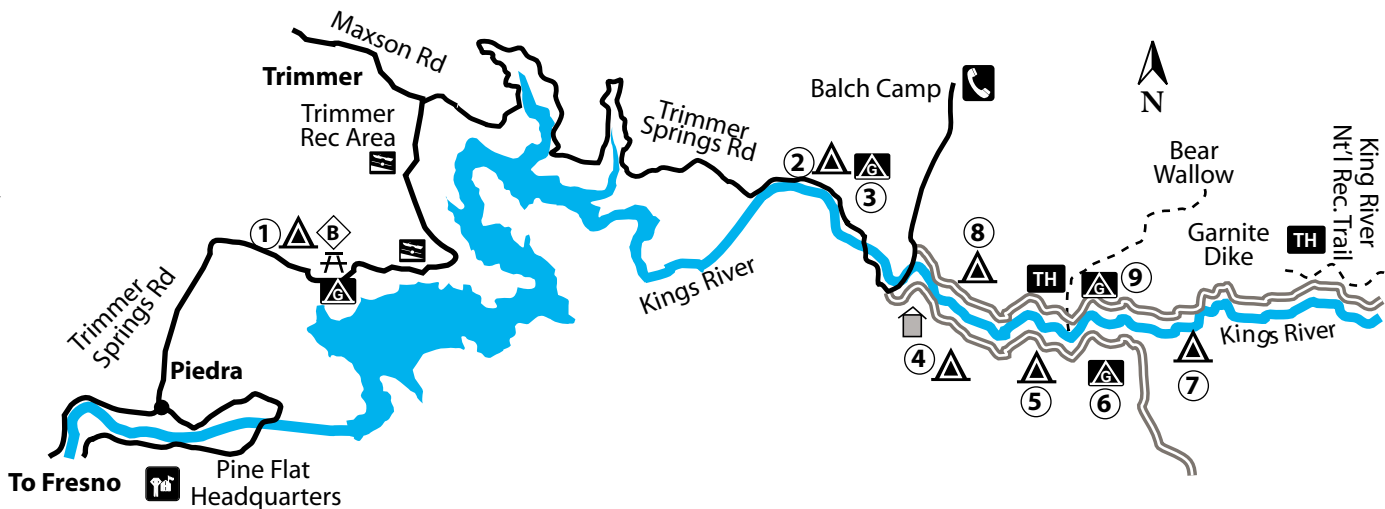
Campfires Campfires are allowed in the developed campgrounds with built in barbeques only. Campfire permits are not required.

Kings River Special Management Area-Wild & Scenic River
In 1987, the Kings River drainage above Pine Flat was designated a Special Management Area and the South and Middle Forks of the Kings River were designated Wild and Scenic. This designation allows for recreation use and enjoyment while protecting the area's natural, archeological and scenic resources.

Kings River The Upper Kings River (before it flows into Pine Flat Lake) offers a variety of activities including white water rafting, fishing, hiking, camping or just enjoying the magnificent Kings River. The area is open year round.

Camping There are numerous camping areas administered by the U.S. Forest Service on the Upper Kings River. Kirch Flat, located just east of the lake provides family sites and one group site that can accommodate 50 people. The group site is very popular during white water rafting season, March through July. The group site is reserved through a lottery system by contacting the High Sierra Ranger District at 559.855.5355. Further up the river are several more campgrounds including Camp 4, Camp 4-1/2, and Mill Flat. There are also three additional group campgrounds located at Green Cabin Flat, Gravel Flat and Bear Wallow. All of these upper river camping areas are free of charge and have no running water or trash service. Campers are asked to Pack Out all garbage. Most camping areas (with the exception of Kirch Flat) require a campfire permit. During high fire danger no campfires are allowed. Permits can be obtained at a Forest Service office or from a Ranger.

Fishing The Kings River from Pine Flat Lake upstream to the western boundary of Kings Canyon National Park is designated by the State of California as a Wild Trout fishery. The river is managed exclusively for its wild



strain of stream-bred trout with no additional stocking. To protect this fishery, anglers are required to use a single point barbless or bent down barbed hook. Anglers are also encouraged to catch and release. Trout limit is 2.


Rafting The Kings River is a popular whitewater rafting river, providing Class I, II and III rapids. There are three rafting companies approved by the Sierra National Forest to provide guided commercial rafting. For more information visit our website at www.fs.usda.gov/sierra.

Hiking Trails There are several hiking trails in the Upper Kings River Canyon including Bear Wallow and Kings River National Recreation Trail.

Off-Highway Vehicle Use Within the Kings River Special Management Area all vehicles must stay on designated roads only. No green sticker vehicles are permitted. All vehicles must have a valid state license.

Forest Service Cabin Rental Experience "cabin camping" just a stone's throw from the magnificent Kings River at Camp 4-1/2. Overnight use of the cabin is available for individuals, families and groups up to 12 people. Advanced reservations are available by contacting the National Forest, calling 1.877.444.6777 or online at www.recreation.gov, 6 months in advance.

Services There are no services available in the Upper Kings River above Pine Flat Reservoir. Cell phone service is very limited. A pay phone is available at Balch Camp, 3 miles north of the Bailey bridge crossing.

Pine Flat and Kings River Campgrounds 		Sites	Showers	Toilets	Reservation	Handicap Accessible
9	Bear Wallow (Group)	1		•		•
5	Camp 4	4		•		•
4	Camp 4 1/2	4		•		•
6	Green Cabin Flat (Group)	1		•		•
8	Gravel Flat (Group)	1		•		•
1	Island Park	97	•	•	•	•
2	Kirch Flat	17		•		•
3	Kirch Flat (Group)	1		•	•	•
7	Mill Creek Flat	5		•		•

Shaver Lake

Shaver Lake is located at 5,500 feet in elevation with 22 miles of shoreline and is one of the most popular lakes located within the Sierra National Forest. Owned and operated by Southern California Edison it provides opportunities for boating, camping, hiking, fishing and sightseeing. Shaver Lake was constructed by the Pacific Light and Power Corporation, later named Southern California Edison in 1927 (a history museum is located next to Camp Edison). Shaver Lake is part of the Big Creek hydroelectric project which includes a system of lakes, tunnels, steel penstocks and power houses that convert water into electricity. The community of Shaver Lake is full service with gas, food, lodging and specialty stores available year round.

Camping and Picnicking

Camping is permitted in developed campgrounds only. There are several campgrounds in the area that provide a wide range of services for visitors. Camp Edison, operated by Southern California Edison (SCE) is a full service recreation area open year round with campgrounds, marina, day use area, showers and laundromat. For information contact SCE at 559.841.3134 or online at www.sce.com/campedison.

At Dorabelle, visitors will find a more primitive campground with fewer amenities. Dorabelle also has a day use area which provides parking and access to the lake. Dorabelle charges a fee for day use and overnight camping. Reservations can be made up to 8 months in advance and as late as one day before your arrival. Advanced reservations are available by contacting the National Recreation Reservation System at 1.877.444.6777 or online at www.recreation.gov.



Shaver Lake

Boating and Water Sports

A public boat launching ramp is maintained by Fresno County at the north end of the lake. Camp Edison also has boat launching facilities for its paying customers. A handicap boat access is available near Sierra Marina at the north end of the lake. Shaver Lake is a popular lake for water sports activities. There are three marinas for boat rentals. Water skiing, jet skis and windsurfing are popular activities at this mountain lake. Canoe and kayak enthusiasts will find many out of the way coves and miles of shoreline to explore.

Trails



Over 35 miles of trails are available for non-motorized day use. Hiking, mountain biking, and horse back riding are also available in the Shaver area. Maps are available at Camp Edison.

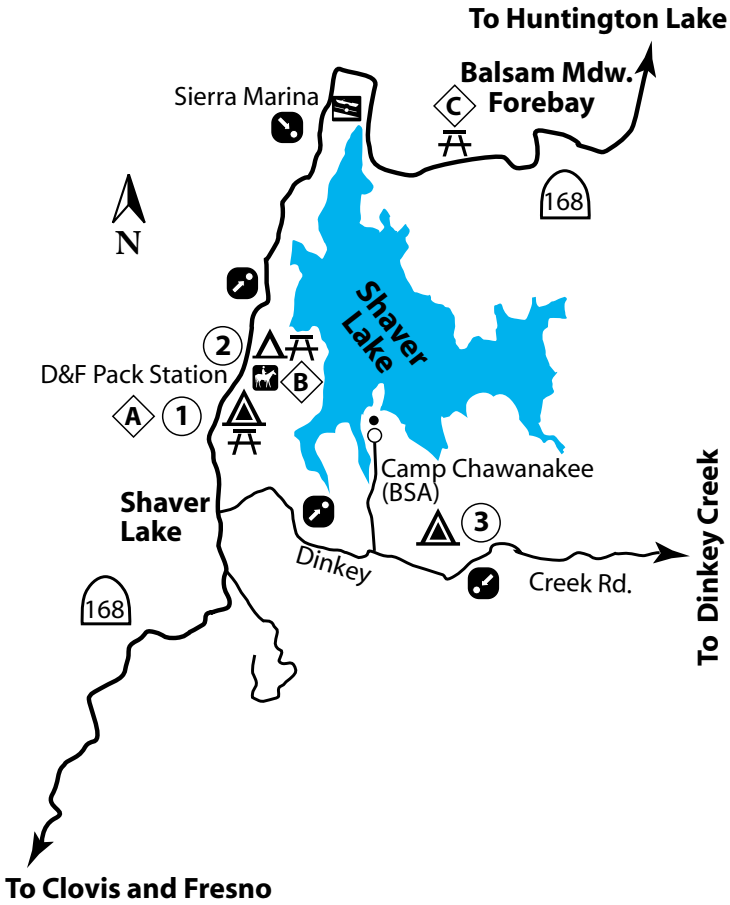
Fishing

Shaver Lake is an ultimate destination for avid anglers looking to hook up a brown, rainbow trout, kokanee salmon, small mouth bass, blue gill or catfish. The lake is open all year for fishing and state fishing regulations apply.

Campfires

Campfires are permitted in designated fire rings only. Campfire permits are not required.

Shaver Lake Campgrounds, Picnic Sites & Services		Sites	Toilets	Water	Fee	Reservation	Showers	Marina / Boat Launch	Lodging	Store	Electric Hookup	Handicap Accessible
Campgrounds 												
2	Camp Edison (Operated by Southern CA. Edison)	252	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•
1	Dorabelle	68	•	•	•	•						
3	Swanson Meadow	8	•		•							
Picnic Sites 												
C	Balsam Meadow Forebay											
B	Camp Edison (Operated by Southern CA. Edison)		•	•	•							
A	Dorabelle	5	•	•	•							



Huntington Lake

Huntington Lake serves as a popular summer and winter recreation area. Located at 7,000 feet in elevation, this beautiful high sierra lake provides wonderful opportunities for camping, hiking, picnicking, sailing, wind-surfing, swimming, fishing, horseback riding, and scenic driving.

Boating and Sailing

Huntington Lake is one of California’s premier sailing lakes. On summer days, hot air from the central San Joaquin Valley expands and rises up the canyon, forcing cool air that has settled above the lake at night into the mountains above. This thermal effect produces consistent afternoon westerly winds averaging 15 mph, ideal for sailing. Boat launching facilities, mooring and rentals are available at several marinas. A public boat launching ramp is located between College and Deer Creek campgrounds. There is a fee for parking vehicles and trailers at the boat ramp.

Fishing

Huntington Lake is a destination for anglers looking to hook up a brown, rainbow trout, or kokanee salmon. The limit is five per day, 10 in possession. The lake is open year round for fishing. State fishing regulations apply.

Hiking

Beautiful scenery, soaring granite peaks, and back country lakes make an excellent place for hiking. Several nearby trails provide access into scenic Kaiser Wilderness. Permits are required for overnight stays. At the east end of the lake is a popular day hike to Rancheria Falls. This mile long trail ends with a spectacular view of the falls.

Camping and Picnicking

There are seven public campgrounds at Huntington Lake which include: Rancheria, College, Kinnikinnick, Deer Creek, Catavee, Lower Billy Creek and Upper Billy Creek. Some sites will accommodate RV’s up to 35 feet in length. Some campgrounds have double sites for large family gatherings. At Badger Flat above Huntington Lake is a group campsite for up to 50 people, which can be reserved. Advanced reservations are available by contacting the National Recreation Reservation System at 1.877.444.6777 or online at www.recreation.gov. Reservations can be made up to 8 months in advance and as late as one day before your arrival. There are also three picnic areas on the north side of the lake for those who choose to visit for the day. A fee is charged at campgrounds and picnic areas. There are active bears in the area so please use the food storage boxes provided at the campground and never feed the bears. California Land Management (CLM) is located at Eastwood Visitor Center. Phone: 559.893.2111

Billy Creek Guard Station

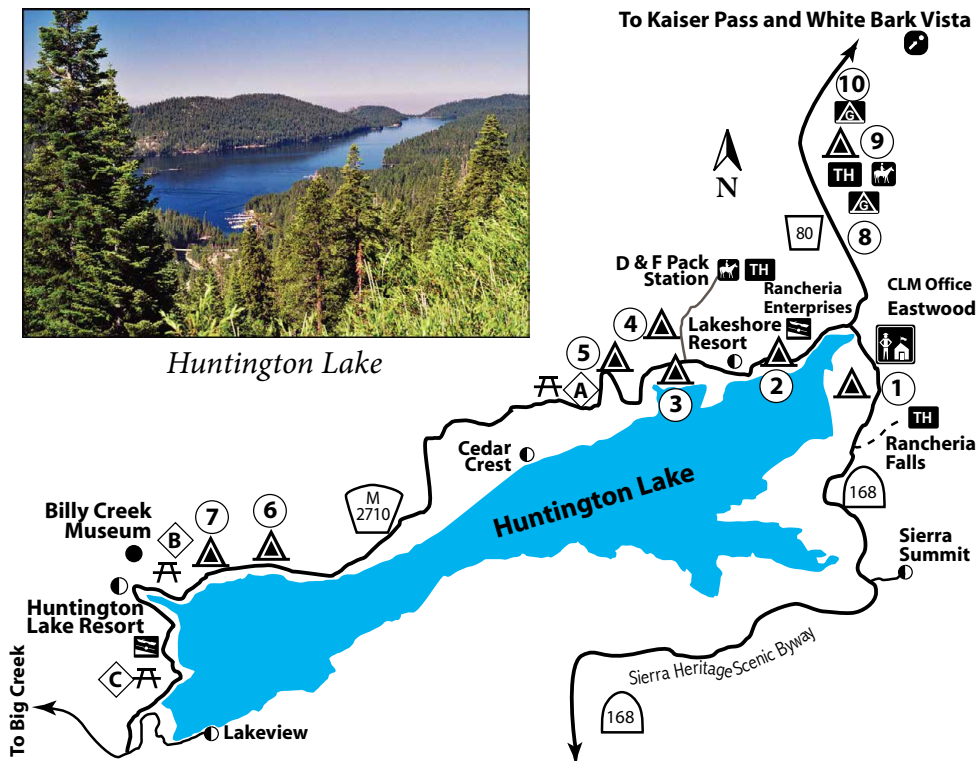
Located in an old Forest Service ranger station you will find the Billy Creek Guard Station Museum which highlights the local history through exhibits and displays. Come spend an afternoon and learn about the area’s first settlers and the development of Huntington Lake. The museum is open to the public during the summer months.

OHV Trails




Just south of the Lake at Tamarack, several OHV trails provide day trips to beautiful backcountry lakes. Trails require 4-wheel, high clearance vehicles.



Huntington Lake



Huntington Lake Campgrounds, Picnic Sites & Services

		Sites	Toilets	Water	Fee	Reservation	Restaurant	Lodging	Store	RV Park	Handicap Accessible
Campgrounds 											
9	Badger Flat	15	•		•						
10	Badger (Group)	1	•		•	•					
6	Billy Creek, Lower	13	•	•	•	•					
7	Billy Creek, Upper	44	•	•	•	•					
5	Catavee	23	•	•	•	•					•
2	College	11	•	•	•	•					
3	Deer Creek	28	•	•	•	•					•
4	Kinnikinnick	27	•	•	•	•					•
8	Midge Creek (Group)	2	•		•	•					
1	Rancheria	149	•	•	•	•					•
Picnic Sites 											
A	Bear Cove	18	•	•	•						•
B	Billy Creek	7	•	•							
C	Dowville	5	•								
Huntington Lake Services											
•	Cedar Crest Resort						•	•	•	•	
•	Huntington Lake Resort						•	•	•		
•	Lakeshore Resort						•	•	•	•	
•	Lakeview Cottages							•			
	Rancheria Enterprises								•		

High Sierra Area

Thomas A. Edison Lake

Like many lakes in the Sierra, Thomas A. Edison Lake was developed for the purposes of water storage and hydroelectric power generation. The project was completed on the 75th anniversary of the invention of the electric light and the name of Thomas Alva Edison was given to the lake in honor of the inventor.

Camping

At Edison Lake developed campgrounds are available for camping. Vermillion campground is located at Edison Lake and Mono Creek is located below the reservoir. Advanced reservations are available for both campgrounds by contacting the National Recreation Reservation System at 1.877.444.6777 or online at www.recreation.gov. Reservations can be made 8 months in advance and up to 3 days before your arrival. There are active bears in the area so please use the food storage boxes provided in the campgrounds. Never feed the bears.

Hiking and Shuttle Service

Edison Lake is surrounded by the John Muir and Ansel Adams Wildernesses. One mile east of the lake are the popular John Muir and Pacific Crest hiking trails. Wilderness permits are required for overnight stay. Shuttle Service is provided by the Vermillion Valley Resort for hikers who wish to cross the lake and start their wilderness journey at the east end of lake.

Boating

Free public boat launching facilities are located at Edison Lake. Sailing is not recommended due to inconsistent winds. Canoeing and kayaking are best done close to shorelines. Edison Lake has a 15-mile per hour speed limit. No towing allowed on lake.

Fishing

The crystal clear water and excellent trout fishing make this the ultimate destination for avid fishermen looking to hook up a brown, eastern brook, or rainbow trout. The limit is five per day, 10 in possession. State fishing regulations apply.

Portal Forebay

Portal Forebay is a small 20 acre man-made lake that was completed in 1956 as a part of the Big Creek Hydroelectric Project. The forebay is located midway between Florence and Huntington Lakes at an elevation of 7,180 feet. The reservoir serves as a holding forebay for the Portal Power House which is located at Huntington Lake.

Ward Lake

This picturesque high sierra lake is just three acres in size and provides visitors with a quaint place to camp, fish and hike. Located at 7,400 feet in elevation, Ward Lake is accessible late May through November via the Kaiser Pass Road.

Camping

Portal Forebay and Ward Lake have small campgrounds adjacent to their shores that are available on a first-come first-served basis. No drinking water is available at the campground. Water is available at the High Si-

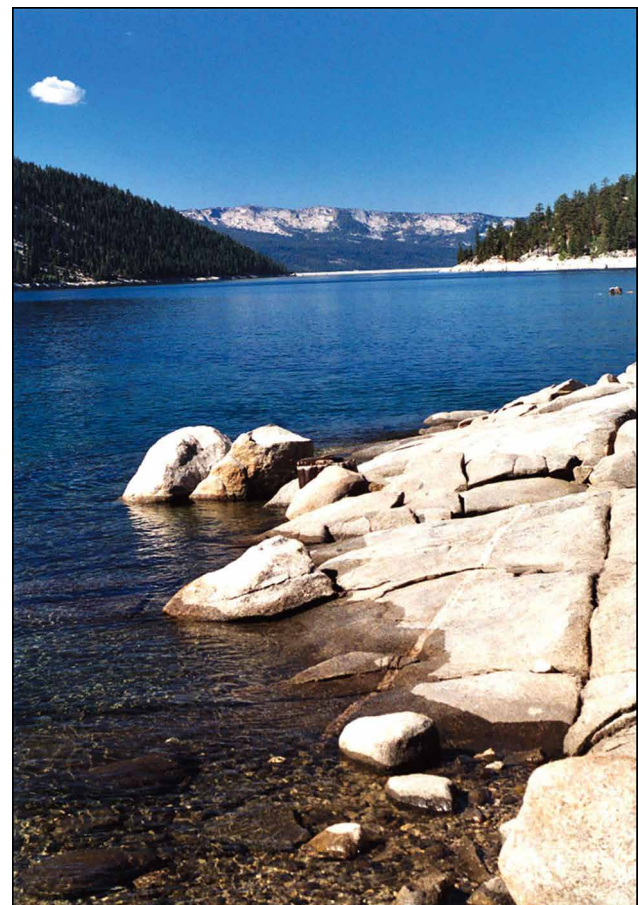
erra Visitor Center located a short drive from the campground. A fee is charged for overnight camping. Please store food properly and use the food storage lockers provided in the campground. Never feed the bears.

Fishing

Both Portal Forebay and Ward Lake are small in size, but anglers will find these lakes perfect for fishing from a canoe or float tube. Eastern brook and rainbow trout are stocked in the lakes. The limit is five per day, 10 in possession. Both lakes have a trail around them that provides access for anglers who want to fish from shore. State fishing regulations apply.

Mono Hot Springs

Mono Hot Springs Campground is one of the High Sierra's best kept secrets! Located on the banks of the South Fork San Joaquin River, the Campground is perfect for those who love to fish, relax and enjoy the nearby hot springs. Campers and visitors to the area can take advantage of evening campfire programs sponsored by California Land Management. The programs take place at the Mono Hot Springs amphitheater on weekends and are hosted by knowledgeable local experts. The site is perfect for stargazing and other popular programs including Native American cultures, history, botany and wildlife. Fliers are posted in Mono Hot Springs Campground and nearby facilities to let campers and visitors know about the schedule of programs. The Mono Hot Springs Resort provides cabins, tent cabins, hot mineral baths, a store, restaurant and a post office. Public hot springs are found along the south side of the river adjacent to the campground.



Lake Thomas A. Edison

High Sierra Area

Florence Lake

In the early 1900s water and hydroelectric development were dominant forces shaping the landscape across the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. Construction of Florence Lake across the South Fork of the San Joaquin River was a part of the enormous Big Creek Hydroelectric Project envisioned by John S. Eastwood in 1886. Florence Lake was named after Florence Starr, sister of renowned mountain climber Walter Starr. Today, water flows from Florence Lake through the Ward Tunnel to the Portal Power House at Huntington Lake where it generates electricity.

Camping

Camping is available at Jackass Meadow just below Florence Lake on the South Fork of the San Joaquin River. Advanced reservations are available by contacting the National Recreation Reservation System at 1.877.444.6777 or online at www.recreation.gov. Reservations can be made eight months in advance and as late as three days before your arrival.

Hiking and Shuttle Service

Four miles east of the lake hikers can connect to the popular Pacific Crest Trail in the John Muir Wilderness. Permits are required for over-night stay. The Florence Lake Resort provides ferry service for hikers.

Boating

Free public boat launching facilities are located at Florence Lake. Sailing is not recommended due to inconsistent winds. Canoeing and kayaking are best done close to the shoreline. There is a 15-mile per hour speed limit on the lake. No towing allowed on lake.

Fishing

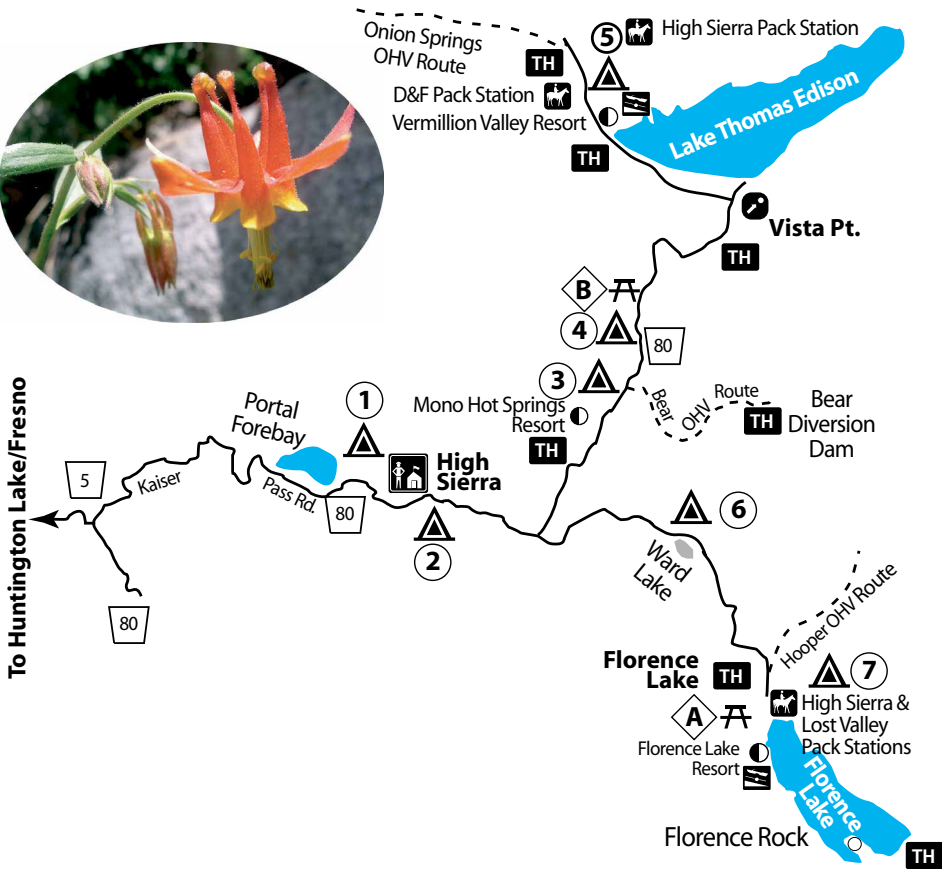
The deep crystal blue water of this lake makes it a destination for avid anglers looking to hook-up a brown, eastern brook or rainbow trout. The limit is five per day, 10 in possession. State fishing regulations apply.

Access

The High Sierra area can be reached via the Kaiser Pass Road which is a one lane narrow mountain road. It is not recommended for RV's or vehicles towing large boats or trailers.



Florence Lake



High Sierra Area Campgrounds, Picnic Sites and Services		Sites	Toilets	Water	Fee	Reservation	Lodging	Restaurant	Store
Campgrounds									
②	Bolsillo	3	•	•					
⑦	Jackass Meadows	44	•	•	•	•			
④	Mono Creek	14	•		•	•			
③	Mono Hot Springs	26	•		•	•			
①	Portal Forebay	11	•		•				
⑤	Vermillion	31	•	•	•	•			
⑥	Ward Lake	17	•		•				
Picnic Sites									
A	Florence Lake	17	•	•					
B	Mono Creek	5	•						
Services									
①	Florence Lake Resort								•
①	Mono Hot Springs						•	•	•
①	Vermillion Valley Resort						•	•	•

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Southern California Edison (SCE) has operated a number of hydroelectric facilities in the Sierra National Forest since 1927. As a major landowner within the forest they have a proud tradition of outstanding forest management and development of recreation opportunities. Contact Camp Edison at (559)841-3134 or www.sce.com/campedison if you would like more information, or to learn about recreation and volunteer opportunities at Shaver Lake.



California Land Management (CLM), a professional recreation management company, operates the majority of the developed recreation sites in the Sierra National Forest and has been a proud Recreation Service Partner of the Forest Service since 1984. CLM headquarters phone: (650)322-1188. Their website can be found at www.clm-services.com.



Since the 1900's, **Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E)** has operated various hydroelectric projects and the associated recreation facilities in the Sierra National Forest. PG&E and the Forest Service cooperate to plan, build, and maintain these recreation sites with guidance from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. For additional information please go to: www.pge.com.



The Bureau of Land Management's mission is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. We are grateful for the assistance of our partners in making the San Joaquin River Gorge Management Area a place where students and the public can be connected to the land through hands on cultural and scientific education, exploration and recreational experiences. (661)391-6000 BLM Bakersfield Office. www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/bakersfield.html



We manage the Sierra National Forest to maintain and restore healthy watersheds and diverse fire-adapted plant and animal communities. We manage public lands to provide outstanding opportunities to experience unprecedented landscapes, continuous wilderness and spectacular mountain lakes. We foster partnerships and collaborations with stakeholders for the betterment of the forest and protection of communities. We are committed to an adaptive approach to management that leaves the land in better condition than it is today.

Sierra National Forest Headquarters
(559) 269-2259

High Sierra Ranger District
(559) 855-5355

Bass Lake Ranger District
(559) 877-2218

Eastwood
(559) 893-6611

Dinkey Creek
(559) 841-3404

High Sierra Visitor Information Station
(559) 877-7173

Forest Service Oakhurst Office
(559) 658-7588

Clover Meadow Wilderness Office
(559) 877-2218 ext 3136

Yosemite Sierra Visitor Bureau (Oakhurst)
(559) 683-4636

USFS Mariposa Office

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