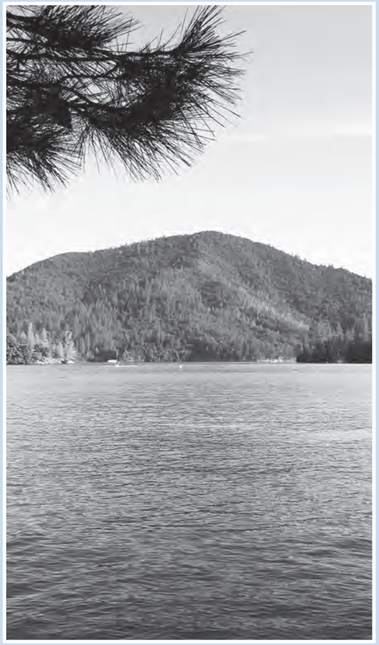
United States Department of Agriculture

Shasta Unit

Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area



Forest Service

Shasta Trinity National Forest

2014

Provided Free of Charge

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…

Visitor information such as maps, brochures, exhibits, campfire permits, daily lake level, marinas, resorts and other general information is available at the following locations:

- Shasta Lake Ranger District
  Mountain Gate/Wonderland Boulevard Exit #687
  (530) 275-1589 or (530) 275-1587
  www.fs.usda.gov/stnf
- Shasta Dam Visitor Center
  Free daily tours of the dam
  Shasta Dam Blvd. Exit #685
  Call (530) 275-4463
  www.usbr.gov/mp/ncao
- California Welcome Center
  Located at the Factory Outlets in Anderson along Interstate 5, exit # 667
  Call (530) 365-1180
  www.shastacascade.org
- Concessionaire: Shasta Recreation Company
  14538 Wonderland Blvd., exit #687
  Redding, CA 96003
  (530) 275-8113
  www.shastalakecamping.com

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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, wildlife viewing, 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. Shasta Lake filled completely for the first time in 1952.

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. 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.

Shasta Dam Tour The Bureau of Reclamation operates Shasta Dam to provide a variety of services including: irrigation, power generation, flood control, and recreation. For more information about Shasta Dam or the Visitor Center hours and guided tours, call 530-275-4463.

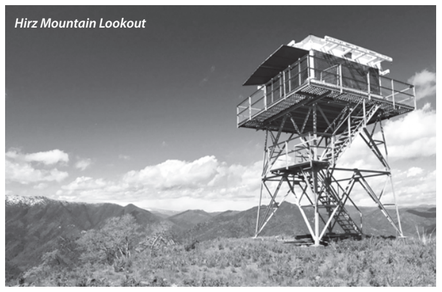
Wildlife Viewing Shasta Lake is home to the largest nesting population of bald eagles on one reservoir in the State of California. There are numerous sites along the shoreline, as well as out on the lake, to view these magnificent birds. Bald eagles are sensitive during their breeding season, which occurs between January and the end of July. You can help protect our National Symbol by obeying posted signs and protection zones. Please help us by enjoying them from a distance. Packers Bay, Jones Valley and Hirz Bay are prime locations from which to view a wide variety of wildlife including Shasta Lake's population of bald eagles, ospreys, and other migratory birds. Packers Bay is a designated wildlife viewing site.

Water-skiing, wakeboarding and tubing These water sports are popular everywhere on the lake, but the Sacramento Arm is particularly favored. The water there is generally calm and ideally suited for these sports. Boaters should always use caution in the Pit Arm where standing snags have not been removed, and around floating debris. Water-skiing, wake-boarding, and tubing are prohibited in posted areas. In addition, smaller coves and bays are posted with 5mph speed limits.

Fishing The waters of Shasta Lake provide excellent fishing opportunities. Popular spots are located where the major rivers and streams empty into the lake. Fishing is prohibited at boat ramps.

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 by 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. For more information, please contact the Bureau of Land Management at 530-224-2100, or



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 12 x12 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.recreation.gov

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 Fishermans Point near Shasta Dam, Bailey Cove, and Dekkas Rock. Day use areas have tables, grills, 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 9 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 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 9 marinas and a number of resorts offering rental cabins, motel accommodations, and RV parks and campgrounds with electric hook-ups, swimming pools, and showers. Additional information on Forest Service facilities and services offered at private resorts is available at the Shasta Lake Ranger Station or on the web at www.fs.usda.gov/stnf.

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 camp fire rings. Showers, electric hookups, and RV dump services are not available at Forest Service campgrounds at Shasta Lake. Reservations are available for many Forest Service campgrounds through the National Recreation Reservation Service (toll free) @ 1-877-444-6777 or on the web at www.recreation.gov.

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 headlights and traffic. These camps have tables, campfire rings, 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 bald eagle nesting sites or within 200 yards of any developed facility. Even so, there are over 300 miles of shoreline where 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.

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.

Federal Recreation Lands Pass Senior Passports (age 62 years or older) and Access Passports (for those with permanent disabilities, regardless of age) are a lifetime pass for citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. Coverage includes access to and use of, Bureau of Land Management, Fish & Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and USDA – Forest Service sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees. Also provides a 50% discount for pass owner on some expanded amenity fees such as camping and boat launching. There is a onetime fee for Senior Passports.

For more information on any of these passes, please check with the Federal Recreation Lands Pass website at: www.fs.fed.us/passespermits/rec-fee.shtml

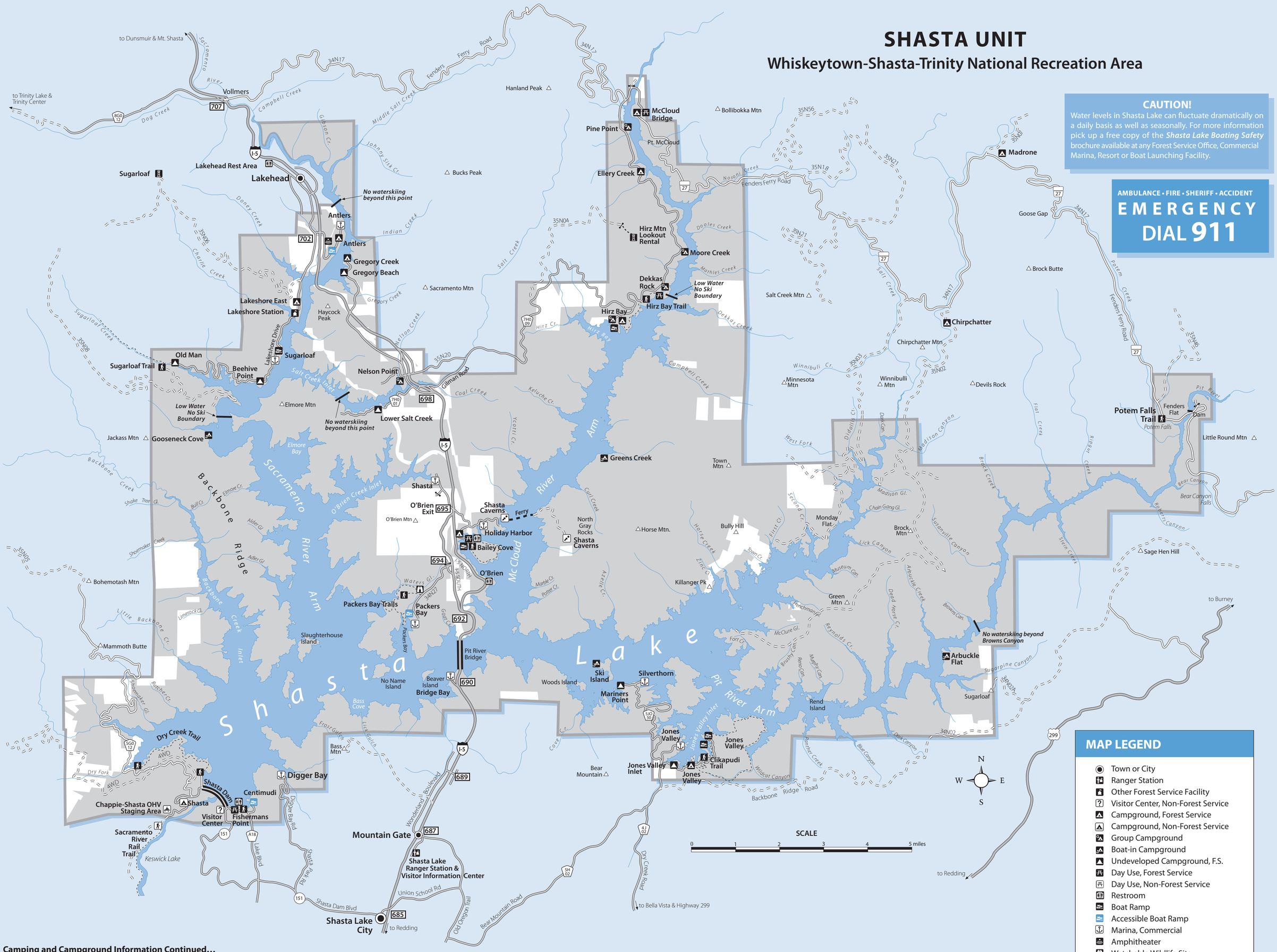
Baily Cove Trailhead

SHASTA UNIT

Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area

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.

AMBULANCE • FIRE • SHERIFF • ACCIDENT
EMERGENCY
DIAL 911



MAP LEGEND

- Town or City
- Ranger Station
- Other Forest Service Facility
- Visitor Center, Non-Forest Service
- Campground, Forest Service
- Campground, Non-Forest Service
- Group Campground
- Boat-in Campground
- Undeveloped Campground, F.S.
- Day Use, Forest Service
- Day Use, Non-Forest Service
- Restroom
- Boat Ramp
- Accessible Boat Ramp
- Marina, Commercial
- Amphitheater
- Watchable Wildlife Site
- Trail, Forest Service
- Trail, Non-Forest Service
- Lookout
- Point of Interest, Commercial
- Primary Highway
- 689 Freeway Exit #
- Paved Road
- Improved Road, Dirt
- Unimproved Road (not maintained for passenger cars)
- Trail
- Locked Gate
- Private Land within Shasta Unit - Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area

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 tables, campfire rings, 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 (NRRS) @ 1-877-444-6777 or on the web at www.recreation.gov. Several of the public campgrounds in the Shasta Lake area are on a first come, first serve basis.

Length of stay Campground stays are limited to 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 when using campstoves, tiki torches, hibachis, barbecues, or campfires outside of a designated campground. Campfire permits are available, at no cost, at any Forest Service, CAL Fire or Bureau of Land Management office. *Special Limitations:* Some areas have special limitations regarding campfire use. It is your responsibility to find out what these limitations are. The best way to do this is by contacting a local agency office in the area you intend to visit. Throughout the year, as fire danger increases, fire restrictions are put into effect. Strict compliance with fire restrictions is required.

Some Things To Know

Firewood The gathering of dead and down wood for campfires is allowed. No permit is necessary. All wood must be used or left at campsite.

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 for Houseboating and Camping" explains what they are and can be obtained at the Shasta Lake Ranger Station or on the web at www.fs.usda.gov/stnf.

Privately Owned Houseboats Authorization is needed to have a privately owned houseboat on Shasta Lake for more than 30 days per calendar year. For more information, please contact the Shasta Lake Ranger Station at (530) 275-1587.

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.

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.