

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

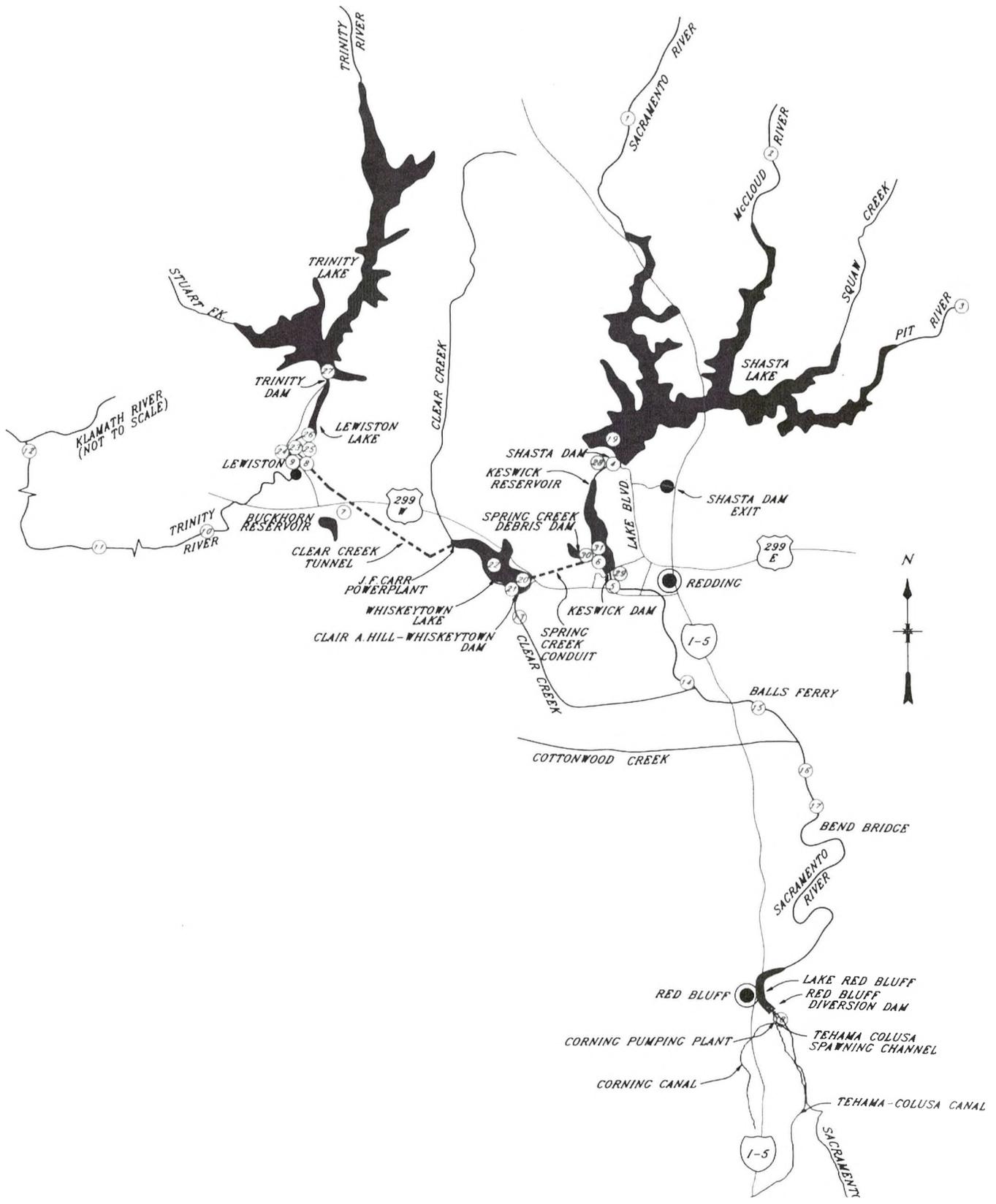
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area



From the White House to Whiskeytown

An Administrative History of the Creation of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area





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The following document is a chronology of the events, people and decisions that contributed to the creation of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Were it not for the positioning of local people in national offices and the additional extraordinary effort of local community leaders, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area would not have been created.

From the White House to Whiskeytown

An Administrative History of the Creation of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

Introduction

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area receives over 703,000 visitors annually. Over 16,000 visitors participate in the park's ranger led hikes, nature walks, evening programs and free kayak tours annually. The park is known for its superb equestrian and mountain bike trails, its hiking and romantic waterfalls in Brandy, Boulder, and Crystal Creeks. The park is also becoming recognized for its ecological diversity and abundant wildlife; from the rare northern spotted owls to salmon migrating from San Francisco's Golden Gate Channel up into Lower Clear Creek to the base of Whiskeytown Dam. How did this beautiful national park site come to pass? Who had the vision and the foresight to create this public pleasuring ground? Who were the people responsible for this man made lake and setting aside the surrounding forest and mountains to be preserved for the enjoyment of future generations? Why did the Kennedy Administration select Whiskeytown to be part of their national Conservation Tour in September of 1963?

Since 1963, visitors have always found Whiskeytown Lake the centerpiece of recreational opportunities within the national recreation area because of its cool relief from the summer heat, often above 100 degrees between June and September. However, the national park site offers much more than just a 3,200-acre lake. Over 42,000 acres of forest in a rugged mountain landscape with snow capped mountains, deep river canyons, and waterfalls is the picturesque setting that people have lived, worked, played on and explored for thousands of years. The span of history and the relationship between

humans and the landscape dates back eight thousand years with Native Americans who inhabited these hills and valleys hunting and fishing for animals and plants much like the visitors of today are still doing. The Wintu Indians lived here because of the availability of water in the streams and tributaries of Clear Creek. It was the area's abundance of clear clean water that would allow the white man to search for gold, develop orchards, and standing crops and eventually one of the nation's largest water diversion systems.

The park, as it exists today, ranges

in elevation from 700 feet to 6,200 feet above sea level. The park's largest mountain, Shasta Bally, is snow capped typically into early June just as the warm summer temperatures begin to settle in. From the summit of Shasta Bally, steep canyons drop off in four major tributaries that lead down into the Clear Creek watershed. Paige Boulder Creek, Brandy Creek, Boulder Creek, Mill Creek and Crystal Creek from the south and from the north, Whiskey Creek and Grizzly Gulch all drain into the Clear Creek drainage. Only Paige Boulder Creek and Orifino Creeks are below the Clair Hill-Whiskeytown Dam. Below Whiskeytown Dam, one can see the Clear Creek Canyon drain to the south. Along this canyon, the Wintu caught migrating salmon moving up the Sacramento River from the Pacific Ocean via the Golden Gate in San Francisco Bay.

Chaparral brush fields, oak woodland and knob cone pine covers the lower elevations of the park from 700 feet ASL to around 2000 feet where the forest transitions from an oak woodland to a mixed conifer forest. Old growth stands can be found on the west side of Shasta Bally Mountain around 4,500 ASL. Most of the forest throughout the park were selectively logged prior to the park's establishment and are recovering in second growth forest condition.

The park is geographically located on the eastern slope of the Klamath Mountains of Northern California's Coast Range and is uniquely situated in an ecologically diverse region. The park has an abundance of fauna and flora that is unparalleled in most of California. The park averages 60 inches of rain per year because of its geographic location and orographic effects in this mountainous terrain and proximity to the Pacific Ocean.

Following several thousand years of use by the Wintu Tribe, the only known dramatic changes that occurred on the landscape were periodic wildfires. However, a significant alteration to the landscape occurred in the next couple of decades following the discovery of gold in California in 1849. Whiskeytown's gold rush era began in the following months and the first white settlers to the area established themselves circa 1852.

The California Gold Rush Era was a historically important time for the eventual creation of Whiskeytown NRA because it created the first significant water diversions in the area. Placer and hard rock mining are mining methods



that both require copious amounts of water, hence, over 50 miles of water diversion ditches were constructed in the Whiskeytown area. Small dams, water ditches, diversions, siphons, pipe works, stamp mills, water wheels, canals, tunnels, mines, flumes and trestles for water delivery were constructed throughout what is today Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. The California Gold Rush eventually led to the demise of the Wintu culture as it had existed for thousands of years.

Sixty years after the discovery of gold in California, in the 1910s, farmers in California's Central Valley realized the state had a disproportionate dispersal of rainfall and if the waters in northern streams could be redistributed for irrigation, California could increase its agricultural production. In May 1915 the California State Legislature, requested the governor to call together "a conference on irrigation, reclamation, water storage, flood control and drainage and making appropriations to pay the expense thereof." The conference and later report was named, "The State Water Problems Conference." A key passage of the report states the following regarding the "Conservation and Use of Water,"

In California rainfall is not sufficient on the average and is not so distributed through the season as to produce maximum crops. Drainage areas have not been so arranged by nature as to give most water where there is most thirsty and arable land. In the Sacramento Valley, with 4,238,000 acres of land, including foothill land, there is an average run-off of 25,910,000 acre feet—more sufficient if it could be conserved, for profitable irrigation of the land. In the San Joaquin Valley, 12,238,000 acres of land, there is an average annual runoff of 12,121,000 acre feet, only one-sixth as much in proportion is found in the Sacramento Valley and quite insufficient for irrigation of all the land under present methods. South of the Tehachapi the proportion of surface run-off to land, arable, arid and semiarid, is still smaller. In the interest of irrigation there is, therefore, every incentive for conservation of water, and particularly of that portion which under present conditions runs in waste to the sea.

The conference also suggested in its official recommendations that the provisions in the act of 1915, amending Sec. 637 of the Penal Code and forbidding the holding back or use of stream water needed for fish life below, be repealed. The provisions, as existed, were limiting further irrigation, preventing a higher beneficial use of the water as viewed by the farming interests. (page 119, CVP doc. Authorizing Documents, Engle). Numerous reports and studies followed over the years.

The Marshall Plan

By the 1920's farmers in portions of the San Joaquin Valley, began to notice they were over drafting groundwater basins for crop irrigation. Water diversions for irrigation from the San Joaquin River were all but drying out the lower San Joaquin River as it met up with the Sacramento River in the delta area. Salt-water intrusion from San Francisco Bay was affecting farmers in the delta as reduced flows in the rivers could no longer hold back San Francisco Bay's water. By the 1920s, engineers and State Legislators began investigating alternative water sources that could be diverted to the lower San Joaquin Valley to replenish the aquifer of the southern Central Valley and save the delta farm lands as well. This plan was developed by Robert B. Marshall in 1920 and was known hereafter, as the "Marshall Plan."

During this period of time, the nation and the State of California had gained experience and confidence in constructing large dams for providing water for both agriculture and municipal drinking sources. Most notably, Hetch Hetchy Reservoir on the Toulomne River was authorized in 1913 to provide drinking water for the city of San Francisco. This controversial project destroyed Hetch Hetchy Valley within the legislative boundary of Yosemite National Park, but was seen by some in Congress as providing better use for a more utilitarian goal of supplying safe drinking water to the hundreds of thousands of citizens of San Francisco, rather than recreation for a few hikers to a national park situated high in the Sierra Nevada. It should be noted that while Hetch Hetchy was lost to San Francisco's water delivery system, the entire controversy galvanized the nation to create a conservation movement that has influenced water development projects ever since.

Many government officials and engineers viewed wild rivers that flowed unrestricted to the ocean as a waste. Some political cartoonists imagined large sacks of cash floating down the flooded rivers to the ocean. Not only were these rivers causing destruction of communities and farmlands built in the floodplains of these ancient stream courses, but the water was not being used for agriculture, domestic drinking water, or for power generation. The opportunity for harnessing these natural resources for the public, state, and the federal government's use made common sense. Farmers, city managers, state and local politicians saw it as their biblical right to develop these natural resources and simultaneously cash in on a potentially significant financial wealth. Only a few people opposed these large projects whose livelihoods depended on commercial fishing and several Native American tribes that depended on these pristine river systems to sustain their traditional harvesting of migratory salmon and steelhead



trout. These groups of people, however, were small in number compared to the powerful farming communities, towns and cities that would benefit from such impoundments and diversions.

Because of the over drafting in the San Joaquin Valley, individuals in the State of California began to look at alternate water sources that could augment the supply. The Trinity and Sacramento rivers were large watersheds that provided an abundance of water that had not been harnessed. If these waters could be diverted from their natural drainages into the Pacific Ocean to the east side of the Klamath Mountains into the Sacramento River, they could accomplish several feats. First, the over drafted groundwater basins in the Central Valley could be replenished, preventing economic and agricultural havoc. Second, agriculture could likely be expanded through the construction of additional diversions, canals, and dams. Third, the agricultural industry and cities within California were increasing their power needs faster than the ancient aquifers in the state could replenish. The State of California was increasing its power needs by 6 to 10 percent per year, and the power generating facilities were fossil fuel driven and running at their maximum. Hydropower facilities were viewed as renewable resources and could be sustainable as long as the snow and rains continued to fall as they have for thousands of years.

The solutions to these problems were developed over three decades by numerous people throughout Northern California, all with similar interests, but for different reasons. "In 1920, Colonel Robert Bradford Marshall, Chief Geographer with the United States Geological Survey, had proposed a major water storage and conveyance plan to transfer water from northern California to Central and Southern California." (Laypersons Guide to CVP, Water Education Foundation). The state legislators of California authorized studies of this proposal that eventually became known as the 1933 California Central Valley Project Act. The Central Valley Project or the CVP, was a massive water diversion project that involved moving water from the water rich rivers of northern California for a distance of 450 miles south through the Central Valley to the arid southern San Joaquin Valley near Bakersfield, California. The Act authorized the State to sell revenue bonds to finance the project. However, since the entire nation was suffering through The Great Depression, the bonds did not sell so the only way the project would be funded and completed was under federal government administration. Initially the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was authorized to construct the project through the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1935. When the act was reauthorized in 1937, the Bureau of Reclamation took over the Central Valley Project



completion.

J.D. Galloway, a civil engineer on the engineering advisory committee of the Sacramento River Basin Investigations in July 1930, produced a study that proposed damming the Trinity River and diverting its flows through a tunnel to Clear Creek in the Sacramento drainage to supply irrigation waters to the Central Valley. Mr. Galloway's study, one of many reports and studies that refined the original "Marshall Plan," specifically looked at alternatives for constructing a dam on Clear Creek which he named the Whiskeytown Reservoir. The sole driving purpose of this proposal was for satisfying irrigation demand in the Central Valley. The report states,

Owing to the all year demand for electric energy, it is advisable to bring Trinity River water through the mountains in accordance with the energy demand curve and then re-regulate it to suit the irrigation demand by a reservoir on Clear Creek at Whiskeytown. This will materially reduce the size and cost of the tunnel over that required by an irrigation demand.

The report suggested a reservoir at Whiskeytown that could accommodate approximately 850,000 acre-feet from the Trinity River. The report suggested the dam be built about 2.5 miles downstream from Whiskeytown and have a dam height of 350 feet with a capacity of 600,000 acre feet. Such a dam in 1930 was estimated to cost \$30,000,000. (This proposal is for a dam over 100 feet higher than the current Whiskeytown Dam structure). In this same report, a dam at Kennett on the Sacramento was proposed. Eventually this dam was constructed and completed in 1945 as part of the original Central Valley Project and named Shasta Dam.

Shasta Dam

The Central Valley Project's major construction period extended from 1937 through 1963. The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation was responsible for the construction of the facilities and continues to manage the project today. Shasta Dam was the first major project begun by the Bureau of Reclamation and work commenced in 1938. The dam was constructed on the Sacramento River just 12 miles north of Redding, near the small town of Kennett, California, and holds back the waters of the Pit and McCloud River and the headwaters of the Sacramento River coming off the slopes of Mt. Shasta. Shasta Dam cuts off 187 miles of stream and river channel that was previously unrestricted salmon habitat. Shasta Dam is one of the world's largest dams and has a total height of 602 feet. The dam was completed in 1945. Other associated facilities to Shasta Dam include the Shasta Powerplant and Keswick Dam that serves as an afterbay for

Shasta Dam, and the Trinity River Diversion. The primary purpose of the dam was water supply and power generation. Recreation on Shasta Lake and the other proposed reservoirs from the Marshall Plan and other related studies were not justifications for their construction.

In December 1947, a 42 page Bureau of Reclamation report from the regional director in Sacramento, California, to the commissioner of the Bureau in Washington D.C., the Central Valley Plan is described in detail, both presently constructed facilities and other components that would not be built for another 40 years. Some of the proposals described would be abandoned all together. The report, one of many studies written over the years on the Central Valley Project, states on page 38 under a section entitled "other investigations,"

Certain of the reservoirs and other works proposed in the comprehensive plan will afford recreational opportunities, which should be developed to the fullest extent possible. Some of the reservoirs may inundate historic or archeological sites. Accordingly, the National Park Service, in cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation, should make such investigations as are necessary to determine the recreational potentialities of the various features and to determine what steps should be taken to save, insofar as possible, such historical or archeological values as might be lost through the construction of the contemplated works. (Engle, 1001-1042, Vol. I CVP documents).

This report is one of the first to describe involvement by the National Park Service in the Central Valley Project's recreational planning efforts. The National Park Service was tasked in 1945 to develop and manage a recreation program on the newly completed Shasta Lake. The National Park Service involvement lasted until 1948, when responsibility of this program was transferred to the U.S. Forest Service after Shasta National Forest's boundary was extended to the shoreline of Shasta Lake.

The Trinity River Project

When Congress passed the River and Harbors Act of 1935, funds were provided to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to construct the Central Valley Project. President Roosevelt, by executive order under the authority of the Emergency Relief Appropriations Act of 1935, transferred the funds to the Department of Interior to allow the Bureau of Reclamation to start construction of the Central Valley Project. The Rivers and Harbors Act of 1937 reauthorized the federal Central Valley Project to be built by the Bureau of Reclamation and begin construction of Shasta Dam.

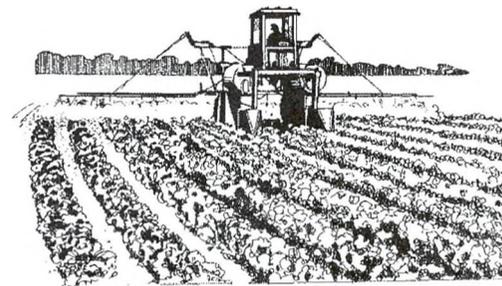
Overdrafted groundwater basins beneath

farmlands in the San Joaquin Valley continued to be a major threat to California's agricultural industry even after Shasta Dam was completed in 1945. To quench the thirst of the Central Valley farms, the Trinity River Division proposed diverting about 25 percent of the Trinity River's large flows east through a tunnel to the Sacramento River, instead of continuing westward to the Pacific Ocean, as it had for millenium. The Trinity River Division would accomplish three major tasks. First, it would greatly reduce the threat of continued depletion of the San Joaquin's aquifers by local farmers; and second, it would allow for expansion of irrigated farming across arid land that could be agriculturally productive if water was made available. Third, the Trinity River Diversion would allow for several large hydropower plants to be constructed that would supply power for local communities and irrigation pumps for the Central Valley Project canals.

In 1956, Joseph E. Patten, manager of Shasta County Department of Water Resource's wrote a summary report explaining the general concerns of the past several decades,

Historically, groundwater has played an extremely important part in the economic development of California and it is not expected its future importance will diminish. Approximately 50% of the state's water supply is presently drawn from underground basins. This condition cannot continue because these basins are being severely overdrawn and in some cases irreparable damage is or will be experienced. Ground water in Shasta County, however, has not been of such significance because of the lack of its abundance and, in general the more readily available surface runoff.

The agricultural industry, metropolitan water users and commercial industries in California were politically powerful enough to see that these large federal projects came to fruition. The interests in preserving the salmon and steelhead runs, the interests in preserving the tribal fisheries and those that lived in the small coastal towns whose lives depended on sustaining a commercially viable fishery, did not carry political clout equal to the farmers of the Central Valley. According to Joseph E. Patten in an interview in April, 2003, the fisheries biologists were significantly behind in knowledge of the fishery resources compared to the expertise of engineers in constructing dams, canals, power facilities and irrigation systems. Fisheries biologists did not have adequate nor accurate knowledge of the base line inventories for the actual size of salmon runs in Clear Creek or the Trinity River drainages when the dams were



being authorized in the mid 1950s. The first base-line inventories of salmon runs along Clear Creek did not occur until 1961.

Area of Origin Rights

There were additional reasons, however, for constructing the Trinity River Division that went beyond the agricultural interests of the Great State of California. According to Joseph E. Patten (History of Clair A. Hill Whiskeytown Dam and Reservoir, August 2003), Clair Hill organized the City Council of Redding and Shasta County Board of Supervisors to take the position that, if the Bureau of Reclamation was going to build another major project in the area, the local population should strive to secure long-term economic benefits from the project. This position stems from a long-standing debates and legislative consideration of the Counties of Origin theory and law. This position alleges protection to the areas of origin since nearly 10 percent of the Central Valley water supply originates in the county and a significant portion of the State's developed water supply is exported through Redding (J. Patten, 2003)

When Shasta Dam was constructed in 1945, the citizens of Redding benefited from the jobs that dam construction created. For seven years, dam construction related work thrived, but once the dam was completed, these economic benefits ended. Not only did the jobs end, but the impounded waters of the Sacramento, Pit and McCloud rivers were directed south of Shasta County to the agricultural fields in the expanding farm lands of the San Joaquin Valley.

The City of Redding and Shasta County did not realize a sustained prosperity as a result of huge Shasta Dam sitting in their back yard. A young engineer named Clair Hill realized there were more opportunities to be attained as California's Central Valley Project reached its full potential development. In his 1956 report, Joseph E. Patten wrote,

Shasta Reservoir with a capacity of four and one-half million acre feet, and Keswick Reservoir with a capacity of 24,000 acre feet, were constructed by the Reclamation Bureau for Central Valley Project and for all practical purposes are not serving the local area.

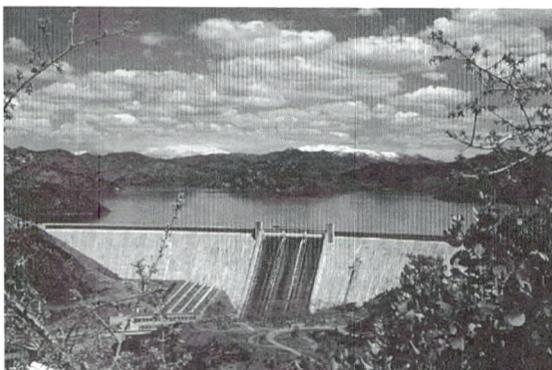
submitted an official proposal to the Secretary of the Interior to dam the Trinity River and divert its flows to the Sacramento River.

President Harry S. Truman, in a letter written from the White House on January 2, 1953, accepted the Trinity River Division addition to the Central Valley Project and the secretary's analysis that the project was feasible and authorized under the Reclamation Act of 1939 and Flood Control Act of 1944 and had no objection for the secretary to submit the project to Congress for legislation and funding. Another letter written the same day by Secretary of the Interior, Oscar L. Chapman, submitted to the Honorable Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House of Representative in the 83rd Congress, 1st Session, stating that Trinity River Division of the Central Valley Project was found feasible by the Secretary of the Interior according to the provisions of section 9 of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 and the Flood Control Act of 1944. At an estimated cost of \$207,334,000, it was determined that the project, when built would pay for itself in time to meet the needs of the Reclamation Act and the Flood Control Act of 1944.

On April 13, 1953, Mr. Frank Durkee, Director of Public Works for the State of California, sent a letter of transmittal to the Honorable Douglas McKay, Secretary of the Interior in response to the Secretary's submittal in 1952, for comments on the report discussing the Trinity River Division. Mr. Durkee's summary was in full support of the project and, "it should be constructed at the earliest practicable date." The letter, also stated that both Humboldt and Del Norte counties opposed the project. The counties first reason was, "it would deprive those counties of water that may be needed by them in the future; and the second, that no comprehensive, detailed study of the water needs of the two counties had been done." (both counties are downstream of the Trinity River as it flows into the Klamath River). The state responded that the Trinity River comprises only 30 percent of the Klamath River's total flow at its mouth, and the proposed diversion would use 25 percent of the flow of the Trinity River near Hoopa. This represents only 7 percent of the water of the Klamath River at its mouth to the Pacific Ocean.

On January 5, 1955, Congressman Clair Engle reintroduced the authorization bill in the 1st session of the 84th Congress as H.R. 105. U.S. Senator Kuchel introduced a similar bill as S. 178. In March 1955, Congressman Engle submitted a new bill, H.R. 4663, which became the final House version for authorizing the Trinity River Division.

The Bureau of Reclamation's Initial Plan for the Trinity River



An idea that had been discussed over the years, was to divert a large portion of the Trinity River to the Sacramento River to add valuable water to the arid Central Valley's agricultural fields and to generate additional electrical power. On May 2, 1952, Michael W. Straus, Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation

The Bureau of Reclamation's initial plan was to directly pipe the water from the proposed Trinity River Dam to Keswick Reservoir, an afterbay dam below Shasta Dam on the Sacramento River. While this proposal was efficient, it would not provide any direct benefit to Shasta County, particularly the citizens of Redding. It was here that Mr. Clair A. Hill, an engineer with his company Clair A. Hill and Associates, decided it was time to weight in and come up with a new plan that would truly benefit Shasta County in perpetuity.

The Campaign to Build Whiskeytown Dam

In the mid 1950s, Clair Hill worked with his friend and Redding native son James K. Carr, a Bureau of Reclamation engineer, to promote the idea of building a series of dams on Clear Creek near Whiskeytown. Hill believed that a series of dams along Clear Creek would provide Redding and Northern California with a terrific source of irrigation water, hydroelectric power, a source of domestic drinking water and beneficial flood control for this major tributary of the Sacramento River. The original alternative plan of piping the Trinity River Division directly to Keswick reservoir would be less expensive, but would not reap any of the local long-term benefits that the Clear Creek dam alternative would realize.

An interesting political situation had developed in Redding, California, during the 1940s and 1950s. With a population just around 25,000 people, Redding was the largest city north of Sacramento and had become the political power base of Northern California. Supportive politicians in key roles, all from the Shasta County area, held key seats in Congress, the Senate, and in federal agencies interested in water development. Coincidentally, Northern California's Congressman Clair Engle, was a local resident of the town of Red Bluff, just 30 miles south of Redding. Clair Engle would later become a U.S. Senator and continue to support Shasta County's desire to benefit from the abundant water resources of Northern California. Jim Carr, who had served as an employee of the Bureau of Reclamation, later became an engineering consultant to the Congressional Interior and Insular Affairs Committee that was chaired by Congressman Engle. Jim Carr's brother Laurence served as Shasta County Chair for the local Democratic Committee that dominated Redding politics during this period. Laurence Carr would become a key Northern California manager in the presidential campaign to elect a young Senator from Massachusetts, named John F. Kennedy. James K. Carr then was appointed Undersecretary to Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall in the Kennedy Administration through the recommendation of Senator Engle,

California Governor Pat Brown and others.

In 1971, Clair Hill would combine companies and help create the international engineering company CH2MHill. Clair Hill and Jim Carr were determined to see the Trinity River Division benefit Shasta County. Congressman Engle agreed and the trio, along with the full support of Shasta County Board of Supervisors proposed their version of how the Trinity River Division should be advanced by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Congressman Engle was the chair of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives when he arranged to have a hearing in Redding California on April 16, 1954. This turned out to be the first of several hearings from both the U.S. Congress and the California State Legislators on the Trinity River Project. Congressman Engle held the hearing for the purpose "to obtain as much first hand testimony from the local people concerned as was possible, preparatory to future hearings on the same legislation in Washington."

It was at the April 16th hearing in the Shasta County Court House, that Clair Hill eloquently proposed to the sub-committee on irrigation and reclamation, regarding H.R. 123, the initial bill by Congressman Engle to introduce the Trinity River Project. Clair Hill, upon request to represent the interest of the Shasta County Board of Supervisors, proposed an alternative plan to the Bureau of Reclamation's initial concept. Clair Hill suggested storage (dams and reservoirs) on Clear Creek, rather than having a single tunnel from Trinity Lake divert water directly to Keswick Reservoir.

Mr. Hill promised to deliver a detailed report to the House Committee describing the variation to the initial proposed Trinity River Project that included a reservoir at Whiskeytown on Clear Creek. This report, "Clear Creek Alternatives for the Trinity River Development," was delivered on June 3, 1954, to both Congressman Engle, Chairman of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee and to the Mr. Andrew Jessen, Chairman of Shasta County's Board of Supervisors. The report's main driving point was to create a better Trinity River Project with increased water capacity, increased power generation and water in position to help local area irrigation. This proposal positioned Shasta County to increase its potential agricultural irrigation from its current 40,700 acres of irrigable area to a potential acreage of 215,000 acres. "For all purposes, including irrigation, urban, and industrial, 232,700 acre feet per year of water is now being used, with an ultimate water requirement of 589,100 acre feet or a net



additional water requirement of 356,000 acre feet per annum. Even though run off in the area greatly exceeds requirements for the County's ultimate development, much of the water is at too low an elevation to be recoverable for use on the land within this county, and will have to be utilized farther south."

Mr. Hill's report continues, "the information submitted herewith will show that it is economically feasible to develop Clear Creek as part of the Trinity River Diversion Project from its inception, it appears that it may not be feasible to develop Clear Creek alone at a later date. Exclusion of Clear Creek from the project would result in a loss of yield from 275,000 more feet of otherwise completely unregulated water."

Clair Hill & Associates Civil Engineers proposed to the Bureau of Reclamation 5 dam sites throughout the lower Clear Creek drainage. Such dams would allow Shasta County to irrigate an additional 200,000 acres of additional agricultural land by gravity from Clear Creek dams (Irrigable land in Shasta County in 1956 was approximately 40,000 acres).

The 1954 report by Clair Hill does not mention recreational potentialities, nor any discussion regarding establishing a park associated with the reservoirs along Clear Creek. There is a short reference in Congressman Engle's documents on the Central Valley Project in 1955, estimating the cost of the Trinity River Division based on January 1954 prices at \$219,282,000. Engle's report states all the cost are reimbursable except \$215,000 for minimum recreation facilities recommended at Trinity and Lewiston reservoirs and \$47,000 for fish protection facilities." None of this applies, however, to the Whiskeytown project.

Hearings were held in Redding on November 15, 1954 and in Sacramento on April 28-29, 1955, by the state legislative joint committee on water problems. Considerable testimony was heard on the Trinity River Project at these hearings "Shasta County was represented before both of these hearings presenting testimony in support of the Trinity Project and specifically, Shasta County's position in regard to the inclusion of facilities alternate to or supplemental to the original plan, which would be of greater value to the local economy." (Joseph Patten, 1956 report). In November 1954, immediately prior to the opening of the first session of the 84th Congress, the Department of Interior working with Congressman Engle's committee developed language that would specifically include references to Clear Creek development and local irrigation projects in the Trinity River Diversion Project legislation. The Shasta County Board of Supervisors wrote to Congressman Engle requesting that he include sufficiently broad language in the bill to permit the investigations of Clear Creek Alternatives and the construction of

local irrigation projects in Shasta County.

Congressman Engle's authorizing bill (H.R. 4663 Trinity River Act) for the Trinity River Project reads,

"The Secretary is authorized to construct, operate, and maintain, as an addition to an integral part of the Central Valley Project of California the Trinity River Diversion consisting of a major storage reservoir on the Trinity River with a capacity of 2,500,000 acre feet, a conveyance system consisting of tunnels, dams, and appurtenant works to transport Trinity River water to the Sacramento River and provide by means of storage as necessary, such control and conservation of Clear Creek flows as the Secretary determines proper to carry out the purpose of this Act, etc."

Joseph Patten speculated years later that James K. Carr, working as a consultant to Congressman Engle's committee, probably wrote this broad language for the Congressional committee's consideration.

The principal hearing for the Trinity River Project was held in Washington D.C. on April 13, 14, and 15, 1955. At the time, both Shasta County and the City of Redding were "represented by testimony in support of the project and local features presented." (Patten, 1956, pg. 18). Again the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs heard testimony on July 14, 1955, at which time Congressman Engle's bill was presented before the Senate committee. During the closing days of Congress, the Trinity bill was passed as originally drafted by Engle, including provisions for the investigation of the Clear Creek Alternatives. The U.S. Senate passed the bill on July 30, 1955. The bill, Public Law 386, 84th Congress, 69 Stat. 719, 1955, was signed by President Eisenhower on August 12, 1955. The approved act states, "the principal purpose of the Trinity River Project is to increase the supply of water available for irrigation and other beneficial uses in the Central Valley of California. . ."

While this legislation gave authority to begin detailed planning and construction work, the decision to build one large dam on Clear Creek that would inundate the small settlements of Whiskeytown and Oak Bottom were not fully realized. Even the local newspaper, the Redding Record Searchlight, reporting on this exciting passage of this significant law for Trinity and Shasta County describes that the project would divert 700,000 acre feet of Trinity River flows to the Sacramento River through tunnels for use in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys. Reporting on August 1, 1955, the newspaper wrote,

From the Lewiston Dam a tunnel 8.3 miles long will carry the water to a powerhouse

on Clear Creek. Immediately downstream on Clear Creek from this powerhouse a diversion dam will be built to capture and regulate releases from the power plant. Then the water will enter a tunnel again for an 8.6 mile journey to a proposed Matheson power plant on the west bank of the Keswick Reservoir.

While the Bureau of Reclamation was trying to figure out how many dams and how large the Clear Creek impoundments should be, Congress had given the secretary the authority to develop "storage as necessary" along Clear Creek.

Whiskeytown Dam Decided

On March 10, 1956, Bureau of Reclamation Regional Director Clyde Spencer announced and had published as a matter of public record (Redding Record Searchlight), that the Bureau had decided to move forward with constructing Whiskeytown Dam on Clear Creek as part of the Trinity Diversion Project. This date also marks the demise of the small gold mining communities of Whiskeytown, Oak Bottom and other claimants scattered throughout the valley bottom.

In a letter to Bureau of Reclamation Regional Director Clyde H. Spencer, on March 30, 1956, just 20 days after the announcement of selecting the Whiskeytown Dam alternative, Mr. Seth Gordon, Director of California Fish and Game reports his agency had received several inquiries regarding recreational development at Whiskeytown Reservoir. The letter states,

On April 13 there will be a meeting in Redding between representatives of the Department of Fish and Game, Bureau of Reclamation and the Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss the fisheries problems that will be presented by the construction of the Whiskeytown Dam and it seems to be appropriate that the plans of the Bureau for land acquisition and recreational development be discussed at that time.

Land speculators also began purchasing land around the proposed Whiskeytown Reservoir as early as April 1955, a year prior to the official decision by the Bureau of Reclamation. Joseph Patton, as manager of Shasta County's Department of Water Resources, was called upon by Bureau of Reclamation Conservationist Everett A. Pesonen, to discuss Mr. Grover Oaks' plan for a subdivision in the Whiskeytown Reservoir site. Apparently Mr. Pesonen and Mr. Patten discussed the concern of Shasta County's Department of Public Works Chief Mr. Earnest Bruening of Mr. Oaks' proposal. The County Board of Supervisors, who had the final decision on the matter, were then asked by the three men to disapprove of Mr. Oaks' proposed subdivision "to at least record a protest against

the subdivision on the basis of protecting the interests of the United States."

On April 3, 1956, the Bureau of Reclamation wrote a memo entitled, "zoning of Whiskeytown Reservoir area." The memo states:

Joseph E. Patten telephoned me today. He said that he and Clair Hill had discussed the necessity of having a zoning ordinance covering the areas adjacent to the reservoir. He said one or two real estate subdivisions were in prospect, ...Patten and Hill wondered whether we couldn't suggest to the County that it zone the area in anticipation of its possible future use. ...Patten wished confirmation on our basic land acquisition policy. I told him it was one of acquiring up to 10 feet in elevation above high water and not more than 300 feet horizontally.

Establishing the Whiskeytown Project Take Line

Once the Bureau of Reclamation had determined Whiskeytown Dam would be finally constructed in March 1956, Reclamation engineers began developing maps showing the "take line" of the reservoir. The take line includes all the lands necessary to allow the reservoir and its associated facilities to be constructed. Within the take line, all private property would be purchased by the Bureau of Reclamation as authorized in Public Law 386, 84th Congress.

The Bureau of Reclamation was able to rather quickly figure out the maximum height of the proposed reservoir's water line based on the 278-foot high dam structure to be built on Clear Creek. The Bureau of Reclamation then measured a 300 foot perimeter around the reservoir and adjusted it accordingly to include the blocks of private property and existing Bureau of Land Management land that would be transferred in whole to facilitate the needs of the project. This "take line" remained fixed through initial recreational studies conducted by the State of California State Parks system and Shasta County. Initial studies by the California State Parks and later by Shasta County Planning Department in the late 1950s suggested Whiskeytown County Park be around 6,000 acres in size.

As the Bureau of Reclamation drew their maps of the Whiskeytown Reservoir, land surveyors had difficulty identifying the individual parcels because many of the valley floor resident's claims along Clear Creek were based on mining claims. In December 1957, a memo to the Regional Director of the Bureau of Reclamation from



the Project Construction Engineer stated, “ In several cases the descriptions were so vague and indefinite that it is impossible to properly orient the claim, we have however, verified by field inspection the actual location of each claim.” Numerous landowners wrote letters to the Bureau of Reclamation asking where specifically the flood line was of the new proposed reservoir. Field crews flagged the line through the area and the Bureau of Reclamation began to survey property lines, identifying what properties should be included in the take line.

Recreation Planning and the Bureau of Reclamation

Potential recreation use for the State’s reservoirs was always realized as a contributing benefit with fishing, swimming, and boating, but recreation was not one of the missions authorized for the Bureau of Reclamation. As a result, “to provide for public use and enjoyment. . .of water areas created by these developments” is only briefly mentioned in the authorizing bill (Sec. 3, Central Valley Project Documents, Engle, Authorizing Documents, 1956, pg. 937). Responsibility for determining recreation potentials fell to other entities and agencies rather than the Bureau of Reclamation.

The National Park Service had been positioning itself since the end of World War II as the federal government’s recreational leader. It had begun to track the social concerns of present and future recreational needs of the “baby boom” generation. Estimates of the United States’ population expanding to 320 million citizens by the year 2000, along with a shorter work week, demanded asking where will citizens be able to recreate. In the late 1940s, most National Park Service sites contained spectacular landscapes, but most were remote areas of the country, often high in a mountain setting. For day use recreation, the state parks, county and city parks offered the only open space facilities designed for large crowds seeking weekend recreation. Some planners in the National Park Service, along with other agencies, recognized that large reservoirs, especially those in picturesque locations and relatively close to urban centers could provide ample recreational opportunities for the nation’s growing populace. There was a reluctance however, by some National Park Service managers to get involved in “recreational areas,” for fear inclusion of such areas would dilute the standard of quality the Service’s existing system of spectacular national park sites held.

Large federal reservoirs being planned and designed by the Bureau of Reclamation and Army Corps of Engineers were all being considered for their “recreational potentialities.” In the 1950s, however, the Eisenhower Administration was encouraging state and local counties to take over the recreation programs at various facilities, often with out sufficient

funds to adequately manage the “basic minimum recreational facilities” (James K. Carr interview, September 22, 1971). Specific to the Central Valley Project, the National Park Service was called upon to undertake the planning of the Central Valley Project’s recreational development under a “Memorandum of Agreement” with the Bureau of Reclamation beginning May 22, 1945 for Shasta Reservoir. The study was for the Planning, Development and Management of the Recreational Facilities of the Shasta Reservoir and Millerton Lake Areas for Public Use and Enjoyment.

The National Park Service managed Shasta Lake’s recreational program from 1945 through 1948. Park planner George Collins was assigned as the area Superintendent for the National Park Service at Shasta Lake and dealt with developing the lake’s recreational facilities. Although Shasta Lake was never designated a national park site, the National Park Service served as recreational planners and managers for over three years. Congressman Engle, in 1948, passed legislation transferring the recreational responsibilities of management to the U.S. Forest Service since the Shasta Trinity National Forest surrounded the giant reservoir, ending the National Park Service’s involvement in Shasta Lake’s recreation program. Eventually Millerton Lake in the San Joaquin Valley became a State Park after the National Park Service established a recreational program at that location as well during the mid 1940s.

Fourteen additional reservoir recreation studies were made in the Central Valley Basin by the National Park Service between 1947 and 1957. These have been performed pursuant to a cooperative agreement with Reclamation, first executed on July 28, 1950 and Revised and amended in December 8, 1954 and in April 18, 1955.” (pg. 402,CVP Documents, Engle, vol. II) The Memorandum of Agreement was signed by National Park Service Director Newton B. Drury and by Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner, Michael W. Straus in 1950. In a National Park Service memo of December 8, 1954, both Commissioner of Reclamation, Mr. W.A. Dexheimer and National Park Service Director Conrad L. Wirth signed a joint memo to the Secretary of the Interior stating the purposes of each respective agencies involvement in the investigation and planning of recreation resources and the development and administration of the lands and water of water control projects and for recreational use. The final memo was signed by the new Commissioner Floyd E. Dominy and National Park Service Director Conrad Wirth.

In April 1955, George Collins, now Regional Chief for Cooperative Activities Division with the National Park Service sent a memo to the Bureau of Reclamation making cost recommendations for developing “ultimate” recreational facilities at

Trinity and Lewiston reservoirs of approximately \$400,000. The “minimum recreational facility” cost developed by the Bureau of Reclamation was only \$214,000 and remained the figure for years in their budget justifications, even after Whiskeytown was included in the Trinity River Project.

The U.S. Forest Service had similar agreements with the Bureau of Reclamation in regard to Shasta Reservoir and later with Trinity River Project, however, the emphasis of these was primarily focused on the management of the natural resources, particularly timber. In a Memorandum of Agreement between the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, and the Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Interior, on September 30, 1955, the agreement discusses the Trinity River division,

“...the dams and reservoirs constructed as part of the Trinity River Division, Central Valley Project, will be located mainly within the boundaries of Shasta-Trinity National Forests, and the proposed construction requires complete re-planning for management and protection of national forest resources...

...the Forest Service will prepare a detailed report covering adjustments necessary in fire control and prevention plans, management of timber resources, management of range resources and management of the recreation, ...such report to be a full picture of changes in programs and operations which would be necessitated by the construction of the Trinity River Division, Central Valley Project.

Natural resources, not recreation, was the primary concern of the U.S. Forest Service in these transmittals.

Recreational Planning for Whiskeytown Reservoir-A State Park or County Park?

In 1956, the California State Legislature (Item 184.2) budgeted \$100,000 for a statewide recreation study on large reservoirs and appropriated an additional \$500,000 for acquisition of real property in the immediate vicinity of existing or proposed large reservoirs for the State Park System. Immediately following the Bureau’s March 10, 1956 announcement deciding on developing Whiskeytown Dam, the California State Parks was asked to study whether or not Whiskeytown Reservoir should be included in its state park system. In a transmittal memo of August 5, 1957, regarding of the recreational potentialities of Whiskeytown Reservoir by the State Parks of California, the study rejected the idea of including Whiskeytown Lake as a State Park.

The reason for this rejection was because the park proposal was for a shoreline park with

three small units that would include parking and camping areas covering an area of only 5,828 acres (the current Whiskeytown National Recreation Area is 42,000 in size). The State Park’s study states,

The Whiskeytown Reservoir area does not possess the scenic qualities necessary to qualify it for admission to the State Park System, but it could well become an area of wide recreational importance in northern California.

The report continues, suggesting Shasta County has expressed an interest in having permanent recreation facilities established on the reservoir to increase tourist expenditures and County tax revenue, they have indicated an interest in establishing and administering a recreation area should the State not include the project in its park system.

It is interesting to note that it was Newton B. Drury, former director of the National Park Service who retired and became California’s State Parks Director, signed the cover letter rejecting Whiskeytown Reservoir for inclusion to California’s state park system.

When California State Parks rejected Whiskeytown, it gave Shasta County the opportunity to further study the concept to develop a county park at Whiskeytown Lake. Shasta County Board of Supervisors, in April 1958, approved a proposal to develop a Master Recreation Plan of Shasta County. The master plan’s principal component was “Unit One, The Recreation Plan of Whiskeytown Reservoir.”

The Master Recreation Plan of Whiskeytown Reservoir was presented to the Board of Supervisors on May 5, 1958. Mr. W.T. Jeffs, Chairman of Shasta County Planning Commission stated the report “Represents planning of a high order- - constructive thinking leading to the fulfillment of a demonstrated need- -the establishment and development of County Parks.” Following the suggestion for further public hearings regarding the release of this study of Whiskeytown Reservoir, the introductory memo states:

The County of Shasta has long anticipated the realization of Whiskeytown Reservoir and its tremendous recreational possibilities...this reservoir must be considered with relationship to the development of public recreation in all of Shasta County. Therefore, the Plan is Unit One of the Shasta County Recreation Master Plan.

According to Mr. Patten,



Whiskeytown was known as “Unit One” because the other four Supervisors in Shasta County wanted county parks established in their respective districts. Newspaper articles show the Shasta County Planning Commission began working on studying the recreational potentialities as early as May 1955 and other articles discussing public recreation at Whiskeytown in April 1956 just a month after the final decision to build the dam.

Recreational planning began full throttle in 1956, with delivered reports completed in 1957 and in 1958. Clair Hill and Joseph Patten, along with Mr. Bruening, Director of Shasta County Public Works, met with Bureau of Reclamation Regional Project Development Engineer, Mr. Ivan Pat Head, in Patten’s office on May 3, 1956. In the meeting, Mr. Bruening asked Mr. Head how the county could get money from the State Division of Beaches and Parks to do some county planning for Whiskeytown Reservoir. Mr. Head wrote, “I, of course, was unable to answer his question but I did take the opportunity to reiterate that I thought the County should get going on their planning program.”

Head was visiting Weaverville and Redding to attend public meetings on April 24, 1956 regarding the recreational developments on the reservoirs of the Trinity River Project. State Assemblywomen Pauline Davis (D-Portola) kicked off the meeting stating, “Recreational assets in northern California are not a luxury they’re an industry. During the public hearing, Mrs. Davis repeatedly urged those present to act quickly. This must be done she said, first to take advantage of the new Division of Beaches and Parks appropriation of \$600,000 and second to get a share of the \$120 million in tidelands oil money to be devoted to development of natural resources. Mrs. Davis warned that because voting majorities exist in densely populated southern portions of the state, it will later become increasingly difficult to get money and help. “The southern part of the state is beautiful,” she commented, “but we want some of that money to come up here.” Mrs. Davis suggested that civic groups, Shasta and Trinity counties boards of supervisors and their respective planning commissions devote time to studies of possible recreational development and keep her informed. (Record Searchlight April 24, 1956)

Bureau of Reclamation employee Everett A. Pesonen wrote in a June 25, 1957, memo that “Mr. John Reginato of the Shasta Cascade Wonderland Association says it is rumored that the Bureau of Land Management has thrown open certain lands that abut Whiskeytown Reservoir. I called Mr. Beck of the Bureau of Land Management about it and he said that some leases were issued quite some time ago. ... however, when the flow line of Whiskeytown

became known they stopped issuing leases.

National Park Service Planners Push for Expanded County Park

As recreational planning evolved with the National Park Service planners, it appears that some engineers in the Bureau of Reclamation were not supportive of the National Park Service’s efforts to expand the take line boundary to develop an optimal recreational facility. In the initial State Park study of August 1957, the State Park study did not look at the recreational potentialities beyond the Bureau of Reclamation’s project take line. Local leaders in Redding and planners in the National Park Service began looking at expanding the recreational area beyond the Bureau’s original take line to include additional properties near the lake to develop a larger County park for recreation. It was not until the Kennedy Administration came to power in 1961 and local native son James K. Carr was appointed Undersecretary of the Interior that local leaders in Redding would abandon the county park concept and push for a larger national recreation area.

On March 17, 1958, the National Park Service met with Bureau of Reclamation engineers and Shasta County planners at Whiskeytown. During the field meeting, Mr. McInnis, Mr. Herbert (Shasta County Planning Director) and Mr. Pesonen (Bureau of Reclamation) agreed with Mr. Bigler and Mr. W. J. McCallum of the National Park Service, that it would be very advantageous to withdraw additional BLM lands over and above those already withdrawn until our public use plan has been worked out in cooperation with Shasta County.

On May 7, 1958, Mr. George Collins, Regional Chief of the National Park Service’s recreation resource planning division sent a letter to the Bureau of Land Management to inquire as to the possibility of withdrawing additional public lands for recreation. The Bureau of Reclamation told Collins the Bureau of Reclamation was not permitted to with draw lands purely for recreation purposes even though the recreation value is basically created as a direct by-product of the their project- - the construction of the reservoir.

The National Park Service, on July 30, 1958, sent a letter to Regional Director Bellport of the Bureau of Reclamation in Sacramento with the first detailed estimates for constructing the “minimum basic public use facilities” for the proposed Whiskeytown Reservoir. These figures, stated the National Park Service, “are based on the assumption that adequate lands will be made available by the administering agency and funds made available for their development for public use” (by Shasta County). The National Park Service’s figures included road access,

picnic sites, water systems, sanitation facilities, boat launching, parking facilities, conservation landscaping, trails and paths, signs and markers and planning and contingencies and totaled \$232,000. When annual operation charges were included, maintenance, replacement on non-durable public use facilities and an assumption that 60 percent of total weekly visitation will occur on Sunday between April and November, an estimated 100,000 visitor days would be accommodated with an annual cost of \$38,500.

The expanded park concept, in 1959, was still viewed as a small county park with lands extending just beyond the proposed take line set by the Bureau of Reclamation in 1956. The National Park Service and County planners were still struggling with the Bureau of Reclamation engineers to expand the area beyond the initial minimal take line for a county park.

In a meeting held on January 8, 1959, Mr. Stuart and Mr. Symthe of the Bureau of Reclamations Acquisition division met with Shasta County Planning Commission which wanted to know the status of the various agencies concerned with Whiskeytown reservoir. The memo written by Bureau of Reclamation Everett A. Pesonen, Conservationist for Region 2, states,

... From our standpoint it was most important to spell out the responsibility for the National Park Service. Considering that reports on Whiskeytown Reservoir have already been prepared by the State Division of Beaches and Parks and Shasta County there is no point in a third report. Shasta County wants an economic study to indicate the importance of Whiskeytown to its economy. We concluded that such a study would be a part of minimum basic public use facilities or any other authority of Reclamation funds so Reclamation funds could not be used for it.

Section 3 of the Trinity authorization does provide that the Secretary may transfer public lands to agencies such as Shasta County. The Park Service can, in its study, determine which lands may properly be transferred, leased or conveyed for recreation purposes as defined in Section 3. The Service can also, in its planning, determine whether any private lands are vital to realization of the reservoir's public recreation use potential. ... According to Section 3 a special report must be made to Congress if any land is proposed to be purchased.

Local Redding Leadership Raises Concerns Over Minimum Basic Recreational Facilities

Meanwhile, Mr. John Reginato, manager of the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association and other Redding local leaders were sending letters to Senator Kuchel regarding recreational

development at Whiskeytown Reservoir questioning the Bureau of Reclamation's limited \$100,000 amount for Whiskeytown Lake's recreation development. Mr. Reginato wrote on February 17, 1959,

It is also incongruous to spend \$250,000,000 for the development of a project such as the Trinity River Division and then in turn not provide at least 1% of the over-all cost for development of recreational facilities. ... It is also incongruous to place the burden of development of these facilities upon the ... County of Shasta without providing sufficient funds to develop facilities which will meet the needs of the users of the reservoir sites. By constructing the Trinity River Division reservoirs, the federal government immediately creates a problem inasmuch that as soon as the first waters begin to pour into these reservoir sites the public will begin using the area for recreation. ... Furthermore, county government is in no position to develop these facilities, which will be vitally necessary and which will be demanded by the public.

... We, of the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association do not want to see that same problem created on the Trinity, Lewiston and Whiskeytown Lakes. It is our desire that during the construction of the Trinity River Division, that funds be appropriated in sufficient amounts to provide the basic minimum facilities in order that the problems that exist today on Shasta Lake and Keswick Lake will not re-occur. ... As our representative in Congress, we strongly urge you to have sufficient funds appropriated ... to the Bureau of Reclamation for transferal to the County of Shasta of approximately \$600,000 to develop basic minimum facilities on the Whiskeytown Reservoir.



To counter, Commissioner Floyd Dominy asked Regional Director Bellport to prepare a letter for the Secretary of the Interior to sign in response to both Senator Kuchel and Congressman Johnson. The letter states,

The Whiskeytown Reservoir was added to the Trinity Division independently by Congressional action and no estimate for minimum basic facilities was made for that area. However, the sum of \$100,000 has been programmed as a reasonable amount for that purpose and plans are now being made anticipating that this amount will be sufficient. Undoubtedly the sum of \$1,750,000 for Trinity and Lewiston and \$600,000 for Whiskeytown, which were

mentioned by Mr. Reginato, could be used to advantage in providing recreational facilities. However, facilities costing such large sums could obviously far exceed the minimum basic facilities which we have considered as an appropriate project cost and which, in the case of Trinity, were justified to the Congress (\$203,000 for Trinity, \$31,110 for Lewiston and \$100,000 for Whiskeytown). As you know, in providing minimum facilities at reservoirs, it has been our aim to take care of only the initial use, which will be made of the reservoirs by the public. It is our basic concept, which I believe is consistent with the Trinity Legislation, that agencies other than Reclamation should provide those facilities beyond the ones considered appropriate to finance with project funds. . . . Briefly then, it is our view that if there is a need for recreational investments in excess of those now justified, then those investments should be provided from non-project Federal funds or from local or State funds.

On March 13, 1959, National Park Service Chief Recreation Resource Planner, Mr. George Collins, sent a 5-page letter to Bureau of Reclamation Regional Director B.P. Bellport proposing three alternatives for creating a future Whiskeytown County Park. This included a Minimum Park Area alternative, an Optimum Park Area alternative and a Major Park Area Alternative. At this point, even the "Major Park Area" alternative was only 6 to 8,000 acres and only included Lower Brandy Creek, an expanded area along the lake in the Whiskey Creek arm and the Oak Bottom area. Shasta Bally and its extensive forests, Lower Clear Creek Canyon, the Tower House area and Crystal Creek were not yet included and wouldn't be until after 1961 when James K. Carr would become Undersecretary for the Department of the Interior.

On May 15, 1959, the Bureau of Reclamation's Trinity Project Engineer wrote a memo to the his regional director regarding a proposal by National Park Service regional planner, Mr. George Collins, for expanding the Bureau of Reclamations recommended take line for the purpose of "lands recommended for minimum basic recreational facilities." This was the beginning effort to incorporate an expanded recreation area beyond the minimum that the Bureau of Reclamation saw as necessary.

Despite the National Park Service's planning, the Bureau of Reclamation still only had \$100,000 for recreational development as the Trinity Act had authorized. Both the National Park Service and Shasta County began pressuring the Bureau to find more money and begin to purchase lands around the proposed lake. As of June 5, 1959, the Bureau of Reclamation had only purchased the access road to the proposed dam site. The Bureau of Reclamation promised in a meeting held in Sacramento with the National Park

Service and Shasta County Planners, that the first priority for land acquisition is the dam structure itself, and assured the group that no isolated tracts or small pieces will be left within the taking line under any circumstances. Mr. Pesonen suggested as a possible solution to the problem of acquiring private lands, the county might acquire such lands now, the Bureau could then purchase these lands from the county at a later date (page 2, Whiskeytown Reservoir, Minutes of Meeting June 2, 1959, Bureau of Reclamation, Shasta County Planning and National Park Service). The Bureau of Reclamation continued to view the land acquisition in terms of priority for dam and reservoir operations; recreational needs were not a priority.

On June 5, 1959, in a memo to the Bureau of Reclamation's Commissioner in Washington D.C., to the regional director in Sacramento, the issue of expanding land acquisition of private property for the purposes of recreation were questioned. The memo reads,

. . . we have encouraged local agencies to make plans and preparations to assume management of the area. The state has investigated its suitability for state park purposes and concluded that it is not of state park caliber. Shasta County has also investigated it and the Board of Supervisors has, by resolution, gone on record for county management. The attached "Recreation Plan," Whiskeytown Reservoir has been adopted by the county.

The National Park Service is now preparing a public use plan for the reservoir area. Following a meeting of the Shasta County Planning Commission with representatives of the Bureau of Reclamation, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the State Division of Forestry on January 8, 1959, the National Park Service, was asked, as a first step, to prepare a map showing what lands would be needed for minimum basic public use facilities. That map has been prepared and a print is attached. In addition to showing lands which the Service recommends for basic minimum facilities it also shows lands recommended for optimum and major park area, the boundaries desired for county management and the tentative Reclamation take line shown. . . . In a effort to determine to what extent Reclamation has the authority or obligation to acquire land and to hold withdrawn land for transfer to the county, two specific questions have arisen. . . .

1. Shall we accept the recommendations of the National Park Service that certain private lands be acquired and certain withdrawn lands be held for access to project lands and maintenance of public health and safety and the protection of public property in

connection with provisions of minimum basic public use facilities?

2. Should all the withdrawn lands recommended for recreational use by the National Park Service, including those lands over and above the lands needed for minimum basic facilities, be held for lease, transfer, or conveyance to the county for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the minimum basic facilities and for other purposes specified.

The answers to the above questions will guide us in determining the final “take line” for the reservoir. They will also influence the locations of minimum basic facilities and inform the county so it can make plans for area management and for control of private lands not included in the publicly managed area. (B.P. Bellport, Regional Director, BOR; June 5, 1959).

On October 1, 1959, regional supervisor for Irrigation and Power for the Bureau of Reclamation wrote to the regional director in Sacramento and stated,

The Regional Engineer advises me that a determination needs to be made of lands to be acquired for the Whiskeytown Reservoir area. The National Park Service has recommended that certain lands be acquired for minimum basic use facilities. The Shasta County Planning Commission and the Shasta Board of Supervisors agree with the National Park Service as to the need for these lands. Both the Commissioner and the Regional Solicitor have been consulted and we are assured that there is authority to acquire the recommended lands provided the criteria for minimum basic facilities are met.

As I see it, we have no specific basis on which to question the judgment of the National Park Service. If we had any question it would have to be on some basis other than the need for minimum basic facilities since the Service was requested to tell us what that need is. . . . I recommend that you approve the take line as outlined in orange (the NPS recommendation) and so advise the Regional Engineer.”

Now, with the National Park Service authority and expertise in designing basic minimum recreational facilities unquestioned, the National Park Service moved forward in planning its vision for Whiskeytown Lake as a county park. On April 27, 1960, the Shasta County Planning Commission sent a letter to the Bureau of Reclamation requesting Mr. Felix Dashen, Chief of Shasta Operations, to attend a joint meeting concerned with Whiskeytown Reservoir on May 4, 1960. The letter states,

... The County of Shasta has a keen interest in the recreational aspects of this Reservoir. It comprises Unit One of the Master Recreation Plan adopted after public hearings before both the Board and Planning Commission. . . . The following topics comprise the preliminary agenda:

- Time table or schedule of completion
- “Taking Line” of land surrounding lake
- Detailed recreational site plan
- Contract or land lease for parks and lake perimeter
- Road access and facility locations
- Route of power transmission lines
- Budget considerations
- Land use zoning

Other matters you may consider pertinent for discussion will be appreciated. . .

On August 12, 1960, a transmittal memo and attached map show Whiskeytown Reservoir and associated recreational facilities still all within ¼ mile of the reservoir shoreline with no additional park lands yet added. In December 1960, National Park Service Acting Regional Director Clarence E. Persons sent a letter to Mr. James J. Herbert, Director of Planning for Shasta County. The letter outlined several misunderstandings between the National Park Service and Shasta County. First, it was clarified that the National Park Service was developing an “overall plan” that would later require the County or a concessionaire that would lease parts of the shoreline recreational facilities to develop detailed construction drawings for actual work completion. Mr. Persons also responded to questions from a meeting on November 30, 1960, that states,

We understand you also asked Mr. Angle about this Service’s authority to spend time in study of areas exterior of the Bureau’s taking line. Naturally, in creating a public use plan, we must take into consideration all potential developments, which are possible to foresee. Visitor circulation, forest cover, water, sanitation, public demand and economic pressures which have a bearing on the Bureau’s project area must be evaluated. Planning for sub-division, town sites, etc. exterior to the project area can be facilitated by proper County zoning – a subject which holds high priority within the County but which is not considered as part of the Public Use Plan. . . . It would be helpful to us to have (1) an opinion from Shasta County as to the extent the County may participate in financing, (2) recommendations as to the kind and extent of developments to be included within a so-called “county park,” and (3) County interest in encouraging concessionaires to develop areas under county leases. . . .

Senator John F. Kennedy is Elected President of the United States

In November 1960, Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts was elected President of the United States, defeating Vice President Richard Nixon by 118,000 votes. With the new Administration came a new Secretary of the Interior, Congressman Stewart L. Udall of Arizona. Udall hired James K. Carr of Redding, California, as his Undersecretary of the Interior who had worked as a consultant to Congress, specifically for Congressman Clair Engle from Red Bluff, California. James Carr then went to work for Sacramento Municipal Utility District and had organized the American River Hydro-Project. James Carr's brother Laurence worked on Senator Kennedy's Presidential Campaign in Northern California and personally met with Kennedy during the campaign on the train between Dunsmuir and Redding, California. A new congressman, Biz Johnson of Northern California was elected to replace Congressman Clair Engle as he moved on to the Senate. Congressman Johnson became a champion for Northern California and later sponsored two different bills to establish Whiskeytown Lake as a National Recreation Area. The election of John F. Kennedy as President, along with Congressman Biz Johnson, Senator Clair Engle, and the appointment of Undersecretary of the Interior James K. Carr, positioned Redding, California in one of its most politically potent eras in history. This unique political strength allowed Shasta County leadership to move forward in establishing Whiskeytown as a National Recreation Area and as a unit of the National Park Service.

It should be noted that the Eisenhower Administration supported construction of the Central Valley Project including the Trinity Division. It was President Eisenhower himself who signed the legislation authorizing the construction of the Trinity River Project. Up to this point in time, however, the Whiskeytown Lake recreational facilities were discussed in terms of the take line established in 1956 by the Bureau of Reclamation. With the arrival of the Kennedy Administration, recreational planning was seen with more legitimate purpose and the administration encouraged the development of recreational opportunities for the public, especially in federal water projects.

James K. Carr, the new Undersecretary of the Interior

Senator Engle's friend and favorite engineer, James K. Carr, who had served as a consultant for Engle's Congressional committee on Insular and Interior Affairs, was personally recommended by Senator Engle to become Undersecretary to Stewart Udall. James K. Carr, a native son to

Redding and Shasta County, realized his position as Undersecretary was an unique opportunity for him to do some good for Northern California by establishing Whiskeytown as a National Recreation Area.

James Carr explained how he managed to make Whiskeytown a National Recreation Area in an interview conducted at Brandy Creek Beach on September 22, 1979, by his friend Bill Minton former County Executive for Shasta County.

Carr described that one day in 1937, he drove his brother Laurence out to the Whiskeytown area. His brother had just graduated from Georgetown Law School in Washington D.C. As the two brothers drove towards Whiskeytown they both could see the 6,200-foot snow capped Shasta Bally mountain situated above Whiskeytown. Laurence spoke up and said, "You know, if they had anything in the Eastern States like that, they'd make a national park out of it." "And somehow," Jim Carr said, "I remembered that."

On March 21, 1961, Mr. Herbert Maier, Acting Regional Director of the National Park Service in San Francisco wrote to Mr. H.P. Dugan, Regional Director for the Bureau of Reclamation in Sacramento. The letter references a Bureau correspondence to the Chairman of Shasta County Board of Supervisor, Mr. Henry F. Keefer, in regard to adding additional private lands around Brandy Creek to the proposed Whiskeytown County Park. This letter emphasizes the Bureau of Reclamation's continued efforts to promote a "Minimum Park Area" for "Minimum Basic Recreation Facilities."

Soon after the Kennedy Administration assumes power in January 1961, correspondence between the Bureau of Reclamation, Shasta County, National Park Service, Senator Kuchel, Secretary of the Interior Udall and his Under Secretary James Carr show a shift from a reservoir park of minimum basic recreation facilities to a major park facility designed to maximize the "fullest recreational potential."

The March 21st letter by the National Park Service introduces the idea of adding the Brandy Creek area to the proposed recreation area.

"This area was included because of its definite public use potential. Bisected by Brandy Creek, accessible by road, pleasantly timbered and somewhat removed and above the reservoir, this area in our opinion could become one of the finest public use areas of the project. We feel there is little doubt but what this area will be needed for camping and other development as soon as the reservoir is established.

Our experience has been that invariably insufficient lands are originally acquired



at reservoirs to meet good minimum basic needs. Acquisition thereafter becomes prohibitive because of increased land costs. We might also refer you to other recreation planning studies made for this reservoir. The Recreation Plan, Whiskeytown Reservoir made by Shasta County in 1958 recommended the acquisition of this area (Brandy Creek) within their general public use take line. Also the Report on State Park Potentialities of Whiskeytown Reservoir made by the State Division of Beaches and Parks in 1957 recommended that this area as well as adjacent lands to the south and west be included within the project's minimum acquisition take line. . . .

. . . Recent correspondence informs us that Mr. Alex Pesonen will speak on the subject of "The Whiskeytown Reservoir Area" at the noon meeting of the Redding Chamber of Commerce on March 27. In the interest of good planning for public recreation development it might be well for him to discuss with this group some of the problems, which confront this Service in our recreation planning. We feel some decisions should be reached at an early date as to the type or degree of administration the County wishes to follow at the Whiskeytown area. . . . (March 21, 1961; NPS, Herbert Maier).

Undersecretary James Carr Encourages National Park Service Director Wirth to Embrace National Recreation Areas

While the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service argued over whether or not to add additional parcels of private land to the county park proposal for Whiskeytown Reservoir, Jim Carr in Washington D.C. was developing a broader vision for a much larger Whiskeytown National Recreation Area that incorporated his brother's 1937 statement by making it into a national park site over 40,000 acres in size. According to James Carr in his taped interview of September 22, 1979, the following events occurred as he served as the Undersecretary of the Interior:

. . . the Bureau of Reclamation was urging Shasta County to go for a \$100,000 bond issue. . . which would be used for toilet facilities and generally make Whiskeytown Lake a useable place for recreation, and it would be under the direction of Shasta County. Well I had seen the mess that resulted from that policy at Lake Berryessa. . . it was one thing I didn't want to see happen. . . that Shasta County would accept responsibility, they wouldn't have enough money to do a very good job. This was being pushed by Floyd Dominy, who was Commissioner of Reclamation under President Eisenhower.

By the grace of God, when the papers came to the Secretary's desk one day, and I think this was in 1961. . . Stewart Udall was out of town, so I was Secretary of Interior. By a rather strange coincidence, at the very hour that the papers came to my desk for signature, and I decided I didn't want to go for that policy, George Flaherty, then the mayor of Redding, came into my office. We discussed this briefly, and I said, "George, this ought to be a national recreation area." Well George said to me, "how do you do that?" And I looked at George and said, "Well, if you've got a few minutes to sit here, I'll show you."



I wrote a memorandum to the Director of the National Park Service and told him I'd like to have a study initiated immediately to make this a national recreation area. I sent a copy to the Legislative Counsel and asked them to start to prepare some legislation. But, particularly, we had to have a report from the Park Service that I could send on up to the appropriate people and on to Congress in order to have it authorized. And I wrote a letter to the mayor to give him an answer to his question on how we could make this a national recreation area.

Well the study was initiated very shortly after that, through the Regional Director's Office in San Francisco. The Regional Director, was personally opposed to the idea. . . He thought that the National Park Service should be confined to those high Sierras and places like that and didn't think they should be contaminated by administering areas that would have a certain amount of recreation in it. Now that was something maybe the Forest Service or somebody else could do, but not the National Park Service. So he reluctantly agreed to make the study.

I came out to San Francisco and stopped in there a couple of times to see how it was going. The man that they had in charge of the study knew what the Regional Director wanted. One of his assistants, who happened to favor my idea, was very much upset because he didn't think the study was being properly made, objectively. . . . The report came back to Washington and Conrad L. Wirth, who was then Director of the National Park Service decided to come by my office personally, because the report recommended that we not have a national recreation area at Whiskeytown.

Fortunately, I was acting Secretary of Interior. . . well we had some difficulties with

the National Park Service picking up their recreation responsibility, and had discussed possible reorganization. . . .that particular day when he [Connie Wirth] came into my office, he told me that the Park Service could not support this legislation. . . .So I asked Connie, have you had anyone in the Washington Office that you know look it over? And he said, "No." And I said, "You know, the Secretary and I were talking about reorganizing the National Park Service." And I said, "I think right about now, I'm going to start with you!"

Well this came as a great shock to the Director. . . .a very highly regarded man, and a very great guy; At any rate, I got his attention. And finally he said, "Well, I've got Mr. Thompson, the Associate Director's out in Portland, Oregon, and I'll tell you what I will do. I'll have him go down there right away."

So Associate Director Thompson flew to Redding, got in touch with some people, and went out to look at the area. . . .In just a few days, Thompson told Director Wirth, "Connie, grab it! It's a beautiful area." And at that point, the National Park Service turned around and started to support our legislation. Secretary Udall thought it was a great idea and finally got a chance to look at the area at the time of the dedication of Trinity Dam. . . . He said, "After all, this is your home country, Well, I will support you on this one."

In April 1961, a group of "leading citizens of Redding" requested a re-evaluation of the Whiskeytown Reservoir area by the National Park Service to determine its suitability for establishment as a National Recreation Area.

On November 3, 1961, Warren B Francis, Executive Secretary for Senator Thomas H. Kuchel wrote a key letter to the Honorable James K. Carr, Under Secretary of the Interior. The letter, in its entirety, reads:

"Dear Jim:

Since the Trinity Dam dedication ceremony, Senator Kuchel has received further information about the urgency of reviewing plans for recreational development at the reservoirs being created by this additional unit of the Central Valley Project.

The Senator, who you know is traveling extensively in California, is very much concerned about fears that the influx of visitors, which likely will include vacationers and other groups of outdoor-lovers in addition to transient sightseers, will exceed all previous expectations.

He wishes me to recall to you that Secretary Udall in his remarks at the dedication spoke

at some length about the great value of the recreational potential of these facilities and indicated a desire to see that maximum development is achieved.

It is the Senator's feeling that the size, location, unusual scenic appeal, and novelty of the Trinity Division merit additional planning by Federal authorities to assure the greatest practicable accommodations for the public and realization of economic advantages which could follow.

The Senator wants to be helpful, as I am sure you and all in the Department appreciate, and would be grateful for information from the Bureau of Reclamation, the National Park Service, and yourself about any ways in which he can assist in seeing that the fullest realizations of these potentials results. In this vein, he hopes the Department will keep him informed of its activities and further steps which may be taken to carry out Secretary Udall's indicated intentions.

Sincerely,
/s/
Warren B. Francis
Executive Secretary
Senator Thomas H. Kuchel

Twenty-seven days later in a telegram dispatched on November 30, 1961, under the title of "Emergency," to the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation from the regional director in Sacramento, a brief history of the Bureau of Reclamation and National Park Service's recreational planning efforts with Shasta County were described. The memo reveals,

On last May 8, [1961] this office was advised by National Park Service that they had been asked to consider establishment of Whiskeytown as a National Recreation Area. Pending completion of the NPS study we have not considered it appropriate to make further formal contacts with county. . . .Until authority is broadened to permit land acquisition in excess of that already recommended to you as required by joint agreement with county and Park Service do not believe further action by region appropriate.

On December 7, 1961, Conrad L. Wirth, Director of the National Park Service, wrote to the Shasta County Board of Supervisors and transmitted a copy to Redding Mayor, Mr. Puryear. The letter states,

The enclosed map entitled, "Proposed Whiskeytown Recreation Area," dated December 1, 1961, is being sent to you in accordance with your request for a study by the Department of the Interior of the

recreation potential of Whiskeytown Reservoir and the adjacent area. Submitting the plan at this time is consistent with Mr. Keefer's understanding with Secretary Udall and Under Secretary Carr that such a plan would be completed about December 1. . . . The administration of the area, of course, will depend upon the views of the local people and their comments on this particular plan. A copy of this proposal is also being sent to the Mayor of Redding, as such a study was requested by Mr. George C. Fleharty in March 1961 when he was mayor.

From the beginning of the studies it has been obvious that the representatives of the local agencies wanted a plan prepared with a long-term objective to preserve and develop fully the recreation potential of the area. It was suggested to the Park Service that the study should not be confined to the shoreline of the reservoir but should also consider the lands along Clear Creek below the dam, which will become a fine trout fishing stream, the recreation values of Brandy Creek, Crystal Creek, and the striking 6000 foot Mt. Bally that lies to south and west of the reservoir. The Service has endeavored to look several decades ahead in suggesting what might be desirable for the area.

... Should the Park Service be asked to administer the area, it will contact the private owners involved to explain the proposal. It was thought that such action is premature in view of the status of this particular plan. It should be noted that about one-third of the proposed 37,000 acre area is already in Federal ownership or will be when land acquisition for the 3500-acre Whiskeytown Reservoir is completed. The United States already owns nearly 10,000 acres of land in the proposed area. The reservoir will have a shoreline of some 36 miles.

... Should it be decided that a National Recreation Area is to be established under the Department of the Interior, action by the Congress would be required as Congress sets the basic policy. It should be pointed out, however, that such an area would not be a National Park and would not be administered with the restrictions that are necessary in national parks. The National Park Service already operates four National Recreation Areas: Coulee Dam, Glen Canyon, Lake Mead, and Shadow Mountain.

When Secretary Udall visited the area on October 14, there was some discussion to the effect that the Whiskeytown Reservoir should be administered from a recreation standpoint in conjunction with a similar area around Trinity Lake. We would, of course, also appreciate receiving your views on this suggestion. Because Trinity County is

involved in such a suggestion, we are sending copies of this proposal to the Trinity County Board of Supervisors.

Although I have not had an opportunity personally to inspect the area, staff members of this Service have said that the Whiskeytown Reservoir, in combination with the picturesque mountain country, has great potential for diversified outdoor recreation. I am hopeful that with the increasing needs of the rapidly growing population of the State of California the recreation potential of this area can be fully developed. (Conrad L. Wirth, Director, NPS).

The Shasta County Board of Supervisors reviewed and was receptive to the National Park Service's December 1961 proposal to establish a national recreation area, and in turn, asked Congressman Harold T. Johnson to have the proposal set forth in an authorizing bill.

On December 18, 1961, Under Secretary James K. Carr, wrote a reply to Senator Kuchel's letter of November 3, 1961, (written by Warren Francis) and reaffirmed his commitment to see the "full development for recreation of this attractive part of California." Followed by National Park Service Director Conrad Wirth, these series of letters demonstrate a concerted political effort to expand Whiskeytown Reservoir project to a park worthy to become part of the National Park System. The letter states enthusiastically,

It was a pleasure to receive the letter from your office, dated November 3, expressing your interest in developing the recreation potential created by construction of reservoirs on the Trinity Division of the Central Valley Project.

At the request of the Shasta County Board of Supervisors and Mr. George C. Fleharty, the former mayor of the City of Redding, the Department has been studying the possibility of recreation development adjacent to Whiskeytown Reservoir located about 10 miles west of Redding. The local residents have suggested that we explore the possibility of a national recreation area, which would include the picturesque 6000-foot Shasta Bally Mountain south and west of the Reservoir. I am happy to report that a plan in accordance with the request of the local people has just been submitted to the Board of Supervisors. A copy of the map and the letter from the National Park Service is enclosed.

... You may be assured that to the fullest extent possible the National Park Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, and others in this Department will cooperate to see that we

reach full development for recreation of this attractive part of California.

I will appreciate receiving your views on the proposal we have made to the Board of Supervisors of Shasta County.

James K. Carr,
Under Secretary

The significance of James K. Carr's letter in response to Senator Kuchel letter shows how rapidly the shift was occurring from establishing a small county park to establishing a National Recreation Area managed by one of Carr's own agencies, the National Park Service. Certainly the city fathers of Redding and the Board of Supervisor's recognized the unique opportunity they had in hand, with Carr as Under Secretary, to establish a national park site just a few (10) miles from Redding. The obvious economic benefits of having a national park site close to Redding was appreciated by former Mayor Fleharty and Shasta County Board of Supervisors. The local political support to push the park establishment was, according to Carr, being requested by former Mayor Fleharty, the Board of Supervisors, Senator Kuchel, Senator Engle and local citizens such as John Reginato, General Manager of the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association. With support from the city of Redding, Shasta County and the local congressional representatives was all the justification needed in Washington to promote this park development program. All under the support of the Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall because he was so impressed with the area following his visit to dedicate Trinity Dam and their own Redding native son, James K. Carr, Under Secretary of the Interior.

Bureau of Reclamation's Regional Director Dugan sent a copy of a draft letter to his project construction engineer at Lewiston on December 29, 1961, responding to a request by Trinity County regarding the possibilities of either Trinity County or the National Park Service eventually managing the recreational facilities of Trinity and Lewiston Lakes. The National Park Service had developed the plans for the minimum basic public use facilities as requested by the Bureau of Reclamation, the letter explains,

I have consulted the Regional Office of Reclamation and that office advises me that a unified or single administration for both reservoirs would be to the advantage of the United States in their opinion and also to the advantage of the visiting public. Heretofore we have not considered administration by the National Park Service because in its report of December 1951 that Service said:

Since the proposed Trinity Reservoir and adjacent project development are entirely within the exterior boundary of the Trinity and Shasta National Forests, and the proposed Lewiston Reservoir and its adjacent project development are partially within the exterior boundaries of Trinity National Forest, the United States Forest Service would be logical agency responsible for administration, operation, and maintenance. The recreational potentialities of these reservoirs are of less than national significance.

The above recommendation conforms to the policy of the Departments of Interior and Agriculture that those reservoirs lying within and adjacent to National Forest be administered by the Forest Service. A copy of the inter-departmental memorandum of January 1948 outlining this policy is attached.

...it should be determined that the county or the National Park Service, instead of the Forest Service, manage the reservoirs and their shorelands a new agreement will be necessary. ...National Park Service administration would require Congressional sanction for that Service to budget funds.

On March 19, 1962, a public hearing was held by the Shasta County Board of Supervisors on management of Whiskeytown reservoir for recreation. An overflow crowd included two camps, those who had been displaced by the reservoir and forced to move, and those who had purchased land either for speculation or for development. Both groups were opposed to establishing a 37,000-acre national recreation area as proposed by Congressman Biz Johnson according to a Bureau of Reclamation memo for the files written by Everett A. Pesonen. Pesonen wrote that most of the homeowners would be satisfied if their homes were excluded from the taking.

The memo states,

The Shasta County Recreation Commission recommended the establishment of the National Recreation Area, and so did the Chamber of Commerce and the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association. Their recommendations were largely motivated by the cost burden. The Board pointed out that a \$95,000 per year budget, \$45,000 for operation and maintenance and \$50,000 per year for capital improvements, would mean an eight or nine cent increase in the tax rate. Many people, mostly developers, said they would be willing to pay the increase. Others thought the matter should go on the ballot so all residents of the county could vote on it. ...Meanwhile, of course, the question of a managing agency will remain uncertain.



Mr. Robert Luntney of the National Park Service was present, and after the meeting he and I concluded that the selection of a managing agency may be delayed for some time, pending determination of local sentiment and action by Congress. I suggested that we should explore the possibilities of interim management by the Park Service under inter-bureau agreement. . . .

In a letter written 4 days after the Board of Supervisors held their public hearing on the management of Whiskeytown reservoir for recreation, Mr. Jonathan C. Tibbitts, Chairman of Shasta County Board of Supervisors wrote to Mr. Lawrence C. Merriam, Regional Director of the National Park Service in San Francisco. Tibbitts wrote,

As you are well aware, it has not been determined who will be the governmental agency responsible for management of the federal lands surrounding Whiskeytown Reservoir.

Although Shasta County has considered this, the county is not in a position at this time to make the decision that these lands be administered by the County. . . . Like wise, although a national recreation area has been proposed, and in fact a bill has been introduced in Congress to authorize the national recreation area, this bill may take some time. . . . to be approved.

It is therefore, requested that the National Park Service enter into an interim management agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation for the lands surrounding Whiskeytown Reservoir. It is our understanding that this would give the Service the necessary authority in this area and would make available the Trinity River Project funds, which have been earmarked, for minimum basic facilities for Whiskeytown Reservoir.

As you know, there will be water in the lake next year. Much of the work in connection with the minimum basic recreation facilities should be done this summer. Development of certain of the facilities before the lake fills would be much more economical and would, therefore save the government money.

We believe that an interim agreement between the Bureau and the National Park Service would go a long way towards the solving of many of the problems which are developing and will develop, until it has been determined who will ultimately handle the administration and management of the area.

The letter was copied to the Bureau of Reclamation, James K. Carr and Congressman H. T. (Biz) Johnson.

In April 1962, a Shasta County referendum was held and the vote taken on two propositions:

“A” Shall the county of Shasta seek and encourage the development by the Federal Government of a National Recreation Area around Whiskeytown Lake. . . .

or
“B” Shall the County of Shasta undertake to develop a recreation area around Whiskeytown Lake supported by a county-wide increase in the ad valorem property tax rate not to exceed (7) cents per hundred dollars of assessed valuation.

The vote was approximately 12,000 to 5,000 in favor of development by the Federal Government as a National Recreation Area.

On April 20, 1962, National Park Service Director Wirth requested Regional Director of the National Park Service in San Francisco to draft an appropriate agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation to facilitate interim administration of Whiskeytown Reservoir. On May 23, 1962, the assistant commissioner in Washington D.C. wrote a letter to Bureau of Reclamation regional director in Sacramento sharing with him the news of the National Park Service taking interim responsibility for Whiskeytown. Assistant Commissioner William Palmer writes,

We assume this solves the present problem of management of Whiskeytown Reservoir, and that this will provide a satisfactory solution to the management problem pending final determination and possible authorization of the national recreation area.

The first documentation of creating a jointly managed national recreation area between the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service emerged in a letter written by Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall on May 23, 1962. The memo to the Director of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Mr. Edward C. Crafts, instructs the Bureau to initiate the task force comprised of the four federal agencies in two Departments, the State of California, and two counties. The memo was entitled “Whiskeytown Reservoirs and other related areas. Udall describes the reservoir system as follows,

The Trinity River, with the exception of enough water to sustain fish life below Lewiston Lake, now flows into the



Sacramento River drainage system by means of a tunnel from Lewiston Lake to Whiskeytown Lake. Because of this tie-in I feel a study should be made of the entire area with respect to the overall recreational potential. . . . You are to take the leadership in undertaking this study, arriving at a division of responsibility and a total program of recreational development in the best interests of all concerned in the entire area. Agriculture's [Department] concurrence in this is essential to make it work.

Five days later this subject was passed from Secretary Udall to Congressman Biz Johnson and U.S. Senator Engle on May 28, 1962. Udall in his letter to Johnson states a new agency has emerged in the Department of Interior named the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. One of the duties of the new bureau was to expedite coordination in recreation matters among the federal agencies and to be of assistance to the states in recreation planning. Udall wrote,

I am sorry that his reply to your letter of December 14 about recreation development around Whiskeytown Reservoir has been so long delayed. I know that you have had several conversations with Under Secretary Carr about this so have not been completely uninformed as to developments in this Department. . . .

. . . Since your letter of December 14, you and Senator Engle have both introduced bills to establish a Whiskeytown National Recreation Area in California, and we have had pending for review in this Department for many months a draft bill sought to be proposed by the Department of Agriculture to clarify recreation management responsibilities at the Trinity and Lewiston areas for possible development as a National Recreation Area.

I believe that recreational development for the Trinity-Lewiston, Whiskeytown and Shasta Reservoir needs to be looked at as part of a coordinated whole.

In view of the fact that two counties, the State of California, and four federal agencies in two Departments are all involved, it is appropriate that the new Bureau of Outdoor Recreation bring together these various Federal bureaus and local interests in an effort to arrive at a coordinated and sensible over-all approach to recreational development. I am making this proposal to Secretary Freeman [Agriculture] and have every hope that he will respond favorably. If the two Departments agree. . . I shall then instruct the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation to. . . initiate steps to set up a task force. . . My hope would be that such a task force would arrive at a coordinated approach by the beginning of the next Congress. We

would then be in a position to move forward with any Federal legislation that might be indicated.

Sincerely yours,

Stewart
Secretary of the Interior

On the same day, Secretary Udall wrote a three page letter explaining to the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Orville Freeman, his plan to have Interior's Bureau of Outdoor Recreation take a leadership role in heading a task force of all concerned parties to consider establishing a coordinated recreational development in the Whiskeytown-Trinity-Shasta reservoir area. Earlier in the year, the Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Forest Service had suggested establishing a Trinity-Lewiston-Shasta National Recreation Area and Senator Engle and Congressman Johnson had submitted matching bills to create the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Secretary Udall felt, "Geography and other factors make it impossible for me to separate these two subjects."

Meanwhile in San Francisco, on the same day as the flurry of correspondence being dispatched by the Secretary Udall in Washington D.C., Regional Director Lawrence Merriam of the National Park Service accepted formally an "Interim Agreement for Administration of Whiskeytown Reservoir Area." The National Park Service budget office in Washington was also submitting to the Kennedy Administration request for funding for management and development of Whiskeytown Reservoir in fiscal year 1964.

Publicly announced in press releases on May 31, 1962, the Memorandum of Agreement tasked the National Park Service with the "responsibility for the recreational planning, development, administration and management of the Whiskeytown Reservoir Area. . ." A similar arrangement was made between the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Forest Service in regard to Trinity and Lewiston Reservoirs. This was acknowledged on June 15, 1962, when the Assistant Regional Director Leo J. Diederich of the National Park Service sent a letter to Mr. H.P. Dugan of the Bureau of Reclamation in regard to their review of the Forest Service and Reclamation recreational management agreement for Trinity Reservoir.

One significant clarification of the National Park Service's Memorandum of Agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation over the interim management of Whiskeytown Reservoir was the amount of money the Bureau was to transfer to the Park Service for operations. In a June 11, 1962 memo from the Commissioner of

Reclamation to the Director of the National Park Service was mention of transferring \$64,000 for the operating budget, and \$90,000 for the construction of minimum basic recreational facilities for fiscal year 1963 (From October 1, 1962 and runs through September 30, 1963).

The National Park Service also outlined in the letter to Dugan, from Acting Regional Director Keith Neilson, a request of \$400,000 to finance construction of Stages 1 and 2 for minimum facilities required by the public for recreation at Whiskeytown. Stage 1 included all essential underwater and related facilities as the reservoir filled. Stage 2 included minimum facilities required by the public to receive any material benefits from the recreation area during the spring, summer and fall of 1963. The National Park Service warned the Bureau that without the development in 1963 of minimum basic facilities for public use as proposed in Stage 2, "...the recreation area is likely to suffer abuse from an adverse public reaction. Also, some criticism may arise from the several federal and state agencies that are concerned with public health and safety."

By October 2, 1962, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation had initiated its study of the Trinity-Shasta-Whiskeytown reservoir complex. In October 1962, the National Park Service completed a report for the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation entitled, Recreation Resources of Whiskeytown Reservoir Area, Central Valley Project, Trinity River Diversion, Bureau of Reclamation, Shasta County, California. This report was to serve as a blueprint to draft legislation for the creation of a National Recreation Area for the reservoir and surrounding lands. The National Park Service's conclusions found that:

1. The Whiskeytown Reservoir area has high potential for water oriented recreation.
2. Lands adjacent to the Reservoir are suitable for development of camping, picnicking, hiking and horseback riding facilities.

The report goes on to state that the amount of usable land within the current Bureau of Reclamation take line is inadequate to accommodate the number of visitors which could be attracted to the area and the current land acquisition program limits the recreation potential which could be developed. It also stated, that each of the five reservoirs (Trinity, Lewiston, Shasta, Keswick and Shasta) will compliment each other because of their proximity and with proper planning each may play a somewhat different role in satisfying recreation need in the state. The report also outlines the recreational potential of the Whiskeytown area that between 200,000 and 250,000 people will actively participate in

recreation on the reservoir and adjacent lands and that up to a million visitors would receive some "inspirational value" from the area since they will view the reservoir from Highway 299. Forty years later, over 703,000 visitors actively participate in recreation annually within the park and over 2 million automobiles use Highway 299 which runs through the length of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

Final recommendations state,

If a national recreation area is established, all of the public and private lands within the boundary of the proposed Whiskeytown National Recreation Area be acquired for public recreation use...in order to insure full public use and to protect its scenic, natural, historic and archeological values.

The 13-page report emphasizes the importance of including Mt. Shasta Bally, the 5.5 miles of Clear Creek below the dam, and the recreational values of Brandy Creek and Crystal Creek

The Bureau of Reclamation and the departments of Interior and Agriculture had still not decided on who would manage Trinity and Lewiston Reservoirs during interim period. It did, however, propose that the U.S. Forest Service serve as interim managers since they were "manned to do the job and no additional expense is involved." Trinity County and the National Park Service were still being considered potential candidates to be interim managers of Trinity and Lewiston, but a recommendation was yet to be made by the special committee. Meanwhile, Lewiston Reservoir was scheduled to fill in the winter of 1963 and recreation by the public could be expected to commence shortly there after. The government felt compelled to move quickly and this assertion was supported by both Trinity and Shasta County.

The draft report on Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity Complex was due from Washington D.C from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation on December 1, 1962. On November 9, 1962, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation was scrambling to complete it in time for the departments and Congress and scheduled a meeting on November 13-14 in Sacramento, California.

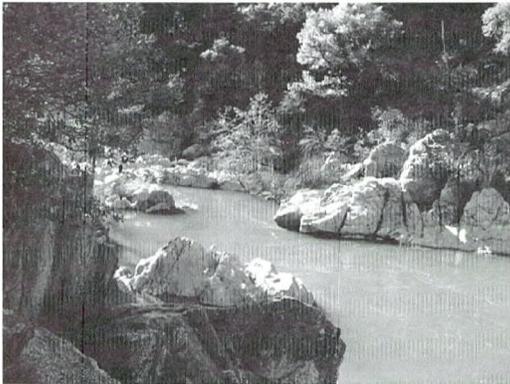
Meanwhile, in San Francisco, National Park Service Regional Director Lawrence C. Merriam forwarded a memo to his boss, the Director, in Washington D.C. The memo was entitled, Whiskeytown Recreation Area- -Proposed Extension of "Take Line." This memo was generated by Under Secretary James K. Carr when he wrote to the Chairman of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs back in February 14, 1962. Carr wanted to provide the Chairman information on the land acquisition program for Whiskeytown Reservoir. Carr indicated that the "take line"

that was established in 1959, provided only for minimum basic facilities. It is implied, that Carr was looking to expand the public use area for Whiskeytown and called on the National Park Service to make recommendations.

In November 1962, the Park Service did complete the study and found:

...the small area considered as adequate for minimum basic facilities in 1959 is completely inadequate at the present time, and certainly will not meet the minimum basic needs of the public in future years... The Service now recommends that the Bureau of Reclamation acquire additional lands at the Whiskeytown Reservoir area, under the authority of the Trinity Act (P.L. 386-84th Congress), for construction of basic recreation facilities, maintenance of public health and safety and to protect its scenic, natural, historic and archeological features.

The brief report goes on to explain how in 1959 there existed a 35 percent shortage of swimming beaches in the state and that by 1980 the demand will be 3 times the present supply. There were additional concerns related to future availability of sufficient trout fishing opportunities, campsites, and doubling the population from 15 to 28.5 million residents. The report claims, "This doubling means additional camping needs will have to be met with new area and new camp units, together with all the other necessary facilities.



The report then quotes President Kennedy's 1961, "Message on Natural Resources", where the President stated,

To insure that land acquired for the construction of federally financed reservoirs is sufficient to permit future development for recreational purposes.

Furthermore, the President's Water Resources Council gave considerable study to this matter and prepared a report on, "Policies, Standards, and Procedures in the Formulation Evaluation and Review of Plans for Use and Development of Water and Related Resources." This particular report emphasizes that full consideration shall be given to the opportunity and need for outdoor recreational and fish and wildlife enhancement in connection with planning for development of Federal water control projects. This memo was demonstrating that the new Kennedy Administration was taking a strong, pro-active approach to addressing the current shortfall of outdoor recreation. The report continues to describe individual parcels of land the National Park Service believes should be added to the take line area. Sections of land near

Whiskey Creek, Grizzly Gulch, Brandy Creek and streams and valleys on the slopes of Shasta Bally are described. Much of the justification is for campgrounds, picnic areas and related facilities. The report states:

The several attractive streams flowing through the area will, in themselves, be recreation attractions. It is important that they be included in the acquisition program so that, through proper control, they can be maintained as free flowing, unpolluted streams. Congestion at public use centers along the Reservoir would be relieved through acquisition and development of these lands since many visitors will want to hike or ride horses on trails alongside these streams. They will afford opportunities for fishing and fine habitat area for nature study. By dispersing visitor use over this larger area, health and safety conditions will be considerably improved.

Then for the first time, cultural resources are added to the mix of unique characteristics that the Whiskeytown area could provide if protected through additional land acquisition. Just up Clear Creek from where the penstock delivers the Trinity River water to Whiskeytown reservoir existed remnants of an old road house and mine known as the Tower House area. Here the report emphasizes purchasing these additional lands so the still standing Camden House, El Dorado Mine and archeological sites, and its associated historic values could be preserved in the proposed Whiskeytown National Recreation Area "as a matter of public interest." The report concludes with a request to purchase 5 miles of both banks along lower Clear Creek below the proposed dam. The report states that hiking and equestrian trails, campgrounds, and picnic areas should be developed in this area along Clear Creek. Furthermore, the danger of pollution of this fine stream could be lessened through proper controls under public ownership, thus reducing hazards to public health for many miles downstream from Whiskeytown Dam.

On November 19, 1962, the Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and the National Park Service along with state agencies met and reviewed the draft report concerning establishment of the Shasta-Trinity-Whiskeytown National Recreation Area complex. The all day meeting allowed the federal agency representatives to discuss in detail the draft report and make recommendations, ensuring they would meet the December 1, 1962 departmental deadline.

The final report, published in April 1963, was entitled, "A Report on the Proposed Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area," (U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation). Several interesting points are made in this

report. First, the estimated cost projected for managing the 4 reservoirs (Trinity, Lewiston, Shasta and Whiskeytown) for recreational development over the first 6 years of the project exceeded \$28 million dollars (\$28,632,000). Whiskeytown alone in the first 6 years of staffing and development, including land purchase (\$8.5 million) would be \$13,675,000. The next point of interest was the great concern the report expresses to ensure quality recreation is provided over the years ahead. The report states,

The interrelationship of the four reservoirs and the Federal lands surrounding them calls for carefully coordinated planning and development by the Federal Government in cooperation with the State and counties and private land owners to obtain the maximum sustained benefits for all. Major consideration must be given to the development and use of the area in such a manner that the recreation resources are improved rather than lost over a period of time. The establishment of a National Recreation Area consisting of Shasta, Trinity-Lewiston, and Whiskeytown Units would be the most logical way to obtain these desired objectives. It would give national recognition to the significance of the recreation resources, which in turn would stimulate development and use beyond what could be expected without such recognition.

The report then describes 3 different management scenarios between the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management. The counties, state and Bureau of Reclamation are not considered. Then, however, the report states a decision was made in Washington D.C. while the report was being written on exactly how the recreation area would be managed:

The task force made no recommendations as to administration of the individual units. However, subsequent to completion of the study and prior to the publication of this report, the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture agreed that the Forest Service would administer the Shasta Trinity units and the National Park Service would manage the Whiskeytown unit.

On June 3, 1963, Under Secretary Carr and the Department of the Interior agencies (Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management) and the regional forester of the U.S. Forest Service met in Weaverville, California and in Redding to have a public hearing on Whiskeytown-Trinity-Shasta Recreation Area. In Weaverville, about 250 people attended the meeting. From meeting notes described in a memo written by Robert Wayne, Tribe of the Bureau of Reclamation on June 6, 1963, Tribe describes how most of the comments focused on rejecting the proposed

national recreation area because it would reduce Trinity County's tax base and recreational areas proposed around Trinity Lake were too large and should be limited to a strip around the lake. The memo stated, "These witnesses want no further land acquisition by federal Government, a master plan, acre for acre land exchange within the county, full development of present Federal lands before additional acquisition.

Under Secretary Carr addressed the audience after the public comment period ended and made four assurances to the assembled.

1. Trinity County Board of Supervisors' objections to the bill will be fully considered by the two departments.
2. That an examination of the Trinity Center and Covington Mill areas will be made to give residents every consideration [Trinity Center had to be moved so Trinity Lake could be created].
3. Additional cost of roads and policing will be considered. Federal responsibility for sharing costs will be examined.
4. The framers of the bills will work with the Trinity County District Attorney on acceptable language to be incorporated into the bill.

Mr. Carr suggested that the boundary of the area be drawn to fit the topography.

The next public hearing was held later the same day in Redding at the Moose Hall with 150 people in attendance. Similar to the meeting held earlier that day in Weaverville, most who took the time to attend the meetings were against the proposal to create public use lands around the four reservoirs. Some were residents who would be forced to re-locate, while others believed by having to sell their property to the federal government they would lose financially by not having the opportunity to subdivide their land for summer homes or no longer have the opportunity to mine minerals. For example, Mr. Clair Hill, representing the Redding Chamber of Commerce was in favor if summer home sites were provided, most likely to keep Shasta County tax base expanding. Mr. Braton, who owned a high quality talc mine was "against the scheme" as were Mrs. Peltier, H.M. Neal, Roy Chamberlin, a Mr. Anderson, Harry Hazeltine, C.J. Lattimore, June Alford, Muletown Land Owners, a Mr. Holt, Arthur Coggins (who owned large tracks of forest on Shasta Bally and a logging Mill between the Tower House and French Gulch), Mrs. Jack Green, Paul McDermott of Whiskeytown (who showed up at the president's





dedication dressed as a miner with a mule to show how Whiskeytown received its name), and three other unidentified land owners.

The meeting was hostile and James K. Carr was criticized severely by old friends and acquaintances for proposing this national recreation area on property they personally owned. In his 1979 interview at Brandy Creek, he describes the meeting:

And Clair Hill, who is along time friend of mine, lifetime friend, called me up and asked me what we were trying to do? Because we took over all the area he's familiar with in Trinity County [proposed including the Trinity Alps]. He said that the Boards of Supervisors would go right through the roof, and he just thought that I had better political sense. And I told Clair, I said, "Well, I had to have some place to back up to." And I said, "I am willing to give, but we want to end up with something that's worthwhile."

Now, one of my regrets is that we didn't continue the corridor that we talked about. We were not going to take all the land up to Bally Shoop Mountain, so that it could be added into the trails system for Whiskeytown. Clair's office helped me by drawing up a map showing a trails system of over 100 miles on the sides of Mt. Bally and Shoemaker Bally that could be incorporated...there were public hearings, as you may remember, and I was castigated by some of the people that owned property around Whiskeytown Lake.

It was very difficult for me because my brother Laurence had some property near the shoreline of Whiskeytown Lake. My first cousin, Larry Kennedy, Jr. had some, several of my high school classmates had property, and I was representing the Federal government saying, "This has to go into public ownership and we'll buy you out." And the attorney Halpen of Redding, bought a property, and he in the process called me a communist for taking over on behalf of the public.

A Mr. Roy Jordan asked Mr. Carr the chances of retaining property recently purchased for a Baptist Church Camp below Whiskeytown Dam. Mr. Carr said problems of this kind could be worked out. In the end, however, the church camp construction moved forward investing church funds and skilled volunteer labor to construct a main lodge and kitchen facility. The church eventually was forced to sell its camp and facilities to the Bureau of Reclamation land

officers to become part of the national recreation area and the camp facility became one of 30 National Environmental Education Development (N.E.E.D.) Camps across the United States. As this federal environmental program shut down in the early 1970s, the National Park Service shifted the management of the facility over to Shasta County Office of Education to become a premier Environmental Facility for 5th and 6th graders for children in Shasta County and all of Northern California for the next 30 years. To this day, however, individual church members still express bitterness over losing the property to the National Park Service.

At the meeting, several people complained to Mr. Carr that they had not received satisfactory answers to questions about the project asked of local federal officials. Mr. Carr promised the individual complain tents that he would try to secure some satisfaction for them. These two meetings were the first time that a Mr. Samuel A. King was mentioned in the government's correspondence. Samuel A. King served as the National Park Service's first on site manager (Project Manager) at Whiskeytown Reservoir during the interim management years from October 1962, through the park's authorization in November 1965. Initially, Mr. King had an office in Redding and after the dam's construction was completed, King moved his offices to the Bureau of Reclamation's abandoned construction office at Whiskeytown Lake. Sam King answered directly to the regional director in San Francisco. Today, this small Bureau of Reclamation facility still serves as park headquarters for the National Park Service.

The Weaverville and Redding public hearings followed two bills regarding the proposed national recreation area that were submitted to the 88th Congress to establish the new public recreation area. S. 734 was introduced by Senators Engle and Kuchle on January 15, 1962. House Bill 3618 was introduced by Congressman Johnson on February 7, 1963. Congressman Johnson's bill was revised and re-submitted on September 18, 1963, H.R. 797, just two weeks prior to President Kennedy's visit to dedicate the newly completed Whiskeytown Dam as part of the president's national Conservation Tour.

The President's National Conservation Tour

Stewart Udall became a powerful Secretary of Interior in both the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations and left a legacy of notable conservation achievements. Udall attempted to match, if not exceed the conservation programs of both Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt's Administrations. Udall was an enthusiastic supporter of preserving wilderness areas, but also was a proponent for developing and improving natural resources such as constructing hydroelectric dams and large water diversion projects. President Kennedy, according to

historian Thomas Smith, “only gave sporadic support to the construction of hydroelectric power projects. . . Kennedy opposed both the Echo Park Dam and Glen Canyon projects.

According to Thomas G. Smith, historian and author who wrote in the *Pacific Historical Review* (1995) a paper on President Kennedy’s administration conservation legacy, stated the following perspective,

An examination of the New Frontier record shows Kennedy and his principal advisor on conservation issues, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall, trying to deal with a movement in flux. They sought to provide executive leadership for a traditional agenda—efficient resource use, public recreation, and the expansion of national parks—which had been neglected by Presidents Harry Truman and Dwight Eisenhower. At the same time, they confronted an emerging ecological outlook that stressed wilderness preservation, environmental protection, and the interdependence of all parts of the natural world. Generally, Kennedy and Udall were wedded to traditional conservation approaches inherited from the New Deal and groped slowly and ambivalently with the newer emphases of the environmental movement. (*American Historical Association, Pacific Historical Review, John Kennedy, Stewart Udall, and New Frontier Conservation*, pg. 329-361).

One of Secretary Udall’s first actions was to establish the new Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. This bureau eventually was absorbed into the National Park Service, but at the time, coordinated all the federal recreational planning and programs in the United States, including some aspects of planning new national park sites.

From the archives at the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston, Massachusetts, White House files include records from Secretary Udall’s efforts to demonstrate the administration’s commitment to a conservation program. Udall kept in contact through correspondence and meetings with conservation leaders in the United States, including authors, politicians, poets, and conservation activists. Senator Gaylord Nelson, who later helped establish Earth Day, provided Udall with significant information from the best and the brightest minds of the nation’s budding conservation movement. Rachel Carson’s best selling book, *Silent Spring*, 1962, well documented the dangers of the wide spread use of pesticides and herbicides, especially the pesticide DDT (chlorinated hydrocarbons) and hence had a profound impact on how citizens viewed their widespread use. Archival files show Udall received the most savored quotes from his circle of contacts to assist the presidential speech writers with material that could be used

by President Kennedy. Udall himself also wrote a book in July 1963, entitled, *The Quiet Crisis*, documenting how “America was poised on a pinnacle of wealth and power, yet suffering from vanishing beauty, shrinking open space, increasing ugliness, and over-all environmental degradation from pollution, noise, and blight. This, in brief, is the quiet conservation crisis of the 1960’s.” (*Quiet Crisis*, Udall, 1963).

In a White House memorandum dated July 25, 1961, a Mr. Frederick G. Dutton, wrote to Mr. Ken O’Donnell who managed President Kennedy’s schedule and political agenda. In item #1, Dutton states,

Secretary Udall has asked if I would raise with you the question whether there is any possibility of the President making a trip through some of the Western states in October or November. He would like very much to have the President participate in the Yellowtail Dam Ground Breaking in Montana and dedicate the Trinity Dam in Northern California. Apparently, there has been no dedication by a President of a major resources development program since the Truman years; and he feels this would be of great help in the national resources field as well as having great popular appeal in the Western states.

Nothing happened in regard to a Western Trip with President Kennedy throughout his first year as President because of his need to focus primarily on international affairs such as the Bay of Pigs in Cuba, nuclear proliferation, Southeast Asia crisis in Laos, Vietnam and Civil Rights issues. Despite these global issues, Secretary Udall was busy developing a strong conservation program for the Kennedy Administration’s legacy. Udall spearheaded a “White House Conference on Conservation” on May 24-25, 1962, and continued to promote a western tour for the president.

White House Conference on Conservation

On May 24-25, President Kennedy hosted a Conservation Conference at the White House. This was the first time in fifty years, a president had hosted a conference on conservation and invited Cabinet members, members of Congress, governors, and the leaders of conservation organizations. According to historian Thomas G. Smith, he wrote,

While the emerging environmental viewpoint was represented, especially by Pennsylvania Congressman John Saylor who championed the Wilderness Bill, the emphasis of the



program was on wise use... The Conference concluded with an address by the President. JFK concentrated on the utilitarian side of conservation, urging the application of good science to get oil from shale, to extract food sources from the ocean, to convert salt water to fresh water, to irrigate the world's deserts. He acknowledged the esthetic impulse by stating that there could be no more worthy goal for an administration than to "preserve this land and maintain its beauty. To dramatize that point he told the story of the Frenchman who instructed his gardener to plant a tree. The gardener pointed out that the tree would not blossom for a hundred years. "In that case, he admonished, "plant it this afternoon."

On June 1, 1962, President Kennedy sent a telegram to California Governor Edmund G. Brown. The telegram reads,

The recent White House Conference on Conservation set the stage for the type of planning that must be advanced without delay to guarantee recreational facilities to serve the needs of the 300 million Americans expected by the year 2000.

Interior Undersecretary James Carr has discussed with me the details of your approach in developing the great outdoor recreation potential of California. The effective and efficient manner in which you and the members of the California State Legislature are approaching the exploding recreation needs of your area is most impressive. The federal government can of course play a key role in this field but much can and must be done by the states along the lines you have proposed by you and the residents in California. We will follow your efforts with great interest.

John F. Kennedy

President Kennedy signed a note to California Governor Pat Brown expressing his gratitude for the governor's support for the White House Conference on Conservation. The note was written by Timothy J. Reardon, Special Assistant to the President. In the June 7, 1962 note, Reardon wrote:

Dear Governor Brown:

Thank you for your telegram concerning the White House Conference on Conservation. I am grateful for your expression of interest in and support for the Conference. Both our position of living rest upon the wealth of natural resources, which we have inherited. Wide spread public understanding of sound natural resources policies is therefore essential to this program.



I am especially pleased that the emphasis on recreation at the Conference has been of service to you in your efforts to initiate a greatly expanded park and recreation program for the people of California. Discussions in all of the panel sessions made clear that the nation is depending heavily upon state programs such as yours to meet a major portion of the rising demand for outdoor recreation facilities.

Sincerely,

John F. Kennedy

The Western Conservation Trips- August 1962 and September 1963

The President eventually took time to participate in two "Western Trips," the first in August 1962, followed by the official "Conservation Trip" in September 1963.

On May 31, 1962, a memo from Secretary Udall to President Kennedy stated,

Last Friday we discussed the possibility of a western trip sometime in August and I have prepared for your scrutiny a summary of what I consider to be the outstanding opportunities for dedication ceremonies and inspections that would demonstrate your keen interest in your vital conservation resource development programs.

I have adopted the following guidelines in making my recommendations:

1. You should participate, if possible, in regional events rather than events having only local significance.;
2. We should afford Senators, Representatives and Democratic Governors an opportunity wherever possible to accompany you on the plane and participate in these events.
3. We should try not to overlap areas covered in your previous trips.

With these guidelines in mind, these appear to be the best August opportunities:

- A. A power on the line ceremony at Oahe Dam near Pierre South Dakota.
- B. Dedication of the newly completed Lewis and Clark Highway between Missoula, Montana and Lewiston, Idaho.
- C. A ground breaking ceremony in the Central Valley of California to mark the commencement of work on the huge federal-state San Luis Water Project
- D. Dedication of Navajo Dam and the Four Corners Monument in Colorado basin region.

Mr. President, your participation in these events will, in my opinion, be better than a swing during a political campaign. I strongly urge you to let us plan such a trip. I stand ready to provide whatever assistance may be needed in working out an appropriate schedule.

Each stop cited in the memo explained which congressman, senator or governor would benefit from being seen with the President in their districts. Furthermore, Udall suggested testimonial dinners could be held nightly to allow Democratic leadership a chance to be with the President and gain political capital. This first trip occurred in mid August 1962, visiting South Dakota, Colorado, and California dedicating dams and water projects on his first conservation trip. The President did spend a couple of days in Yosemite National Park touring the park by car and helicopter. Military helicopters practiced daily for a week prior to the president's visit, flying into and landing in the Yosemite Valley's meadows. The thundering roar of the helicopter's engine echoing off the granite cliffs of Yosemite were memorable to visitors trying to enjoy their respective vacations in Yosemite Valley.

The 1963 Conservation Trip

Secretary Udall's staff, pleased with the President's first western trip began to work on detailed planning of making a second, more substantive Conservation Trip in the fall of 1963. The 1963 Conservation Trip was five days in length, visiting eleven states, with the President making 15 speeches. In preparation, Secretary Udall and his staff were feeding the White House staff with options and key conservation resource project sites to visit that tied in with Democratic politicians. While the trip was described as a non-partisan conservation tour, the political experts were carefully planning each stop to maximize the President's political standing and to assist Democrats in their bids for continuing in public office. Once the word got out that the President was headed West a variety of invitations flooded the White House for the President to spend a night at a particular hunting lodge or give a speech at an agricultural conference or farm equipment convention.

In May of 1963, California Governor Edmund G. Brown, sent President Kennedy a letter refreshing his memory of their discussion on Brown's last visit to Washington D.C. when they discussed the possibility of the President visiting California in the fall. The letter reads,

...I would like to suggest that you give serious consideration to an event on September 28, 1963. The specific event would be the dedication of the Vince Thomas Bridge, which is the first of its kind constructed

in the southern end of the our state. The dedication will be a special event during the two day annual Fiesta which is held by this community and in my opinion, would give you maximum coverage. ...I sincerely hope you can accept.

On July 24, 1963, Larry O'Brien of the President's staff received a White House memo from Chuck Daly outlining key points to a memo from Secretary of the Interior Udall in regard to the President's now scheduled western trip which was now, two years later, referred to as the "Conservation Trip." Secretary Udall was having personal conversations with President Kennedy in regard to the Conservation Trip which was to last just a few days. The President apparently did not wish to make it into a nation wide tour, although that is what eventually happened. Each stop of the trip was tied to assisting and praising senators, congressman and governors for the accomplishments towards conservation both in the rural and in the urban environments. Portions of the O'Brien memo read,

Assuming that his travel wouldn't be tied to any Arkansas-Texas schedule, the President could leave Washington mid-morning, with the first stop being Madison, Wisconsin. There he could praise the urban conservationist who have made the City a model for civilized living. While setting the conservation theme for the trip, his speech could broaden the scope beyond the rural dam- dedicating routine. The visit would help Proxmire- - whatever significance that may hold - -and would gain much attention in the Midwest. ...

The President could speak in Missoula, then take a short Lewis and Clark highway excursion from there with Mansfield. ... Also if Knowles Dam legislation has been signed , the President could make a side hop to that point.Then the 30th anniversary of the Grand Coulee Dam (near Spokane) would be a good excuse for traveling into Washington; however, that celebration should be supplemented by a stop in Seattle -center of the state's urban population and a place where Republicans could drop a House seat. We could find some urban-conservation reason for a speech in Seattle, ...If Congress acts on the Oregon Dunes National Seashore (near Coos Bay in time, and if the controversy over that project has died, the third day could start with the dedication there.

...A visit to Point Reyes Seashore, an Engle-sponsored project where land purchase operations recently began, would be an adequate reason for flying to nearby San Francisco. The President could follow up Point Reyes by dedicating the new University of California campus that will be constructed in a manner preserving the character of the hills near Santa Cruz. ...



Udall is anxious to stir up Senate support for his trip plan. I told him to hold off. When/if the schedule is set, I hope you'll tell the Hill first and notify Udall later.

All of my comments are based on Udall's statement that the President does want to make a conservation trip in the West, and that he does want to make that trip in early Fall. I have not discussed the attached suggestion from Shriver that the President might want to address the Grange Convention in Portland in mid November because, if you wait until then to go West, many projects could be tail deep in snow.

Planning the President's Conservation Trip involved hundreds of contacts around the nation. Not only were political contacts extremely important for the planning of the Conservation Trip, but even such details as a memo specifically entitled "Possible Humor for Western Trip" was written listing 9 witty and politically charged jokes. For example

No. 3. This is supposed to be the largest roll-earth dam in the world –but it is nothing compared to some of the obstacles I've encountered in Washington.

No. 6. It is obvious that this is a non-partisan trip- -I'm not going to a single state I carried.

No. 7. Everyone is amiable today - -Republicans are congratulating Democrats downstream residents are pleased for those who live upstream, even the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation have embraced. Perhaps if I had invited Mr. Khrushchev on this trip, Berlin would be solved.

No. 8. California: No partisan remarks are permitted on this trip, but I now can safely say how glad I am to be here in this state with Pat and Dick (Brown and Richards).

No. 9 California: Pat Brown and I are about to set off an explosion. It won't be the last one he sets off this year. . .to prove to the press (or the GOP) how friendly I am, I'm letting them stand as close to the site of the explosion as they want to.



While the White House was developing speech material and humor points, local, state and federal officials were courting the president to visit their favorite conservation areas. Public and private individuals who were associated with the Central Valley Project were hoping the president would see the newly completed Whiskeytown Dam, the final major construction piece of California's agricultural and recreational development. Whiskeytown was competing with all sorts of other locations including

recommendations from Governor Pat Brown to visit Southern California locations during the tour.

A stop at Whiskeytown Reservoir would fit the criteria that Secretary Udall had spelled out in his May 31, 1962 memo to the president in that it was a regional event and not just a local event. The completion of Whiskeytown Dam, meant the completion of the Central Valley Project's 5 major dams and the flow of the Trinity River into the Sacramento drainage complete. Irrigation, power, fresh drinking water and recreational opportunities could flourish as never before, and California's San Joaquin Valley's agricultural potential could be met. Redding political leadership felt the dedication of this new dam was worthy of a visit by the president of the United States. It was now up to Redding's political leaders to convince the White House staff that Whiskeytown was an important stop.

On August 21, 1963, Robert Anderson, President of the Redding Chamber of Commerce sent a telegram to President Kennedy. The telegram read,

The President, 1963, Aug.

The White House

The Greater Redding Chamber of Commerce respectfully urges that your Western Tour include your dedicating the magnificent Whiskeytown Dam here in October.

Robert Anderson President.

On August 23, 1963, in a White House note attached to Robert Anderson's telegram, Ken O'Donnell sent a note to Mike Manatos with a hand written note stating "This is being done," although this decision was still in flux until September 10 or 11th.

On August 29, 1963, Senator Gaylord Nelson sent a lengthy letter to President Kennedy providing specific talking points that he believed the president should emphasize during the Conservation Trip. Senator Nelson, who according to Secretary Udall was the most passionate member of the senate regarding conservation, eloquently pointed out,

The fact that you are going on a nation-wide tour will command great attention for several reasons including the fact that no President has done exactly this before. The question is how to maximize the effect - how to hit the issue hard enough to leave a permanent impression after the headlines have faded away- - how to shake people, organizations and legislators hard enough to gain strong support for a comprehensive national, state and local long-range plan for our resources. In the very first speech of your tour I think it is important to dramatize the whole issue

by stating that you're leaving the Capital to make a nation-wide appeal for the preservation of our vital resources because this is America's last chance. That the next decade or so is in fact our last chance and it can be documented with a mass of bone chilling statistics. . . will paint a picture with a compelling force understandable to everyone. Rachel Carson's book on pesticides is a perfect example of the kind of impact that can be made with specifics. The situation is even worse in this country respecting water pollution, soil erosion, wildlife habitat destruction, vanishing open spaces, shortages of parks, etc.

As you well know, for more than a half-century conservationists have been writing, speaking and pleading for the preservation of our resources. Though the public is dimly aware that all around them, here and there, outdoor assets are disappearing, they really don't see the awful dimension of the catastrophe. The real failure has been in the political leadership. This is a political issue to be settled at a political level but strangely politicians seldom talk about it. Now, for the first time in fifty years, conservationists have the President speaking for them. Since your voice will be heard, I think you should tell the whole story in your series of speeches.

Senator Gaylord Nelson continued for 5 pages to President Kennedy with powerful and persuading arguments in defense of America's natural resources, painting a picture of immediacy, urgent action and a last chance for the President, Congress and the American public to save its natural resources and open spaces. In closing, Nelson wrote,

We have grown very rapidly. As the frontier pushed west, we failed to act every step of the way until it was too late—recreation areas are gone, the lands are drained, the water is polluted.

Only when our resources have been destroyed do we begin to worry and think and frantically search for some area to acquire and protect for the public to use. . . In summary I think it is important that you spell out the crisis in its broadest terms, and that every aspect of resource management and conservation be touched upon. It is important also that every one of the hundreds of specialized magazines and newspapers be able to quote something from your speeches that is important to their fields of interest and to their readers.

The 5-page letter was followed with 10 pages of quotes from authors, poets, and scientists of conservation issues. Henry David Thoreau, Joseph Wood Krutch, Gerard Piel, A. Starker Leopold, Aldo Leopold, Paul B. Sears, Wallace

Stegner, Teddy Roosevelt, and he extensively quoted Nancy Newhall.

On September 3, 1963, Special Assistant to the President, Lawrence O'Brien, sent a short note to Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin thanking him for sending a substantial amount of background material for the "President's upcoming Conservation Trip."

On September 3, 1963, Kenneth O'Donnell, Special Assistant to the President wrote to California Congressman Harold T. (Biz) Johnson. The letter reads,

Dear Congressman,

The President has asked me to acknowledge your letter of August 27th, concerning the possibility of his participation in the dedication of Whiskeytown Reservoir and the Clear Creek Power Plant, in California, in connection with his trip to California in the near future.

Although he greatly appreciated your writing him about this, the President has asked me to explain that his schedule is already so heavy that he will be unable to include this. He wants you to know, however, that he is grateful for your interest and with his regrets he sends his best wishes to you.

It is likely that Congressman Johnson learned that the President's schedule did not include visiting Whiskeytown even before he received the White House's September 3 letter advising him Whiskeytown was not on the schedule. The very next day, on September 4, 1963, Laurence W. Carr, brother to Under Secretary of the Interior, James K. Carr, wrote a letter to California Attorney General, Stanley Mosk, requesting to enlist his aid "in attempting to get the President to include in his itinerary the dedication of the Whiskeytown project and recreation area in Shasta County." Laurence Carr wrote the letter as Chairman of the Democratic County Central Committee of Shasta County. Laurence Carr was a local attorney in Redding and very active in Shasta County with the Democratic Central Committee. Mosk was not only California's Attorney General, but also a member of the Democratic National Committee. Carr explained to Mosk, that the Whiskeytown project was Senator Clair Engle's "pet project, and he insisted upon its approval before his House Committee would approve any other western reclamation projects." Carr writes further,

...If the President seeks to call attention to the conservation activities of this administration, and to assist Senator Engle in



his reelection, no single ceremony could add more to his trip, considering its theme. Also in process is the establishment of the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. This is the first such area established on the Pacific coast, to my knowledge, by the National Park Service and the Congress.

Very truly yours,

Laurence W. Carr

Two days later on September 6, Attorney General Stanley Mosk sent a brief letter to Kenneth O'Donnell in the White House with a photocopy of Carr's letter. Mosk wrote that Laurence Carr "is an earnest and active supporter. . . If there is any way that the president can include the dedication of the Whiskeytown project during his forthcoming visit to conservation sites, I think it would be a most salutary thing"

The Conservation Trip's itinerary was quickly adjusted to include the dam dedication at Whiskeytown following Carr and Mosk's letters. In a small typed White House note to Ken O'Donnell, a Mr. Dwight Barnes of Congressman Harold T. (Biz) Johnson's office had called to confirm the sudden change. The note implies that even the local Congressman was caught off guard by the sudden change to the schedule to include Whiskeytown. The note, date stamped September 10, 1963 states,

Dwight Barnes of Cong. Johnson's office (Calif.) called.

Said they received a letter from you saying the Whiskeytown Reservoir was not going to be included in the forthcoming trip but he saw a map in the paper of the places the President was going and it is included.

Wondered if they could have definite word on this so the Congressman can proceed with arrangements that would be necessary.

On September 5, 1963, Northern California Congressman Robert L. Leggett from the 4th Congressional District (Vallejo, Marysville and Davis area) sent a letter to Larry O'Brien at the White House offering his and other Congressmen's assistance on the president's journey to "view firsthand the beneficial results of certain of our public works conservation projects."



On September 16, 1963, Ken O'Donnell wrote to Robert (Bob) Anderson, President of the Redding Chamber of Commerce a White House letter that confirmed the President's dedication of Whiskeytown Dam.

Dear Mr. Anderson:

This is to acknowledge your telegram of August 21st to the President urging him to dedicate the Whiskeytown Dam.

I am sure you know by now that the dedication of the Whiskeytown Dam and Reservoir is to be included in the President's forthcoming trip to the West and he will do this on Saturday, September 28th.

With thanks for your interest in writing and best wishes,

Sincerely,

Ken O'Donnell
Special Assistant to the President

Mr. Bob Anderson, in a personal communication in December 2002, told the National Park Service that he did not know whether or not the President was coming till just a couple of weeks ahead of time. Mr. Anderson served as Chairman of the Whiskeytown Dam Dedication Committee and had strategized in how to get the President to visit for the dedication ceremony.

As mentioned earlier, the White House received dozens of invitations from Northern California for the President to attend dinners, conduct interviews and make speeches. Requesting groups included: Chico State College California's Teachers' Association, interviews with the Volcano high school newspaper in Lassen County, Missionaries of the Northern California Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints who wished to present the president with the book, "*The Mormon Story*," the Whiskey Creek Sportsmen's Club just upstream of Whiskeytown (a fishing and hunting paradise) offered a night stay to the president, and an offer to sail on Tomales Bay at Pt. Reyes National Seashore sponsored by the Inverness Yacht Club. Suggested speech material was offered by the Willows Daily Journal, the National Lumber Manufacturers Association encouraging the President promote economic use aspects and just not recreation and water alone, and finally a group representing heavy equipment contractors who do soil conservation work with bulldozers. Pierre Salinger, Press Secretary for the White House and his staff handled the replies for all these requests, politely replying the president's schedule cannot accommodate their request.

General Godfrey T. McHugh, Air Force Aide to the President, directed the president's travel and logistics on Air Force One (707 Jetliner). In addition to the President, General McHugh coordinated the White House staff, Congressional members and the press for all the President's air travel. Itineraries and schedules scripted down to the minute were drafted for each leg of the president's trip. Times were given for picking up luggage at specific hotels, bus arrangements, limousine and helicopter

transport, were all described in detail. The McHugh files at the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston list all the individual press members in attendance on the particular leg of the trip, which congressmen and senators, were riding in which helicopter and in what compartment, and where each Secret Service agent was riding and in what hotel they were staying overnight at each town or city. These detailed manifests also offer evidence to when the decisions were made to finalize the president's itinerary for speeches, inspections and dedications.

As late as August 29, 1963, General McHugh had the president flying from Portland, Oregon to San Francisco, completely passing over Whiskeytown. It was the White House's intention at the time to visit Pt. Reyes National Seashore and participate in a groundbreaking ceremony at the new University of California at Santa Cruz.

By September 19, 1963, the White House Press Secretary Pierre Salinger released the "Schedule of the Trip of President Kennedy to Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Utah, Washington, Oregon, California and Nevada." In this detailed and final itinerary, the president was scheduled to fly at 2:30 p.m. on September 27, from the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport by jet plane for Redding, California. Two hours later, at 4:30 p.m., the President was scheduled to land in Redding and fly by helicopter to Lassen Volcanic National Park where he remained overnight with his close friends and some staff. The press remained in Redding overnight staying at the Ponderosa Hotel on Highway 273 in Redding. The president stayed in Mr. Al Donahue's House at Lassen Volcanic National Park. Mr. Donahue was the park's Concessionaire. All the old carpets were pulled out and new ones installed, new furniture was brought in and dozens of phones were connected to the residence so the President and his staff could communicate with Washington D.C. All of these improvements were left after the President's departure in appreciation for the President being able to spend the night.

On September 28, 1963, President Kennedy departed Lassen Volcanic National Park at 9:30 a.m. and flew by helicopter to Whiskeytown Reservoir. In the president's helicopter, California's Governor Pat Brown, Federal Judge Carter, Secretary Udall, Mr. Ken O'Donnell, Mr. Pierre Salinger, Mr. David Powers, Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln, Ms. Ira Gearhart, and Mr. Campion and Mr. Behn of the Secret Service joined the president.

At 9:55 a.m., President Kennedy's helicopter swept over Whiskeytown Lake and touched down on the newly paved road on the crest of Whiskeytown Dam. Newspaper accounts claimed there were 10,000 people waiting to

hear the president's speech at Whiskeytown. The President's helicopter was the last to arrive, with the previous seven helicopters lining the dam's crest road. When the President's helicopter landed, it came in closest to the assembled crowd. A wooden stage with large wooden oak chairs made three rows of seats and the wooden podium was situated in the stage's center. Just to the right of the podium, there was a wood, high backed, spindled chair, similar to a rocking chair but without rockers. This was the chair for the President and was distinctly different from all the others.

Five high school girls served as ushers for the dignitaries along with 20 year old Sharon Andrus who was Miss Shasta County. The high school ushers included Pat Greene, Judy Ochiner, Maureen Carr, Sharon Karr and Marilyn Rodgers all from Redding. The five young women wore white pleated dresses as they escorted President Kennedy, Governor Pat Brown, Congressman Biz Johnson and Secretary of the Interior Udall. The young women were to escort the dignitaries to their seats on the stage. They were all very excited and nervous about their duties and were told by the Secret Service not to touch the president. When the president arrived, Sharon Andrus, greeted President Kennedy and he extended his arm for her to take, but she briefly hesitated and then realized this would be her only opportunity to touch President Kennedy, so she took his arm and they walked together to his special high backed chair on the stage.

The Hayfork Hikers

Around 5:30 a.m. a weary group of 32 teenagers from Hayfork California wandered into the stage area of Whiskeytown Dam just as crews were setting up. The thirty two girls, organized by 16 year old Terri Hodgetts of Hayfork had just succeeded in hiking 35 miles from the Hayfork turnoff at Highway 299 to Whiskeytown Dam as part of the enthusiasm that President Kennedy had inspired for young people to get into physical shape and do 50 mile hikes. Terri Hodgetts told National Park Service researchers in May and September of 2003, as a teenager in Hayfork there was little to do in the early 1960s. You either played basketball or hiked with friends through the countryside. When word got out that President Kennedy was going to dedicate Whiskeytown Dam, Terri Hodgetts wanted to meet President Kennedy. Realizing it would be difficult to meet the man she idolized, she thought up the idea of organizing a long distant hike that would draw attention to the teenage girls of Hayfork. To advertise this effort she wrote a letter to the Redding Record Searchlight and told them of her intent to hike



35 miles with her 32 classmates. Her father, a logger in Hayfork, was the chairman of the Hayfork Democratic Committee. The logging town of Hayfork had about 1,000 people living in it in 1963. Terri's father had met Congressman Harold T. Johnson and may have passed on to him what his daughter was attempting to do. A newspaper reporter from the Record Searchlight told Terri that if she could hike from Hayfork to Whiskeytown, she would get to meet the president.

Upon arriving at the ceremony site, the 32 girls collapsed onto the folding chairs that were being set up for the dignitaries. They were exhausted from having walked all of Friday afternoon and through the night to make it to Whiskeytown by the morning. The girls were not only tired, but many had blisters from their canvas tennis shoes. Two cars with parents had followed the girls on their trek through the night along Highway 299. The parents provided encouragement, battery changes for their flashlights, and snacks as they walked on the highway shoulder in the middle of the night. Terri Hodgetts recalled in her September 4, 2003, interview, how their flashlights went dim after hours of use. Only their fluorescent painted signs pinned to their T-shirts reading "Hayfork Hikers," would be illuminated from headlights in the dark night as fast moving freight trucks and automobile's passed by. Some of the passing drivers may have also noticed that many of the girls wore curlers in their hair on the 35-mile hike, because they wanted to have their hair look good if they met the President.

When the stage crew saw the girls lying in the chairs that were set up for the dignitaries, they were told to leave. Later in the morning Congressman Biz Johnson saw the tired girls, realized who they were because of the "Hayfork Hikers" fluorescent signs. The Congressman gathered them all up and bought them hot dogs and coca-colas for having made the long 7-hour hike and let them sit in chairs just behind the stage.

Shasta County Sheriff Balma, met with President Kennedy's advance team and Secret Service and arranged to have the Sheriff's deputies and posse line the cliff overlooking the crowd and

the stage. Each of the Sheriff deputies wore magenta red colored shirts. People still remember looking up onto the cliff face above the dam and seeing "all the Sheriff's posses lining the cliff top in their red shirts." Bob Anderson, who served as the Chair for the Whiskeytown Dam Dedication Committee remembers asking the Secret Service if this would be a dangerous place for the President to speak because of the open country. The Secret Service told Anderson, "not at all, we'll have people scattered

all through the woods and we'll have excellent coverage. What we don't like is when he travels through big cities with tall buildings and lots of windows."

The President's Arrival

Bob Anderson remembers clearly this special day and stated in a National Park Service interview in September 2003, "people were so excited at the prospect of President Kennedy coming to Whiskeytown Dam. You could have heard a pin drop prior to the President's helicopters arriving. The mood of the dedication was festive, it was the most exciting event that I have ever attended. JFK was an eloquent speaker, when he spoke we were all spell bound, he captured the crowd with his speech. Even though I am a Republican, there was something special about President Kennedy that made you feel he was the right leader to be President of the United States. Redding was a small town back then, we had only 10 to 15,000 people in the city limits in 1963." Sharon Andrus, Miss Shasta County added, "there was a sea of people, some 10,000 people in one place. None of us had ever seen so many people in one place before and as Miss Shasta County I had been to many fairs and special events, but nothing like the crowd assembled at Whiskeytown to see President Kennedy. Sharon Andrus continued, "President Kennedy represented youth, he had a young ideas, a young family himself and understood the needs of young people and families.

Prior to the president's arrival, the crowd was entertained by several stunts, including the Redding Sport Parachute club, the U.S. Forest Service Smoke Jumpers, the Dale St. John Water Ski show and the Shasta Union High School District and Junior College Bands. The parachutists jumped from a low flying plane and dropped onto the backside of the dam.

When the president stepped out of the helicopter, the crowd roared with cheers of excitement. It was a warm clear day in the end of September. Bureau of Reclamation Regional Director Pafford, Mr. Robert Anderson, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Redding, and Laurence Carr (Undersecretary of the Interior James K. Carr's brother) were on hand to greet President Kennedy. Secretary Udall and Governor Brown walked with the President from the helicopter towards the stage and the huge crowds of people. President Kennedy stopped near the large cement spillway structure for the new dam, known as the glory hole. Regional Director Pafford explained to the president how the glory hole functioned and then proceeded to the stage. En route to the stage, President Kennedy was flanked on either side by the local Shasta and Trinity County Eagle Scouts who represented the best of the Counties'



boys.

Once the President climbed the steps of the stage and was ushered to their respective seats, the assembled dignitaries stood at attention as Shasta Union High School and Shasta Junior College bands played the Star Spangled Banner led by music director John Farrugia. This was followed by the Reverend Jack D. Stegeman who gave a brief invocation. Governor Brown then gave the introductory remarks and Congressman Biz Johnson introduced the President of the United States. President Kennedy's speech lasted a little more than 8 minutes. When the speech was completed, he walked off the stage and began greeting the crowd along a low barrier of slat fencing. Flanked by Secret Service agents, President Kennedy received the crowd that surged out to touch him, shake his hand and capture a photograph.

Redding resident Bud Barrett and a seasonal maintenance trail crew leader at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area described 40 years later, that not a woman around him following the speech had dry eyes, they were all emotionally affected following the President's speech. Mr. Barrett remembers as a young man, how impressive the speech and the presence of the man was at the Whiskeytown Dam ceremony. Elizabeth Reginato, whose husband John Reginato managed the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association, was among the 10,000 people in attendance. Mrs. Reginato reminisces 40 years later that President Kennedy appeared very relaxed when he gave his speech at Whiskeytown. She recalled how when he spoke, "he looked directly at you, he made eye contact with you, it was very impressive."

At this point an announcement was made that the President wished to meet a Miss Terri Hodgetts. Barefoot in an effort to relieve the pain of her blisters from her 35-mile hike, Hodgetts could not believe her name had been called over the speaker system. Her father pushed his daughter up to the wooden slat fence and lifted her over. Upon lowering Terri on the other side of the barrier, her black leg tights caught on a wooden slat and ripped her pant leg open. She quickly pulled off her sweatshirt and wrapped it around her waist hiding the tear in her pants. President Kennedy noticed in a bemused manner that the young girl was barefoot. He asked Terri if she had walked from Hayfork barefoot? "No Mr. President" she said, "I have bad blisters and my feet hurt, I wore tennis shoes." She was surprised to notice that President Kennedy wasn't a taller man, she expected the President of the United States to be taller than her father. President Kennedy congratulated her for making the hike from Hayfork and told her next time that she should hike the entire 50 miles. Terri Hodgetts was impressed by the President's comment, because it meant to her that he was striving to achieve the ultimate distance- the 50-mile hike.

Her final impression of President Kennedy was that he smelled very good since he was wearing a nice cologne.

The Associated Press photographed President Kennedy standing next to Terri Hodgetts looking down at her bare feet. This photograph was circulated nation wide and made the newspapers on Sunday morning: The President at Whiskeytown. As a result, Terri Hodgetts received over fifty letters from all over the country from people who were touched by the photograph of the pretty 16-year-old brunette high school student who had organized the 32 high school girls on the 35 mile walk. One man offered to adopt Terri Hodgetts, another person sent her a box of chocolate. Hodgetts wrote replies to each letter. Seven weeks later, following the President's assassination, another wave of letters arrived as people from across the country sought some solace by writing to her as a person who had recently met President Kennedy.

Another local bit of color came walking across the dam during President Kennedy's speech when local gold miner and musical entertainer, Mr. Paul McDermott, led his mule across the dam towards the stage where the President was speaking. On the mules back, were two whiskey barrels. Mr. McDermott, a resident of Whiskeytown, wanted to perform a living history demonstration on naming of the town. A mule carrying two whiskey barrels lost its load while crossing the creek many years back. The spot was first named Whiskey Creek and later a gold mining town sprouted up assuming the local name. The Secret Service intercepted Mr. McDermott prior to him coming near the President.

The President and his entourage returned to the Marine helicopter and departed on schedule at 10:35 a.m., after the brief 40-minute stay at Whiskeytown. He arrived at the Redding Airport and departed in Air Force One for McCarran Field in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Redding Airport tarmac was the last place President John F. Kennedy stood in the State of California. Bob Anderson, Terri Hodgetts and Sharon Andrus all recall the emotional release after the President left Whiskeytown Dam, "many of us cried, it was such a happy special moment," said Hodgetts.

The President's Speech at Whiskeytown Dam

Following recognition of honored guests in attendance, the President opened his formal remarks with his appreciation for "the chance to be here in Whiskeytown and to say a few words to this distinguished community." Never before had Whiskeytown been so complemented by



someone of this national stature.

President Kennedy loved poetry and in his speech at Whiskeytown referenced one of his favorite poets, Stephen Vincent Benet, who wrote the poem "American Names." While Benet did not write the name Whiskeytown in his list of American names, President Kennedy stated, "I think he could add it to the roster." It is interesting that he spoke to this because Robert Anderson, felt that the key to the President's decision to dedicate the dam at Whiskeytown was because of the unique colorful name it held.

The President references the fact, that like the pioneers of the 1800s, he has come across this great nation and quickly mentions where he started 5 days earlier: the home of Gifford Pinchot and Theodore Roosevelt, 2 of this nation's great conservationists. He stated, how these "great natural inheritances" God had given to the nation, were wiped away, the forest ruined, streams destroyed, wasted for people...and because of the dedicated work of men who came from the eastern part of the country...this great national effort was made to realize our resources, to make them useful." The president, in speaking to the important conservation program of the nation, tied the audience before him with the people of the east coast: the people who made "wise decisions" years before. He complemented the assembled to the wise decision they made that day by building Whiskeytown Dam and Reservoir.

The President, as he did in each stop of the Conservation Trip, paid tribute to the local Democratic politicians who were sitting with him on the stage, saluting the efforts by California Governor Edmund Brown for his initiative to set aside funds for a bond issue for recreation. The president, turning again to a familiar Kennedy theme stated, "it may not come before you immediately, but it will make it possible for your children to live better." Through the speech, the president spoke of the importance of the future, the importance of education and quality of life and the important role that recreation would provide to future generations.

Then the president, with the brimming blue reservoir behind him and the 6,200 foot Shasta Bally mountain as backdrop, spoke of the

reduced work week from 58 hours, to 48 hours, to a 40 hour work week. He stated, "As machines take more and more of the jobs of men, we are going to find the workweek reduced, and we are going to find people wondering what they should do. I want to make it possible, and you do, make it possible for them to see green grass, to travel throughout this great, rich country of ours not just in other parts of the world, but here in the United States...what golden resources

we have in our own United States." Here the President was emphasizing the theme "See America First," a slogan being prepared to use in the coming winter, and also used by the Johnson Administration in 1964.

Then Kennedy turned to his definition of conservation — using the resources at hand. He emphasized the important role water has had on the arid west. Turning towards future, the president stated, "...We have moved ahead, and this project [Trinity Division] is only the most recent. I am proud of it...Every time we bet on the future of this country we win. He referenced national security and his visit two days earlier to Hanford, Washington, where he participated in a ground breaking for a new atomic powered electric generating plant. Citing Grand Coulee Dam, he states that after a 10 year fight to build the dam, it will not only pay for itself quickly, but "it has meant the whole development of the high Northwest, the development of the atomic reactors, which have played a significant part in maintaining the security of the United States."

Returning to his future benefits theme, Kennedy states:

Every time we make a determination to set aside a seashore for the use of future generations, every time we build these great projects, we develop the water resources, we set recreational areas, we can be sure they are going to be used. Three hundred and fifty million Americans will live in this country of ours in the short space of less than 40 years, where now there are 180 million. What will they do? What kind of country will they find? I think if we make the right decisions now they will be as grateful to us as we were and are to Gifford Pinchot and Theodore Roosevelt for the things they did 45 and 50 years ago.

As four white sailboats drifted across Whiskeytown Lake (specially brought in from Lake Almanor, California, for the president's speech— few sailboats existed in Shasta County because Whiskeytown Lake was so new) the president directed his comments to Whiskeytown Dam. He said,

We witness today the completion of a project, which symbolizes the goals to which we are committed. The Whiskeytown Dam is not the largest structure on the Trinity River, but its completion is significant because this is the last of the Trinity project dams. The impoundment part of this vast undertaking is now completed, and in that sense this dam stands not only as the work of the men who built it, but of all the men over the years who fought for it and brought it to the attention of the State and Nation.

President Kennedy stated, "I am impressed by nature and more impressed by man." The



story of how Whiskeytown Dam and the Trinity Division and the whole Central Valley Project was developed, is unto itself an impressive struggle of people with a vision who wanted to make the State of California a better place, more productive and its resources used to their full potential.

President Kennedy then emphasizes local interest when he says that the Trinity River and the upper reaches of the Sacramento River are now “harnessed, Shasta County and its neighbors are assured of water and power.” This was exactly what James K. Carr, Clair Hill and Joe Patten had been promoting for Shasta County ever since Shasta Dam was completed and the associated jobs and water went south beyond the immediate benefit of Shasta County. The President then said, “they [Shasta County] can enjoy new chances for recreational use, and new access to open space. And of great importance, the flow of two watersheds can now be regulated for the benefit of the farms and cities in the lower valley.” Here the speech finally draws on the original purpose of the Trinity Division –the provision of water to farmers in the San Joaquin Valley who had been over drafting the groundwater basins since the 1920s.

Returning to his administration view of conservation, President Kennedy continued in a powerful cadence of speaking where the speech was now sounding more presidential,

For too long this water ran unused to the sea. For too long surplus water in one area was wasted, while there was a deficit nearby. Now by diverting these waters to the eastern slope, we can irrigate crops on the fertile plains of the Sacramento Valley and supply water also for municipal and industrial use to the cities to the south.

And while running their course, these waters will generate millions of kilowatts of energy and help expand the economy of the fastest growing State in the Nation. In these ways, Whiskeytown Reservoir and the Trinity Division will add to our natural beauty and will show man can improve on nature, and make it possible for this State to continue to grow. So I congratulate you all.

President Kennedy then wondered aloud how many people back east realize “what a great national asset we have. Not just California. This is one country with 50 separate States, but one country.” He then concluded his speech by speaking again of how east coast residents are moving west and west coast residents are moving east, how in general Americans are on the move. Speaking as a national leader, he stated, “And we will find by concentrating our energies on our national resources, on conserving them, but not merely conserving and saving them, but by developing and improving them, the United

States will be richer and stronger. We can fulfill our responsibilities to ourselves and those who depend on us.”

“I am proud to be here. I am proud to be associated with those who are contributing to this country, who are making it better, not merely right now, today, but who are looking to the long future of those who come after us. I congratulate you on what you have done.” The final portion of his speech was familiar language to those that remembered his inaugural address, “Ask not what this country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.”

Forty years later, people still speak of the excitement generated by the President’s address to the people of Shasta and Trinity County. Some historians who have watched the film clips of the Conservation Trip believe Kennedy’s Whiskeytown speech was the finest one he gave on the entire tour.

The President’s Conservation Message

The president’s Conservation Trip brought him to 11 states, 17 locations, from Milford Pennsylvania to Las Vegas Nevada, covering some 2,087 miles. At most of the locations he gave formal addresses, and other locations he gave greetings and a few short remarks. Ted Sorenson of the White House staff and the primary speechwriter for President Kennedy penned most of the speeches for the president. Although, Secretary Udall did assist with drafting portions of speeches, such as the one in Las Vegas, Nevada. It was, however, primarily Sorenson who wrote the drafts with much of the material for the speeches supplied by Secretary Udall’s staff. It is interesting to note, however, that President Kennedy spoke his personal views and thoughts in each of these speeches and personally contributed in their development. This is based on personal comments written by Secretary Udall on October 8, 1963, where he holds the President responsible for what he said in his speeches.

In the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library Archives, the Ted Sorenson Papers show drafts of speeches prepared for the President to give while on the Conservation Trip. Within these files, are notes and references prepared by Secretary Udall, Senator Gaylord Nelson, and others who contributed material for Sorenson’s writing. While it is not documented, portions of Kennedy’s Whiskeytown speech can likely be contributed to Under Secretary James K. Carr and others who Sorenson may have tapped for detailed information regarding the project and the county. Several intimate references



to how Whiskeytown Reservoir will benefit Shasta County had to come from local sources. The White House files showed that Redding's Chamber of Commerce manager Mr. Sid Cowgill, sent Pierre Salinger a two page detailed history on Whiskeytown and the area's colorful history.

In reading the President's speeches from Tacoma Washington (Friday, September 27), Tongue Point, Oregon (Friday September 27), Whiskeytown, California (Saturday, September 28), and Las Vegas Nevada, (September 28) there are reoccurring themes.

First, the president wanted the people of the United States to understand his concern for the need to discuss, at a national policy level, the importance of conservation to the United States. Good conservation of the nation's resources meant a strong, virile, and healthy nation internationally. President Kennedy spoke often about the threats to this nation's security and one way to protect itself from the threat of Soviet domination and Communism was to have a strong and healthy conservation program that developed and "wisely used" the nation's natural resources.

The President appreciated nature, especially the coastlines of the United States. One of his favorite, somewhat natural areas, was Cape Cod National Seashore, where he as a Senator argued in favor of establishing as a National Seashore. He often spoke of Thoreau, writer of nature, and Gifford Pinchot, America's most famous Forester and first Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, and of course Presidents Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt. He liked to mention the names of these great American Conservationists for purposes of association. It was a goal of this administration to distinguish itself as an administration concerned and active in protecting this nation's resources -something the Eisenhower/Nixon Administration had not focused on. While President Kennedy did support and often spoke about the importance of setting aside areas for wilderness, the Kennedy Administration believed in a form of conservation that emphasized "wise use" and developing natural resources then of merely preserving for the sense of beauty and future enjoyment.



In several of the President's speeches he refers to the need to use this country's rivers for practical utilitarian purposes (damming for irrigation, hydroelectric power and domestic drinking water) so the water was not wasted, unused "flowing unrestricted to the ocean." President Kennedy reflected on not only using these natural resources, but ensuring that their use would be managed in a way so pollution does not occur, so that

erosion did not occur, and that range land for grazing is managed in a sustainable means. In Kennedy's speeches he recognizes that forests, rivers, and farmlands have been destroyed by men who did not use conservation measures. This type of management created a national crisis that Pinchot and Roosevelt changed to the nation's benefit.

President Kennedy was also aware of the continued migration to the west and what this meant in terms of stresses on natural resources, particularly on water resources. He was also concerned that much of the coastlines of the nation (he cited a statistic that 98 percent of the east coast was privately owned) were closed to public use. The president understood the importance of recreation areas and the establishments of parks, national seashores, and national recreation areas. As a result, during his nearly three years as president, his administration supported the addition of three units of the National Park Service (Cape Cod National Seashore, Point Reyes National Seashore and Padre Island National Seashore).

Finally, another theme that Kennedy spoke to was the fact that great, well educated men of the past had given their vision and ideas to this country, not only people of their generations could benefit, but future generations could benefit as well. The President liked the idea that leaders were thinking towards the future to make things better, and that people of tomorrow would realize the legacy these great leaders left behind for future generations.

Kennedy expressed a need to move, to act now. Conservation and recreation were legitimate national goals and he, as President of the United States, was taking the time to not only see for himself the current state of the nation's conservation resources, but hoping through his eyes and words, to bring this message to all citizens of the nation.

Post Conservation Tour

Within days of the president's return to the White House, Pierre Salinger and Ken O'Donnell were sending thank you letters to all the people who had assisted in making the president's conservation tour a success. Also, key Democratic leaders in California were sending the White House suggestions of who to thank for the smooth visit to Whiskeytown. A Mr. Van A. Dempsey, executive secretary for the California Democratic State Central Committee wrote to Mr. Andrew T. Hatcher, associate press secretary to the president, on October 4, 1963, suggesting the president send letters to Bob Anderson, Chairman of the Whiskeytown Dam Dedication Committee. Mr. Dempsey suggested also thanking Anderson and the committee for giving the president a gold medallion displaying a Whiskeytown gold miner and the names of the

three large reservoirs. Dempsey also suggested sending thank you letters to Mr. Laurence Carr who served as program chairman for Shasta County Central Committee and to his brother Jim Carr, Interior's undersecretary.

Letters to Mr. Robert Anderson and Laurence Carr went out on October 26, 1963. Mr. Anderson's letter read:

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Please accept my thanks for your hospitality during my recent trip to Redding. The warm welcome and the many courtesies extended by you and your Chamber of Commerce associates made my brief visit with you a most pleasurable one, and the gold medallion will be a tangible reminder of the occasion for many years to come.

With cordial greetings and every good wish to you and the Redding Chamber of Commerce,

Sincerely,

John Kennedy

On October 7, the president sent a letter to Governor Pat Brown, it read:

Dear Pat:

The conservation trip which just ended gave me the distinct pleasure of meeting with you and seeing at firsthand the tremendous strides that have been made in the field of conservation in your state. I greatly appreciate the warm welcome given to us by your citizens.

I enjoyed seeing you and I want to thank you for your many courtesies to me and my staff during our stay there.

With every good wish,
Sincerely

John Kennedy

President Kennedy's letter to Mr. Laurence Carr stated:

Dear Mr. Carr:

I should like to express again my thanks to you for a most satisfying visit. The program for the dedication ceremony was the manifest result of much thought and effort, and it was a distinct pleasure for me to be present on the occasion.

With every good wish,
Sincerely,

John Kennedy

Most of the other thank you letters went to individual people who sent the president mementos from his trip or gifts when he arrived. These letters were signed by Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln, personal secretary to the president and not the president himself. Letters were sent to Mr. Peter Goldsmith for a reproduction of "Reflection Lake" at Mt. Lassen Volcanic National Park where the president spent the night of September 27. Another letter went to Mrs. Noffsinger for giving the president a box of apples at the Redding Airport when the president arrived, and to Mr. Joe Mazzini who sent the president an album of photographs taken during the Whiskeytown ceremony. The President added that such a thoughtful gift would be a welcomed addition to his collection of mementos and they did end up as part of the archival photographs in the presidential library in Dorchester, Massachusetts. The final letter on record went to a young woman named Ms. Barbara Muscutt of Redding who wrote that she did not get the chance to shake the president's hand and so would like to have a color photograph of him. Evelyn Lincoln responded that, "He [president] asked me to tell you that he is sorry he could not shake hands with you when he was in California recently, for he would like so much to be able to meet all his young friends." Mrs. Lincoln sent an autographed photograph of the president and his family along with best wishes. The footnote to the carbon copy of the letter stated, "Enclosures, #10 (s); 8x10 photog of the P (looking upward) inscribed: "John Kennedy".

A complaint letter concerning the president's conservation trip was sent by a Mrs. Nora T. Hilleary of Madison, Connecticut questioning the purpose and expense for the estimated cost of allegedly \$600,000 per stop! White House Press Secretary Pierre Salinger responded stating:

Dear Mrs. Hilleary:

I received your letter of September 24th with respect to the President's non-political trip. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to compute the cost of the trip since most if not all of the personnel traveling with the President were engaged in their regular business anyway. The President's trip West is in the great tradition of previous non-political trips taken by Presidents Eisenhower, Truman, Roosevelt, Hoover, Coolidge, Wilson and Theodore Roosevelt.

Sincerely yours,

Pierre Salinger
Press Secretary to the President

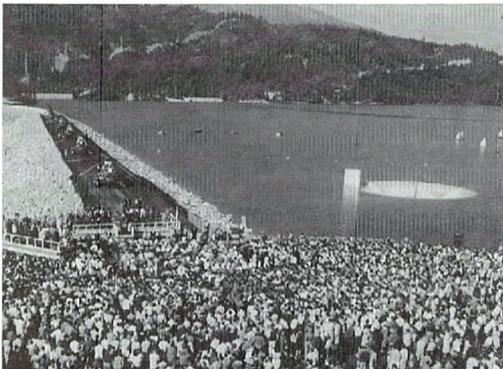


Mike Manatos of the White House worked with General McHugh to figure out the exact cost to the government for transporting the president and his entourage. In a letter to Senator J. Howard Edmondson on November 7, 1963, he stated the cost of fuel, maintenance, military air crew pay, amortization of the aircraft over a 10 year period brought the cost of flying the VC-137 (707 type jet) to \$400.00 a day. Press had to pay their own way. Manatos ended the letter stating, "We thank you for bringing this matter to our attention and we hope the information provided will be useful in dispelling the very inaccurate figures you kindly brought to our attention."

Seven Weeks Later: The President's Assassination

From the John F. Kennedy Library Presidential Archives, the files of General Godfrey T. McHugh provide sober documentation of the president's brief trip to Texas. The Texas trip was scheduled for November 21 through the 23, 1963. The purpose for the trip was political to gain support from Texas voters for the upcoming

1964 election. It included stops in San Antonio, Houston and Dallas and overnight at Vice President Johnson's Texas Ranch. General McHugh's detailed trip itinerary was similar to all of the president's travel in the past, listing each stop and the times of arrival and departure for the entire day.



On Friday, November 22, 1963, the president was to arrive by plane at Dallas' Love Field at 11:35 a.m. At 11:45 a.m. the president's motorcade was to

leave Love Field and head to a trade mart or the fair grounds, arriving around 12:30 p.m. It is well known that on his way through Dallas, the president was shot in the back of the neck and head and subsequently died. McHugh files never mention anything of the assassination. Instead, the narrative of the president's plane trip, written by Air Force Commander Colonel James B. Swindal, shows the flight returned from Texas to Andrews Air Force Base near Washington D.C. that evening, a day earlier than planned.

The Whiskeytown Memorial

The death of this vibrant president gave Shasta County and the City of Redding an emotional whiplash. Just weeks earlier, the full power and political might of the nation's youngest president arrived with 7 Marine helicopters and paid his respects to the good work the people of Shasta County had just completed with the creation

of the Whiskeytown dam and mountain lake. With his youth, vision towards the future, and personal charisma, President Kennedy had inspired and charmed all who attended the celebration on September 28, 1963.

Following his death, 18 local Redding residents formed the Kennedy Memorial Fund Committee for the purposes of establishing a permanent structure to commemorate the president's visit and memorialize the accomplishments of his administration. According to research done by National Park Service volunteer Ed Huey, John Crotto served as chairman of the group and Rudy Balma was head of the committee's design group. Other members included Larry Carr who had served as master of ceremonies for the president's visit in September.

In February 1964, Italian born Mr. Robert Ciabani was selected as the artist to design the memorial. Ciabani, at age 25, operated an artist studio in Medford, Oregon. According to the Redding Record Searchlight, it was Ciabani who decided to depict Kennedy's life through a series of bas-relief panels in an edifice 12 feet high by 6 feet wide. A storm of controversy erupted when the Record Searchlight previewed the work in progress. Numerous critics from Redding denounced the work and wanted it stopped immediately.

The Kennedy Memorial Committee traveled to Medford on July 13, 1964, to personally inspect the work in response to the criticism and concern of over 500 sponsors who had donated to the cause. On July 14, the Kennedy Memorial Committee voted to move ahead with artist Ciabani bas-relief memorial. Following the one-day inspection of the work in progress, Mr. Ciabani agreed to make some minor changes. According to researcher Ed Huey, Ciabani was asked to change the clothing of Peace Corps workers depicted in the relief piece. "Originally, Mr. Ciabani had depicted 2 individuals clothed in togas, which Ciabani said was intended to give the picture a timeless quality. After conferring with committee members, Ciabani agreed to clothe 1 of the figures in modern day shirt and slacks.

Further protest continued, with an objection, interestingly from a Mrs. Kirtley whose husband had worked on building Whiskeytown Dam. Mrs. Kirtley stated, "It would be a shame if Mr. Ciabani's work is used." She apparently did not believe the artist's memorial did justice to the work force that had labored so hard to make Whiskeytown Dam a reality. Mrs. Kirtley organized a protest meeting on July 18th and was scheduled to address the Redding Civic Arts Commission at their regular meeting on July 28, 1964. This meeting, however, was cancelled due to absent members, some of who were on vacation, and the memorial's steel frame was

installed at Whiskeytown Dam on September 25.

In late September, the Shasta County Board of Supervisors had voted to approve renaming Paige Bar Road leading to the dam from State Highway 299 to “John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive.” To this day, 40 years after the president’s visit, the Kennedy Memorial stands on the shoreline of Whiskeytown Lake as a tribute to the president and his administration’s contributions.

National Recreation Area’s Enabling Legislation The House of Representatives Action

On May 8, 1961, the National Park Service was asked to consider establishing a National Recreation Area at Whiskeytown. Senator Thomas H. Kuchel, Congressman Harold T. (Biz) Johnson and Undersecretary James K. Carr were prepared to create a Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, along with local Redding leadership. On December 18, 1961, Undersecretary of the Interior, James K. Carr wrote to Senator Kuchel expressing his full and enthusiastic support to the “Full development for recreation of this attractive part of California,” following the National Park Service report on recommending the establishment of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area (December 1961). The Shasta County Board of Supervisors requested Congressman Harold T. (Biz) Johnson draft legislation to create the “Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.” All of this enthusiasm to establish Whiskeytown as part of the National Park Service grew in momentum as the Kennedy administration also grew in momentum and Undersecretary Carr assumed power in the new administration. Senator Kuchel submitted S. 734, to establish Whiskeytown National Recreation Area on January 15, 1962. Congressman Biz Johnson submitted his bill to the 88th Congress, H.R. 3618 on February 7, 1962. In April 1962, the people of Shasta County voted in favor of establishing a federally managed park at Whiskeytown versus a county managed park, with the federal proposal winning in a 2 to 1 victory. On May 23, 1962, the National Park Service took over interim management of Whiskeytown Reservoir. Also on May 23, 1962, Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall proposed to tie all 4 reservoirs of the Central Valley Project into 1 national recreation area. On September 18, 1963, just prior to President Kennedy’s visit to Whiskeytown, Congressman Biz Johnson submitted his revised Whiskeytown legislation to create the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area.

Following the death of President Kennedy, Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson assumed the Presidency and the new Johnson Administration began. This transition delayed action on the bills in Congress and Congressman Johnson’s legislation was not debated in the House of Representatives or the Senate for nearly two years. Furthermore, Senator Clair Engle became

seriously ill. Without a sponsor promoting the bill in the Senate, action stalled on establishing the national recreation area for a period of time.

Jim Carr, reminiscing 14 years later in 1979 explains his version of what happened next.

...I think Biz Johnson took over finally after I left Washington D.C. in 1964, in July, and the legislation had not yet been processed through the House. Now Clair Engle had been ill so it didn’t move very well, and Senator Kuchel had not been especially interested in it. The legislation was put through the House.

It went over to the Senate and, fortunately, Senator Allen Bible from Nevada was the Chairman on the subcommittee on parks, national parks for the Senate. And Allen Bible was a classmate in Georgetown Law School with my brother, Laurence. So I explained to Allen how Laurence and I favored this area around Whiskeytown and Mt. Bally, and he said, “No problem.” He said, “If its your bill, well out it’s gonna come.” Because I had worked very closely with Allen Bible on some other legislation.

And so we got it out of the subcommittee, and that particularly day I had given a speech in Eureka to a water group...I was driving down the road and had the radio on, and I heard that they had passed this bill out of the subcommittee. And I asked my driver to pull off at the next public telephone in Willits...and I made a call to Senator Henry L. “Scoop” Jackson of Washington. And he was the Chairman on the full committee on Interior affairs. And I’d worked and helped Scoop on several things when I was Undersecretary of Interior and were very close friends.

And I told Scoop, I said, “I want you to know that bill with the good name on it, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, that Allen Bible’s Subcommittee passed, I said, “That happens to be my home country and that’s my bill.” And I said, “I never got a chance while I was back there to get it out, and I’m just asking you if you’ll do me the favor and help me.” He said, “If it’s your bill, it’s gonna get out, don’t worry about it.” So shortly after that, Scoop Jackson passed it out of the Senate; they passed it through the Senate as a whole. I don’t recall whether it went to conference or not; don’t remember what changes that were made, if any. At any rate, that’s how we finally authorized the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

On July 12, 1965, the 89th Congress brought



H.R. 797, Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area, California, to the floor for debate, (Source: Congressional Record-House, July 12, 1965.

The debate opened in the House of Representatives in Washington D.C.

Mr. Aspinall, Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R.797) to establish the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area in the State of California, and for other purposes.

The House clerk then read the entire bill for the record. Congressman Aspinall spoke, followed by Congressmen Gross, Saylor, and Johnson all in support of H.R. 797. Congressman Gross asked Aspinall how Whiskeytown received its name and they called on Congressman Biz Johnson to tell the story, which he did. Mr. Aspinall stated:

I would like to let our friend and colleague from California who represents the area give us that rather unique explanation [Mr. Johnson]. Mr. Johnson of California. . .Mr. Speaker, well Whiskeytown was created a long time ago. Legend has it that there was a teamster who was hauling whisky and Brandy into the mining area of Trinity County. When he went across a creek that was on the way, in fording the creek he spilled his whisky. Then in fording another creek, he spilled a barrel of brandy. The creek that the barrel of brandy fell in was later named Brandy Creek and the other creek where the barrel of whisky fell in was named Whiskey Creek. It was a little while after that the town of Whiskeytown was created in the early era in California.

After some serious discourse on the benefits of establishing the national recreation area, and encouraging the passage of the bill with minor amendment changes suggested, Mr. Hall rose and requested time to speak. He then questioned Congressman Johnson further about Whiskeytown:

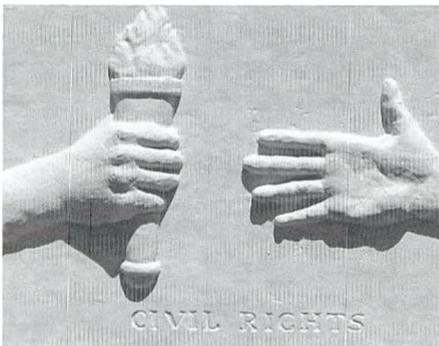
I would like to ask the same general questions that I have asked the chairman on the prior bill. I am becoming more and more concerned—not with the fact that I discern in the Record and by careful study that there is a Clear Creek as well as a Brandy Creek and a Whiskey Creek—and I presume, of course, that Clear Creek is where nothing fell off the teamster’s wagon and maybe they just found gold there in the Golden State of California.

Mr. Saylor rose to speak and stated, “That just provided good drinking water for all the folks there and for the fish and wildlife.” Mr. Hall then

replied, “I am sure that down in Missouri we would choose one of the other creeks so far as getting the best “drinking” water is concerned. Then, the congressman became serious and asked if there were sufficient funds to pay for these “multi-million dollar bills setting up these national recreational areas, and if it is in the budget. . .and how much local participation is involved by the communities or the state? Mr. Johnson took the floor and responded that the reservoirs already existed and that the National Park Service had made certain improvements around the Whiskeytown Reservoir. . . . All money that would be needed for future development would come from the Land and Water Conservation Act fund and also from the National Park Service’s general fund as well as the Forest Service’s general fund. Congressman Johnson then spoke for several minutes explaining in detail, land acquisition, visitation figures and projections, and specific acreage of the three different areas. He also spoke of the types of recreational pursuits such as camping, fishing, hiking, boating, swimming and similar water sports offered, and how the national recreation area would benefit the people of his district, the State of California and the national welfare. Johnson stated:

I would be less than frank if I did not state that I anticipate that enactment of this bill would be beneficial to my constituents from this standpoint. It is a happy circumstance that the national welfare and the local welfare will both benefit through enactment of this bill. . . .Mr. Speaker, at this point I would like to state that this legislation has the solid support of private enterprise, local and State governments, and the Federal agencies, who are ready to proceed with this program. . . . Mr. Speaker, I would also like to express the appreciation of the people of California for the consideration which the House is giving to this legislation today and hope that the House in its wisdom will see fit to grant its approval.

Congressman Phil Burton of California rose to speak and commended “my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from California, Congressman Johnson for his effective leadership in bringing to the floor of the House the Whiskeytown project.” Congressman Burton then read an editorial from the San Francisco Chronicle from a Mr. Earl C. Behrens who thoroughly endorsed the idea of creating Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area. Behrens’ article quoted National Park Service Superintendent Samuel A. King at Whiskeytown, who was the interim manager for the recreation program. King explained the public popularity for Whiskeytown Lake and Behrens then discussed the overall disappointment of supporters who are “irked” that Congress has delayed action on the project’s legislation. King was quoted that some \$18 million dollars had been designated for land



acquisition at Whiskeytown. Behrens ends his article with the simple fact that under H.R. 797 “the Forest Service will administer the Trinity, Lewiston, and Shasta units. The National Park Service will administer the Whiskeytown unit. Congressman Burton of San Francisco, then yielded the floor to the Speaker of the House.

The Congressional Record states, “The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Colorado that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill H.R. 797 as amended. The question was taken; and (two thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill passed.

The Senate Action:

On October 21, 1965, the U.S. Senate considered Calendar 907, H.R. 797. Senator Kuchel introduced the bill and requested, “I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 797.” Senator Kuchel then stated:

Mr. President, a vast new recreation area in northern California is about to be established by the Congress. To serve the needs of literally millions of people for outdoor recreational activity, a national recreation area, Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity, will offer to all Americans four beautiful manmade lakes, with 500 miles of shoreline and a magnificent expanse of hills and mountains and virgin forests and streams, for the perpetual enjoyment and wonder. . . . In California, our population is expected to almost double by 1980. We may expect as well, a doubling. . . .if not a tripling—of the demand for outdoor recreation opportunities in the wake of increased leisure time, income, and mobility.

Although the reservoirs and the water-based recreation, which they will afford, will, undoubtedly, be the central attraction of the national recreation area for most of those who will visit it, the surrounding countryside is also an important part of the picture. This is rugged country, which offers many opportunities for hiking, camping, nature study, fishing, photography, picnicking, and other types of outdoor recreation.

Senator Murphy then rose to take the floor and stated, “I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Congressman Bizz Johnson for his leadership in making this dream land available as a national park for all the American people. . . .I would also like to congratulate Senator Kuchel, for his leadership and work on the Senate side.” Similar discourse heard in the House was repeated in the Senate. Population growth and the need for fine recreational areas where people can enjoy their leisure hours

was a much-discussed topic. The Congressional Record for the Senate for the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity bill ends with the acting president pro tempore stating, “Is there objection to the present consideration of the bill? There being no objection, the bill was considered, ordered a third reading, read the third time, and passed. Mr. Kuchel requested to have an excerpt from the report (922) explaining the purpose of the bill. Appearing in this excerpt, again, were comparisons to Delaware Water Gap in the East and Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity in the West; namely, preserving in comparatively undeveloped condition, large open areas of land centered on federal reservoir developments in order to provide outdoor recreation opportunities for millions of visitors each year who are within reasonable driving distance. Both of these areas will be valuable inland additions to the system of similar areas under federal control along the coast. The language then lists 5 National Park Service units throughout the United States including Cape Hatteras, NC; Padre Island, TX; Pt. Reyes, CA; Cape Cod, MA; and Fire Island, NY.

On November 8, 1965, President Johnson signed the bill into law and the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area was established.

Conclusion:

40 years has passed since President Kennedy made his historic visit to dedicate the new dam at Whiskeytown. This paper demonstrates five distinct points. First, the story of how Whiskeytown Dam was brought in as part of the Trinity River Division is an excellent case history of how local talented individuals were able to move federal legislation to benefit their community. Second, it shows how an individual such as James K. Carr, fortuitously being named Undersecretary of the Interior, was able to have the country he and his brother Laurence Carr loved as boys, made into a national recreation area and as a unit of the National Park system. Fortunately for them and the people of Shasta County, they lived in an area that is considered beautiful and thus warranted the status of becoming a national park site. This story, however, clearly places James K. Carr as the father and founder of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area; without his personal intervention, Whiskeytown would be a lake and narrow shoreline county park surrounded in development; not likely picturesque open country the park serves as today. James Carr clearly had political skills,



vision, and an ability to make friendships and relationships that worked to assist him to meet his goals and dreams.

The third point shows us that when a county such as Shasta and city such as Redding have the key political leaders in the state come from the same area and work together, many benefits can be generated over a relatively short period of time, i.e. create a federal water and power facility to benefit the local area and create a national recreation area to provide premier recreation for centuries ahead. The fourth point is that Whiskeytown Dam and its overall function signified the completion of the huge Central Valley Project and this had enough regional and national significance that it drew the President of the United States to include it as part of his administration's national Conservation Tour. The symbolism of the President's visit to

come to little Whiskeytown should not be overlooked. The contribution of the many people and agencies, both private and public, including county offices, federal and state agencies, that strived to complete this project demonstrate how a society can move to improve its resources, to improve the quality of life and its economy for both the local community and national strength.

The final point this story documents is the long history of involvement that the National Park Service has had in managing the Central Valley Project's recreation planning and management in Shasta and Trinity Counties. Nearly 60 years of planning and management of the area's premier recreational resources demonstrates not only a well established tradition of service, but a continuous influence in this area's recreation and natural resources management dating back to 1945.



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