

Required Equipment

- **Life Jackets / Personal Flotation Devices (PFD)**
All boats, powered or non-powered, must carry at least one wearable Coast Guard-approved life jacket (personal flotation device (PFD)) for every person aboard. Failure to have a sufficient number of approved devices aboard constitutes a violation of state and federal law. These life jackets must be...
 - U. S. Coast Guard approved
 - The proper size for the intended wearer
 - In good and serviceable condition
 - Properly stowed (readily accessible)

When a vessel is underway with children under 13 years old, they must be wearing a life jacket unless they are below deck or in an enclosed cabin. Life jackets must be wearable (Type I, II, III or V), not throwable-type. Inflatables are not recommended for non-swimmers and are not intended for use while participating in tow or whitewater paddle sports or while on a personal watercraft (PWC). Every person on board a PWC and anyone being towed behind a vessel must wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket. The minimum requirements are:

- All boats 16 feet or more in length, except canoes and kayaks; One wearable life jacket (Type I, II, III or V) for each person on board and one throwable (Type IV) device in each boat.
- Canoes and kayaks of any length and all other boats less than 16 feet in length: A single Type I, II, III or V life jacket for each person on board.

Inflatable Life Jackets: The Coast Guard approved inflatable life jackets in 1996. However, only certain brands are Coast Guard-approved, and some are only appropriate for adults. Note: An inflatable life jacket must be worn in order to be considered readily accessible.

Note - life jackets and PFD's only work if they are worn properly. An unconscious person cannot put on a life jacket. Even a conscious person will have great difficulty putting on a lifejacket once he or she is in the water.

Examples of wearable life jackets



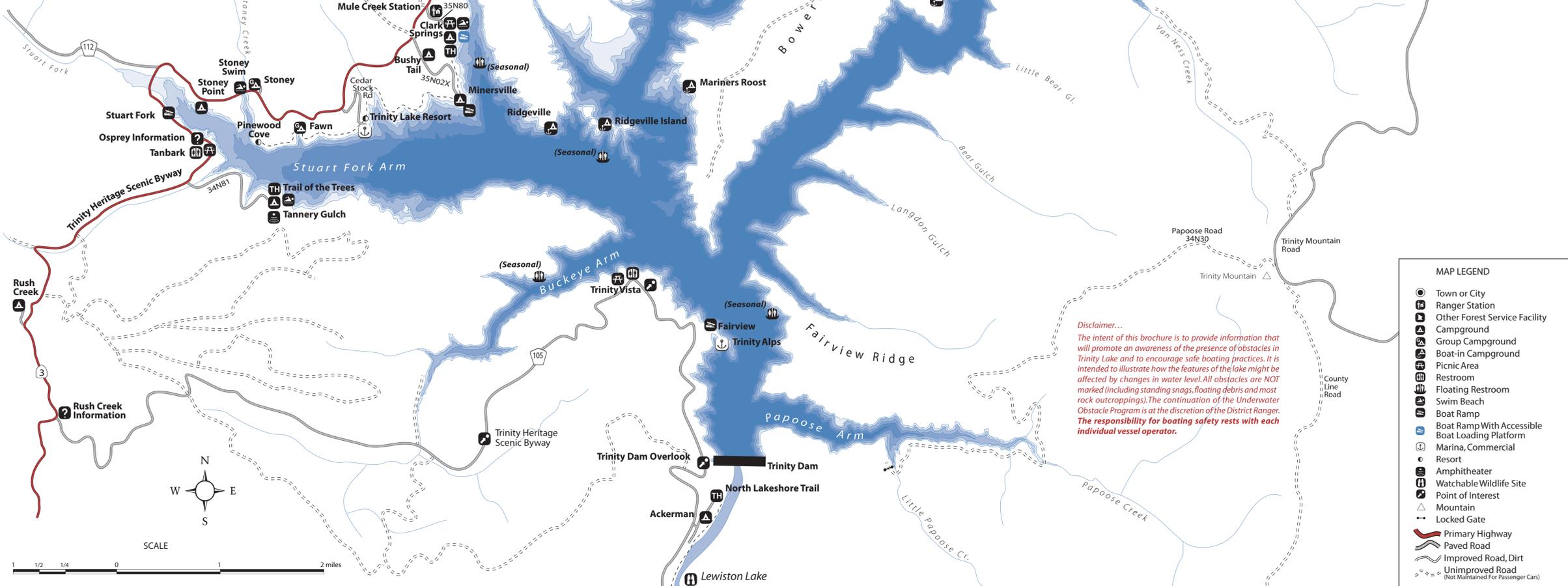
- **Fire Extinguishers**
All motorboats are required to have fire extinguishers on board, with the exception of outboard pleasure boats measuring less than 26 feet long that do not have permanently installed fuel tanks or enclosed spaces for gases or vapors to collect. All extinguishers must be approved for marine use and be at least B-1 in size (see below).

Boat Length	# of Extinguishers Required
less than 26 ft.	1 B-1
26 to under 40 ft.	2 B-1 or 1 B-11
40 to under 65 ft.	3 B-1 or 1 B-11 & B-1

Interpreting the Map

This legend illustrates what the various shades of blue mean on the map. All levels are approximate. Your chances of hitting submerged islands will be greatly reduced by staying in the darker blue areas. To obtain current information on lake levels, call the Weaverville Ranger Station at (530) 623-2121, or any of the marinas on the lake.

ZONE A: Full lake to 50' drawdown
ZONE B: 50' to 100' drawdown
ZONE C: 100' to 150' drawdown
ZONE D: 150' to 200' drawdown
ZONE E: 200' to 250' drawdown
ZONE F: + 250' drawdown



Disclaimer...
 The intent of this brochure is to provide information that will promote an awareness of the presence of obstacles in Trinity Lake and to encourage safe boating practices. It is intended to illustrate how the features of the lake might be affected by changes in water level. All obstacles are NOT marked (including standing snags, floating debris and most rock outcroppings). The continuation of the Underwater Obstacle Program is at the discretion of the District Ranger. The responsibility for boating safety rests with each individual vessel operator.

MAP LEGEND

- Town or City
- Ranger Station
- Other Forest Service Facility
- Campground
- Group Campground
- Boat-in Campground
- Picnic Area
- Restroom
- Floating Restroom
- Swim Beach
- Boat Ramp
- Boat Ramp With Accessible Boat Loading Platform
- Marina, Commercial
- Resort
- Amphitheater
- Watchable Wildlife Site
- Point of Interest
- Mountain
- Locked Gate
- Primary Highway
- Paved Road
- Improved Road, Dirt
- Unimproved Road (Not Maintained For Passenger Cars)

- **Lights**
Running lights are required on all vessels operating between half hour before sunset and half hour before sunrise. Manually propelled vessels must have at least one hand held white light. The design, size and number of lights are dictated by type and size of vessel. See "The ABCs of California Boating Law" for specific requirements.
- **Other Requirements**
 - Ventilation and Backfire Flame Control Devices are required on all powerboats except those with outboard motors.
 - Horns or whistles are required on vessels 16 feet or longer and all vessels must have some means of making a loud sound for signaling other than the human voice.

Registration and Permits

All vessels, except boats manually propelled, sailboats eight feet or less in length without other means of propulsion, and certain public vessels must be registered and numbered through the State of California. Out-of-state registration is valid for 90 days. In addition, some boats such as houseboats require a Forest Service permit to be on the lake in excess of 30 days per calendar year. This restriction applies primarily to boats designed for overnight use.

Engine Noise

Engines must be muffled or otherwise prevented from exceeding 82dB (A) noise levels when recorded at a distance of 50 feet. Boats manufactured before January 1, 1987 may run at levels up to 86 dB (A). Authorities generally agree that un baffled exhaust pipes (stacks) and most water injected pipes cannot meet the above standards.

Warning Flags

Boaters should exercise caution when operating in areas where these flags are displayed.



Water Skiing, Tubing and Wakeboarding

For all activities where a person is being towed, there must be a person at least 12 years of age acting as an observer, in addition to the vessel operator. California state law requires the observer to display a ski flag (as shown above) to indicate any of the following conditions: a person in the water preparing to be towed, a tow line extending from the vessel, a downed person, or equipment in the vicinity of the vessel. The orange or red flag must be no less than 12 inches on each side and be in the shape of a square or rectangle.

Swimming

There are two designated swimming sites along the shoreline of Trinity Lake: Tannery Gulch and Clark Springs. The steep embankment and the heavy draw down during the recreation season make finding other flat spots for a suitable beach along the water's edge difficult. There are hundreds of coves and bays where visitors can find a safe, quiet place to swim. The practice of swimming while houseboating and powerboating in main channels and busy coves is not advised due to heavy traffic. It is difficult for oncoming boats to see people in the water.

- Swimming is prohibited within 200 feet of any launch ramp.

Swimming continued:

- Do not swim up to or near swimming fur bearing animals (otters, bear, deer, etc.) They could have young with, or near them, and they may become aggressive toward a swimmer.
- It is unsafe and a violation of State Law to swim, fish, dive from or sunbathe on any courtesy dock or within 200 feet of a boat launching ramp.

THINGS TO KNOW

Boat Launching

Both Forest Service and commercial ramps are available. Each of the five designated Forest Service ramps has a paved ramp, restrooms and garbage disposal facilities. A daily use fee is required. Not all ramps are open year-round. When lake levels are down more than 75 feet, some ramps become inoperable or are moved to an alternate location. There are a few ramps designed with long enough paved ramps to accommodate launching when the lake levels go down below 75 feet drawdown. These ramps are located at Minersville and Cedar Stock. Additional launching facilities may be available at the marinas.

Debris

Floating debris (such as limbs, logs and bark) generally enter the lake through rivers and streams. Following winter storms and during spring runoff, a considerable amount of debris may accumulate in Trinity Lake. The rising lake also "refloats" any debris beached on the shoreline from previous years. The larger debris can present a physical obstacle for boaters, while smaller debris can clog water intake ports in boat engine cooling systems, and can ruin props. Boat operators should maintain a constant watch and travel at reduced speeds when these conditions exist. Fairview and Trinity Center boat ramps, due to their location and the direction of prevailing winds during the spring months, are most likely to be impacted by debris. During the peak summer months, most debris is beached on the shoreline with little impact on public enjoyment or safety.

Sanitation

During the height of the summer, several floating restrooms are placed on the lake for the convenience of boaters. Floating restrooms are generally located in the Stuarts Fork Arm at Clark Springs and Ridgeville Island, also in the Digger, Feeny, and the Freethy Arms. The floating restrooms are normally moored in these areas from Memorial Day to Labor Day weekends. If lake levels go below 70 feet they are removed.

Boaters are encouraged to use these floating restrooms, the toilet facilities on board their boats, or the restrooms at the boat ramps, boat-in-campgrounds, and marinas. If necessary, human waste and toilet paper should be buried in a hole at least six inches deep and 200' from the high water mark (the line where the vegetation begins and the shoreline ends). Trinity Lake is a "no discharge" lake. Holding tanks must be sealed. **Emptying holding tanks anywhere other than in approved marina pumping stations, including in floating restrooms, is prohibited.**

Sanitation continued:

Garbage receptacles are located at picnic areas and boat ramps. Garbage is not collected at undeveloped sites, including boat-in campgrounds. Garbage should be disposed of in the nearest container.

Towing Services

There are no established commercial towing services on Trinity or Lewiston Lakes. Some marinas provide towing services for their moorage customers or to the public for a fee. It is not the policy of the Forest Service or the Trinity County Sheriff's Department to tow disabled vessels.

Fueling Up

During the summer months, most marinas and resorts carry fuel for boaters, along with other supplies. These businesses include:

- Trinity Alps Marina
- Trinity Lake Resort
- KOA
- Trinity Center Marina

Most of these businesses don't sell fuel during the winter so boaters are reminded to do some pre-planning to find out where fuel is available.

Bear Precautions

Black bears are common around Trinity Lake, and they have been known to get onto boats moored on or near shore. The potential for bear encounters can be reduced if visitors follow some common sense do's and don'ts:

1. Keep food, beverages, and toiletries in secure, sealed containers inside boat.
2. Keep a clean boat and a clean camp.
3. Double bag garbage securely and deposit in garbage receptacles at boat ramps as often as possible.
4. Do not feed or tease the bears. California Code of Regulations "Prohibits the feeding of big game mammals." Violators are subject to a \$1,000 fine, 6 months in jail, or both.

Campfire Permits

Campfire Permits are required year round when using hibachis, tiki torches, barbecues or campfires on the shoreline or on board when the boat is touching the shoreline, and when dispersed camping. A permit can be obtained from Forest Service personnel in the field or from the nearest Forest Service Station. Throughout the year, as fire danger increases, fire restrictions are put into effect. Strict compliance with fire restrictions is required. It is your responsibility to find out what these restrictions are by contacting the Weaverville Ranger Station at (530) 623-2121.

Boat Access Campgrounds

The Forest Service operates four boat-in campgrounds on Trinity Lake. Situated in more remote areas of the lake, these camps offer a unique camping experience away from populated areas. These camps have tables, campfire rings, and vault toilet facilities. Campers are advised to bring their own water or to boil any surface water for at least five minutes. Garbage service is not provided at boat-in campgrounds. Dispose of garbage at the boat ramps and **do not** leave it at the floating restrooms.

Dispersed Area Camps

Camping outside of a developed campground is permitted on Trinity Lake. To assure that the privilege of camping along the shoreline is not lost, help keep the area clean. Be sure and pack out all garbage when leaving because garbage service is not provided at these out of the way places. Dispose of garbage at the boat ramps and do not leave it at the floating restrooms.

GOOD PRACTICES

Practice "Person-Overboard" Skills

Practicing simple person-overboard (POB) drills with your crew and/or family members can save a life. A simulated drill might go something like this... One person yells loudly to alert everyone that a person has fallen overboard. The driver immediately shuts off the motor. The driver simulates sounding five or more short blasts on the horn (the danger signal) to alert other boats in the area of a POB. Someone is assigned to point at the POB until the driver says they've located the person. Only when the driver can see the POB should they start the engine and slowly approach from upwind or up current until the boat is close enough to toss the POB a flotation device to help them stay afloat. The engine is turned off again and the boat allowed to drift into a retrieval position with the POB on the driver's side of the boat. The drill is completed when the POB is brought safely into the boat.

Optional Equipment

- Waterproof flashlight
- First aid kit
- Fenders
- Plenty of warm clothing
- Sunglasses
- Tiki torches
- Anchor and line
- Sunscreen
- Tool kit
- Cellular phone
- Floating key chain

INFORMATION SOURCES

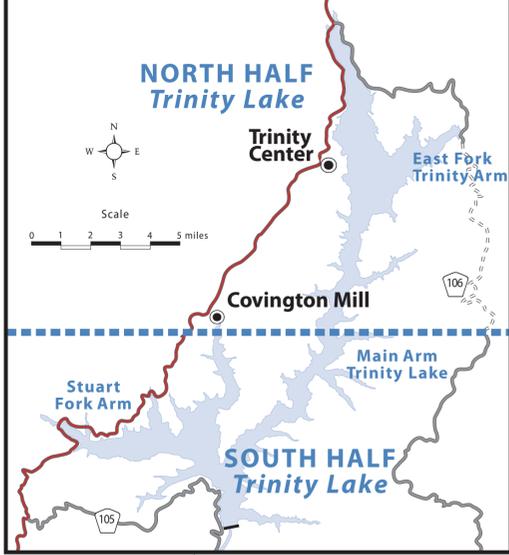
For information about boating, boating regulations, a boating safety self-study course, and the "ABCs of California Boating Law" booklet contact:

California Dept. of Boating and Waterways
 2000 Evergreen St., Suite 100
 Sacramento, CA 95815-3888
 1-888-326-2822
<http://www.dbw.ca.gov>

The Weaverville Ranger Station in Weaverville provides maps, brochures, campfire permits, daily lake level reports, commercial services information and other general information about the area:

- **USDA Forest Service**
National Recreation Area & Trinity River Management Units
Weaverville Ranger Station
360 West Main Street (Highway 299)
Weaverville, CA 96093
(530) 623-2121 (VOICE)
(530) 623-2124 (TDD)
- **Forest Service website:** <http://www.fs.usda.gov/stn/>
- **Trinity County Sheriff's Department**
PO Box 1228
Weaverville, CA 96093
(530) 623-2611

- **Trinity County Chamber of Commerce**
(530)-623-6101
1-800-487-4648



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