

California Department of Water Resources NEWS

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A Whole Year's Worth of Recreation - Northern California -

Now that it's summer, most people are done planning their trips to "get away from it all." Still, you might want to know a little secret that the California Department of Water Resources is willing to share:

State Water Project lakes provide a whole year's worth of recreation.

From the jewel-like upper Feather River lakes in the north to Castaic Lake in the south, the nation's largest state-run water conservation and delivery system has lots of recreation action to offer.

At **Lake Oroville**, the second largest reservoir in California and 90 minutes north of the State Capitol, fishing and boating are the prime activities, as they are at most of the State Water Project's lakes. But there are some additional features that make Oroville more attractive than ever as a weekend or week-long recreation destination. State park campsites, private houseboat rentals and nearby motels, and the recent addition of "floating campsites," anchored platforms that enable family and group camping on the water, have increased Oroville's draw.

Working with the City of Oroville and local and state tourism organizations, the Department of Water Resources is seeking to make Lake Oroville a recreation destination for a wider number of people, particularly in the off-season.

Recent improvements to Lake Oroville recreation facilities include a boat ramp and parking at Lime Saddle recreation area, a horse camp at Loafer Creek, and a 41-mile mountain bike trail linking the dam and afterbays.

Oroville has 167 miles of shoreline and a surface area of more than 15,800 acres. Lake Oroville State

Recreation Area, operated by the State Park System, provides campsites and four boat ramps for multiple launching. In fall and winter, too, the lake provides excellent boating and fishing. In recent years, the Department of Fish and Game has planted more than 1 million fish in Lake Oroville. There's chinook salmon, trout, bass, catfish, bluegill, and crappie. Feather Falls, the sixth highest waterfall in the United States, is visible from the middle fork arm of Lake Oroville.

If a smaller area for boating and angling is to your liking, then try Thermalito Afterbay, with 4,300 surface acres open to the public. North Thermalito Forebay is reserved for sailboats, canoes, and other non-motorized boats. A two-lane boat launching ramp is available. South Thermalito Forebay has a four-lane launching ramp and is open to power boating. No fees are charged.

Sport fishing is also available at the nearby Oroville Wildlife Area, operated by the State Department of Fish and Game. Anglers can fish the wildlife area waters for steelhead trout, channel catfish and striped bass. For information on visiting the Oroville Wildlife Area, call (916) 538-2236.

While you're putting your list together of favorite fishing spots, don't forget the **Upper Feather River lakes -- Antelope, Frenchman, and Davis**. Located in Plumas National Forest northeast of Sacramento, all offer swimming, fishing, boating, camping, hiking, and picnicking along a combined 68 miles of shoreline. All are stocked with fish. No campsite reservations are needed but be sure to call ahead to the ranger station at (916) 283-2050 for availability and directions.

And if you're still not sure which lake to choose, send for a free copy of the State Water Project recreation guide, listing recreation opportunities at all 12 of the project's lakes, as well as fishing opportunities along the California Aqueduct, phone numbers to call for more information, and a map of SWP recreational facilities. Contact DWR's Office of Water Education at 1-800-272-8869 or write Office of Water Education, Department of Water Resources, P.O. Box 942836, (Room 1104-1), Sacramento, CA 94236-0001.

The State Water Project provides water to two-thirds of California's population. The system includes 29 storage facilities (including lakes and reservoirs), 18 pumping plants, four pumping-generating plants, five hydroelectric plants, and more than 600 miles of canals and pipelines. The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, as well as providing dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assisting local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and planning for future statewide water needs.

KEYS TO STATE LAKES - Northern California -

LAKE OROVILLE

The reservoir created by Oroville Dam, key facility in the State Water Project. Completed in 1967 and rising to 770 feet at its crest, Oroville Dam is the tallest dam in the United States. A visitors center overlooks the lake. A popular visitor attraction is the Feather River Fish Hatchery, built to replace natural spawning areas lost when the dam was built. Up to 12,000 salmon and steelhead return annually.

Getting There: Located five miles east of the City of Oroville, Lake Oroville lies about 75 miles north of Sacramento and is easily reached via State Highway 70. For a free brochure "Oroville/Thermalito", write to DWR Publications, 1416 9th Street, Sacramento CA 95814, or call (916) 653-2980.

More Info: For tours (916) 534-2306. For State Parks information, call (916) 534-2200.

ANTELOPE, FRENCHMAN, DAVIS

Three lakes created for wildlife and local water supply, they can also be gateways to further exploration in the northern Sierra.

Getting There: It's kind of complicated. Send for a free brochure "Upper Feather River Lakes" for more information and directions. Write to DWR Publications, 1416 9th Street, Sacramento CA 95814, or call (916) 653-2980.

Hearing impaired? You can call the California Relay Service (voice) at (800) 735-2922 for information about any State Water Project facility.

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For more on-line information, see [Find DWR Info](#) or return to the [DWR California Water Page](#)