

G.RECREATION

G.1 STATE RECREATION LANDS

The following section describes the extent of land available for recreation on state lands.

G.1.1 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

The State Parks system encompasses over 1.5 million acres of land and consists of 279 parks and recreational areas. State Parks include 339 miles of coastline, 974 miles of lake, reservoir and river frontage, approximately 15,000 campsites and alternative camping facilities, and 4,456 miles of non-motorized trails (parks.ca.gov).

G.1.2 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) manages over 1 million acres of fish and wildlife habitat across 711 properties throughout the state. The land provides habitat for fish, wildlife, and plant species for every major ecosystem in the state. DFW land includes bighorn sheep habitat, deer habitat, grassland/upland habitats, special habitats, and threatened and endangered species habitats (wildlife.ca.gov/lands).

G.1.3 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) manages eight State Forests covering over 71,000 acres. CAL FIRE recreation facilities include over 190 campsites, 58 picnic sites, and two visitor centers. Most utilization of State Forests is categorized as day use; however, nearly all State Forests provide facilities for overnight camping. CAL FIRE expects acquire additional land increasing the number of acres of State Forests (fire.ca.gov).

G.1.4 CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION

The California State Lands Commission (CSLC) manages and protects important natural and cultural resources on certain public lands within the state and the public's rights to access these lands. The public lands under the Commission's jurisdiction are of two distinct types—sovereign and school lands. Sovereign lands encompass approximately 4 million acres. These lands include the beds of California's naturally navigable rivers, lakes and streams, as well as the state's tide and submerged lands along the state's more than 1,100 miles of coastline, extending from the shoreline out to three miles offshore. School lands are what remain of the nearly 5.5 million acres throughout the state originally granted to California by the Congress in 1853 to benefit public education. The state retains surface and mineral ownership of approximately 468,600 acres of these school lands and retains the mineral rights to an additional 790,000 acres. Today, revenues generated from school lands benefit California's retired teachers (slc.ca.gov).

G.1.5 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

The goal of the State Water Project is the storage and transport of water through a system of reservoirs, aqueducts, power plants, and pumping facilities, but many opportunities for recreation exist on land owned by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), particularly on lakes and reservoirs (see Table G.1-1). There are three visitor centers at Lake Oroville (Butte County), San Luis Reservoir (Merced County), and Pyramid Lake (Los Angeles County) (water.ca.gov/recreation/).

Table G.1-1 Department of Water Resources Recreational Areas

Recreational Area	Location	Main Activities
Antelope Lake	Plumas County	camping, picnicking, waterskiing, swimming, boating, hunting, hiking, snowmobiling, and wheelchair-accessible fishing
Bethany Reservoir	Alameda County	fishing, boating, windsurfing, hiking, picnicking, and bicycling
Castaic Lake and Lagoon	Los Angeles County	fishing, boating, waterskiing, camping, sailing, picnicking, and swimming
Lake Davis	Plumas County	camping, fishing, picnicking, boating, hunting, hiking, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling
Lake Del Valle	Alameda County	camping, picnicking, horseback riding, swimming, hiking, windsurfing, boating, and fishing
Frenchman Lake	Plumas County	camping, fishing, picnicking, swimming, water skiing, boating, hiking, hunting, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling
Lake Oroville	Butte County	fishing, boating, camping, swimming, water skiing, hiking, and hunting, DWR Visitor Center
Pyramid Lake	Los Angeles County	camping, picnicking, boating, water skiing, swimming, fishing, DWR Visitor Center
Quail Lake	Los Angeles County	fishing, hiking, bird watching
San Luis Reservoir	Merced County	sail and power boating, wind surfing, fishing, swimming, hunting, hiking, bicycling, jet skiing, water skiing, camping, picnicking, DWR Visitor Center
Silverwood Lake	San Bernardino County	hiking, swimming, camping, fishing, waterskiing and boating

G.1.6 CONSERVANCIES

The main goals of California conservancies are to protect, preserve, and enhance natural habitat corridors while providing public access and unique recreational opportunities to

everyone. Conservancies provide recreational opportunities in the form of nature trails, wildlife viewing, and outdoor education. Conservancies are unique in that they provide recreation in biologically diverse areas where maintaining ecological integrity of the area is the most important component for management. The State funds several conservancy programs that acquire or manage land and easements for recreation and habitat protection purposes. The major conservancies related to forest and rangeland recreation include Baldwin Hills Conservancy (1,400 acres), California Tahoe Conservancy (148,000 acres), Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (1.25 million acres), San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers & Mountains Conservancy (569,000 acres), San Joaquin River Conservancy (5,900 acres), Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (551,000 acres) and the State Coastal Conservancy (300,000 acres). The San Diego River Conservancy was established in 2002 and has begun major restoration projects along the San Diego River (California Performance Review Report, 2007). The large acreages refer to the overall area within which the conservancies conduct acquisitions and projects rather than lands owned by the conservancies. Conservancy acreage has been growing since the emergence of the concept in the early 1990s. Recent initiatives will provide considerable additional funding for expanded acquisition and management by conservancies.

G.2 DATA AND ASSUMPTIONS

Table G.2-1 provides a summary of recreational use by land management category. In terms of visits, State and regional parks account for approximately two-thirds of all outdoor recreation visits on public lands; however, these same parks only make up four percent of the total public land available for outdoor recreation. With the exception of the large Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon Parks in the Sierra, most visits to National Parks are only partial day visits and have similar use patterns to State and regional parks. The USFS, along with the two large National Parks in the Sierra, supply the largest land base for multi-day outdoor recreational activities. BLM has the second largest holding of lands open for recreation, the majority of which are in desert areas. BLM is also expanding the range of recreational opportunities available on its holdings along rivers and coastlines. In terms of where outdoor wildland recreational activities occur, 50 percent of all visits and 40 percent of all hours of use occur on 13 percent of public land adjacent to major metropolitan areas.

Table G.2-1 Visits*, Recreational Visitor Days, and area by public outdoor recreation provider**

Major providers	Million acres	Million visits	Estimated RVD per visit	Million RVDs
NPS – rest of state	7.1	20	0.6	12
National Park Service – GGNRA***	0.1	14	0.4	5.6
U.S Bureau of Land Management	15	8	1.5	12
U.S. Forest Service - rural national forests	15	21	4.4	92.4
U.S. Forest Service - metro national forests	5	7	1.2	44.4
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	1	1.2	1	1.2
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service- National Wildlife Refuge	0.4	1	1	1
California State Parks	1.1	39.8	0.75	29.9
California State Parks - Southern California beaches	0.05	17.8	0.4	7.1
California State Parks - other beaches	0.1	7.8	0.4	3.1
East Bay Regional Park District	0.1	14	0.4	5.6

* *“Visits” refers to a single trip by a person regardless of length of stay.*

** *“Recreational Visitor Day” (RVD) is a visit by one person for a 12-hour length of stay*

****Golden Gate National Recreation Area*

Source: Compiled by FRAP from NPS, 2010; USFS, 2010; DFG, 2010; California Department of Parks and Recreation, 2010

Table G.2-2 below indicates the treatable recreational areas in the proposed program. It compares the amount of treatable recreational land in each bioregion to the overall treatable acreage to find the percent of treatable acreage that is also potential recreational acreage in each bioregion.

For 6 bioregions, the treatable recreational land is 5 percent or less of the overall treatable acreage (Table G.2-2 “Percent of Treatable Acreage”). In the Bay Area/Delta, Colorado Desert, San Joaquin, and South Coast bioregions, where 9 percent or more of the treatable acreage is state recreational acres, the likely overall distribution of subsequent activities is 10 percent or less in each bioregion (10, 1, 2, and 8 percent, respectively; Table G.2-2, “Distribution of Treatments”).

Table G.2-2 Treatable Recreational Areas in Proposed Program

Bioregion	Treatable Recreational Acreage	Treatable Acreage	Percent of Treatable Acreage	Distribution of Treatments	Distribution of Treatments in Bioregion (acres per 10 years)
Bay Area/Delta	242,343	2,428,398	9.98%	10.46%	62,763
Central Coast	125,045	2,769,752	4.51%	11.93%	71,585
Colorado Desert	363,568	388,114	93.68%	1.67%	10,031
Klamath/North Coast	263,501	5,681,762	4.64%	24.47%	146,847
Modoc	115,789	2,810,839	4.12%	12.11%	72,647
Mojave	16,580	1,017,643	1.63%	4.38%	26,301
Sacramento Valley	45,369	900,651	5.04%	3.88%	23,278
San Joaquin Valley	41,842	521,753	8.02%	2.25%	13,485
Sierra Nevada	131,125	4,799,582	2.73%	20.67%	124,047
South Coast	161,441	1,896,494	8.51%	8.17%	49,016
Total Acres	1,506,601	23,214,988	6.49%	100.00%	600,000