



The Whiskeytown Nugget

The Official Newspaper of
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
Summer 2010



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www.nps.gov/whis

What On Earth Are We Leaving For Our Children?

By Jeremiah Hockett and Jim Milestone

Generations of Northern California's 5th and 6th-grade students share fond memories of a five-day adventure of learning, discovery, and connecting with the wildness and beauty of nature at Whiskeytown Environmental School (WES). For many, their time spent in the woods with a naturalist was a defining moment in their lives: the moment they developed a sense of place in nature, and realized that by taking action, each of us can care for the natural world.



A student discovers an aquatic insect in Clear Creek

When you meet one of the naturalists at WES, you might be struck by their free-spiritedness, spontaneity, eagerness to learn and discover, and their love of all things wild...especially the students! These fun-loving environmental educators have served nearly 90,000 students over the last four decades by providing both resident and day-camp environmental education opportunities for students. Learning isn't limited to the middle-school students; an additional 15,000 college and high school students, parents, grandparents, and other family members have received valuable leadership training through service as cabin counselors.

The school that has served as the cornerstone of environmental education for north state students is in jeopardy. California's massive budget shortfall has reduced the flow of funds to the state's counties to a mere trickle, and Shasta County Office of Education's (SCOE) funding support for the school may dry up completely

this coming year. Take a glance at the t-shirt of any WES naturalist and you will read the words "What on Earth are we leaving for our children?"

In response to this thought-provoking question and call to action, the National Park Service and SCOE are searching for ways to save this valuable program for future generations. Administrators and park managers are considering different options and developing strategies that range from seeking additional private foundation grants, to shifting more of the funding source to the National Park Service. In addition, leaders are exploring the feasibility of shifting management from the county to a for-profit environmental education business. Park Superintendent Jim Milestone and SCOE Superintendent Tom Armelino are seeking solutions so the doors of Whiskeytown Environmental School can remain open for generations to come.

It seems that we are at a crossroads right now; either we will hear the laughter of happy children echoing through the little white cabins of the school as it continues to thrive and grow, or allow the laughter to fade into the wind and the darkness of an empty mind as the doors are closed.



Students enjoying one of the many trails at WES

"What on Earth are we leaving for our children?" What we hope to leave for future generations of north state children is a school in which they can discover their place within natural communities. A sense of place is the seed from which a sense of stewardship emerges, rooted in an ecological conscience, and ultimately branching out to the preservation of a healthy planet.

Superintendent's Corner

Jim Milestone

Welcome to Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, everyone! Over the past ten years I have had the honor to serve as Superintendent of Whiskeytown. During that time, the volunteers, National Park Service staff and our concessionaire, Forever Resorts, have worked hard to create for you a premier park experience. We want you to have a happy and memorable time on the lake and in the forest with your friends and family.



With this winter's heavy snowfall, the 6,200-foot Shasta Bally Mountain is still wearing a lovely snowcap into the month of June. Our spring rains and snowmelt are producing thunderous runoff at the park's three large waterfalls. Our hiking trails have been expanded, taking visitors deep into the old growth forest where the black bear, mountain lion, and deer roam freely. Salmon from the Golden Gate are swimming in lower Clear Creek canyon and their young fingerlings are growing in the cool, shaded waters of Orofino and Paige Boulder Creeks, preparing for their return to the Pacific Ocean.

Some of my memorable moments in the years past have been swimming after work with my wife and children in the cool waters of Whiskeytown Lake. My 9-year old son and I have hiked to Whiskeytown Falls 42 times to "inspect the trail" and change the register box papers at the base of the falls. Last summer the young men and women of the Student Conservation Association, in conjunction with local foundations and the non-profit Friends of Whiskeytown, built the new Shasta Trinity Trail through Papoose Pass: allowing visitors to hike over the shoulder of Shasta Bally from Brandy Creek's Sheep Camp to Boulder Creek Falls trail. This new 5-mile trail takes visitors through the ancient forest of the park and completes a missing link in the trail system—it allows people to hike all the way from Redding's Sundial Bridge to the Trinity Alps Wilderness Area!

In early June, our Resources Management staff will be overseeing a forest thinning project in Brandy Creek watershed to increase the forest health, especially for the park's old-growth Black Oaks that date back over 200 years. The Obama Administration's Economic Stimulus Program and

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Congress's American Reinvestment and Recovery Act are paying for a portion of Whiskeytown's historic mine shafts to be sealed. Also, the large tailing pile on Crystal Creek Road from the 1963 Trinity River Diversion Tunnel Project will finally be contoured and landscaped to restore the site to a more natural state.

Finally, we are proud to provide for you the first "smoke-free" beaches in the National Park Service. This new regulation will prevent harmful chemicals of secondhand cigarette smoke from entering your body and reduce the litter from cigarette butts. Of all the diverse opportunities available, whichever recreational activity you choose, exercise, health and nature are waiting for you here at Whiskeytown. As you relax on the beach or hike over the Papoose Pass, take the time to enjoy the views of the park's high peaks and as kayakers and swimmers glide past you, watch the surreal calm of the lake in the late afternoon. Listen to the birdcalls coming from the forests that surround you. Enjoy the park, be safe and have fun with your family and friends while creating those happy memories at Whiskeytown!

Jim F. Milestone
Superintendent

The Fence Post

By Rich Hayes, *Park Volunteer and former Park Ranger*

In 1973, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area was a bit different from the park visitors experience today. Back then, park rangers routinely patrolled the back-country trails of Whiskeytown on horseback, and visitors would be able to see two of the Park Service's famous Point Reyes Morgan horses nibbling tender grasses in a fenced pasture between the Tenant Farm House barn and Clear Creek.

I forget exactly what I and two of my colleagues were doing out at the pasture that day. Being snoop by nature, I was the one who first spotted the near perfectly-formed Gray Fox dropping perched on top of the fence post, at least five feet off the ground. Gray Foxes (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) are the only member of the dog family who commonly climbs trees, so it wasn't odd to find that one had gone up the fence post. What was odd, and what had my companions and I scratching our heads, was why it had deposited its

droppings up there. I finally decided, and convinced my skeptical friends, that the reason was to broadcast its scent.

Knowing that one reason predators (and other animals) deposit



Donn Walgamuth

their droppings and urinate at certain locations is to let others of their kind know that this certain territory belongs to this particular animal, it made sense to me that this fox was simply putting its scent at a higher level so that it would be broadcasted a farther distance. I have since learned this is in fact true.

Having figured out what was going on, we prepared to leave, but along with being a snoop, I'm also curious. As we left, I took a small stick and brushed the droppings from the top of the post. Several days later, when I happened to be in the area, I checked the post and sure enough, there on top was a fresh, shiny dropping. Just to be sure, I again used a stick and brushed it off.

I believe Gray Foxes can live up to fifteen or so years. However long they live, I know that from that first time in 1973 when we discovered the droppings on the post, until I left Whiskeytown for Saguaro National Park in Arizona in 1982, every time

I was out at the Camden House area, I would stop and check the fence post.

Every time there was a fresh dropping on it. So, of course I would brush it off again. I wonder...if there were a fence post out there today...would fox droppings be on top of it?

What's so Special About the Special Access Kayak Program?

By Nancy Quirus, *Park Ranger*

First of all, there's our special needs visitors themselves—they come with amazing capabilities and individual adaptations that have encouraged our rangers to see potential and possibilities rather than perceived limitations or barriers to participation in the kayak program.

The program is supported by an entire crew of dedicated volunteer "kayak buddies" who partner up with our special needs guests. In addition, the outstanding volunteers of U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 39 of Redding, provide their invaluable assistance and expertise for each Special Access kayak tour to ensure that everyone is having a safe and enjoyable paddling experience.

The National Park Service at Whiskeytown NRA is dedicated to

increasing accessibility for visitors with special needs and underserved members of our community. If you, a family member, or a friend have ever considered kayaking on beautiful Whiskeytown Lake, but hesitated because of limited mobility, advanced age, disability, developmental issues, or illness, the Special Access Kayak Tours may be perfect for you!

"Our group found the experience to be interesting, informative, stimulating and most of all, fun," stated a program participant and member of a local active-aging exercise group. Whiskeytown is truly a special place for everyone, and we are proud to offer this unique program! For more information on this wonderful program, please call Park Ranger Nancy Quirus at (530) 242-3454.



Improving accessibility and creating smiles are what the Special Access Kayak Program is all about.



Whiskeytown National
Recreation Area 2010

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/quaggamussel/>



HELP SAVE WHISKEYTOWN LAKE, GET THE ANNUAL BOAT STICKER/INSPECTION FROM A RANGER BEFORE YOU LAUNCH!

What Are Quagga & Zebra Mussels?

Quagga and Zebra mussels are two very closely related exotic species of bivalve that have 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 in new areas. Quagga and zebra mussels can be 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



STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!

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

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

When removing any watercraft from the water:

- Drain all water and dry all areas.
- Drain and dry the lower outboard unit.
- Clean and dry all live-wells.
- Inspect all exposed surfaces - small mussels feel like sandpaper to the touch.
- Wash the hull of each watercraft thoroughly.
- Remove all plant and animal material.
- 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.

Smoke-Free Beaches at Whiskeytown: A Premier Park Experience

By Jim Milestone, *Superintendent*

Have you ever gone to the beach, found your favorite spot, laid out your beach towel and swimming gear, and just when you've settled into the summer's spell of a great day at the beach, you detect wafts of tobacco smoke from a fellow beach visitor? Three options typically come to mind: a. Stay and endure the secondhand smoke; b. Relocate to another spot; or c. Hope the breeze shifts or the smoker has had enough sun and leaves!

Just how many visitors smoke at Whiskeytown compared to how many people want to breathe just the fresh air of the surrounding forest? It turns out that over 76% of the folks using the beaches of Whiskeytown do not smoke cigarettes and 66% wish no one smoked on the beach at all!

In the spring of 2009, Shasta County Tobacco Education Coalition and Shasta County Public Health approached Whiskeytown National Recreation Area's management and asked if the National Park Service would take steps to make the beaches smoke-free. This request raised many important questions regarding the trend to make areas of our society free of cigarette smoke. Recent laws passed in California are aimed to protect people from the carcinogenic poisons of cigarette smoke inside businesses, restaurants, bars, airplanes and public gathering places like libraries, hotel rooms and some city parks. Recently, many county beaches throughout



Visitors enjoy the sunshine and cool waters of Brandy Creek Beach on July 4, 2009

Southern California implemented smoking bans to reduce secondhand smoke exposure and to reduce the litter of tossed cigarette butts.

Park managers allowed Shasta County Tobacco Education Coalition and Shasta County Public Health to conduct a visitor survey to see how people felt about cigarette smoke on Whiskeytown's beaches. Over 400 people were interviewed over the month of June and several interesting statistics came to light. The majority of people who use the beaches are women with children. Throughout California, about 13% of the population smokes cigarettes; in Shasta County, about 21% of the community smokes cigarettes.

During the winter, a public meeting was held to discuss implementing a smoking ban on the four designated swimming beaches at

Whiskeytown. The meeting was followed by a 30-day public comment period. Over 65 letters and emails were sent to the National Park Service regarding the pending smoke-free beach policy. Overwhelming public response called for implementing the smoke-free policy, with only about five letters opposing it. Many people who wrote letters told personal stories of having to move away from smokers on the beach to avoid the secondhand smoke, while others wrote of their distaste for the hundreds of cigarette butts they encounter in the sand. Finally, a person wrote of once stepping on a burning cigarette left carelessly in the sand.

On May 1, 2010, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area became the first national park site in the nation to implement a smoke-free beach policy on its four designated

swimming beaches. Smoking at these beaches is only allowed in the parking lots. Collectively, the four beaches make up little more than a half mile of shoreline; there are 37 miles of shoreline with many little private pocket coves and beaches that visitors use for recreation and fishing around Whiskeytown Lake. Smoke-free beaches represent a new experience for beachgoers, free of secondhand smoke and cigarette litter. These new safeguards are an undeniable success for the protection of public health and the natural environment.

Since the banning of smoking on airplanes and in bars, rates of cancer have declined significantly for waiters and flight attendants working in those environments. Visitors can go to Whiskeytown this summer and enjoy smoke-free beaches while breathing the clean air of the park's forest pouring from the cool drainages of Shasta Bally Mountain.



Thank you for observing
our smoke-free policy!

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.

Outdoor enthusiasts, history buffs, artists, teachers, students, gardeners, and many more special people have found a wonderful place to share their skills and knowledge. Volunteers of all ages donate their time and expertise to help achieve the mission of the National Park Service.

Volunteer work at Whiskeytown can be a meaningful and rewarding experience. Through their tremendous contributions, our volunteers demonstrate how much they care about this beautiful park, and we are grateful to have them helping us care for it.

There is a very good reason that the selfless people of the National Park Service's Volunteers-In-Parks program are referred to as VIP's – they are Very Important People!

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has.” - *Margaret Mead, Anthropologist*

If you would like more information about how you can make America's Best Idea even better by volunteering in the park, call the Volunteer Manager at (530) 242-3421, or check out park's website at

www.nps.gov/whis

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

A Corner of Heaven

I became a volunteer at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area to recharge my soul after a serious illness

I thought long and hard about my decision
Where would I find the time?
As I stood looking out over the lake,
I knew I would make the time

Life is short
We are blessed to live in this beautiful place
The next time you visit Whiskeytown,
take a moment to enjoy the view

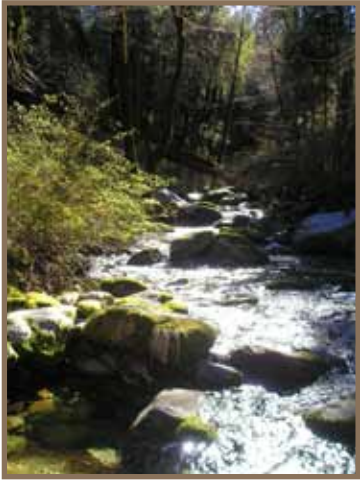
Look closely at the colors
Listen to the sounds
Find peace in the stillness

Whiskeytown is a corner of heaven

By Sheila Heuer

Heed the Call of the Falls!

By Robert Gutierrez, *Park Ranger*

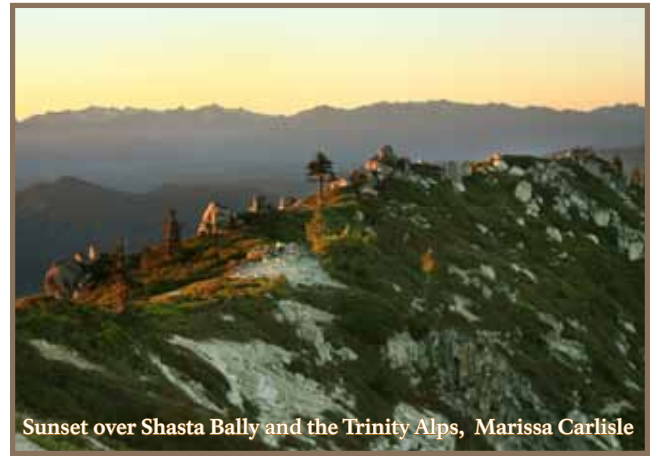


The 3,200 surface acres of cool, sapphire-blue waters of Whiskeytown Lake are one of the most prominent features of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area; however, an additional 39,000 acres of backcountry await your exploration. We encourage you to hike,

mountain bike, or take an equestrian adventure on one of the park's many trails. Discover the natural and cultural wonders that make Whiskeytown unique and worthy of inclusion as one of America's treasures in the National Park Sys-





tem. A visit to any of the park's four waterfalls with family and friends is sure to be an inspiring experience; one that will create happy memories for a lifetime.

Our mission statement is a promise to the American people; a promise that employees, concessionaire staff, and volunteers of the National Park Service strive to honor each day. The National Park Service is dedicated to "...preserving unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations." Please enjoy your park. Carry on the proud tradition of stewardship that will allow present and future generations to enjoy Whiskeytown's scenic beauty. Take photographs and happy memories home with you, and leave only footprints! Happy Trails!



Sunset over Shasta Bally and the Trinity Alps, Marissa Carlisle

"Thousands of nerve-shaken, over civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wilderness is a necessity; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life." -John Muir, 1898

Whiskeytown Falls	Brandy Creek Falls	Crystal Creek Falls	Boulder Creek Falls
			
James K. Carr Trail to Whiskeytown Falls	Brandy Creek Trail	Trailhead Name	Crystal Creek Falls turnout from Crystal Creek Road
Whiskeytown Falls is the tallest waterfall in the park and consists of three spectacular cascades of whitewater rumbling from a height of 220 feet	Consisting of an upper and lower falls, it offers several breathtaking surprises as visitors wind their way along the creek and through the trees	Waterfall Description	An easily accessible wonder of Whiskeytown, this is the ideal adventure for visitors who desire an easy walk to a beautiful waterfall
Moderate to Strenuous	Moderate	Difficulty Rating	Easy
3.4 miles	3 miles	Distance Roundtrip	1/2 mile
2 1/2 - 3 hours	2 - 2 1/2 hours	Hiking time Roundtrip	30 - 45 minutes
520 feet Starting at 2,280 feet	500 feet Starting at 2,100 feet	Elevation Gain	Level Terrain 1,750 feet
Males - 7,100 (30" stride) Females - 9,000 (24" stride)	Males - 6,300 (30" stride) Females - 7,900 (24" stride)	Pedometer Reading	Males - 1,050 (30" stride) Females - 1,320 (24" stride)
3.75 miles up Crystal Creek Road	Shasta Bally Road / Brandy Creek Road	Trailhead Location (see park map)	Mill Creek Road or South Shore Dr

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area: An Artist's Park

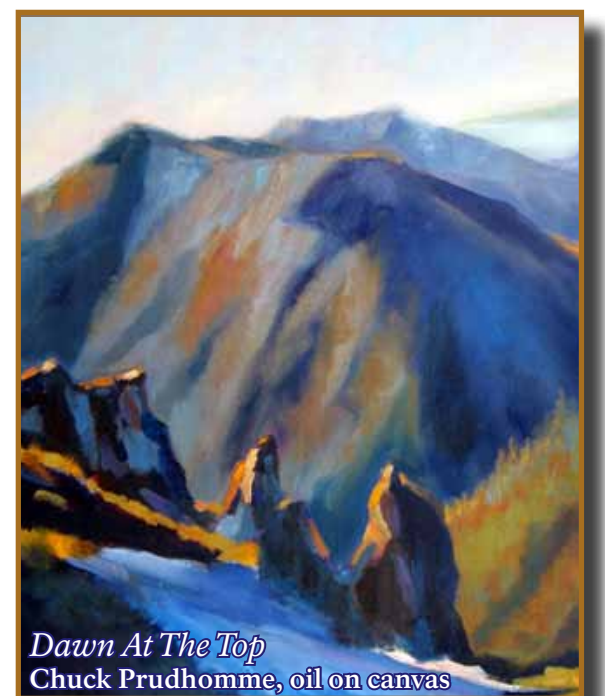
By Sheila Edridge, *Western National Parks Association*

It is not unusual to see artists at work during your visit at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Artists are often inspired by the park's waterfalls, spectacular vistas, majestic trees, and the crystal-clear blue water of Whiskeytown Lake. Painters, photographers, and sculptors will spend hours, days, and even weeks drawing inspiration from the park, whether as a park guest for the day, or being part of one of Whiskeytown's official art programs.

Within the national park system of nearly 400 individual units, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area has the distinction of being one of fewer than thirty units with an ongoing National Parks Artist-in-Residence Program. Each year Whiskeytown advertises for professional artists to submit an application to become part of our Artist-in-Residence Program. Established professional artists from across the United States

have submitted and participated, including painters, sculptors, photographers, writers, and musicians. Selected artists stay in our Artist's Cabin at Whiskeytown Lake for up to three weeks and have the opportunity to explore and interpret the park's landscape. In addition, regional artists are invited to submit residency proposals and artists of distinction have been invited to stay with us.

Whiskeytown's art programs are made possible through the sponsorship of the Western National Parks Association, The Friends of Whiskeytown, and our partnerships with The Shasta County Arts Council and Turtle Bay Exploration Park, with additional support from Redding's Hawkman Studios, and Cornucopia Enterprises. For more information on Whiskeytown National Recreation Area's artist opportunities, please email inquiries to Whiskeytown.Art@gmail.com



Dawn At The Top
Chuck Prudhomme, oil on canvas

Brandy Creek's Forests go Back to Their Roots

By Jennifer Gibson & Jeremiah Hockett

Whiskeytown's visitors have long been in awe of the beauty and diversity of the park's forests. A leisurely hike up the Brandy Creek Falls or the Papoose Pass Trail will take you to a picturesque place on the flanks of Shasta Bally where the call of birds and rushing white-water of Brandy Creek fill the air with nature's music. As beautiful the landscape appears, this forest has changed radically over the past 150 years.

Imagine yourself walking through an open forest of old growth ponderosa pine and oak woodlands on a beautiful spring day. Patches of sunlight reach the forest floor through the open canopy of trees. Native grasses and wildflowers emerge from the ashes, the result of a low intensity fire set intentionally by Native Americans to enhance forest resources for their livelihood. The wisdom and strength of these magnificent trees, passed on through centuries, ignites curiosity and beckons one to venture further into the forest.

This ancient forest, once enjoyed by the Wintu people, is a stark contrast to the dense and dark Douglas fir forest that currently dominates the landscape in Whiskeytown. Although small stands of old-growth forests can still be found, they are becoming rare in the park and throughout the Pacific Northwest. These unique forests now serve as critical reservoirs of information, providing resource managers with reference conditions for ecological restoration as well as providing valuable habitat for the park's federally threatened Northern spotted owls.

A recent study by Humboldt State University has determined that the lack of fire in much of the park's high elevation forests has created dense forest conditions in the park, and in some areas, an overall shift in forest species. These conditions threaten Whiskeytown's old-growth forests by increasing the chance of catastrophic wildfire. Without frequent low-intensity fires to burn out the understory, vegetation beneath the trees is now densely packed, creating fuel ladders that will carry flames upward into the lofty crowns. Overcrowded conditions also stress old-growth trees as the understory trees rob water, nutrients and sunlight away from their larger neighbors, which essentially need more nutrients to support their large size.

In support of the local community, park managers will collaborate with local contractors and the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District to restore the forests around Sheep Camp to their earlier health and vitality. The overall goal is to retain and promote the development of old-growth oaks and the large, vigorous mature conifers such as ponderosa pine, incense cedar, and sugar pine. Mechanical equipment will be used to remove or thin the understory and the ladder fuels that currently dominate this landscape. Once competition is removed, the vigor and survivorship of overstory trees will be encouraged. In addition, adverse impacts associated with future fire events will be reduced, and the facilitation of future prescribed fire operations will be enhanced.

Through this extensive restoration project,

the National Park Service will ensure that future generations can enjoy and learn from the old-growth trees of Whiskeytown. Centuries from now, these same trees will once again guide those who venture into the forest, illuminating the truths of nature and of a time forgotten. The park's forests will once more be a place where words are unnecessary, and where beauty cannot be explained, only felt.



A research assistant measures the diameter of an old-growth Canyon Live Oak

THE FRIENDS OF WHISKEYTOWN

Join the Friends of Whiskeytown!

The Friends of Whiskeytown is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the National Park Service restore and protect the magnificent resources and recreational opportunities at Whiskeytown. Your contribution of \$25.00 or more will help the park complete projects that would be otherwise unfunded.

For further information, call 530-242-3460 or visit www.friendsofwhiskeytown.org

WESTERN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

The production of this park newspaper is made possible from the generous contributions of the Western National Parks Association, whose mission is to "Promote preservation of the national park system and its resources by creating greater public appreciation through education, interpretation, and research."

WHISKEYTOWN'S TOP 30

By Jim Richardson, *Chief Ranger*

To help you learn some of the laws applicable within Whiskeytown, we compiled the top 30 law violations that visitors were contacted for last year. Laws and regulations at Whiskeytown are designed to protect the unique resources of the park, as well as the visitors and workers.



Park regulations can be found at the Visitor Center, on road signs, park bulletin boards, brochures, the Traveler Information System radio broadcast on 1440 AM, the park website, or in-person information regarding specific activities. Park Rangers are looking for compliance with the law in order to provide visitors with opportunities for a safe and enjoyable park experience. Please follow park regulations and ask for clarification if needed.

1. Non-display of permit (Day use fee)
2. Parking violations
3. Moving violations (Failure to stop at stop signs is the most common)
4. Pets in closed areas
5. Pets off leash
6. Alcohol on beaches
7. Giving false information to officers
8. Improper food storage
9. Camping without permit
10. Camping in undesignated areas
11. Present in a closed area
12. Underage possession of alcohol
13. Bridge jumping
14. Possession of controlled substances (drugs)
15. Illegal off-road travel
16. Obstructing traffic
17. Fishing without license
18. Illegal campfires
19. Unattended campfires
20. Quiet hours violation
21. Disorderly conduct (usually alcohol related)
22. Expired vehicle registration
23. Speeding
24. Feeding wildlife
25. Disturbing plants and wildlife
26. Driving without license (or on suspended license)
27. Hitchhiking
28. Theft
29. Fishing out of season
30. Drivers license not in possession

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.

Please follow the seven principles of Leave No Trace:

1. Plan ahead and prepare
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces
3. Dispose of waste properly
4. Leave what you find
5. Build fires in established fire grates only
6. Respect wildlife
7. Be considerate of other visitors



For more information, visit the Leave No Trace program web site - www.LNT.org

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 cultivation sites. 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!

GENERAL INFORMATION & SERVICES

Visitor Center:

Located on Highway 299 and Kennedy Memorial Drive, the Visitor Center is open daily during the summer from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. 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 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. 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 ADA 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 ADA 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 p.m. Monday through Friday; Saturday 8:30 am - 10:30 am.

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

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

Camping at Whiskeytown

Oak Bottom Campground offers \$18 per night lakeside tent sites, \$16 per night tent sites, and \$14 per night RV sites. Winter rates are \$10 per site from Oct 15 through April 15. Specific sites may be reserved by calling the campground store at (530) 359-2269. There is an extra \$2 daily fee per pet.

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 per night and winter rate is \$7 per night.

Dry Creek Group Tent Campground offers two campsites (tents only) at \$75 per site per night. Each site holds a minimum of 20 and 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. Campsites closed from November 1 through March 31.

Note: Campers must purchase either a \$5 daily, \$10 weekly, or \$25 annual pass for each vehicle in addition to their campsite fee.

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



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 42,000 acres in a beautiful mountain lake setting, Whiskeytown is home to a variety of plants & wildlife.

Superintendent

Jim F. Milestone

Chief of Administration

Colleen Bloxham

Chief Ranger

Jim Richardson

Facility Manager

Dave Larabee

Chief of Fire Management

George Chapman

Chief of Resources & Interpretation

Sean Denniston

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA 96095

Website

www.nps.gov/whis

Fax Number

(530) 246-5154

Park Headquarters

(530) 242-3400

Publication of this paper was made possible by a donation from Western National Parks Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting interpretive efforts of the National Park Service.

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Operated by Forever Resorts

For more information:

Oak Bottom Marina

Reservations: (530) 359-2671

12485 State Highway 299,
Whiskeytown, CA 96095

www.whiskeytownmarinas.com

For Your Water-based Fun!

- Rent a ski boat, fishing boat, deck cruiser, canoe, or kayak
- Launch ramp & slip rentals
- Convenience store
- Snack bar
- RV Park & campground
- Fuel dock & swim beach
- Overnight moorage
- Slip rentals

RANGER GUIDED PROGRAMS

Whiskeytown offers a variety of family friendly ranger-guided activities for everyone from mid-June through the Labor Day weekend. These free activities are subject to change as the park introduces new programs this summer. Visitors must display a valid day use pass or other park pass on all vehicles in the park. Please call the Visitor Center at (530) 246-1225, visit our website at www.nps.gov/whis or call Clinton Kane at (530) 242-3451 for the latest information.

Kayak Tours (2 ½ hours)

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 are available and times vary from morning to evening tours. For reservations up to two weeks in advance, call 530-242-3462. Ask about arranging for a group tour (minimum of 12 people) for your friends and family, business, or community group.

Moonlight Kayak Tours (2 ½ hours)

Experience dramatic changes in the landscape as you explore the lake under the light of the moon. Moonlight tours are offered each month during the summer. For reservations up to two weeks in advance, call 530-242-3462. Space is limited to four reservations per phone call.

Special Access Kayak Program (2 hours)

If you or someone you know is hesitant to join us on a kayaking adventure on Whiskeytown Lake because of limited mobility, advanced age, disability, developmental issues, or illness, the Special Access Kayak Program may be perfect for you! Join one of our volunteer "kayak buddies" for a relaxing evening paddle on the lake. Please call 530 242-3454 for more information or if you wish to volunteer for this very special program.

It's All About Nature!

Friday 3 p.m. (1 hour)

Join one of our local talents and learn about the natural world of Whiskeytown through the art of storytelling followed by a hands-on activity with a ranger. The program is aimed primarily for preschool-age children. Meet at the Visitor Center near the south side of the parking lot.

Junior Ranger

Saturday 10 a.m. (1 hour)

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

Junior Firefighter

Saturday 11 a.m. (1 hour)

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

Toddler Ranger

Sunday 11 a.m. (1/2 hour)

Kids 3 to 6 years of age can learn more about nature and the park during this special program with a ranger. Meet at the Oak Bottom Amphitheater.

Walk In Time (Includes gold panning!) Saturday and Sunday 3 p.m. (2 hours)

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 apple orchard then try your hand at finding gold the old-fashioned way. Meet at the Tower House Historic District parking lot.

Evening Programs

Friday and Saturday 9 p.m. (8:30 p.m. beginning August 6th)

Spend the evening with a ranger and learn more about wonders of Whiskeytown through talks, slide shows, or other activities during this one-hour program. Topics include history, wildlife, and current issues related to protecting the park's natural and cultural resources. Meet at the Oak Bottom Amphitheater.

Water Safety Demonstration 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.

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.



Other passes accepted at Whiskeytown:

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



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.

