The Sacramento River Bend Area Guide

Explorers & Native Americans

From the lush riparian areas surrounding the Sacramento River and its tributaries to the rolling hills of the blue oak savannas, the Bureau of Land Management’s Sacramento River Bend area offers diverse habitat for bald eagles, osprey, migratory and song birds, deer, and salmon. You can enjoy hunting, camping, hiking, horseback riding, cycling, boating, picnicking, and wildlife viewing. This guide is provided to assist in planning your trip to this beautiful area. Take some time to walk the trails and join us in exploring, enjoying, and protecting your public lands.

Wildlife

Keep an eye out for river otters, beavers, osprey and turtles as you travel through the wetlands and along the river and creeks. You may even see majestic bald eagles soaring over the area, which are not to be confused with the dark-colored tucker waders. Deer are abundant and often seen by visitors to the area. Remember that even seemingly harmless animals can be dangerous if they feel threatened; please enjoy wildlife without touching, feeding, or moving too close.

Concerns have increased in recent years over population declines of migratory birds that breed in North America and winter in South America, called neotropical migratory birds. The BLM manages the Paynes Creek Wetlands area, located along the Pacifitc Flyway, to enhance populations of these birds and other species.

In order to protect sensitive plants, animals and cultural resources, reduce erosion, and promote a proper recreational experience, all motorized vehicles, including motorcycles and ATVs, are restricted to the public roadways shown on the attached map. Please help keep this public land special, and do not drive off roads, on trails and over the grass or other open terrain.

Boating

The Sacramento River (from Balls Ferry to Red Bluff) is served by a variety of developed boat ramps and primitive river access sites. Public boat ramps are available at Balls Ferry, Bend Bridge Park and Lake Red Bluff Recreation Area. Jelys Ferry and Buge Hole offer primitive launch sites. Please see the attached map for more information. A number of Sacramento River boating information brochures are available, along with other information about BLM lands within the region, at BLM’s Redding Field Office or website.

Diving

The Sacramento River Bend area—weddings, reunions, homeschooling trials, races, etc.—may require a permit. Please contact the Redding Field Office at least three months prior to holding an event in the area. The Redding Field Office staff can inform you of the regulations governing that area and help find the perfect site for your group. Any fees collected are used for facilities maintenance within the Sacramento River Bend area.

In Case of Emergency Call 911

Leave No Trace

Leave No Trace is a national program that strives to educate visitors about their recreational impacts and techniques to prevent and minimize such impacts on America’s public lands. For more information, go to www.LNT.org or call (800) 332-4465.

1. Plan ahead and prepare
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces
3. Dispose of waste properly
4. Leave what you find
5. Minimize campfire impacts
6. Respect wildlife
7. Be considerate of other visitors

Restaurants

Sacramento River Bend Outstanding Natural Area

The Sacramento River Bend area is at the historic territorial intersection of two Native American tribes: the Yana to the east, and the Nomlisa to the west. Ancestry of these hunter-gatherers have left evidence, indicating 6,000 to possibly 10,000 years of prehistoric existence. Traces of Native uses across the landscapes include villages, hunting and fishing camps, stone tool workshops, occupation rock shelters, circular stone features and rock art. Their use was focused on the river and major streams, and left a rich prehistoric legacy as yet little explored or damaged. These cultural resources are fragile, irreplaceable and protected by law.

Boating

Boating is a popular activity on the Sacramento River Bend. Public boat ramps are available at Balls Ferry, Bend Bridge Park and Lake Red Bluff. Please remember to close any gates behind you.

Camping

Although there are no developed BLM campgrounds in this area, camping is allowed on most BLM lands for up to 14 days per calendar year. Day-use sites such as the Jelys Ferry site, the mouth of Inks Creek, the Bass Pond, and Coyote Pond parking areas are closed to camping. Group camping is available at Reading Island, with a permit issued by the BLM. Most BLM lands are open to hunting under California Department of Fish & Wildlife regulations and information. Some sites such as Reading Island, and the state Battle Creek Wildlife Area are closed to hunting and shooting. Remember, it is against state law to discharge a weapon within 150 yards of a dwelling or out building. Target shooting is prohibited with the exception of one target shooting area along Spring Branch Rd. Be courteous to private property owners; do not hunt public land. Please remove all shells and debris to keep your public lands clean and safe.

Hunting

Most BLM lands are open to hunting under California Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations. Some sites such as Reading Island, and the state Battle Creek Wildlife Area are closed to hunting and shooting. Remember, it is against state law to discharge a weapon within 150 yards of a dwelling or out building. Target shooting is prohibited, with the exception of one target shooting area along Spring Branch Rd. Be courteous to private property owners; do not hunt public land. Please remove all shells and debris to keep your public lands clean and safe.

Other Local Information

California Department of Fish & Wildlife
(530) 224-2300
www.fws.gov/coleman
(530) 365-8622
www.dfg.ca.gov
(530) 365-8622
www.coi.com
(530) 529-8133
www.visittehamacounty.com
(530) 934-3316
https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/mendocino
(888) 4-MOHAVET
www.mojave.nationalpark.com
(530) 348-3900
www.pacificocean.com
(530) 224-2100
www.blm.gov
(530) 529-8133
www.visittehamacounty.com
(530) 365-8622
www.dfg.ca.gov
(530) 324-2100
www.blm.gov
(530) 529-8133
www.visittehamacounty.com
(530) 365-8622
www.dfg.ca.gov
(530) 934-3316
https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/mendocino
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