State of California
The Resources Agency
Department of Water Resources

RECREATION SURVEYS

FINAL

R-13

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RECREATION SURVEYS

FINAL

R-13

Oroville Facilities Relicensing
FERC Project No. 2100

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REPORT SUMMARY

This document presents the results of Study R-13 – *Recreation Surveys*, one of several recreation studies conducted by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to support the Oroville Facilities Relicensing (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission [FERC] Project No. 2100). This study presents the results of several extensive recreation surveys administered to gather recreation information useful toward evaluating recreation opportunities in the study area.

This iteration of Study R-13 – *Recreation Surveys* supersedes a draft version released in June 2004. The earlier draft version was made available after only limited internal review, with the express purpose of providing the Oroville Facilities Relicensing Collaborative with as timely information as possible. This final document differs from the June 2004 draft only in that it has received editorial refinement to Chapters 4, 5, and the Appendices; no material changes have been made to the findings presented in the June 2004 draft.

The Oroville Facilities were developed as part of the State Water Project (SWP), a water storage and delivery system of reservoirs, aqueducts, powerplants, and pumping plants that stores and distributes water to supplement the needs of urban and agricultural water users in California. The Oroville Facilities support a variety of recreational opportunities, including several types of boating and fishing, camping, picnicking, swimming, horseback riding, hiking, bicycling, and hunting.

NEED FOR THIS STUDY

This study is needed to meet FERC direction regarding preparation of comprehensive recreation plans: FERC regulations state that a “well documented user survey is an essential part of a good recreation plan” (FERC 1996).

STUDY OBJECTIVE

The objectives of this study are to determine Project area recreationists’ background characteristics (visitors’ activities, trip characteristics, and socio-demographic characteristics); user preferences for facility and area development; perceptions of crowding; levels of satisfaction; reasons for visiting the area; and reasons for not visiting the area. Obtaining characteristics and recreation preferences of Northern California households and users of similar sites, especially as they relate to the study area, was also an objective of this study.

METHODOLOGY

Several surveys were administered for this study:

- A Lake Oroville Area Recreation Visitor Survey (consisting of an On-Site Survey with some optional activity-specific sections and a follow-up Mailback Survey);

- A Hunter Survey (also consisting of both an On-Site Survey and a follow-up Mailback Survey);
- A Similar Site Survey, administered at three reservoirs in Northern California deemed similar to the Lake Oroville area in terms of recreational opportunities; and
- A Household Survey, consisting of telephone interviews with residents of Butte County, as well as three other Northern California and Nevada market areas.

The purpose of the Lake Oroville Area Recreation Visitor On-Site Survey was to obtain information about visitors' pattern of past use of the study area, their current visit, and their perceptions and opinions regarding a range of conditions and factors that could affect their enjoyment. The Mailback Survey was implemented as a follow-up to the On-Site Survey and was primarily used to obtain information on visitors' recreation spending associated with their Lake Oroville area visit, and additional descriptive, perception, and opinion information.

The On-Site Survey was a self-administered survey completed by both day and overnight visitors engaged in recreation activities in the study area. Besides the general questions, there were three activity-specific sections for anglers, boaters, and trail users, which were skipped by people who were not or did not expect to fish, boat, or use trails. A version of the survey booklet intended to be left on visitors' windshields was also prepared. The Mailback Survey was similar in length to the On-Site Survey but had many multiple-part questions which were generally in "check-off" form to be less burdensome to the respondent, and more easily evaluated.

For the On-Site Survey, sampling protocols were developed to ensure representation from several major target recreational groups. The On-Site Survey was administered at 44 sites over a 12-month period starting from Memorial Day weekend, 2002 and ending after Memorial Day weekend, 2003. Four-hour sampling periods were scheduled on a monthly basis using a stratified random sampling design with stratification by day of week (weekend vs. weekday) and time of day.

Survey protocol for the On-Site Survey included surveyors approaching visitors and giving a brief introduction to the survey. With exceptions at a few sites, visitors must have been recreating at the site where they were contacted for at least 30 minutes to be included in the survey. The Mailback Survey was mailed seven to ten days after the original On-Site Survey contact. Butte County residents and non-residents were mailed slightly different surveys to better estimate economic impacts. A total of 2,583 people completed the On-Site Survey and 1,071 people completed the Mailback Survey (some unusable surveys were discarded).

The Hunter Survey assessed hunters' use patterns, attitudes, and perceptions specific to the hunting experience, species hunted, and hunting locations. The survey was a self-administered booklet. A mail survey was also sent, for the most part identical in

content to the surveys sent to non-hunter user groups. The Hunter Survey sampling schedule was from mid-October 2002 through January 2003 and included weekends only. There were a total of 106 on-site Hunter Surveys completed and 38 mailback surveys returned.

The Similar Site Survey was administered at Black Butte Lake, Lake Berryessa, and Shasta Lake, all three of which are large, federally-managed reservoirs that offer water-based recreation opportunities similar to Lake Oroville. The purpose of this survey was to determine how visitors to other reservoirs in the Northern California region perceived conditions and rated their experiences at those sites, which could provide some means to compare similar information provided by Lake Oroville area visitors. The Similar Site Survey combined relevant aspects of the On-Site and Mailback Survey instruments in a single on-site survey booklet. Sampling occurred on at least two weekend days in July and August 2002 at each site. A total of 293 Similar Site Surveys were completed.

The Household Survey was designed to identify latent demand among Northern Californian and Reno area residents for special events and facilities in the Lake Oroville area, and to assess potential factors influencing why residents might not be visiting the Lake Oroville area. There were 100 respondents from each of four strata: Butte County, Reno area, San Francisco area, and Sacramento area.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Rather than attempt to summarize the extensive and detailed results of the surveys here (as provided in Section 6.0 of this report), this section will instead describe the general benefits and areas of knowledge gained from each of the four survey efforts provided in this report.

Lake Oroville Area Recreation Visitor Survey

The Lake Oroville Area Recreation Visitor Survey was successful in obtaining a statistically valid representation of study area visitor characteristics, use patterns, opinions, perceptions, and preferences. Specifically, the data describes visitors to the study area as a whole and visitors to specific subareas (termed for this report “resource areas”) in terms of how long they stay in the area when they visit, whether they stay overnight or not, how often they visit and during what seasons, what portions of the study area they tend to use, the size and composition of the groups they visit with, and the activities they participate in while in the study area. All of these data provide a picture of the types of visitors and activities the study area serves, and an indication of what overall recreation management and development needs are required to serve them.

Specific perceptions that have been explored and are statistically represented by the survey include perceptions of crowding at specific recreation sites, perceptions of the quality or appeal of scenery at specific recreation sites, perceptions of the adequacy of several types of recreation facilities (in terms of the number provided), and perceptions

of whether several management issues and resource and social conditions were problems in the area.

Generally, visitors have little concern about crowding at most sites, and most consider the number of facilities of various types to be adequate, and most management issues to be “slight” problems, at most. However, the data reveal those facilities and management issues of most concern to certain users, and thus provide guidance for potential future actions to address these.

Another major area of information obtained relates to visitors’ specific preferences and desires related to the study area. These include preferences for different social and physical aspects of the recreation setting, and preferences for new special events and facility enhancements or additions. The data provide background information to be considered in planning future recreation enhancements, and allow for some ranking or prioritization of these potential changes, based on level of visitor interest.

A substantial amount of information specific to several key user groups was also obtained. From anglers, this includes data on frequency of angling use, use of guide services and participation in tournaments, fish species pursued and caught/released, perceptions of fishing regulations, satisfaction with their fishing experience, and reasons for dissatisfaction. From trail users, data included characterization of primary type of trail use (hike, bike, equestrian), perceptions of crowding on trails, encounters of concern with other trail users, and satisfaction with trail condition. From reservoir boaters information was obtained about the portions of the study area where they boat, encounters on the water and observation of boating activity of concern, perceptions of crowding on the water, types of watercraft used, use of boat ramps, experiences with waiting to use ramps, satisfaction with their boating experience, and reasons for dissatisfaction. As a whole, the data from these user groups indicate their satisfaction is fairly high, but their perceptions of problems or inadequacies and perceived priorities for improvements are also evident.

Finally, data were obtained on visitors’ overall satisfaction with their visits to the study area and several hundred comments were obtained from visitors about their positive and negative perceptions of the area, changes they believe are needed, and many other topics. Overall, satisfaction with visits to the Lake Oroville was high, but the survey data reveal key issues that might potentially be addressed to enhance satisfaction.

Some key comparisons of these characteristics and perceptions were made in the report, in addition to comparisons across resource areas. These include comparisons of peak season vs. non-peak season visitors, local (residents of Butte and adjacent Counties) vs. non-local visitors, and by general activity-based user groups (i.e., boaters vs. trail users vs. anglers, etc.).

Hunter Survey

The Hunter Survey provided a statistically valid (for most questions) representation of OWA hunters' overall hunting use patterns, characteristics of their hunting trip including length of stay and group size, and the species of wildlife hunted for and amount of game taken. Hunter data obtained include perceptions of crowding while hunting, access to the OWA, study area hunting regulations, adequacy of facilities, perceptions of whether several management issues and resource and social conditions were problems in the OWA, and improvements desired for hunting in the OWA. Lastly, data were obtained on hunters' level of satisfaction with hunting in the OWA and causes for dissatisfaction. Hunter satisfaction was reasonably high, but the data provide details on several specific issues that hunters would most like addressed to improve hunting.

Similar Site Survey

The Similar Site Survey provides, through what may be termed an "indicator sample" (much smaller samples than obtained in the study area in a very limited sampling period), a useful indication of the perceptions of visitors to several other northern California reservoirs of the sites and boating conditions there. This information is useful as a source of context and comparison with similar perceptions measured at the Lake Oroville area. This Survey also collected information from users of those other reservoirs about their frequency of use and perceptions of Lake Oroville, if they had ever visited there, and their interest in special events and facility additions as potential motivations to visit the area (if they had never visited). As with the Lake Oroville Area Visitor Survey, these data allow for some ranking or prioritization of potential management actions and enhancements to the area based on level of visitor (or potential visitor) interest.

Household Survey

The Household Survey, like the Similar Site Survey, relied on samples of about 100 respondents per sampling stratum, thus the data may not provide statistically valid representation for individual questions or issues with low response rates. Nevertheless, the Household Survey data provides an indication of regional residents' use and perceptions of the Lake Oroville area. The data indicate that those who did not live in the immediate area were not frequent visitors to the area, but that the reasons for this had more to do with distance, travel time, and other water-based recreation opportunities closer to their homes rather than with perceived inadequacies or characteristics of the study area. The data further suggest that certain types of special events and facilities have more potential than others to increase visitation by these regional residents, providing additional guidance in planning and prioritizing such actions.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

af	acre-feet
ATV	all-terrain vehicle
BR	boat ramp
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	cubic feet per second
DFG	California Department of Fish and Game
DPR	California Department of Parks and Recreation
DUA	Day Use Area
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FRSA	Feather River Service Area
ISO	Independent System Operator
LFC	Low Flow Channel
LOSRA	Lake Oroville State Recreation Area
maf	million acre-feet
msl	mean sea level
MW	megawatts
NF	National Forest
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OHV	off-highway vehicle
OWA	Oroville Wildlife Area
PWC	personal watercraft
RV	recreational vehicle
SR	State Route
SVRA	State Vehicular Recreation Area
SWP	State Water Project
TA	Trailhead Access
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) operates the Oroville Facilities, a multipurpose water supply, flood management, power generation, fish and wildlife enhancement and recreation project. The hydroelectric facilities operate under a license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which expires on January 31, 2007. Pursuant to the Federal Power Act, DWR is required to file an application for a new license on or before January 31, 2005.

This document presents the results of the Recreation Survey (R-13), one of several recreation studies conducted for the Oroville Facilities Relicensing Project (FERC Project No. 2100). Recreation surveys are an integral part of most hydropower relicensing recreation studies; for this Project, they are also being used to collect information addressing the objectives of many of the 19 different recreation and socioeconomic studies. These surveys gather recreation use information, perceptions of crowding and safety issues, recreation preferences, overall trip satisfaction, and economic expenditure information from reservoir boaters, anglers, and trail users, for both day use and overnight visitors.

1.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Lake Oroville offers a variety of existing recreational facilities and opportunities such as camping, boating, and fishing. Camping facilities range from developed campgrounds to primitive sites. There are three large developed campgrounds, two group campgrounds, and one equestrian campground as well as three primitive camping areas and two recreation vehicle (RV) “en route” camping areas. Boat-in campsites and floating campsites offer unique recreation opportunities. Other boating facilities include two full-service marinas, nine boat ramps, six car-top boat ramps, and seven floating toilets. Popular on-water activities in the Lake Oroville area include houseboating, motor boating, waterskiing, wake boarding, and personal watercraft (PWC) use, as well as some sailing, canoeing, kayaking, and windsurfing opportunities. Other recreation opportunities in the Lake Oroville area include picnicking, swimming, horseback riding, hiking, off-road biking, wildlife watching, off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, and hunting. There is also a visitor center located near the reservoir. Several fishing tournaments are held at the reservoir, and there are excellent fishing opportunities both on the reservoir and on the Feather River below Oroville Dam. The Feather River Fish Hatchery, located below the Diversion Dam along the “Low Flow Channel,” offers fish-viewing opportunities with tours and educational signage.

Additional recreational facilities are located at the Thermalito Forebay, Thermalito Afterbay, Thermalito Diversion Pool, and Oroville Wildlife Area (OWA). The Thermalito Forebay offers two day use areas, two boat ramps, an aquatic center, extensive picnicking facilities, and a swimming area and beach. The Thermalito Afterbay offers two boat ramps, a car-top boat ramp, a PWC/swimming beach, and hunting

opportunities, as well as many opportunities to hike or bike on trails surrounding the Afterbay. The Diversion Pool offers a day use area, non-motorized boating, and many multiple-use trail opportunities. The OWA encompasses parts of the Feather River below Highway 162 and provides opportunities for hunting, fishing, primitive camping, river boating, target shooting, and wildlife watching.

1.2 STUDY AREA

The study area for R-13 includes the Project area; three regional reservoirs; Butte County and three metropolitan areas: Sacramento, San Francisco, and Reno; and the lands and waters within and adjacent to (1/4 mile) the FERC Project boundary, and adjacent lands, facilities, and roads (Figure 1.2-1). The Project area includes all lands within the FERC Project 2100 boundary and for the purposes of this study is divided into five geographic resource areas: Lake Oroville, Diversion Pool, Thermalito Forebay, Thermalito Afterbay, Low Flow Channel (LFC), and the OWA.

1.3 DESCRIPTION OF FACILITIES

The Oroville Facilities are located on the Feather River at the foothills of the Sierra Nevada in Butte County, California. The Oroville Facilities were developed as part of the State Water Project (SWP), a water storage and delivery system of reservoirs, aqueducts, power plants, and pumping plants. The main purpose of the SWP is to store and distribute water to supplement the needs of urban and agricultural water users in Northern California, the San Francisco Bay area, the San Joaquin Valley, and Southern California. The Oroville Facilities are also operated for flood control, power generation, to improve water quality in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta (Delta), enhance fish and wildlife, and provide recreation.

FERC Project No. 2100 encompasses 41,100 acres and includes Oroville Dam and Reservoir, three power plants (Hyatt Pumping-Generating Plant, Thermalito Diversion Dam Power Plant, and Thermalito Pumping-Generating Plant), Thermalito Diversion Dam, the Feather River Fish Hatchery and Fish Barrier Dam, Thermalito Power Canal, the OWA, Thermalito Forebay and Forebay Dam, Thermalito Afterbay and Afterbay Dam, transmission lines, and a relatively large number of recreational facilities. An overview of these facilities is provided in Figure 1.2-1. Oroville Dam, along with two small saddle dams, impounds Lake Oroville, a 3.5-million-acre-foot (maf) capacity storage reservoir with a surface area of 15,810 acres at its maximum normal operating level of 900 feet above mean sea level (msl).

The hydroelectric facilities have a combined licensed generating capacity of approximately 762 megawatts (MW). The Hyatt Pumping-Generating Plant is the largest of the three power plants with a capacity of 645 MW.

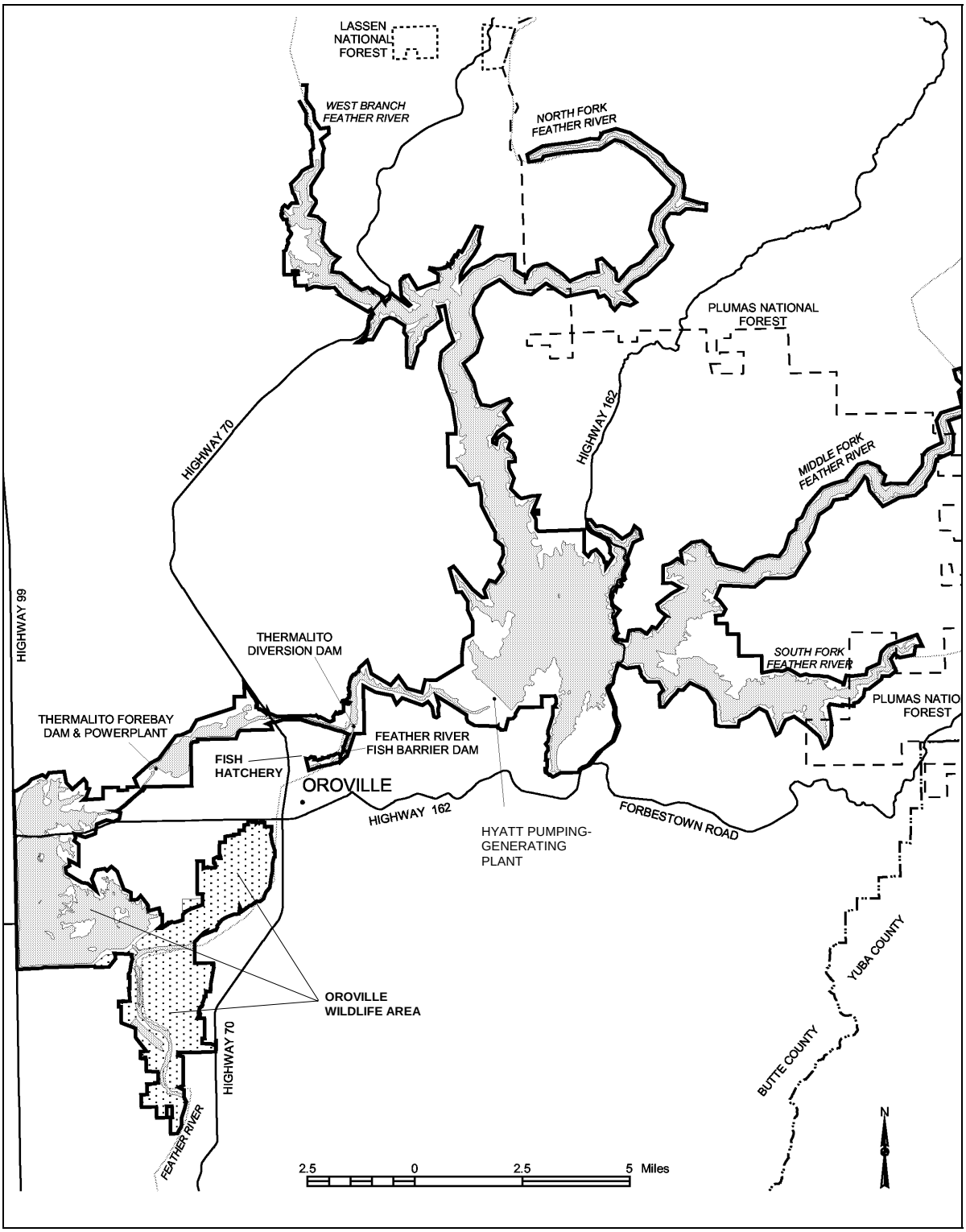

Figure 1.2-1. Oroville Facilities FERC Project 2100 Boundary.

Water from the six-unit underground power plant (three conventional generating and three pumping-generating units) is discharged through two tunnels into the Feather River just downstream of Oroville Dam. The plant has a generating and pumping flow capacity of 16,950 and 5,610 cubic feet per second (cfs), respectively. Other generation facilities include the 3-MW Thermalito Diversion Dam Power Plant and the 114-MW Thermalito Pumping-Generating Plant.

Thermalito Diversion Dam, four miles downstream of Oroville Dam, creates a tail water pool for the Hyatt Pumping-Generating Plant and is used to divert water into the Thermalito Power Canal. Thermalito Diversion Dam Power Plant is located on the left abutment of the diversion dam. The power plant releases a maximum of 615 cfs of water into the river.

The OWA comprises approximately 11,000 acres west of Oroville that are managed for wildlife habitat and recreational activities. It includes the Thermalito Afterbay and surrounding lands (approximately 6,000 acres), along with 5,000 acres adjoining the Feather River. The 5,000-acre area is adjacent to or straddles 12 miles of the Feather River and includes willow and cottonwood–lined ponds, islands, and channels. Recreational opportunities include dispersed recreation (hunting, fishing, and bird watching); recreational activities also take place at developed sites (the Monument Hill Day Use Area [DUA], model airplane grounds, and three boat launches on the Afterbay and two on the river) and in two primitive camping areas. The California Department of Fish and Game's (DFG's) habitat enhancement program includes a wood duck nest-box program and dry land farming for nesting cover and improved wildlife forage. Limited gravel extraction also occurs in a few locations.

1.4 CURRENT OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS

Operation of the Oroville Facilities varies seasonally, weekly, and hourly, depending on hydrology and the objectives DWR is trying to meet. Typically, releases to the Feather River are managed to conserve water while meeting a variety of water delivery requirements, including flow, temperature, fisheries, diversion, and water quality. Lake Oroville stores winter and spring runoff for release to the Feather River as necessary for Project purposes. Meeting the water supply objectives of the SWP has always been the primary consideration for determining Oroville Facilities operation (within the regulatory constraints specified for flood control, instream fisheries, and downstream uses). Power production is scheduled within the boundaries specified by the water operations criteria noted above. Annual operations planning is conducted for multi-year carryover storage. The current methodology is to retain half of the Lake Oroville storage above a specific level for subsequent years. Currently, that level has been established at 1.0 maf; however, this does not limit drawdown of the reservoir below that level. If hydrology is drier or requirements are greater than expected, additional water could be released from Lake Oroville. The operations plan is updated regularly to reflect forecast changes in hydrology and downstream operations. Typically, Lake Oroville is filled to its

maximum operating level of 900 feet above msl in June and then lowered as necessary to meet downstream requirements, to a minimum level in December or January (approximately 700 msl). During drier years, the reservoir may be drawn down more and may not fill to desired levels the following spring. Project operations are directly constrained by downstream operational demands and flood management criteria as described below.

1.4.1 Downstream Operation

An August 1983 agreement between DWR and DFG, entitled "Agreement Concerning the Operation of the Oroville Division of the State Water Project for Management of Fish & Wildlife" (DWR and DFG 1983) sets criteria and objectives for flow and temperatures in the low-flow channel and the reach of the Feather River between Thermalito Afterbay and Verona. This agreement: (1) establishes minimum flows between Thermalito Afterbay outlet and Verona that vary by water year type; (2) requires flow changes under 2,500 cfs to be reduced by no more than 200 cfs during any 24-hour period (except for flood management, failures, etc.); (3) requires flow stability during the peak of the fall-run Chinook salmon spawning season; and (4) sets an objective of suitable temperature conditions during the fall months for salmon and during the later spring/summer for shad and striped bass.

1.4.1.1 Instream Flow Requirements

The Oroville Facilities are operated to meet minimum flows in the Lower Feather River as established by the 1983 agreement (see above). The agreement specifies that the Oroville Facilities release a minimum of 600 cfs into the Feather River from the Thermalito Diversion Dam for fisheries purposes. This is the total volume of flows from the diversion dam outlet, diversion dam power plant, and the Feather River Fish Hatchery pipeline.

Generally, the instream flow requirements below Thermalito Afterbay are 1,700 cfs from October through March, and 1,000 cfs from April through September. However, if runoff for the previous April through July period is less than 1,942,000 acre-feet (af) (i.e., the 1911–1960 mean unimpaired runoff near Oroville), the minimum flow can be reduced to 1,200 cfs from October to February and 1,000 cfs for March. A maximum flow of 2,500 cfs is maintained from October 15 through November 30 to prevent spawning in overbank areas that might later become dewatered.

1.4.1.2 Temperature Requirements

The Thermalito Diversion Pool provides the water supply for the Feather River Fish Hatchery. The hatchery temperature objectives are 52°F for September, 51°F for October and November, 55°F for December through March, 51°F for April through May

15, 55°F for the last half of May, 56°F for June 1–15, 60°F for June 16 through August 15, and 58°F for August 16–31. In April through November, a temperature range of plus or minus 4°F is allowed for objectives.

There are several temperature objectives for the Feather River downstream of the Afterbay outlet. During the fall months, after September 15, the temperatures must be suitable for fall-run Chinook salmon. From May through August, the temperatures must be suitable for shad, striped bass, and other warmwater fish.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries has also established an explicit criterion for steelhead trout and spring-run Chinook salmon, memorialized in a biological opinion on the effects of the Central Valley Project and the SWP on Central Valley spring-run Chinook and steelhead. As a reasonable and prudent measure, DWR attempts to control water temperature at Feather River mile 61.6 (Robinson's Riffle in the low-flow channel) from June 1 through September 30. This measure attempts to maintain water temperatures at less than or equal to 65°F on a daily average. The requirement is not intended to preclude pump-back operations at the Oroville Facilities needed to assist the State of California with supplying energy during periods when the California Independent System Operator (ISO) anticipates a Stage 2 or higher alert.

The hatchery and river water temperature objectives sometimes conflict with temperatures desired by agricultural diverters. Under existing agreements, DWR provides water for the Feather River Service Area (FRSA) contractors. The contractors claim a need for warmer water during spring and summer for rice germination and growth (i.e., minimum 65°F from approximately April through mid-May, and minimum 59°F during the remainder of the growing season), although there is no explicit obligation for DWR to meet the rice water temperature goals. However, to the extent practical, DWR does use its operational flexibility to accommodate the FRSA contractors' temperature goals.

1.4.1.3 Water Diversions

Monthly irrigation diversions of up to 190,000 af (July 2002) are made from the Thermalito Complex during the May through August irrigation season. The total annual entitlement of the Butte and Sutter County agricultural users is approximately 1.0 maf. After meeting these local demands, flows into the lower Feather River (and outside of the Project 2100 Boundary) continue into the Sacramento River and into the Delta. In the northwestern portion of the Delta, water is pumped into the North Bay Aqueduct. In the south Delta, water is diverted into Clifton Court Forebay, where the water is stored until it is pumped into the California Aqueduct.

1.4.1.4 Water Quality

Flows through the Delta are maintained to meet Bay-Delta water quality standards arising from DWR's water rights permits. These standards are designed to meet several water quality objectives such as salinity, Delta outflow, river flows, and export limits. The purpose of these objectives is to attain the highest reasonable water quality, considering all demands being made on Bay-Delta waters. In particular, they protect a wide range of fish and wildlife including Chinook salmon, Delta smelt, and striped bass, as well as the habitat of estuarine-dependent species.

1.4.2 Flood Management

The Oroville Facilities are an integral component of the flood management system for the Sacramento Valley. During the wintertime, the Oroville Facilities are operated under flood control requirements specified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Under these requirements, Lake Oroville is operated to maintain up to 750,000 af of storage space to allow for the capture of significant inflows. Flood control releases are based on the release schedule in the flood control diagram or the emergency spillway release diagram prepared by USACE, whichever requires the greater release. Decisions regarding such releases are made in consultation with USACE.

The flood control requirements are an example of multiple use of reservoir space. When flood management space is not required to accomplish flood management objectives, the reservoir space can be used for storing water. From October through March, the maximum allowable storage limit (the point at which specific flood releases would have to be made) varies from about 2.8 to 3.2 maf to ensure adequate space in Lake Oroville to handle floodflows. The actual encroachment demarcation is based on a wetness index, computed from accumulated basin precipitation. This allows higher levels in the reservoir when the prevailing hydrology is dry. When the wetness index is high in the basin (i.e., high potential runoff from the watershed above Lake Oroville), required flood management space is at its greatest to provide the necessary flood protection. From April through June, the maximum allowable storage limit is increased as the flooding potential decreases, which allows capture of the higher spring flows for use later in the year. During September, the maximum allowable storage decreases again to prepare for the next flood season. During flood events, actual storage may encroach into the flood reservation zone to prevent or minimize downstream flooding along the Feather River.

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2.0 NEED FOR STUDY

This study is needed to meet FERC direction regarding preparation of comprehensive recreation plans, and in doing so FERC regulations state that a “well documented user survey is an essential part of a good recreation plan” (FERC 1996). This study addresses Issue Statement R-1—adequacy of existing Project recreation facilities, opportunities, and access to accommodate current use and future demand. A recreation user survey is an effective tool in assisting with managing and planning recreation areas.

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3.0 STUDY OBJECTIVE

The objectives of this study are to determine recreation user background characteristics (visitors' activities, trip characteristics, and socio-demographic characteristics), preferences for facility and area development, perceptions of crowding, levels of satisfaction, and reasons for visiting the area. An additional objective was to determine perceptions of non-visitors who reside in the region and why they had not visited the study area.

More specific objectives include gauging latent demand for recreation activities in the Lake Oroville area and its relative importance compared to other similar recreation destinations in Northern California. Surveys of visitors to similar recreation sites at other Northern Californian reservoirs provide context and opportunity for comparison with Project area survey results. These also provide information on visitors to other sites' knowledge and opinions of the Project area. A telephone survey of households within and outside Butte County was conducted to measure interest in recreation within the study area and in various development scenarios that may motivate them to visit the study area.

This study provided data for many of the other recreation studies conducted for relicensing, including:

- R-2 – Recreation Safety Assessment;
- R-3 – Assessment of the Relationship of Project Operations and Recreation;
- R-4 – Relationship Assessment of Fish/Wildlife Management;
- R-5 – Assessment of Recreation Areas Management;
- R-8 – Recreation Carrying Capacity;
- R-12 – Projected Recreation Use;
- R-14 – Assessment of Regional Recreation and Barriers to Recreation;
- R-16 – Whitewater and River Boating;
- R-17 – Recreation Needs Analysis; and
- R-18 – Recreation Activity, Spending, and Associated Economic Impacts.

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4.0 METHODOLOGY

This section describes the methodology of each of the surveys conducted for this study. Current recreation users of the study area were surveyed on-site at the study area and via a follow-up mailback survey. Additionally, data were collected on-site from recreationists at three other similar reservoirs in Northern California and from households in several parts of Northern California via a telephone survey. An activity-specific survey of hunters was used to obtain information from that user-group within the portion of the study area where most hunting occurs. A copy of each survey is presented in the appendices.

The following summarizes each of the surveys conducted:

- Lake Oroville Area Recreation Visitor Survey (On-Site and Mailback Surveys) – This survey targeted recreationists that visited Project area recreation facilities during a one-year period beginning May 2002 and included a direct contact questionnaire and version used for windshield distribution. Those respondents who provided their name and address were sent a follow-up survey in the mail asking for additional information.
- Hunter Survey – Hunters were surveyed within the Oroville Wildlife Area beginning in October 2002 using an on-site survey. A follow-up survey was mailed out to those who provided their name and mailing address as requested.
- Similar Site Survey – Recreationists at three Northern California reservoirs -- Lake Berryessa, Black Butte Lake, and Shasta Lake -- were surveyed on-site during the 2002 peak season. No follow-up mail survey was used.
- Household Survey – A telephone survey was conducted of 400 Northern California and Nevada residents who recreate at lakes, reservoir, or rivers in the region. This survey was conducted during the summer of 2002.

Most results for the Lake Oroville Recreation Visitor Survey and complete results for the Hunter Survey, the Similar Sites Survey, and the Household Survey are presented in Section 5.0. Economics-related results from the Mailback Survey portion of the Lake Oroville Recreation Visitor Survey are presented in Study R18 – *Recreation Activity, Spending, and Associated Economic Impacts*.

4.1 SURVEYS PREVIOUSLY CONDUCTED WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

The most recent major visitor questionnaire study conducted for the study area was the 1996 study conducted by Guthrie et al. (1997). This study examined existing recreation use levels and asked visitors entering Project recreation areas to complete a brief survey. This survey asked questions about: whether or not the trip was the first visit, specific activities in which visitors participated, length of stay, daily expenditures, visitors' residence locations, satisfaction with existing facilities, and desire for additional facilities and recreation opportunities. The study did not address crowding and carrying

capacity issues, and questions regarding satisfaction with the respondents' recreation visits to the study area were of limited detail.

The other major recreation study relevant to this effort is the 2002 DPR study entitled *Public Opinion and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California*, one of a series of similar studies conducted periodically by the agency. The study is based on a telephone survey of over 2,000 California adults, and a follow-up mail questionnaire returned by over 600 of those people. However, the major information collected is fairly broad and is intended to support State-level strategic planning rather than help assess opinions about specific management problems or study area development options.

4.2 LAKE OROVILLE AREA RECREATION VISITOR SURVEY (ON-SITE AND MAILBACK SURVEYS)

The largest and most comprehensive survey conducted for this study was the Lake Oroville Area Recreation Visitor Survey. Based on the two methodologies used in that effort, the survey is discussed under two titles: the On-Site Survey and Mailback Survey. The overall purpose of the On-Site Survey was to obtain information about visitors' pattern of past use of the study area, their current visit, and their perceptions and opinions regarding a range of conditions and factors that could affect their enjoyment. The Mailback Survey implemented as a follow-up to the On-Site Survey was used primarily to obtain information on visitors' recreation spending associated with their Lake Oroville area visit, but was also used to obtain additional descriptive, perception, and opinion information.

4.2.1 Survey Design

The On-Site Survey was designed as a self-administered survey in the form of a booklet to be completed by both day users and overnight visitors engaged in recreation activities offered in the study area. (A special survey instrument, described below, was designed for hunters.) The 13-page survey booklet elicited information on several general themes:

- Frequency and seasons of past use;
- Current trip characteristics (date of arrival and departure, group size, areas visited, overnight accommodations, activities participated in, etc.);
- Visitors' perceptions and opinions related to several topics (crowding, visual quality, encounters with others on the water or on trails, condition of trails, and fishing regulations);
- Visitors' satisfaction with their fishing and boating experience; and
- Demographic information (age, education, occupation, income, ethnicity).

Some of the above topics were addressed in three activity-specific sections for anglers, boaters, and trail users, along with other topics related to these three activities. Instructions at the start of each of these sections indicated that visitors should skip the section if they had not or did not expect to fish, boat, or use trails, respectively, during their current visit to the study area. A version of the survey booklet intended to be left on visitors' windshields was also prepared. The windshield survey was identical in content to the On-Site Survey but with a cover note introducing the survey and providing additional instructions that were normally given to visitors verbally on-site. Both instruments contained a map of the study area inside the front cover of the booklet with six Lake Oroville zones and six downstream portions of the study area numbered and labeled. Copies of the On-Site Survey and on-site windshield surveys are included in Appendix A.

The Mailback Survey booklet was similar in length to the On-Site Survey booklet, with 14 questions on 13 pages. The Mailback Survey was needed to accommodate the vast array of stakeholder issues and data needs, as a single questionnaire would have been too lengthy to implement on-site without excessively burdening visitors. Additionally, the recreation spending section of the Mailback Survey was more appropriate to respond to once a trip was completed. Several of the questions were multiple-part questions with several dozen individual items to be answered. Although the number of items to respond to was large, most were of the "check-off" form and therefore could be answered quickly. Most of the survey questions were to be answered specifically in reference to the respondents' recent trip to the Lake Oroville area during which they participated in the On-Site Survey. The introduction to the survey booklet reminded boaters about that particular "recent trip" by listing the date and location of their On-Site Survey.

The first three sections of the Mailback Survey were focused on recreation expenditures. These data were collected to meet the objectives of Study R-18 – *Recreation Spending and Economic Impacts*. Specifically, the first section of the survey asked respondents to describe the mode of transportation and accommodation used (the latter applied only if they stayed at least one night away from home on the trip). The second section asked respondents about their ownership, use on their recent trip, and recent expenditures related to 16 types of recreation equipment. The third section consisted of a large table in which respondents were asked to list their trip expenditures within five broad categories: lodging, food and beverages, transportation, activities/entertainment, and miscellaneous. Each of these categories was further divided into several sub-categories. The table allowed respondents to specify the community in which each expense occurred and whether the expenditures occurred while preparing for the trip, while traveling to and from the study area, or while on-site at the study area.

The last section of the survey was essentially a continuation of the On-Site Survey questions and was unrelated to expenses. The following topics were addressed in the section:

- Other Northern Californian places visited during the last 12 months and during their recent Lake Oroville area trip;
- New recreation activities and special events they would like to be available in the Lake Oroville area;
- Preferences for recreation settings in the Lake Oroville area;
- Perceptions of various management, water condition, and user interaction issues as problems in the Lake Oroville area;
- Perceptions of the number of various types of recreation facilities and services in the Lake Oroville area; and
- Overall satisfaction with their recent trip.

Similar to the on the On-Site Survey, respondents to the Mailback Survey were invited to write any additional comments they wished to express.

4.2.2 Survey Sampling Protocol

Sampling protocols were developed to ensure representation from several major target recreational groups. Efforts to determine which groups should be targeted, as well as how many completed surveys would constitute adequate representation, were discussed at length during the Study Plan development phase and again prior to beginning data collection in late May 2002. Several target groups, which were not mutually exclusive, were identified:

- Recreational visitors who visited the study area primarily for angling;
- Recreational visitors who visited the study area primarily for reservoir boating (day users and overnight visitors); and,
- Non-boating day use and overnight recreational visitors.

More specific visitor groups were targeted based on a list of 19 recreation activities believed to occur in the study area during a particular time of year (or year round). The 19 activities/locations/season groups are listed below in condensed form (12 activity groups) and by primary season of use:

Year-Round Recreation Use Groups

- Anglers at Lake Oroville, Afterbay, and Forebay
- Feather River anglers (with seasonal emphasis as appropriate)
- Trail users

Spring to Fall (April to October) Recreation Use Groups

- Swimmers at the Forebay
- Campers at the OWA
- Campers at the drive-in campsites on Lake Oroville
- Picnickers at Lake Oroville, Forebay, Afterbay, and Diversion Pool
- Other day users at Lake Oroville, Forebay, Afterbay, and Diversion Pool

Summer (Memorial Day through Labor Day) Recreation Use Groups

- River boaters below Oroville Dam
- Reservoir boaters at Lake Oroville, Forebay, Afterbay, and Diversion Pool
- Campers at Lake Oroville boat-in and floating campsites
- Swimmers at Lake Oroville, Afterbay, and Feather River

Again, these groups were not mutually exclusive; for example, some visitors were likely to be both swimmers and picnickers, and many campers were likely to be boaters. Special efforts were planned to reach interpretive/educational visitors (i.e., visitors to the Lake Oroville Visitors Center) and hunters. Goals for the number of completed surveys to be obtained from key visitor groups such as reservoir boaters, and a range for the total number of completed surveys, were agreed upon by the Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group (Table 4.2-1).

Table 4.2-1. Sample goals for Lake Oroville Area On-Site Recreation Survey.

Target Group	Range of # of Completes
Recreation visitors to the study area (all groups)	1,300 to 2,000
Reservoir boaters	200 to 300
River boaters	100 to 200
Anglers	200 to 300
Trail users	100 to 150

Source: DWR 2002.

4.2.2.1 On-Site Survey Sampling Schedule

The survey sampling schedule covered the 12-month period starting on Memorial Day weekend 2002 and ending after Memorial Day weekend 2003. Four-hour survey sampling periods, during which one or two data collection staff were assigned to a specified recreation site to survey visitors, were scheduled on a monthly basis using a stratified random sampling design. The schedule was stratified by day of week (weekend/holidays and weekdays) and by time of day (morning, mid-day, and late day). Survey periods were scheduled for 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. (morning), 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. (mid-day), and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. (late day). The recreation season schedule (mid-May through mid-September) emphasized weekends over weekdays, with approximately 8 to 12 periods scheduled each weekend day and two to four periods scheduled on most

weekdays. Additional surveying was scheduled for the Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day extended holiday weekends.

Table 4.2-2 summarizes the schedule of survey periods for the first full month of data collection, June 2002, and provides an indication of the distribution on sampling at different times of day and days of the week. A similar distribution was maintained throughout the peak season. The schedule during the off-peak had an approximately equal distribution between weekday and weekend survey periods.

Table 4.2-2. Survey sample periods scheduled for Lake Oroville Area On-Site Survey, June 2002.

Time of Day	Weekend		Weekdays		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
8 a.m. to 12 p.m.	26	31.3	16	25.8	42	29.0
12 p.m. to 4 p.m.	33	39.8	25	40.3	58	40.0
4 p.m. to 8 p.m.	24	28.9	21	33.9	45	31.0
All time periods	83	57.2	62	42.8	145	100.0

Source: EDAW 2004.

The individual recreation sites where visitor surveys were conducted are listed by "resource area" in Table 4.2-3 and depicted on a map of the Study Area in Figure 4.2-1. Sites were randomly selected for particular strata (e.g., weekend, 12 to 4 p.m.), but with controls placed on the selection to avoid over or under sampling particular sites and to ensure that sampling was well-distributed geographically and temporally. Day use areas directly associated with boat ramps (at Spillway, Bidwell Canyon, and Lime Saddle Boat Ramps on Lake Oroville, and at South Forebay and Monument Hill Boat Ramps on the Forebay and Afterbay) were scheduled in conjunction with the boat ramps rather than as separate sites. Two surveyors were often assigned to high use day use areas and boat ramps to increase the number of visitors that could be contacted. Surveying at boat-in campsites, which can only be reached by boat, was assigned in conjunction with other on-water data collection tasks for other relicensing recreation studies.

The day of week and time of day that survey periods were scheduled at individual sites were varied to maximize the opportunity for different visitors and different types of visitors to be contacted. Factors such as site closures or reduced usability of a facility due to low reservoir pool levels were taken into account. Certain times of day were emphasized at particular types of sites to maximize the opportunity for survey contacts. For example, campgrounds were visited primarily in the morning or late day when campers were most likely to be on-site. Survey periods at day use areas were primarily scheduled for mid and late day, since morning use was typically very light. Survey periods at boat ramps were scheduled for the morning when anglers who had gotten on the reservoir early and pleasure boaters ending multiple day visits would be exiting. Periods scheduled during the late day provided the best opportunity to survey day use boaters ending their day on the water.

Table 4.2-3. Lake Oroville area recreation survey sites.

Resource Area	Recreation Sites where On-Site Surveys were Conducted
Lake Oroville	• Bidwell Canyon BR • Bidwell Canyon Campground • Bidwell Canyon DUA • Bloomer BIC • Craig Saddle BIC • Dark Canyon Car-top BR • Enterprise BR • Foreman Creek BIC • Foreman Creek Car-top BR • Goat Ranch BIC • Lake Oroville Visitors Center • Lime Saddle BR • Lime Saddle Campground • Lime Saddle DUA • Loafer Creek BR • Loafer Creek Campground and Group Campground • Loafer Creek DUA • Loafer Creek Equestrian Campground • Nelson Bar Car-top BR • Oroville Dam/Overlook DUA • Saddle Dam Trailhead Access • Spillway DUA • Spillway BR • Stringtown Car-top BR • Vinton Gulch Car-top BR
Diversion Pool	• Diversion Pool DUA • Lakeland Boulevard Trailhead Access • Powerhouse Road Trailhead Access • Oroville Dam Blvd. (roadside trail access to Dan Beebe Trail)
Low-Flow Channel	• Feather River Fish Hatchery (upstream fish ladder area) • Riverbend Park and Feather River Fish Ponds
Thermalito Forebay	• North Forebay BR/DUA and Aquatic Center • South Forebay BR/DUA
Thermalito Afterbay	• East Hamilton Road Trailhead Access • Larkin Road Car-top BR • Model Airplane Facility • Monument Hill BR/DUA • Wilbur Road BR
OWA	• Afterbay Outlet (day use and primitive camping area, gravel boat ramp) • OWA East Levee Road (dispersed sites on east side of Feather River) • OWA West Levee Road (dispersed sites on west side of Feather River, south of Afterbay Outlet) • OWA Headquarters entrance (west bank of Feather River at north end of OWA)
Clay Pit area	• Clay Pit State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) • Rabe Road Shooting Range

Note: BR=boat ramp, BIC=boat-in camp, and DUA=Day Use Area.
Source: EDAW 2004.

The schedule was reduced somewhat during July and August 2002, to about 100 survey periods per month, as Lake Oroville reached low pool levels and several boat ramps and other facilities became unusable. During September and October 2002, special emphasis was placed on contacting Feather River anglers during the salmon and steelhead seasons. With very low water levels in Lake Oroville and low use at most recreation sites, general surveying was minimized during the late fall and winter of 2002-03. Much of the surveying effort during that period was shifted to a survey of hunters using the OWA and Afterbay resource areas. As weather conditions improved and the pool level in Lake Oroville rose during the spring of 2003, surveying efforts at a broader range of sites were resumed.

4.2.2.2 On-Site Survey Protocol

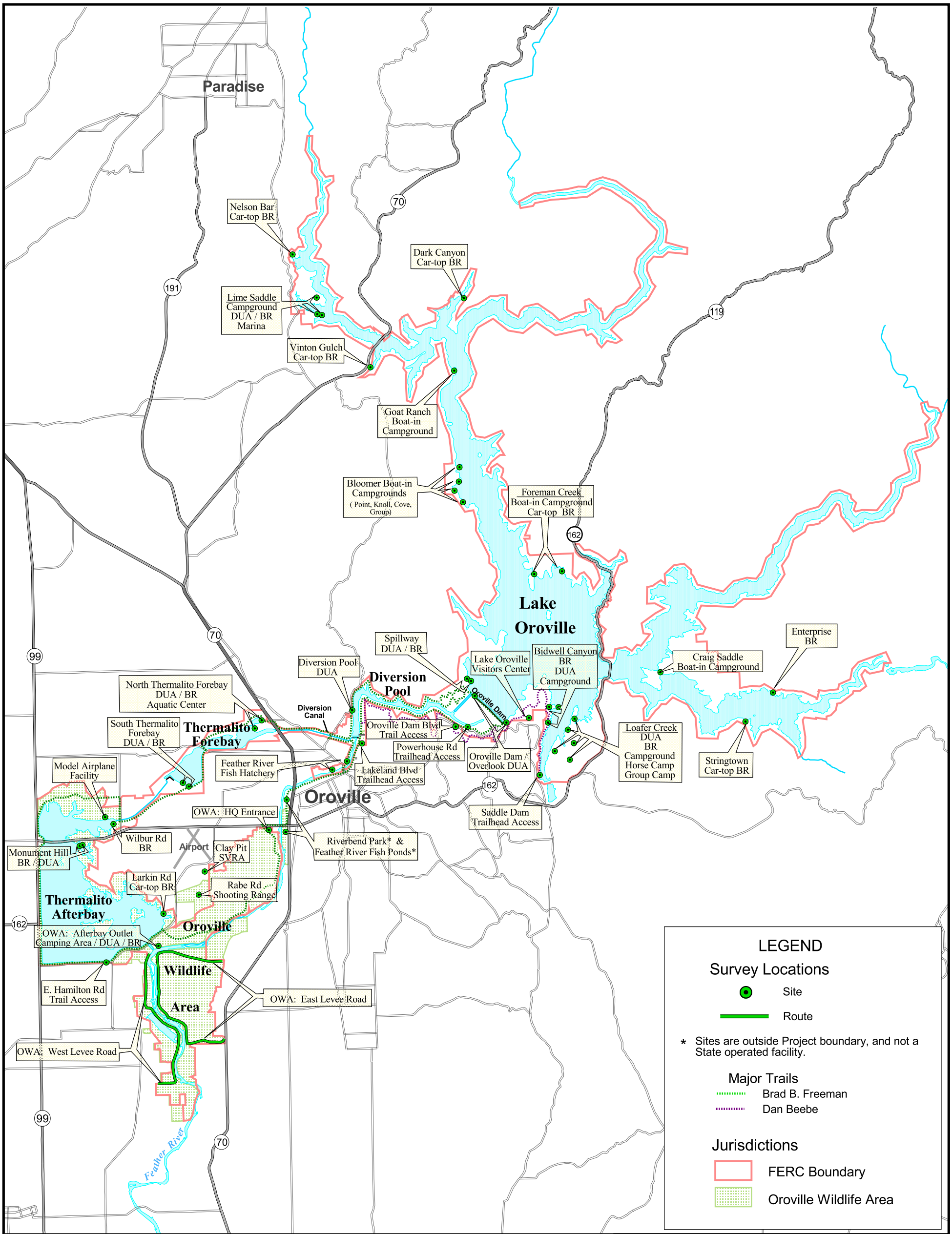
The wide range in types of recreation sites as well as differences in individual site layout and use required a consistent yet flexible On-Site Survey protocol. Initially, visitors were asked to participate in the survey effort by filling out a survey booklet on-site. Surveyors were trained on proper etiquette for approaching visitors and soliciting their survey participation. A brief introduction to the survey was used to explain the purpose of the survey and encourage participation. The rate of refusal was generally in the range of 10-15 percent. Visitors were given DWR promotional floating key chains, lanyards, and maps as an outreach effort and an incentive to participate.

To participate in the study, visitors must have been recreating at the site where they were contacted for at least 30 minutes. (An exception was made to this protocol at sites where sightseers might not typically spend 30 minutes at the site.) At sites such as boat ramps and trailheads, visitors were generally contacted as they were concluding their visit and preparing to leave the study area. Visitors at campgrounds and day use sites were typically contacted as they used the sites. When use levels were low or moderate, an attempt was made to survey every group on-site or exiting. When use levels were too high to survey every group, the surveyors attempted to contact every second or third group.

The survey booklet typically required 10-15 minutes for completion, depending on whether the respondent completed any or all of the boating, fishing, and trail use sections. The surveyors stayed close by to give any assistance that might be needed in completing the survey, or answered visitors' questions when they returned to retrieve the survey booklet after a few minutes.

At the end of the on-site survey, respondents were asked to provide their name and address so that they could be mailed the follow-up survey which focused on their spending during their trip. Those who agreed to provide their name and address were given a sheet which explained the purpose of the Mailback Survey and asked them to keep in mind their trip expenditures and the communities in which they occurred. A

INSERT Figure 4.2-1. Lake Oroville Area Recreation Survey Sites (11 x 17)



Source: DWR GIS / EDAW 2003

1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 Miles

Scale 1 : 142,560
1" = 2.25 miles

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Oroville Facilities Relicensing
FERC Project No. 2100

FIGURE 4.2-1
(R-13)

Lake Oroville Area
Recreation Survey Sites

Prepared by: PJ -- EDAW, Inc.
Date 1/07/05
P:\2000\0s016.gis\arcview\rec_acc.apr

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color map on the reverse depicted the Butte County communities specified in the Mailback Survey.

4.2.2.3 Windshield Survey Distribution

Because it was difficult to directly contact a sufficient number of visitors at some sites, a version of the On-Site Survey booklet to be placed on visitors' windshields was prepared. These survey booklets had an introductory letter on the cover, and were accompanied by a postage-paid and addressed envelope to return the survey, and the map/Mailback Survey instruction sheet.

Windshield surveys were left on unattended vehicles at recreation sites with low visitor use and where visitors were dispersed or may not have been available to be contacted on-site during the four-hour survey period, such as trailheads, car-top boat ramps, and certain OWA sites. Windshield surveys were also offered to those who were asked to participate at an awkward time, such as boaters departing the reservoir at dusk and as a last attempt to convince reluctant respondents to participate in the study. This procedure was especially helpful with reservoir boaters, as they were often occupied with the tasks involved in removing their boats from the water and frequently requested the opportunity to participate at a later time.

4.2.2.4 Mailback Survey Protocol

The mailback surveys were mailed 7-10 days after the original On-Site Survey contacts. Butte County residents and non-residents were sent slightly different Mailback Surveys to better estimate economic impacts to the study area. Postcards were sent to all mail survey recipients approximately ten days after the initial mailing. The postcard asked non-respondents to complete and return their surveys as soon as possible, and thanked those individuals who had already completed and returned their surveys. Another postcard was sent to individuals who returned the Mailback Surveys but did not answer the question about their party size (party size information was essential to accurately estimate per capita spending for the economic impacts study). Finally, a second Mailback Survey with a cover letter encouraging participation was sent to all non-respondents approximately three weeks to a month after the initial survey mailing.

4.2.3 Survey Samples Obtained

On-Site Surveys were completed by a total of 2,583 people within the six resource areas that comprise the study area (Table 4.2-4). This number exceeded the goal stated in the Study Plan of 1,300 to 2,000 completed surveys to maximize the chance to obtain an adequate number of Mailback Survey responses, assuming a 40-50 percent response rate. The number of surveys obtained at specific recreation sites within each resource area is presented in Appendix B.

Table 4.2-4. On-Site and Mailback Survey samples obtained, by resource area.

Resource Area	On-Site Survey		Mailback Survey		
	Sample Size	Percent of Total	Sample Size	Percent of Total	Participation Rate (%)
Lake Oroville	1,396	54.0	632	59.0	45.3
Diversion Pool	62	2.4	32	3.0	51.6
Low-Flow Channel [1]	169	6.5	58	5.4	34.3
Thermalito Forebay	311	12.0	99	9.2	31.8
Thermalito Afterbay [2]	295	11.4	120	11.2	40.6
OWA [3]	350	13.6	130	12.1	37.1
Total	**2,583**	**100.0**	**1,071**	**100.0**	**41.5[4]**

1. Includes only sites upstream of SR 162; other Low Flow Channel sites are included within the OWA resource area.
2. Includes Clay Pit State Vehicular Recreation Area (On-Site Survey sample = 12), which was placed with the Afterbay resource area sample for purposes of analysis due to the shared emphasis on motorized recreation.
3. Includes the Rabe Road Shooting Range (On-Site Survey sample = 20), which was placed with the OWA resource area sample for purposes of analysis because it is adjacent to OWA and is also managed by DFG.
4. Participation rate includes those who did not provide a name or address on the On-Site Survey and thus did not receive a Mailback Survey. The actual return rate, based only on those who were sent a Mailback Survey, was about 45 percent. Similar adjustments apply to each resource area.
Source: EDAW 2004.

In total, 1,071 usable Mailback Surveys were completed, a participation rate of about 41 percent. One-hundred ninety three (7.5 percent) of the On-Site Survey respondents did not provide a mailing address; the response rate among those who were sent a mailback survey was 44.9 percent.

The number of On-Site Surveys obtained from three priority activity groups—reservoir boaters, anglers, and trail users—also exceeded the goals of 150 to 300 completed surveys, based on the number of respondents who completed the boating, angling, and trail use sections of the survey (1,361; 1,068; and 991 respondents, respectively). The Study Plan survey sampling goals were based on an assumption that only on-site surveying would be used. Because the actual sampling methodology used relied in part on the follow-up Mailback Survey, with an expected response rate of 35-50 percent, the on-site sample was intentionally increased.

The goal of surveying 100 to 200 river boaters is less easy to gauge but was probably not met due to the nature of river boating in the study area, and due to the fact that river boaters are a relatively small user group. A total of 125 of the visitors who were surveyed in the Low Flow Channel and OWA resource areas (where the Feather River can be accessed) indicated they boated during their visit and completed the boating section of the survey. However, most of these 125 visitors were most likely reservoir rather than river boaters, who boated on Lake Oroville, the Forebay, or Afterbay during their visit. Also, only about 35 of the Low Flow Channel and OWA visitors indicated that

their primary activity was boat fishing, motor boating, or non-motorized boating. The opportunity to survey river boaters was limited by the low number of boaters on the Feather River below the Diversion Pool (few were observed during most of the study period). Furthermore, most river boaters appeared to launch onto the river from a private campground ramp located on the Low Flow Channel but outside the study area, or from downstream of the study area, and so were not available to be surveyed on-site (through in-person or windshield surveys). Special efforts were made to contact river boaters as part of Study R-16 – *Whitewater and River Boating*, the results of which are discussed in that study report. Thus, data needs specific to those users was adequately supplemented by that particular study.

The temporal distribution of the On-Site Survey samples obtained, as shown in Tables 4.2-5 and 4.2-6, is heavily weighted toward the summer peak season, when use is greatest at most recreation sites (the Mailback Survey sample distribution is similar). The non-peak season sample was further reduced by a need to rely more heavily on windshield surveys as overall recreation activity diminished and became more dispersed. Only about 20 percent or less of the windshield surveys distributed were returned. The windshield surveys became more difficult to use during the rainy periods of the non-peak season, but were placed in protective plastic sleeves in some instances.

Table 4.2-5. On-Site Survey samples obtained by season.

Season	Survey Sample
2002 Peak Season (May 25 – September 15, 2002)	2,051
2002-03 Non-Peak Season (September 16, 2002 – May 14, 2003)	446
2003 Peak Season (May 15 - May 26, 2003)	86
Total	**2,583**

Source: EDAW 2004.

Table 4.2-6. On-Site Survey samples obtained by month.

Survey Month	Survey Sample
2002	
May (25th through 31st)	178
June	681
July	473
August	400
September	532
October	29
November	29
December	13
2003	
January	11
February	2
March	20
April	80
May (1st through 26th)	134
Total	**2,583**

Source: EDAW 2004.

4.3 HUNTER SURVEY

Because the Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group recognized the existence of issues unique to hunting, a survey specific to hunters was developed. This survey assessed hunters' use patterns, attitudes and perceptions specific to the hunting experience, species hunted, and hunting locations. Although certain types of hunting are allowed in limited portions of the Lake Oroville State Recreation Area (LOSRA) on lands adjacent to Lake Oroville, the majority of hunting within the study area occurs at the OWA and at the Thermalito Afterbay, managed as a subunit of the OWA.

4.3.1 Hunter Survey Design

Similar to the On-Site Survey, the Hunter Survey was designed as a booklet to be self-administered. The booklet contained 25 questions on seven pages (considerably shorter than the On-Site Survey). The booklet was divided into three parts. Part 1 asked for a general description of the visit and past use of the area, with questions similar to those used in the On-Site Survey. Part 2 requested information about what portions of the study area the respondents used, what species they hunted for and number taken during the current trip, as well as perceptions of the area hunted and their hunting experience. Part 3 requested the same demographic information as the On-Site Survey. The survey concluded with a request for a name and mailing address to which a follow-up mail survey could be sent. The mail surveys (Butte County resident and non-resident versions) were for the most part identical in content to the Mailback Survey used for the general Recreation Visitor Survey, as described above. Some

perception and facility evaluation items deemed to be irrelevant to hunting were deleted. The on-site and mail Hunter Survey booklets are included in Appendix C.

4.3.2 Hunter Survey Sampling Schedule and Protocol

The Hunter Survey sampling schedule covered the period from mid-October 2002 through January 2003. All surveying occurred on weekends. The schedule included the opening days of the seasons for quail, duck, geese, dove (late season), and pheasant. A surveyor was also present to contact hunters at a special youth pheasant hunt. Surveyors returned to the field during two weekends in early April 2003 to contact participants in the OWA spring turkey hunt (a total of 35 permits for the hunt were distributed by lottery). The sampling goal for the Hunter Survey was 100 respondents.

Hunters were contacted only within the OWA, including the Afterbay subunit. Hunters generally dispersed themselves through many parts of the OWA and parked at many undeveloped and roadside parking areas, as well as at certain trailheads. Because of this dispersed pattern of use, surveyors were assigned to traverse through different portions of the OWA rather than being assigned to survey at one particular site. Waterfowl hunters who used boats on the Afterbay were contacted at the three Afterbay boat ramps. Surveyors entered the area beginning in the early morning to note where hunters' vehicles were parked, then returned to those sites from mid- to late-morning to attempt to contact hunters as they concluded their hunt. Surveying generally concluded by about noon. Windshield versions of the survey were distributed when individual vehicles were encountered parked in dispersed areas or when surveyors felt they were not going to be able to return to an area where several vehicles were parked.

4.3.3 Hunter Survey Samples Obtained

In total, 98 hunters were surveyed in the OWA between October and January, and an additional eight turkey hunters participated, for a total Hunter Survey sample of 106 respondents (Table 4.3-1). In total, 38 mailback surveys were returned, for a response rate of about 36 percent.

Table 4.3-1. Hunter Survey samples obtained by month.

Survey Month	On-Site	Mailback
October 2002	29	9
November 2002	44	19
December 2002	18	7
January 2003	7	3
April 2003 (spring turkey hunt)	8	0
Total	**106**	**38**

Source: EDAW 2004.

4.4 SIMILAR SITE SURVEY

Three reservoirs were selected as "similar sites" through consultation with the Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group: Lake Berryessa, Black Butte Lake, and Shasta Lake. Each of these is a large, federally-managed reservoir that offers similar water-based recreation opportunities to Lake Oroville and the other study area reservoirs. Lake Berryessa, a 2-hour drive southeast of Lake Oroville, has 21,000 surface acres at full pool and is operated by the Bureau of Reclamation. Black Butte Lake, a 1-hour drive west of Lake Oroville, has 4,460 acres at full pool and is operated by the USACE. Shasta Lake, a 2.5-hour drive north of Lake Oroville, has 29,500 surface acres at full pool with recreation facilities operated by the U.S. Forest Service.

The primary purpose of the Similar Site Survey was to determine how visitors to other reservoirs in the Northern California region perceived conditions and rated their experiences at those sites, which would provide some means to compare similar information provided by Lake Oroville area visitors and add a regional context to those results. An additional purpose was to contact potential visitors to the Lake Oroville area to learn their perceptions of the area, if they had visited the area, and to learn what might motivate a first visit, if they had never been to the area. This survey also helped provide information on barriers to visitation for Study R-14 – *Assessment of Regional Recreation and Barriers to Recreation*.

4.4.1 Survey Design

The Similar Site Survey borrowed from the On-Site and Mailback Survey instruments used in surveying visitors in the study area. Questions from both of these sources were combined into a single on-site survey booklet, eliminating the need for a follow-up mail survey.

Survey questions taken from the On-Site Survey covered general visitor characteristics and past use of the reservoir, reasons for visiting the site, recreation activity participation, perceptions of scenic value, and level of satisfaction with the trip. Similar to the Lake Oroville On-Site Survey, one section of the Similar Site Survey was focused specifically on boating, with questions about on-water crowding, encounters with and observations of unsafe boating behavior, type of watercraft used, waits at boat ramps, and satisfaction with boating. Survey questions taken from the Mailback Survey booklet included the series of questions asking visitors to indicate the degree to which various issues or conditions were a problem during their visit, and the series of questions asking visitors to evaluate whether the numbers of various types of facilities and services were adequate. The booklet concluded with the same suite of demographic questions used in the On-Site Survey. The duplication of these questions used in the study area allowed for direct comparison of responses between the similar sites and the Lake Oroville area.

One section of the Similar Site Survey contained questions unique to that survey that were intended to gauge the perceptions of the similar site visitors regarding the Lake Oroville area, and interest in special events or facility enhancements that might motivate people to make a first visit to the area. Copies of the Similar Site Surveys for each respective reservoir are included in Appendix D.

4.4.2 Sampling Protocol and Samples Obtained

The sampling objective for each of the similar site reservoirs was to obtain 100 completed surveys. Sampling occurred at each site on at least two weekend days in July and August 2002. A sampling schedule was devised for each site that assigned surveyors to a range of boat ramps, campgrounds, and day use sites around the similar reservoirs. Permission to conduct the surveys was obtained in advance from the managing agency of each reservoir.

As shown in Table 4.4-1, sampling objectives were met at Lake Berryessa and Shasta Lake. At Black Butte Lake, 77 completed surveys were obtained after an additional day of weekend sampling. Late summer use is typically low at that site, often because of low reservoir levels there late in the recreation season.

Table 4.4-1. Similar Site Survey samples obtained, by site.

Survey Site	Survey Sample
Shasta Lake	104
Lake Berryessa	112
Black Butte Lake	77
Total	**293**

Source: EDAW 2004.

4.5 HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

The purpose of the Household Survey was to estimate latent, or unmet, demand among regional residents for special events and recreation facilities in the Lake Oroville area, as well as to assess factors keeping residents from visiting the area for the first time or more often. The Lake Oroville area was defined for survey respondents as including the Oroville Reservoir, Thermalito Forebay, Thermalito Afterbay, Feather River below Oroville Dam, Oroville Wildlife Area (OWA), and Clay Pit SVRA. Because the intent was to contact people who live in communities some distance from the study area, and people who do not visit the area, a phone survey was used.

4.5.1 Survey Design

The Household Survey contained a total of 21 questions, not including the three initial screening questions. However, nine questions were asked only of respondents who had visited the Lake Oroville area, and six questions were asked only of respondents who had never visited the Lake Oroville area.

Some of the major topics in the Household Survey included: other water-oriented recreation sites visited in northern California, previous trip satisfaction and reasons for dissatisfaction (among past visitors to the Lake Oroville area), reasons for not visiting (among those who have never visited), and types of special events and facilities that would motivate visits to the study area. The survey concluded with a few questions on spending on recreation equipment and participation in recreation activities, and socio-demographic characteristics. Appendix E provides a copy of the Household Survey.

4.5.2 Sampling Protocol and Samples Obtained

The overall goal of the household sampling efforts was to obtain 400 completed surveys from residents within Northern California and Northern Nevada, with a more specific sampling objective of obtaining 100 completed surveys in each of four strata representative of major visitor origins (market areas) for the Lake Oroville area. Those four strata were Butte County (the county in which the study area is located), along with the San Francisco Bay area (Alameda, Marin and San Francisco Counties), the Sacramento area and surrounding communities, and Washoe County, Nevada (the City of Reno and surrounding communities). Each of these market areas represents important sources of existing and potential visitors to the Lake Oroville area.

Sampling via telephone interviews occurred during the last week in June and first week of July 2002 between the hours of noon and 9:00 p.m. Random-digit dialing was used to identify and contact households within the four strata. Once contact had been initiated, the respondent was asked if she or he was willing to participate in a recreation study about rivers and lakes in Northern California. Respondents had to be at least 18 years old, have lived in Northern California or Nevada for at least six months, and have participated in outdoor recreation activities at rivers or lakes in Northern California on at least three days during the last year. If the respondent met these criteria and agreed to participate, the telephone interview commenced. The overall sampling goal and the sampling objective for each stratum were met, with 100 surveys completed for each stratum (Table 4.5-1).

Table 4.5-1. Household Survey samples obtained, by stratum.

Survey Stratum	Survey Sample
Butte County	100
Reno, Nevada area	100
San Francisco area	100
Sacramento area	100
Total	**400**

Source: EDAW 2004.

4.6 OTHER SURVEYS

Two other limited-scope, special-purpose surveys, the Lower Reach Survey and the Supplemental Survey, were conducted in addition to those analyzed for this report. The Lower Reach Survey was mailed primarily to on-site survey respondents who boated on the Diversion Pool or Feather River, as well as to several fishing guides who operate on the Feather River. Its purpose was to obtain information about boating use and conditions on the Diversion Pool and Feather River. The Supplemental Survey was sent to on-site survey respondents who boated on Lake Oroville. Its purpose was to obtain additional information about the effects of low water levels in the reservoir on boating.

Additional information of the content of those surveys and the survey results are presented in Study Reports R-16 – *Whitewater and River Boating* (Lower Reach Survey) and R-3 – *Assessment of the Relationship of Project Operations and Recreation* (Supplemental Survey). Also, a survey of local private business owners/operators was conducted for Study R-18 – *Recreation Activity, Spending, and Associated Economic Impacts*, and those results are reported in that Study Report.

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5.0 STUDY RESULTS

This section presents results from the recreation surveys conducted at the Project area and at similar recreation sites in northern California, administered in-person and through the mail as described in Section 4.0. Section 5.1 discusses the results of the On-Site Survey and part of the Mailback Survey. Section 5.2 discusses the results of the Hunter Survey, and Section 5.3 discusses the results of the Similar Site Survey. Section 5.4 discusses results of the Household Survey, administered by phone.

5.1 ON-SITE AND MAILBACK SURVEY RESULTS

As described in the Methodology section, recreation surveys administered at various locations within six general Project survey zones (resource areas) were followed by Mailback Surveys sent to respondent addresses provided in the On-Site Survey. Respondent responses to questions in both sets of surveys are presented here in the following sub-sections: Description of Current Visit, Perceptions and Preferences, Overnight Visitation, Description of Past Use, Regional Recreation, Fishing, Trails, Boating, Respondent Demographics, and Additional Comments.

Only responses to questions in Section D of the Mailback Survey are included in this discussion. Results from Sections A, B, and C focused on visitors' expenditures and related transportation, accommodations, and equipment information and are fully discussed in Study R-18 – *Recreation Spending and Economic Impacts*.

Most survey results are presented based on a geographic division of respondents. Responses given by visitors contacted at recreation sites within the following six resource areas that comprise the study area are presented side-by-side: Lake Oroville, Diversion Pool, Thermalito Forebay, Thermalito Afterbay, Low Flow Channel (LFC) of the Feather River, and OWA. This basis for analysis of the survey data recognizes the substantial differences in the recreation setting, facilities, opportunities, and management that exist across the resource areas. For the purposes of this analysis, the LFC includes only the portion of the river north of SR 162 (i.e., north of the OWA). Responses from survey sites on the LFC south of SR 162 were included in the OWA resource area.

Select survey results are presented using additional categorizations that may serve to further reveal differences of interest in use patterns, perceptions, or opinions among recreation visitors. Additional categorization of responses include: by season (peak season vs. non-peak season), by county of residence (Butte and adjacent counties vs. other counties), and by primary activity (boating, fishing, trail use, other day use, and camping activities). Respondent demographics are reported in Appendix F.

The categorization of responses by county of residence is intended as a proxy for "local" vs. "non-local" or "tourist" groups, a comparison of particular relevance to discussions

regarding marketing, demand, and potential economic impacts associated with recreation in the study area. Butte and adjacent counties represent the "local" group well, in that 88 percent of Butte County visitors surveyed were day users as were 67 to 100 percent of visitors from five of the six adjacent counties. Only 58 percent of Tehama County respondents were day users; however, the total sample from Tehama County was just 12 respondents and cannot be assumed to be representative.

Table 5.1-1 lists the total sample size for each relevant Project area visitor group used in the On-Site Survey and Mailback Survey data analyses. Table 5.1-1 is intended to provide reference about sample size for individual groups in the subsequent Section 5.1 tables. The number of survey responses received from the various respondent groups (the sample size) varies by question and by item for multiple-item questions and so may be lower than the group sample sizes shown in this table. Questions and respondent groups with very low numbers of responses are noted in table footnotes.

Table 5.1-1. Survey sample sizes for specific respondent groups used in conducting comparative analyses.

Survey Respondent Grouping Variables and Groups	On-Site Survey		Mailback Survey	
	Sample Size (n)	Percent of Sample	Sample Size (n)	Percent of Sample
Total Sample	2,583	100%	1,071	100
Resource Area where Surveyed				
Lake Oroville	1,396	54%	632	59%
Diversion Pool	62	2%	32	3%
LFC (north of SR 162)	169	7%	58	5%
Thermalito Forebay	311	12%	99	9%
Thermalito Afterbay	295	11%	120	11%
OWA	350	14%	130	12%
Season when Surveyed				
Peak Season (May 15 to Sept. 15)	2,137	83%	891	83%
Non-peak Season (Sept. 16 to May 14)	446	17%	180	17%
County of Residence				
Butte and adjacent counties	1,575	61%	612	57%
Other California counties/out of state	911	35%	395	37%
Unknown[1]	97	4%	64	6%
Primary Activity during Visit				
Boating activities	713	28%	336	31%
Fishing activities	648	25%	253	24%
Trail activities	194	8%	102	10%
Other day-use activities[2]	557	22%	180	17%
Camping activities	125	5%	49	5%
Other[3]	128	5%	46	4%
Unknown (no primary activity listed)	218	8%	105	10%

1. No primary residence Zip Code provided by respondent.
2. Eleven non-boating, fishing, or trail use activities are included in this group; however, over 88 percent of the 557 On-Site respondents indicated that their primary activity was swimming, relaxing, picnicking, or sightseeing.
3. This group includes a wide range of activities listed on the survey including several available only outside the study area (movies, shopping, golf), several available within the study area (hunting, OHV use), and several listed by respondents as "other activities" on the survey (e.g., Frisbee golf, target shooting, casino gambling, model aircraft flying, walking on Oroville Dam). Source: EDAW

5.1.1 Description of Current Visit

Respondents described their current visit to the Lake Oroville area through responses to on-site questions regarding arrival and departure times and dates, areas they planned to visit, group size, reasons for visiting the Lake Oroville area, activities in which they participated, and primary activity during their visit.

5.1.1.1 Length of Visit

The majority of respondents from most of the resource areas were only visiting the study area for one day (Table 5.1-2). This was especially true for the LFC, Forebay, and Afterbay, where 80 to 90 percent of respondents were one-day visitors (no camping facilities exist in those areas). About 62-63 percent of respondents at the Diversion Pool and OWA were one-day visitors. The Lake Oroville resource area is the exception, with slightly less than half of respondents indicating they were visiting for only one day. Visits of two to three days (most often weekend visits) were the second most common length of visit at all areas. Visits longer than three days were relatively few in the study area with the exception of at Lake Oroville, where the 20 percent of visits in the four to seven day range were due to the predominance of camping facilities at that area. Few respondents stayed longer than seven days at any of the areas.

Table 5.1-2. Length of respondents' visit to the Lake Oroville area (days).

Length of Visit	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	**Diversion Pool (%)**	**LFC (%)**	**Thermalito Forebay (%)**	**Thermalito Afterbay (%)**	**OWA (%)**
1 day visit	47.9	**61.8**	**79.6**	**87.6**	**90.0**	**62.9**
>1 day visit	**52.1**	38.2	20.4	12.4	10.0	37.1
Multiple-day visits						
2-3 days	26.4	34.5	10.2	6.2	5.2	23.5
4-7 days	20.4	3.6	3.0	5.0	4.4	8.7
8-14 days	3.0	0.0	3.0	0.8	0.0	1.8
>14 days	2.3	0.0	4.1	0.4	0.4	3.1
	Mean (Median)	**Mean (Median)**	**Mean (Median)**	**Mean (Median)**	**Mean (Median)**	**Mean (Median)**
Number of days[1]	3.3 (2)	1.6 (1)	3.9 (1)	1.5 (1)	1/3 (1)	2.9 (1)

1. The Lake Oroville, LFC, and OWA resource areas included some respondents who reported visits of 30 days or more (and as long as four months), which increased the means for length of visit; the median length of visit values are less affected by the extreme high values and so are more representative of the visitors surveyed.
The differences in mean length of visit across resource areas are statistically significant ($p < .05$).
*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response category for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey (n=2,583).

One-day visits predominated in the study areas as a whole both during the peak season and non-peak season (Table 5.1-3). Multiple-day visits appear to have been more frequent during the peak season, which corresponds to the period when campground occupancy is greatest. Visits of four or more days, in particular, were much more

common during the peak season. One-day visits were dominant among visitors from Butte and the adjacent counties, with over 86 percent of those surveyed not staying in the area overnight (Table 5.1-3). In contrast, only 25 percent of visitors from more distant counties (and out of state) were on one-day visits while 75 percent were staying in the area overnight.

Table 5.1-3. Comparison of length of visit by season of survey and residence of respondent.

Length of Visit	Survey Season		Visitor Residency	
	Peak Season (%)	Non-peak Season (%)	Butte & Adj. Counties (%)	Other Counties (%)
1 day	**60.3**	**69.0**	**86.7**	25.1
>1 day	39.7	31.0	13.3	**74.9**
Multiple-day visits				
2-3 days	20.1	23.3	8.1	39.2
4-7 days	16.0	4.5	3.8	29.5
8-14 days	2.3	1.1	0.8	4.3
>14 days[1]	1.3	2.3	0.8	1.8
Number of days (mean)[2]	2.4	2.1	1.5	3.5

1. The low number of responses indicating visits of more than 30 days were treated as outliers and were not included in the analysis.
2. The differences in mean length of visit across county of residency are statistically significant (p < .05).
*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response category.*
Source: On-Site Survey (n=2,583).

Regarding the number of hours that one-day visitors spent visiting the Lake Oroville area, the data indicate that visits tend to be about a half day (5 hours) or less (Table 5.1-4). The exception was visits to OWA, which more often consumed most or all of a day, including about one-quarter that were more than eight hours long. Visits to the OWA and Lake Oroville included a small percentage longer than ten hours and as

Table 5.1-4. Length of one-day visits to the Lake Oroville area (hours).

Length of Visit	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
0.5 – 2.0 hours	22.6	35.5	27.3	17.2	22.0	15.6
2.5 – 5.0 hours	**39.0**	**45.1**	**50.0**	**44.3**	**42.6**	**32.7**
5.5 – 8.0 hours	27.9	12.9	18.2	30.7	25.8	25.8
>8.0 hours	10.5	6.5	4.5	7.8	9.6	25.9
	Mean (Median)	**Mean (Median)**	**Mean (Median)**	**Mean (Median)**	**Mean (Median)**	**Mean (Median)**
Number of hours[1]	4.8 (5.0)	3.8 (3.5)	4.0 (3.0)	4.7 (4.8)	4.6 (4.0)	6.1(6.0)

1. The differences in mean length of visit across resource areas are statistically significant (p <.05).
*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response category for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey (n=2,583).

long as 16 hours. The most common length of one-day visits was in the range of 2.5 to 5.0 hours in all resource areas. Shorter visits (less than two hours) were most common at the Diversion Pool and the LFC, while visits longer than five hours were relatively uncommon at those areas.

5.1.1.2 Areas Planned to Visit

On-Site Survey respondents were asked indicate what portions of the study area they planned to visit during their trip to the Lake Oroville area. (The six resource areas were further divided into 12 zones for the purposes of the survey.) The overall pattern of responses suggests that some respondents had difficulty differentiating some of the 12 Lake Oroville and downstream zones (Table 5.1-5) listed in the survey, although a map with the zones clearly marked was provided in the survey booklet (Appendix A). Nevertheless, the responses do indicate whether visitors visit multiple study area recreation sites and whether they include both Lake Oroville and downstream areas in their visits.

Table 5.1-5. Areas respondents planned to visit during current trip.

	Resource Area					
Areas Planned to Visit	**Lake Oroville (%)**	**Diversion Pool (%)**	**LFC (%)**	**Thermalito Forebay (%)**	**Thermalito Afterbay (%)**	**OWA (%)**
Lake Oroville (any area)	100.0	45.2	41.4	28.0	28.1	19.4
Main Basin	**81.8**	**37.1**	27.8	15.1	**20.3**	11.1
Middle Fork	38.5	19.4	16.6	8.4	9.8	8.3
South Fork	42.7	9.7	17.2	10.0	12.2	7.4
Lower North Fork	29.3	12.9	13.6	10.9	11.5	8.3
Upper North Fork	30.0	11.3	15.4	10.3	11.9	8.3
West Branch	38.0	6.5	14.2	8.7	10.2	6.9
Downstream (any area)[1]	22.1	29.0	57.4	37.3	34.2	51.1
Diversion Pool	5.1	100.0	17.8	12.5	3.7	8.9
Feather River [2]	11.5	19.4	100.0	12.2	9.8	19.4
Thermalito Forebay	10.5	16.1	27.8	100.0	16.6	11.7
Thermalito Afterbay	11.3	16.1	26.0	**21.2**	100.0	**29.1**
OWA [3]	11.1	9.7	**41.4**	16.7	15.9	100.0
Clay Pit SVRA	3.8	4.8	12.4	3.9	7.8	10.6

1. The percentage for the Lake Oroville resource area respondents relates to whether the respondents planned to visit <u>any</u> downstream areas; the percentages for the other resources areas relate to whether the respondent planned to visit <u>any other</u> downstream areas, besides where they were surveyed.
2. The survey specified that Feather River included only the section between Diversion Pool and SR 162, which corresponds to the Low Flow Channel resource area.
3. The survey specified that OWA included Feather River downstream of SR 162.
*Note: The **bold** percentage for the Lake Oroville resource area is the top response; the **bold** percentages for the other resource areas are the top response <u>other than</u> for the resource area where they were surveyed.*
Source: On-Site Survey (n=2,583).

At Lake Oroville, respondents generally visited two or more areas of the reservoir, but most did not visit downstream portions of the study area (Table 5.1-5). The Main Basin zone was visited by the greatest majority of those surveyed, reflecting the concentration

of recreation facilities in that area. (Some respondents appeared to consider most of the reservoir to be the Main Basin and did not consult the provided map, which probably increased the percentage for Main Basin.) About 30 to 40 percent of Lake Oroville visitors indicated they planned to visit other areas of the reservoir besides the Main Basin. These visits were made primarily by boat; Study R-7 contains more detailed and precise information about boating use of each reservoir zone.

Visitors to the downstream areas tended not to visit Lake Oroville. Visitors to the Forebay, Afterbay, and OWA in particular tended to visit only those areas or other downstream portions of the study area. Plans to visit Lake Oroville were otherwise more common among those surveyed at the Diversion Pool and LFC. Trails link the Diversion Pool to Lake Oroville immediately upstream. The LFC is also relatively close to Lake Oroville, and the Lake Oroville Visitors Center and Oroville Dam are popular sites on the itinerary of visitors contacted at sites like the Feather River Fish Hatchery on the LFC.

A majority of visitors at the LFC and OWA indicated they were planning to visit other downstream areas. Visitors to the LFC mentioned the OWA in particular, which offers similar angling opportunities to the LFC. Slightly less than 30 percent of OWA visitors indicated that they also planned to visit the adjacent Afterbay. Most visitors surveyed at the Diversion Pool, Forebay, and Afterbay were not planning to visit other downstream areas; however, 29 to 38 percent indicated they did plan to visit at least one of the six downstream areas.

5.1.1.3 Group Size and Composition

Visitors were asked to list the number of adults and children, if any, in their group. Those responses were summed to derive total group sizes. Several groups of more than 30 people and a few very large groups (as many as 150 or 200 people) were listed in some resource areas, indicating that respondents included people that they did not necessarily travel to the area within their groups when describing their group's size. Some of these groups were part of organized events like church group outings. Due to these large groups, the median group sizes are more representative of the visitors' groups than the mean group sizes.

The most common group size at all resource areas was groups of two to five people (Table 5.1-6). These groups comprised the majority at all areas except at the Forebay, where larger groups were more common. Median group sizes were three or four people at Lake Oroville, the LFC, and the Afterbay. The larger groups at the Forebay resulted in a median group size of seven. Groups at the Forebay also were most likely to include children (78 percent) and included the largest number of children, with about 38 percent of groups having five or more children (the mean was seven and the median was three children). In comparison, about 54 percent of Lake Oroville groups included children, with about 88 percent of groups with fewer and 12 percent with more than five children.

Individual visitors were most common at the OWA and Diversion Pool. Those two resource areas also had the smallest median group sizes, with two people, and only 23 percent of the groups in each area included any children.

5.1.1.4 Reasons for Visiting the Lake Oroville Area

Recognizing that visitors have many lakes, reservoirs, rivers, and other recreation settings to choose from in Northern California that offer similar recreation opportunities to the Oroville study area, respondents were asked to briefly describe why they chose to visit the Lake Oroville on their current trip.

Table 5.1-6. Visitors' group size and group composition (adults/children).

	Resource Area					
Group Size	**Lake Oroville (%)**	**Diversion Pool (%)**	**LFC (%)**	**Thermalito Forebay (%)**	**Thermalito Afterbay (%)**	**OWA (%)**
1 person	8.2	16.4	14.8	4.3	8.3	22.5
2 – 5 people	**56.3**	**70.4**	**64.2**	**38.0**	**55.1**	**66.0**
6 – 10 people	22.3	8.1	17.4	25.6	21.7	7.7
11 – 20 people	10.1	1.6	2.4	20.0	11.7	2.6
20+ people	3.1	3.2	1.2	12.1	3.0	1.2
Group Composition	**Mean (Median)**	**Mean (Median)**	**Mean (Median)**	**Mean (Median)**	**Mean (Median)**	**Mean (Median)**
No. of adults	4.1 (3)	7.3 (2)	2.6 (2)	6.5 (3)	3.8 (2)	4.2 (2)
No. of children	1.9 (1)	1.1 (0)	1.7 (0)	5.1 (3)	2.4 (1)	0.6 (0)
Total group size[1]	6.0 (4)	8.4 (2)	4.4 (3)	11.7 (7)	6.2 (4)	4.8 (2)

1. Each resource area included some very large groups (30 or more people), which increased the mean group size values; the median group size and associated adults/children medians are not as affected by extreme values and so are more representative of the groups surveyed. The differences in group size across resource areas are statistically significant (p<-05).
*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response category for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey (n=2,583).

Generally, the most common reason respondents at each resource area chose to visit the Lake Oroville area was because of its proximity to where they live, reflecting the importance of convenience and visitors' desire to minimize travel time (Table 5.1-7). From 35 to 56 percent of respondents in each resource area mentioned reasons that fit that category. At the OWA, however, almost 73 percent of respondents chose to visit because of the fishing opportunities, with proximity a distant second.

At Lake Oroville, other common reasons for visiting, in addition to proximity, included good resource conditions such as scenery and high water quality, good facilities, and good fishing opportunities. These top five categories of reasons comprised most of the responses given, although many other reasons were listed.

The reasons provided were generally similar for the three downstream reservoirs (the Diversion Pool, Forebay, and Afterbay). However, at the Diversion Pool equestrian trail riding opportunities and a special equestrian trail ride event based near the Diversion

Pool were of special importance. Swimming opportunities were among the top three reasons mentioned by Forebay visitors (primarily due to the popular swim beach at the North Forebay DUA), and good social conditions (primarily lack of crowds) were among the top five reasons at both the Forebay and Afterbay.

For visitors to the LFC, fishing opportunities and activities such as walking and picnicking were popular reasons for visiting the Lake Oroville area, in addition to proximity to their homes, while natural resource conditions and facilities received little mention.

Table 5.1-7. Visitors' reasons for visiting the Lake Oroville area, by resource area.

Reason Category	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Proximity to home	**43.3**	**41.7**	**35.3**	**46.5**	**56.0**	17.6
Good natural resource conditions (water quality, scenery, etc.)	16.5	18.3	6.5	13.3	13.8	5.8
Good facilities/ maintenance	11.1	20.0	2.9	14.7	9.3	1.0
Fishing opportunities	10.4	5.0	27.3	7.7	11.9	**72.8**
Familiar/favorite	9.0	6.7	7.9	7.7	7.1	5.1
Friends/family there	8.0	3.3	7.2	3.5	3.4	3.2
Boating opportunities	7.6	1.7	2.2	3.8	7.8	0.3
Good social conditions (not crowded, nice people, etc.)	7.6	10.0	7.2	13.3	13.1	5.8
New place to go or change of pace	6.9	3.3	4.3	4.2	3.0	0.6
Walking, hiking, picnicking, other land-based activities	5.4	8.3	15.8	9.1	5.6	9.6
Boat kept at marina	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0
Special event	3.7	26.7	4.3	5.2	0.4	0.0
Horse riding	3.4	18.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Swimming or other water-based activity	2.3	0.0	3.6	16.1	8.2	1.3
Low cost	2.1	1.7	0.0	3.8	8.6	2.9
Easy access	1.2	1.7	4.3	2.4	6.3	0.3
Off-road recreation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.3
Other reasons	1.8	1.7	3.6	0.7	1.1	0.0

Note: Percentages represent the portion of respondents who mentioned a reason in the listed category, not a percentage of all responses (reasons) given; because respondents could list multiple reasons, and reasons within multiple categories, the percentages total more than 100 percent for each resource area. ***Bold*** *type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey (n=2,583).

5.1.1.5 Activities Participated in During Current Visit to Lake Oroville Area

Visitors were presented a list of 42 recreation activities in five categories (wildlife, urban, boating, active, and passive activities) and asked to indicate which of the activities they had participated or expected to participate in during their trip to the Lake Oroville area. Respondents could also specify other unlisted activities. Because the responses related to the trip rather than only the survey site, unless respondents were only visiting the survey site, the activities participated in do not usually directly correlate with that site.

The results for some activities at some areas may be influenced by the survey schedule and the sample obtained. Estimates for participation in boat fishing at Lake Oroville, in particular, may have been lowered by the fact that the prime angling season on the reservoir is during the fall and winter, when less recreation activity occurs at most sites and when, consequently, less surveying was done (the major On-Site Survey effort was conducted during the peak season). Also, attempts to survey participants in fall bass tournaments were not successful. Hunting participation within the OWA may be higher than the percentage reported here, because most hunters surveyed received the Hunter Survey rather than the general On-Site Survey, which was not intended to secure hunter input (see Section 5.2 for Hunter Survey results). Hunting does not ordinarily take place at the same locations as the majority of other recreational activities; therefore separate survey efforts were warranted.

The five most frequent responses from visitors surveyed at each resource area are indicated in bold type in Table 5.1-8. The “passive” activity of relaxing was the only activity to be among the five most popular activities across all resource areas. About one-quarter to one-half of respondents at each area indicated that relaxing was one of their activities. The activity was most prominent at Lake Oroville and the Forebay. Picnicking, another “passive” activity, was most popular at the Forebay, with just over half of respondents participating.

Swimming was among the five most popular activities for all resource areas, except the Diversion Pool. It was the most popular among visitors to the Forebay, site of the popular North Forebay DUA swim beach, where over 70 percent of respondents participated in swimming. It was also popular among visitors to the Afterbay and Lake Oroville, where 51 and 57 percent, respectively, of the survey respondents participated. The associated activity of sunbathing was also among the top five activities among visitors surveyed at Lake Oroville, the Forebay, and the Afterbay, with 33 to 42 percent participation. Two other associated activities, motor boating and water-skiing/wake boarding, were among the top five activities at Lake Oroville and the Afterbay. About one-third of respondents participated in water-skiing/wake boarding and 38-45 percent participated in motor boating at the two resource areas.

At the OWA, bank fishing was the most common activity by a wide margin among visitors surveyed, with nearly 80 percent participation. Bank fishing was also the most

Table 5.1-8. Activities participated in during visit to Lake Oroville area.

Activity / Activity Groups		Resource Area					
		Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Wildlife	Bank fishing	19.3	12.9	**41.4**	**27.3**	22.4	**78.9**
	Boat fishing	33.0	17.7	18.9	9.3	22.7	**20.9**
	Hunting	1.6	0	3.6	2.3	5.1	6.9
	Nature study	9.2	17.7	18.3	11.6	4.1	4.9
	Bird watching	11.0	16.1	21.9	19.0	7.8	11.1
Urban	Movie/theater	8.1	6.5	16.0	15.4	9.2	6.0
	Shopping	8.1	8.1	14.8	15.1	7.8	6.9
	Museums	3.0	4.8	4.1	6.1	2.7	1.4
	Amuse. park	1.2	1.6	4.7	2.9	3.7	1.7
	Dining out/bar	13.9	11.3	20.1	17.7	11.2	**17.4**
	Concert/festival	3.8	4.8	11.8	5.1	5.4	3.7
	Educ. events	2.1	1.6	7.1	3.5	1.0	1.4
Boating	Rafting	5.2	1.6	4.1	10.0	6.4	6.6
	Motor boating	**45.1**	11.3	16.6	11.6	**37.6**	10.0
	House boating	15.0	8.1	4.7	3.5	7.5	2.3
	PWC use	16.2	4.8	7.1	9.0	27.1	3.7
	Sailing	2.1	0	1.8	3.2	2.4	0.3
	Kayaking	2.9	8.1	3.0	5.8	1.7	1.1
	Canoeing	2.0	6.5	3.6	4.5	1.7	2.3
	Windsurfing	0.6	0.0	0	1.9	1.0	0.0
	Water-skiing	**34.0**	6.5	9.5	5.1	**33.6**	2.9
Active	Swimming	**57.0**	17.7	**30.8**	**70.7**	**50.8**	**23.7**
	Tennis	0.6	0.0	3.0	2.3	1.7	0.6
	Golf	3.2	1.6	10.1	2.9	3.1	2.6
	Hiking	18.6	**22.6**	**26.0**	19.6	7.8	10.6
	Backpacking	2.9	6.5	8.3	4.8	2.4	4.0
	OHV/ATV use	5.4	3.2	4.7	5.5	9.2	6.9
	Road Biking	7.7	11.3	14.2	6.8	3.4	4.9
	Mtn. Biking	5.9	14.5	11.8	7.1	3.1	4.0
	Horsebk. riding	6.0	**59.7**	4.1	4.5	4.1	2.9
	Tent camping	23.6	8.1	15.4	12.5	7.5	13.1
	Float camping	4.2	0.0	4.1	2.3	3.4	1.1
	Dog walking	14.2	**24.2**	17.8	11.9	8.5	4.9
	Gold panning	3.8	3.2	8.9	6.4	3.7	2.9
Passive	Sunbathing	**37.6**	12.9	16.6	**42.1**	**33.2**	13.7
	Sightseeing	25.6	**25.8**	**24.3**	22.8	15.3	12.6
	Photography	17.0	14.5	16.0	19.6	9.2	7.1
	Picnicking	26.4	12.9	20.7	**52.4**	31.5	13.1
	Paint/Drawing	2.5	3.2	3.6	5.1	2.0	1.4
	Relaxing	**46.6**	**33.9**	**32.0**	**52.1**	**38.0**	**25.1**
	RV Camping	12.1	6.5	6.5	4.8	2.4	7.4
	Rock Collecting	8.5	8.1	11.2	10.6	5.1	6.6

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the top five activities participated in for each resource area. Respondents could check more than one activity on the list, and also activities participated in at areas other than where they were contacted. This explains the occurrence of activities like "house boating" where they do not normally occur (e.g., Diversion Pool, LFC). Source: On-Site Survey (n=2,583).*

common activity among LFC visitors, with just over 40 percent participation. Trail activities in the "active" group, including hiking, horseback riding, and dog walking, were, along with relaxing and sightseeing, among the top five activities at the Diversion Pool. Nearly 60 percent of those surveyed were horseback riding while about one-fourth were hiking or dog walking.

About one-fourth of LFC visitors were also hiking during their visit. Many visitors in both areas were surveyed at trailheads or at Riverbend Park, where a paved bike trail passes through.

5.1.1.6 Primary Activity During Visit to the Lake Oroville Area

In addition to indicating the activities in which they had participated (or in which they planned on participating), On-Site Survey respondents were asked to specify which activity they considered to be their primary activity during their visit to the Lake Oroville area. Table 5.1-9 lists the 12 activities that accounted for at least five percent of respondents' primary activities at any resource area. With the exception of the LFC, these activities account for 82 to 93 percent of the respondents' primary activities in each resource area. The results reflect the popularity of certain activities as indicated in the preceding section. However, activities such as swimming had high levels of participation but were not often regarded by the respondents at most areas as a primary activity.

Table 5.1-9. Visitors' primary activity during their trip to the Lake Oroville area.

Activity	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Motor boating	**15.7**	--	4.3	2.1	**17.3**	0.6
Boat fishing	14.4	3.4	2.9	2.4	10.1	9.3
Water-ski/ Wake board	14.0	--	2.1	0.3	12.9	0.6
Swimming	7.8	1.7	4.3	**37.4**	12.2	3.5
Sightseeing/ Relaxing	7.8	1.7	8.6	11.9	3.6	3.2
House boating	6.2	--	--	0.3	0.7	0.3
Bank fishing	5.0	3.4	**29.3**	11.5	11.5	**70.0**
Horseback riding	4.3	**58.6**	1.4	--	--	0.6
PWC use	3.8	--	0.7	0.7	14.0	3.8
Hiking	1.8	5.2	7.1	1.0	0.4	--
Picnicking	1.2	0.0	1.4	14.0	2.2	0.6
Mountain biking	1.2	8.6	2.1	0.3	0.4	--

Note: Only activities that accounted for at least five percent of respondents at one geographical resource area are shown. ***Bold*** *type indicates the activity with the highest percentage for each area. Respondents could list an activity participated in at areas other than where they were contacted. This explains the occurrence of activities like "house boating" where they do not normally occur (e.g., Thermalito Forebay and Afterbay, OWA).*
Source: On-Site Survey (n=2,583).

At the Diversion Pool, LFC, Forebay, and especially the OWA, one activity accounted for a much larger portion of respondents' primary activities than any other. At the Diversion Pool, the dominant activity was horseback riding. At Thermalito Forebay, swimming was clearly the dominant activity, due to the previously mentioned swim beach. At both the LFC and OWA, bank fishing predominated, although to a much larger degree at the OWA where it comprised 70 percent of responses. At Lake Oroville and the Afterbay, several water-based activities accounted for similar percentages of respondents' primary activities. At both areas, the most frequent primary activity was motor boating, accounting for 16-17 percent of respondents' primary activities. Boat fishing and water-skiing/wake boarding were somewhat less frequently mentioned at each area (10-14 percent) but comprised similar percentages of responses. PWC use, swimming, and bank fishing also each accounted for about 12-14 percent of responses at the Afterbay.

5.1.1.7 Overnight Visitation

This section presents results from questions asking respondents whether or not they stayed overnight in Butte County during their visit to the Lake Oroville area and, if they did stay overnight, what type of accommodation they used. Visitors to the Lake Oroville area can camp at several developed drive-in campgrounds at Lake Oroville as well as at boat-in and floating campsites. Undeveloped ("en-route") RV camping is available at the North Forebay BR/DUA and Spillway BR/DUA parking lots, and primitive camping is allowed at designated sites within the OWA. One private campground is situated near the study area on the Feather River. Several types of commercial lodging are available within a short drive of the study area in the cities of Oroville and Paradise, as well as in Chico and other more distant communities in Butte County.

Overnight Stays in Butte County (excluding at own home)

About half of the Lake Oroville visitors surveyed were staying overnight in Butte County (Table 5.1-10). A similar proportion indicated their trip was more than one day in length. Surprisingly, nearly half of the Diversion Pool visitors surveyed were also staying overnight, although there are no camping facilities in the area. Several of the visitors surveyed at the Diversion Pool were participating in an equestrian trail ride event and stayed overnight at a staging area near the Diversion Pool. The percent staying overnight was over seven percent more than those on multiple day visits. It appears that some visitors were only recreating in the area for the day, but were on a multiple day trip and stayed overnight elsewhere in Butte County during the trip.

Table 5.1-10. Proportion of visitors staying overnight in Butte County.

Staying overnight in Butte County?	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Yes	49.5	45.6	27.5	15.3	15.3	38.0
No	**50.5**	**54.4**	**72.5**	**84.7**	**84.7**	**62.0**

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area. The differences in the percentage of overnight visitors across resource areas are statistically significant (p<.05).*
Source: On-Site Survey (n=2,583).

Visitors staying overnight in Butte County were fewer at the remaining four resource areas, with about 38 percent of OWA visitors staying overnight, about 28 percent of LFC visitors staying overnight, and about 15 percent of Forebay and Afterbay visitors staying overnight. Similar to the Diversion Pool, these percentages are several points higher than the percentage of respondents on multiple-day trips. Once again, it appears that some respondents recorded as one-day visitors (they listed the same arrival and departure date on the survey) were staying overnight in the area, either as part of a multiple-day trip to the Lake Oroville area or a trip that included other destinations.

Visitors' Overnight Accommodations

Of those staying overnight, the majority of respondents at Lake Oroville (62 percent), the Diversion Pool (62 percent), and the OWA (58 percent) were staying in a vehicle campground (Table 5.1-11). At the Diversion Pool and OWA, this referred to camping at undeveloped sites in tents, RVs, and horse trailers with sleeping quarters. Most of the remainder of Lake Oroville overnight visitors stayed on houseboats (15 percent) or with family or friends who live in the area Oroville (12 percent). Most others at the Diversion Pool also stayed with family or friends, while most others surveyed at the OWA stayed in a motel.

At the LFC and Forebay, vehicle campground was also the most common type of accommodation (33 percent and 44 percent, respectively), but did not comprise a majority. At both areas, the second most common type of accommodation was homes of family and friends. Nearly one quarter of the overnight visitors surveyed at the LFC were staying in a motel. At the Afterbay, about 50 percent of the overnight visitors stayed with family and friends, while about 19 percent stayed at a vehicle campground (primarily at the primitive OWA camp areas). The overnight visitors at areas other than Lake Oroville who stayed on houseboats are assumed to have stayed on a boat moored on Lake Oroville, since houseboats are not found on the other study area reservoirs. Similarly, boat-in campgrounds and floating campsites are only available at Lake Oroville.

Table 5.1-11. Type of accommodations used by overnight visitors.

Type of Accommodation	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Vehicle campground	**61.8**	**61.5**	**33.3**	**44.2**	19.0	**57.7**
Boat-in campground	2.6	0.0	5.1	7.0	2.4	0.8
Floating campsite	2.2	0.0	5.1	4.7	0.0	0.0
Houseboat	15.3	7.7	0.0	4.7	9.5	0.8
Motel	2.8	0.0	23.1	4.7	7.1	26.0
Bed and breakfast	0.0	0.0	5.1	4.7	0.0	0.0
Other (family, friends)	12.4	26.9	28.2	23.3	**50.0**	10.6
No data	2.9	3.9	0.1	6.7	12.0	4.1

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey (n=2,583).

The relatively high number of visitors who said they were staying with family or friends suggests that the proximity of communities to the study area encourages visitors to make trips to the area during which they may visit with family and friends and make use of the recreation opportunities provided by the study area.

5.1.2 Frequency of Visits and Seasonal Pattern of Visitation

To get a better sense of visitors' pattern of use of the study area, the On-Site Survey asked them to describe their frequency of visits to the Lake Oroville area and the seasons during which they had visited in the past 12 months.

5.1.2.1 Frequency of Visits

At each resource area, at least 64 percent of respondents considered themselves to be regular visitors, which was defined as visiting three or more times per year (Table 5.1-12). The percentage of regular visitors was nearly 80 percent at the Afterbay. Most other visitors across all six resource areas were at least occasional visitors, defined as visiting 1-2 times per year. Lake Oroville and the Diversion Pool had the most first time visitors, with 14-15 percent. First time visitors comprised less than ten percent of visitors to the other four resource areas.

Table 5.1-12. Visitors' frequency of visits to the Lake Oroville area.

Visit Frequency	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Regular visitor[1]	**64.3**	**64.4**	**71.0**	**69.7**	**79.4**	**72.6**
Occasional visitor[2]	15.9	18.6	16.6	16.4	12.3	14.7
Infrequent visitor[3]	4.9	3.4	4.8	4.0	2.4	4.6
First time visitor	14.8	13.6	7.6	9.9	6.0	8.1

1. Defined as visiting three or more times per year.
2. Defined as visiting 1-2 times per year.
3. Defined as visiting less than one time per year.
*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area. Columns may not total to 100 percent due to rounding error. The differences in visit frequency across resource areas are statistically significant (p<.05).*
Source: On-Site Survey (n=2,583).

5.1.2.2 Seasons of Visitation

Overall, data on seasonal visitation indicate that most of the study area receives steady use during at least part of several seasons. Summer was the season during which the highest percentage of respondents had visited during the previous 12 months at most of the resource areas (77 to 91 percent). The only exception was the Diversion Pool, where 79 percent had visited during the fall as compared to 68 percent during the summer (Table 5.1-13).

Table 5.1-13. Season(s) during which visitors had come to the Lake Oroville area during the previous 12 months.

Season	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Spring	54.6	67.7	58.0	54.0	50.5	38.9
Summer	**87.1**	67.7	**78.1**	**91.0**	**91.2**	**77.1**
Fall	43.1	**79.0**	54.4	39.2	40.7	54.6
Winter	29.6	45.2	39.6	26.4	26.1	26.0

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area. The differences in seasonal visitation across resource areas are statistically significant for all four seasons (p<.05).*
Source: On-Site Survey (n=2,583).

Spring was the season during which the second highest number of respondents at each area tended to visit, with the exception of the OWA, where fall was the second most popular season. With the exception of the OWA, about half to two-thirds of visitors in each area visited during the spring. In addition to the Diversion Pool, a majority of LFC and OWA visitors had visited during the fall. The lowest percent of respondents in each of the resource areas visited during the winter, with less than 30 percent of visitors surveyed at Lake Oroville, the Forebay, the Afterbay, or the OWA visiting during the

winter. Visitors to the LFC and Diversion Pool, both close to residential areas and visited principally by trail users, more often reported winter visits.

Some differences emerge when seasons of visitation are compared among those surveyed during the primarily-summer peak season and those surveyed during other times of year (Table 5.1-14). As seen above, summer and spring are the most popular times to visit, but the non-peak season respondents had visited much more frequently in the fall and winter, and were somewhat less likely to have visited during the summer.

The pattern of seasonal visitation was similar between residents of Butte County and adjacent counties and those from more distant counties (and out of state), with summer being the most popular time to visit. The primary difference is that visitors from outside the local region of Butte and adjacent counties were only slightly less likely to have visited during the summer, but 20-30 percent fewer had visited during the other seasons than those from the local region (Table 5.1-14).

Table 5.1-14. Comparison of season visitors had visited the Lake Oroville area during the previous 12 months, by season of survey and residence of respondent.

Season Visited Lake Oroville Area	Survey Season		Visitor Residency	
	Peak Season (%)	Non-peak Season (%)	Butte & Adj. Counties (%)	Other Counties (%)
Spring	50.4	62.3	64.9	32.1
Summer	**88.4**	**72.4**	**90.3**	**79.0**
Fall	40.5	69.5	53.6	33.9
Winter	26.5	42.8	38.5	14.6

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response. The differences in seasonal visitation are statistically significant for all four seasons across survey seasons and across county of residency (p<.05).*
Source: On-Site Survey (n=2,583).

5.1.3 Visitors' Perceptions and Preferences

Gaining information about visitors' recreation-related perceptions and preferences was a primary objective of the survey efforts. Questions asked of respondents during their visit pertained to their perceptions of crowding and the quality of scenery surrounding their particular survey site. The Mailback Survey asked visitors to describe any recreation activities or special events not offered in the Lake Oroville area that they would like to have available. Mailback Survey respondents also were presented with a series of scale-type questions in which they could express their preference for the types of recreation opportunities and associated settings in the Lake Oroville area. Finally, two tables allowed visitors to indicate, first, whether they found certain management, water condition, and user interaction issues to be a problem during their visit, and second, whether they found the number of several specific types of facilities and

services to be sufficient in number or amount. This section also reports respondents' overall satisfaction with their recreation experience at the Lake Oroville area.

5.1.3.1 Perceived Crowding

On-Site Survey respondents were asked to rate the level of crowding at the location where they were interviewed using a 9-point scale, with 1 meaning "not at all crowded" and 9 meaning "extremely crowded." Thus, lower scores usually signify a more desirable condition than higher scores.

With the exception of the OWA, the overwhelming majority of respondents considered the site where they were interviewed (Table 5.1-15) to be "not at all crowded" to "slightly crowded" (the lower third of the scale). This was the perception of at least two-thirds and as many as 90 percent of the respondents at five of the resource areas, with different responses evident at the OWA. About 20 percent of respondents in those five resource areas (9 percent at the Diversion Pool) rated crowding in the middle third of the scale (4-6), the upper end of which corresponded with "moderately crowded." From 5 to 11 percent at four of the resource areas rated crowding at 7 or above; none did so at the Diversion Pool.

Table 5.1-15. Visitors' perception of crowding at the recreation area where they were surveyed.

Crowding Rating	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
1 – Not at all crowded	**44.5**	**75.9**	**53.0**	**40.3**	**38.0**	15.2
2	11.2	10.3	9.3	14.8	14.5	7.6
3 – Slightly crowded	15.2	5.2	13.9	11.4	14.9	12.2
4	4.8	5.2	3.3	6.4	3.6	6.4
5	5.9	1.7	5.3	6.0	6.2	8.5
6 – Moderately crowded	11.3	1.7	10.6	10.4	12.0	**21.0**
7	3.8	0	0.7	3.7	4.7	7.6
8	1.7	0	1.3	1.3	2.2	5.5
9 – Extremely crowded	1.6	0	2.6	5.7	4.0	15.9
Mean rating[1]	2.8	1.5	2.6	3.1	3.2	5.0

1. The differences in mean crowding scores across resource areas are statistically significant (p<.05).
*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area. Columns may not total to 100 percent due to rounding error.*
Source: On-Site Survey (n=2,583).

In contrast, visitors' perceptions of crowding at the OWA were considerably higher, with the most frequent rating a 6 or "moderately crowded." Only about 35 percent of visitors rated crowding between 1 and 3, while 36 percent rated crowding in the middle range of 4 to 6. Exactly 50 percent of respondents rated the area as being between "moderately crowded" and "extremely crowded," two to three times the percentage at most of the

other areas. These responses relate both to the heavily-used Afterbay outlet area, a well-known fishing site where many anglers congregate, and some riverbank and riffle areas where anglers may compete for space.

The mean crowding scores for each resource area confirm the response pattern, with average scores below 2 for the Diversion Pool, slightly below 3 for Lake Oroville and the LFC, slightly above 3 for the Forebay and Afterbay, and about 5 for the OWA.

A comparison of perceptions of crowding by season indicates that, while overall crowding scores were not high during the peak season (with nearly two-thirds of respondents rating crowding between 1 and 3), nearly 75 percent of respondents gave low crowding ratings during the non-peak season (Table 5.1-16). Non-peak season mean crowding scores were about 0.7 points lower than during the peak season. This is the pattern that would be expected as most recreation sites received their greatest levels of use during the peak season.

Table 5.1-16. Comparison of crowding perceptions by season of survey and residence of respondent.

Crowding Rating	Survey Season		Visitor Residency	
	Peak Season (%)	Non-peak Season (%)	Butte & Adj. Counties (%)	Other Counties (%)
1 – Not at all crowded	**39.3**	**46.7**	**42.9**	**36.5**
2	10.9	13.8	11.8	10.8
3 – Slightly crowded	14.0	13.8	13.7	14.7
4	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.0
5	6.2	6.2	5.0	8.1
6 – Moderately crowded	13.1	8.8	12.1	13.0
7	4.3	3.1	4.3	3.6
8	2.5	0.7	1.6	3.2
9 – Extremely crowded	4.8	1.9	3.8	5.2
Mean rating[1]	3.3	2.6	3.0	3.4

1. The differences in mean crowding scores across survey seasons and counties of residency are statistically significant (p<.05).
*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response. Columns may not total to 100 percent due to rounding error.*
Source: On-Site Survey (n=2,583).

Comparison of crowding scores between those given by visitors who reside in the local region of Butte and surrounding counties and those who reside in other more distant counties indicates that the local visitors have a slightly lower overall perception of crowding. However, the mean crowding scores given by those from more distant counties were only about 0.4 points higher, and over 60 percent of respondents in both groups rated crowding as relatively low, with scores between 1 and 3. Scores in the moderate and high ranges (4-6 and 7-9) were only a few percentage points higher from visitors from more distant counties. Much of the difference may be related to the relatively high number of visitors from outside the local region who visit the OWA, where

the highest perceptions of crowding were found, but this relationship was not statistically evaluated.

5.1.3.2 Perceptions of Scenic Quality

On-Site Survey respondents were asked to rate the scenery at the location where they were interviewed on a 9-point scale. The scale used was similar in form to the crowding scale discussed above, with 1 labeled "extremely unappealing" and 9 labeled "extremely appealing." In this case, however, higher scores signify a more desirable rather than a less desirable condition.

Generally, the most frequent response was a score of 6 or "appealing," and all but the Afterbay and OWA had average scenery ratings higher than 6 (Table 5.1-17). The scores for the Diversion Pool were particularly high, with the most frequent response being the highest possible score of 9, or "extremely appealing," and an average scenery rating of 7.5. From 77 to 92 percent of visitors at Lake Oroville, the Diversion Pool, LFC, and Forebay rated the scenery at 6 or higher.

Scenery ratings were slightly lower at the Afterbay and OWA, with a greater percentage of ratings of 5 in particular and mean scores slightly below 6. Very few respondents surveyed in any of the resource areas judged the quality of scenery to be a 3 ("unappealing") or below.

Table 5.1-17. Visitors' rating of scenery at recreation sites.

Scenery Rating	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	**Diversion Pool (%)**	**LFC (%)**	**Thermalito Forebay (%)**	**Thermalito Afterbay (%)**	**OWA (%)**
1 – Extr. unappealing	2.5	1.7	0.0	1.0	2.1	3.1
2	0.9	0.0	0.0	1.0	2.1	0.9
3 – Unappealing	3.2	1.7	0.0	3.7	7.4	6.5
4	4.3	0.0	3.9	4.4	8.1	5.2
5	12.2	5.1	13.7	12.9	23.3	22.5
6 – Appealing	**29.7**	18.6	**42.5**	**36.6**	**31.4**	**34.9**
7	19.0	18.6	14.4	15.6	9.5	10.2
8	9.7	13.6	7.8	8.8	2.8	4.6
9 – Extr. Appealing	18.4	**40.7**	17.6	15.9	13.1	13.0
Mean Rating[1]	6.5	7.5	6.6	6.4	5.7	5.8

1. The differences in mean scenery ratings across resource areas are statistically significant (p<.05).
*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area. Columns may not total to 100 percent due to rounding error.*
Source: On-Site Survey (n=2,583).

5.1.3.3 Interest in Recreation Activities or Special Events Not Offered in the Lake Oroville Area

Mailback survey respondents were asked if there were any recreation activities or special events not offered in the Lake Oroville area that they would like to do (or be a spectator of). About 80 percent of respondents did not respond or checked the response stating "No, all the opportunities I wanted were offered," while about 20 percent (182 visitors) checked "yes" and wrote down one or more specific requests. However, about half of those were considered not valid because they mentioned activities already widely available in the Lake Oroville area or some type of addition or improvement to existing facilities unrelated to a new activity.

Table 5.1-18 lists the requested activities (or facilities to support new activities) and events requested, grouped into several broad categories, and the number and percent of visitors who mentioned each. Because the total number of valid responses was low, they are not further divided and presented by geographic area, as were the preceding survey responses. Requests in each category mentioned by only a single respondent are grouped as "other responses" (a supplemental list of these single responses is provided in Appendix G). A few of the items listed may be available in the Lake Oroville area but not at the area where the visitor was surveyed (e.g., at Lake Oroville but not at the Forebay). These responses were considered valid because the survey data indicate that many visitors limit their visits to one area; these responses are understood to express a desire for new activities at the areas they prefer to use.

Of the 136 valid responses, requests for water-based activities and related facility additions were most common among those responding to this question. Although 16 different requests were made in that category, only one request was mentioned by more than a few visitors: a beach or swim area on Lake Oroville (the existing swim beach at the Loafer Creek DUA was usable for just a few weeks at the start and the end of the 12-month survey period). Several other water-based activities were mentioned by three to seven visitors, while the remaining nine were mentioned by just one or two people.

A handful of visitors made requests specific to camping, while a much larger group of requests was made, each mentioned by one to three people, for activities, facilities, or programs that could be associated with campgrounds or day use areas. Many of these were sports or games (volleyball, horseshoes, basketball, rock climbing).

A total of 18 different special events of interest to visitors were listed. Some of these have been and may occasionally continue to be hosted in the area, but visitors may not have been aware of them. Four of the requests were made by more than a couple of visitors, primarily for competitive events they could participate in or watch. No special event was mentioned by more than six visitors, and 12 of the 18 were mentioned by only one respondent.

Table 5.1-18. New activities and special events that visitors would like offered in the Lake Oroville area.

Activity / Event	No. of Responses	Percent of Respondents
Water-based activities (or support facilities/services)		
Beach area/swimming area (Lake Oroville)	26	14.3
Paddle boat/canoe/kayak rentals	7	3.8
Para-sailing	6	3.3
Buoys for skiing/ski slalom course	4	2.2
Water slide	3	1.6
Lake cruise/boat tours	3	1.6
Whitewater boating	2	1.1
Warm-water swimming/pool	2	1.1
Other (7 activities/facilities, each mentioned once)	8	4.4
Camping/campground activities (or facilities)		
Shoreline/waterside camping (not boat-in)	5	2.7
Campfires (in campgrounds)	4	2.2
Other (3 activities/facilities, each mentioned once)	3	0.6
Special events		
Athletic competition (triathlon, running, biking, etc.)	6	3.3
Water-ski competitions/wake boarding competitions	5	2.7
Boat drag races (IHBS)	4	2.2
Equestrian events/trail ride events	4	2.2
Outdoor concerts	2	1.1
Rodeos/horseshow events	2	1.1
Sailboat races (regattas)	2	1.1
Other (12 events, each mentioned once)	11	6.0
Other activities/facilities/services		
Playground area	3	1.6
Children's activities/youth programs	2	1.1
Volleyball	2	1.1
Water access/swimming for horse riders	2	1.1
Golf	2	1.1
Interpretive programs	2	1.1
Horseshoe pits	2	1.1
Rock climbing area	2	1.1
Others (9 activities/facilities, each mentioned once)	10	5.5

Note: About 80 percent of respondents checked the response stating "No, all the opportunities I wanted were offered" or left the question blank, which was recorded as a "no" response. Among the written responses given by the remaining 20 percent of respondents, about half mentioned activities already widely available in the Lake Oroville area or facility improvements unrelated to any new activity responses. The table does not include those responses, but the "percent of respondents" figures are based on all respondents who listed an activity or event, "new" or otherwise.
Source: Mailback Survey ("Yes" responses only; n=182).

5.1.3.4 Recreational Setting Preferences

In the Mailback Survey, respondents were asked about their preferences for five various aspects of the recreation setting at the recreation area where they were surveyed. For each aspect, visitors were asked to indicate their preference on a 4- to 7-point scale

depending on the question. Each aspect contributes to the recreational experience at the study area, and included solitude/affiliation, risk and challenge, use of outdoor wilderness skills, presence of the sights and sounds of civilization, and appearance of the landscape. Together, these items describe a range of recreation settings from primitive, undeveloped, and low use to highly developed with high use levels. A range of recreation opportunities and experiences are available within the study area, although each resource area may not provide the full range of opportunities.

Table 5.1-19 shows respondent preferences for solitude versus affiliation with other groups. At all six resource areas, most visitors felt that either "solitude was important" or that "solitude and affiliation are equally important," with these two responses comprising from 57 to 71 percent of responses. The remaining responses tended toward a preference for solitude in most of the resource areas. This suggests that most respondents value opportunities to both be alone and to engage with other visitors, but with somewhat greater weight placed on opportunities for solitude. Given that relatively few visitors are alone when visiting the area (see Table 5.1-6), solitude may be taken to mean time spent with a visitor's own group but away from other groups.

Table 5.1-19. Visitors' preference for solitude or affiliation with other groups.

Rating	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	**Diversion Pool (%)**	**LFC (%)**	**Thermalito Forebay (%)**	**Thermalito Afterbay (%)**	**OWA (%)**
Solitude is extremely important	12.4	16.7	5.8	15.1	4.5	14.9
Solitude is very important	15.2	10.0	7.7	12.9	13.5	10.5
Solitude is important	22.4	26.7	34.6	24.7	17.1	28.9
Solitude and affiliation are equally important	**34.3**	**40.0**	**36.5**	**36.6**	**46.8**	**40.4**
Affiliation with other groups is important	3.2	0.0	5.8	6.5	8.1	0.9
Affiliation with other groups is very important	2.2	3.3	7.7	0.0	2.7	2.6
Affiliation with other groups is extremely important	10.2	3.3	1.9	4.3	7.2	1.8

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area. Columns may not total to 100 percent due to rounding error.*
Source: Mailback Survey (n=1,071).

In regards to the aspect of risk and challenge, about 70-80 percent of respondents at all resource areas felt that the opportunity to experience risk and challenge from the natural environment was at least "important" (the middle choice on the 5-point scale) and many considered this "very important" or "extremely important." Except at the OWA, about half of respondents surveyed in each area considered risk and challenge "very" or "extremely important" (Table 5.1-20). About 40 percent of OWA visitors expressed those preferences while about 30 percent indicated risk and challenge was only "somewhat important" or "not important." Overall, these responses demonstrate

that respondents felt the opportunity for risk and challenge from the natural environment should be a part of the recreational experience to some degree in each part of the study area. However, it should be noted that individuals' definition of what constitutes "risk and challenge" is likely to vary widely.

Table 5.1-20. Visitors' preference for opportunities for risk and challenge.

Rating	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Extremely important	**29.7**	**28.1**	**29.8**	**28.1**	27.0	24.6
Very important	22.4	24.0	21.1	24.0	20.9	15.6
Important	28.9	26.0	**29.8**	26.0	**31.3**	**29.5**
Somewhat important	11.9	16.7	8.8	16.7	11.3	15.6
Not important	7.1	5.2	10.5	5.2	9.6	14.8

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area. Columns may not total to 100 percent due to rounding error.*
Source: Mailback Survey (n=1,071).

Visitors' ratings of the importance of the opportunity to use outdoor wilderness skills are shown in Table 5.1-21. Overall, the responses were similar to those for risk and challenge, with most responses in the "important" to "extremely important" portion of the scale. About 60-75 percent of respondents at each resource area rated this aspect of the setting as "important" or higher. However, the importance appears to be somewhat moderate as compared to risk and challenge, with the top response for each resource area "important" rather than "extremely important" compared to the preceding item. Responses of "somewhat important" and "not important" were higher for this wilderness skills item, in particular at the OWA, with about 25 to 40 percent giving those ratings to this item. In total, these responses indicate that respondents place some value on the opportunity to use outdoor wilderness skills as part of their recreational experience at the study area, although none of the study area is designated Wilderness and most is developed to some degree.

Table 5.1-21. Visitors' preference for opportunities to use outdoor wilderness skills.

Rating	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Extremely important	23.0	22.2	19.3	22.2	19.5	15.9
Very important	23.2	17.2	22.8	17.2	25.4	19.0
Important	**28.6**	**31.3**	**35.1**	**31.3**	**29.7**	**24.6**
Somewhat important	16.6	13.1	10.5	13.1	11.9	20.6
Not important	8.6	16.2	12.3	16.2	13.6	19.8

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area. Columns may not total to 100 percent due to rounding error.*
Source: Mailback survey (n=1,071).

Another setting variable that Mailback Survey respondents were asked about was their preference for the sights and sounds of civilization. It should be noted that "sights and sounds of civilization" were not explicitly defined for respondents. Across all six resource areas, the greatest percentage of visitors felt these should be "rare," with a similar portion of respondents (36 to 41 percent) expressing this preference at each area (Table 5.1-22). About 60 to 70 percent of visitors in each area felt that the sights and sounds of civilization should be "unusual" or "rare." At the other end of the scale, about 20-30 percent of visitors preferred the sights and sounds of civilization to be "common" or "dominant" (responses of "dominant" were few). Overall, these responses indicate that most respondents prefer human intrusions to be fairly limited, although relatively few prefer them to be completely absent. Likewise, relatively few visitors prefer these features of the setting to be "common" or "dominant," although this preference is held by a substantial subset of visitors.

Table 5.1-22. Visitors' preference for the presence of the sights and sounds of civilization.

Preference	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	**Diversion Pool (%)**	**LFC (%)**	**Thermalito Forebay (%)**	**Thermalito Afterbay (%)**	**OWA (%)**
Absent	13.5	19.4	12.5	19.4	7.8	15.3
Rare	**40.8**	**35.7**	**39.3**	**35.7**	**36.2**	**38.7**
Unusual	29.0	25.5	21.4	25.5	25.9	25.8
Common	16.0	18.4	21.4	18.4	29.3	19.4
Dominant	0.7	1.0	5.4	1.0	0.9	0.8

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area. Columns may not total to 100 percent due to rounding error.*
Source: Mailback Survey (n=1,071).

The last setting variable that Mailback Survey respondents were asked to indicate their preferences for was "landscape appearance." This aspect of the setting is closely related to the preceding "sights and sounds of civilization" item, thus similar responses would be expected. This is indeed the case; among the four landscape types offered, "predominantly natural in appearance" was the most frequent response, with between 45 and 59 percent of respondents in each survey site (Table 5.1-23). At most of the resource areas, the remaining responses primarily expressed a preference for a landscape "modified on a small scale." At the Diversion Pool and Forebay, the remaining preferences were fairly evenly divided between preference for a "totally natural" and a "modified on a small scale." Few respondents in any area listed "significantly modified" as their landscape preference.

Table 5.1-23. Visitors' preference for appearance of the landscape at recreation areas.

Preference	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Totally natural in appearance	16.0	24.2	21.4	24.2	10.3	19.0
Predominantly natural in appearance	**58.8**	**47.5**	**44.6**	**47.5**	**57.8**	**53.2**
Modified on a small scale	26.3	22.2	30.4	26.3	28.4	27.0
Significantly modified	2.9	2.0	3.6	2.0	3.4	0.8

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area. Columns may not total to 100 percent due to rounding error.*
Source: Mailback Survey (n=1,071).

As a whole, visitors to the Lake Oroville area were fairly consistent in the preferences they expressed for aspects of the recreation setting and associated recreation opportunities. The dominant desire in all areas appears to be for recreation opportunities that allow for some degree of solitude and challenge in a predominantly natural setting. An interest does exist on the part of some visitors for opportunities that provide either more solitude, challenge, and more completely natural setting and, less so, for a more social and heavily developed setting, but these interests are in the minority. The study area contains relatively diverse conditions and has the potential to meet most of these desires to some degree within most of the resource areas.

5.1.3.5 Evaluation of the Number of Facilities Provided

Respondents to the Mailback Survey were asked to evaluate facilities at the recreation area where they were surveyed during their trip to the Lake Oroville area. A table listed 27 types of facilities grouped into five general categories: trail use related, camping related, boating related, fishing/hunting related, and other activity related. Respondents were asked to indicate whether the number of each type of facility was "too few," "about right," or "too many," with the option of marking "N/A" if they were uncertain or the type of facility did not apply to their recent experience. The question did not ask visitors to evaluate the quality or any other aspect of the facilities, only the number.

Responses to each item are summarized below by category (all "N/A" responses are disregarded). To facilitate presentation and discussion of these results, the tables report only the percent of respondents who evaluated a facility or service as "too few," which is of particular interest in assessing facility needs. For each of the 27 items, most other visitors checked "about right"; generally, less than five percent of responses for any item were "too many."

A few additional notes of explanation here may help in understanding these results and are summarized below: First, there was a tendency for many respondents to check "too

few" for many or all of the items in the table, perhaps without much consideration for actual need, potential use, appropriateness, etc. within the particular resource area. As a result, the percentages of "too few" responses tended to be high, often in the range of 30-60 percent, across resource areas. Given this response pattern, it suggested that the greatest attention should be paid to facilities evaluated as "too few" by a majority of respondents. The greatest weight should be given to the highest of such evaluations, typically over 70 percent of responses, which provide the strongest indication of perceived need. Also, emphasis should be placed on instances where a majority of visitors in one resource area evaluated an item as being "too few," while the majority felt the number was "about right" in the other resource areas.

Second, some responses are difficult to interpret in that they relate to types of facilities that do not currently exist (and may not be appropriate) in the resource area. For example, only non-motorized boats and boats with electric motors are permitted by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) on the Diversion Pool. Therefore, facilities and services to serve motorized boats, such as marinas and boat-in gas stations, do not exist (and would not be appropriate given current management). Most respondents checked "N/A" in these instances. However, some visitors evaluated these types of inappropriate facilities as "too few" in number. Perhaps even less valid are the evaluation of certain types of facilities as "too many" at areas where they do not currently exist. Some of these seemingly illogical responses may be from visitors who were incorrectly evaluating the item in reference to areas other than where they were surveyed.

Appendix H provides tables reporting all responses for all items for each of the six resource areas. This provides the opportunity to compare responses across items for each resource area within a single table, highlighting visitors' perceptions of the greatest facilities needs by area.

Trail Use Facilities

Visitors were asked to evaluate the number of five types of trail facilities: unpaved bike trails, paved bike trails, hiking trails, equestrian trails, and trail signs. With the exception of the OWA, relatively few visitors felt the number of various types of trails and trail signs were "too few." At the LFC in particular, less than 18 percent felt any of the trail facilities were "too few" in number. The evaluations given by visitors to Lake Oroville, Diversion Pool, Forebay, and Afterbay were similar, with about 20 to 40 percent "too few" responses. Although the greatest perception of need varied somewhat between areas, the number of signs indicating trail location was the top item at Lake Oroville and was close to the top at the other areas (Table 5.1-24). An increase in the number of equestrian trails appears to be the strongest interest at the Diversion Pool, while paved bike trails were most often evaluated as "too few" at the Forebay and Afterbay.

Table 5.1-24. Percentage of respondents perceiving trail facilities as "too few."

Type of Trail Facility	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Number of unpaved bike trails	32.6	31.8	8.0	20.9	26.3	51.9
Number of paved bike trails	34.8	20.0	16.0	**28.6**	**38.9**	59.1
Number of hiking trails	30.4	25.9	**17.4**	20.8	30.4	48.5
Number of equestrian trails	28.1	**42.9**	7.7	13.3	31.3	28.6
Number of signs indicating trail locs.	**39.2**	41.4	11.5	28.0	37.0	**70.0**

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the trail facility for each area with the highest percentage of respondents that marked "too few." "N/A" responses were not included in analysis.*
Source: Mailback Survey (n=1,071).

Perceptions of trail needs were substantially higher at the OWA, where a majority of visitors (trail users and non-users alike) felt that unpaved and paved bike trails and trail signs were "too few," and nearly 50 percent felt the number of hiking trails were "too few." With the exception of the number of equestrian trails, the perception that trail facilities were "too few" was highest at the OWA, and the percentage of "too few" responses given by OWA visitors was generally 15-30 percent higher for each item than at the other areas.

Camping Facilities

Visitors were asked to evaluate seven types of camping facilities and services, including several types of campsites and camping amenities. Most of the camping facilities are within the study area at Lake Oroville, which provides developed family campgrounds for tent or RV campers, boat-in campsites, and floating campsites. RV campers are permitted to spend the night at the North Forebay DUA and Spillway BR/DUA parking lots. Only primitive camping facilities are available at the OWA, and the Afterbay provides no camping facilities.

Similar to the pattern described above for trails items, a strong majority of visitors at the OWA (60-90 percent) felt each type of camping facility was "too few" in number, with the exception of floating campsites (Table 5.1-25). (Floating campsites are present only at Lake Oroville and would not be appropriate for the OWA, where no reservoirs exist.) Although the percentages were considerably lower, a majority of visitors to the Afterbay also felt four of the seven types of camping facilities were "too few" in number.

Table 5.1-25. Percentage of respondents perceiving camping facilities as "too few."

Type of Camping Facility/Service	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Number of campgrounds	21.3	11.1	45.5	35.7	54.2	70.2
Number of campsites with RV hookups	38.1	22.2	33.3	**42.9**	47.1	84.0
Number of group campsites	33.0	0.0	**50.0**	31.8	57.9	69.7
Number of floating campsites	**47.6**	**40.0**	16.7	35.7	58.8	50.0
Screening between campsites	39.0	10.0	40.0	32.0	31.3	75.0
Number of shower facilities campgrounds	38.6	0.0	25.0	38.1	**66.7**	**90.9**
Presence of campground hosts	13.1	0.0	30.0	8.7	31.6	60.9

*Note: **Bold t**ype indicates the camping facility/service for each area with the highest percentage of respondents that marked "too few." "N/A" responses were not included in analysis.*
Source: Mailback Survey (n=1,071).

None of the eight camping facilities were evaluated as "too few" in number by more than 50 percent of visitors to Lake Oroville, Diversion Pool, LFC, or the Forebay. Nearly 50 percent of Lake Oroville visitors felt the number of floating campsites was "too few," the highest percentage for any item. The 40 percent who gave that response at the Diversion Pool also appeared to express an interest in more floating campsites, although it is not clear if this is in reference to the Diversion Pool or Lake Oroville. The greatest perceived need for camping facilities at the Forebay appears to be campsites with RV hookups.

Boating Facilities

Visitors were asked to evaluate the number of five types of boating facilities including boat ramps, docks/temporary moorage, marinas, gas stations, and boat-in campsites.

At Lake Oroville, only the number of docks or temporary moorage was considered "too few" by a majority (58 percent) of visitors. About two-thirds of visitors at the Diversion Pool also felt the number of docks or temporary moorage was "too few." Although not a majority, it is of note that the number of boat ramps was considered to be "too few" by 43 percent of Lake Oroville and Diversion Pool visitors (Table 5.1-26). (Each of the four primary developed boat ramps at Lake Oroville has from one to three docks. No boat ramps or docks are provided at the Diversion Pool.) Although the data appear to suggest a strong perception of need for a marina and gas station at the Diversion Pool,

the percentages shown are based on only a few respondents. Most Diversion Pool visitors (78-84 percent) answered "N/A" for these items.
A majority of visitors to the Afterbay felt the number of marinas and the typically-associated amenity of boat-in gas stations were "too few." (No marinas or refueling facilities are provided at the Afterbay.) About 44 percent also felt the number of docks or temporary moorage was "too few," perhaps in part due to the absence of docks at the Larkin Road Car-top BR.

Table 5.1-26. Percentage of respondents perceiving boating facilities as "too few."

Type of Boating Facility	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Number of boat ramps	43.4	42.9	21.7	13.2	27.3	30.8
Number of docks or temporary moorage	**57.7**	66.7	**41.7**	13.7	44.3	**57.7**
Number of Marinas	32.9	**80.0**	25.0	15.8	52.5	47.1
Number of boat-in gas stations	35.6	50.0	40.0	**42.9**	**54.5**	38.5
Number of boat-in campsites	45.2	33.3	25.0	27.8	35.7	56.5

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the boating facility for each area with the highest percentage of respondents that marked "too few." "N/A" responses were not included in analysis.*
Source: Mailback Survey (n=1,071).

Visitors' perceptions of a need for additional boating facilities at the LFC and the Forebay appear to be low, with no more than about 43 percent of respondents considering any of the boating facilities to be "too few" in number. The greatest interest at those two areas appears to be for boat-in gas stations.

Lastly, a majority of OWA visitors felt the number of docks and boat in campsites was "too few." This may reflect the lack of a dock at the one ramp in the area, the gravel ramp near the Afterbay outlet. Boaters also use informal launch sites to access One-Mile Pond in the OWA, which also has no docks.

More in-depth analysis of these boating-related items is provided in Study R-7 – *Reservoir Boating*.

Fishing and Hunting Facilities

Evaluation of the number of fishing and hunting facilities included three items: fish cleaning stations, lands for hunting, and quality of habitat for hunting. Boat and bank angling are important activities in all six resource areas. Hunting within the study area primarily occurs in the OWA and the Afterbay resource area, which is managed as a

subunit of the OWA. Hunting is not permitted at the LFC, Diversion Pool, and Forebay areas. Limited hunting is permitted in the Lake Oroville portion of the study area, in areas well separated from developed use areas.
Focusing first on the number of fish cleaning stations, the results indicate that from two-thirds to 90 percent of visitors to the Diversion Pool, LFC, and OWA who expressed on opinion felt there were "too few" of these facilities (Table 5.1-27). No fish cleaning stations are provided in those three areas. Several fish cleaning stations have been installed near boat ramps at Lake Oroville, the Forebay, and the Afterbay.

Table 5.1-27. Percentage of respondents perceiving fishing and hunting facilities as "too few."

Type of Fishing or Hunting Facility	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Number of fish cleaning stations	32.2	**66.7**	**73.9**	39.5	**43.5**	**89.7**
Lands for hunting	**40.0**	28.6	38.5	**53.3**	29.4	59.5
Quality of habitat for hunting	25.5	16.7	20.0	31.6	25.7	28.6

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the fishing/hunting facility for each area with the highest percentage of respondents that marked "too few." "N/A" responses were not included in analysis.*
Source: Mailback Survey (n=1,071).

The meaning of the 53 percent of Forebay visitors and 60 percent of OWA visitors who felt that lands for hunting were "too few" is not clear. The presence of recreation facilities as well as Project operations facilities at the Forebay and the small land base available preclude hunting there. On the other hand, most of the land within the OWA is available for hunting. The Hunter Survey (see Section 5.2) results provide more results specific to the OWA and this topic. Perceptions that quality habitat for hunting was "too few" were low across all six resource areas.

Other Facilities and Services

The final group of facility evaluation items included six types of day use and other specialized types of facilities and services.

A majority of Lake Oroville visitors felt two types of day use facilities were "too few" in number: swim areas and shoreline day use and picnic areas. These types of facilities were particularly scarce during the 2002 peak season, when the one developed swim area on the reservoir was unusable the entire season due to low water levels. Developed day use areas were also affected by low water levels in that the shoreline had receded far from the developed facilities above the high water line by mid-summer. Half or more of visitors to the Diversion Pool felt four of the six facilities were "too few" (Table 5.1-28). In particular, two-thirds felt developed day use areas along the shore

were "too few." The Diversion Pool DUA provides only a gravel access road and a vault toilet. Perceptions regarding swim areas may be in reference to other resource areas in that little swimming occurs at the Diversion Pool due to cold water temperatures.

Table 5.1-28. Percentage of respondents perceiving other facilities as "too few."

Type of Facility/Service	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Number of group picnic sites	33.9	26.7	38.2	17.9	45.7	**92.9**
Amount of swim areas	56.7	50.0	32.3	25.6	34.8	65.0
Number of equestrian facilities	25.2	50.0	13.3	19..4	41.2	61.1
Number of dev. day use or picnic areas along the shore	**66.6**	**66.7**	38.9	28.2	45.2	75.4
Number of interp. programs/educational opportunities	40.7	45.5	39.1	**40.6**	**53.3**	74.2
Number of restrooms	35.6	50.0	**42.6**	32.3	34.8	74.2

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the facility/service for each area with the highest percentage of respondents that marked "too few." "N/A" responses were not included in analysis.*
Source: Mailback Survey (n=1,071).

At the Afterbay, only the number of "interpretive programs and educational opportunities" was felt to be "too few" by a majority of visitors. It may also be noteworthy that over 45 percent of Afterbay visitors considered the number of group picnic sites and shoreline picnic sites to be "too few." The only picnic area on the Afterbay, the picnic sites and beach at Monument Hill, is heavily-used during the summer months.

Visitors to the OWA expressed a strong desire for more facilities of these types, with 61 to 93 percent of visitors considering the number of each type of facility to be "too few" in number. The interest appears to be greatest for group picnic sites, developed day use areas, interpretive programs, and restrooms.

5.1.3.6 Perception of Management, Water Condition, and User Interaction Issues

The Mailback Survey asked visitors to indicate whether a series of 25 issues were a problem at the recreation area where they were surveyed during their recent visit. The 25 issues were organized into three general categories: Management, Water Conditions, and User Interactions. Respondents were asked to indicate whether each issue was a "big problem," a "moderate problem," a "slight problem," or "not a problem."

As with the facilities evaluation above, respondents could check “N/A” if they were unsure or if the item did not apply to their visit. All N/A responses are disregarded in the information presented in this section.

Responses to each item are summarized below by category. To facilitate presentation and discussion of these results, the tables report only the percent of respondents who considered an issue to be a “moderate problem” or a “big problem” (a combined percentage), which is of particular interest in assessing management issues and visitors concerns. The range of perceptions is wide, both within resource areas and within issues. However, the percentage of visitors in each resource area who considered specific issues to be “moderate” or “big problems” was usually less than 20 percent. Issues that visitors appeared to have more concern about tended to have combined ”moderate” and “big problem” response percentages of 30 to 50 percent, and just a few had percentages above 50 percent. The following presentation of results and discussion focuses on resource areas and issues where at least 30 percent of visitors consider the issue to be a “moderate” or “big problem.”

Appendix I provides tables reporting all responses for all items for each of the six resource areas. The appendix provides the opportunity to compare responses across items for each resource area within a single table, highlighting visitors’ perceptions of the greatest problems by area.

Management Issues

Respondents were asked to assess ten aspects of management (Table 5.1-29) of the Lake Oroville area in reference to the area where they were surveyed. The issues are primarily related to facility operation and maintenance responsibilities, including law enforcement, but also include items on access to the shoreline and cost to use facilities.

At Lake Oroville, access to the shoreline was the only one of the ten management issues to be considered a “moderate” or “big problem” by more than 30 percent of visitors. The percentage of these responses for each of the other nine issues was 15 percent or less. Similarly, only one issue was considered to be a “moderate” or “big problem” by more than 30 percent of visitors at the LFC: litter on the shoreline, with 41 percent of responses. About 24 percent of visitors considered the related issue of sanitation along the shoreline to be a “moderate” or “big problem.”

Concern about these issues was low at the Diversion Pool, Forebay, and Afterbay, where none of the ten issues were considered “moderate” or “big problems” by more than 17 percent of visitors.

In contrast, visitors to the OWA expressed a very high level of concern about both litter and sanitation along the shoreline, with 74 percent and 58 percent, respectively considering these to be “moderate” or “big problems.” Nearly 30 percent considered

law enforcement presence (presumably the lack of it) to be a "moderate" or "big problem." It is also notable that over 20 percent considered safety and security, availability of staffing and services, and adequacy of landscaping to be "moderate" or "big problems" at OWA, substantially higher percentages than at most other areas.

Table 5.1-29. Percentage of respondents perceiving management issues as "moderate" or "big" problems.

Issue	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Litter along the shoreline	15.2	7.2	**41.1**	15.1	16.4	**74.0**
Sanitation along the shoreline	11.3	8.4	24.4	15.7	13.2	58.1
Cost to use facilities	6.6	7.4	7.3	2.3	4.4	4.9
Overall safety and security	9.8	7.2	12.5	5.4	13.3	20.9
Availability of service/staffing	10.1	0.0	5.7	7.0	**16.5**	20.6
Adequacy of info./ warnings provided	8.2	8.3	9.0	5.6	8.1	16.8
Adequacy of landscaping of facilities	9.5	0.0	10.7	5.4	10.5	22.7
Access to the shoreline	**33.2**	**12.0**	9.3	11.6	10.6	13.2
Law enforcement presence	12.7	10.0	7.9	**16.9**	9.1	29.4
Encounters between trail users and other users	2.8	7.2	7.9	1.4	4.1	9.6

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the issue for each area with the highest percentage of respondents that marked "moderate" or "big problem." "N/A" responses were not included in analysis.*
Source: Mailback Survey (n=1,071).

Water Conditions

Visitors were asked to evaluate five water condition issues; three related to low water levels and water level fluctuations, along with water quality and floating debris issues. Water level fluctuation as a result of Project operations is a normal condition experienced by visitors every year. Low pool levels (elevations less than 800 feet) are present by late summer in drier years. Pool levels during the summer 2002 survey months, when most visitors were surveyed, were higher than they had been the previous summer (2001) but were lower than they had been the prior eight years (1993-2000).

Lake Oroville visitors expressed a high level of concern about three issues: exposed land during low water levels, shallow areas during low water levels, and water level fluctuations (Table 5.1-30). More than 54 percent considered exposed land to be a "moderate" or "big problem," and nearly 50 percent considered shallow areas and

fluctuations to be a "moderate" or "big problem." The concerns appear to be similar among visitors to the Afterbay, although the greatest level of concern there seems to be shallow areas.

Table 5.1-30. Percentage of respondents perceiving water condition issues as "moderate" or "big" problems.

Issue	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Exposed land during low water levels	**54.5**	36.3	**30.0**	**23.0**	45.9	13.7
Shallow areas during low water levels	47.3	**38.1**	28.2	20.8	**52.7**	14.6
Floating debris on the water	26.4	36.4	21.8	21.6	14.2	**23.5**
Quality of water	11.2	4.3	10.6	17.0	14.3	9.8
Water level fluctuations	47.7	23.8	22.7	13.4	41.8	20.8

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the issue for each area with the highest percentage of respondents that marked "moderate" or "big problem." "N/A" responses were not included in analysis.*
Source: Mailback Survey (n=1,071).

At the Diversion Pool, the percentage of visitors who considered exposed land and shallow areas at low water levels and floating debris on the water to be "moderate" or "big problems" was in the range of 36-38 percent. Although the question was intended to apply only to the area where the respondent was surveyed, these responses are assumed to relate to Lake Oroville, because pool level fluctuation and floating debris generally do not occur on the Diversion Pool. The same is true of the responses for these items given by LFC and Forebay visitors. This phenomenon, relating to answers beyond the intended scope of a particular question, is one of several examples illustrating the need for careful evaluation of context when analyzing these results. Relatively few visitors considered quality of water to be a "moderate" or "big problem" in any area.

User Interaction Issues

Visitors were asked to evaluate ten issues related to other recreational users and their interactions with them. Three of the issues listed related to the number of watercraft present and the effects of boats on others. Four items related to encounters between different types of visitors and between visitors and residents. Lastly, three items related to the number of visitors at developed facilities and visitors' perception of unsafe behavior and use of alcohol by others.

With the exception of the OWA, less than one quarter of the visitors surveyed in each resource area considered any of the user interaction issues to be "moderate" or "big problems" (Table 5.1-31). At Lake Oroville, the highest percentage of visitors (22

percent) considered encounters between PWC and other users to be a "moderate" or "big problem." About 18 percent of visitors considered unsafe behavior by other users to be at least a "moderate problem." Fifteen percent of visitors or fewer considered any of the other issues to be a "moderate" or "big problem."

Table 5.1-31. Percentage of respondents perceiving user interaction issues as "moderate" or "big" problems.

Issue	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Numbers of watercraft	15.0	11.8	11.2	2.8	**22.7**	**38.3**
Noise from boats and personal watercraft	13.6	13.6	13.2	9.2	17.4	24.3
Boat speed or wake effects	14.5	13.3	14.3	10.7	16.5	28.4
Numbers of people at developed facilities	10.3	5.3	13.3	13.6	18.5	37.4
Encounters between water skier & others	9.6	13.4	7.7	7.2	6.5	4.3
Encounters between pleasure boaters and boat anglers	9.6	13.4	10.3	2.9	7.5	17.4
Encounters between PWC and other users	**22.4**	18.8	**15.3**	14.5	18.1	7.9
Unsafe behavior by other users	17.7	**23.8**	13.9	**19.5**	14.7	27.6
Use of alcohol by other users	8.4	0.0	11.9	12.0	10.4	26.3
Encounters between visitors and residents	2.7	0.0	5.0	2.4	2.2	13.2

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the issue for each area with the highest percentage of respondents that marked "moderate" or "big problem." "N/A" responses were not included in analysis.*
Source: Mailback Survey (n=1,071).

The pattern of responses from Diversion Pool visitors was similar to Lake Oroville, with the same two issues most frequently identified as "moderate" or "big problems." However, the greatest perception of a problem existing was associated with unsafe behavior rather than PWC encounters. Motorized watercraft, including PWC, are not permitted on the Diversion Pool; thus, the responses related to PWC, water-skiing, boat speeds, etc. are not relevant to the Diversion Pool and must be assumed to relate to other resource areas. At the LFC, encounters between PWC and other users was the issue most frequently perceived to be a "moderate" or "big problem" (15 percent), although it is a relatively low percentage and PWC generally do not operate in that area. About 20 percent of Forebay visitors considered unsafe behavior by other users to be a "moderate" or "big problem," while less than 15 percent held these perceptions about any of the other nine issues. At the Afterbay, the issue of the number of watercraft was most often identified as a "moderate" or "big problem" (by 23 percent of visitors). Unlike the previous four resource areas, several other issues were considered "moderate" or "big problems" by slightly less than 20 percent of visitors, including the number of

people at developed facilities (19 percent) and encounters between PWC and other users (18 percent).

Responses given by OWA visitors indicate a substantially higher perception of user interaction problems at that area than for any of the other resource areas, with five of the ten issues considered to be a “moderate” or “big problem” by at least 25 percent of visitors. In particular, 38 percent of visitors considered the number of watercraft and 37 percent considered the number of people at developed facilities to be a “moderate” or “big problem.” It is presumed that both of these results primarily relate to the Afterbay outlet area, where high numbers of anglers congregate both on shore and in boats at certain times of the year.

The 28 percent who considered boat speed and wake effects to be a “moderate” or “big problem” at the OWA was substantially higher than at any other resource area. About 28 percent also considered unsafe behavior by other users to be a “moderate” or “big problem,” and nearly as many (26 percent) held that perception of alcohol use. It is notable that no more than 12 percent considered alcohol use to be a “moderate” or “big problem” at any other resource area.

5.1.3.7 Satisfaction with Overall Recreation Experience

The final question on the Mailback Survey asked respondents to rate their overall satisfaction with their recreation experience during their recent trip to the Lake Oroville area (the trip during which they completed the On-Site Survey). Respondents provided their rating by checking one of nine responses on a scale from “extremely dissatisfied” to “extremely satisfied.” The responses were converted into numeric scores for purposes of analysis, with “extremely dissatisfied” equal to a score of 1 and “extremely satisfied” equal to a score of 9.

The majority of respondents at each resource area were satisfied with their most recent trip to the Lake Oroville area (Table 5.1-32). The Diversion Pool had the highest percentage of “satisfied” to “extremely satisfied” respondents, with almost 94 percent. This was also the only area where the most frequent response was “extremely satisfied” (36 percent of responses), an uncommon response at the other areas.

At Lake Oroville, the one-third of visitors who rated their level of satisfaction as “very satisfied” represented the largest response group. Nearly as many indicated they were “satisfied” with their visit, and over 70 percent gave a rating of “satisfied” or better.

At the LFC, Thermalito Forebay, Thermalito Afterbay, and OWA, the largest percentage of visitors gave a rating of “satisfied,” and between 62 and 79 percent of respondents rated their level of satisfaction between “satisfied” and “extremely satisfied.”

On the opposite side of the scale, only three to six percent of respondents at the Thermalito Forebay and Diversion Pool and eight to 15 percent at Lake Oroville, LFC, Thermalito Afterbay, and OWA rated their level of satisfaction as "dissatisfied" or worse.

Table 5.1-32. Satisfaction with recent trip to Lake Oroville area.

Satisfaction Level	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	**Diversion Pool (%)**	**LFC (%)**	**Thermalito Forebay (%)**	**Thermalito Afterbay (%)**	**OWA (%)**
(1) Extremely Dissatisfied	3.9	0.0	3.8	2.1	2.6	2.4
(2) Very Dissatisfied	5.7	0.0	9.4	3.1	8.5	2.4
(3) Dissatisfied	3.7	3.2	1.9	1.0	0.9	3.2
(4) Somewhat Dissatisfied	5.2	0.0	7.5	3.1	6.0	8.0
(5) Neither Dissatisfied or Satisfied	3.3	0.0	1.9	6.2	4.3	8.0
(6) Somewhat Satisfied	7.8	3.2	13.2	5.2	8.5	12.0
(7) Satisfied	28.0	29.0	**32.1**	**40.2**	**33.3**	**36.0**
(8) Very Satisfied	**33.3**	29.0	17.0	29.9	27.4	20.8
(9) Extremely Satisfied	9.1	**35.5**	13.2	9.3	8.5	7.2
Mean satisfaction rating	6.6	7.8	6.3	6.9	6.5	6.4

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area. Columns may not total to 100 percent due to rounding error.*
Source: Mailback Survey (n=1,071).

Mean satisfaction ratings for all areas, with the exception of the Diversion Pool, were between 6.3 and 6.9 (between "somewhat satisfied" and "satisfied"). The mean rating of 7.8 for the Diversion Pool corresponds to a rating close to "very satisfied."

Table 5.1-33 presents two comparisons of overall satisfaction, ratings given by peak season versus non-peak season visitors and rating given by residents of Butte and adjacent counties ("local" visitors) versus rating given by residents of other counties and states ("tourist" visitors).

Peak season and non-peak season visitors differed only slightly in their overall satisfaction with their trip to the Lake Oroville area, with more "very" and "extremely satisfied" visitors during the non-peak season. The mean satisfaction score given by non-peak season visitors was only about 0.3 points higher than the peak season score, with both scores between "somewhat satisfied" and "satisfied." The pattern of responses given by residents of Butte and adjacent counties as compared to residents of other counties was very similar, with somewhat more "tourists" than "locals" indicating they were "very" or "extremely satisfied." As was the case for the prior two groups, mean satisfaction scores were similar and fell between "somewhat satisfied" and "satisfied."

Table 5.1-33. Comparison of overall satisfaction, by season of survey and residence of respondent.

Satisfaction Level	Survey Season		Visitor Residency	
	Peak Season (%)	Non-peak Season (%)	Butte & Adj. Counties (%)	Other Counties (%)
(1) Extremely Dissatisfied	2.9	5.2	3.9	2.6
(2) Very Dissatisfied	5.8	3.5	5.6	5.4
(3) Dissatisfied	3.1	2.3	3.4	2.3
(4) Somewhat Dissatisfied	5.7	4.0	4.9	6.7
(5) Neither Dissatisfied or Satisfied	4.3	2.9	4.9	2.8
(6) Somewhat Satisfied	8.8	5.8	7.8	8.8
(7) Satisfied	**31.4**	28.3	**34.1**	25.6
(8) Very Satisfied	29.4	**32.4**	26.9	**34.5**
(9) Extremely Satisfied	8.7	15.6	8.6	11.1
Mean satisfaction rating	6.5	6.8	6.5	6.7

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: Mailback Survey (n=1,071).

A final comparison of visitors' overall satisfaction with their visit focuses on the rating given by five different primary activity groups. Most Mailback Survey respondents had indicated on the On-Site Survey what their primary activity was during their visit (see Table 5.1-1). The respondents were divided into groups reflecting the prominent types of activities available within the study area, including boating, fishing, trail use, camping, and other day use (non-boating, fishing, or trail use visitors). The boating group included those whose primary activity was one of the nine motorized and non-motorized boating activities listed on the On-Site Survey. The fishing group included both bank and boat anglers. The trail use group included the three main types of trail users (hikers, bike riders, and horseback riders), as well as dog walkers. Campers included tent, RV, and floating campsite campers. Finally "other day user" included those whose primary activity was one of 11 day use activities. However, nearly half of the respondents in this group indicated their primary activity was swimming, and most of the remainder listed picnicking or relaxing as their primary activity.

The results of this comparison suggest that a consistent moderate to high level of satisfaction exists across the primary activity groups (Table 5.1-34). The most frequent rating given by all groups was "satisfied" or "very satisfied," and from 63 to 83 percent of each group was "satisfied" to "extremely satisfied" with their experience. Mean satisfaction ratings were between 6.4 and 6.7 for the camping, boating, fishing, and other day use groups. Satisfaction was particularly high among members of the "trail use" primary activity group, about 60 percent of whom indicated they were "very" or "extremely satisfied" with their experience. The mean satisfaction rating given by the trail use group was 7.3, from about half a point to nearly a full point higher than the other groups.

Table 5.1-34. Comparison of overall satisfaction, by primary activity group.

Satisfaction Level	Primary Activity Group				
	Boating (%)	Fishing (%)	Trail Use (%)	Camping (%)	Other Day Use[1] (%)
(1) Extremely Dissatisfied	3.9	2.4	2.1	4.3	3.4
(2) Very Dissatisfied	6.9	4.5	3.1	4.3	5.1
(3) Dissatisfied	3.6	3.6	1.0	0.0	3.4
(4) Somewhat Dissatisfied	3.3	9.3	1.0	10.6	6.8
(5) Neither Dissatisfied or Satisfied	2.4	6.5	3.1	0.0	5.1
(6) Somewhat Satisfied	6.0	10.9	7.2	6.4	10.7
(7) Satisfied	29.9	**32.0**	22.7	**34.0**	**33.9**
(8) Very Satisfied	**36.0**	22.7	**39.2**	29.8	24.3
(9) Extremely Satisfied	7.9	8.1	20.6	10.6	7.3
Mean satisfaction rating	6.6	6.4	7.3	6.7	6.4

1. The "Other Day Use" group included those whose primary activity was one of the eight "passive" activities listed on the survey, not including RV camping, in addition to those whose primary activity was nature study, bird watching, swimming, or panning for gold. However, 83 percent of this group listed three activities--swimming, relaxing, or picnicking--as their primary activity.
Note: The primary activity groups include 30 of the 42 activities listed on the survey and 920 of 1,071 Mailback Survey respondents (86 percent). About 10 percent of respondents did not indicate a primary activity. The remaining four percent listed one of the remaining 12 activities (primarily "urban" activities such as movies and shopping and activities not available within the study area such as golf or tennis) as their primary activity. ***Bold*** *type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: Mailback Survey (n=1,071).

5.1.4 Regional Recreation

Because the Northern California region provides many lakes, reservoirs, and rivers that supply many of the same types of recreation opportunities available within the study area, it is likely that many visitors to the study area visit some of these other recreation sites. Mailback Survey respondents were therefore asked whether they had visited any of 30 regional recreation destinations for recreation in the past 12 months, and if they had visited any of those sites during their recent trip to the Lake Oroville area. The first question provides an indication of the most popular substitute recreation sites in the region. The second question provides an indication of whether the Lake Oroville area is the sole destination for visitors or whether it is one stop among two or more on a typical trip. Respondents could list other sites not listed on the survey booklet.

Table 5.1-35 lists the percentages of respondents who had visited each location listed on the survey. The Sacramento River and San Francisco Bay/Delta area were among the top five places visited by respondents at each resource area. Lake Tahoe was one of the top five destinations listed by respondents at all survey sites except the Forebay (and was just outside the top five there). Lake Almanor (a top five location of respondents at Lake Oroville, the Diversion Pool, the Forebay, and Afterbay) and the

Table 5.1-35. Other Northern California recreation areas Lake Oroville area visitors had visited within the last 12 months.

Location	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Lake Almanor	**26.3**	**28.1**	22.4	**36.3**	**33.6**	20.8
Butt Valley Lake	4.0	0.0	3.4	6.1	5.0	3.8
San Francisco Bay/Delta	**38.3**	**25.0**	**37.9**	**37.4**	**34.5**	**44.6**
Bucks Lake	15.4	12.5	**32.8**	**26.2**	11.8	10.8
Eagle Lake	8.4	9.4	10.3	11.1	5.9	13.1
Lake Davis	3.7	0.0	0.0	2.0	1.7	8.5
Little Grass Valley Reservoir	10.6	9.4	20.7	6.1	14.3	6.2
Honey Lake	0.5	3.1	1.7	1.0	0.0	1.5
Lake Britton	2.1	0.0	3.4	1.0	0.8	1.5
Shasta Lake	21.0	15.6	12.1	12.1	19.3	15.4
Lassen NF rivers and lakes	9.8	**25.0**	13.8	18.2	8.4	12.3
Plumas NF rivers and lakes	13.5	**21.9**	13.8	14.1	12.6	13.8
Middle Fork Feather River	21.0	**21.9**	**27.6**	21.2	15.1	**21.5**
South Fork Feather River	20.8	9.4	22.4	19.2	16.0	9.2
North Fork Feather River	**22.7**	15.6	**29.3**	**29.3**	**22.1**	19.2
Sacramento River	**32.7**	**34.4**	**37.9**	**30.3**	**35.3**	**55.4**
Yuba River	8.6	15.6	**25.9**	14.1	17.6	**23.8**
Pit River	1.6	3.1	3.4	3.0	0.8	4.6
Lake Tahoe	**38.6**	**31.3**	**27.6**	25.3	**28.6**	**32.3**
Trinity Lake	4.8	6.3	3.4	3.0	2.5	8.5
Lassen Volcanic Nat'l Park	12.2	18.8	12.1	21.2	6.7	8.5
Lake Berryessa	14.4	3.1	1.7	8.1	9.2	10.8
Folsom Lake	17.8	**21.9**	6.9	9.1	8.4	**22.3**
South Fork American River	6.8	15.6	5.2	4.0	3.4	19.2
Stony Gorge Reservoir	4.6	3.1	6.9	9.1	7.6	2.3
Black Butte Lake	9.8	**28.1**	10.3	13.1	16.8	10.8
Antelope Lake	2.1	3.1	3.4	4.0	1.7	3.1
Frenchman Lake	1.4	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	3.8
Whiskeytown Lake	7.1	15.6	8.6	9.1	8.4	7.7
Lower Feather River	13.3	18.8	**29.3**	19.2	21.8	41.5

*Note: **Bold** indicates the top five locations visited. In some cases, more than five locations are bold due to equal percentages of respondents.*
Source: Mailback Survey (n=1,071).

North Fork of the Feather River (Lake Oroville, LFC, Forebay, and Afterbay) were also popular destinations visited by respondents. While it was among the top five responses at only two sites, it is notable that Bucks Lake was cited as a recent destination by nearly one-third of respondents at the LFC and over one quarter at the Forebay.

While many respondents had visited other recreation destinations within the last year, the majority of respondents did not visit other places on their last trip to the Lake Oroville area (Table 5.1-36). Between 71 percent and 89 percent of respondents

(depending on resource area) did not travel to any other destination during their recent trip to the Lake Oroville area.

Table 5.1-36. Other places visited on last trip to the Lake Oroville area.

Response	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Did you visit any other places on your recent trip to the Lake Oroville area?						
Yes	14.1	18.8	20.7	17.2	10.8	29.2
No	**85.9**	**81.2**	**79.3**	**82.8**	**89.2**	**70.8**

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: Mailback Survey (n=1,071).

Of those who did visit other places, the places most often mentioned included: Lake Almanor, Shasta Lake, Little Grass Valley Reservoir, Lake Tahoe, and Bucks Lake. Each of these, with the exception of Lake Tahoe, is a medium to large foothill or mountain reservoir located to the north or east of the study area. Lake Tahoe is a large natural body of water and well known regional and national recreation destination located a few hours drive to the south of the study area. Each of these had been visited by three to four percent of those from all five resource areas combined, who had visited other areas during their recent Lake Oroville area trip. Percentages associated with individual resource areas and substitute sites were very small and are not listed here.

5.1.5 Fishing Sub-section of the On-Site Survey

Fishing is among the more popular recreation activities in the study area. Respondents at each of the survey sites who had fished or who expected to fish in the area during their current trip were asked a series of on-site questions about the following subjects: previous fishing visits to Lake Oroville; fishing outfitter or guide use; fishing tournament participation; perception of crowding at fishing areas; species of fish sought while fishing and fish caught; time spent fishing; perceptions of fishing regulations; and satisfaction with fishing experience. A total of 1,070 of the 2,583 On-Site Survey respondents (41 percent) completed all or part of the fishing sub-section.

5.1.5.1 Past Fishing Activity in the Lake Oroville Area

At least 80 percent of the respondents at each resource area had fished in the Lake Oroville area before (Table 5.1-37), although between 21 and 42 percent of those had not fished there within the last year. Of the respondents who had fished at the Lake Oroville area within the last year, most have fished multiple times; between 45 and 58 percent of respondents at each resource area had fished four or more times at the Lake Oroville area within the last year, and most of the remainder fished two or three times. The Diversion Pool and Forebay had the highest percentage of frequent anglers, those who had fished between 11 and 25 times within the last year or more than 25 times (36

and 35 percent, respectively). In contrast, over 40 percent of LFC anglers had not fished at the Lake Oroville area within the last 12 months.

Table 5.1-37. Previous fishing visits to Lake Oroville.

Response	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Have you fished at Lake Oroville before?						
Yes	**87.0**	**84.6**	**80.6**	**84.9**	**81.8**	**85.9**
No	13.0	15.4	19.4	15.1	18.2	14.1
If yes…How many times over the past 12 months?						
0	**28.1**	21.4	**41.6**	23.4	**30.8**	**25.9**
1-3	26.0	**28.6**	20.8	19.1	18.7	24.1
4-6	12.6	7.1	18.2	12.8	15.3	16.6
7-10	8.2	7.1	6.5	9.6	8.8	8.6
11-25	13.2	28.5	7.8	**23.5**	15.4	14.1
>25 [1]	11.4	7.1	5.2	11.8	12.1	10.9
Mean (median)	10.8 (3.0)	9.4 (4.0)	6.6 (2.0)	12.2 (6.0)	11.9 (4.0)	10.0 (3.5)

1. Responses of 100 or greater (1.4 percent of all responses) were treated as outliers and were not included in the analysis.
*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response/response category for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey, Fishing Section (n=1,070).

5.1.5.2 Use of Fishing Guides and Participation in Fishing Tournaments in the Lake Oroville Area

The vast majority of respondents, more than 90 percent at most of the resource areas, had not used a fishing outfitter or guide in the Lake Oroville area in the last 12 months (Table 5.1-38). The Forebay had the highest percentage of respondents who had used an outfitter or guide (14 percent), and Lake Oroville had the lowest percentage (about six percent).

Table 5.1-38. Fishing outfitter or guide use in the study area.

	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Have you used a fishing outfitter or guide in the Lake Oroville area in the last 12 months?						
Yes	5.8	8.3	8.2	13.6	9.5	9.8
No	**94.2**	**91.7**	**91.8**	**86.4**	**90.5**	**90.2**

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey, Fishing Section (n=1,070).

Relatively few fishing section survey respondents had participated in a fishing tournament in the last 12 months (Table 5.1-39). At Lake Oroville, where the majority of the fishing tournaments within the study area take place, only 17 percent of respondents

indicated that they had participated in a tournament in the previous year. Most tournaments are bass tournaments, with the most commonly-mentioned by survey respondents being the Chico Bass, New Bass, Angler's Choice, WON Bass, Western Bass, and American Bass Association tournaments. The percentage of respondents who had participated in a fishing tournament in the previous year was lowest at the Forebay (one percent).

Table 5.1-39. Fishing tournament participation.

	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	**Diversion Pool (%)**	**LFC (%)**	**Thermalito Forebay (%)**	**Thermalito Afterbay (%)**	**OWA (%)**
Have you participated in fishing tournaments in the Lake Oroville area in the last 12 months?						
Yes	16.8	7.7	6.8	1.1	8.1	2.2
No	**83.2**	**92.3**	**93.2**	**98.9**	**91.9**	**97.8**

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey, Fishing Section (n=1,070).

5.1.5.3 Perceptions of Crowding at Fishing Areas

Anglers were asked to rate the level of crowding they perceived at the area where they fished on the day they were surveyed, using a nine-point scale-type question identical in form to the recreation site crowding question discussed earlier (see Table 5.1-15).

Respondents surveyed at the Diversion Pool felt the least amount of crowding, with 80 percent indicating that they felt the area where they fished was "not at all crowded" (Table 5.1-40) and all remaining respondents rating crowding only slightly above "not at all crowded" (2 on the 9-point scale).

The anglers at each of the other resource areas, with the exception of the OWA, also most often considered the areas where they fished to be "not at all crowded." Well above a simple majority of respondents at Lake Oroville (76 percent) and at the LFC (72 percent), Forebay (74 percent), and Afterbay (63 percent) indicated that their respective fishing areas were "not at all crowded" to "slightly crowded" (1 to 3 on the nine-point scale).

Many respondents surveyed in the OWA felt considerably more crowded. Although responses were fairly well-distributed across the scale, the most common response was "moderately crowded," and about 54 percent of respondents felt the area where they fished was "moderately" to "extremely crowded." The mean crowding score for the OWA fishing areas also highlights the increased perception of crowding in that area, with the mean score (5.3) being 2 to 4 points higher on the scale than the other resource areas.

Table 5.1-40. Perception of crowding at fishing location.

Crowding Rating	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
1 – Not at all crowded	**47.4**	**80.0**	**49.2**	**48.4**	**34.3**	7.3
2	12.9	20.0	13.1	9.7	13.4	8.0
3 – Slightly crowded	15.4	0.0	9.8	16.1	14.9	16.0
4	5.6	0.0	3.3	6.5	4.5	4.7
5	4.7	0.0	6.6	4.8	10.4	10.5
6 – Moderately crowded	8.4	0.0	13.1	6.5	9.0	**22.9**
7	2.3	0.0	1.6	0.0	6.0	9.1
8	0.9	0.0	1.6	1.6	3.0	5.5
9 – Extremely crowded	2.3	0.0	1.6	6.5	4.5	16.0
Mean score	2.6	1.2	2.7	2.8	3.4	5.3

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey, Fishing Section (n=1,070)..

5.1.5.4 Fish Species Sought and Fish Caught in the Lake Oroville Area

Anglers were asked to complete a table in which they would indicate the fish species they were fishing for (11 species were listed, along with “other” and “no preference”), the number of fish caught of each species within five size categories, and the number of each species released. For trout, salmon, and steelhead, anglers were also asked to indicate the number of fish caught with clipped and unclipped adipose fins (hatchery-raised fish have certain fins clipped, enabling them to be distinguished from wild fish).

Fish Species Sought

Black bass, trout, and salmon were the fish species most sought after by anglers in the study area (Table 5.1-41). Most anglers were fishing for just one species, and usually just one or two species dominated the fishing in each resource area. There were very few anglers fishing for shad or sturgeon at any of the resource areas at least at the times of the surveys. Striped bass and crappie were also pursued by relatively few anglers.

At Lake Oroville, respondents were primarily fishing for black bass, although 10-13 percent were fishing for catfish, striped bass, trout, or salmon. Diversion Pool anglers were also most often fishing for black bass (57 percent), but trout fishing was also common (43 percent). Salmon (probably planted coho) fishing was third most common among anglers surveyed at the Diversion Pool, the object of about 29 percent of respondents.

Table 5.1-41. Species of fish anglers were fishing for in the Lake Oroville area.

Species of Fish	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Black bass	**59.5**	**57.1**	20.6	13.9	**42.3**	3.3
Sunfish	5.7	0.0	17.6	8.3	5.8	2.8
Catfish	10.1	14.3	17.6	13.9	9.6	4.2
Crappie	5.1	0.0	5.9	5.6	3.8	2.3
Trout	12.7	42.9	20.6	**72.2**	13.5	7.5
Salmon	10.4	28.6	**55.9**	16.7	**42.3**	**70.9**
Steelhead	1.9	0.0	8.8	5.6	7.7	23.0
Striped bass	8.2	0.0	2.9	8.3	5.8	1.4
Shad	0.3	0.0	2.9	2.8	0.0	1.4
Green sturgeon	0.3	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	1.4
White sturgeon	0.6	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	0.9
Other	6.0	0.0	0.0	2.8	0.0	4.7
No preference	2.5	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	0.0
Fishing for 1 species	**69.8**	**57.1**	**72.7**	**77.1**	**80.9**	**83.0**
Fishing for 2+ species	30.2	42.9	27.3	22.9	19.1	17.0

Note: Respondents could indicate more than one species they were fishing for. About 39 percent of anglers did not complete the table that provided information on the species sought; about half of those who did not complete the table did not list the time that they fished, and so may not have fished on the survey day. Visitors who had not fished that day were asked to skip the table. Among the anglers who did complete the "fish caught" portion of the table, about 11 percent did not indicate the species they were fishing for. ***Bold*** *type indicates the species for each area with the highest percentage of anglers fishing for that species. The survey did not differentiate between anadromous salmon (the attraction in the Feather River/OWA) and planted salmon (smaller fish planted in reservoirs).*
Source: On-Site Survey, Fishing Section (n=1,070).

Salmon (anadromous) was the most popular species for anglers at the LFC and the OWA, the two resource areas through which the Feather River flows and where many visitors are attracted during the salmon runs. Trout and several of the warmwater species were also pursued by 18-21 percent of anglers surveyed at the LFC. At the OWA, steelhead was the second-most frequently sought species.

Trout was the main species being fished for at the Forebay, with over 72 percent of anglers fishing for that type of fish. From 14 to 17 percent fished for salmon (presumably planted coho), black bass, or catfish. At the Afterbay, equal percentages of anglers (42 percent) indicated they were fishing for the two most popular species, black bass and salmon (planted). About 14 percent were fishing for trout. As shown by these results, the Forebay and Afterbay provide both a coldwater and warmwater fishery, with warmwater species like black bass a relatively more important component of fishing opportunities at the Afterbay.

Although most of the fishing activity summarized above would have occurred in the resource area where the surveys were conducted, it is important to note that anglers may have fished in other resource areas besides where they were surveyed, and this

may have affected the data reported. At the LFC, in particular, substantial numbers of anglers mentioned fishing for warmwater species that generally do not comprise part of the fishery in the river.

Number of Fish Caught and Released

The number of fish caught by anglers in each area covered a wide range, from none caught to several dozen caught (Table 5.1-42). At Lake Oroville in particular, although about 27 percent of anglers did not indicate that they had caught any fish, most anglers had caught several fish and nearly one-fourth had caught more than ten fish. In part due to the relatively high number of anglers who caught more than ten fish, the average number of fish caught was about 7.0, a much higher average than at the other resource areas.

At the Diversion Pool, Forebay, Afterbay, and OWA, about 40 to 50 percent of anglers indicated that they had not caught any fish while about 23-31 percent had caught from two to five fish. At each of these areas, about 14-17 percent had caught a single fish and similar percentages had caught more than five fish. The average number of fish caught at each of the areas was between about two and three fish. The LFC differed from the other resource areas in that nearly 62 percent of anglers did not catch any fish. Similar to the other areas, about 21 percent had caught between two and five fish, while about 12 percent had caught more than five fish. Due to the high percentage of anglers who had caught no fish, the average number caught was lower than the other areas (1.4 fish).

Table 5.1-42. Number of fish caught by anglers in the Lake Oroville area.

Number of Fish Caught	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
0	**26.9**	**42.9**	**61.8**	**50.0**	**42.3**	**38.5**
1	10.4	14.3	5.9	13.9	17.3	15.5
2-5	25.9	28.6	20.6	25.1	23.0	31.0
6-10	12.7	14.3	2.9	5.6	9.6	8.5
>10	24.1	0.0	8.7	5.6	7.6	6.6
Mean/median[1]	7.0/3.0	2.1/1.0	1.4/0.0	2.5/0.5[2]	2.7/1.0	2.8/1.0

1. At Lake Oroville, LFC, and OWA several anglers indicated they had caught more than 50 and as many as 371 fish. However, the calculations of the mean and median number of fish caught treated responses greater than 50 as outliers and did not include them in the analysis.
2. Median response is an illogical 0.5 fish because exactly half of respondents caught 0 fish and half caught one or more fish.
Note: Data include all species and size categories. About 39 percent of anglers did not complete the table that provided information on the number of fish caught. ***Bold*** *type indicates the most frequent response category for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey, Fishing Section (n=1,070).

Because few anglers who indicated that they caught salmon, trout, or steelhead indicated how many of the fish had clipped or unclipped adipose fins, these data cannot be considered reliable and so are not reported.

Black bass species were the greatest numbers caught, with more than 3.5 times as many caught as any other species (Table 5.1-43). A majority of those fish were in the 12-20 inch size class, and most of the remainder were less than 12 inches in length. Less than five percent of the black bass caught were larger than 20 inches. Although a relatively high number of black bass were caught, the anglers surveyed indicated that about 85 percent of those fish were released. (The bass slot-limit in effect at Lake Oroville requires anglers to immediately release all bass between 12 and 15 inches in length).

Lake Oroville area anglers indicated they had caught over 600 salmon, the second-most prominent species pursued in the study area. The fish caught tended to be in the larger size classes, with more than one-third in the largest size class of 31 inches and larger. Unlike the black bass caught, only about one-third of the salmon caught were released. Trout were the third most frequently-caught species, with 269 caught and about 30 percent released. The number of fish caught of the other prominent coldwater fish, steelhead, was even fewer (149), with over 90 percent released. Steelhead caught tended to be larger fish, while the trout tended to be from the smaller size classes. Several hundred sunfish and catfish were caught, with 45 and 38 percent released, respectively. Sunfish tended to be smaller fish, primarily less than 12 inches, while the catfish caught included both smaller and moderately sized fish, along with a few larger examples.

Table 5.1-43. Number of fish caught and released in the Lake Oroville area by species and size.

Species of Fish	Size Class (inches)					Total Caught	Total Released
	0-5	6-11	12-20	21-30	31+		
Black bass	136	658	1,311	100	1	2,206	1,881
Sunfish	154	66	26	1	0	247	112
Catfish	105	22	87	9	8	231	88
Crappie	9	37	7	0	0	53	19
Trout	11	107	120	0	31	269	81
Salmon	32	9	179	164	218	602	211
Steelhead	19	19	53	49	9	149	137
Striped bass	32	27	28	18	0	105	15
Shad	2	30	0	0	0	32	26
Green sturgeon	0	0	0	0	4	4	0
White sturgeon	0	1	2	0	3	6	0

Note: About 39 percent of anglers did not complete the table that provided information on the number of fish caught; about half of those who did not complete the table did not list the time that they fished, and so may not have fished on the survey day. Visitors who had not fished that day were asked to skip the table.
Source: On-Site Survey, Fishing Section (n=1,070).

5.1.5.5 Perceptions of Fishing Regulations

Generally, 80 to 90 percent of respondents at each survey area felt that they were knowledgeable about fishing regulations (Table 5.1-44). The highest percentage of respondents who did not feel knowledgeable about fishing regulations was at the LFC (20 percent). From 84 to 92 percent of respondents felt that the fishing regulations allowed a quality recreation experience. The only area where more than ten percent of respondents felt that the fishing regulations do not allow a quality recreation experience was the Forebay (16 percent).

Table 5.1-44. Lake Oroville area anglers' perceptions of fishing regulations.

Response	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Do you feel knowledgeable about fishing regulations?						
Yes	**89.3**	**100.0**	**80.3**	**84.4**	**83.3**	**89.3**
No	10.7	0.0	19.7	15.6	16.7	10.7
Do you feel fishing regulations allow a quality recreation experience?						
Yes	**92.4**	**100.0**	**90.1**	**84.3**	**91.5**	**91.4**
No	7.6	0.0	9.9	15.7	8.5	8.6

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey, Fishing Section (n=1,070).

5.1.5.6 Satisfaction with Fishing Experience

About three quarters to over 90 percent of anglers from each resource area were satisfied with their fishing experience at the Lake Oroville area (Table 5.1-45). The area with the highest percent of satisfied respondents was the Diversion Pool, where about 91 percent of respondents were satisfied. The lowest rate of angler satisfaction (72 percent) was recorded at the Afterbay.

Table 5.1-45. Satisfaction with fishing experience.

Response	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Overall, are you satisfied with your fishing experience at the Lake Oroville Area on this trip?						
Yes	**75.6**	**90.9**	**76.9**	**80.3**	**72.2**	**82.4**
No	24.4	9.1	23.1	19.7	27.8	17.6

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey, Fishing Section (n=1,070).

The most common reason for being dissatisfied with the fishing experience (Table 5.1-46) at all areas was not catching any or enough fish (refer to Section 5.1.5.5 for catch rates). This was the reason given by at least half of the dissatisfied anglers at all of the

areas, with the exception of the Afterbay and OWA, and by 100 percent of dissatisfied Diversion Pool anglers (one respondent). Although anglers' high interest in fishing success in not unexpected, their success is likely affected by many factors unrelated to Project area operations or management, such as timing of fishing effort, weather, knowledge and skill of the angler, equipment, and many other factors.

Other reasons given by anglers for being dissatisfied with their fishing experience related more directly to site conditions. At Lake Oroville, most reasons given (beyond not catching enough fish) related to low pool levels. Reasons related to social or physical conditions, such as crowding or shoreline litter, were few. At the LFC, most other reasons cited by the 15 anglers who were not satisfied were low Lake Oroville pool levels (not low flows in the river), other visitors with dogs, and discourteous and illegal fishing practices.

A few of the 15 anglers surveyed at the Forebay and the 20 surveyed at the Afterbay who were not satisfied mentioned competition for fishing space, and a few additional anglers at the Afterbay mentioned low reservoir levels and Afterbay outlet flows. Among the minority of dissatisfied anglers at the OWA (49 of 249 anglers), crowding was again a prominent reason given. Other concerns expressed about fishing conditions at the OWA were mainly related to litter in riverbank areas, dirty restrooms, rude and discourteous behavior by other anglers, and illegal fishing (e.g., snagging).

Table 5.1-46. Reasons anglers were dissatisfied with fishing experience.

Reason for Dissatisfaction	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Did not catch any/ enough fish	**60.6**	**100.0**	**53.8**	**50.0**	**44.4**	**37.0**
Lake level too low/ flow too low	25.3	0.0	15.4	0.0	16.7	6.5
Fish too small	9.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0
Too crowded	2.0	0.0	0.0	14.3	22.2	17.4
Poor access	2.0	0.0	7.7	7.1	0.0	2.2
Other visitors (rude, discourteous behavior)	0.0	0.0	15.4	7.1	0.0	10.9
Poor site conditions (garbage, bees, dirty bathrooms, etc.)	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	15.2
People illegally fishing	0.0	0.0	7.7	0.0	0.0	10.9
Other/Reason unclear	7.1	0.0	7.7	21.4	0.0	8.7

Note: Responses are from only those respondents who completed the fishing section of the survey and answered that they were not satisfied with their fishing experience. Some respondents gave more than one reason for their dissatisfaction. The response format for this question was open-ended. ***Bold*** *type indicates the most frequent reason for dissatisfaction for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey, Fishing Section (n=1,070).

5.1.6 Trail Use Sub-section of the On-Site Survey

Lake Oroville area visitors who had used or expected to use trails during their visit were asked to complete a trail-related sub-section of the On-Site Survey booklet. The respondents were non-motorized trail users – namely, bike riders, hikers/walkers, and equestrian riders – rather than motorized trail users such as OHV users. Specifically, they were asked about their primary type of trail use, previous use of area trails, perceptions of trail crowding, encounters on trails in which they perceived they were put at risk, overall satisfaction with the condition of Lake Oroville area trails, and their favorite trail or trail section in the Lake Oroville area.

A total of 991 of the 2,583 On-Site Survey respondents (38 percent) completed the trail use section. It is important to note that trail users were not limited to those who used the developed, named trails in the study area, such as the Dan Beebe and Brad B. Freeman trails. Although those trails probably account for most trail use in the area, visitors also use unofficial trails, particularly to reach reservoir and river shorelines, in various locations within the study area.

5.1.6.1 Primary Type of Trail Use and Past Trail Use

Respondents were asked to identify their primary type of trail use in the Lake Oroville area: biking, hiking/walking, equestrian riding, and other. Hiking and walking were the most popular trail use of visitors at all survey sites except for the Diversion Pool, where the overwhelming use was equestrian (Table 5.1-47). Biking was the second or third most popular activity at all survey sites, with between nine percent (OWA) and 26 percent (LFC) identifying it as their primary trail use. Aside from the Diversion Pool (65 percent) and Lake Oroville (15 percent), equestrian use was the primary trail use of less than ten percent of respondents at all sites. A nominal percentage of respondents at each site (between zero and nine percent) identified other uses (e.g., running, dog walking, handicapped) or multiple uses (a combination of two or more of the use types) as their primary use.

Table 5.1-47. Lake Oroville area visitors' primary type of trail use.

Trail Use Type	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Bike	11.3	20.4	25.5	18.4	16.1	9.1
Hike/walk	**69.9**	14.8	**68.1**	**74.4**	**65.3**	**81.8**
Equestrian	15.2	**64.8**	5.3	0.8	8.9	3.0
Other	1.8	0	1.1	4.0	8.9	6.1
Multiple types	1.8	0	0	2.4	0.8	0

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey, Trail Use Section (n=991).

The majority of trail use section respondents (between 64 and 83 percent) had used the trails in the study area before (Table 5.1-48). The highest percentage of first-time trail users were at Lake Oroville (36 percent) and the Forebay (32 percent). In addition, about one-quarter of respondents from the OWA were first-time trail users. At the Diversion Pool, LFC, and Afterbay, only about 18 percent of respondents were first-time trail users.

Table 5.1-48. First-time and repeat trail users at the Lake Oroville area.

	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	**Diversion Pool (%)**	**LFC (%)**	**Thermalito Forebay (%)**	**Thermalito Afterbay (%)**	**OWA (%)**
Is this your first time using trails in the area?						
Yes	36.4	17.9	17.5	32.3	18.3	25.7
No	**63.6**	**82.1**	**82.5**	**67.7**	**81.7**	**74.3**

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey, Trail Use Section (n=991).

5.1.6.2 Perceptions of Trail Crowding

Trail users were asked to rate their perception of crowding on the trails on a nine-point scale from “not at all crowded” (1) to “extremely crowded” (9). Most trail users did not feel crowded (Table 5.1-49). At least 50 percent of respondents at each resource area, except the OWA, felt that the trail or trails they used during their trip to the study area was “not at all crowded”, and between 84 and 96 percent of respondents at those areas rated crowding as “slightly crowded” or lower on the scale. Mean crowding ratings at these areas were between about 1.5 and 2.1.

Table 5.1-49. Lake Oroville area trail users’ perceptions of trail crowding.

	Resource Area					
Crowding Rating	**Lake Oroville (%)**	**Diversion Pool (%)**	**LFC (%)**	**Thermalito Forebay (%)**	**Thermalito Afterbay (%)**	**OWA (%)**
1 – Not at all crowded	**63.3**	**74.5**	**61.3**	**53.4**	**61.2**	**38.5**
2	15.7	12.7	14.0	16.5	7.5	13.5
3 – Slightly crowded	9.6	9.1	11.8	16.5	14.9	16.7
4	4.3	0.0	4.3	4.5	6.0	3.1
5	3.9	3.6	4.3	2.3	3.0	7.3
6 – Moderately crowded	2.2	0.0	3.2	4.5	3.0	12.5
7	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.8	3.0	1.0
8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
9 – Extremely crowded	0.8	0.0	1.1	1.5	1.5	6.3
Mean Rating	1.8	1.5	1.9	2.1	2.1	3.1

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey, Trail Use Section (n=991).

Perceptions of crowding were somewhat higher, if generally not high, at the OWA. Although 69 percent of respondents rated the trails as "slightly crowded" or lower on the scale, about 23 percent gave a moderate crowding rating (between 4 and 6), and about eight percent rated crowding in the top third of the scale. The OWA mean trail crowding rating of 3.1 was also the highest of any of the resource areas. The Brad B. Freeman trail route through the OWA follows gravel levee-top roads and is lightly used; therefore, these crowding responses most likely relate to unofficial river access trails.

5.1.6.3 Perceptions of Encounters on Trails

Trail users were asked whether, during the current trip, they had any encounters on the trail with other users that they felt put them at risk and, if so, to describe the encounter. Relatively few respondents – 30 of 525 at Lake Oroville (six percent) and less than 12 at any of the resource areas (about one to eight percent) – reported having had such an encounter (Table 5.1-50). Areas with the greatest percentage of respondents reporting such an encounter were the Diversion Pool (nine percent), Forebay (eight percent), and the LFC (seven percent). Across all six resource areas, 59 of 991 respondents (six percent) indicated that they had an encounter that put them at risk.

Table 5.1-50. Occurrence and types of at-risk encounters on trails in the Lake Oroville area reported by trail users.

	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	**Diversion Pool (%)**	**LFC (%)**	**Thermalito Forebay (%)**	**Thermalito Afterbay (%)**	**OWA (%)**
On this trip, did you have any encounters on the trail with other users that put you at risk?						
Yes	5.7	8.8	6.9	8.0	1.4	5.2
No	**94.3**	**91.2**	**93.1**	**92.0**	**98.6**	**94.8**
If yes…With whom have you had these encounters? (circle all that apply) [1]						
Bicyclists	**26.7**	**60.0**	14.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equestrians	16.7	40.0	0.0	18.2	0.0	0.0
Hikers/Walkers	**26.7**	40.0	14.3	9.1	0.0	20.0
Other[2]	20.0	40.0	**28.6**	**27.3**	**100.0**	**40.0**
Unknown (no resp.)	30.0	0.0	42.9	45.5	0.0	40.0

1. Percentages are based on those who answered "yes" to the first part of the question (respondent did have an encounter that put them at risk). The number of respondents who had encounters was low at all resource areas (30 in the Lake Oroville resource area, and from 1 to 11 in the other resource areas).
2. "Other" encounters were primarily with animals (deer, turkey, snakes) and motorized users on trails or at road crossings. Some were physical conditions (e.g., glass on trail) that may be caused by trail users.
*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey, Trail Use Section (n=991).

In addition to the written descriptions discussed below, trail users were asked to indicate (circle) the type or types of trail users (bicyclists, equestrians, hikers/walkers, other) with whom they had had "at risk" encounters during their trip (lower portion of Table 5.1-50). Nineteen of the 59 who said they had an encounter (32 percent) provided no response. Among those who did respond, no one type of trail user was prominent as having been

involved in a majority of the encounters, and encounters with “other” types (e.g., disc golfers, runners, cars, ATVs) were most common in four of the areas. There were, however, notable patterns at some areas. At Lake Oroville, “at risk” encounters with bicyclists and hikers/walkers were equally common (each was circled by eight of the 30 trail users who had these types of encounters). At the Diversion Pool, encounters with bicyclists were most common (circled by three of the five respondents who had “at risk” encounters).

The written descriptions of encounters generally paralleled the responses above. Thirteen of the 59 (22 percent) did not provide a description of the encounter, and 16 of the 59 (27 percent) described something other than an encounter with another trail user, or even another visitor, such as encounters with rattlesnakes and other animals on the trail, or undesirable physical trail conditions, such as glass or rocks on the trail (these may be considered “indirect” encounters if caused by other trail users). Another 15 respondents (25 percent) described encounters with non-trail users, such as people shooting guns nearby, people loitering near the trailhead whom they considered threatening or who harassed them, or people vandalizing vehicles at a trailhead.

The remaining 15 of the 59 respondents who had indicated they had an “at risk” encounter (25 percent) described three types of encounters. Ten trail users (nine of whom were equestrians) described encounters with bike riders during which the bicyclists did not follow trail etiquette (e.g., by not giving right-of-way to horseback riders or coming up on horseback riders unexpectedly or too fast). Six of the ten encounters with bikes were described by Lake Oroville respondents, three were described by Diversion Pool respondents, and one was described by an LFC respondent. Three trail users (two at Lake Oroville and one at the LFC) described encounters with people walking or running with dogs. Finally, one equestrian trail rider surveyed at the Saddle Dam trailhead on Lake Oroville encountered bike riders participating in the “Poker Run” event, of which he was unaware, and one trail walker encountered a motorized scooter on the paved trail at Riverbend Park.

5.1.6.4 Satisfaction with Condition of Trails

Trail users were asked if, overall, they were satisfied with the condition of Lake Oroville area trails on their trip. Overall satisfaction with the condition of trails was high at all survey sites (Table 5.1-51). Five resource areas had more than 90 percent of respondents indicating satisfaction (Lake Oroville, Diversion Pool, LFC, Forebay, and Afterbay), and the level of satisfaction was near 90 percent at the OWA. Most of the OWA respondents were referring to unofficial trails providing access from levee roads to the Feather River.

The reasons trail users gave for not being satisfied with the condition of trails indicate that they interpreted “trail condition” broadly, understanding it to encompass more than just the condition of the trail surface. The most frequent reasons for dissatisfaction

varied across resource areas (Table 5.1-52). At Lake Oroville, the most frequent reason for dissatisfaction was the reservoir level being too low (21 percent), making access to the water from trails difficult (this is more a matter of trail routing and reservoir drawdown rather than trail condition). Other more common reasons given at Lake Oroville were perceived maintenance needs on the trails (12 percent) and lack of signage (10 percent).

Table 5.1-51. Trail users' satisfaction with the condition of trails.

	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	**Diversion Pool (%)**	**LFC (%)**	**Thermalito Forebay (%)**	**Thermalito Afterbay (%)**	**OWA (%)**
Overall, are you satisfied with the condition of Lake Oroville Area trails on this trip?						
Yes	**90.8**	**91.1**	**94.4**	**91.8**	**90.5**	**87.2**
No	9.2	8.9	5.6	8.2	9.5	12.8

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey, Trail Use Section (n=991).

Table 5.1-52. Trail users' reasons for dissatisfaction with condition of trails.

	Resource Area					
Reason	**Lake Oroville (%)**	**Diversion Pool (%)**	**LFC (%)**	**Thermalito Forebay (%)**	**Thermalito Afterbay (%)**	**OWA (%)**
Lake level too low/poor access to water	**21.4**	0.0	**20.0**	0.0	**16.7**	9.1
Trails need maintenance (removal of poison oak, weeds, rocks; erosion)	11.9	**40.0**	**20.0**	**20.0**	**16.7**	27.3
Lack of signage	9.5	0.0	0.0	10.0	**16.7**	
Need water on trails	9.5	0.0	0.0	10.0	**16.7**	
Want more trails and associated facilities	7.1	20.0	**20.0**	**20.0**	0.0	18.2
Better accessibility needed (handicapped access, OHV access)	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	**16.7**	0.0
Problems with other users/want separate bike/horse trails	4.8	20.0	0.0	**20.0**	0.0	0.0
Dust/mud from use of trail machine (grader)	2.4	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Litter problems	0.0	0.0	**20.0**	10.0	0.0	**36.4**
Other	9.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
No reason given	19.0	0.0	20.0	10.0	16.7	9.1

*Note: Responses are from only those respondents who completed the trails section of the survey and answered that they were not satisfied with the condition of the trails (n=78). Some respondents gave more than one reason for their dissatisfaction. The response format for this question was open-ended. **Bold** type indicates the most frequent reason(s) for dissatisfaction for each area. Columns may not total to 100 percent due to rounding error.*
Source: On-Site Survey, Trail Use Section (n=991).

At the Diversion Pool, two of the five dissatisfied respondents (40 percent) identified maintenance needs on the trails as the primary reason for dissatisfaction, while another person mentioned dust from the trail maintenance machine (20 percent). Two other types of responses were unrelated to trail condition (problems with other users, and a need for more facilities).

Reasons for dissatisfaction at the LFC, Forebay, and Afterbay were similar to the reasons given at the Diversion Pool, with some perceived need for more trail maintenance but equal or greater numbers of trail users commenting on a desire for more trails or facilities. (Similar to the Diversion Pool, the total number of trail users dissatisfied with trail conditions at each of these sites was very low, between five and ten respondents). Most of the ten OWA trail users who were dissatisfied with conditions mentioned litter problems (primarily along the river) and rocky trails. (The unofficial trails used by anglers to reach the river from levee-top roads tend to be steep and rocky, and may be difficult for anglers to use, particularly in wet shoes or waders.)

5.1.6.5 Favorite Trails

Trail users were asked to name their favorite trail or trail section in the Lake Oroville area. Only about 30 percent of trail users provided a response, and only about 13 percent listed a specific trail. The most frequently-mentioned trail was the Feather Falls trail, which is in the Plumas National Forest and outside of the Project area.

Three of the major developed trails within the Project area (the Brad B. Freeman, Dan Beebe, and Roy Rogers trails) were mentioned by 12 to 20 trail users. Sixteen people listed the top of Oroville Dam (commonly used by walkers and joggers) as their favorite trail. Most others listed a general area such as the Afterbay or Loafer Creek and did not give specific trail names or sections of trails.

5.1.7 Boating Sub-section of the On-site Survey

Respondents who had boated or expected to boat on the Feather River or a study area reservoir during their trip were asked to respond to the boating sub-section of the On-Site Survey. A total of 1,361 of the 2,583 On-Site Survey respondents (53 percent) completed the boating section.

Boaters were asked about the following topics: the site at which they primarily boated during their trip; experiences with other users on the water that put them at risk or observations of boating activity that put others at risk; perceptions of crowding on the water; primary type of watercraft used at the Lake Oroville area, whether they rented or owned the watercraft, and whether it was docked or moored at Lake Oroville; use of boat launches in the Lake Oroville area; waits to launch at boat ramps; and overall satisfaction with their boating experience during their current trip to the Lake Oroville area.

Data from only three of the six resource areas – Lake Oroville, the Forebay, and Afterbay – are included here. Very few survey respondents contacted at the Diversion Pool, LFC, or OWA were boaters; therefore, few completed the boating section of the survey, and the sample sizes for those resource areas and questions are too small to provide useful data (often ten or fewer respondents). This anecdotal information about the latter sites is reported in Study R-7 – *Reservoir Boating*.

5.1.7.1 Primary Areas Where Boated During Visit

Most boaters were interviewed at the location of primary boating activities during their current trip to the Lake Oroville area (Table 5.1-53). About 98 percent of boaters surveyed at Lake Oroville primarily boated within one of the six zones of Lake Oroville. The greatest proportion of these indicated that they primarily boated on the Main Basin, and most others primarily boated on the popular Middle and South Fork arms, both adjacent to the Main Basin at the southern end of the reservoir. Study R-7 *Reservoir Boating* provides more detailed information, based on numerous field observations, about boating use distribution on Lake Oroville. Given that the Main Basin is not actually the most heavily-used portion of the reservoir (see Study Report R-7 – *Reservoir Boating*), it may be that some boaters did not refer to the reservoir zone map in the survey booklet and understood the Main Basin to include a larger portion of the reservoir than intended.

Table 5.1-53. Boaters' primary use zones.

Site	Resource Area		
	Lake Oroville (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)
Lake Oroville			
Main Basin	**41.8**	20.0	6.0
Lower North Fork	6.0	5.5	0.0
West Branch	12.1	1.8	0.5
Upper North Fork	7.8	1.8	1.0
Middle Fork	12.5	5.5	0.5
South Fork	17.6	1.8	0.5
Downstream Areas			
Diversion Pool	0.0	1.8	0.5
Forebay	0.3	**47.3**	3.0
Afterbay	0.4	7.3	**72.6**
OWA	0.5	5.5	11.4
Feather River	1.0	1.8	4.0

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Columns may not total to 100 percent due to rounding error.
Source: On-Site Survey, Boating Section (n=1,361).

At the Forebay, the largest percentage of boaters (47 percent) had primarily boated at the Forebay, as would be expected, but 20 percent had primarily boated on the Main Basin of Lake Oroville, and over 36 percent had primarily boated on some portion of

Lake Oroville. This suggests that many Forebay visitors divide their visit between the larger reservoir and the Forebay, perhaps due to the sand beach and large picnic area provided at the North Forebay DUA. The similar facility at the Loafer Creek DUA on Lake Oroville was severely affected by low water conditions during most of the survey period. In contrast, about 73 percent of boaters surveyed at the Afterbay had primarily boated at the Afterbay, and most of the remainder boated at other downstream reservoirs and on the Feather River rather than at Lake Oroville.

5.1.7.2 Encounters with Other Boaters

Boaters were asked if, during their trip, they had personally experienced any encounter with other users on the water that they felt put them at risk. If so, they were asked to describe the encounter and indicate the general area where it occurred. The vast majority of boaters – 87 to 97 percent in each of the resource areas – did not experience encounters with others on the water in which they felt they had been put at risk (Table 5.1-54). The 13 percent of respondents at the Afterbay who reported experiences in which they felt they were put at risk was nearly twice the percentage as at Lake Oroville. Specific occurrences that caused respondents to feel at risk included other boats coming too close to the respondents' boat, PWC users operating unsafely, boaters speeding, especially in 5 mph zones, boaters not following boating safety rules, boaters drinking alcohol, and people swimming near docks or boat ramps.

Table 5.1-54. On-water encounters that boaters felt put them at risk.

	Resource Area		
	Lake Oroville (%)	**Thermalito Forebay (%)**	**Thermalito Afterbay (%)**
Did you have an encounter that put you at risk?			
Yes	6.8	2.8[1]	12.8
No	**93.2**	**97.2**	**87.2**
Description of the encounter(s)[2]			
Boats coming too close	**25.0**	0.0	17.4
PWC users unsafe/reckless	17.9	**50.0**	**39.1**
Boaters speeding	12.5	0.0	0.0
Boaters not following boating safety rules in general	**25.0**	0.0	17.4
Alcohol use by boaters	5.4	0.0	4.3
Swimming at launch/docks	1.8	0.0	0.0
Other	1.8	**50.0**	4.3
No description given	10.7	0.0	17.4

1. The 2.8 percent of Forebay boaters who had an encounter that put them at risk represents just two boaters; 72 of the 92 boaters surveyed at the Forebay answered the question.
2. Percentages are based on those who answered "yes" to the question (had an encounter that put them at risk; Lake Oroville n=56; Thermalito Forebay n=2; Thermalito Afterbay n=23.
*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey, Boating Section (n=1,361).

The top two encounter situations at Lake Oroville were boats coming too close to skiers, or to other stationary or moving boats, and other instances of boaters not following

boating safety rules such as improper passing, skiing in no-ski zones, stopping in high traffic areas, turning suddenly, etc. About 18 percent of the encounters specifically described PWC users putting them at risk by behaving unsafely. These encounters occurred at many different areas of Lake Oroville, but the busiest areas (the Main Basin, South Fork, and Middle Fork zones), accounted for most of the locations described (Table 5.1-55). The Bidwell Canyon portion of the Main Basin, where the Bidwell Marina and Boat Ramp and Loafer Creek Boat Ramp are located, accounted for about 15 percent of the locations mentioned.

Only two boaters surveyed at the Forebay had this type of encounter on the water, one related to PWC use and the other related to conflict with anglers. However, neither incident occurred on the Forebay. At the Afterbay, unsafe behavior by PWC users accounted for nearly 40 percent of unsafe encounters. PWC use is particularly popular near several of the boat ramps on the Afterbay. The remaining encounters were, for the most part, similar to the incidents of boaters coming too close and other general unsafe boating behavior described by Lake Oroville boaters. As expected, most of the incidents occurred on the Afterbay; in some cases more specifically near the Larkin Road Car-top Boat Ramp or other launch areas.

Table 5.1-55. Location of encounter that boaters felt put them at risk.

Location	Resource Area		
	Lake Oroville (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)
Lake Oroville			
Main Basin	11.8	0.0	11.1
Bidwell Canyon	14.7	0.0	0.0
Foreman Creek Car-top BR	2.9	0.0	0.0
Canyon Creek	2.9	0.0	0.0
South Fork	**17.6**	0.0	0.0
Enterprise BR	2.9	0.0	0.0
Middle Fork	14.7	0.0	0.0
West Branch	8.8	0.0	5.6
Lower North Fork	11.8	**50.0**	0.0
Upper North Fork	5.9	0.0	0.0
Downstream Areas			
Thermalito Afterbay	0.0	0.0	**66.7**
Larkin Road Car-top BR	0.0	0.0	5.6
Low Flow Channel	0.0	**50.0**	0.0
Launch ramps	5.9	0.0	5.6

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area. Percentages are based on those who answered "yes" to the encounter question (had an encounter that put at risk); Lake Oroville n=56; Thermalito Forebay n=2; Thermalito Afterbay n=23.*
Source: On-Site Survey, Boating Section (n=1,361).

5.1.7.3 Observations of Boating Activity that Put Others at Risk

In addition to the question discussed above about encounters that put themselves at risk, boaters were asked if they had observed any boating activity that put others at risk. If so, respondents were asked to describe the unsafe activity. The vast majority of boaters at Lake Oroville, Thermalito Forebay, and Thermalito Afterbay did not observe boating activity that they felt put others at risk. As with the previous question discussed above, there were relatively few respondents (a total of 123 of over 1,009 respondents) that observed unsafe activity.

The same types of descriptions used to describe encounters in Table 5.1-54 were used to describe boating activities that put others at risk in Table 5.1-56. Generally, the most common activities that put others at risk were PWCs operating unsafely, speeding, and other boaters not following boating safety rules. Unsafe behavior by PWC users is, once again, most notable at the Afterbay where it comprised nearly half of the unsafe behaviors described by boaters.

Table 5.1-56. Observations of boating activity that put others at risk.

	Resource Area		
	Lake Oroville (%)	**Thermalito Forebay (%)**	**Thermalito Afterbay (%)**
Did you observe any boating activity today that put others at risk?			
Yes	12.8	5.7[1]	12.3
No	**87.2**	**94.3**	**87.7**
Description of activity observed[2]			
Boaters coming too close to others	12.6	0.0	5.3
PWC users unsafe/reckless	18.9	**75.0**	**47.4**
Boaters speeding	20.0	0.0	15.8
Boaters not following boating safety rules in general	**28.4**	0.0	21.1
Alcohol use by boaters	5.3	25.0	10.5
Swimming at launch/docks	5.3	0.0	0.0
Other	9.5	0.0	0.0

1. The 5.7 percent of Forebay boaters who observed boating activity that put others at risk represents just four boaters of the 70 boaters surveyed there who answered the question.
2. Percentages are based on those who answered "yes" to the first part of the question (respondent did observe activity that put others at risk); Lake Oroville n=99; Thermalito Forebay n=4; Thermalito Afterbay n=20.
*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response/response category for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey, Boating Section (n=1,361).

5.1.7.4 Perceptions of Crowding on the Water

The majority of boaters at Lake Oroville (65 percent), the Forebay (77 percent), and the Afterbay (67 percent) stated that the water on which they had spent time that day was "not at all crowded" to "slightly crowded" (Table 5.1-57). Boaters surveyed in all three resource areas provided an average crowding rating of about 3, meaning the average perception was that the reservoirs were "slightly crowded." While 14 percent of

respondents at the Afterbay and 13 percent of respondents at Lake Oroville felt that the water was "moderately crowded," only seven to nine percent of respondents at each area felt that it was more than "moderately crowded" on the water (7 to 9 on the scale).

Table 5.1-57. Boaters' perceptions of crowding on the water.

Crowding Rating	Resource Area		
	Lake Oroville (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)
1 – Not at all crowded	**34.6**	**41.6**	**36.7**
2	14.5	15.6	18.8
3 – Slightly crowded	16.3	19.5	11.8
4	6.1	5.2	7.0
5	8.5	1.3	4.4
6 – Moderately crowded	12.8	7.8	13.5
7	3.7	0	3.5
8	1.6	2.6	2.2
9 – Extremely crowded	1.8	6.5	2.2
Mean Rating	3.1	2.8	2.8

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey, Boating Section (n=1,361).

5.1.7.5 Watercraft Types Used by Lake Oroville Area Boaters

Boaters were asked to indicate the type of watercraft they primarily use when visiting the Lake Oroville area. Runabouts, ski boats, pontoons, and cabin cruisers (all treated as one category on the survey) were the dominant types of watercraft at all three resource areas, particularly at Lake Oroville where 73 percent of respondents identified them as the watercraft they primarily used (Table 5.1-58). The next most frequent primary boat type at Lake Oroville was houseboats (11 percent). Pontoon boats and cabin cruisers tend to be moored at marinas rather than launched at ramps and are therefore uncommon or absent on the Forebay and Afterbay.

Table 5.1-58. Type of watercraft used at the Lake Oroville area.

Watercraft Type	Resource Area		
	Lake Oroville (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)
Runabout/Ski boat/Pontoon/Cabin cruiser	**72.8**	**43.7**	**57.8**
Houseboat	11.0	4.6	2.2
Sailboat	1.4	11.5	0.4
Canoe/Kayak	1.3	18.4	2.6
PWC	7.7	6.9	28.0
Other types (fishing boat, bass boat, drift boat, etc.)	5.8	14.9	9.1

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey, Boating Section (n=1,361).

A substantially larger portion of boaters surveyed at the Forebay (compared to the other reservoirs) were non-motorized boaters such as sail boaters, canoers, and kayakers, who together comprised about 30 percent of Forebay boaters. Other boat types (in particular, fishing boats) were also fairly common. Motorized fishing boats are not allowed on the North Forebay, and none were observed there. Boat types used by Afterbay boaters were mainly of two types - the aforementioned runabouts/ski boats (few larger pontoon or cabin cruisers are launched there) and PWC (28 percent), whose users favor the sandy shoreline available at the two Afterbay launch areas.

The few Thermalito Forebay and Afterbay respondents who indicated the primary watercraft they use in the Lake Oroville area was a houseboat were referring to boating activity on Lake Oroville; houseboats are not used on the downstream reservoirs.

5.1.7.6 Ownership and Moorage of Boats Used in the Lake Oroville Area

Boaters were asked if they owned or rented the boat they primarily used and if they docked or moored it (i.e., at a marina) at Lake Oroville. The overwhelming majority of boaters owned their watercraft, particularly at Lake Oroville and the Afterbay, where ownership rates were near 90 percent (Table 5.1-59). The highest rate of rented watercraft was at the Forebay (16 percent), which also had the highest rate of respondents indicating “other.” Boaters who circled “other” were asked to explain; these responses typically meant that the boater borrowed the boat from a family member or friend, or they used it with the family member or friend that owned it.

Table 5.1-59. Ownership of primary watercraft used.

Response	Resource Area		
	Lake Oroville (%)	**Thermalito Forebay (%)**	**Thermalito Afterbay (%)**
Own	**88.8**	**71.6**	**89.2**
Rent	4.6	16.0	1.6
Other [1]	6.6	12.3	9.2

1. Other most often meant that the respondent borrowed from or used a boat with friend or family member owner.
*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey, Boating Section (n=1,361).

No more than 20 percent of boaters surveyed at any of the resource areas indicated that they dock or moor their watercraft at Lake Oroville (Table 5.1-60). This means that between 80 and 92 percent of respondents transported their primary watercraft to the Lake Oroville area for each boating trip. Boating data collected for Study R-7 – *Reservoir Boating* indicate that Lake Oroville boaters whose boat is moored at one of the two marinas (primarily houseboaters and sailboaters) comprise more than 20 percent of boaters. However, because most surveys of boaters occurred at boat ramps, marina boaters are somewhat under-represented in the survey sample. At the same time, it is likely that lower percentages of boaters than indicated by the responses to this

question actually kept their boat at one of the marinas. This is because some boaters appear to have misunderstood "dock or moor your boat" to include temporary use of boarding docks at boat ramps.

Table 5.1-60. Moorage of primary watercraft used at Lake Oroville.

Response	Resource Area		
	Lake Oroville (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)
For the watercraft you primarily use, do you dock or moor it at Lake Oroville?			
Yes	19.7	9.5	12.2
No	**80.3**	**90.5**	**87.8**

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey, Boating Section (n=1,361).

Boaters who docked or moored their primary watercraft at Lake Oroville were also asked to indicate if they did so seasonally or year-round. However, the response rate to this portion of the question was very low; thus, the data are not reported herein.

5.1.7.7 Use of Lake Oroville Area Boat Ramps

Boaters were asked if they had ever used one of the boat ramps in the Lake Oroville area and, if so, which ones they had used during the last 12 months, and which ramp they used most frequently. From 85 to 93 percent of boaters at each of the three resource areas had used one of the boat ramps (Table 5.1-61). This result corresponds with the high percentage of surveyed boaters who were ramp users rather than marina boaters and the high percentage who were repeat visitors.

Table 5.1-61. Past use of the boat ramps in the Lake Oroville area.

Response	Resource Area		
	Lake Oroville (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)
Have you ever used one of the boat launches in the Lake Oroville Area?			
Yes	**93.3**	**84.6**	**91.6**
No	6.7	15.4	8.4

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey, Boating Section (n=1,361).

When asked which of the boat ramps they had used in the past 12 months, most boaters identified multiple ramps (Table 5.1-62). Most popular with respondents surveyed at Lake Oroville were the four main developed ramps: Bidwell Canyon (54 percent), Spillway (43 percent), Lime Saddle (40 percent), and the Loafer Creek ramp

(27 percent). The other ramps at Lake Oroville and at the downstream locations had been used by five percent or less of the boaters surveyed at Lake Oroville.

Table 5.1-62. Lake Oroville area boat ramps boaters had used during the last 12 months.

Boat Ramp	Resource Area		
	Lake Oroville (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)
Lake Oroville Ramps			
Lime Saddle	39.5	31.2	40.8
Spillway	42.5	35.1	31.0
Bidwell Canyon	**54.0**	**39.0**	30.5
Loafer Creek	27.1	35.1	17.8
Enterprise	4.9	6.5	2.3
Dark Canyon Car-top ramp	1.4	6.5	1.7
Stringtown Car-top ramp	3.9	9.1	2.9
Nelson Bar Car-top ramp	1.2	7.8	1.7
Vinton Gulch Car-top ramp	0.6	5.2	0.6
Foreman Creek Car-top ramp	4.1	11.7	2.9
Forebay Ramps			
N. Thermalito Forebay	3.4	22.1	14.4
S. Thermalito Forebay	3.2	22.1	16.1
Afterbay Ramps			
Monument Hill	5.4	13.0	**54.6**
Larkin Road Car-top ramp	3.6	10.4	31.6
Other Ramps			
Div. Pool-Burma Rd/RR Grade	0.1	7.8	2.3
River launches (undeveloped)	1.0	9.1	4.6
Other (Wilbur Road, OWA ponds)	0.3	2.7	3.5

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area. Columns total more than 100 percent because many boaters periodically use more than one ramp.*
Source: On-Site Survey, Boating Section (n=1,361).

It is interesting to note that among boaters surveyed at the Forebay, the four major developed ramps at Lake Oroville were used by more boaters during the last 12 months than either of the two Forebay ramps. From 31 to 39 percent of boaters had used those Lake Oroville ramps, as compared to 22 percent who had used the Forebay ramps. This suggests that Lake Oroville is the primary boating area for many boaters who also use the Forebay. Among Afterbay boaters, the main developed Afterbay boat ramp, Monument Hill, was the boat ramp used by the largest percentage of respondents (55 percent), and about 32 percent used the Afterbay car-top ramp at Larkin Road. Similar to the Forebay boaters, however, 30-40 percent had also used three of the major developed ramps at Lake Oroville, indicating that most Afterbay boaters also periodically boat on Lake Oroville.

In general, the clusters of boat ramps identified by boaters surveyed in each resource area as the ramp they use most frequently are similar to the ramps used in the past 12

months, though the ramps with the highest percentage of use changed slightly (Table 5.1-63). At Lake Oroville, the Lime Saddle ramp was used most frequently by 29 percent of respondents, followed by Bidwell Canyon (27 percent) and Spillway (23 percent). Loafer Creek was used most often by 13 percent of boaters, while all others were mentioned by three percent or fewer.

At the Forebay, Loafer Creek was the launch used most frequently by individual boaters (16 percent), followed closely by Bidwell Canyon and the North Thermalito Forebay (15 percent each), then the Spillway boat ramp (12 percent). Once again, these responses suggest that many Forebay boaters also boat frequently on Lake Oroville.

Table 5.1-63. Lake Oroville area boat ramps boaters use most frequently.

Boat Ramp	Resource Area		
	Lake Oroville (%)	**Thermalito Forebay (%)**	**Thermalito Afterbay (%)**
Lake Oroville Ramps			
Lime Saddle	**28.6**	8.7	11.9
Spillway	23.0	11.6	12.4
Bidwell Canyon	27.0	14.5	7.3
Loafer Creek	12.9	**15.9**	2.6
Enterprise	3.1	0.0	0.0
Dark Canyon Car-top ramp	0.2	1.4	0.5
Stringtown Car-top ramp	1.2	1.4	0.5
Nelson Bar Car-top ramp	0.1	0.0	1.0
Vinton Gulch Car-top ramp	0.0	0.0	0.0
Foreman Creek Car-top ramp	2.1	4.3	0.5
Forebay Ramps			
North Thermalito Forebay	0.2	14.5	2.6
South Thermalito Forebay	0.2	10.1	3.6
Afterbay Ramps			
Monument Hill	0.5	1.4	**30.1**
Larkin Road Car-top ramp	0.2	2.9	17.6
Other Ramps			
Div. Pool-Burma Rd/RR Grade	0.1	4.3	0.0
River launches (undeveloped)	0.1	4.3	4.1
Other (Wilbur Road, OWA ponds)	0.2	4.3	5.2

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey, Boating Section (n=1,361).

Respondents at the Afterbay identified the Monument Hill ramp as the one they most frequently used (30 percent), followed by Larkin Road (18 percent). The Spillway and Lime Saddle ramps at Lake Oroville were each used most frequently by about 12 percent of boaters surveyed at the Afterbay, followed by Bidwell Canyon, with seven percent of responses. These responses suggest that Afterbay boaters, unlike Forebay boaters, tend to focus their boating activity in that area rather than on Lake Oroville.

5.1.7.8 Waits to Use Boat Ramps in the Lake Oroville Area

Boaters who had used one of the study area boat ramps were asked if they typically had to wait to use the launch they most frequently use and, if so, the average number of minutes they have to wait. Most boaters said they typically do not have to wait to launch (Table 5.1-64). Lake Oroville had the most respondents that typically have to wait to launch with 45 percent, as compared to 39 percent of Thermalito Afterbay boaters and 25 percent of Thermalito Forebay boaters. Of those boaters who have to wait to launch, generally most waited ten minutes or less, and waits of five minutes or less were most common among Afterbay boaters. About 75 to 77 percent of Lake Oroville and Thermalito Afterbay respondents waited ten minutes or less to launch on average, while about 61 percent of Thermalito Forebay respondents waited ten minutes or less. Typical waits longer than 15 minutes were mentioned by relatively few Lake Oroville or Afterbay boaters. However, 33 percent of Forebay boaters said they waited between 16 and 20 minutes to launch on average. (As the Forebay ramps do not receive heavy use, the six of 18 Forebay boaters who listed wait times of 20 minutes may have been referring to conditions during sailing events held at the Forebay.)

Table 5.1-64. Waits to use boat ramps in the Lake Oroville area.

	Resource Area		
	Lake Oroville (%)	**Thermalito Forebay (%)**	**Thermalito Afterbay (%)**
Do you typically have to wait to use the boat launch you most frequently use?			
Yes	45.4	25.0	38.9
No	**54.6**	**75.0**	**61.1**
On average, how many minutes do you have to wait to use this ramp?			
1-5 min.	36.5	16.7	**48.3**
6-10 min.	**38.0**	**44.4**	28.6
11-15 min.	14.3	5.6	14.3
16-20 min.	7.3	33.3	5.4
21+ min.	3.9	0.0	3.6
Average wait (min.)	10.2	12.8	9.2

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey, Boating Section (n=1,361).

5.1.7.9 Satisfaction with Boating Experience

Boaters' overall satisfaction with their boating experience on their current trip to the Lake Oroville area was very high (Table 5.1-65). Satisfaction was highest at the Forebay with 91 percent satisfied, but the satisfaction rate was similar among Afterbay boaters (89 percent) and Lake Oroville boaters (88 percent).

Among the relatively few dissatisfied boaters at Lake Oroville, the highest percentage of those boaters (41 percent) mentioned low pool level as a reason for not being satisfied.

The second most common reason for dissatisfaction was boat ramp or boat launching problems, mentioned by about 20 percent of those who were not satisfied. Boat ramp problems included congestion at the boat ramp or inexperienced boaters trying to launch, or complaints about long walks to parking areas at Lime Saddle and Bidwell ramps. Most ramp problems were associated with low reservoir pool levels. About ten percent mentioned facilities as a reason; most of those complained about a lack of sandy shoreline areas to beach the boat, swim, and picnic. Issues such as hazards in the water and unfavorable conditions (choppy, windy) or marina problems were not common reasons for dissatisfaction.

Table 5.1-65. Boater satisfaction with their boating experience and reason for dissatisfaction.

	Resource Area		
	Lake Oroville (%)	**Thermalito Forebay (%)**	**Thermalito Afterbay (%)**
Overall, are you satisfied with your boating experience on this trip to the Lake Oroville area?			
Yes	**88.3**	**90.7**	**89.9**
No	11.7	9.3	10.1
If No…Why not?[1]			
Lake level too low	**41.4**	14.3	**52.9**
Boat ramp/launching problems	20.2	**28.6**	11.8
Parking inadequate	6.1	14.3	0.0
Hazards in the water	2.0	0.0	5.9
Want more or better facilities	10.1	**28.6**	0.0
Unfavorable conditions	5.1	0.0	11.8
Too crowded on the water	7.1	0.0	11.8
Problems with marina/marina service	4.0	0.0	5.9
Other	5.1	0.0	5.9
Did not give a reason	12.1	14.3	11.8

1. Boater could list more than one reason for not being satisfied. Responses are from only those respondents who completed the boating section of the survey and answered that they were not satisfied with their boating experience; Lake Oroville n=99; Thermalito Forebay n=7; Thermalito Afterbay n=17. The response format for this question was open-ended.
Bold *type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey, Boating Section (n=1,361).

The few boaters surveyed at the Forebay who were not satisfied (7 boaters) generally commented on boat ramps and other facilities, as well as low water, but the reasons given related to Lake Oroville, rather than the Forebay. Several of the 17 boaters surveyed at the Afterbay who were not satisfied also cited reasons related to low water levels and other issues at Lake Oroville, but several also said low water levels and difficulty launching at low water levels were also a reason for dissatisfaction on the Afterbay.

5.1.8 Additional Comments Provided by On-Site and Mailback Survey Respondents

Both the On-Site and Mailback Surveys provided opportunities at the end of each survey booklet for respondents to write any additional comments they might have related to the survey topics covered or other issues. About 48 percent (1,246 of 2,583) of the On-Site Survey respondents provided additional comments, and about 65 percent (696 of 1,071) of Mailback Survey respondents did so. Many of the comments were unspecific positive or negative statements about the Lake Oroville area or the respondents' experience there, while others provided more specific positive feedback, complaints, or requests. Common categories of comments, such as those commenting on low reservoir pool levels and effects of low pool levels on boating facilities and other facilities and activities, are summarized and in select cases listed verbatim in other study reports, such as Study R-3 – *Assessment of the Relationship of Project Operations and Recreation*.

All of the comments made are listed verbatim in Appendix J.

5.2 HUNTER SURVEY RESULTS

The Hunter Survey (Appendix C) was administered to hunters in the OWA during the fall and winter of 2002-03. The hunting season for the OWA generally runs from September through January, but varies by species hunted. The Hunter Survey effort included on-site and follow-up mailback components similar to those used for the general visitor On-Site Survey, but with several new hunting-specific questions added, and some items judged not relevant were deleted. One-hundred six on-site surveys were obtained and 38 mailback surveys were returned. Section 4.3 provides additional detail on the survey methodology used and the samples obtained.

This section summarizes the results of survey questions categorized into the following general groups: description of past use of area and current visit; evaluation of hunting experience; use of and perceptions of hunting at the OWA; satisfaction with hunting experience; comments on desired improvements; recreation setting preferences; perception of management, water condition, and user interaction; adequacy of the number of facilities; overall satisfaction; and additional comments. Demographic information from the Hunter Survey is provided in Appendix F.

5.2.1 Description of Hunters' Past Use of Area and Current Visit

Hunters were first asked to describe their current visit to the Lake Oroville area. Related to past use, hunters were asked how frequently they visited the Oroville area (including the OWA), and what seasons they had visited during the past 12 months. Regarding their current visit, they were asked about their time and date of arrival and departure, hunting sites they intended to visit, and the size of the group with which they were visiting the area.

5.2.1.1 Hunters' Frequency and Seasons of Use of Lake Oroville Area

Hunters were asked to describe their frequency of visits to the Lake Oroville area, in terms of whether or not they identified themselves as frequent, occasional, or infrequent visitors to the area. The majority of hunters (78 percent) considered themselves to be regular visitors, which was defined in the survey as visiting three or more times per year (Table 5.2-1). Nine percent of respondents considered themselves to be occasional visitors (defined as visiting 1-2 times per year), and only one percent of visitors considered themselves to be infrequent visitors (visiting less than one time per year). Eleven percent of respondents were first-time visitors.

Table 5.2-1. Hunters' frequency of visits to the Lake Oroville area.

Frequency of Visits	Percent
Regular visitor	78.4
Occasional visitor	9.3
Infrequent visitor	1.0
First visit	11.3

Source: Hunter Survey, on-site portion (n=106).

Since most hunting seasons are in the fall and winter, it is logical that more hunters visit the Lake Oroville area/OWA during the fall and winter, as confirmed by the 76 and 72 percent, respectively, who had visited during those seasons in the past 12 months (Table 5.2-2). However, the survey results show that just over half of the hunters also visited these areas during the spring and summer, suggesting they participate in other non-hunting activities in the study area.

Table 5.2-2. Hunters' seasonal use of the Lake Oroville area/Oroville Wildlife Area.

Season of visitation	Percent
Spring	51.0
Summer	52.0
Fall	76.0
Winter	72.0

Note: Respondents could mark more than one season, thus the results total >100%.
Source: Hunter Survey, on-site portion (n=106).

5.2.1.2 Description of Hunters' Current Visit

Over 90 percent of hunters were visiting the area only for the day (Table 5.2-3). Only eight percent of respondents stayed for two days, and less than two percent stayed for three days. The few hunters surveyed who were staying more than one day (10 of the 106 surveyed) were either staying at a nearby private campground, with family, or in

their own vehicle or RV on-site. A few others were planning to be on-site just for the day but were also camping or staying with family or friends as part of their trip.

Unlike other types of visitors, hunters tend to arrive on-site very early, since early morning is a prime hunting period. Of respondents that stayed for one day, 42 percent arrived between 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., while 50 percent of respondents arrived between 6:15 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. (Table 5.2-4). (Hunters arriving before dawn may have had to wait for gates to be opened before they could drive into the area.) Very few one-day respondents (8 percent) arrived after 9:00 a.m. The visits also tended to be brief, with relatively few done hunting before 9:00 a.m. but about two-thirds having departed by noon (Table 5.2-4).

Table 5.2-3. Length of hunters' stay.

Length of stay	Percent
1 day	**90.4**
2 days	7.7
3 days	1.9

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response.*
Source: Hunter Survey, on-site portion (n=106).

Table 5.2-4. Hunters' arrival and departure time (one-day visitors).

	Percent
Arrival Time	
3:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.	42.0
6:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	**50.0**
After 9:00 a.m.	8.0
Departure Time	
6:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	4.7
9:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	**60.4**
After 12:00 p.m.	34.9

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response.*
Source: Hunter Survey, on-site portion (n=106).

Most hunting in the study area occurs within the OWA, including the Afterbay subunit of the OWA. Therefore, it is understandable that most hunters listed these sites as locations they planned on visiting. Approximately 60 percent of respondents planned on visiting the Afterbay and 56 percent of respondents planned on visiting the main area of the OWA (Table 5.2-5). Relatively few hunters planned to visit Lake Oroville or other downstream areas besides the OWA and Afterbay.
About 40 percent of the hunters hunted in groups of two, both of whom were generally adults (Table 5.2-6). Only 17 percent of respondents hunted alone. The other 43 percent of respondents hunted in groups of three (21 percent) or four or more people (22 percent). The average group size was 2.7, consisting of an average of 2.1 adults and 0.6 children. About 40 percent of the hunter groups included a child or children (usually one or two children).

Table 5.2-5. Study area locations hunters planned on visiting.

Location	Percent
Downstream Areas	
Thermalito Afterbay	60.4
OWA	56.6
Feather River (Diversion Pool to Hwy 162)	11.3
Clay Pit SVRA	10.4
Thermalito Forebay	5.7
Diversion Pool	4.7
Lake Oroville Areas	
Main Basin	12.3
Middle Fork	8.5
South Fork	8.5
Lower North Fork	5.7
Upper North Fork	5.7
West Branch	4.7

Note: Respondents could list more than one location, thus the results total >100%.
Source: Hunter Survey; on-site portion (n=106).

Table 5.2-6. Hunters' group size and group composition.

Characteristic	Percent
Group Size	
1 person	17.1
2 people	40.0
3 people	21.0
4 or more people	22.0
Group Composition	
Mean number of adults	2.1
Mean number of children[1]	0.6
Mean total group size	2.7

1. About 40 percent of the hunter groups included one or more children.
Source: Hunter Survey, on-site portion (n=106).

5.2.2 Hunters' Evaluation of Their Hunting Experience at the OWA

Hunter respondents were asked a number of questions about their hunting experience and the OWA on the day the survey was administered. To that end, they were asked specific questions regarding the following: species they had been hunting that day; the number of animals they had taken from the OWA; perceptions of crowding at the OWA; encounters in the OWA they felt had placed them at risk and how they described such encounters; the portions of the Lake Oroville area where they hunt most often; adequacy of access to the OWA; reason(s) for choosing to hunt in the OWA or other Lake Oroville area sites; opinions of hunting regulations for Lake Oroville and the OWA; and satisfaction with their hunting experience.

5.2.2.1 Wildlife Species Hunted for and Taken in the OWA

Hunters were asked to indicate what species or type of wildlife they were hunting for that day, and the number of those types taken, if any (Table 5.2-7). Over half of respondents (56 percent) were hunting ducks. Other popular hunted species included pheasant (39 percent), geese (25 percent), and quail (21 percent). Relatively few hunters were hunting for dove (9 percent), deer (5 percent), or turkey (8 percent). (The eight turkey hunters surveyed were all participating in a special OWA spring turkey hunt after having their name drawn in a lottery. The hunt was limited to 15 hunters on each of three weekend hunting periods.)

Table 5.2-7. Species hunted for by hunters within the study area.

Species/Type of Wildlife	Hunting for Species (%) [1]	Took One or More (%)	Total no. of species taken
Ducks	55.7	50.8	96
Geese	24.5	11.5	4
Pheasant	38.7	43.9	29
Quail	20.8	27.3	16
Dove	9.4	0.0	0
Deer	4.7	0.0	0
Turkey	7.5	62.5	7

1. About 39 percent of hunters indicated they were hunting for more than one species, most often ducks and geese.
Source: Hunter Survey, on-site portion (n=106).

Hunters' success varied across species. About half of the duck hunters and about 44 percent of pheasant hunters took at least one bird. Quail and geese hunters experienced a lower level of success, with just over one-quarter of quail hunters taking a bird and only about 12 percent of goose hunters taking a goose. However, several of the quail hunters were also hunting for and took one or more pheasant. Similarly, several of the goose hunters were also hunting for and took one or more ducks.

Comparing across species hunted, duck hunters took the most birds, averaging about 1.6 birds among all duck hunters, and 3.2 birds among the 51 percent who took at least one duck (Table 5.2-8). Several duck hunters took six or more birds, and the maximum number taken was ten. Pheasant hunters were the second most successful group of hunters in terms of number of birds taken, with about 40 percent taking one or two birds, and two hunters taking four birds. Although fewer quail hunters took a bird and most that were successful took just one or two birds, one hunter reported taking eight quail. Five of the eight turkey hunters who completed the survey took one or two turkeys. None of the relatively few surveyed hunters hunting for dove or deer took an animal.

Table 5.2-8. Number of animals taken by OWA hunters, by species.

Species/ Type of Game	Number of animals taken [1]							Avg # taken (all)	Avg # taken (if >0)
	0 (%)	1 (%)	2 (%)	3 (%)	4 (%)	5 (%)	>5 (%)		
Ducks	49.2	13.6	10.2	10.2	5.1	5.1	6.8	1.6	3.2
Geese	88.5	7.7	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.3
Pheasant	58.5	26.8	12.2	0.0	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.6	1.5
Quail	72.7	9.1	13.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5	0.7	2.7
Dove	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Deer	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Turkey	37.5	37.5	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	1.4

1. The percentages shown are based on the number of hunters who indicated they were hunting for each species (59 duck hunters, 26 goose hunters, 41 pheasant hunters, 22 quail hunters, 10 dove hunters, five deer hunters, and eight turkey hunters).
Source: Hunter Survey, on-site portion (n=106).

5.2.2.2 Hunters' Perception of Crowding While Hunting

Hunters were asked to indicate how crowded they felt while hunting, using a 9-point scale where 1 meant "not at all crowded" and 9 meant "extremely crowded." The responses indicate that most hunters did not feel very crowded while hunting. The most frequent response was "not at all crowded" (27 percent), and more than 54 percent rated crowding as 3 ("slightly crowded") or lower on the scale (Table 5.2-9). However, about 30 percent rated crowding in the middle of the scale (from 4 to 6 – "moderately crowded") and about 16 percent gave a crowding rating above 6. The mean crowding score of 3.8 corresponds to a rating of just above "slightly crowded."

Table 5.2-9. Hunters' perception of crowding while hunting at the OWA.

Crowding Rating	Percent
1 – Not at all crowded	27.2
2	13.6
3 – Slightly crowded	13.6
4	3.9
5	11.7
6 – Moderately crowded	14.6
7	6.8
8	1.9
9 – Extremely crowded	6.8
Mean Crowding Score	3.8

Source: Hunter Survey, on-site portion (n=106)

5.2.2.3 Encounters with Others that Hunters Felt Put Them at Risk

Hunters were asked if they had any encounters with others during their outing that they felt put them at risk and, if so, to describe the encounter. The vast majority of hunters (94 percent) said they did not have such an encounter (Table 5.2-10). Of the six respondents who did have an encounter they felt put them at risk, four said this encounter occurred because hunters were hunting too close together.

Table 5.2-10. Encounters with others that OWA hunters felt put them at risk.

Response	Percent
On this trip, did you have any encounters with other users that put you at risk?	
Yes	6.0
No	94.0
Description of Encounters (n=6)	
Hunters too close together	66.7
Fisherman too close to decoy	16.7
Unsafe hunters	16.7

Source: Hunter Survey, on-site portion (n=106).

5.2.3 Hunters' Use of and Perceptions of Hunting at OWA

The on-site portion of the Hunter Survey asked hunters about several aspects of their use of the OWA or other areas where they hunt in the study area. Specific survey topics included areas where hunters hunt most often, adequacy of access, reasons for choosing to hunt in the area, and hunting regulations.

5.2.3.1 Areas of OWA Hunters Use Most Often and Perceptions of OWA Access

Approximately half of the hunters surveyed hunt most often in the Afterbay area and approximately half hunt most often in the OWA proper (Table 5.2-11). Of the three sub-areas of the OWA, 19 percent of respondents hunt in the south OWA area on the east side of the Feather River, about 16 percent hunt in the north OWA area, and about 15 percent of respondents hunt in the south OWA area on the west side of the Feather River most often. Hunters could list other areas where they hunted most often, besides the four areas listed on the survey, but none did so.

Over 83 percent of hunters felt that access to the OWA was adequate, as compared to about 17 percent who felt access is not adequate (Table 5.2-12). A subsequent section of this report discusses hunters' request for improvements at the OWA, one category of which related to access.

Table 5.2-11. Lake Oroville area where OWA hunters go most often to hunt.

Area	Percent
Thermalito Afterbay subunit of OWA	50.6
North OWA (area south of SR 62 but north of Afterbay outlet)	15.7
South OWA – west of the Feather River (area south of the Afterbay outlet)	14.6
South OWA – east of the Feather River (area west of Pacific Heights Road)	19.1

Source: Hunter Survey, on-site portion (n=106).

Table 5.2-12. Hunters' perception of adequacy of access to the OWA.

Response	Percent
Do you feel that access to the Oroville Wildlife Area is adequate?	
Yes	83.2
No	16.8

Source: Hunter Survey, on-site portion (n=106).

5.2.3.2 Hunters' Reasons for Choosing to Hunt at OWA

Hunters were asked to describe why they chose to hunt at the OWA rather than other public hunting areas in Northern California (Table 5.2-13). Approximately 28 percent of respondents indicated the reason was the proximity or location of the hunting area to where they live.

Table 5.2-13. Why hunters chose to hunt at the OWA or other Lake Oroville area.

Reason	Percent
Proximity/location	27.8
Good hunting/habitat	18.6
Good access	16.5
Availability	13.4
Hunting there is free	12.4
Low hunting pressure	10.3
Familiar with the area	10.3
Good chances of getting game	8.2
There for the Junior hunt	7.2
Other	3.1

Note: Respondents could list more than one reason, therefore total is greater than 100%. Source: Hunter Survey; on-site portion (n=106).

Other reasons respondents gave for choosing to hunt at the OWA or other Lake Oroville areas included the good hunting opportunities and habitat offered (19 percent), as well as easy access to the hunting areas (17 percent of respondents). Approximately 13 percent of respondents chose to hunt at these areas because of the availability of the area, meaning that anyone can hunt there; hunting privileges are not awarded through a lottery, which is the case at some other wildlife refuges. Respondents also visit these areas because they are free (12 percent), not too crowded (10 percent), and because they are familiar with the area and have been going there for several years (10 percent).

5.2.3.3 Perceptions of Hunting Regulations

Hunters were asked if they felt knowledgeable about hunting regulations for Lake Oroville and the OWA, and whether they felt the regulations allowed a quality experience. If the answer to either question was no, they were asked to explain that response.

Almost 90 percent of respondents reported that they were knowledgeable about the regulations for the OWA and Lake Oroville (Table 5.2-14). Of the ten respondents who reported that they were not knowledgeable about the regulations, half felt that this was due to the regulations not being easily available. Four respondents (20 percent) felt that they did not know about the regulations because the regulations change yearly, and an additional four respondents felt that they did not know the specific regulations for the OWA or Lake Oroville.

Most hunters (85 percent) also felt the hunting regulations for the OWA and Lake Oroville allowed a quality hunting experience, while 15 percent did not. Of the respondents who felt the regulations did not allow a quality experience, nearly 40 percent mentioned opening or closing times. Respondents felt that earlier opening and later closing times were necessary to allow hunters to set up and have a better experience. Other reasons given include low bird populations (23 percent), perceived crowding of the area (15 percent), and a perceived need for more hunting areas around Lake Oroville (7 percent).

Table 5.2-14. Hunters' assessment of hunting regulations within the study area.

Response	Percent
Do you feel knowledgeable about hunting regulations for Lake Oroville and the Oroville Wildlife Area?	
Yes	89.2
No	10.8
Reasons given for lack of knowledge (n=11)	
Regulations not easily available	50.0
Regulations change yearly	20.0
Don't know area specific regulations	20.0
Other	10.0
Do you feel hunting regulations allow a quality experience?	
Yes	85.0
No	15.0
Reasons given for regulations not allowing a quality experience (n=15)	
The opening and closing times are not sufficient	38.0
Bird populations are too low	23.0
The area is too crowded	15.0
Need more hunting areas around the Lake Oroville	7.0
Other	23.0

Source: Hunter Survey, on-site portion (n=106).

5.2.4 Hunters' Satisfaction with their Hunting Experience

Hunters were asked to indicate if they were satisfied with their hunting experience and, if not, to explain why. About 75 percent of hunters indicated they were satisfied with their hunting experience. Of the minority who were not satisfied, 57 percent cited lack of birds to shoot or not having taken any birds, and 50 percent indicated that they felt that habitat needed improvement (Table 5.2-15). Respondent dissatisfaction was also related to Afterbay water levels that were too low (21 percent), which they feel hurts habitat for birds and hunting success; inadequate access (14 percent); and other hunters using practices they considered unsafe (14 percent).

Table 5.2-15. Hunters' reasons for dissatisfaction with their hunting experience.

	Percent
Overall, are you satisfied with your hunting experience in the Lake Oroville area and OWA on this trip?	
Yes	75.2
No	24.8
If no…Reasons not satisfied (n=25)	
Lack of birds/did not take any birds	57.0
Habitat needs improvement	50.0
Afterbay water level too low	21.0
Access inadequate	14.0
Other hunters were unsafe	14.0
Other	14.0

Note: Respondents' could provide more than one reason for not being satisfied.
Source: Hunter Survey, on-site portion (n=106).

5.2.5 Hunters' Comments on Desired Improvements at the OWA

Hunters were asked to list any improvements they would like to see made at the OWA. Comments related to the need for improvements at the OWA were offered by 80 percent (85 out of 106) of the Hunter Survey respondents, with some offering more than one comment. A total of 108 comments were collected. Table 5.2-16 shows the percentage distribution of comments that relate to each listed category. Comments are grouped according to one of six potential improvement areas: water levels; area access; facilities and maintenance; wildlife habitat/space to hunt, wildlife populations; and hunting regulations.

Among potential improvement areas, access received the greatest number of suggestions (32 percent of all offered), followed by wildlife habitat/space to hunt (24 percent). However, the single most suggested improvement had to do with making improvements to the natural habitat of game species at the OWA, a request made by nearly one-quarter of all respondents to this question (19 people).

Table 5.2-16. Hunters' suggested improvements to the OWA.

Comment	Percent of comments[1]
Water Levels:	**11.0**
Maintain high water levels in Afterbay	6.0
Maintain consistent water levels	5.0
Access Improvements and Restrictions:	**32.0**
Extend hours of entry	6.0
Improve road conditions & parking	5.0
No improvements/restrict vehicle access	5.0
Install key access at gates	4.0
Improve overall access	4.0
Open for entire duration of archery season	2.0
Permit bicycle access	2.0
Other (four responses given by four hunters)	4.0
Facilities/Maintenance:	**13.0**
Remove litter/add trash bins	5.0
Improve bathroom and cleaning facilities	2.0
Improve boat ramps	2.0
Other (four responses given by four hunters)	4.0
Wildlife Habitat:	**24.0**
Improve natural habitat	22.0
Acquire more land for hunting	2.0
Wildlife Populations:	**15.0**
Stock game species	7.0
Remove animal predators	3.0
Doe tags	2.0
Open limited turkey season	2.0
Close area for one year to allow pheasants to increase	1.0
Hunting Regulations:	**9.0**
Increase game warden patrol	4.0
Assign blinds/start areas for hunting	2.0
Limit number of hunters	2.0
Permit use of rifles and handguns during deer season	1.0

1. A total of 108 comments were given by 85 hunters. Total is >100 percent due to rounding error.
Source: Hunter Survey, on-site portion (n=106).

5.2.6 Hunters' Recreation Setting Preferences

In the mailback portion of the Hunter Survey, respondents were asked about their preferences for five various aspects of the recreation setting at the recreation area where they were surveyed. For each aspect, hunters were asked to indicate their preference on a 4- to 7-point scale. Each aspect contributes to the recreational experience at the study area, and included solitude/affiliation, risk and challenge, use of outdoor wilderness skills, presence of the sights and sounds of civilization, and appearance of the landscape. Together, these items describe a range of recreation settings from primitive, undeveloped and low use, to highly developed with high use.

Hunting areas are typically characterized by settings toward the undeveloped end of the spectrum.

Five identical survey questions were asked of general recreation visitors in the OWA within the On-Site Survey portion of the Recreation Visitors Survey. This provides an opportunity to compare hunters' preferences to those of other OWA users. To that end, hunters' responses to each of the five questions are compared to other visitors surveyed within the OWA in the five tables below. In general, hunters expressed a preference for a recreation setting characterized by lower use levels and lower levels of development, while risk and challenge and wilderness skills appear to be less important to them than other OWA users.

Regarding opportunities for solitude and affiliation with others, hunters expressed a substantially greater preference for solitude than other OWA visitors, with about 75 percent of hunters considering solitude "important" to "extremely important" (Table 5.2-17).

Table 5.2-17. Hunters' preference for solitude/affiliation with other groups.

Rating	Hunters (%)	Other OWA (%)
Solitude is extremely important	22.2	14.9
Solitude is very important	22.2	10.5
Solitude is important	**30.6**	28.9
Solitude and affiliation equally important	22.2	**40.4**
Affiliation with other groups is important	2.8	0.9
Affiliation with other groups is very important	0.0	2.6
Affiliation with other groups is extremely important	0.0	1.8

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response.*
Sources: Hunter Survey, mailback portion (n=38); Mailback Survey, OWA only (n=130).

On the other hand, fewer hunters than other OWA users considered opportunities to experience risk and challenge and to use wilderness skills important, with most considering these "somewhat important" or "not important" (Tables 5.2-18 and 5.2-19). Hunters might have a different conception of the term "risk" than other area users given the presence of firearms, although challenge might be expected to be important to many hunters.

Table 5.2-18. Hunters' preference for the opportunity to experience risk and challenge.

Rating	Hunters (%)	Other OWA (%)
Extremely important	5.4	24.6
Very important	16.2	15.6
Important	24.3	**29.5**
Somewhat important	**27.0**	15.6
Not important	**27.0**	14.8

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response.*
Sources Hunter Survey, mailback portion (n=38); Mailback Survey, OWA only (n=130).

Table 5.2-19. Hunters' preference for the opportunity to use outdoor wilderness skills.

Rating	Hunters (%)	Other OWA (%)
Extremely important	0.0	15.9
Very important	10.8	19.0
Important	21.6	**24.6**
Somewhat important	**37.8**	20.6
Not important	29.7	19.8

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response.*
Source: Hunter Survey, mailback portion (n=38); Mailback Survey, OWA only (n=130).

Regarding the sights and sounds of civilization, hunters were somewhat more likely to prefer those sights and sounds to be "rare" or "absent," while very few preferred them to be "common" (Table 5.2-20). Similarly, hunters were somewhat more likely to prefer settings that are "predominantly natural in appearance" and less likely to prefer those that are "modified on a small scale" (Table 5.2-21).

Table 5.2-20. Hunters' preference for the sights and sounds of civilization.

Rating	Hunters (%)	Other OWA (%)
Absent	18.9	15.3
Rare	**48.6**	**38.7**
Unusual	29.7	25.8
Common	2.7	19.4
Dominant	0.0	0.8

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response.*
Source: Hunter Survey, mailback portion (n=38); Mailback Survey, OWA only (n=130).

Table 5.2-21. Hunters' preference for landscape appearance.

Rating	Hunters (%)	Other OWA (%)
Totally natural in appearance	18.9	19.0
Predominantly natural in appearance	**67.6**	**53.2**
Modified on a small scale	13.5	27.0
Significantly modified	0.0	0.8

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response.*
Source: Hunter Survey, mailback portion (n=38); Mailback Survey, OWA only (n=130).

5.2.7 Hunters' Perception of Management, Water Condition, and User Interaction Issues

The mailback portion of the Hunter Survey asked hunters to indicate whether several management issues were a problem during their visit. The issues presented to hunters included 16 of the 25 items presented to visitors within the general visitor survey. The eight items not included were primarily boating issues judged to be not relevant to most hunters. In general, most hunters considered most of the management issues to not be a problem during their visit, with 60-85 percent providing that response for all but two of the 16 issues (Table 5.2-22). Two issues were considered to be a "big problem" and four issues were considered to be a "moderate problem" by more than ten percent of hunters.

One management issue, litter along the shoreline, appears to be considered a larger problem by hunters than the other issues, with about 46 percent considering it to be a "slight problem" and about 30 percent considering it to be a "moderate problem." In comparison, only four other issues were considered to be a "slight problem" by 20 percent or more of hunters, and no more than 13 percent of hunters considered any other issue to be a "moderate problem." About 20 percent of hunters also considered the related issue of sanitation along the shoreline to be a "slight problem," while about 13 percent considered it to be a "big problem." About 28 percent considered another management issue, availability of service/staffing, to be a "slight problem."

Regarding water conditions, hunters expressed the greatest level of concern about the issue of water level of fluctuations, with 20 percent considering this issue to be a "big problem" (more than any of the other 14 issues). More than half of hunters considered water level fluctuations to not be a problem. Perceptions of this issue being a problem are primarily associated with the Afterbay subunit of the OWA, where fluctuation is considered by some hunters to harm wildlife habitat and hunting success.

Regarding user interactions, the greatest level of concern was expressed about the number of people at developed facilities, with about 23 percent considering it a "slight problem" and 13 percent considering it a "moderate problem." About 21 percent considered noise from boats to be a "slight problem."

Table 5.2-22. Hunters' perceptions of issues as problems during their visit.

Survey Item / Issue	Response			
	Not a problem (%)	A slight problem (%)	A moderate problem (%)	A big Problem (%)
Management				
Litter along the shoreline	15.2	**45.5**	30.3	9.1
Sanitation along the shoreline	**63.3**	20.0	3.3	13.3
Overall safety and security	**84.4**	9.4	6.3	0.0
Availability of service/staffing	**64.0**	28.0	8.0	0.0
Adequate information/warnings provided	**74.3**	14.3	5.7	5.7
Access to the shoreline	**76.5**	11.8	5.9	5.9
Law enforcement presence	**83.3**	6.7	10.0	0.0
Water Conditions				
Floating debris in the water	**75.9**	13.8	3.4	6.9
Quality of water	**77.4**	6.5	12.9	3.2
Water level fluctuations	**53.3**	13.3	13.3	20.0
User Interactions				
Noise from boats and PWC	**67.9**	21.4	3.6	7.1
Boat speed or wake effects	**84.6**	7.7	3.8	3.8
Unsafe behavior by other users	**77.4**	12.9	3.2	6.5
Numbers of people at developed facilities	**60.0**	23.3	13.3	3.3
Use of alcohol by other users	**79.3**	10.3	6.9	3.4

Note: "N/A" responses not included in calculations or percentages. ***Bold*** *type indicates the most frequent response for each issue.*
Source: Hunter Survey, mailback portion (n=38).

5.2.8 Hunters' Opinions of the Adequacy of the Number of Facilities

Similar to the general visitor survey, the Hunter Survey asked hunters to evaluate the adequacy of the number of facilities of specific types. Seven of the 27 items within the general recreation visitor On-Site Survey were selected for inclusion in the Hunter Survey, while 20 items were judged to be not relevant to the OWA.

Regarding camping facilities, opinion appears to have been split regarding the number of campgrounds and screening between campsites between those who consider the number to be "too few" and those who consider the number "about right" (Table 5.2-23). Interest in camping facilities may be low among OWA hunters, with only 16-18 percent of hunters providing an opinion for the three camping items. Currently, there are only primitive camping opportunities in the OWA.

Boating facilities were relevant only to hunters who use the Afterbay subunit of the OWA; thus, only 40 percent of hunters provided an opinion about docks and 55 percent provided an opinion about boat ramps. Few hunters considered the number of boat ramps to be "too few," while about one-third considered the number of docks or temporary moorage to be "too few." The Larkin Road Car-top Boat Ramp on the Afterbay does not provide a dock for boaters.

Table 5.2-23. Hunters' opinions on the number of facilities.

Type of Facility	Response		
	Too Few (%)	About Right (%)	Too Many (%)
Camping Related			
Number of campgrounds	**42.9**	**42.9**	14.3
Number of group campsites	16.7	**66.7**	16.7
Screening between campsites	**50.0**	**50.0**	0.0
Boat Related			
Number of boat ramps	14.3	**85.7**	0.0
Number of docks or temporary moorage	33.3	**66.7**	0.0
Fishing/Hunting Related			
Lands for hunting	**68.6**	31.4	0.0
Other			
Number of restrooms	38.5	**61.5**	0.0

Note: N/A not included in calculations or percentages. ***Bold*** *type indicates most frequent response.*
Source: Hunter Survey, mailback portion (n=38).

More than two-thirds of hunters considered the amount of lands for hunting to be "too few," although most of the OWA, including the Afterbay subunit, is available for hunting during designated seasons. Lastly, about 39 percent considered the number of restrooms to be "too few." Currently, flush toilets are available within the OWA only at the Monument Hill Boat Ramp on the Afterbay, and vault toilets are available at a few other sites.

5.2.9 Hunters' Overall Satisfaction with Experience

The Hunter Survey (mailback) asked hunters to rate the overall satisfaction with their experience at the OWA, using the same 9-point scale as used by respondents to the general visitor Mailback Survey. Responses were converted to numerical scores with "extremely dissatisfied" equal to 1 and "extremely satisfied" equal to 9. Hunters generally rated their satisfaction high, with nearly two-thirds rating their satisfaction as "satisfied" or better (Table 5.2-24). In contrast, less than 11 percent rated their satisfaction as "somewhat dissatisfied" or worse. These responses parallel the 75 percent of hunters who said they were satisfied within the on-site portion of the Hunter Survey (yes/no format question).

Table 5.2-24. Hunters' overall satisfaction with trip.

Level of Satisfaction	Percent
(1) Extremely dissatisfied	0.0
(2) Very dissatisfied	5.4
(3) Dissatisfied	2.7
(4) Somewhat dissatisfied	2.7
(5) Neither satisfied or satisfied	10.8
(6) Somewhat satisfied	13.5
(7) Satisfied	**37.8**
(8) Very satisfied	21.6
(9) Extremely satisfied	5.4
Mean rating	6.5

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response.*
Source: Hunter Survey, mailback portion (n=38).

5.2.10 Additional Comments Provided by Hunters

At the end of the Hunter Survey, respondents were given space to write any additional comments they might have had. Nearly 30 percent of the respondents providing a comment mentioned that they had a good experience or believed that management was doing a good job (Table 5.2-25). Twenty-two percent of respondents making an additional comment mentioned things that management could do to improve hunting opportunities, including: cleaning up or improving habitat and weeds, planting food plots, or stocking more game. Thirteen percent of respondents felt the daily opening time should be earlier to allow hunters to set up or felt there were other regulations that could be changed. Some respondents felt that access could be improved (11 percent), water levels should be higher (9 percent), or more turkey hunting opportunities should be provided (7 percent). A few respondents made comments that mentioned other issues with management (7 percent) or that the area is too crowded (4 percent).

Table 5.2-25. Hunter Survey open-ended additional comments.

Comment	Percent
Had a good experience, think management is doing a good job	29.0
Clean up habitat/weeds/plant food plots/stock more game	22.0
Think opening time should be earlier/other regulations should be changed	13.0
Provide better access	11.0
Water levels should be higher	9.0
Provide more turkey hunting opportunities	7.0
Other issues with management (patrol more, devise a quail management plan, install permanent bathrooms)	7.0
Area is too crowded/problems with other hunters	4.0
Other (shooting area is too dangerous, don't sell the water, keep OWA free of charge to hunt in, more public hunting areas)	13.0

Note: Comments could fit into more than one category.
Source: Hunter Survey, on-site portion (n=106).

5.3 SIMILAR SITE SURVEY

The Similar Site Survey was administered at three reservoirs in Northern California deemed similar to the study area in terms of recreational opportunities – Black Butte Lake, Lake Berryessa, and Shasta Lake. All of the questions were contained in an on-site survey booklet similar to the one used in the Lake Oroville area. Most of the questions asked in the Similar Site Survey were identical in content to the questions asked of Lake Oroville area visitors, and included questions related to a description of their visit to these sites, their perceptions of conditions during the visit, description of past use, and boating experiences. Additional discussion of the Similar Site Survey is presented in Study R-14—*Assessment of Regional Recreation and Barriers to Recreation*.

The new data presented in this section come only from Similar Site Survey respondents. Because one of the primary purposes of the Similar Site Survey was to obtain data that could be used to provide context to data obtained from Lake Oroville area visitors about their perceptions and opinions, responses to each question are compared with data from all Lake Oroville area respondents. Responses to visit description and group description questions are compared to identify similarities and differences between the similar site and Lake Oroville area visitors. Demographic information was also collected for this purpose and is reported in Appendix F.

It is important to reiterate that although the same types of visitors as those contacted at the Lake Oroville area were targeted (boaters, anglers, campers, users of day use picnic and swim areas, trail users), the Similar Site Survey samples were obtained on just one or two summer weekends at each site, compared to a 12-month period at the Lake Oroville area. As a result, the smaller samples obtained at the similar site reservoirs may not be representative of the overall visitor populations. Also, certain user groups, in particular certain land-based users such as trail hikers and sightseers, comprise a smaller proportion of the survey sample at the similar sites than at Lake Oroville.

The last portion of the Similar Site Survey was directed at Lake Oroville. The first purpose of this section was to learn from those visitors to similar sites who had previously been to Lake Oroville and what their perceptions were of Lake Oroville. (These questions specifically referenced Lake Oroville rather than the Lake Oroville area to provide the most direct comparison to the similar site reservoirs.) The second purpose was to learn why visitors who had not been to the Lake Oroville area had not visited, and whether certain special events or facilities might motivate them to visit.

5.3.1 Description of Current Visit

To establish a general description of visits to each of the similar sites, respondents were asked to answer questions about the following subjects: length of stay; group size; reasons for visiting the lake at which they were interviewed; activities in which they

participated; their primary activity during their visit; and whether or not they were staying overnight.

5.3.1.1 Similar Site Visitors' Length of Stay, Overnight Stays, and Group Size

At all three similar site reservoirs, most visitors were visiting for one to three days (Table 5.3-1). However, larger percentages of Shasta Lake visitors were staying four to seven days (about 29 percent) and more than one week (about 21 percent) than at the other reservoirs, highlighting Shasta Lake's unique status among the group as a major destination-type of resource. At Lake Oroville, substantially more respondents (over 60 percent) were one-day visitors only. The average length of stay at Black Butte Lake, Lake Berryessa, and Lake Oroville was between two and three days, whereas at Shasta Lake it was 4.3 days, notably higher than the other lakes. Shasta Lake visitors also had the highest median length of stay with three days, while Lake Oroville had the lowest with one day.

Table 5.3-1. Similar site visitors' length of stay at their respective site.

Length of Stay	Similar Site			Lake Oroville (n=2,583) (%)
	Black Butte Lake (n=77) **(%)**	**Lake Berryessa** (n=112) **(%)**	**Shasta Lake** (n=104) **(%)**	
1 day	40.5	**44.3**	**38.7**	**61.4**
2-3 days	**43.3**	34.0	11.9	20.5
4-7 days	14.9	18.9	29.2	14.0
8-14 days	1.4	1.9	17.4	2.0
>14 days	0.0	0.9	3.3	2.0
	Mean (Median)	**Mean (Median)**	**Mean (Median)**	**Mean (Median)**
Number of days	2.3 (2.0)	2.7 (2.5)	4.3 (3.0)	2.8 (1.0)

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response category for each site.*
Columns may not total to 100 percent due to rounding error.
Sources: Similar Site Survey and On-Site Survey.

Over one-half of Similar Site Survey respondents at each reservoir reported that they had stayed or intended to stay overnight, whereas only 37 percent of Lake Oroville visitors were staying overnight (Table 5.3-2). Differences in the percent of visitors who indicated they were visiting for more than one day and who said they were staying overnight at the similar sites can be attributed to visitors who were not staying at the reservoir, as specified in the survey question, but somewhere else nearby but off-site. (Similar site visitors were not asked to describe their overnight accommodations.)

Table 5.3-2. Overnight visits at similar sites.

Response	Similar Site			Lake Oroville[1] (n=2,583) (%)
	Black Butte Lake (n=77) (%)	Lake Berryessa (n=112) (%)	Shasta Lake (n=104) (%)	
Staying overnight	**57.1**	**57.1**	**53.8**	37.0
Not staying overnight	42.9	42.9	46.2	**63.0**

1. The Lake Oroville area On-Site Survey asked visitors whether they were staying overnight in Butte County, rather than asking if they were staying overnight at Lake Oroville or the Lake Oroville area. However, data on the accommodations used by overnight visitors indicated most were staying at Lake Oroville campsites, on a houseboat, or with family or friends who live locally.
*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each site.*
Sources: Similar Site Survey and On-Site Survey.

The most common group size at all three similar sites as well as Lake Oroville was two to five people (Table 5.3-3). Six to ten people was the second most common group size, except at Black Butte Lake where groups of more than ten members were slightly more common. The average group size was substantially higher at Lake Berryessa (9.5 people) and Black Butte Lake (8.9 people) than at Shasta Lake (6.6 people) or Lake Oroville (6.5 people). Children comprised a similar proportion of visitors' groups at all the sites (about one third).

Table 5.3-3. Similar site group size and composition.

Group Size	Similar Site			Lake Oroville (n=2,583) (%)
	Black Butte Lake (n=77) (%)	Lake Berryessa (n=112) (%)	Shasta Lake (n=104) (%)	
1 person	0.0	0.9	2.0	10.2
2 – 5 people	**43.2**	**36.0**	**52.5**	**56.1**
6 – 10 people	27.1	35.2	31.6	20.0
More than 10 people	29.7	27.9	13.9	13.7
Mean number of adults	5.6	6.5	4.6	4.4
Mean number of children	3.3	3.0	2.0	2.1
Mean total group size	8.9	9.5	6.6	6.5

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response category for each site. Columns may not total to 100 percent due to rounding error.*
Sources: Similar Site Survey and On-Site Survey.

5.3.1.2 Similar Site Visitors' Reasons for Choosing to Visit Area

Like at Lake Oroville, proximity to their homes was the most frequent reason visitors chose to visit Black Butte Lake, Lake Berryessa (Table 5.3-4). At Shasta Lake, the most frequent reason for visiting was familiarity (respondents said they have visited many times) or respondents' considered it their favorite reservoir, while proximity was the second most common reason. Good natural resource conditions at the reservoir

(scenery, water quality, size of reservoir, etc.) were also a popular reason for visiting at all sites, but less so at Lake Oroville than the other sites. On the other hand, fishing opportunities were a substantially more prevalent reason for visiting Lake Oroville than the other sites, mentioned by nearly 20 percent of visitors there as compared to just four to eight percent of respondents at the other sites.

5.3.1.3 Similar Site Visitors' Primary Activity

The most popular primary activities varied by reservoir (Table 5.3-5). Swimming was the primary activity of substantially more visitors surveyed at Black Butte Lake than the other sites. Also, the boating activities of motor boating and water-skiing/wake boarding were substantially more prevalent at Lake Berryessa and Shasta Lake than the other sites. PWC use was a more common primary activity at Lake Berryessa than at the other sites. At Lake Oroville, unlike at the other sites, the most frequent primary activity was a land-based activity, bank fishing (primarily due to the dominance of this activity on the Feather River). Another activity that was more popular at Lake Oroville than any of the other three reservoirs was boat fishing. These responses correspond with fishing being the second most popular purpose for visiting Lake Oroville.

Table 5.3-4. Similar site visitors' reasons for choosing to visit their respective site.

Reason	Similar Site			Lake Oroville (n=2,583) (%)
	Black Butte Lake (n=77) (%)	Lake Berryessa (n=112) (%)	Shasta Lake (n=104) (%)	
Proximity to home	**52.5**	**50.0**	25.0	**41.2**
Good facilities/maintenance	20.3	8.8	8.3	9.7
Good natural resource conditions (water quality, scenery, etc.)	10.2	23.5	20.2	13.8
Good social conditions (not crowded, nice people, etc.)	13.6	7.8	3.6	8.7
Boating opportunities	8.5	10.8	4.8	5.7
Swimming or other water-based recreation	6.8	1.0	1.2	4.6
New/change of pace	8.5	11.8	7.1	5.1
Familiar/favorite	3.4	9.8	**26.2**	8.0
Fishing opportunities	5.1	3.9	8.3	19.5
Friends/family there	3.4	4.9	4.8	6.1
Walking, hiking, other land-based activities	3.4	1.0	3.6	7.1
Low cost	3.4	1.0	0.0	3.0
Access	3.4	5.9	0.0	2.0
Boat kept there	0.0	2.0	1.2	2.8
Special event	0.0	2.0	3.6	3.7
Other	1.7	2.0	1.2	1.4

Note: Respondents could give more than one reason for visiting, therefore columns total to more than 100 percent..
***Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each site.*
Sources: Similar Site Survey and On-Site Survey.

Each of these differences has implications for the data comparing visitor perceptions and opinions, discussed below. Land-based users may have different perceptions and concerns than boaters, and anglers may have different perceptions and concerns than non-anglers.

Table 5.3-5. Similar site visitors' primary activity at their respective site.

Activity	Similar Site			Lake Oroville (n=2,583) (%)
	Black Butte Lake (n=77) (%)	Lake Berryessa (n=112) (%)	Shasta Lake (n=104) (%)	
Swimming	**20.6**	11.0	7.1	11.0
Relaxing	14.7	9.0	16.2	5.8
Water-ski/wake board	11.8	**28.0**	18.2	9.4
Motor boating	8.8	18.0	**19.2**	11.2
Picnicking	7.4	4.0	4.0	2.7
Boat fishing	5.9	6.0	6.1	10.8
Tent camping	5.9	8.0	5.1	3.3
Bank fishing	4.4	0.0	6.1	**16.6**
RV camping	4.4	2.0	6.1	1.8
Hiking	2.9	0.0	0.0	1.7
PWC use	1.5	10.0	6.1	3.8

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent primary activity for each site. Columns may not total to 100 percent due to rounding error.*
Sources: Similar Site Survey and On-Site Survey.

5.3.2 Similar Site Visitors' Past Use of Reservoirs

Similar site visitors were asked about their past use of the reservoirs where they were interviewed. Specifically, they were asked about the number of times they typically visit per year and the season or seasons they had visited the area during the previous 12 months.

5.3.2.1 Frequency of Visits to Similar Sites

At each of the similar site reservoirs, about 44-48 percent of respondents considered themselves to be regular visitors, defined as visiting three or more times per year (Table 5.3-6). At Black Butte Lake and Shasta Lake, the second largest group was occasional visitors (25 percent and 33 percent, respectively), defined as visiting one to two times per year. However, Lake Oroville visitors were much more often regular visitors, with over 68 percent of visitors indicating that they visit the site three or more times per year while just 18 percent were occasional visitors. First-time visitors were a particularly large segment of the visitors surveyed at Lake Berryessa (33 percent) and were 20 percent of Black Butte Lake visitors, as compared to about 12 percent at Lake Oroville.

Table 5.3-6. Similar sites visitors' frequency of visits to their respective site.

Visitor Frequency	Similar Site			Lake Oroville (n=2,583) (%)
	Black Butte Lake (n=77) (%)	Lake Berryessa (n=112) (%)	Shasta Lake (n=104) (%)	
Regular[1]	**46.7**	**43.6**	**48.0**	**68.1**
Occasional[2]	25.3	18.2	32.7	15.5
Infrequent[3]	8.0	5.5	7.1	4.4
First Visit	20.0	32.7	12.2	11.9

1. Regular visitor was defined as visiting three or more times per year.
2. Occasional visitor was defined as visiting 1-2 times per year.
3. Infrequent visitor was defined as visiting less than one time per year.
*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each site.*
Sources: Similar Site Survey and On-Site Survey.

5.3.2.2 Similar Site Visitors' Seasons of Visitation

Over 90 percent of respondents at each similar site reservoir visited during the summer (Table 5.3-7). Spring was the next most common season for visits, particularly at Shasta Lake and Black Butte Lake, where about 45 and 36 percent of respondents, respectively, had made spring visits. Lake Berryessa, however, appears to be more of a summer season site with no more than 20 percent of respondents visiting during any season other than summer. About 21 percent and 33 percent of respondents at Black Butte and Shasta Lakes, respectively, visit during the fall. Winter is the season of least visitation at any of the three similar site reservoirs.

Table 5.3-7. Seasons similar site visitors had visited their respective site during previous 12 months.

Season	Similar Site			Lake Oroville (n=2,583) (%)
	Black Butte Lake (n=77) (%)	Lake Berryessa (n=112) (%)	Shasta Lake (n=104) (%)	
Spring	36.4	19.6	45.2	52.5
Summer	**93.5**	**92.0**	**98.1**	**85.6**
Fall	20.8	13.4	32.7	45.5
Winter	5.2	4.5	16.3	29.3

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each site.*
Source: Similar Site Survey and On-Site Survey.

The Lake Oroville area, however, had higher percentages of visitors who had visited during the winter, fall, and spring than the other three reservoirs, indicating proportionally more non-peak season and year-round visitors than the similar sites. In this regard, Shasta Lake was most similar to Lake Oroville, with more fall, winter, and spring visitors than the other two similar sites. Winter use at Lake Oroville, in particular,

stands out, although it is the season with the fewest visitors at all the sites. At Lake Oroville, 29 percent of respondents visited in the winter versus only about five percent of Black Butte and Lake Berryessa respondents and 16 percent of Shasta Lake respondents. The reason Lake Oroville may have more visitation in seasons other than summer may be due to the popularity of fishing at Lake Oroville and the Feather River, which occurs primarily in the fall and spring. Additionally, many Lake Oroville recreation sites are close to the community of Oroville, encouraging year-round use by local residents. The other reservoirs are notably more distant from similar population centers.

5.3.3 Similar Site Visitors' Perceptions and Opinions

Respondents at the similar sites were asked to provide their perceptions and opinions regarding the following at their respective site: crowding, scenery, satisfaction, likelihood of their return, management issues, and number of specific types of facilities at the site.

5.3.3.1 Similar Site Visitors' Perceptions of Crowding

Visitors to the similar sites and the Lake Oroville area rated crowding at the location where they were interviewed using a 9-point scale in which 1 meant "not at all crowded" and 9 meant "extremely crowded."

Perceptions of crowding were mostly low at Black Butte Lake and Shasta Lake, with 68 and 60 percent, respectively, providing ratings of "slightly crowded" or less (a rating of 3 or lower) (Table 5.3-8). At Black Butte Lake in particular, more than one-third of those surveyed considered the location where they were to be "not at all crowded." At Lake Berryessa, however, perceptions were more mixed, with just 39 percent rating crowding as "slightly crowded" or less, while 32 percent rated crowding in the middle of the scale (rating of 4, 5, or 6, with 6 meaning "moderately crowded") and nearly 30 percent rating crowding as worse than "moderately crowded."

Overall, perceptions of crowding at Oroville were comparable to Black Butte Lake and Shasta Lake, with crowding ratings in each third of the scale within a few percentage points of those sites' ratings. However, the 41 percent of Lake Oroville area visitors who considered the site where they were surveyed to be "not at all crowded" was substantially more than at Shasta Lake or Lake Berryessa. The differences in perceptions of crowding were greatest between Lake Oroville and Lake Berryessa, where 27 percent fewer visitors rated crowding as "slightly crowded" or less, while nearly 20 percent more visitors rating crowding as more than "moderately crowded."

Table 5.3-8. Similar site visitors' perceptions of crowding.

Rating	Similar Site			Lake Oroville (n=2,583) (%)
	Black Butte Lake (n=77) (%)	Lake Berryessa (n=112) (%)	Shasta Lake (n=104) (%)	
1 – Not at all crowded	**36.0**	14.2	18.0	**40.6**
2	13.3	9.4	14.0	11.4
3 – Slightly crowded	18.7	15.1	**28.0**	14.0
4	8.0	7.5	12.0	5.0
5	5.3	2.8	5.0	6.2
6 – Moderately crowded	13.3	**21.7**	13.0	12.3
7	1.3	11.3	7.0	4.1
8	2.7	5.7	2.0	2.2
9 – Extremely crowded	1.3	12.3	1.0	4.3
Mean score	3.0	4.9	3.6	3.2

Note: Ratings refer to the location where respondents were surveyed. ***Bold*** *type indicates the most frequent response for each site. Columns may not total to 100 percent due to rounding error.*
Sources: Similar Site Survey and On-Site Survey.

5.3.3.2 Similar Site Visitors' Opinions Regarding Scenery

In addition to crowding, Similar Site Survey respondents were asked to rate the scenery of the survey location. Again, a 9-point scale was used, with 1 equaling a rating of "extremely unappealing" and 9 equaling a rating of "extremely appealing."

The scenery at the similar site reservoirs was most frequently perceived as being "appealing" (a rating of 6), the rating given by 37-43 percent of visitors at each site (Table 5.3-9). Most other visitors at Black Butte Lake and Lake Berryessa rated the scenery one point higher or lower on the scale, while relatively few rated the scenery as "unappealing" (a rating of 4) or lower. Shasta Lake, however, had the highest number of visitors who felt the scenery to be "extremely appealing" (29 percent), while few gave ratings below 6 ("appealing").

Scenery ratings given by Lake Oroville visitors were somewhat between these extremes, with the largest percentage (32 percent) rating scenery as "appealing," and most others rating scenery one point higher or lower on the scale. Although not as common a rating as at Shasta Lake, the "extremely appealing" rating was given by 17 percent of Lake Oroville visitors. The mean scenery rating for Lake Oroville was 6.3, somewhat higher than the mean rating at Black Butte Lake, about the same as at Lake Berryessa, and somewhat lower than the mean rating at Shasta Lake.

Table 5.3-9. Similar site visitors' rating of scenery.

Rating	Similar Site			Lake Oroville (n=2,583) (%)
	Black Butte Lake (n=77) (%)	Lake Berryessa (n=112) (%)	Shasta Lake (n=104) (%)	
1 – Extremely unappealing	1.3	0.9	1.0	2.2
2	1.3	0.0	0.0	1.0
3	1.3	0.9	0.0	4.0
4 – Unappealing	9.1	2.8	4.0	4.8
5	16.0	17.6	6.0	14.9
6 - Appealing	**42.7**	**39.8**	**37.0**	**32.0**
7	17.3	19.4	16.0	16.0
8	5.3	4.6	7.0	8.1
9 – Extremely appealing	5.3	13.9	29.0	17.1
Mean Score	5.9	6.4	7.0	6.3

Note: Ratings refer to the location where respondents were surveyed. ***Bold*** *type indicates the most frequent response for each site. Columns may not total to 100 percent due to rounding error.*
Sources: Similar Site Survey and On-Site Survey.

5.3.4 Similar Site Visitors' Perceptions of Management Issues

Survey participants at the three similar sites and Lake Oroville were asked to rate several recreation issues related to management responsibilities, water conditions, and user interactions in terms of whether they found each item to be "not a problem," a "slight problem," a "moderate problem," or a "big problem" during their visit.

For purposes of comparison, the percentage of respondents who considered each issue to be a "big problem," as shown in Table 5.3-10, is the focus here. Only a few issues were considered to be a "big problem" by more than ten percent of respondents at any of the similar sites. While there were no single problems identified by ten percent or more respondents at Black Butte Lake, and only one at Lake Berryessa (floating debris in the water, by ten percent of respondents), there were five issues at Shasta Lake that more than ten percent of respondents felt were a "big problem." These included access to the shoreline (14 percent), cost to use facilities (10 percent), exposed land during low water levels (12 percent), water level fluctuations (12 percent), and noise from boats and PWC (11 percent). For seven of the ten user interaction issues, the highest percentage of visitors who considered the issue to be a "big problem" was at Shasta Lake, although for only one of those issues, noise from boats and PWC, was that percentage more than ten percent.

Table 5.3-10. Similar site visitors' perception of issues as being a "big problem" at their respective sites[1]

Survey Item/Issue	Similar Site			Lake Oroville (n=1,071) (%)
	Black Butte Lake (n=77) (%)	Lake Berryessa (n=112) (%)	Shasta Lake (n=104) (%)	
Management				
Access to the shoreline	3.2	8.6	**14.1**	12.6
Adequacy of landscaping of facilities	5.1	**8.9**	4.4	4.2
Adequate information/warnings provided	3.4	3.7	**4.1**	3.2
Availability of service/staffing	4.9	**5.0**	0.0	4.2
Cost to use facilities	3.3	8.8	**10.3**	2.2
Law enforcement presence	3.6	2.9	4.8	**6.2**
Litter along the shoreline	1.6	8.2	0.0	**10.6**
Overall safety and security	0.0	2.5	2.6	**3.2**
Sanitation along the shoreline	1.6	7.4	0.0	**7.8**
Water Conditions				
Exposed land during lower water levels	3.8	8.0	12.0	**27.7**
Floating debris in the water	0.0	10.1	6.9	**11.3**
Quality of water	3.2	**6.2**	4.5	4.2
Shallow areas during lower water levels	3.8	6.8	6.8	**23.6**
Water level fluctuations	0.0	3.9	12.9	**25.9**
User Interactions				
Boat speed or wake effects	3.3	4.1	**7.4**	5.3
Encounters between PWC and other users	3.6	5.5	**9.7**	9.1
Encounters between pleasure boaters & boat anglers	0.0	2.8	3.2	**3.6**
Encounters between trail users & other users	0.0	0.0	0.0	**0.9**
Encounters between water-skiers & others	0.0	2.7	**4.9**	2.9
Noise from boats and PWC	4.8	5.1	**11.6**	5.1
Numbers of people at developed facilities	3.4	2.7	**7.4**	4.2
Numbers of watercraft	3.5	**5.3**	4.4	3.8
Unsafe behavior by others	1.8	6.6	**9.1**	7.3
Use of alcohol by others	1.7	3.8	4.5	**4.8**

[1]Resondents rated issues as "not a problem," "a slight problem," "a moderate problem," or "a big problem."
*Note: **Bold** type indicates the reservoir at which the greatest percentage considered an issue to be a "big problem."*
"N/A" responses were not included in calculations. The number of responses varies by item.
Sources: Similar Site Survey and Mailback Survey.

At Lake Oroville, however, there were six issues perceived as "big problems" by more than ten percent of respondents and, in two instances by more than 25 percent of the respondents. Access to the shoreline (13 percent) and litter along the shoreline (11 percent) were the issues related to access and facilities most often identified as "big problems." The remaining issues considered to be "big problems" by more than ten percent of Lake Oroville visitors were all related to water conditions: exposed land during lower water levels (28 percent), water level fluctuations (26 percent), shallow areas during lower water levels (24 percent), and floating debris in the water (11 percent). As mentioned previously, a similar percentage of Lake Berryessa visitors

considered floating debris in the water to a be a “big problem” (about ten percent), while the water level issues were considered to be “big problems” at Lake Oroville by a much greater percentage than at any of the similar sites.

5.3.5 Similar Site Visitors’ Perceptions of the Number of Facilities Provided

Respondents were asked to indicate their opinion of the number of 20 types of facilities and services at the similar sites and at Lake Oroville. Specifically, respondents were asked to rate the facilities and services as “too few,” “about right,” or “too many.” This discussion focuses on the percentage of respondents who considered each type of facility to be “too few” in number, as shown in Table 5.3-11. In general, most respondents at the similar sites found the number of facilities to be “about right,” with the exception of the number of shower facilities at campgrounds at Shasta Lake and the number of fish cleaning stations at Lake Berryessa. These two items were the only items that more than 50 percent of visitors to any of the three sites considered to be “too few” in number. However, while not a majority, from one third to one half of visitors considered several types of facilities to be “too few” in number at each site. This discussion highlights those facilities that at least one-third of those who expressed an opinion considered to be “too few” in number.

It is important to note that the percentages in the table are based only on those who expressed an opinion about each facility. Visitors were instructed to check the “N/A” response for items they felt did not apply to them; 50 to 75 percent or more of similar site visitors gave that response for most of the facilities listed, with particularly high percentages of such responses for facilities such as floating campsites or equestrian facilities that did not exist at the respective site. A majority of similar site visitors did express an opinion about more common types of facilities, such as day use areas along the shore, swim areas, and restrooms.

At Black Butte Lake, 40-46 percent of visitors who expressed an opinion considered the number of floating campsites, screening between campsites, and the number of boat-in gas stations to be “too few.” (A majority of visitors expressed no opinion about floating campsites (71 percent), screening between campsites (52 percent) or boat-in gas stations (62 percent).) About 37-38 percent of Black Butte Lake visitors who expressed an opinion felt there were “too few” campsites with RV hookups, developed day use and picnic areas along the shore, and restrooms. (A majority of visitors expressed no opinion about campsites with RV hookups (65 percent) while over 70 percent did express opinions about the other two items.)

Table 5.3-11. Similar site visitors' perceptions of the number of facilities provided as being "too few" at their respective sites.

Facility Type	Similar Site			Lake Oroville (n=2,583) (%)
	Black Butte Lake (n=77) (%)	Lake Berryessa (n=112) (%)	Shasta Lake (n=104) (%)	
Camping				
Number of campgrounds	13.0	20.0	**40.0**	30.9
Number of campsites with RV hookups	37.0	31.7	31.3	**42.4**
Number of floating campsites	40.9	25.9	30.4	**46.7**
Number of group campsites	13.9	22.2	18.8	**38.0**
Number of shower facilities at campgrounds	29.5	46.2	**70.0**	44.6
Presence of campground hosts	8.5	13.5	17.0	**17.3**
Screening between campsites	**45.9**	42.0	36.4	39.9
Boating				
Number of boat ramps	7.1	17.2	24.6	**37.1**
Number of boat-in campsites	21.4	18.8	34.9	**43.6**
Number of boat-in gas stations	**41.4**	16.7	27.6	37.7
Number of boat-in primitive campsites	20.7	16.7	37.5	**42.3**
Number of docks or temporary moorage	22.5	26.2	37.9	**51.6**
Number of marinas	17.1	5.1	17.6	**34.5**
Fishing				
Number of fish cleaning stations	27.3	**51.7**	33.3	46.5
Other Facilities				
Amount of swim areas	14.0	31.8	44.6	**48.3**
Number of dev. day use/picnic areas along shore	37.7	28.8	50.0	**57.1**
Number of equestrian facilities	8.7	15.2	14.3	**30.3**
Number of group picnic sites	17.6	32.7	**39.0**	38.4
Number of interp. programs/educ. opportunities	26.5	17.9	35.3	**45.5**
Number of restrooms	36.7	**49.3**	36.2	40.0

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the reservoir with the highest percentage of visitors responding "too few" for each item. "N/A" responses were not included in calculations. The number of respondents varies by facility type.*
Source: Similar Site Survey and On-Site Survey.

Some of the same types of facilities were among those most often considered "too few" in number by Lake Berryessa visitors, including screening between campsites (42 percent), and number of restrooms (49 percent). (As at Black Butte Lake, most visitors expressed no opinion about screening between campsites while about 60 percent did express an opinion about restrooms.) The highest percentage (52 percent) of visitors who expressed an opinion considered the number of fish cleaning stations to be "too few" (74 percent expressed no opinion). The number of shower facilities at campgrounds was considered "too few" by 46 percent of Lake Berryessa visitors who expressed an opinion (54 percent expressed no opinion).

Perceptions of needs for more facilities appears to be greater at Shasta Lake than the other two similar sites, with 12 of the 20 facilities and services listed considered to be "too few" in number by at least one-third of the visitors who expressed an opinion.

Seventy percent considered the number of shower facilities at campgrounds, 50 percent considered the number of day use areas along shore, and 45 percent considered the number of swim areas to be "too few" (62 percent expressed no opinion about shower facilities at campgrounds while 50 percent of visitors did express an opinion about day use areas along shore and 54 percent expressed an opinion about swim areas). From 33 to 40 percent felt that eight other types of camping, boating, and other facilities were "too few" in number, although 52 to 67 percent of visitors did not express an opinion about most of these items. Most Shasta Lake visitors did express an opinion about the number of docks and the number of restrooms, with 38 and 36 percent, respectively, considering the number present to be "too few."

At Lake Oroville, visitors' opinions of the need for more facilities were more extensive than any of the similar sites, with 17 of the 20 types of facilities and services considered to be "too few" in number by at least one third of those who expressed an opinion. Two types of facilities were considered to be "too few" in number by a majority of those who expressed an opinion: the number of developed day use areas along the shore and the number of docks or temporary moorage. Interest in these facilities is apparently high as a majority of visitors expressed an opinion about them. From 35 to 47 percent of those who expressed an opinion considered the remaining 15 facilities and services to be "too few." However, from 52 to 77 percent of visitors expressed no opinion about most of those items. The exceptions to this were the number of boat ramps, the amount of swim areas, and the number of restrooms, about which between 60 to 82 percent of visitors did express an opinion.

5.3.6 Similar Site Visitors' Satisfaction and Likelihood of Returning to Site

Visitors' satisfaction with their recreation experience at each of the similar survey sites as well as at Lake Oroville was relatively high, ranging from 69 percent satisfaction at Lake Berryessa to 85 percent satisfaction at Shasta Lake (Table 5.3-12). In comparison, 71 percent of Lake Oroville respondents indicated they were "satisfied" to "extremely satisfied" with their recreation experience there. However, Lake Oroville also had the largest percentage of respondents indicating dissatisfaction with their recreation experience (12 percent) as compared to one to eight percent at the similar sites.

Similar Site Survey respondents were questioned as to how likely they were to return to the survey location, using a 9-point scale where 1 equals "extremely unlikely" and 9 equals "extremely likely" (Table 5.3-13). The most frequent response in each of these sites was "extremely likely," and 58 to 73 percent of visitors to each reservoir considered a return visit to be "very" or "extremely likely." The mean score for each reservoir indicates that a return is between "likely" and "very likely." This question was not asked within the Lake Oroville area surveys.

Table 5.3-12. Similar site visitors' satisfaction with their recreation experience.

Level of Satisfaction	Similar Site			Lake Oroville (n=2,583) (%)
	Black Butte Lake (n=77) (%)	Lake Berryessa (n=112) (%)	Shasta Lake (n=104) (%)	
Satisfied[1]	**74.7**	**68.9**	**84.7**	**70.6**
Neutral[2]	24.0	23.6	9.2	17.7
Dissatisfied[3]	1.3	7.5	6.1	11.7

1. Satisfied category includes: "satisfied," "very satisfied," and "extremely satisfied."
2. Neutral category includes: "somewhat satisfied," "neutral," "somewhat dissatisfied."
3. Dissatisfied category includes: "dissatisfied," "very dissatisfied," "extremely dissatisfied."
*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response category for each site.*
Sources: Similar Site Survey and Mailback Survey.

Table 5.3-13. Similar site visitors' likelihood of returning to the reservoir where surveyed.

Rating	Similar Site		
	Black Butte Lake (n=77) (%)	Lake Berryessa (n=112) (%)	Shasta Lake (n=104) (%)
1 – Extremely unlikely	0.0	2.8	1.0
2 – Very unlikely	3.9	0.9	1.0
3 – Unlikely	1.3	2.8	4.2
4 – Somewhat unlikely	6.6	4.6	0.0
5 – Neutral	5.3	7.4	0.0
6 – Somewhat likely	7.9	6.5	3.1
7 – Likely	17.1	13.0	17.7
8 – Very likely	23.7	21.3	26.0
9 – Extremely likely	**34.2**	**40.7**	**46.9**
Mean Score	7.3	7.4	7.9

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each site. Columns may not total to 100 percent due to rounding error.*
Source: Similar Site Survey.

5.3.7 Boating Sub-section of Similar Site Surveys

Respondents at the similar sites were also asked about their boating experiences while at their respective sites, using many of the same questions as used on the On-Site Survey administered at the Lake Oroville area. Specifically, respondents at the similar sites were asked about encounters with other visitors in which they perceived they were at-risk; observed activities in which others were placed at-risk; crowding on the water; primary type of watercraft used; use of the boat launches and typical waiting times to use the ramp they used most frequently; and overall satisfaction with their boating experience.

5.3.7.1 Encounters on the Water and Observations of Boating Activity that Respondents Felt Put Them or Other Boaters at Risk

No more than about ten percent of visitors at the three similar sites reported having an encounter with other users in which respondents felt that they were put at risk (Table 5.3-14). Of those who did have such an encounter at similar sites (less than ten boaters at each site), the encounters were described as PWC users being unsafe, boaters too close together, or boaters not following general boating safety rules. Ten percent of Lake Oroville boaters also said they had such an encounter during their visit, with similar types of encounters described. Conflicts with PWC were relatively less often described as the cause of the "at risk" encounters at the Lake Oroville area than at the similar sites.

Table 5.3-14. Similar site boaters' encounters on the water that they felt put them at risk.

	Similar Site			
	Black Butte Lake (n=77) **(%)**	**Lake Berryessa** (n=112) **(%)**	**Shasta Lake** (n=104) **(%)**	**Lake Oroville[1]** (n=1,361) **(%)**
On this trip, did you personally experience any encounters with other users on the water that put you at risk?				
Yes	6.4	10.2	9.9	9.6
No	**93.6**	**89.8**	**90.1**	**90.4**
If yes…please describe the encounter.[2]				
PWC users being unsafe	**33.3**	**55.6**	**62.5**	**21.9**
Boaters coming too close	0.0	22.2	25.0	21.1
Not following right-of-way, other boating safety rules	**33.3**	0.0	25.0	20.2
Boaters speeding/ignoring no-wake zones	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.8
Other [3]	**33.3**	22.2	25.0	16.6
Unspecified/unclear	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.4

1. Includes respondents from the Forebay, Afterbay, and Diversion Pool, as well as Lake Oroville.
2. The number of respondents who described encounters at the similar sites was small: Black Butte Lake (n=4); Lake Berryessa (n=9); Shasta Lake (n=8). Lake Oroville (n=81).
3. Includes problems at boat ramp, alcohol use, theft, other undesirable behavior.
Note: Respondents could list more than one type of encounter. ***Bold*** *type indicates the most frequent response for each site.*
Sources: Similar Site Survey and On-Site Survey.

Compared with their own experiences with unsafe boating behavior, slightly more respondents at two of the three similar sites reported observing boating activities that they felt that put others at risk (Table 5.3-15). About 15 percent of Lake Berryessa and Shasta Lake boaters reported observing such activity (in contrast to just six percent of boaters at Black Butte Lake). The types of behaviors described were similar to those described as putting the respondent at risk: PWC users being unsafe, boaters too close together, or boaters not following general water safety rules. The 14 percent of Lake Oroville boaters who had observed such activity was about the same as at Lake

Berryessa and Shasta Lake. Once again, PWC users were more often described as the source of the unsafe behavior at the similar sites as compared to the Lake Oroville area.

Table 5.3-15. Similar site boaters' observations of boating activities that they felt put others at risk.

	Similar Site			
	Black Butte Lake (n=77) **(%)**	**Lake Berryessa** (n=112) **(%)**	**Shasta Lake** (n=104) **(%)**	**Lake Oroville[1]** (n=1,361) **(%)**
Did you observe any boating activity during this trip that you felt put others at risk?				
Yes	6.4	14.8	14.8	13.6
No	**93.6**	**85.2**	**85.2**	**86.4**
If yes…briefly describe.[2]				
PWC users being unsafe	**66.7**	**46.2**	**75.0**	18.1
Boaters speeding/ignoring no-wake zones	0.0	23.1	16.7	14.8
Boaters too close together	0.0	15.4	16.7	10.3
Not following right-of-way, other boating safety rules	33.3	0.0	16.7	17.4
Other [3]	0.0	7.7	0.0	**18.7**
Unspecified/unclear	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.6

1. Includes respondents from the Forebay, Afterbay, and Diversion Pool, as well as Lake Oroville.
2. The number of respondents who described unsafe boating activity at the similar sites was small: Black Butte Lake (n=3); Lake Berryessa (n=14); Shasta Lake (n=13). Lake Oroville (n=123).
3. Other activities alcohol use, discourteous behavior, and problems at ramps.
Note: Respondents could describe more than one type of activity. ***Bold*** *type indicates the most frequent response for each site.*
Sources: Similar Site Survey and On-Site Survey.

5.3.7.2 Similar Site Boaters' Perceptions of Crowding on the Water

Generally, most respondents did not feel crowded on the water at the similar site reservoirs (Table 5.3-16). Perceptions of crowding were lowest at Black Butte Lake, where about 44 percent of boaters felt "not at all crowded" and nearly 65 percent of boaters felt "slightly crowded" or less while on the water. Perceptions of crowding on the water were somewhat greater at Shasta Lake, where more than half of the boaters considered the reservoir "slightly crowded" or lower on the scale. Perceptions of crowding were more divided at Lake Berryessa, with nearly 49 percent of boaters feeling "slightly crowded" or less (ratings of 3 or lower), about 32 percent feeling "moderately crowded" (ratings of 4 to 6), and about 20 percent feeling more than "moderately" (up to "extremely") crowded. The mean crowding rating was also highest at Lake Berryessa, with a mean rating of 4.2 as compared to 3.8 at Shasta Lake and 2.9 at Black Butte Lake.

Lake Oroville boaters' perceptions of crowding were most comparable to Black Butte Lake in terms of the percent of respondents that felt "not at all crowded" to "slightly crowded" (about 67 percent of respondents at Lake Oroville versus about 65 percent at

Black Butte Lake). The mean crowding rating of 3.2 is slightly higher than at Black Butte Lake, but about half a point lower than at Shasta Lake and a full point lower than at Lake Berryessa.

Table 5.3-16. Similar site boaters' perception of crowding on the water at their respective sites.

Crowding Rating	Similar Site			Lake Oroville[1] (n=1,361) (%)
	Black Butte Lake (n=41) (%)	Lake Berryessa (n=70) (%)	Shasta Lake (n=75) (%)	
1 – Not at all crowded	**44.1**	**21.2**	15.3	**30.1**
2	8.8	12.1	8.3	15.4
3 – Slightly crowded	11.8	15.2	**27.8**	21.0
4	5.9	4.5	13.9	6.5
5	5.9	6.1	11.1	6.5
6 – Moderately crowded	20.6	**21.2**	15.3	14.5
7	2.9	7.6	4.2	3.1
8	0.0	4.5	1.4	1.2
9 – Extremely crowded	0.0	7.6	2.8	1.7
Mean crowded rating	2.9	4.2	3.8	3.2

1. Peak season weekend crowding responses at Lake Oroville were used to better match the timing of Similar Site Survey; data includes ratings for Forebay, Afterbay, and Diversion Pool).
*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each site. Columns may not total to 100 percent due to rounding error.*
Sources: Similar Site Survey and On-Site Survey.

5.3.7.3 Primary Boat Type Used by Similar Site Boaters

The majority of respondents – between 73 and 91 percent – from all three similar site reservoirs primarily use a runabout/ski boat/pontoon boat/cabin cruiser (Table 5.3-17). Personal watercraft were the primary watercraft of the second largest percentage of respondents at each of the similar sites (between eight and 19 percent) and were especially prevalent among Lake Berryessa boaters surveyed. To a lesser degree, the runabout/ ski boat/pontoon boat/cabin cruiser was the primary watercraft category of the majority of Lake Oroville respondents as well, with 67 percent of boaters using those types of boats. PWC were the second most popular primary watercraft at Lake Oroville as well (11 percent). However, houseboats were much more frequently used as a primary watercraft by the Lake Oroville boaters surveyed (9 percent) than at any of the similar sites. Houseboats were present at Lake Berryessa and Shasta Lake, but the limited sampling reduced the opportunity for those boaters to be included in the survey sample.

Table 5.3-17. Primary watercraft type used by similar site boaters at their respective sites.

Watercraft Type	Similar Site			Lake Oroville (n=1,361) (%)
	Black Butte Lake (n=40) (%)	Lake Berryessa (n=73) (%)	Shasta Lake (n=75) (%)	
Runabout/Ski boat/Pontoon boat/Cabin cruiser	**72.5**	**74.0**	**90.7**	**66.9**
Houseboat	0.0	0.0	1.3	8.9
Sailboat	2.5	2.7	0.0	1.9
Canoe/kayak	7.5	0.0	0.0	3.8
PWC (jet-ski, wave runner, etc.)	10.0	19.2	8.0	11.1
Other [1]	7.5	4.1	0.0	7.4

1. Other included fishing boat, bass boat, jet boat, etc.
*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each site.*
Sources: Similar Site Survey and On-Site Survey.

5.3.7.4 Similar Site Boaters' Use of Launch Ramps and Typical Waiting Time

At least two-thirds of respondents at each of the similar sites, including 90 percent of Shasta Lake respondents, had used one of the boat ramps at the reservoir where they were surveyed (Table 5.3-18). Of the respondents who indicated that they had used boat launches, only 25 percent of Black Butte respondents reported having had to wait to use the ramp, compared to about 45 percent of Lake Berryessa and Shasta Lake respondents. Black Butte Lake respondents that did have to wait had the shortest waiting time, with an average of six minutes. Shasta Lake respondents on average waited ten minutes, and Lake Berryessa respondents waited the longest, on average, with 14 minutes.

Over 92 percent of Lake Oroville boaters had used one of the boat ramps, and the 43 percent who said they typically have to wait to use the ramp they use most often was slightly lower than those at Lake Berryessa and Shasta Lake (46 and 45 percent, respectively), but still substantially higher than the rate at Black Butte Lake (25 percent). The average wait time to launch at Lake Oroville (10 minutes) was comparable with that at Shasta Lake (10 minutes), longer than that at Black Butte Lake (6 minutes), and shorter than that at Lake Berryessa (14 minutes).

Table 5.3-18. Similar site boaters' use of boat ramps and waits to use launch.

	Similar Site			Lake Oroville[1] (n=1,361) (%)
	Black Butte Lake (n=77) (%)	Lake Berryessa (n=112) (%)	Shasta Lake (n=104) (%)	
Have you ever used one of the boat launches at (reservoir surveyed)?				
Yes	**68.1**	**67.0**	**90.1**	**92.4**
No	31.9	33.0	9.9	7.6
If yes…Do you typically have to wait to use the boat launch you most frequently use?				
Yes	25.0	45.8	45.2	43.0
No	**75.0**	**54.2**	**54.8**	**57.0**
If yes…On average, how many minutes do you have to wait to use the ramp?				
1-5 minutes	75.0	34.6	43.8	37.8
6-10 minutes	12.5	11.6	25.0	36.8
>10 minutes	12.5	53.8	31.2	25.4
Average length of wait	6 min.	14 min.	10 min.	10 min.

1. Survey data for Lake Oroville includes both the peak summer season and non-peak season; response related to waiting to use ramps were similar between the two seasons; data includes responses given by Forebay, Afterbay, and Diversion Pool boaters.
*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each site.*
Sources: Similar Site Survey and On-Site Survey.

5.3.7.5 Similar Site Boaters' Overall Satisfaction with Boating Experience

Boaters' overall satisfaction with the boating experience varied widely between the similar sites, ranging from 66 percent satisfied at Black Butte Lake to 89 percent satisfied at Shasta Lake (Table 5.3-19). Satisfaction at Lake Berryessa was between these two levels but closer to Black Butte Lake at 74 percent. The number of dissatisfied boaters surveyed at each reservoir was between two and four boaters.

Of the 34 percent of respondents reporting dissatisfaction with their boating experience at Black Butte Lake, the majority indicated that it was due to water conditions, while crowding and reservoir water level were identified as the primary reasons by dissatisfied respondents at the other two similar sites.

Satisfaction with the boating experience was high at Lake Oroville as well, with 89 percent indicating they were satisfied, as high as at Shasta Lake and considerably higher than at the other similar sites. As at Shasta Lake, the most frequently cited reason for dissatisfaction was reservoir water level (46 percent), followed by problems launching and/or problems with the boat ramp (21 percent), which were usually related to low reservoir pool levels.

Table 5.3-19. Similar site boaters' satisfaction with boating experience.

Satisfaction	Similar Site			Lake Oroville (n=1,361) (%)
	Black Butte Lake (n=77) (%)	Lake Berryessa (n=112) (%)	Shasta Lake (n=104) (%)	
Overall, are you satisfied with your boating experience on this trip to [reservoir surveyed]?				
Yes	**66.0**	**73.9**	**88.9**	**88.7**
No	34.0	26.1	11.1	11.3
If no…why not? [1]	(n=4)	(n=3)	(n=2)	(n=119)
Reservoir too low	0.0	0.0	**50.0**	**46.2**
Boat ramp/launching problems	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.0
Want more or better facilities	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.8
Too crowded on the water	0.0	33.3	0.0	8.4
Water conditions (choppy, dirty, etc.)	**75.0**	0.0	0.0	6.7
Parking inadequate	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.9
Problems with marina	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.2
Hazards in the water	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5
Other reasons	25.0	**66.6**	**50.0**	6.7

1. Most of the boaters at the similar sites who were not satisfied did not provide a reason; thus, the number of respondents (n) for this question is very small at those locations.
*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response/response category for each site.*
Sources: Similar Site Survey and On-Site Survey.

5.3.8 Similar Site Visitors' Perceptions and Opinions Regarding Lake Oroville

Similar Site Survey participants were asked a series of questions regarding their experiences with and perceptions of Lake Oroville. The first question asked whether or not they had ever visited Lake Oroville. Those who had not visited where asked to explain why, and asked if certain special events and facilities would motivate a first visit to Lake Oroville. Those who had visited Lake Oroville were asked how many times they had visited in the past year, how much time had passed since their last visit, and their overall satisfaction with their last trip to Lake Oroville. The questions were asked in reference to Lake Oroville specifically, rather than the Lake Oroville area, to avoid potential confusion on the part of survey respondents about what areas would be included in the Lake Oroville area.

At Black Butte Lake, the similar site closest to Lake Oroville, slightly more than half of the visitors surveyed had been to Lake Oroville. At Lake Berryessa and Shasta Lake, 80 percent and 68 percent, respectively, had not been to Lake Oroville (Table 5.3-20).

Table 5.3-20. Categorization of similar site visitors' as past visitors to Lake Oroville (visitors vs. non-visitors).

Response	Similar Site		
	Black Butte Lake (n=77) **(%)**	**Lake Berryessa** (n=112) **(%)**	**Shasta Lake** (n=104) **(%)**
Have you ever visited Lake Oroville?			
No	49.4	**80.4**	**68.3**
Yes	**50.6**	19.6	31.7

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each site.*
Source: Similar Site Survey.

5.3.8.1 Similar Site Visitors' Reasons for Not Visiting Lake Oroville

About 45 percent of similar site visitors were able to provide a reason for not having visited Lake Oroville. The most frequent reason similar site visitor's at all three sites gave (Table 5.3-21) was that they did not know enough about Lake Oroville to visit (29 to 41 percent of responses). Most others said that Lake Oroville was too far away (24 to 27 percent) or they simply had not had the chance to go yet (8 to 29 percent). An additional 19 percent of Shasta Lake visitors and smaller percentages of Lake Berryessa and Black Butte Lake visitors said they did not go to Oroville because they like the lake where they were surveyed better or did not like conditions at Lake Oroville. (Those who gave these last two types of responses could be assumed to be basing these choices on other than first-hand knowledge of Lake Oroville, since they stated they had never visited the lake before.)

Table 5.3-21. Reasons similar site visitors have not visited Lake Oroville.

Reason	Similar Site		
	Black Butte Lake (n=17) **(%)**	**Lake Berryessa** (n=42) **(%)**	**Shasta Lake** (n=26) **(%)**
Do not know about Lake Oroville	**29.4**	**40.5**	**34.6**
Lake Oroville is too far away	23.5	23.8	26.9
Do not like Lake Oroville	0.0	2.4	0.0
Have not had a chance to visit Lake Oroville	**29.4**	14.3	7.7
Like this lake better	5.9	2.4	19.2
Do not like the conditions at Lake Oroville	0.0	7.1	5.9
Do not know/other	11.8	9.5	3.8

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each site.*
Source: Similar Site Survey.

5.3.8.2 Similar Site Visitors' Interest in Special Events and New Facilities

Similar site visitors who had never been to Lake Oroville were asked whether special events from a given list would motivate them to visit the Lake Oroville area for the first time (Table 5.3-22). Of the 13 types of events listed, respondents from Black Butte Lake and Lake Berryessa most frequently checked powerboat races (24 and 21 percent, respectively) as an event that would motivate a first visit, while food and beverage festivals were identified by the highest number of Shasta Lake visitors (23 percent). From 16 to 21 percent of Black Butte Lake visitors and 17 to 20 percent of Lake Berryessa visitors expressed interest in fishing events, food or beverage festivals, and water-skiing events. Shasta Lake visitors expressed a similar level of interest in fishing events as a motivation for a first visit. The remaining nine events on the list generally elicited substantially fewer positive responses from similar site visitors, with three to eight percent of visitors at each site expressing interest.

Table 5.3-22. Special events (from a given list) that would motivate similar site visitors to visit Lake Oroville for the first time.

Special Event	Similar Site		
	Black Butte Lake (n=38) **(%)**	**Lake Berryessa** (n=90) **(%)**	**Shasta Lake** (n=71) **(%)**
Fishing events	18.4	16.7	16.9
Food or beverage festivals	21.1	17.8	**22.5**
Water-skiing events	15.8	20.0	7.0
Powerboat races	**23.7**	**21.1**	11.3
Canoe/kayak events	13.2	6.7	2.8
Living history demonstrations	7.9	3.3	5.6
Mountain bike events	7.9	5.6	4.2
PWC events	7.9	5.6	2.8
Target shooting competition	7.9	5.6	7.0
OHV related special events	7.9	5.6	5.6
Sailing events	7.9	7.8	2.8
Triathlons	5.3	3.3	2.8
Equestrian events	7.9	4.4	1.4

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the special event with the highest percentage expressing interest at each site. Respondents could select more than one event from the list provided.*
Source: Similar Site Survey.

The Similar Site Survey respondents were also asked whether any of eight types of facilities listed would motivate them to visit Lake Oroville for the first time. Although the facility checked most often (and the order of the top few responses) varied by site, three water-oriented facilities on the list elicited the most positive responses at each site: a water park, a floating restaurant, and warm-water swimming/beach areas. Visitors at

Black Butte Lake expressed a similar level and, at Lake Berryessa, a more moderate level of interest in showers at DUAs and child play areas (Table 5.3-23).

Table 5.3-23. Facilities (from a given list) that would motivate similar site visitors to visit the Lake Oroville area for the first time.

Facility	Similar Site		
	Black Butte Lake (n=38) **(%)**	**Lake Berryessa** (n=90) **(%)**	**Shasta Lake** (n=71) **(%)**
Expanded outdoor center/nature/cultural/ historic interpretation center	7.9	3.3	5.6
Water park	18.4	**31.1**	22.5
Floating restaurant on Lake Oroville	23.7	18.9	**25.4**
Warm-water swimming/beach areas	**28.9**	21.1	16.9
More RV sites for people with disabilities	5.3	8.9	1.4
Showers at DUAs	18.4	15.6	4.2
Child play areas	23.7	12.2	5.6
More full hook-up RV sites	10.5	10.0	2.8

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the facility with the highest percentage expressing interest at each site. Respondents could select more than one facility from the list provided.*
Source: Similar Site Survey.

5.3.8.3 Similar Site Visitors' Recent Visits to Lake Oroville

Overall, similar site visitors who had visited Lake Oroville do not visit that often. Of similar site visitors that had visited Lake Oroville before, over half of those surveyed at Black Butte Lake (58 percent) and Lake Berryessa (52 percent) had not visited within the last year (Table 5.3-24). At Shasta Lake, 39 percent of respondents that had visited Lake Oroville before had not done so within the last year. Of those who had visited Lake Oroville within the previous year, the largest proportion from Lake Berryessa and Shasta Lake had only visited Lake Oroville once (29 and 39 percent, respectively). However, notable percentages of Black Butte Lake and Shasta Lake visitors (18 and 13 percent, respectively, of those who had visited before) were fairly regular visitors to Lake Oroville and had visited four or more times in the past year.

Table 5.3-24. Number of visits similar site visitors made to Lake Oroville within the last year (past visitors only).

Number of Visits	Similar Site		
	Black Butte Lake (n=39) **(%)**	**Lake Berryessa** (n=22) **(%)**	**Shasta Lake** (n=33) **(%)**
0 visits	**57.9**	**52.4**	**38.7**
1 visits	13.2	28.6	**38.7**
2-3 visits	10.5	19.0	9.7
4-10 visits	15.8	0.0	12.8
>10 visits	2.6	0.0	0.0

Note: Respondents include only those that had visited Lake Oroville before. ***Bold*** *type indicates the most frequent response category for each site. Columns may not total to 100 percent due to rounding error.*
Source: Similar Site Survey.

From 59 to 67 percent of similar site visitors who had visited Lake Oroville before had visited within the past 12 months (Table 5.3-25). Due to non-response to the previous question, these percentages are somewhat higher than the percentages who said they had made one or more visits in the last year. An additional six to ten percent at each site had visited Lake Oroville within the last one to two years. However, 28 percent of past visitors at Lake Berryessa and Black Butte Lake and 19 percent of Shasta Lake visitors had not visited for more than two years.

Table 5.3-25. Time since similar site visitors' last trip to Lake Oroville (past visitors only).

Time Period	Similar Site		
	Black Butte Lake (n=39) **(%)**	**Lake Berryessa** (n=22) **(%)**	**Shasta Lake** (n=33) **(%)**
Within the last 12 months	**59.0**	**61.1**	**66.7**
1–2 years ago	10.3	5.6	7.4
2–3 years ago	7.7	11.1	7.4
More than 3 years ago	20.5	16.7	11.1
Can't remember	2.6	5.6	7.4

Note: Respondents include only those that responded that they have been to Lake Oroville before. Columns may not total to 100 percent due to rounding error.
Source: Similar Site Survey.

5.3.8.4 Similar Site Visitors' Satisfaction with Last Trip to Lake Oroville

Similar site visitors were asked to rate their satisfaction with their last visit to Lake Oroville, using a nine-point scale where 1 meant "extremely dissatisfied" and 9 meant "extremely satisfied." The percentage of similar site visitors who indicated that they

were not satisfied with their last visit (responses of “somewhat” to “extremely dissatisfied,” corresponding to 1 through 4 on the scale) varied by site (Table 5.3-26), from 11 percent of Lake Berryessa visitors (1 visitor in sample), to 36 percent of Shasta Lake visitors (10 visitors in sample).

Table 5.3-26. Reasons why similar site visitors were not satisfied with their last visit to Lake Oroville.

Reason	Similar Site		
	Black Butte Lake (n=39) **(%)**	**Lake Berryessa** (n=22) **(%)**	**Shasta Lake** (n=33) **(%)**
Overall, how would you rate your satisfaction with your last visit to Lake Oroville?			
Not satisfied (somewhat dissatisfied, dissatisfied, very dissatisfied, or extremely dissatisfied)	22.9	10.6	35.6
If not satisfied….Why not satisfied? [1]	(n=6)	(n=1)	(n=10)
Lack of /inadequate facilities	**50.0**	0.0	20.0
Lake level fluctuation/too low	33.3	**100.0**	**40.0**
Undesirable social conditions	16.7	0.0	20.0
Need better fishing/stock lake	0.0	0.0	10.0
Other/No reason given	0.0	0.0	10.0

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each site.*
Source: Similar Site Survey.

Those who were not satisfied with their last trip primarily mentioned low water levels and the fluctuation of the lake, the only reason given by the Lake Berryessa visitors and the most frequent reason given by Shasta Lake visitors. Facility issues included not enough facilities (e.g., “need more beaches, sand”), which was the most common reason for dissatisfaction among the Black Butte Lake visitors who were dissatisfied. Shasta Lake visitors also mentioned facility complaints and a few other reasons evenly among the other categories.

5.4 HOUSEHOLD SURVEY RESULTS

The Household Survey consisted of telephone interviews with 100 residents of Butte County, where the study area is located, and 100 residents of each of three other Northern California and Nevada market areas: the Reno (Nevada), Sacramento, and San Francisco Bay areas. Each of the 400 total respondents had to be at least 18 years of age, had to have lived in California or Nevada for at least six months, and had to have participated in outdoor recreation activities at rivers or lakes in Northern California at least three days during the previous year.

Like the Similar Site Survey, Household Survey respondents were asked if they had ever visited the Lake Oroville area (the land and water areas included in the term “Lake Oroville area” were described); different sets of questions were asked for those who had and had not visited the study area. Those who had visited before were asked questions

related to past visits and what special events or new facilities might encourage more frequent visits. Those who had never visited were asked why, and if special events and new facilities might motivate them to visit the Lake Oroville area in the future. Both sets of respondents were asked questions about Northern California rivers and lakes they had visited and their preferences for outdoor recreation settings, as well as general demographic questions. Respondent demographics are located in Appendix F.

In total, 62 percent of Household Survey respondents had visited the Lake Oroville area previously (Table 5-4.1). All but two percent of respondents from Butte County had visited the Lake Oroville area previously. However, only about one-half of respondents from the other market areas had ever visited the Lake Oroville area (slightly less among San Francisco are residents and slightly more among Sacramento area residents).

Table 5.4-1. Household Survey respondents' past visitation to the Lake Oroville area.

Response	Market Area				
	Total (n=400) **(%)**	**Butte County** (n=100) **(%)**	**Reno** (n=100) **(%)**	**San Francisco** (n=100) **(%)**	**Sacramento** (n=100) **(%)**
Have you ever visited the Lake Oroville area?					
Yes	**62.3**	**98.0**	**50.0**	45.0	**56.0**
No	36.0	2.0	48.0	**50.0**	44.0
Not sure	1.8	0.0	2.0	5.0	0.0

Source: Household Survey.

5.4.1 Past Visits and Perceptions of Household Survey Respondents Who Had Visited Lake Oroville Before

Past visitors to the Lake Oroville area were asked questions regarding the following: frequency of past visits to Lake Oroville; when they had last visited and their level of satisfaction with that visit; if not satisfied, the reason for dissatisfaction; reasons (if applicable) for not visiting Lake Oroville within the past two years; any special events and facilities that would motivate more visits to Lake Oroville; and other facilities that respondents would like to see at Lake Oroville.

5.4.1.1 Household Survey Respondents' Frequency of Visits to Lake Oroville Area and Time Since Last Visit

The majority of Butte County respondents (62 percent) reported visiting Lake Oroville three or more times per year while about one-quarter of Butte County respondents reported visiting one to two times per year and only 14 percent reported visiting less than once per year (Table 5.4-2). In contrast, a majority of household respondents from the three other areas (between 63 and 71 percent) reported visiting the Lake Oroville area less than once per year. Thirty percent of respondents from the Reno and

Sacramento areas reported visiting one to two times per year. The San Francisco area had the highest percent of respondents outside of Butte County who reported visiting three or more times per year.

Table 5.4-2. Household Survey respondents' frequency of visits to the Lake Oroville area.

Visits Per Year to the Lake Oroville Area	Market Area				
	Total (n=249) **(%)**	**Butte County** (n=98) **(%)**	**Reno** (n=50) **(%)**	**San Francisco** (n=45) **(%)**	**Sacramento** (n=56) **(%)**
3 or more times per year	30.5	**62.2**	4.0	17.8	8.9
1–2 times per year	23.7	23.5	30.0	11.1	28.6
Less than one time per year	**45.8**	14.3	**66.0**	**71.1**	**62.5**

Source: Household Survey.

Almost 88 percent of Butte County respondents had visited the area within the last 12 months (Table 5.4-3). As for residents from the other three market areas, although 34-40 percent had visited within the last 12 months, the largest percentages (40-44 percent) had not visited in the last three years.

Table 5.4-3. Time since Household Survey respondents' last visit to the Lake Oroville area.

Time Since Last Visit	Market Area				
	Total (n=249) **(%)**	**Butte County** (n=98) **(%)**	**Reno** (n=50) **(%)**	**San Francisco** (n=45) **(%)**	**Sacramento** (n=56) **(%)**
Within the last 12 months	**56.6**	**87.8**	34.0	40.0	35.7
1–2 years ago	9.2	4.1	14.0	8.9	14.3
2–3 years ago	5.2	3.1	10.0	2.2	7.1
More than 3 years ago	27.3	5.1	**40.0**	**44.4**	**41.1**
Can't remember	1.6	0.0	2.0	4.4	1.8

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each market area.*
Source: Household Survey.

5.4.1.2 Household Survey Respondents' Satisfaction with Last Visit to the Lake Oroville Area and Reasons for Dissatisfaction

Satisfaction with past visits to the Lake Oroville area, measured using a 7-point scale from "extremely dissatisfied" to "extremely satisfied," was moderately high (Table 5.4-4). The largest percentage of Butte County respondents (about 34 percent) were "very satisfied," and 68 percent were between "somewhat satisfied" and "extremely satisfied" with their last visit. However, over 21 percent said they had been "somewhat" or "very dissatisfied," substantially more than respondents from any of the other market areas.

The largest portion of past visitors from the three other market areas said they were "somewhat satisfied" (40-48 percent), while 34-38 percent were "very" or, less commonly, "extremely satisfied." About 14-20 percent of respondents from each area were neutral in their opinion, while less than four percent were "dissatisfied." There were no respondents from any area that were "extremely dissatisfied" with their last trip, and no respondents from areas outside of Butte County that were less than "somewhat satisfied."

Table 5.4-4. Household Survey respondents' satisfaction with last visit to the Lake Oroville area.

	Market Area				
Satisfaction Rating	**Total** (n=249) **(%)**	**Butte County** (n=98) **(%)**	**Reno** (n=50) **(%)**	**San Francisco** (n=45) **(%)**	**Sacramento** (n=56) **(%)**
(1) Extremely dissatisfied	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(2) Very dissatisfied	2.4	6.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
(3) Somewhat dissatisfied	8.4	15.3	4.0	4.4	3.6
(4) Neutral	14.9	11.2	20.0	17.8	14.3
(5) Somewhat satisfied	**35.3**	23.5	**40.0**	**40.0**	**48.2**
(6) Very satisfied	29.7	**33.7**	24.0	28.9	28.6
(7) Extremely satisfied	9.2	10.2	12.0	8.9	5.4
Mean score	5.1	4.9	5.2	5.2	5.2

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each market area.*
Source: Household Survey.

Those who said they were "somewhat" or "very dissatisfied" were asked to describe why. Of the dissatisfied respondents from Butte County, 57 percent reported that the pool level fluctuations or low pool level was the reason for their dissatisfaction, and 29 percent reported their dissatisfaction was because of the lack of certain types of facilities (Table 5.4-5). Responses were coded in general categories as listed in the table; more specific responses are not available. Of the few dissatisfied respondents from areas outside of Butte County (two respondents per area), most were dissatisfied because of a perceived lack of certain facilities, the perception that the area was trashy or not kept-up well, or that the setting was too unnatural.

Table 5.4-5. Household Survey respondents' reasons for dissatisfaction with last visit to the Lake Oroville area.

Reason for Dissatisfaction	Market Area				
	Total (n=27) **(%)**	**Butte County** (n=21) **(%)**	**Reno** (n=2) **(%)**	**San Francisco** (n=2) **(%)**	**Sacramento** (n=2) **(%)**
Lake level fluctuates/too low	**44.4**	**57.1**	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lack of facilities	29.6	28.6	0.0	**50.0**	**50.0**
Trashy/not kept up	18.5	14.3	**100.0**	0.0	0.0
Too unnatural	7.4	4.8	0.0	**50.0**	0.0
Need better fishing/stock lake	7.4	9.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	18.5	14.3	50.0	0.0	**50.0**

Note: Respondents could mention more than one reason for being dissatisfied. ***Bold*** *type indicates the most frequent response for each market area.*
Source: Household Survey.

5.4.1.3 Household Survey Respondents' Reasons for Not Visiting the Lake Oroville Area More Often

Household Survey respondents who had not visited the Lake Oroville area within the last two years (approximately 34 percent of all respondents) were asked why they had not visited more recently. A preference for other places (e.g., Reno area residents preferring Lake Tahoe and Sacramento area residents preferring Folsom Lake, each of which is in or near that market area) was the reason given by the largest percentage of respondents overall and from three of the four market areas (Table 5.4-6).

Personal reasons (too busy, too old, etc.) were generally the second most common category of reasons why Household Survey respondents did not visit the Lake Oroville area more often. After personal reasons, the lack of proximity of their homes to Lake Oroville was the third most frequent response given by Household Survey respondents as the reason for not visiting. Some others gave a similar reason of preferring to go to places closer to home.

Reasons for not visiting more often that specifically related to conditions in the Lake Oroville area were generally few. About 17 percent of San Francisco area and 11 percent of Sacramento area respondents who had not visited in the last two years mentioned generally not liking the conditions or recreation opportunities in the Lake Oroville area. Less than three percent of respondents overall mentioned crowding as a reason for not visiting more often.

Table 5.4-6. Reasons Household Survey respondents have not visited the Lake Oroville area in the last two years.

Reason	Market Area				
	Total (n=85) **(%)**	**Butte County** (n=8) **(%)**	**Reno** (n=26) **(%)**	**San Francisco** (n=23) **(%)**	**Sacramento** (n=28) **(%)**
Prefer other places	**31.8**	**50.0**	**34.6**	17.4	**35.7**
Personal reasons (too busy, too old, etc.)	25.9	12.5	26.9	**26.1**	28.6
Lake Oroville is too far	20.0	0.0	23.1	**26.1**	17.9
Prefer closer places	10.6	0.0	15.4	13.0	7.1
Quality (don't like it)	10.6	0.0	7.7	17.4	10.7
Weather too hot	5.9	12.5	3.8	8.7	3.6
Don't know	3.5	0.0	3.8	4.3	3.6
Have no boat	3.5	25.0	0.0	0.0	3.6
Have a cabin or boat elsewhere	2.4	0.0	3.8	0.0	3.6
Too crowded	2.4	0.0	3.8	0.0	3.6
Nothing there/no reason to go back	2.4	0.0	7.7	0.0	0.0

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each market area.*
Source: Household Survey.

5.4.1.4 Special Events that Would Motivate Household Survey Respondents to Visit the Lake Oroville Area More Often

Household Survey respondents who had visited the Lake Oroville area were read a list of 14 types of special events and asked if each would motivate them to visit more often. Respondents could also offer their own suggestions.

In general, fishing events received the most positive responses as events that would motivate respondents to visit the Lake Oroville area more often (Table 5.4-7). A fishing event was the type of special event that would motivate the highest percentage of respondents from all but the San Francisco area. Respondents from the San Francisco area responded positively to food/beverage festivals most frequently (26 percent), with fishing events eliciting only slightly less interest (24 percent). Food and beverage festivals were second in popularity among Butte County residents.

Three different types of water-related events (water-skiing, powerboat races, and canoe/kayak or river-related events) were among the top three or four choices of respondents overall and in several of the market areas. From 20 to 28 percent of respondents in three of the four market areas responded positively to each of those type of events.

One additional type of special event received a similarly notable level of positive response in each market area. Among Butte County respondents, this was living history demonstrations, among Reno area respondents it was mountain bike races, and

among Sacramento area respondents it was OHV related events. Some of these types of events also elicited a moderate level of interest (10 to 18 percent positive responses) from respondents in other market areas. From 16 to 22 percent of respondents from all but the Butte County market area did not respond positively to any of the events on the list, suggesting that special events of any type may not motivate more visits from a minority of past visitors from the more distant market areas.

Table 5.4-7. Special events that would motivate Household Survey respondents to visit the Lake Oroville area more often.

Special Event	Market Area				
	Total (n=249) **(%)**	**Butte County** (n=98) **(%)**	**Reno** (n=50) **(%)**	**San Francisco** (n=45) **(%)**	**Sacramento** (n=56) **(%)**
None of the above/Don't know	14.9	7.1	22.0	22.2	16.1
Indicated that special event would motivate them to visit more often	**85.1**	**92.9**	**88.0**	**87.8**	**83.9**
Fishing events	**36.9**	**40.8**	**30.0**	24.4	**46.4**
Food/beverage festivals	24.5	31.6	14.0	**26.7**	19.6
Water-skiing events	23.7	27.6	28.0	11.1	23.2
Powerboat races	22.1	25.5	20.0	13.3	25.0
Canoe/kayak/river-related events	21.7	24.5	20.0	24.4	16.1
Living history demonstrations	15.7	22.4	8.0	6.7	17.9
Mountain bike races	15.3	13.3	24.0	15.6	10.7
PWC events	14.1	17.3	14.0	4.4	16.1
Target shooting competition	13.3	14.3	14.0	13.3	10.7
OHV related events	12.4	14.3	10.0	0.0	21.4
Sailing events	11.6	13.3	10.0	15.6	7.1
Triathlons	10.0	13.3	4.0	11.1	8.9
Equestrian events	8.8	11.2	4.0	8.9	8.9
Other (respondent suggestions)	2.0	2.0	4.0	0.0	1.8
Wake or knee boarding	0.8	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Note: Respondents were read a list of the 14 types of special events presented in the table. Respondents could choose more than one event. ***Bold*** *type indicates the special event with the highest percentage of respondents from each area responding positively. Multiple responses were allowed.*
Source: Household Survey.

5.4.1.5 Facilities that Would Motivate Household Survey Respondents to Visit Lake Oroville Area More Often

Household Survey respondents who had visited the Lake Oroville area were also read a list of eight types of facilities and asked if each would motivate them to visit more often. A floating restaurant on Lake Oroville and warm-water swimming and beach areas were the two facilities that received the most positive responses (Table 5.4-8). The presence of showers at DUAs was the third most popular facility type, overall, followed by an expanded outdoor center, a water park, and children's play areas.

Of Butte County respondents who have not visited the Lake Oroville area recently (who have visited before but not in the last two years), 50 percent said a floating restaurant would motivate them to visit more often. This was also among the top few facility types receiving positive responses from respondents in the other three market areas. Similarly, warm-water beach/swim areas and showers at DUAs were the most popular facility choices at one or two of the market areas and were among the top few choices for the other areas.

Table 5.4-8. Facilities that would motivate Household Survey respondents to visit the Lake Oroville area more often.

Facility	Market Area				
	Total (n=249) **(%)**	**Butte County** (n=98) **(%)**	**Reno** (n=50) **(%)**	**San Francisco** (n=45) **(%)**	**Sacramento** (n=56) **(%)**
None of the above/Don't know	15.3	7.1	30.0	20.0	10.7
Indicated a facility that would motivate more visits	**84.7**	**92.9**	**70.0**	**80.0**	**89.3**
Facilities on List Read to Respondents					
Floating restaurant on Lake Oroville	**38.6**	**50.0**	22.0	28.9	41.1
Warm-water swimming/beach areas	37.8	43.9	24.0	**35.6**	41.1
Showers at DUAs	36.9	39.8	**28.0**	31.1	**44.6**
Expanded outdoor/nature/cultural/ historic interpretation center	30.5	33.7	24.0	22.2	37.5
Water park	29.7	38.8	20.0	15.6	33.9
Children's play areas	27.7	32.7	8.0	26.7	37.5
More full hook-up RV sites	21.7	26.5	12.0	22.2	21.4
More RV sites for people with disabilities	19.3	26.5	4.0	17.8	21.4
Other Facilities Mentioned by Respondents					
Various types of camping sites	4.8	6.1	0.0	11.1	1.8
Marina/boat launching facility	1.6	4.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
More water in the reservoir	1.2	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Restaurants	1.2	2.0	0.0	0.0	1.8
Trails	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.6
Cabins	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	3.6	5.1	0.0	2.2	5.4

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the facility with the highest percentage of respondents from each area responding positively. Multiple responses were allowed.*
Source: Household Survey.

Several other types of facilities were not the top choice in any area but were among the top three or four in receiving positive responses in three of the four market areas. These facilities include three types of day use areas: an expanded outdoor center/nature/cultural/historic interpretation center, a water park, children's play areas, and one type of campsite (full hook-up RV sites). Each of these types of facilities received positive responses from 20 to 39 percent of respondents in three of the four market areas. RV sites for people with disabilities were also favored by 27 percent of

Butte County residents and 21 percent of Sacramento area residents. About 18 percent of San Francisco area respondents and 28 percent of Reno area respondents said none of the listed facility types would motivate more visits, suggesting that facility additions of any type would not be likely to motivate a minority of residents of those areas to visit.

5.4.2 Reasons Household Survey Respondents Had Never Visited the Lake Oroville Area and Interest in Special Events and New Facilities

Only two respondents from Butte County had never been to the Lake Oroville area and were therefore not included in any data presented in this section. The data presented summarize responses given by the 44 to 55 percent of Household Survey respondents from the other three market areas that had not been to the area or were unsure.

5.4.2.1 Reasons for Household Survey Respondents Never Having Visited the Lake Oroville Area

The most frequently given reason, overall, for not having visited Lake Oroville (Table 5.4-9) was that the respondent did not know enough about the area (42 percent), followed by lack of proximity to their homes (31 percent). These were the top two reasons given, in that order, by residents of all three market areas. A preference for other lakes was also mentioned by 11-16 percent of respondents in each market area.

Table 5.4-9. Reasons Household Survey respondents have never visited the Lake Oroville area.

Reason	Market Area			
	Total (n=151) **(%)**	**Reno** (n=50) **(%)**	**San Francisco** (n=55) **(%)**	**Sacramento** (n=44) **(%)**
Do not know enough about the area	**41.7**	**44.0**	**50.9**	**27.3**
It is too far away from my home	31.1	42.0	29.1	22.7
Prefer to go to other lakes	12.6	16.0	10.9	11.4
Prefer a different setting	7.9	8.0	10.9	4.5
No time or personal reasons	6.0	0.0	3.6	15.9
Not interested in water-related recreation	5.3	6.0	5.5	4.5
No reason – just have not been	4.0	2.0	0.0	11.4
Too hot there	3.3	8.0	1.8	0.0
Not enough shade trees	2.0	4.0	0.0	2.3
It is not located on a major highway	1.3	2.0	1.8	0.0
Too many people	1.3	2.0	0.0	2.3
Not interested	1.3	2.0	0.0	2.3
Other	4.0	2.0	3.6	4.5
Do not know	1.3	0.0	3.6	0.0

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each market area. Respondents could give more than one reason for not having visited.*
Source: Household Survey.

Those respondents who had said a preference for traveling to other lakes was a reason for not having visited Lake Oroville were asked which other lakes they preferred to go to. Lake Tahoe and Folsom Lake were particularly popular with respondents from the Reno area (63 percent) and Sacramento area (40 percent), respectively. Each of those lakes is in close proximity to those market area residents. Individual San Francisco area respondents also mentioned Lake Tahoe, along with Lake Berryessa, however four stated that they preferred to visit several other lakes and rivers not specifically listed on the telephone survey (the specific responses are not available).

Table 5.4-10. Other lakes Household Survey respondents prefer to visit.

	Market Area			
Other lake prefer to visit	**Total** (n=19) **(%)**	**Reno** (n=8) **(%)**	**San Francisco** (n=6) **(%)**	**Sacramento** (n=5) **(%)**
Lake Tahoe	**36.8**	**62.5**	16.7	20.0
Folsom Lake	10.5	0.0	0.0	**40.0**
Frenchman Lake	10.5	25.0	0.0	0.0
Lake Berryessa	10.5	0.0	16.7	20.0
Lake Almanor	5.3	12.5	0.0	0.0
Bucks Lake	5.3	12.5	0.0	0.0
Delta rivers or lakes	5.3	0.0	0.0	20.0
Lakes in Plumas Nat. Forest	5.3	12.5	0.0	0.0
Other (not specified)	36.8	25.0	**66.7**	20.0
Don't know	10.5	0.0	16.7	20.0

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each market area. Respondents could name more than one lake.*
Source: Household Survey.

5.4.2.2 Special Events that Would Motivate Household Survey Respondents to Visit the Lake Oroville Area for the First Time

Respondents who had never visited Lake Oroville were asked if there were any special events that might motivate them to visit the Lake Oroville area for the first time. The question was first presented as an open-ended question, and then the respondents were asked to select from a list of possible special events. The open-ended format relies on the respondent to offer their own ideas about special events in the limited time of the interview, and as a result may under-estimate interest in special events. Conversely, the close-ended (response list provided) format may elicit a high number of positive responses that may over-estimate actual interest in the events. Therefore, the results of each format should be carefully viewed in their respective context.

Approximately 69 percent of all respondents, and 64 to 72 percent of respondents in each market area, were unable to name any special event that would motivate them to visit the Lake Oroville area for the first time or responded that they did not know what type of events they might be interested in (Table 5.4-11). An additional ten percent of

respondents indicated that they would need more information about the area in order to respond about special events.

Table 5.4-11. Special events that would motivate Household Survey respondents to visit the Lake Oroville area for the first time (responses to open-ended format question).

Special Event	Market Area			
	Total (n=151) **(%)**	**Reno** (n=50) **(%)**	**San Francisco** (n=55) **(%)**	**Sacramento** (n=44) **(%)**
None / Don't know	**68.9**	**72.0**	**70.9**	**63.6**
Need more information about the area	9.9	6.0	7.3	15.9
Indicated a special event would motivate them to visit for the first time	21.2	22.0	21.8	20.5
Special events mentioned				
Boat and water events	**6.0**	**8.0**	**5.5**	4.5
Concerts	3.3	2.0	1.8	**6.8**
July 4th events and fireworks	2.6	2.0	0.0	**6.8**
Historical and/or cultural exhibits	2.0	0.0	3.6	2.3
Outdoor festivals	2.0	4.0	1.8	0.0
Parades and/or bands	1.3	2.0	1.8	0.0
Contests and pageants	1.3	2.0	1.8	0.0
Animal events	1.3	0.0	1.8	2.3
Off-road, motocross, roller derby	1.3	2.0	1.8	0.0
Camping events	0.7	0.0	1.8	0.0
Children's events	0.7	0.0	0.0	2.3
Fishing events	0.7	2.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.7	0.0	1.8	0.0

Note: Respondents provided their own special event ideas. ***Bold*** *type indicates the most frequent responses for each market area.*
Source: Household Survey.

Among the 21-22 percent of respondents in each market area who were able to name at least one type of event, boat and water events were the most frequently named type of events, mentioned by six percent of all respondents and five to eight percent in each area. Sacramento area residents mentioned concerts and Fourth of July events with similar frequency. A variety of other types of events were mentioned, most by one to four percent of respondents in each market area.

When asked to select from a list of special events that might motivate them to visit the Lake Oroville area, "none of the above" or "don't know" remained the most frequent response from respondents in the Reno (30 percent) and San Francisco (40 percent) areas as compared to positive responses to any particular type of special event (Table 5.4-12). However, 60-82 percent of respondents in each area did respond positively to at least one type of special event read to them from the list.

Table 5.4-12. Special events that would motivate Household Survey respondents to visit the Lake Oroville area for the first time (responses to a recited list).

Special Event	Market Area			
	Total (n=151) **(%)**	**Reno** (n=50) **(%)**	**San Francisco** (n=55) **(%)**	**Sacramento** (n=44) **(%)**
None of the above/Don't know	29.8	30.0	40.0	18.2
Indicated that a special event would motivate them to visit for the first time	**70.2**	**70.0**	**60.0**	**81.8**
Food/beverage festivals	**25.2**	**24.0**	23.6	27.3
Canoe/kayak/river-related events	23.8	18.0	**25.5**	**29.5**
Fishing events	21.9	18.0	20.0	15.9
Powerboat races	19.9	16.0	18.2	25.0
Living history demonstrations	17.2	14.0	10.9	27.3
Water-skiing events	15.2	18.0	18.2	13.6
Target shooting competition	14.6	12.0	14.5	11.4
Mountain bike races	13.2	8.0	12.7	15.9
Equestrian events	9.9	8.0	10.9	11.4
OHV related events	9.3	8.0	7.3	13.6
Sailing events	8.6	8.0	5.5	13.6
Triathlons	8.6	6.0	7.3	13.6
PWC events	7.9	6.0	7.3	11.4

Note: Percentages are percent of respondents, rather than responses. Respondents could select more than one event. ***Bold*** *type indicates the most frequent responses for each market area.*
Source: Household Survey.

Canoe/kayak/river-related events and food and beverage festivals were the most popular type of events among residents of all three market areas, with roughly 20-30 percent of respondents stating that those types of events would motivate a first visit. Fishing events were among the top two or three choices of Reno and San Francisco area respondents, and responded positively to by a similar percentage of Sacramento area respondents (16 to 20 percent responded positively in each area). Powerboat races were among the top three or four choices in each area, and received a "yes" response from 16 to 25 percent of respondents in each area. Living history demonstrations were a particularly popular choice of Sacramento area respondents, with 27 percent expressing interest. Several other types of events received positive responses from 10-15 percent of respondents in one or more market areas.

5.4.2.3 Facilities that Would Motivate Household Survey Respondents to Visit the Lake Oroville Area for the First Time

Household Survey respondents who had never visited Lake Oroville were asked if there were any outdoor recreation facilities that might motivate them to visit the Lake Oroville area for the first time. As with special events, the question was first presented as an

open-ended question, and then the respondents were asked to respond to a list of possible expanded or new facilities.

Approximately 64 percent of respondents at all survey regions were unable to name a recreation facility that would motivate them to visit the Lake Oroville area for the first time, or responded "I don't know" (Table 5.4-13). There was a substantial difference among market areas in this regard, however, with slightly more than half of San Francisco area respondents naming no facilities as compared to 72-73 percent at the other market areas.

Campgrounds were the most frequently mentioned type of facility that would motivate a first visit, and the most frequent response from San Francisco area residents (16 percent) and Sacramento area residents (11 percent). Hiking and biking trails were the second most frequently mentioned type of facility overall and the most common response from Reno area residents (10 percent). Facilities related to boating (both motorized and non-motorized) were second most common response from San Francisco area residents. Several other types of facilities were mentioned, but none by more than five percent of respondents overall.

Table 5.4-13. Facilities that would motivate Household Survey respondents to visit the Lake Oroville area for the first time (responses to open-ended format question).

Recreation Facilities	Market Area			
	Total (n=151) **(%)**	**Reno** (n=50) **(%)**	**San Francisco** (n=55) **(%)**	**Sacramento** (n=44) **(%)**
None / Don't know	**64.2**	**72.0**	**50.9**	**72.7**
Indicated a facility would motivate a first visit	35.8	28.0	49.1	27.3
Campgrounds	**11.3**	6.0	**16.4**	**11.4**
Hiking, biking trails	7.9	**10.0**	9.1	2.3
Sailing, kayaking, rafting, canoeing, boating, water-skiing, parasailing	6.0	0.0	14.5	2.3
Boat rental, houseboat rental	4.6	6.0	5.5	2.3
Swimming facilities, water park	4.0	4.0	7.3	0.0
RV hookups	3.3	4.0	3.6	2.3
Cabins	2.6	2.0	3.6	2.3
Hotels and restaurants, spa retreat	2.6	0.0	7.3	0.0
Fishing rentals and facilities	2.0	0.0	0.0	6.8
Showers and restrooms	1.3	0.0	1.8	0.0
Game hunting	1.3	0.0	3.6	0.0
PWC Facilities	0.7	0.0	1.8	0.0
Other	2.0	2.0	1.8	2.3

Note: Respondents provided their own facility ideas. ***Bold*** *type indicates the most frequent responses for each market area.*
Source: Household Survey.

It should be noted that nearly all of these types of facilities already exist in some form, some in several locations; thus, these responses may chiefly serve to underscore the lack of knowledge of these residents about the facilities available in the study area.

When asked to select from a list of eight types of facilities that might motivate them to visit Lake Oroville for the first time, 62 to 76 percent of all respondents said at least one of the facilities would motivate a first visit (Table 5.4-14). A floating restaurant on Lake Oroville was the most popular choice overall, and was also the most popular response among respondents from the San Francisco (40 percent) and Sacramento (39 percent) areas. The most frequently identified facility by respondents from the Reno area, aside from "none of the above/don't know" (38 percent), was warm-water swimming/beach areas (34 percent), followed by the floating restaurant (32 percent).

An expanded outdoor/nature/cultural/historic interpretation center was the second most popular type of facility overall and the second most popular response from San Francisco area and Sacramento area residents (36 percent and 32 percent, respectively). A water park facility and showers at DUAs were only slightly less popular facility ideas than the above items and were among the top three choices of one or two market areas.

Table 5.4-14. Facilities that would motivate Household Survey respondents to visit the Lake Oroville area for the first time (responses to a given list).

Facility	Market Area			
	Total (n=151) **(%)**	**Reno** (n=50) **(%)**	**San Francisco** (n=55) **(%)**	**Sacramento** (n=44) **(%)**
None of the above/Don't know	30.4	38.0	23.6	29.5
Indicated a facility that would motivate a first visit	**69.6**	**62.0**	**76.4**	**70.5**
Floating restaurant on Lake Oroville	**37.1**	32.0	**40.0**	**38.6**
Expanded outdoor/nature/cultural/ historic interpretation center	30.5	24.0	36.4	31.8
Warm-water swimming/beach areas	29.8	**34.0**	25.5	25.0
Water park	27.2	24.0	32.7	25.0
Showers at day use areas	25.8	28.0	23.6	25.0
Children's play areas	20.5	16.0	21.8	25.0
More full hookup RV sites	15.2	22.0	10.9	13.6
More RV sites accessible to people with disabilities	13.9	12.0	16.4	13.6

Note: Respondents could respond positively to more than one facility. ***Bold*** *type indicates the most frequent responses for each market area.*
Source: Household Survey.

5.4.3 Household Survey Respondents' Preferred Recreation Settings and Other Places of Recreation

To better determine the reservoir- and river-based recreation use patterns and the preferences of Household Survey respondents, they were asked about Northern California lakes, reservoirs, and rivers they had visited in the previous 12 months and their preferences with regard to recreation setting.

All 400 Household Survey respondents were read of list of 31 lakes, reservoirs, and rivers to respond to (Table 5.4-15) and could name up to three additional rivers and three additional lakes. Lake Tahoe was the most commonly visited lake, reservoir, or river overall and the most commonly visited by Reno area residents (86 percent). It was also the most commonly visited lake by San Francisco area residents. Not surprisingly, Lake Oroville was the location most commonly visited by Butte County residents (82 percent), but a majority had also visited the Feather River and Sacramento River. While Lake Tahoe demonstrated a strong attraction for respondents from outside of its region, just 12 to 17 percent of respondents in the other market areas had visited Lake Oroville in the previous 12 months.

Strong proximal preferences are apparent in the responses within each region, indicating that respondents tend to visit the water bodies nearest to or in the vicinity of where they live. Survey respondents from the Sacramento area listed the American River, which runs through the City of Sacramento, as the most visited water body (72 percent). San Francisco area respondents' largest category of attendance was "other lakes" (60 percent), which does not specify which ones they visited, but would likely include the numerous small reservoirs in the San Francisco Bay area.

Household Survey respondents were also asked to indicate their preferred recreation setting from a list of four types. Reno and Sacramento area respondents (55 and 47 percent, respectively) most frequently preferred "natural and undeveloped areas in remote locations near lakes and rivers," which was also the setting most preferred by 46 percent of all respondents (Table 5.4-16). "Developed nature-oriented parks and recreation areas at or near lakes and rivers" (developed areas), which were preferred by 43 percent of all respondents, was the category preferred most by Butte County and San Francisco area respondents (46 and 50 percent of respondents, respectively). "Highly-developed parks and recreation areas at or near lakes or rivers," as well as "historical or cultural buildings, sites, or areas" were each mentioned relatively infrequently (by ten percent or less of respondents) in each market area.

Table 5.4-15. Visitation to regional lakes, reservoirs, and rivers by Household Survey respondents during the previous 12 months.

Water Body	Market Area				
	Total (n=400) **(%)**	**Butte County** (n=100) **(%)**	**Reno** (n=100) **(%)**	**San Francisco** (n=100) **(%)**	**Sacramento** (n=100) **(%)**
Lake Tahoe	**63.5**	45.0	**86.0**	**55.0**	61.0
Sacramento River	**49.3**	**57.0**	29.0	**48.0**	**63.0**
Other Lakes	**33.3**	15.0	33.0	**60.0**	44.0
American River	31.8	9.0	20.0	26.0	**72.0**
Lake Oroville	**31.5**	**82.0**	**12.0**	**15.0**	**17.0**
Feather River	27.0	**61.0**	28.0	8.0	11.0
Folsom Reservoir	27.3	12.0	11.0	17.0	**67.0**
Delta rivers or lakes	24.3	12.0	11.0	39.0	34.0
Shasta Lake	22.8	34.0	13.0	23.0	21.0
Lake Almanor	21.8	42.0	26.0	11.0	7.0
Rivers and lakes in Plumas National Forest	20.5	28.0	34.0	7.0	12.0
South Fork Feather River	19.8	44.0	18.0	4.0	13.0
North Fork Feather River	18.8	48.0	14.0	7.0	6.0
Middle Fork Feather River	16.8	41.0	13.0	6.0	7.0
Other Rivers	16.3	10.0	13.0	24.0	18.0
Yuba River	14.5	12.0	25.0	7.0	14.0
Bucks Lake	14.5	29.0	18.0	5.0	5.0
Rivers and lakes in the Lassen National Forest	14.3	27.0	15.0	4.0	11.0
Lake Berryessa	14.3	10.0	3.0	29.0	13.0
Frenchman Lake	13.5	3.0	**48.0**	0.0	1.0
Eagle Lake	12.8	15.0	24.0	4.0	8.0
Lake Davis	11.8	4.0	**35.0**	5.0	3.0
West Branch Feather River	10.0	31.0	2.0	4.0	3.0
Black Butte Lake	10.0	34.0	1.0	1.0	4.0
Truckee River	9.0	0.0	33.0	1.0	2.0
Antelope Lake	7.0	7.0	19.0	0.0	2.0
Whiskeytown Lake	6.8	17.0	3.0	3.0	4.0
Little Grass Valley Reservoir	5.5	13.0	3.0	4.0	2.0
Trinity Lake	5.0	11.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Stony Gorge Reservoir	4.0	14.0	0.0	2.0	0.0
Russian River	3.8	1.0	1.0	12.0	1.0
Butt Valley Reservoir	3.5	9.0	1.0	3.0	1.0
Pit River	2.8	4.0	2.0	2.0	3.0
Honey Lake	2.5	3.0	7.0	0.0	0.0
Donner Lake	2.5	1.0	6.0	2.0	1.0
Stampede Reservoir	2.3	1.0	8.0	0.0	0.0
Boca Reservoir	2.0	0.0	8.0	0.0	0.0
Clear Lake	1.8	1.0	1.0	4.0	1.0
Lake Britton	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the top three responses for each market area.*
Source: Household Survey.

Table 5.4-16. Household Survey respondents' recreational setting preferences.

Setting Type	Market Area				
	Total (n=400) **(%)**	**Butte County** (n=100) **(%)**	**Reno** (n=100) **(%)**	**San Francisco** (n=100) **(%)**	**Sacramento** (n=100) **(%)**
Natural and undeveloped areas in remote locations near lakes and rivers	**45.8**	37.0	**55.0**	44.0	**47.0**
Developed nature-oriented parks and recreation areas at or near lakes or rivers	42.8	**46.0**	38.0	**50.0**	37.0
Highly developed parks and recreation areas at or near urban areas near lakes or rivers	6.8	9.0	7.0	4.0	7.0
Historical or cultural buildings, sites or areas	4.8	8.0	0.0	2.0	9.0

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each market area.*
Source: Household Survey.

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6.0 SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

The purpose of this section is to: (1) briefly review the numerous survey efforts completed for this study in the context of the survey sampling goals, and (2) summarize the large amount of detailed information presented in the previous Results section to bring forward and highlight the most salient information gained from each survey effort.

6.1 SUMMARY OF SURVEY EFFORTS

The following summarizes the samples obtained during each of the four main survey efforts conducted for this study: the Lake Oroville Area Recreation Visitor Survey, the Hunter Survey, the Similar Site Survey, and the Household Survey. Smaller targeted survey efforts conducted for Study R-16 – *Whitewater and River Boating* and Study R-3 – *Assessment of the Relationship of Project Operations and Recreation* are discussed in those respective study reports. In general, this section demonstrates that the survey efforts for this study were successful in obtaining the samples desired and in meeting sampling goals. The samples obtained are the basis for presenting the survey results as adequate representations of the survey respondents' recreation use, attitudes, opinions, and preferences.

6.1.1 Lake Oroville Area Recreation Visitor Survey

The largest survey effort undertaken for this study, the Lake Oroville Area Recreation Visitor Survey, was conducted over a 12-month period from May, 2002 to May, 2003. The objective of the survey was to obtain information from the full range of recreation visitor types using all portions of the study area during both the summer peak and non-summer non-peak seasons. The survey was successful in obtaining over 2,500 completed On-Site Surveys and over 1,000 completed follow-up Mailback Surveys. The return rate for the Mailback Survey, of about 45 percent, is considered more than adequate and reasonably good for this type of general recreation survey.

Geographically, several hundred On-Site Surveys were obtained from visitors contacted while they used most of the six resource areas that comprise the study area. Lesser numbers of recreationists were contacted at the lightly-used and relatively-undeveloped Diversion Pool resource area, where 62 visitors were surveyed, and the Feather River Low Flow Channel resource area (immediately downstream of the Diversion Pool), where 169 visitors were surveyed at two survey sites selected in the area. Nearly 1,400 visitors were surveyed at Lake Oroville recreation sites; Lake Oroville is the largest resource area, with about half of the recreation sites and as such is the centerpiece of the study area.

Seasonally, over 2,100 surveys were completed by visitors using recreation sites during the May 15 through September 15 summer peak season. Over 450 surveys were

completed by visitors contacted at recreation sites during the fall, winter, and spring seasons (after September 15 and before May 15).

Finally, over 1,300 boaters, over 1,000 anglers, and nearly 1,000 trail users completed the on-site portion of the visitor survey (these groups are not mutually exclusive). Each of these are recreation user groups of special interest to the relicensing Collaborative and area managers. The survey efforts were less successful in contacting the desired number of river boaters. These visitors were found to be very few in number within the study area, and many accessed the river at sites outside the study area (e.g., from private and downstream launch sites) where it was prohibitively difficult to survey.

6.1.2 Hunter Survey, Similar Site Survey, and Household Survey

The Hunter, Similar Site, and Household Surveys were each conducted concurrent with the larger Recreation Visitor Survey. The objective of the Hunter Survey was to obtain information from this specialized user group on topics specific to hunting in the study area. The objective of the Similar Site Survey was to obtain information from a limited number of recreationists using other regional recreation sites similar to those found within the study area. The data were needed to allow comparison of perceptions of those sites and the study area, and to learn the perceptions of non-visitors of the Lake Oroville area. The objective of the Household Survey was to contact residents of Butte County, the local market for the study area, and three more distant market areas in the region. The data were needed to learn past and potential regional visitors' perceptions of the Lake Oroville area and interest in potential recreation improvements in the area as motivations to visit.

The special Hunter Survey effort, conducted during the fall and winter of 2002-03 within the OWA and Afterbay resource areas, was successful in obtaining over 100 completed On-Site Surveys. A total of 38 hunters returned the follow-up mailback portion of the survey.

The Similar Site Survey effort was, for the most part, successful in meeting the goal of obtaining 100 surveys from visitors at each of the three selected similar recreation site reservoirs (a goal of 300 total completed surveys). In total, 293 surveys were obtained, with the sample falling short of that goal by 24 respondents at the lightest-used of the three similar sites, Black Butte Lake. One-hundred or slightly more surveys were obtained at the other two sites, Lake Berryessa and Shasta Lake.

Lastly, the Household Survey was successful in meeting the quota of 100 completed phone interviews with residents of the local Butte County market area and each of the three more distant Northern California and Nevada market areas. Interview participants were required to be at least 18 years old, to have been residents of the region for at least six months, and to be participants in outdoor recreation at rivers and lakes in Northern California.

6.2 SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS

The Lake Oroville Recreation Visitor Survey booklet contained 46 questions, and the portion of the follow-up Mailback Survey reported on in this report contained seven questions. Several of these questions contained numerous individual items for visitors to respond to. The resulting survey data-set for each portion of the survey contained hundreds of variables. The large samples obtained, combined with the breadth of the data collected, represent a very large amount of information for the report reader to absorb and assimilate. This section of the report is intended to facilitate understanding of the survey results with an emphasis on the most prominent visitor characteristics, opinions, and preferences.

The primary approach to the survey data analysis and presentation was by geographic area, using the six resource areas within the larger study area. The logic behind this approach is that there are substantial differences in recreation setting, facilities, opportunities, and in some cases management and visitors among resource areas. This summary reflects the basic structure of the data presented in the Results section.

6.2.1 Lake Oroville Area Recreation Visitor Survey

This summary mirrors the more detailed discussion of each major survey topic area as presented in the Results section, with data summarized from both the on-site and mailback portions of that survey effort. The summary makes use of bulleted statements addressing discrete subtopics beneath each major topic area.

6.2.1.1 Description of Recreation Visitors' Use of the Study Area

- Day vs. Overnight Use and Length of Multiple Day Visits: Across resource areas, most Lake Oroville area visitors are day users, with the exception of those at Lake Oroville, where half or more are overnight visitors. The average overnight stay lasted three days (2 nights). Overnight stays are less common during the non-peak season. Most overnight visitors are from outside Lake Oroville's home county, Butte County, and the adjacent counties. Most overnight visitors stay at one of several developed campgrounds on Lake Oroville or on a houseboat, or at primitive camp areas within the OWA.

- Length of Day Visits and Areas Used: One-day visits varied widely in length but typically ranged from three to six hours, on average, depending on the resource area. Most Lake Oroville visitors confined their visit to that reservoir and did not visit other portions of the study area. Similarly, most visitors to other (downstream) resource areas, such as the Diversion Pool, Forebay, and Afterbay, confined their visits to those areas. Many study area visitors, however, visited different portions of the study area during different visits, and at different times of the year.

- Visitor Group Size and Composition: The size of visitors' groups also varied widely by resource area, ranging from a median size of two at the Diversion Pool and OWA to a median size of seven at the Forebay. Children were usually not a part of groups in the OWA, LFC, and Diversion Pool, while several children were often included in groups using Lake Oroville and the Forebay.

- Visitor Activities: Visitors often participated in several activities while at the study area. Pleasure boating, boat angling, and other water-based activities like swimming and water-skiing predominated at Lake Oroville, along with camping and general shoreline day use. Activities participated in at the Afterbay were similar to those at Lake Oroville, except for camping, and also with special emphasis on PWC use. Trail and shoreline-based day use predominated at the Diversion Pool. Bank fishing, swimming, and shoreline day use predominated at the Forebay. Lastly, bank fishing, fish and wildlife viewing, and general sightseeing were the most dominant activities at the OWA and LFC. Hunting was a dominant use of the Afterbay and OWA during certain fall and winter hunting seasons.

- Frequency and Seasonality of Use: Most study area visitors were regular visitors to the area, recreating there several times per year. Though summer is the peak use season in most resource areas, most areas received considerable fall and spring use and a limited amount of winter use. Non-summer visitors tended to be more locals residents, while more distant areas contributed a larger part of summer visitors.

- Factors in Choosing to Visit: Proximity to home was a dominant reason why most study area visitors recreate there rather than at one of many other similar options in the region. However, features such as desirable natural resource conditions like high water quality and scenery, as well as good facilities and good fishing opportunities, were also important for many.

6.2.1.2 Visitors' Perceptions and Preferences

- Crowding: With the exception of the OWA where anglers may compete for prime fishing spots, few study area visitors were concerned about crowding or considered the areas they used to be crowded to any significant degree. This was true of both the peak season and non-peak season and of both local and non-local ("tourist") visitors.

- Scenery: Visitors rated the natural scenery of the Diversion Pool resource area very highly ("extremely appealing") but typically rated the scenery of other areas as only "moderately appealing."

- Need for Special Events or New Types of Facilities: Few visitors expressed a desire to see more new activities or the facilities to support them made available or for more special events in the area. The greatest interest was expressed for more beach and swim areas.

- Setting Preferences: Study area visitors were interested in enjoying both solitude (being away from other groups) and in having other visitors nearby, although interest in solitude appeared to be stronger. Visitors also expressed a preference for recreation experiences in the Lake Oroville area that provided some degree of risk and challenge and opportunities to use outdoor skills. They expressed a preference for settings in which human-associated sights and sounds are “rare” or “unusual,” although some preferred they be “common,” as well as a preference for natural appearing landscapes.

- Trail Facilities: Most visitors considered the existing system of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails to be adequate, although there was strong interest in more equestrian trails and better trail signage near the Diversion Pool.

- Camping Facilities: Many visitors felt that developed camping facilities are needed in areas besides Lake Oroville (the Afterbay, Forebay, and OWA). Lake Oroville visitors were most interested in more floating campsites, with a moderate desire for more RV sites, showers, and site screening.

- Boating Facilities: Although some interest was expressed in more boat ramps (primarily related to low summer pool level issues), and less so in marinas, many visitors were interested in having more boarding docks at Lake Oroville and in the availability of fuel for purchase at the Afterbay.

- Fishing and Other Facilities: Diversion Pool, Forebay, and OWA anglers would like fish cleaning stations where none are currently provided. Other prominent perceptions of facility needs include developed day use and shoreline picnic sites at Lake Oroville, Afterbay, and Diversion Pool; swimming areas at Lake Oroville and Afterbay; interpretive facilities at the Forebay and Afterbay; and equestrian facilities at the Diversion Pool.

- Management Issues: The management issue of most concern to Lake Oroville visitors was lack of access to the shoreline. OWA and LFC visitors were most concerned about litter and shoreline sanitation along the Feather River. OWA visitors were also concerned about safety and security and a perceived lack of law enforcement personnel.

- Water Condition Issues: Lake Oroville visitors were concerned about low water levels and shallow areas resulting from reservoir drawdown. Similar concerns were expressed about the Afterbay.

- User Interactions: In general, there was a low level of concern about user interaction issues. Lake Oroville visitors were most concerned about interactions with PWC on the water. OWA visitors were concerned about unsafe behavior, use of alcohol, and overuse of recreation sites.

- Overall Satisfaction: Generally, visitor satisfaction was high, with most visitors indicating that they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the last visit. The Diversion Pool, in particular, stood out as the area where visitors were "very" or "extremely satisfied."

6.2.1.3 Study Area Visitors' Regional Recreation Use

- Use of Other Regional Lakes and Rivers: Many study area visitors had also visited other similar areas in Northern California for recreation within the past year. The most prominent substitutes included Lake Almanor, the San Francisco Bay/Delta, Bucks Lake, Lake Tahoe, Folsom Lake, Shasta Lake, and the Sacramento River.

- Visits to Other Regional Sites as Part of Lake Oroville Area Trips: Most Lake Oroville area visitors were visiting only the study area on their trip, and were not including stops at other regional recreation sites.

6.2.1.4 Anglers' Use Patterns, Experiences, and Preferences

- Past Visits and Frequency of Visits: Nearly all study area anglers surveyed were repeat visitors. Many fished in the study area very frequently (more than ten visits in the past year), but more were infrequent visitors who fished in the area only a few times per year or who had not fished in the area at all in the past year.

- Use of Guides and Participation in Tournaments: Very few study area anglers used the services of fishing guides in the area, and relatively few (generally less than ten percent) participated in fishing tournaments. (Tournament participants were generally not surveyed while the tournaments were occurring, but may have been included in the survey sample at other times.)

- Crowding: With the exception of anglers in the OWA, anglers were not concerned about crowding while fishing and considered crowding to be slight or non-existent. In the OWA, however, many anglers considered the areas where they fished to be at least "moderately crowded."

- Species Sought: Lake Oroville anglers were primarily fishing for black bass species, and to a lesser degree for coldwater species like trout and salmon. Diversion Pool anglers fished about equally for bass and trout or salmon.

Forebay anglers were primarily fishing for trout while the Afterbay hosted both bass and salmon anglers. OWA and LFC anglers fished predominantly for salmon, trout, and steelhead.

- Fish Caught: Most study area anglers caught at least one fish the day they were surveyed, although about one-third to one-half of anglers in each resource area had not yet caught anything. Those who caught fish typically caught two to five fish, and the average was about three fish caught in most areas. Catch rates were higher at Lake Oroville, where many anglers caught more than ten fish and the average was seven fish. Overall, black bass were the most frequently-caught species, by a wide margin, followed by salmon. Most bass caught were released, whereas only about a third of the salmon caught were released. Other species caught fairly often were sunfish, catfish, trout, and steelhead.

- Regulations: Most anglers (80-90 percent) felt they were knowledgeable about fishing regulations, and an even greater percentage felt these regulations allowed a quality recreation experience.

- Satisfaction with Fishing Experience: Overall, most anglers (75-90 percent, depending on area) were satisfied with their fishing experience. Those who were not satisfied generally complained of not catching any (or enough) fish or about low reservoir pool levels. OWA anglers pointed to crowding and illegal fishing as additional reasons.

6.2.1.5 Trail Users' Use Patterns, Experiences, and Preferences

- Use History and Primary Type of Trail Use: A high percentage of trail users surveyed (70-80 percent) were repeat trail users. In most resource areas, hiking or walking was the primary type of trail use of most trail users surveyed. In the Diversion Pool area, most were equestrian users. Bike riders were 10-25 percent of users in most areas.

- Crowding: Nearly all trail users considered crowding to be slight or non-existent in all parts of the study area. In the OWA, a moderate degree of crowding was perceived by some, but this related more to unofficial trails accessing the river bank from nearby roads rather than developed trails.

- Encounters on Trails that Threatened Safety: Generally, less than eight percent of trail users in any resource area reported having had an encounter with other trail users that they felt put them at risk that day. However, many of these were described as relating more to animal encounters and motorized use on trails (illegal) or at road crossings, rather than with other hikers or riders. Equestrians using trails in the Diversion Pool area primarily described encounters with bike riders. Other encounters involved equestrians or hikers equally often.

- Condition of Trails: Trail users' satisfaction with the condition of trails was high, with 90 percent or more generally satisfied in each resource area. Those who were not satisfied most often complained about difficulty in reaching shorelines, trailside vegetation, and user conflict issues rather than actual trail conditions. A few users were concerned about related needs of signage, water for horses, and litter removal. Some Diversion Pool users felt the machinery used to grade or maintain trails caused dust and mud problems.

6.2.1.6 Reservoir Boaters' Use Patterns, Experiences, and Preferences

- Areas Boated During Visit: Most Lake Oroville boaters focused their activity on the Main Basin and the South Fork arm of the reservoir. Few boated on the Forebay, Afterbay, or Diversion Pool during the visit. Similarly, most Forebay and Afterbay boaters limited their boating to those areas during the current visit, although a few appeared to take their boat to Lake Oroville also. (Too few Diversion Pool boaters were surveyed to obtain usable data for this section.)

- Crowding: Most Lake Oroville, Forebay, and Afterbay boaters considered the areas where they boated to be "not at all crowded" or, at most, "slightly crowded." A minority group of Lake Oroville and Afterbay boaters considered those water areas to be "moderately crowded."

- At-Risk Encounters on the Water: Less than seven percent of Lake Oroville boaters, less than 13 percent of Afterbay boaters, and less than three percent of Forebay boaters personally had an encounter on the water during their trip that they felt put them at risk. Those who had generally described three types of encounters: boats coming too close or following too close, boaters not observing passing or right-of-way rules or speed restrictions, and PWC behaving recklessly. Boaters occasionally reported observing unsafe boating activity that they felt put others at risk. The types of behaviors described were similar to those listed above.

- Type of Watercraft Used and Ownership: Runabouts, ski boats, and similar powercraft were the predominant types of boats used by boaters surveyed at Lake Oroville and the Afterbay. PWC were the primary watercraft of nearly 30 percent of Afterbay boaters, but were relatively less common on the other resource areas. Forebay boaters were more diverse, with the largest number of boaters using a runabouts/ski boats, but sailboats, canoes and kayaks, and fishing boats also present. A very high percentage of study area boaters own the boat they use in the area, and most others use a friend's or family member's boat.

- Use of Boat Ramps: Nearly all boaters surveyed use boat ramps in the study area, with the four primary developed ramps at Lake Oroville being most popular

with both Lake Oroville and Forebay boaters. Afterbay boaters most often use the Monument Hill Boat Ramp at the Afterbay but are also frequent users of the developed Lake Oroville boat ramps.

- Waits to Use Boat Ramps: More than half of the Lake Oroville boaters surveyed said they typically have to wait to use the ramp they use most often, while most Forebay and Afterbay boaters said they did not typically have to wait. Nearly all of those who said they had to wait reported wait times of 15 minutes or less. Average wait times ranged from nine to 13 minutes, depending on resource area.

- Satisfaction with Boating Experience: From 88 to 91 percent of boaters in each resource area said, overall, they were satisfied with their boating experience during their trip. Those who were not satisfied at Lake Oroville and the Afterbay primarily blamed low water conditions and problems with launching related to low water levels. Forebay boaters had some complaints about ramps, and pointed to a need for more or better facilities.

6.2.2 Hunter Survey

Like the previous section, this section mirrors the more detailed discussion of each major survey topic area as used in the Results section, with data summarized from both the on-site and mailback portions of the Hunter Survey effort. This section makes use of bulleted statements addressing each major topic area.

- Frequency and Seasonality of Use: Most hunters were regular visitors to the Lake Oroville area (three or more visits per year). Their use tended to occur during the fall and winter, although about half also used the area during the spring and summer.

- Length of Stay and Group Size: Nearly all hunters were one-day visitors rather than campers, and most were in the area for just a few hours. Nearly all had arrived in the area before 9 a.m. (and many before 6 a.m.), and most left before noon. Most hunted in groups of two or three, although solo hunters and larger groups were also present.

- Areas used for Hunting and Access: Nearly all hunters confined their visit to the OWA or the Afterbay (managed as a subunit of the OWA). About half said they most often hunt in the Afterbay area, and the remainder favored various other OWA lands and ponds. Over 83 percent considered access to the OWA to be adequate.

- Species Hunted for and Animals Taken: A majority of hunters were hunting for ducks, while 20-40 percent were hunting for geese, pheasant, or quail. Many hunters were hunting for more than one of these types of game. Only a few

surveyed hunters were hunting for dove or turkey (during a special restricted hunt) or deer. Duck and turkey hunters were most successful, with about half the duck hunters taking a bird (many took several) and about two-thirds of turkey hunters making a kill. About 44 percent of pheasant hunters took a bird, with most of those taking just one. Less than 30 percent of quail hunters took a bird (generally one or two) and only 12 percent of goose hunters took one or two geese. No dove or deer were reported taken.

- Crowding: Most hunters considered the OWA and Afterbay areas they hunted to be "not at all" to "slightly crowded." However, about a third considered the area "moderately crowded."

- Encounters with Others: Six percent of hunters reported encounters with others that they felt put them at risk. The most common type of such an encounter described was of other hunters "hunting too close."

- Reasons for Hunting in OWA: The most common reasons hunters gave for hunting in the OWA were proximity to their homes, good access and easy availability, good hunting opportunities with light hunting pressure, and lack of user fees.

- Regulations: About 90 percent of hunters felt knowledgeable about hunting regulations for the study area and about 85 percent felt these regulations allowed a quality experience. A few hunters felt the regulations were not easily available. The few hunters who had complaints about regulations most often mentioned opening and closing times as the issue of concern.

- Perceptions of Management Issues: Most hunters did not consider any of 15 management issues to be a problem during their visit, with one exception: most felt litter was a "slight" or "moderate problem" in the area. There was also a notable level of concern about water level fluctuation in the Afterbay, with about one-third of the hunters considering this a "moderate" or "big problem."

- Suggestions for Improvements to OWA: Most hunters offered at least one suggestion for improvements. Although a wide variety of comments were made, the most common included actions to improve wildlife habitat and otherwise improve game populations, to expand access and improve roads, and to maintain higher and consistent water levels in the Afterbay.

- Satisfaction with Hunting Experience: About three-quarters of the hunters said they were satisfied with their hunting experience. Those who were not satisfied most often blamed a lack of birds, habitat needing improvement, and Afterbay water levels that were too low.

6.2.3 Similar Site Survey

Like the previous sections, this section mirrors the more detailed discussion of each major survey topic area as used in the Results section, with data summarized from the on-site survey used in this survey effort (no mailback survey was used). Once again, this section uses bulleted statements to address each major topic area. The emphasis here is on comparing Lake Oroville visitors' perceptions to those of visitors at the Similar Site Survey reservoirs (Shasta Lake, Black Butte Lake, and Lake Berryessa). The last few topics relate to Similar Site Survey respondents' perceptions of Lake Oroville.

- Comparison of Characteristics with Lake Oroville area visitors: Visitors to the three similar site reservoirs were generally like Lake Oroville area visitors in their recreation use patterns, forming one basis for comparing perceptions between the Lake Oroville area and Similar Site Surveys. However, some substantial differences were identified between Lake Oroville visitors and those at individual similar site reservoirs, which should be considered when making any direct comparisons of opinions or preferences. Similar site visitors were more often day users rather than overnight visitors, and tended to have larger groups. They also generally participated in the same activities as Lake Oroville area visitors and were drawn to the reservoir by its convenience from their homes. Shasta Lake appeared to be somewhat unique from Lake Oroville or the other similar sites in that it is more of a draw for out-of-area tourism, as the largest reservoir in the State and situated on a major Interstate highway.

- Crowding: Perceptions of crowding were somewhat higher at two of the three similar site reservoirs than at Lake Oroville. At Lake Berryessa, in particular, perceptions that crowding was moderate (or worse) were much more common.

- Scenery: Perceptions of the appeal of scenery were lower than at Lake Oroville at Black Butte Lake, about the same at Lake Berryessa, and higher at Shasta Lake.

- Management Issues: Management issues related to access, facilities, and services were generally perceived to be a "big problem" by only a small percentage of visitors at Lake Oroville and the similar sites. However, perceptions of law enforcement issues and litter/sanitation as a problem were highest at Lake Oroville. Water condition issues (exposed land, shallow areas, and fluctuations) were much more frequently considered a "big problem" at Lake Oroville. On the other hand, most of the several types of user interaction issues were most often considered to be a "big problem" at Shasta Lake.

- Numbers of Facilities: The perceptions that the number of campgrounds and shower facilities at campgrounds as "too few" were highest at Shasta Lake, and were substantially lower at Lake Oroville. However, perceptions that RV hookup sites and group sites were "too few" were highest at Lake Oroville. Regarding

boating facilities, with the exception of boat-in gas stations, the perception that several of these types of facilities were "too few" was most common at Lake Oroville. The same was true of several other types of facilities, such as swim areas, developed day use areas along the shore, equestrian facilities, and interpretive programs.

- Satisfaction with Recreation Experience: The percentage of Lake Oroville visitors who said they were "satisfied," "very satisfied," or "extremely satisfied" (about 71 percent) was slightly higher than the percentage similarly satisfied at Lake Berryessa, but slightly lower than at Black Butte Lake and about 14 percent lower than at Shasta Lake.

6.2.3.1 Comparison of Perceptions of Boating Issues

- Boating Encounters: Lake Oroville area boaters and boaters at the similar sites were about equal in reporting encounters on the water that they felt put them at risk and in reporting boating activities that they felt put others at risk. At all sites, PWC encounters tended to dominate the encounters and behaviors described.

- Crowding on the Water: Lake Oroville boaters perception of crowding on the water was substantially lower than the crowding perceptions of boaters at Lake Berryessa or Shasta Lake. It was slightly higher than perceptions of boaters at Black Butte Lake.

- Waits to Launch: The percentage of boaters indicating that they typically had to wait to use the boat ramps at Lake Oroville was slightly lower than at Lake Berryessa and Shasta Lake, but considerably higher than at Black Butte Lake. Average wait times were longest at Lake Berryessa (14 min.) and shortest at Black Butte Lake (6 min.) and the same at Shasta Lake and Lake Oroville (10 min.).

- Satisfaction with Boating Experience: The percentage of boaters satisfied with their boating experience was about the same at Lake Oroville as at Shasta Lake (89 percent) but was considerably higher than at either Lake Berryessa (74 percent) or Black Butte Lake (66 percent).

6.2.3.2 Similar Site Visitors' Use and Perceptions of Lake Oroville

- Reasons for Not Having Visited Lake Oroville: Similar site visitors provide three main reasons for not having visited, none of which relate to specific conditions at Lake Oroville: lack of knowledge about the area, distance from their homes, and not having had the chance to go. Less than ten percent mentioned any negative perceptions of Lake Oroville itself.

- Interest in Special Events at Lake Oroville: About 10-20 percent of the Similar Site Survey respondents said a few types of special events would motivate them to visit Lake Oroville for the first time: fishing events, food or beverage festivals, water-skiing events, and powerboat races. Interest was lower in several other types of events listed on the survey.

- Interest in Facility Additions at Lake Oroville: Interest varied from site to site in new types of facilities that might motivate a first visit to Lake Oroville, but three types of facilities received the most positive responses overall: a water park, warm-water swimming/beach areas, and a floating restaurant.

- Visits to Lake Oroville: Among the Similar Site Survey respondents who had visited Lake Oroville in the past, most had not visited in the past year or, in the case of Shasta Lake visitors, had made a single visit. A smaller minority had made several visits during the past year. Many of those who had not been to Lake Oroville in the last year had not been there for more than two years.

- Satisfaction with Last Visit: About 23 percent of Black Butte Lake visitors and 36 percent of Shasta Lake visitors were “somewhat” to “extremely dissatisfied” with their last visit to Lake Oroville. A prominent reason given for not being satisfied was “lake level fluctuation” or “low lake level.” Black Butte Lake visitors pointed out a lack of Lake Oroville swimming and shoreline facilities.

6.2.4 Household Survey

The Household Survey consisted of brief telephone interviews with 100 water-based recreationists residing in each of three market areas: Butte County, where the study area is located, Reno (Nevada) area, San Francisco area, and Sacramento area. The following section summarizes responses from two main groups, who were asked different though similar questions: those who had and who had not visited the Lake Oroville area. Nearly all Butte County respondents had been to the Lake Oroville area, as had about 45 to 55 percent of respondents in the other three market areas.

6.2.4.1 Past Visits and Perceptions of Those Who Had Visited the Lake Oroville Area

- Frequency of Visits: As would be expected, Butte County respondents had visited most often, with most having visited the area three or more times per year. Most respondents from the other, non-local market areas visited less often than once per year.

- Time Since Last Visit: Nearly all Butte County respondents had visited the Lake Oroville area within the last 12 months. About 35-40 percent of respondents

from the other market areas had also visited within the last 12 months, but 45 to 50 percent had not visited for two or more years.

- Satisfaction with Last Visit: Butte County respondents were most often "very satisfied" with their last visit to the Lake Oroville area and about two-thirds were at least "somewhat satisfied." Satisfaction levels were only slightly lower among residents of the other market areas, with ratings of "somewhat satisfied" more common than ratings of "very satisfied."

- Reasons for Dissatisfaction: Those who were dissatisfied (primarily from Butte County) most often mentioned lake level fluctuation as a reason. Others pointed to perceived facility or maintenance inadequacies. Only two respondents from each of the other market areas were dissatisfied, thus no conclusions can be made.

- Reasons for Not Visiting More Often: Those who had not visited in the last two years were asked to explain why. Most reasons given did not directly relate to conditions in the Lake Oroville area: a preference for other places, a desire to go to places closer to home, and personal reasons. However, about 15 percent of combined respondents mentioned negative perceptions of the Lake Oroville area.

- Interest in Special Events as Motivators to Visit: When read a list of 16 special events as possible motivators to visit the Lake Oroville area more often, more than 20 percent of combined respondents responded positively to five of them: fishing events (37 percent), food or beverage festivals (25 percent), water-skiing events (24 percent), powerboat races (22 percent), and canoe/kayak/river-related events (22 percent). Several others received positive responses from 10-16 percent of combined respondents.

- Interest in Facilities as Motivators to Visit: When read a list of eight types of facility improvements as possible motivators to visit the Lake Oroville area more often, more than 20 percent of combined respondents responded positively to all but one of them. The top three each received about 37-38 percent positive responses from the combined respondents: floating restaurant on Lake Oroville, warm-water swimming/beach areas, and showers at day-use areas.

6.2.4.2 Past Visits and Perceptions of Those Who Had Never Visited the Lake Oroville Area

- Reasons for Never Having Visited: Those who had not visited the Lake Oroville area were asked to explain why. Again, most reasons given did not directly relate to conditions in the Lake Oroville area: a lack of knowledge about the area, distance from their homes, a preference for other lakes, and personal reasons.

- Other Lakes Prefer to Visit: Those who indicated a preference for other lakes were asked to name those other lakes. Respondents in each market area most often mentioned a lake or lakes within or closer to that area: Lake Tahoe for Reno area residents (also mentioned by several San Francisco and Sacramento area respondents), Folsom Lake for Sacramento area residents, and San Francisco area lakes for San Francisco area residents.

- Interest in Special Events as Motivators to Visit: Those who had never visited the Lake Oroville area were read the same list of special events that might serve as a motivator to visit (for the first time, in this case). Although the level of interest was lower than that shown by past visitors, similar types of events received the most positive responses: food and beverage festival (25 percent), canoe/kayak/river-related events (24 percent), fishing events (22 percent), and powerboat races (20 percent). Several others received 13-17 percent positive responses.

- Interest in Facilities as Motivators to Visit: When read the same list of eight types of facility improvements as possible motivators to visit the Lake Oroville area for the first time, more than 20 percent of combined respondents responded positively to six of the eight. The top three each received about 30-37 percent positive responses from the combined respondents: floating restaurant on Lake Oroville (37 percent), expanded outdoor/nature/cultural center (31 percent), and warm-water swimming/beach areas (30 percent).

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7.0 REFERENCES

7.1 DOCUMENTS AND LITERATURE CITED

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FERC. 1996. Recreation Development at Licensed Hydropower Projects. Volume 12.

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7.2 PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS

Kastner, A., Hatchery Manager, Feather River Fish Hatchery, California Department of Fish and Game, Oroville, California; personal correspondence with I. Ferguson, Environmental Planner, EDAW, San Francisco, California; July 2003.

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APPENDIX A

LAKE OROVILLE AREA RECREATION VISITOR SURVEY (ON-SITE & MAILBACK SURVEY) INSTRUMENTS

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ON-SITE SURVEY

(Originals were 8.5 inch x 7.0 inch booklets)

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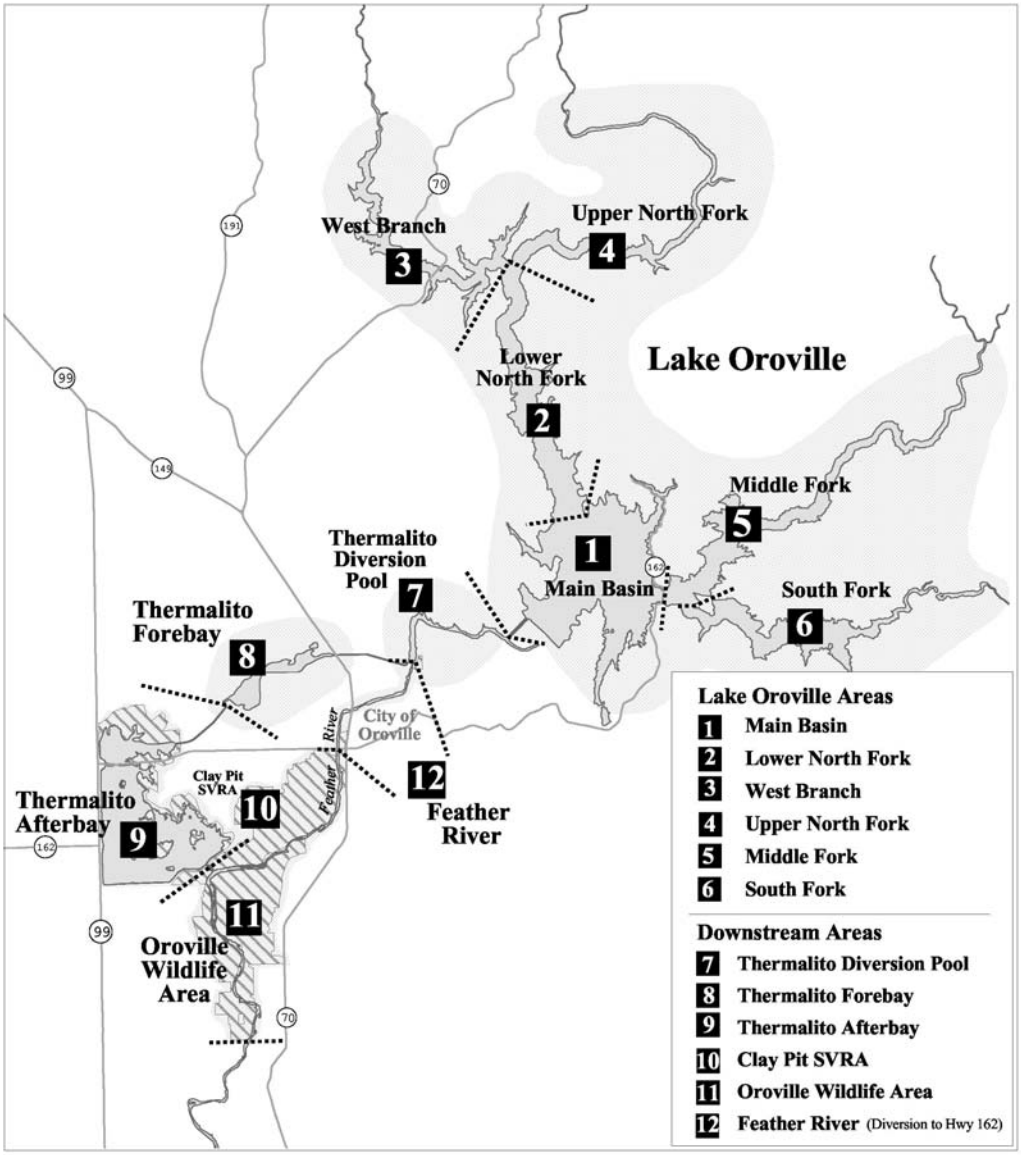
2002
Lake Oroville Area
Recreation Survey

California Department of Water Resources

Use this map to reference questions 1, 4, 16, 28, and 30.



Lake Oroville Recreation Areas

Lake Oroville Recreation Visitor Questionnaire

Please complete the following survey as completely as possible. Read section directions carefully, as not all questions will apply to you. Some sections only apply to specific activities, such as fishing. Your views about recreation in the Lake Oroville Area (see adjacent map) are very important to us. When you have completed the survey, please give it to one of the DWR researchers in this area today. Please **circle the number corresponding with your answer**, unless otherwise instructed.

Q-1. Regarding the Lake Oroville Area, do you consider yourself: (**Circle one number**)

1. A regular visitor to this area (*3 or more times per year*)
2. An occasional visitor (*1-2 times per year*)
3. An infrequent visitor (*Less than 1 time per year*)
4. This is my first visit

Q-2. On this trip to the Lake Oroville Area, when did you arrive?

_____/_____/_____ _____AM/PM
Arrival Date *Arrival Time*

When did you or do you expect to leave the Lake Oroville Area?

_____/_____/_____ _____AM/PM
Departure Date *Departure Time*

Q-3. During the last 12 months (including this trip), which seasons did you visit the Lake Oroville Area?

1. Spring 2. Summer 3. Fall 4. Winter

Q-4. Looking at the map of recreation locations within the Lake Oroville Area, which of the following areas do you plan to visit on this trip? (**Circle all numbers that apply**)

Lake Oroville	**Downstream Areas**
1. Main Basin	7. Thermalito Diversion Pool
2. Lower North Fork	8. Thermalito Forebay
3. West Branch	9. Thermalito Afterbay
4. Upper North Fork	10. Clay Pit State Vehicular Recreation Area
5. Middle Fork	11. Oroville Wildlife Area (Includes Feather River downstrea of Highway 162)
6. South Fork	12. Feather River (Diversion Pool to Highway 162)

Q-5. At this location, how crowded do you feel today?

1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**
Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded			Extremely Crowded

Q-6. How many people, including yourself, are in your group today?

Number of adults_____
Number of children (less than 18 years old)_____

Q-7. What is the zip code of your primary residence?_____

Q-8. Are you a Butte County resident?

1. Yes 2. No

-2-

Q-9. Are you staying overnight in Butte County (not including at your own home) on this trip?

1. Yes 2. No (**go to Q-11**)

Q-10. At what type of accommodations will you be staying?

1. RV/Auto/Tent Campground (Which campground?_____)
2. Boat-in campground (Which campground? _____)
3. Floating Campsite
4. Houseboat
5. Motel/hotel (Where? _____)
6. Bed and Breakfast (Where? _____)
7. Other (Please specify) _____

Q-11. Briefly describe why you chose to visit the Lake Oroville Area on this trip rather than other recreation areas in northern California. _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

-3-

Q-12. On this trip to the Lake Oroville Area, in which of the following activities have you or do you expect to participate? (**Circle all numbers that apply**)

Wildlife	Boating	Active	Passive
1. Bank fishing	13. Rafting	22. Swimming	35. Sunbathing
2. Boat fishing	14. Motor boating	23. Tennis	36. Sightseeing
3. Hunting	15. House boating	24. Golf	37. Photography
4. Nature study	16. Personal Watercraft use	25. Hiking	38. Picnicking
5. Bird watching	17. Sailing	26. Backpacking	39. Painting /drawing
	18. Kayaking	27. Off highway vehicle driving/motorcycling/ ATV	40. Relaxing
Urban	19. Canoeing		41. RV camping
6. Movies and theater	20. Windsurfing	28. Bike on roads/paths	42. Rock collecting
7. Shop (art/clothes/antiques)	21. Water ski/Wake board	29. Mountain bike on trails	
8. Museum/art gallery/historic site		30. Horseback riding	
9. Amusement park		31. Tent camping	
10. Dining out at restaurants/bars		32. Camping at a floating campsite	
11. Concert/festival/ tournament/event		33. Dog walking	
12. Attend educational events		34. Panning for gold	
43. Other activity (*please specify*) _____			

Q-13. Of the activities you circled in **Q-12** above, what is the primary activity that you participated in, or expect to participate in, on this visit? (**Write in the corresponding number from above**)

Primary activity # _____

Q-14. How would you rate the scenery of the location you are currently at in the Lake Oroville Area? (**Circle appropriate number**)

1----------2----------3----------4----------5----------6----------7----------8----------9

Extremely Unappealing — Unappealing — Appealing — Extremely Appealing

-4-

If you have fished or expect to fish in this area on this trip, please complete Q-15 through Q-22. Otherwise, skip to the next section.

Q-15. Have you fished in the Lake Oroville Area before this trip?

1. Yes ➠ If Yes, approximately how many times over the past 12 months? _____
2. No

Q-16. Have you used a fishing outfitter or guide in the Lake Oroville Area in the last 12 months? (**refer to map**)

1. Yes ➠ If yes, for what area? (**Circle all that apply**)

Lake Oroville	**Downstream Areas**
1. Main Basin	7. Thermalito Diversion Pool
2. Lower North Fork	8. Thermalito Forebay
3. West Branch	9. Thermalito Afterbay
4. Upper North Fork	11. Oroville Wildlife Area (Includes Feather River downstream of Highway 162)
5. Middle Fork	
6. South Fork	12. Feather River (Diversion Pool to Highway 162)

2. No

Q-17. Have you participated in fishing tournaments in the Lake Oroville Area in the last 12 months?

1. Yes (Which ones? _____)
2. No

-5-

Q-18. Please indicate how crowded you felt at the area you fished today. (**Circle a number**) Skip to **Q-23** if you have not fished today.

1----------2----------3----------4----------5----------6----------7----------8----------9

Not at all Crowded	Slightly Crowded	Moderately Crowded	Extremely Crowded

Q-19. Complete the following table about the species you are fishing for today, and whether or not you caught any fish. Where appropriate, enter the number of fish you caught/released. If you have not fished today, skip to **Q-23**.

Are you fishing for: *(Circle all that apply)*	**Number of Fish Caught in Each Size Category**					**Number with Adipose Fin Clipped?**			**Number Released?**
	0-5”	**6-11”**	**12-20”**	**21-30”**	**31”+**	**C**	**N**	**NS**	
1. Black Bass									
2. Sunfish/ Bluegill									
3. Catfish									
4. Crappie									
5. Trout									
6. Salmon									
7. Steelhead									
8. Striped Bass									
9. Shad									
10. Green Sturgeon									
11. White Sturgeon									
12. Other									
13. No Preference									

C = clipped adipose fin N = adipose fin NOT clipped NS = not sure

-6-

Q-20. What time did you begin fishing and what time will you stop?

_____AM/PM _____AM/PM

start time *end time*

Q-21. Regarding fishing regulations:

Do you feel knowledgeable about them?

1. Yes 2. No

Do you feel they allow a quality recreation experience?

1. Yes 2. No

Q-22. Overall, are you satisfied with your fishing experience at the Lake Oroville Area on this trip?

1. Yes 2. No ➠ Why not? _____

_____

Non-Motorized Trail Users Only. If you have used or expect to use trails in the Lake Oroville Area on this trip, please complete Q-23 through Q-28. Otherwise, skip to the next section.

Q-23. Please specify your primary type of trail use: (**Circle response**)

1. Bike 2. Hike/Walk 3. Equestrian 4. Other_____

Q-24. Is this your first time using trails in the area?

1. Yes 2. No

Q-25. Please indicate how crowded you felt on the trail you used during this trip. (**Circle a number**)

1----------2----------3----------4----------5----------6----------7----------8----------9

Not at all Crowded	Slightly Crowded	Moderately Crowded	Extremely Crowded

Q-26a. On this trip, did you have any encounters on the trail with other users that put you at risk?

1. Yes; please describe: _____

_____

2. No (**go to Q-27**)

Q-26b. Regarding these encounters on trails: With whom have you had encounters? (**Circle any that apply**)

1. Bicyclists 2. Equestrians 3. Hikers/Walkers 4. Other_____

Q-27. Overall, are you satisfied with the condition of Lake Oroville Area trails on this trip?

1. Yes 2. No ➠ Why not? _____

_____

Q-28. What is your favorite trail or trail section in the Lake Oroville Area? _____

_____

-8-

River and Reservoir Boaters Only. If you have boated or expect to boat on this trip, please complete Q-29 through Q-40. Otherwise, skip to the next section.

Q-29. On this trip, at what site did you **primarily** boat? (**Circle one area; refer to map for sites or section**)

Lake Oroville	**Downstream Areas**
1. Main Basin	7. Thermalito Diversion Pool
2. Lower North Fork	8. Thermalito Forebay
3. West Branch	9. Thermalito Afterbay
4. Upper North Fork	11. Oroville Wildlife Area (Includes Feather River downstream of Highway 162)
5. Middle Fork	
6. South Fork	12. Feather River (Diversion Pool to Highway 162)

Q-30. On this trip, did you personally experience any encounters with other users on the water that put you at risk?

1. Yes ➠ If Yes, where _____ (**Refer to map**)

Briefly describe the encounter _____

_____

2. No

Q-31. Did you observe any boating activity today that you felt put others at risk?

1. Yes ➠ If Yes, briefly describe unsafe activity_____

_____

2. No

Q-32. Please indicate how crowded you felt on the water today. (**Circle a number**) Skip to **Q-34** if you have not been on the water today.

1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**
Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded			Extremely Crowded

Q-33. What type of watercraft do you **primarily** use when visiting the Lake Oroville Area? (**Circle one**)

1. Runabout/Pontoon/Cabin cruiser/Ski boat/Motorboat
2. Houseboat
3. Sailboat
4. Canoe/Kayak
5. Personal Watercraft (jet ski/ wave runner/etc.)
6. Other (Describe:_____)

Q-34. Do you own or rent the watercraft mentioned in **Q-33**, that you **primarily** use?

1. Own 2. Rent 3. Other (explain:_____)

Q-35. For the watercraft you primarily use, do you dock or moor it at Lake Oroville?

1. Yes ➠ Year round or Seasonal (**circle one**) 2. No

Q-36. Have you ever used one of the boat launches in the Lake Oroville Area?

1. Yes 2. No ➠ **(Skip to Q-41)**

Q-37. Which of the following boat launches have you used during the last 12 months? (**Circle all that apply**)

1. Lime Saddle
2. Spillway launch
3. Bidwell Canyon
4. Loafer Creek
5. Enterprise
6. N. Thermalito Forebay
7. S. Thermalito Forebay
8. Thermalito Afterbay Monument Hill
9. Thermalito Afterbay Larkin Road
10. Dark Canyon Car-Top
11. Stringtown Car-Top
12. Nelson Bar Car-Top
13. Vinton Gulch Car-Top
14. Foreman Creek Car-Top
15. Div. Pool-Burma Rd/RR Grade
16. River launch
17. Other _____
18. Other _____

Q-38. Which boat launch do you use most frequently? _____ (**Write in number from above**)

Q-39. Do you typically have to wait to use the boat launch you most frequently use?

1. Yes ➠ If Yes, on average, how many minutes do you have to wait to use this ramp?

   Number of minutes _____

2. No

Q-40. Overall, are you satisfied with your boating experience on this trip to the Lake Oroville Area?

1. Yes 2. No ➠ Why not? _____

_____

_____

-11-

Finally, we would like to know something about you. This information will not be distributed to any other group for any purpose. ALL RESPONSES WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.

Q-41. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (**Circle appropriate number**)

1. Some high school
2. High school graduate
3. Some college
4. Bachelor's degree or equivalent
5. Master's degree or equivalent
6. Ph.D., J.D., M.D., or equivalent

Q-42. What is your age? _____

Q-43. What is your primary occupation?

1. Professional/Technical
2. Manager/Administrator
3. Sales
4. Clerical
5. Service
6. Teacher/Professor
7. Skilled Worker
8. Laborer
9. Retired
10. Student
11. Military
12. Homemaker
13. Other: _____

Q-44. Please circle the category that represents your total household income before taxes.

1. Less than $20,000
2. $20,000-$39,999
3. $40,000-$59,999
4. $60,000-$79,999
5. $80,000-$100,000
6. More than $100,000

-12-

Q-45. Of the choices listed below, please circle the ethnic group with which you most closely identify.

1. Latino/Hispanic
2. White/Anglo (non Hispanic)
3. Asian
4. African American/Black
5. American Indian/Alaska Native
6. Pacific Islander/ native Hawaiian
7. Other _____

Q-46. Do you have any additional comments?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Please Turn to Back Page

So that we can find out more about what you think about uses and facilities in the Lake Oroville Area and about your spending on this trip, we would like to send you a brief follow-up questionnaire. Additional information about the follow-up survey is included on the back side of the map.

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS BELOW. YOUR ADDRESS WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE.

Name_____

Address _____

City_____ State _____ Zip Code_____

Thank you for your participation in this important recreation study!

For office use.
Date _____
Location _____

WINDSHIELD SURVEY

(Originals were 8.5 inch x 7.0 inch booklets)

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Lake Oroville Area Recreation Survey

Dear Lake Oroville Area Visitor:

We missed you!

This year, a short survey of recreation visitors in the Lake Oroville Area is being conducted by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Visitors of all types are being asked to complete a brief survey. This important study will provide the DWR and the Department of Parks and Recreation, who operate the Lake Oroville Recreation Area, with valuable information about recreation use and visitor satisfaction with the Lake Oroville Area.

Because we were not able to contact you in person, we would like to invite you to participate in the study with this mail-back survey. A limited number of people are receiving this survey, so your returned copy is particularly valuable to us.

All the information you provide is strictly confidential and will not be used for any other purpose.

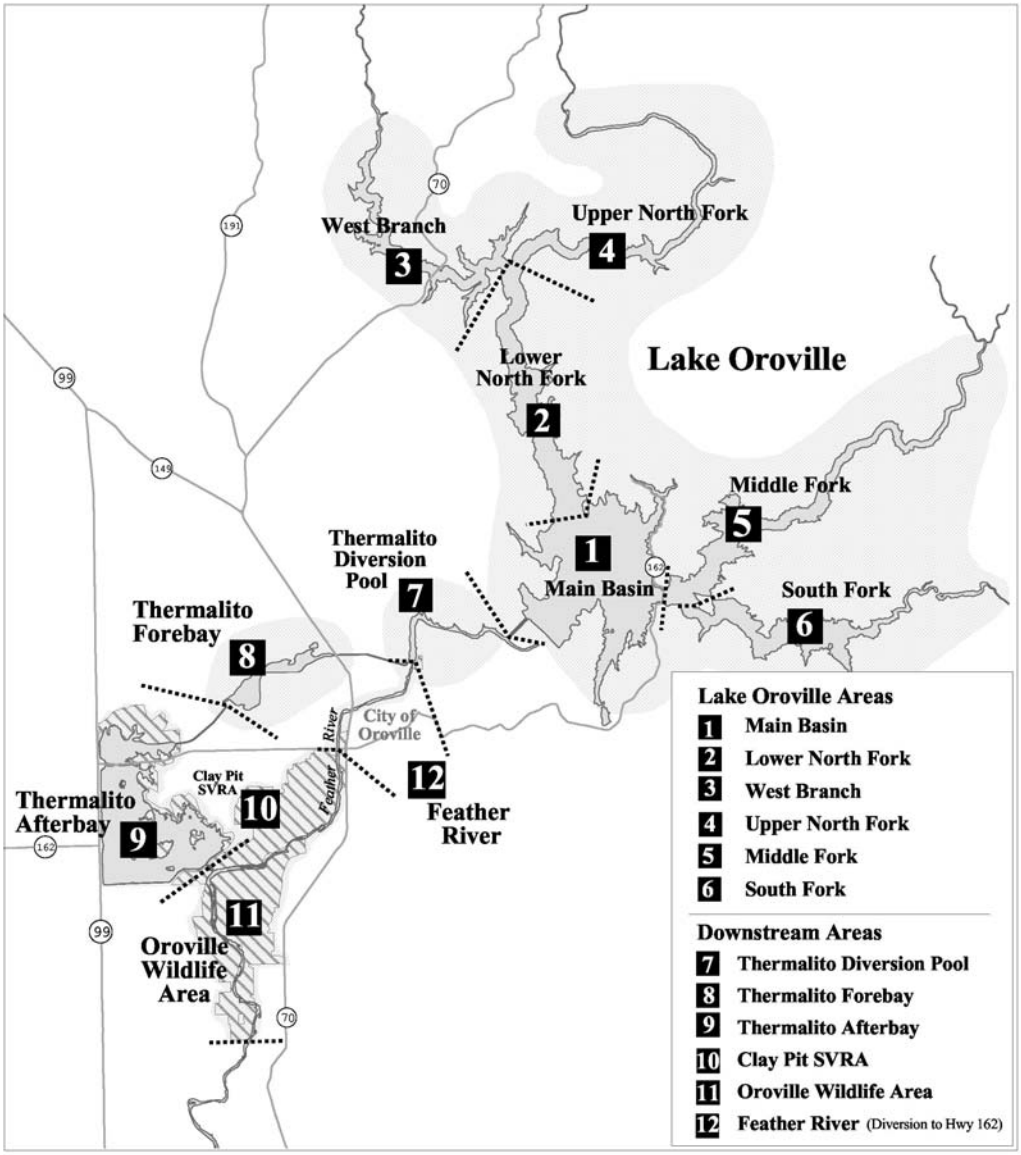
Thank you for your participation in this important study. If you have any questions about this survey effort, please contact me at (415) 433-1484 or email *baasj@edaw.com*.

Sincerely,

John Baas

Harza/EDAW Recreation Planning

Use this map to reference questions 1, 4, 16, 28, and 30.



Lake Oroville Recreation Areas

Lake Oroville Recreation Visitor Questionnaire

Please complete the following survey as completely as possible. Read section directions carefully, as not all questions will apply to you. Some sections only apply to specific activities, such as fishing. Your views about recreation in the Lake Oroville Area (see adjacent map) are very important to us. When you have completed the survey, please return it in the postage-paid envelope as soon as possible. Please **circle the number corresponding with your answer**, unless otherwise instructed.

Q-1. Regarding the Lake Oroville Area, do you consider yourself: (**Circle one number**)

1. A regular visitor to this area (*3 or more times per year*)
2. An occasional visitor (*1-2 times per year*)
3. An infrequent visitor (*Less than 1 time per year*)
4. This is my first visit

Q-2. On this trip to the Lake Oroville Area, when did you arrive?

_____/_____/_____ _____AM/PM
Arrival Date *Arrival Time*

When did you or do you expect to leave the Lake Oroville Area?

_____/_____/_____ _____AM/PM
Departure Date *Departure Time*

Q-3. During the last 12 months (including this trip), which seasons did you visit the Lake Oroville Area?

1. Spring 2. Summer 3. Fall 4. Winter

-1-

Q-4. Looking at the map of recreation locations within the Lake Oroville Area, which of the following areas do you plan to visit on this trip? (**Circle all numbers that apply**)

Lake Oroville	**Downstream Areas**
1. Main Basin	7. Thermalito Diversion Pool
2. Lower North Fork	8. Thermalito Forebay
3. West Branch	9. Thermalito Afterbay
4. Upper North Fork	10. Clay Pit State Vehicular Recreation Area
5. Middle Fork	11. Oroville Wildlife Area (Includes Feather River downstream of Highway 162)
6. South Fork	12. Feather River (Diversion Pool to Highway 162)

Q-5. At this location, how crowded do you feel today?

1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**
Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded			Extremely Crowded

Q-6. How many people, including yourself, are in your group today?

Number of adults_____
Number of children (less than 18 years old)_____

Q-7. What is the zip code of your primary residence?_____

Q-8. Are you a Butte County resident?

1. Yes 2. No

-2-

Q-9. Are you staying overnight in Butte County (not including at your own home) on this trip?

1. Yes 2. No (**go to Q-11**)

Q-10. At what type of accommodations will you be staying?

1. RV/Auto/Tent Campground (Which campground?_____)
2. Boat-in campground (Which campground? _____)
3. Floating Campsite
4. Houseboat
5. Motel/hotel (Where? _____)
6. Bed and Breakfast (Where? _____)
7. Other (Please specify) _____

Q-11. Briefly describe why you chose to visit the Lake Oroville Area on this trip rather than other recreation areas in northern California. _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

-3-

Q-12. On this trip to the Lake Oroville Area, in which of the following activities have you or do you expect to participate? (**Circle all numbers that apply**)

Wildlife	Boating	Active	Passive
1. Bank fishing	13. Rafting	22. Swimming	35. Sunbathing
2. Boat fishing	14. Motor boating	23. Tennis	36. Sightseeing
3. Hunting	15. House boating	24. Golf	37. Photography
4. Nature study	16. Personal Watercraft use	25. Hiking	38. Picnicking
5. Bird watching	17. Sailing	26. Backpacking	39. Painting /drawing
	18. Kayaking	27. Off highway vehicle driving/motorcycling/ ATV	40. Relaxing
Urban	19. Canoeing		41. RV camping
6. Movies and theater	20. Windsurfing	28. Bike on roads/paths	42. Rock collecting
7. Shop (art/clothes/antiques)	21. Water ski/Wake board	29. Mountain bike on trails	
8. Museum/art gallery/historic site		30. Horseback riding	
9. Amusement park		31. Tent camping	
10. Dining out at restaurants/bars		32. Camping at a floating campsite	
11. Concert/festival/ tournament/event		33. Dog walking	
12. Attend educational events		34. Panning for gold	
43. Other activity (*please specify*) _____			

Q-13. Of the activities you circled in **Q-12** above, what is the primary activity that you participated in, or expect to participate in, on this visit? (**Write in the corresponding number from above**)

Primary activity # _____

Q-14. How would you rate the scenery of the location you are currently at in the Lake Oroville Area? (**Circle appropriate number**)

1----------2----------3----------4----------5----------6----------7----------8----------9

Extremely Unappealing — Unappealing — Appealing — Extremely Appealing

-4-

If you have fished or expect to fish in this area on this trip, please complete Q-15 through Q-22. Otherwise, skip to the next section.

Q-15. Have you fished in the Lake Oroville Area before this trip?

1. Yes ➠ If Yes, approximately how many times over the past 12 months? _____
2. No

Q-16. Have you used a fishing outfitter or guide in the Lake Oroville Area in the last 12 months? (**refer to map**)

1.Yes ➠ If yes, for what area? (**Circle all that apply**)

Lake Oroville	**Downstream Areas**
1. Main Basin	7. Thermalito Diversion Pool
2. Lower North Fork	8. Thermalito Forebay
3. West Branch	9. Thermalito Afterbay
4. Upper North Fork	11. Oroville Wildlife Area (Includes Feather River downstream of Highway 162)
5. Middle Fork	
6. South Fork	12. Feather River (Diversion Pool to Highway 162)

2. No

Q-17. Have you participated in fishing tournaments in the Lake Oroville Area in the last 12 months?

1. Yes (Which ones? _____)
2. No

-5-

Q-18. Please indicate how crowded you felt at the area you fished today.

(**Circle a number**) Skip to **Q-23** if you have not fished today.

1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**
Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded			Extremely Crowded

Q-19. Complete the following table about the species you are fishing for today, and whether or not you caught any fish. Where appropriate, enter the number of fish you caught/released. If you have not fished today, skip to **Q-23**.

Are you fishing for: *(Circle all that apply)*	**Number of Fish Caught in Each Size Category**					**Number with Adipose Fin Clipped?**			**Number Released?**
	0-5”	**6-11”**	**12-20”**	**21-30”**	**31”+**	**C**	**N**	**NS**	
1. Black Bass									
2. Sunfish/ Bluegill									
3. Catfish									
4. Crappie									
5. Trout									
6. Salmon									
7. Steelhead									
8. Striped Bass									
9. Shad									
10. Green Sturgeon									
11. White Sturgeon									
12. Other									
13. No Preference									

C = clipped adipose fin N = adipose fin NOT clipped NS = not sure

-6-

Q-20. What time did you begin fishing and what time will you stop?

_____AM/PM _____AM/PM

start time *end time*

Q-21. Regarding fishing regulations:

Do you feel knowledgeable about them?

1. Yes 2. No

Do you feel they allow a quality recreation experience?

1. Yes 2. No

Q-22. Overall, are you satisfied with your fishing experience at the Lake Oroville Area on this trip?

1. Yes 2. No ➠ Why not? _____

_____

Non-Motorized Trail Users Only. If you have used or expect to use trails in the Lake Oroville Area on this trip, please complete Q-23 through Q-28. Otherwise, skip to the next section.

Q-23. Please specify your primary type of trail use: (**Circle response**)

1. Bike 2. Hike/Walk 3. Equestrian 4. Other_____

Q-24. Is this your first time using trails in the area?

1. Yes 2. No

Q-25. Please indicate how crowded you felt on the trail you used during this trip.

(**Circle a number**)

1--------2---------3----------4----------5----------6----------7----------8----------9

Not at all Crowded	Slightly Crowded	Moderately Crowded	Extremely Crowded

Q-26a. On this trip, did you have any encounters on the trail with other users that put you at risk?

1. Yes; please describe: _____

_____

2. No (**go to Q-27**)

Q-26b. Regarding these encounters on trails: With whom have you had encounters? (**Circle any that apply**)

1. Bicyclists 2. Equestrians 3. Hikers/Walkers 4. Other_____

Q-27. Overall, are you satisfied with the condition of Lake Oroville Area trails on this trip?

1. Yes 2. No ➠ Why not? _____

_____

Q-28. What is your favorite trail or trail section in the Lake Oroville Area? _____

_____

-8-

River and Reservoir Boaters Only. If you have boated or expect to boat on this trip, please complete Q-29 through Q-40. Otherwise, skip to the next section.

Q-29. On this trip, at what site did you **primarily** boat? (**Circle one area; refer to map for sites or section**)

Lake Oroville	**Downstream Areas**
1. Main Basin	7. Thermalito Diversion Pool
2. Lower North Fork	8. Thermalito Forebay
3. West Branch	9. Thermalito Afterbay
4. Upper North Fork	11. Oroville Wildlife Area (Includes Feather River downstream of Highway 162)
5. Middle Fork	
6. South Fork	12. Feather River (Diversion Pool to Highway 162)

Q-30. On this trip, did you personally experience any encounters with other users on the water that put you at risk?

1. Yes ➠ If Yes, where _____ (**Refer to map**)

Briefly describe the encounter _____

_____

2. No

Q-31. Did you observe any boating activity today that you felt put others at risk?

1. Yes ➠ If Yes, briefly describe unsafe activity_____

_____

2. No

Q-32. Please indicate how crowded you felt on the water today. (**Circle a number**) Skip to **Q-34** if you have not been on the water today.

1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**
Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded			Extremely Crowded

Q-33. What type of watercraft do you **primarily** use when visiting the Lake Oroville Area? (**Circle one**)

1. Runabout/Pontoon/Cabin cruiser/Ski boat/Motorboat
2. Houseboat
3. Sailboat
4. Canoe/Kayak
5. Personal Watercraft (jet ski/ wave runner/etc.)
6. Other (Describe:_____)

Q-34. Do you own or rent the watercraft mentioned in **Q-33**, that you **primarily** use?

1. Own 2. Rent 3. Other (explain:_____)

Q-35. For the watercraft you primarily use, do you dock or moor it at Lake Oroville?

1. Yes ➠ Year round or Seasonal (**circle one**) 2. No

Q-36. Have you ever used one of the boat launches in the Lake Oroville Area?

1. Yes 2. No ➠ **(Skip to Q-41)**

Q-37. Which of the following boat launches have you used during the last 12 months? (**Circle all that apply**)

1. Lime Saddle
2. Spillway launch
3. Bidwell Canyon
4. Loafer Creek
5. Enterprise
6. N. Thermalito Forebay
7. S. Thermalito Forebay
8. Thermalito Afterbay Monument Hill
9. Thermalito Afterbay Larkin Road
10. Dark Canyon Car-Top
11. Stringtown Car-Top
12. Nelson Bar Car-Top
13. Vinton Gulch Car-Top
14. Foreman Creek Car-Top
15. Div. Pool-Burma Rd/RR Grade
16. River launch
17. Other _____
18. Other _____

Q-38. Which boat launch do you use most frequently? _____ (**Write in number from above**)

Q-39. Do you typically have to wait to use the boat launch you most frequently use?

1. Yes ➠ If Yes, on average, how many minutes do you have to wait to use this ramp?

   Number of minutes _____

2. No

Q-40. Overall, are you satisfied with your boating experience on this trip to the Lake Oroville Area?

1. Yes 2. No ➠ Why not? _____

_____

_____

Finally, we would like to know something about you. This information will not be distributed to any other group for any purpose. ALL RESPONSES WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.

Q-41. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (**Circle appropriate number**)

1. Some high school
2. High school graduate
3. Some college
4. Bachelor's degree or equivalent
5. Master's degree or equivalent
6. Ph.D., J.D., M.D., or equivalent

Q-42. What is your age? _____

Q-43. What is your primary occupation?

1. Professional/Technical
2. Manager/Administrator
3. Sales
4. Clerical
5. Service
6. Teacher/Professor
7. Skilled Worker
8. Laborer
9. Retired
10. Student
11. Military
12. Homemaker
13. Other: _____

Q-44. Please circle the category that represents your total household income before taxes.

1. Less than $20,000
2. $20,000-$39,999
3. $40,000-$59,999
4. $60,000-$79,999
5. $80,000-$100,000
6. More than $100,000

-12-

Q-45. Of the choices listed below, please circle the ethnic group with which you most closely identify.

1. Latino/Hispanic
2. White/Anglo (non Hispanic)
3. Asian
4. African American/Black
5. American Indian/Alaska Native
6. Pacific Islander/ native Hawaiian
7. Other _____

Q-46. Do you have any additional comments?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Please Turn to Back Page

So that we can find out more about what you think about uses and facilities in the Lake Oroville Area and about your spending on this trip, we would like to send you a brief follow-up questionnaire. Additional information about the follow-up survey is included on the back side of the map.

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS BELOW. YOUR ADDRESS WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE.

Name_____

Address _____

City_____ State _____ Zip Code_____

Thank you for your participation in this important recreation study!

For office use.
Date _____
Location _____

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MAILBACK SURVEYS

(Originals were 8.5 inch x 7.0 inch booklets)

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Lake Oroville Area Recreation Survey

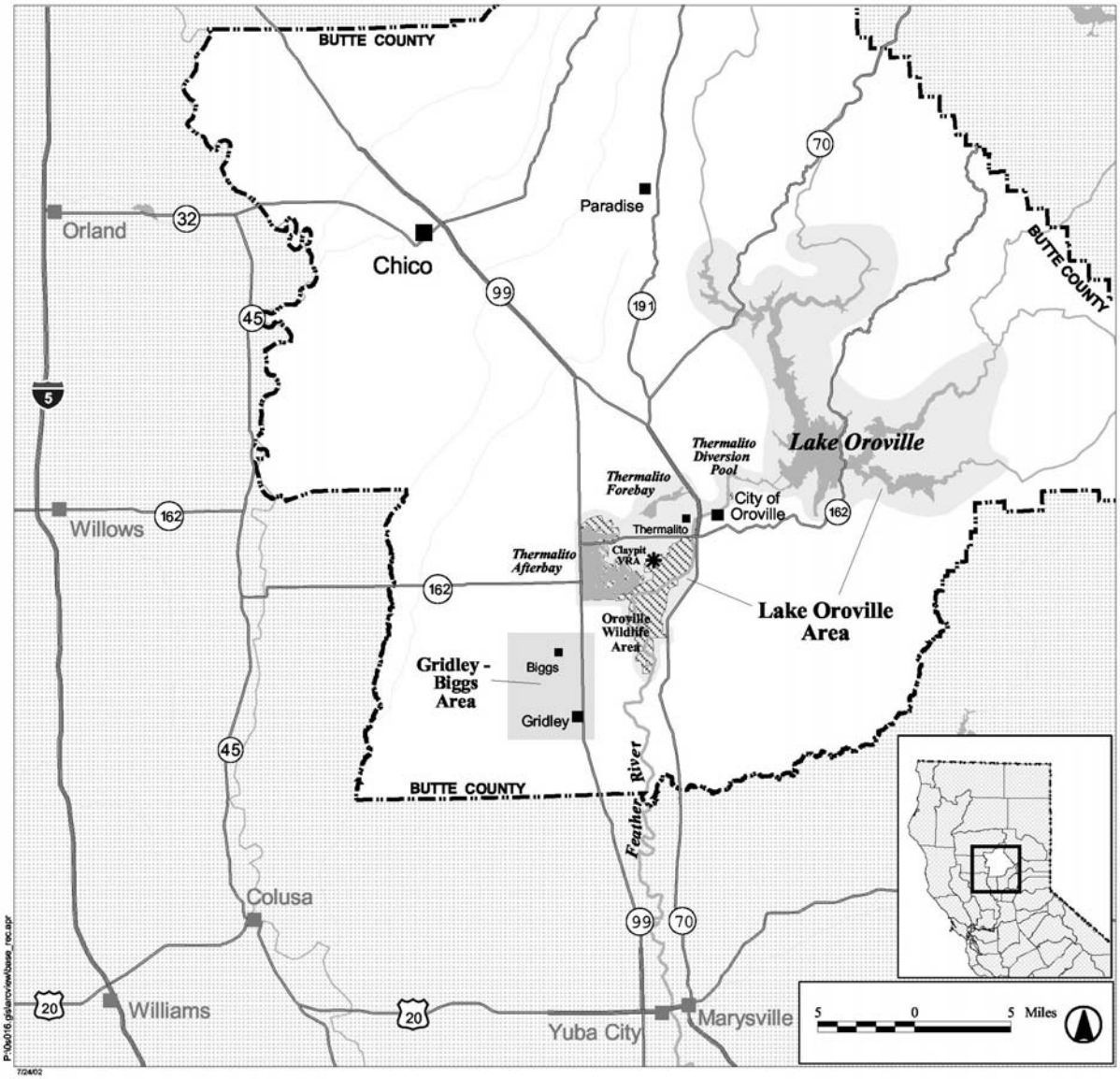
Resident of Butte County

Mail Back Survey

2002 – 2003

California Department of Water Resources

Lake Oroville Area and Surrounding Communities



INSTRUCTIONS

This questionnaire has 4 parts:

Part A: **Transportation and Accommodations** used on your recent trip.

Part B: **Equipment** used for recreation on your recent trip.

Part C: **Expenditures** made on your recent trip.

Part D: **Recreation Activities and Experiences** on your recent trip.

Throughout this survey, the term "recent trip" refers to the trip to the Lake Oroville Area that you were on when you agreed to participate in this survey. Our records indicate you were interviewed on _____ at _____.

Many of the questions in this questionnaire refer to the Lake Oroville Area and surrounding communities in Butte County. These areas are shown on the map on the opposite page.

PLEASE NOTE: IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT ONLY THE PERSON WHO IS LISTED ON THE ADDRESS LABEL FILL OUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE.

PART A: TRANSPORTATION AND ACCOMODATIONS

1. During your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area, which of the following modes of transportation did you use to get to the area? (**Check all that apply**)

   - ❑ AUTOMOBILE, TRUCK, OR VAN NOT USED FOR CAMPING
   - ❑ AUTOMOBILE, TRUCK, OR VAN PULLING A TRAILER
   - ❑ CAMPING VEHICLE (RV, motorhome, van conversion, etc.)
   - ❑ BUS
   - ❑ MOTORCYCLE
   - ❑ BICYCLE
   - ❑ OTHER (e.g. train, airplane, boat, etc.—please describe:_____)

2. On your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area, did you stay at least one night away from home? (**Check correct answer**)

   - ❑ YES
   - ❑ NO ➠ skip to Part B (Equipment)

3. What type of accommodations did you use during your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area? (**Check all that apply**)

   - ❑ MOTEL/HOTEL
   - ❑ BED AND BREAKFAST

-4-

- ❑ SECOND HOME
  (If you checked this response, please answer the following two questions)

  Where is this second home? _____

  How many days per year do you usually spend at this second home? _____ days

- ❑ OTHER RENTED ACCOMMODATIONS
  (cabin, cottage, condo, guest home)
- ❑ FRIEND OR RELATIVE'S HOME
- ❑ RENTED RECREATIONAL VEHICLE
  (including trailers, pop-ups, etc.)
- ❑ PERSONAL RECREATIONAL VEHICLE
- ❑ TENT/CAMPER TRAILER
- ❑ TENT
- ❑ BOAT (including houseboat)
- ❑ OTHER (please describe: _____)

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PART B. EQUIPMENT

4. Below is a list of equipment people sometimes take with them to recreation areas. In the 1st column of boxes, please check all equipment items that you own. In the 2nd column of boxes, please check all equipment that you brought on your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area. In the last column of boxes, please indicate the approximate amount that you've personally spent (both purchasing and maintaining) on each of these equipment items **over the past 12 months**.

Equipment Item	Do You Own?	Did You Bring on Recent Trip?	Approx. $ Spent Over the Past 12 Months
A. MOTORIZED BOAT	❑	❑	$
B. NON-MOTORIZED BOAT (canoe, kayak, row, sail, etc.)	❑	❑	$
C. BOAT TRAILER	❑	❑	$
D. HORSE TRAILER	❑	❑	$
E. WATERSKIING EQUIPMENT	❑	❑	$
F. PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (jet skis)	❑	❑	$
G. CAMPING VEHICLE (motorhome, van or bus, travel trailer, truck camper, 5th wheel, etc.)	❑	❑	$
H. MOTORCYCLE	❑	❑	$
I. BICYCLE	❑	❑	$
J. OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (three-wheels, trail bikes, etc.)	❑	❑	$
K. FISHING EQUIPMENT	❑	❑	$
L. HUNTING EQUIPMENT	❑	❑	$
M. BACKPACKING EQUIPMENT	❑	❑	$
N. PHOTOGRAPHY EQUIPMENT	❑	❑	$
O. CAMPING EQUIPMENT	❑	❑	$
P. ALL OTHER MAJOR EQUIPMENT (surfboards, hang gliders, windsurfers, aircraft) – please list	❑	❑	$
1. _____	❑	❑	$
2. _____	❑	❑	$

PART C. EXPENDITURES ON RECENT TRIP

This section includes a list of goods and services that people purchase when on a recreation-related trip. Please tell us how much you spent on each item on your recent trip. Because where you spend your money is important to understanding how recreation-related activity affects the local economy, we ask you to estimate your spending by location where the spending occurred. The locations include 1) at home, preparing for the trip, 2) within selected communities/cities in Butte County, and 3) onsite at Lake Oroville Area. An EXAMPLE TRIP is described below.

PLEASE NOTE:

- If you were sharing expenses with others, we just want to know about your own expenses.
- If you were paying expenses for other people in your group as well, please list all the expenses you paid and indicate below how many people including yourself that you were paying for.

IMPORTANT

4. PLEASE INDICATE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE, INCLUDING YOURSELF, THAT YOU WERE PAYING EXPENSES FOR:

_____ people

EXAMPLE TRIP

You and your spouse live in Chico and spent three days recreating at Lake Oroville. You spent two nights camping at Loafer Creek Campground. You paid for all expenses, including groceries ($47), gasoline ($25), and fishing supplies ($33) for the trip in Chico; campground fees for two nights ($34) at Loafer Creek Campground; and souvenirs ($21) at a gift shop in the City of Oroville. You would complete this section as shown in the EXAMPLE portion of the table on the following page.

TYPE OF EXPENSE	PREPARING FOR TRIP (AT HOME)	Section 1.01 TRAVELING TO AND FROM THE LAKE OROVILLE AREA					ONSITE AT LAKE OROVILLE AREA
		Oroville (including Thermalito)	Paradise	Gridley/ Biggs Area	Chico	Elsewhere in Butte County	
Lodging							
EXAMPLE: camped 2 nights at Loafer Creek	$	$	$	$	$	$	$ 34
- hotels/motels/inns	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- rental homes	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- camping	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- other	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Food & Beverages							
EXAMPLE: grocery supplies in Chico	$	$	$	$	$	$ 47	$
- purchased at food stores	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- purchased at restaurants	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Transportation							
EXAMPLE: gas for family car in Chico	$	$	$	$	$	$ 25	$
- vehicle rental	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- vehicle gas and oil	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- vehicle repair/service	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- parking fees and tolls	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- boat gas and oil	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- boat repair and service	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- bus fares	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- other (e.g., air fare, train fare, boat fares other than fishing charters)	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Activities/Entertainment							
EXAMPLE: fishing supplies in Chico	$	$	$	$	$	$ 33	$
- fishing/hunting: licenses	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- fishing: boat charters	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- fishing/hunting: bait, supplies, equipment	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- other rec equipment purchased for this trip (tents, sleeping bags, sporting equipment)	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Miscellaneous Spending							
EXAMPLE: souvenirs at gift shop in City of Oroville	$	$	$ 21	$	$	$	$

TYPE OF EXPENSE	PREPARING FOR TRIP (AT HOME)	Section 1.01 TRAVELING TO AND FROM THE LAKE OROVILLE AREA					ONSITE AT LAKE OROVILLE AREA
		Oroville (including Thermalito)	Paradise	Gridley/ Biggs Area	Chico	Elsewhere in Butte County	
- film purchases/developing	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- clothing	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- souvenirs/gifts	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- personal services	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- other (please specify: _____)	$	$	$	$	$	$	$

IMPORTANT

6. Do you feel that the estimates you provided for your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area were (check one):

- ❑ Very accurate for most items
- ❑ Reasonably accurate for most items
- ❑ Not very accurate for most items

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PART D. YOUR RECREATION ACTIVITIES

7. Were there recreation activities or special events **NOT** offered in the Lake Oroville Area that you would like to do?

   ❑ No, all the opportunities I wanted were offered
   ❑ Yes. ➠ If yes, which activities:

   _____ _____

   _____ _____

   _____ _____

8. Below is a list of recreation places in northern California. Please indicate the places you have visited for recreation ***in the past 12 months***. (**Check all that apply**)

❑ Lake Almanor	❑ Yuba River
❑ Butt Valley Lake	❑ Pit River
❑ San Francisco Bay/Delta Area	❑ Lake Tahoe
❑ Bucks Lake	❑ Trinity Lake
❑ Eagle Lake	❑ Lassen Volcanic National Park
❑ Lake Davis	❑ Lake Berryessa
❑ Little Grass Valley Reservoir	❑ Folsom Lake
❑ Honey Lake	❑ South Fork American River
❑ Lake Britton	❑ Stoney Gorge Reservoir
❑ Lake Shasta	❑ Black Butte Lake
❑ Lassen National Forest rivers and lakes	❑ Antelope Lake
❑ Plumas National Forest rivers and lakes	❑ Frenchman Lake
❑ Middle Fork Feather River	❑ Whiskeytown Lake
❑ South Fork Feather River	❑ Lower Feather River
❑ North Fork Feather River	❑ Other_____
❑ Sacramento River	❑ Other_____

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9. Did you visit any of the above places on your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area?

- ❑ No.
- ❑ Yes. If yes, indicate which places from above:

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

10. We are interested in the type of recreation opportunity you think should be provided in the Lake Oroville Area. For each of the following items, please indicate the type of opportunity you would prefer for this recreation area. (**Check one box per item**)

A. Opportunity to experience solitude versus opportunity to affiliate with other groups:

- ❑ Solitude is extremely important
- ❑ Solitude is very important
- ❑ Solitude is important
- ❑ Solitude and affiliation are equally important
- ❑ Affiliation with other groups is important
- ❑ Affiliation with other groups is very important
- ❑ Affiliation with other groups is extremely important

B. Opportunity to experience risk and challenge from the natural environment is:

- ❑ Extremely important
- ❑ Very important
- ❑ Important
- ❑ Somewhat important
- ❑ Not important

C. Opportunity to use outdoor wilderness skills is:

- ❑ Extremely important
- ❑ Very important
- ❑ Important
- ❑ Somewhat important
- ❑ Not important

D. The sights and sounds of civilization should be:

- ❑ Absent
- ❑ Rare
- ❑ Unusual
- ❑ Common
- ❑ Dominant

E. The landscape should be:

- ❑ Totally natural in appearance
- ❑ Predominantly natural in appearance
- ❑ Modified on a small scale
- ❑ Significantly modified

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11. The following question lists things you might or might not have experienced on your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area. For each item below, indicate how much of a problem you think the issue was at the recreation area where you were surveyed:

Recreation Area : _____

If you are uncertain about an item or the item does not apply, check "N/A." (**Check the appropriate box for each item**.)

Experience	A big problem	A moderate problem	A slight problem	Not a problem	N/A
Management					
Litter along the shoreline	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Sanitation along the shoreline	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Cost to use facilities	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Overall safety and security	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Availability of service/staffing	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Adequate information/warnings provided	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Adequacy of landscaping of facilities	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Access to the shoreline	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Law enforcement presence	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Encounters between trail users and other users	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Water Conditions					
Exposed land during lower water levels	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Shallow areas during lower water levels	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Floating debris in the water	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Quality of water	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Water level fluctuations	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
User Interactions					
Numbers of watercraft	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Noise from boats and personal watercraft	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Boat speed or wake effects	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Encounters between water skiers and others	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Encounters between pleasure boaters & boat anglers	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Encounters between PWCs (jetski/waverunner) and other users	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Unsafe behavior by other users	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Numbers of people at developed facilities	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Use of alcohol by other users	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Encounters between visitors and residents	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑

12. How do you evaluate the following facilities at the recreation area where you were surveyed on your recent trip? Remember, each item listed pertains only to the recreation area where you were surveyed. If you are uncertain about an issue, or it does not apply, check "N/A." (**Check the appropriate box for each item**)

Type of Facility	Too Few	About Right	Too Many	N/A
Trail Use Related				
Number of unpaved bike trails	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of hiking trails	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of signs indicating trail locations	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of paved bike trails	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of equestrian trails	❑	❑	❑	❑
Camping Related				
Presence of campground hosts	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of campgrounds	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of campsites with RV hookups	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of group campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Screening between campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of floating campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of shower facilities at campgrounds	❑	❑	❑	❑
Boat Related				
Number of boat ramps	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of docks or temporary moorage	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of boat-in primitive campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of boat-in campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of marinas	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of boat-in gas stations	❑	❑	❑	❑
Fishing/Hunting Related				
Number of fish cleaning stations	❑	❑	❑	❑
Quality of habitat for hunting	❑	❑	❑	❑
Lands for hunting	❑	❑	❑	❑
Other Activity Related				
Number of group picnic sites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Amount of swim areas	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of equestrian facilities	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of developed day use or picnic areas along the shore	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of interpretive programs/educational opportunities	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of restrooms	❑	❑	❑	❑

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13. Overall, on your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area, how satisfied were you with your recreation experience? (**Check one**)

- ❑ Extremely dissatisfied
- ❑ Very dissatisfied
- ❑ Dissatisfied
- ❑ Somewhat dissatisfied
- ❑ Neither dissatisfied or satisfied
- ❑ Somewhat satisfied
- ❑ Satisfied
- ❑ Very satisfied
- ❑ Extremely satisfied

14. Do you have any other comments you would like to make?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS SURVEY. To return the survey, simply seal the questionnaire in the enclosed envelope and mail. Return postage is provided.

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Lake Oroville Area Recreation Survey

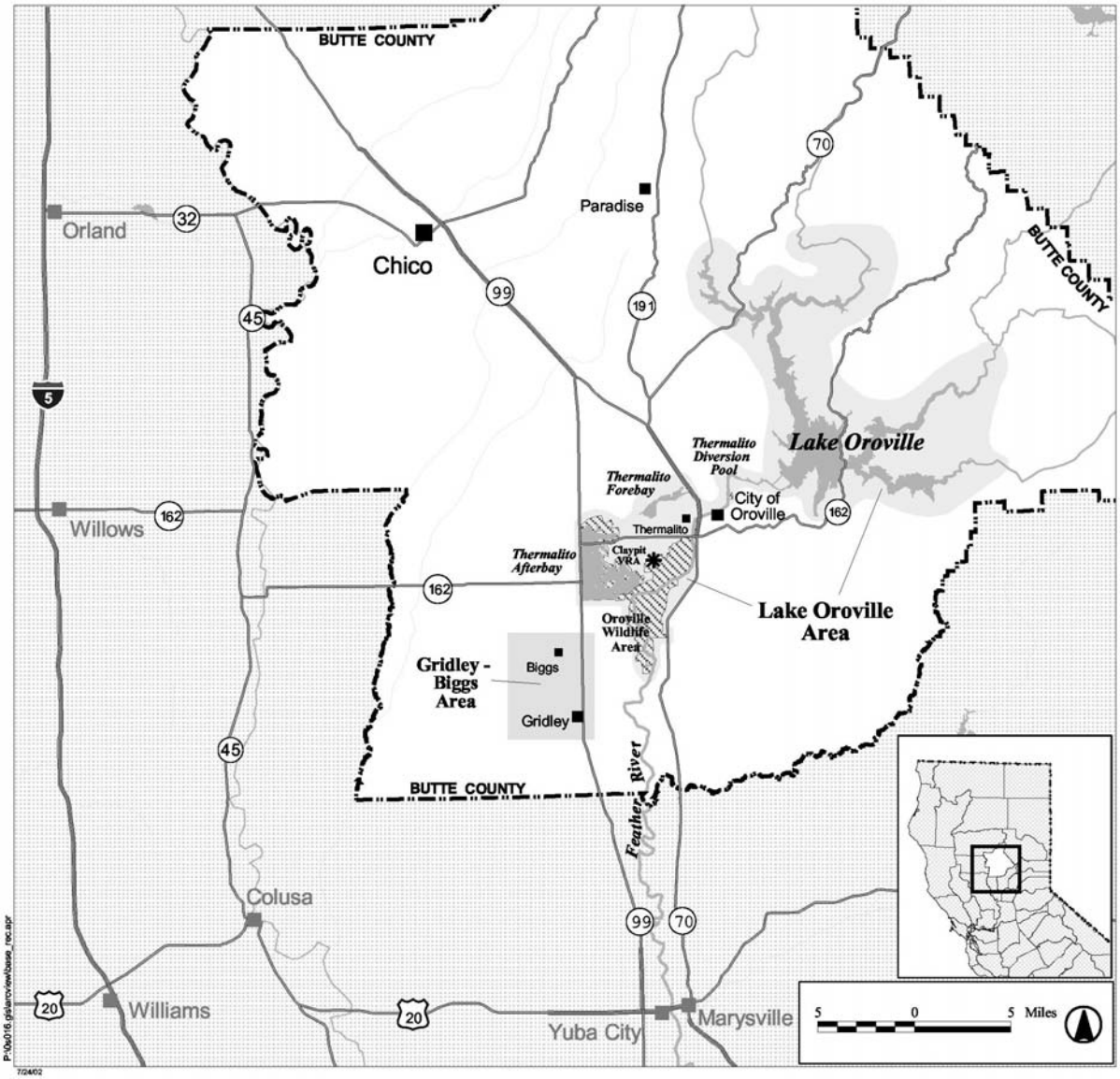
Non-Resident of Butte County

Mail Back Survey

2002 – 2003

California Department of Water Resources

Lake Oroville Area and Surrounding Communities



INSTRUCTIONS

This questionnaire has 4 parts:

Part A: **Transportation and Accommodations** used on your recent trip.

Part B: **Equipment** used for recreation on your recent trip.

Part C: **Expenditures** made on your recent trip.

Part D: **Recreation Activities and Experiences** on your recent trip.

Throughout this survey, the term "recent trip" refers to the trip to the Lake Oroville Area that you were on when you agreed to participate in this survey. Our records indicate you were interviewed on _____ at _____.

Many of the questions in this questionnaire refer to the Lake Oroville Area and surrounding communities in Butte County. These areas are shown on the map on the opposite page.

PLEASE NOTE: IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT ONLY THE PERSON WHO IS LISTED ON THE ADDRESS LABEL FILL OUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE.

-3-

PART A: TRANSPORTATION AND ACCOMODATIONS

5. During your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area, which of the following modes of transportation did you use to get to the area? (**Check all that apply**)

   - ❑ AUTOMOBILE, TRUCK, OR VAN NOT USED FOR CAMPING
   - ❑ AUTOMOBILE, TRUCK, OR VAN PULLING A TRAILER
   - ❑ CAMPING VEHICLE (RV, motorhome, van conversion, etc.)
   - ❑ BUS
   - ❑ MOTORCYCLE
   - ❑ BICYCLE
   - ❑ OTHER (e.g. train, airplane, boat, etc.—please describe:_____)

6. On your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area, did you stay at least one night away from home? (**Check correct answer**)

   - ❑ YES
   - ❑ NO ➠ skip to Part B (Equipment)

-4-

7. What type of accommodations did you use during your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area? (**Check all that apply**)

   - ❑ MOTEL/HOTEL
   - ❑ BED AND BREAKFAST
   - ❑ SECOND HOME

   (If you checked this response, please answer the following two questions)

   Where is this second home? _____

   How many days per year do you usually spend at this second home? _____ days

- ❑ OTHER RENTED ACCOMMODATIONS (cabin, cottage, condo, guest home)
- ❑ FRIEND OR RELATIVE'S HOME
- ❑ RENTED RECREATIONAL VEHICLE (including trailers, pop-ups, etc.)
- ❑ PERSONAL RECREATIONAL VEHICLE
- ❑ TENT/CAMPER TRAILER
- ❑ TENT
- ❑ BOAT (including houseboat)
- ❑ OTHER (please describe: _____)

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PART B. EQUIPMENT

4. Below is a list of equipment people sometimes take with them to recreation areas. In the 1st column of boxes, please check all equipment items that you own. In the 2nd column of boxes, please check all equipment that you brought on your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area. In the last column of boxes, please indicate the approximate amount that you've personally spent (both purchasing and maintaining) on each of these equipment items **over the past 12 months**.

Equipment Item	Do You Own?	Did You Bring on Recent Trip?	Approx. $ Spent Over the Past 12 Months
A. MOTORIZED BOAT	❑	❑	$
B. NON-MOTORIZED BOAT (canoe, kayak, row, sail, etc.)	❑	❑	$
C. BOAT TRAILER	❑	❑	$
D. HORSE TRAILER	❑	❑	$
E. WATERSKIING EQUIPMENT	❑	❑	$
F. PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (jet skis)	❑	❑	$
G. CAMPING VEHICLE (motorhome, van or bus, travel trailer, truck camper, 5th wheel, etc.)	❑	❑	$
H. MOTORCYCLE	❑	❑	$
I. BICYCLE	❑	❑	$
J. OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (three-wheels, trail bikes, etc.)	❑	❑	$
K. FISHING EQUIPMENT	❑	❑	$
L. HUNTING EQUIPMENT	❑	❑	$
M. BACKPACKING EQUIPMENT	❑	❑	$
N. PHOTOGRAPHY EQUIPMENT	❑	❑	$
O. CAMPING EQUIPMENT	❑	❑	$
P. ALL OTHER MAJOR EQUIPMENT (surfboards, hang gliders, windsurfers, aircraft) – please list	❑	❑	$
1. _____	❑	❑	$
2. _____	❑	❑	$

PART C. EXPENDITURES ON RECENT TRIP

This section includes a list of goods and services that people purchase when on a recreation-related trip. Please tell us how much you spent on each item on your recent trip. Because where you spend your money is important to understanding how recreation-related activity affects the local economy, we ask you to estimate your spending by location where the spending occurred. The locations include 1) at home, preparing for the trip, 2) within selected communities/cities in Butte County, and 3) onsite at Lake Oroville Area. An EXAMPLE TRIP is described below.

PLEASE NOTE:

- If you were sharing expenses with others, we just want to know about your own expenses.
- If you were paying expenses for other people in your group as well, please list all the expenses you paid and indicate below how many people including yourself that you were paying for.

IMPORTANT

8. PLEASE INDICATE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE, INCLUDING YOURSELF, THAT YOU WERE PAYING EXPENSES FOR:
_____ people

EXAMPLE TRIP

You, your spouse, and two children live in Redding and spent three days recreating at the Lake Oroville Area. You spent two nights camping at Loafer Creek Campground. You paid for all expenses, including gasoline ($32) in Redding; groceries for the trip ($86) in the City of Oroville; campground fees for two nights ($34) at Loafer Creek Campground; fishing supplies ($47) in Chico; and souvenirs ($21) at a gift shop in the City of Oroville. You would complete this section as shown in the EXAMPLE portion of the table on the following page.

TYPE OF EXPENSE	AMOUNT SPENT OUTSIDE BUTTE COUNTY		AMOUNT SPENT IN BUTTE COUNTY COMMUNITIES					ONSITE AT LAKE OROVILLE AREA
	Preparing for Trip	Traveling to and from Lake Oroville Area	Oroville (including Thermalito)	Paradise	Gridley/ Biggs Area	Chico	Elsewhere in Butte County	
Lodging								
EXAMPLE: camped 2 nights at Loafer Creek	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$ 34
- hotels/motels/inns	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- rental homes	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- camping	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- other	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Food & Beverages								
EXAMPLE: grocery supplies in City of Oroville	$	$	$ 86	$	$	$	$	$
- purchased at food stores	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- purchased at restaurants	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Transportation								
EXAMPLE: gas for family car in Redding	$ 32	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- vehicle rental	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- vehicle gas and oil	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- vehicle repair/service	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- parking fees and tolls	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- boat gas and oil	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- boat repair and service	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- bus fares	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- other (e.g., air fare, train fare, boat fares other than fishing charters)	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Activities/Entertainment								
EXAMPLE: fishing supplies in Chico	$	$	$	$	$	$ 47	$	$
- fishing/hunting: licenses	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- fishing: boat charters	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- fishing/hunting: bait, supplies, equipment	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$

- other rec equipment purchased for this trip (tents, sleeping bags, sporting equipment)	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Miscellaneous Spending								
EXAMPLE: souvenirs at gift shop in City of Oroville	$	$	$ ובו	$	$	$	$	$
- film purchases/developing	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- clothing	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- souvenirs/gifts	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- personal services	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- other (please specify: _____	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$

IMPORTANT

6. Do you feel that the estimates you provided for your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area were (check one):

- ❑ Very accurate for most items
- ❑ Reasonably accurate for most items
- ❑ Not very accurate for most items

PART D. YOUR RECREATION ACTIVITIES

7. Were there recreation activities or special events **NOT** offered in the Lake Oroville Area that you would like to do?

   ❑ No, all the opportunities I wanted were offered
   ❑ Yes. If yes, which activities:

   _____ _____

   _____ _____

   _____ _____

8. Below is a list of recreation places in northern California. Please indicate the places you have visited for recreation ***in the past 12 months***. (**Check all that apply**)

❑ Lake Almanor	❑ Yuba River
❑ Butt Valley Lake	❑ Pit River
❑ San Francisco Bay/Delta Area	❑ Lake Tahoe
❑ Bucks Lake	❑ Trinity Lake
❑ Eagle Lake	❑ Lassen Volcanic National Park
❑ Lake Davis	❑ Lake Berryessa
❑ Little Grass Valley Reservoir	❑ Folsom Lake
❑ Honey Lake	❑ South Fork American River
❑ Lake Britton	❑ Stoney Gorge Reservoir
❑ Lake Shasta	❑ Black Butte Lake
❑ Lassen National Forest rivers and lakes	❑ Antelope Lake
❑ Plumas National Forest rivers and lakes	❑ Frenchman Lake
❑ Middle Fork Feather River	❑ Whiskeytown Lake
❑ South Fork Feather River	❑ Lower Feather River
❑ North Fork Feather River	❑ Other_____
❑ Sacramento River	❑ Other_____

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9. Did you visit any of the above places on your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area?

- ❑ No.
- ❑ Yes. If yes, indicate which places from above:

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

10. We are interested in the type of recreation opportunity you think should be provided in the Lake Oroville Area. For each of the following items, please indicate the type of opportunity you would prefer for this recreation area. (**Check one box per item**)

A. Opportunity to experience solitude versus opportunity to affiliate with other groups:

- ❑ Solitude is extremely important
- ❑ Solitude is very important
- ❑ Solitude is important
- ❑ Solitude and affiliation are equally important
- ❑ Affiliation with other groups is important
- ❑ Affiliation with other groups is very important
- ❑ Affiliation with other groups is extremely important

B. Opportunity to experience risk and challenge from the natural environment is:

- ❑ Extremely important
- ❑ Very important
- ❑ Important
- ❑ Somewhat important
- ❑ Not important

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C. Opportunity to use outdoor wilderness skills is:

- ❑ Extremely important
- ❑ Very important
- ❑ Important
- ❑ Somewhat important
- ❑ Not important

D. The sights and sounds of civilization should be:

- ❑ Absent
- ❑ Rare
- ❑ Unusual
- ❑ Common
- ❑ Dominant

E. The landscape should be:

- ❑ Totally natural in appearance
- ❑ Predominantly natural in appearance
- ❑ Modified on a small scale
- ❑ Significantly modified

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11. The following question lists things you might or might not have experienced on your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area. For each item below, indicate how much of a problem you think the issue was at the recreation area where you were surveyed:

Recreation Area: _____

If you are uncertain about an item or the item does not apply, check "N/A." (**Check the appropriate box for each item**.)

Experience	A big problem	A moderate problem	A slight problem	Not a problem	N/A
Management					
Litter along the shoreline	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Sanitation along the shoreline	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Cost to use facilities	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Overall safety and security	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Availability of service/staffing	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Adequate information/warnings provided	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Adequacy of landscaping of facilities	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Access to the shoreline	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Law enforcement presence	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Encounters between trail users and other users	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Water Conditions					
Exposed land during lower water levels	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Shallow areas during lower water levels	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Floating debris in the water	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Quality of water	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Water level fluctuations	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
User Interactions					
Numbers of watercraft	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Noise from boats and personal watercraft	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Boat speed or wake effects	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Encounters between water skiers and others	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Encounters between pleasure boaters & boat anglers	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Encounters between PWCs (jetski/waverunner) and other users	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Unsafe behavior by other users	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Numbers of people at developed facilities	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Use of alcohol by other users	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Encounters between visitors and residents	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑

12. How do you evaluate the following facilities at the recreation area where you were surveyed on your recent trip? Remember, each item listed pertains only to the recreation area where you were surveyed. If you are uncertain about an issue, or it does not apply, check "N/A." (**Check the appropriate box for each item**)

Type of Facility	Too Few	About Right	Too Many	N/A
Trail Use Related				
Number of unpaved bike trails	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of hiking trails	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of signs indicating trail locations	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of paved bike trails	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of equestrian trails	❑	❑	❑	❑
Camping Related				
Presence of campground hosts	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of campgrounds	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of campsites with RV hookups	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of group campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Screening between campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of floating campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of shower facilities at campgrounds	❑	❑	❑	❑
Boat Related				
Number of boat ramps	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of docks or temporary moorage	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of boat-in primitive campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of boat-in campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of marinas	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of boat-in gas stations	❑	❑	❑	❑
Fishing/Hunting Related				
Number of fish cleaning stations	❑	❑	❑	❑
Quality of habitat for hunting	❑	❑	❑	❑
Lands for hunting	❑	❑	❑	❑
Other Activity Related				
Number of group picnic sites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Amount of swim areas	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of equestrian facilities	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of developed day use or picnic areas along the shore	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of interpretive programs/educational opportunities	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of restrooms	❑	❑	❑	❑

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13. Overall, on your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area, how satisfied were you with your recreation experience? (**Check one**)

- ❑ Extremely dissatisfied
- ❑ Very dissatisfied
- ❑ Dissatisfied
- ❑ Somewhat dissatisfied
- ❑ Neither dissatisfied or satisfied
- ❑ Somewhat satisfied
- ❑ Satisfied
- ❑ Very satisfied
- ❑ Extremely satisfied

14. Do you have any other comments you would like to make?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS SURVEY. To return the survey, simply seal the questionnaire in the enclosed envelope and mail. Return postage is provided.

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APPENDIX B

NUMBER OF SURVEYS COMPLETED BY RECREATION SITE

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Table B-1. On-Site Surveys completed by recreation site.

Lake Oroville Sites	
Lime Saddle BR/DUA	217
Bidwell Canyon BR/DUA	204
Loafer Creek Campground & Group Campground	179
Spillway BR/DUA	174
Bidwell Canyon Campground	99
Oroville Dam/Overlook DUA	93
Lime Saddle Campground	71
Foreman Creek Car-top BR	66
Stringtown Car-top BR	51
Loafer Creek BR	47
Loafer Creek DUA	44
Enterprise BR	43
Loafer Creek Equestrian Campground	33
Saddle Dam TA	32
Nelson Bar Car-top BR	21
Dark Canyon Car-top BR	7
Lake Oroville Visitors Center	5
Craig Saddle BIC	4
Foreman Creek BIC	3
Vinton Gulch Car-top BR	2
Bloomer BIC	1
Goat Ranch BIC	0
TOTAL	**1,396**
Diversion Pool Sites	
Diversion Pool DUA	21
Equestrian LOVE ride[1]	19
Lakeland Boulevard TA	15
Powerhouse Road TA	4
Dan Beebe Trail access points (Oroville Dam Blvd. pull-offs)	3
TOTAL	**62**
Low Flow Channel Sites	
Riverbend Park and Fish Ponds	118
Feather River Fish Hatchery	51
TOTAL	**169**

Table B-1. On-Site Surveys completed by recreation site.

Thermalito Forebay Sites	
North Forebay BR/DUA	240
South Forebay BR/DUA	71
TOTAL	**311**
Thermalito Afterbay Sites	
Monument Hill BR/DUA	156
Wilbur Road BR	65
Larkin Road Car-top BR	55
Clay Pit SVRA	12
Model Airplane Facility	4
South Wilbur Road (informal trail and shoreline access)	2
Tres Vias Road (informal trail access)	1
East Hamilton Road TA	0
TOTAL	**295**
OWA Sites	
West Levee Road	171
Afterbay Outlet	81
East Levee Road	64
Rabe Road Shooting Area	20
Headquarters Entrance (informal river access)	14
TOTAL	**350**
TOTAL FOR ALL SITES	**2,583**

[1] *Event used a staging area near Diversion Pool Dam which was not a designated survey site, but ride used trails in Diversion Pool and Lake Oroville resource areas.*
Source: On-Site Survey.

APPENDIX C

HUNTER SURVEY INSTRUMENTS (ORIGINALS WERE 8.5” X 7.0” BOOKLETS)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Hunter-Focused Survey C-1

Mail Back Survey Resident of Butte County C-13

Mail Back Survey Non-Resident of Butte County C-29

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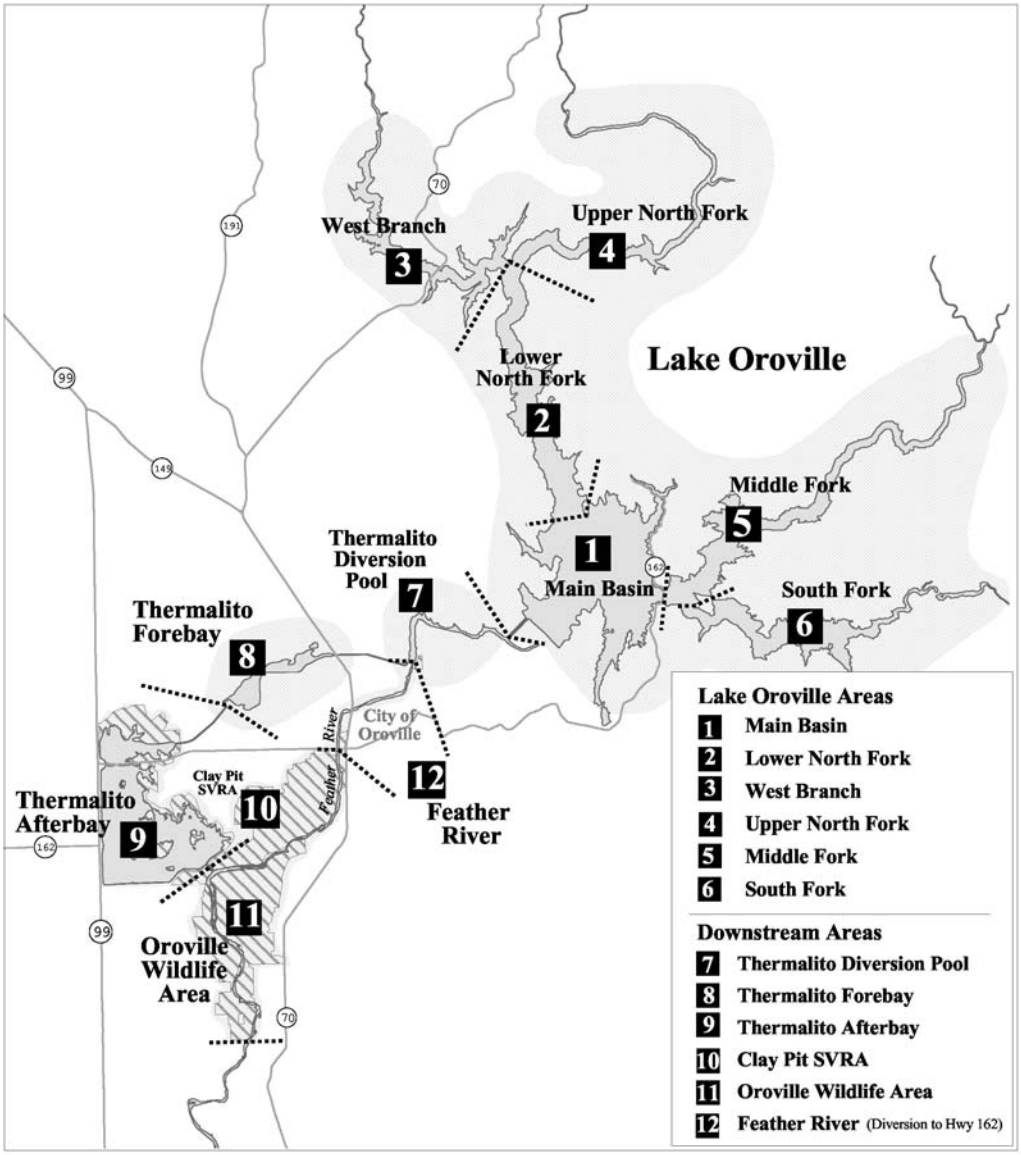
2002
Lake Oroville Area
Recreation Survey

Hunter-Focused Survey

California Department of Water Resources

Use this map to reference questions 1, 4, and 13.



Lake Oroville Recreation Areas

Lake Oroville Area Recreation Visitor Questionnaire

Please complete the following survey as completely as possible. Read section directions carefully, as not all questions will apply to you. Your views about recreation in the Lake Oroville Area (see adjacent map) are very important to us. When you have completed the survey, please give it to one of the DWR researchers in this area today. Please **circle the number corresponding with your answer**, unless otherwise instructed.

PART 1. General Description of This Visit and Your Past Use of the Area

Q-1. Regarding the Oroville Area (including the Oroville Wildlife Area) do you consider yourself: (**Circle one number**)

1. A regular visitor to this area (*3 or more times per year*)
2. An occasional visitor (*1-2 times per year*)
3. An infrequent visitor (*Less than 1 time per year*)
4. This is my first visit

Q-2. On this trip to the Oroville Area (including the Oroville Wildlife Area), when did you arrive?

_____/_____/_____ _____AM/PM
Arrival Date *Arrival Time*

When did you or do you expect to leave the Lake Oroville Area/Oroville Wildlife Area?

_____/_____/_____ _____AM/PM
Departure Date *Departure Time*

Q-3. During the last 12 months, which seasons did you visit the Lake Oroville Area/Oroville Wildlife Area?

1. Spring 2. Summer 3. Fall 4. Winter

Q-4. Looking at the map of recreation locations within the Lake Oroville Area, which of the following areas do you plan to visit on this trip? (**Circle all numbers that apply**)

Lake Oroville	**Downstream Areas**
1. Main Basin	7. Thermalito Diversion Pool
2. Lower North Fork	8. Thermalito Forebay
3. West Branch	9. Thermalito Afterbay
4. Upper North Fork	10. Clay Pit State Vehicular Recreation Area
5. Middle Fork	11. Oroville Wildlife Area (Includes Feather River downstream of Highway 162)
6. South Fork	12. Feather River (Diversion Pool to Highway 162)

Q-5. How many people, including yourself, are in your group today?

Number of adults _____

Number of children (less than 18 years old) _____

Q-6. What is the zip code of your primary residence? _____

Q-7. Are you a Butte County resident?

1. Yes 2. No

Q-8. Are you staying overnight in Butte County (not including at your own home) on this trip?

1. Yes 2. No (**skip to Part 2, Q-10**)

Q-9. At what type of accommodations will you be staying?

1. RV/Auto/Tent Campground (Which campground?_____)
2. Boat-in campground (Which campground? _____)
3. Floating Campsite
4. Houseboat
5. Motel/hotel (Where? _____)
6. Bed and Breakfast (Where? _____)
7. Other (Please specify) _____

PART 2. Information About this Trip to the Oroville Area/Oroville Wildlife Area and Perceptions Related to Hunting Here

Q-10. Complete the following table about the species you are hunting for today, and whether or not you took any of each species.

Type/Species of Game	Hunting for? (✓ if yes)	Number taken (if any)?
Ducks		
Geese		
Pheasant		
Quail		
Dove		
Deer		
Other (please name): _____		

Q-11. Please indicate how crowded you felt while hunting during this trip. (**Circle a number**)

1----------2----------3----------4----------5----------6----------7----------8----------9

Not at all Crowded	Slightly Crowded	Moderately Crowded	Extremely Crowded

Q-12. On this trip, did you have any encounters with other users that put you at risk?

1. Yes; please describe: _____

_____

2. No

Q-13. What portion of the Lake Oroville area do you hunt in most often? (check one)

Thermalito Afterbay subunit _____
North OWA (area south of Hwy. 162/Oro Dam Blvd. but north of Afterbay outlet) _____
South OWA – West of the Feather River (area south of the Afterbay outlet) _____
South OWA – East of the Feather River (area west of Pacific Heights Road) _____
Other Area (please specify) _____

Q-14. Do you feel that access to the Oroville Wildlife Area is adequate? 1. Yes 2. No

Q-15. Briefly describe why you chose to hunt at the Oroville Wildlife Area or other Lake Oroville area on this trip rather than other public hunting areas in northern California.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Q-16. Regarding hunting regulations for Lake Oroville and the Oroville Wildlife Area:

a. Do you feel knowledgeable about them?

1. Yes 2. No…..please explain

_____

_____

b. Do you feel they allow a quality experience?

1. Yes 2. No…..please explain

_____

_____

Q-17. Overall, are you satisfied with your hunting experience in the Lake Oroville Area and Oroville Wildlife Area on this trip?

1. Yes 2. No ➠ Why not? _____

_____

_____

Q-18. Please list any improvements you would like to see made at the Oroville Wildlife Area.

(e.g., changes in regulations for a certain species, improved habitat, better access, etc.; BE AS SPECIFIC AS POSSIBLE)

_____

_____

_____

PART 3. Finally, we would like to know something about you.

This information will not be distributed to any other group for any purpose.
ALL RESPONSES WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.

Q-19. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (**Circle appropriate number**)

1. Some high school
2. High school graduate
3. Some college
4. Bachelor's degree or equivalent
5. Master's degree or equivalent
6. Ph.D., J.D., M.D., or equivalent

Q-20. What is your age? _____

Q-21. What is your primary occupation?

1. Professional/Technical
2. Manager/Administrator
3. Sales
4. Clerical
5. Service
6. Teacher/Professor
7. Skilled Worker
8. Laborer
9. Retired
10. Student
11. Military
12. Homemaker
13. Other: _____

Q-22. Please circle the category that represents your total household income before taxes.

1. Less than $20,000
2. $20,000-$39,999
3. $40,000-$59,999
4. $60,000-$79,999
5. $80,000-$100,000
6. More than $100,000

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Q-23. Of the choices listed below, please circle the ethnic group with which you most closely identify.

1. Latino/Hispanic
2. White/Anglo (non-Hispanic)
3. Asian
4. African American/Black
5. American Indian/Alaska Native
6. Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian
7. Other _____

Q-24. Do you have any additional comments?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Please Turn to the Last Page

So that we can find out more about what you think about uses and facilities in the Lake Oroville Area and about your spending on this trip, we would like to send you a brief follow-up questionnaire. Additional information about the follow-up survey is included on the back side of the map.

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS BELOW.

YOUR ADDRESS WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

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Thank you for your participation in this important recreation study!

For office use.

Date

_____

Location

_____

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Lake Oroville Area Hunter Focused Recreation Survey

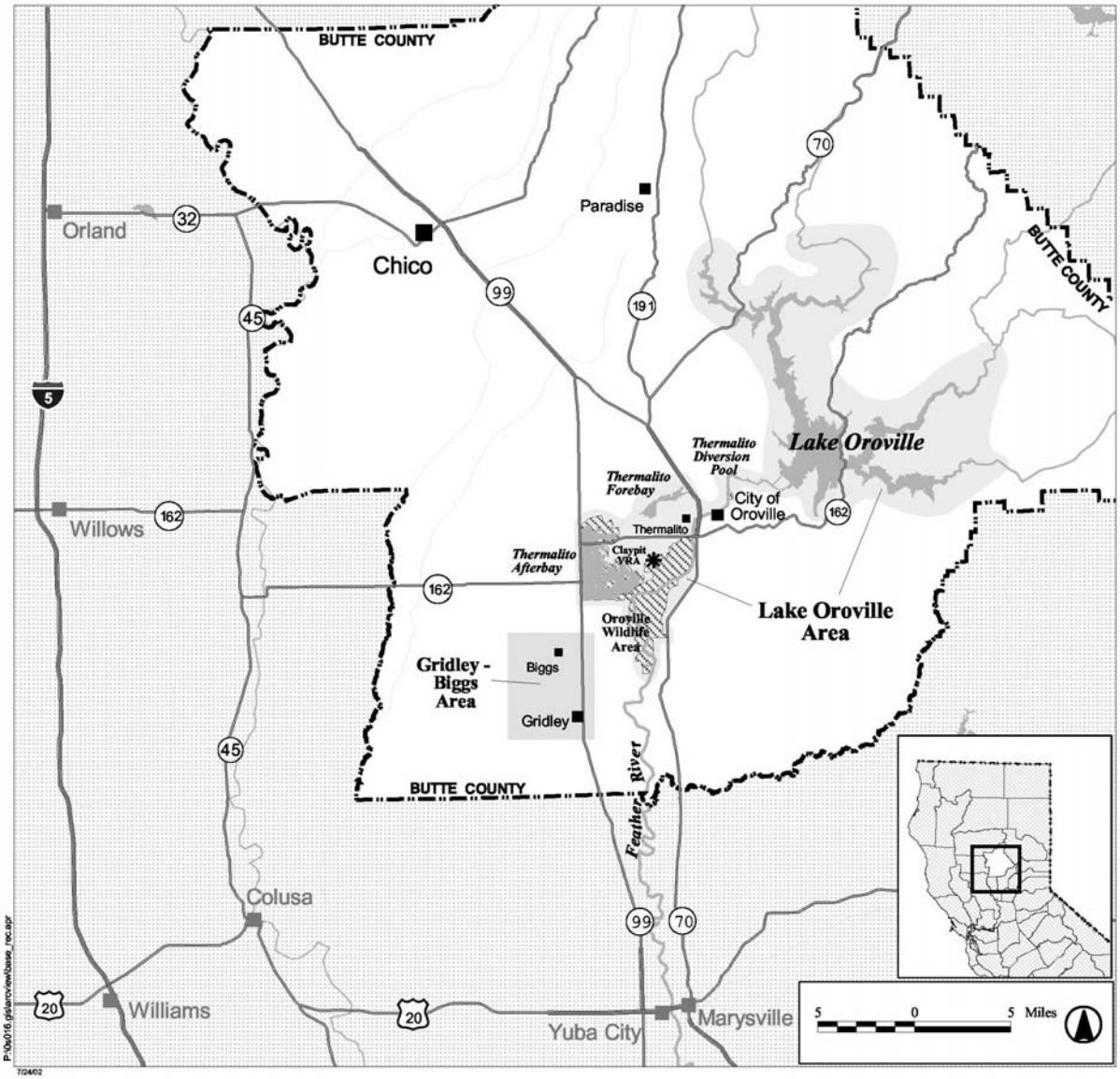
Mail Back Survey

Resident of Butte County

2002 – 2003

California Department of Water Resources

Lake Oroville Area and Surrounding Communities



INSTRUCTIONS

This questionnaire has 4 parts:

Part A: **Transportation and Accommodations** used on your recent trip.
Part B: **Equipment** used for recreation on your recent trip.
Part C: **Expenditures** made on your recent trip.
Part D: **Recreation Activities and Experiences** on your recent trip.

Throughout this survey, the term "recent trip" refers to the trip to the Lake Oroville Area that you were on when you agreed to participate in this survey. Our records indicate you were interviewed on _____ at _____.

Many of the questions in this questionnaire refer to the Lake Oroville Area and surrounding communities in Butte County. These areas are shown on the map on the opposite page.

PLEASE NOTE: IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT ONLY THE PERSON WHO IS LISTED ON THE ADDRESS LABEL FILL OUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE.

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PART A: TRANSPORTATION AND ACCOMODATIONS

1. During your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area, which of the following modes of transportation did you use to get to the area? (**Check all that apply**)

   - ❑ AUTOMOBILE, TRUCK, OR VAN NOT USED FOR CAMPING
   - ❑ AUTOMOBILE, TRUCK, OR VAN PULLING A TRAILER
   - ❑ CAMPING VEHICLE (RV, motorhome, van conversion, etc.)
   - ❑ BUS
   - ❑ MOTORCYCLE
   - ❑ BICYCLE
   - ❑ OTHER (e.g. train, airplane, boat, etc.—please describe:_____)

2. On your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area, did you stay at least one night away from home? (**Check correct answer**)

   - ❑ YES
   - ❑ NO ➠ skip to Part B (Equipment)

3. What type of accommodations did you use during your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area? (**Check all that apply**)

   - ❑ MOTEL/HOTEL
   - ❑ BED AND BREAKFAST

-4-

- ❑ SECOND HOME
  (If you checked this response, please answer the following two questions)

  Where is this second home? _____

  How many days per year do you usually spend at this second home? _____ days

- ❑ OTHER RENTED ACCOMMODATIONS
  (cabin, cottage, condo, guest home)
- ❑ FRIEND OR RELATIVE'S HOME
- ❑ RENTED RECREATIONAL VEHICLE
  (including trailers, pop-ups, etc.)
- ❑ PERSONAL RECREATIONAL VEHICLE
- ❑ TENT/CAMPER TRAILER
- ❑ TENT
- ❑ BOAT (including houseboat)
- ❑ OTHER (please describe: _____)

-5-

PART B. EQUIPMENT

4. Below is a list of equipment people sometimes take with them to recreation areas. In the 1st column of boxes, please check all equipment items that you own. In the 2nd column of boxes, please check all equipment that you brought on your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area. In the last column of boxes, please indicate the approximate amount that you've personally spent (both purchasing and maintaining) on each of these equipment items **over the past 12 months**.

Equipment Item	Do You Own?	Did You Bring on Recent Trip?	Approx. $ Spent Over the Past 12 Months
A. MOTORIZED BOAT	❑	❑	$
B. NON-MOTORIZED BOAT (canoe, kayak, row, sail, etc.)	❑	❑	$
C. BOAT TRAILER	❑	❑	$
D. HORSE TRAILER	❑	❑	$
E. WATERSKIING EQUIPMENT	❑	❑	$
F. PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (jet skis)	❑	❑	$
G. CAMPING VEHICLE (motorhome, van or bus, travel trailer, truck camper, 5th wheel, etc.)	❑	❑	$
H. MOTORCYCLE	❑	❑	$
I. BICYCLE	❑	❑	$
J. OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (three-wheels, trail bikes, etc.)	❑	❑	$
K. FISHING EQUIPMENT	❑	❑	$
L. HUNTING EQUIPMENT	❑	❑	$
M. BACKPACKING EQUIPMENT	❑	❑	$
N. PHOTOGRAPHY EQUIPMENT	❑	❑	$
O. CAMPING EQUIPMENT	❑	❑	$
P. ALL OTHER MAJOR EQUIPMENT (surfboards, hang gliders, windsurfers, aircraft) – please list	❑	❑	$
1. _____	❑	❑	$
2. _____	❑	❑	$

PART C. EXPENDITURES ON RECENT TRIP

This section includes a list of goods and services that people purchase when on a recreation-related trip. Please tell us how much you spent on each item on your recent trip. Because where you spend your money is important to understanding how recreation-related activity affects the local economy, we ask you to estimate your spending by location where the spending occurred. The locations include 1) at home, preparing for the trip, 2) within selected communities/cities in Butte County, and 3) onsite at Lake Oroville Area. An EXAMPLE TRIP is described below.

PLEASE NOTE:

- If you were sharing expenses with others, we just want to know about your own expenses.
- If you were paying expenses for other people in your group as well, please list all the expenses you paid and indicate below how many people including yourself that you were paying for.

IMPORTANT

5. PLEASE INDICATE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE, INCLUDING YOURSELF, THAT YOU WERE PAYING EXPENSES FOR:

_____ people

EXAMPLE TRIP

You and your hunting partner live in Chico and are spending one day hunting for waterfowl in the Oroville Wildlife Area. You paid for all expenses for both of you, including gasoline ($20), hunting supplies ($35), and breakfast ($18) in Chico and lunch in Oroville ($15). You also bought film ($5) for your camera in Oroville. You would complete this section as shown in the EXAMPLE portion of the table on the following page.

TYPE OF EXPENSE	PREPARING FOR TRIP (AT HOME)	Section 1.01 TRAVELING TO AND FROM THE LAKE OROVILLE AREA					ONSITE AT LAKE OROVILLE AREA
		Oroville (including Thermalito)	Paradise	Gridley/ Biggs Area	Chico	Elsewhere in Butte County	
Lodging							
EXAMPLE: blank since trip was one day	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- hotels/motels/inns	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- rental homes	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- camping	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- other	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Food & Beverages							
EXAMPLE: breakfast in Chico and lunch in Oroville	$	$	$	$	$ **18**	$	$ **15**
- purchased at food stores	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- purchased at restaurants	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Transportation							
EXAMPLE: gas for vehicle in Chico	$	$	$	$	$ **20**	$	$
- vehicle rental	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- vehicle gas and oil	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- vehicle repair/service	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- parking fees and tolls	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- boat gas and oil	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- boat repair and service	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- bus fares	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- other (e.g., air fare, train fare, boat fares other than fishing charters)	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Activities/Entertainment							
EXAMPLE: hunting supplies in Chico	$ **35**	$	$	$	$	$	$
- fishing/hunting: licenses	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- fishing: boat charters	$	$	$	$	$	$	$

- fishing/hunting: bait, supplies, equipment.....	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- other rec equipment purchased for this trip (tents, sleeping bags, sporting equipment)	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Miscellaneous Spending							
EXAMPLE: film at a convenience store in Oroville	$	$	$	$	$	$	$ **5**
- film purchases/developing.....	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- clothing.....	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- souvenirs/gifts	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- personal services	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- other (please specify:_____)	$	$	$	$	$	$	$

IMPORTANT

6. Do you feel that the estimates you provided for your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area were (check one):

- ❑ Very accurate for most items
- ❑ Reasonably accurate for most items
- ❑ Not very accurate for most items

PART D. YOUR RECREATION ACTIVITIES

7. Were there recreation activities or special events **NOT** offered in the Lake Oroville Area that you would like to do?

   ❑ No, all the opportunities I wanted were offered
   ❑ Yes. ➠ If yes, which activities:

   _____ _____

   _____ _____

   _____ _____

8. Below is a list of recreation places in northern California. Please indicate the places you have visited for recreation ***in the past 12 months***. (**Check all that apply**)

❑ Lake Almanor	❑ Yuba River
❑ Butt Valley Lake	❑ Pit River
❑ San Francisco Bay/Delta Area	❑ Lake Tahoe
❑ Bucks Lake	❑ Trinity Lake
❑ Eagle Lake	❑ Lassen Volcanic National Park
❑ Lake Davis	❑ Lake Berryessa
❑ Little Grass Valley Reservoir	❑ Folsom Lake
❑ Honey Lake	❑ South Fork American River
❑ Lake Britton	❑ Stoney Gorge Reservoir
❑ Lake Shasta	❑ Black Butte Lake
❑ Lassen National Forest rivers and lakes	❑ Antelope Lake
❑ Plumas National Forest rivers and lakes	❑ Frenchman Lake
❑ Middle Fork Feather River	❑ Whiskeytown Lake
❑ South Fork Feather River	❑ Lower Feather River
❑ North Fork Feather River	❑ Other_____
❑ Sacramento River	❑ Other_____

9. Did you visit any of the above places on your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area?

- ❑ No.
- ❑ Yes. If yes, indicate which places from above:

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

10. We are interested in the type of recreation opportunity you think should be provided in the Lake Oroville Area. For each of the following items, please indicate the type of opportunity you would prefer for this recreation area. (**Check one box per item**)

A. Opportunity to experience solitude versus opportunity to affiliate with other groups:

- ❑ Solitude is extremely important
- ❑ Solitude is very important
- ❑ Solitude is important
- ❑ Solitude and affiliation are equally important
- ❑ Affiliation with other groups is important
- ❑ Affiliation with other groups is very important
- ❑ Affiliation with other groups is extremely important

B. Opportunity to experience risk and challenge from the natural environment is:

- ❑ Extremely important
- ❑ Very important
- ❑ Important
- ❑ Somewhat important
- ❑ Not important

C. Opportunity to use outdoor wilderness skills is:

- ❑ Extremely important
- ❑ Very important
- ❑ Important
- ❑ Somewhat important
- ❑ Not important

D. The sights and sounds of civilization should be:

- ❑ Absent
- ❑ Rare
- ❑ Unusual
- ❑ Common
- ❑ Dominant

E. The landscape should be:

- ❑ Totally natural in appearance
- ❑ Predominantly natural in appearance
- ❑ Modified on a small scale
- ❑ Significantly modified

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11. The following question lists things you might or might not have experienced on your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area. For each item below, indicate how much of a problem you think the issue was at the hunting area where you were surveyed:

Hunting Area : _____

If you are uncertain about an item or the item does not apply, check "N/A." (**Check the appropriate box for each item**.)

Experience	A big problem	A moderate problem	A slight problem	Not a problem	N/A
Management					
Litter along the shoreline	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Sanitation along the shoreline	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Overall safety and security	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Availability of service/staffing	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Adequate information/warnings provided	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Access to the shoreline	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Law enforcement presence	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Water Conditions					
Floating debris in the water	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Water level fluctuation	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Quality of water	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
User Interactions					
Noise from boats and personal watercraft	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Boat speed or wake effects	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Unsafe behavior by other users	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Numbers of people at developed facilities	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Use of alcohol by other users	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑

12. How do you evaluate the following facilities at the hunting area where you were surveyed on your recent trip? Remember, each item listed pertains only to the area where you were surveyed. If you are uncertain about an issue, or it does not apply, check "N/A." (**Check the appropriate box for each item**)

Type of Facility	Too Few	About Right	Too Many	N/A
Camping Related				
Number of campgrounds	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of group campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Screening between campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Boat Related				
Number of boat ramps	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of docks or temporary moorage	❑	❑	❑	❑
Hunting Related				
Lands for hunting	❑	❑	❑	❑
Other				
Number of restrooms	❑	❑	❑	❑

13. Overall, on your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area, how satisfied were you with your recreation experience? (**Check one**)

- ❑ Extremely dissatisfied
- ❑ Very dissatisfied
- ❑ Dissatisfied
- ❑ Somewhat dissatisfied
- ❑ Neither dissatisfied or satisfied
- ❑ Somewhat satisfied
- ❑ Satisfied
- ❑ Very satisfied
- ❑ Extremely satisfied

14. Do you have any other comments you would like to make?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS SURVEY.

To return the survey, simply seal the questionnaire in the enclosed envelope and mail. Return postage is provided.

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Lake Oroville Area Hunter-Focused Recreation Survey

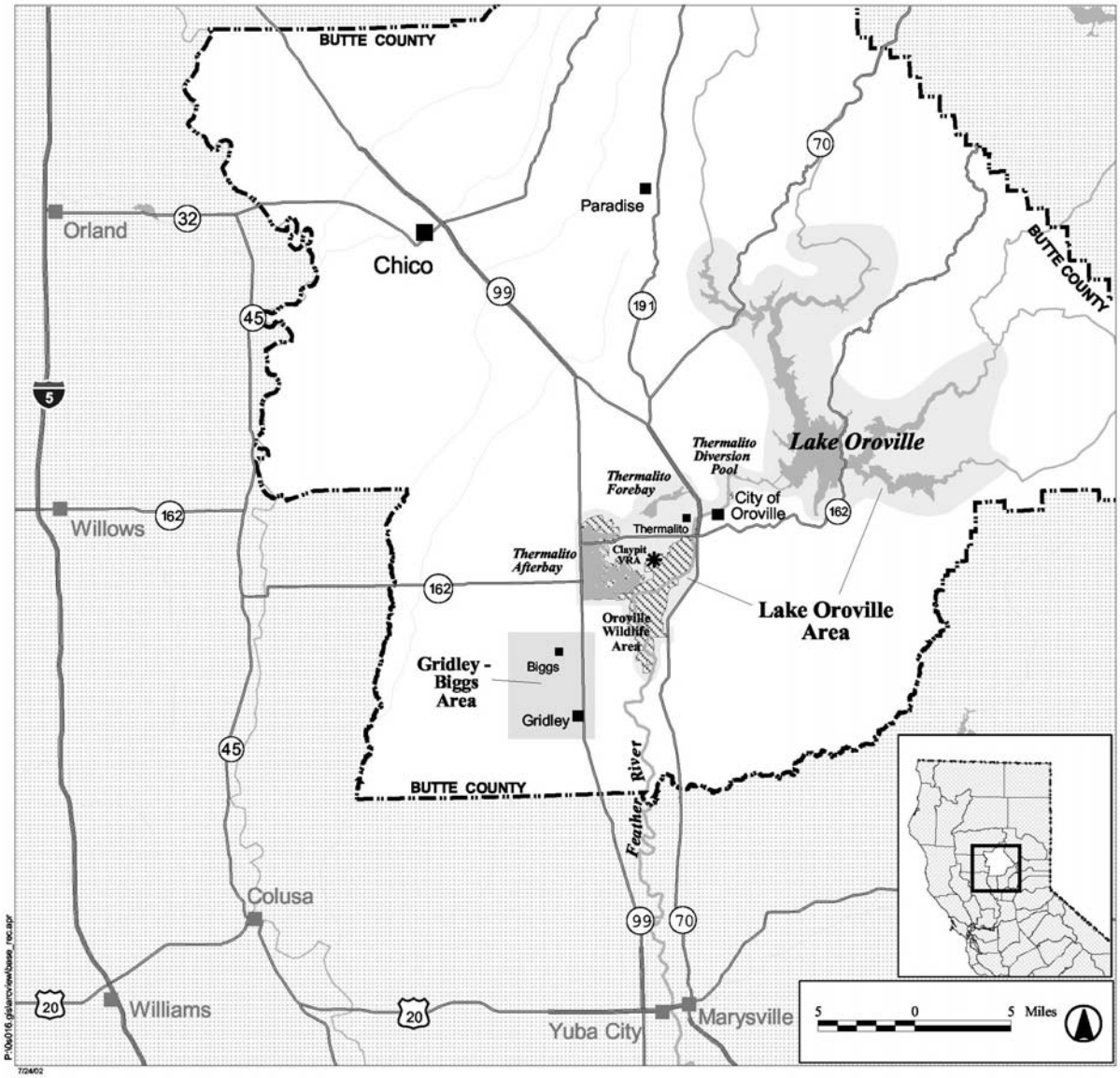
Mail Back Survey

Non-Resident of Butte County

2002 – 2003

California Department of Water Resources

Lake Oroville Area and Surrounding Communities



INSTRUCTIONS

This questionnaire has 4 parts:

Part A: **Transportation and Accommodations** used on your recent trip.
Part B: **Equipment** used for recreation on your recent trip.
Part C: **Expenditures** made on your recent trip.
Part D: **Recreation Activities and Experiences** on your recent trip.

Throughout this survey, the term "recent trip" refers to the trip to the Lake Oroville Area that you were on when you agreed to participate in this survey. Our records indicate you were interviewed on _____ at _____.

Many of the questions in this questionnaire refer to the Lake Oroville Area and surrounding communities in Butte County. These areas are shown on the map on the opposite page.

PLEASE NOTE: IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT ONLY THE PERSON WHO IS LISTED ON THE ADDRESS LABEL FILL OUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE.

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PART A: TRANSPORTATION AND ACCOMODATIONS

4. During your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area, which of the following modes of transportation did you use to get to the area? (**Check all that apply**)

   - ❑ AUTOMOBILE, TRUCK, OR VAN NOT USED FOR CAMPING
   - ❑ AUTOMOBILE, TRUCK, OR VAN PULLING A TRAILER
   - ❑ CAMPING VEHICLE (RV, motorhome, van conversion, etc.)
   - ❑ BUS
   - ❑ MOTORCYCLE
   - ❑ BICYCLE
   - ❑ OTHER (e.g. train, airplane, boat, etc.—please describe:_____)

5. On your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area, did you stay at least one night away from home?
   (**Check correct answer**)

   - ❑ YES
   - ❑ NO ➠ skip to Part B (Equipment)

6. What type of accommodations did you use during your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area? (**Check all that apply**)

   - ❑ MOTEL/HOTEL
   - ❑ BED AND BREAKFAST

-4-

- ❑ SECOND HOME
  (If you checked this response, please answer the following two questions)

  Where is this second home? _____

  How many days per year do you usually spend at this second home? _____ days

- ❑ OTHER RENTED ACCOMMODATIONS
  (cabin, cottage, condo, guest home)
- ❑ FRIEND OR RELATIVE'S HOME
- ❑ RENTED RECREATIONAL VEHICLE
  (including trailers, pop-ups, etc.)
- ❑ PERSONAL RECREATIONAL VEHICLE
- ❑ TENT/CAMPER TRAILER
- ❑ TENT
- ❑ BOAT (including houseboat)
- ❑ OTHER (please describe: _____)

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PART B. EQUIPMENT

4. Below is a list of equipment people sometimes take with them to recreation areas. In the 1st column of boxes, please check all equipment items that you own. In the 2nd column of boxes, please check all equipment that you brought on your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area. In the last column of boxes, please indicate the approximate amount that you've personally spent (both purchasing and maintaining) on each of these equipment items **over the past 12 months**.

Equipment Item	Do You Own?	Did You Bring on Recent Trip?	Approx. $ Spent Over the Past 12 Months
A. MOTORIZED BOAT	❑	❑	$
B. NON-MOTORIZED BOAT (canoe, kayak, row, sail, etc.)	❑	❑	$
C. BOAT TRAILER	❑	❑	$
D. HORSE TRAILER	❑	❑	$
E. WATERSKIING EQUIPMENT	❑	❑	$
F. PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (jet skis)	❑	❑	$
G. CAMPING VEHICLE (motorhome, van or bus, travel trailer, truck camper, 5th wheel, etc.)	❑	❑	$
H. MOTORCYCLE	❑	❑	$
I. BICYCLE	❑	❑	$
J. OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (three-wheels, trail bikes, etc.)	❑	❑	$
K. FISHING EQUIPMENT	❑	❑	$
L. HUNTING EQUIPMENT	❑	❑	$
M. BACKPACKING EQUIPMENT	❑	❑	$
N. PHOTOGRAPHY EQUIPMENT	❑	❑	$
O. CAMPING EQUIPMENT	❑	❑	$
P. ALL OTHER MAJOR EQUIPMENT (surfboards, hang gliders, windsurfers, aircraft) – please list	❑	❑	$
1. _____	❑	❑	$
2. _____	❑	❑	$

PART C. EXPENDITURES ON RECENT TRIP

This section includes a list of goods and services that people purchase when on a recreation-related trip. Please tell us how much you spent on each item on your recent trip. Because where you spend your money is important to understanding how recreation-related activity affects the local economy, we ask you to estimate your spending by location where the spending occurred. The locations include 1) at home, preparing for the trip, 2) within selected communities/cities in Butte County, and 3) onsite at Lake Oroville Area. An EXAMPLE TRIP is described below.

PLEASE NOTE:

- If you were sharing expenses with others, we just want to know about your own expenses.
- If you were paying expenses for other people in your group as well, please list all the expenses you paid and indicate below how many people including yourself that you were paying for.

IMPORTANT

5. PLEASE INDICATE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE, INCLUDING YOURSELF, THAT YOU WERE PAYING EXPENSES FOR:

_____ people

EXAMPLE TRIP

You and your hunting partner live in Redding and spent one day hunting for waterfowl in the Oroville Wildlife Area after spending the night in a local motel. You paid for all expenses, including gasoline ($32) and hunting supplies ($38) in Redding; breakfast in Oroville ($17.50); lunch in Chico on the way home ($15); hotel room for one night ($65); and souvenirs ($21) at a gift shop in the City of Oroville. You would complete this section as shown in the EXAMPLE portion of the table on the following page.

TYPE OF EXPENSE	AMOUNT SPENT OUTSIDE BUTTE COUNTY		AMOUNT SPENT IN BUTTE COUNTY COMMUNITIES					ONSITE AT LAKE OROVILLE AREA
	Preparing for Trip	Traveling to and from Lake Oroville Area	Oroville (including Thermalito)	Paradise	Gridley/ Biggs Area	Chico	Elsewhere in Butte County	
Lodging								
EXAMPLE: motel for 1 night	$	$	$ **65**	$	$	$	$	$
- hotels/motels/inns	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- rental homes	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- camping	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- other	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Food & Beverages								
EXAMPLE: breakfast in Oroville and lunch in Chico	$	$	$ **17.50**	$	$	$ **15**	$	$
- purchased at food stores	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- purchased at restaurants	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Transportation								
EXAMPLE: gas for vehicle in Redding	$	$ **32**	$	$	$	$	$	$
- vehicle rental	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- vehicle gas and oil	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- vehicle repair/service	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- parking fees and tolls	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- boat gas and oil	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- boat repair and service	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- bus fares	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- other (e.g., air fare, train fare, boat fares other than fishing charters)	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Activities/Entertainment								
EXAMPLE: hunting supplies in Redding	$ **38**	$	$	$	$	$	$	$

- fishing/hunting: licenses	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- fishing: boat charters	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- fishing/hunting: bait, supplies, equipment	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- other rec equipment purchased for this trip (tents, sleeping bags, sporting equipment)	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Miscellaneous Spending								
EXAMPLE: souvenirs at gift shop in City of Oroville	$	$	$ **21**	$	$	$	$	$
- film purchases/developing	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- clothing	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- souvenirs/gifts	**$**	**$**	**$**	**$**	**$**	**$**	**$**	**$**
- personal services	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
- other (please specify: _____	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$

IMPORTANT

6. Do you feel that the estimates you provided for your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area were (check one):

- ❑ Very accurate for most items
- ❑ Reasonably accurate for most items
- ❑ Not very accurate for most items

PART D. YOUR RECREATION ACTIVITIES

7. Were there recreation activities or special events **NOT** offered in the Lake Oroville Area that you would like to do?

   ❑ No, all the opportunities I wanted were offered
   ❑ Yes. If yes, which activities:

   _____ _____

   _____ _____

   _____ _____

8. Below is a list of recreation places in northern California. Please indicate the places you have visited for recreation ***in the past 12 months***. (**Check all that apply**)

❑ Lake Almanor	❑ Yuba River
❑ Butt Valley Lake	❑ Pit River
❑ San Francisco Bay/Delta Area	❑ Lake Tahoe
❑ Bucks Lake	❑ Trinity Lake
❑ Eagle Lake	❑ Lassen Volcanic National Park
❑ Lake Davis	❑ Lake Berryessa
❑ Little Grass Valley Reservoir	❑ Folsom Lake
❑ Honey Lake	❑ South Fork American River
❑ Lake Britton	❑ Stoney Gorge Reservoir
❑ Lake Shasta	❑ Black Butte Lake
❑ Lassen National Forest rivers and lakes	❑ Antelope Lake
❑ Plumas National Forest rivers and lakes	❑ Frenchman Lake
❑ Middle Fork Feather River	❑ Whiskeytown Lake
❑ South Fork Feather River	❑ Lower Feather River
❑ North Fork Feather River	❑ Other_____
❑ Sacramento River	❑ Other_____

9. Did you visit any of the above places on your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area?

- ❑ No.
- ❑ Yes. If yes, indicate which places from above:

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

10. We are interested in the type of recreation opportunity you think should be provided in the Lake Oroville Area. For each of the following items, please indicate the type of opportunity you would prefer for this recreation area. (**Check one box per item**)

A. Opportunity to experience solitude versus opportunity to affiliate with other groups:

- ❑ Solitude is extremely important
- ❑ Solitude is very important
- ❑ Solitude is important
- ❑ Solitude and affiliation are equally important
- ❑ Affiliation with other groups is important
- ❑ Affiliation with other groups is very important
- ❑ Affiliation with other groups is extremely important

B. Opportunity to experience risk and challenge from the natural environment is:

- ❑ Extremely important
- ❑ Very important
- ❑ Important
- ❑ Somewhat important
- ❑ Not important

-11-

C. Opportunity to use outdoor wilderness skills is:

- ❑ Extremely important
- ❑ Very important
- ❑ Important
- ❑ Somewhat important
- ❑ Not important

D. The sights and sounds of civilization should be:

- ❑ Absent
- ❑ Rare
- ❑ Unusual
- ❑ Common
- ❑ Dominant

E. The landscape should be:

- ❑ Totally natural in appearance
- ❑ Predominantly natural in appearance
- ❑ Modified on a small scale
- ❑ Significantly modified

-12-

11. The following question lists things you might or might not have experienced on your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area. For each item below, indicate how much of a problem you think the issue was at the recreation area where you were surveyed:

Hunting Area: _____

If you are uncertain about an item or the item does not apply, check "N/A." (**Check the appropriate box for each item**.)

Experience	A big problem	A moderate problem	A slight problem	Not a problem	N/A
Management					
Litter along the shoreline	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Sanitation along the shoreline	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Overall safety and security	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Availability of service/staffing	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Adequate information/warnings provided	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Access to the shoreline	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Law enforcement presence	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Water Conditions					
Floating debris in the water	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Quality of water	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Water level fluctuations	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
User Interactions					
Noise from boats and personal watercraft	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Boat speed or wake effects	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Unsafe behavior by other users	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Numbers of people at developed facilities	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Use of alcohol by other users	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑

12. How do you evaluate the following facilities at the recreation area where you were surveyed on your recent trip? Remember, each item listed pertains only to the recreation area where you were surveyed. If you are uncertain about an issue, or it does not apply, check "N/A."
(**Check the appropriate box for each item**)

Type of Facility	Too Few	About Right	Too Many	N/A
Camping Related				
Number of campgrounds	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of group campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Screening between campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Boat Related				
Number of boat ramps	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of docks or temporary moorage	❑	❑	❑	❑
Fishing/Hunting Related				
Lands for hunting	❑	❑	❑	❑
Other				
Number of restrooms	❑	❑	❑	❑

13. Overall, on your recent trip to the Lake Oroville Area, how satisfied were you with your recreation experience? (**Check one**)

- ❑ Extremely dissatisfied
- ❑ Very dissatisfied
- ❑ Dissatisfied
- ❑ Somewhat dissatisfied
- ❑ Neither dissatisfied or satisfied
- ❑ Somewhat satisfied
- ❑ Satisfied
- ❑ Very satisfied
- ❑ Extremely satisfied

14. Do you have any other comments you would like to make?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS SURVEY.

To return the survey, simply seal the questionnaire in the enclosed envelope and mail. Return postage is provided.

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APPENDIX D

SIMILAR SITE SURVEY INSTRUMENTS

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Lake Berryessa Recreation Survey D-1

Black Butte Reservoir Recreation Survey D-13

Shasta Lake Recreation Survey D-25

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2002
Lake Berryessa
Recreation Survey

California Department of Water Resources

Lake Berryessa Recreation Visitor Questionnaire

Please complete the following survey as completely as possible. Read section directions carefully, as not all questions will apply to you. Some sections only apply to specific activities, such as fishing. Your views about recreation at Lake Berryessa are very important to us. When you have completed the survey, please give it to one of the researchers in this area today. Please **circle the number corresponding with your answer**, unless otherwise instructed.

Q-1. Regarding Lake Berryessa, do you consider yourself: (**Circle one number**)

1. A regular visitor to this area (*3 or more times per year*)
2. An occasional visitor (*1-2 times per year*)
3. An infrequent visitor (*Less than 1 time per year*)
4. This is my first visit

Q-2. On this trip to Lake Berryessa, when did you arrive?

_____/_____/_____ _____AM/PM
Arrival Date *Arrival Time*

When did you or do you expect to leave Lake Berryessa?

_____/_____/_____ _____AM/PM
Departure Date *Departure Time*

Q-3. During the last 12 months (including this trip), which seasons did you visit Lake Berryessa?

1. Spring 2. Summer 3. Fall 4. Winter

-1-

Q-4. At this location, how crowded do you feel today?

1----------2----------3----------4----------5----------6----------7----------8----------9

Not at all Crowded	Slightly Crowded	Moderately Crowded	Extremely Crowded

Q-5. How many people, including yourself, are in your group today?

Number of adults_____
Number of children (less than 18 years old)_____

Q-6. What is the zip code of your primary residence?_____

Q-7. Are you staying overnight at Lake Berryessa (not including at your own home) on this trip?

1. Yes 2. No

Q-8. Briefly describe why you chose to visit Lake Berryessa on this trip rather than other recreation areas in northern California.

_____

_____

_____

_____

-2-

Q-9. On this trip to Lake Berryessa, in which of the following activities have you or do you expect to participate? (**Circle all numbers that apply**)

Wildlife	Boating	Active	Passive
1. Bank fishing	13. Rafting	22. Swimming	35. Sunbathing
2. Boat fishing	14. Motor boating	23. Tennis	36. Sightseeing
3. Hunting	15. House boating	24. Golf	37. Photography
4. Nature study	16. Personal Watercraft use	25. Hiking	38. Picnicking
5. Bird watching	17. Sailing	26. Backpacking	39. Painting /drawing
	18. Kayaking	27. Off highway vehicle driving/motorcycling/ ATV	40. Relaxing
Urban	19. Canoeing		41. RV camping
6. Movies and theater	20. Windsurfing	28. Bike on roads/paths	42. Rock collecting
7. Shop (art/clothes/antiques)	21. Water ski/Wake board	29. Mountain bike on trails	
8. Museum/art gallery/historic site		30. Horseback riding	
9. Amusement park		31. Tent camping	
10. Dining out at restaurants/bars		32. Camping at a floating campsite	
11. Concert/festival/ tournament/event		33. Dog walking	
12. Attend educational events		34. Panning for gold	
43. Other activity (*please specify*) _____			

Q-10. Of the activities you circled in **Q-9** above, what is the primary activity that you participated in, or expect to participate in, on this visit? (**Write in the corresponding number from above**)

Primary activity # _____

-3-

Q-11. How would you rate the scenery of the location you are currently at Lake Berryessa?

(**Circle appropriate number**)

1----------2----------3----------4----------5----------6----------7----------8----------9

Extremely Unappealing	Unappealing	Appealing	Extremely Appealing

Q-12. Overall, on this trip to Lake Berryessa, how satisfied were you with your recreation experience? (**Circle appropriate number**)

1----------2----------3----------4----------5----------6----------7----------8----------9

Extremely Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Extremely Satisfied

Q-13. How likely is it that you will return to Lake Berryessa? (**Circle appropriate number**)

1----------2----------3----------4----------5----------6----------7----------8----------9

Extremely Unlikely	Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Somewhat Unlikely	Neutral	Somewhat Likely	Likely	Very Likely	Extremely Likely

Reservoir Boaters Only.

If you have boated or expect to boat on Lake Berryessa this trip, please complete Q-14 through Q-20. Otherwise, skip to Q-21.

Q-14. On this trip, did you personally experience any encounters with other users on the water that put <u>you</u> at risk?

1. Yes ➠ If Yes, briefly describe the encounter _____

_____

2. No

Q-15. Did you observe any boating activity on Lake Berryessa during this trip that you felt put others at risk?

1. Yes ➠ If Yes, briefly describe unsafe activity_____

_____

2. No

Q-16. Please indicate how crowded you felt on the water today. (**Circle a number**) Skip to **Q-17** if you have not been on the water **today**.

1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**
Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded			Extremely Crowded

Q-17. What type of watercraft do you **primarily** use when visiting Lake Berryessa? (**Circle one**)

1. Runabout/Ski boat/Pontoon boat/Cabin cruiser
2. Houseboat
3. Sailboat
4. Canoe/Kayak
5. Personal Watercraft (jet ski/ wave runner/etc.)
6. Other (Describe:_____)

Q-18. Have you ever used one of the boat launches at Lake Berryessa?

1. Yes 2. No ➠ **(Skip to Q-20)**

Q-19. Do you typically have to wait to use the boat launch you most frequently use?

1. Yes ➠ If Yes, on average, how many minutes do you have to wait to use this ramp?

Number of minutes _____

2. No

Q-20. Overall, are you satisfied with your boating experience on this trip to Lake Berryessa?

1. Yes 2. No ➠ Why not? _____

_____

_____

-6-

Q-21. The following question lists things you might or might not have experienced on this trip to Lake Berryessa. For each item below, indicate how much of a problem you think the issue is at Lake Berryessa:

(Check the appropriate box for each item. If you are uncertain about an item or the item does not apply, check "N/A.")

Experience	A big problem	A moderate problem	A slight problem	Not a problem	N/A
Management					
Litter along the shoreline	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Sanitation along the shoreline	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Cost to use facilities	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Overall safety and security	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Availability of service/staffing	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Adequate information/warnings provided	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Adequacy of landscaping of facilities	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Access to the shoreline	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Law enforcement presence	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Encounters between trail users and other users	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Water Conditions					
Exposed land during lower water levels	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Shallow areas during lower water levels	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Floating debris in the water	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Quality of water	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Water level fluctuations	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
User Interactions					
Numbers of watercraft	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Noise from boats and personal watercraft	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Boat speed or wake effects	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Encounters between water skiers and others	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Encounters between pleasure boaters & boat anglers	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Encounters between PWCs (jetski/waverunner) and other users	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Unsafe behavior by other users	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Numbers of people at developed facilities	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Use of alcohol by other users	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑

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Q-22. On this trip, how do you evaluate the following facilities at Lake Berryessa?

(**Check the appropriate box for each item**. If you are uncertain about an item or the item does not apply, check "N/A.")

Type of Facility	Too Few	About Right	Too Many	N/A
Camping Related				
Presence of campground hosts	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of campgrounds	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of campsites with RV hookups	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of group campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Screening between campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of floating campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of shower facilities at campgrounds	❑	❑	❑	❑
Boat Related				
Number of boat ramps	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of docks or temporary moorage	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of boat-in primitive campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of boat-in campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of marinas	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of boat-in gas stations	❑	❑	❑	❑
Fishing/Hunting Related				
Number of fish cleaning stations	❑	❑	❑	❑
Other Activity Related				
Number of group picnic sites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Amount of swim areas	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of equestrian facilities	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of developed day use or picnic areas along the shore	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of interpretive programs/educational opportunities	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of restrooms	❑	❑	❑	❑

Now a few questions about another California reservoir, Lake Oroville. Comparisons between Lake Berryessa and Lake Oroville visitors may help managers provide better facilities and services for visitors to California lakes and reservoirs.

Q-23. Have you ever visited Lake Oroville?

1. Yes (Go to **Q-26**)

2. No ➠ Why not? _____

_____

Q-24. Would any of the following special events motivate you to visit the Lake Oroville area for the first time? How about . . . (**Check all that apply**)

- ❑ Living history demonstrations
- ❑ Food/beverage festivals
- ❑ Powerboat races
- ❑ Canoe/Kayak/river-related events
- ❑ Sailing events
- ❑ Water-skiing events
- ❑ PWC events
- ❑ Mountain bike races
- ❑ Equestrian events
- ❑ Fishing events
- ❑ Target shooting competition
- ❑ OHV related events such as trials events, enduro events, and motocross races
- ❑ Triathlons

Q-25. Would any of the following facilities motivate you to visit the Lake Oroville area for the first time? How about . . . (**Check all that apply**)

- ❑ Expanded outdoor/nature/cultural/ historic interpretation center
- ❑ Water park
- ❑ Floating restaurant on Lake Oroville
- ❑ Warm-water swimming/beach areas
- ❑ More RV sites that are accessible to people with disabilities
- ❑ Showers at day use areas
- ❑ Children's play areas
- ❑ More Full Hookup RV sites

Q-26. How many times have you visited Lake Oroville in the last year? _____

Q-27. Overall, how would you rate your satisfaction with your last visit to Lake Oroville?

1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**
Extremely Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Extremely Satisfied

Why? _____

_____

Q-28. When was the last time you visited Lake Oroville?

- ❑ within the last 12 months
- ❑ 1-2 years ago
- ❑ 2-3 years ago
- ❑ more than 3 years ago
- ❑ can't remember

Finally, we would like to know something about you.
This information will not be distributed to any other group for any purpose.
ALL RESPONSES WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.

Q-29. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (**Circle appropriate number**)

1. Some high school
2. High school graduate
3. Some college
4. Bachelor's degree or equivalent
5. Master's degree or equivalent
6. Ph.D., J.D., M.D., or equivalent

OVER

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Q-30. What is your age? _____

Q-31. What is your primary occupation?

1. Professional/Technical	5. Service	9. Retired	13. Other:
2. Manager/Administrator	6. Teacher/Professor	10. Student	_____
3. Sales	7. Skilled Worker	11. Military	
4. Clerical	8. Laborer	12. Homemaker	

Q-32. Please circle the category that represents your total household income before taxes.

1. Less than $20,000	3. $40,000-$59,999	5. $80,000-$100,000
2. $20,000-$39,999	4. $60,000-$79,999	6. More than $100,000

Q-33. Of the choices listed below, please circle the ethnic group with which you most closely identify.

1. Latino/Hispanic	5. American Indian/Alaska Native
2. White/Anglo (non Hispanic)	6. Pacific Islander/ native Hawaiian
3. Asian	7. Other _____
4. African American/Black	

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS SURVEY EFFORT!

For Office Use Only
_____ Date
_____ Location

2002
Black Butte Reservoir
Recreation Survey

California Department of Water Resources

Black Butte Reservoir Recreation Visitor Questionnaire

Please complete the following survey as completely as possible. Read section directions carefully, as not all questions will apply to you. Some sections only apply to specific activities, such as fishing. Your views about recreation at Black Butte Reservoir are very important to us. When you have completed the survey, please give it to one of the researchers in this area today. Please **circle the number corresponding with your answer**, unless otherwise instructed.

Q-1. Regarding Black Butte Reservoir, do you consider yourself: (**Circle one number**)

1. A regular visitor to this area (*3 or more times per year*)
2. An occasional visitor (*1-2 times per year*)
3. An infrequent visitor (*Less than 1 time per year*)
4. This is my first visit

Q-2. On this trip to Black Butte Reservoir, when did you arrive?

_____/_____/_____ _____AM/PM
Arrival Date *Arrival Time*

When did you or do you expect to leave Black Butte Reservoir?

_____/_____/_____ _____AM/PM
Departure Date *Departure Time*

Q-3. During the last 12 months (including this trip), which seasons did you visit Black Butte Reservoir?

1. Spring 2. Summer 3. Fall 4. Winter

-1-

Q-4. At this location, how crowded do you feel today?

1----------**2**----------**3**----------**4**----------**5**----------**6**----------**7**----------**8**----------**9**			
Not at all Crowded	Slightly Crowded	Moderately Crowded	Extremely Crowded

Q-5. How many people, including yourself, are in your group today?

Number of adults_____
Number of children (less than 18 years old)_____

Q-6. What is the zip code of your primary residence?_____

Q-7. Are you staying overnight at Black Butte Reservoir (not including at your own home) on this trip?

1. Yes 2. No

Q-8. Briefly describe why you chose to visit Black Butte Reservoir on this trip rather than other recreation areas in northern California.

_____

_____

_____

_____

-2-

Q-9. On this trip to Black Butte Reservoir, in which of the following activities have you or do you expect to participate? (**Circle all numbers that apply**)

Wildlife	Boating	Active	Passive
1. Bank fishing	13. Rafting	22. Swimming	35. Sunbathing
2. Boat fishing	14. Motor boating	23. Tennis	36. Sightseeing
3. Hunting	15. House boating	24. Golf	37. Photography
4. Nature study	16. Personal Watercraft use	25. Hiking	38. Picnicking
5. Bird watching	17. Sailing	26. Backpacking	39. Painting /drawing
	18. Kayaking	27. Off highway vehicle driving/motorcycling/ ATV	40. Relaxing
Urban	19. Canoeing		41. RV camping
6. Movies and theater	20. Windsurfing	28. Bike on roads/paths	42. Rock collecting
7. Shop (art/clothes/antiques)	21. Water ski/Wake board	29. Mountain bike on trails	
8. Museum/art gallery/historic site		30. Horseback riding	
9. Amusement park		31. Tent camping	
10. Dining out at restaurants/bars		32. Camping at a floating campsite	
11. Concert/festival/ tournament/event		33. Dog walking	
12. Attend educational events		34. Panning for gold	
43. Other activity (*please specify*) _____			

Q-10. Of the activities you circled in **Q-9** above, what is the primary activity that you participated in, or expect to participate in, on this visit? (**Write in the corresponding number from above**)

Primary activity # _____

-3-

Q-11. How would you rate the scenery of the location you are currently at Black Butte Reservoir? (**Circle appropriate number**)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Extremely Unappealing			Unappealing		Appealing			Extremely Appealing

Q-12. Overall, on this trip to Black Butte Reservoir, how satisfied were you with your recreation experience? (**Circle appropriate number**)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Extremely Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Extremely Satisfied

Q-13. How likely is it that you will return to Black Butte Reservoir? (**Circle appropriate number**)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Extremely Unlikely	Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Somewhat Unlikely	Neutral	Somewhat Likely	Likely	Very Likely	Extremely Likely

Reservoir Boaters Only. If you have boated or expect to boat on Black Butte Reservoir this trip,

please complete Q-14 through Q-20. Otherwise, skip to Q-21.

Q-14. On this trip, did you personally experience any encounters with other users on the water that put <u>you</u> at risk?

1. Yes ➠ If Yes, briefly describe the encounter_____

_____

2. No

Q-15. Did you observe any boating activity on Black Butte Reservoir during this trip that you felt put others at risk?

1. Yes ➠ If Yes, briefly describe unsafe activity_____

_____

2. No

Q-16. Please indicate how crowded you felt on the water today. (**Circle a number**) Skip to **Q-17** if you have not been on the water **today**.

1----------	**2**----------	**3**----------	**4**----------	**5**----------	**6**----------	**7**----------	**8**----------	**9**
Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded			Extremely Crowded

Q-17. What type of watercraft do you **primarily** use when visiting Black Butte Reservoir? (**Circle one**)

1. Runabout/Ski boat/Pontoon boat/Cabin cruiser
2. Houseboat
3. Sailboat
4. Canoe/Kayak
5. Personal Watercraft (jet ski/ wave runner/etc.)
6. Other (Describe:_____)

Q-18. Have you ever used one of the boat launches at Black Butte Reservoir?

1. Yes 2. No ➠ **(Skip to Q-20)**

Q-19. Do you typically have to wait to use the boat launch you most frequently use?

1. Yes ➠ If Yes, on average, how many minutes do you have to wait to use this ramp?

   Number of minutes _____

2. No

Q-20. Overall, are you satisfied with your boating experience on this trip to Black Butte Reservoir?

1. Yes 2. No ➠ Why not? _____

_____

_____

-6-

Q-21. The following question lists things you might or might not have experienced on this trip to Black Butte Reservoir. For each item below, indicate how much of a problem you think the issue is at Black Butte Reservoir:

(Check the appropriate box for each item. If you are uncertain about an item or the item does not apply, check "N/A.")

Experience	A big problem	A moderate problem	A slight problem	Not a problem	N/A
Management					
Litter along the shoreline	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Sanitation along the shoreline	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Cost to use facilities	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Overall safety and security	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Availability of service/staffing	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Adequate information/warnings provided	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Adequacy of landscaping of facilities	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Access to the shoreline	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Law enforcement presence	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Encounters between trail users and other users	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Water Conditions					
Exposed land during lower water levels	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Shallow areas during lower water levels	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Floating debris in the water	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Quality of water	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Water level fluctuations	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
User Interactions					
Numbers of watercraft	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Noise from boats and personal watercraft	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Boat speed or wake effects	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Encounters between water skiers and others	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Encounters between pleasure boaters & boat anglers	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Encounters between PWCs (jetski/waverunner) and other users	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Unsafe behavior by other users	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Numbers of people at developed facilities	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Use of alcohol by other users	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑

Q-22. On this trip, how do you evaluate the following facilities at Black Butte Reservoir?

(**Check the appropriate box for each item**. If you are uncertain about an item or the item does not apply, check "N/A.")

Type of Facility	Too Few	About Right	Too Many	N/A
Camping Related				
Presence of campground hosts	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of campgrounds	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of campsites with RV hookups	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of group campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Screening between campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of floating campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of shower facilities at campgrounds	❑	❑	❑	❑
Boat Related				
Number of boat ramps	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of docks or temporary moorage	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of boat-in primitive campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of boat-in campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of marinas	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of boat-in gas stations	❑	❑	❑	❑
Fishing/Hunting Related				
Number of fish cleaning stations	❑	❑	❑	❑
Other Activity Related				
Number of group picnic sites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Amount of swim areas	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of equestrian facilities	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of developed day use or picnic areas along the shore	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of interpretive programs/educational opportunities	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of restrooms	❑	❑	❑	❑

Now a few questions about another California reservoir, Lake Oroville. Comparisons between Black Butte Reservoir and Lake Oroville visitors may help land managers provide better facilities and services for visitors to California lakes and reservoirs.

Q-23. Have you ever visited Lake Oroville?

1. Yes (Go to **Q-26**)
2. No ➠ Why not? _____

_____

Q-24. Would any of the following special events motivate you to visit the Lake Oroville area for the first time? How about . . . (**Check all that apply**)

- ❑ Living history demonstrations
- ❑ Food/beverage festivals
- ❑ Powerboat races
- ❑ Canoe/Kayak/river-related events
- ❑ Sailing events
- ❑ Water-skiing events
- ❑ PWC events
- ❑ Mountain bike races
- ❑ Equestrian events
- ❑ Fishing events
- ❑ Target shooting competition
- ❑ OHV related events such as trials events, enduro events, and motocross races
- ❑ Triathlons

Q-25. Would any of the following facilities motivate you to visit the Lake Oroville area for the first time? How about . . . (**Check all that apply**)

- ❑ Expanded outdoor/nature/cultural/ historic interpretation center
- ❑ Water park
- ❑ Floating restaurant on Lake Oroville
- ❑ Warm-water swimming/beach areas
- ❑ More RV sites that are accessible to people with disabilities
- ❑ Showers at day use areas
- ❑ Children's play areas
- ❑ More Full Hookup RV sites

Q-26. How many times have you visited Lake Oroville in the last year? _____

-9-

Q-27. Overall, how would you rate your satisfaction with your last visit to Lake Oroville?

1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**
Extremely Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Extremely Satisfied

Why? _____

_____

Q-28. When was the last time you visited Lake Oroville?

- ❑ within the last 12 months
- ❑ 1-2 years ago
- ❑ 2-3 years ago
- ❑ more than 3 years ago
- ❑ can't remember

Finally, we would like to know something about you.
This information will not be distributed to any other group for any purpose.
ALL RESPONSES WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.

Q-29. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (**Circle appropriate number**)

1. Some high school
2. High school graduate
3. Some college
4. Bachelor's degree or equivalent
5. Master's degree or equivalent
6. Ph.D., J.D., M.D., or equivalent

OVER

Q-30. What is your age? _____

Q-31. What is your primary occupation?

1. Professional/Technical	5. Service	9. Retired	13. Other:
2. Manager/Administrator	6. Teacher/Professor	10. Student	_____
3. Sales	7. Skilled Worker	11. Military	
4. Clerical	8. Laborer	12. Homemaker	

Q-32. Please circle the category that represents your total household income before taxes.

1. Less than $20,000	3. $40,000-$59,999	5. $80,000-$100,000
2. $20,000-$39,999	4. $60,000-$79,999	6. More than $100,000

Q-33. Of the choices listed below, please circle the ethnic group with which you most closely identify.

1. Latino/Hispanic	5. American Indian/Alaska Native
2. White/Anglo (non Hispanic)	6. Pacific Islander/ native Hawaiian
3. Asian	7. Other _____
4. African American/Black	

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS SURVEY EFFORT!

For Office Use Only
_____ Date
_____ Location

2002
Shasta Lake
Recreation Survey

California Department of Water Resources

Shasta Lake Recreation Visitor Questionnaire

Please complete the following survey as completely as possible. Read section directions carefully, as not all questions will apply to you. Some sections only apply to specific activities, such as fishing. Your views about recreation at Shasta Lake are very important to us. When you have completed the survey, please give it to one of the researchers in this area today. Please **circle the number corresponding with your answer**, unless otherwise instructed.

Q-1. Regarding Shasta Lake, do you consider yourself: (**Circle one number**)

1. A regular visitor to this area (*3 or more times per year*)
2. An occasional visitor (*1-2 times per year*)
3. An infrequent visitor (*Less than 1 time per year*)
4. This is my first visit

Q-2. On this trip to Shasta Lake, when did you arrive?

_____/_____/_____ _____AM/PM
Arrival Date *Arrival Time*

When did you or do you expect to leave Shasta Lake?

_____/_____/_____ _____AM/PM
Departure Date *Departure Time*

Q-3. During the last 12 months (including this trip), which seasons did you visit Shasta Lake?

1. Spring 2. Summer 3. Fall 4. Winter

-1-

Q-4. At this location, how crowded do you feel today?

1----------**2**----------**3**----------**4**----------**5**----------**6**----------**7**----------**8**----------**9**			
Not at all Crowded	Slightly Crowded	Moderately Crowded	Extremely Crowded

Q-5. How many people, including yourself, are in your group today?

Number of adults_____
Number of children (less than 18 years old)_____

Q-6. What is the zip code of your primary residence?_____

Q-7. Are you staying overnight at Shasta Lake (not including at your own home) on this trip?

1. Yes 2. No

Q-8. Briefly describe why you chose to visit Shasta Lake on this trip rather than other recreation areas in northern California.

_____

_____

_____

_____

-2-

Q-9. On this trip to Shasta Lake, in which of the following activities have you or do you expect to participate? (**Circle all numbers that apply**)

Wildlife	Boating	Active	Passive
1. Bank fishing	13. Rafting	22. Swimming	35. Sunbathing
2. Boat fishing	14. Motor boating	23. Tennis	36. Sightseeing
3. Hunting	15. House boating	24. Golf	37. Photography
4. Nature study	16. Personal Watercraft use	25. Hiking	38. Picnicking
5. Bird watching	17. Sailing	26. Backpacking	39. Painting /drawing
	18. Kayaking	27. Off highway vehicle driving/motorcycling/ ATV	40. Relaxing
Urban	19. Canoeing		41. RV camping
6. Movies and theater	20. Windsurfing	28. Bike on roads/paths	42. Rock collecting
7. Shop (art/clothes/antiques)	21. Water ski/Wake board	29. Mountain bike on trails	
8. Museum/art gallery/historic site		30. Horseback riding	
9. Amusement park		31. Tent camping	
10. Dining out at restaurants/bars		32. Camping at a floating campsite	
11. Concert/festival/ tournament/event		33. Dog walking	
12. Attend educational events		34. Panning for gold	
43. Other activity (*please specify*) _____			

Q-10. Of the activities you circled in **Q-9** above, what is the primary activity that you participated in, or expect to participate in, on this visit? (**Write in the corresponding number from above**)

Primary activity # _____

-3-

Q-11. How would you rate the scenery of the location you are currently at Shasta Lake?

(**Circle appropriate number**)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Extremely Unappealing			Unappealing		Appealing			Extremely Appealing

Q-12. Overall, on this trip to Shasta Lake, how satisfied were you with your recreation experience? (**Circle appropriate number**)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Extremely Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Extremely Satisfied

Q-13. How likely is it that you will return to Shasta Lake? (**Circle appropriate number**)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Extremely Unlikely	Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Somewhat Unlikely	Neutral	Somewhat Likely	Likely	Very Likely	Extremely Likely

Reservoir Boaters Only. If you have boated or expect to boat on Shasta Lake this trip, please complete Q-14 through Q-20. Otherwise, skip to Q-21.

Q-14. On this trip, did you personally experience any encounters with other users on the water that put you at risk?

1. Yes ➠ If Yes, briefly describe the encounter_____

_____

2. No

Q-15. Did you observe any boating activity on Shasta Lake during this trip that you felt put others at risk?

1. Yes ➠ If Yes, briefly describe unsafe activity

_____

2. No

Q-16. Please indicate how crowded you felt on the water today. (**Circle a number**) Skip to **Q-17** if you have not been on the water **today**.

1----------	**2**----------	**3**----------	**4**----------	**5**----------	**6**----------	**7**----------	**8**----------	**9**
Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded			Extremely Crowded

Q-17. What type of watercraft do you **primarily** use when visiting Shasta Lake? (**Circle one**)

1. Runabout/Ski boat/Pontoon boat/Cabin cruiser
2. Houseboat
3. Sailboat
4. Canoe/Kayak
5. Personal Watercraft (jet ski/ wave runner/etc.)
6. Other (Describe:_____)

Q-18. Have you ever used one of the boat launches at Shasta Lake?

1. Yes 2. No ➠ **(Skip to Q-20)**

-5-

Q-19. Do you typically have to wait to use the boat launch you most frequently use?

1. Yes ➠ If Yes, on average, how many minutes do you have to wait to use this ramp?

Number of minutes _____

2. No

Q-20. Overall, are you satisfied with your boating experience on this trip to Shasta Lake?

1. Yes 2. No ➠ Why not? _____

_____

_____

-6-

Q-21. The following question lists things you might or might not have experienced on this trip to Shasta Lake. For each item below, indicate how much of a problem you think the issue is at Shasta Lake:

(Check the appropriate box for each item. If you are uncertain about an item or the item does not apply, check "N/A.")

Experience	A big problem	A moderate problem	A slight problem	Not a problem	N/A
Management					
Litter along the shoreline	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Sanitation along the shoreline	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Cost to use facilities	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Overall safety and security	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Availability of service/staffing	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Adequate information/warnings provided	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Adequacy of landscaping of facilities	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Access to the shoreline	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Law enforcement presence	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Encounters between trail users and other users	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Water Conditions					
Exposed land during lower water levels	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Shallow areas during lower water levels	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Floating debris in the water	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Quality of water	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Water level fluctuations	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
User Interactions					
Numbers of watercraft	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Noise from boats and personal watercraft	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Boat speed or wake effects	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Encounters between water skiers and others	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Encounters between pleasure boaters & boat anglers	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Encounters between PWCs (jetski/waverunner) and other users	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Unsafe behavior by other users	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Numbers of people at developed facilities	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Use of alcohol by other users	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑

Q-22. On this trip, how do you evaluate the following facilities at Shasta Lake?

(**Check the appropriate box for each item**. If you are uncertain about an item or the item does not apply, check "N/A.")

Type of Facility	Too Few	About Right	Too Many	N/A
Camping Related				
Presence of campground hosts	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of campgrounds	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of campsites with RV hookups	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of group campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Screening between campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of floating campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of shower facilities at campgrounds	❑	❑	❑	❑
Boat Related				
Number of boat ramps	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of docks or temporary moorage	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of boat-in primitive campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of boat-in campsites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of marinas	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of boat-in gas stations	❑	❑	❑	❑
Fishing/Hunting Related				
Number of fish cleaning stations	❑	❑	❑	❑
Other Activity Related				
Number of group picnic sites	❑	❑	❑	❑
Amount of swim areas	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of equestrian facilities	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of developed day use or picnic areas along the shore	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of interpretive programs/educational opportunities	❑	❑	❑	❑
Number of restrooms	❑	❑	❑	❑

-8-

Now a few questions about another California reservoir, Lake Oroville. Comparisons between Shasta Lake and Lake Oroville visitors may help land managers provide better facilities and services for visitors to California lakes and reservoirs.

Q-23. Have you ever visited Lake Oroville?

1. Yes (Go to **Q-26**)

2. No ➠ Why not? _____

_____

Q-24. Would any of the following special events motivate you to visit the Lake Oroville area for the first time? How about . . . (**Check all that apply**)

- ❑ Living history demonstrations
- ❑ Food/beverage festivals
- ❑ Powerboat races
- ❑ Canoe/Kayak/river-related events
- ❑ Sailing events
- ❑ Water-skiing events
- ❑ PWC events
- ❑ Mountain bike races
- ❑ Equestrian events
- ❑ Fishing events
- ❑ Target shooting competition
- ❑ OHV related events such as trials events, enduro events, and motocross races
- ❑ Triathlons

Q-25. Would any of the following facilities motivate you to visit the Lake Oroville area for the first time? How about . . . (**Check all that apply**)

- ❑ Expanded outdoor/nature/cultural/ historic interpretation center
- ❑ Water park
- ❑ Floating restaurant on Lake Oroville
- ❑ Warm-water swimming/beach areas
- ❑ More RV sites that are accessible to people with disabilities
- ❑ Showers at day use areas
- ❑ Children's play areas
- ❑ More Full Hookup RV sites

Q-26. How many times have you visited Lake Oroville in the last year? _____

Q-27. Overall, how would you rate your satisfaction with your last visit to Lake Oroville?

1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**
Extremely Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Extremely Satisfied

Why? _____

_____

Q-28. When was the last time you visited Lake Oroville?

- ❑ within the last 12 months
- ❑ 1-2 years ago
- ❑ 2-3 years ago
- ❑ more than 3 years ago
- ❑ can't remember

Finally, we would like to know something about you.
This information will not be distributed to any other group for any purpose.
ALL RESPONSES WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.

Q-29. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (**Circle appropriate number**)

1. Some high school
2. High school graduate
3. Some college
4. Bachelor's degree or equivalent
5. Master's degree or equivalent
6. Ph.D., J.D., M.D., or equivalent

OVER

Q-30. What is your age? _____

Q-31. What is your primary occupation?

1. Professional/Technical	5. Service	9. Retired	13. Other:
2. Manager/Administrator	6. Teacher/Professor	10. Student	_____
3. Sales	7. Skilled Worker	11. Military	
4. Clerical	8. Laborer	12. Homemaker	

Q-32. Please circle the category that represents your total household income before taxes.

1. Less than $20,000	3. $40,000-$59,999	5. $80,000-$100,000
2. $20,000-$39,999	4. $60,000-$79,999	6. More than $100,000

Q-33. Of the choices listed below, please circle the ethnic group with which you most closely identify.

1. Latino/Hispanic	5. American Indian/Alaska Native
2. White/Anglo (non Hispanic)	6. Pacific Islander/ native Hawaiian
3. Asian	7. Other _____
4. African American/Black	

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS SURVEY EFFORT!

For Office Use Only
_____ Date
_____ Location

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APPENDIX E

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY INSTRUMENT

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LAKE OROVILLE
HOUSEHOLD RECREATION TELEPHONE SURVEY

Introduction: Hello, my name is _____, and I'm conducting a brief survey for the California Department of Water Resources. We're talking to residents of California and Nevada about outdoor recreation in Northern California. I am not selling anything. This survey is being conducted to improve state recreation services and facilities in Northern California. May I ask you a few questions?

1. Have you lived in California or Nevada for at least 6 months?
   - ❑ Yes (SKIP TO Q2)
   - ❑ No (THANK, TERMINATE AND TALLY)

2 Are you at least 18 years old?
   - ❑ Yes (SKIP to Q3)
   - ❑ No (THANK, TERMINATE AND TALLY)

3 Did you participate in outdoor recreation activities at rivers and lakes **in Northern California at least 3 days during the last year?** By outdoor recreation, I mean activities such as swimming in reservoirs or lakes, fishing, boating, hiking, and camping. (WHEN CALLING THE S.F. BAY AREA, ADD:) We're not including ocean activities. By Northern California, I mean those portions of the state that include both the Bay Counties and Delta regions extending north to the Oregon border. So my question is: Did you participate in outdoor recreation activities at rivers and lakes **in Northern California at least 3 days during the last year?**
   - ❑ Yes (CONTINUE)
   - ❑ No (ASK IF ANYBODY ELSE IN THE HOUSEHOLD 18 OR OVER HAS PARTICIPATED. IF SO, START OVER WITH THAT PERSON. IF NOT, THANK, TERMINATE AND TALLY)

4. (Deleted before the survey was administered)

5. Now I will read you a list of rivers and lakes located in Northern California. Please tell me which ones you have visited in the last 12 months. (READ LIST AND CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)
   - ❑ Lake Almanor
   - ❑ South Fork Feather River
   - ❑ Middle Fork Feather River
   - ❑ North Fork Feather River
   - ❑ West Branch Feather River
   - ❑ Feather River
   - ❑ Lake Oroville
   - ❑ Butte Valley Lake
   - ❑ Bucks Lake
   - ❑ Sacramento River
   - ❑ American River
   - ❑ Delta rivers or lakes
   - ❑ Yuba River
   - ❑ Pit River
   - ❑ Lake Tahoe
   - ❑ Eagle Lake
   - ❑ Trinity Lake
   - ❑ Lake Davis
   - ❑ Lake Berryessa
   - ❑ Little Grass Valley Reservoir
   - ❑ Folsom Lake
   - ❑ Honey Lake
   - ❑ Stoney Gorge Reservoir
   - ❑ Lake Britton
   - ❑ Black Butte Lake
   - ❑ Antelope Lake
   - ❑ Lake Shasta
   - ❑ Frenchman Lake
   - ❑ Rivers and lakes in the Lassen National Forest
   - ❑ Rivers and lakes in the Plumas National Forest
   - ❑ Whiskeytown Lake
   - ❑ Other Rivers_____(SPECIFY, ACCEPT UP TO 3 OTHER RIVERS)
   - ❑ Other Lakes_____(SPECIFY, ACCEPT UP TO 3 OTHER LAKES)

6. Now I will read you a list of 4 different types of outdoor recreation settings. Please tell me which one you most prefer for recreation. (READ LIST AND CHECK ONE*)*
   - ❑ Natural and undeveloped areas in remote locations near lakes and rivers
   - ❑ Developed nature-oriented parks and recreation areas near lakes or rivers
   - ❑ Highly developed parks and recreation areas in or near urban areas near lakes or rivers
   - ❑ Historical or cultural buildings, sites or areas

7. Now, I would like to ask you some questions about a specific area, the Lake Oroville Area. As you may know, this area is located 60 miles north of Sacramento along Highway 70, and about 20 miles south of Chico. The Lake Oroville area includes the Oroville Reservoir itself, the Thermalito Forebay, Afterbay, and the Feather River below the Oroville Dam, as well as the Oroville Wildlife Area, and the Clay Pit Off-Highway Vehicular Area. (IF Q5 = LAKE OROVILLE, SKIP TO Q9 FROM HERE.)

   Have you heard of the Lake Oroville Area?

   - ❑ Yes
   - ❑ No (SKIP TO Q18; THE INTERVIEW IS GOOD BUT DOES NOT COUNT TOWARD QUOTA)

8. Have you ever visited the Lake Oroville Area?
   - ❑ Yes (CONTINUE)
   - ❑ No (SKIP TO Q15)
   - ❑ Not sure (SKIP TO Q15)

9. How often do you visit the Lake Oroville area? Do you visit . . . (READ CHOICES; ONE ANSWER ONLY)
   - ❑ 3 or more times per year
   - ❑ 1-2 times per year
   - ❑ Less than 1 time per year

10. Overall, how would you rate your satisfaction with your last visit to the Lake Oroville area?
   - ❑ Extremely dissatisfied (CONTINUE)
   - ❑ Very dissatisfied (CONTINUE)
   - ❑ Somewhat dissatisfied (CONTINUE)
   - ❑ Neither dissatisfied or satisfied (SKIP TO Q11)
   - ❑ Somewhat satisfied (SKIP TO Q11)
   - ❑ Very satisfied (SKIP TO Q11)
   - ❑ Extremely satisfied (SKIP TO Q11)

10A. Why were you (answer from Q10) with your last visit to the Lake Oroville area? (PROBE WELL; RECORD ANSWER ON PAPER)

   _____

11. When was the last time you visited the Lake Oroville area?
   - ❑ Within the last 12 months (SKIP TO Q12)
   - ❑ 1-2 years ago (SKIP TO Q12)
   - ❑ 2-3 years ago (SKIP TO Q11b)
   - ❑ More than 3 years ago (SKIP TO Q11b)
   - ❑ Can't remember (ASK Q11a)

11a. Was it within the last 2 years?

Yes (SKIP TO Q12)

No (CONTINUE)

Don't Know (CONTINUE)

11b. Why haven't you visited the Lake Oroville area in the last 2 years? (PROBE WELL; RECORD ANSWER ON PAPER.) (PROBING NOTE: THEY'VE VISITED OTHER PLACES FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION IN THE LAST 2 YEARS & THEY'VE VISITED LAKE OROVILLE IN THE PAST – WHY DIDN'T THEY CHOOSE THE LAKE OROVILLE AREA?)

_____

12. Which of the following special events would motivate you to visit the Lake Oroville area **more often**? (READ LIST; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ❑ Living history demonstrations
- ❑ Food/beverage festivals
- ❑ Powerboat races
- ❑ Canoe/Kayak/river-related events
- ❑ Sailing events
- ❑ Water-skiing events
- ❑ PWC events
- ❑ Mountain bike races
- ❑ Equestrian events
- ❑ Fishing events
- ❑ Target shooting competition
- ❑ OHV related events such as trials events, enduro events, and motocross races
- ❑ Triathlons
- ❑ Other (SPECIFY)_____

13. Which of the following facilities would motivate you to visit the Lake Oroville area **more often**? (READ LIST; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ❑ Expanded outdoor/nature/cultural/historic interpretation center
- ❑ Water park
- ❑ Floating restaurant on Lake Oroville
- ❑ Warm-water swimming/beach areas
- ❑ Showers at day use areas
- ❑ Children's play areas
- ❑ More Full Hookup RV sites
- ❑ More RV sites that are accessible to people with disabilities
- ❑ Other facilities (SPECIFY) _____

14. Are there any other facilities you would like to see at the Lake Oroville Area?
    - ❑ Yes, what_____
    - ❑ No

(NOW SKIP TO Q18)

15. Why have you never visited the Lake Oroville area? Please tell me which of the following reasons apply to you. (READ; ROTATE; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)
    - ❑ Not interested in water-related recreation
    - ❑ Prefer to go to other lakes (ASK Q15A)
    - ❑ It is too far from my home
    - ❑ It is not located on a major highway
    - ❑ I don't know enough about the area that would motivate me to visit there
    - ❑ Prefer different setting
    - ❑ Other (SPECIFY) _____

15a. You said you prefer to go to other lakes. Which lakes do you prefer to go to? (DO NOT READ CHOICES)

- ❑ Antelope Lake
- ❑ Black Butte Lake
- ❑ Bucks Lake
- ❑ Butte Valley Lake
- ❑ Delta rivers or lakes
- ❑ Eagle Lake
- ❑ Folsom Lake
- ❑ Frenchman Lake
- ❑ Honey Lake
- ❑ Lake Almanor
- ❑ Lake Berryessa
- ❑ Lake Britton
- ❑ Lake Davis
- ❑ Lake Shasta
- ❑ Lake Tahoe
- ❑ Lakes in the Lassen National Forest
- ❑ Lakes in the Plumas National Forest
- ❑ Little Grass Valley Reservoir
- ❑ Stoney Gorge Reservoir
- ❑ Trinity Lake
- ❑ Whiskeytown Lake
- ❑ Other (SPECIFY) _____

16. Are there any <u>special events</u> that would motivate you to visit the Lake Oroville area **for the first time?**

_____

16a. Would any of the following special events motivate you to visit the Lake Oroville area for the first time? How about . . . (READ LIST; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ❑ Living history demonstrations
- ❑ Food/beverage festivals
- ❑ Powerboat races
- ❑ Canoe/Kayak/river-related events
- ❑ Sailing events
- ❑ Water-skiing events
- ❑ PWC events
- ❑ Mountain bike races
- ❑ Equestrian events
- ❑ Fishing events
- ❑ Target shooting competition
- ❑ OHV related events such as trials events, enduro events, and motocross races
- ❑ Triathlons

17. Are there any outdoor recreation facilities that would motivate you to visit the Lake Oroville area **for the first time**?

_____

17a. Would any of the following facilities motivate you to visit the Lake Oroville area for the first time? How about . . . (READ LIST; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ❑ Expanded outdoor/nature/cultural/historic interpretation center
- ❑ Water park
- ❑ Floating restaurant on Lake Oroville
- ❑ Warm-water swimming/beach areas
- ❑ Showers at day use areas
- ❑ Children's play areas
- ❑ More Full Hookup RV sites
- ❑ More RV sites that are accessible to people with disabilities

18. I'd like to now ask you some questions about how much money you've spent on outdoor recreation activities in the past 12 months. Again, by outdoor recreation, I mean activities such as swimming in reservoirs or lakes, fishing, boating, hiking, and camping. Thinking back over the past 12 months, about how much have you personally spent on durable equipment used specifically for outdoor recreation, including items such as fishing equipment, camping equipment, and hunting equipment, but excluding boats, RVs, and other types of vehicles. Would you say it was: (READ CHOICES; ONE ANSWER ONLY)

    - ❑ Less than $100
    - ❑ $100 - $250
    - ❑ $251 - $500
    - ❑ $501 - $1,000
    - ❑ $1,001 - $2,500
    - ❑ $2,501 - $5,000
    - ❑ $5,001 - $10,000
    - ❑ More than $10,000
    - ❑ (Don't know/refused – DO NOT READ)

19. How much would you say you personally spent over the past 12 months on trip-related expenses preparing for and participating in outdoor recreation activities, such as expenses on transportation to and from recreation areas, recreation-related supplies, lodging, food, and recreation services such as boat rentals? Would you say it was: (READ CHOICES; ONE ANSWER ONLY)

    - ❑ Less than $100
    - ❑ $100 - $250
    - ❑ $251 - $500
    - ❑ $501 - $1,000
    - ❑ $1,001 - $2,500
    - ❑ $2,501 - $5,000
    - ❑ $5,001 - $10,000
    - ❑ More than $10,000
    - ❑ (Don't know/refused – DO NOT READ)

20. Finally, we would like to know something about you. All responses will be kept confidential. What is the highest level of education you have completed so far? (READ CHOICES IF NECESSARY; ONE ANSWER ONLY)

    - ❑ Some high school
    - ❑ High school graduate
    - ❑ Some college
    - ❑ Bachelor's degree or equivalent
    - ❑ Master's degree or equivalent
    - ❑ Ph.D., J.D., M.D., or equivalent
    - ❑ (REFUSED – DO NOT READ)

21. What is your age? ____ years

22. What is your occupation?
    - ❑ Employed (SPECIFY OCCUPATION) _____(CONTINUE)
    - ❑ Unemployed, looking for work (SKIP TO Q24)
    - ❑ Not employed outside the home (housewife, disabled, etc.) (SKIP TO Q24)
    - ❑ Retired (SKIP TO Q24)
    - ❑ DK/Refused (CONTINUE)

23. Do you own your own business?
    - ❑ Yes (ASK Q23A)
    - ❑ No (SKIP TO Q24)

23a. Does it involve recreation-related services or merchandise in any way?
    - ❑ Yes (ASK Q23B)
    - ❑ No (SKIP TO Q24)

23b. Is it a recreation-related **service** business or a recreation-related **merchandise** business?
    - ❑ A recreation-related service business (e.g., boat rentals, hotel)
    - ❑ A recreation-related merchandise business (e.g., boat sales, sporting goods)
    - ❑ Other (SPECIFY)_____

24. Please tell me which of the following categories represents your total household income before taxes.
    - ❑ Less than $20,000
    - ❑ $20,000-$40,000
    - ❑ $40,001-$60,000
    - ❑ $60,001-$80,000
    - ❑ $80,001-$100,000
    - ❑ More than $100,000
    - ❑ (DON'T KNOW/REFUSED – DO NOT READ)

25. With which of the following ethnic groups do you most closely identify?
    - ❑ Latino or Hispanic
    - ❑ White or Anglo (non Hispanic)
    - ❑ Asian
    - ❑ African American or Black
    - ❑ American Indian or Alaska Native
    - ❑ Pacific Islander or native Hawaiian
    - ❑ Other _____
    - ❑ (REFUSED – DO NOT READ)

26. Do you have any additional comments for us?

- ❑ Yes (RECORD ON PAPER)
- ❑ No (SKIP TO CLOSING)

_____

_____

_____

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

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APPENDIX F

SURVEY RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS BY SURVEY

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On-Site Survey Respondent Demographics

A demographic description of the On-Site Survey respondents includes the following data: residency by Zip Code; Butte County residency; highest level of education attained; age; primary occupation; total household income before taxes; and ethnicity. A discussion of the results to each of these demographic questions is discussed below.

The majority of respondents at all sites – except at the OWA – were Butte County residents (Table F-1). The range of respondents indicating that they did live in Butte County at the time of the interview was from a high of 78 percent at the Forebay to Lake Oroville, where Butte County residents made up slightly more than 50 percent of respondents. At the OWA, only 36 percent of the respondents lived in Butte County.

Table F-1. On-Site Survey respondents from Butte County.

	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	**Diversion Pool (%)**	**LFC (%)**	**Thermalito Forebay (%)**	**Thermalito Afterbay (%)**	**OWA (%)**
Butte County Resident	**50.3**	**59.7**	**71.8**	**78.0**	**62.2**	36.3
Resident of other counties	49.7	40.3	28.2	22.0	37.8	**63.7**

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey (n=2,583).

Overall, slightly more than half of On-Site Survey respondents primarily resided (based on primary residence Zip Code) in Butte County (Table F-2). There were 54 counties given as the county of primary residence. Therefore, besides Butte County, each county had a relatively small percentage of respondents. The top 10 counties account for about 83 percent of On-Site Survey respondents. The top five counties are generally close to the study area including Sacramento, Sutter, Placer, and Contra Costa Counties. Those counties farther away from the study area generally had less respondents, especially Southern California counties such as Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, or San Diego Counties.

Table F-2. On-Site Survey respondents' county of primary residence.

County	Percent of Respondents	County	Percent of Respondents
Butte	**53.5**	Lake	0.3
Sacramento	5.7	Colusa	0.2
Sutter	5.3	Tulare	0.2
Placer	3.8	Fresno	0.2
Contra Costa	3.2	Monterey	0.2
Yuba	2.8	Humboldt	0.2
Solano	2.5	Orange	0.2
Santa Clara	2.2	Amador	0.2
Alameda	2.1	San Bernadino	0.2
Sonoma	1.4	Riverside	0.2
Yolo	1.2	Calaveras	0.1
San Joaquin	1.1	Mariposa	0.1
San Mateo	1.1	Ventura	0.1
Nevada	1.0	Kings	0.1
San Francisco	0.8	Santa Barbara	0.1
El Dorado	0.7	Mendocino	0.1
Los Angeles	0.6	Merced	0.1
Glenn	0.6	Del Norte	0.1
Stanislaus	0.5	Trinity	0.1
Napa	0.5	Sierra	0.1
Tehama	0.5	Kern	0.1
Santa Cruz	0.5	Madera	0.1
Lassen	0.4	San Benito	<0.1
Plumas	0.4	San Luis Obispo	<0.1
Marin	0.4	Siskiyou	<0.1
San Diego	0.4	Inyo	<0.1
Shasta	0.4	Out of State	3.1

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response.*
Source: On-Site Survey (n=2,583).

The majority of respondents from each resource area had at least graduated from high school, and most had either attended some college or have a college degree (Table F-3). The most frequent response for level of education attained was "some college." Between 62 and 86 percent of respondents at all resource areas had attended college or graduated. About 22 to 52 percent of respondents at all resource areas had a Bachelor's degree, Masters degree, or Ph.D. (or equivalent degrees).

Table F-3. On-Site Survey respondents' education level.

Level of Education Attained	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Some high school	4.3	1.7	6.4	9.2	5.5	6.0
High school graduate	17.0	11.9	26.2	28.3	26.2	24.2
Some college	**43.3**	**33.9**	**44.7**	**39.6**	**42.1**	**38.6**
Bachelor's degree/equiv.	24.9	32.2	10.6	13.8	19.6	22.5
Master's degree/equiv.	7.2	13.6	8.5	6.0	3.7	7.4
Ph.D., J.D., M.D. / equiv/	3.3	6.8	3.5	3.2	3.0	1.3

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey (n=2,583).

The vast majority of respondents at all sites – between 67 and 74 percent – were between the ages of 25 and 54 (Table F-4). Very few of the respondents to the On-Site Survey were under the age of 18 (the survey was administered to visitors 16 years of age or older only). At the Forebay, 17 percent of respondents were between the ages of 18 and 24, as were 13 percent and 12 percent of respondents at the Afterbay and OWA, respectively. The survey sites with the highest rates of respondents above the age of 55 were the LFC (25 percent) and the Diversion Pool (22 percent).

Table F-4. On-Site Survey respondents' age.

Age (in years)	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Under 18	1.2	1.7	0.7	1.4	3.0	2.3
18-24	8.8	5.1	7.7	16.9	12.5	11.5
25-34	18.9	13.5	**24.5**	27.5	**30.3**	**23.1**
35-44	**31.1**	**28.9**	24.4	**33.1**	28.4	22.8
45-54	24.1	28.8	18.2	11.9	13.3	22.9
55+	15.7	22.0	**24.5**	8.1	12.5	17.4

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response category for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey (n=2,583).

With the exception of the Forebay, the primary occupation most frequently cited by respondents at all resource areas was "professional/technical," which made up between 12 and 38 percent of respondents (Table F-5). At the Forebay, there were more respondents indicating their primary occupation as "other" (17 percent) and "homemaker" (13 percent) than there were "professional/technical" (12 percent). There were more than twice as many "homemakers" at the Forebay than there were at any other site. The LFC attracted the highest percentage of "retirees" (15 percent).

Table F-5. On-Site Survey respondents' primary occupation.

Occupation	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Professional/ Technical	**25.6**	**38.3**	**23.6**	12.2	**19.8**	**24.0**
Manager/ Administrator	14.7	10.0	6.3	10.1	10.6	8.6
Sales	5.5	1.7	3.5	4.5	6.6	5.5
Clerical	2.7	1.7	2.1	2.8	4.0	1.0
Service	4.1	1.7	6.3	7.0	2.6	1.7
Teacher/Professor	5.1	6.7	3.5	5.6	3.3	3.1
Skilled Worker	7.7	6.7	6.9	6.3	10.6	14.7
Laborer	2.4	5.0	6.9	5.2	5.1	7.5
Retired	10.9	6.7	14.6	9.1	5.5	10.3
Student	4.6	3.3	2.8	7.0	6.6	5.1
Military	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.0
Homemaker	3.4	5.0	4.9	**13.3**	5.9	2.7
Other	12.7	13.3	18.8	16.8	18.3	14.7

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey (n=2,583).

In terms of reported household income, some resource areas demonstrated a more even distribution than others (Table F-6). The LFC and Forebay are the two sites most notably skewed toward users with lower household incomes, while 27 percent of respondents at the Diversion Pool reported a household income of more than $100,000 a year.

The median household income in Butte County is $31,924 (US Census Bureau 2000), which falls near the middle of the second-lowest income bracket from which respondents were asked to select. If respondents who indicated that their household income is between $20,000 and $39,999 annually can be considered roughly near median income, the percentage of respondents who are roughly near or below the median income level for Butte County was not less than 25 percent across all resource areas. The highest rate of respondents at or below median income level was found at the Forebay (63 percent), followed by the LFC (50 percent). Respondents who indicated an annual household income of $80,000 or more were earning at least twice the local median income. The areas where the percentage of respondents earning at least twice the median household income was highest were Lake Oroville (25 percent), the Diversion Pool (30 percent), and the OWA (24 percent).

Table F-6. On-Site Survey respondents' total household income.

Income	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Less than $20,000	8.3	10.7	20.3	26.7	14.8	12.5
$20,000-39,999	16.6	17.9	**29.3**	**36.4**	22.0	21.4
$40,000-59,999	**22.7**	25.0	24.8	23.1	**24.8**	**25.7**
$60,000-79,999	17.5	16.1	9.8	12.8	16.0	16.8
$80,000-100,000	15.6	3.6	9.0	6.6	10.8	8.9
Over $100,000	19.3	**26.8**	6.8	4.4	11.6	14.6

*Note: Total household income is before taxes. **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey (n=2,583).

The ethnicity of respondents was overwhelmingly "white/Anglo (non-Hispanic)" at each survey site, ranging from a low of 73 percent at the Forebay to a high of 86 percent at the Diversion Pool (Table F-7). "Latino/Hispanic" was the second most common ethnicity at all sites except for the Diversion Pool, where "American Indian/Alaskan Native" made up nine percent of the respondents, compared three percent for "Latino/Hispanic." At no site did the rate of respondents who were non-Latino/Hispanic and non-white/Anglo (non-Hispanic) exceed 16 percent.

Table F-7. On-Site Survey respondents' ethnicity.

Ethnicity Respondent Most Closely Identifies With	Resource Area					
	Lake Oroville (%)	Diversion Pool (%)	LFC (%)	Thermalito Forebay (%)	Thermalito Afterbay (%)	OWA (%)
Latino/Hispanic	5.1	3.4	7.7	16.3	10.7	10.0
White/Anglo/Non-Hispanic	**84.8**	**86.2**	**76.1**	**72.8**	**80.4**	**74.8**
Asian	3.3	0.0	2.8	2.8	0.4	4.8
African American/Black	1.1	0.0	0.7	2.8	0.4	0.3
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2.3	8.6	7.0	2.8	4.4	4.5
Pacific Islander	1.0	0.0	1.4	1.1	0.7	2.8
Other	2.5	1.7	4.2	1.4	3.0	2.8

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each area.*
Source: On-Site Survey (n=2,583).

Hunter Survey Respondent Demographics

Hunter demographics were collected in the Hunter Survey. The following demographic information was gathered: county of primary residence; highest level of education completed; age; primary occupation; total household income before taxes; and ethnicity.

When asked if they were a Butte County resident, almost 52 percent of Hunter Survey respondents answered that they were (Table F-8).

Table F-8. Hunter Survey respondents' residence in Butte County.

	Percent of Respondents
Butte County Resident	**51.9**
Resident of another county	48.1

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response.*
Source: Hunter Survey (n=106).

Results were similar when evaluating respondents' Zip Code of primary residence. Table F-9 shows that over one-half of Hunter Survey respondents were from Butte County (about 54 percent) according to their given Zip Code of primary residence. All respondents were from Northern California counties, including Trinity, Tehama, and Shasta Counties (north of Butte County), as well as counties between Butte County and the San Francisco Bay Area (Yolo, Sacramento, Sutter, Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco).

Table F-9. Hunter Survey respondents' by county of primary residence.

County	Percent of Respondents
Butte	**53.5**
Sutter	8.9
Sacramento	7.9
Placer	6.9
Alameda	4.0
Shasta	4.0
Tehama	3.0
San Joaquin	2.0
Sonoma	2.0
Contra Costa	1.0
Nevada	1.0
San Francisco	1.0
San Mateo	1.0
Stanislaus	1.0
Trinity	1.0
Yolo	1.0
Yuba	1.0

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response.*
Source: Hunter Survey (n=106).

Over 95 percent of Hunter Survey respondents had at least a high school education (Table F-10). Almost three-quarters (74 percent) of respondents had at least some college education or a college degree.

Table F-10. Hunter Survey respondents' education level.

Level of Education Attained	Percent of Respondents
Some high school	4.0
High school graduate	22.0
Some college	**46.0**
Bachelor's degree or equivalent	23.0
Master's degree or equivalent	3.0
Ph.D., J.D., M.D., or equivalent	2.0

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response.*
Source: Hunter Survey (n=106).

Approximately 77 percent of hunters were between the ages of 21 and 35 (Table F-11). There were relatively few respondents at the ends of the age spectrum, either 20 years or younger (7 percent) or over 65 years old (3 percent).

Table F-11. Hunter Survey respondents' age.

Age (in years)	Percent of Respondents
20 and under	6.9
21 to 35	32.3
36 to 50	**45.1**
51 to 65	12.8
Over 65	3.0

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response category.*
Source: Hunter Survey (n=106).

Nearly 60 percent of hunters identified two general categories as their primary occupation: 30 percent were "skilled workers," while 29 percent identified their primary occupation as being "professional/technical" (Table F-12). Between five and eight percent of respondents listed their primary occupation as "retired" (8 percent), "student" (7 percent), "laborer" (7 percent), "manager/administrator" (5 percent), or "teacher/professor" (5 percent).

Table F-12. Hunter Survey respondents' primary occupation.

Occupation	Percent of Respondents
Professional/Technical	29.3
Manager/Administrator	5.1
Sales	3.0
Clerical	0.0
Service	3.0
Teacher/Professor	5.1
Skilled Worker	**30.3**
Laborer	7.1
Retired	8.1
Student	7.1
Military	0.0
Homemaker	0.0
Other	2.0

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response.*
Source: Hunter Survey (n=106).

The household income category into which hunters most frequently placed themselves (Table F-13) was $40,000 to $59,999 (28 percent), followed closely by the $60,000 to $79,999 (26 percent). The third most frequently named category was $20,000 to $39,999 (18 percent). At the two extreme ends of the scale, there were slightly more respondents placing themselves in the less than $20,000 bracket (10 percent) than in the more than $100,000 bracket (7 percent).

Table F-13. Hunter Survey respondents' total household income.

Income	Percent of Respondents
Less than $20,000	9.6
$20,000 to $39,999	18.1
$40,000 to $59,999	**27.7**
$60,000 to $79,999	25.5
$80,000 to $100,000	11.7
More than $100,000	7.4

*Note: Total household income is before taxes. **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response.*
Source: Hunter Survey (n=106).

Finally, about 86 percent of Hunter Survey respondents considered themselves "white/Anglo (non-Hispanic)" (Table F-14). "Latino/Hispanic" was the second largest ethnic group (9 percent), and there was a small percentage of respondents who most closely identified with the ethnic groups "American Indian/Alaska Native" and "other." There were no hunters who identified themselves as being "Asian," "African American/Black," or "Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian."

Table F-14. Hunter Survey respondents' ethnicity.

Ethnicity Respondent Most Closely Identifies With	Percent of Respondents
Latino/Hispanic	9.3
White/Anglo (non-Hispanic)	**85.6**
Asian	0.0
African American/Black	0.0
American Indian/Alaska Native	2.1
Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	0.0
Other	3.1

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response.*
Source: Hunter Survey (n=106).

Similar Site Survey Respondent Demographics

Demographic information was collected from all Similar Site Survey respondents. Specifically, respondents were asked to provide the following information: residential Zip Code; highest level of education attained; age; primary occupation; total household income before taxes; and ethnicity.

The similar sites drew visitors from distinctly different counties (Table F-15). The top three counties of origin for Black Butte Lake were Butte (29 percent), Tehama (19 percent), and Glenn (17 percent) Counties, all three of which surround the reservoir. The top three counties of origin for Lake Berryessa visitors included San Mateo (18 percent), Solano (14 percent), and Sonoma (13 percent) Counties, which do not immediately surround that reservoir. At Shasta Lake, Shasta County was the top county of origin (40 percent) for visitors, followed by out-of-state counties (15 percent). Among Shasta Lake visitors, there were three counties with almost seven percent of respondents: Tehama, Butte, and Contra Costa Counties.

Table F-15. Similar Site Survey respondents' county of primary residence.

County	Similar Site		
	Black Butte Lake (%)	**Lake Berryessa (%)**	**Shasta Lake (%)**
Alameda	0.0	7.2	2.2
Butte	**29.0**	0.0	**6.5**
Colusa	1.4	0.0	0.0
Contra Costa	5.8	8.1	**6.5**
Glenn	**17.4**	0.0	0.0
Humboldt	1.4	0.0	0.0
Lake	1.4	0.0	1.1
Lassen	0.0	0.0	1.1
Los Angeles	1.4	0.0	0.0
Marin	1.4	7.2	0.0
Napa	0.0	4.5	0.0
Nevada	2.9	0.9	1.1
Orange	0.0	0.9	0.0
Placer	0.0	0.0	2.2
Plumas	1.4	0.0	1.1
Sacramento	2.9	3.6	3.2
San Benito	0.0	0.9	1.1
San Diego	0.0	1.8	0.0
San Francisco	0.0	5.4	0.0
San Joaquin	0.0	0.9	1.1
San Luis Obispo	0.0	0.9	2.2
San Mateo	0.0	**18.0**	2.2
Santa Barbara	0.0	0.0	1.1
Santa Clara	2.9	8.1	4.3
Shasta	5.8	0.0	**38.7**
Solano	1.4	**14.4**	0.0
Sonoma	1.4	**12.6**	0.0
Stanislaus	0.0	0.0	3.2
Tehama	**18.8**	0.0	**6.5**
Yolo	1.4	2.7	0.0
Out of State	1.4	1.8	**15.1**

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the top three most frequent responses for each site.*
Source: Similar Site Survey (n=293).

Most respondents at each reservoir had at least some college education (Table F-16). At Black Butte Lake and Lake Berryessa, almost 90 percent of respondents reported having at least some college education, and 42 to 44 percent reported having earned a Bachelor's degree or more. At Shasta Lake, 88 percent of respondents had at least some college education and about 54 percent had received a Bachelor's degree or more.

Table F-16. Similar Site Survey respondents' education level.

Level of Education Attained	Similar Site		
	Black Butte Lake (%)	**Lake Berryessa (%)**	**Shasta Lake (%)**
Some high school	0.0	3.4	0.0
High school graduate	12.3	6.7	12.5
Some college	**46.2**	**46.1**	33.8
Bachelor's degree or equivalent	24.6	31.5	**36.3**
Master's degree or equivalent	12.3	9.0	11.3
Ph.D., J.D., M.D., or equivalent	4.6	3.4	6.3

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each site.*
Source: Similar Site Survey (n=293).

Relatively few of the Similar Site Survey respondents were either under the age of 21 or over the age of 50 (between 12 and 18 percent) (Table F-17). At both Black Butte Lake and Lake Berryessa, 47 percent of respondents were between 21 and 35 years of age. Roughly another 40 percent were between 36 and 50 years of age. At Shasta Lake, about 32 percent of respondents were between 21 and 35 years of age, and one-half of respondents were between 36 and 50 years of age.

Table F-17. Similar Site Survey respondents' age.

Age (in years)	Similar Site		
	Black Butte Lake (%)	**Lake Berryessa (%)**	**Shasta Lake (%)**
Under 21	2.8	7.9	3.3
21 – 35	**46.5**	**47.2**	32.3
36 – 50	39.4	40.4	**50.0**
50 – 65	7.1	3.3	11.1
Over 65	4.2	1.1	3.3

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response category for each site.*
Source: Similar Site Survey (n=293).

The most frequently-identified primary occupation at each reservoir was "professional/technical" (between 21 and 28 percent) (Table F-18). At Black Butte Lake, the second most frequent response was "student" (13 percent), followed by "other" (12 percent) and "teacher/professor" (10 percent). At Lake Berryessa, the second most frequent response was "manager/administrator" (19 percent). Other frequent responses included "other" (13 percent) and "student" (10 percent). "Manager/administrator" was also the occupation with the second highest percent of respondents at Shasta Lake (14 percent). "Other" was third (10 percent), followed by "skilled worker" (9 percent).

Table F-18. Similar Site Survey respondents' primary occupation.

Occupation	Similar Site		
	Black Butte Lake (%)	Lake Berryessa (%)	Shasta Lake (%)
Professional/Technical	**20.8**	**28.4**	**23.1**
Manager/Administrator	6.9	19.3	14.3
Sales	4.2	4.5	7.7
Clerical	6.9	2.3	7.7
Service	6.9	1.1	4.4
Teacher/Professor	9.7	4.5	5.5
Skilled Worker	4.2	5.7	8.8
Laborer	5.6	4.5	2.2
Retired	6.9	1.1	5.5
Student	12.5	10.2	5.5
Military	0.0	0.0	1.1
Homemaker	2.8	5.7	4.4
Other	11.7	12.5	9.9

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each site.*
Source: Similar Site Survey (n=293).

About one-half of respondents at Black Butte and Shasta Lakes reported that their total household income was between $20,000 and $59,999 (Table F-19). Respondents from Lake Berryessa reported higher household incomes, with about one-half of respondents reporting incomes of $80,000 or more, including 29 percent of respondents who indicated household income of more than $100,000 annually. The highest rate of response indicating a household income of less than $20,000 was at Black Butte Lake, where 19 percent of respondents identified themselves as being in the lowest income bracket.

Table F-19. Similar Site Survey respondents' total household income.

Income	Similar Site		
	Black Butte Lake (%)	Lake Berryessa (%)	Shasta Lake (%)
Less than $20,000	18.8	8.1	10.2
$20,000 to $39,999	**26.1**	5.8	**25.0**
$40,000 to $59,999	24.6	16.3	22.7
$60,000 to $79,999	15.9	19.8	14.8
$80,000 to $100,000	7.2	20.9	9.1
More than $100,000	7.2	**29.1**	18.2

*Note: Total household income is before taxes. **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each site.*
Source: Similar Site Survey (n=293).

Between 59 and 83 percent of respondents at each of the similar sites identified themselves as being "white/Anglo (non-Hispanic)" (Table F-20). At Lake Berryessa, 35

percent of the non-white respondents (41 percent) identified themselves as being either "Latino/Hispanic" (18 percent) or "Asian" (17 percent).

Table F-20. Similar Site Survey respondents' ethnicity.

Ethnicity Respondent Most Closely Identifies With	Similar Site		
	Black Butte Lake (%)	Lake Berryessa (%)	Shasta Lake (%)
Latino/Hispanic	15.1	17.7	7.5
White/Anglo (non-Hispanic)	**74.0**	**59.4**	**82.8**
Asian	1.4	16.7	1.1
African American/Black	1.4	2.1	2.2
American Indian/Alaska Native	5.5	1.0	2.2
Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	0.0	2.1	2.2
Other	2.7	1.0	2.2

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each site.*
Source: Similar Site Survey (n=293).

Household Survey Respondent Demographics

Demographic information collected from respondents included the following: highest level of education attained; age; occupation; any business ownership and, if a business is owned, the degree to which it is recreation-related; total household income before taxes; and ethnicity.

At least 60 percent of respondents from all four market areas have at least some college education or a Bachelor's degree (Table F-21). Between 17 and 22 percent are high school graduates only.

Table F-21. Household Survey respondents' level of education.

Level of Education Attained	Market Area				
	Total (%)	Butte County (%)	Reno (%)	San Francisco (%)	Sacramento (%)
Some high school	2.0	2.0	3.0	1.0	2.1
High school graduate	19.2	18.2	19.2	21.6	17.7
Some college	**36.3**	**39.4**	**38.4**	**29.9**	**37.5**
Bachelor's degree or equivalent	26.1	25.3	26.3	**29.9**	22.9
Master's degree or equivalent	11.5	11.1	8.1	11.3	15.6
Ph.D., J.D., M.D., or equivalent	4.9	4.0	5.1	6.2	4.2

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each market area.*
Source: Household Survey (n=400).

Age was fairly evenly distributed among the categories across all regions and within each region (Table F-22). Among all respondents, 38 percent were between 36 and 50 years of age, while 25 percent of respondents were either between 21 and 35 years of age or 50 and 65 years of age. Relatively few respondents across all market areas were under the age of 21 (5 percent) or over the age of 65 (8 percent).

Table F-22. Household Survey respondents' age.

Age (in years)	Market Area				
	Total (%)	Butte County (%)	Reno (%)	San Francisco (%)	Sacramento (%)
Under 21	5.1	9.3	4.0	4.2	3.1
21 – 35	24.7	21.6	23.2	28.1	25.8
36 – 50	**37.5**	**29.9**	**35.4**	**38.5**	**46.4**
50 – 65	24.7	26.8	29.3	25.0	16.5
Over 65	8.0	12.4	8.1	3.1	8.2

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response category for each market area.*
Source: Household Survey (n=400).

Household Survey respondents identified themselves as working in professional or technical fields more than any other occupation, with an average of 26 percent of all respondents doing so (Table F-23). "Manager/administrator/self-employed" was the second most frequently identified category (16 percent). The same category was tied with "professional/technical" work for the most frequently named occupation from San Francisco area respondents and was second in all other market areas, except for Butte County and the Sacramento area, where more respondents identified themselves as being "retired" (20 and 16 percent, respectively). The third highest percentage of respondents across all sites belonged to the respondents who identified themselves as being "retired" (15 percent).

Table F-23. Household Survey respondents' primary occupation.

Occupation	Market Area				
	Total (%)	Butte County (%)	Reno (%)	San Francisco (%)	Sacramento (%)
Professional/technical	**25.6**	**25.6**	**29.6**	**24.2**	**22.8**
Manager/administrator/ self-employed	15.7	13.3	13.3	**24.2**	12.0
Sales/clerical	8.4	6.1	7.1	8.4	12.0
Skilled craftsman	7.0	5.1	10.2	4.2	8.7
Operatives/laborers	7.8	12.2	7.1	3.2	8.7
Service workers/private household workers	7.8	6.1	8.2	9.5	7.6
Unemployed, looking for work	5.0	2.0	7.1	5.3	5.4
Not employed outside the home	6.5	6.1	6.1	7.4	6.5
Retired	15.1	20.4	11.2	12.6	16.3
Student	1.0	3.1	0.0	1.1	0.0

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each market area.*
Source: Household Survey (n=400).

An average of 17 percent of respondents reported owning their own business (Table F-24). The highest rate of business ownership was from San Francisco area respondents (23 percent), and the lowest was from Sacramento area respondents(11 percent).

Table F-24. Household Survey respondents' business ownership.

Do you own your own business?	Market Area				
	Total (%)	Butte County (%)	Reno (%)	San Francisco (%)	Sacramento (%)
Yes	17.0	17.4	17.1	22.7	10.8
No	**83.0**	**82.6**	**82.9**	**77.3**	**89.2**

*Note: **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each market area.*
Source: Household Survey (n=400).

Of the respondents who did report owning their own business, very few indicated that they provided recreation-related services or merchandise in any way (Table F-25). The largest percentage of respondents reporting that they owned their own recreation-related business was from Sacramento area respondents (25 percent). Butte County was second with about 17 percent of respondents that own their own recreation-related business, followed by the San Francisco area (12 percent), and the Reno area (about 8 percent).

Table F-25. Household Survey respondents' business with recreation-related services.

Provide recreation-related services or merchandise?	Market Area				
	Total (%)	Butte County (%)	Reno (%)	San Francisco (%)	Sacramento (%)
Yes	14.0	16.7	7.7	11.8	25.0
No	**86.0**	**83.3**	**92.3**	**88.2**	**75.0**

*Note: Only those respondents that own their own business are included. **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each market area.*
Source: Household Survey (n=400).

Of those few respondents who reported owning a recreation-related business, slightly more owned a recreation-related merchandise business rather than a recreation-related service business (Table F-26).

Table F-26. Household Survey respondents' type of recreation-related business.

Type of Business	Market Area				
	Total (%)	Butte County (%)	Reno (%)	San Francisco (%)	Sacramento (%)
A recreation-related service business	42.9	0.0	0.0	**50.0**	**100.0**
A recreation-related merchandise business	**57.1**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**50.0**	0.0

*Note: Only those respondents that own their own recreation-related business are included. **Bold** type indicates the most frequent response for each market area. Source: Household Survey (n=400).*

Approximately 42 percent of respondents from all regions reported a total household income before taxes of between $40,000 and $80,000 (Table F-27). Butte County respondents had the lowest incomes with 22 percent of respondents earning less than $20,000. San Francisco area respondents had the highest household incomes with 30 percent of respondents earning over $100,000.

Table F-27. Household Survey respondents' total household income.

Income	Market Area				
	Total (%)	Butte County (%)	Reno (%)	San Francisco (%)	Sacramento (%)
Less than $20,000	9.3	22.2	3.4	6.3	4.8
$20,000 to $40,000	17.9	**23.3**	20.5	8.8	18.1
$40,001 to $60,000	**21.1**	20.0	**25.0**	17.5	21.7
$60,001 to $80,000	**21.1**	20.0	17.0	21.3	**26.5**
$80,001 to $100,000	12.6	5.6	17.0	16.3	12.0
More than $100,000	17.8	8.9	17.0	**30.0**	16.9

Note: Total household income is before taxes. ***Bold*** *type indicates the most frequent response for each market area.*
Source: Household Survey (n=400).

Household Survey respondents were overwhelmingly "white/Anglo (non-Hispanic)," with an average rate across all market areas of 87 percent (Table F-28). Respondents in the San Francisco area were the most diverse, with 11 percent of respondents describing themselves as "Latino/Hispanic" and eight percent describing themselves as "African American/Black." The highest rate of "white/Anglo (non-Hispanic)" respondents was in the Reno area (94 percent).

Table F-28. Household Survey respondents' ethnicity.

Ethnicity Respondent Most Closely Identifies With	Market Area				
	Total (%)	Butte County (%)	Reno (%)	San Francisco (%)	Sacramento (%)
Latino/Hispanic	4.9	2.2	3.2	11.1	3.2
White/Anglo (Non-Hispanic)	**86.8**	**87.1**	**93.5**	**78.9**	**87.2**
Asian	1.9	2.2	1.1	1.1	3.2
African American/Black	3.5	2.2	1.1	7.8	3.2
American Indian/Alaska Native	2.2	6.5	0.0	0.0	2.1
Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	1.0	0.0	1.1	1.1	1.1

Note: ***Bold*** *type indicates the most frequent response for each market area.*
Source: Household Survey (n=400).

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APPENDIX G

ADDITIONAL NEW ACTIVITY/EVENT/FACILITY REQUESTS (MAILBACK SURVEY)

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The following table lists new activities or events requested by Mailback Survey respondents (each requested by one respondent). Requests mentioned by at least 2 respondents are included in the body of the Results (Section 5.1.3.3).

Table G-1. New activities, events, and facilities requested by individual respondents.

Activity	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Water-based activities/facilities/services		
Fishing dock/pier	1	0.5
Boat safety course	1	0.5
Non-motorboat area (for canoes/kayaks)	1	0.5
Rope swings	1	0.5
Jet surf board rentals	1	0.5
Floating picnic/fishing/swimming platforms	1	0.5
Protected areas for water-skiing	1	0.5
Camping/campground activities or facilities		
Fire pits at Lime Saddle	1	0.5
On-river camping	1	0.5
Junior Ranger program	1	0.5
Special events		
BBQ and music event in parks	1	0.5
Fireworks at Forebay	1	0.5
BBQ on the dam	1	0.5
Disc golf events	1	0.5
Water show with lasers, etc.	1	0.5
Fairground activities	1	0.5
Summer camp	1	0.5
Trout tournament on streams	1	0.5
Dog agility competition	1	0.5
Car shows	1	0.5
Bike shows (Harley)	1	0.5
Boat shows	1	0.5
Other activities/facilities/services		
Social hall for late night activities	1	0.5
Photo opportunity locations on driving tours	1	0.5
OHV trails in hills (Clay Pit area no good)	1	0.5
Astronomy	1	0.5
Basketball courts	1	0.5
Rental horses	1	0.5
Airplane tours	1	0.5
Dude ranch	1	0.5
Nudist area	1	0.5

Source: Mailback Survey (n=1,071).

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APPENDIX H

"ADEQUACY OF FACILITIES" RESPONSES BY RESOURCE AREA

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Table H-1. Lake Oroville visitors' opinions of adequacy of facilities.

Type of Facility	Response		
	Too Few (%)	About Right (%)	Too Many (%)
Trail Use Related			
Number of unpaved bike trails	32.6	65.9	1.5
Number of hiking trails	30.4	69.6	0.0
Number of signs indicating trail locations	39.2	60.8	0.0
Number of paved bike trails	34.8	59.8	5.3
Number of equestrian trails	28.1	69.6	2.2
Camping Related			
Presence of campground hosts	13.1	84.5	2.4
Number of campgrounds	21.3	77.4	1.3
Number of campsites with RV hookups	38.1	58.6	3.3
Number of group campsites	33.0	63.9	3.1
Screening between campsites	39.0	58.9	2.1
Number of floating campsites	47.6	49.2	3.2
Number of shower facilities at campgrounds	38.6	61.0	0.4
Boating Related			
Number of boat ramps	43.4	56.6	0.0
Number of docks or temporary moorage	57.7	41.8	0.5
Number of boat-in campsites	45.2	53.6	1.2
Number of marinas	32.9	66.4	0.7
Number of boat-in gas stations	35.6	63.8	0.6
Fishing/Hunting Related			
Number of fish cleaning stations	32.2	67.0	0.9
Quality of habitat for hunting	25.5	71.7	2.8
Lands for hunting	40.0	55.5	4.5
Other Activity Related			
Number of group picnic sites	33.9	64.9	1.3
Amount of swim areas	56.7	43.0	0.3
Number of equestrian facilities	25.2	70.2	4.6
Number of developed day use or picnic areas along the shore	66.6	32.8	0.6
Number of interpretive programs/educational opportunities	40.7	58.1	1.2
Number of restrooms	35.6	63.8	0.6

Source: Mailback Survey (n=632). The total number of responses varies by survey item and is less than the overall sample size for some items. "N/A" responses were not included in analysis.

Table H-2. Diversion Pool visitors' opinions of adequacy of facilities.

Type of Facility	Response		
	Too Few (%)	About Right (%)	Too Many (%)
Trail Use Related			
Number of unpaved bike trails	31.8	63.6	4.5
Number of hiking trails	25.9	74.1	0.0
Number of signs indicating trail locations	41.4	51.7	6.9
Number of paved bike trails	20.0	60.0	20.0
Number of equestrian trails	42.9	53.6	3.6
Camping Related			
Presence of campground hosts	0.0	100.0	0.0
Number of campgrounds	11.1	88.9	0.0
Number of campsites with RV hookups	22.2	77.8	0.0
Number of group campsites	0.0	100.0	0.0
Screening between campsites	10.0	90.0	0.0
Number of floating campsites	40.0	60.0	0.0
Number of shower facilities at campgrounds	40.0	60.0	0.0
Boating Related			
Number of boat ramps	42.9	42.9	14.3
Number of docks or temporary moorage	66.7	16.7	16.7
Number of boat-in campsites	33.3	50.0	16.7
Number of marinas	80.0	20.0	0.0
Number of boat-in gas stations	50.0	33.3	16.7
Fishing/Hunting Related			
Number of fish cleaning stations	66.7	33.3	0.0
Quality of habitat for hunting	16.7	66.7	16.7
Lands for hunting	28.6	57.1	14.3
Other Activity Related			
Number of group picnic sites	26.7	60.0	13.3
Amount of swim areas	50.0	50.0	0.0
Number of equestrian facilities	50.0	45.5	4.5
Number of developed day use or picnic areas along the shore	66.7	33.3	0.0
Number of interpretive programs/educational opportunities	45.5	54.5	0.0
Number of restrooms	50.0	50.0	0.0

Source: Mailback Survey (n=32). The total number of responses varies by survey item and is less than the overall sample size for some items. "N/A" responses were not included in analysis.

Table H-3. Low Flow Channel visitors' opinions of adequacy of facilities.

Type of Facility	Response		
	Too Few (%)	About Right (%)	Too Many (%)
Trail Use Related			
Number of unpaved bike trails	8.0	92.0	0.0
Number of hiking trails	17.4	82.6	0.0
Number of signs indicating trail locations	11.5	84.6	3.8
Number of paved bike trails	16.0	84.0	0.0
Number of equestrian trails	7.7	76.9	15.4
Camping Related			
Presence of campground hosts	30.0	70.0	0.0
Number of campgrounds	45.5	54.5	0.0
Number of campsites with RV hookups	33.3	66.7	0.0
Number of group campsites	50.0	50.0	0.0
Screening between campsites	40.0	60.0	0.0
Number of floating campsites	16.7	83.3	0.0
Number of shower facilities at campgrounds	25.0	75.0	0.0
Boating Related			
Number of boat ramps	21.7	73.9	4.3
Number of docks or temporary moorage	41.7	50.0	8.3
Number of boat-in campsites	25.0	62.5	12.5
Number of marinas	25.0	66.7	8.3
Number of boat-in gas stations	40.0	50.0	10.0
Fishing/Hunting Related			
Number of fish cleaning stations	73.9	26.1	0.0
Quality of habitat for hunting	20.0	73.3	6.7
Lands for hunting	38.5	53.8	7.7
Other Activity Related			
Number of group picnic sites	38.2	61.8	0.0
Amount of swim areas	32.3	67.7	0.0
Number of equestrian facilities	13.3	80.0	6.7
Number of developed day use or picnic areas along the shore	38.6	58.3	2.8
Number of interpretive programs/educational opportunities	39.1	60.9	0.0
Number of restrooms	42.6	55.3	2.1

Source: Mailback Survey (n=58). The total number of responses varies by survey item and is less than the overall sample size for some items. "N/A" responses were not included in analysis.

Table H-4. Thermalito Forebay visitors' opinions of adequacy of facilities.

Type of Facility	Response		
	Too Few (%)	About Right (%)	Too Many (%)
Trail Use Related			
Number of unpaved bike trails	20.9	74.4	4.7
Number of hiking trails	20.8	77.1	2.1
Number of signs indicating trail locations	28.0	68.0	4.0
Number of paved bike trails	28.6	69.0	2.4
Number of equestrian trails	13.3	76.7	10.0
Camping Related			
Presence of campground hosts	8.7	91.3	0.0
Number of campgrounds	35.7	64.3	0.0
Number of campsites with RV hookups	42.9	57.1	0.0
Number of group campsites	31.8	68.2	0.0
Screening between campsites	32.0	68.0	0.0
Number of floating campsites	35.7	64.3	0.0
Number of shower facilities at campgrounds	38.1	61.9	0.0
Boating Related			
Number of boat ramps	13.2	86.8	0.0
Number of docks or temporary moorage	13.7	86.3	0.0
Number of boat-in campsites	27.8	72.2	0.0
Number of marinas	15.8	84.2	0.0
Number of boat-in gas stations	42.9	57.1	0.0
Fishing/Hunting Related			
Number of fish cleaning stations	39.5	60.5	0.0
Quality of habitat for hunting	31.6	68.4	0.0
Lands for hunting	53.3	46.7	0.0
Other Activity Related			
Number of group picnic sites	17.9	82.1	0.0
Amount of swim areas	25.6	73.3	1.1
Number of equestrian facilities	19.4	74.2	6.5
Number of developed day use or picnic areas along the shore	28.2	71.8	0.0
Number of interpretive programs/educational opportunities	40.6	59.4	0.0
Number of restrooms	23.3	67.7	0.0

Source: Mailback Survey (n=99). The total number of responses varies by survey item and is less than the overall sample size for some items. "N/A" responses were not included in analysis.

Table H-5. Thermalito Afterbay visitors' opinions of adequacy of facilities.

Type of Facility	Response		
	Too Few (%)	About Right (%)	Too Many (%)
Trail Use Related			
Number of unpaved bike trails	26.3	68.4	5.3
Number of hiking trails	30.4	69.6	0.0
Number of signs indicating trail locations	37.0	63.0	0.0
Number of paved bike trails	38.6	55.6	5.6
Number of equestrian trails	31.3	56.3	12.5
Camping Related			
Presence of campground hosts	31.6	63.2	5.3
Number of campgrounds	54.2	45.8	0.0
Number of campsites with RV hookups	47.1	52.9	0.0
Number of group campsites	57.9	42.1	0.0
Screening between campsites	31.3	68.8	0.0
Number of floating campsites	58.8	41.2	0.0
Number of shower facilities at campgrounds	66.7	33.3	0.0
Boating Related			
Number of boat ramps	27.3	71.7	1.0
Number of docks or temporary moorage	44.3	55.7	0.0
Number of boat-in campsites	35.7	64.3	0.0
Number of marinas	52.5	47.5	0.0
Number of boat-in gas stations	54.5	39.4	6.1
Fishing/Hunting Related			
Number of fish cleaning stations	43.5	54.3	2.2
Quality of habitat for hunting	25.7	74.3	0.0
Lands for hunting	29.4	67.6	2.9
Other Activity Related			
Number of group picnic sites	45.7	53.2	1.1
Amount of swim areas	34.8	64.1	1.1
Number of equestrian facilities	41.2	55.9	2.9
Number of developed day use or picnic areas along the shore	45.2	52.7	2.2
Number of interpretive programs/educational opportunities	53.3	40.0	6.7
Number of restrooms	34.8	64.3	0.9

Source: Mailback Survey (n=120). The total number of responses varies by survey item and is less than the overall sample size for some items. "N/A" responses were not included in analysis.

Table H-6. OWA visitors' opinions of adequacy of facilities.

Type of Facility	Response		
	Too Few (%)	About Right (%)	Too Many (%)
Trail Use Related			
Number of unpaved bike trails	51.9	40.7	7.4
Number of hiking trails	48.5	51.5	0.0
Number of signs indicating trail locations	70.0	30.0	0.0
Number of paved bike trails	59.1	40.9	0.0
Number of equestrian trails	28.6	57.1	14.3
Camping Related			
Presence of campground hosts	60.9	34.8	4.3
Number of campgrounds	70.2	26.3	3.5
Number of campsites with RV hookups	84.0	16.0	0.0
Number of group campsites	69.7	27.3	3.0
Screening between campsites	75.0	25.0	0.0
Number of floating campsites	50.0	50.0	0.0
Number of shower facilities at campgrounds	90.9	9.1	0.0
Boating Related			
Number of boat ramps	30.8	66.2	3.1
Number of docks or temporary moorage	57.7	42.3	0.0
Number of boat-in campsites	56.5	43.5	0.0
Number of marinas	47.1	47.1	5.9
Number of boat-in gas stations	38.5	46.2	15.4
Fishing/Hunting Related			
Number of fish cleaning stations	89.7	8.8	1.5
Quality of habitat for hunting	28.6	65.7	5.7
Lands for hunting	59.5	35.1	5.4
Other Activity Related			
Number of group picnic sites	92.9	7.1	0.0
Amount of swim areas	65.0	35.0	0.0
Number of equestrian facilities	61.1	27.8	11.1
Number of developed day use or picnic areas along the shore	75.4	24.6	0.0
Number of interpretive programs/educational opportunities	74.2	25.8	0.0
Number of restrooms	74.2	25.8	0.0

Source: Mailback Survey (n=130). The total number of responses varies by survey item and is less than the overall sample size for some items. "N/A" responses were not included in analysis.

APPENDIX I

VISITORS' "PERCEPTION OF MANAGEMENT ISSUES" RESPONSES BY RESOURCE AREA

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Table I-1. Lake Oroville visitors' perceptions of management, water condition, and user interaction issues as problems during their visit.

Survey Item	Response			
	Not a Problem (%)	A Slight Problem (%)	A Moderate Problem (%)	A Big Problem (%)
Management				
Litter along the shoreline	58.5	26.3	11.6	3.6
Sanitation along the shoreline	74.0	14.7	6.7	4.6
Cost to use facilities	86.2	7.2	4.2	2.4
Overall safety and security	76.9	13.2	6.9	2.9
Availability of service/staffing	76.6	13.4	5.6	4.5
Adequate information/warnings provided	80.5	11.4	5.1	3.1
Adequacy of landscaping of facilities	76.7	13.9	5.8	3.7
Access to the shoreline	47.2	19.5	14.6	18.6
Law enforcement presence	77.6	9.7	7.7	5.0
Encounters between trail users and other users	91.7	5.4	2.3	0.5
Water Conditions				
Exposed land during lower water levels	27.3	18.2	19.1	35.4
Shallow areas during lower water levels	30.7	21.9	18.7	28.6
Floating debris in the water	50.8	22.7	14.4	12.0
Quality of water	70.1	18.7	7.5	3.7
Water level fluctuations	37.5	14.9	13.7	34.0
User Interactions				
Numbers of watercraft	56.9	28.0	12.7	2.3
Noise from boats and personal watercraft	67.2	19.1	9.9	3.7
Boat speed or wake effects	62.4	23.1	10.1	4.4
Encounters between waterskiers and others	70.7	19.8	6.2	3.4
Encounters between pleasure boaters and boat anglers	72.4	18.1	6.0	3.6
Encounters between PWCs (jetski/waverunners) and other users	57.1	20.4	11.8	10.6
Unsafe behavior by other users	55.1	27.2	11.4	6.3
Numbers of people at developed facilities	71.6	18.1	8.2	2.1
Use of alcohol by other users	76.8	14.8	5.7	2.7
Encounters between visitors and residents	91.1	6.2	2.1	0.6

Source: Mailback Survey (n=632). The total number of responses varies by survey item and is less than the overall sample size for some items. "N/A" responses are not included in the analysis.

Table I-2. Diversion Pool visitors' perceptions of management, water condition, and user interaction issues as problems during their visit.

Survey Item	Response			
	Not a Problem (%)	A Slight Problem (%)	A Moderate Problem (%)	A Big Problem (%)
Management				
Litter along the shoreline	75.0	17.9	3.6	3.6
Sanitation along the shoreline	87.5	4.2	4.2	4.2
Cost to use facilities	88.9	3.7	7.4	0.0
Overall safety and security	82.1	10.7	3.6	3.6
Availability of service/staffing	76.5	23.5	0.0	0.0
Adequate information/warnings provided	83.3	8.3	8.3	0.0
Adequacy of landscaping of facilities	91.7	8.3	0.0	0.0
Access to the shoreline	84.0	4.0	8.0	4.0
Law enforcement presence	85.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Encounters between trail users and other users	92.9	0.0	3.6	3.6
Water Conditions				
Exposed land during lower water levels	54.5	9.1	4.5	31.8
Shallow areas during lower water levels	57.1	4.8	9.5	28.6
Floating debris in the water	59.1	4.5	18.2	18.2
Quality of water	78.3	17.4	0.0	4.3
Water level fluctuations	71.4	4.8	0.0	23.8
User Interactions				
Numbers of watercraft	88.2	0.0	5.9	5.9
Noise from boats and personal watercraft	77.3	9.1	9.1	4.5
Boat speed or wake effects	86.7	0.0	0.0	13.3
Encounters between waterskiers and others	86.7	0.0	6.7	6.7
Encounters between pleasure boaters and boat anglers	86.7	0.0	6.7	6.7
Encounters between PWCs (jetski/waverunners) and other users	68.8	12.5	6.3	12.5
Unsafe behavior by other users	61.9	14.3	14.3	9.5
Numbers of people at developed facilities	89.5	5.3	5.3	0.0
Use of alcohol by other users	84.2	15.8	0.0	0.0
Encounters between visitors and residents	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: Mailback Survey (n=32). The total number of responses varies by survey item and is less than the overall sample size for some items. "N/A" responses are not included in the analysis.

Table I-3. Low Flow Channel visitors' perceptions of issues of management, water condition, and user interaction issues as problems during their visit.

Survey Item	Response			
	Not a Problem (%)	A Slight Problem (%)	A Moderate Problem (%)	A Big Problem (%)
Management				
Litter along the shoreline	31.4	27.5	17.6	23.5
Sanitation along the shoreline	55.1	20.4	12.2	12.2
Cost to use facilities	92.7	0.0	2.4	4.9
Overall safety and security	75.0	12.5	10.4	2.1
Availability of service/staffing	65.7	28.6	5.7	0.0
Adequate information/warnings provided	77.3	13.6	4.5	4.5
Adequacy of landscaping of facilities	74.5	14.9	6.4	4.3
Access to the shoreline	69.8	20.9	9.3	0.0
Law enforcement presence	78.9	13.2	2.6	5.3
Encounters between trail users and other users	84.2	7.9	7.9	0.0
Water Conditions				
Exposed land during lower water levels	60.0	10.0	12.5	17.5
Shallow areas during lower water levels	64.1	7.7	12.8	15.4
Floating debris in the water	58.7	19.6	10.9	10.9
Quality of water	76.6	12.8	0.0	10.6
Water level fluctuations	65.9	11.4	9.1	13.6
User Interactions				
Numbers of watercraft	83.3	5.6	5.6	5.6
Noise from boats and personal watercraft	76.3	10.5	7.9	5.3
Boat speed or wake effects	62.9	22.9	5.7	8.6
Encounters between waterskiers and others	76.9	15.4	0.0	7.7
Encounters between pleasure boaters and boat anglers	72.4	17.2	3.4	6.9
Encounters between PWCs (jetski/waverunners) and other users	76.9	7.7	11.5	3.8
Unsafe behavior by other users	72.2	13.9	8.3	5.6
Numbers of people at developed facilities	80.0	6.7	4.4	8.9
Use of alcohol by other users	76.2	11.9	2.4	9.5
Encounters between visitors and residents	92.5	2.5	2.5	2.5

Source: Mailback Survey (n=58). The total number of responses varies by survey item and is less than the overall sample size for some items. "N/A" responses are not included in the analysis.

Table I-4. Thermalito Forebay visitors' perceptions of management, water condition, and user interaction issues as problems during their visit.

Survey Item	Response			
	Not a Problem (%)	A Slight Problem (%)	A Moderate Problem (%)	A Big Problem (%)
Management				
Litter along the shoreline	59.1	25.8	10.8	4.3
Sanitation along the shoreline	71.9	12.4	11.2	4.5
Cost to use facilities	92.0	5.7	2.3	0.0
Overall safety and security	78.3	16.3	4.3	1.1
Availability of service/staffing	81.4	11.6	3.5	3.5
Adequate information/warnings provided	86.5	7.9	5.6	0.0
Adequacy of landscaping of facilities	79.3	15.2	5.4	0.0
Access to the shoreline	82.1	6.3	7.4	4.2
Law enforcement presence	74.6	8.5	12.7	4.2
Encounters between trail users and other users	90.0	8.6	1.4	0.0
Water Conditions				
Exposed land during lower water levels	57.5	19.5	13.8	9.2
Shallow areas during lower water levels	64.6	14.6	15.9	4.9
Floating debris in the water	52.3	26.1	10.2	11.4
Quality of water	69.1	13.8	11.7	5.3
Water level fluctuations	65.9	20.7	6.1	7.3
User Interactions				
Numbers of watercraft	84.5	12.7	2.8	0.0
Noise from boats and personal watercraft	76.3	14.5	6.6	2.6
Boat speed or wake effects	76.0	13.3	8.0	2.7
Encounters between waterskiers and others	87.0	5.8	4.3	2.9
Encounters between pleasure boaters and boat anglers	85.5	11.6	2.9	0.0
Encounters between PWCs (jetski/waverunners) and other users	78.3	7.2	5.8	8.7
Unsafe behavior by other users	59.8	20.7	7.3	12.2
Numbers of people at developed facilities	75.0	11.4	10.2	3.4
Use of alcohol by other users	74.7	13.3	3.6	8.4
Encounters between visitors and residents	93.9	3.7	1.2	1.2

Source: Mailback Survey (n=99). The total number of responses varies by survey item and is less than the overall sample size for some items. "N/A" responses are not included in the analysis.

Table I-5. Thermalito Afterbay visitors' perceptions of management, water condition, and user interaction issues as problems during their visit.

Survey Item	Response			
	Not a Problem (%)	A Slight Problem (%)	A Moderate Problem (%)	A Big Problem (%)
Management				
Litter along the shoreline	50.0	33.6	9.5	6.9
Sanitation along the shoreline	70.8	16.0	9.4	3.8
Cost to use facilities	91.2	4.4	3.3	1.1
Overall safety and security	70.8	15.9	10.6	2.7
Availability of service/staffing	65.9	17.6	11.8	4.7
Adequate information/warnings provided	79.5	12.5	2.7	5.4
Adequacy of landscaping of facilities	78.1	11.4	4.8	5.7
Access to the shoreline	75.2	14.2	5.3	5.3
Law enforcement presence	78.2	12.7	6.4	2.7
Encounters between trail users and other users	87.7	8.2	4.1	0.0
Water Conditions				
Exposed land during lower water levels	30.3	23.9	21.1	24.8
Shallow areas during lower water levels	25.5	21.8	22.7	30.0
Floating debris in the water	62.8	23.0	6.2	8.0
Quality of water	68.8	17.0	10.7	3.6
Water level fluctuations	35.5	22.7	18.2	23.6
User Interactions				
Numbers of watercraft	64.5	12.7	18.2	4.5
Noise from boats and personal watercraft	68.8	13.8	7.3	10.1
Boat speed or wake effects	66.1	17.4	11.9	4.6
Encounters between waterskiers and others	80.4	13.1	6.5	0.0
Encounters between pleasure boaters and boat anglers	80.6	12.0	5.6	1.9
Encounters between PWCs (jetski/waverunners) and other users	61.0	21.0	13.3	4.8
Unsafe behavior by other users	53.2	32.1	9.2	5.5
Numbers of people at developed facilities	54.6	26.9	12.0	6.5
Use of alcohol by other users	72.6	17.0	4.7	5.7
Encounters between visitors and residents	93.5	4.3	2.2	0.0

Source: Mailback Survey (n=120). The total number of responses varies by survey item and is less than the overall sample size for some items. "N/A" responses are not included in the analysis.

Table I-6. OWA visitors' perceptions of management, water condition, and user interaction issues as problems during their visit.

Survey Item	Response			
	Not a Problem (%)	A Slight Problem (%)	A Moderate Problem (%)	A Big Problem (%)
Management				
Litter along the shoreline	4.2	21.8	26.1	47.9
Sanitation along the shoreline	23.2	18.8	29.5	28.6
Cost to use facilities	90.2	4.9	0.0	4.9
Overall safety and security	47.3	31.8	13.6	7.3
Availability of service/staffing	63.5	15.9	14.3	6.3
Adequate information/warnings provided	71.6	11.6	12.6	4.2
Adequacy of landscaping of facilities	58.7	18.7	10.7	12.0
Access to the shoreline	67.3	19.5	8.8	4.4
Law enforcement presence	56.9	13.7	11.8	17.6
Encounters between trail users and other users	80.8	9.6	5.5	4.1
Water Conditions				
Exposed land during lower water levels	72.7	13.6	8.0	5.7
Shallow areas during lower water levels	71.9	13.5	9.0	5.6
Floating debris in the water	62.7	13.7	13.7	9.8
Quality of water	78.4	11.8	6.9	2.9
Water level fluctuations	58.4	20.8	12.9	7.9
User Interactions				
Numbers of watercraft	35.1	26.6	25.5	12.8
Noise from boats and personal watercraft	56.6	19.2	15.2	9.1
Boat speed or wake effects	48.4	23.2	17.9	10.5
Encounters between waterskiers and others	89.1	6.5	4.3	0.0
Encounters between pleasure boaters and boat anglers	65.1	17.5	9.5	7.9
Encounters between PWCs (jetskis/waverunners) and other users	78.4	13.7	2.0	5.9
Unsafe behavior by other users	46.8	25.5	17.0	10.6
Numbers of people at developed facilities	39.6	23.1	25.3	12.1
Use of alcohol by other users	62.6	11.1	15.2	11.1
Encounters between visitors and residents	76.3	10.5	7.9	5.3

Source: Mailback Survey (n=130). The total number of responses varies by survey item and is less than the overall sample size for some items. "N/A" responses are not included in the analysis.

APPENDIX J

ON-SITE SURVEY AND MAILBACK SURVEY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS BY SURVEY SITE

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Note: Some comments were edited for spelling and punctuation to improve readability. Expletives were deleted from comments. Also deleted were comments that did not address survey topics or Oroville Project issues. Text enclosed in square brackets ([ ]) were not part of the original comment, but are additions made for clarity. There were 2,583 respondents to the On-Site Survey and 1,071 to the Mail Back Survey. Number of responses to the additional comment question varies by site.

Table J-1. Dark Canyon Car-top BR visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

We would appreciate the further expansion of facilities at Dark Canyon and Lime Saddle. We enjoy the lake!
Why not let Lake Oroville become and stay a beautiful lake for area residents instead of letting so much water go south. It's ridiculous as to how so much water is let out as the summer progresses. The results are ugly, less accessibility and less enjoyment.

Table J-2. Vinton Gulch Car-top BR visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

Please increase our water level.

Table J-3. Lime Saddle Campground visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

For a new area, very nice.
A great lake and Lime Saddle campground is great.
I want to find nice place for me and family to go. Thanks.
I am enjoying myself.
We had a wonderful time. Thanks for having us. It is a wonderful facility.
We were misled on the phone about condition here. We were told that lake is full, there's boating and excellent weather! All totally far from truth.
Some of the port a potties need cleaning once in a while.
At all campsites, they need to enforce the "Quiet Time" rules. We love Lime Saddle! It's much nicer than Loafer.
Called about a Rattlesnake to be removed from campsite and never was done. My wife is pregnant and there was an infant across from us. But the Ranger never came.
I would like to be able to reserve camp sites by choosing a space # for reservations instead of the current system of showing up and then choosing a space #. Need more shade! Plant some more trees.
Park Rangers are a bit invasive and did not seem to know about the fullness capacity of the area.
Few encounters with Park Ranger that have not been helpful. Just negative, very rude.

Table J-3. Lime Saddle Campground visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

Some of the boaters need help launching and unlaunching their boats. The campgrounds at Lime Saddle are very nice! Plus the personnel were friendly and helpful, especially the camp host, Loyal, and Ranger Ken.
So far, the campgrounds are beautiful and clean. A well planned design and convenient parking.
The handicap spots are very nice. We enjoy camping to Lake Oroville area. It would be nice to have handicap area to Bidwell camp area.
Campsites are very clean and great spacing. Too far from water though.
We really like the new Lime Saddle campground. Always have a great time on Lake Oroville. All the staff are nice and helpful.
Need a park or family area suitable for swimming which is accessible via automobile.
In the Lime Saddle area there is no access to lake, you have to drive to take the kids swimming, no playground. The spaces where there is a drop off (sp 7) should be wider-other than that clean area-also your full hookups don't include sewer-this should be stated. Rangers at the entrance are very courteous and helpful, friendly.
There are no swimming areas. They need a beach area for day users also it would be nice to be able to camp on the water.
Yes. The showers need work. The temperature fluctuates too much and a lot of time is wasted adjusting it. Also, it is very hard for men to shave is a bathroom sink that only supplies cold water, and the water faucet has to be pushed repeatedly to get the water to come out.
Could have more trash cans in the campsite. I think it would be much better for the people too lazy to walk to the trash bin.
1. Walk in access to lake from Lime Saddle 2. Shelves in showers/ free showers. 3. Literature in Ranger Station about things to do/maps. 4. Quiet time after 10:00 p.m. (11:00-12:00 is better) 5. Overall campgrounds well thought out and accessible.
Needs more space for tents. Needs to be more leveled on campsites. Poison oak needs to be cleared out better. Needs to be weed-eated or mowed down.
It would be nice to have a more direct access to the water from lime saddle campground. Also, a swim beach would be nice for the kids. And a store near by. More children's facilities would be nice. Like a playground.
Disappointed that there are no easy access spots and that there are no fire/pits and sinks at lime saddle. No-parking areas are not well marked. Tent sites are too far from parking. Some staff rangers were rude & not at all knowledgeable about rules, regulations, fees, etc. Definitely more training needed. Staff members period!
Easier water access would be nice.
If the campground was next to the water that would be great for boater.
Everything here is wonderful – we plan to return every year, but a dog run would be nice for our dog (this is only a suggestion).
It would be nice to have electricity in the campsites even if this means increasing the rates. Thank you for the well maintained campground
Could you please put the campgrounds close to the water.
I believe and wish that a roped off beach would be a great attraction. After boating it would be nice to beach with the kids.
Recyclable disposal containers for alum. Cans, glass and plastic would be good! Restrooms and campgrounds are extremely nice and clean. The "Pay to Shower" stalls are in convenient and sad to see. We paid good money for 4 days of camping, launch fee, and parking. It is ridiculous that we are required to pay for showers.
We want to go swimming but can't find a way from the camp to get to a swim area.
I would like to see a swimming beach in this area for kids to play with a trail to it. Everything else is wonderful.
No trails to the water! But lots of space for campsites! Lime Saddle Campground.

Table J-3. Lime Saddle Campground visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

Campgrounds are too far from water.
At the entrance to the Lime Saddle Campground it would help tremendously to put an arrow to the right so people know which way to go on the fork in the road.
We know that the lake is pretty low, but we couldn't find a beach to ride our own jet skis onto. We really like our campsite, clean and scenic. Our only problem is being able to find a beach.
Too much water goes south and not enough for late summer recreation.
The lake level is too low and needs to be addressed.
This survey was just fine until the last 2 questions!!

Table J-4. Lime Saddle DUA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

Great time-stayed at Lime Saddle Campground-had ski equipment stolen!
Lake Oroville is an awesome place to come. We just need it to fill up every year and more resorts on the lake would bring big $!
Please lock gates to campgrounds after midnight.
Security in the evenings, friend had things stolen in the evening. Also boat trailer hit in parking area.
Why no water skiing in West Branch at high water - same for North Fork?
Wonderful lake! Need recycle bins!
The sign on entrance for payment you cannot see clearly.
Please don't lower the water level anymore. Don't sell it to L.A. It is a beautiful lake and it needs respect.
Keep water here!!
Please quit giving our water away. Some is okay, but should set a lower limit on level, such as no lower than 60-100 feet by end of summer. Poor management of water level and resources.
DWR! You need to pay attention to biologists and taxpayers. Local tax basis and community income drops every time you sell our water to LA. Be smart and fill the lake first the drain it for river water flows and diversions in the valley. Hopefully, you can figure this out. As a local business owner in the rec/fishing trade; I personally know the lower water affects lake usage and $! P.S. Our spotted bass have a fungus due to the constant water changes ("Listen to your biologist Eric See!!")
I don't know exact facts about Lake Oroville, but this is what I've heard. When the lake was created in the 60's lots of DWR promises were made, but to date, not kept. California is more interested in water money than recreational boating money. The users of lake Oroville pay the fees, then the water is quickly drained out. The users make Butte County and California strong. We pay our taxes, provide employment and raise families. We buy boats (mine was $65,000) pay those taxes and visit boat shops for servicing, repairs, and equipment. We always buy goods at the marina and buy vehicles geared to tow our boats with (mine was $38,000). And boat registration, lake membership, vehicle registration and then you complain about the MTBE in the water that Davis won't take out "until we can find other jobs" for these MTBE people. This survey is a sham. Why bother? Will something change? When it comes to money, California will go with the best bet that works in California' favor. My family is California too. Why not drain the lake in October, November, December? We don't want to drive an hour or hours to get to a decent lake. Most of these surveys should lean towards the "keep the water in the lake" viewpoint. If not, they are being "ghost written" by DWR people.

Table J-4. Lime Saddle DUA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

Is survey to keep cost down? I hope so. Do not want to outprice families.
You need to put conditioner in the lake so that your hair won't get tangly and you need flushers in the toilet. Thanks for using our time!

Table J-5. Lime Saddle BR visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

Our kids love being on the lake! It's our #1 vacation spot/option! With our cabin at Lake Madrone, we'd like to see more amenities at Foreman Creek-launch, bathrooms, beach for family day use.
Great Lake.
Lake Oroville has provided my family with untold days/weeks of enjoyment. What concerns us often so many years on the lake is the seemingly growing numbers of boaters/PWC users who lack common courtesy and/or lack understanding of speed and distance regulations. We'd like to see an increase of the number of patrols on the lake.
Fun!
Great lake! The fish plant program is outstanding. Improve camping and ramp at lime saddle for low launch in summer.
The lake is very full and beautiful right now.
We love this lake.
Great area. Bring more recreational venues and facilities.
We love Lake Oroville.
Thank you.
Fun day in the sun.
Very nice facility. We'll definitely be back!
I had a very good day, as usual!! But I am not very happy with the jet skiers coming so close to us while we are fishing. They didn't even have any reason for coming so close.
We are new to the area and are looking forward to utilizing the lake for fishing and hiking as well as water sports. We are not yet familiar with all the lake has to offer, however, we enjoy what we are familiar with. Thank you.
Need to watch the fish that are being caught n the slot and released badly hurt. Saw about 5 today that were caught, hooked deep, and died.
Lime Saddle staff were excellent to deal with.
Overall impressed with the staff here. Lime Saddle is wonderful, Staff is hard working.
I have enjoyed the Lime Saddle Marina area to launch since its inception. I and our family have felt all people involved are very receptive and kind. We would like to see better H2O management for the damn. Less H2O release when they have no assurance of more rain/snow. Would also like to see more patrol as the water dwindles and boats go up ad down the forks at high speed and do not adhere to the mileage regulations for erosion and species preservation.
The dropping of prices has helped a great number of people. Many thanks!
Security and night shuttle seem to be an issue.
The cars using the double spaces for boat/trailer is aggravating. Cars should go up top at Lime Saddle or have a golf cart security so one Honda Accord does not take boat/trailer spot.

Table J-5. Lime Saddle BR visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

Park rules and regs need to be communicated, then enforced with reasonableness and consideration of the spirit of the law, and without personal bias. The 5 mph/no wake laws need to be more clearly posted (not what I was cited for), and they need to stop using the parking lot as a cash cow to write license/registration tickets when they don't even call in to see if fees have been paid.
My wife and I are on the lake 2 to 3 days and nights a week, all year long. We are very disappointed with the way the lake is being managed. Would like to see lake levels higher in October.
Less 5mph would be great!
Attached an email complaining about the state's new bidding process on rebuilding Lime Saddle and how long it is going to take
The Marina operators at Lime Saddle, especially the owners, do not promote a positive environment. Stop dropping the water level so far down. In April we had 10,000 CFS intake and 1,000 CFS out. Suddenly it was increased to 5,000 CFS without a threat of floods, why? We could have used more storage.
Must resolve the situation at Lime Saddle Marina. The state is dragging their feet on awarding the bid/lease. We are tired of the wait for a new marina, while still having to pay buoy rental, and property taxes on our houseboats and nothing is getting done.
The newly opened Lake Oroville camping area is nice! Feather Falls is spectacular. The West Branch is my favorite area… it is still very raw and rugged with great swimming holes and clear water!
We need more boat-in campsites and easier access for the dogs to get to the water.
Put handicapped spaces closer to bottom of ramp.
Need more marinas.
Tram rides from launch to truck, truck to launch. More docking spaces.
I would like to see more floating campsites. I would like to keep the lake full. Quit sending water to LA.
Lime Saddle is the worst ramp because of the most use and population base – poor planning by DWR.
Need an area for landing boat on land (beach area).
Extend the ramps!
Need more docks in Lime Saddle.
Shuttle to the top of the ramp, walking up it is not fun.
The lake needs beaches accessible for boaters.
More facilities on the lake for day use: picnic areas, flat areas you can boat into. Maybe buoys you can tie off on around the lake rather than trying to tie off on the rocky shore.
Need to rebuild Lime Saddle Marina and make the area more user friendly, all facilities need to be upgraded
Given that the water level changes, a buoy noting an underwater sandbar would be useful. A SeaDoo got dirt in its engine and a motorboat prop got stuck in the same sandbar not far from the houseboat on which we were staying at Lime Saddle Marina.
The debris was excessive in some areas. We've lost 1 prop since we started using our boat here (4 months).
Need to extend boat launch at Lime Saddle to accommodate low water level.
Lake has been really low in last 2 years during August when I was here. The lake is clear of debris.
I have a very big problem with the fact that Lake Oroville is becoming ridiculously low when other lakes in California have found a way to stay 80-90% filled. What is going on? I consider this a problem, don't you?

Table J-5. Lime Saddle BR visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

More water, more water, more water.
Do not send water to LA or other places, water level too low an debris occurs.
Keep the water level up more.
Wish the lake would not be lowered so much in the winter. This year it was down about 210 feet, unable to launch for some time.
Keep the water level up!! When it's down everything is more difficult and less appealing!!
Maintain lake levels where you can launch all year round.
Keep out water in the lake for recreation. The hell with giving our water to southern Cali.
Do not let so much water out of lake every spring and summer.
Keep the water in the north state, stop selling so much water to L.A., and keep Lake Oroville in enough water to launch all facilities.
Need more water.
The water of Lake Oroville needs to be higher and we need better facilities at Lime Saddle. The marina is always crowded and never enough space to dock boats.
Stop sending water away!
Keep lake level higher, don't drain to low, want to see progress, for the water sold.
We are concerned about the water level last year & this year. Having the water so low makes Oroville much less appealing to its users!
Water level.
Lake Oroville needs to be fuller – it's sad that the water is so low!
Need more water in the lake!
I would like it better if we didn't ship so much water down south!
Don't send our water south! Use our water locally!
Fill Lake Oroville back up!
Keep the water level up at least so we can sail.
Leave more water in the lake.
Just wish the lake wasn't so low.
Let's try to keep some water in the lake.
Keep the water higher!
Water level is very low!
Would like to see the lake full.
Increase water level. Create a further ski area, where launch at Lime Saddle.
Disappointed in water level of lake consistently year after year. Stop water releases on such a grand scale. Marina situation here is dismal. Management should be changed. I rate on a scale of 1-10, 1 here, 9.5 at Bidwell.
I am very saddened and disturbed by the low water level over the last 2 years. We have been coming here for over 20 years and this is the worst we have seen it. Something must be done!
Stop lowering the lake so low!

Table J-5. Lime Saddle BR visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

Lowering water seems to be a problem over the last few years. Please keep full! Thank you.
We need to stop spending water out of area. I would like to see the water higher than at present.
More water please.
Too bad water level is so low.
Why can't we keep the water in the lake?
I feel that the DWR lets too much water out of the lake even at times when it is not needed by farmers and down river contractors. I think the lake should be filled all the way before they start increasing releases rather than leveling out at 50 feet down like they did this year. You don't find Federal lakes (such as Shasta) down this much. If DWR is going to lower the lake so much at least provide shuttles on the boat ramps and more patrols due to crowding on the weekends. You have people skiing on top of people because the lake gets smaller.
The water level is too low for shoreline recreation-Please don't drain anymore.
Please keep more water in Lake Oroville. The low water level is obscene; we would not even go there except our friends have a houseboat. Our favorite places are Whiskeytown, Whiskeytown, Whiskeytown, where the water level is always consistent; it's worth the extra driving. Please extend hours of shuttle boat at Lime Saddle Marina.
1. It seems that drawdown levels will continue to be very low-southern California water needs are a priority-launch ramps are too short to accommodate the recreation season. 2. There is an inadequate enforcement of the 5 mph speed restriction in all 5 mph areas on the lake. Without exception, every time I'm within a 5mph area, both ski boats and fishing boats violate the limit. 3. As a houseboater, I would like to see more areas houseboat friendly i.e. 5 mph because wakes beat houseboaters unmercifully.
More water in the lake!
Just questions-are the main basin or middle fork or south fork any prettier or more accessible for picnics. What is a diversion pool? Forebay? Afterbay?
Toilet needs attending – out of TP, garbage needs to be emptied, launch needs to be made wider, hope you get more docks.

Table J-6. Nelson Bar Car-top BR visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

I enjoyed the lake much better in its early, pristine days. The land grabbing of governmental and private entities toward development and the ensuing growth of restricted non-public and non-free use land has choked the freedom of use since the early days.
The lake is getting so crowded it would be nice to have more launches on the north side near Lime Saddle and Nelson Bar, especially for small fishing boats.
The upgrades to the Lime Saddle area are nice. Swimmer access to the new campground area would be nice. Also the frisbee golf at the Parrish cove area near Lime Saddle marina is still a great idea.
Wish we had a place for public swimming.
We would like to see a beach at upper Lime Saddle.
Too deep. Need flat land. Needs regular beach type things.
I would like to have an area to swim my dogs.
Post signs for speed limit on road down to Nelson's Bar or signs for pedestrians.

Table J-6. Nelson Bar Car-top BR visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

I hope the water level goes up next year.
My husband says extend the boat ramps and put more water in the lake.

Table J-7. Bloomer BICs visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

Wheelbarrows for Bloomer.

Table J-8. Foreman Creek BIC visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

Raise water level, lower prices at marina are outrageous.
Water levels too low. May think about going somewhere else. Need to keep the water level higher.
It is nice to finally see the water level at a reasonable level.

Table J-9. Foreman Creek Car-top BR visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

Gorgeous place to visit & enjoy life.
Lake Oroville is a great place to visit. We need to have more tables and bathrooms.
I'm an Oroville resident and Lake Oroville is one of my main resources for recreation. My family and I all love to fish, swim, and wakeboard here. We also have numerous relatives from out of town that come to vacation here.
This place is great.
Yes, thank you for including us in your decision-making. It is important to the farmers and the recreational revenue.
We really enjoy Lake Oroville. We come here at least one day a week, but it is sad to see the water level dropping. I feel it creates more safety hazards for water users.
We would love to keep Oroville Lake as close to nature as possible. This is a beautiful lake and as long as people understand the beauty of it, we will enjoy this area for years to come.
Fish aren't biting because lake level too high. Stock more fish.
Keep planting those coho trout. We like them. Keep the lake just like it is, not too commercialized where people start littering it more.
Doing a fine job.
I wish to protest the closing to water skiing in the cove adjacent to foreman creek (which leads to the bridge of Highway 162). You have a floating camping house boat there that is rarely used. I have used this lake for over 20 years.
Please relocate floating camping – 5 mph is not acceptable to maintain a fun atmosphere.
Keep at least one, free boat ramp on lake.
We would like to have the floating campgrounds moved from Foreman Creek area. 5mph regulations are unacceptable for the whole area. Portable bathrooms would be nice.
Floating campgrounds are ruining the area for boating fun.

Table J-9. Foreman Creek Car-top BR visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

Please move floating campgrounds from this area. It has caused a 5 mph area of almost 1 square mile. There are far more boaters using the area. A floating bathroom would be nice.
Main Basin 5 mph buoy's for new houseboats (stationary) – too much area not useable.
The Bidwell launch area took my money, but didn't tell me there was no parking left.
Need more bathrooms water facets at Foreman Creek.
Need bathroom at Foreman Creek.
More portable restrooms, Foreman Creek maybe? We think you need to charge more for camping and day use in the park areas.
Yes, we need garbage cans, bathrooms. Beach or car access when the lake is lower.
Need more access for locals
The lake needs to have more sites for children to play in the water. There are few places for family recreation.
We need a dock to jump off at Foreman CTA.
Need campgrounds.
This is a nice lake but they need trash bins and rest rooms and more campground.
We need docks for the kids to play on & bathrooms.
They need bathrooms at Foreman Creek, garbage cans and picnic tables.
This section could use trash cans and restrooms.
Survey too long. Need portable toilets for holidays.
Need porta-potties at "Foreman" Creek. Need to identify floating campgrounds so we don't think it's a public restroom.
Easy access to swimming is needed closer to Bidwell and Loafer. Otherwise, we love it! 17 years!
Put toilets at Foreman Creek.
Don't sell Butte Water so cheap. Raise lake level during summer months.
Please leave the Lakes full – maybe on a rotating basis…
Raise water level during spring and summer. Keep fees to a minimum.
Don't sell the water.
Please keep more water in the lake.
I would like more water in our lake throughout the summer.
Let the lake fill back up.
This survey is too long!

Table J-10. Craig Saddle BIC visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

Shoreline camping would be great, especially as the water levels go down. (i.e. Don Pedro).
I would like to see more boat campsites. Water level to stay up. More fish to be stocked. Trout, bass.

Table J-11. Stringtown Car-top BR visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

The lake is beautiful and I love it.
I have had four generations live in Oroville. I love it.
Your lake's cool, and there are a lot of rocks.
Pretty cool. Definitely, a decent recreational area that we Orovillians can use at are disclosure (sic).
I have fished on Lake Oroville for many years. There seems to be a tournament every couple of days. The amount of pressure on the bass has noticeably increased. Some of the out-of-towners that come to the tournaments that I have met are simply inconsiderate. Just wanted to vent. It has bothered me and my fellow local fisherman for some time now. Take care, thank you.
A former worker of state parks & recreation, I find the garbage area of Stringtown very, very bad.
We need more trails. More water in the lake.
We would like a restroom put in at Stringtown so we could camp out with the groups of kids. Note: These folks were interested in bringing their church group out here on a camping/educational retreat. "The royal ranges earn merit badges for various outdoor activities.
Please put some artificial sand on the Stringtown beach area. Other than that we love Stringtown!
Lake Oroville sights need more clean bathrooms, trash cans, park benches???
Would like real bathrooms at least a few more porta-potties.
Please put a large dumpster at the Stringtown boat ramp area. Please fix boat ramp–repave. During a non fishing season open Mc Cabes cove to skiers. Don't let people sleep overnight at Ramp area. Clean up bathroom at Ramp. We love to see patrol out in our Stringtown area. On & off the water. Ticket jet skiers who are dangerous (and boaters).
Pave more of Stringtown car top boat launch.
Water level could e higher – if water is low, provide better access to water, i.e. walkway, trail, circular driveway – drop off equipment & family, park in lot so only one person has to walk down.
We need more water. Please don't let so much out. We want to keep our water here in Butte County.
More water in lake would be nice. More land and floating campground would be nice. More launch areas closer to town area. And more ground and floating restrooms.
Lake water level dropping too fast – ugly and not appealing.
The lake is too low. Quit letting water out.
Lake is too low! Stop sending water down south and leave use of lake to enjoy.

Table J-12. Enterprise BR visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

I think that the lake is a great place to sit and relax.
I have seen a good increase in the osprey population on the Lake in the last 5 years now up by Ponderosa reservation. I see bald eagles and their nests.
To upgrade the area by the lake.
Keep it just like it is. Dogs off leash okay! Enjoying the higher water level.
I hope you keep this spot free and that we can bring out dogs without leashes.

Table J-12. Enterprise BR visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

A ranger or security officer making an appearance near the boat ramp would be appreciated. You've got people blocking the roadway and many leaving trash and dogs off leash. Some visible reminder to the people that are here to use common sense and safety.
Please fix Enterprise boat ramp area.
I would not like to see enterprise launch being charged to get into. I also don't like the new gate installed here.
We should be allowed to camp on shorelines. More lake patrols.
We need to make the launch at Enterprise longer so it can be used and stop sending water to Los Angeles so we have water in our lake.
I would like to see more restrooms at sites. On busy days, it's hard to get one.
Better restrooms. Stop letting out so much water. We love our lake. We would like to keep the lake. Levels up more, longer, please!
Enterprise boat launch needs a floating dock for safety of boaters and swimmers.
Extend the Enterprise Ramp so it can be used all year. A new bathroom at Enterprise ramp. Pick up trash with out a call to ranger.
What are the handicapped going to do with their boats that are slipped in the marinas? I have a couple friends that cannot even get their wheelchairs down to the docks, let alone get them up the hill (Bidwell Marina). I don't understand why, when you cannot fill this lake. Is it necessary to fill another lake with the water – among other uses. The least that could be done when the water is so low would be to extend the launch ramps here at Enterprise. It would at least make it possible for the fire trucks (tankers) to fill up with water in the event of fire – which there have been a few in this area. Note: why just questions about “this trip” rather than about local users that use the lake quite often during the year?
I would like to see the ramp at Enterprise extended (by dirt or gravel) so as to be usable when the lake is low.
The boat ramp is out of the water much too often.
The Enterprise boat ramp needs to be lengthened or more water held in the Lake for summer months.
How can Lake Oroville promote tourism when the water is so low you can't launch a boat? Water sales should be up to the citizens, not politicians.
I have to go 20 miles to launch my boat. The Enterprise Launch does not go into the water. I average being on Lake Oroville 1-2 times every week. It sure would be nice to launch less than a mole from my home. We do not have enough launch ramps that are useable year round.
Needs Water! CA should control water not Colorado!!
Don’t let so much water out so quickly until after the middle of July.
It would be pleasing if the water wasn't let out so quickly on weekends. Houseboats hard to move and keep floating.

Table J-13. Loafer Creek BR visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

Thank you for all the great work!
Of course, but you have already heard them. On this day, we enjoyed a relaxed cruise from Loafer Creek launch to a picnic at Sycamore Cove and return, in the company with 3 other sailboats. It all was most pleasant, even though it was a bit chilly. Because of the “iffy” weather the lake was very uncrowded.
1. Slot-limit waiver for fishing tournaments completely nullifies the effectiveness of this regulation. 2. The number of boats allowed per week for bass tournaments should be regulated. 3. Bass fishermen should be required to measure/weigh their catch in the boat, record it and release the fish back at the same place it was caught. Otherwise, the ecology of the bass fishery is being altered for their egos. I have been fishing this lake regularly since 1988 and the quality of the fish has dropped about 30-40% since bass tournaments have started becoming popular, every weekend, throughout the year. The fact that they report 98% survival rate is irrelevant since those fish are not followed for one day, one week or one month to check their condition. The Oroville Chamber of Commerce and DFG and Parks and Rec only care about the scant amount of money tournaments bring in and don’t give a damn about the effect on the fishery itself.
Thank You for your continued improvements.
Keep up the good work keeping the campgrounds clean and quiet.
Trinity is best for houseboating - very nice group of people and wish they would have a ranger patrol campgrounds (Loafer) at night for “loud” control especially at 3 am. Spoke to ranger at 7am this morning. Very important on Holiday weekends.
Great Facility Great staff Great Job!! There is room for more police sheriff safety patrolling out on the water.
Would like Loafer Creek campsite to have electrical and water hook-up.
Put more docks at Forebay.
You should boat and trailer parking for campers with a boat so you have a launch site.
Needs more tables in shade.
Really need more parking and launch ramps need to be extended if lake level remains low.
Water level VERY VERY low for June 30th!
It would be appreciated if Lake Oroville did not drop the water level so much. At the middle to end of season we are unable to use Loafer Creek boat ramp. This makes the other two boat ramps very crowded. Especially during a bass fishing tournament. I feel this situation causes many inconveniences and dangers.
Need more water. Drop the slot limit. Increase parking.
Keep water levels up so we can enjoy our boating activities.
Raise lake level for recreation and irrigation.
Keep more water in the lake!!

Table J-14. Loafer Creek Campground & Group Campground visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

I look forward to spending my summer in the greater Lake Oroville Area. It is very beautiful.
Have had a great experience here at Lake Oroville. Would recommend to anyone.
I like it here, it is comforting. It is a way to get away from the complications of real life. Thank you.
We always enjoy coming here, it is clean and fun!
I really enjoyed my stay here!
Great water qualities, fantastic campsites, overall experience "A". Thanks for the great time! We'll be back!
I love this lake so much. I would love to volunteer to help DWR in what ever needed.
Please don't change the park we enjoy it the way it is.
This place is very nice.
You guys do a wonderful job. Sorry for the hand writing. Keep up the good work.
Great experience. Rangers are a little rude at night.
Lake Oroville is very nice.
The only problem is that it's so hot! Will probably return next time in spring or fall.
Need a better fishing area!
You need more fishing holes.
Stock lake with fish. More water.
We appreciate the quiet aspect of the park. The ranger at the entrance was very helpful and friendly. The site was clean and spacious.
Very nice and pleasant staff; very helpful in all areas!
Nice place to boat and camp - thanks to rangers and others for helping maintain the area.
The campgrounds are very clean and quiet. The bathrooms are in great shape and clean. Camp sites are well groomed and accessible, lots of shade. Nice all around place to visit.
The rangers and staff are extremely nice here at Loafer Creek.
Camp Host very helpful!
We had a very enjoyable trip. The campground at Loafer Creek was very clean and well kept. The campground and the lake were very quiet, not too many campers or boaters. We had fun and will come up again. Lake Oroville is a beautiful lake.
I think more information should be presented about having reservations during holiday periods. We come to stay at the lake for a month and completely unaware of needing reservations and been told we could be kicked out of our campsite, after being here for a week and a half.
Do not let other campers check in after 10:00 PM.
Charges for hot water in the showers should not be coin operated. Costs for the shower should be covered by admission fee. Increase the admission fee if necessary.
The rangers patrolling the campsite approached us with a negative attitude and discriminating towards us because of our age. The officers threatened us rather than asking us nicely to quiet down. They are also not very animal friendly. We are disappointed with our Oroville camping experience.

Table J-14. Loafer Creek Campground & Group Campground visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

Need showers back in operation, campsites and bathrooms are really kept clean. Loved the late check in up to 11:00 pm as we came a great distance to get here. Watch not a place for fire pits too close to table or cannot put up a screen house. Loved the material (concrete) used for the table in lieu of wood. More clearance for RVs and campers. Open year-round is a plus.
Gas prices at dock rather high. Speeding cars in campgrounds too fast. Clean restrooms and plenty of supplies. 5 MPH zone out of houseboats too long. Fees for campgrounds reasonable. Campgrounds are clean.
Checking the campsites early in the morning on a noisy vehicle was aggravating. You need more group campsites. Why do we need to leave the area so early Sunday when no one else is coming in?
Boat driving lessons, schooling etc. and licensing (revenue builder).
More accurate mapping.
Stayed@ loafer creek. All facilities are modern & very nice. Ramp & other facilities are outstanding. Nice place! Marina cables holding docks are not marked well enough. Path from launch to lake is not clear because of houseboat mooring.
Nice place to camp and boat.
Beautiful and comfortable campground.
We stayed in Manzanita Group camp. Restroom facilities were excellent. Rangers were helpful. The overall experience was good.
I love loafer creek campground and all the day use areas.
I love this campsite and the area. Need payphone's at all bathrooms so we don't have to go so far.
I can't wait to come back! The quality of the trails were exceptional. More water in the lake please!
Loafer Creek was great! Clean bathrooms, nice showers (free!), laundry facility, trash cans and recycle bins close by, water spigot close, clean area, convenient! We'll be back! We're also going to try out Bidwell Canyon.
Camp site #3 water smells like sewage. I wonder how good water is? If the water goes through filtration system, water has smell. Wooden benches, or concrete under all park benches-fix all slip & fall hazards, disabled campsites should be uniform.
Great place, loved it. 1. A walking trail to lake or river - from Loafer campground - would be nice-useful. 2. Lower the grill in fire pit so we can cook. Thanks.
This campground would greatly benefit by having some swimming and bathing facilities such as a swimming pool.
Our boat broke down at home so we couldn't bring it. Activities for non-boaters were not open (picnic/beach water access at Loafer Creek). Could use more facilities and access to the water at the lake for non-boaters.
We have had a very enjoyable trip (5 of us ranging in age from 4 to 52). Plenty for all to do. Friday night campfire lecture was great. More tables to shaded areas, if possible. Day programs for kids during your peak weekdays in summer.
Put cement under all tables, not just handicapped.
Better access to water from campground, other than by boat. Stop sending water to Los Angeles. Campground was not very busy. No waiting to launch boat. All facilities clean and well kept.
The parking lot at Loafer Creek launch ramp and the ramp itself need serious improvements. There is too much traffic to have so few parking spaces. Otherwise, we love coming here. Close to home and clean.
More concrete at campsite for stove's and cooler storage.
Yes! We gladly comments you that you need more showers and bathroom. More tables for campsites. A swimming pool area on your picnic.

Table J-14. Loafer Creek Campground & Group Campground visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

We think that there is a need for more restrooms and showers close to campsites.
More availability of jet ski rentals, campsites closer to water, change machine, bathrooms need trash cans, more bathroom tissues stocked in RRs.
Trashcans and water faucets at each campsite. Bathrooms should be assigned for women and men only. Directions to campsites should be clearer from the highways. Water more accessible for swimming.
More bathrooms. Pay your researchers triple-time for working on a holiday. Don't require them to work on a holiday.
More shower stalls at the Loafer Creek SRA campground.
Need beach for children.
Make a rec hall, have a quiet side and a noisy side. We came for vacation and to stay up late. We would like to have a good time and not have to worry about being too loud or have a curfew. Thanks.
You need more phones in camp grounds. If you need to call the Ranger or 911.
Better access to lake for swimming. Access to restroom - not through other camps. General Store near Marina.
I would like to see a little more development in and around the shores on the beautiful lake.
You need better access to swimming area. All 3 of us are disabled and can't walk very far. We didn't get to swim. Was very disappointed.
I do think you need another shower room, and the police need to be nicer -- we didn't come here to have problems. Other then that everyone was great so very nice, we will be back soon. Thanks so much.
Need hook-ups for RV at Loafer Creek, need an all year-round boat ramp at Loafer Creek.
To have a truly color blind society, we need to stop asking Q4b. Some accessible waterside campsites where one could keep boat moored would be great. Reservations should be able to be made via phone.
It would be nice if there were more trees in the camp sites.
I would like to see more bathroom/shower facilities throughout the campground. Extend the boat ramp at Loafer Creek so it would be utilized throughout the summer month, instead of closing 1/2 way through July.
Low water levels at ramps are tough to launch/retrieve. Please widen at lower levels of ramp.
The lower lake level seems to impact the fishing and makes ramp availability difficult and inconvenient.
I don't know what all the reasons are for having the lake as low as it is, but that walk up the boat launch at Loafer Creek is a killer! That would be a big reason why we would not come back.
Put more water in the lake. The ramp is to long. The people that work at Loafer Creek are wonderful.
We love this lake. Don't let the water get so low. Last year only 1 ramp open after July.
Need more water in the lake to swim.
Couldn't even get to water. Water is way too low for any swimming or water fun. Won't come back until water is much higher. Showers and bathrooms are extremely clean and well kept-Thank you!
Lake needs more water and you should be able to ride safely a go-cart around campsite. Would return more often and more firewood.
Water level too low. Very disappointed that there was no swimming at Loafer Creek. Need water play area for the kids. Motorhomes running generators before 10 am. Woke everyone up.

Table J-14. Loafer Creek Campground & Group Campground visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

Where is the water?
You need more water in your lake because it takes too long to get to the water.
Oroville needs to be fuller longer through the summer. Low water levels prohibit us from enjoying all Oroville has to offer, the falls, rock jumping, rapids, etc. However, we still like coming up here just more so when the water level is higher.
Would like to see more water throughout the summer months.
Disappointed that the water level was so low.
Widen Bidwell and Lime Saddle/ramps. Raise water.
1. More Water! 2. Camp check at 6am is very disruptive!
The fact that the water level was so low, should have been pointed out when arriving or when reserving. Food cabinets would be nice. The free showers were great.
Need more water in lake. Need more marinas, more floating campsites, more boat-in campsites, more shower stalls, irrigation, more sandy beaches instead of mud.
Why is so much water released? When water level is so low, shuttle services to top of ramp could be greatly appreciated even if costs is involved. Also, would speed up launch time. Why not provide a floating campsite like sites for day use at a nominal fee? State Park reservation svc. Continuously states no floating campsite availability. However, notice that these sites are NOT in use consistently. We'd rent those frequently IF state reservation system was accurate.
The lake was much lower this year then usual. There need to be more campsites.
Need more water in the lake.
Water was way too low. Boat ramp closed. Very long walk to swim or fish, especially with children.
We love coming to Lake Oroville, especially when the lake has more water in it. Over the past few years, the lake level has been quite low although I realize that all California lakes are experiencing the same challenge.
Our water should not be sent down south, or sold to Mexico. The State of California is killing our environment, and wildlife, due to low or no water levels.
Lake is too low, too crowded, and the 5 mph zone in the main basin is too large. It took us 20 minutes to just keep past the 5 mph zone. What a fat waste of time. We will not return again. The boat we rented was not as advertised, had broken seats, broken running boards, broken ski ropes and handles, and off-brand ski boat!
The lake was way down. There was no where for us to sit while the others were out in the boat.
The very windy conditions may have some bearing on some of the answers to these questions.
This survey is too personal. Ask less questions next time. Not everybody going to sit around and fill this out.
We prefer higher elevation mountain lakes.
Being this is our first trip here I couldn't answer the questions very well. We haven't even took our boat to the lake yet.
Have a nice day!
I like to swim or camp near water areas within walking distance with my dog. Like to quietly float in the water. I like to collect rocks or also look at nature/animals mostly.

Table J-14. Loafer Creek Campground & Group Campground visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

Quiet hours need to be better enforced at night at campsites. With more areas for kayakers we'd be here more often. All the rangers are very friendly!

Table J-15. Loafer Creek Equestrian Campground visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

Please don't close this place, it's wonderful. The campsite is a little crowded, but a great place to come.
Nice place!
Really enjoyed our stay. Ground well taken care of. Restrooms clean, good showers. We have long horse trailer with sleeping quarters and found it hard to park out of the way of others and finding a level spot. It was also very nice to be able to use pens for horses as we had a total of 14 horses.
We appreciate the high level quality of care given to maintain the facilities and the trails.
Our club would like to say "Thank You." We really had a good time. Everything was so nice and clean at the Loafer Creek Campground, the round pen came in handy and the pipe panels were great. We would like to see more pull in campsites for the newer big rigs, this is the nicest camp we've stayed at by far. Thanks NCFHA.
While I have never had any trouble with bikers. However we see trails like Dan Beebe being a danger to both because of the windy trails and quiet bikes coming around corners and down hills. We should have horses only trails.
Great site for horse enthusiasts. Wonderful people sharing the same love of horses, relaxation and information. One thing that I feel would be nice to have is power hookups for our living quarters and trailers.
Loafer Creek equestrian camp is a really good camp for our family. The trails need more water tanks for our horses. Launch ramp etiquette.
Well maintained trails and facilities. Friendly park staff. Horse camp needs rig parking better defined. Trail signs do not always point in a clear direction at junctions. Signs designating off-trail horse water would be helpful. Need updated materials to indicate odd/even days for bike riding vs. horse use only. Would be helpful to note quarter needed for shower use. Should advertise your equestrian facility in various "horse camping" books. Link (meta tag) Oroville Park on website using "Horse Camping." More people should know about this wonderful facility. Thank you for keeping this area so horse friendly Very nice to have an RV dumping station. PS: Where did you purchase your cement picnic tables? They're great!
Greatest horse camp ever been to.
The campground is much nicer w/ more corrals. I'm not too excited or pleased w/ the bikers.
This is a beautiful area to ride. I enjoy it so very much! The camping area for horses is wonderful. Thank you for providing and maintaining these trails.
The horse trails are in good shape.
We have been coming to Loafer Creek Horse Camp annually for a few years and in 2002, the camp and trails were the best ever! Improvements to the campground (pipe corrals, free showers) and to the trails (wider, smoother, safer) was money well-spent! Equestrians from the whole state should envy what Lake Oroville offers. We live near Folsom Lake and as many equestrians as there are in the area, there are no comparable facilities for overnight camping. Thanks! Skillman Flat is another great equestrian camp (near Nevada City) but it has no showers/pit toilets.

Table J-15. Loafer Creek Equestrian Campground visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

Great job on Equestrian Camp at Loafer Creek, thank you.
The Loafer Creek horse camp is wonderful. The group or person that designed it had every detail covered. I was very amazed with the condition and cleanliness of the camp area. I look forward to visiting again soon, before it gets too hot.
Really enjoyed the campsite. Hope they will build more equestrian camping (good job).
Thrilled to hear additional trails going in near the dam. Would encourage additional water sources/tanks/troughs for horses when streams aren't running.
Put pens in all horse camp sites. The ties with rails on posts are too dangerous. Water faucets at each site. Shower drains are always dirty.
More equestrian trails, great start here.
Need more water crossing or a way down to the lake on the Loafer Creek side!
Need more access for children on lake edge-day use area is awful! No beach very steep bank & hike to get to water's edge- not safe for kids. Lake is always too low in summer for people with out boats to enjoy lake. Better parking in horse camp for cars and trailers.
Would like to see additional horse camping site around the lake.
Although the horse camp set-up for horses is the best I have encountered, the actual camp sites are not real suitable for the larger horse trailers with sleeping quarters.
Better pull through for camping with goose neck horse trailers at the horse camp.

Table J-16. Loafer Creek DUA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments .

We all had a great time and we all got plenty of exercise.
This is a great place.
We love it here!
The lake and the surrounding areas of this lake are kept up. Mostly people do respect each other. However, for the fishing aspect. Trout and other fish do need to be stocked sort of like Collin's Lakes. Need outhouses along the bank for fisherman. Like near Stringtown.
Mow the beach area.
The grass needs to be mowed
Keep grass mowed & increase beach length with more sand.
Love the horse facilities!
Need trail down to water.
Haven't really had the chance to explore recreation area yet but plan to us the experience has been pleasant so far. No maps of the area or camping regulations were given (i.e. no warning if fire ban was on or off.)
To create a more beach atmosphere, some sand would be rather pleasant. The bathrooms were very clean & they didn't smell. The grass was a bit long. Overall, it was a pleasant experience.
More parking at Bidwell Bar for the Marina area.
I love the Lake Oroville Area. I think there should be more places to go to enjoy the lake.

Table J-16. Loafer Creek DUA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

Ways to get closer to the lake if you have children. Maybe to be able to drive to the water from Loafer Creek.
Print maps of specific trails in detail.
When the water is low, we should have better access.
Keep the lake full. More accessibility to lake. More resort type areas for camping and picnicking. More activities around lake.
Keep the water in the lake.
Need more water to better enjoy the facilities. We have been here before when the water was up and a lot more people were here.
Leave the water in the lake.

Table J-17. Spillway BR/DUA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

Great lake. I like that there are few waverunners.
Great today.
We enjoy it here very much and plan to continue coming here in the future - yearly.
Thanks.
I very much enjoyed the scenery, the people encountered, the weather, and overall the trip was very enjoyable.
Good to see the lake level coming up.
Lake Oroville is one of my favorite fishing, swimming, and hiking places. Lake Oroville is clean, healthy, and safe to have fun at. I haven't seen no dangerous boat riding so far I've been here. Lake Oroville is the best.
It was fun!
Great Lake!!
We had a great time!
Nice to see a full lake.
Beautiful clean park.
We are very happy with the facilities as is. Please don't do anything that will result in higher use fees.
Recovery at Lake Oroville on a Saturday or Sunday is risky -- too many boaters and no one's willing to wait their turn.
More fish habitat improvements. Maintain water levels.
Do not like well in lake due to water level dropping so much, they don't spawn well in lakes of this type.
For some reason people are tying sticks to the mouths of slot sized bass. There is little or no enforcement of the slot limit. People routinely violate 5mph zone. People think you can wakeboard in the no ski area because it is not "skiing."
Butte County Water District: Thanks for stocking the lake and surrounding ponds. Loafer Creek CG too far from water for kids and families. It’s ridiculous to make people hike from water. Enjoy cleaned bathrooms!
Nice clean water, wish we came earlier in the summer to experience higher water levels. Well maintained and organized camp grounds. Why can't we use our skateboard! Cheerful attendants.
Just that I feel the lake is nicely taken care of and is under great improvement.

Table J-17. Spillway BR/DUA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

This lake is excellent and glad to see the added security. Maybe a little more support of people with mechanical boat trouble in the future would be nice, just for the people's well being. Overall things are very good!
It is too hard to reserve the floating campsite. Reserve America is somewhat inept.
Early summer debris in lake.
You did a great job on the Spillway - need to repaint the lines. Need to be 20' longer I have a motorhome with a boat trailer. (motorhome 36' - trailer 22')
The driftwood needs to be removed from the lake--it is hard for the boats to see the driftwood.
More debris removed from water, please. More low water access. Planting of more trout and salmon.
The (non-flush) toilets could be better maintained.
Place signs at launch to keep children/people from swimming at launch and in the way of boats and vehicles. Some people are just clueless and rude!
Parking fee unnecessary. Please leave more water in the lake!
There were a lot of wooden sticks/branches in the lake. You have to drive carefully to avoid them. They are dangerous because the hull and prop. Someone should clean them up. (i.e. , weekly collection on large sticks)
Control & limit jet ski usage & areas.
Lots of debris on lake.
Increased enforcement of the no ski/5mph areas of the lake, especially during boating season. The reasons are obvious. These buoys also sometimes placed too far out and close off large areas. The placement years ago were more reasonable for all boaters.
Water is clean for kids to swim.
We enjoyed the new bathrooms at Loafer Creek. We miss the campfires put on by the Park Rangers. We love the Lake Oroville Area and the community surrounding it.
Glad to see improvements at Spillway area parking. Very upset with our water being sold to lakes in So Cal!
We have marvelous facilities in the Lake Oroville area. The Oroville Dam Spillway launch ramp upper parking lot has been reconstructed. It will be really great when finished.
I fish the lake 75 to 100 times a year, and I fish other northern California lakes. I feel the launching facilities and landscaping of the spillway boat ramp are far superior to any other that I have used…finally! However, I would like to see some changes directed for the early morning fisherman: all bathrooms open (now 2 open out of 6, it's not enough especially on weekends), lighting around bathrooms. Thank you! I speak for a lot of fisherman in this area.
The new improvements at the Spillway Ramp are excellent.
Hope parking lot is done soon. Because it's needed.
The time to build the full size multi-purpose dam in Auburn is now!
I would like to see more development along the lake itself. Example - a beach area restaurant overlooking the lake. Camping on the lake. More parking for cars and boats.
I preferred the old gravel parking lot at the Spillway Launch Top parking area to the new big black top one. Have you ever walked bear foot on black top on a 100 degree day? Foot damage for sure. How about some trees in the middle and painted white walkways? I have come here for 15 years and I've never seen the top lot totally full. Put in some shade trees!

Table J-17. Spillway BR/DUA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

All trails should be multi-use. I attend the public meetings. I approve of State Park multi-use plan! Please add more multi-use trails around the lake.
Need to improve docks. Many times we have asked them to please have them fixed and nothing's been done. Rubber on the end is torn off the dock.
Need to improve the camping facilities similar to Lake Tahoe.
My main concern is having quality launching facilities when the lake level is below 750 feet. The current launching facilities where the water gets below these levels are very inadequate. For example, the parking facilities at Bidwell are a "dust bowl."
More water in reservoir. Beautiful.
Slow water releases until ample rainfall has occurred. Snow melt will affect the lake longer during the summer. Also, allow a reduced fee for local residents of the area for use of facilities.
Stop releasing so much water.
It is too low - should be higher and more ramps.
More water, more services to store on lake. Another marina boat in campground - park boat.
We'll come next time earlier in the year when the water is higher.
Don't let all the water out before end of summer or holiday, hassle to have to launch at different campsite. Can't see waterfalls on 4th of July. That's disappointing.
Keep the water in.
The lake needs to be more stable as to water level during summer months.
Keep as much water as possible in the lake! Having the water level drop below the use facilities is a crime! Especially using bulldozed 4 wheel drive trails to launch.
Leave the water level up as much as possible.
It is a shame that they take so much water out of Lake Oroville! Lime Saddle campground would be great if the water was up. We go to other lakes starting in July because of water level.
No, except don't send our lake water to LA area! The lake went down 20 feet or more in less than a week. This is very upsetting and discouraging!
Quit giving lake water away to LA. It's a shame our beautiful lake is so low every year.
We love Lake Oroville! Please keep Butte Co. water in Butte Co. In 2001, the only ramp we could use was Spillway. Late in the season, we could not use the lake at all.
It would seem that there are many other sources which could contribute to the states water needs. Many other lakes could contribute based on population ratios.
Keep our water up in the northern state. Screw southern California. Let them lose their golf courses. We need a mostly full lake 'till October (at most, 100 feet down).
I want water intake to be coordinated with water release to Southern California. Only release water if dam is full. Don't release the same amount or percentage if the lake is only half full. We want to enjoy the lake throughout the summer. A lower ramp is needed than the two available if water is going to be released.
Give us back our damn water!

Table J-17. Spillway BR/DUA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

Not to LA!
Leave the water in the lake. LA can get their own.
Don't let LA take our water all in one year.
Letting the lake level get too low so we can't launch our boat after Labor Day. Moving the bathroom to one end of the lake was not very good. Last year, we boated until the end of September with the lake level ok. It would be nice to have more floating campgrounds and developed sites along the shore.
Please raise the level.
More water!!!
We need more water.
There are 2 topics I stress on. 1. Lake levels - the lake is dropped much too fast. It can easily drop 100 ft in 3 months. Also the debris in the spring is terrible and dangerous. Boat ramps are full of debris early in the mornings. Boat docks under water early in morning in the spring when lake is on the rise. Have to wade thru water to get on dock. 2. Fall and winter we don't have enough ramps. They all come out of water except Bidwell. Then the ramp gets very busy. Road to Bidwell [ramp] in winter is muddy and in poor shape. It seems accommodating those who use the lake for recreation throughout the year is of little interest.
Despite the uncontrollable fact that the lake is extremely low, we really enjoy this lake.
Let the lake fill up.
We will probably not use Oroville after August due to low lake levels.
Please don't let PG&E run this place.

Table J-18. Oroville Dam/Overlook DUA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

It was great!
Nice place to ride and live.
Love living in Oroville.
We love the lake and it was more full.
We live in the community and enjoy walking the dam year round. Cars travel much too fast at times!
Young lady was very well informed and extremely nice.
Keep up the good work making Lake Oroville a pleasure to visit and live close to.
3 years ago I had my car stolen at the Dam in March. Just walked over and back and it was taken. Today I'm concerned about 7 gentlemen that are of Eastern descent surveying the area in BMW. The water is being shipped out too drastically. Please leave water for local recreation use.
Open the dam to parking!
Our lake is not being used as the State promised upon completion of the dam. A severe disappointment for locals.
Get rid of DWR. Maybe then Lake Oroville would become a great place to go. Turn it over to the Indians – at least it would get developed.

Table J-18. Oroville Dam/Overlook DUA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

I live in Oroville and primarily use the top of the dam for walking and exercising. I'm glad to see there is no longer parking on top of the dam. It's less congested and safer for pedestrians. I would like to see the top of the dam be patrolled by law.
We enjoy the many new amenities and improvements around the Lake Oroville complex. We may not use all of them personally, however, it improves the local economy. Keep up the good work. Many of us appreciate the work you have done and continue to do.
We're very happy with all the improvements.
The recent multi-use trail openings are excellent. The new trail development in the Potter's Ravine area will also be a great addition.
I love the walking and hiking areas around Lake Oroville. My dog loves them too. I've been walking the trails almost daily for two years and have had no negative experiences. Everyone I meet on the trails, including bike and horse riders, are all very courteous and respectful.
Need more bathrooms, benches, shade, water fountains more info about the dam.
I think we should have more swim areas sectioned off at dam.
Suggest camper hook-ups or clean-up station so they can make some money and the "new parking lot" at the ramp.
Need covers over picnic tables on spillways. Need garbage cans.
We need more camp grounds near the water. We also would like to see a flushable bathroom on other side of damn.
Need more visitor signs to lake.
I like this area that's why I live here, there needs to be more attractions and upgrades to the Oroville dam area.
In the area across the dam where there is a parking lot, I believe that restrooms, drink fountain, and trash cans are a necessity and should be added. Also, more access to the lake for swimming should be looked into.
Add trees, benches for sitting, restroom. Trash cans here, here on the dam.
I love Lake Oroville and enjoy walking the dam. I would love to see it more "recreationally" developed to attract more tourists.
Emergency phone system on Dam
More information about bike trails. Should be in close proximity to the public. Also need signs posted at the trail entry/exit.
I would sure like to see all of the ramps extended (and add additional lanes to Lime Saddle & Bidwell) while the water level is down. I would also like to see some parking enforcement. It seems that no one obeys the 15 minute parking limits on the ramps. They use them as a personal parking spot for hours at a time so they don't have to walk to the parking lot.
The level of lake prevents more water sport activities near the end of summer. You have to park too far from the launch point – the boat ramps are poor when the lake is low and not worth the effort.
Water level was a little low, but it was warm when I got in the warm spot.
Get more Water! I really appreciate the paved parking for camping – all of the great clean restrooms, wash stations and friendly "persons" working here!
Let's keep the water in the lake it's more fun this way.
I wish they would keep the water level in Lake Oroville a lot higher! They should Dam up the cove where Loafer Creek is and keep fresh water pumped into a year-round swimming area for locals and people camping there.
Fill up the lake. Keep housing and private use away. Open more public recreation. Keep visitor center open.
The area is wonderful but we need to keep some water available for swimming. Loafer Creek is an awesome resource with no water availability.

Table J-18. Oroville Dam/Overlook DUA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

Stop the water to LA.
The low level of water at the lake is very inconvenient, and at times dangerous. I like to go swimming at the dam, but the water level is so low that it makes it difficult to take the steep trek down to the water. If something were to happen while down there – help wouldn't be as fast as when the lake is at its normal level, because the water is so far.
I rode bike only.
No, it is great up here.

Table J-19. Lake Oroville Visitors Center visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

Just keep those trails open to all! The horseback riders we encountered were courteous and polite. We went out of our way to be friendly and accommodating and create good will.
Having the trails multi-use is OK so far. Bicyclists can scare horses, but so far have been courteous. Please continue to emphasize to bikes that they need to announce to equestrians that they are approaching them on the same trail. And they need to stop or pass slowly when encountering horses.
We enjoy the lake if they would leave the water level up. So many of our family and friends could use it. We enjoy the lake very much. Please help keep it full.

Table J-20. Bidwell Canyon BR visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

We come up here almost every year during the 4th of July week. We have never had problems. We enjoy this place very much.
We love Oroville Lake.
Love Lake Oroville.
I like Lake Oroville.
We thoroughly enjoyed lake and amenities. We look forward to owning a houseboat and possibly docking here.
It was a relaxful trip. I will tell my friends.
We love the lake, but the water is low today! Everyone should enjoy this place.
Great experience.
We love coming up to the Lake. It has a lot of memories for our family.
I love the lake, just wish there were more boat slips available, and at a more affordable price.
Lake Oroville is a great place for fishing, boating, and spend time with your family. The staff there is friendly and helpful and the price is affordable. The fishing is great and by waving the slot limit on bass for tournaments it's a great place for getting together with friends and have a bass fishing tournaments.
Love the lake!!
Did not appreciate a ticket on Bidwell ramp, which I have parked on 100's of times.
Windy.

Table J-20. Bidwell Canyon BR visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

Skiers need to obey the buoy markers!
Too many people during summer month – we don't come up on Holidays. During the large fishing tournaments there are many rude fisherman on the lake – they will crowd you out of an area if they can.
Bass fishing is excellent maybe too many tournaments, I like no development on shoreline, I think they send too much water south in the summer and water gets too low. I like floating campsites and boat in.
Fishing has been sucking lately!! Fix it!!
Great fishery. Excellent place to bring family for lake pleasure. Drift wood on ramps in winter often times makes it difficult to launch and take out.
Too many areas are marked no ski zones.
1. Additional security is needed for parking lot areas for overnight parking. 2. More clearly mark obstacles, such as low cables, 3. Don't let out so much water.
Separate the tent campers from the RV's. It's too noisy at night in a tent when you have an RV next to you running their generator.
Please be consistent with tickets and parking too much recycle stuff!!! This county needs to wake up and recycle always!!
Great boating experience. Single auto's (no trailers attached) should not be allowed to park in spaces large enough for vehicles with trailers to park in.
Please get rid of driftwood on lake. Has been a constant problem. Stop pointing fingers between agencies and do something . . . We've been here for 15 years. We don't come here for that reason in early season April/May. We feel you need to let out less water.
Boater education on safety! Etiquette is a must.
Enjoyable lake, Beginning of summer, when water level is up there tends to be a lot of debris in the water. Extend Loafer Creek launch ramp.
Your camp host [expletive]! You go camping to enjoy and have a good time, how can you when there's a host up your [expletive] all day?! Oh yeah, why can't we park on the dirt, it's just dirt!
Fine people who tie up to the launch ramp. It's for loading and unload boats only.
Get rid of the buoys along the dam – they won't stop a terrorist anyway. Rangers seem to be overly enthusiastic about giving tickets – even when "violators" are not at fault.
Season rates too high.
Don't charge us to launch boats! I feel we pay taxes to several Depts. To maintain this place!
Please adjust times of check-in for floating campsites making it easy to check-in at about 1:00 or 2:00 pm. 4:00 pm is too late!
Better patrol of launch ramp. Enforcement of 20 minutes to tie up. No houseboat tie up on dock.
Supervision or traffic control during peak times on boat ramps.
Have P.D. patrol parking area.
At South fork, we have to pay a $2.00 fee even if you are just picking up passengers. I feel this is not appropriate. Also, other launches don't charge for parking at all.
Don't care much for increase in fees, I used to have yearly pass for launch and parking, now thinking of spending more time at other waters (Clear Lake or Delta). Could be better handling of dock with rising and lowering lake levels. Need more enforcement of speed at no wake zones.

Table J-20. Bidwell Canyon BR visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

The Parks & Rec "Enforcement" Officers need some serious public relations training. They seem to be the most unfriendly bunch I have met. We are not the enemy!
More floating campgrounds.
No swimming area?
I wish I knew where to swim.
Need bigger camp site in RV area.
1. Need one more dock at Bidwell launching area, 2. Let up booms to hold and catch debris. Debris is BAD!
More ramps.
Expand and widen ramps.
Shuttle service from water to parking lot.
Need shuttle for parking areas too far from water.
When will you comply with the ADA?
Need to get a golf cart or something to take people to their vehicles so they don't have to walk up or down the boat ramp.
I think you need easier parking for injured and handicapped boaters. I also think you need to stock some Florida strain bass the spots are getting smaller and skinnier. Maybe stocking some sort of bait fish. Talk to some biologist to find out what would biologist to find out what would be the best choices. How about a couple of large public docks up the rivers "leave the homeowners on Kelly Ridge alone."
It would be wonderful to have even more horse trails!
The lake is underused on weekdays and very crowded on weekends and Holidays (May – Sept.) In my opinion, the existing facilities should be improved. Additional facilities DO NOT need to be added. More people will not use the lake on weekdays and weekends will become more dangerous to all users.
If they're going to keep the water this low, more launch ramps are needed (Please).
At low water paved parking at the launch ramps would be appreciated. Wider launching ramps at low water levels. Low water charts/maps of lake for purchase would be helpful.
I'm tired of water going to LA and ruining our recreation. Should be a way to meter water LA so they don't abuse.
Don't let so much water out of lake. Have people controlling launch for inexperienced boaters.
Disappointed in water going south to LA.
Needs more water. Don't drain the lake so much.
The lake should be higher. They should have someone helping expedite launching faster.
More water, more water.
I feel you need more covered births. We are taking out our boat because they promised us a covered birth and did not give us one. Water level.
Stop letting the water out. I enjoy the lake.
Quit letting the water out!! Do something to improve the launch ramp. Quit selling the water to down south!!
I don' t like the water when it is as low as it is today 8/18/02.

Table J-20. Bidwell Canyon BR visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

The most important issue to us is to maintain adequate water reserves at this site. The water levels most recently have been detrimental to this lake. We would prefer that the water be kept in Northern California for agricultural/recreational use. A secondary concern is for security at Oroville overnight parking area. We would not be opposed to increased gate (use) fees to accomplish this. We feel all persons operating a marine vessel should be required to have a boating safety/courtesy course & special license.
Need to keep lake level up above 100 during summer.
Water level keeps dropping weekly at end of summer, there is hardly any water left, consequently looking for different boat ramps.
Due to water level and subsequent houseboat crowding, it is difficult to get the houseboat to the Marina.
Please add more water.
Quit dropping the water! S. Cal doesn't need that much!
I don't feel this much water should be let out of this lake.
Please keep the lake level up!!!
It would be nice if the water levels didn't drop so much daily. I know there area high water demands, but the level never got within 85 feet of capacity this year because of releases.
What is the deal? I'm sure Hemit Reservoir is full with our water! Quit sending it down to other reservoirs and leaving ours dry. Shame, shame!
It would be nice to have more water in Fall months, Sept – Oct.
Need to stop giving away our water.
This is a recreational lake for the residents of Northern California, NOT a water storage for the residents of LA and Southern Cal.
Where is water going?
I think the lake would benefit from stable water levels. The new family facility at Spillway is great.
We are very disappointed in the dramatic drop of lake level each summer making less of the lake useable and detracting from its scenic beauty. It also creates a great many hazards for boaters.
Lake level is too erratic never stable during the summer months.
Don't let out so much water. Keep the water and lake high.
Save some water during the summer.
We love the lake. Please keep the water at Bidwell. Do not go below the elevation on 8/19/02.
Water levels are decreasing too much. Water levels are affecting marina and boat locations, when they are too close to shore, making boats accessible to thieves.
I feel the water of Lake Oroville is being mismanaged. The level is getting low enough to there it is in jeopardy of not being used for recreation due to launching facilities. I believe at the time we were there only Bidwell Launch was open. I know the lakes purpose is to provide water but there should be some kind of better balance.
Please let the lake fill and remain at higher levels at the beginning of the summer and don't let it get so low in Aug./Sept. as it is this year and last year. The marinas are not equipped to deal with low levels and such rapidly changing lake levels. The configurations the marinas have to move to docks in puts the boats moored there at risk for being damaged.

Table J-20. Bidwell Canyon BR visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

Concerns with water level – EXTREMELY low!! We've been told we may not be able to pull our houseboat out of the water for repairs due to water level! Also, dangerous to try to maneuver houseboat with boats so close together! We are VERY, VERY disappointed & concerned about our houseboat, lack of water & lack of adequate parking.
The lake level at Oroville is of great concern to us. We also would like to see a better run marina with more services for boat owners, such as repair services. We would like to see more attractive surroundings. When the lake is low the marina is a miserable dust bowl. Our friends from out of the area don't want to join us at Oroville due to the conditions and ramps, esp. late in the season. The excessive release of water is our primary concern.
We moved here from the Bay Area specifically for the reason of being able to fish/boat on Lake Oroville. Last year when you let the water level recede to the point that it was impossible to launch a boat was really discouraging. Please keep the water level at a minimum of 700' so that all of us boaters can continue to use the lake.
This lake is so much more enjoyable when it's full. I wish they would stop letting all the water out.
I hate seeing the lake level so low.
Please keep the water level up through August; or at least extend the Enterprise launch ramp so the people on the South Fork can utilize it. Right now it is useless after May. I am very disappointed at the fact that the water is let out so much right after Memorial Day. We use to be able to use Enterprise ramp thru July in 1997-1998 – For some reason "water resources" winds the need to sell off our water to whoever the highest bidder is; at least this is what I'm hearing. Please set me straight on this by calling or writing me.
Water level moves too much. In mid to late summer the lake level can change as much as a foot a day. I do understand our water goes south. Let's try and keep it in the north. Plus at one time I held the record for the largest bass so yes I do think it's a good fishery. Its' just my catches go from 12.5 lbs to 3.5 it jumps not enough bigger bass fish.
The lake is only user friendly when it is full. They sell off the water and you can't use most of the ramps, swimming area (1 swimming beach). This lake is a gold mine they need to run some #rs. There is a good thing for Oroville, that is the lake. Someone is holding this town from capitalizing from it.
I like to fish Oroville lake in the early spring.
We were there during the week.

Table J-21. Bidwell Canyon Campground visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

Enjoy the area!
We love Lake Oroville and looking seriously into moving up here.
Nice place to visit.
We enjoy all the state parks and this is our semi annual schedule.
1. Had an incident with camp counselor as he did not identify himself when he approached our group to ask us to turn down our music. He was rude to our group and then had the ranger talk to us about it and fabricated the story. Needless to say the trip didn't start well, but did end well. 2. More restrooms and showers in the camp area are needed. One just isn't enough.
Too many homeless people & those asking for money.

Table J-21. Bidwell Canyon Campground visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

Lovely Park- well taken care of. Problems with 800 number - they said several times it was full when park was empty. No-one quite sure what's going on.
The way you handle the check-in procedure at the campground is inefficient and confusing. The idea of picking sights and reporting back is a waste of time. If the space is empty -- it's empty. Find a way of marking who is in which space. Please make clear the "hot" water policy in showers!
The shower hot water did not work-very disappointing. Also we were in a group of five families and they did not put us together as we requested. Overall we had a great time.
No paper towels in the bathroom, more than one toilet would be nice, no BBQs at the campground!
Recommend that a rule be made that campsites can only be rented for people staying in them and not extra sites be rented to store their boats and cars. Park bathroom maintenance has gone downhill this past year. More and or longer launch ramps need to be constructed. This past year at one time there was only one launch ramp usable for this entire lake area.
Park enforcement is too strict. Pads are too narrow. Need more showers + no charge.
It would be nice to have the campsite #'s. We were given at 1st- Trailer area everything else great.
Stricter enforcement of animals being kept leashed and in own campsite. Otherwise, we have had a great experience and plan to come back!
The Cal. Dept. of Resources is failing to take immediate action to meet future water demands for California. As an example, they have been studying the cottonwood creek for 15-17 years. Future reservoirs should be built within a short time after study is completed – not wait 20 or so years to do so – the state will not save any money by waiting.
Enjoyed the campgrounds, enjoyed the lake, enjoyed the visitor center.
We enjoy the camping facilities however there could be more recreational opportunities for children--pool, beach, basketball court, general, activity area.
Lake was slightly lower than normal. Water was smooth. Water was clean. Campsites were nice. Friendly environment.
The deer get into the food!!! That's our only concern. This is a nice campground.
I can't wait to ride my horse in the new Loafer Creek area and go horse camping.
Campsites clean and well maintained.
Bidwell Campgrounds sites and restrooms kept very clean and nice. Only complaint ladies shower had no hot water 2 days we were there. Not even warm, just cold.
You need a few more floating campsites. Also move the bathroom to upper level for the smell can get tough.
More visible signs in launch = uniformity.
Could use better launches.
Need a beach area for people without boats to drive or walk to. The bathrooms were a 10, the best I have seen in a while.
Need another bathroom and shower. One is not enough for all the campers in this area.
More trash containers in day use areas and Bidwell campground.
We believe a beach area with a roped swimming area is absolutely necessary. Not everyone can afford boats or watercraft.
Lack of swim areas at main lake is disappointing. Maybe due to low lake levels.

Table J-21. Bidwell Canyon Campground visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

No hot water for showers! Going on for over one week now! Bathrooms are not cleaned daily, not enough bathrooms or showers for campground use. One younger woman at check out/in station was very unfriendly and rude.
Pads are too narrow, shower & bathroom can be expanded possible recreation area for kids with swings, slides, etc.
Wonderful lake, do wish for more RV/Boat camp sites which are longer to accommodate 34-36' RV (+) Boat. Our extended family camps often with RV/Boat and we always look for areas with multiple sites/group accommodations, need more restrooms with showers, more trash cans.
1. Need more beach area. 2. Easy to get to. 3. Not too deep for children.
1. Need a parking space next to fish cleaning stations. Currently handicapped. 2. Need more trailer parking for campground users. Currently, people using houseboats park their CARS in this area. This makes campground users park at the campgrounds with boat trailer and walk back from launch area to get trailers. 3. We need a swimming beach at Bidwell.
More RV spaces with hookups and cable. More parking for boat trailers. No feeding the deer.
Bidwell Canyon could use upgrades on hook-ups, i.e. electrical boxes are old and sometimes fail. Cable would also be nice.
It would be nice to see a playground for the little ones
There is nothing here to camp for, only out of desperation. Not enough bathrooms or showers. Showers should be free at $16.00 a day. This is the least attractive campsite I have ever seen.
Campsites need to be leveled at Bidwell Canyon Campground. Water pressure is bad. 40 pounds standing but only 23 pounds when running. Loafer Creek Campground needs a lot of tree trimming.
Maybe in the future somebody could think of a way to transport people up the boat launch ramp because when it's over 100 degrees it's pretty tough to walk, even when you're healthy.
The campsites need to have more room for parking extra vehicles. There are too few sites for large RVs, plus a tow car.
Need to develop bank fishing access to areas when water level is low. Unless you are extremely active you can not get to lake to fish.
We arrived on May 31 and couldn't believe how low the water level was at this time of the year. I will not return this year again. We feel that our enjoyment factor for this facility is primarily predicated on the water level. Beautiful beach area w/ no water. Our children could not swim.
More water in Lake. In reference to question 45 (household income), I live with 30 others in a frat house.
Would like to see the lake stay at a better level, not being used for Southern California needs.
Yes. The water level needs to be higher. Bidwell needs more launch ramps. The park should have more things for kids to do. If the water level was higher, they could swim and raft. When levels are low, it is dangerous for them to reach the water. Also, there should be no charge for the showers.
The lake level was lower than I expected. Parking was too far away from the boat ramp. Hard to launch boat because of this.
Wish the lake was at a higher water level. Also, we're trying to rent a boat slip for the week and we're told that we can't do it ahead of time and no one was available to us when we arrived.
Stop sending the water south.
We would love to see the lake when the water is at a higher level.
Please keep the water in Oroville Dam here. Give more incentive for seniors traveling-advertise full hook ups.
The water is too low.
This survey was not broad enough. RVing concerns were limited.

Table J-21. Bidwell Canyon Campground visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

See Question 40.
We live in our motor home.
I am a tourist!

Table J-22. Saddle Dam TA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

Great place and good work on trails!
This area is great.
Love the area. Reneg on water contract to Southern Ca. Keep No. CA water in N. Calif.
Thanks for a great day!
Yes. I used to love to fish for trout in this lake, but since there are none planted now the fishing stinks (unless you're a bass fisherman).
I am very pleased about the trails being open to bikes.
Excellent maintained areas –trails, parking areas, restrooms. Workers very polite and helpful. Horse camp set-up one of the best.
Please keep trails in good condition. At present time don't believe bicycles represent large risk to equestrians.
Please keep up the horse trails and maybe add more. We really need equestrian support. Thanks!
I have been using the trails for 19 years. Thank-you for maintaining the trails, especially in the most recent years. The trails are getting very rocky which can injure the horses. I also noticed that the trails have become rutted from the winter rains.
The equestrian sport is rising at a MUCH faster rate than bicycling. The economic impact to the community is significant. For some reason, Parks and DWR have done everything possible to make all trails multi-use for bicycles, and equestrians come to this area because of the trails and not the threat of dealing with bicyclists. No one complained of future trails being multi-use. But equestrians have the right to have the 17.5 miles which was developed over 40 years ago remain for equestrians as it was designed. This enables older riders, inexperienced riders, young riders and young horses to use the trails without the threat of being approached by a bicyclist and frightening a horse and causing injury to either the rider or even the bicyclist. Since the trails were changed to multi-use recently – I hope it doesn't deter a lot of equestrians from coming to Oroville to use the trails. Equestrians come from all over the state to use these trails. On the same note, bicyclists also have a right to have a section that they can use only without worrying about coming up on horses. Some riders want to ride fast and should be able to in designated areas just for bikes.
I believe Frank, the Marina Manager is not putting enough money back into the marina. As a whole, we pay in excess of $2,000 a year to moor our boats at Bidwell. The parking is insufficient, the docks are poorly maintained, the service is incompetent and the mooring customer service [expletive]! They up our rates every year and cut back on service and maintenance. I believe Frank should be obligated to put a certain amount of money back into the marina or he should lose his contract.
I enjoy having a place to train myself and my horses, plus it is so close by that you can still have hours of fun after work. I live in Chico.
I do competitive trail/endurance riding on horses and the miles of trail here at Lake Oroville are priceless for training. I have NEVER had a bad experience with other users, including bicycles and am very happy to share the trails with everyone.
Just that I love the trails and they are very, very well taken care of. The horse camp is the best in Calif. I hope you keep the pavements of the trails. Bikes and horses don't do well together!

Table J-22. Saddle Dam TA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

The trails are beautiful, but horses and bicyclists do not mix. If both parties are courteous, the multiuse trails are fine for now – but when they become more frequently used – I would hate for the equestrians to lose out.
Open and build more bike and multi-use trails.
Keep up the good work. Do need garbage can and 1 more tie rack up on Sycamore Hill and it would be nice to have also at the Big Pond – at least a garbage can up on the road. So many hiker, biker and horse people have lunch there. Thank you.
Would like to see the trails expanded around the lake. Would like to see another marina or 2 with grocery/bait/docking.
Need more water in lake. Family here in area since 1850's.
I don't understand why you can't fill up the lake before you give all the water away.
Nice day.
Trail survey questions biased – questions asked is/are: RE: this visit only, yet boating #38 asks about boat launches used over 12 months. Trail question asks about conflict but does not ask if there were any CONTACTS!

Table J-23. Powerhouse Rd TA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

We love all the places that Lake Oroville has to offer. That's why we can't seem to leave town.
No fee is what makes Lake Oroville attractive to me. Benches would be nice just below the Spillway at the power plant area. This area is quite relaxing and just right for peace and tranquil writing or painting. I'm big on "thinking" time and this place is great!
For safety purposes, the pavement should have a painted crosswalk for equestrians, especially at the Spillway area and Canyon Drive.

Table J-24. Dan Beebe Trail access points visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

Feel that the exclusion of any user (biker vs. equestrian) is a mistake. Love the natural trails (0 pavement) - If mountain bikers desire to use the mountain type trails, we need to respect each other's safety. If mountain bikers "need speed" on narrow winding trails, then for the safety of equestrians and hikers perhaps should have their own trail (parallel to horse trails?) thank you for keeping these trails open for all of our enjoyment!
I would like to know why it says no dogs and every time I go there I come across some hikers with their dogs (would love to bring my dog riding) is there any kind of patrol? Or fines?
Keep up the good work! You have beautiful facilities and are a diamond in the rough. I wish we could keep it secret for a long time though! (just kidding) We love it here and hope to move into the area eventually.

Table J-25. Lakeland Blvd TA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

We have a very nice area out here. I'm a horseback rider, but I have no problem with bike riders. I think we should be able to share our trails.
I have been a hiker, horseback rider, and bicyclist for 30 years – So. California, Oregon, Arizona, and Colorado. The one most important thing I've learned is that you can't mix horses and bicycles. It seems to me that there are enough trails in this area that designated trails could be assigned separately. Even though I bike, as a hiker I don't appreciate them on a trail. Most bikers bike like me – fast and reckless! That's the whole point of it. It doesn't mix well with "slower" trail users.
Would like to have gate to the diversion pool opened.
Open all gates and let us ride dirt bikes here.
Trails are in good shape and always improving.
More swimming beaches without danger of broken glass or sharp and rusty metal objects. Thanks, flowers in bloom smell wonderful and I like all the wild roses.
It would be nice to have facilities for horse events of all kinds and many more miles of trails along and around the lake. An arena and stables would bring more groups here.
I would like to see a fairgrounds put in where rodeos, fairs, etc. could be held.
It would be nice to have the horse camp enlarged. And have another one just as wonderful on the other side of the lake. And to be able to ride all the way around the lake!!
Would like to see even more trails. Maybe a trail around the whole lake with another horse camp. Thank you!
The survey crew was very nice.

Table J-26. Feather River Fish Hatchery visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

Would like to see our water level In Lake Oroville stay high for summer. More areas to access lake and more campgrounds all over the lake. Would like to see more work at Nelson's Car Top launch. Not able to back down to water.
Good job, keep on going.
So educational to Midwesterners like us. Beautiful scenery too!
We really enjoy exploring this area. We are new to it and hope to enjoy more of the activities available. We are waiting impatiently for the fish ladder and hatchery to be operational.
Please release salmon fingerling after striper season.
The people (DWR) were very helpful Melanee Montero especially.
Thank you for keeping area clean and nature centers open for all to enjoy!
Let's all pick up some garbage. Too much litter in the area.
License are too high!
Where did the drinking fountain go?
Why is the water going down south and how come we can't keep the lake full?

Table J-26. Feather River Fish Hatchery visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

Need some water in Oroville! There are always logs and debris in the lake. Please stop sending the water to LA. The water looks to have too much algae in it. It looks green! The boat ramp is unusually low at Lime Saddle. That's why we're here at the Afterbay. Please stock lake with bigger fish. We love to fish!
We need to keep our water in N. Calif. Keep lake at a decent level instead of sending it south.
Gold please.
This body of water is a reservoir, not a lake. Its purpose is business/money, not recreation. Water level maintenance skews it.

Table J-27. Diversion Pool DUA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

I like the recreation part of Oroville. That's the only reason for moving here.
Horses and other bikers very courteous – especially horse folk, visitor center is awesome!
Keep planting fish, thanks!
Keep the trails good. I use them very often, at least 20 times a month.
Thanks for allowing trolling motors at the Diversion pool.
I'm curious as to why on the multi-use trails PEDESTRIANS have to yield to equestrians. This just doesn't make sense. Especially from an injury liability perspective.
Yes. There has been some talk about trying to shut down some, or all of the multi-use trails and make them available only to equestrians. I would like to see the trails remain multi-use. It allows the bike riders to use more than just one trail. Thank you.
Great recreational facilities! Would like even more trails and floating campsites.
This is one of the most beautiful and well maintained areas of trails in the north state. I regularly encourage other equestrians to use our trail system and I always receive positive feedback and they agree that our horse camp and trails are equal or better than the best anywhere.
We are happy to have discovered the mtn. bike trails in the area, and will continue to use them as long as they are open. One concern of mine are the crashed cars/car bodies along some of the trails, along with some of the people seen on the trails. Not an area I would suggest going alone.
Maps of the bike trails posted at entrances of corresponding areas. More tables for picnics in area 7.
Please develop more mtn. bike trails. The litter/trash is an eye sore. Posted trail signs and maps would be very helpful! Great experience overall.
I use the area all the time.

Table J-28. Equestrian L.O.V.E. ride (survey contacts made at staging area near Diversion Pool) participants On-Site Survey additional comments.

We enjoyed the geese and other waterfowl.
Bad bugs along river.
The trails are very well maintained. It is a pleasure to ride there and see the deer and turkeys and other wildlife. There is however one area with papers and trash near the road to the water tank close to Hwy 162.
A large portion of horse/bike trails could use rock removal and/or added soil or decomposed granite. Everyone was very nice and helpful.
Loafer Creek Horse Camp is the Absolute Best camp in California - The "Hilton" of Horse camps!! Love the well groomed and marked trails - Thank you!
The facilities for horses are awesome. We will definitely come back and take advantage of the great campground, and beautiful trails - and bring other friends.
Love the trails - - would like to see more of them. Horse camp is super good!

Table J-29. North Forebay BR/DUA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

I think that the lake and parks of Oroville are very important for the community. Great asset!
This park is a great park. Because you could see were you kids and its fun for everyone here.
I do not live in the state of California any longer, but this is a nice area to be when we visit.
I love this place, keep up all the good work. I would come here before I go anywhere else.
Wonderful experience.
Enjoy the versatility of recreation.
It's a beautiful place. We enjoyed picnicking – bathrooms were very clean. Green area was fabulous- no trash.
Please keep up the great work.
A very good place to have fun with the family.
A great spot for beginning kayaking.
Lake Oroville is a very good bird watching place.
This is a beautiful place to visit, but I think it should be brought to parents' attention that close supervision to their children is very important. The bigger kids tend to almost mall the smaller children. As every child has the right to play.
We're glad we were introduced to the area.
Great place!
Enjoyed the day!
We had a fantastic time and will definitely be back!
We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves with approximately 6,000 other people.
Really enjoyed myself.

Table J-29. North Forebay BR/DUA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

Butte County is a #10 for recreation. We're very fortunate to live in this area.
Thanks for a great day!
Love the North Forebay.
I would just like to say I love the lake and Forebay. I hope one day it will be expanded to fit everyone who wants to go.
I really like to swim here.
I enjoy Forebay very much but due to the increased population in Butte County it is more crowded. More tables, more beach sand, more restrooms and more picnic sites would assure Forebay would remain the pleasant area it always has been. A separate sports activity area (volleyball nets & playing fields) would increase safety and use/compatibility for all.
I do believe that the incident that happened to me is against the law. I plan to pursue it.
I think the lake is crowded and let too much water out. You have to hike to get to the water.
Stock more fish.
I come here everyday because I find this park extremely well taken care of and its park personnel are courteous. I have a yearly pass.
The place is very clean and safe.
The surroundings are great and mostly well maintained and keep most of water in the lake keep up the good work you're doing a great job.
We like it here it is clean, lots of shade.
We love it here! Very clean.
Wonderful courteous recreation staff persons at every encounter so far. They are professional, really helpful and polite. Have witnessed 2 almost near-drownings of 3-4 year olds at Forebay in four visits here this summer. These kids were not in our group. It was persons in our group that acted because parent of child was absent. You need life guards.
I was really upset with my visit to the Thermalito Forebay because we paid to go in and out and then we were denied to re-enter if we left. I know it's a safety issue, but I feel if we paid we should be allowed to leave and enter if we please.
The bathrooms need to be cleaned more often. Water the grass.
The City of Oroville should have a company run tours of all the trails in the surrounding area because many people, including my group, were not aware of these trails.
There are a lot of stickers and the grass could be watered more. But the Forebay is always kept clean and the park rangers are always very friendly and helpful.
The addition of walking/hiking trails to the Lake Oroville area are greatly appreciated. Paved area for [unreadable] chairs are useful. I would like to see stocking and planting of pheasant for more public hunting areas.
I think that we should be able to jump off the bridge.
Cleaning out the Lake of logs and such before summer on a regular basis would be nice. Stricter enforcement of boating under the influence, more patrolling in Lime Saddle Area, patrolling of parking areas.
Not enough BBQ areas or swim beach where pets are allowed.
The beach needs to be cleaned on a regular basis, like cat poop needs to be picked up.
Would like to be able to have dog be able to come in park, as long as it it's on a leash.
Yes, the beach really doesn't feel very clean. There is something all over that looks poop. Yuck!!

Table J-29. North Forebay BR/DUA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

I wish we could walk without worrying about stepping in dog droppings.
I felt bad that we could not return to our picnic area with our boat when we asked first before leasing if we could return if we had our ticket stub.
There is too much brush by the benches by the docks at the Forebay. It needs to be clean up. I always bring my kids here and I have to keep a closer eye on them to make sure they don't get hurt. It needs to be safer.
These parks could be a little better maintained.
It would be good if the water would be clean.
Forebay has occasionally been littered with garbage a couple of times there have been some rude drunk people.
Need mandatory rule to have parents watch their own kids.
Loafer Creek – sand and grass area needs to be fixed up – it's horrible. Forebay – beach has star thistle, sometimes there are slimy dead fish. Lake Oroville, as a whole, has always been underdeveloped. It could be patterned after Lake Shasta. The lack of beaches and day use facilities are the most glaring shortages.
I can honestly say that my family and I have enjoyed the Lake Oroville area. My brother and I especially liked some of the off-roading trails. I hope this survey can be of help for future plans of improvement.
Nice facilities–clean and accessible. Thanks.
Great place to picnic and swim. No crowds and not too many bugs. Garden Drive – Forebay is great!
I think it is a very nice swimming area except for the doggy droppings in the sand other than that it is wonderful.
I like to come to the Forebay because it is really fun to come to.
I really like the North Forebay when we come here.
They keep it really nice here (more shade by water), but we all loved the beach and the way it was planned. It was serviced well also and warning postings were also a much welcomed sight, thanks!
More bathrooms are needed, more parking spaces are needed.
More bathrooms, more tables, more barbeques, more parking, better drainage for water fountains, a child playground.
Need to separate girls and boys bathrooms. Besides that, it's great service here.
Barbeque pits need to have concrete poured around bottom so that puddles don't form.
Need to have a store here.
Nice marina w/ good restaurant/bar area; more restrooms on lake; more launching areas – Foreman Creek, etc; more areas for getting gas; ways to get to lake when water low; places to swim when water low; additional trails; open Diversion Pool; better signage; more lighting & picnic areas around lake & waterways; more marketing of lake off hwys/roadways (i.e. Tahoe marketed by Cal-Trans in Sact, but Lake Oro not mentioned anywhere when coming North); improvements on river below Diversion Pool.
We would like to see around the shower and the ice cream [meaning unclear]. Thank you!
No lake access from campsite. No view of lake at campsite. Campsite is expensive.
We enjoy coming as often as every Saturday to picnic, hike, and swim. Sure would like to see some "minimal" camping! We don't have an RV and love this park so much!
I am very interested in creation of whitewater recreational opportunities.

Table J-29. North Forebay BR/DUA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

Diversion pool area could use a car top launch area.
Needed is a car-top launch for canoes/kayaks on the Diversion Pool.
We would happily recommend that the overlook parking lot on Royal Oaks Drive be made into a beautiful park/picnic area overlooking the lake and dam. It presently is fenced off and not being used. With some trees, lawn, and picnic shelters, it would be terrific!
Playground equipment. Overnight camping. Reopen parks at night. Concession Stand.
Would like to know more about other swimming places in the area.
I believe Oroville should put a water park up at the lake.
Need more BBQs Need more bathrooms.
Need more tables or make a limit on how many tables can be held or taken by each personal party.
The lines for using the bathrooms was out of control all day. More restrooms on site at the Forebay are desired.
Please put more floating campsites on lake.
I feel there needs to be more restrooms, but besides that, everything is good.
More picnic tables would be a nice change along with more bathrooms and barbeques. There was a lot of dog droppings around the area which was a little disgusting.
Need more areas for picnic closer to water.
Make trails more. More barbeque. More restrooms.
I like the direction that the recreation district is going. Improvements could be made as far as local recreation for persons without proper transportation.
The OWA area off of Larkin needs toilets and trash receptacles. People are going behind bushes now creating mess with the toilet paper.
I think there should be more trash cans and drinking fountains; other than that, there should be more places to swim on the actual Lake Oroville.
Make more picnic and camp areas around the lake. It would be nice to have more water to utilize.
Are there maps of Oroville hike trails available? I'd love one.
Need more places for rec. What was promised when the Dam was completed!
Could use another bathroom on the far end. Thank you.
We need bigger trash receptacles. To have horseback riding rentals in the area for families to enjoy – adults and children. A refreshment stand at Forebay, parasailing!! (at the lake), water works park because the one in Chico is shut down. Public showers for tourists provided they are maintained and cleaned.
I would like to see a small playground by water for kids, considering there are a lot of kids at the park.
I would like to see a water faucet at every BBQ pit.
While we are extremely happy with the services at North Forebay, we are extremely unsatisfied at Lake Oroville. When the water is drained from the lake, as a family our needs are not at all met: the tables, BBQ pits, bathrooms and any shade area not accessible if we want to use the lake at all. Draining the lake during the summer months completely eliminates any family functions at the lake for us.

Table J-29. North Forebay BR/DUA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

Our lake looks awful. I am a resident and when we do boat the waters and launches are crowded. Cruising through the forks with nothing to look at but red dirt is not appealing. As for waterholes like Bedrock – we need a more steady water flow – going back to dredging and summer concerts would be great.
We went and spent an afternoon at Loafer Creek, water level way down, could not enjoy water or beach, day use area absolutely beautiful.
I would like the lake maintained, keep the rates reasonable for the public (like they are now) and not reduce the staffing/employees level and clean parks in Oroville. As a guest of Lake Oroville and as a resident of California, this is what I expect of California Parks.
Bring Main Basin water level back. While we are enjoying the camp facilities in Section 1 (sites 1-35) we felt the second set of camp sites (36-75) not suitable for children-sharp drop offs and woods in close proximity to sites appeared very dangerous for little ones. Wonderful swimming area at N. Thermalito Forebay! Overall – great facilities and experience.
Keep some water in the lake!
You are draining lake too early. Water level is now too low to enjoy boating. Going elsewhere to go boating/fishing where there is adequate water levels on the lake. There needs to be a RV Dump Station in the Oroville area.
Quit giving water from Oroville to others outside our area. Drastically low this season, compared to water at the beginning of the season. Now, no water and it wasn't super hot this summer.
Keeping more water in the lake will bring more visitors.
I think something should be done about the water level of Lake Oroville.
The lake water is too low. It's like this every year now. Unless you own a boat, there's no place for swimmers, especially up by Lime Saddle.
Quit sending the water from the lake to LA. It is bad for the eco-system that the state created.
Please stop sending all of our water down south when we are going into drought.
More water should be left in Lake Oroville.
Why do you let out so much water in Lake Oroville? People with no boats cannot swim past mat at Parrish Cove. I would buy & moor houseboat if this did not happen. Why are there no restaurants on Lake Oroville? At Lime Saddle would be nice! More launching sites at Lime Saddle. More parking. KEEP THE WATER!
Before having children, I used the lake frequently to waterski. I now ski on a local private "ski" lake. I am at the lake now to check out kayaks. I haven't really used the lake seriously since the early 90s.
Some questions about moving water recreation would be nice.
This has nothing to do with recreation, but Oroville needs more businesses and stores so everyone has an opportunity to be employed and to bring more revenue to the town.
No. Love Lake Oroville.

Table J-30. South Forebay BR/DUA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

Very nice experience as usual.
Our kids love to come to the water and feed the ducks more than they like to go to a park, and I like the calmness of all the water, etc.
The area is very, very nice and needs more activity from users.
Fishing sights should be patrolled more often. One incident-my family and I were fishing Nelson Bridge and Asian youngsters crowded us and other family and caught more than their limit by chumming (I believe) and had their father watch for park rangers.
Slot limit in size is the bunks.
I bought my first fishing license in 1959, after I was discharged from the US Navy. It cost me $2.50. It now costs $30. I don't mind if the state keeps up all fishing areas and does not charge a fee to enter.
Would like to see better fishing patrol because there are too many Asian people fishing the banks with no license and keeping everything they catch. It seems there are no restrictions put on them. This is very upsetting and frustrating to those of us who are following the rules and regulations!
Good fishing.
Service outhouses more often.
State does not charge enough money for the use of the camping, picnic, and swimming areas.
Music lowered for other people who are quiet. Nicer bathrooms.
We all like the area and are most comfortable here. Good for all ages, easy access, and good launching, swimming, and recreational areas.
Great place for a picnic and a swim with the family. I loved feeding and watching the ducks and geese we saw today. They sure appreciated the loaf of bread we bought.
We like the South Forebay due to clearness, BBQ areas, etc. Thanks.
I wish there was a diving board.
The picnic benches and BBQ pits are way too far from the water!!
Need more trees and picnic tables.
1. Need more shade at bank while fishing; 2. More fish.
Positive experiences. Could have more swimming areas.
The South Forebay is pleasant, but needs more sand areas and a few more picnic benches. We really enjoy bringing our children out to swim, fish, and feed the ducks. We also like to barbeque out here.
It would be a lot funner if they were some free camping areas for Oroville. We have wonderful places all over and the only place to camp is with the homeless on 1 mile Vance Ave. Ps. I have been verbally assaulted twice there.
It would be nice to have bathrooms and showers put in at the Thermalito Forebay so people could stay the night if they'd like. And the hiking trails fixed better. This is a nice place for people to come to that don't like crowded areas.
South Forebay: when people feed the ducks they leave behind plastic bags that might hurt the wildlife. Maybe a sign would help.
Need more trees, need more fish.
Would be nice if there was more overnight camping place in Oroville. Thank you.
Open up for overnights and campfires. 2 grills near beach area. 2 picnic tables.
Barbeque pits at beach area and maybe a picnic table or two would be great.

Table J-30. South Forebay BR/DUA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

The lake makes this town cool to live in. We go swimming every chance we get.
I had a nice time today.
More fish need to be planted in this area on a regular basis and on special holidays (Father's Day, Memorial Day, July 4).
Enjoy having access to water when wheelchair bound.

Table J-31. Riverbend Park visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

Nice place.
It was nice.
Keep up the good work, Thank you.
The improvements made to the Oroville Lake area has made a real improvement on the look of this area.
Keep up the good work.
Great place to be.
It's very nice here. I enjoy the time I spend here.
Lot of progress in the last 20 years in recreation areas. Lot cleaner too!
Great improvements have been made! Great job!
We love the Oroville area, unfortunately the area's reputation is horrible. It is beautiful; the people are friendly; however, there is evidence of a strong drug sub-culture.
Should take name and mail to home. * Would like to see more fish & game out here for salmon run. I am a bass member.
More holes here.
Fish and Game need to enforce fishing laws. There are many people that do not follow them, which makes it very unfair for the people that do, and sometimes turn a lot of people away. I know they have the staffing for it. I would like to say that the park they put together that is the City of Oroville at the Hwy 162 bridge is a 100% improvement and will attract a lot more people.
I feel you're doing a good job improving the areas.
Thanks for the survey. We need recreational opportunities that are not controlled by commercial interests!
Just the gates need to be open when they are supposed to ½ hour before sun up.
I would like the gate to stay open until 10PM. Some should be open all night. If you have any meetings, I would like to come.
Need to publicize Riverbend Frisbee Golf Course so more people are aware of it. The more the merrier.
Riverbend Park is nice to play disc golf, but the vegetation needs to be cut back.
Get someone to open gate when it's suppose to be.
Do not over develop this area like other areas are overdeveloped.
More game wardens and police are needed in the 162 bridge area. I do not feel safe leaving valuables in the car. This river is the most blatant location I have seen in CA for people to snag salmon. It takes away from a quality fishing experience. I think it would be helpful to find out what these snaggers are doing with these rotting fish when they get home. Yuck!

Table J-31. Riverbend Park visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

Since last Sept. I see many improvements in the area at Montgomery St. access. Kudos to all, esp. trash receptacles and restroom at catfish pond. Need to stress more trash clean-up among fishermen. Fishing line, bottles, stools, etc. along river. We picked up a lot, but more needed.
The handicap ponds have one sign coming into the gates reads park closes at sunset. About middle way there's a sign says open 1 hour before sunrise and closes 1 hour after sunset. They've been closing down park around 8:45 pm. They need to make up their mind about the sign – one or the other. They shouldn't close park till 10pm in the summer so we can fish for catfish longer at night, and they need to open gates at 5am instead of 6:15am. The Brad Freeman Bike Trail off of Oro Dam Blvd, there are ponds back there in the wildlife area. I have to walk down to the ponds and it would be nice if the county or whoever could make it where us residents could drive down to the ponds. It's all closed up and there is a sign that says no vehicles allowed. Really hope that will be changed so we can drive to the ponds. There's great fishing there it's just a long walk.
Please repair the concrete boat ramp at Montgomery Street bridge. It drops off and axles could be broken. Need rocks, boulders to be filled in at drop off of concrete ramp. Also, pump/clean portable restroom more often. I four wheel above ramp to put in my trailered boat.
We enjoy using all of the local recreational areas almost daily. We sun by the river, ride by the river, boat on the lake, camp on the lake, use the horsecamp area – we love all of the area improvements.
Addition of disc golf course is awesome. Put in more grassy areas. Lots of improvements going on. Still more needed.
Nice area; has lots of potential. Need time/organization/money/access.
Please: Trash cans, no dogs (too much crap) not boats. Too much pollution and noise, landscaping, kids activity (swings, merry-go-round, etc).
The trail system is not integrated/connected. When facilities do get built they often fall into disrepair. More improved access is needed. What would happen if we returned the river to its historic summer flow levels (1,300 CFS)?
Put picnic tables in the shade and some water fountains.
I think that it's a good idea that there doing something with Riverbend Park. I think that they should keep improving the Park. I highly recommend this people from all ages come out here. It's usually pack just about everyday.
Would like to extend the bike trail to east side of the park. Currently it is blocked by bars. They make people ride on the street w/ the cars. I would rather ride by the nicer views.
I feel they need more camping grounds for those who like to camp and fish. One other thing they need to release more fish from the hatchery for the fishermen.
Easier access to Feather River and Diversion Pool (it's hard to put in the kayaks). Bathroom access (get rid of the portable bathrooms in lieu of permanent).
Yes, this park needs more grass to be grown here. Thank you.
I think they should have garbage cans at the outlet right by the water where all the people wait. And should have a better path that would make it easy for the old and the young.
You need more BBQ pits in Bedrock park and there are no pits at the end of Montgomery at your new risbee golf course.
More waste cans.
Proper toilet facilities, swimming, walking and biking areas are of primary concern. Walking trails on Table Mountain.
More green.

Table J-31. Riverbend Park visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

I feel that the Parks Dept. should put a water fountain in the risbee park.
To have access to more trail down to the river around the Thermalito area.
The park at River Bend-Montgomery Street is a major asset of Oroville that needs to be improved. Toilets and water-park like setting can be viewed and a little greenery (trees, grass) can be seen off Highway 70-let's put some money into this project. Water, water everywhere and not a drop to improve the landscape – nice park off Garden Hwy (Forebay). Now let's have a nice park between Montgomery and 162. Thanks for your attention.
My biggest concern is the level of the lake during summer months. It would be nice to have more water in the lake!
I think it is great that you are trying to get people's advice for opinions to fix it up. Just need more people to contribute.
None, pretty good time.

Table J-32. Wilbur Road BR visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

Easy access, close to home, nice enough away from homes and businesses.
Would be nice to relieve congestion on lake. Way to muck debris at lake.
More DFG presence! Lots of violators!
The river and the lake are some of the greatest fishing I know. These are great. I have been fishing for over 15 years and will continue to do so forever so I hope things stay the way they are.
I always look for places where I can take my dogs with me. I travel alone a great deal and feel safer when my dogs are with me.
We enjoy Lake Oroville. Please don't outlaw P.W.C.!
Will continue to visit the area, fees were all reasonable.
The campgrounds are very messy. People threw their trash all over. They need to start charging to camp, since people have so little respect.
Needs to have trash picked up.
Please spray for mosquitoes.
Get rid of the floating dead shrimp.
Let the classic V Drive Club of America hold events in the Afterbay area.
Bidwell Frank. There shouldn't be allowed to put anymore houseboats on the lake. Thank you.
The habitat at the Afterbay area can use some management. The star thistle is taking over in areas that are not regularly flooded. People involved in our sport would be willing to help as volunteers.
The boat launch off Wilbur Rd. is great. Helped the overflow of boaters on Monument Hill tremendously. More picnic tables/sites would be great. Possible some overnight camping spots!
The Oroville recreation areas are probably the main reason why I still live here. I enjoy using them and feel they are for the most part user friendly. Would like to see some more patrolling/surveillance at Bidwell Ramp and Oroville Dam ramp, year round, not just during summer months. I have been vandalized 3 times in thee areas in pas year. Once in summer 2 times in fall/winter. Video surveillance would be ideal and less expensive than patrolling. Keep up the good work!
It would be nice to be able to stay the night here.

Table J-32. Wilbur Road BR visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

Need more picnic areas for boat access.
More accommodations such as snack bars, campgrounds, picnic areas.
Please put trash cans out. People leave bags of garbage on the ground and it makes the environment unpleasant. Thank you.
Put more trees in area - leave it alone.
It would be nice to have bathrooms on island or floating and some more picnic tables
An outhouse or port-a-potty would help keep T.P. trash down around parking and fishing areas.
My wife and I are new to boating. We purchased our first boat in June of last year and enjoy it very much. We wonder why boat ramps are not wider at the launch area. There is usually ample space and the additional cost wouldn't be that much. Maybe it's just a boating thing. Also, there should be a noise limit on boats. Even off-road vehicles have noise limits. Thanks for the opportunity for input.
The campgrounds in wildlife area are real bad. You need to do the survey during salmon season. Oroville needs to figure out how to capture more money from the fisherman.
Please keep Lake Oroville at a higher level so camping spots can be accessed and the lake will be prettier.
Leave more water in the lake for residents. Give some, keep some! It has been looking like a lagoon.
Need to keep more water in the lake.
Introduced a friend to river salmon fishing.

Table J-33. West Levee Road – OWA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

Thanks.
We had a super time like always.
This lake is so beautiful and I think we need to keep it clean.
I like it here!!!
We drift boated a section of river today. The scenery was beautiful and fishing productive. We, my wife and myself, have spent a bundle preparing for Feather River steelhead fishing – all, I might add, made worthwhile by a wonderful experience this morning.
Thanks.
The guides should have more consideration of other fisherman. Slow down when passing other boaters fishing. Move out of the way when someone is trying to bring a fish in.
Had my truck window (rear) broken and truck broke into on 10/20/02. Took a little away from the overall experience.
The Feather River Wildlife Area has seen a dramatic increase in fishing pressure in the last 5-6 years. Due to the increase in fishermen from shore and fishing guides in boats, and boats in general, the river in certain sections is not large enough to accommodate both shore and the use of such large watercraft in these confined areas. I have fished the river for 20 years and there are times (mainly weekends) that I will not fish during the salmon season due to the large volume of boat traffic.
Keep the place friendly. It gets a little ugly when boaters are too close to bank fishermen in crowded areas.
I love to fish at the outlet. It is crowded. I would like to see it cleaner.

Table J-33. West Levee Road – OWA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

I think the people are very nice. You can make friends easy. But there are some people who are very nasty. But other than that, we like it here very much.
The Oroville wildlife area needs more development and upkeep. The Dept of Fish and Game need to make their more often during the high use times peak salmon season.
Ya, bring more fish.
I've caught "rainbow trout" 16" and larger that had no access to the ocean. I don't think all large rainbows are steelhead. I'd like to see Vance Ave. open longer than Oct. 15th.
What happened to Fall Run?
During salmon season the bank anglers can get very aggressive even if you give them extra room, also I question their ethics. I observed many bank anglers keeping foul hooked salmon using weighted treble hooks or beads. I also never saw any fish and game wardens checking anglers below the Thermalito outlet.
More patrol by Game Warden – people keeping foul hooked fish, people fishing off the wall, etc. The bank area needs to be cleaned. Very trashy and even dangerous. Use inmates or community service people (cheap labor) empty trash bins on a regular basis. The limit being raised to three salmon a person was a good move.
Sometimes people are arguing. Boat anchor by the dam and people fishing at shore complaining. Fish and game warden should come around and check people on the boat they are doing illegal and catching more than the limit (3).
The Department of fish and game was very friendly to me and my friends as well as helpful when it came to helpful information to the rules of the river and I hadn't been told I might have been ignorant to some of the current violations that might be missed and that not something that anyone would want to experience when on vacations.
Great place to fish, I love it and expect to come back as much as I can.
Great salmon.
Drain Lake Oroville every year from June until the end of August.
Let nature take her course, don't get too fancy.
Clean toilets everyday. Need lighting in bathrooms. Need outside shower. Dirt to pitch tent.
Bathroom here needs attention/more cleaning. It is disgusting for the amount of people here.
Need more enforcement out here. Some people party too much and cause trouble with the fisherman.
Too much garbage throughout the area. Much more than in past visits/past years.
The lake could use more of a clean up in regards to trash, not throwing fishing lines and hooks onto the ground.
Don't pave the road. Leave it gravel. Clean the outhouse more often.
The Oroville wildlife area, the bathroom need to be cleaned, the trash cans need to be empty, more provided shade (trees), pond, benches, picnic tables, etc (showers).
Would like to see gate open at outlet to the west levee. Fix the roads. Clean bathrooms. Pick up trash.
The area needs to be cleaned up and the bathrooms need to be cleaned daily.
They should clean bathroom daily. Install a light, open a window so the ventilation. There are people that clean down by the river and pick up garbage. So I like it I have fun and me and my family make memories.
The bathroom is dirty.

Table J-33. West Levee Road – OWA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

There is too much trash all over the place! There should be more trash cans around the fishing areas, also people cut open their fish and leave the guts on the banks.
More routine checks on restroom facilities.
The bathrooms are disgusting and all around them the garbage needs to be maintained and litter picked up.
If in the future I have to pay, the bathrooms will be cleaned on Wednesdays and the road will be paved.
Garbage terrible in area. No garbage cans near Palm Ave.
Garbage!
Yes, I think this salmon hole is really trashy and needs to be cleaned up once in a while. But other than that, it's fine.
Bathrooms are nasty and should be cleaned more than once a week.
Keep a gravel road.
Come down and rake the water. Keep up the area. Keep drug addicts out of here.
Better maintenance.
Need bathroom cleaned more often, light in bathroom, better ventilation.
I think the Lake Oroville Area could be enhanced if there was more government involvement at the outlet in terms of monitoring traffic, sanitation and trash. I think the town could benefit from some modernization.
Yes. Every time I fish I pickup a bag full of garbage and haul it home. Can you write some tickets for littering. It's such a beautiful stretch of river.
Need more river clean up. More on land improvement, more DFG, Thank you.
Please cut the brush back from roads a little better.
Think motorized boats should be banned for at least part of the season, for instance Oct 16-Jan1. They are obnoxious and sometimes run right in front of you while wading. Noticed trash in and around the river. Old TV set where I waded in at Palm ave. access and huge, thick "nest" of fishing line (4'X4') to the side of parking lot at Afterbay Outlet. Guides can be obnoxious and rude, there is a big difference in the attitude of people who are just trying to enjoy the river and catch some fish and people who are just trying to make $.
It would be nice if there was a litter crew to police the area of campground, parking, and river bank area, as well as greater sanitation and cleaning of the toilet.
Increase security. Have had and know of 8 cars or trucks broke into this year alone (2002) at palm ave and river access. Please Help!
There was quite a bit of trash (beer cans, bottles, Styrofoam) in the area.
The road could use grading or paving.
The roads are terrible.
Keep camping and fishing as a family fun time!
Glad there's bathrooms. Everything has been kosher. A little crowded in the morning, but it's expected being the beginning of the salmon run. Disregard any previous statements, they were misconceptions.
Spillway Ramp is awesome. Can't want 'till all improvements completed.
The bathrooms added last year make camping much more pleasant and healthier. Other additions that would be appreciated are an area to clean fish and the return of the trash cans that were here last year. This is a wonderful area to meeting other fishing folks. Thanks!

Table J-33. West Levee Road – OWA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

Need shade.
This is a nice area but it is in desperate need of trash cans, especially down by the water. Conservation education is also needed – pack in/ pack out fishing line, dangles, etc. the people who use this area are pigs!
Water faucet, boating signs, no loud music at night and speed limit for boats 5 miles an hour, a sign that says “Shore fisherman have right of way”.
More restrooms and more trash cans on both sides. Trash cans picked up once a month by county inmates.
Wish there were more camping areas available in Oroville Wildlife Refuge.
There needs to be more than 1 bathroom per area.
Need more camping areas.
The boat launches on the river need to be more in concrete so a two wheel drive can launch. Also, more trash cans needed on the river. There is too much litter everywhere.
Build a boat launch ramp ½ mile below Afterbay Outlet, west side of river.
My backyard is the rock piles. Why can’t the paved road be opened up to get to the ponds and the ponds be stocked with warm water fish?
The 18 hole risbee golf course at the end of Montgomery Street is a good activity for people of all ages. Needs some improvements. Really don’t need, but it will make it a better and more well known thing to do.
There are some quality new developments here – I especially hope that the Diversion Pool can be opened at the south side – Lakeland Blvd.
More boat launches at south end of Wildlife Area “east side of river.” I really enjoy and use the Wildlife Area during many times of the year, and would like to see roads maintained. Yet I understand that this would only add to crowds.
I think some trash cans at the outlet on the side accessed from Pacific Heights Road would be appreciated. It would also be nice to have bow season in the Wildlife Area open at a different time than dove season. Perhaps earlier. It would increase safety and improve bow hunting.
I sure wish you could improve road quality in area #11. I do not approve of beads and yarn tackle. They simply snag fish.
Fill the lake.
I do have a boat that would like to use out of Lime Saddle but the lake is almost empty and cannot launch!!! Don’t sell the water and keep the lake so people can use it!! Thank you.
-Suggest some local organizations put together a ‘clean the river’ day or two. – Until water temp is lower on a year-round basis, fishing will be mediocre. The Feather has the potential to be a world-class fishery with a large economic benefit for the region. It needs more steelhead and a flourishing resident trout population (without limit, gear restrictions).

Table J-34. East Levee Road – OWA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

I love this river.
Be back to catch salmon.
Nice day. Nice man that came by. Thank you.
I'd like to come back again! And soon!
Better center flow would be good. Increase salmon and steelhead runs.

Table J-34. East Levee Road – OWA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

When river flow is low i.e. 2000-2001, I would like to see more concern given to flow level and winter temperatures. For the habitat of salmon and steel head species.
Fishing area should go to 2nd to last bridge.
There should be a larger game warden presence at areas other than the outlet. There are always fish snagged and kept near the Oroville Dam bridge area and people do not act like they fear a warden at all.
I enjoy the Foreman Creek area and launch ramp the most - hope it remains well maintained. I have concerns about the salmon fishing near the outlet as they do crowd each other and argue. Also concerned about river boats traveling much too fast around corners or bends in the river as many fisherman on the shoreline and swimmers are in danger. Again – I/We/Many people I know, enjoy Foreman Creek area the best. Would also like to say that the Fish & Game people especially the ones in the canoes, have always been more than nice to me and my son! I have lived in Oroville since 1972, and like this area very much.
Great fish runs on this river. Speed limit on boats would be nice. Some friends had car break-ins. We always leave nothing in the car now. I did see some salmon taken above Hwy 70 bridge in August and reported it by cell phone.
Thanks for providing an area close enough with a great fishery. What I don't enjoy is the rudeness and rowdiness that I see on the water. The fighting and witnessing of idiots almost drowning is enough to dampen the spirits and experience of fishing.
Your employees were cordial and helpful!
Keep Feather River beautiful.
Something has to be done about the trash left on the beach.
This could be one of the coolest places in northern California except for the tremendous amount of garbage along certain areas of the river.
I understand vehicles were at risk for damage or clouting in this area. Thus, the reluctance for visiting more often.
It's very nice having the wildlife area available. Wish more people would use it properly. It's not a trash dump.
I think the wildlife area is phenomenal!
1. Please put in bathrooms on the east side of the Afterbay. 2. Also place garbage cans on east side. 3. Access to Oroville Wildlife Area would be okay too. We would be willing to pay for improved, maintained facilities. 4. Please add some fish cleaning stations on both sides of the Afterbay.
Get some dumpster out here so some of these people have a place to throw their trash and open the east side of Thermalito Afterbay to 3 day camping.
I truly enjoy coming to the Feather for salmon fishing, but I need to emphasize that all the trash everywhere and lack of garbage cans is depressing. Seeing all the trash takes away from an otherwise enjoyable experience. I would love to see garbage cans and signs to help combat this problem. I realize it is a problem on many of our rivers, but the Feather is especially bad off in this regard. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Public restroom would be nice.
I am frustrated. No fish.
Would love to learn about a pheasant or upland bird stocking program in the wildlife areas. Thank you.
I caught a 24" lb steelhead (female) with adipose fin clipped on 10/14/02 at 11:00am.

Table J-35. OWA Headquarters Entrance visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

Extend salmon season where it was before, till Oct. 15.
The river flow was too great for effective and safe fishing. The people lined up would inch forward until just able to keep footing. This is dangerous for everyone involved. Saw several people in significant trouble. This was particularly bad below the outfall.
Great fishing. Totally enjoyed it. Other fishermen cool – no tempers.
Enjoyed my visit but area needs to be cleaned up, lots of trash along the river, took what I could.
I would like to see more camping areas along the river from the mountain bridge to the mouth of the Huncut Creek. I have many other suggestions if you call me.
Need more trash cans. Use swap.
Anyway to include better trash removal services. Also, portable toilets would be great.
I hope make good Entrance Road at Feather River Salmon Fishing Area parking lot. Everyone want to build bathroom too. Thank you!
Restore the decimated tree population along the river.
Need toilets at the parking lots. My wife won't go fishing because of this. We would make more trips here if toilets were available. If you gotta go, you're going to go (says mother nature). Let's minimize this condition.
Portable toilets for the peak of salmon season at the most popular parking/fishing areas would reduce the amount of toilet paper in the bushes! Also, make it nicer for the ladies.
Only that they need toilets out around the lake. Garbage cans for litter.

Table J-36. OWA – South Wilbur Road visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

I would like to see all the areas listed remain available to the public to use and enjoy for whatever outdoor activities they choose to pursue. I think everyone should have (hunting, fishing, boating, dog training) areas available to them.

Table J-37. OWA – Tres Vias Road visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

Portable toilets at trailheads along bike trails.

Table J-38. Model Airplane Facility visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

Really appreciate the Wilbur Road flying field.

Table J-39. Monument Hill BR/DUA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

We will be back again.
I like Thermalito because it is not busy yet!
Beautiful wetlands, should be preserved and protected.
Keep up the good work.
Love the Afterbay.
Our family spends much of the summer at the lake and we love it. The sheriffs are nice but some of the rangers seem to have a bit of an ego.
I love to paddle in the Thermalito Diversion pool.
We just discovered the Afterbay this year. Lots of little islands to walk on and swim around. Even when it's crowded it's not as bad as Lake Oroville. We never wait too long to launch the boat.
Need better stocking and need a game warden to watch Orientals to keep them from taking undersized fish. Also quit playing with water levels so much. If things don't change soon, I am moving from Butte County.
Can you put more fish in the lake?
Shark at boat ramp, spillway at Bidwell, keep after bay at no charge.
Please mark low spots!
Please keep this free to users. Maybe add another dock or boat ramp.
Don't charge for admission or parking and people will keep coming.
State pays county to patrol area. The enforcement of boating laws is lax for jet skiers. Encourage respect for all folks using the water.
Keep this Afterbay free. Tell people it's too cold. Eliminate jet skiers!
It would be nice to see more duck hunting opportunities in the Afterbay.
How about running a rope between the buoys that divide swimming section from boating section. On busy days like this, the wave runners/personal watercraft could tie up there. There needs to be more room for boats to pull up on.
Absolutely. This area has tremendous potential for outdoor recreation. The problem is politics. We have the resources to plan Oroville into an outdoor recreation paradise. We need to put together an entire regional park system surrounding the entire town! It will be done!
Don't charge for this ramp!
Why are improvements to launch ramps, firing ranges etc. done at peak usage times. For example the shooting range closes for improvement just before deer hunting starts. What's wrong with May, June, July? Ramps on the Sacramento River close the week of the salmon opener for repair/improvement? I know there are two sides to every story. Most sportspeople are reasonable. Let the public know why things are done the way they are.
I just moved to Butte County from Maui and we have started the summer out at Monument Park. It is very convenient I only wish it was ok to bring my dog. My boyfriend has lived here his whole life and knows when to go to what area at each time of year.
The boat ramp at Monument Hill needs to have the silt removed from the ramp. Almost lost the truck!
Nice beach, clean bathrooms, waters cold, no broken glass, good dock, good ramp, lots of parking. Build stairs to the bathrooms from parking lot. Open water way all the way to Oroville Dam.
Excellent facilities, could use more improved day picnic/recreation areas around the lakes that are water accessible.

Table J-39 Monument Hill BR/DUA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

Lime Saddle marina is nice.
Thanks for the nice, clean restrooms and tables around the Afterbay.
I think it needs more shade.
Paving launch facility unfortunately took too many parking spaces away. Don't get me wrong you do a great job!
A play area would be a good idea for this site. Also more picnic tables.
You could use more beach areas when water/boat use/picnic/camping are all co-located, why aren't there any campgrounds on Thermalito Afterbay?
Would be beneficial to have drinking fountains available also some better maps and directions for bike and other trails with descriptions of the trail time wise estimates etc.
More lights for night morning boat launching please.
Need more shaded area in picnic area.
Add 1 floating bathroom to area. Extend beach. Repair end of dock.
This is a nice place. It is clean. It only needs more barbeque pits.
More shade trees. More jet ski monitoring. Not able to fish due to jet skiers. Handicap access via car important to me.
They need to make a bigger sand bar for the swimming.
It would make this lake and beach area nicer if there was some shade. Also a couple of showers to rinse off after swimming.
More shade!
Monument Hill is nice. It just needs to be more handicap friendly, easier access to water for wheelchairs. And more monitoring of the beach and activities.
You could put boat anchors on the beach area for boaters on windy days.
The beach area at the Afterbay needed to be expanded. Especially for the holiday in the summer. It's so crowded. Also need more parking for the boat in the water.
We need more camping areas close to the water. If you have more camping areas on the shore you will bring more people to Lake Oroville which means more money to the city, Lake and County.
I wish all the Lake Oroville areas were as pretty and clean and peaceful as this. I also wish a small campground with a few campsites could be created here. I would love to spend the night on the water. Thank you.
Closer restrooms.
More water.
Water needs to be higher.
Keep water level up.
I feel that water level is too low in the last two weeks. Today is ok.
I would come to the Afterbay if there was more water. Also I do really enjoy the sand. My children enjoy it the most.
Raise the water higher.
Water needs to be higher and more shade trees for babies or some kind of shade.

Table J-39 Monument Hill BR/DUA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

We would like you to keep more water in the lake, at least until after Labor Day. It is especially hard for us to launch there with waverunners with the water so low and not very much room.
Keep more water in the main lake. Too low too early in season.
Quit selling water to LA. Need new management at Lime Saddle. Please, it needs to be upgraded to marina and restaurant facilities like Bidwell. No gas at Lime Saddle. Gail takes our income at Lime Saddle DUA/C but continues to offer no improvements.
Quit selling our water out of Oroville. We liver here through the rain to fill the lake. We have a right to enjoy a full lake in the summer. If you charge a buck or 2 at the Afterbay it would keep the park cleaner.
Water varies daily. Would not want to pay for low water days. Afterbay gets too crowded sometimes to enjoy. It would make it worse or not worth going if I had to pay.
You need to put more water in your lake.
I went to a get together in August at Tower Park on the Delta. The group consisted of several families with 42 boats. Everyone camped and boated together. They asked me about Lake Oroville and I said don't waste your time due to water level. The money that was spent there could have been spent here in Butte County.
Yes. You shouldn't get you relicensing because you didn't do the things you promised in the first contract. Also, I didn't live here, so no.
More tables, shade, bbqs!

Table J-40. Larkin Road Car-top BR visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

This is a very quiet and relaxing place.
I'm looking forward to my children growing and also enjoying the area! It's a great resource for residents and surrounding area residents.
Fun!
Make sure you keep the same and don't change for nothing.
Needs more overseeing. Too many people parking, setting up Day use in areas they should not be in. Maybe if they charged to get in it would get rid of the low life scum hanging out, it will turn into trouble in time.
Keep Butte County water clean.
Keep people from lounging or kicking back at the launch.
Please don't make this a paid site. We come here with kids, it's too much to live on our income with kids and have to pay to have a little fun.
Broken glass from bottles.
Please don't charge for Larkin Road launch.
I have a problem with the jet skiers Bar-b-queing and picnicking on the boat launches. It makes launching very difficult. Thank-you.
We love to ride at the Afterbay all year long, even in the winter. The wildlife area is also a great place for bass fishing with low fishing pressure.
At the Afterbay it would be nice if there were more restrooms.
Need more beach at South after Bay Area.
I think there should be camping sites for people.

Table J-40. Larkin Road Car-top BR visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

More trees.
Need more areas for swimming.
Need benches and BBQ grills
Get ramps fixed and open for low water.
Keep Lake Oroville lake levels higher. This is Northern California, not Southern California.
Yes, we would like the water level to rise so that we can swim better in deep water.
Keep Butte County water in the North state. No water to Southern California.
Something really needs to be done to maintain the water levels in all recreational areas. Safety and comfort should be a #1 concern when it comes to this.
Unhappy with the high fluctuation of water levels.
We just need more water in the lakes.
Keep Afterbay water level up.
1. Keep Afterbay level at 127 or above. 2. Larkin Rd people parking at water's edge, between no parking signs.
I really enjoy the Afterbay but the water level has cost me new propellers almost every year. There are also unseen sand bars out in the middle of the Afterbay that can be potentially dangerous or even fatal. Or at least costly.

Table J-41. OWA – Afterbay Outlet visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

Nice place.
Beautiful place for recreation.
We only came to Oroville during "salmon fishing" so far its been good but I'm new at this.
A couple of people were very rude to me. Telling me how not to fish correctly and that I was in their area. Area being – this place I came to fish!!! "The Combat" fishing zone. Trash needs to be cleaned up.
I would like for this area to charge $2 per car and use the money to build better roads. Plus release more fish into the water.
Enforce litter law and prohibit fish gutting. This place is filthy and stinks terrible. Lots of small children here. . . Not sanitary.
Patrol fishing more often.
Need to have more fishing places besides the outlets. Too crowded for salmon fishing. Need to put more fish in the dam and river. Thanks.
Someone should check the outlet out once in a while.
Fish and Game should collect a portion of tackle and supplies to allow more support for this area during fishing season. Use it on this area. Garbage pick-up needed on a regular basis. Bring jail birds over to pick up line and junk in area. We don't want to pay to come here but we do need game wardens in area more often. Drag area for led in water.
Increase fish and game presence to enforce fishing regulations. An officer's wages plus could be made just by citing the number of snagging anglers in the small area that we fish.
This is a wonderful place to experience salmon return to their place of birth and fish for beautiful and strong fish. I have fished the Thermalito Afterbay since 1971 and have made a pilgrimage here every fall.

Table J-41. OWA – Afterbay Outlet visitor On-Site Survey additional comments continued.

The fishing was awesome. It is evident that the hatchery program is working. Fish, fish and more fish!! Now it's time to discuss fish ladders or elevators to get these fish all the way up the Feather Rivers. The conditions where we fished were terrible – the humans were rude, nasty cutting lines, flashing knives, not sportsmen. It was a firing line, war zone. Not pretty.
The area is nice, but people need to respect the area more by cleaning up after themselves. Each group should leave their area clean for the next group (etc).
Need crowd control at Thermalito.
Add more gravel to the road at OWA outlet. Clean the bathroom.
Please keep area cleaner.
Please clean up the area it is very unhealthy. I think guests will enjoy to come to a place where you can bring your whole family. This place is filthy, smelly, and there are way too many bees. If anything this will drive visitors away like myself. I love to fish, hike, boat, etc. but never here again. Unless I see a very big improvement. Please help keep our beautiful land beautiful!!!
I'm happy about the Salmon fishing and the 2 carpet benches but there is fishing string that gets caught around people's feet which is a hazard. The trash is bad too and the bees from the meat of the fish is just overwhelming. Thank you.
More litter removal at OWA outlet.
I think the recreation potential of the Oroville area is being efficiently utilized and everyone I have brought to the area whether urban dweller or country dweller are impressed with what is available in the area. Thank you.
Could use drinking water outlets.
Need a fish cleaning station at Thermalito.
Better restrooms. Trash cans and a place to cut up the fish because the banks smell.
Need water, phone for 911 call, clean up the place, trash, more trees for shading.
Could use a fish cleaning area, instead of the banks, could use running water, emergency phone.
Wants full RV hookups at OWA outlet.
They need a phone, they need a life preserver or a life jacket, they need water out here.
#1 Need running water, #2 Cleaner restroom, #3 campfire sites.
Shade trees.
Supply more trash cans.
Don't let the stinking tree huggers or BLM run this stretch of river with a bunch of regulations rules and whatever other bullshit they want to try and implement.

Table J-42. Rabe Road Shooting Range visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

This is a wonderful place to come for target shooting. If everyone would be so kind as to clean up after themselves. I would also like to see the sheriffs come out and write citations for a few weeks on incorrect behavior at the shooting range. The local community would then get the word and observe better etiquette at that range. Suggest that general rules posted for site.
The shooting area is a great resource. Even living in Rocklin, it's the best range to use in the area. Keep the range free to the public and maybe spend some tax dollars on upkeep and expansion. Real covered shooting benches and 1000 yard expansion would be great.
Clay Pit needs restrooms and a graded, maintained track to ride on. This area is great, but would be significantly improved with designated riding track for ORV, specifically dirt bikes.
Need more disabled hunting access.
The riding area needs some more features. It is basically just a flat area with no trees. It would be more enjoyable to ride here if there was some shade and riding terrain.
Keep more water in Lake Oroville and promote more bass fishing.
The lake is very important to us. We need to keep the water levels higher. This problem scares away the fishermen (anglers) from coming to our lake. We need their revenue (Lime saddle needs to revamp their marina). It looks old.

Table J-43. Clay Pit SVRA visitor On-Site Survey additional comments.

I have many friends and family that have used Lake Oroville and the surrounding area for years. There is a lot to offer. I think some better facilities, such as the improvements that have been made at LSM area a great improvement, and are attracting many more people now. Now, if we could keep our lake level up we could more safely use our wonderful lake, longer.
It would be nice to have more areas to camp.
Need to have more places to camp, have bathrooms and cold/hot water/ drinking water.
Concerning the clay pits (SVRA), I suggest that "they" install bathrooms and a "rinse off shower".
There is a lot of potential to be developed in this area.
Bathrooms and water would be nice thing to have in this area.

Source: On-Site Survey (n=2,583).

Table J-44. Lime Saddle Campground visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

The campsites need to be weeded down & postings of poison oak. Should be up all over. Poison oak should be cleaned better out of campsites. Need areas to take dogs by water.
For the past 2 years we have met family from out of town at Lake Oroville. Our family camps (they camper/trailer) & we spend all day w/ them. We bring our boat. It would be nice if Lime Saddle had water access for the kids to swim.
They Should moved those floating boat house away from the marina at least 2 miles away so that those who has PWC (Jetski) could play closer and could get their gas closer to the marina and the should add a swimming area too for the kids.
There was a constant conflict between staff on rules of park. One would say "Park here it's okay". The next would ticket you! One "Peace Officer" told me it was ok to move my vehicle even though I was over the legal alcohol limit! Unprofessional!
1. Water levels are too low & detract from job of boating. 2. Lime saddle is congested, awkward for boat launching, has inadequate & awkward piers for launching/landing, the boat ramp is a hiking expedition. The ramp is dangerously congested.
The new Lime Saddle campgrounds are nice! However, there should be a message board for campers to leave a note for others arriving late. Thanks.
Water level seems to decrease rapidly! Level TOO LOW for this time of year at a large recreational lake. Too much water being released too quickly. Shower facilities should have more than I hook on wall to hang clean/dry clothing. More locations for campsites at lake level. Trails down to Lake from Lime Saddle campsite (with dock?) that could be used instead of driving to marina and using ramp daily (what a walk up the ramp!!).
Would like to reserve campsites by # instead of 1st come 1st serve. Many campsites had very little shade. No soap in bathrooms. It would be nice to have a trail to the lake from the campsites. We stayed at Lime Saddle Campground. The employees were all very friendly and helpful.
Can't walk to lake from campground. No swimming areas close by (had to drive). No playground for kids. Sites could be a little wider. Especially around drop off areas.
All the dead grass is an extreme fire hazard.
I was only at the site for a family reunion and did not have an opportunity to explore much.
Quiet time needs to be deserved! Way to noisy at Loafer and at Lime Saddle just a little. People party till 2 – 3am!
Our 4th trip to Lake Oroville! We had a great trip! BUT, for the first time in 20 years we had our sun shade and anchor stolen from our day camp at the shore. Small problem with unmarked rocks and obstacles from the lake level being so low. Lime Saddle Campground is wonderful!
Water level is too low for families without boat to enjoy. The walk was far to carry food, beverages, fishing equipment, rafts, chairs. The camp sites were very good but to get to the water was a challenge. We have young children.
Would be nice to have sewer hook ups.
I would have been extremely satisfied but the only problem was that there weren't too many places where we could sit on the shore and jet ski in the same place. Our camp host was very friendly and our campsite was nice and clean.
Stop draining the water out of Lake Oroville. Big boats (21 ft boats) have a hard time getting to the water when Lime Saddle runs out of the concrete ramp, which happened in the past.
The only thing that disappointed us was that the campsites (Lime Saddle) were too far from the boat ramp/marina. We had to rent a boat slip which we don't like to do. We like to be able to leave the boat in the water and see it from the campsite. Otherwise we enjoyed our trip and might come back next year.

Table J-44. Lime Saddle Campground visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

We regularly camp and boat with many of our friends and family members and have found that reserving campsites using 800 444-7275 and/or using the online reservation methods for Lake Oroville are not very efficient, are very time consuming and/or not accommodating for our camping needs. We go to Lake McClure for these trips due to their knowledge of the campgrounds and campsites, lake level, boat launch availability, I can reserve as many campsites as needed, etc all in one phone call. Plus it is a real pleasure to work with people who know the lake and its' surroundings versus playing the website guessing games and/or talking with someone who can't even give me a phone number to call to get my questions answered. These qualities are very important and time saving for all involved. [comment condensed]
Bidwell does not have enough room for RVs. It also does not have full hook-ups like sewer.
Yes! The lake was wonderful. We plan to use the campground year after year! Thank you.
Water level always seems low in comparison to boat launching being so far down ramps. I hope vandalism at other sites have improved.
More access to beaches and closer beaches would be nice.
Campsites with electricity (outlet) will be a welcome. We enjoyed very much our visit though at Lime Saddle Campground, even without access to the water.
1. We were misinformed about the water level and Lake depth. 2. We were disappointed by the campsite. 3. The campsites were not set for more than two tents. We were told that we could have 8 people per site!

Table J-45. Lime Saddle DUA visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

I think it would be good to have solid roofs over the picnic tables instead of the latticed ones now on them.
Hope to see development of more parks and better camping.
Please do not let out so much water. It becomes very hard to enjoy the lake later in the year. The weather is still warm, but there is not enough water to enjoy.
Lake level too low and dangerous. Stop sending the water SOUTH!!!

Table J-46. Lime Saddle BR visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

I would like to see certain areas just for jet skis and personal watercraft, or at least 50 ft. from the fishing boats. Right now it is a problem and getting worse. Leave lake at moderate level.
We would like to see some type of transportation service which would assist handicapped individuals access from the boat dock to the handicapped parking. We thought a golf cart to provide rides up and down the ramp. More beach access to swim.
This was a pleasant one-day trip with my brother. He paid for everything! This explains why I paid so little on this trip! Lake Oroville is a beautiful area for wildlife & recreation.
I feel the water should be managed in a way for the best of everyone, not special interests. The care of our water is a great responsibility and should not be taken lightly or politically.
It had nothing to do with the lake, just the water level. My car was stuck in the sand and AAA did not care and left me and my friend out in a remote area to fend for each other.
It seems that the water level drops when the usage is at its peak. Is it that much of the water goes down south for Ag use?

Table J-46. Lime Saddle BR visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

My friend and I were on a motorcycle ride that day. We stopped to see the view. I have never been boating or camping at Oroville. We all miss the higher water level.
The staff at Lime Saddle Marina took great care of us. They explained safety and operation of the equipment. We will be back!
I would like to see the lake level stay more constant. Preferably above 800'. Post notices that boaters should stay close to the right hand bank.
There should be more room for boats to launch at the marina and more parking. Parking is very difficult on the weekends.
The lack of water in Lake Oroville is what we find objectionable. Too much water is sent elsewhere. The fishing is not that good and it used to be.
Poor water management keeps levels of lake artificially low, allowing too little build up during wet months due to fear of flooding. Better planning and response to actual conditions should replace over-reacting following lack of proactive use.
The biggest problem we face is the extremely low water level. Other than that it is very enjoyable.
Most people are not following safe boating activities. Boats are following right behind a skier. Boats are closer than 100' from other boats and are 50' from the shoreline constantly! Please post signs at marinas stating necessary equipment for boats, such as throw cushion, fire extinguisher enough PFD for each person & post more signs stating 100' from other boats, 200' from shore, 5 mph after sunset and have rangers go to the North Fork to oversee those not following the rules. A lot of people need to be informed again about safe boating. Not just being ticketed by rangers. Rangers should be a deterrent and to remind people about the law. Not a source of revenue.
Jet skier appear to have a growing disregard for fishermen, other boaters, and the no wake zones.
We would like to see the water level be higher. This may help bring more money to the areas because more people will be able to get on the lake. More wakeboarding!
Getting the boat in and out of the marina on weekends and busy weeknights is challenging. Too small an area and too few launching spaces and docking areas. Other than that and the desire for a slalom ski course, we are privileged to have such a great lake close by.
Please consider installing some type of floating dock to use when no shoreline is available. It is a real challenge to find any place to stop and set up a day camp. Thank you.
The low water is very bad and unhealthy. Motor boat ramps steep. The smaller inlets have a lot of a lot of mucky or mudding waters. Also the last 3 years I have had ticket on my car. Last year the front of car was 6' into red area it cost me $45.00 fine, this year I got a ticket for $65.00 because they could not see my pass that had fallen to floorboards. We have a big lake that is getting very bad conditions, it is too bad that a nice lake is going to the bad. In conversations with other people around the lake, they are not too pleased with it; we have a nice lake. At least it is too bad that these conditions are happening.
Enjoyed our trip. Except we had ski equipment stolen from our campsite (New camping area near Lime Saddle). Otherwise, nice campgrounds. But a bit too small (individual sites we were told for 8 people, but room only for one tent).
I was there on the 4th and the fireworks show was spectacular!! That was the first time I was on a boat over the water watching fireworks. After the show everybody was organized and the flow to the boat ramps went very smoothly.
People were very friendly. The new Lime Saddle Campground was nice (although extra trees would have made for better privacy). Parking at the marina was a very big problem (keep in mind however, we were there over 4th of July holiday). Lime Saddle was also a very easy drive from Bay area. Thoroughly enjoyed and will be back often!
There needs to be someone to help get back up the ramp. Especially in low water times! Too much water was let out 2 years in a row.
This survey would be worth filling out if the lake was ever filled. One time in 17 years does not count. Your company also does not live in the areas so you would not understand. Can go into more detail if you would like to spend some time here.

Table J-46. Lime Saddle BR visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

Quit selling water. Leave lake as high as possible. Need beaches for day use.
It bothers me that even during low water years so much water is spent south.
Lime Saddle ramp totally inadequate R/T population centers and #s of users. Lime Saddle needs ramp at least 6 lanes that are functional year round – Oroville area OHV parks totally inadequate – needs riding area in hills with campsites or at least day use sites with shade, water, bathrooms, and picnic tables.
Lime Saddle needs improvements, especially the boardwalks and covered slips. We have owned both pleasure boats and bass boats. We have found bass anglers to be very courteous and always abides by the rules of the lake. However, many pleasure boat owners do not. These actions should be monitored better to improve on safety for all. High speed and reckless driving spells trouble. We enjoy the lake and have gone there for 7 years.
Saw a few fish (bass) that were in the slot that had been hooked deep. One or 2 were bait that were cleaned. Need to be able to take badly hooked fish home or maybe to a marina to keep down waste of fish. Also, lake needs more fish habitat such as trees, brush, whatever.
At the marinas, I think they should not allow people with a single car to park in the long boat trailer parking spots. At Lime Saddle a lot of single parking was added above the boat trailer parking. However, no one uses the lot. They park where the trailers go and that takes up parking for boaters.
I was told “they sold the water to LA” as an explanation for why the water level was going down so fast. Who are “they,” where did the money go, and how can we stop future sending of water down south? This (sending the water south) hurts Northern California and we certainly will need it even more in the future.
It makes me sad to see how low Lake Oroville has been allowed to become when other lakes in California are so much higher. PLEASE DO SOMETHING!
Bad problems with yellowjackets.
Your survey would have been more clear if geared towards either vacationers or people who live in the area and use the lake on a daily/weekly basis.
I spend a large amount of money each year in moorage fees and parking passes. For a large part of the year I am unable to use my boat because the water level is too low or the docks are disconnected due to low water. I am unable to remove my boat due to low water or launch it. The marina staff try to be helpful but several times I have been to my boat and found another boat drifting into it or pieces of driftwood lodged between the boat and dock. For most of the winter the docks are separated and they can’t run the shuttle (seems to be an arbitrary decision) so you can’t get out to check your boat. I went down one day this spring and found my boat motor off my boat and lying on the dock. I don’t know why or how long it had been there. The marina staff hadn’t noticed it. Even though we have moorage, we have to wait in the same lines with the other people who are waiting to launch or park. There should be a separate drive for moorage customers. If there was a bus shuttle from a parking lot in Paradise to Lime Saddle I would use it and not even bring my car. Needless to say, I am frustrated. I want to use the lake and my boat – but can’t either because of the water level or separated docks and no shuttle. It’s even illegal to swim off the back of your boat while moored. I’m not sure why – It’s not a safety issues if there aren’t any boats moving in the marina due to inability to launch or even move. They could at least allow that. Where is the water going? Why can’t we keep a larger pool? I see a lot of “for sale” signs on boats and I’m considering giving up my slip.
Definitely need more docks and shoreline access at Lime Saddle. Also, need longer launching ramp due to low water levels.
Lime Saddle has great group campsites, but would like to see built in fire ring for evening fires.

Table J-46. Lime Saddle BR visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

I just love to come out with my family or friends and do boat activities. My favorite being wakeboarding. But the water level is very low and dirty.
Ski areas should be limited to a bigger area of water. Some of these channels are so narrow that it is dangerous to get through with people skiing in every direction. Maintain a higher water level.
1. Very dissatisfied with low lake level, areas closed for waterskiing, and congestion on lake. 2. Extremely dissatisfied that we were cited for fireworks due to a child having a sparkler on top of a houseboat in the middle of the lake. The ranger was a "pick". There was no written notice of "fireworks prohibited" on any signs, or in any written material at marinas or in possession of 2 different rangers.
Due to the extremely low lake levels.
Other than the low water issue early on in the season I enjoy Lake Oroville a great deal.
Water level too low. We need to keep our water in our own lake, not send it to So. California where their lake is 90% full, thanks to us!
Lake Britton has places to get off a water vehicle and swim, picnic, relax in the sun (not just at the State Park). Lake Trinity is beautiful–streams, meadows, hiking, easy access to the shoreline. I realize these 2 lakes are higher in elevation and that would make a difference in vegetation. But Lake Oroville in late summer is UGLY. And unless you want to stay, Lake Mendocino also has access to its shorelines – swimming, picnicking, etc.
The fluctuating lake levels make boating at Lake Oroville much less enjoyable. The walk to the top of the launch ramp is especially difficult. The changing levels also mean that the marinas have to continually move boats moored there around which can cause damage to the boats. Our houseboat had about $6000 damage last Nov. due to the low lake levels and the marina moving our boat out of a sheltered cove into the main channel. We are considering moving our boat to another lake.
Have been using lake for 20 years. I HATE the low water levels, when other lakes are in better shape. I wish the concessionaire at Lime Saddle Marina would get the boot. They are horrible to deal with and the conditions at that marina are appalling. Especially when compared with Bidwell marina.
Will not return to Lake Oroville until water level is up. Hundreds of feet of dirt is not pleasant scenery for kayaking. We'll spend our money in Redding and go to Whiskeytown where the water level is constant.
When the water gets low, docking and trailering at the boat ramp gets scary. More space for people to wait and more ramp width would really improve the situation.
If water levels are going to fluctuate as they have in recent years, extend the launch ramp length and widen it. If the parking area is over 200 feet higher than the water level, a shuttle is needed, a fee for which would be acceptable.
Because the lake is always low, as a tax payer I'd like to see more flat plateaus cut into the side of some of the shorelines so they're easily accessible to shore fishing and primitive shore camping.
Water level appears to be mismatched. Lake use should come first. Not outside obligations when water is let out at a rate of 1"-2" a day in July it creates unfavorable boating conditions.
We have had our houseboat at Lime Saddle Marina since 1983 and we have always enjoyed our times. If we had boat troubles we have always received good help from the mechanics at Lime Saddle Marina. We have seen the water go up and down many times that it seems the norm. The trees that appear when the water is low and they sometimes make it difficult to tie up at the shoreline. The times we spend at our houseboat has proved to be a good experience as a fun time to have our children and grandchildren a place to come together. We all have wonderful memories of these times and we look forward to continuing it.

Table J-46. Lime Saddle BR visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

The biggest problem we face is running out of launch ramps in the fall and water drops too fast in March and April, drying out large mouth bass nests and depleting large mouth population in the lake. We need more enforcement of lake rules and regulations.
No facilities at Lime Saddle. You don't care about the water level of Oroville for recreation. All you care about is the money LA is giving you for the water. I will be spending most of my summer at Shasta, a recreation lake. They keep the lake full most of the summer.
Lime Saddle launch ramp is too narrow and must be widened. Dock at launch ramp is too short, only 2 boats can tie-up. Lake needs rainbow trout planted and have same fishery as Lake Shasta.
No marina, no adequate docks, no services, no low water parking, ramp not wide enough, not enough parking, no pumping station, no gas, vandalism – no security, poor upkeep of cables and mooring. Our houseboat buoy fees have gone up in price and services have gone up in price and services have gone down or don't exist.
Keep the water in the lake. Do not drain it like last year.
Water fluctuation very extreme.
Please replace the lost store and marina at Lime Saddle.
My primary interest is fishing/trolling for trout and salmon on the lake – please continue to stock the lake with these sport fish.
My family has enjoyed Lake Oroville for the past 20 years. In 1986 we bought a ½ ownership in a houseboat at Lime Saddle. We have recently traded it in and commissioned a brand new boat to be built in the Chico area. The cost will be in 6 figures. We pay for annual mooring at Lime Saddle, and extensively use the services provided by the marina operators. For 20 years we have been satisfied for the most part by the management of the marina. We live in the Auburn area. It would be safe to say that over annual over-all expenses are between 5 to 8 thousand dollars.
Problems due to boat, not location.
New marina at Lime Saddle – make it big and easy to use. Too much debris floating, need a cleanup crew, do not send water down south.
Let's keep water in the lake at least until Nov or Dec. Then release for winter storms.
Debris in the water is very bad! Other lakes don't have this bad of a problem.
Lime Saddle Marina is very important to us and our many boating friends. The people running the marina are friendly and efficient. We appreciate that a lot.
Lake was beautiful full.

Table J-47. Nelson Bar Car-top BR visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

Should have signs posted for people from out of state regarding policies and procedures for the boat ramps.
We were at the newest part where they filled in partly where the dam came in. It was a little hard to get out since there was two cars there. But it was very peaceful & quiet.
The new improvements to the Lime Saddle area are good. Drop in water level prohibit lake access most of the year. The Parrish cove area would be a great day use area.
I wish the lake level could be higher, like in previous years-at least during summer months. It should at least be higher in the beginning of summer. It used to be great. Help others, but lets not totally deplete our lake.

Table J-47. Nelson Bar Car-top BR visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

I have lived here since 1968, saw the lake fill for the first time. The trampling by mankind on the surrounding land and watershed of waterways was inevitable. Now it is a managed, recreational, money making lackey of the state! It is not progress.
The area to swim amounted to + or - 50'. Of the 10 groups there, only one group had reasonable access to the water. Obviously this is not an approved swim area -- but where on the West shore of the lake is an area to swim? This was a day trip to allow children to swim and frolic in the water. Of the children brought to this area – a general consensus was that none would like to return.
People should control their dogs by putting them on leashes and having them licensed. Or at least keep them from attacking others.
My husband and I were there to hike the trails by the flume. We found it didn't go very far. On the way back to our truck we found some blackberry bushes and picked our fill. It was fun and relaxing. We were only there about 1.5 hours. We live in Paradise.

Table J-48. Bloomer BIC visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

The floating campsites have been booked every time I call to make a reservation. Yet every time I am at the lake, they are all completely empty. This is discouraging and forces me to look elsewhere for my recreation.

Table J-49. Foreman Creek BIC visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

I love to camp at foreman creek but I will not return this year. Water level is very important to me. My friends and I who also have boats will return when the water line is higher. Hopefully we will see you in 2003?
Please do not sell the water!

Table J-50. Foreman Creek Car-top BR visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

Host boat drags on Oroville Forebay, good opportunity for Oroville to make some serious recreation money.
We need toilets at foreman creek.
The past two years the water level has driven my family and friends to other locations, like Bucks Lake. We are debating on having a houseboat at Lake Oroville or a trailer campsite at Bucks Lake. We are leaning towards Bucks because they have water.
Water levels drop too much to really enjoy the lake. Need bathroom facility at Foreman Creek.
I would like to see a permanent restroom at Foreman Creek or at least two portables.
Too many boats on launch ramps during low water conditions-ramps should be improved. There should be a docent or somebody to explain launch/pickup courtesy and techniques-weekends are bad and some “boaters” haven’t a clue.
Keep Foreman Creek toll free forever!!!
The solitude of Foreman Creek is very important to me as a resident (right off the road, we live less than a quarter mile away). We would love to see that naturalness and quiet stay that way. We also believe that too much water is being let out. Why?
Need to keep more water in the lake. Needs trash cans. Needs restrooms. Needs more state personnel presence.
No campsites. The ones at Foreman Creek are closed. They should be open.

Table J-50. Foreman Creek Car-top BR visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

The firework show was great, a lot better than last year. There need to be garbage cans located at places along lake that is reached by cars in events like that. It would help a lot. And maybe rent some port-o-potties. Bushes are great and all but a toilet is nice too.
Like in the Foreman creek area, Loafer Creek, etc., it would be nice to have a beach area for swimming. Getting out of the water is difficult trudging through mud, slipping is a big problem. No restroom facilities at Foreman creek.
We love the lake for boating, skiing, fishing, etc. But, unless we're on the lake in our boat, there are no facilities to take our family fishing or swimming after the 4th of July. Either the lake level should remain higher or more facilities need to be constructed for lower water.
Any place you can put a boat in the water needs a restroom.
I wish to protest the closing of the Cove (just south of the Foreman Creek area) to waterskiing. I have used this cove for many years prior to its closing with no problems. You have floating campsites there now, and my observations show that it is hardly ever used. When the wind comes up, as it often does, the cove is the only good place in this area! PLEASE reconsider opening it back up and placing the buoys down by the bridge (hwy 162).
Put bathrooms in at Foreman Creek. Put in boat ramp.
It would be nice if you did not let so much water out so we (other people of Oroville) could enjoy a full lake and not worry about rocks that stick up through the middle.
No restroom facilities at the following car top launch areas: south of Enterprise bridge water access, Stringtown car top launch area, Foreman creek car top launch area.
Need restrooms at Foreman Creek.

Table J-51. Craig Saddle BIC visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

I loved the grooming of the campsites. They were free of rocks and debris that gets under your tent. I have never seen such a nice looking, well kept campsite!
Please leave water level up, for it affects all recreation activities extremely.
It would be great if they allowed camping at Oroville.

Table J-52. Stringtown Car-top BR visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

Please place large dumpsters at Stringtown and fix up boat ramp. We are all for licensing of boat drivers and jet skiers. No one should be allowed to operate a motor without a license. Very dangerous jet ski behavior on lake. Lake levels dangerous.
(article enclosed) Abusers of water in So Cal hosing down driveways, lawn sprinklers flooding streets, & washing cars on driveway instead of lawn-no wonder I'm ticked to see this gross mismanagement of water by DWR.
The water was so low it was too muddy. We also need more free campgrounds and picnic areas around the shore of the lake.
Dissatisfied with the Bidwell Marina experience, not Lake Oroville. I just wish the lake would remain full. I know DWR has a contract with farmers & So. Cal. For water. Fix that problem Lake Oroville would be the prime water rec area for N. Cal.
You guys are doing alright, keep it up!

Table J-52. Stringtown Car-top BR visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

I think you need to open the dam. The lake s too low. It is really hard to find somewhere to do swimming without having to walk a long distance. It makes it hard to enjoy ourselves. Please tell us why you are not opening the dam. Thank you.
Do away with the slot limit. Keep water levels higher!
Due to the low water level of the lake, it was very difficult to find a place to swim and fish without a boat. Thanks to a local at a nearby bait shop he gave us directions to a nice place to enjoy, but when a park ranger was asked, he offered no suggestion.
My answers are for Stringtown so they mostly don't apply because no facilities are available. However, my family goes to developed sites regularly & my "too few" answers would also apply to the last page. More people would come if more of everything was offered. The lake is Oroville's biggest asset. Please take advantage of this & there will be more visitors here spending money. Not a lot of poor people go boating so offer high end recreation and other facilities.

Table J-53. Enterprise BR visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

Thanks for the trip. Me and my family had a lot of fun.
No beach/boat/dock - camping facilities. We want to bring boat and children to an area where they are within eyesight.
Larger hunting area. Water too low.
I would probably, as a single mom who loves to fish & enjoys nature, like to see more easy access to the water so I can maybe pass on my enjoyment of the outdoors to my daughter. Looks very kept up & taken care of just haven't had much opportunity to seek out other facilities available, i.e. Camping as I'm a nursing student. May be soon. Thanks for letting me participate, sorry for delay.
Ramps need to be made longer so they can be used at low water. Better trash pick-up. Cans are full 95% of the time. Better bathrooms and care of same. Better parking enforcement, like no parking on ramp signs.
There needs to be more off-road trails for motorcycles.
Very nice lake you have here, for the most part. Don't like the drop in water level at all. With a lot of underwater debris. Other than that, I am very satisfied. Thank you for the excellent place to bring my family.
Yeah! Don't change a whole lot - the Lake Oroville area is beautiful and inviting!
I think our water resources needs to come up with some way to bring the lake back to life with water and lake visitors. There us a low count of tourists this summer and that's the fun of the lake. Meeting new people and seeing the lake like it once was; its natural beauty and lively habitat.
Please extend all the boat ramps or stop letting the water get so low.
I want to keep the water levels up. The land the lake is on is OUR land and if there's no water in the lake the land sacrifice is a waste. We should be able to enjoy the water in our own lake. I understand letting water out to serve others, but save enough for us to enjoy too! Please.
Too many people park on boat ramp and it makes it hard to launch boat from side of ramp. Need sign saying no Parking on Ramp Anytime.
Water too low for landing. Suggest retaining water or make ramps longer. RE: Enterprise.
It would be helpful to indicate when the water level is extremely low, where the sand bars are. We almost hit one! It would be nice to have boat-in day picnic areas that are developed and boater friendly (BBQ areas, toilets (not boxes, you know!), tables, grass areas, water).

Table J-53. Enterprise BR visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

I own property off Lumpkin Road and visit the area very frequently. I would like to see Enterprise Boat ramp better maintained. Access to launch a boat when the water level drops is terrible and hazardous. Enterprise Boat Ramp area could be very nice if better maintained. Even for a fee if necessary.
Please post "No Parking" signs at boat ramp as people were using ramps as parking lots! Extend boat ramp so it can be used, or keep water level higher so it can be used. We spent 5 days there and not once saw any type of ranger, police, sheriff etc. People were letting dogs run all over beach – people left trash all over beach – some kind of law enforcement personnel should keep an eye on things and make frequent stops along the shoreline. This was especially bad at Enterprise Boat Launch. People were trashing the place because they knew they could get away with it. We picked up trash daily from other people. Maybe more trash bins would help? Drunk and drinking youths were a problem also. I think law enforcement really needs to be visible and it was non-existent during this trip. People were firing off fireworks for hours and then left all their trash. Tickets, citations, could have been written and made on these citations. We like the lake but it's not taken care of properly.
I'm a local resident and was just down at the lake to beach comb, pick up some of the trash and take a dip in the lake!

Table J-54. Loafer Creek BR visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

I like this lake we camped twice and both times it was great.
Floating bathrooms were very clean. Please try to keep water levels up.
It use to be "Where's the beef?", now it's "Where is the water?".
Need better supervision of boat launch areas during peak periods to manage traffic and prevent swimming in area. Provide water hose in boat launch staging areas for boat cleaning.
The day we are referring to as our recent trip to Lake Oroville we were rescuing our friends who were broke down.
I have been to many campgrounds around California and the US. The facilities at Loafer Creek were outstanding. I have never been to a more organized, clean campground as Loafer Creek. You guys do good work.
We camped next to a very loud group of campers. We had to go to the host and ask him to talk to the loud campers. They stopped for a while, but continued to be VERY loud using bad language! Thank you.
1. The buoys need to be bigger, brighter and easily read. Especially 5 mi, No-ski, hazard, and no wake area. 2. A small pamphlet that list the rules and regulations of the waterways. 3. More enforcement in the NO WAKE AREAS. 4. We need our lake level to be higher.
We really liked the price. The last State Park we went to cost more than twice Loafer Creek to camp and then there were launching fees for the boats as well. We had a great time! Thank you.
Water level drops to fast, boat ramps are hard to use.
Why are the boat/trailers allowed to park along the side of the boat ramps over night? The signs say "no parking/tow away." I've never seen a vehicle get a ticket or towed away.
1. Make the boat ramps wider and longer when the water is low. 2. Security is parking lots of boat ramps.
The lake level too low. Too much water going down river. If lake in 2002 is low, extend Loafer Creek boat ramp so it can be used at 40% level. Should be able to ski next to Dam because when lake level is low and there is wind, that is where the smooth water is. There should be handicap parking at the Dam ramp up by portable bathrooms. Not at the ramp taking up room for people to put their boats in. Because if there handicap, they will be people with them and will help them on their boats. They should extend the ramp at the dam too. When lake is low. They should pave between lower ramp and parking lot at Bidwell. Or make no 2WD vehicle when at low ramp (they get stuck).

Table J-54. Loafer Creek BR visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

I think Oroville is a good value as a recreation site. As things improve it will become better. I have been using Oroville for years and it is steadily improving – security and safety used to be a larger issue. But thankfully those problems are being dealt with. Good job!
Lake Oroville facilities need 1."Dry Storage" for boats at Spillway and N. Forebay (boats on trailers, rather than in the water) 2. 24 hr rescue/assist service for stranded boaters on Lake Oroville 3. Free pumpout services for boaters/houseboats 4. Summertime warm water swimming area at Loafer Creek Campground 5. Improved boat launch access at all minor launch ramps 6. Shuttle service for boaters on major launch ramps on high use days. Boat launch delays due to the long walk back to the parking areas is "A big problem." Do everything possible to improve the maximum use days.

Table J-55. Loafer Creek Campground & Group Campground visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

There could be changes to improve fun and recreation at the lake. If the water level is low there is no spots to swim or picnic unless you have a boat.
Gas at Bidwell is $2.80/gal. and not posted dominantly. Will haul gas from town in containers next trip at $1.60 or so.
I don't see the necessity for peace officers to visit a campsite (ours) everyday when we were not doing anything just so they can say something.
The evening campfires with interaction between the owls and children were extremely educational and very fun. Thanks for a great camping experience.
I would like to say that my family goes to loafer creek every year and we enjoy the peace & tranquility of your campground during the week. On weekends out of control. Too much excessive drinking. Overall it's great!
My party would like to see aside or a place for people that go camping for some social opportunities and that there be no quiet time or a later quiet time not 10pm. Other than then security telling us to shut up or we would be asked to leave it was nice.
Campground site should be closer to the lake. 1/2 mile is too far. Need place to purchase ice.
Too many bugs!
I would like restaurants on lake and tour of the lake to see feather falls. Also to put some small family cabins on the shoreline. There has been too much talk and no action.
Recreation is important for mind and body health, You don't need to spend money on this survey. Consistency is key in all levels of facility areas. Toilet and shower facilities are minimal. Set the rules for courtesy and common knowledge. Where is water.
I am going to be spending many nights at the campground this summer, and I just am not happy by the closeness of all the campsites. You are in the middle of everyone's business, and they are in yours, not to mention the noise levels are frequently too high.
There no swimming areas when water is low.
There has always been great/friendly staff of rangers & volunteers. We always have fun. Only issue, floating campsites still a little too expensive and June has too much debris in water.
More private bathrooms. Swimming near shore for disabled. Pathways for groups that have more than 1 campsite. More signs for drinking water.
I'm glad to see that you have included handicap campsites, but they should be interspersed instead of all together. Like to see more trails to the lake.

Table J-55. Loafer Creek Campground & Group Campground visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

Great Lake to boat on. Not many boats during the week. However, the water level was very low in August.
The water level was too low. I would like to see it full. When and how long will it take to get Lake Oroville there?
This was our third trip to Lake Oroville. Our family goes camping 3 to 4 time per year. The camping facility and water quality is great at Loafer Creek. Beach access for non-boats actually is extremely poor. The water level changes this trip made it difficult to find beach access for picnics and swimming. We will return next year!
We were never given any information regarding the rules of the campground. As a result, the host had us turn off the generator at 8:00pm. This seems early. 10:00pm would be more realistic. Also, without a boat, it is very difficult to reach a beach for swimming.
Water level needs to be higher for day/swim use. Water level ok for boat use.
We had a wonderful time. We had 4 campsites with family and friends. Several watercraft and some friends/family coming for a day or so and others coming later. Suggestion: It would be nice if you had additional picnic tables available (for free or for a nominal fee) so when we all wanted to eat or play games, we could do so at one campsite. Also – you need to stop people from parking trucks/trailers on the boat ramp. It is nearly impossible to turn around when these people park there. The signs say not to park, but law enforcement should haul them off if they park there!
We go to the lake once or twice a year to take the kids. But there is never enough water up high for them to go swimming. I am disabled and can't walk all the way to the water. It would be nice to see the water at the shore so we could all have fun together.
Would like to see paved areas in campsites similar to the handicap sights. Also would like to see more level areas within campsite for tent use.
You need shoreline campgrounds, more swimming areas and a lot more campgrounds.
Restrooms along shoreline and floating restrooms are too few. Need more.
We've been camping and boating at Oroville for the past 4-5 years and we've enjoyed boating on the lake, but this last trip we could not take our boat (because it broke down at home) and realized there really isn't much access to the lake's shoreline and lake itself when Loafer Creek day use area is closed due to low water level.
No parking/swimming on or near the boat ramps during low water periods. Very dangerous and no park rangers at ramp. Need to police ramps MORE often.
It was too HOT! Guess you can't control that. :-)
The campsite was ok, but we like camping near water and because the water level was so low, we left early. There was no place to go swimming or take the dog. Maybe it would be ok if you had a boat to swim from, but we don't. We won't be going back anytime soon.
My comments: The coin-operated hot water is the showers at the campgrounds should be abandoned. The new buoys by the dam should be removed and access near the dam should be as it always was. The 5mph zone at Bidwell Canyon extends WAY too far out into the lake. The “no ski” zone on the North Fork should be moved back significantly, or eliminated, when the water in the lake is high enough. The floating campgrounds have taken away normally calm waters from water sports. I hate to say that jet skis, PWC’s and other similar boats should be banned from the lake but they are clearly the most unsafe users of the resource. I would like to think that education could solve the problem but I’m not sure. Law enforcement is too prevalent at the lake! Fishermen in general seem to have a bad attitude toward pleasure boaters and water sports activities. The new law that requires children 12 years and under to wear a PFD at all times while onboard is too restrictive. (comment condensed)
CLEAN showers and restrooms. Thank you.

Table J-55. Loafer Creek Campground & Group Campground visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

Had a great trip. Great lake!
Would appreciate more accurate info from reservation service for floating campsites. Was told on several occasions via phone 0 vacancies on weekend until 9/14 yet each weekend notice vacant campsites. Are cancellations that frequent? And if so how do you access these without reservations? Shuttle svc. From ramps to parking lots when lake is so low. What agency is allowing the release of water so that lake is practically inaccessible?? Without damage to boat. How can we shop this? We moved to area to access recreation activities but past 2 years with lake levels so low especially early in season. Visits have been greatly decreased.
The only reason that I was somewhat dissatisfied is because the water level of the lake was dropping so fast that the dock was almost unusable and the fishing was lousy! We've come to lake Oroville every year for camping and fishing. The last 2 years the water has been so low, and I believe it affects the fishing. We are questioning whether we really want to come back. Every other year, we have our kids with us (5). Our expenditures are higher in those years and we stay longer (1 week).I really appreciate you're doing this survey and hope you can do something to control the water level. One more thing – we have an RV parked next to our tent site. Those people had a very loud generator that would be on all day. It was nerve racking! The camp host talked to them but it didn't do much good. May be RVS should be kept separate from tent camping. Very nice people at the pay station!
We have witnessed vehicles vandalized. We were lucky not to be hit and robbed. We will come back to Lake Oroville but we know people who will not because of the risk. Marinas need to be patrolled.
I would like to see more water (water level) during the summer months. The water used to be so clear and blue. Now, the water was green and the clarity was reduced. I am not sure if the amount of water in the lake has to do with this or not.
Noticed new concrete tables at campsites very nice. Campground in general was very well maintained. Have camped at Loafer Creek for approximately 25 years and still enjoy it very much.
Very disappointed in the lack of boat rentals. We made reservations on-line and then personally called to confirm. They never suggested that we needed to make reservations for boat rentals as well. We've rented boats before and never had to make reservations. At Lake Oroville it must be the lack of marinas to rent boats.
Our group was disappointed at the extremely low water level. It's hard to camp as a big group without any on-site swimming are/facilities.
Thank you!
We prefer a more tree covered lake area. The water level was very low. No beaches available--all muddy and steep. The water was warm, clean and beautiful.
It was impossible to get in the water without a boat. The water level was extremely low. I didn't see beaches at all. A lot of loud music and yelling at campsites after 10:00 pm. Loud music all the time from other campsites. This was my first time at Lake Oroville. The campsites were wonderful and plenty of water and bathrooms.
How about some recycle bins? We threw away lots of cans and bottles. Perhaps some warning signs for poison ivy and a picture for reference.
The only thing that didn't like was the water level. The lake is way too low.
My husband and myself found your campsites clean, useable, and very pleasant. We will return. My husband is disabled. Next time we will try a disabled camping spot. Thank you.
We have been going to Loafer creek for about 26 years and love it. We may need to consider using our motorhome instead of the tent within a year or two and then will need to move to Bidwell campgrounds for hook ups. But we will continue to visit Lake Oroville.
The water was way to low -- big hike to get to water -- could not bring boat. Dock closed.

Table J-55. Loafer Creek Campground & Group Campground visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

The existing boat ramps should be extended to allow launching at low water levels. Some RV hook-ups at Spillway parking lot would be nice. Showers at Spillway.
Lots of space at campsite. Fire pit was nice. Bathrooms were individual was nice. Very clean.
For having so many campsites, the layout provides much privacy. The large, free shower room was nice. There is so much to explore. We keep coming back. Still have so much to see.

Table J-56. Loafer Creek Equestrian Camp visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

Not adequate access to shoreline for families wanting to come to lake for swimming. In the equestrian camp-not enough space for horse trailers or rv or campers unless you own a boat or watercraft there is no reason to visit Oroville if you swim/picnic.
Too expensive for the crummy spot we received. Need pens in all spaces, couldn't attend other rec. activities due to no pens. Not enough shade. Not enough trails.
We want our lake level back up. The lake is too low. There is hardly any access to the water safely along the shoreline. We need beaches my kids can't swim in the lake cause all access is a huge cliff. Thanks.
Get rid of the bikes on horse trails.
Bikers have been a small problem, especially while riding inexperienced horses. We especially like the way the horse camp has been developed more with more corrals. You have done a lot of work on the trails, which makes them more interesting and fun.
The area around the lake is a beautiful and peaceful place to ride and enjoy nature and good weather. I really enjoy the equestrian trails and appreciate the parking area and bathroom facilities. Brooks orchard is a wonderful place to rest, eat, visit with friends and have a rest room and water for the horses. Thank you! The camp area for equestrians is great!!
I ride my horse at Loafer Creek Trail one or two times a week. Trails are in excellent shape and campground is also clean and in good shape.
We would like to see level sites and hook ups in the equestrian camp. More corrals. They were great.
The increase in the number of corrals at Loafer Creek Equestrian Camp makes bringing a horse for overnight camping makes the owner feel more secure with the horse's safety. Plus allows for a good night's sleep.
I understand from talking to other equestrians that more corrals will be built for the campsites that do not have them, and that a round pen is under construction at the equestrian camp. It's good for us to have places to camp and ride! We came to camp self contained so not to have to stop and spend time and money.
Due to the very hot climate during the summer months, water is very important to both horses and riders. Too bad the lake was so low that we couldn't swim (that was the only real disappointment for our group). More equestrian trails would improve the likelihood of repeat horseback riders. Now one most ride the same trail to go out any great distance and return. Varying size loop trails would greatly enhance the facility.
Really enjoyed equestrian site. Would like to see more corrals on site without them and maybe 1 or 2 more showers. But all in all it was a great experience.
Lloyd and Johnny were very helpful with trail information. I found them to be very nice to talk to.
None of the questions fit me. I live near the lake and occasionally ride my horse at Loafer Creek.
Would like larger level parking spots in equestrian campsites. Would like to have a more positive experience when booking reserved sites.

Table J-56. Loafer Creek Equestrian Camp visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

Pull through campsites for big rigs (horse trailers) needed badly as it was hard to turn around, it would be nice to back into the campsite and not park on the road. More people are buying 5th wheels w/sleepers so RV hook-ups would also be nice, making Oroville the best horse camp I've ever stayed at. Thanks.
Would like more equestrian campsites on all sides of Lake Oroville and also more equestrian campsites at other state parks (Like the Lake Oroville equestrian campsite).
Had to share showers with other campground because their showers were torn down. Also kicked out for two days due to the road being paved. Such work should be done much later in the season.
Horse camp is top notch. Could use more restroom facilities when near capacity (as it was 9/29). Trails are EXCELLENT.
Great horse accommodations. Would have liked to have taken our dog on trails – very uncrowded when we were there. Clean and nice facilities. Will be back.

Table J-57. Loafer Creek DUA visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

Keep white trash from living in campsites and making an otherwise natural looking area look like a Garbage dump. Actually have someone enforce quiet times in campsites. Eco-tourism Vs. Drunken Boaters? More Mtb trails -- this is huge, will attract tourists= $$$.
Since I was only there one time for a 2 hour ride, I do not feel I can make on adequate or fair evaluation, but in looking at the map I would like to see more trails looping to other parts of the lake. Place for horses to swim.
Keep improving equestrian trails!
I was surprised to find such a clean and well kept area. Had a hard time locating mtn. bike trail for my first time ride. Loved the trail but you need to sign the trail better. You have a great area.
Maybe another bathroom on the other side of the park at Loafer Creek.
Fish plants into lake, more trout too many bass tournaments.
We use Loafer Creek or the Forebay for our annual company picnic. It was at Loafer Creek this year because the water level was up and the swimmers could enjoy it.

Table J-58. Spillway BR/DUA visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

Plan now for lake growth, so residents are not impositioned, so visitors have a good time and come back (roads, gas stations, better hotels), real restaurants. When lake very low and 110F launch ramp trolley. Smaller "day use" barges (love the campgrounds).
I live in the area for only one reason and that is the lake!!! I go to the lake on my vacations and every weekend in the summer! This is the most enjoyable time for me & it the best way to spend time having fun with family & friends. Water level too low – to have space and enjoy the water! The water level should be much higher!!!!
We enjoy boating at Lake Oroville early in the season before lake levels drop and it gets too hot. Boat-in-campgrounds are not adequately marked. We looked for them but could not identify any.
This is the second questionnaire you have sent me. Please don't send me anymore. Thank you.

Table J-58. Spillway BR/DUA visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

We did not like that all the campgrounds were located very far from the shoreline. We est. 1-2 miles from the campgrounds (2) to the shoreline. There was not a shoreline picnic area that we could find? There was a lot of pieces of wood in the water. Some wood pieces were large. They are a danger to our prop and hull. We had to dodge them as we drove around the lake.
1. The lake needs to be developed.2. Less water should be released. 3. The second ramp @ spillway needs to be longer so there is more than one ramp (idwell in the dirt) when water levels are low.
Dropping lake level is always a problem in Oroville. Will the heavy transfers south ever stop?
Lake Oroville is way too low, it not only looks bad but it causes problems with land exposure.
We have a pontoon boat and typically do day trips. It looks like after mid July we may not be back due to low water. If the level would stay above 650 until after labor day we could continue to launch the 24'boat.
Man your check in points and charge for entry. Thousands have been missed and cannot be replaced. Keep Fish and Game involved at ramps areas. This promotes safety and keeps people honest in their catch. You must keep a pair of longer docks at your ramps. This has always been a very bad problem over the past 20 years. Tempers flare at this area and could be eased by areas to tie up for loading and unloading. The Bassmaster docks were great 2 years ago. Thanks.
It was somewhat satisfying to have gotten the use of the facilities for no cost. I was not sure why but there was no ranger to pay for use. I would like to see residents of the local area get the use of the lake at a reduced cost. Also, more programs for children to learn of the area, nature around them, and ways to protect each. This would be done in a Jr. Ranger Program such as at Whiskeytown Lake.
Same as my survey taken on 6-24-02 at Spillway Boat Ramp.
Why was the lake lowered so much? As much as possible, all the debris that is floating during the spring should be collected and disposed of.
Keep water in Oroville. Don't send so much south when the lake is low.
Lake Oroville is a great fishing lake. I see a big future for this lake in tournaments to come. Thank you.
We were guests of friends who had a place and a boat, so we mainly spent $ on groceries and gas. We loved the lake. It was clean, not freezing, not crowded, huge. The kids swam the whole time. Different people and kids water-skied and wake boarded. It was great! We loved it!
We need longer boat ramps because it shortens our summers usage of the lake. The water is drained too fast at the beginning of the summer months and sent south. This is wrong! This leaves the boaters only one access to the lake near the end of summer and it cannot handle the demand. Also the facility should be for all the public and not cater to just the bass fisherman.
Unhappy about lake level (too low) last few years. Last year (2001) could only use Spillway to launch. Very important to develop a Oroville as a recreational paradise and keep Oroville water in Butte Co. Also, more floating restrooms needed.
Water level drops too early in season compared to other facilities, where water level is kept much higher. Launching facilities become inadequate when water level is low, and seems to recur yearly. Need to anticipate this and provide more launch/dock facilities.
We live in Oroville and love it here. Especially the lake. All employees associated with the lake and visitor center are always friendly and helpful. The water level is a primary concern. Not only is the landscape of the lake changing dramatically for the worst, but safety is becoming a huge problem – one the water, the surrounding shoreline and accesses to the lake.
Considering the current growth of California, with reference to power generation and future water storage needs, it's time to complete the construction of a full-size, multi-purpose dam at Auburn! It is a critical part of the Central Valley Water Project.

Table J-58. Spillway BR/DUA visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

Keep more water in the lake! Remove some of the asphalt in the new parking lot at the top of the spillway launch and put in some rows of trees for shade! Have you ever carried a child across black asphalt on one of our hot summer days. It can do severe burn damage to bare feet! Sailors need shady places to rig sail boats. A little landscaping would make the place look attractive instead of so industrial.
Unsatisfied with lake level over the last 2 years. Too much washed out shoreline. Boating area access is hard to work when lake level is too low. Boating experience MORE pleasurable when the water is higher. Also, FISHING is better!
A nice day of skiing. Weekdays are not very crowded. However, the lake being 100+ feet down by the beginning of August is appalling. That would be an acceptable level AFTER Labor Day. It is hard to recreate on the lake when the lake is shrunken. On weekends it is near impossible to find an area to ski with my young children without over competing for lake space with many other boats. A higher lake level reduces that problem.
We had an overall good trip. If I could change anything it would be higher water level in lake. I'll try to come back in June or July. Would like to use swim area at Loafers point.
It would be nice to have picnicking facilities on the shores for boat ay users. The launch facility was very nice and improvements in the works around the facility (parking, picnic tables, restrooms, etc) will be very nice when completed.
We were only there to see the dam and lake, about 3-4 hours. Enjoyed our visit to Visitor Center and watching boats launched.
Lake is so low, took too long to launch the boat, due to long lines, not enough docks.
Lake water level drops too much before Labor Day. Forces closure of Loafer Creek ramp in July 2002 and longer drive to dam launch ramp. Bidwell launch is too crowded. I understand purpose of dam is power generation. Just pointing out need to improve Loafer Creek ramp – dam launch is very nice.
1. Extend Spillway boat ramp. 2. Pave 2nd Bidwell boat parking lot area. 3. Widen Bidwell launch ramps and add another dock for launching.
Yes! I would like to see a TOUR BOAT for Lake Oroville that can take passengers to the "Falls" whenever available. Also, see how beautiful this Lake is!! At a reasonable price. Thank you.
Water was low but we managed. Your surveys are lengthy, aggressive and excessive. Envelope too small?
Stop giving the water away so water level will stay up!!!
I would like to see signs to let boaters and PWC users know the basic laws of the lake, such as direction of travel, distance from shoreline, and other water crafts.
Jet ski create a problem regarding other boaters and swimmers. 1. Failure to adhere to speed laws. 2. Too noisy. 3. Young riders (under 15 yrs.)
We had a ball!!
Our only below par experience at Oroville. 4-5 years back, early in the season of which California experienced good rains, Lake was full to the brim. Excessive floating debris and took sever damage to my boat (large, partially submerged log). But I understand remove of debris at that time would be difficult. Otherwise, I believe the lake is very well maintained.
The water level drops so low each year. Most of the ramps are not useable or you're in mud. It will be great to extend the concrete ramps if the water is going to go 180 ft. below max each year.
The water level is too low.
It doesn't make sense to empty water from the Lake Oroville Area during the summer. Why not empty the lake water in the winter season?
The water level makes boating quite inconvenient and reduces the amount of business you get in the area.

Table J-58. Spillway BR/DUA visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

We enjoy camping at Lake Oroville. We have made the trip to this lake this summer alone.
I was very dissatisfied with the level of water in the lake. Last year we were able to boat until October. Now the level of the lake is too low to launch our boat. It has ruined the recreational use of the lake. There needs to be better management of water use to maintain a certain level so boats can still be launched at the dam.
Keep the water in the lake. You want lake tourism but about all that's left is a mud hole. On windy days the mud from shorelines goes halfway across the lake. Keep boat ramps for boat trailer parking. It's getting to be 80 cars and 20% boat trailers.
We need to keep our lake bed a bit higher. We have a lake that if managed properly and funded for improvements would be as nice as Lake Tahoe and Lake Berryessa.
As the lake level goes below 750 feet, the lower parking at Bidwell needs to be paved. The parking area is a dusty mess.
The remodeling of the Spillway Launch Ramps upper parking lot is beautiful. It will be grand when the bleachers are completed and the landscaping is finished. And they completely finished the Kiosk.
Regarding trail signage (unpaved biking), excellent on south side or river, lacking on the north side. My favorite area to mountain bike.
Lake levels and water fluctuation is a big concern to bass angers in the north state. With constant cost increase to launch and parking passes, people will expect better conditions during summer months for launching and more room in the forks to spread out.
They need to leave more water in the lake. We moved to this area because of the lake.
No expenses were encountered for that day, we just drove from home to the lake to see how much the water had come up. It was great to see that the lake was rising after they let it get so low last summer, we were watching a lot of bass boats coming in, the debris was quite a problem. Also at Bidwell launch ramp and t he dam they need to have marked areas for the handicapped, and when the water is low they should accommodate the handicap parking better.
This survey really does not apply. I am local on this trip I only took my wife to walk in parking area. We go to the area at least 3 or 4 times a week. I fish on an average of 2 times a week. I have owned a houseboat and pontoon boat that are kept at the marina. The problem has always been the water level. The facilities are good, they just need to be maintained, all the improvements in the last year are great if they are kept up. The launch area's are ok as long as the water level is up. Security is a problem for overnight parking and some times during the day. There is really no swimming area or day use along the shore due to the water levels.
I live in Oroville
I have fished here at 30 times a year since 1988. The slot limit has run its course and now the quality of fish is on the stunted size. It is time to go back to the standard state wide size limit on bass species. Before this lake is known for little fish. That will cause fisherman to not want to fish here as well as have tournaments here.
Need to set aside larger RV sites at the Spillway – no space for pull (slide) outs or awnings.

Table J-59. Oroville Dam/Overlook DUA visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

Nice place to ride bikes.
When can we park along the top of the dam again after 9/11? Parking at the end does not give us the same enjoyable sights to see over the lake. Where are all the garbage cans?!!
I was very satisfied with the scenery site.
They send to much water down south with low water The shoreline is bad and water gets muddy.
Walk dam everyday only problem is need another restroom at other end of dam. Want more swimming entrances on the lake. Overall it's my favorite place to be. It's quiet, beautiful & people are nice.
Need more restrooms, picnic tables, shad tables closer to water. Convenience store for basic items bait, sodas, ice, first aid kit.
Need more restroom and garbage cans.
We walk the dam every day. Our children come from Montana, So Cal, Chico, and ND. They fish, boat, swim, but we are eighty and eighty five and have slowed down.
As residents, we use the lake one to two times a week in the summer and once a week during other seasons. DWR must make good on its promises to the residents of Butte Co. who were the ones that approved the dam! More rangers.
Not many ways to get to the water if you're not a boater. Not enough swimming areas.
I walk across the dam four days a week. My only complaints are the litter bugs, dog droppings and the owner's lack of concern.
As a resident, I don't like the campgrounds. Please keep in mind that there are many "walkers" who use the dam for recreation. We need trash cans up there. It would be nice to have lake access for walkers when the lake is low.
We love Lake Oroville, the water is great. There is never enough of it though. So we really can't use the lake like we like to. Please put more water in it before there isn't any.
Thanks for trying to improve the area. Visitor center not open!!
1. There needs to be more law enforcement patrolling the top of the Dam, as cars speed across way above the 25mph speed limit, thus putting all pedestrians at risk. 2. There needs to be garbage cans placed at the parking lot end of the Dam near the picnic tables. At present there are none.
We live near the lake. Our use of the facilities mostly limited to walking on the Dam and hiking the trails.
Stop sending our water to LA.
We were only at the lake a short time, but the scenery was marvelous. The young lady who gave us the survey was excellent.
I would like to see boat ramps extended and provide additional parking as the water drops, or allow vendors with shuttles to transport to the distant lots. The park rangers need to enforce the 10 minute parking limit for vehicles parking on the ramps. Seems though folks believe they can park there for the day and avoid the walk up to the parking lots. There also needs to be some restrictions. Enforcement for swimmers at the boat launches.
The multi-use trails in the area add greatly to the attractiveness of the area as a recreational mecca. Increased access to recreation to the largest possible segment of the public makes this area very valuable.
I am a poor example of someone filling out this survey. My husband and I came to the lake to join our son. He had borrowed our boat for the 1st time and we did not even go onto this lake on this trip. Many of his friends came and enjoyed the lake very much. I had no desire to go boating – however- I enjoyed the nice clean campsite and bathroom facilities VERY much SO VERY impressed! The campsites and trails look great and I plan to use them next year.

Table J-59. Oroville Dam/Overlook DUA visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

A lake boasting the acreage and shoreline Lake Oroville has should have more access areas for one day users for local people who do not have a boat.
The fish regulations on Lake Oroville need to be changed (size limit). More road access to picnic, fishing and camping.
We just love it here.
Trash cans needed on the dam.
A remarkable amount of good work has been done recently at the dam launch area. I hope this is just a start for the whole Lake Oroville recreational area.
They should dam up the cove where Loafer Creek campground is located and keep it filled with fresh water pumped in from the lake so we could have a year-round swimming area on the lake where you wouldn't have to hike a mile to get to in low water level seasons!
Low water elevations are a problem. Security at parking lots at ramps is terrible. Cars are broken into during the nights. Seem to be no security at all. I was told there are no rangers at night. Something has to be done about that.
I love the hiking trails!
Need more patrols in 5 mile per hour area -- jet skiers can't read.
It would be very nice to have more trails for dogs.
I live in Oroville and ride my bike at the dam - fish Lake Oroville about 10 times a year.

Table J-60. Lake Oroville Visitors Center visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

Just keep the water up for people like us that have houseboat. It's cost us a lot to keep our houseboat there and if there's no water it's not much fun. Also think the pass to the park are too high, especially that we already pay for our houseboat and parking on top of it.
Of course we'd love to see more single track trails. Just keep them open to all groups. We know horse groups complain about rude bikers, but has anyone ever given thought to the horse manure introducing foreign grass seed to the area & stinking up the trail? Then the worst problem of all – the trails getting very torn up and destroyed from horse traffic during wet weather.

Table J-61. Bidwell Canyon BR visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

The police/ranger harassment of boaters was ridiculous. People go there to have fun, not to be pulled over and questioned by cops and no boat has a accurate 5mph speedometer. I find myself so scared I go about 1 mile per hour.
Stop selling off the water! We pay a lot of money on mooring fees for our houseboat and ski boat and I am tired of the water levels being so low!
Water levels are too low for mid-summer recreation. Foreman launch ramp get lots of unsupervised use. Lots of trash and stupid people who need supervision.
Disappointed that DWR can't fill lake in spring to June. Lake hasn't been full since '98 and we had good rainfall and snow pack. Since lake drops one foot per day, would like to see lake full for a few days. Time for DWR to reevaluate amount of water to LA. They need to develop storage in LA or all lakes will be like Mono Lake.

Table J-61. Bidwell Canyon BR visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

We have been boating for many years. I was dismayed at the lack of safety knowledge by boaters on Oroville. I had one boat follow in my wake when I was pulling a skier. Another came within 50 feet of our downed skier. This lake is NOT CROWDED and these safety violations were inexcusable!
Gas is too high at Marinas.
A fight broke out at the launch ramp because someone was taking too long at the dock. I would recommend that you have traffic control on the launch ramp over major holidays like 4th of July.
We love Lake Oroville and boat there every summer. We plan most of our summer vacations there.
We stay at Bidwell campground almost every year during the 4th of July week. We enjoy it every time. We were disappointed at the lake level.
The boat launch area needs to be monitored. You have too many inexperienced boaters who do not have proper boat etiquette. Boats need to be prepared at top of boat launch area, not at bottom or on docks. Unless you are alone, you should not be allowed to keep boat at dock for long periods of time.
There needs to be some type of controls at the docking sites. People that saw a large pontoon boat beginning to come into dock were rushing to back their jet ski trailer down the ramp in order to get into the water first. There were other boats, including a houseboat involved in this situation, so this put quite a few people in danger. When we (the pontoon boat people) told the jet ski people of their folly they looked surprised. I can't believe they didn't know what was wrong. There needs to be more teaching, monitoring or both!
Not enough dock space at launch area. We lose the water too soon! Fill the lake up all the way during the winter/spring and hold onto it longer. We love Oroville. It is a great spot that is why we purchased a houseboat there in April of 2002.
The water is too low. Need to stop letting the water out and let the houseboats and boaters use the lake.
Lake too low.
I would like to see Loafer Creek campground launch ramp extended so that it can be used (for example). Today is totally out of the water and Bidwell is overcrowded. Please!
Obvious need for supervision/assistance on boat ramps during peak and holiday periods.
We have just purchased our houseboat at Oroville Lake and have absolutely enjoyed experience at Lake Oroville.
Our 10th houseboat trip at Oroville. We wouldn't come back unless we thoroughly enjoyed it!
Water level fluctuation is a huge problem on this lake! Low water levels drive people away. As we get older we will not use this lake due to low water levels and poor access to shoreline. Security also needs to be improved. MANY cars have been broken into this summer, including ours.
We were only there for a couple of hours waterskiing, but we look forward to taking advantage of camp facilities, bike trails, hiking trails. The two things that will bring us back are the low launching fee and the clientele. I did not encounter any unsafe behavior by other users and that is extremely important to us.
Low water levels are very disturbing. Especially for us houseboaters/skiers.
I'd like an explanation on Why Governor Davis is selling the water in Lake Oroville down South!!! I'd like to know isn't there a limit to how much water Lake Oroville is going to let out?
Lake water levels are a problem for boating use and safety. And also have had problems being stuck in mud because or rapid lowering overnight. Exposure of clay and mud always creates extra work on houseboats.
Being a houseboat owner it is tough moving about the lake with people cutting you off and making a wake that can rock a 57 ft. houseboat to the point that cupboards come open. Some boaters have no manners. Rangers don't seem to do anything about their driving habits.

Table J-61. Bidwell Canyon BR visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

Many boaters and personal watercraft users come very close and right in front of moving houseboat. This can be very dangerous because quick maneuvering of houseboat is hard if a skier were to fall in front of houseboat.
Had a great time as we stayed on a friend's houseboat.
Lake was too low for so early in the season. Launching was difficult. 5mph zone near launching area not respected by many boats and wakes were present. Should have ranger during peak hours.
Need to add one extra women's bathroom stall at Bidwell prep area. Need to separate RV campers from tent campers. It's too noisy w/ RV generators at night. Need to TOW in tow zones when water is extremely low and there's not enough turn around on the boat ramps.
1. Difficult to adequately comment on shoreline facilities, hiking trails, boat-in camping, etc. when lake level is down 160'. Can't use these easily. 2. Need some sort of mandatory boater education or right-of-way and courtesy. 3. May want to examine number and length of houseboats.
Keep the lake full.
Need beach areas.
I purchased a $240,000 home overlooking South Fork in 1997. In 1997 and 1998 the water level was kept up to use Enterprise Launch ramp through mid July. Since 1998 the water level was dropped way too low too early. The major reason I bought the house was to utilize the launch ramp; DWR has ruined my plans forcing me to drive to Bidwell when I have a launch ramp right at the bottom of my road (I live on Rocky Pt. Rd). Please keep water level up – so we can use Enterprise launch ramp.
Control water releases better to maintain lake level.
With water levels low and dangerous, we need more dock at ramps for single fishermen and boaters. Too many people just not caring about others.
Water resources and Fed Gov. (Folsom + Oroville vs. Shasta) should be better coordinated. Levels of one lake should not be so low as to be hazardous while others remain higher. Only excess water should be sold or shipped to other areas. Dept. of Water Resources should make it easier for repair persons to work on the lake. Ramps should be widened and extended in times of extremely low water. Fees are paid for year round access yet launching is extremely difficult with the water being so low. The state benefits in part from on site buoys and docks which are leased. Better access for these permanent renters to the waste discharge stations should be enforced. The rental houseboats take up these dock areas on Fri and Monday when most owner's of houseboats would prefer to discharge waste. On weekends these same docks are jammed with marina shoppers, gas purchasers, etc. Not enough temporary dock facilities are available at the marina. Thank you for this opportunity to express my views.
Our level of dissatisfaction is directly proportional to the water level of the lake. Otherwise, we are very satisfied with the area, which is why it is a frequent destination for us.
Can't launch a boat in the fall at all. I buy a yearly lake permit every year. Please extend the ramps including Enterprise. I pulled my boat all the way downtown the first week of Nov. There was no decent place to launch. I turned around and went back home.
-Launching areas need to be expanded. Mainly the Bidwell area. Right now at low water, it becomes a 2x4 ramp area. Extending the ramp is not the only answer. More LAUNCH LANES are needed and EXPANDED parking at low water.
We love camping at Loafer Creek. However, we had to drive to Bidwell Marina to launch. It has been this way for two years in a row. I just wished there were a little better balance in water sell off and control. I've been coming to Lake Oroville since1973. And only in the last few years have I seen this condition other than the drought years.

Table J-61. Bidwell Canyon BR visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

There needs to be more law enforcement: 5 MP areas, non-ski areas. Not enough dock space to moor boat while loading and unloading. Too congestive, very low water launching facilities. Given the fact that it is an ongoing conditions of low water every year.
NOT ENOUGH WATER!!! Dangerous with islands coming up WEEKLY! And not enough buoys for warning (i.e. 1 buoy for new island by dam.) Characteristics of lake are going downhill. Been going here 20 years and now too many boats (houseboats), TOO LITTLE WATER," TO LITTLE PARKING & access for launch ramps & poor catfishing (not like what it used to be). Also "very" steep hill to Bidwell Marina due to water being so low. Terrible & dangerous for older people. Along with owning a houseboat on Lake Oroville also own property on Miners Ranch Road. Therefore pay for taxes, mooring, parking passes as well!
We like Lake Oroville.
Number of launches and gas docks are too few. Bidwell Marina workers do not seem to want to help you. (Especially having their rentals taking priority in pumping out houseboats even on days not scheduled for them.) Poor shuttle service (and dangerous).
We are houseboat owners and lake users fro many, many years, and we also live locally. The fluctuating water levels are unacceptable both for the hazards and lack of areas to ski and houseboat. Marina are not equipped to handle all the houseboats, but still can charge top dollar. Who wants to use a lake with no boat ramps?
Way too many people trying to use a 2 lane launch ramp for fishing and skiing. Then you have to park you truck way up the hill and walk back through 2" of powder dirt and dust. It's just not very pleasant to go when the water is so low.
Campsites are too close and not very private. When lake is low ramp parking is inconvenient. A shuttle would be nice. The new hazards placed at the dam are useless and have ruined some of the best skiing areas. If this was placed there because of 9/11, all they would have to do is run a boat into the dam at high speed or scuba would work as well. When the fee station is closed, it is very confusing on the fee schedule, what to pay is not clear. There are no options for second vehicle parking and boat trailer long term. In the campsite we were in there was tree branches over the fire pit and bushes in the flight path of embers – making a camp fire hazardous.
Great lake. Great facilities. Would enjoy seeing less water draw down and the introduction of Florida string large mouth bass.
The level of the water is deteriorating. The beauty of the lake, the land, the wildlife, etc. Why is that? What do the authorities do with the water? Can they keep a decent level all year round?
I moved here primarily because of the lake–25 years ago. I extensively use the lake for boating. I'm VERY DISSATISFIED with DWR. They don't fill the lake. They DRAIN IT TOO FAST. Loafer Creek Beach is a JOKE. Over the last many years, it is unusable. Also parking on the ramps should be allowed when the water is so low. Why do we have to walk CLEAR to the TOP when there is AMPLE parking curbside along the LONG ramps? A positive note I LOVE THE FLOATING CAMPGROUNDS!! GET MORE OF THEM!!
I love the boat-in campsites but with the lake level so low it is impossible to use. Who wants to hike uphill 200 feet in the heat. Would also like more launch ramps for when the lake level is low.
Space for parking boat trailers at boat ramp is limited. Cars and trucks (SUVs) not pulling or launching boats or PWCs should not occupy space provided for vehicles and trailers. It is a courtesy to allow speedy launch and loading of boats/PWCs and the further one has to travel from a parking space to boat ramp (especially if launching alone) the longer the delay in time. We should avoid "boat rage" at the ramp. I only observed frustration and no "rage." Please don't misunderstand my suggestion to request cars park in areas not set aside for vehicles with trailers on busy weekends.
Low water poses a grid lock at launch areas. Only one ramp and short dock open on our trip (Bidwell). Parking a big problem when water is low. Fishing was great once we got in the water. 45 min to 1 hr to put in.
Low water levels make trips in late September and fall not as enjoyable.

Table J-61. Bidwell Canyon BR visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

I love Lake Oroville and enjoy my time on the lake on my houseboat (which is moored at Bidwell). The only complaint that I (and most of my fellow houseboating friends) have is the water level management of the lake. For example, today 10/10/02 the lake level is 714 feet that is 186 feet below high water mark – Shasta is 84 feet down and Folsom is 50 feet down. Why is Oroville water level so poorly managed – need to keep water level above 800 feet year round.
Oroville is a great place to visit! We have a houseboat on a buoy at Bidwell Canyon. We typically (not this time) spend 1-2 nights on our houseboat, waterskiing and wave riders, and relaxing. Typically used as a weekend getaway.
Extend our boat ramps or better yet – don't send our water south to other recreation facilities.
Water level not effectively controlled, ruins recreational potential, launching facilities severely restricted, people get impatient and rude i.e. Bass fishing tournaments = rude people.
There should be more flexible check-in arrangements (times allowed for check in) than is currently the case. Also, we have had troubling encounters with PWC's in the past, 'though not on this trip.
I fish Bass tourneys year round. No access to north end of lake. Small ramps (only 2 lanes at best), poor parking, security, access during draw down. Lots of bass tourneys canceling to go to other lakes worry about ramp access.
You are lowering the lake level too much. The more you lower the lake – the worse the water quality is for the City of Oroville. When Oroville Dam was proposed to be built the facilities for the people of Oroville was to be free.
We ALWAYS need more equestrian trails!!! Thanks.
I would like to see a lodge or motel close to the lake.
I thought the slot limit was supposed to help the fishing. We need more large mouth's, and what happened to the smallies. We used to catch some nice smallies. Now I have not caught any in over a year.
The low lake level is a real problem. Bidwell Marina is a dust bowl when the lake is low. The marina offers too few services, such as repair and maintenance for boats moored at the marina.
In expense section wrote: We live on Kelley ridge, approx. 1 mile from the Bidwell Launch ramp. We buy most of our boat gas at the lakeside market which is 1.5 miles from our home. I bass fish 2-3 times a week. We probably use $20.00 a week in boat gas, more in the summer months.
I don't like the idea to turn loose all fish between 12" and 15" since under 12" they are too small to take home. And over 15" are few and far in-between. I like to bring home a mess of fish when I go fishing. Can't do it when I go to Oroville Lake.
I like that no private development is allowed along the shoreline – I like the quality of the water and the bass fishing. I think the lake has just the right amount of development and hope no more is planned. The facilities were clean and well maintained. I like the sandy beaches in the South and Middle Forks. My only negative comments are the low water levels in the summer and it seems like every weekend there's a bass fishing tournament.
Too much debris in lake, There were trees and logs all over! Too dangerous! Another boat dock is needed at the Bidwell Launching Ramp, someone is going to get killed when their boat hits floating debris and sinks!
I was taking part in a triathlon held at the Bidwell Boat launch area. One and only one problem was a resident pulled out of a side street near the launch area and hit one of the bicyclists. The event was very well run and because of it, I made 2 other trips to the lake.
This was a quick one day trip – just to unload a houseboat and bring a travel trailer to dry dock storage. We really were only at Bidwell about 4-5 hours. Not used for any recreation this trip.

Table J-62. Bidwell Canyon Campground visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

The lake is lowered too much. The lake is lowered so much so fast that the banks are muddy & unable to use areas for picnicking & swimming on shoreline.
After launching the boat, parking was a problem.
Having a disability with amputation it was difficult to park at the marina & walk the distance. No other complaints other than lack of parking.
There should be some type of hand soap in the bathroom to wash your hands after toilet use for sanitary reasons. People bring their own soap for showering that they may also use but not having soap to wash your hands after public toilet use can spread germs.
Hard to find parking during holiday weekends. The low water level didn't allow use of the very excellent day use beach new loafer. Both these are seasonal problems I'm afraid. Houseboat owners taking up parking spaces in lot.
Full hookup campsites too close-fire pit & table on wrong side of trailer in almost cell campsites. Difficult too no shore boat beaching in campsite areas.
On our last two floating campsite visits, the bathrooms on the site smelled worse then ever. They were cleaned but you could hardly breathe when using them. I would pay more to fix this problem. Other wise my visit was great.
No-enjoyed our visit. Sorry to have taken so long to return your survey form.
Our activities revolve mostly around our houseboat.
Bidwell campground is a nice, safe well developed campground, but compared to loafer creek it feels a bit like camping on my own front lawn. It would be nice to see the campground a little less barren. Please make it feel a little more woodsy.
People were swimming in boat launch area. Employees of campground were there in white jeep and nothing was done. Need separate swim areas! Bathrooms could be improved-showers did not have hot water both days we were there.
Need more showers. Need phone at each bathroom. Need shuttle service within park (especially for seniors) and into town service would help.
We used campground as temp. Home while relocating from southern California.
Lack of beach access is only drawback. We LOVE Lake Oroville!!!
Great place to jet ski and enjoy water. I love to relax and enjoy the solitude during the week.
The boat ramps are in need of maintenance. We spent several hours trying to get to one we could use and when we found one, the ramp was so shallow that it was difficult.
Great fishing lake. You need swimming areas.
I cannot handle your survey. It is too complicated and time consuming.
Let the water from Oroville be used for agriculture, not for power use in California. Save the lake!
My camping trips usually include taking out fishing boat. However, the extreme low water during this trip discouraged us from fishing and staying at the lake water.
Enjoyed the use of facilities in the day use area and swimming beach at the Afterbay.
The lake level was extremely low. We had to go up the road in order to go swimming.
Water near docks was shallow; one hazard near dock wasn't well marked. We had a good time and plan to return. Park staff was friendly. Parking on weekend at launch ramp and marina was tough. Seems like lots of locals use the lake on weekends. It's quite a hike from campsites to marina/launch ramp when water level is so low. We rented a slip but because slips are not assigned we sometimes had to go to office and get them to move a rental boat so we'd have a place to dock.

Table J-62. Bidwell Canyon Campground visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

I don't like sharing my camping time worried about the homeless people staying there. I don't feel comfortable or safe. Also, the water is so low there is no swimming for the kids. Not good.
Lake water level pretty low. Long hike to shore line. No swim areas on lake. Shoreline all mud. ROWDY teenagers hanging around campsite bathrooms. 2 out of 3 nights (approx. 10-11pm) bugging people trying to use bathroom. They were not from our campsite. Either from another campsite or were locals.
People parking empty boat trailers in campsites. Too many dogs not on a leash.
Availability of staff at the marina to rent boat slips delayed our launching of our boat by several hours. We tried to rent a slip prior to our arrival but were told we couldn't. It would be helpful to have a more organized system or more than one person to rent the slips.
Unsafe water access to Bidwell Marina. The houseboats should be moved to another location away from Marina. Need more showers and toilets at Bidwell campground. Need BBQ at campsites. Bidwell launch ramp needs to be wider for low level water and another dock. More overnight boat slips should be available and rental of slips at office is poorly staffed – long wait to be told “we have no slips available” We’ve been to Lake Oroville for 3 trips – there has never been slips available. Boat slips need to be wider.
Very nice lake. Good waterskiing conditions. Beautiful scenery. The floating bathrooms were also helpful. We had a good time. Only drawback was access to level shoreline for day camping.
The lake level is extremely low. Makes it VERY hard to enter lake level for anything. In fact I would call it dangerous!!
1. Low lake level creates a lot of problems. 2. Security of camp and boat ramps can be a problem. 3. Need more campsites, boat launches with docks. 4. Need more swim roped off areas.
Would not visit Lake Oroville again. Did not have a boat and had no shoreline access to get to the lake for shore fishing due to low water level. Had talked to park personnel numerous times previous to visit and this condition was never mentioned to me.
Excellent! Just need bigger/longer RV sites to accommodate boat (34' RV + boat) and more restroom/showers.
I did not like the camping area. We were so crammed in. I wish I stayed home. Too many camping spot and not enough room.
It is a nice place. Campsites were good. The lake is huge. Location for us was far.
Had a great time!! Should be back next year for more fun!! Thank you.
Nice, well maintained campground that we intend to use for at the very least, 1 week per year.
It was our first trip to Oroville and we were very happy with our visit. Three days and 2 nights.

Table J-63. Saddle Dam TA visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

When lake levels are so low, opportunities for injury increases. If your surveys were advertised, you would have more people filling them out.
We need to stop selling our water to So. Cal and worry about developing our lake area to attract commerce and tourism. The equestrian trails I have used are good, but it would be nice to have a few more trail options off existing trails.
I am very pleased with the multi-use trail system. It is a big plus for Oroville.
Would like to have more multi-use trails near lake and around Oroville. Would like better shore and water access for swimming during low water months or a swimming facility.
Thank you for a wonderful area – and all the work that has been done over here last year!
Seems the horse riders use the trails on even days even though it is posted.

Table J-63. Saddle Dam TA visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

I ride at Lake Oroville a lot and I have always been treated well by people I run into on the trails (bicycles) etc. We also have a small house boat moored there. My husband spends lots of time there and helped me with the boating part.
I think that some better “day use” equestrian areas would be very popular. The Loafer Creek Equestrian Camp area is not for day use – only overnight camping. It would be great to have more areas with tables, shade, horse ties, water, etc. to use for day rides/picnics etc.
I think it is a wonderful camping and trail riding area. I think a great job has been done!
Equestrian use needs another tie rack up on Sycamore Hill w/ garbage. Garbage can on river road at ponds. Everyone uses this place to eat, go to the bathroom in the bushes. A good place for garbage and bathroom on levee. Maybe picnic table at pond with tie racks also. Thanks.
As I looked through the trees toward the lake, it presented some very nice photo shots. Very relaxing.
Love what has been done! Thanks! (would have been nice to have had a sign at Saddle Dam if the Poker Ride.

Table J-64. Powerhouse Road TA visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

I found your multi-use trails and users to be very enjoyable. Do not allow "multi-use" to become a shit slinging contest. Cooperation with a steady dose of education can solve trail use problems. Our world is not black and white. Just many shade of grey.

Table J-65. Dan Beebe Trail access points visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

You do a great job keeping the trails up for horseback riders, we could use some restrooms out on the trails. The picnic tables out there for everyone are great also, we use them all the time. The hitching posts close to them are used all the time. Also thank-you again for such a great place to ride.
You have a great area – I prefer to drive from Roseville than go to Folsom Lake – because Oroville is not crowded and appears to be well managed, clean and people are very friendly. Keep up the good work! While I usually make day trips, I have stayed at Loafer Creek Equestrian Camping and found it to be excellent! Apps. Once a year I make a campout there during the annual Endurance ride in November.
I think bicycle riders and equestrians can share trails for the most part – I also think that parallel trails are great. I disagree with any paving. Sharing trails preferred over not having trails!

Table J-66. Lakeland Blvd TA visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

Change the slot limit on bass fishing (instead of 12" & under, 15" & over to 13" & under, & one over 15") Paint equestrian road crossings on pavement (in yellow). In y family we bass fish & are equestrians.
I would like to see fairground facilities placed to bring revenues such as fairs, concerts, & rodeos.
Swimming was very dangerous due to amount of glass & debris in lake & on beaches. Tunnel was great! And my boyfriend almost stepped on a rattler!!! Lake Oroville #1.
The equestrian trails were diminished in quality to accommodate multi-use (mountain bikes). There is room for separate trials & properly led volunteer labor can alleviate financial excuses rationalizing forced multi-use status. (more attached)
I use Oroville riding trails mainly on day use. They have improved over the last year. Keep up the good work!! I do enjoy having the riding available.
I would like to see equal use of horse and bike trails. Horses are unpredictable and easily frightened. The trails are very steep and the stopping distance and skidding noise from a bike causes horses to react. My suggestion would be to select different days or hours for some of these paths. Hikers can share with both bikes & horses without issue. All my encounters with horses and their owners was extremely cordial and no near misses occurred.
I live in the area and use the equestrian trails a lot and I think we should be able to share with bike riders.
Would like to see a trail around the lake for horses, hikers and bikes too, with another horse camp. Maybe on the other side.
We would love to have another horse camp across the lake so you could ride all the way around! Some education for hikers and bikers that they should talk when they see horses, so the horses know they are people, not "monsters"--to now fly around corners etc.
The rather convoluted route to the parking area (Lakeland Blvd) is very well marked and it's nice to have a free and designated parking area (the lighted tunnel is cool also) I like the trail as it is!

Table J-67. Feather River Fish Hatchery visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

They let way too much water out.
The facilities at the lake should try new ideas. Like rafts to rent, small paddle boats. Some of us might enjoy being able to get close to the salmon while they are still in calm water. I would. Thanks.
I'm very dissatisfied with the extreme drop in water level in Oroville Lake. Without places like the Afterbay, launching your boat in the waters this time of year would be impossible.
We are from Indiana and enjoyed the beautiful scenery on our last two visits. Sorry I can't give you better answers, but we stayed with relatives and just took drive-thru trips through the Lake Oroville areas. Our relatives live in Chico, Ca. The fish hatchery was very educational for us. Thanks.
This was my first visit to a fish hatchery and I enjoyed it tremendously. It was all set up very well.
Yes! As I stated we just went to see the fish in the ladder. It was great!!
I live here in Oroville. Although I don't have a boat, my friends do and we love going on the lake. We also visit the Forebay and Loafer Creek often – when the water is up!
People do not understand just how lucky we are in the USA to have such nice, clean lakes and rivers. They should visit a 3rd world country. We just finished building a fourth filled dam, San Rogue Dam, in the Philippines just like Oroville dam.
Thank you.

Table J-68. Diversion Pool DUA visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

I like Lake Oroville, camping and swimming, walking with my dog all over the place. I would like to keep my town clean and friendly.
As I stated before, we love the mountain bike/hiking trails. A suggestion may be to post a map of the area's trail at a central sight, although it is exciting exploring! Thank you for your concern.
That Lake Oroville's water us drained out of the lake, making (the lake) a big mud-hole. I don't enjoy having no water in our lake in the summer time. Also, would like to have make places to eat so you don't have to drive back into town.
I love our Oroville lake areas. I'm a regular visitor to many of Lake Oroville's many places of recreation: Stringtown, Foreman Creek, the log boom, Enterprise launch ramp, Oroville Dam, Thermalito diversion pool, wilderness areas on the river south of Oroville, I would like to continue to see these areas with no entrance or usage fees required. I visit 3 or more times per week during summer and fall season, or more.
Sorry for taking so long to respond to your survey. I hope there is still enough time to use my data. Good luck with your project!
We enjoy the Diversion Pool area very much, both for kayaking and hiking. The one improvement I'd like to see is a somewhat more developed launch area.
Very happy being able to ride bicycle on trails. Opening trails to bicycles best thing state parks has done in many years. Equestrians should have to clean up horse poop from trails. Equestrians should also have to pass a proficiency test before allowed on trails as horses can be a danger to everybody.
Would like to see Burma Road softened and covered a softer base and not so many rocks from Morris Ravine to the Spillway along north side of Diversion pool.

Table J-69. Equestrian L.O.V.E. ride visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

Equestrian trails are important to my family and we would like to see an increase in the miles of tails available. More horse trails. Thanks.
It was an enjoyable visit with the endurance horse ride group. It made me want to go back and stay at the equestrian camp area. In expense area - wrote I went as a guest child watcher.
The new Loafer Creek horse camp was great - Try to make more like that along with more trails.
I love the Lake Oroville Endurance Ride. The area is beautiful and the trails are maintained very well. The only place I noticed litter was on the road just before we crossed highway 162 (across from Forbestown Road.)

Table J-70. North Forebay BR/DUA visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

Daughter said water green. Everyone had dogs there and there shouldn't have been. We obey the rules with our dogs. Maybe we can bring our dog if the rule changes.
We were only thee a couple of hours for a BBQ and birthday party.
Q-10E: logging of deadwood ok. Q-11: water conditions okay considering you guys are filling another reservoir, farming, & pump power. Water quality-idiots in Sac. Should not have allowed MTBE in the first place.
Would like to see the entire forty one mile bike trail around Lake Oroville paved.
Car top boats need closer and better access to water especially at the Diversion Pool.

Table J-70. North Forebay BR/DUA visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

Improved access for non-motorized watercraft at the Diversion Pool would greatly improve opportunities at this under utilized area. The aquatics center at the North Forebay needs to be changed from a single use facility (Club hours for the Butte Sailing Club) to a multi use facility. Rowing, canoeing, kayaking and all other non-motorized users are currently unable to access this public boat house.
Very much enjoyed the non-powered area. I'm a learning sailor in a very small boat.
Bike trails too rough for family biking with children. Next time we go (been to Forebay many times!), we will check out the beach and camping side. Have a vehicle to do so and would love a night's stay there. The sightings of so much wildlife has been a real joy for us. We always pick up trash others have left; but, the rangers do a great job also!
Maybe playground equipment. Forebay areas found very clean and safe. Good job everyone!
Just a note to the survey givers. This survey came with a letter saying it was the 2nd one sent or handed out. I did not receive a previous one in the mail. I did fill one out on the day I used the facility.
I think it would be terrific is the old dam overlook parking lot on Royal Oaks Dr. were made into a picnic — park facility.
At Lake Oroville the water is way too low. I used to visit Lake Oroville a lot, but now it is not easily accessible so it's not worth the trip to have to hike down to water.
Excessive bird droppings on sandy beach area and the water was filled with debris—but still a desirable place on the whole.
1. Low water levels in Lake Oroville in general are causing health, safety and recreational problems. I've swam in the lake since 1973 and many areas are rendered useless and filthy due to low levels. 2. Two near drownings at the Therm. Afterbay I witnessed – due to poor or no parental supervision of a 3 & 4 year old were extremely disturbing. Maybe a lifeguard or plain sign "USE ONLY with parental supervision of minors".
The water is a little dirty and you should put a few picnic tables by the shore in the sand.
The level of the water at the Lake Oroville camping area was very low. We won't be going back there for quite a while which is a shame because the campsites are so wonderful.
Return envelope too small.
I would be willing to pay a bit more ($3 - $4) entrance fee if a lifeguard were on duty during the summer months.
I feel more than one plastic bag should be given to visitors.
Stock more fish.
The Thermalito North Forebay was very well kept and all the staff members are courteous and helpful. It was wonderful to have them come over and ask us if we needed and offer us extra garbage bags. It's good to know that they do this so all is kept clean. Garbage cans labeled for recycling may be helpful so one can separate their own trash and recycle what can be recycled. More water outlets would be helpful as well so one can wash their hands and such. Overall we had a very pleasant time.
Overall, my trip was refreshing. I hadn't been home in over 15 years. It was nice to see that things haven't been upset by progress. I think the Park Rangers need a good pat on the back for doing such a good job keeping the place nice. Keep up the good work. Hope to be back soon to enjoy the lake again soon.
The lake was dropped several feet during the 4th of July 4 day holiday. DWR has total disregard for the users of the lake facility. The dam was built to supply water, but you would think someone from DWR would have a bit of a brain. Thank you.
Lack of dock maintenance is embarrassing and puncture vines in the day use picnic areas by the launch should be attended to. Unfinished construction around the Aquatic Center grounds is an eyesore and a liability.

Table J-70. North Forebay BR/DUA visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

It just we were mad because we couldn't take our boat in after we ask them if we left can we return and they said yes. When we return from getting more ice they would not let us back in. If we got to bring in the boat it would have been Extremely satisfied.
Because the Forebay was so packed we were not able to leave the area and return. Our relatives were not able to join us because law enforcement did not allow them to come into the Forebay. Many of my relatives left and were very upset.
I would like to see more barbecue pits for the 4th of July later on in life cause this 4th was so packed it was 6:00 o'clock before we got to cook our meal and we were supposed to be out of there at 8:00 pm. Thank you.
Tim at Forebay was awesome. He's very positive and pleasant. My family and friends really enjoyed him. Thanks.
Number of accessible swim areas on lake are too few in the later months of summer.
The facilities at the Forebay have definitely improved, which is great. I do think that with the area, the facilities will soon be too few, however. We have also found that easy access to restrooms and shade are both limited for seniors and the handicap.
Please put garbage containers and outhouses by the boat launch off Vance. Thank You.
There is too much brush around. I have 2 small children that I shouldn't have to worry about getting hurt and there is not enough sandy room over there.
To get to the Information Center we had to drive (in a big RV) a very long way on a windy road. It would have been nice to have a more easily accessed Info Center. I realize that the current location has a lovely view, but it seems a bit impractical. We were only passing through the Lake Oroville Area on our way to Lassen. We stopped to check for later reference in planning trips.
We like Lake Oroville so much that we plan to purchase a vacation/retirement home there.
I wrote detailed comments on original survey. Same comments stand. Overall good experiences. Thank you. PS—Our visit 4 years ago was pre-children. All answers NOW are through the eyes of parents of 2 toddlers.
Yes, I thank you for the nice gradual slope of the beach and underwater shelf. Those of our group who are afraid of water felt more secure than anywhere else that we've been. The only trouble we had was at the small bridge-walk. There were kids jumping off its top and nearly running our little ones over with their bikes, other than that we had a wonderful family outing. Also thanks for the warning signs about the snakes our young ones did take note!
We let a family member off while we parked to hold a table and BBQ. While we were unloading some people told our family member to move. They wanted in there and he pointed to us unloading. They said too bad. Rather than make a scene, we moved. Also, the ants were horrible.
Yes. What does it take to maintain a proper water level at Lake Oroville? Our water is too valuable a commodity to sell so much of it as to create a dangerous recreational lake here. There must be a better evaluation of water management.
Oroville bike trails are not marked well and maps should be available at ranger station or park entrance. It would be nice to be able to make a complete jogging/biking loop around Forebay/Afterbay and know how to hook up with the extensive bike trail network in place but not obvious to the casual visitor. The potential for more mass use is great if information is provided.
When we fish, camp, rent a houseboat, it is very important for the water level at the lake to be at a good level. We cancelled our family reunion at Lake Oroville due to LOW WATER. That means we don't shop in Oroville, we don't rent a houseboat and all our supplies are not needed – Shasta then becomes our second choice.
Oroville has NO areas where you can camp on the shoreline. We do not have a boat or any other watercraft equipment. When it gets above 100 degrees outside we like to just simply swim without having to load-up in a car and drive somewhere away from our campsite to swim. Please, please, please change this – Thank you!

Table J-70. North Forebay BR/DUA visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

Besides this questionnaire everything is fine for me. I like this recreation area.
I hope this survey can be of use in finalizing conclusive info and input.

Table J-71. South Forebay BR/DUA visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

A swimming area in addition to the Forebay would be a valuable addition. P.S. Loafer Creek area frequently has no swimming water.
Other than a few ill mannered jet skiers, the experience was well worth the drive from Florida.
We were asked to tie up our dog while two other dogs were running around bothering people. Two ladies got into a fight over those dogs, then one of them rode her PWC into the "protected" swim area at a high rate of speed, we did not feel safe swimming.
Thanks for caring.
Would be nice to know when you plant fish boys have better chance at catching them.
I'm from San Diego. Was going to Emigrant Gap, but having been there before I chose to go to Oroville instead. Overall, It think Oroville is a less populated, less trashed version of Lake Berryessa. Would have liked clearer direction to the beach access, we had dogs and jet skis and it took awhile to locate the day use beach area.
I think the Thermalito Forebay should have more areas to picnic, shores for people who swim and boat, better bathrooms, better beach areas for kids to play away from the fisherman, cleaned beaches from fish hooks and lines, some paved walking trails too, and more shade trees on those hot days.
Pit toilets is for the pits on hot days. No health warning. Flush toilets. Fish cleaning station bees time. Bees all over. No signs on rocks for snakes. No sign at entrance to Onion Park.
On section #11 -- at South Forebay, restrooms (porta-potties) needed to be emptied. Also, those coming to feed the ducks leave behind their plastic bread bags that end up in the water. I believe strongly that the economy of the Oroville area is effected.
We were visiting the south Forebay area. It would be nice if this area had some grass and more picnic facilities.
It was difficult to answer the spending questions because I live here.
We live in the Oroville area, so many of the questions do not apply. We do have a 26' sail boat and wish the water levels on the lake wasn't so drastically reduced.
No bass slot law.
Need to plant more trees for shade and provide a few more picnic tables. Also make places for people who have wheelchairs that fish.
A good natural area to fish at the bank!
I know you planted some Brook trout in the Forebay, but over the years I have only caught two of them. Would be nice to see more of them planted along with the rainbows.

Table J-72. Riverbend Park visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

At Bedrock Park down by the water where the parents have to watch their children, there aren't enough shade trees. Too much of a hike to bathrooms from water or picnic area. One Mile Park in Chico is a much better place for me & my three kids.
The mosquitoes are horrendous along the far shoreline, trash along the shoreline & in the water. I would like a designated paved walkway from the risbee area to Riverbend Park. Love area & surveyors are wonderful! Access at all hours to lake/facilities.
Do away with risbee golf-put up signs to warn people of rattlesnakes-and not kill them which they do. Get the alcoholics, dope users, homeless, homosexuals & whores out of Bedrock & off the Feather River.
Launching our kayaks was not very easy – no key, no access – we had to go far down river to find a spot by the bridges so we didn't have to pack our boats. I don't believe there was any info on how to get a key.
I would like to see better bathroom maintenance. More picnic tables and garbage cans along the river. More bathrooms.
I live in the area and biked down to the rec area for a few hours. My references are, therefore, limited in scope.
More disc golf holes.
All staff and local residents very helpful and friendly.
Try to make it where me and others who fish can start fishing real early at the handy cap ponds and stay later and maybe stay all night to fish for catfish. Also I would like to know about making it to where we can drive down to the other pond.s
I enjoy the risbee course, but I would like to see more manicured green grass. Especially near the river and bike trails. Paved parking and paved roads to eliminate dust related accidents. Permanent style of restrooms.
We were only there for a few hours. Our grandson used the paved paths for his foot scooter. My wife and I enjoyed the solitude. My grandson and I have used the paved trails for our bicycles in the past.
I just wish for the people that chose to drink beer or anything else for that matter would not land them in the river or on the banks. I was very worried about one of my children stepping on glass.
No lights at docks Lake Oroville? Law enforcement – work with recreation people first.
Too much alcohol use, too many unleashed pets and not really a good area for handicapped people. Even a roving parks ranger or STARS vehicle could help discourage the littering, belligerent conduct of drinkers, and other illegal behavior.
Continue the good job encouraging separation of angler and non-angler water craft. Good to have non-angler watercraft on the lake where lots of room and no waders.
Boat ramp needs repair. Cement ends and drops into a hole. Could easily break an axle. Easy fix-fill in with river rock. Portable toilet is also filthy. Needs pumping more frequently. Lots of little along shoreline.
Your survey person (Melanie) was very helpful and courteous.
The day I was questioned I was at the Feather River Recreation walking and riding paved trail by the Feather River. I was there walking my dog, which I do several days per week. I live in Oroville.
Yes, I walk my dog down there every day. I love that we have this park to do that. I love what you have done to develop the parks in our area. It's great that you brought in disc golf. I see quite a few people that enjoy the use of our parks for jogging.
Equestrian trail/bike trail across from Spillway Dam very dangerous. 20+ sheer drop into rock below. Extremely dangerous for unsuspecting people or animals. Thank you for your attention on the above matter.
The fishing area under the 162 Bridge and Thermalito Afterbay outlet, the new facilities and minor landscaping was a big improvement. The bathrooms were a great idea. It's too bad that other people don't respect and take care of them.
Thank you for doing the survey. I know you can't do everything suggested but keep trying.

Table J-72. Riverbend Park visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

I have been involved in local sailing, equestrian, fishing, and motorcycling off road. Horses and bikes or motorcycles don't mix well due to green and unfinished horses and riders as well as some spooky trail horses! Gave up local fishing due to poor results (trout type).
Animal control! Too much dog waste along shoreline while fishing. Children area, playground, swings, etc. (Keep kids entertained while moms and dads fish or enjoy themselves). Too few outhouses. Cooking stoves – not enough. As a fisherman and camper I believe in supporting the local economy no matter where I'm at. 5 adults and 2 children went and supported the local economy by eating and purchasing in the local town.
This was our first visit to the Riverbend Park. We were pleasantly surprised at the Park and all the opportunity it afforded. Prior to our visit, we did not know the park existed. Oroville is rich with natural resources. However, the marketing of these resources seems "lack luster" combined with "Oroville's reputation" (low life drug users). We like Oroville immensely – but have often heard mention that the area has a "Lake county feel" and is threatening for visitors. The parks are incredible! The overall economic base requires stimulation.
Will be back next salmon run.
Better information on parts of the river that is closed due to the month of June to September. Maybe sign poster along river bank.
It was nice to be able to drive just a short distance from home (Chico) to a place with such good habitat for fishing! Lake Oroville (bank fishing) and Riverbend Park are my favorite close places to fish.
I recommend better enforcement of CA's no litter law as it appears to be blatant violation. I recommend that game wardens make themselves more visible and accessible. In 4 years and 12 trips, I've met 1 warden and only seen 1 other.
I think that there should be drinking fountains out at Riverbend Park. And signs that say no glass containers in park. There is a lot of broken glass out there, when there shouldn't be any.

Table J-73. Wilbur Road BR visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

On the boat docks, place protective covering on the entire side of dock. Instead of only top and bottom corner. Dock has nail heads exposed that scratch my boat.
This trip I brought a boat for the first time and could not launch due to overflow of parking. Hopefully next trip I can use Lake Oroville and park so I can go camping.
Too much fluctuation in water level makes it hard to enjoy the lake.
Keep Thermalito access free.
I enjoy going to the Afterbay. However, overcrowded beaches and excessive alcohol consumption is getting worse in my opinion. It would be nice to have camping at the Afterbay too. I seldom go to Lake Oroville because of low water level, and the lack of visible shoreline.
They should not put anymore houseboats on the lake. There is too many.
The water was high. Water up on picnic tables practically at the Afterbay. The Lake Oroville is beautiful but I have lived her since 06/99. It seems the water gets so low that I don't like to go there, especially when friends or family come up. It's embarrassing. Looks like a lagoon and the bar with people drinking, and coming down and getting in their boats, I feel nervous with my kids. With drunk boat drivers out there, I prefer not to go to Lake Oroville now. I don't mean to be so blunt but it is how I feel. And I am only 1 person. I feel I answered honestly. And what I really wasn't too sure if is the costs of things. I should pay more attention!
More day use picnic areas and restrooms near Thermalito Afterbay. Also, some overnight campsites near Thermalito Afterbay would be great.
That the low flow section be open 2 hours before sunrise and 2 hours after sunset.

Table J-73. Wilbur Road BR visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

We fish the "Low Flow" from the shore. Where boat launching and parking areas are located there is a very real need for clean, portable toilets. My wife will not go with me because of the absence of toilets. The great outdoors currently is the toilet –sad!
Yes, hold an IHBA Event at the Forebay or Afterbay area (International Hot Boat Association) or a (Classic V Drive Club of America) Club Event. And allow overnight camping.
The boat ramps at the Afterbay are very good for the amount of use they get. Most of the boat ramps at lakes in the area are too small at the launch area.
Temporary toilet facilities at "Line ups" during salmon season would make it nicer for the ladies. Seems like a couple of them for a couple months at maybe 5 locations would be inexpensive and increase sanitation/enjoyment.
Need to market Lake Oroville better, needs to become a jewel of N CA. Thousands of fishermen come here for salmon/steelhead from the W coast. We need to figure out how to tap this.

Table J-74. OWA – West Levee Road visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

Not related to my most recent visit, but 1. I would like the diversion pool to be accessible at the Lake land entrance (south shore) for _____ launching. 2. I APPRECIATE dual use (bicycle and horse) of trails---especially by the diversion pool.
Thermalito Outlet 1. High use area, but very worthwhile experience. 2. (New) restroom needs ventilation and shade. 3. Garbage – fishing and camping area (need dumpster).
I am disabled and you need some trails to the river so we can fish also. I did have a hard time coming and going to the water. I love to River fish, but can't sometimes because it is hard to move back and forth. I do thank you for asking.
Road is in bad shape. New restrooms need screen windows for ventilation. Too hot. Bad engineering.
One campsite was occupied by the same camper for more than fourteen days. You need to check the number of days each camper stays there. Two weekends in a row they were there so we stopped coming there to camp. Very crowded, too few sites near water.
I'm very unhappy with Lake Oroville. I'll plan time with our trailer and boat at other areas, no more Lake Oroville. Sorry.
Longer time to stay.
Spent 4 hours looking for fishing place as new to area. Need more law enforcement. Never seen anyone. Need some cleaning in camping areas.
Use controlled burns to lower the fuel load.
Bathrooms?
I come up to the Oroville area, mainly Thermalito Dam, to fish only. Therefore, I am not very knowledgeable as far as knowing about trails for walking, bikes or horses. I do feel more shade trees should be planted at the dam area. This is an area that is very open, dry and hot.
I usually only fish in the Feather River during the salmon run and then the steelhead run. I do not use it for anything else. But I like it there. I like the new bathrooms at the outlet. We need showers there now and some better campgrounds that would be nice. Thank you.
I hope I am not paying too much for this survey! Because I am quite sure common sense observations would give you equal or better results.
It would be nice if the feather river where Thermalito enters could have more frequent visits by Fish and Game. It would also be nice if they could remove the railing that is in that section of the river.
On this trip I was salmon fishing. I realize this is very popular. However, I do mind the crowds at times and most of my confrontations and loud, discourteous behavior are with individuals from out of the area (Sac., Bay Area, Apple Valley).

Table J-74. OWA – West Levee Road visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

No bathroom facilities at boat ramps, below the outlet.
The road in the wildlife area should be graded, or paved. All the rocks and pot holes rattle your car apart at any speed, fast or slow. Maybe black top.
1. The addition of the permanent restrooms is much appreciated. Things are much more sanitary than in past years, and there are now places to change out of wet clothing. I wish that there were separate restrooms for man and women (and children) instead of both being co-ed. 2. The trespassing fisherman who stand on the wall ruin the fishing for many who stand in the water. There's constant bickering and commonly fighting breaking out due to this. Guns have even been pulled. There needs to be enforcement of existing laws. I have called Fish and Game and Butte County sheriff. Fish and Game says it's not up to them to enforce trespassing violations/laws. Butte County sheriff gave no response at all. They never returned my call.
Thanks for providing an area to fish at. I would like to see a website that would provide planned water releases and reductions to get an idea of how to plan my future fishing trips. Security of my vehicle is a big issue. I will not visit a location if my vehicle is not in sight due to vandalism.
I spend countless days a year, for years on this (Feather River) system. Wading when flows allow. Out of my drift boat when flows are high. My steelhead, strider, and shad experiences are generally good ones. The salmon run here is a joke as far as management goes. Every year I spend my first couple of weeks steelhead fishing pulling huge snags (line, lead, lures) out of the water and picking up trash. If not for a few fly fisherman doing this the river very well could not be fished in the fall. The Feather as a fishery has come a long way in the last 10 years but I fear its future is bleak if during salmon season something does not change. As you know I now live in Clear Creek just above Lake Almanor. Though it is a drive I will still spend a good 30 or so days on the Feather for steelhead and occasionally striper. I don't think that making the Feather an "artificial, barbless" catch & release waterway will solve the problem. As many of my buddies think, I would like to see more enforcement around. Start handing out a few littering tickets at a thousand bucks a pop, you just might turn some heads. The trash is my biggest concern. Paper and people. Mono – huge problem. About 3 or so years ago while wading for steelhead I became entangled in what must have been 25 lb test. It can be a very dangerous situation for a person not equipped to deal with the situation. People in general need to respect our awesome resource before we lose it. More enforcement will have an impact! And make you guys money!
The boarders make it hard to get down to the shore. We need benches to sit on to watch the fishing activity. A cat walk would be nice to cross the river to fish the other side without driving.
I would like to see in the future improved roads, better parking, more campsites, showers, shade trees. The quality of fishing in this area is enough to keep me coming back. Thank you.
Fishing at the "outlet" has, over the years, become too crowded and has become very polluted. I am not certain if I will be making the trip up there again.
Would be nice to have some kind of "trash" service along the river at selected boat launch locations to reduce litter.
I primarily fish for summer salmon below the Afterbay on the lower feather. At least one improved boat launch ramp w/restrooms and running water should be developed at or near east dead end of Vance Rd. Garbage collection should be provided. Also, willing to pay small fee to use.
More wardens needed at the Feather, litter needs to be addressed. The fishing was excellent.
I love the salmon fishing at the outlet. Drinking and fighting should be better watched. Boat versus shore fishing sucks. Boaters can fish in areas shore fishermen can't but they often times intrude.
We camped at the Thermalito Spillway at the Feather River. The bathroom was the worst I have ever seen in my life. The campgrounds are way underdeveloped, some table would be great. And some more trash cans might help the litter problem. Thank you.
The bathroom was extremely dirty. It was the dirtiest bathroom I've seen.

Table J-74. OWA – West Levee Road visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

I live in Washington, CA, 160 miles round trip to Thermalito Afterbay, where I fish in the Feather River 15 to 18 time per year on "The Bead Line." The boat fisherman crowd the bank fisherman unmercifully, frequent cursing and name calling (you dirty SOBs – move out!) Someone in authority should control the boaters.
We have a precious commodity in the Feather River with the fishing. It seems to attract a minority of "slob fishermen" who seem to care nothing about the environment. They seem to use the shoreline and river as their personal waste basket. It think a reasonable user fee and possible annual fee would help keep some of these undesirable fishermen out. Either that or some type of educational program which may include signs and possible enforcement of the rules. The wildlife area built a new bathroom for the camping area and people (slob fishermen) immediately started urinating and defecating not in the toilet but on the floor – There is no plumbed water so the decent folks can't even wash it down. There are a lot of folks that pick up trash on the shoreline frequently buy you would never know it within 24 hours. I don't know the answer to keep people from vandalizing, destroying, or polluting this property but rest assured there really is a majority of people that care and try to protect it.
I feel that the One Mile is a very nice place to go to. I feel that 14 days a year is not enough time to spend there. I feel the One Mile should stay they way it is.
We really need to focus on "Pack it in, pack it out." The garbage and quantity of fishing line in these areas are horrible. At the very LEAST, garbage cans should be placed by the river.
Need more restrooms. Need more vehicle accessible, primitive camping. Need more "pack it in-pack it out" signage.
As a person who travels alone with frequency, I'm always interested in finding places where my dogs are welcome. I feel much safer when they are with me, and they very much enjoy the water. The person doing the survey was very personable.
We had nothing but bad luck with our RV. We had to rebuild the engine with sand blowing all over us and our exposed engine. Then we got a ticket from a very, arrogant, cocky DFG officer. We were so close to finishing the motor but he decided that instead of busting poachers like he should be, he'd give us $230 tickets to appear the day before Thanksgiving. I have stuff to do and too many bills to pay as it is. I didn't need to be harassed. Other than that everything was peachy!
Yes I was promised a map of the area. Where is it? Would like a map of feather river access areas for the next time I come up. Thanks.
Water flow determined by agriculture instead of fish needs.
It would be nice to see some waste receptacles at a few gathering points, such as outflow parking area, road where area signs are posted, and areas where fishermen gather to put boats in or fish banks.
I fly fish 10 to 15 times per year. Both for salmon and steelhead. I wade fish only.
Fishing was great. The rear window of my truck was broken and my truck broken into.
Way too many cars being broken into along the Feather River. No restroom facilities of any kind at any of the boat launch areas. Boat launches on the river are poorly maintained. No boat launch available on the low flow area.
Map and mark roads in wildlife area so you can find your way.
Put a 5 MPH on the river so you could wade and float with no dangle – as in the American River and soon to be Yuba River.
I was on a 'same day' fishing trip with a friend from S.F. Bay Area. Besides a lot of streamside litter, the river is fine. Our 'dissatisfaction' arises from fisheries management and water flow issues. Apparently, flow and temperature preclude a significant resident trout population and result in a minimal steelhead run. The Oroville stretch of the Feather (to Gridley, say) has the potential to be a world-class fishery and huge economic resource. It is, under current conditions, a mediocre resource from my perspective (that of an avid fly fisherman). By managing the flow regime for commercial salmon interests and agriculture, an opportunity is being wasted! A year-round, blue-ribbon fishery would attract a very desirable demographic to the area. A lot of in-county recreation expenditures would follow!

Table J-75. OWA - East Levee Road visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

Plant more fish. Violence at outlet is getting out of hand. I saw a guy get stabbed over a snagged fishing line.
More restrooms, more sanitary. Allow camping on eastside of river. Add dumpster for garbage. I don't know who owns the property on the east side (opposite side of Spillway), but they should donate the land to the state or city and make it a recreation area with campsites, not campsite's on top of each other and those people who donated the land can use the value of the land as a tax write off for x-amount of years to help provide a nice place to camp and to use all your recreational resources your area can provide this area can be a paradise if managed thoughtfully and carefully.
The trash issue should be a top priority. Signage and some enforcement should be implemented. Garbage cans should also be available at the popular fishing areas along the Feather, especially at the Afterbay. Also, there is a need for Game Warden presence at the fishing areas. I have never seen one, and consequently I see people keeping snagged fish and conducting other illegal fishing violations.
Signage could be improved. Main way and locate fishing areas was to ask at local boat and tackle shop. Rangers and assistants were helpful and information. The lady we talked to was great.
While I was fishing I witnessed boating congestion. Too many is a small area. Also, a 16ft. Motor boat with 5 large men on it , all not showing their fishing license in view, and from what other fishermen were saying they were catching salmon illegally.
A bathroom would have been great.
I would have marked extremely satisfied, but didn't catch any steelhead that day.
Still concerned about personal boats and tour boats traveling too fast in the river and crowding the shoreline swimmers & fisherman, along the Feather River. Would like to see the facilities improved at the Foreman Creek Launch Area also.
We hooked 3 adult steelhead – 5lb, 5lb, & 8lbs (2 fisherman) all hatchery fish - good fighters, beautiful fish, that was special. Not much pressure from other fisherman. (They all seemed to be at 1 or 2 spots). We had a drift boat and moved to less pressured areas. Lots of garbage where fishermen congregate. Needs a good clean-up or flood!

Table J-76. OWA – Headquarters Entrance visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

Our time spent at Oroville was for Turkey hunting. We had a very successful hunt. My daughter and I both got our birds. The staff was very helpful on boundary and where we may find turkeys. Thank you for a place to enjoy the outdoors.
I would like to see more F&G Wardens. I saw one angler carrying out 3 dead half pounder steelhead. I don't go to the Feather in the fall anymore. I see too many people keeping foul hooked fish. Can't stand it!
River areas need better roads for access to fishing areas. Would like to see area of 10th Street off 162 developed, better roads and picnic areas with tables and benches. Also, they need garbage cans in area and toilets.
Maybe an outhouse at trail head would eliminate toilet paper left behind. Same thing goes for garbage areas at trail head. A little more Warden presence might help litter problem.
Want more info on the availability of fish in the river (Feather), particularly each salmon run (fish counts) and better informed bank fishermen. There is no need to wade out into the river until ready to float away – scares salmon and steelhead and endangers all firemen in area (getting hooked and drowning).
An outhouse should be provided by Rte. 162 bridge upstream. Sanitation becoming a problem in fishing along the river. There is both women and men.

Table J-76. OWA – Headquarters Entrance visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

The area I visited three days in a row was extremely littered. Shoreline has too many rotting salmon and carcasses at access areas to river.
I would like more FREE camping areas on the Feather River area. Also, maybe a service that would keep the river free of debris along its shoreline in the most popular fishing areas.
Need to work on the litter. Took what I could but the place is a mess. Too much white trash!

Table J-77. OWA – Tres Vias Road visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

If they could make them indestructible, I would like to see a few more portable toilets along the bike route around the Afterbay.

Table J-78. Model Airplane Facility visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

DWR has produced a great facility at the Thermalito Afterbay (Wilbur Rd) to fly model aircraft both off land and water. Many people enjoy this facility and during the summer monthly club meetings are held at the picnic area.

Table J-79. Monument Hill BR/DUA visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

The flush toilets at Monument Hill are great but there needs to be some stairs up the hill from the parking lot instead of having to climb the dirt or walk all the way around on the road.
The swim area could be expanded with more beach and picnic tables to the left or east. The boat ramp near the outlet could be developed to take the crowd pressure off monument hill. The boat ramp on the other side of Hwy 162 needs improvement.
The lake needs to be more accessible (more roads) that take you close to the shoreline. Stop giving our water away. More campgrounds close to shoreline. More people will come to Oroville & spend money-more money & jobs for our town.
I like to use my jet skis.
Need better control of water at Thermalito Afterbay.
Need more picnic tables. Maybe some covered for handicapped persons.
There needs to be another dock on the other side of the ramp marked for loading & one marked for unloading. Due to people in & out all day, it's congested. Also, water level gets way too low. Trash should be emptied on Sat nights or Sun mornings.
As an angler I launch my boat off Larkin Rd. When I get back from fishing the jet skiers take over the ramp making it difficult to get my boat off the water.
Need more water to stay in lakes, Afterbay & Forebay.
More restrooms, more areas for safe swimming, play area for children other than where the boat ramp is.
We enjoy day use at the Afterbay but do not enjoy the very load speed boats that are there. We have been to lake Orville and wish that there were more beach areas.
More trees at Monument Hill.
Every time I have been out to the Afterbay I have never seen anyone patrolling the area?

Table J-79. Monument Hill BR/DUA visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

The Afterbay has gross water, the banks are muddy and smelly. There was no law enforcement. People were speeding in the 5 mph zone. No control, total chaos. As windsurfers we felt very unsafe around the PWCs. They are dangerous and people do not get adequate training before they ride them.
The water is freezing.
Ages need to posted for riding watercraft. Have seen unsafe waverunner activity with people who do not appear to be responsible enough to be riding and also do not appear to be of age riding.
I would like there to be power outlets at Monument Hill. I wanted to air up my children's water toys with my electric pump but I was unable to. My children were not happy.
Please get more water in the Afterbay.
When Monument Hill was paved a couple of years ago, personally I thought too much parking was eaten up. Although now I look at it and it seems to be a nice addition. Plus keeping erosion to a minimum. Would like to see a few more picnic tables and a bit more beach. I'd even pay a day or season use fee if necessary. Keep up the good work fellas.
It was a small area for swimming with the amount of people present. The fumes and noise from boats launching next to beach area made it an area I would not visit again.
Florida bass should be introduced to the Afterbay. Also, slot limits should be over 16" on Afterbay. Nothing should be taken under 16". It can be one of the best fisheries in N. California. Also, during April and May water should be regulated better to protect the spawn.
More garbage cans. I would not mind paying to use the place.
Please stop letting water out of the lake!
We will be going to the Afterbay since the lake is so low and Lime Saddle Marina is a mad house trying to launch from.
The lake needs more sandy beach areas to hang out on.
Just noisy with jet boats. So loud…the jet boats. Ouch!
For many years, I have felt that the Afterbay and the Forebay should be opened by an entity (local) such as the Recreation and Park District in order to produce a much needed variety of production community programs, such as canoe/paddleboat/kayak rentals.
Yes. I feel we should have more campgrounds in the area. More boat launchings, more water in the lake during the summer months. This year has been the worst since living here since 1997. I myself will not give you the license you are seeking.
I would like to say that our lake (Oroville) is in a sad way. It is very disturbing that the greed by the state has been so devastating. It has prevented us from using our lake to the point we can no longer launch. Yet we have received enough rain to keep our lake full enough to launch three the summer. The really sad thing southern Calif. Can still launch their boats in their lakes that are full with our water.
The trail conditions for mountain biking were excellent. The trails were clearly marked, well maintained but offered some rough areas, making them some of the best trails I have ridden. The trails can be enjoyed by bikers of all levels. Great for hiking too!
I think the bathrooms at Lake Oroville launch sites such as Lime Saddle, Bidwell and the Spillway (Dam) should always be open. They are pay to park and launch areas and that's what you pay for! I hear a lot of tournament anglers complain about his. Overall most of the anglers I know are very satisfied with the facilities at Lake Oroville. Thanks.
Floating restrooms would be very nice at Monument Hill Afterbay.
Keep a close watch on the docks for throwing their batteries and such over the side in the water, it is one of the worst things going on in all water area's. Sanitation is one of the most important things to our resources.

Table J-79. Monument Hill BR/DUA visitor Mailback Survey additional comments continued.

The Monument Hill Afterbay has been improved so much vs. previous years. We enjoyed our visit very much.
There aren't any picnic tables in the shade and the water was mucky. Glass and debris in gravel around picnic table.
When the water level is low it is hard to launch your boat. The ramp doesn't get deep enough to launch some boats. I've seen vehicles get water in their cabs trying to go down the ramp enough to launch their boats.
I would like to see separate swim areas and where a person has a pleasure craft isn't park along shoreline where swimmer our.
I think there should be some shade above the picnic tables.
Aside from so many people using the swimming area as a toilet, I enjoy every visit to Lake Oroville.
Grass – shade trees would help.
Thank you for the opportunity to participate in your survey.
We went to the Afterbay primarily because of the low levels at Lake Oroville.
More improvements to the area would make it a very desirable area for most Bay Area residents to visit.
We ran into an area being used by the skiing club. They were VERY rude and we were still far off. They need to mark their area better. Our daughter and husband live in Richvale, so this was just a quick trip like most for an afternoon with family. We were there from 4 to 8pm.
My girlfriend for 8.5 years and my 5 year old son and I come to Oroville area once or more a month to visit family, and we have an OK time. It is walking distance to Feather River where we stay. But we love driving around to other parts of the lakes. I think everything is ok. It's just people should appreciate them more. Everyone should clean up their site before leaving. I have noticed that the people who work the parks and lakes do clean up the sites. They do the rounds cleaning up other peoples' messes. They do a good job. We love your town.
I also own a houseboat moored at Lime Saddle. That Marina is very poorly run. The parking lot and campgrounds are nice, but the Marina itself is bad and very poorly run. I pay over $1200 a year and it just isn't worth it. But the big thing is the lake level. I am sick and tired of seeing the lake drained every year. It is outlay and I can't put my boat in the lake. No ramp. I understand they are going to extend the ramps this year. Is that so they can lower the lake even more next year? They have to stop sending all our water south. LA has to do something to provide their own water!! I want to go back to the marina like I said the parking lot is nice. But the facilities are bad. The houseboat owners pay a lot of money for that facility. The fuel dock and pump out dock are always full, usually with one of their boats. Or you are waiting for them to empty the septic tank, that is mounted on a boat. And that takes about an hour only one fuel pump works and only one grade of gas. And it is premium. All out board motors are supposed to run on regular gas, why not SELL regular and SELL gas octane booster to the boats that need it?? I could go on and on. I know that if things do not change on the lake and marina, I will be selling my houseboat and pulling my bass boat to other lakes and spending my money there.
We had a wonderful day at the lake. Thank you!
The water level is always low before the summer is over. Also, the boat ramp at the Afterbay located near Hwy 99 is too crowded to park any boats. Especially on Labor Day weekend.
The Afterbay area is a convenient place to take my bass boat for a quick couple of hours. The amount of other people using it sometimes gets to be too many, but I'm sure they're using the water for the same reasons I am! Overall, this area is great place for some fun on the water!

Table J-80. Larkin Road Car-top BR visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

It would be nice to have more bathrooms at the Afterbay site.
I was surveyed on the Larkin Road site, but earlier that same day my wife and I had our boat up on Lake Oroville and we enjoyed the whole experience and as indicated above we were very satisfied.
Keep all fees down.
As PWC racers, we use the Larkin Road Launch at the Afterbay almost every weekend, including winter time. We spend every Saturday morning awaking early before 9:00am in the summer and picking up other peoples trash and litter that use the facility during the week. It is unfortunate that as a group we get “blamed” for the litter because we ride jet skis, very frustrating, even though we’re the ones cleaning it up. I also believe it is unfair to “close” the entire Afterbay when hydroplane boats race at Monument Hill. Our races bring over a 100-150 competitors to different venues and only a small portion of the lake is set aside for our event, the rest of the lake is left open for all to use. This includes our races at the Oroville Forebay, Camp For West, Comanche Lake, and Modesto reservoir, etc. In closing, the ten to fifteen of us that race PWC and ride at the Afterbay every weekend absolutely love the facility just the way it is!
We have an unusual hobby that we do. There's not a lot of us around in this area. I did try to answer questions based on this and also, we do have a jet ski and did have a jet boat. Also we have a lot of family and friends that do have boats. We do enjoy this one area because it is perfect conditions for our smaller boats, and it is very beautiful there, sometimes people don’t show up till around 12:30pm we have the place to ourselves. Were usually there about 9am.
At the Larkin Road Access you could mow out the grass areas by the boat dock so there would be more day use areas. Jet skiers use this area and there is no place to day camp. It is very difficult to transport day goods or a ski to a day camp on the lake. Overall we enjoy Oroville Rec Area and have been using it for more than 30 years.
We need more campsites on Lake Oroville. A place to camp at the Afterbay would be nice.
The Forebay area needs to be cleaned up a little bit. There needs to be more activities for kids in the Oroville Area.
Killing wildlife for fun is not moral, ethical or ecological.
Larkin Rd. boat launch rules for no parking on ramp are not enforced.
The Thermalito Afterbay has improved over the years but water fluctuation with the lake and Afterbay are a problem. Management of the area could increase the satisfaction of day use.
I have a green pass for boat ramps. Do I get an extension on pass when ramps were closed? NO!!! Keep ramps open all year on main lake!

Table J-81. OWA – Afterbay Outlet visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

Would never come back if it weren't for the salmon. Starting to wonder if it's really worth it. (1) Bathroom in a huge are and it's disgusting. We pick up bags of litter—Disgusting. Locals smoking pot openly, being disruptive. NO LAW ENFORCEMENT ever seen. I've been coming up to the same area for 5 years.
We need some game wardens because there isn't any out there.
I believe there should be at least one police officer on-site during salmon season. There were several extremely intoxicated individuals causing trouble for other visitors. I personally witnessed an individual pull a knife on a fellow fisherman because he cast his line out while he was fighting a fish. If there was a police officer or game warden on site I would feel much safer.
I think you should have a salmon derby. When you pick up so much trash, that's your way into the derby. It will keep it clean. That way you should have a place just for kids to fish at to catch salmon. Thank you.
Yes, the trash needs to be cleaned up at the site of River Afterbay Outlet. Also, there are a lot of dead fish up and around where you park on north side parking lot. Also, there is way too much fish line all over the ground on the path and parking lot and shoreline, it is a real tripping hazard. Thank you.
Could use cleaning stations for fish, clean drinking water, showers.
We spend our time at the outlet. I fell we really need running water, an area for cleaning the fish, the shoreline is smelly with dead fish and the water has a lot of cut up fish in it. Also, an easier way down to the water. Old folks get scared going down rocks.
There should be a space where fishermen may clean the fish and a disposal of the fishes internal organs not needed.
Could use more trees in camping areas, clean running water, some were to clean fish instead of in the waters and shorelines. No matter what we'll still keep come to the outlet for our great fishing.
Set up a fee collection site at the outlet. This money could be used for repairs, enforcement, etc., and reduce the crowds. Too many people in a confined area causes problems. Also, trash collection and the addition of more restrooms needs to be addressed.
On my last trip I noticed the lack of PFDs on some boaters and none on the shore waders. Otherwise I had a very good time at the OWA. Thank you.
Too much foul language. Too much drinking alcohol and related trash. Absolutely no courtesy from fishermen. Too many locals hogging the access to fast water area and trespassing on concrete wall. Heard many threats to other fishermen by local hoods.
Boat ramps used at Afterbay in poor shape. Maintenance of this area need attention. The ramp has trenches dug up from people spinning tires trying to get out of the water. Also, fishing line thrown on the ground and water a big problem. Not enough trash cans or not properly placed cans. Fish and Game not present or visible in the area.
I was there simply to observe the fishermen at the outlet.
A little more enforcement of "No Trespassing" on wall at outlet.
Maintain river flows for salmon and steelhead.
The area is very peaceful and pretty, although the garbage and rude people make it a nuisance! Please clean up garbage on the river!
The signs said put the fish guts in the river, not on the shore. The shore was covered with dead fish. It was nasty.
Increase Fish and Game presence to discourage anglers (guides included) from keeping snagged salmon.
I would just like to say Lake Oroville could be a much better place. All we have to do is put some time, effort, and planning to make Lake Oroville a success and more enjoyable for families. The goal is to make the park clean, healthy, safe, and fun.

Table J-82. Rabe Road Shooting Range visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

I feel that there could be a portable restroom at the Clay Pit area for the shooters to use while target shooting.
Shooting areas more tables. Trees for shade and wind brake. Restrooms or portables. More disabled access.
Some type of trash containers at the site.
I was surveyed at the Clay Pit shooting area. There is not much there. So I can not reply well to your questions. I am however a user of Lake Oroville on a weekly basis and would love to fill out a survey on my trips to the lake.
We need more slips for rent at Bidwell Marina and more parking at marina. The hill is too steep. It prevents us from visiting marina and store/restaurant because the water is too low.

Table J-83. Clay Pit SVRA visitor Mailback Survey additional comments.

I am marking extremely dissatisfied because of the lake levels. Of course DWR can't control the weather, but you can control the releases. It's time to make Southern CA accountable for their numbers and their water usage. Our reservoirs should not be taken to such extremes, at our expense, and because of their lack of planning. Facilities have been upgraded in the past few years, and more people are using the Lake Oroville area. More people are calling this area home now too, and therefore will be using these recreational facilities more and more, and in greater numbers. The recent improvements are a good start, but let's not waste them. If users cannot launch their boats, they will be forced to go elsewhere. Our reservoirs should be the last resort back-ups not part of their primary water supply. Low lake levels make for narrower channels, dangerous, hidden obstacles, and unusable areas. Let's keep the lake safe for our boaters, with more room for everyone. My name need not be confidential. I have been using lake Oroville nearly all of my life (31 years old) and I welcome any question about my experience with this area. Thank you for the opportunity to be involved.

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