

# Whiskeytown Unit

## Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity

NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
CALIFORNIA

Some of the most beautiful scenery in northern California is in the area surrounding Whiskeytown. Approaching from either the east or the west, 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 13 square kilometers (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.

**Help keep your visit accident free by observing posted regulations. Remember: Your safety is your responsibility.**

**Camping and picnicking.** Handy to every beach is a picnic area with tables, fireplaces, and trash cans. Camping is permitted in areas designated on the map, within a 1.6-kilometer (1-mile) radius of the lake, where sanitary facilities are available. A backcountry permit is required for camping outside the radius. No fires 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.

**Backcountry driving.** There are about 80 kilometers (50 miles) of backcountry roads open for your use. Most of these roads are south and west of the lake. They are graded roads of dirt and gravel and are clearly marked on the map. Inquire at one of the visitor-contact stations prior to driving the backcountry roads in a passenger car. These roads are partly closed during winter but open more territory for exploring, hiking, and camping, and for fishing and hunting in season. For your safety and convenience, and to avoid damaging reforested areas, *drive your vehicle only on maintained roads.*

**CAUTION!** Backcountry roads are regularly patrolled only during the summer. If you have vehicle 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 and lodging.** Oak Bottom and Brandy Creek Marinas offer snack bars, a camper store, and boat rentals. A small store and post office is at Whiskeytown. Redding has restaurants and lodging.

## A PART OF 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 18 kilometers (11 miles) through the Hoadley Peaks, whose highest point is almost 1,524 meters (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.

WE'RE JOINING THE METRIC WORLD  
The National Park Service is introducing metric measurements to help Americans become acquainted with the metric system and to make interpretation more meaningful for park visitors from other nations.

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 1,893-meter (6,029-foot) Shasta Bally, rising from the midst of rolling woodlands and clear-flowing streams. The mountain lies to the southwest and rises almost 1,524 meters (5,000 feet) above the level of the lake. The summit may be reached by some vehicles and on foot.

Below the dam, Clear Creek winds through beau-

tiful 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, 3 kilometers (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 the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, 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 64 kilometers (40 miles) from Redding.

*Shasta Lake*, the largest unit of the three-lake National Recreation Area, lies within Shasta-Trinity National Forest. It backs up behind Shasta Dam, also built and operated by the Bureau of Reclamation. The dam is about 16 kilometers (10 miles) north of Redding.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

### Whiskeytown Dam

*Location:* 13 kilometers (8 miles) west of Redding, Calif., just off U.S. 299.

*Type:* Earth and rock fill.

*Structural Height:* 86 meters (282 feet).

*Lowest point in excavated foundation:* 288 meters (946 feet) above sea level.

*Crest elevation:* 374 meters (1,228 feet).

*Crest length:* 1,241 meters (4,070 feet).

*Maximum base width:* 455 meters (1,492 feet).

*Glory Hole Spillway:* Maximum discharge capacity is 815 cubic meters (28,780 cubic feet) per second. The overflow crest is 27 meters (88 feet) in diameter, reducing to a 6.4-meter (21-foot) diameter tunnel discharging into Clear Creek below the dam.

### Whiskeytown Lake

*Maximum water surface elevation:* 372 meters (1,220 feet).

*Area at gross storage capacity:* 1,304 hectares (3,220 acres).

*Shoreline:* 58 kilometers (36 miles).

*Maximum depth:* 80 meters (264 feet).

Make your first stop here  
at the visitor information center, just off U.S. 299 W.



# WHISKEYTOWN UNIT WHISKEYTOWN—SHASTA—TRINITY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA



Lookout  
1052 m  
3450 ft

Group Reservations  
Only

Whiskeytown Post Office

Mexican Spring

Dry Creek  
Group Camp  
(Reservations Only)

Brandy Creek

Information  
Station 418m  
1371 ft  
**PARK HEADQUARTERS**

Whiskeytown Dam

Shasta Bally  
1893m  
6209 ft

Sheep Camp

Buckhorn Bally

Crystal  
Creek  
C.D.C.  
Camp

Judge Carr  
Power Plant

Clear Creek

Oak Bottom

Whiskey Creek

Tower House

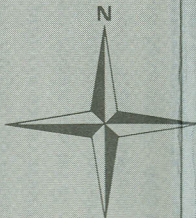
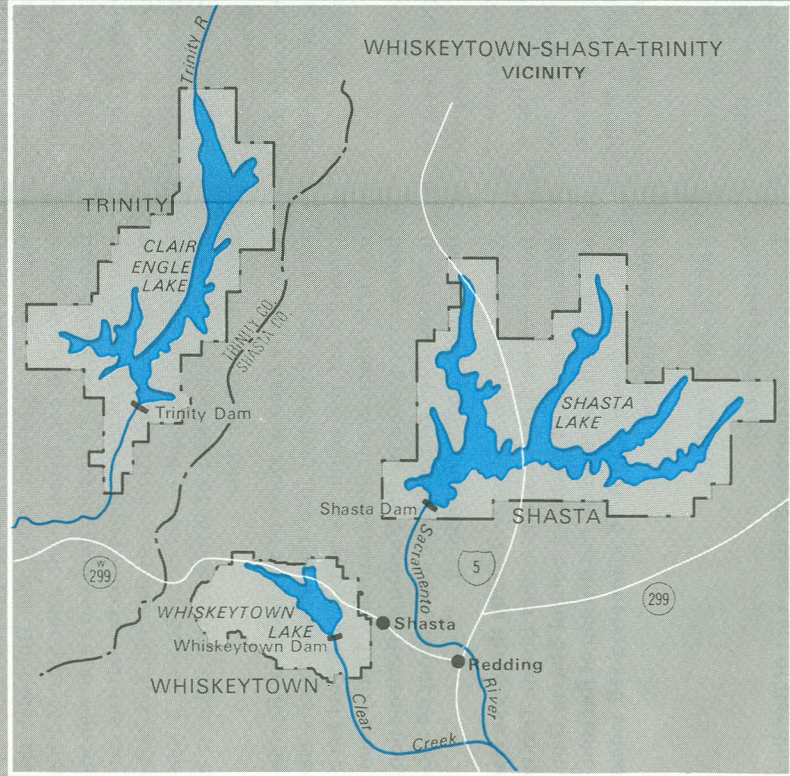
HWY 299 W.

TO MEAVERVILLE

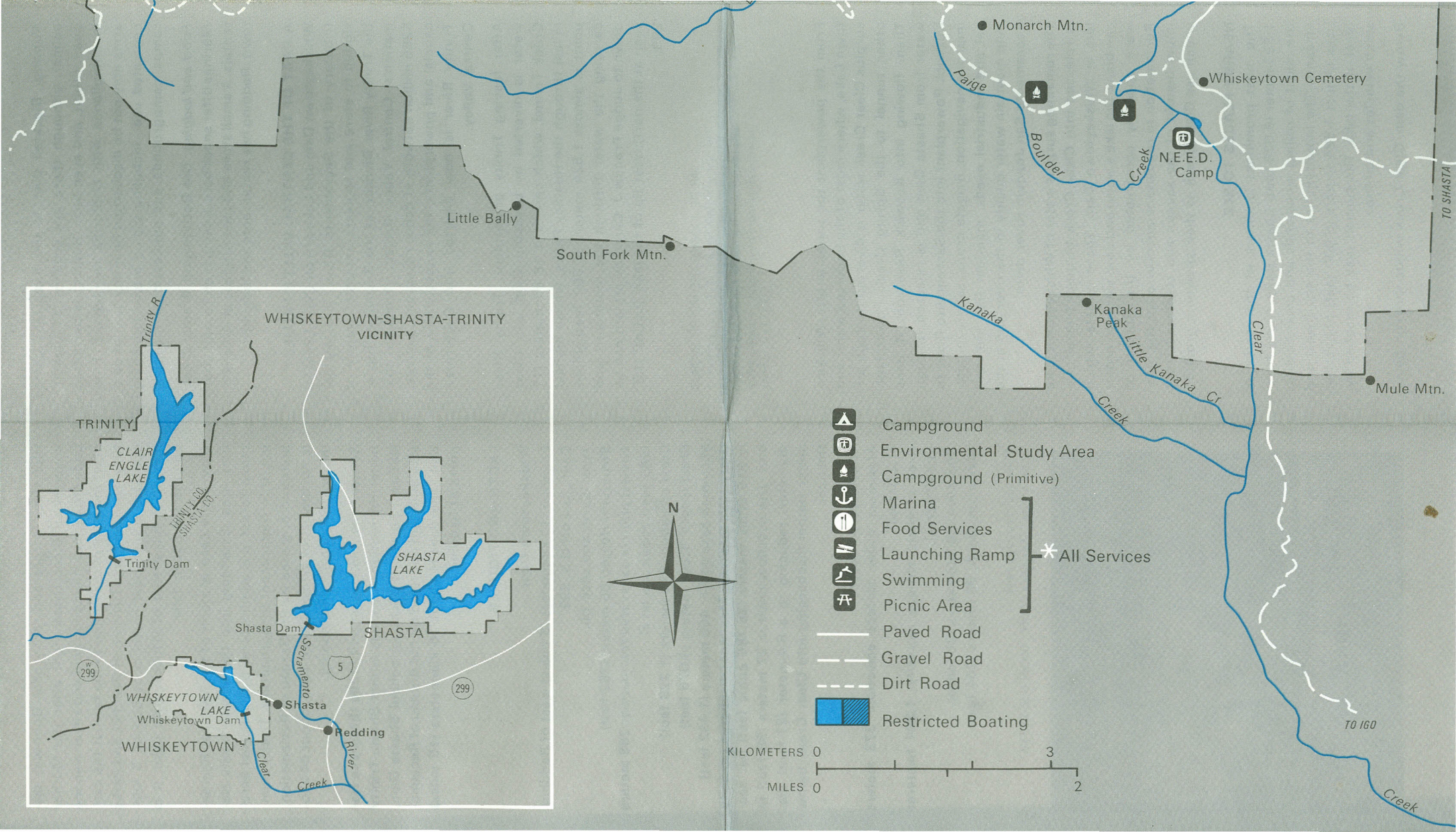
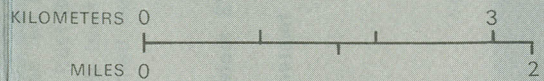
TO HWY 299W

TO FRENCH GULCH

TO REDDING



- Campground
  - Environmental Study Area
  - Campground (Primitive)
  - Marina
  - Food Services
  - Launching Ramp
  - Swimming
  - Picnic Area
  - Paved Road
  - Gravel Road
  - Dirt Road
  - Restricted Boating
- \* All Services



## **ADMINISTRATION**

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 responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

**National Park Service**  
**U.S. DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR**