

# Fishing

## Plumas National Forest Beckwourth Ranger District



This fishing story starts with cool air moving across the Pacific Ocean picking up moisture. As the air rises over the Sierra Nevada it becomes so cold that it can't hold all of its moisture. The result is snow in the mountains and rain in the valleys below. This part of the story happens several times before springtime brings warmth to the mountains.

Springtime is when lakes fill, streams cascade, rivers swell and soils become saturated. It's more than just a muddy time. New debris enters the streams providing habitat; old debris gets flushed downstream cycling nutrients; and cold surface water on frozen lakes reaches 4°C and sinks to the bottom bringing oxygen. Plants fill with leaves, flowers and fruit providing food for the things fish like to eat. The shade from vegetation helps to maintain water temperatures suited for trout and other gamefish.

All of this happens on the Beckwourth Ranger District. Now, lets go fishing.



### Fishing Resources

**State:** Fishing is regulated by the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. They issue local and out of state fishing licenses, determine regulations, set planting schedules and much more.

**Dept. of Fish & Wildlife** - <https://wildlife.ca.gov/fishing>  
Fishing license sales - <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing>  
Fish planting schedule - <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Inland>  
Click on 'fish planting schedule' then enter search info.

Concern/comment - (916) 445-0411

Report a Crime - (888) 334-2258

**Local:** These local businesses in close proximity to locations listed in this guide are known for offering fishing reports to the public.

**Frenchman Lake** - Goodwin's General Store - 530-993-4683

**Lake Davis** - Grizzly Store - 530-832-0270  
- Plumas Ace Hardware - 530-832-5208

**Lakes Basin** - Mountain Hardware & Sports - 530-836-2589

**Middle Fork** - Plumas Ace Hardware - listed above  
- Mountain Hardware & Sports - listed above

**Guide Services:** Beckwourth Ranger District issues special use permits to individuals and groups providing guide services that include use of Forest Service managed public lands. Before contracting with a guide service, ask if they have a special use permit with Plumas National Forest. Their permit ensures authorization to profit from use of your public lands.

Guide services can be located online using the search; "Fishing Guide Services, Plumas National Forest."

### Middle Fork of the Feather River

The Middle Fork is a Wild and Scenic River. Hundreds of wonderful trout streams and lakes add their water as the Middle Fork descends to Lake Oroville. With only a little exploration, fishermen find the deep slow moving pool or the foaming cascade that suits their needs. The most common gamefish found in the river are Trout - Rainbow and Brown; Bass - Spotted, Red eye, Smallmouth and Largemouth; Bluegill; Green Sunfish; and Brown Bullhead. The river starts from a system of channels and creeks in Sierra Valley near Beckwourth. It exits the Beckwourth Ranger District near the town of Sloat on Highway 70/89.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender



Forest Service  
Pacific Southwest Region  
Plumas National Forest  
[www.fs.fed.us/r5/plumas](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/plumas)

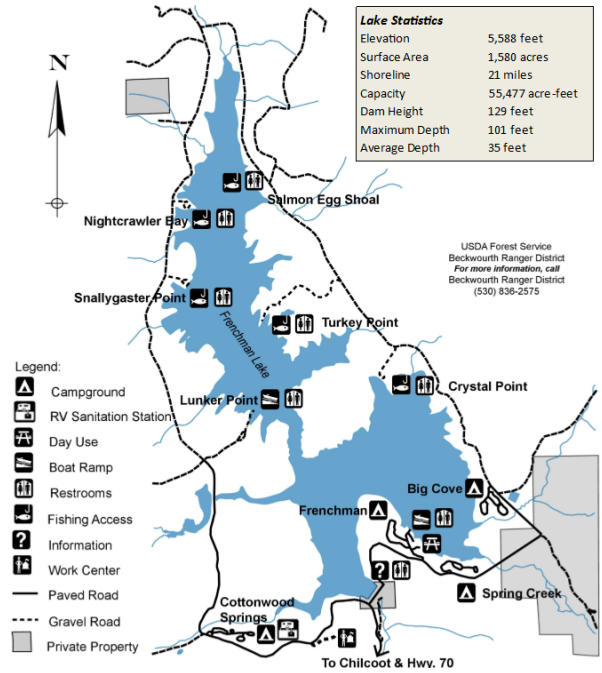
Beckwourth Ranger District  
PO Box 7, Blairsden, Ca. 96103  
(530) 836-2575  
**Revised 2/26/2020**

# Winter Fishing

Anybody attempting to fish in winter should become aware of its many hazards. Breaking through thin ice; a boat becoming trapped by wind driven rafts of ice; hypothermia; and slips are just a few of the possibilities. Though experience is the best teacher, it is always best to begin with information available from online sources, books and local fishing reports. During most years, ice fishing is available on local lakes.

## Frenchman Lake

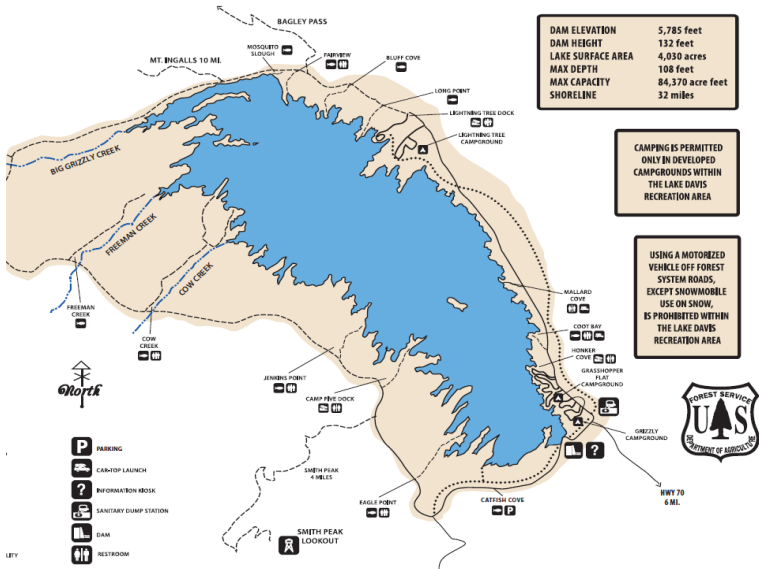
Frenchman Lake is located in the Frenchman Lake Recreation Area, at the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the Feather River and along Little Last Chance Creek. It is open to a wide variety of water sports and is known for its trout fishing. Two boat launch facilities with loading docks will get motorized anglers on the water. Both facilities are fee areas during the peak summer season. The Frenchman Lake facility is open throughout the year, while the Lunker Point facility closes when water levels drop. Loading docks get pulled on shore before ice forms on the lake. Roadside fishing access points are scattered around the lake. The most common gamefish here are Rainbow and Brown Trout; and Brown Bullhead.



## Lake Davis

Lake Davis is located in the Lake Davis Recreation Area, seven miles north of Portola along Little Grizzly Creek. This lake continues to meet its original purpose of improving area fishing. Both native and stocked fish seem to hang out in the deep water or multitude of quiet inlets. Skiing and jet skis are not allowed on this lake. Several boat launches are available with fees during peak season. Finally there are eight fishing access points within easy reach.

Camp Five and Mallard Cove Launching Facilities have loading docks, paved ramps, parking and restrooms. Camp Five also has a 100 foot accessible fishing levee that can be used by wheelchair. Mallard Cove has a car top launching ramp. The most common gamefish are Trout - Rainbow, Brown and Brook; Largemouth Bass; Brown Bullhead; and Pumpkinseed.



## Lakes Basin Recreation Area

Lakes Basin Recreation Area is dotted with many granite lined glacially carved lakes with crystal clear water reflecting blue sky. Most lakes can be accessed via hiking, biking and equestrian trails. Cold water creeks meander and cascade down to the Middle Fork of the Feather River.

Gold Lake is the largest lake in the area. The Gold Lake Boat Launch Facility has a paved ramp, loading dock, parking, day-use area and restrooms. Car top launching is available at the day-use area near the dam. Boat launch and day use areas are fee areas.

The most common gamefish are Trout - Rainbow, Brown, Brook and Golden. Gold Lake also has Lake Trout and Kokanee (Sockeye Salmon).

