Whiskeytown

Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity

NATIONAL RECREATION AREA • CALIFORNIA

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1970—392-718/95

ADMINISTRATION

The Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area was established on November 8, 1965. The Whiskeytown Unit is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Box 188, Whiskeytown, CA 96095, is in immediate charge of the Whiskeytown Unit.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources." The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.

Some of the most beautiful scenery in northern California is in the area surrounding Whiskeytown Lake, a 1-day drive from San Francisco and Sacramento, Calif., and Portland, Oreg. Approaching from either the south or the north, you see the lake's blue waters dotted with wooded isles blending into green hills. Conifers predominate, especially digger pines, ponderosas, and Douglas-firs. Undergrowth consists of low-growing shrubs, mostly manzanita with its distinctive deep-red bark.

Temperatures on and around the lake and in bordering woodlands are moderate—ideal for outdoor recreation. Summers are hot, but the air is dry; winters are mild with only occasional snowfall.

The earthfill Whiskeytown Dam across Clear Creek impounding the lake was built by the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of the Interior.

WHAT TO DO

Fishing. Fishing is good—either from a boat or from shore—and is permitted in compliance with State regulations. The lake is stocked with rainbow and brown trout, largemouth and smallmouth bass, and kokanee.

Water sports. With 5 square miles of open water, extensive shoreline, and numerous coves, Whiskeytown Lake is an excellent area for boating (both Federal and State regulations apply), water-skiing, scuba-diving, and swimming. The shallows begin to warm by late May or early June, but the deeper waters remain cold all year.

Camping and picnicking. Handy to every beach is a picnic area with tables, fireplaces, and trash cans. Campsites are under construction. A special campfire permit must be obtained to camp outside these designated areas. No fires are permitted on beaches.

Pets must be kept off beaches entirely, and under physical restraint in campgrounds, near boat landings, and in other areas where visitors concentrate.

Back-country driving. There are about 50 miles of numbered and signed back-country roads open for your use. Some are in the park area northeast of the lake, but most are in the larger acreage southeast of the lake. These roads are clearly marked on the map. They are graded roads of dirt and gravel, and, while most are passable for passenger cars, some may require four-wheel-drive vehicles. Inquire at one of the visitor-contact stations prior to driving the back-country roads in a passenger car. These roads open more territory for exploring, hiking, and camping, and for fishing and hunting in season. CAUTION! They are regularly patrolled only during the summer. If you have car trouble and must go for help, stay on the road. Do NOT attempt to leave the road and hike cross-country.

Hunting. Blacktail deer is the important game animal, although there are seasons on pigeon, quail, rabbit, and even bear. Hunting is permitted

in compliance with California regulations. Firearms may not be discharged near any area of concentrated use—including picnic areas, launching ramps, campgrounds, and concessioner facilities.

Food service and accommodations. There are snack bars at Oak Bottom and Brandy Creek. A variety of restaurants and overnight accommodations are available in nearby Redding and vicinity.

Whiskeytown and the Central Valley Project. Whiskeytown Dam and Lake are on Clear Creek, a tributary of the Sacramento River, and are designed to store and regulate imported waters of the Trinity River Division of the Bureau of Reclamation's Central Valley Project. Through this \$255 million network of dams, reservoirs, tunnels, canals, and powerplants, the excess water of the Trinity River is now diverted into California's Central Valley.

After leaving Trinity powerplant, Trinity River water is diverted by Lewiston Dam into Clear Creek Tunnel, which carries it 11 miles through the Hoadley Peaks (whose highest point is almost 5,000 feet). Pipes carrying the water through the mountains and down to Judge Francis J. Carr Powerplant can be seen at the northwest tip of the lake, just off U.S. 299.

From the powerplant the water enters Whiskeytown Lake, where most of the imported water and surplus Clear Creek water is diverted through another tunnel to the Spring Creek Powerplant. Then, flowing into Keswick Reservoir, it joins water from Shasta Dam and is released through Keswick Powerplant into the Sacramento River to improve navigation, irrigate crops, satisfy municipal and industrial needs, maintain fish life, and help maintain water quality in the river and in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River delta.

The remaining surplus water of Whiskeytown Lake is released into Clear Creek through bilevel outlets in Whiskeytown Dam. These outlets, which can blend the lake's warm and cold water to order, were specially constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation to regulate temperature for the maximum benefit of the salmon and steelhead trout which use Clear Creek as their spawning ground.

NEARBY PLACES TO SEE

The most prominent landmark of the region is 6,209-foot Shasta Bally, rising from the midst of rolling woodlands and clear-flowing streams. The mountain lies to the southwest and rises almost 5,000 feet above the level of the lake. The summit may be reached on foot and by auto.

Below the dam, Clear Creek winds through beautiful steep gorges and rocky hills. Gold was discovered on Clear Creek right after the Mother Lode strike, and mining for gold and silver was the chief industry of the region to the turn of the century. The California Division of Beaches and Parks operates a historical museum at Shasta, 2 miles east of Whiskeytown Lake; it is open to the public daily.

Clair Engle Lake is a unit of the National Recreation Area. Extending into Shasta and Trinity National Forests, it is administered by the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Trinity Dam, built and operated by the Bureau of Reclamation, is northwest of Whiskeytown Lake, about 40 miles from Redding.

Shasta Lake, the largest unit of the three-lake national recreation area, lies within Shasta National Forest. It backs up behind Shasta Dam, also built and operated by the Bureau of Reclamation. The dam is about 10 miles north of Redding.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Whiskeytown Dam

Location; 8 miles west of Redding, Calif., just off U.S. 299.

Type: Earth and rock fill.

Structural Height; 282 feet.

Lowest point in excavated foundation: 946 feet above sea level.

Crest elevation: 1,228 feet.

Crest length: 4,070 feet.

Maximum base width: 1,492 feet.

Glory Hole Spillway: Maximum discharge capacity is 28,780 cubic feet per second.

The overflow crest is 88 feet in diameter, reducing to a 21-foot-diameter tunnel discharging into Clear Creek below the dam.

Whiskeytown Lake

Gross storage capacity (1,210-foot surface eleva-

tion): 241,000 acre-feet.

Active storage capacity: 214,000 acre-feet.

Maximum water surface elevation: 1,220 feet.

Area at gross storage capacity: 3,220 acres.

Shoreline: 36 miles.

Maximum depth: 264 feet.



