



The Whiskeytown Nugget

The Official 2015 Guide to
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

March 31st, 2015

March 13th, 1963



NPS

Welcome to Whiskeytown!



I WANT TO PERSONALLY WELCOME YOU TO Whiskeytown! This year Whiskeytown National Recreation Area turns 50 years old, marking a half century of recreation. The park provides great facilities and quality recreational opportunities for everyone. Last year alone, over 850,000 visitors came to Whiskeytown to play, relax, or enjoy the diverse natural and cultural resources the park offers.

Over the past 50 years, millions of people have spent summer days on the park's

beaches, experienced the excitement of water skiing or wake boarding for the first time, and enjoyed the pleasure of interacting with the natural world by kayaking or watching sailing boats cruise across the lake waters. Think back to all the deer, birds, bears and perhaps even mountain lions observed during hiking adventures to Whiskeytown's picturesque waterfalls, or all the people that competed in foot races, swimming events and mountain bike races over the decades. Children who dove into the lake in 1963, days after President Kennedy spoke at the dam, are now watching their grandkids build their first sand castles at Oak Bottom Beach. The park staff, volunteers and park partners are working hard to ensure your visits over the next 50 years continue to be filled with happy experiences like these, to add to your family's album of memories.

As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, we also look forward to the National Park Service turning 100 years old in August

2016! Over 400 National Park Service sites are found across the nation, each one representing some of America's finest landscapes, rich historical stories or important cultural sites iconic to the creation of this nation. The mission of the National Park Service and Whiskeytown National Recreation Area is to "Conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same, in such manner and by such means, as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Whiskeytown is a special place with a rich history, and we hope that both this generation and the next continue to enjoy the park and use it to relax, exercise, learn and spend quality time in nature with family and friends. So have fun, be safe, and be sure to wish Whiskeytown a happy 50th birthday!

Jim Milestone
Superintendent

2-3 Things you need to know

This compilation of essential park information is based on questions frequently asked by visitors and organized alphabetically to help you quickly find what you are looking for.

4-5 Fiftieth Anniversary Dedication

This year marks our 50th birthday! The park was established November 8, 1965. Flip to these pages to read recollections from our visitors, learn about some historical milestones, or complete a fun crossword puzzle.

6-7 Camping and trail information

If you are planning an outdoor adventure, flip to page 4 for a listing of the park's extensive trail system and campgrounds that includes essential information for each. A map will orient you to the park.

8-9 What can I do in the time I have and what's going on in the park?

Not sure what to do during your park visit? Turn to page 8 for a helpful guide that will assist you in planning your recreational activities according to the time you have, as well as activity suggestions for the different seasons.

10-11 Kids activity and upcoming events

Want to become a Junior Ranger but don't have time to attend a program? Turn to page 10 and fill out this activity page and earn your badge! Also, throughout the year we have many special events, check page 11 for descriptions.

12 Ranger-led programs

Whiskeytown offers a variety of FREE Ranger-led Programs during the summer season. These programs are fun and family-friendly. A program schedule and description is found on page 12.

Your Fee Dollars at Work



ON JUNE 1, 2015, WHISKEYTOWN INCREASED ENTRANCE AND OTHER PARK FEES FOR THE FIRST TIME since 1997. A seven-day entrance pass is \$10, annual park pass \$40, Dry Creek Group Campground \$80 per site/night, Brandy Creek RV Campground and primitive campsites \$15, and Whiskey Creek Group Picnic Area \$50 per site/day. "We are committed to keeping the park affordable, but we also want to provide visitors with the best possible experience," said Whiskeytown NRA's Park Superintendent Jim Milestone. "The money from camping/entrance fees is used to improve visitor facilities, infrastructure, and visitor services."

The fees will be used to decrease our \$27 million dollar backlog of identified deferred maintenance projects. Additional revenue raised by a fee increase will be used to replace the Oak Bottom Beach restroom and changing facility, improve and expand our 51 year old visitor center, renovate the beach stores and swim beaches, rehabilitate park picnic areas, renovate Oak Bottom Campground bathrooms, preserve historic structures, develop and produce park interpretive videos, renovate informational kiosks, provide improved signage, and many other projects that will improve the park experience for visitors.

All types of passes may be purchased at the visitor center. To purchase a seven-day pass, there are pay-by-envelope stations at various locations throughout the park. The online purchase of an annual pass, seven-day pass, or gold panning permit will soon be available online at the pay.gov website. Check the park website for updates.

2015 Passes



Whiskeytown Annual Pass
\$40 - Valid for one year from month of purchase

Interagency Annual Pass
\$80 - Valid for one year from month of purchase

Military Annual Pass
No charge for active duty service members and their dependents

Senior Pass
\$10 - 62 years and older - Valid for a lifetime

Access Pass
No charge - permanent disability - Valid for a lifetime

Lassen Annual Pass
\$40 - Valid one year from month of purchase



The National Park Service Mission

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

Whiskeytown Lake was created as part of the Central Valley Project to provide water for agricultural, municipal, and industrial use, as well as for the maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat. In addition, Whiskeytown Lake has two hydroelectric power generation stations, and the earthen dam provides flood control downstream of its location. The dam was completed in early February 1963, and dedicated by President John F. Kennedy on September 28, 1963.

The 3,200-acre reservoir and 39,000 acres of surrounding habitat became Whiskeytown National Recreation Area in 1965. Within its boundaries, the park preserves and protects an incredible diversity of flora and fauna, as well as the cultural history of the Wintu Native Americans and the California Gold Rush. The park also provides a wide variety of year-round recreation opportunities for over 850,000 annual visitors.

Park Information

Superintendent

Jim F. Milestone

Visitor Center

(530) 246-1225

Park Headquarters

(530) 242-3410 Fax (530) 246-5154

Park Ranger Dispatch Office

(530) 242-3431

Emergency Phone

911

Mailing Address

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
P.O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA 96095

Website

www.nps.gov/whis

Whiskeytown Nugget

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Park Profile

Origin of the "Whiskeytown" name

The park is named after a mining town that was flooded to create the reservoir.

Highest point: 6,199 ft. Shasta Bally

Lowest point: 860 ft. on Clear Creek near the southeast park boundary

Lake elevation: 1,209 ft. at full pool and 1,198 ft. during the winter draw-down

Park acreage: 42,000 acres

Lake: 3,200 surface acres

Shoreline: 36 miles

Lake water storage capacity

241,000 acre feet when at full pool

Whiskeytown Dam

The earthen dam is 281.5 ft. high with a crest length of 4,000 ft.

Things You Need to Know



Visitor Center

The Visitor Center is a great place to start when you arrive in the park. The knowledgeable staff and volunteers will help you maximize your visit. The visitor center is located at the intersection of John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive and CA Highway 299. The hours of operation are 10:00 am to 4:00 pm daily year-round, except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's holidays. The visitor center provides information, a variety of use permits, natural and cultural history exhibits, an ADA accessible California native plant garden, as well as books, maps, and souvenir items for sale. In addition, accessible restrooms, first aid, an Automated External Defibrillator, and drinking water are all available here.

Accessibility

Park headquarters, restrooms and the visitor center are ADA accessible, as well as the Native Plant Garden located directly behind the visitor center. The park has three ADA accessible trails, including the paved Crystal Creek Falls Trail, a paved portion of the Brandy Creek trail, and the section of the Guardian Rock Trail from Horse Camp leading to the spectacular Guardian Rock Vista Point, which has some uneven surfaces. In addition, two accessible picnic sites are available at Oak Bottom and Brandy Creek beaches. Accessible fishing piers are located at Whiskey Creek Picnic Area and at Oak Bottom Marina near the amphitheater.

Amenities

Basic food and camping items can be purchased at the Oak Bottom Campground Store, between 8 am and 4 pm during the winter and 7 pm in the summer. The Oak Bottom Marina store is open on request over the winter and from 8 am to 8 pm during the summer. Fishing and boating supplies, such as motorboat fuel and oil, are available in this store along with snacks, beverages, ice, ice cream, sunblock and miscellaneous merchandise. The Brandy Creek Beach Store opened in 2014 and a new store will open at Oak Bottom Beach, both selling a variety of sandwiches, water toys, beverages and snacks. Both beach stores are open between Memorial Day and Labor Day from 11 am – 6 pm.

Alcohol

Alcohol is prohibited on the park's four designated public swim beaches and parking areas: Brandy Creek, Oak Bottom, Whiskey Creek Group Picnic Area, and East Beach. The legal blood alcohol level for the operators of vehicles and motorboats cannot exceed 0.08, but boat operators and drivers may be impaired and incapable of safe operation at lesser levels.

All-terrain vehicles

ATVs and off-road vehicle travel are prohibited in the park.

Backpacking

Backpacking Permits and regulations are available at the visitor center at no cost.



Matt Switzer

Bicycling

Bicycles are permitted on all trails except the Camden Water Ditch, Shasta Divide, Davis Gulch, and Crystal Creek Water Ditch trails. Mountain biking trail information is available at the visitor center. Helmets, gloves, and eye protection are recommended for all riders. Maintain a safe speed of 15 mph for road and trail conditions and stay within your level of riding experience. Cyclists must obey all traffic regulations. Hikers and equestrians always have the right-of-way.

Boating

There are no boat launching fees at Whiskeytown Lake, but visitors must display a valid entrance pass (see "Fees/passes"). There are boat launches at Brandy Creek Marina, Oak Bottom, and Whiskey Creek. Oak Bottom Marina rents a variety of motor boats. Single and double kayak rentals are available at both Oak Bottom and Brandy Creek Beach. Please call (530) 359-2671 or visit www.whiskeytownmarinas.com. Motor boats with two and four-stroke engines are allowed on Whiskeytown Lake and must observe posted no-wake areas. Boats cannot exceed 36 feet in length. Occupied vessels can remain on the water overnight provided they move at least one-half linear mile each hour. Overnight camping on boats is prohibited. For your safety and the safety of others, please be aware of other lake users. Non-motorized craft always have the right-of-way. The use of personal watercraft is prohibited in all areas. Vessels are subject to inspection by rangers at any time to examine licenses, documents, and compliance with regulations pertaining to safety equipment, vessel capacity, sanitation, and pollution and noise abatement devices. Stay alive! Wear a life jacket!

Bookstore

The bookstore, located at the Visitor Center, is managed by Western National Parks Association (WNPA) whose mission is to promote the preservation of the national park system and its resources. A variety of books, maps, guides, postcards, souvenirs, and other items can be purchased here. Local products are available, as well as books written by local authors. In addition to stock on hand, WNPA has an even larger selection of items available for purchase from their online store at www.wnpa.org. WNPA members receive a 15% discount and educators receive a 20% discount on all bookstore items. A portion of the proceeds from each sale is donated to the park to support education, interpretation, and research programs.

Camping

With the exception of Backpacking Permits, camping is authorized only in the designated campgrounds of the park. Please see pages 4 and 5 for campground locations, fees, and available services.

Fees/passes

The entrance fee for the park is \$10 per vehicle for a seven-day pass. Whiskeytown annual pass costs \$40. In addition, the annual pass from Lassen Volcanic National Park, the Interagency Annual Pass, Senior Pass, Access Pass, and the Golden Age or Access Passports are all honored at Whiskeytown. All passes must be displayed on the driver's side of the dashboard whenever a vehicle is parked within the park boundary. A pass is not required while visiting the Whiskeytown Cemetery. Fee Free days in 2015 can be found on page 11.

Firearms

Federal law permits people who can legally possess firearms under federal and State of California laws to *possess* firearms in the park. It is the visitor's responsibility to understand and comply with all applicable state and federal firearms laws. Firearms are prohibited in most federal buildings in the park including the visitor center and park headquarters. Firearms may only be *used* in the park during hunting seasons in authorized areas, and pursuant to the lawful taking of game species in compliance with California laws and regulations.

Fires

Campfires are only permitted in the established fire grates at picnic areas and campsites. Fires must never be left unattended and must be properly extinguished upon departure. Dead wood may only be collected from the ground for personal use while in the park. Collecting live vegetation or standing dead wood is prohibited. The use of self-contained barbecues, gas and charcoal, is permitted as long as they are attended at all times and properly extinguished.

Fishing

California Department of Fish and Game regulations apply at Whiskeytown. Fishing is allowed year-round in the lake; however, the streams feeding Whiskeytown can only be fished from the last Saturday in April through November 15. The nearest location to purchase a fishing license is Tops Fresh Market, six miles east of the visitor center.

Gold panning

Recreational gold panning is permitted in the park. A valid annual gold panning permit is required for all persons 17 and older. Gold panning regulations, as well as the \$1 annual permit, can be obtained at the visitor center.

Hiking

Hiking can be enjoyed year-round at Whiskeytown. With over seventy miles of trails in the park, most of which can be ridden by mountain bikers and equestrians, there is something for every ability level and interest (please see page 4 for trail information). Be prepared for changing conditions while enjoying the park's backcountry and be sure to carry an adequate amount of water for each person. Summer daytime temperatures often exceed 100°F.

Horses & pack animals

Horses, burros, mules, and camelids may be used on designated multiple-use trails in the park. Horse Camp primitive campground is accessible to vehicles towing horse trailers and is the only location in the park where camping with horses is allowed. There are two sites available and a potable water spigot.

Lost and found

Lost and found items can be reported, turned in, or claimed at the visitor center.

Mines

Old mine workings in the park are dangerous and unstable. When hiking cross country, be on the lookout for uncovered mining shafts. Stay out, and stay alive!

Noise levels

In order to keep natural soundscapes free from loud human-source noises, the following regulations apply: a vessel cannot exceed 75 decibels (dB equivalence of a dishwasher or vacuum cleaner) and other noise levels from motorized equipment or electronic devices cannot exceed 60 decibels (conversational level) from a distance of 50 feet. In addition, noises below these established levels are prohibited if they are deemed unreasonable. Quiet hours in the park are from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am.

Parking

A valid park pass or Seven-Day Entrance Pass must be displayed on the driver's side of the dashboard whenever a vehicle is parked within the park boundary. Please see the "Fees/ passes" section for more information on valid passes. Visitors can park in any public parking spaces, as well as along paved roadways, provided the parked vehicle is completely off the asphalt without trampling vegetation and is in compliance with all posted signage. Parking in front of gates or blocking right-of-way access is prohibited.

Pets

Pets are allowed in the park and on trails, provided they are leashed at all times. Leash length is not to exceed 6 feet. Pets are prohibited on all of the park's designated public swim beaches: Brandy Creek, Oak Bottom, East Beach, and Whiskey Creek Group Picnic Area. Pets cannot be left unattended at any time.

Picnicking

Picnic sites are available in developed areas of the park including: Brandy Creek Beach and Marina, Oak Bottom Beach, Whiskey Creek Boat Launch, Judge Francis Carr Powerhouse, Crystal Creek Falls, and the Clear Creek Picnic Area off of Trinity Mountain Road. No reservations can be made for these sites and no area can be held for the exclusive use of any group. Inquire at the visitor center for the location of ADA accessible picnic sites. For groups of 20 or more, reservations can be made for day use sites at Whiskey Creek Group Picnic Area by calling 1-877-444-6777.

Sharing the park

With the exceptions of Special Use Permits and the areas of the park that can be legally reserved, no visitor or group of visitors can hold or claim exclusive use rights of any area in the park, including the islands, shoreline, and coves of the lake. Please help us to provide for the enjoyment of all visitors by sharing the park.

Showers

Hot showers are available in the restroom at Oak Bottom Beach for a small fee. Free, cold outdoor showers are available during the summer months at Oak Bottom and Brandy Creek beaches.

Smoking

To protect the health of park visitors and wildlife, smoking is prohibited on the park's four designated swim beaches: Brandy Creek, Oak Bottom, East Beach, and Whiskey Creek Group Picnic Area. Whiskeytown National Recreation Area is federal land; the possession and use of marijuana is prohibited, even with a valid California Proposition 215 card.

Special Use Permits

Special events such as weddings, sporting events, and commercial filming are permissible by obtaining a Special Use Permit. Activities must be appropriate and have a minimal impact on other park visitors. Applications and information are available on the park website. For more information, please contact the Chief Ranger at (530) 242-3413.

Swimming

There are four designated public swim beaches in the park: Brandy Creek Beach, East Beach, Whiskey Creek Group Picnic Area, and Oak Bottom Beach. Only Brandy Creek Beach has lifeguards during the summer months. Swimming is prohibited inside the buoy-enclosed area around the Glory Hole and Carr Powerhouse, within 300 feet of any boat launch or mooring facility, and within 100 feet of the Whiskey Creek Bridge on CA highway 299. Open-water swimming is dangerous—swim close to shore or have a spotter when swimming in open water. Rope swings are prohibited.

Trash

Please pack out all trash when hiking and dispose of it in a responsible manner. There are recycling facilities at the visitor center, many parking areas, and the park's designated swim beaches.

Vehicles

Motorists must obey all posted speed limits. Vehicles are only allowed on designated roadways. Be alert for pedestrians, bicyclists, and wildlife on the roadways. Use special care while driving at dawn and dusk when wildlife is most active. State and federal vehicle laws apply within the park. Make sure to display a valid park pass on your vehicle's driver-side dashboard while parked.

Water

Potable water is available at the following locations: the visitor center; Brandy Creek Beach, Marina, and RV Campground; Oak Bottom Beach, Marina, Amphitheater, Tent and RV Campground; Carr Powerhouse; Horse Camp; and Whiskey Creek Boat Launch. Water from any natural source should be purified.

Wildlife

Please do your part to keep the park's wildlife wild. Do not feed or harass wildlife. Enjoy all animals from a safe distance and try not to disturb their natural behaviors. Use the bear-proof storage lockers for all scented items and never leave food unattended!

Sun and Moon

Sunrise 2015	Lunar Phase	Sunset 2015
05/01 6:07a 05/15 5:52a	The New Moon 5/17, 6/16, 7/15, 8/14, 9/12, 10/12, 11/11, 12/11, 1/9, 2/8, 3/8, 4/7	05/01 8:06p 05/15 8:20p
06/01 5:41a 06/15 5:38a	Waxing Crescent	06/01 8:35p 06/15 8:43p
06/21 5:39a ^a		06/21 8:44p ^a
07/01 5:43a 07/15 5:52a		07/01 8:45p 07/15 8:39p
08/01 6:07a 08/15 6:21a	The First Quarter 5/25, 6/24, 7/23, 8/22, 9/21, 10/1, 10/20 11/18, 12/18, 1/19, 2/14, 3/15, 4/13	08/01 8:25p 08/15 8:07p
09/01 6:38a 09/15 6:51a		09/01 7:41p 09/15 7:18p
09/23 6:59a ^b	Waxing Gibbous	09/23 7:05p ^b
10/01 7:07a 10/15 7:22a		10/01 6:51p 10/15 6:29p
11/01 6:41a 11/15 6:57a	The Full Moon	11/01 5:06p 11/15 4:52p
12/01 7:15a 12/15 7:27a	5/3, 6/2, 7/1, 8/29, 9/27, 10/27, 11/25, 12/25, 1/23, 2/22, 3/23, 4/4, 4/21	12/01 4:43p 12/15 4:44p
12/22 7:31a ^c	Waning Gibbous	12/22 4:47p ^c
2016	2016	
01/01 7:33a 01/15 7:31a		01/01 4:54p 01/15 5:08p
02/01 7:19a 02/15 7:03a	The Last Quarter	02/01 5:28a 02/15 5:45p
03/01 6:41a 03/08 DST 03/15 7:19a	5/11, 6/9, 7/8, 8/6, 9/5, 10/4, 11/3, 12/2, 1/1, 3/1, 3/31 4/29	03/01 6:02p 03/08 DST 03/15 7:18p
03/20 7:10a ^d	Waning Crescent	03/20 7:23p ^d
04/01 6:51a 04/15 6:29a		04/01 7:36p 04/15 7:50p

a. Summer Solstice
b. Fall Equinox
c. Winter Solstice
d. Spring Equinox
Total Lunar Eclipse

† The most favorable viewing conditions are during the last dark hour before dawn.
‡ New moons (day 0) are best for viewing meteor activity due to the absence of moonlight. Crescent moons (1-6 days and 22-29 days) also provide good viewing. Full moons (14 days) are the least favorable as light will wash out visible meteors. Ideal meteor viewing conditions are between the waning crescent and waxing crescent moon phases.
* The "r" value is the overall brightness of each shower. The "r" value usually ranges from 2.0 (bright) to 3.5 (faint).

Annual Meteor Showers 2015

Shower	Viewing Period	Peak Activity	Number per hour	r*	Velocity	Best Viewing †	Moon Age ‡
Delta Aquarids	Jul 21 - Aug 23	Jul 30	20	3.2	25.5 mi/sec	3:00 am	22
Perseids	Jul 13 - Aug 26	Aug 11, 12	60	2.6	37.6 mi/sec	4:00 am	06
Orionids	Oct 04 - Nov 14	Oct 21, 22	20	2.5	41.6 mi/sec	5:00 am	18
Leonids	Nov 05 - Nov 30	Nov 17, 18	40	2.5	43.9 mi/sec	5:00 am	15
Puppis/Velids	Dec 01 - Dec 15	Dec 07	10	2.9	24.9 mi/sec	4:00 am	05
Geminids	Dec 04 - Dec 16	Dec 13, 14	65	2.6	21.8 mi/sec	1:00 am	11
Ursids	Dec 17 - Dec 23	Dec 21, 22	10	3.0	20.3 mi/sec	5:00 am	18
Quadrantids	Jan 01 - Jan 10	Jan 2, 3	80	2.1	25.5 mi/sec	5:00 am	1, 2
Lyrids	Apr 16 - Apr 25	Apr 21, 22	20	2.1	29.1 mi/sec	4:00 am	21
Eta Aquarids	Apr 19 - May 26	May 5, 6	15	2.4	41.6 mi/sec	4:00 am	7

Average Temperature and Precipitation

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average High/Low °F	54/38	58/40	63/43	69/47	78/54	87/61	97/66	96/64	90/60	77/52	61/43	53/38
Record High/Low °F	79/17	82/18	92/26	97/28	104/32	110/39	113/47	115/47	112/40	104/21	93/25	81/11
Average Precipitation	10.53"	9.54"	9.00"	4.37"	2.53"	1.11"	0.45"	0.27"	0.99"	3.09"	8.03"	9.80"

Happy 50th Birthday Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

Established November 8, 1965



July 4, 1968- Boat launching and trailer campers at Oak Bottom Marina



(Left to right) Superintendent Leon Mitchell, NPS Regional Director John Rutter, Congressman Biz Johnson, James K. Carr, and BOR Regional Director Robert Pafford Jr. at Carr Powerhouse



A view of workers in the Clear Creek Tunnel



Clear Creek bridge before the valley was flooded

A lot can happen in 50 years



1965
President Lyndon Johnson signed legislation establishing Whiskeytown National Recreation Area on **November 8, 1965**. The first Whiskeytown staff is shown above accompanied by superintendent Leon Mitchell in 1966.

1971
Shasta County Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Raymond V. Darby submits a proposal to turn Whiskeytown Environmental Camp into a center for outdoor education serving the needs of many educational groups and agencies. The Whiskeytown Environmental School continues this mission today.



1978
Ray Faust, served as the second park Superintendent for 17 years and implemented many policies that have shaped how the park is used today.

1980
Superintendent Faust banned alcohol from swim beaches, reducing the instances of DUI's and improving visitor safety and experience.

1981
The Camden House, having been unoccupied since the 1940s, fell into disrepair. Park staff began restoring the structure to its original unique form.



1986
Whiskeytown published its first newsletter, the "Whiskeytown Generator" now known as the "Whiskeytown Nugget."

1990
The parks Bald Eagle population rebounded with two breeding pairs of Bald Eagles. One of the chicks was sent to San Fransico to reintroduce elsewhere.

1995
Dave Pugh, the third park Superintendent, served for five years. During his tenure the popular Crystal Creek Water Ditch Trail was established.

1997
At 1 AM on January 1, a major debris flow sent rocks, mud, snow and water down Brandy Creek and Paige Boulder Creek, damaging bridges and leaving Brandy Creek Beach dramatically changed. Boulders at Brandy Creek Beach are evidence of the slide.



1999
In March Whiskeytown National Recreation Area received a Partnership Achievement Award from the National Park Foundation for collaborating with Shasta College on the 300-acre Paige Bar Watershed Restoration project.

2000
Jim Milestone, begins as the fourth park Superintendent. Under his direction, park staff have expanded trails, established waterfall access and focused on expanding recreational opportunities.



2002
Personal watercraft were banned from the lake. This led to the creation of one of Whiskeytown's most popular free ranger-led programs still offered today - kayaking!

2005
By installing solar panels, more efficient appliances and fixtures and properly insulating buildings, the park reduced its carbon footprint and energy consumption by nearly 50%.



2008
On June 21st a lightning storm passed over northern California in the early hours sparking over two thousand fires, including several that ended by burning about 20% of Whiskeytown NRA.

2011
The parks four swim beaches were designated "smoke free."

2013
Celebrated 50 years since President John F. Kennedy dedicated the Clair A. Hill Whiskeytown Dam on September 28, 1963.

Over 50 years of Passion and Dedication

CAN YOU TELL BY LOOKING AROUND WHO WAS here before you and what they did while they were here? Whiskeytown protects and preserves a continuous historical

record and remnant sites of many people. Beginning with Native American settlement thousands of years ago, the park's landscape reflects the stories of how diverse groups of people

have utilized the area's resources through time. Whiskeytown was first settled by the Wintu Indians. Living in villages throughout the area, they hunted abundant game including deer, quail, rabbit, and elk; fished for salmon in free-flowing rivers; and gathered grasses, roots, acorns, manzanita fruits and other plants.

When gold was discovered on Clear Creek, about seven miles below where the Whiskeytown Dam is today, a new era was ushered in that had far reaching consequences for the Wintu people and the landscape. Pierson B. Reading's discovery brought rush of hopeful miners to these hills - miners who limited access or damaged traditional Wintu resources, depleted their food sources, brought disease and often treated them with hostility.



Draft Dodger Cabin 1932, Harry Scott (L), Alton Richter, Bentley Richter

Mining settlements, such as Whiskeytown, became a destination for miners looking to strike it rich in the northern diggin's. Many people wonder how the town, and the park, got its name. After finding gold, miner Billy Peterson loaded a whiskey barrel on his mule to bring back to camp to celebrate. When his fellow miners saw him, they exclaimed loudly and startled the mule, which proceeded to buck off the whiskey barrel. The barrel rolled downhill and broke apart in the creek which thereafter became known as Whiskey Creek. It was along this creek that Whiskeytown would spring up, and eventually fade away.

Water would become California's new gold. The Central Valley Project (CVP), a grand scheme to move abundant water from the northern California to the dry Central Valley for agricultural, domestic and industrial use, had an profound impact on this sleepy valley. Just one small part of the CVP, the reservoirs and pipelines of the Trinity River Division move water from the Trinity River through Whiskeytown Lake to the Sacramento River. Construction of the Whiskeytown



Visitors wading in the lake to cool off from the hot summer sun

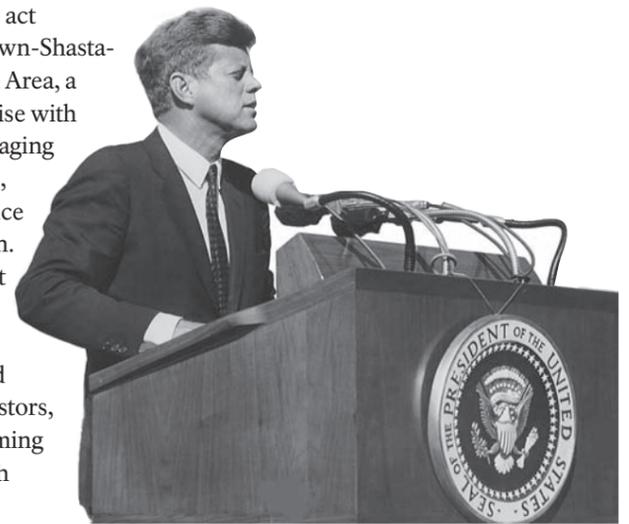
Dam was the finishing touch, and was dedicated by President John F. Kennedy on September 28, 1963.

The Bureau of Reclamation was responsible for construction of the dam, and originally intended to develop the surrounding land as a small county park. The park's evolution from the original concept of a 5,000-acre county park to a 42,000-acre national recreation area was a product of visionary local leaders and a developing conservation movement in America. On November 8, 1965 President Lyndon Johnson signed the act establishing the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area, a three-unit recreation paradise with the U.S. Forest Service managing the Shasta and Trinity Units, and the National Park Service administering Whiskeytown. Today, the park is important to many people for many reasons. Whether people have cultural ties to the land dating back to ancient ancestors, spend every summer swimming in the lake or hiking through



Dam employees installing water transfer piping

the forest, work to provide water and power to the region, or just visit for the day as they travel through the area, the park has been set aside for them. For 50 years the National Park Service has been preserving this park and its long history. As Whiskeytown continues to evolve, and a new history is of the land is written, the National Park Service will continue to watch over the historic values and objects it protects so they will remain unimpaired for education and enjoyment of future generations.



How Well Do You Know Whiskeytown?

Across

2. Friendly park staff you meet that answer questions, lead programs and keep you safe

3. Constructed in 1963

5. Our only man made waterfall

7. A plant you should never touch

11. A popular way to get around the lake (motorized or not)

13. A way to strike it rich (don't forget your permit)

18. Leads you to a destination (there are over 70 miles of these in Whiskeytown)

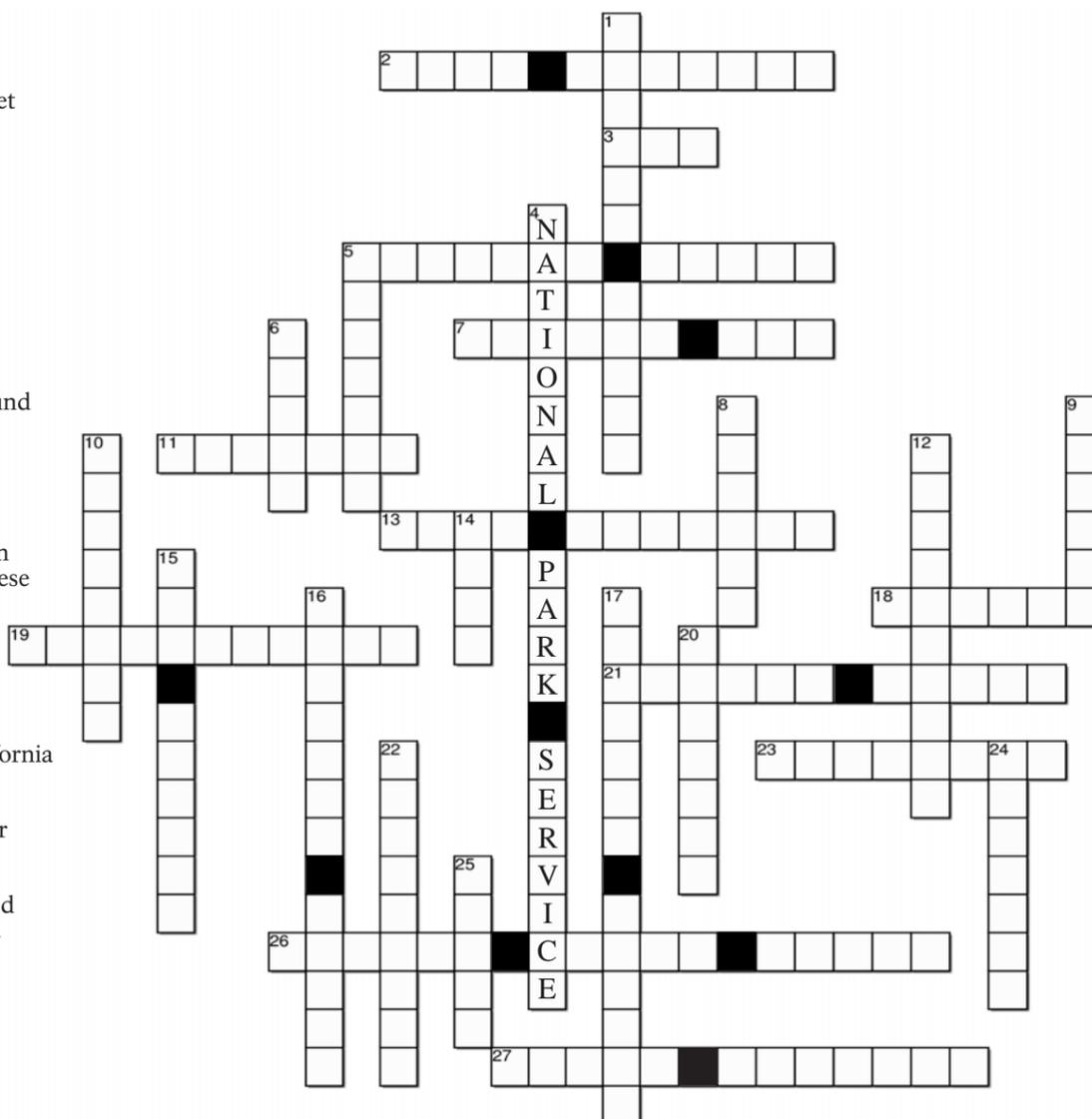
19. Established November 8, 1965

21. One of the most erosive mountains in Northern California and the tallest in the park

23. Enjoy from afar and never feed

26. One of the first established beaches located on the south shore of Whiskeytown Lake

27. Controls the waters temperature



Down

1. Built in 1852

4. Whiskeytown is managed by the

5. A fun way to enjoy nature away from home

6. Whiskeytown's earliest settlers

8. A way to get exercise

9. Never pick these in a national park site

10. What you have left after you visit

12. The park has four trails to these popular destinations

14. A nice place to cool off in the summer

15. A place to launch your boat

16. One creek that feeds the lake

17. Where you gather information about the park, or buy a book or souvenir

20. A way to get around the lake without a motor

22. Fire loving brush that surrounds the park

24. An enjoyable way to relax and catch a bite to eat

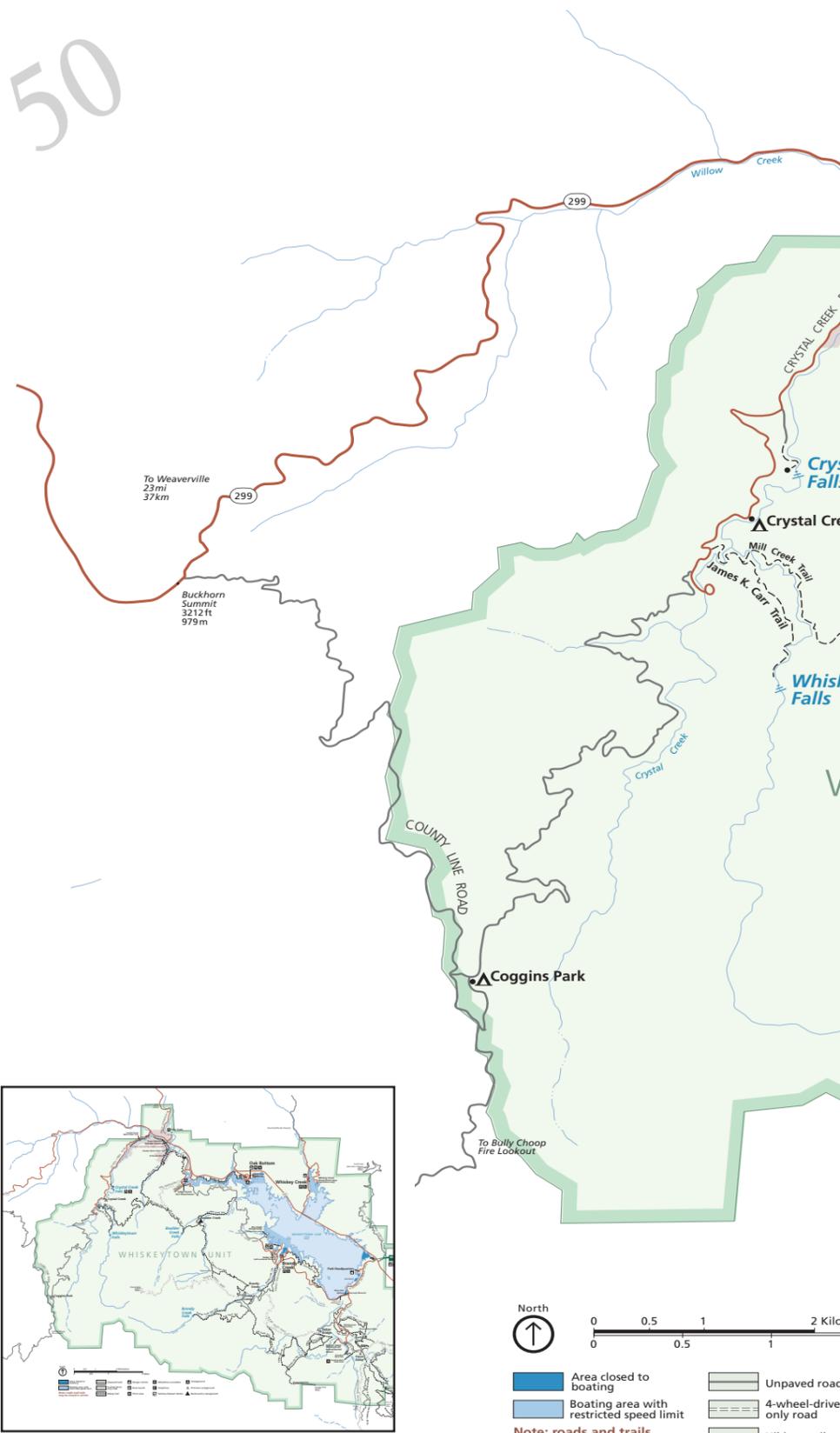
25. Interpretive tour created in 2002



Trails of Whiskeytown

Easy Hikes	Distance One-way	Elevation Change	Trail Highlights and Notes
Buck Hollow	1.0	130 ft.	Wildflowers, seasonal streams, lots of shade, views of Shasta Bally
Camden Water Ditch (Closed to bikes and pack animals)	1.1 Loop	Mostly level	Camden House, historic orchards, El Dorado Mine, Willow Creek
Crystal Creek Water Ditch (Closed to bikes and pack animals)	0.75	30 ft.	Shaded, historic water ditch, remnants of old dams, elevated water flume
Crystal Creek Falls	0.3	Mostly level	50 ft. falls and picnic area, ADA accessible and paved from the trailhead
Princess Ditch (from Salt Creek Loop to Stoney Gulch Trailhead)	1.8	Mostly level	Historic water ditch, scenic views, cross over four bridges that span drainages where historic flumes once ran
Oak Bottom Ditch	2.75	20 ft.	Scenic views, swimming opportunities, lake access
Moderate Hikes			
Boulder Creek Falls (Mill Creek Road route)	1.0	80 ft.	138 ft. falls, one creek crossing, shaded
Brandy Creek (Brandy Creek Beach to the 2nd intersection with Brandy Creek Rd., located southeast of Sheep Camp)	1.6	400 ft.	Follows the spectacular Brandy Creek, swimming holes, ample shade. There are four small creek crossings, and you hike twice on the road (signs guide you)
Brandy Creek Falls	1.5	500 ft.	Beautiful series of cascades, views of Brandy Creek, shade
Clear Creek Canal	4.5	30 ft.	Views of Whiskeytown Dam, Shasta Bally, Kanaka Peak, crosses Orofino Creek
Clear Creek Vista	2.4	400 ft.	Historic District and scenic views of Clear Creek, east end comes out near Carr Powerhouse
Davis Gulch (Closed to bikes and pack animals)	3.3	170 ft.	Lots of shade, lake views, scenic and quiet coves, swimming, resting benches
Guardian Rock	1.0 0.25 for ADA accessible section	200 ft. Negligible for accessible section	ADA accessible section from Horse Camp to the Clear Creek Canyon Vista. Views of Clear and Orofino creeks, Remnants of historic mining
Logging Camp	1.0	415 ft.	Restored logging road and watershed
Mt. Shasta Mine Loop	3.5	540 ft.	Historic mines, Orofino Creek, and beautiful views of Shasta Bally and South Fork Mountain
Mule Mountain Pass (Salt Creek Loop to Swasey Drive)	4.4	700 ft.	Creeks, scenic views of Mt. Lassen, great for hikers, bikers, and horses
Peltier	1.75	380 ft.	Paige Boulder Creek, small waterfall, wildflowers
Salt Creek Loop	1.8	300 ft.	6 creek crossings, mountain views, shade
Shasta Divide Nature Trail (Closed to bikes and pack animals)	0.4 Loop	190 ft.	Lots of shade, access to Whiskeytown Lake, swimming, views of mountains, benches along the trail
Difficult Hikes			
Boulder Creek Falls (via South Shore Drive)	2.75	950 ft.	138 ft. falls, Boulder Creek views, 3 creek crossings with no bridges.
James K. Carr Trail (Whiskeytown Falls Trail)	1.7	520 ft.	At 220 feet, park's tallest falls, beautiful views of Crystal Creek, some shade
Kanaka Peak	3.6	1,430 ft.	Panoramic views of the Trinity Alps, Mt. Lassen, Igo and Ono, Yolla Bolly Mtns., Clear Creek Canyon, beautiful Whiskeytown Lake
Mill Creek	6.1	350 ft.	16 creek crossings, lots of shade, north end of the trail connects with the Tower House Historic District
Papoose Pass	5.5	900 ft.	Spectacular views, sections follow the East Fork of Boulder Creek
Rich Gulch	1.8	500 ft.	Shaded and views of Shasta Bally
Salt Gulch	1.6	800 ft.	Views of Mt. Lassen, Whiskeytown Lake, Southern Cascade Range, Trinity Alps

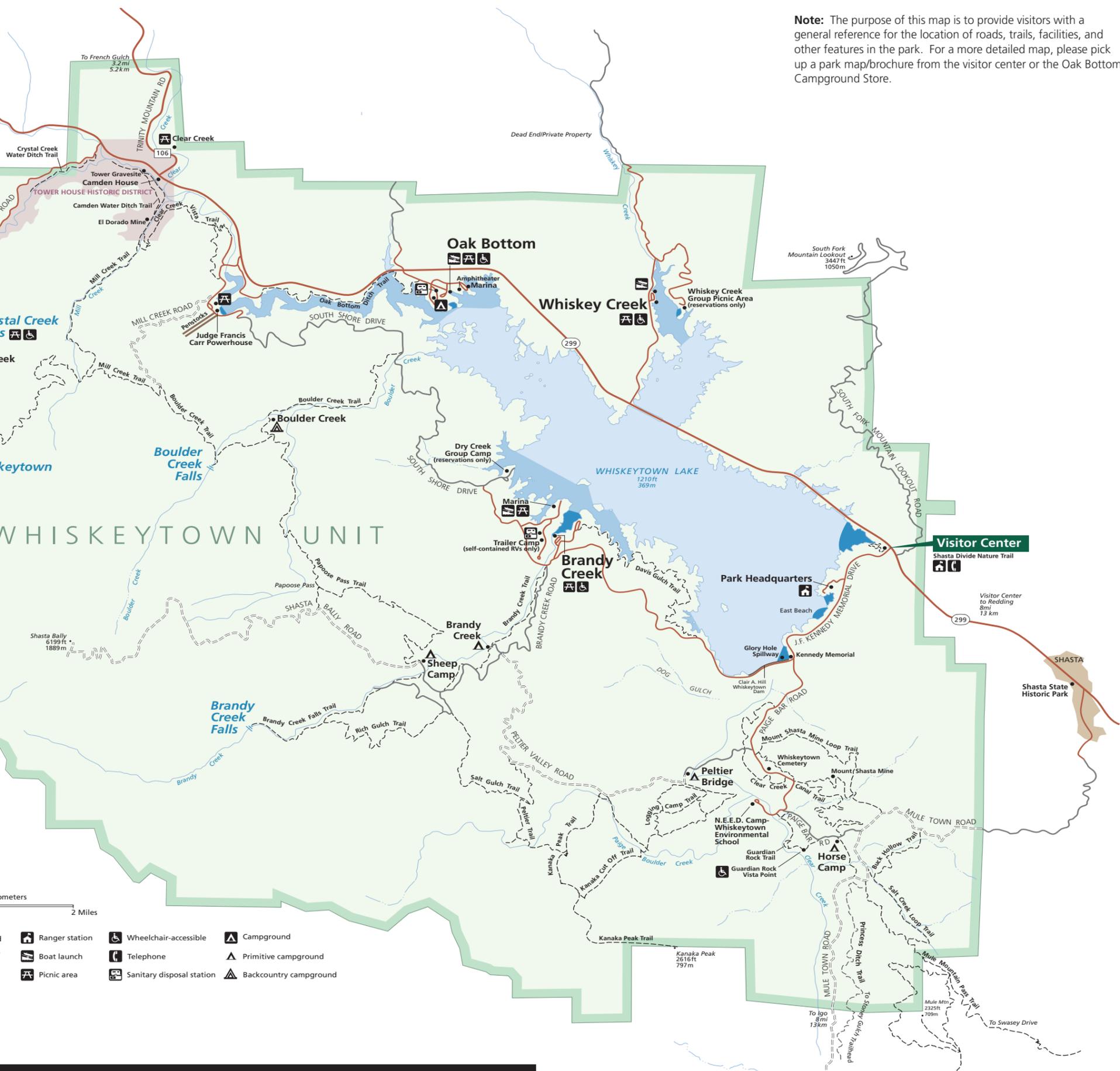
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Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area is located in northern California. Whiskeytown Unit is administered by the National Park Service. Shasta and Trinity units are administered by the U.S. Forest Service.

Camping

Developed Camp Sites	Number of sites	Price per night	Season	Maximum	Reservable
Oak Bottom Tent Campground	94	\$23 regular [^] \$25 for shoreline [^]	year-round	6 people 2 tents	●
Oak Bottom RV	22	\$20 †	year-round	10 people no tents	●
Brandy Creek RV	37	\$15 ‡	year-round	10 people no tents	
Dry Creek Group Camp	2	\$80	4/1 to 10/31	50 people (20 minimum)	Reservations are required
Primitive Camp Sites	Obtain campground permits at the visitor center. Dispersed camping with the exception of Backpacking Permits that must be obtained at the visitor center.				
Brandy Creek	2	\$15	closed in winter	6 people 2 tents	First-come first-served
Sheep Camp	4	\$15	closed in winter	6 people 2 tents	First-come first-served
Peltier Bridge	9	\$15	year-round	6 people 2 tents	First-come first-served
Horse Camp	2	\$15	year-round	6 people 2 tents	First-come first-served
Crystal Creek	2	\$15	closed in winter	6 people 2 tents	First-come first-served
Coggins Park	1	\$15	closed in winter	6 people 2 tents	First-come first-served



Note: The purpose of this map is to provide visitors with a general reference for the location of roads, trails, facilities, and other features in the park. For a more detailed map, please pick up a park map/brochure from the visitor center or the Oak Bottom Campground Store.

Drinking Water	Shower	Toilet Type	Notes
●	●	Flush	^ Summer rates from 4/15–10/15. During the rest of the year, tent sites are \$11. There are four ADA accessible sites. For reservations call (530) 359-2269.
●	●	Flush	† Summer rates from 4/15–10/15. During the rest of the year, RV sites are \$11. No hookups, no shade. For reservations call (530) 359-2269.
●		no toilet	Water, dump station may be shut off periodically during winter to prevent freezing.
●		Vault	Call 1-877-444-6777 or visit www.recreation.gov for reservations up to one year in advance. Closed from 11/1–3/30. Large groups can reserve both sites.
Camping is prohibited in the park at the visitor center.			If arriving after hours, camp in an unoccupied site and pay immediately when visitor center opens. Camping trailers (15' or less) are permitted in sites.
		Vault	Steep downhill road to reach the lower campsite #2.
		Vault	Caution: Sites are near a steep drop-off to the creek.
		Vault	All of the sites are near Clear Creek.
●		Vault	Only campground where camping with horses is allowed. Call (530) 242-3412 for more information.
		Vault	Both sites are very close to Crystal Creek.
		no toilet	4WD or high-clearance vehicles are highly recommended for the unpaved road to the remote campsite.

Archaeology in the Park



Do Your Part and be a part of Leave no Trace

Whiskeytown's landscape reflects the stories of how diverse groups of people have utilized the area's resources through time. While you are out hiking, swimming, camping or bike riding you may come across an object that may have cultural or historical significance.

To preserve the park's history, we ask that you please leave any cultural or historical artifacts where you found them. Write down a description of the location of the object or take a picture and please contact the park cultural resource specialist at (530) 242-3438. Additionally, let us know if you would like to be contacted about the object's significance or to volunteer with investigating and preserving the parks cultural and historical resources.

Remember that removing, altering, or destroying cultural artifacts in a National Park is a federal offense and could result in fines or jail time. Possession or use of a mineral or metal detector is also prohibited.

What Can I Do in the Time I Have?

Hours : minutes

Walk by the wayside exhibits outside the Visitor Center and enjoy the scenic views.

0:10

..... Come inside the visitor center and learn about the history of Whiskeytown's Native Americans and the California Gold Rush through the various exhibits.

Take a walk along the ADA accessible trail through the California native plant garden located behind the visitor center.

0:15

0:20



Stream Violet, *Viola glabella*

Matt Switzer



NPS

Half an hour

0:30

From the visitor center parking lot, enjoy a leisurely stroll down the Shasta Divide Nature Trail to the shores of Whiskeytown Lake.

0:45

..... Visit the President John F. Kennedy Memorial and press the button to hear his inspiring speech from the Whiskeytown Dam dedication on September 28, 1963.

From Horse Camp, walk the ADA accessible portion of the Guardian Rock Trail to the beautiful vista point overlooking Lower Clear Creek Canyon.

1:00

..... Choose a place in the park with an unobstructed view of the sky and enjoy stargazing under Whiskeytown's clear night skies. The best time to stargaze is on the new moon or anytime between the Waning Crescent and Waxing Crescent Moon Phases (see "Sun and Moon" on page 3 for more information).

1:15

Take a short walk (0.3 miles) to Crystal Creek Falls and enjoy your lunch at the picnic site.

1:30

Pan for gold along Clear Creek (see "Gold panning" on page 3 for more information).

1:45



NPS



Matt Switzer

Two hours

2:00

Grab your mountain bike and enjoy a ride on more than 70 miles of park trails. There are trails for every skill level and interest. Information is available at the visitor center.

..... Hike to Boulder Creek Falls via the Mill Creek road Trailhead.

2:30

Spend the afternoon at Brandy Creek and enjoy a picnic on the beach or in one of the many shaded picnic sites near the creek.

..... Hike the Peltier Trail and enjoy a beautiful unnamed waterfall on Paige Boulder Creek.

3:00

Become a Junior Ranger and Junior Firefighter by attending both programs and learn how to preserve and protect the park resources.

..... Hike to Whiskeytown Falls or Brandy Creek Falls, or hike the Mount Shasta Mine Loop Trail.

3:30



Paul Young



Matt Switzer

Half a day

4:00

Explore the newly developed Princess Ditch Trail and enjoy its historical character and open views.

5:00

6:00

7:00

For a physically rewarding day, you can complete the Whiskeytown Waterfall Challenge (see page 11) in one day by hiking to all four of the park's waterfalls.

8:00

..... Hike the Papoose Pass Trail from Sheep Camp to Boulder Creek Falls and back.

..... Rent a kayak, canoe, stand-up paddle boards, or motorboat at Oak Bottom Marina or Brandy Creek Beach and enjoy the lake for the day.

Whole day



A park for all seasons

Spring

TAKE A HIKE TO THE PARK'S FOUR WATERFALLS to see them during peak flow as the mountain snowpack begins to melt. Use caution as the trails can be slippery. Hike any of the park trails to experience the incredible bloom of wildflowers. Great trails for spring wildflower viewing are the Mt. Shasta Mine Loop, Davis Gulch, Guardian Rock, Lower Brandy Creek, and Boulder Creek trails. Spring is a great time for birding. Patience, stillness, and quiet observation will allow you to see the most bird activity. In April, take your family and friends to the park for Waterfall Week, Whiskeytown's annual celebration of National Park Week.

Summer

JOIN A RANGER-LED PROGRAM FOR A FUN-filled and educational park experience (See page 12). Take a swim in the cool waters of the lake at Brandy Creek Beach and have a picnic while you are there. Beat the summer heat by taking a hike to the waterfalls to bask in the shade and cool mist, or swim in the pools below the cascading waters. Drive (4WD vehicles only) to the 6,199 ft. summit of Shasta Bally for panoramic views of Mt. Lassen, Mt. Shasta, the Trinity Alps, and the Central Valley. Rent a motorized or human-powered boat at Oak Bottom Marina and enjoy the cool blue waters of Whiskeytown Lake for the day.

Fall

TAKE A HIKE ALONG THE CLEAR CREEK VISTA, Mill Creek, Brandy Creek, or Boulder Creek trails to view the brilliant fall colors of big leaf maple, Pacific dogwood and California black oak. Hiking, horseback riding, and biking are very enjoyable during the fall as temperatures cool and the buzz of summer activity fades. Fall is also the start of hunting season, so be aware of possible hunting activity while in the park's backcountry. Support your park by joining us on National Public Lands Day for volunteer opportunities. Contact the Visitor Center for more information: (530) 246-1225 or visit the park website at nps.gov/whis. In addition, join us on September 19th for Whiskeytown's 5th Annual Harvest Festival in the historic orchards.

Winter

JOIN US AT THE CAMDEN HOUSE WITHIN THE park's Tower House Historic District for the annual "Old Time Holiday" celebration and free wreath-making workshop on Saturday, December 5, 2015. Hike along the Brandy Creek, Mill Creek, or Boulder Creek trails to witness the crimson glory of massive gatherings of lady bird beetles numbering in the thousands as they enter a period of dormancy to conserve energy in the colder months. Bring your binoculars to the quiet coves around the lake to enjoy the waterfowl that congregate on the lake during the winter migration. Species commonly seen are Canada geese, mallards, buffleheads, common mergansers, coots, ruddy ducks, and ring-necked ducks. Watch for bald eagles as well!

Backcountry Safety Matters!



Poison oak is very common in the park, as is exposure to the plant's toxic oils. Leaves of three, let them be!

WHISKEYTOWN IS A WONDERFUL PLACE FOR families to enjoy the outdoors. Have a safe time in the park's backcountry and be aware of some potential dangers and how to avoid them. Weather conditions can change rapidly, so be prepared by bringing extra layers of clothing, food, a basic first aid kit, and plenty of water for each person, especially in the summer when temperatures can exceed 100°F. Know approximate times for sunrise and sunset, and bring a flashlight in case you are out longer than expected.

Before heading out on the trail, take time to familiarize yourself with the park map and consider taking a more detailed topographic map. Many of Whiskeytown's trails connect with other trails, including some that continue outside the park's boundaries.



Western rattlesnakes are common in the park. Snakes should never be handled and their beauty should be enjoyed at a safe distance.

Never hike or ride alone, bring a fully charged cellular phone and make sure someone knows your planned route and approximate return time. Look up, down, and around at campsites for hazards, including steep drop-offs and dead, leaning, or otherwise weakened trees which can fall without warning. Campfires are not allowed outside of designated fire pits. Be sure to treat or filter water from natural sources.

Be alert for wildlife and maintain a safe distance. If you encounter a bear or a mountain lion, try to scare it away by shouting, waving your hands, and throwing sticks or rocks. Never approach or feed wildlife, or leave food unattended, and make sure to hang your food or use a bear canister if backpacking. Poison oak is found throughout the park. Look



A black-tailed deer feeding on an unattended picnic. Animals can become aggressive and dangerous if fed and habituated to people.

at the photo above to identify the plant and stay on the trails to avoid it. The plant drops its oily leaves in winter, but the dormant stems of the plant are still toxic to your skin and can cause an itchy and painful rash. Rattlesnakes are commonly found in the park during the warmer months. Avoid rattlesnakes by staying on established trails and give them plenty of distance if you do encounter them.

Always lock your vehicle and take your valuables with you while recreating in the park. Report suspected illegal activity to Whiskeytown Dispatch at (530) 242-3431 or by calling 911 in an emergency. Timely reporting of information is essential for your safety and for park investigations. **Your safety greatly increases when you stay on official trails and hike or ride with others.**

FOREVER RESORTS IS THE National Park Service's concessioner that operates Oak Bottom Marina and Brandy Creek Marina. Both marinas offer slip rentals and launch ramps. Buoy moorage is available at Oak Bottom Marina and dry storage at Brandy Creek. The Oak Bottom Marina rents 16' fishing boats, 24' pontoon boats, and 26' deck cruisers. Kayak and paddle board rentals are available at both Oak Bottom and the Brandy Creek Beach Store.

Forever Resorts also operates the Oak Bottom Campground with 94 walk-in tent campsites and 22-dry-camping RV sites, all within walking distance of the lake, swim beach, and showers. An RV dump station is available. Each tent campsite has a fire pit, picnic table and a bear-proof storage locker. Forever Resorts operates stores at Oak Bottom campground & marina and seasonal stores at Brandy Creek and Oak Bottom Beach. All stores sell ice, ice cream, snacks and a variety of summer and beach merchandise.

The friendly and knowledgeable staff at Oak Bottom Marina wants all guests to enjoy their favorite outdoor activities and is always ready to assist with boating necessities, boat rental and camping reservations.

For more information, call (530) 359-2269 for camping reservations, (530) 359-2008 for moorage questions, and (530) 359-2671 for the marina store and boat rental reservations. For the Brandy Creek Beach Store and Kayak Rentals, call (530) 246-1056 and the Oak Bottom Beach store can be reached at (530) 359-2675. WhiskeytownMarinas.com

Plants That Bite Back

NON-NATIVE PLANTS ARE THOSE THAT OCCUR OUTSIDE THEIR NATIVE RANGE AND SPREAD rapidly often due to human activity. Whiskeytown employs an exotic plant crew to stop the spread of non-native plant species. It is our goal to reduce or eliminate these plants which can displace native species, increase the intensity and frequency of wildfires, degrade wildlife habitat, reduce water availability, or impact the visitor experience.

Problem Plant: Puncture Vine; a.k.a. goathead. The scientific name for puncture vine is *Tribulus terrestris* is loosely translated as "spiky weapon of the earth". It grows like mat in summer and has yellow flowers. The sight of its seeds will definitely *stick* with you. Puncture vine is infamous for producing spiny burrs that can pop bike tires, stick in your pet's paws and hitch a ride on shoes.



Here at Whiskeytown, we battle puncture vine in the Tower House Historic District and along certain trails. We hand pull this plant and bag the seeds, as they can remain viable for several years. A mature plant can produce thousands of seeds.

Please help!

- Do not transport seeds! (Inspect your clothes, gear, tent, boots, bikes, and vehicles for hitch-hiking seeds and brush seeds from your pet's fur.)
- Please ensure that all seeds are safely disposed of in the trash.
- Let us know if you come across goathead or other non-native plants, especially on any developed trails.
- Sign up at the Visitor Center to volunteer to be a Whiskeytown Weed Warrior.

Leave No Trace

Please do your part to preserve and protect the park for the enjoyment of present and future generations by following the seven principles of Leave no Trace:

1. Plan ahead and prepare
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces
3. Dispose of waste properly "pack it in, pack it out"
4. Leave what you find
5. Build fires in established fire grates only
6. Respect wildlife
7. Be considerate of other visitors



Do Not Feed The Wildlife!



Preserve Whiskeytown's Waters



- Wash the hull of each watercraft thoroughly
- "Clean, drain, and dry to stop the spread!"
- Prevent the spread of Quagga Mussels

Lifejackets Save Lives

IN 2013, THE U. S. RECORDED 560 DEATHS WHILE BOATING AND IN 84% OF THOSE DEATHS, THE victims were not wearing their lifejackets! By simply wearing a lifejacket while boating, your chances for survival are increased. To safeguard you and your family around water, follow these simple suggestions:

- Always supervise your children
- Avoid alcohol
- Wear a properly fitted US Coast Guard approved lifejacket
- Take swimming lessons
- Learn CPR

For more information on water safety please visit www.USCGboating.org or www.safeboatingcouncil.org.



All vessels require a PFD on board for each person. Children under 13 must wear it!

Did you know that lifeguards at Brandy Creek Beach perform between 25-40 swimmer assists or near drowning rescues each summer season? That accounts for nearly one rescue for every thousand beach visitors. Through a generous contribution from The Friends of Whiskeytown, the lifeguards at Brandy Creek Beach have a free lifejacket loan program from Memorial Day through Labor Day. They have a variety of sizes ranging from infant through adult. Check out the jackets at 10:00 am and return them by 5:30 pm.

Clean Water Is Up To Us

LAST YEAR OVER ONE MILLION VISITORS CAME TO WHISKEYTOWN, MANY TO ESCAPE THE HEAT OF summer in the cool lake water. The park's four swim beaches are very popular destinations. To help protect the public, Whiskeytown park staff sample water quality at these beaches at least five times a month from early May to late September.



Why is this important? People enjoy Whiskeytown's picturesque lake and crystal clear waters. However, even the clearest water can be contaminated by large groups of bathers. Testing of the waters at the swim beaches allows park staff to monitor water quality conditions and trends. Should contamination thresholds be exceeded, warning signs are posted on the beach to advise against bathing. To keep the water clean, park staff have taken actions such as banning dogs at swim beaches and limiting the number of visitors at Brandy Creek Beach on busy holidays.

There are also actions you can take to help! Please shower before and after swimming in the lake and don't use the lake as a bathtub! Showers are available at the beaches. Please don't allow children in diapers to enter the water. Don't swim if you have or recently had diarrhea. Keep pets away from swimming areas. Do not feed wildlife, especially the geese. Remember it's up to all of us to keep Whiskeytown Lake clean!

Just for Kids

There are many ways at Whiskeytown you can become a National Park Service Junior Ranger. Don't have time to join a Junior Ranger Program? By completing this page you can earn your Junior Ranger Badge.

Visitor Center Scavenger Hunt

Whiskeytown is known for its rich gold history, prospectors used patience in digging and panning for gold. You can find answers 1 through 11 by looking at the various displays inside the Visitor Center.

Gold Discovered in California



1. What year was gold discovered in California?
2. Whiskeytown is located in a gold mining area of California called the "Northern _____."

The Miners and Their Tools

3. Name three tools used by the miners for finding gold.
4. Why was life very difficult for most miners?
5. What were better ways than mining to make a steady income?
6. What features made the Tower House District an "oasis" during the Gold Rush?
7. What happened to the town of Whiskeytown in the 1960s?

The Wintu Indians



8. What is in the exhibit case that shows you the Wintu hunted animals for food?
9. The exhibit also contains stone pestles used for grinding. Can you guess what the Wintus used for grinding into flour?

Take a Hike!

Walk a trail at Whiskeytown. The closest and easiest trail is the Shasta Divide Nature Trail, located at the end of the Visitor Center parking lot. It is a half-mile walk. Or you may choose a different trail.

Ask for a copy of the guide to the trail that you choose and for a walk in nature.

10. This is the name of the trail I hiked at Whiskeytown:
11. What do you think was special about this trail?

Before Your Hike:

Put a check mark next to everything that you can do on your walk to protect the park from harm.

- Stay on the trail and don't make a new one.
- Take your garbage home instead of leaving it on the trail, "Pack it in, Pack it out."
- If you have a dog, pick up its poop.
- Don't feed or approach wildlife.

Rangers and Volunteers Here at Whiskeytown

Find a ranger or volunteer and see what role they play here at Whiskeytown.



Who did you meet?

What does the he/ she do for the park?

Congratulations!

Show your completed scavenger hunt to the ranger or volunteer at the Visitor Center and receive your Junior Ranger badge.

Annual Events



Waterfall Week

Saturday April 18 through Sunday April 26

Come celebrate National Park Week and explore the beauty of Whiskeytown and its four major waterfalls. The National Park Service invites visitors to take the Whiskeytown Waterfall Challenge during National Park week. A great way to complete the Whiskeytown Waterfall challenge is to join a park ranger for a free ranger-led hike to one of the park's four major waterfalls, including ADA accessible Crystal Creek Falls. For more information check out the park website: nps.gov/whis, or contact the Visitor Center at (530) 246-1225.



National Junior Ranger Day

Saturday April 25, 2015 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Brandy Creek Marina

Whiskeytown is celebrating National Junior Ranger Day. There will be fun interactive ways to learn how to preserve and protect national parks and become a Whiskeytown Junior Ranger and Junior Firefighter. Visitors of all ages are welcome to participate, and those who complete the program will earn a Whiskeytown Junior Ranger badge.



National Public Lands Day

Saturday September 26, 2015

On this day, Americans of all ages will help maintain and restore our Nation's outdoor resources and ecosystems at more than 2,200 sites across our country. Volunteer in your parks and be on the lookout for more detailed information about celebrating National Public Lands Day at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Contact the Visitor Center for more information: (530) 246-1225 or visit the park website at nps.gov/whis



Brandy Creek Beach Luau

Saturday June 20, 2015 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Brandy Creek Beach

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the 7th annual Brandy Creek Beach Luau. This fun event is a fundraiser for the Friends of Whiskeytown and will feature a luau dinner, Hawaiian entertainment, and a silent auction. For further information, call (530) 242-3460 or visit www.friendsofwhiskeytown.org



Whiskeytown 50th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday August 22, 2015 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Brandy Creek Beach parking lot A

Celebrate Whiskeytown's 50th birthday by joining us for a symphony on the beach. A special dedication of a new plaque commemorating the first director of the National Park Service, Steven Mather, will start the evening, followed by the Shasta Symphony Orchestra performing and a twilight luminary lighting on the lake. For more information, please visit the park website nps.gov/whis or on Facebook: www.facebook.com/WhiskeytownNationalRecreationArea



Perseid Meteor Shower

Friday evening August 14, 2015

Brandy Creek Beach parking lot B, start time is after sunset

Whiskeytown, in partnership with the Shasta Astronomy club, will be holding a special star party for the Perseid Meteor Shower. Powerful telescopes will be on hand to view what is considered to be the most brilliant meteor shower of the year. Visitors are encouraged to bring red light flashlights, lounge chairs, food, drinks and extra clothing for the nighttime star party.



Harvest Festival

Saturday September 19, 2015 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Tower House Historic District

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and the Friends of Whiskeytown invite visitors to join us for the 5th Annual Harvest Festival at the park's Tower House Historic District. This fun and family-friendly event will feature apple tasting, cider making demonstrations, an apple-themed bake-off contest, games for all ages, and tours of the historic Camden House and orchards.



Old Time Holiday

Saturday December 5, 2015 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

The National Park Service and California State Parks invite visitors for their annual "Old Time Holiday." Follow in the footsteps of miners who in 1849, after preparing a holiday meal in Shasta, traveled to Whiskeytown to share their food and cheer! The events will take place at Shasta State Historic Park and the Tower House Historic District. Featured events will be wreath making, music, crafting ornaments, story time and historical reenactments.

A Park for Everyone



THE FRIENDS OF WHISKEYTOWN (FOW) IS A NON-PROFIT organization dedicated to helping the National Park Service restore and enhance the magnificent resources and recreational opportunities at Whiskeytown.

FOW have been instrumental in providing support for park projects and programs over the years, including: the hiring of a Student Conservation Association trail crew to build and maintain trails, constructing a new foot bridge over Crystal Creek on the Whiskeytown Falls trail, Whiskeytown's Artist-in-Residence Program, the annual Volunteer-In-Parks Program recognition event, the Old Time Holiday at the Camden House and Whiskeytown's Annual Harvest Festival.

If you would like to support FOW, your contribution of \$25.00 or more will help the park complete projects that would otherwise be unfunded.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the 7th annual Brandy Creek Beach Luau on Saturday, June 20, 2015. This fun event is a fundraiser for the FOW and will feature a luau dinner, Hawaiian entertainment, and a silent auction. For further information, call (530) 242-3460 or visit www.friendsofwhiskeytown.org

Volunteer in the Parks

Is Whiskeytown Lake one of your favorite places to spend the day? Do you enjoy meeting new people and learning new things? Would you like a chance to help your community and have fun at the same time? If so, consider becoming a National Park Service Volunteer at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. We are looking for friendly people to assist us in many activities. To find out more information please contact Ranger Jeff Gerbic at (530) 242-3421.



National Park Service Centennial

On August 25, 2016, the National Park Service turns 100! The Centennial will kick off a second century of stewardship of America's national parks and engaging communities through recreation, conservation, and historic preservation programs, and will celebrate achievements of the past 100 years. Stay tuned for events happening in parks around the country.



April 2nd, 2015, was the launch of Find Your Park, a public awareness and education campaign celebrating the milestone centennial anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016 and setting the stage for its second century of service. Find Your Park invites the public to see that a national park can be more than a place -- it can be a feeling, a state of mind, or a sense of American pride. Visit www.findyourpark.com and find your park, share your park, and support your park!

Fee Free Days

January 19 <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	August 25 <i>National Park Service Birthday</i>
February 14-16 <i>Presidents Day weekend</i>	September 26 <i>National Public Lands Day</i>
April 18-29 <i>Opening weekend of National Park Week</i>	November 11 <i>Veterans Day</i>

Join us for a Free Ranger-led Program!



Free ranger-led programs begin in mid-June and are offered through Labor Day weekend. Please call the visitor center at (530) 246-1225, or visit the park website at www.nps.gov/whis for the latest information on park programs and special events.

Junior Ranger

Saturdays at 10:00 am (1 hour)



Children along with their parents can learn about preserving and protecting park resources while making new friends during a special one-hour activity that explores the wonders of Whiskeytown. Meet at the Oak Bottom Amphitheater. Ask the ranger about earning your Whiskeytown Junior Ranger badge and patch.

Junior Firefighter

Saturdays at 11:00 am (1 hour)



Join Whiskeytown NPS firefighters to learn how they manage fire to promote forest health and protect lives and property. Children will learn about the important role that fire plays in the ecosystems of our national parks during this hands-on activity. Children who complete the program will earn a Junior Firefighter Badge. Meet at the Oak Bottom Amphitheater.

Junior Ranger Kayak Program

Mondays and Thursdays at 1:30 pm (1.5 hours)



Join us for a special program that pairs parents and their children in kayaks so they can discover and share the joy of nature with each other as they paddle and play. The Monday program is geared for children three to six years of age, and the Thursday program is geared toward children seven to twelve years old. Please call (530) 242-3462 to make a reservation.

Walk In Time

Wednesdays and Saturdays at 1:00 pm (2 hours)



Discover how pioneers/prospectors Charles Camden and Levi Tower reshaped the landscape to create a home for their families and an "oasis" for many travelers during and after the California Gold Rush. Visit the historic orchard and find apple trees over 150 years old that still bear fruit! After a tour of the Camden house, enjoy a leisurely stroll through the area, then try your hand at finding gold the old-fashioned way—with a gold pan in the creek! Meet the ranger at the Tower House Historic District parking lot bulletin board.

Kayak Program

Daily tours at 9:30 am and 5:30 pm are offered on Sun. through Sat. except Fri. (2 ½ hours)



Hop on a tandem kayak with a friend and explore the quiet coves around Whiskeytown Lake while you learn more about the natural and cultural values of the park. Children must be at least six years old. Reservations are up to two weeks in advance, call (530) 242-3462.

Moonlight Kayak Program

June 27- July 1 and July 26-30 at 8:00 pm, August 24-28 at 7:30 pm (2 ½ hours)



Experience dramatic changes in the landscape as you explore Whiskeytown Lake under the light of the moon. Reservations slots fill up fast for this program, calling (530) 242-3462 in the morning two weeks in advance will give the best opportunity of securing a slot.

Special Access Kayak Program

Friday evenings during July and August (2 hours)



This program has been developed for individuals with special needs so they can enjoy a kayaking adventure. Visitors who have limited mobility, disabilities, developmental issues, or restrictions due to age or illness are encouraged to give kayaking a try. Visitors with special needs are paired with an experienced kayak volunteer. Please call (530) 242-3421 for more information.

Evening Astronomy Program

Friday evenings at 9:00 pm (1 hour)



During August and September, start time is at 8:30 pm. Spend the evening with a Sky Ranger and discover the stories of how ancient cultures used the sky to navigate and mark important seasonal changes. Learn about the challenges we face today as urban light pollution threatens the dark sky and find out what you can do to help. After a 20 minute presentation, the Shasta Astronomy Club will share their powerful telescopes to assist visitors with their celestial gazing. Meet at the Oak Bottom Amphitheater for the first half of the program and the second half at the Oak Bottom Beach parking lot.

Star Party

Saturdays 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm on 3/14, 3/21, 4/11, 4/18, 5/16, and 8:30 pm to 11:59 pm on 5/23, 6/13, 6/20, 7/11, 8/08, 8/15, 9/05, 9/12, 10/10, 10/17, 11/07, 11/14, 12/05, and 12/12 (weather permitting). For up to date information call the visitor center (530) 246-1225, visit the park web site or www.shastaastronomyclub.com

Experience the splendor of the dark night sky! Because of its unique position nestled within mountain ranges, Whiskeytown is a great place to explore the heavens. The night constellations often elude urban dwellers, but at Whiskeytown, visitors are able to see deep into space aided by powerful telescopes provided by the passionate and knowledgeable Shasta Astronomy Club. Take Paige Bar Road and meet at the Mount Shasta Mine Loop Trail parking lot.

Remembering Whiskeytown- A Historical Cemetery Tour of Whiskeytown's Pioneers and Past

Sunday evenings at 6:30 pm (1 hour)

Visit Whiskeytown's historic gravestones and learn about some of the individuals and families who settled here during the Gold Rush through the time of the Central Valley Project and Whiskeytown Lake. Along the way, learn about the iconography/ symbolism of headstones and its significance in telling a larger story. Following the tour, visitors will be encouraged to share their stories about this intriguing and unique cemetery as well as historic cemeteries in general and their preservation. Meet at the Whiskeytown Cemetery. For more information please call Park Ranger Jeff Gerbic at 530-242-3421.

Free Movie Night Under the Starlight

Saturday evenings at 8:30 pm starting in June through Labor Day weekend at Oak Bottom Amphitheater

Presented by the Oak Bottom Marina, family friendly movies are offered to anyone who would like to join. Snacks and drinks are available for purchase. Bring a cozy pillow and sit under the stars while enjoying a movie next to the lake! For questions please contact the Oak Bottom Beach Store at (530) 359-2675.

Be on the Lookout!

During the summer months rangers will be offering additional programs and other special events! Contact the visitor center for information (530) 246-1225 or check out Whiskeytown's park website: www.nps.gov/whis.



Ranger-led program offerings

Program	ADA Accessible	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
Kayak Program		9:30 am 5:30 pm	9:30 am 5:30 pm	9:30 am 5:30 pm	9:30 am 5:30 pm	9:30 am	9:30 am 5:30 pm	9:30 am 5:30 pm
Junior Ranger							10 am	
Junior Firefighter							11 am	
Junior Ranger Kayak Program		1:30 pm			1:30 pm			
Walk In Time				1 pm			1 pm	
Special Access Kayak Program						6 pm		
Evening Astronomy Program						9 pm†		
Free Movie Night Under the Starlight							8:30 pm	
Star Party							8 pm*	
Cemetery Tour								6:30 pm

† During August and September, start time will be 8:30 pm
* See Star Party description for event dates



Attend ranger led programs and earn Junior Ranger badges and patches!

Stay connected to the park!

Want to join in the conversation and share your stories about Whiskeytown? Like us on Facebook! Get the latest news and park photos. You can also find out about Whiskeytown history, trail conditions, and events. We invite you to share stories and pictures from your adventures at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

We like you, like us on facebook!



www.facebook.com/WhiskeytownNationalRecreationArea

