



The Whiskeytown Nugget

The official Newspaper of
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
Summer 2009



In This Issue

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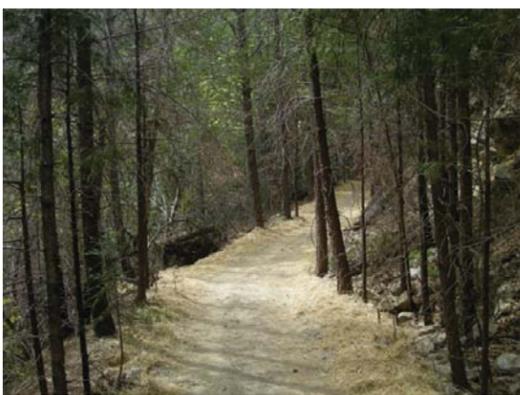
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QUITE A LADY!	2
WHAT IS A QUAGGA/ ZEBRA MUSSEL?	2
FIRE IN THE PARK	3
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW	4
RANGER GUIDED ACTIVITIES	4

From the Sundial Bridge to the Trinity Alps

There will soon be a new trail to explore at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area that will connect the trail systems on the east and west sides of the park. On August 15, 2009, the park hopes to celebrate a “Golden Spike Moment” with a ceremony that will officially link the Brandy Creek Falls trail to the west with the Boulder Creek Falls trail to the east. This important “missing link” section, to be known as Papoose Gulch trail, will greatly advance the concept plan linking Redding’s Sundial Bridge on the Sacramento River to the Trinity Alps Wilderness Area with a continuous trail of over 100 miles.

The Shasta Trinity Trail Plan was developed in 2000 by citizen activists working with local and federal officials. The National Park Service at Whiskeytown has been concentrating on fulfilling its part of the plan over the past four years. Our part of the project began on the southeast boundary of the park.



Papoose Gulch Trail

was to clear this almost impenetrable brush by using chainsaws. Park workers and inmate crews from Cal Fire Conservation Camps in Trinity County accomplished this task. Then the SCA followed with polaskis and picks to dig the trail tread for the first half mile.

In the summer of 2008, the SCA had just started more trail work when the giant lightning storm of June 21 ignited forest fires throughout the park and interrupted their progress for nearly a month. When they returned to work, the SCAs advanced the trail up the ridge of Papoose Gulch. On special volunteer days, members of the Redding Mountain Biking Club, individual hikers and equestrians joined park staff in clearing the trail.

In early 2009, the park received a generous \$40,000 grant from the Redding Foundation and the McConnell Foundation. This allowed the park to bring in a small crew and a special trail bulldozer to convert an old logging road in the Boulder Creek drainage into a trail that will connect with Papoose Gulch. The highest altitude of the new trail will be at Papoose Saddle, approximately 3,000 feet above sea level.

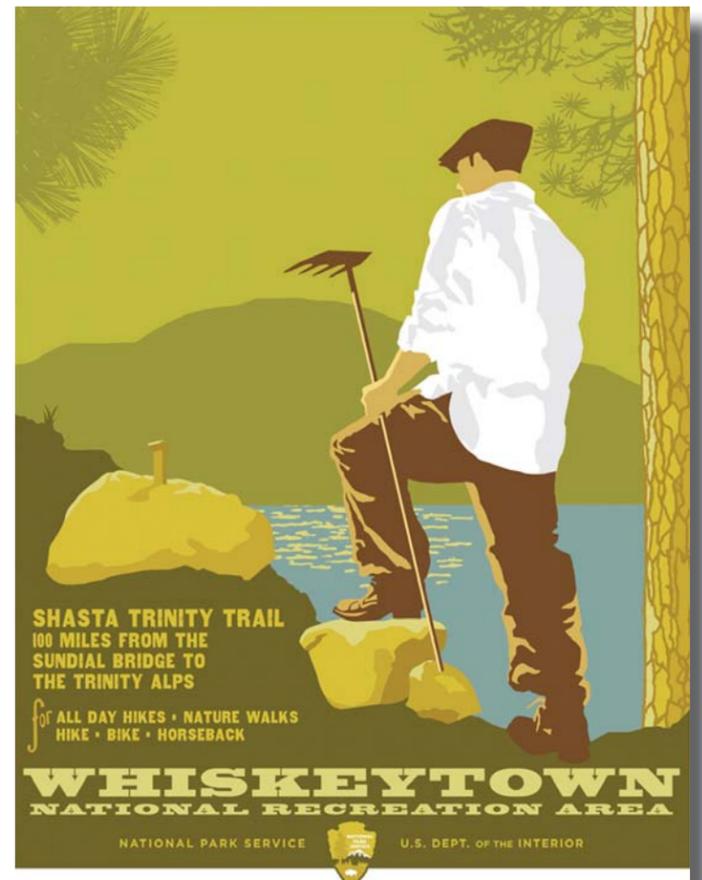
When the two parts of the trail are joined this summer, visitors will be able to explore deeply into old growth sections of Douglas fir, incense cedar, and ponderosa pines and will enjoy new vistas of South Fork ridge, Shasta Bally mountain, and Whiskeytown Lake.



Student Conservation Association member working on the Shasta Trinity Trail.

Upon completion of the Bureau of Land Management’s Mule Mountain Pass Trail in 2006, the National Park Service and the Student Conservation Association (SCA) built a small link of the trail from the BLM land to Whiskeytown’s Salt Creek and Buck Hollow trails.

In 2007, a much more ambitious part of the project began, the effort to link the Brandy Creek Trail to the Boulder Creek Trail through a completely undeveloped section of Whiskeytown. Park employees flagged the path of a brand new trail called Papoose Gulch through dense forest understory. The first step



Artist Jake Early has been commissioned to create a poster for the Shasta Trinity Trail at Whiskeytown.

Superintendent’s Corner

Jim Milestone



Welcome everyone, to our unit of the National Park Service. When you choose to recreate at Whiskeytown, you are making a healthy lifestyle choice. The park provides all sorts of fun ways to get good exercise, whether it is swimming in the lake, hiking one of the park trails to a waterfall, or exploring deep into the woods for relaxation. Come to the park and enjoy the fresh air, the clean environment of our pristine streams, and the natural quiet of the old growth forest.

We are hoping for a summer season without the smoke that we experienced from last summer’s wildfires. The historic fires burned over 22% of the park’s forests. Northern California residents suffered from very poor air quality from June 21 through mid-July of 2008. It was rough and some folk’s respiratory systems have yet to fully recover from the smoke. We ask when you come to the park, that you be considerate of other’s health and well being. If you smoke, please do such activities away from nearby children and other visitors.

Whiskeytown’s rich history as a Gold Rush era town is still producing golden moments for all our visitors. We want all of these experiences to create happy memories for you and your family!

Jim F. Milestone



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Whiskeytown National
Recreation Area

Whiskeytown Dam was dedicated in 1963 by President John F. Kennedy. Whiskeytown Lake was created as part of the Central Valley Project for the purposes of flood control, irrigation, and power generation. With more than 40,000 acres in a mountain lake setting, Whiskeytown is home to a variety of wildlife.

Superintendent
Jim F. Milestone

Chief of Administration
Colleen Bloxham

Chief Ranger
Jim Richardson

Chief of Maintenance
Dave Larabee

Chief of Interpretation
Clinton Kane, Acting

**Chief of Resources &
Fire Management**
George Chapman

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She's Quite a Lady!

Shasta Bally rises up from the Sacramento Valley floor to approximately 6,200 feet in elevation. Isolated mountains like Shasta Bally act as islands of high elevation habitat where species can be geographically and, therefore, genetically isolated. Although some of the species on Shasta Bally are naturally rare and not necessarily in danger of extinction, they may have particular life history characteristics that make them at risk. These factors can include population isolation, or specialization to a particular soil or rock substrate that may be patchy and/or limited in area, or even specific relationships with pollinators, dispersers, or fungal partners.



A good example is the beautiful and oh-so shy Clustered Lady's Slipper. This orchid is a perennial with two large opposite leaves and a brownish-purple pouch-like flower that resembles a lady's slipper. These long-lived orchids have many unique life history strategies that put its existence at risk. First of all, many orchids have evolved to rely on a particular species of insect for pollination. If for some reason this insect is missing at the time when these orchids are in bloom, pollination does not take place and therefore no fruit or seeds are produced. Also, it has been hypothesized that a species of fungus associated with deer or elk feces is essential for Clustered Lady's Slipper seeds to germinate.

Populations of Clustered Lady's Slipper tend to be small and scattered and this makes them vulnerable to extinction because they are less likely to bounce back from natural catastrophes and human disturbances than larger populations. Because of this, Clustered Lady's Slipper is listed by the California Native Plant Society as a rare plant species because of the small size and isolated nature of most populations. Also, conflicting land uses such as loss of habitat to timber harvests, road and trail construction, exotic plant species, and other human-induced changes warrant concern for the species' long-term survival. Another threat to this species are the effects of global warming. As the climate warms, belts of plants and animals on mountains move upward in elevation. Some high-elevation species like the Clustered Lady's Slippers on Shasta Bally may be forced to ascend the summit to a point at which there is less available habitat for these species to exist.



Double-crested Cormorant

The Expert Angler

Do you know what this bird is? You've probably seen it many times if you are a lake user. It often hangs out on the water curtains or buoys with its wings partially held open to dry its feathers. You may also have seen it taking long underwater dives or flying high in the sky with choppy wing beats broken by brief glides.

The Double-crested Cormorant is a large, gangly black bird with a yellow throat pouch and white plumes trailing from its eyebrows in breeding season. Unlike most water birds, cormorants lack the ability to waterproof their feathers. Although this may seem at first to be a disadvantage, water-logged feathers actually help their diving ability by decreasing their buoyancy. They can dive as far down as 30 feet, aided by their long, rudder-like tail, sealed nostrils, and keen underwater vision.

Fish don't have much of a chance when these birds are around. At some locations on inland lakes in California, these birds can recognize Department of Fish and Game vehicles used for fish planting. They may swarm the area of the newly released fish, wiping out the supply. Fish and Game biologists are looking for ways to "fool" the cormorants, such as by planting at night.

Cormorants are federally protected species and have made a very good comeback over the last twenty years. Their numbers were previously decimated by pesticide use and persecution. Whiskeytown Lake offers the clean water and diverse fishery needed for these birds to thrive.

What Are Quagga & Zebra Mussels?



Quagga and zebra mussels are two very closely related exotic species of bivalve that has caused ecological and economic havoc in many areas of North America. The goal of the Quagga and Zebra Mussel Prevention Program is to stop these nuisance species from becoming established. Quagga and zebra mussels are inadvertently spread by boaters as they move their boats from one water body to another.

QUAGGA/ZEBRA MUSSELS COULD:

- Disrupt the food chain and fishing.
- Foul facilities like docks and ramps.
- Encrust boats and clog engines.
- Litter beaches with sharp smelly shells.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

When removing watercraft from the water:

- Inspect all exposed surfaces - small mussels feel like sandpaper to the touch.
- Wash the hull of each watercraft thoroughly.
- Remove all plants and animal material.
- Drain all water and dry all areas.
- Drain and dry the lower outboard unit.
- Clean and dry all live-wells.
- Empty and dry any buckets.
- Dispose of all bait in the trash.
- Wait 5 days and keep watercraft dry between launches into different fresh waters.



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

HELP RAISE AWARENESS:

- Find out how many of your friends know about quagga & zebra mussels.
- Read this page, then give it away.
- Learn more at 100thMeridian.org

You Can Make a Difference



You can learn new skills, teach others about Whiskeytown and the surrounding area, stay active and involved, and meet new friends. Volunteer opportunities at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area are as diverse as the natural and cultural resources of the park. History buffs, artists, students, gardeners, kayakers and many more special people have found a place to share their skills. Volunteers of all ages give their time and expertise to help achieve the mission of the National Park Service.

Although the park can never repay its volunteers for their valuable contributions, we do our best to make your time happy and fulfilling.

Whatever volunteer job you choose, please know that we could never provide the service we do without our incredible volunteers.

Every volunteer's contribution makes a BIG difference!

If you would like more information about volunteering, call the park Volunteer Manager at (530) 242-3421, or check out the park's website at www.nps.gov/whis

Applications may be obtained at the Visitor Center or by writing the Volunteer Manager, Whiskeytown NRA, P.O. Box 188, Whiskeytown, CA 96095.

The Dangers of Living in the Urban Interface

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area borders an urban interface that is being rapidly developed. The homes and structures that make up this urban interface, as well as the 67 acres of private in-holders, reside within an assemblage of chaparral, knob-cone pine, and oak woodlands. These plant communities are primarily characterized by a fire regime that consists of intense and fast moving fires, and they integrate with one another in such a way that distinct boundaries are difficult to distinguish. The combination of this fire regime, hot and dry summers, steep slopes, and frequent fire starts have created a situation in which fire is inevitable. In 1999 alone, three large wildfires within 12 miles of the park destroyed 240 structures and one firefighter was killed. In 2004, the French Fire began within the park boundary and quickly grew to 13,323 acres, destroying 26 residences in the gateway community of French Gulch.

Gold miners began settling in the area in 1849 after gold was discovered in Clear Creek in 1848. The town population peaked in 1855 with about 1000 miners. Old newspaper clippings indicate that lightning strikes and human-caused fires were still a part of the landscape. Residents and volunteer fire companies also suppressed fires as early as the 1880s.

WHAT IS THE WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE?

The wildland urban interface is the area where urban and suburban development meet native, natural vegetated areas. It can be a beautiful place to live, but with the benefits of being near nature come risks and responsibilities. One of the most pressing risks is wildfire, but others include interactions with dangerous wildlife like bears, rattlesnakes, and mountain lions, and physical phenomena like floods and landslides. Responsibilities include being a good steward to neighboring wildlands by making sure your efforts to make your property safe don't degrade neighboring habitat.



The urban interface — a beautiful place to live, but has its risks.

What is Defensible Space?

In California, 100 feet of defensible space around your home is required by law. The goal is to protect your home while providing a safe area for firefighters

Wildfire is inevitable in California and if you live in an area of high fire danger within the wildland urban interface, it is not a question of **IF** a fire will occur, but **WHEN**. It is important for **YOU** to take responsibility for your safety, property, and pets in the event of a fire.

What you can do...

- Maintain your defensible space by thinning vegetation at least 100 feet from all structures. In some high risk areas, fire agencies may require a greater width; check with your local fire department.
- Clear an area 30 feet immediately surrounding your home. This is critical and requires the greatest reduction in flammable vegetation.
- Remove all needles and leaves from your roof and gutters.
- Keep tree limbs trimmed at least 10 feet from chimneys. Remove dead limbs that hang over your home or garage.
- The law also requires a screen over your chimney outlet of not more than one-half inch mesh.
- Locate woodpiles and fuel tanks at least 30 feet from structures and maintain a 10-foot zone free of vegetation around them.
- Make sure your decks, porches and landings are free of unnecessary clutter and that anything remaining can be quickly and easily removed. Remove all stacks of construction materials, yard waste, and other debris from your yard.

This does **NOT** mean clearing all vegetation, but selective removal to decrease fire risk. Clearing all vegetation can increase the threat of erosion and mudslides, and increase the growth of weeds, leading to more and more frequent need for future vegetation management.

Remember: Maintain your property to reduce the risk of damage during a wildfire, and be fully prepared to evacuate!

September 3, 1887 "From Whiskeytown"
"Just ten days ago the alarm of fire was sounded, and a heavy clang of solid steel shovels told that our old brigade was quickly advancing to the scene of battle. No sooner was one dwelling freed from danger than we were called to another, until on the fifth day, our line took their stand before the fiery front, almost at the edge of town. . . ." (147)

Fuel Reduction Efforts Successful In Saving Park Buildings

The Motion Fire started near Shasta Dam during the lightning siege on June 21, 2008. On July 9th, this fire spotted across control lines and began moving southwest toward Whiskeytown's eastern boundary. On July 11, the Motion Fire entered the park and started backing down the ridgeline towards Whiskey Creek. Whiskeytown closed the park to all visitor activities. Mandatory evacuations for residents were initiated and structure protection was put in place.

Whiskeytown's efforts over the years to reduce hazardous fuels by creating roadside shaded fuelbreaks and clearing vegetation around structures were tested when the Motion Fire threatened the Fire Use Module office. As the fire approached the area, fire crews made their stand to protect the structure. Fire activity dramatically decreased upon reaching the treated areas where much of the fuel had been removed, leaving widely-spaced stands of oaks and ponderosa pines. The lower fire intensities and reduced fire behavior in the treated areas surrounding the building proved successful and provided for a safe and controlled burn out operation.



Fire Use Module office still stands after successful burn out operation in treated areas.

The westward advance of the Motion Fire in the park was stopped along the Whiskey Creek roadside shaded fuelbreak, completed in 2007.

Several strategies were used to remove dense pockets of brush, closely spaced trees and an abundance of exotic plants. With reduced fire intensities from the thinning and reduction of ladder fuels, fire crews were able to hold the fire at Whiskey Creek Road.



The Motion Fire at Whiskeytown burned 2,454 acres within the park.

The Motion Fire was contained on July 25 at 28,308 acres. The area that burned in the park totaled 2,454 acres.

Providing for and improving safety for the public, property, park resources and firefighters is a primary goal for Whiskeytown Fire Management. Fuel treatments in this area made a difference by reducing fire intensity, protecting park resources and providing a safe area for firefighters to conduct suppression actions.

Fire Safety at Whiskeytown

Whiskeytown has hot and dry summers and wildfire is always a concern.

- **Don't park in dry grass.**
- **Have water and shovel nearby campfires during fire season.**
- **Don't use equipment that can throw sparks when you are working in dry grass or leaf litter.**
- **Don't throw cigarettes out your car window or smoke near dry grass.**
- **Never burn trash.**
- **Don't throw out or bury hot charcoal from your grill.**

GENERAL INFORMATION & SERVICES

Visitor Center:

Located on Hwy 299 and Kennedy Memorial Drive, the Visitor Center is open daily during the summer from 9 am - 6 pm. All permits and passes are available here. A large selection of books and postcards is also available. (530) 246-1225

Park Headquarters:

Open Monday - Friday 8 am - 4:30 pm. Special Use Permits are available here. (530) 242-3400

Radio:

Tune to 1440 on your AM radio for information about Whiskeytown.

Launch Ramps and Fishing Piers:

There are three boat ramps on the lake located at Whiskey Creek, Oak Bottom, and Brandy Creek Marina. There are handicap accessible fishing piers at Whiskey Creek and Oak Bottom.

Marinas and Store:

Oak Bottom Marina operated by Forever Resorts provides gas, boat rentals, fishing supplies, souvenirs and other items for sale.

Accessibility:

There are handicap accessible picnic tables and swim beach access platforms at Brandy Creek and Oak Bottom.

Phones:

A pay phone is located at the Visitor Center.

Post Offices:

French Gulch is open 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday through Friday; Saturday 8:30 am - 10:30 am.

Shasta is open 8:30 am - 5:00 pm (closed noon - 1:00 pm); Saturdays 7:00 am - 8:30 am.

Nearby Services & Attractions:

Shasta: Post Office, J's Market, Mill House Deli. Visit Shasta State Historic Park. Call (530) 243-8194 for current hours or for more information.

French Gulch: Post Office, French Gulch Hotel and Restaurant, E. Franck Bar.

Redding is 8 miles east and has all major services. Visit Turtle Bay Exploration Park, 800 Auditorium Drive. Call (530) 243-8850 for current hours or for more information.

Hospitals & Clinics:

Redding:
Sunset Urgent Care - (530) 247-4211
Hilltop Medical Clinic West - (530) 246-4629
Shasta Regional Medical Center - (530) 244-5400
Mercy Medical Center - (530) 225-6000

TO REPORT AN EMERGENCY CALL 911

Ranger Guided Programs

Whiskeytown offers a variety of family friendly ranger-guide activities and programs for everyone. Activities begin mid-June and continue through the Labor Day weekend. Some activities will be subject to change as the park introduces new programs this summer. Call the Visitor Center at 530-244-1225 or visit our website at www.nps.gov/whis for the latest information.

Kayak Tours

Hop on a kayak built for two and explore the quiet coves around Whiskeytown Lake while you learn more about the natural and cultural values of the park. All participants must know how to swim and children must be at least six years old. Daily tours available and times vary from morning to evening tours. Reservations are required and can be made in advance by calling 530-242-3462. **Ask about arranging for a group tour for your friends and family. Business and community groups are also invited to participate!**

Moonlight Kayak Tours

Experience a dramatic change in the landscape as you explore the lake under the light of the moon. A small number of moonlight tours will be offered during the first week in June, July, August and September. Advance reservations will be taken 2 weeks prior to the first moonlight tour. Space is limited to 4 per phone call. Go to the park's website for the latest information or call 530-242-3462.

Junior Ranger

Saturday & Sunday 10 am - 11am

Kids 7 to 12 years of age can make new friends during a special nature activity that explores the marvels of Whiskeytown. Meet at the Oak Bottom Amphitheater.

Junior Firefighter

Saturday 11 am - 12noon

See how firefighters manage fire to promote forest health and protect lives and property. Learn about the important role that wildfire plays in our National Parks during this hands-on activity. Meet at the Oak Bottom Amphitheater.

Walk In Time (Includes Goldpanning!) Weekends - To Be Announced

Discover how pioneer/prospectors Charles Camden and Levi Tower re-shaped the landscape to create a home for their family and an "oasis" for the many travelers during and after the California Gold Rush. After a tour of the 1852 home built by Charles Camden enjoy a leisurely stroll through the historic district ending with a chance to find your own treasure of gold. For latest dates and time call the Visitor Center or visit our website. **Plan a picnic outing for friends and family in this beautiful setting surrounded by several creeks and make special arrangement for a ranger-guided tour of the area. Call 530-242-3451 for more information.**

Evening Programs

Friday and Saturday 9 - 10 pm

Spend the evening with a ranger and learn more about Whiskeytown through talks, slide shows, or other activities. Various topics include history, wildlife, and current issues related to protecting the park's natural and cultural resources. Meet at the Oak Bottom Amphitheater. Call the Visitor Center or visit our website for information about special guests during the summer.

Water Safety Demo

Saturday, Sunday - variable as staffing allows

Saving someone from drowning, while keeping yourself at a safe distance, depends on quick thinking, common sense, and the ability to use nearby objects. Join a National Park Service ranger and lifeguards for this enlightening water-safety demonstration at Brandy Creek Beach.

Be on the lookout

We all know to be alert for wildlife and dangerous trail conditions when we're out in the park, but you should also be on the lookout for suspicious and illegal activities.

There is a strong presence of marijuana cultivation in Whiskeytown. Our ranger staff are seeking out and eradicating these illegal marijuana gardens. If you see anything that you feel is unusual, care for your own safety first, and if you can, get a good description of individuals, vehicles, and license plates and report it immediately to Whiskeytown dispatch at (530) 242-3431 or by calling 911 in an emergency.

Your safety increases when you stay on maintained, official trails and hike or ride with others. Thank you.

Camping at Whiskeytown

Oak Bottom Campground offers \$18/night lakeside tent sites, \$16/night tent sites, and \$14/night RV sites. Specific sites may be reserved by calling the campground store at (530) 359-2269.

Primitive Tent Campsites are available only on a first-come-first-served basis. Permits are available at the Visitor Center. Rates are \$10 per night.

Brandy Creek RV Campground offers sites on a first-come-first-served basis. Summer rate is \$14/night and winter rate is \$7/night.

Dry Creek Group Tent Campground offers two campsites (tents only) at \$75/site/night. Each site holds a maximum of 50 people. The campground is open from April 1 to October 31. You may make reservations up to one year in advance by calling 1-877-444-6777 or by using the website www.recreation.gov.

Whiskey Creek Group Picnic Area offers three group day-use picnic areas that accommodate 40 - 50 people each at a rate of \$40 or \$50 per site depending on which site is reserved. The picnic area is open from April 1 to October 31. You may make reservations up to one year in advance by calling 1-877-444-6777 or by using the website www.recreation.gov.

Note: Campers must purchase a daily, weekly, or annual pass for their vehicle in addition to their campsite fee.

Please Help Keep Our Wildlife Wild - Do not feed bears or other park animals



Operated by Forever Resorts
For more information:
Oak Bottom Marina
Reservations: (530)359-2269
12485 State Highway 299,
Whiskeytown, CA 96095
www.whiskeytownmarinas.com

For Your Water-based Fun!

- Rent a ski boat, fishing boat, canoe or kayak
- Boat rentals, launch ramp & slip rentals
- Convenience store & snack bar
- RV Park & campground
- Fuel dock & swim beach
- Overnight moorage
- Slip rentals



Leave No Trace

The National Park Service promotes responsible outdoor recreation. Please take a personal role in preserving the outdoor experience for yourself and future generations while enjoying your visit at Whiskeytown.

- Plan ahead. Know before you go.
- Stick to trails.
- Trash your trash, manage your dog, pick up poop.
- Leave it as you find it.
- Be careful with fire.
- Keep wildlife wild - don't feed the wildlife.
- Respect other visitors, share our trails, yield to others.

For more information visit the Leave No Trace program website - www.LNT.org



PARK PASSES

Passes may be purchased at the Whiskeytown Visitor Center or at pay-by-envelope stations located throughout the park. Place your pass on the driver's-side dashboard when you are in the park. By purchasing a pass, you are directly contributing to improvements at Whiskeytown.



Daily - \$5

Valid at Whiskeytown on date of purchase only.

Weekly- \$10

Valid at Whiskeytown for seven days from date of purchase.

Annual - \$25

Valid for one year from month of purchase. Also honored at Lassen Volcanic National Park.



America the Beautiful - \$80

Covers all National Park units and other federal recreation areas with entrance fees. Valid for one year from month of purchase.



Access Pass - Free

Lifetime pass for U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are permanently disabled.



Senior Pass - \$10

Lifetime pass for U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are 62 years or older.



Other passes accepted at Whiskeytown:

Golden Age, Access, and the Lassen Volcanic National Park Annual Pass.

