



Sparkling water. Cool forests. Wildlife. Gold! For many years these treasures enticed people to the area. In 1965, to preserve this place of beauty, Congress authorized 42,000 acres as Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Stop for a minute and look around. Are the treasures still here? We invite you to explore—discover your own treasures at Whiskeytown.

Whiskeytown Lake and Shasta Bally © DARRYN DARBOUGH

The Treasures of Whiskeytown

Whiskeytown Lake nestles among the hills and valleys of the Klamath Mountains. Geologic forces created steep and rugged terrain. Heavy winter rains, long dry summers, and frequent wildfires create diverse habitats, from old-growth forests to oak woodlands and chaparral. Over 1,100 plant and animal species, many with colorful names, live here: gray pine and blue oak, black bear and rainbow trout, purple finch and yellow warbler.

Native Americans found their own treasures here—acorns, fish, deer, and other plants and animals—that sustained their way of life for thousands of years. The discovery of gold nearby in 1848, only months after it was found farther south at Sutter's Mill,

brought fortune hunters. Today we value this area's water, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and the power-generating facilities of the Central Valley Project. Will these treasures last? That depends on how hard we all work to protect the park.

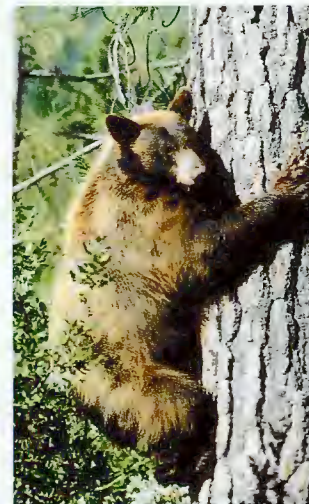
President John F. Kennedy dedicated Whiskeytown Dam in 1963, noting that when "we set aside recreational areas, we can be sure they will be used." But, he asked, "What kind of a country will [future Americans] find? How much recreation will be possible for them? I think if we make the right decisions now, they will be grateful to us . . ." Why not join in? Help us preserve Whiskeytown for you and for future generations.



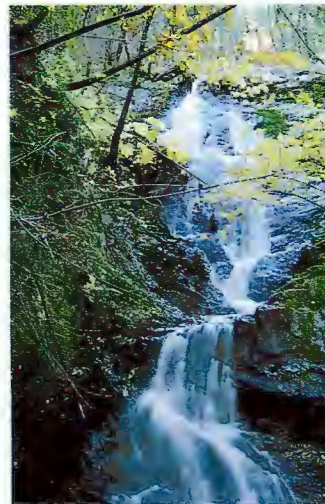
Brandy Creek.



Exciting ride on Shasta Bally.



Bears are agile tree climbers.



Boulder Creek Falls.



Enjoying the lake.

Enjoy Your Park

Most people come to Whiskeytown for the reservoir's cool water. You can also visit historic water ditches and the Camden House, from the Gold Rush era. You can walk to waterfalls, stroll through old-growth forests, and hike or drive a four-wheel-drive vehicle to the summit of Shasta Bally. Explore your park—its lake, historic areas, and mountain landscape.

On the Lake Whiskeytown Lake features a 36-mile shoreline and a surface area of 3,200 acres. The reservoir remains full in summer and provides exceptional water recreation in a beautiful mountain setting.

Activities Boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, sailing, scuba diving, swimming, wading, water skiing, wakeboarding, and windsurfing.

On the Land About 39,000 acres surround the lake. Mountain trails through shaded corridors and year-round creeks offer a break from summer heat.

Activities Birding, camping, hiking, gold panning, horseback riding, mountain biking, nature study, photography, picnicking, sightseeing, and wildlife viewing.

Wintu



Wintu elders share traditions with their children.

For centuries Wintu Indians enjoyed a prosperous life here. They gathered acorns, hunted elk and deer, and fished for trout and salmon. Skilled at crafts, Wintu fashioned tools from obsidian and wove baskets so tightly they could cook liquids in them. Although the Gold Rush era nearly destroyed the Wintu, their heritage lives today.

Gold Rush and Early Settlers



Panning for gold is popular here. Try it!

For most '49ers the big strike was always in the next shovelful. Those who combined hard work with luck, and succeeded, were exceptions. Charles Camden and Levi Tower became friends and partners in San Francisco in spring 1850. They sailed in search of the Trinity River's mouth, then traveled overland to Whiskeytown's northern diggings. Camden built a one-room cabin and a mining operation, sawmill,



Tower House Hotel (destroyed), 1912.

and water ditches. Later he erected toll roads and bridges. Around the cabin, he built a much larger home, Camden House, the park's only surviving historic structure. Here visitors can learn about life during the California Gold Rush.

Tower made his fortune by providing food and shelter to miners. He then invested his profits in the 21-room Tower House luxury hotel, gardens, and orchards.

Central Valley Project



Whiskeytown's overflow spillway.

In 1935 the Central Valley Project began to move water from northern California to drier areas farther south. At Whiskeytown engineers blasted a 10½-mile-long, 17½-foot-diameter tunnel through solid granite to divert water from the Trinity to the Sacramento river system. The resulting lake brought many benefits, like recreational opportunities, flood control, hydroelectric power, and a dependable water supply.

A World-Class Watershed?



Largemouth bass (left) and rainbow trout (right) flourish here.

When a watershed is healthy, the ground is like a sponge. It absorbs winter's heavy rains. Spring-fed creeks cascade into rivers and lakes. Only occasional heavy storms cause mudslides or sediment runoff.

But at Whiskeytown, all is not well. Past logging and mining damaged the watershed, reduced vegetation, altered drainage courses, and eroded soils. Mudslides and rain torrents—carrying

sediment—occur more often, reducing water quality and fish habitat.

Can nature fix itself? Maybe, if we can wait decades or centuries. But can we wait? We need clean water now. The National Park Service places a high priority on restoring this watershed to meet the needs of its community of people, plants, fish, and other wildlife.

ILLUSTRATION NPS / DAN FEASER

Exploring Whiskeytown

Visitor Center Open daily, the visitor center offers information, publications, maps, a bookstore, and exhibits.

Interpretive Activities Rangers offer walks, talks, kayak tours, and evening programs in summer. Check bulletin boards, park website, or at the visitor center for scheduled activities.

Water Sports You may kayak, swim, boat, water-ski, scuba dive, sail, and canoe. • Scuba divers must be certified and have proper equipment. • Federal and state boating rules apply. Ask for *Regulations and California Boating Tips*. Stay alive. Wear a lifejacket. Observe all restrictions. **Note:** Personal watercraft (PWC), like jet skis, are prohibited. • Launch ramps are at Oak Bottom, Whiskey Creek, and Brandy Creek. • Oak Bottom has two small stores, a snack bar (summer), and a marina with boat rentals. • Brandy Creek has a lifeguarded beach, a small store, and kayak and paddle boat rentals (summer).

Hiking, Mountain Biking, Horseback Riding The land around Whiskeytown Lake provides many opportunities for these activities. Mountain biking and horseback riding are allowed on most trails. Get trail use information at the visitor center or park website.

Fishing Fishing is permitted from a boat or the shore. Species include rainbow and brown trout; largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass; and kokanee salmon. California fishing license required. Inquire about park-specific restrictions.

Gold Panning Register for gold panning at the visitor center (\$1.00 fee). Only recreational gold panning is allowed. Ask for details.

Camping Oak Bottom tent campground has fire grates and central restrooms. Facilities at Oak Bottom RV campground include a central restroom, dump station, and water but no hookups. Oak Bottom beach restrooms have hot showers

(fee). Brandy Creek has RV camping (self-contained units only); dump station and water provided; no hookups or restrooms. 14-day camping limit applies May 15 to September 15; 30-day limit applies the rest of the year.

Primitive/Backcountry Camping Whiskeytown’s primitive campgrounds—permit required (fee)—have fire rings, tables, food storage lockers, and restrooms (except at Coggins Park). Backcountry sites and backpack camping require backcountry use permit (free). Ask for camping regulations when you get your permit.

Explore the Backcountry The backcountry has many miles of trails and unpaved dirt and gravel roads. Four-wheel-drive vehicles are recommended on all dirt and gravel roads. Motorized vehicles must be street legal and are prohibited off-road. Use caution and common sense on these roads. If you have vehicle trouble, stay on the road when going for help. Contact the visitor

center for winter closures, current road conditions, and information about trails.

Fees Buy daily, weekly, and annual passes and gold panning and primitive camping permits at the visitor center. Whiskeytown accepts all National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands passes. Display passes on your dashboard.

Regulations and Safety See the safety tips in the park newspaper. Know the regulations: your safety is your responsibility! • Fires are allowed only in fire grates. Fire use may be restricted if fire danger is extreme. • Pets must be leashed at all times. Pets are not allowed on beaches or at picnic areas at Oak Bottom, Brandy Creek, East Beach, and Whiskey Creek Group Picnic Area. • Alcohol and smoking are also prohibited at the above beaches and picnic areas. • Never swim alone. Watch children closely in and near the water. • Don’t feed park animals. • Store food in bear-proof lockers or out of sight in a secured

vehicle. • All natural and cultural resources are protected by federal law. • For firearms regulations check the park website.

Accessibility We strive to make our facilities, services, and programs accessible to all. For information check our website.

Emergencies call 911

More Information
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
PO Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA 96095
530-242-3400 park headquarters
530-246-1225 visitor center
www.nps.gov/whis

Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area is one of over 400 parks in the National Park System. To learn more about national parks, visit www.nps.gov.



Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area is in northern California. Shasta and Trinity units are administered by the US Forest Service. Whiskeytown Unit is administered by the National Park Service.

