



NEWS RELEASE

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Gold Country Lakes Busy Despite Drought

Angels Camp, CA— The Calaveras Visitors Bureau recently issued its 2015 State of the Lakes report in an effort to clarify misconceptions about recreational opportunities on the county's many foothill and upcountry lakes. Despite four years of drought in California, Calaveras County lakes offer large volumes of water and a wide variety of water recreation, including camping, fishing, kayaking, paddle-boarding, swimming, waterskiing and house boat tours. See the headings below for the latest conditions on New Melones, Lake Tulloch, Salt Springs Reservoir, New Hogan Lake, Lake Camanche and Pardee, White Pines Lake, Lake Alpine, Spicer, Union and Utica Reservoirs.

New Melones Lake is currently holding 431,534 acre-feet of water with temperatures in the mid 70's. Boaters should be aware that the Glory Hole boat launch is a dirt road and is best advised with a four-wheel drive vehicle. The New Melones Lake Marina, located in the Glory Hole Recreation area, has been brought back to life with new ownership and offers full service, including boat and slip rentals, groceries, gas and boating accessories. Glory Hole Sports, at Highway 49 and the park entrance, provides fishing gear, current fishing reports and lake conditions. This summer at New Melones the Bureau of Reclamation (the lake's managing agency) offers free activities and interpretive programs to learn about the area's history and habitat. All activities are at the Amphitheater at the Glory Hole Recreation area. Campgrounds are open and available from \$22 nightly; [Click here for reservations and lake info](#).

Lake Tulloch is currently full, with over 55 miles of shoreline and secluded coves to explore, views of volcanic Table Mountain, Valley Oak trees and is a popular waterskiing destination. Lake Tulloch Campground and Marina offers amenities for camping, boating and provisions for a day on the water. Camping from \$23 nightly; Cabins from \$100 nightly. For reservations: www.laketullochcampground.com or 800-894-2267.

Lake Camanche has over 3500 surface acres and water temperatures in the mid 70s. Lake Ca-

manche is a short drive from the Central Valley and a favorite for party boaters and fishing. It's known for good bass fishing, and is stocked every year with both trout and bass. There's a \$5 per day access fee for fishing and standard state fishing licenses are required. Note to boaters – upon entry to Camanche, boat inspections are in effect for invasive mussel species. Camping from \$28 night / \$150 week; Cottages from \$170 night / \$800 week. More info: www.camancherecreation.com (209) 763-5912.

Pardee Lake closed on July 10 for a construction project. The park will reopen in early 2016. Find more information at www.pardeelakerecreation.com or 209-772-1472.

Salt Spring Reservoir, located at the west end of the county near Copperopolis, is highly regarded for its fishing. With an easy boat launch and plenty of water, you'll have access to Bass, Crappie, Catfish, Red Ear Perch and Bluegill. Camping is available for \$20 nightly, Day use is \$10. Check out the [Salt Spring Valley Reservoir](#) for more details or call 209-785-7877.

New Hogan Lake lies just outside of Valley Springs, and offers 177 campsites - all of which are currently open, as well as several day use and picnic areas. Most day use areas including recreational trails around the lake are free. There are also now two disc golf courses. Camping is available from \$14 nightly. The Fiddleneck Recreation Area and boat launch (\$4 day use fee) offers lifejackets to borrow for the day, all sizes are available. At this time, no marina services are available, so remember to pack in your own fuel and supplies. Visit the [New Hogan Lake web-site](#) for more.

White Pines Lake, just outside the town of Arnold is a favorite spot for families on a hot day, with a shaded picnic area and extensive play structure, and a sunny beach with a shallow wading area. Kayaks and paddleboards are available for rent from Sierra Nevada Adventure Company in Arnold. Hiking and biking trails are on the nearby Arnold Rim Trail and the Sierra Nevada Logging Museum is just a short walk from the lakeshore.

Lake Alpine is a popular and picturesque destination near Bear Valley, with the four-mile trail around the lake, much of which is wheelchair accessible. There are four campgrounds on Lake Alpine, as well as a restaurant, bar and general store. Rent a kayak or check out the free interpretive programs by local forest rangers. Lake levels are currently good for all forms of recreation. Located 60 miles east of Angels Camp on Highway 4, 3 miles east of the town of Bear Valley. Go to the [Lake Alpine Resort's website](#) for information on boat, kayak and paddle board rentals. More information: [National Forest information](#)

Spicer, Union and Utica Reservoirs

About four miles west of Bear Valley on Highway 4 is Spicer Reservoir Road, which will take you 9 miles down to this trio of granite-lined lakes. Surrounded by National Forest and the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness, this region has limitless possibilities for hiking and exploring. Spicer is the largest of the three but is currently quite low, making boat launching difficult, though Ebbetts Pass Sporting Goods reports excellent fishing for those able to launch.

Utica and Union Reservoirs are both at normal water levels and are popular for fishing and non-

motorized boating, with many rocky islands that offer a unique boat-in camping opportunity. Spicer has piped water available, while you'll need to bring in water at Utica and Union. More info: [Camping and recreation](#)

For more information on the Calaveras Visitors Bureau, please visit www.gocalaveras.com or email the Calaveras Visitors Bureau at info@gocalaveras.com

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