

# Sacramento River Bend Area Guide

## Explorers & Native Americans

**In Case Of Emergency Call 911**

## Leave No Trace

### Safety

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](http://www.LNT.org) or call (800) 332-4100.



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 impact
6. Respect wildlife
7. Be considerate to other visitors

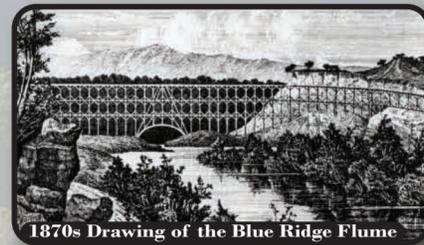


BLM/CA/GI-2006-002 + 8350 REV 4/07

From the lush riparian areas surrounding the Sacramento River and its tributaries to the rolling hills of the blue oak savanna, 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, boating, picnicking, and wildlife and cultural heritage 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.

Trappers and explorers, beginning with Jedidiah Smith in 1828, were the first to contact Indian peoples in this region. By the 1840s, Euroamerican settlers had established a permanent presence in the region. In the 1860s and '70s, the area was a popular grazing site for sheep, and lava-rock walls constructed by sheepherders of the era can still be found. The growth of northern California spurred the lumber industry in the mountains to the east. This led to the construction of extensive v-flumes throughout the area, such as the Blue Ridge, a 42-mile conduit for cut lumber from high-elevation sawmills. Remnants of this flume are visible from the Vista Trail.

The Sacramento River Bend area is at the historic territorial intersection of two Native American Indian tribes: the Yana to the east, and the Nornlaki to the west. Ancestors of these hunter-gatherers have left evidence indicating 6,000 to possibly 10,000 years of prehistoric existence. Traces of dynamic Indian use across the landscape 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.



1870s Drawing of the Blue Ridge Flume

- The Sacramento River is cold (45-50°F) year-round, and deceptively swift and powerful. Always wear an approved flotation device when on the river.
- Summer temperatures can exceed 100°F, and there is no potable water available in the area, so bring plenty of drinking water.
- Poison oak is common in this area, especially in the cooler areas along the river. Learn what it looks like and avoid it. As the saying goes, "Leaves of three, let it be!"
- Rattlesnakes are a common sight on warm days. Watch your step.
- The Yana Trail fords Inks Creek and the Hog Lake Trail fords Paynes Creek, making both impassable at times of wet weather. Contact the BLM for trail conditions prior to a wet-weather hike.
- The nearest public phone to the Sacramento River Bend area is on Balls Ferry Road, across from the Balls Ferry Boat Ramp. Cellular phone reception is unreliable due to the terrain.



### 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 Jelly's Ferry site, the mouth of Inks Creek, and the Lower Paynes Creek parking areas are closed to camping. Group camping is available at Reading Island, via a permit issued by the BLM. Massacre Flat is a popular primitive campsite for boaters. The state-managed Battle Creek and Mouth of Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Areas are closed to camping. Garbage is not collected in most areas, so if you PACK IT IN, please PACK IT OUT.

### Paynes Creek Wetlands

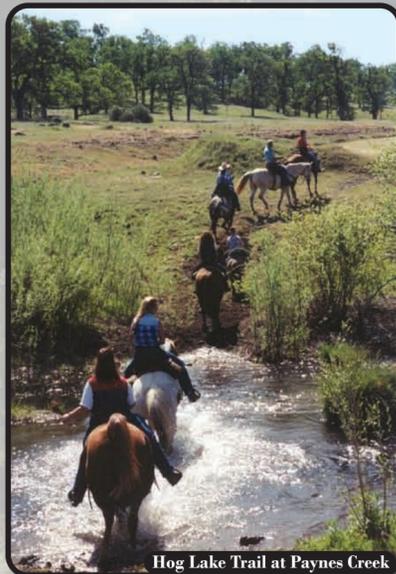
Concerns have increased in recent years over population declines of migratory birds that breed in North America and winter in South America, called Neotropical Migratory Birds. The BLM manages the Paynes Creek Wetlands area, located along the Pacific Flyway, to enhance populations of these birds and other species, protect and enhance the existing riparian habitat and wildlife communities, and provide for recreational use, cultural and natural interpretation, and educational opportunities.



Canada Geese Enjoy the Wetlands

### Native 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 turkey vultures. 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.



Hog Lake Trail at Paynes Creek

### Boating

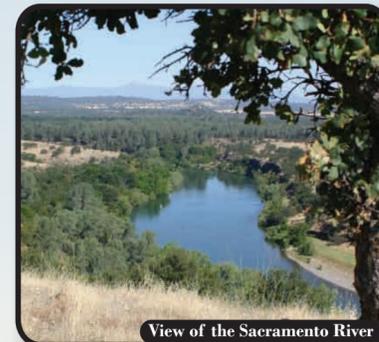
The Sacramento River (from Balls Ferry to Red Bluff) is served by a variety of developed boat ramps and primitive river access sites. Public boat ramps are available at Balls Ferry, Bend Bridge Park, and Lake Red Bluff Recreation Area. Jelly's Ferry, Barge Hole, and Perry Riffle (walk-in only) offer 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.



Sacramento River Boating

### Driving

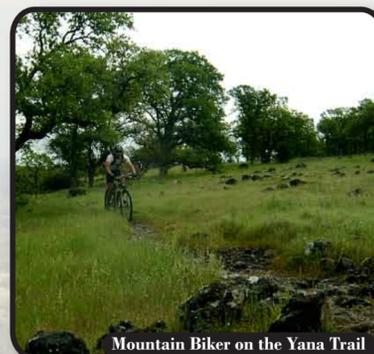
In order to protect sensitive plants, animals and cultural resources, reduce erosion, and promote a challenging and primitive recreation experience, all motorized vehicles, including motorcycles and ATVs, are restricted to the public roadways shown on the attached map. Please help keep this public land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



View of the Sacramento River

### Trails

Most attractions along the river can be reached by foot, mountain bike or horseback. All trails are closed to motorized vehicles. Several trailheads are located on Highway 36, Bend Ferry Road and Jelly's Ferry Road. The Paynes Creek Wetlands trail systems allows for great springtime wildlife viewing. The Yana Trail, with trailheads at Perry Riffle, Bass Pond and Jelly's Ferry, is a great way to explore the backcountry. Most trails are rugged and unmarked and encourage self-discovery. Please remember to close any gates behind you after you pass through. Happy exploring!



Mountain Biker on the Yana Trail

### Hunting

Most BLM lands are open to hunting under California Department of Fish and Game 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 outbuilding. Target shooting is NOT allowed in the Sacramento River Bend area. Be courteous to private property owners adjacent to public land. Please remove all shells and debris to keep your public lands clean and safe.



Anglers on the Sacramento River

### Other Local Information

**Coleman National Fish Hatchery**  
(530) 365-8622  
[www.fws.gov/pacific/redbluff/coleman.html](http://www.fws.gov/pacific/redbluff/coleman.html)

Coleman offers self-guided tours, interpretive displays, and salmon viewing, and is host to the Return of the Salmon Festival every October.

**Mendocino National Forest Red Bluff Recreation Area and Sacramento River Discovery Center**  
(530) 527-1196  
[www.fs.fed.us/r5/mendocino/recreation/rbluff](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/mendocino/recreation/rbluff)

The Red Bluff Recreation Area offers fishing, boat launches, camping, and a fish-viewing plaza, as well as the Sacramento River Discovery Center's interpretive displays.

**Ide Adobe State Historic Park**  
(530) 529-8599  
[www.ideadobe.tehama.k12.ca.us](http://www.ideadobe.tehama.k12.ca.us)

Enjoy the interpretive displays and special events, such as the Living History Days.

**California Welcome Center**  
(800) 4-SHASTA  
[www.shastacascade.org](http://www.shastacascade.org)

The Welcome Center provides information on many locations in the north state.

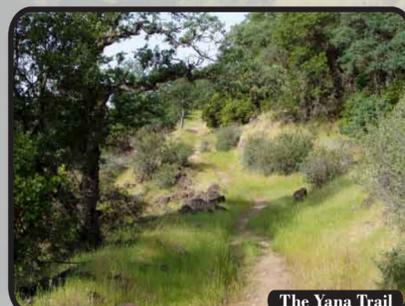
**California Department of Fish & Game**  
(530) 225-2300  
[www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/wa/region1/rllist.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/wa/region1/rllist.html)

The California Department of Fish and Game can provide specific information on wildlife areas, as well as state-wide fishing and hunting regulations and information.

### Fire

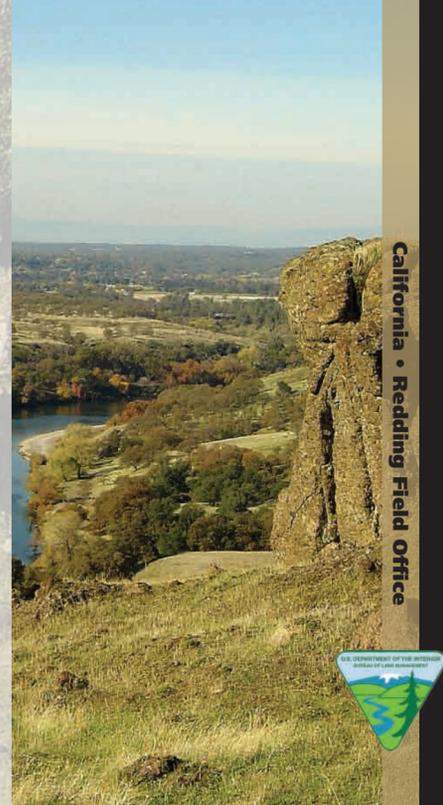
The grasses in the upland areas, as well as along the river, are dry during the summer. Be careful with open fires and be sure to have a campfire permit. Campfire permits are available at the BLM, CDF, and Forest Service offices.

If you build an open fire, please extinguish your fire and scatter your rock ring and cold ashes when you leave. Open fires and charcoal grills are prohibited during fire restriction. Please call the BLM Redding Field Office for current fire restrictions.



The Yana Trail

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BLM

California • Redding Field Office

