



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service  
Pacific Southwest Region

# SHASTA UNIT

Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity  
National Recreation Area



## America's Great Outdoors California 2006

### Shasta Lake Statistics...

- Shoreline..... 370 miles
- Surface Area..... 30,000 acres
- Storage Capacity..... 4,550,000 acre feet
- Dam Height..... 602 feet
- Greatest Depth..... 517 feet
- Total Drainage Area..... 4,110,000 acres
- Average Annual Flow..... 6.2 million acre feet
- Spillway Elevation..... 1,067 feet

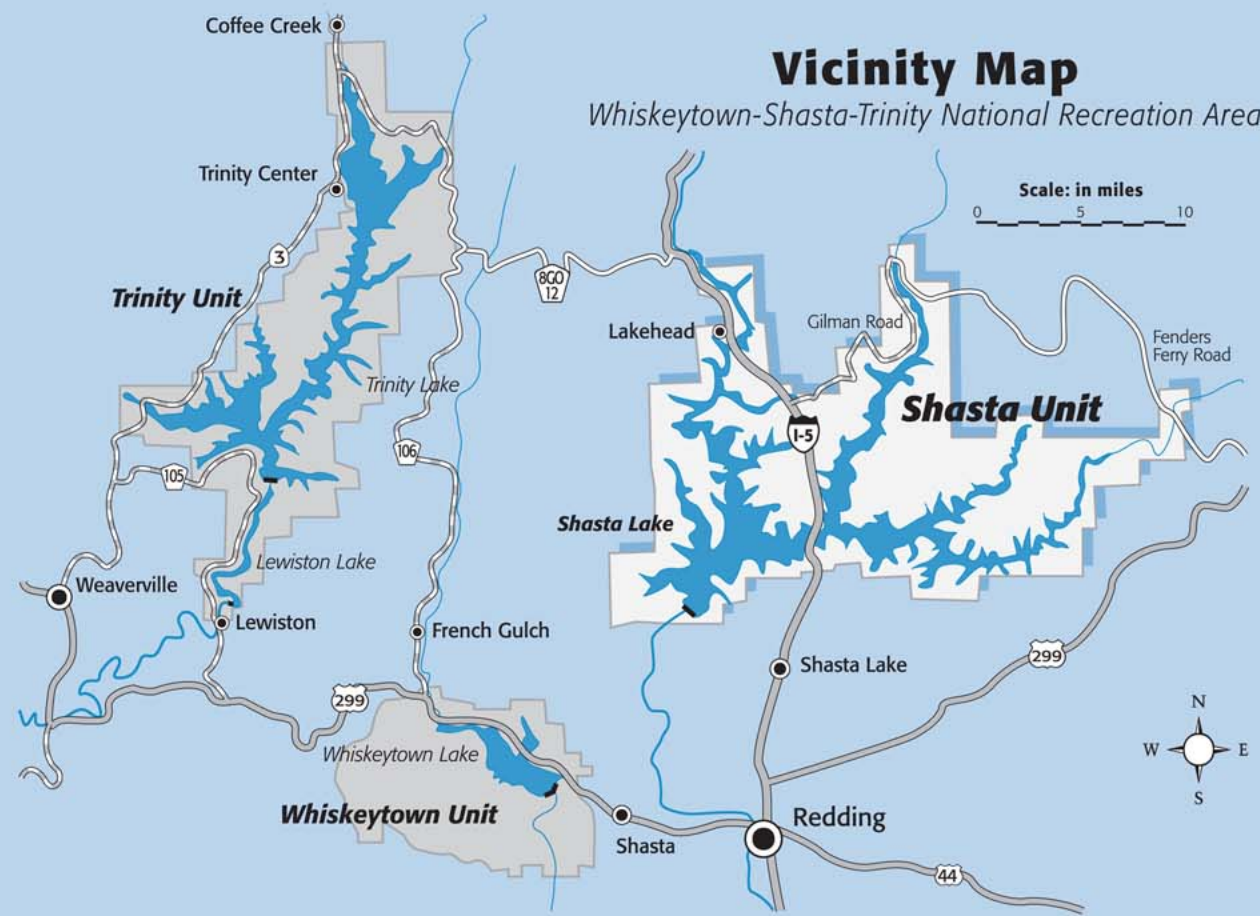
### Visitor Information...

The Visitor Information Centers at the following locations provide maps, brochures, exhibits, and general information about the Shasta Unit of the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area (campfire permits can be obtained from the Shasta Lake Visitor Center in Mountain Gate):

- Shasta Lake Visitor Information Center  
Mountain Gate/Wonderland Boulevard exit #687 from Interstate 5.  
Call (530) 275-1589 (voice)  
(530) 242-5526 (TDD)  
[www.fs.fed.us/r5/shastatrinity](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/shastatrinity)
- Shasta Dam Visitor Information Center  
Located at Shasta Dam. Take Shasta Dam Boulevard exit #685 from Interstate 5.  
Call (530) 275-4463
- California Welcome Center  
Located at the Factory Outlets in Anderson along Interstate 5, exit # 667  
Call (530) 365-1180  
[www.shastascascade.org](http://www.shastascascade.org)
- Concessionaire: Shasta Recreation Company  
14538 Wonderland Blvd., exit #687  
Redding, CA 96003  
(530) 275-8113

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity provider and employer.



The McCloud Arm of Shasta Lake



### Welcome to the Shasta Unit...

The Shasta Unit is one of three units that comprise the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area. It was established by Congress in 1965. These areas were recognized for their unique and varied recreation potential.

Shasta Lake forms the core of the Shasta Unit and offers recreationists a variety of outdoor activities including: boating, water-skiing, swimming, fishing, camping, picnicking, hiking, hunting, and mountain biking.

The Shasta and Trinity Units are located in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest and are administered by the USDA Forest Service. Whiskeytown Lake is administered by the National Park Service.

### More than meets the eye...

Shasta Lake, "Keystone" of the Central Valley Project, is the largest human made reservoir in California. When full, its 370 mile shoreline exceeds that of San Francisco Bay. Shasta Dam is the second largest concrete dam in the United States. It was constructed between 1935 and 1945. The lake was filled in 1948.

The construction of Shasta Dam impounded three major north state rivers: the Pit, McCloud, and Sacramento. Referred to as arms, each one retains its own character, environment, history, and recreation opportunities.

People who have never been to Shasta Lake may get the impression that they are seeing several lakes as they pass by on Interstate 5. In a way, there really are more lakes than one. The rugged country, ragged shoreline, and sheer size of Shasta Lake tends to break the lake into different areas, each with its own opportunities, moods, and settings.

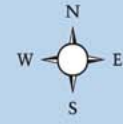
### Things to do and see around the lake...

Shasta Lake is one of the dominant features in Northern California. Visitors along Interstate 5 can see the lake from Antlers Bridge, O'Brien Rest Area, and the Pit River Bridge. The "Three Shastas" - Shasta Dam, Shasta Lake, and Mt. Shasta, can be seen from the Shasta Dam Vista Point.

## Vicinity Map

Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area

Scale: in miles  
0 5 10



Other popular spots are located where the major rivers and streams empty into the lake, such as McCloud Bridge on the McCloud Arm, and the Lakehead area on the Sacramento Arm.

**Caving...** Samwell Cave opens out from a limestone crag overlooking a northern portion of the McCloud Arm of Shasta Lake. It provides a unique and rewarding experience to its visitors. A special visitor permit is required to enter the cave. Entrance to the cave is limited and access is restricted by a locked gate. The key and permit can be obtained at the Shasta Lake Visitor Information Center. It is recommended that you call ahead at 530-275-1589, and check on the availability of the key for entrance to the cave.

**Shasta Caverns Tour...** The caverns began forming over 250 million years ago in the massive limestone of the Gray Rocks visible from Interstate 5. Shasta Caverns are located off the Shasta Caverns / O'Brien exit #695. The caverns are privately owned and tours are offered year round. For schedules and information call (530) 238-2341.

### Off Highway Vehicles...

The Chappie-Shasta Off Highway Vehicle Area is located just below the west side of Shasta Dam and is managed in partnership between the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. It spans the Trinity Divide between Shasta Dam and Clear Creek to the west and offers hundreds of miles of trails and roads for off-road riding, driving, and mountain biking. Shasta Campground and the OHV Staging Area below Shasta Dam provide access to the area and services to riders. A security access permit must be acquired in advance in order to cross Shasta Dam with a vehicle. For more information, you can either contact the Bureau of Reclamation at 530-275-4463, or on the web at: [www.usbr.gov/mp/ncao/Shasta/](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/ncao/Shasta/)



Hirz Mountain Lookout

**Hirz Mountain Lookout...** Perched atop a rocky outcrop high above the McCloud River Arm of Shasta Lake, the historic Hirz Mountain Lookout offers spectacular views in all directions. From an elevation of 3,540 feet, the lookout overlooks the snow-laced peak of Mt. Shasta to the north, Mt. Lassen to the southeast, and the gray limestone exposures of Hirz Mountain itself. The narrow blue-green ribbon of the McCloud River Arm winds past the east side of Hirz Mountain, extending north and south as far as the eye can see.

The Hirz Mountain Lookout was originally a 12X12 foot square structure that sat flat on the ground. The mountain was a strategic location for detecting fires because it had a direct view into the headwaters of the McCloud river and most of its tributaries. In 1937, the Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) enrollees rebuilt the Hirz Mountain Lookout cab, which was a 14 square foot "BC-3" live in cab, a garage and outhouse. It was one of the last CCC-era lookouts to be built. In 1949, a steel tower was added; constructed of a steel K-brace tower that stands 20 feet above ground level. The Hirz Mountain Lookout can be reserved from May 1st through October 15th (weather permitting), by contacting the National Recreation Reservation Service at 1-877-444-6777 or on the web at: [www.reserveusa.com](http://www.reserveusa.com).

**Swimming...** Shasta Lake has no developed swimming areas. Many people swim from the shore near their campgrounds or from boats. Visitors are urged to avoid areas with heavy boat traffic. Swimming is prohibited at boat ramps.

**Picnicking...** Picnic facilities are available at Fisherman's Point near Shasta Dam, Bailey Cove, and Dekkas Rock. Day use areas have tables, stoves, trash, and restroom facilities. These areas are closed to overnight camping.

**Hiking...** The trails at Jones Valley, Packers Bay, Bailey Cove, Shasta Dam, and Hirz Bay provide great hiking, trail running, mountain biking, and some horseback riding opportunities. They provide good access to shoreline fishing, secluded creeks, and excellent vistas within an oak and mixed conifer woodland. Since summer days are often hot and dry, be sure to carry water. Better still, hike trails in the late fall, winter, or spring when the weather is cool. Wildflowers are abundant from late January through June. Unless otherwise posted, hiking trails are open all year. Keep an eye out for poison oak... it grows all along these trails.

**Boating...** With 10 commercial marinas on Shasta Lake, there is a wide range of boating opportunities. Houseboats, jet skis, patio boats, canoes, paddle boats, and fishing boats are all available for rent at these marinas.

**Launching...** The Forest Service maintains seven public ramps with parking areas, which provide access to most areas around the lake. Bailey Cove, Centimudi, and Jones Valley Ramps are

often congested on summer weekends. Packers Bay, Antlers, and Hirz Bay are recommended alternatives during periods of heavy use. Low water ramps are located at Jones Valley, Sugarloaf, and Centimudi. Additional launching facilities may be available at commercial marinas. Fees are required at all boat launching facilities.

### Campground and Camping Information

There is a broad spectrum of camping facilities, ranging from the primitive to the luxurious. At the upper end of the scale, there are 10 marinas and a number of resorts offering rental cabins, motel-type accommodations, and RV parks and campgrounds with electric hook-ups, swimming pools, and showers. Additional information about facilities and services offered at private resorts is available at the Shasta Lake Visitor Information Center or on the web at [www.fs.fed.us/r5/shastatrinity](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/shastatrinity).

For the more independent visitor, the Forest Service offers 13 family campgrounds. Most campgrounds have piped water, some have flush toilets but the majority have vault toilets, tables, and stoves. Showers, electric hookups, and RV dump services are not available at Forest Service Campgrounds. Many campgrounds accept reservations from the National Recreation Reservation Service... call 1-877-444-6777 or contact them on the web at [www.reserveusa.com](http://www.reserveusa.com).

**Boat Access Camps...** The Forest Service operates four campgrounds on Shasta Lake which are accessible only by boat. Situated in the more remote areas of the lake, these camps offer a unique camping experience away from the headlights and traffic. These camps have tables, stoves, and vault toilet facilities. Users are advised to bring their own water or to boil any surface water for at least five minutes. Please pack out your trash.

**Dispersed Area Camping...** Shasta is one of the few lakes in California where visitors can camp along the shore. Some areas are restricted such as a bald eagle nesting site, but even so there are several hundred miles where shoreline camping is permitted.

To assure the privilege of camping along the shoreline is not lost, help keep the area clean. Pack it in, Pack it out! Please dispose of trash in containers at the boat ramps. Do not leave it at the floating restrooms.

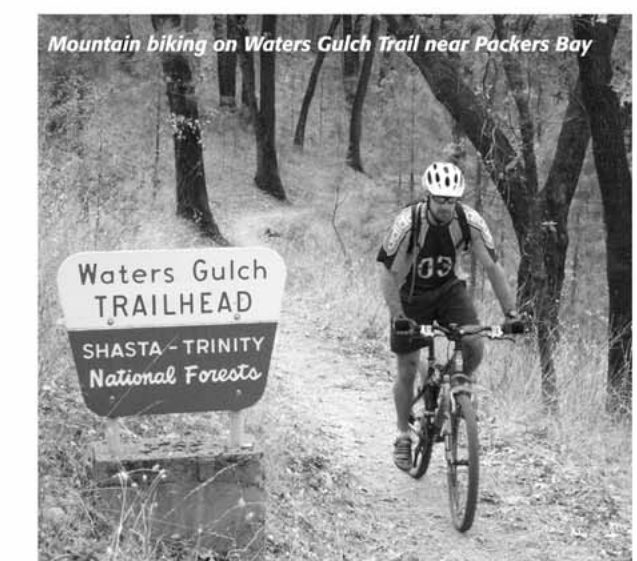
The Beehive, Gregory Beach, Jones Valley Inlet, and Mariners Point areas offer campers vehicle access to the shoreline of Shasta lake. These areas are generally open year round. Chemical toilet facilities, trash services, and fees may be discontinued during the off season.



Houseboating on Shasta Lake

**Fees...** Most Forest Service campgrounds and all commercial campgrounds charge a fee. There is no fee for boat access campgrounds. Holders of Golden Age and Golden Access Passports are entitled to a 50% discount of the posted fee at Forest Service facilities. These passports are available at Ranger Stations and visitor information centers. Persons over 62 years of age or the permanently disabled are eligible for these passports. There is a fee for Golden Age Passports.

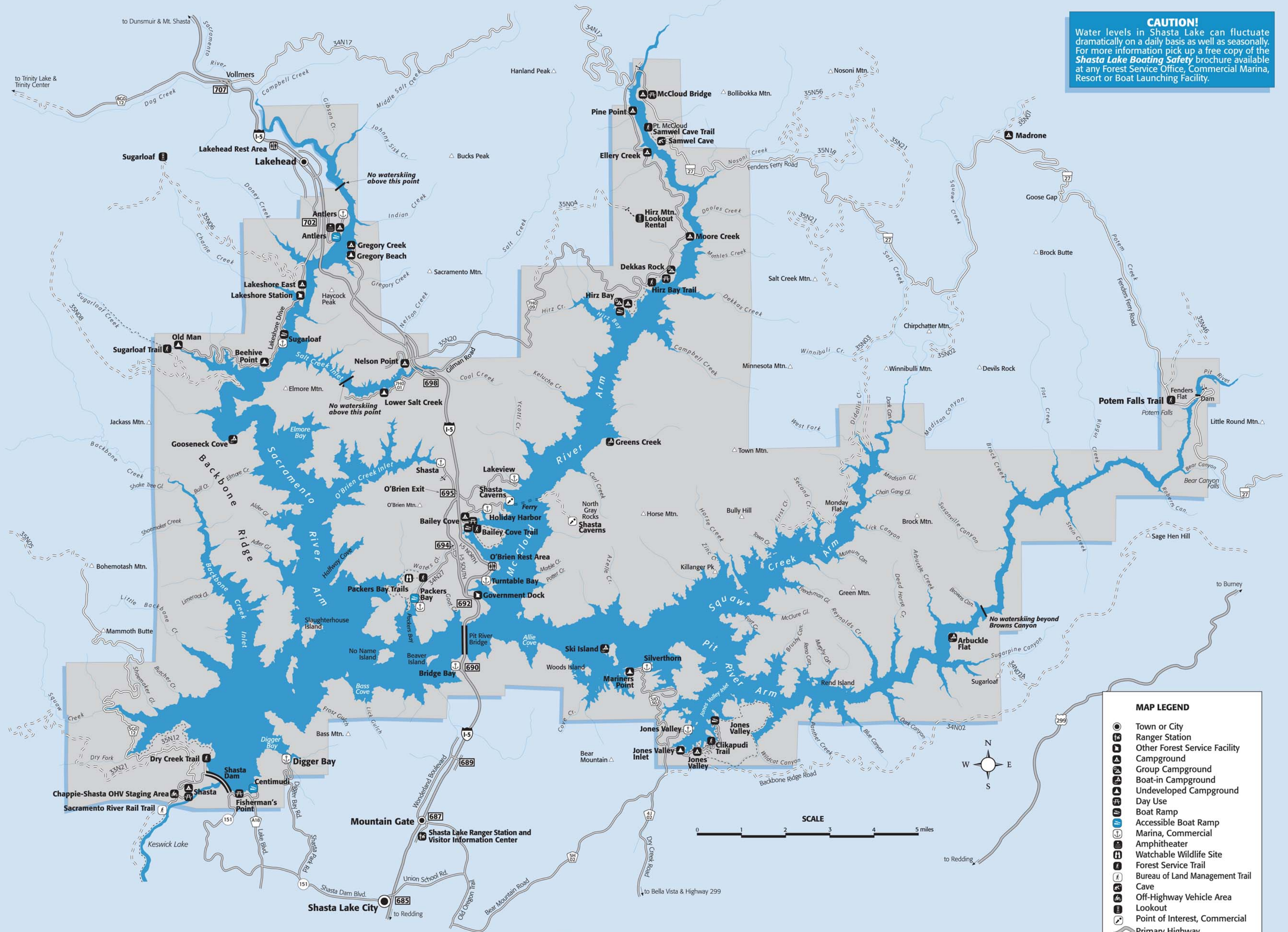
Golden Eagle Passports are NOT valid for overnight camping, use of developed boat launches, or concessionaire services, and consequently, do not apply to fee sites on the Shasta Unit of the National Recreation Area. Golden Eagle Passports are available ONLY at the Shasta-Trinity National Forest Headquarters.



Mountain biking on Waters Gulch Trail near Packers Bay

Waters Gulch  
TRAILHEAD  
SHASTA - TRINITY  
National Forests

**CAUTION!**  
Water levels in Shasta Lake can fluctuate dramatically on a daily basis as well as seasonally. For more information pick up a free copy of the *Shasta Lake Boating Safety* brochure available at any Forest Service Office, Commercial Marina, Resort or Boat Launching Facility.



**MAP LEGEND**

- Town or City
- Ranger Station
- Other Forest Service Facility
- Campground
- Group Campground
- Boat-in Campground
- Undeveloped Campground
- Day Use
- Boat Ramp
- Accessible Boat Ramp
- Marina, Commercial
- Amphitheater
- Watchable Wildlife Site
- Forest Service Trail
- Bureau of Land Management Trail
- Cave
- Off-Highway Vehicle Area
- Lookout
- Point of Interest, Commercial
- Primary Highway
- Freeway Exit #
- Paved Road
- Improved Road, Dirt
- Unimproved Road (not maintained for passenger cars)
- Trail
- Locked Gate

\* asterisk denotes that feature is under consideration for a name change

**Camping and Campground Information Continued...**

**Campsite occupancy...** Campsites must be occupied the first night and cannot be unoccupied for more than 24 hours. "Saving" campsites is not permitted. Checkout time for Family Campgrounds is 2:00 p.m. Checkout time for Group Campgrounds is 12:00 Noon.

**Group Camps...** Group Campgrounds have many of the same features offered at Forest Service family campgrounds but have larger tables, fire pits, and grills. Your group is assured exclusive use of the group camp. For reservations call 1-877-444-6777.

**Season...** Most Forest Service Campgrounds are open from Memorial Day through Labor Day. A few remain open all year. During the winter months, most water systems are shut down; however, restroom facilities are available. The operating season for commercial campgrounds vary.

**Reservations...** Group Campgrounds and selected family campground reservations are made through National Recreation Reservation Service (toll free) 1-877-444-6777 or through their website: [www.reserveusa.com](http://www.reserveusa.com). Some public campgrounds in

the Shasta Lake area are on a first come, first served basis.

**Length of stay...** Campground stays are limited to 7 or 14 days, as posted at the campground entrance. Camping on the lake shoreline is limited to 14 days per year. Houseboats without Forest Service permits are limited to 30 days per calendar year. Picnic and Day Use Areas are open between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.

**Campfire permits...** are required during the fire season (usually May 1st through October) when using campstoves, hibachis, barbecues, or campfires on the shoreline, or on board when the boat is touching the shoreline. Campfire permits are not required for gas stoves, ranges, or lighting devices built into a vehicle or a vessel, nor are they required for campfires in developed campgrounds. Free campfire permits are available at any office of the Forest Service, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), Bureau of Land Management, local fire stations and many resorts. Fire restrictions vary throughout the year and visitors to the area need to check with the Forest Service, BLM or CDF concerning current restrictions.

**Some Things To Know**

**Firewood...** The gathering of dead and down wood for campfires is allowed. No permit is necessary.

**Bear Precautions...** The Shasta Unit IS bear country! Potential for encounters with bears can be reduced if visitors follow some very specific do's and don'ts. A brochure called "Bear Precautions" explains what they are and can be obtained at the Shasta Lake Visitor Information Center or from a Camp Host.

**Boat Permits...** Any boat designed or converted for overnight occupancy requires a houseboat permit from the Forest Service if staying on the lake for more than 30 days per calendar year.

**Law Enforcement...** The Shasta County Sheriff's Department works closely with the Forest Service in enforcing local and California Boating Laws. If you need assistance, contact the Sheriff's Patrol or any Forest Service employee. If you have an emergency, please dial 911.

**Garbage...** Receptacles are located at campgrounds, picnic areas, and boat ramps. Garbage is not collected at boat-in campgrounds and most undeveloped sites. Please pack it out to the nearest container. Do not bury trash or dispose of it at floating restrooms.

**Pets...** Pets are permitted but must be on a leash and under restraint in campgrounds, picnic areas, and at boat ramps.

**Campground Reconstruction...** Occasionally campgrounds are closed for maintenance or other work. This is part of an on-going program to upgrade the facilities at Shasta Lake.

**Motor Vehicles...** Motorized vehicles must stay on established roads. Off-road travel is prohibited except in designated and signed areas.

**Fireworks...** Fireworks are prohibited in all National Forests and Shasta County which includes all of Shasta Lake!

**Firearms...** Firearms may not be discharged within 150 yards of residences, buildings, campsites or developed recreation sites, or across roads or bodies of water.

AMBULANCE • FIRE • SHERIFF • ACCIDENT  
**EMERGENCY**  
**DIAL 911**