

TRINITY LAKE BOATING SAFETY

Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity
National Recreation Area

Shasta-Trinity National Forest

America's Great Outdoors
California 2002

Forest Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

INTRODUCTION

The Trinity Unit is one of three units that comprise the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area (NRA). Established by Congress in 1965, this area was recognized for its unique and varied recreation potential. Trinity and Lewiston Lakes form the core of the Trinity Unit. Trinity Lake is the third largest human-made lake in California. The shoreline is rugged and densely forested with hundreds of hidden coves. The western side of the lake offers a full spectrum of recreation opportunities with campgrounds, boat ramps, picnic areas, beaches, full service marinas, restaurants, and resorts. Also flanking the west side are the snow covered mountains, emerald meadows, cascading alpine streams and lakes of the Trinity Alps Wilderness. They form a breathtaking backdrop to Trinity Lake. The eastern side of the lake is much more primitive in nature and offers boaters and campers more solitude.

Lewiston Lake is a constant level lake and serves as a fore bay for transporting Trinity River water across the mountains to Whiskeytown Lake and the Sacramento River. Prior to the construction of Trinity and Lewiston Dams, the Trinity River Valley between Lewiston and Coffee Creek, once supported several small towns and a thriving rural economy based on farming, ranching, mining and logging. Much of this was replaced in the early 1960s by the rising waters of Trinity and Lewiston Lakes.

LAKE FLUCTUATIONS & UNDERWATER OBSTACLES

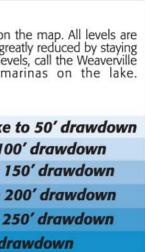
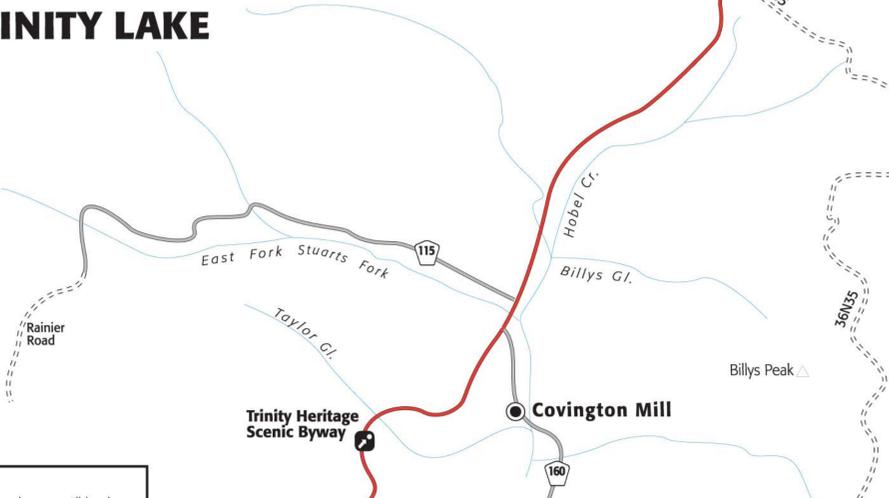
Annual precipitation and the demand for water are the primary determinants of water levels in Trinity Lake. **Water levels can vary from a few inches to several feet per day.** As water levels fluctuate, remnants of the past, and other underwater obstacles such as rocks, trees, stumps and other landforms **may become exposed or may lie just below the water surface when the lake level changes.**

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NORTH HALF TRINITY LAKE



Disclaimer...

The intent of this brochure is to provide information that will promote an awareness of the presence of obstacles in Trinity Lake and to encourage safe boating practices. It is intended to illustrate how the features of the lake might be affected by changes in water level. All obstacles are **NOT** marked (including standing snags, floating debris and most rock outcroppings). The continuation of the Underwater Obstacle Program is at the discretion of the District Ranger. **The responsibility for boating safety rests with each individual vessel operator.**

THE UNDERWATER OBSTACLE PROGRAM

The Underwater Obstacle Program is being funded through Recreation Fee Demonstration Program legislation which allows the Forest Service to retain and reinvest specific recreation special use permit fees to provide recreation based improvements in the NRA.

The Underwater Obstacle Program objectives are:

- To encourage safe boating practices.
- To promote an awareness of the presence of obstacles in Trinity Lake.

The Program has a number of components, including:

- Boating Safety Brochure:** This brochure includes a description of the program and a graphic representation of how the features of the lake might be affected by changes in water level.
- Interpretive Signs:** These signs will be located at designated boat ramps notifying boaters of the presence of obstacles, and the fact that **most obstacles are NOT marked.** Boating safety regulations will also be included in the signing.
- Obstacle Marking:** Obstacle markers have been installed within the pool area of the lake. The intention is NOT to mark all underwater obstacles; this would be virtually impossible. The markers are to serve as a visual reminder that obstacles are present and to encourage boaters to watch for debris, underwater obstacles and shallow areas. **The responsibility for boating safety rests with each individual vessel operator.**

Trinity Lake business owners have volunteered their work force to assist with future installation, and responsibility for the maintenance of the obstacle markers. The merits and success of this program will be evaluated and its continuation is at the discretion of the District Ranger.

California Waterway Marker System Information:

A uniform California Waterway Marker system has been devised for all waterways within the state. All Trinity Lake markers will incorporate the system's distinctive shapes to show regulatory or advisory information. These markers have white and black letters and orange symbols and borders. They signify restricted areas, speed zones, danger areas, and general information. Vessel operators on Trinity Lake should be familiar with the following types of markers.

California Waterway Marker System:



It is a violation of Federal law, punishable by up to 6 months in jail and/or a \$500 fine, to move, vandalize, or otherwise intentionally damage or alter obstacle markers, control buoys or regulatory buoys. Never tie watercraft to buoys or other navigational aids.

BOAT SAFE AND SOBER!

Alcohol and drug use have been cited as contributing factors in many boating injuries, accidents and fatalities. Studies indicate that the effects of alcohol and drugs are more pronounced when operating a boat. Alcohol and/or drug use combined with wind, increased noise levels, vibration, wave action and sun glare have been shown to have a tremendous adverse influence on judgement and response times. It is unlawful to operate a recreational vessel while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Under California State law, a person with a blood alcohol level of .087% or greater is considered to be under the influence.

WHEN TROUBLE STRIKES

The Trinity County Sheriff's Department maintains a lake patrol program on Trinity Lake which is funded by the California State Department of Boating and Waterways. Medical aid is provided by Trinity County volunteer fire departments and the Trinity Life Support Ambulance Company based in Weaverville.

Reporting an Emergency or a fire

Call 911

If you are in distress (i.e. when threatened by grave and imminent danger), observe another individual or vessel in distress, or want to report a fire, be prepared to calmly and clearly report the following information when asked:

- Your name
- Where you are on the lake
- What emergency has occurred
- How many people are on board and involved
- Extent of injuries
- Description of your vessel, including registration number

Cellular phone service is available from many places on the lake. Pay phones are available at most marinas and resorts.

Local Non-Emergency Law Enforcement

- Trinity County Sheriff's Department (530) 623-2611

After An Accident Has Occurred

If an accident results in loss of life, injury requiring medical treatment beyond first aid, or damage to property in excess of \$500 (including loss of a vessel), the owner/operator is required by law to report the accident in writing to the California Department of Boating and Waterways. All boat operators involved in the accident must provide their names, addresses and vessel registration numbers to other involved parties, provide assistance to any injured persons, and in case of a death or disappearance, report the accident without delay.

To obtain an accident reporting form or further information write or call:

California Dept. of Boating and Waterways
2000 Evergreen St. Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95815-3888
(916) 263-8189 or (916) 263-4326 or 1-888-326-2822

REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO BOATING ON TRINITY LAKE

Boating on Trinity Lake is regulated by State and Federal Boating Laws, County Ordinances, and Orders issued by the Supervisor of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. The County Sheriff, the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), and the USDA Forest Service (FS) are responsible for law enforcement on Trinity Lake.

Speed and Time Restrictions:

- The following list of common violations will be strictly enforced:
- Exceeding the posted 5 MPH speed limit in coves.
 - No water-skiing between sunset and sunrise.
 - Navigation lights are required half-hour after sunset to half-hour before sunrise.
 - 10 MPH speed limit on all waters in Trinity County from half hour after sunset to half-hour before sunrise. (Sunset is determined when the sun disappears behind the horizon and the area of operation. Due to the mountainous nature of Trinity County, times of sunset vary as to locations of operation.)
 - Locally restricted areas of operation are marked with buoys and/or signs on shore.
 - Be considerate and watch the size of your wake. You can be liable for damage or injury caused by your wake.
- State Law requires operation under 5 MPH in the following circumstances:
- Within 200 feet of a swimmer (this includes persons on air mattresses, inner tubes or similar flotation devices).
 - Within 200 feet of beaches frequented by swimmers.
 - Within 200 feet of a mooring vessel.
 - Within 200 feet of a boat ramp.

Age Restrictions

- Operators must be 16 years or older to drive a motorized vessel with greater than 15 horsepower.
- Persons 12 to 15 years of age may operate a motorized vessel while accompanied and supervised by a person 18 years of age or older.

Personal Watercraft:

"Personal watercraft" (PWC) refers to a vessel less than 12 feet in length, propelled by machinery and operated by a person sitting, standing, or kneeling on the vessel rather than sitting or standing inside the vessel. PWCs are subject to the same regulations that apply to boats.

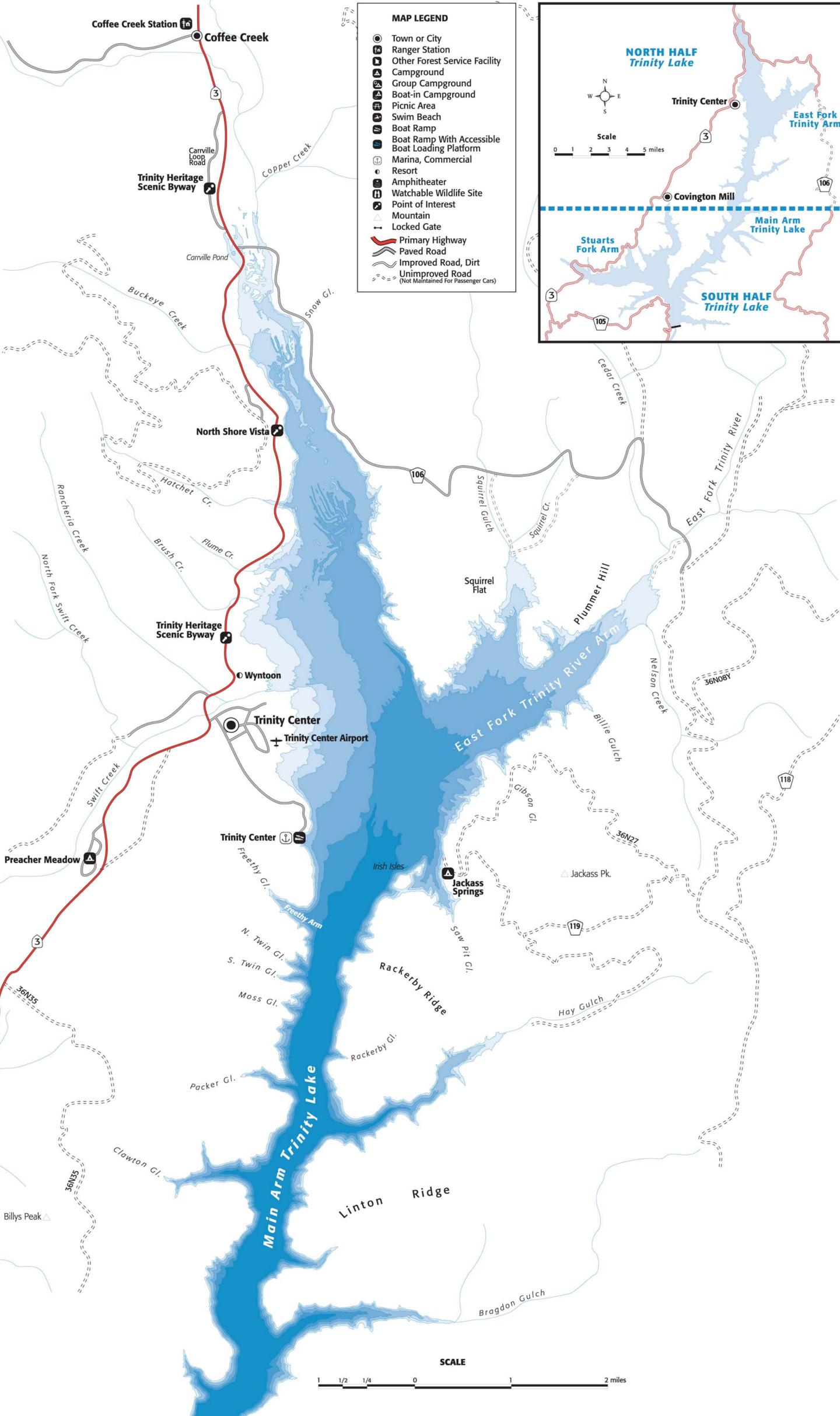
All persons aboard a personal water craft must wear a Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III, or V life jacket.

The following PWC activities are prohibited:

- No person shall operate a PWC at a speed in excess of 5 MPH within 100 feet of any swimmers, shoreline or anchored vessel
- PWCs cannot be operated between the hours of one half hour after sunset to half hour before sunrise, even if equipped with the proper navigational lights
- Operating a PWC without a lanyard-operated "kill switch"
- Jumping the wakes within 100 ft. of another vessel.
- Spraying other vessels or persons in the water.
- Operating in a manner that requires the PWC or another vessel to swerve to avoid collision

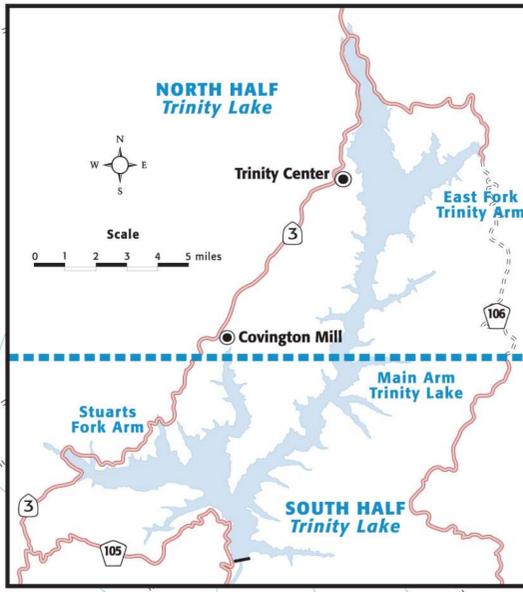
Reckless and negligent operation

- Boating under the influence (zero tolerance).
- Skiing, tubing or wakeboarding without an observer
- Bow riding
- Maneuvering a vessel to pass over or under another vessel's towline of a skier or other towed device
- Boat occupants are not permitted to ride on the bow, gunwale or transom of any boat lacking an appropriate railing while the boat is underway



MAP LEGEND

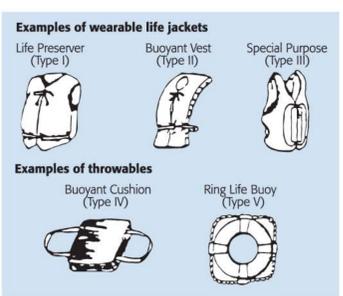
- Town or City
- Ⓜ Ranger Station
- Ⓜ Other Forest Service Facility
- Ⓜ Campground
- Ⓜ Group Campground
- Ⓜ Boat-in Campground
- Ⓜ Picnic Area
- Ⓜ Swim Beach
- Ⓜ Boat Ramp
- Ⓜ Boat Ramp With Accessible Boat Loading Platform
- Ⓜ Marina, Commercial
- Ⓜ Resort
- Ⓜ Amphitheater
- Ⓜ Watchable Wildlife Site
- Ⓜ Point of Interest
- Ⓜ Mountain
- Ⓜ Locked Gate
- Primary Highway
- Paved Road
- Improved Road, Dirt
- Unimproved Road (Not Maintained For Passenger Cars)



Required Equipment

Wearable and Throwable Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)
 Flotation Devices are **REQUIRED** on all vessels for every person on board. They must be in serviceable condition (no broken straps, missing hardware, or missing or faded approval number), be the proper size(s), and must be stowed to allow ready accessibility. **THROWABLE FLOTATION DEVICES MUST BE AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE USE.** Wearables include all Type I, II, and III lifejackets. Type I includes Life Preservers, Type II are buoyant vests such as the "Mae West" style, and Type III are the special purpose marine buoyant vests. Type I lifejackets are recommended for most situations because they are the only wearable flotation devices designed to keep a person afloat even when exhausted or incapacitated. They will keep a person's head above water in rough water, and have the ability to turn an unconscious person face up. Throwables such as buoyant cushions and ring lifebuoys are considered Type IV and Type V devices. Persons being towed, such as skiers, are considered passengers and are required to wear flotation devices. On all boats over 16 feet, except canoes and kayaks, the flotation devices required must be a wearable type (Type I, II, or III) plus one throwable (Type IV or V). On all other boats, wearable or throwable devices may be used as long as there is at least one per person. Children under the age of 12 **MUST** wear a life jacket when aboard an underway vessel 26 feet or less. Exceptions: on a sailboat, if the child is in an enclosed cabin, or restrained by a harness tethered to the vessel.

Note: PFDs only work if they are worn and buckled properly. An unconscious person cannot put on a lifejacket. Even a conscious person will have great difficulty putting on a lifejacket once he or she is in the water.



Fire Extinguishers
 All motorboats are required to have fire extinguishers on board, with the exception of outboard pleasure boats measuring less than 26 feet long that do not have permanently installed fuel tanks or enclosed spaces for gases or vapors to collect. All extinguishers must be approved for marine use and be at least B-1 in size (see below).

Boat Length	# of Extinguishers Required
less than 16 ft.	1 B-1
16 to under 26 ft.	1 B-1
26 to under 40 ft.	2 B-1 or 1 B-11
40 to under 65 ft.	3 B-1 or 1 B-11 & B-1

Interpreting the Map
 This legend illustrates what the various shades of blue mean on the map. All levels are approximate. Your chances of hitting submerged islands will be greatly reduced by staying in the darker blue areas. To obtain current information on lake levels, call the Weaverville Ranger Station at (530) 623-2121, or any of the marinas on the lake.

- ZONE A: Full lake to 50' drawdown**
- ZONE B: 50' to 100' drawdown**
- ZONE C: 100' to 150' drawdown**
- ZONE D: 150' to 200' drawdown**
- ZONE E: 200' to 250' drawdown**
- ZONE F: + 250' drawdown**



- **Lights**
 Running lights are required on all vessels operating between half hour before sunset and half hour before sunrise. Manually propelled vessels must have at least one hand held white light. The design, size and number of lights are dictated by type and size of vessel. See "The ABCs of California Boating Law" for specific requirements.
- **Other Requirements**
 • Ventilation and Backfire Flame Control Devices are required on all powerboats except those with outboard motors.
 • Horns or whistles are required on vessels 16 feet or longer and all vessels must have some means of making a loud sound for signaling other than the human voice.

Registration and Permits
 All vessels, except boats manually propelled, sailboats eight feet or less in length without other means of propulsion, and certain public vessels must be registered and numbered through the State of California. Out-of-state registration is valid for 90 days. In addition, some boats such as houseboats require a Forest Service permit to be on the lake in excess of 30 days per calendar year. This restriction applies primarily to boats designed for overnight use.

Engine Noise
 Engines must be muffled or otherwise prevented from exceeding 82dB (A) noise levels when recorded at a distance of 50 feet. Boats manufactured before January 1, 1987 may run at levels up to 86 dB (A). Authorities generally agree that unbaffled exhaust pipes (stacks) and most water injected pipes cannot meet the above standards.

Warning Flags
 Boaters should exercise caution when operating in areas where these flags are displayed.



Water Skiing, Tubing and Wakeboarding
 For all activities where a person is being towed, there must be a person at least 12 years of age acting as an observer, in addition to the vessel operator. California state law requires the observer to display a ski flag (as shown above) to indicate any of the following conditions; a person in the water preparing to be towed, a tow line extending from the vessel, a downed person, or equipment in the vicinity of the vessel. The orange or red flag must be no less than 12 inches on each side and be in the shape of a square or rectangle.

Swimming
 There are two designated swimming sites along the shoreline of Trinity Lake; Tannery Gulch and Clark Springs. The steep embankment and the heavy draw down during the recreation season make finding other flat spots for a suitable beach along the water's edge difficult. There are hundreds of coves and bays where visitors can find a safe, quiet place to swim. The practice of swimming while houseboating and powerboating in main channels and busy coves is not advised due to heavy traffic. It is difficult for oncoming boats to see people in the water.

- Swimming is prohibited within 200 feet of any launch ramp.

- Swimming continued:**
- Do not swim up to or near swimming fur bearing animals (otters, bear, deer, etc.) They could have young with, or near them, and they may become aggressive toward a swimmer.
 - It is unsafe and a violation of State Law to swim, fish, dive from or sunbathe on any courtesy dock or within 200 feet of a boat launching ramp.

THINGS TO KNOW
Boat Launching
 Both Forest Service and commercial ramps are available. Each of the six designated Forest Service ramps has a paved ramp, restrooms and garbage disposal facilities. A daily use fee is required. Not all ramps are open year-round. When lake levels are down more than 75 feet, some ramps become inoperable or are moved to an alternate location. There are a few ramps designed with long enough paved ramps to accommodate launching when the lake levels go down below 75 feet drawdown. These ramps are located at Minersville, Cedar Stock and Estrellita. Additional launching facilities may be available at the marinas.

Debris
 Floating debris (such as limbs, logs and bark) generally enter the lake through rivers and streams. Following winter storms and during spring runoff, a considerable amount of debris may accumulate in Trinity Lake. The rising lake also "refloats" any debris beached on the shoreline from previous years. The larger debris can present a physical obstacle for boaters, while smaller debris can clog water intake ports in boat engine cooling systems, and can ruin props. Boat operators should maintain a constant watch and travel at reduced speeds when these conditions exist. Fairview and Trinity Center boat ramps, due to their location and the direction of prevailing winds during the spring months, are most likely to be impacted by debris. During the peak summer months, most debris is beached on the shoreline with little impact on public enjoyment or safety.

Sanitation
 During the height of the summer, several floating restrooms are placed on the lake for the convenience of boaters. Floating restrooms are generally located in the Stuarts Fork Arm at Clark Springs and Ridgeville Island, also in the Digger, Feeney, and the Freethy Arms. The floating restrooms are normally moored in these areas from Memorial Day to Labor Day weekends. If lake levels go below 70 feet they are removed.

Boaters are encouraged to use these floating restrooms, the toilet facilities on board their boats, or the restrooms at the boat ramps, boat-in-campgrounds, and marinas. If necessary, human waste and toilet paper should be buried in a hole at least six inches deep and 200' from the high water mark (the line where the vegetation begins and the shoreline ends). Trinity Lake is a "no discharge" lake. Holding tanks must be sealed. **Emptying holding tanks anywhere other than in approved marina pumping stations, including in floating restrooms, is prohibited.**

Sanitation continued:
 Garbage receptacles are located at picnic areas and boat ramps. Garbage is not collected at undeveloped sites, including boat-in-campgrounds. Garbage should be disposed of in the nearest container.

Towing Services
 There are no established commercial towing services on Trinity or Lewiston Lakes. Some marinas provide towing services for their moorage customers or to the public for a fee. It is not the policy of the Forest Service or the Trinity County Sheriff's Department to tow disabled vessels.

Fueling Up
 During the summer months, most marinas and resorts carry fuel for boaters, along with other supplies. These businesses include:

- Trinity Alps Marina
- Trinity Lake Resort
- Estrellita Resort
- Trinity Center Marina
- Wynton Resort (other supplies only)

Most of these businesses don't sell fuel during the winter so boaters are reminded to do some pre-planning to find out where fuel is available.

Bear Precautions
 Black bears are common around Trinity lake, and they have been known to get onto boats moored on or near shore. The potential for bear encounters can be reduced if visitors follow some common sense do's and don'ts:

1. Keep food, beverages, and toiletries in secure, sealed containers inside boat.
2. Keep a clean boat and a clean camp.
3. Double bag garbage securely and deposit in garbage receptacles at boat ramps as often as possible.
4. Do not feed or tease the bears. California Code of Regulations "Prohibits the feeding of big game mammals." Violators are subject to a \$1,000 fine, 6 months in jail, or both.

Campfire Permits
 Campfire Permits are required year round when using hibachis, barbecues or campfires on the shoreline or on board when the boat is touching the shoreline, and when dispersed camping. A permit can be obtained from Forest Service personnel in the field or from the nearest Forest Service Station. Throughout the year, as fire danger increases, fire restrictions are put into effect. Strict compliance with fire restrictions is required. It is your responsibility to find out what these restrictions are by contacting the Weaverville Ranger Station at (530) 623-2121.

Boat Access Campgrounds
 The Forest Service operates four boat-in campgrounds on Trinity Lake. Situated in more remote areas of the lake, these camps offer a unique camping experience away from populated areas. These camps have tables, stoves, and vault toilet facilities. Campers are advised to bring their own water or to boil any surface water for at least five minutes. Garbage service is not provided at boat-in campgrounds. Dispose of garbage at the boat ramps and do not leave it at the floating restrooms.

Dispersed Area Camps
 Camping outside of a developed campground is permitted on Trinity Lake with one exception: **The area between Wynton Resort and County Road 106 is closed to camping within one quarter of a mile of the Trinity Lake high waterline.** To assure that the privilege of camping along the shoreline is not lost, help keep the area clean. Be sure and pack out all garbage when leaving because garbage service is not provided at these out of the way places. Dispose of garbage at the boat ramps and do not leave it at the floating restrooms.

GOOD PRACTICES
Practice "Person-Overboard" Skills
 Practicing simple person-overboard (POB) drills with your crew and/or family members can save a life. A simulated drill might go something like this... One person yells loudly to alert everyone that a person has fallen overboard. The driver immediately **shuts off the motor.** The driver simulates sounding five or more short blasts on the horn (the danger signal) to alert other boats in the area of a POB. Someone is assigned to point at the POB until the driver says they've located the person. **Only when the driver can see the POB should they start the engine** and slowly approach from upwind or up current until the boat is close enough to toss the POB a flotation device to help them stay afloat. The engine is turned off again and the boat allowed to drift into a retrieval position with the POB on the driver's side of the boat. The drill is completed when the POB is brought safely into the boat.

- Optional Equipment**
- Waterproof flashlight
 - First aid kit
 - Fenders
 - Plenty of warm clothing
 - Sunglasses
 - Anchor and line
 - Sunscreen
 - Tool kit
 - Cellular phone
 - Floating key chain

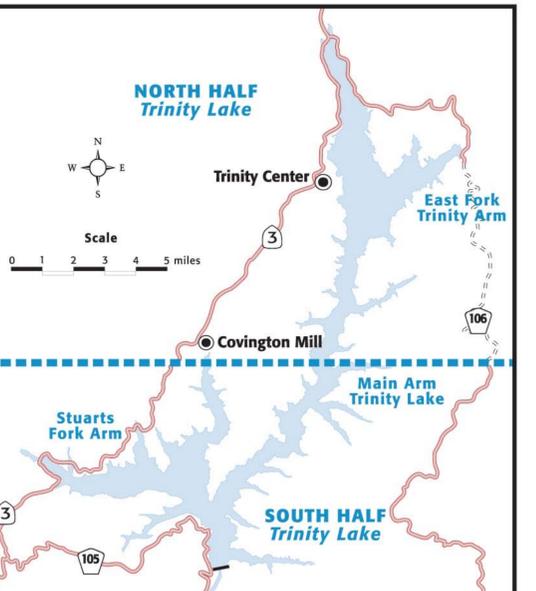
INFORMATION SOURCES
 For information about boating, boating regulations, a boating safety self-study course, and the "ABCs of California Boating Law" booklet contact:

California Dept. of Boating and Waterways
 2000 Evergreen St., Suite 100
 Sacramento, CA 95815-3888
 (916) 263-8189
 (916) 263-4326
 1-888-326-2822
<http://www.dbw.ca.gov>

The Weaverville Ranger Station in Weaverville provides maps, brochures, campfire permits, daily lake level reports, commercial services information and other general information about the area:

- **USDA Forest Service**
 National Recreation Area & Trinity River Management Units
 Weaverville Ranger Station
 210 West Main Street (Highway 299)
 Weaverville, CA 96093
 (530) 623-2121 (VOICE)
 (530) 623-2124 (TDD)
 Forest Service website: <http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/shastatrinity/>
- **Trinity County Sheriff's Department**
 P.O. Box 1228
 Weaverville, CA 96093
 (530) 623-2611
- **Trinity County Chamber of Commerce**
 (530) 623-6101
 1-800-487-4648

- Points of Interest**
- **Trinity Heritage Scenic Byway**
 This self-guided auto tour lies between Weaverville in the south and Interstate 5 just north of Weed. It is 110 miles long and will introduce you to the great scenic beauty, rich history, and diverse resources of the area. A self-guided brochure is available from camp hosts and from Forest Service Ranger Stations.
 - **Lewiston and Lewiston Lake Area:**
 Trinity River Hatchery
 Viewing Areas
 Historic Town of Lewiston
 - **Weaverville Area:**
 Joss House - Chinese Taoist Temple
 Jake Jackson Museum
 Lee Fong Park
 Historic Downtown
 Highland Art Center
 Lee Ranch Art Center
 - **Trinity Lake Area:**
 Bowerman Barn - Covington Mill
 Scott Museum - Trinity Center



SOUTH HALF TRINITY LAKE

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- 📍 Watchable Wildlife Site
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- ⛰️ Mountain
- 🔒 Locked Gate
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- 🛣️ Improved Road, Dirt
- 🛣️ Unimproved Road (Not Maintained For Passenger Cars)