



United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

Restoring, Enhancing and Sustaining Forests in California, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands

Sierra National Forest

Mammoth Pool Reservoir Bass Lake Ranger District

WELCOME

Mammoth Pool Reservoir is located 90 miles from Fresno on the San Joaquin River and borders Madera and Fresno Counties. The lake is five miles long and 1/2 mile wide and is open to camping, swimming, fishing, boating and hiking, mid-June to late October.

The man-made reservoir and powerhouse is operated by Southern California Edison Company for production of hydroelectric power. Storage capacity is 120,000 acre-feet with surface acreage 1,107 acres at 3,330 feet in elevation. It was named after a large, natural pool in the river just above the location of the dam.

Surrounding mountains form a steep narrow valley, rising 2,000 feet from the lake's surface. Ponderosa pine, incense cedar, oaks and chaparral make homes for gray squirrels, California mule deer, raccoons, coyotes and other wildlife

FIRE DANGER

Fire danger is extreme during summer months. High temperature, low humidity, highly flammable vegetation along with morning and evening winds can create hazardous fire conditions. While visiting Mammoth Pool please be careful with fire. Campfire permits are required outside of developed campgrounds.

CAMPING

Use of soap, detergent, shampoo and other toiletries (including biodegradable) are prohibited in or near lakes and streams. Seven Forest Service campgrounds are located within thirteen miles of Mammoth Pool with a total of 98 camp units.

Mammoth Pool Campground has piped water and 47 sites. Other campgrounds do not have water. China Bar Campground is primitive and accessible by boat and on foot by the French Trail. Wagners Resort offers camping, food, gas and fishing supplies. Reservations can be made through the National reservation System at; 1-877-444-6777, or online at: www.recreation.gov

FISHING

Mammoth Pool is a good fishery, with Rainbow, Eastern Brook and German Brown trout.

ANNUAL CLOSURE

California Department of Fish and Game prohibits fishing and boating in the reservoir from May 1st to June 16th, to allow migrating deer safe access across the reservoir.

Fishing is prohibited in the lake and 300 feet above the high water mark in all tributaries. Roads accessing Mammoth Pool are closed at Mammoth Pool Campground and Chiquito Creek.

BOATING-

The Mammoth Pool boat launch is not recommended for larger boats. For the safety and enjoyment of all who use the lake the following boating regulations are in effect:

- 1.) 5 m.p.h. from 8 p.m. - 6 a.m. - entire lake.
- 2.) 20 m.p.h. from 6 a.m. - 8 p.m. - entire lake.
(Except from July 1st to Sept. 10th the speed limit is 35 m.p.h. in the main body of the lake to China Bar).



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- 3.) 5 m.p.h. within 150 feet of a launching or Docking area
- 4.) 5 m.p.h. within 100 feet of the shore or beach being used by swimmers.
- 5.) Do not operate boats in areas closed by buoys, barricades or signs.
- 6.) No dumping of sewage or waste water into the Reservoir.

Any infraction of the items listed above are citable under 36 CFR Part 261.58.

SWIMMING

There are no designated swimming beaches. Caution - water temperatures are very cold and will reduce a swimmer's endurance. No lifeguard service provided.

HIKING

The French Trail follows trails the Mono people have used for thousands of years, located on the west side of the reservoir, accessed by the Logan Meadow or Shake flat trailheads. The trail was surveyed in 1880 and improved by John S. French, a mining promoter from San Francisco who developed mines in the Mammoth Mountain area. In this area the trail follows mixed conifer forest and rocky, brush-covered hillsides, making spring and fall the best time to hike. This area is very hot during summer months.

For further information please contact:

Sierra National Forest
Bass Lake Ranger District
57003 Road 225
North Fork, CA 93643
559-877-2218 ext. 0
www.fs.usda.gov/sierra

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