



News for Immediate Release
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Lake Oroville Offers Rich Menu
Of Recreation Choices

Oroville -- Lake Oroville provides a broad array of fall recreational opportunities, including fishing, camping, boating, riding and hiking. Unlike high Sierra lakes where chilly weather arrives in early fall, Lake Oroville in the balmy Upper Sacramento Valley during autumn enjoys moderate day temperatures and comfortably cool nights, with spacious lake boating and multiple camping choices.

Lake Recreation

The second largest reservoir in California, Lake Oroville offers excellent fishing and plenty of surface area for boating. With 167 miles of shoreline, Lake Oroville is second in size only to Lake Shasta among reservoirs in California. It's easily reached via State Highways 70 and 99, about 75 miles north of Sacramento.

With students back in school, more campground choices are available during autumn. Major campsites include the 51-site Lime Saddle Campground, Loafer Creek Campground, with more than 130 individual camp sites and six group sites, Bidwell Canyon Campground, with 74 sites, and several floating campsites. For campground information, call the Department of Parks and Recreation in Oroville at (530) 538-2200. For campground reservations, call 800-444-7275 (Reserve America).

Special Events

Lake Oroville offers a series of special events and attractions during the fall months.

Major bass tournaments are sprinkled throughout the year, with remaining autumn tournaments scheduled for October 23, and November 6-7, November 12-14, and November 20. For more information on fishing tournaments, call the Department of Parks and

Recreation (DPR) in Oroville at (530) 538-2200.

Biking and Riding At Oroville

Mountain biking and horse riding are enjoyed virtually year-round on extensive trails at Lake Oroville. Campgrounds are located at many venues distributed around the lake, convenient to trails.

Equestrian Events

The sixth annual Lake Oroville Vista Endurance (LOVE) ride will be held on Saturday, November 6. The LOVE ride is one of the best-attended endurance equestrian events in Northern California, with about 125 horses and riders expected this year. Competition is held over two distances, 30 miles and 50 miles.

The LOVE ride is supported by about 40 volunteers, including veterinarians and health care providers for safety. The ride is watched by hundreds who gather near Oroville Dam to watch and cheer the riders and their mounts.

For more information about equestrian events, contact the Department of Parks and Recreation at (530) 538-2200.

Angling at Oroville

To the delight of anglers, Lake Oroville offers both cold water and warm water fisheries. Lake Oroville traditionally offers an outstanding bass fishery. The nearby Feather River also offers angling for salmon and steelhead during fall.

In early fall, Coho salmon are taken in Lake Oroville's deeper, cooler waters. This fishing improves during the fall months as temperatures decline and Coho move into shallower water, according to Eric See, DWR fisheries biologist and an expert on Lake Oroville's angling. Catches of Coho in the three-to-five pound range are expected during fall.

On the Feather River, See notes that the steelhead season fires up as the salmon season ends at the end of September. Pound for pound, steelhead are considered one of the hardest-fighting freshwater fish in California.

The peak of the steelhead run is from mid-October through the end of November, though fishing remains good through the end of January. Standard trout fishing techniques work well for Feather River steelhead, such as flies, spinners, spoons and crankbaits, as well as live bait, such as salmon roe and night crawlers.

DFG plants trout in Oroville's Thermalito Forebay on a regular basis throughout the

summer. The result is a great fishing opportunity for both bank and boat anglers.

Frontier Christmas

The annual Frontier Christmas at the Lake Oroville Visitors Center will be held on December 4. This annual free event features a period history Christmas celebration with participants dressed in 1850s costumes, providing period crafts, a Christmas play, faro card games and pioneer weddings.

Lake Oroville's Multiple Uses

Lake Oroville provides a peak storage capacity slightly exceeding 3.5 million acre-feet, capturing runoff from the Feather River watershed. The lake serves many purposes, including flood control for the Oroville area of Butte County; providing water releases to benefit Feather River fisheries, the Delta environment and water quality, and providing water for users locally, as well as downstream.

As is usual with most multi-purpose reservoirs, Lake Oroville's surface level peaks in late spring and declines gradually as fall progresses.

Visitors Center

A Visitors Center overlooking Lake Oroville provides exhibits and information about the lake, its construction, history and many recreational attractions and a museum featuring a Maidu Native American diorama. Admission is free. Just east of Oroville Dam, the center is located at the north end of Kelly Ridge Road.

Films are available for viewing, including film of Oroville Dam's construction during the 1960s, and its dedication by then-Governor Ronald Reagan in 1967. Exhibits show Oroville's role in storing water and generating power for California's State Water Project. A 47-foot viewing tower offers visitors a panoramic view of the lake, foothill terrain and the upper Sacramento Valley, including the Sutter Buttes.

Operated jointly by DWR and the Department of Parks and Recreation, the center is open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. The Visitors Center telephone number is (530) 538-2219.

For More Information

Here are information sources about Lake Oroville, camping and other recreational opportunities in the Oroville region:

Campground Information---Call DPR in Oroville at (530) 538-2200.

Camping Reservations---Call 800-444-7275 (Reserve America).

Equestrian events information---Call DPR in Oroville at (530) 538-2200.

Oroville Visitors Center---(530) 538-2219.

Oroville community activities and special events:
Oroville Visitor and Tourism Bureau---1-888-OROVILLE
Oroville Area Chamber of Commerce---1-800-655-GOLD
Oroville Area Chamber of Commerce---www.oroillechamber.net

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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