



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Redding Field Office
355 Hemsted Drive
Redding, CA 96002
www.ca.blm.gov/redding



Reserving the Reading Island Group Area

The group area at Reading Island can be popular during holiday weekends and during the summer months, so be sure to plan your event well in advance. Obtaining a permit is the only way to reserve the site for a specific date and to gain vehicular access to the site. The group area can be accessed from the river and be used on a first come first served basis during times when there is no reservation. The day use parking lot is not available for overnight parking of vehicles under any circumstances.

The Reading Island group area contains two fire rings, two picnic tables, and a vault toilet. The area is generally flat with room for 20 campers. There is ample vehicle and RV parking at the group area. Adjacent to the area is a boat ramp into Anderson Creek Slough that flows into the Sacramento River. This ramp is ideal for canoes, kayaks, and rafts; however the slough can be difficult to navigate with motorboats during the summer months when plant life becomes thick on the surface of the slough. The downstream tip of the island offers a fair landing site, but is ½ mile from the parking area.

The group size limit is 20 people for this area. The use fee required for the group area is \$90 per day. This fee is non-refundable and can be paid in advance by visiting the BLM Redding Field Office at 355 Hemsted Drive or by calling 530-224-2100. Cash, check or credit cards are accepted.

Please complete the attached application and return it to the address above for processing. Indicate under item #7 what activity you would like to conduct at the group area (e.g. wedding reception, reunion, overnight camping, etc.). Under item #8, indicate the dates that you expect to use the group area. After we receive your completed and signed application and use fee, your permit can be issued.

Please remove all trash from the area when you are finished.

We thank you for your interest in this beautiful area. If you have any questions concerning the application or permit, please feel free to call 530-224-2100.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**READING ISLAND GROUP CAMPING AREA
RECREATION USE PERMIT**

Instructions: Type or print plainly in ink. Complete items 1 through 11, and return this form with the use fee to the Redding BLM Field Office 355 Hemsted Drive Redding, CA 96002. The group size limit for this area is 20 people. The fee for this area is \$90.00 per day. Please remove all trash from the area when you are finished.

WHEN SIGNED BY AUTHORIZED BLM OFFICIAL, THIS PERMIT AUTHORIZES

1. Name of Business or Organization _____

2. Your Name _____ 4. Phone Number (_____) _____

3. Address _____ 5. Fax Number (_____) _____

6. To use the following public lands/related waters: **Reading Island Group Camping Area with Sacramento River Boating Access**

7. For the following purpose (include activities, number of participants - max. 20, and number of vehicles and/or boats): _____

8. Dates of proposed use: Beginning Date: _____ Ending Date: _____

9. Describe facilities including water and sanitation facilities you intend to provide. _____

10. Have you ever been denied or had a permit revoked? Yes No If so, where? _____

11. Certification of Information: I CERTIFY the information in this application is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and is given in good faith. I acknowledge that I (we) am (are) required to comply with any conditions or stipulations that are required by the BLM when the permit is issued.

(Signature of Applicant) _____ (Date) _____

Title 18 U.S.C. Section 1001 and Title 43 U.S.C. Section 1212 makes it a crime for any person knowingly and willfully to make to any department or agency of the United States any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations as to any matter within its jurisdiction.

FOR BLM USE ONLY

This application is hereby approved subject to the conditions and special stipulations on reverse and any attachments.

(Signature of BLM) _____ (Date) _____

PERMITTEE MUST HAVE THIS PERMIT IN POSSESSION DURING USE IN PERMITTED AREAS.

Sacramento River Boating Information

Balls Ferry to Red Bluff

Character: The Sacramento River cuts deep into lava flows through Chinese Rapid and scenic Iron Canyon.

Location: Between Redding, CA and Red Bluff, CA

Craft: Canoes, kayaks, dories, rafts, and shallow draft power boats

Length: 33 miles

Average run time: 9-12 hours, often done over two days

Class: I and II

Skill Level: Advanced Beginner

Average gradient: 3 feet per mile

Optimum flow: 6,000-12,000 cubic feet per second

Water Source: Lake Shasta and the Trinity River Diversion

Maps: USGS 7.5" maps - Balls Ferry, Bend, and Red Bluff East and BLM map - Red Bluff, CA

Hazards: This section of the Sacramento River has strong currents through bedrock and water temperature can be extremely cold (always below 58°) - swimming is not advised. Beware of jet skis and water skiers on Lake Red Bluff.

Overview: The deceptively calm surface cloaks the river's strength. The BLM manages 7 miles of land between Balls Ferry and Red Bluff. Permitted activities include hiking, picnicking, camping, and wildlife watching. The Sacramento is famous for great salmon, steelhead and trout fishing. Other local wildlife includes river otters, ringtail cats, black tail deer, red-tailed hawks, osprey, and bobcats.

The mouth of Inks Creek and three-quarters of a mile above and below the mouth are closed to camping. From mid-May to mid-September, the closed gates of Red Bluff Diversion Dam form Lake Red Bluff.

Paddling: Fifty yards below the Balls Ferry boat ramp, a riffle stretches across the channel stranding logs at the center. Beyond, the Sacramento River continues its fast flow in the wide tree lined channel. Two miles downstream, where the channel narrows a little, Reading Island historical site occupies the terrace along a cut right bank. This BLM site provides day use facilities and group camping by permit. Hundreds of oaks have been planted to restore the once dense riparian habitat. The best landing spot is at the downstream confluence with little Anderson Creek.

The BLM manages the land along the right bank of the Sacramento River upstream of Anderson Creek, known as Reading Island. A group camp site is available via a BLM permit at Reading Island. Additionally, a large gravel bar sits opposite the mouth of Cottonwood Creek. Enjoy the view upstream where snow capped 14,450-foot Mt. Shasta gleams 70 miles to the north. Below Cottonwood Creek, the lava beds intermittently emerge to obscure the view. Two miles farther, Battle Creek joins the Sacramento from the slopes of Mt. Lassen. In 1998, Battle Creek gained the distinction of having diversion dams removed.

Directions: Balls Ferry-from I-5 Cottonwood Exit (Gas point road), go east 0.9 miles on 4th Street to Balls Ferry Road, then take Balls Ferry Road left (parallel to the railroad tracks) 3.5 miles to the intersection with Ash Creek Road. Follow Ash Creek Road 1.2 miles across the bridge to the access and boat ramp downstream of the bridge. Alternatively, from Anderson take the I-5 exit to Balls Ferry Road east, or the Deschutes Road exit east 2.0 miles where it intersects Balls Ferry Road and then turns southeast. Follow Balls Ferry Road 3.0 miles to Ash Creek Road and the bridge.

Historical Reading Island is 5.4 miles east of Cottonwood at the end of Adobe Road. Adobe Road meets Balls Ferry Road 0.1 east of the point where the road and railroad separate, and 1.4 miles west of the Ash Creek Road junction. The concrete boat ramp is unusable to all but the most determined paddler due to dense aquatic vegetation and shallow water in the slough leading to the river. The downstream tip of the island offers a fair landing site, but is 0.5 mile from the parking area.

Barge Hole Fishing Access is an unimproved unmarked road and large gravel bar suitable for hand launching and camping. From Jelly's Ferry bridge continue another 2.4 miles along Jelly's Ferry Road up and down the hill until the road comes close to the river. Look for a dirt road toward the river. Expect to walk or use four wheel drive on the gravel bars.

Jelly's Ferry Road can be reached from the south by continuing 4.5 miles on Jelly's Ferry Road past the Bend Ferry Road junction. This BLM day use area provides access for hand launch water craft.

Bend Bridge can be reached from I-5 north of Red Bluff by exiting at Jelly's Ferry Road. Follow Jelly's Ferry Road northeast 2.7 miles to Bend Ferry Road then 0.3 miles to the bridge and the launching ramp.

Information and Camping: For information regarding BLM lands including camping, contact the BLM Redding Field Office at 530-224-2100 or look online at <http://www.blm.gov/ca/redding>

Sacramento River Boating Information

Red Bluff to Woodson Bridge

Character: Swift currents and wide horizons make this an attractive float trip

Location: South of Red Bluff, CA

Craft: Canoes, kayaks, dories, rafts, and shallow draft power boats

Length: 25 miles

Average run time: About 6-8 hours

Class: I

Skill Level: Beginner

Average gradient: 3 feet per mile

Optimum flow: 5,000-12,000 cubic feet per second at Woodson Bridge

Water Source: Lake Shasta and the Trinity River Diversion

Maps: USGS 7.5" maps - Red Bluff East, Gerber, Los Molinos, and Vina and BLM map - Red Bluff, CA

Hazards: The summer current is strong. Beware of outboard motor boats that frequently travel the deeper channels. Each year new snags and shifting shoals remake the river channel. Avoid winter flood flows as they often contain floating trees and other debris.

Overview: Wide channels and low banks allow expansive views of Mt. Shasta, the Trinity Alps and Mt. Lassen. Winter flows from the Sacramento's many tributaries move the channel frequently, creating new oxbows and cutoffs. A float channel one year may be a sandbar the next year.

Several units of the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge protect and restore 9 miles of waterfowl and fish habitats along the west bank between Craig Creek and the mouth of Elder Creek. Easy to see summer species include osprey, turkey vultures, red tail hawks, and some bald eagles. Woodson Bridge State Recreation Area is a 142 acre oak woodland park nestled along the Sacramento River. Kopta Slough provides access to boat-in campsites. Adjacent the park is a 328 acre jungle-like riparian forest preserve. Car camp on the east side of the river, 0.5 mile from the Tehama County River Park launch ramp.

Paddling: Normal summer flows exceed 10,000 cubic feet per second and give a fast ride of 4 miles per hour. Riffles add some excitement at the bottom end of many gravel bars, particularly near Blackberry Island, Craig Creek, and Sacramento Bar. Todd Island is a very large gravel bar on the left side five miles below Red Bluff. A cutoff from the old river channel, the BLM manages the land. Todd Island is approximately the center of the 9 miles of the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge along this river reach. More big gravel bars are found downstream at the mouth of Butler Slough and at Sacramento Bar.

Directions: Lake Red Bluff Recreation Area is adjacent the Red Bluff Diversion Dam. From I-5, take the Red Bluff exit for CA 36. Go east on CA 36, then turn right onto Sale Lane by the stop light and fast food places. Follow Sale Lane south 2 miles to the Lake Red Bluff launching ramp and parking. Go another 0.5 miles to the launch ramp below the Salmon Plaza and diversion dam. From mid-September through mid-May the gates are open to allow fish migration. When the gates are completely open, the dam is navigable, other conditions permitting.

Mill Creek access is 0.2 miles upstream of the Tehama Bridge. Aramayo Way connects the bridge to CA 99. Go north on CA 99 for 0.2 miles to the Tehama and Vina Road. Turn west on Tehama and Vina Road for 1.8 miles. Immediately past the ballpark, turn right to Mill Creek Park. If you go too far, the Tehama and Vina Road will reconnect with Aramayo Way.

Tehama County River Park and Woodson Bridge State Recreation Area are 6 miles east of I-5 from the South Avenue exit (first exit south of Corning). Follow South Ave. and the signs to Woodson Bridge State Park. At the east end of the bridge, the county park with the launch ramp, is immediately downstream of Tehama County Road A9. Woodson Bridge State Recreation Area car camping is on the north side of A9 opposite the County Park. The bridge is 3.5 miles west of CA 99.

Camping: To arrange use of boat-in campsites at Woodson Bridge State Recreation Area call 530-839-2112. For camping information at the Red Bluff Diversion dam, call the USFS Area Manager at 530-527-2813.