

## 7. Visitor Use and Recreation Resources

Reclamation provides a variety of services and opportunities for recreation at the New Melones Lake Area, and the public is encouraged to take advantage of these resources. This section describes recreational opportunities available in various management areas of the lake and associated uplands, and identifies strategies that Reclamation currently uses to manage these management areas and to manage recreation overall. For each management area, issues that Reclamation may address in the RMP/EIS are identified as well. This section is organized according to the following subsections:

- **Overview.** This subsection describes general recreational resources and management of those resources in the New Melones Lake Area.
- **Recreational Opportunities.** This subsection describes aquatic and land based recreational opportunities and management of special uses.
- **Recreational Facilities and Management Areas.** The planning area is broken down into management units, each with their own issues and opportunities. This section describes recreational facilities maintained by Reclamation according to management units.
- **Trends.** This section summarizes the influences that Reclamation may address while planning for recreational resources in the RMP/EIS.

### 7.1 Overview

#### 7.1.1 Introduction

Lakes and rivers have always been a primary focus for outdoor recreation activities, and many outdoor recreational activities are considered water dependent or water enhanced. Water dependent recreational activities include boating, fishing, and swimming, which are often complemented by land-based activities, such as picnicking, camping, hunting, spelunking, and hiking. Recreational facilities to accommodate these activities include beaches, day use areas, restrooms, parking lots, boat ramps, trails, access roads, and campgrounds. These activities and facilities provide much of the foundation for recreation opportunities in California.

New Melones Lake is the fifth largest lake in California, with over 100 miles of shoreline. The lake and its surrounding lands provide recreation opportunities for a variety of visitors each year. Annual recreation occurs mainly from April to late September, and an estimated 95 percent of the visitors come from counties in the San Joaquin Valley (San Joaquin River Group 1999). Future population projections specific to Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties clearly indicate an ever-increasing need for outdoor recreation in California, specifically the New Melones region (Calaveras County 1996c; Tuolumne Counties 1996c). Detailed information regarding

population growth of the surrounding towns is provided in Section 8: Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice.

Other large reservoirs in the New Melones Lake Area that also accommodate outdoor recreational visitors are Comanche Reservoir, New Hogan Reservoir, Pardee Reservoir, Tulloch Reservoir, and Don Pedro Reservoir. Several small reservoirs in the area also provide recreation opportunities, but these reservoirs contain minimal or no facilities.

### **7.1.2 Management Authority and Relevant Regulations**

The authority for the provisions of the recreation opportunities on Reclamation projects comes from Federal laws, Executive Orders (EOs), Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs), and internal policies. Some of these are specific to Reclamation, while others are intended for other Federal agencies including Reclamation:

#### ***Reclamation Specific Authority***

- **Reclamation Manual Policy LND P04:** Recreation Management-Defines Reclamation's overall responsibilities and establishes the basic principles for planning, development, management, and protection of public recreation resources on Reclamation lands and waters.
- **Reclamation Recreation Management Act of 1992:** An amendment to the Federal Project Recreation Act of 1965, Public Law (P.L.) 89-72, that provides up to 50 percent Federal cost sharing for the planning, construction, and operation and maintenance of recreation facilities with non-Federal public entities. It also provides 75 percent Federal cost sharing with non-Federal partners for fish and wildlife enhancement and up to 50 percent of the operation and maintenance of such facilities. Non-Federal public entities that have agreed to manage developed facilities and lands at Reclamation projects are to work with local Reclamation offices to identify proposed projects for funding. Congressional funds are appropriated annually and distributed for selected sites.
- **Public conduct on Reclamation lands and projects (43 CFR 423):** Established on April 17, 2002, this code is meant to maintain law and order and protect persons and property on Reclamation lands and at Reclamation projects. This statute at the time of authorization honored all designated closures and special use areas on Reclamation property. At New Melones Lake, two separate Memoranda for Record and an Interim Management Plan were in force.
- **Procedure to process and recover the value of rights-of-use and administrative costs incurred in permitting such use (43 CFR 429):** The purpose of this code is to meet the requirements of the Independent Offices Appropriation Act (31 U.S.C. 483a) and Departmental Manual Part 346, Chapters 1.6 and 4.10, to set forth procedures for Reclamation to recover the value of rights-of-use interests granted to applicants, and for the collection of administrative costs associated with the issuing of rights-of-use over lands administered by Reclamation.
- **The Reclamation Act of 1902, as amended:** Set aside Federal money to irrigate lands in the West to promote farming and vested Reclamation with the authority to operate water projects.

- **Flood Control Act of December 22, 1944. Authorized construction of New Melones Dam, and was subsequently modified by the Flood Control Act of 1962 (Public Law 87-874).** The authorized purposes of the project included flood control, irrigation, power generation, general recreation, water quality, and fish and wildlife enhancement.
- **The Flood Control Act of 1962.** Describes the responsibilities of the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Interior at the New Melones project. This act authorized Reclamation to allow and plan for recreational activities at the New Melones Lake Area.
- Bureau of Reclamation Manual Policy and Directives and Standards release numbers LND P04: Recreation Management, LND P02: Concessions Management, LND 04-01: Concessions Management by Reclamation (Directives and Standards [D&S]), LND 04-02: Concessions Management by Non-Federal Partners (D&S), and ENV P03: National Environmental Policy Act.

#### *Authority for Federal Agencies Including Reclamation*

- **The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2005 (FLREA).** Provides for a nationally consistent interagency program, additional on-the-ground improvements to visitor services at recreation sites across the nation, a new national pass for use across interagency Federal recreation sites and services, and more public involvement in the program. The new authority addresses public concerns about the previous Fee-Demo program by limiting fees to sites that have a certain level of development and meet specific criteria. The FLREA will allow New Melones management to establish a comprehensive fee collection program and to retain a portion of the fees for improvements to recreational facilities and infrastructure. Details of the proposed fee collection program will be identified in the RMP/EIS.
- **36 CFR Part 71: Recreation Fees.** Specifies the criteria under which recreation fees may be charged on Federal lands. Fees must be entrance fees, daily recreation use fees, or special use permit fees. Areas with recreational facilities provided at Federal government expense are eligible to charge use fees.
- **43 CFR Part 24: Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Policy: State-Federal Relationships.** Establishes policy on intergovernmental cooperation for the management, use, and preservation of fish and wildlife resources.
- **The Federal Water Project Recreation Act of 1965, as amended.** Mandates that planning for any Federal water resource project must address opportunities for recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement.
- **The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1964.** Directed the Secretary of the Interior to inventory, evaluate and classify outdoor recreation facilities, and formulate and maintain a comprehensive nationwide outdoor recreation plan.
- **Public Law (PL) 106-206: Commercial Filming.** Established requirement of a permit and reasonable fee for filming on lands under the supervision of the Secretary of Interior or Secretary of Agriculture.
- **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.** Prohibits private employers, state and local governments, employment agencies and labor unions from discriminating against persons with physical disabilities.

- **Reclamation Recreation Management Act of 1992.** This act is an amendment to the Federal Project Recreation Act of 1965, Public Law 89-72, that provides up to 50 percent Federal cost sharing for the planning, construction, and operation and maintenance of recreation facilities with non-Federal public entities. It also provides 75 percent Federal cost sharing with non-Federal partners for fish and wildlife enhancement and up to 50 percent of the operation and maintenance of such facilities.
- **Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-025, Revised 1993.** Establishes Federal policy regarding fees assessed for Government services and for sale or use of Government goods or resources. It provides information on the scope and types of activities subject to user charges and on the basis upon which user charges are to be set. Finally, it provides guidance for agency implementation of charges and the disposition of collections.

### *Agreements Specific to New Melones Lake*

- *Cultural Resources.* A Memorandum of Agreement between Reclamation and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, dated December 22, 1980, outlined requirements for mitigating effects to cultural resources from construction of New Melones Dam and subsequent filling of the reservoir. One of the tenets of the agreement was that Reclamation would create and maintain an interpretive program. This program was to include “trails, signs, exhibits, and pamphlets, brochures, booklets, and displays”, but has been expanded to include the visitor center located at lake headquarters as well as the current interpretive program.

The main decision document that provides guidance for recreational resources in the New Melones Lake Area is the Lake Area Master Plan of 1976. Internal guidance for recreation has come from the 1995 Draft New Melones Lake Resource Management Plan and the Draft Peoria Wildlife Management Area Environmental Assessment. Management direction relevant to the broad category of recreation is below. Individual management actions for general recreational resources are listed below.

### **7.1.3 Other Plans That May Be Considered**

To the degree possible, Reclamation will coordinate management of recreational resources with agencies that have adjacent lands. To accomplish this, Reclamation will consider the following plans:

- **Sierra Nevada Draft RMP.** In November 2006, BLM released the draft RMP and EIS for approximately 230,000 acres of public lands administered by the Folsom Field Office. The BLM manages about 34,000 acres in Calaveras County and almost 46,000 acres in Tuolumne County, but most parcels are small, fragmented, and dispersed. There are BLM lands directly adjacent to New Melones Lake Area, and there are a number of joint management issues requiring coordination, including management of recreation and access. The BLM Folsom Field Office issues a variety of special recreation permits for commercial use, competitive use, special area use, and organized group activity and event use. The proposed Special

Recreation Management Area (SRMA) closest to the lake is the Red Hills SRMA, which is just south and east of the lake, near Don Pedro Reservoir.

- **Tuolumne and Calaveras General Plans.** Reclamation sees an opportunity to manage lands with the cooperation of Calaveras and Tuolumne counties. The Calaveras County General Plan wants to lobby for Federal and state legislation to require recreation areas to fund construction and maintenance of local facilities supporting regional recreation resources. The Tuolumne County Recreation Master Plan may allow continuity between land-based recreation at New Melones Lake Area and lands administered by the County.

#### **7.1.4 Current Conditions**

New Melones Lake Area receives approximately 800,000 visitors a year (Reclamation 2007b). Most visitor use occurs within two designated developed recreation areas: Glory Hole and Tuttle town. Both recreation areas have been developed and managed in conformance with the Master Plan (1976). In addition to its magnificent scenery, the lake offers an array of activities, such as camping, hiking, wildlife viewing, rock climbing, mountain biking, horseback riding, fishing, boating, water skiing, wake boarding, jet skiing, sailing, swimming, kayaking, and canoeing. Figure R-11 shows recreation areas at New Melones Lake.

Within the developed recreation areas, Reclamation manages five fee campgrounds. Campsites are available for reservation through the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS). Camping is permitted only in the designated campgrounds; no shoreline camping is allowed. Each campground also has its own self-registration/self-pay station. The current capacity is 305 developed camping sites for the primary use season, 2 group campgrounds, 470 parking spaces year-round, 125 picnic sites, and 1 group picnic area. Each camping site contains a picnic table, fire pit, and grill. Each campground has water spigots, restroom facilities, and hot showers. Most of the camping and picnicking infrastructure on the lake is aging. Historically, recreation occurred on a seasonal basis, with significantly fewer visitors during colder months. With visitation in the non-peak seasons increasing, pressure on facilities and infrastructure is also increasing. Issues are also apparent with accommodating persons with disabilities. Only one site in the campground has been updated to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. Almost all sites are available by reservation and are otherwise available on a first come first served basis.

#### **7.1.5 Resource Management**

Recreational resources at New Melones Lake Area are managed according to internal guidance provided by various draft documents and by decisions provided in the 1976 Master Plan and relevant Reclamation guidelines. Guidance and decisions are described in Table R-48 below. Additional management policies that do not appear in draft documents or decision documents are listed in Appendix D.



**Table R-48: Management Decisions and Internal Guidance for General Recreation**

<b>Decision</b>	<b>Source</b>
Special events are allowed by permit such as equestrian trail trials, special hunts, or cross-country sporting events.	43 CFR 423
Recreation activities would be sufficiently varied to accommodate all age groups.	Master Plan 1976
Interim use in the future (development) areas would be limited to wildlife management and low-density recreation.	Master Plan 1976
Campsites and picnic sites for groups, including physically disabled persons, would be located within camping and day-use areas at the larger recreation areas.	Master Plan 1976
All new and modified facilities and programs would be designed to incorporate the “universal” design approach to accessibility. This approach combines the basic principle of barrier-free design with the more comprehensive view, which considers all degrees of sensory awareness, all types of locomotion, and all levels of physical and intellectual function. At a minimum, all facilities and programs would meet legally mandated accessibility standards (per the ADA of 1990 and the 1991 ADA accessibility guidelines, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1978, and Title 24 of the California Building Code).	ADA 1990
<b>Internal Guidance</b>	<b>Source</b>
In undeveloped recreation areas, recreation impacts are managed to preserve sensitive resources in their natural state and to maintain scenic qualities associated with these areas.	DRMP 1995
User needs would be met for specific recreation opportunities and to provide adequate, flexible, and efficient support facilities under varying lake level conditions. This would be accomplished without compromising ecological resources and by demonstrating compatibility with the site-specific suitability of land and water environmental conditions.	DRMP 1995
Recreation area facilities would be designed to minimize water contamination and the loss of soils due to surface runoff.	DRMP 1995
Concessionaire agreements with private enterprises would be explored and, where appropriate, supported to achieve needed recreational support services, programs, and facilities and to disseminate Reclamation information.	DRMP 1995
A phone and web-based reservation system (National Recreation Reservation System) is used for campground and group picnic facility reservations.	DRMP 1995
All new and modified facilities and programs would be designed to incorporate the “universal” design approach to accessibility. This approach combines the basic principle of barrier-free design with the more comprehensive view, which considers all degrees of sensory awareness, all types of locomotion, and all levels of physical and intellectual function. At a minimum, all facilities and programs would meet legally mandated accessibility standards (per the ADA of 1990 and the 1991 ADA accessibility guidelines, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1978, and Title 24 of the California Building Code).	DRMP 1995
An accessibility review would be conducted of all facilities at developed and undeveloped recreation areas not previously surveyed.	DRMP 1995
Facilities and programs would be modified to comply with ADA requirements.	DRMP 1995
A site’s topography and natural features, the degree of structural modification, and visitors expectations related to the recreational land use would be considered when determining the applicable levels of accessibility.	DRMP 1995
Lands would be managed and coordinated with adjacent land owners/agencies to preserve, protect, and enhance visual resources at New Melones Lake.	DRMP 1995

Internal Guidance	Source
All facilities would be designed to blend in to the natural landscape through careful siting (for example, behind terrain, away from ridgelines, within vegetated areas), screening with appropriate native plant species, use of compatible architectural design with the applicable surroundings (including style, scale, texture, and colors), and avoiding the use of unpainted metallic surfaces, such as roof materials.	DRMP 1995
All Reclamation and concession signs will comply with the Reclamation sign manual.	DRMP 1995
In conjunction with management actions for ecological resources, Reclamation would initiate a program to evaluate and rehabilitate areas that have been damaged by unrestricted and unregulated off-road vehicles and other activities that may have heavily impacted natural ground cover.	DRMP 1995
Reclamation would coordinate with adjacent agencies and landowners to review and assist in the guidance of land use activities that may affect the visual quality of the study area.	DRMP 1995
Conflicts would be minimized and safety would be promoted between recreational activities and users, including implementing, monitoring, and seeking compliance with reservoir zoning and management regulations.	DRMP 1995
The number, extent, and adverse effect of stream crossings would be minimized when new roads, trails or easements are designed. New stream crossings would be designed and existing crossings would be maintained to minimize disruption to riparian vegetation, to prevent alteration of stream flow regime, and to prevent initial and chronic sources of erosion and sedimentation.	DRMP 1995
All vehicles would be restricted to designated roads, except as authorized under permit.	DRMP 1995
Roads, trails, and access easements would be designed to follow the natural topography, minimizing steep slopes and the number of stream crossings.	DRMP 1995
All public vehicles would be confined to existing roadways.	DRMP 1995
Chemical or vault toilets would be provided and maintained at existing high use areas and as a part of all new development. The toilets would be placed in high visibility areas to minimize vandalism. Permanent facilities would be located above the gross pool.	DRMP 1995
Appropriate storage, transfer, containment, and disposal facilities would be provided and maintained for liquids, such as oil, solvents, antifreeze, and paints, at Reclamation and lessee facilities, and recycling of these materials would be encouraged.	DRMP 1995
Reclamation would pursue the obligation of both Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties to provide required boating law enforcement services.	DRMP 1995
Recreation organizations are used as stewards such as providing information on Reclamation resources, volunteer activities, and habitat rehabilitation. Examples include Climbers Club, Backcountry horseman, California Deer Association etc.	Draft Peoria EA 2006
Brochures, maps, and the New Melones website are provided to inform the public of recreation opportunities and areas.	Draft Peoria EA 2006
The CDFG would be encouraged to monitor and enforce rules and regulations related to hunting and fishing.	DRMP 1995
Hunting is not allowed within the boundaries of the Tuttletown and Glory Hole Recreation Areas.	
Reclamation would adhere to the rules and regulations set forth and permitted by the CDFG. Hunting would not be allowed within 150 yards of any designated recreation area facilities, including campgrounds, day-use areas, boat ramps, and parking areas.	DRMP 1995
Appropriate signage and literature would be provided to display a buffer zone around designated recreation areas.	DRMP 1995

Internal Guidance	Source
The discharge of firearms for purposes other than permitted hunting and as required by enforcement authorities is not allowed on any lands or waters under Reclamation's jurisdiction at New Melones.	DRMP 1995

### 7.1.6 Trends

Recreation in the planning area is likely to increase due to a number of factors, including increasing population, displacement from other recreation areas because of a loss of opportunity or change in management, and increasing leisure time and disposable income for both the working population and retired population. It is important to note that this retired population will increase in the near future as the baby boomer generation ages. In 2004, the oldest members of the baby boomer generation were nearing 60 and the youngest turned 40. The overall California population will also have an impact on recreation as it increases from about 34 million in 2002 to an expected 40 million or more by 2012 (California State Parks 2002).

With the increasing awareness in health and fitness, people are realizing the importance of outdoor recreation in their everyday lifestyle. In 2002, 96.8 percent of Californians thought that public outdoor recreation areas and facilities were important to them and their families (California State Parks 2002), compared to only 76.3 percent expressing a similar view when the same study was performed in 1992 (California State Parks 1992).

New forms of pursuing recreation are rapidly evolving. The original New Melones Lake Master Plan could not have anticipated the changes brought forth today such as the increased size and speed of boats, the increasing demand for lake fishing, the various new types of watercraft (e.g., personal watercraft) and water uses (e.g., wind surfing), as well as new sports such as mountain biking.

Californians are also spending more time outdoors each year. In both 1997 and 2002, walking for fitness and fun was the number one recreation among Californians. In 1997, 74.3 percent reported participating, and in 2002, 91.1 percent of Californians participated (an increase of 16.8 percent). Of those who participated, the mean number of days they walked increased from 87.6 in 1997 to 102.8 in 2002 (an increase of 15.2 days). The top five recreational activities of Californians in 2002 were as follows: 1) walking for fitness and fun; 2) driving for pleasure, sightseeing, driving through natural scenery; 3) visiting historic or cultural sites, museums; 4) attending outdoor cultural events (festivals, fairs, concerts, historical reenactments, outdoor theater); and 5) beach activities (including sun bathing) and surf play (California State Parks 2002).

Recreation has increasingly become an important component of the local and regional economic base, surpassing traditional industries in the local communities surrounding the planning area. Indeed, 71.1 percent of Californians say they are spending as much or more time in outdoor activities today than five years ago. Of those who responded that they are spending less time in outdoor recreation in 2002 than five years prior, 36.4 percent said it was because of security and enforcement issues in the parks and 34.5 percent said it was because of their work schedule (California State Parks 2002).

As more and more visitors come to New Melones Lake Area, land-based recreation will continue to increase in popularity, and facilities to support those activities will be in greater need. As facilities surrounding the lake continue to age, more facilities will be considered less than adequate to support the number of visitors taking advantage of the comparatively low cost of recreating on New Melones Lake.

Relative to the rest of the state, Reclamation's user fees are below average for camping facilities. As a result, visitation rates at these facilities will likely increase. This could result in an undue burden on Reclamation, whose responsibility is to provide the appropriate management and infrastructure to the area's visiting population. As the popularity of land-based activities increases, so do the number of land-based recreation issues. Primary issues include limited facilities, such as camping sites (including issues of ADA-compatibility) and restroom facilities, in addition to trespassing, vandalism, and access issues.

New Melones Lake Area is one of the few remaining public recreation areas in California that does not charge boat launching or day use fees. Camping fees are comparable with other lakes in the region, and Special Recreation Permit fees are the only other use fees charged at New Melones Lake Area. The disparity in recreation fees at New Melones may contribute to management issues such as increased visitation and problems related to crowding, incompatible uses, and illegal activities. As more and more visitors come to New Melones Lake Area, aquatic recreation resources are stretched because the aquatic element at the lake is what attracts most of the visitors. As the popularity of water sports and overall number of boats on the lake increases, so do the number of aquatic-related issues, such as congestion problems on boat ramps, limited space for boat and trailer parking and camping, and a shortage of amenities, such as restroom facilities, which are already lacking.

As similar facilities in the region continue to implement and increase user fees, an undue burden is created for Reclamation, which is experiencing an increase in users due to reduced costs. While there are camping fees at New Melones Lake Area (consistent with other areas in California), Reclamation does not charge a day-use or boat launch fee, which is inconsistent with other lakes in California. This disparity will continue to draw visitors to New Melones and the cost of upkeep to Reclamation will grow in kind if revenues are not increased.

## **7.2 Recreational Opportunities**

The New Melones Lake Area offers year-round recreational opportunities, some dependent on the lake itself and others that are land-based but which are enhanced by the presence of the lake and the facilities that Reclamation maintains. This section describes both aquatic and land-based opportunities as well as special events management and lists current management actions that pertain to those recreation categories.

## 7.2.1 Aquatic Recreation

### **Current Conditions**

New Melones Lake Area is most popular with visitors for its aquatic recreation opportunities. There are approximately 12,500 surface acres of water (at full capacity) available for aquatic recreation. Activities such as fishing, boating, kayaking, whitewater rafting, houseboating, and water skiing all occur on the lake. With local population and visitation numbers on the rise, all of these activities would likely experience a similar increase.

New Melones Lake accounts for about 12,500 surface acres of the approximately 27,000 acres of Reclamation-administered lands in the study area and holds up to 2.4 million acre-feet of water. The lake is surrounded by approximately 100 miles of shoreline.

Fishing is the most popular water-based recreation on New Melones Lake. It occurs throughout the lake as the preferred fishing locations vary according to the type of fish species sought and also with the seasons. The CDFG issues permits, regulates fishing activities at New Melones, and ensures compliance with CDFG regulations. Since 1992, a Kids Day Fishing Derby, sponsored by Reclamation, has been held to celebrate and support National Fishing Week. As many as 75 bass tournaments are also held and range from those sponsored by local clubs with a small participation size to regional events with over one hundred participants. Reclamation issues permits for these tournaments.

Motorized boats are abundant on New Melones Lake as a means to enjoy recreation opportunities, such as waterskiing, fishing, and sightseeing. Houseboats and personal watercraft also are used on the lake. The number of houseboats allowed on the lake at a time is limited, but there is no limit to the number of other motorized boats allowed. Current capacity is 50 private houseboats on mooring balls, 38 private houseboats in houseboat slips and 23 rental houseboats. There are no speed limits on the water, except those required under the State of California Department of Boating and Waterways regulations. That is, the maximum speed is five miles an hour for motorboats within 100 feet of a bather (but not a water skier) and within 200 feet of a beach, swimming float, diving platform or life line, passenger landing being used, or a landing where boats are tied up (California Department of Boating and Waterways 2005). Reclamation maintains 17 boat ramp lanes on both the north and east shores of the lake (Haas 2003). Table R-49 provides a list of the available boat ramps, along with their elevation range.

**Table R-49: Available Boat Ramps at New Melones Lake**

Location	Number of Lanes	Elevation Range (feet)
Glory Hole: Lowest Ramp	2	860–900
Low Ramp	6	899–943
Medium Ramp	6	940–1,028
High Ramp	6	1,025–1,088
Angels Creek Ramp	4	975–1,088
Tuttletown Ramp: Low Ramp	7	900–962
Medium Ramp	7	962–1,036
High Ramp	7	1,031–1,088
Mark Twain unimproved	1	760+ (car top loading only)

Location	Number of Lanes	Elevation Range (feet)
Parrotts Ferry <sup>1</sup> unimproved	1	760+ (car top loading only)

Notes: <sup>1</sup>Parrotts Ferry ramp closed as of April 2006.  
Source: Glory Hole Sports 2006

Motorboats also allow access for suction and dredge recreational gold mining in the flowing water of tributaries to the lake. This type of mining involves vacuuming sediment, sifting it for gold particles, and then discharging most of the sediment back into the water. This activity is permitted and regulated by CDFG.

Whitewater kayaking and rafting is also enjoyed in Camp Nine sections, subject to appropriate water levels. Flatwater paddling, such as in canoes or touring kayaks, has expanded in popularity in recent years. These activities occur almost exclusively during periods of low lake water levels. Most of the whitewater rafting consists of organized concessionaires that provide day-long, guided raft trips. However, individuals may also kayak and raft the lake/river. Depending on water levels, the whitewater trip can be up to nine miles long. In some parts of the New Melones Lake Area, water flows, controlled upstream by PG&E's hydro facilities, provide Class II to Class III rapids.

Not as popular as the activities listed above but still present on the lake are sailing and windsurfing. This may be attributed to the physiographical nature of the lake; steep hills that enclose the lake create a wind-protected environment throughout much of the year.

Swimming is a popular activity but, due to limited access and inadequate shoreline conditions (i.e., lack of beaches or grassy areas, "bathtub ring" present under all conditions except gross pool), this activity is more often enjoyed from a boat. Glory Hole provides the only designated swimming area on the lake, but no lifeguard services are offered and swimming is not allowed within 100 feet of launch ramps and public docks, including the marina docks. Table R-50 summarizes aquatic recreation opportunities, by planning area, on New Melones Lake.

**Table R-50: Summary of Aquatic Recreation by Management Area**

Aquatic Activity	Primary Management Areas	Description
<b>Raft launching and take out</b>	Camp Nine, Parrotts Ferry	Camp Nine has a raft launching structure and is the only designated launch site for rafters. Parrotts Ferry is one of the main take out sites for rafters.
<b>Boat launch and retrieval</b>	Parrotts Ferry, Mark Twain, Tuttle town, Glory Hole	Parrotts Ferry has a one-lane, car-top, boat ramp, and Mark Twain has a one-lane boat ramp that is in poor condition. Both are unimproved lake access points, and neither management area has docks, buoys, signage or other facilities, such as parking. Tuttle town has a three-level boat launching facility, and Glory Hole has a four-level boat launch facility.

<b>Aquatic Activity</b>	<b>Primary Management Areas</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Water skiing</b>	North, Middle, and South Bays, south portion of Stanislaus River Canyon	The middle portion of the lake offers relatively uncrowded conditions for water skiing, compared to more enclosed areas. South Bay contains a popular water-ski course.
<b>Swimming</b>	Glory Hole, Mark Twain, Tuttletown, Coyote Creek, Parrotts Ferry	The Natural Bridges day-use area is popular for swimming. Glory Hole has a swimming beach.
<b>Boat rental</b>	Glory Hole	Glory Hole is the only area where houseboats are available for rental. Houseboats, along with patio boats, fishing boats, water skis, personal watercraft, and boat slips, are available for rent from the marina.
<b>Fishing</b>	Fishing occurs in all management areas except Bowie Flat.	Though fishing occurs in most management areas, Stanislaus River Canyon, Spillway and Dam, Horseshoe Bend, and Greenhorn Creek are particularly known for their fishing.
<b>Floatplane Landing</b>	North, Middle, and South Bays	Floatplanes may land in these areas in accordance with Reclamation guidelines.
<b>Radio-controlled airplanes</b>	Dam and Spillway	A model airplane club is allowed use of an abandoned airstrip to fly radio-controlled model aircraft.

### ***Resource Management***

Aquatic recreation is managed according to internal guidance provided in the 1995 Draft RMP and according to decisions in the 1976 Master Plan as described in Table R-51 below.

**Table R-51: Aquatic-Based Recreation Management Actions**

<b>Decision</b>	<b>Source</b>
Special events permits are allowed at New Melones Lake Area	43 CFR 423 43 CFR 429
Designated swimming areas are buoyed off and closed to incompatible uses.	Master Plan 1976
The tops of intermittent islands or large rock outcroppings would be marked with warning buoys. No-ski zones are established at designated swimming zones, at marinas and boat launch areas, and areas where obstacles such as rock outcroppings create hazardous conditions.	Master Plan 1976 Waterways Marking Plan 2005

Internal Guidance	Source
A carrying capacity study would be conducted of houseboat use on New Melones Lake, and the total allowed number of houseboats would be revised, based on results of the WROS study.	DRMP 1995
Courtesy docks would be provided in the waters surrounding usable boat ramps to facilitate the efficient launch and take-out of boats.	DRMP 1995
Reclamation would prohibit specific uses of the water surface to reduce safety concerns.	DRMP 1995
Construction of major facilities or marinas would be prohibited within Wetland/Riparian Buffer Zones.	DRMP 1995
Fish cleaning stations would be provided at convenient locations and sound fish waste management would be promoted through a combination of fish cleaning restrictions and public education.	DRMP 1995
Floating vault toilets are available seasonally at various locations on New Melones Lake.	DRMP 1995
A water ski club has a license to construct, operate, and maintain for public use a ski course and dock within Bear Creek Cove. This non-profit organization is open to the public and conducts periodic public outreach activities.	DRMP 1995
Provide courtesy docks in the waters surrounding usable boat ramps to facilitate the efficient put-in and take-out of boats.	DRMP 1995

**Water Recreation Opportunity Spectrum.** The Water Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (WROS) is a landscape-level planning tool that applies to water resources. It is used as input to the resource management planning process to classify the type and location of water-related opportunities. This concept is explained in the Water Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Users' Guidebook (Aukerman et. al 2004), which describes a spectrum of six classifications, from urban to primitive, in terms of appropriate activities, settings, experiences, and benefits (Table R-52).

A summary-level WROS inventory was conducted for the New Melones Lake Resource Area in June 2003 (Haas 2003). Reclamation will update the WROS in fall of 2007 and verify that the information contained therein reflects current conditions (Appendix E). Reclamation will consider recommendations from this inventory, including recreation management direction for both area-wide and specific locations, in the planning process. By evaluating all the land and water area managed by Reclamation in the New Melones Lake Area, the area was determined to provide rural natural opportunities on approximately 50 percent of its acreage, rural developed opportunities on approximately 45 percent of its acreage, and semiprimitive recreation opportunities on approximately five percent of the total acreage. Table R-53 provides a description of eight water management units, as identified by lake managers for internal administrative purposes, and the WROS description assigned to each. All WROS classifications and associated acreages are recommendations as documented in "A Visitor Capacity Analysis, New Melones Lake Resource Area".

**Table R-52: Water Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Classes in the Planning Area**

<b>WROS Class</b>	<b>WROS Description</b>
Primitive	Areas characterized by a very large expanse of natural resources very far from development and settlement. Sights, sounds, or smells of human activity are rare and minor. Water resources and shorelines appear natural and show very little, if any, evidence of past human use. Examples of activities expected in such areas include hiking, hunting, non-motorized boating, and backpacking.
Semiprimitive Setting	Areas characterized by a large expanse of natural resources that are far from any city or metropolitan area. Development is minor, and sights and sounds of human activity are few. Water resources are often within large expanses of public lands with water. Examples of activities expected in such areas include hiking, non-motorized boating, and backpacking.
Rural Natural Setting	Areas characterized by predominately natural features on the landscape and the presence of development are occasional or infrequent. Water resources are bordered by natural-appearing settings. Examples of activities expected in such areas include hiking, OHV use, boating, and wildlife viewing.
Rural Developed Setting	Areas characterized by a generally natural environment but development is prevalent and common. Natural-appearing shoreline edges are common, although various water controls or other structures are also common. Examples of activities expected in such areas include OHV use, rustic camping, and horseback riding.
Suburban Setting	Areas characterized by a substantially modified natural environment where sights, sounds, and smells of development and built structures are readily evident. Water resources tend to be highly channelized, manipulated, or altered to contain large fluctuations in water flow. Examples of activities expected in such areas include waterskiing, use of swim beaches, golfing, and wakeboarding.
Urban Setting	Areas characterized by extensively developed and populated cities and metropolitan spaces where virtually the entire landscape contains human-built structures. Water resources tend to be highly channelized, manipulated, or altered to contain large fluctuations in water flow. Examples of activities expected in such areas include jet-boating, golfing, houseboating, and use of developed campgrounds.

Source: Reclamation 2004

**Table R-53: Water Management Units and Associated Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Classes**

<b>Water Management Unit</b>	<b>WROS Description</b>
New Melones Lake Resource Area-Wide	Rural natural (approximately 50%); rural developed (approximately 45%); semiprimitive recreation opportunities (approximately 5%).
Angels	Provides rural developed recreation opportunity and includes West of Whittle Road to Glory Hole, Angels Cove, west to Greenhorn Creek and far Reclamation Boundary, Vonich and Black Bart Cove.
Bear Creek	Provides rural developed recreation opportunity and includes French Flat, Bear Cove, Peoria Cove, Long Gulch Cove, and shoreline at base of Peoria Mountain to Iron Canyon.
Camp Nine	Provides semiprimitive recreation opportunity and includes Reclamation land and water upstream of Deep Gulch.
Mark Twain	Provides rural developed recreation opportunity and includes Headquarters and Visitor Center, Coyote Arm, Horseshoe Bend, Devils Cove, and north 300 yards above Parrotts Ferry Bridge.
Shell Road	Provided in separate recommendation. Area includes Reclamation land along Shell Road on the east and the Peoria Mountain and Basin to the south, including the dam and area downstream.
Skunk Gulch	Provides rural natural recreation opportunity and includes Parrotts Ferry boat ramp north to Deep Gulch, including south fork of Stanislaus River.
Tuttletown	Provides rural developed recreation opportunity and includes Tuttletown recreation area, Mormon Creek Arm, west to Middle Bay, and south to Bostick Mountain.
Glory Hole	Provides rural developed recreation opportunity and includes developed recreational facilities at Glory Hole, including Carson Cove, Belvedere Bar, Glory Hole Cove, and across to the south shore and Barth Mountain.

## 7.2.2 Land Recreation

### ***Current Conditions***

Of the approximately 27,000 acres managed by Reclamation on and surrounding New Melones Lake Area, about 15,000 acres are on land. Camping and day-use facilities are readily available on the lake, but many areas are not accessible for recreation largely due to topography. Surrounding the lake, there are about 27 miles of trails available for hiking and biking, and some of these are suitable for horseback riding.

Camping is a popular land-based recreation and is restricted to two developed recreation areas, Glory Hole and Tuttletown. Camping also is restricted to a maximum of 14 days within a 30-day period. Standard campsites are limited to eight people and walk-in campsites are limited to four people. Group campsites are also available in Tuttletown and can accommodate between 20 and 60 people. For more details on camping at New Melones Lake, see Appendix D Camping Policies.

Hunting is open on all of Reclamation’s lands surrounding the lake with the exception of Tuttletown and Glory Hole, but takes place mostly within or near the Peoria Wildlife Management Area. The CDFG issues hunting licenses and regulates this activity on Reclamation lands.

Bank fishing and gold panning occur along the shoreline. Gold panning is an unregulated activity and is allowed to occur throughout the study area.

There are several caves throughout the study area and many visitors are involved in spelunking, or caving. This activity is restricted to a handful of caves, with the most frequented caves being the two Natural Bridges located within the Coyote Creek tributary.

Hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding all occur at New Melones Lake. There are approximately 25 miles of trail, which is considered to be a very small amount compared to the acreage of the planning area. Table R-54 summarizes land-based recreation opportunities, by management area, available at the New Melones Lake Area.

**Table R-54: Summary of Land-Based Recreation by Management Area**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Primary Management Area</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Biking</b>	Glory Hole, Peoria Wildlife Area, Tuttletown	Approximately 27 miles of multiple-use trails exist in the planning area.
<b>Camping</b>	Tuttletown (3), Glory Hole (2)	Camping is only allowed in these two management areas.
<b>Day Use (non-designated)</b>	Rose Creek area of Stanislaus River Canyon, Mark Twain	Though this is not designated as a day-use area, the Rose Creek area in the northern part of this management area is informally used by whitewater rafters and motor boaters, and is subject to intensive use. Mark Twain is also used informally as a day-use area.
<b>Day Use (designated)</b>	Tuttletown (2), Glory Hole (4), Coyote Creek	Day use facilities include parking areas, picnic areas, and lake access.
<b>Hiking</b>	Peoria Wildlife Area, Glory Hole, Mark Twain, Coyote Creek	Approximately 27 miles of multiple-use trails exist in the planning area.
<b>Horseback Riding</b>	All areas, primarily occurs at Glory Hole	Approximately 27 miles of multiple-use trails exist in the planning area.
<b>Hunting</b>	Primary hunting area is Peoria Wildlife Area	Hunting is allowed at all areas except for Tuttletown and Glory Hole.
<b>Picnicking</b>	Glory Hole, Tuttletown, Coyote Creek, Mark Twain	Developed day use areas offer picnic areas at Glory Hole and Tuttletown, while more informal setting is found at Mark Twain and Coyote Creek.
<b>Rock Climbing</b>	Peoria Wildlife Area	Rock climbing occurs at the Grotto and the White Room, both located on Table Mountain.
<b>Spelunking</b>	Coyote Creek, Stanislaus River Canyon	Easy spelunking is offered at Natural Bridges. More advanced cave exploration occurs in the limestone caverns in the

Activity	Primary Management Area	Description
		Stanislaus River Canyon.
<b>Visitor Center, Interpretive Services</b>	Mark Twain, Glory Hole	Glory Hole contains an amphitheater which is used for interpretive programs, while the visitor center at Mark Twain has informative displays, interpretive programs, picnic tables, flush toilets, and drinking water <sup>1</sup> .

<sup>1</sup> For more information, see Visitors Center and Interpretive Services, Section 7.3.1.

### **Resource Management**

Land-based recreational resources are managed in accordance with internal guidance provided by the 1995 Draft RMP and by decisions in the 1976 Master Plan. Table R-55 lists management actions specific to land-based recreation.

**Table R-55: Guidance and Decisions for Land-Based Recreation**

Decision	Source
Recreational facilities development efforts are concentrated on redeveloping facilities in high demand areas by providing permanent restrooms with showers to replace portable facilities, installing additional potable water outlets, and adding wells and a waste treatment facility.	Master Plan 1976
Campsites and picnic sites for groups, including physically disabled persons, would be located within camping and day-use areas at the larger recreation areas.	Master Plan 1976
Interim use in the future (development) areas would be limited to wildlife management and low-density recreation.	Master Plan 1976
Frequent resting places would be developed along the longer walks, near parking lots and activity areas.	Master Plan 1976
Trails and pathways would be designed to provide maximum circulation efficiency and visitor convenience and to protect the aesthetic and ecological qualities of the area.	Master Plan 1976
Switchbacks would be avoided wherever possible.	Master Plan 1976
Directional signs would be provided at trail junctions, and trail markers would be provided as required on longer trails.	Master Plan 1976
Earthwork would be minimized, as would clearing of the natural vegetation, except where required for fire reduction.	Master Plan 1976
Drainage would be provided.	Master Plan 1976
Water bars and ditches would be used where necessary to divert periodic rainflows, which would otherwise flow down the trails, causing erosion problems.	Master Plan 1976
Bollards would be used to control unauthorized access by motor vehicles.	Master Plan 1976
Trails would generally follow a short, closed loop design, beginning and ending at approximately the same location.	Master Plan 1976
Trails would be cleared and graded to a width of six feet, with an eight-foot-high clearance.	Master Plan 1976
Sustained grade would be under 10 percent.	Master Plan 1976
On trails, the natural surface would be used.	Master Plan 1976

<b>Decision</b>	<b>Source</b>
Interpretive markers would be placed at selected sites along the trail.	Master Plan 1976
Details of the interpretive features of the project would be determined when the archaeological and historical surveys are completed.	Master Plan 1976
Within intensively used recreation areas, pathways would be constructed to concentrate foot traffic in specific areas. This would reduce trampling of the natural vegetation and would provide efficient circulation routes.	Master Plan 1976
Pathways would lead from the parking lots to picnic areas, beaches, and walk-in campsites.	Master Plan 1976
Pathways would also connect campsites to restrooms.	Master Plan 1976
Pathways would be three feet wide, with a stabilized aggregate surface, and would generally follow the natural contours of the land.	Master Plan 1976
<b>Internal Guidance</b>	<b>Source</b>
A diverse range of land-based recreation opportunities suited to user needs would be provided for different user groups, consistent with the existing character of the study area.	DRMP 1995
Land use activities would be limited within Wetland/Riparian Buffer Zones to a level that would cause no significant deterioration to wetland/riparian habitat values.	DRMP 1995
Design and locate all facilities to blend into the natural landscape through careful siting (e.g., behind terrain, away from ridgelines, and within vegetated areas), screening with appropriate native plant species, use of compatible architectural design with the applicable surroundings (including style, scale, texture, and colors), and avoiding the use of unpainted metallic surfaces (e.g., roof materials).	DRMP 1995
Meet user needs for specific recreation opportunities, as well as provide adequate flexible and efficient support facilities under varying lake level conditions, without compromising ecological resources and by demonstrating compatibility with the site-specific suitability of land and water environmental conditions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Concentrate recreation facilities development efforts on redeveloping existing facilities at high demand areas by expanding existing day use areas.</li> <li>-Provide permanent restrooms with showers to replace portable facilities and install additional potable water outlets.</li> <li>-Provide flexible support facilities at all functioning (usable) boat ramp locations (e.g., portable toilets, trash receptacles, shed structures, etc.).</li> <li>-Design recreation area facilities to minimize water contamination and loss of soils due to surface runoff.</li> <li>-Expand day use opportunities at existing high demand areas by providing facilities near the water.</li> </ul>	DRMP 1995
Hunting is not allowed within the boundaries of the Tuttle town and Glory Hole Recreation Areas.	DRMP 1995
Reclamation would adhere to the rules and regulations set forth and permitted by the CDFG. Hunting would not be allowed within 150 yards of any designated recreation area facilities, including campgrounds, day-use areas, boat ramps, and parking areas.	DRMP 1995
Appropriate signage and literature would be provided to display a buffer zone around designated recreation areas.	DRMP 1995
The discharge of firearms for purposes other than permitted hunting and as required by enforcement authorities is not allowed on any lands or waters under Reclamation's jurisdiction at New Melones.	DRMP 1995

<b>Internal Guidance</b>	<b>Source</b>
In the development of future trail systems, the use of existing trails and unpaved roads would be promoted.	DRMP 1995
Multiuse trail activities (pedestrian, equestrian and bicycle) would be encouraged in the development of new trails or the redevelopment of existing trails through consideration of trail design (width, surface, visibility) compatibility and land use suitability.	DRMP 1995
Roads, trails, and access easements would be designed to follow the natural topography, minimizing steep slopes and the number of stream crossings.	DRMP 1995
A phone and web-based reservation system (National Recreation Reservation System) is used for campground and group picnic facility reservations.	DRMP 1995
All new and modified facilities and programs would be designed to incorporate the "universal" design approach to accessibility. This approach combines the basic principle of barrier-free design with the more comprehensive view, which considers all degrees of sensory awareness, all types of locomotion, and all levels of physical and intellectual function. At a minimum, all facilities and programs would meet legally mandated accessibility standards (per the ADA of 1990 and the 1991 ADA accessibility guidelines, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1978, and Title 24 of the California Building Code).	DRMP 1995
An accessibility review would be conducted of all facilities at developed and undeveloped recreation areas not previously surveyed.	DRMP 1995
Facilities and programs would be modified to comply with ADA requirements.	DRMP 1995
A site's topography and natural features, the degree of structural modification, and visitors expectations related to the recreational land use would be considered when determining the applicable levels of accessibility.	DRMP 1995

### **7.2.3 Special Uses (Events and Permits)**

#### ***Current Conditions***

Various events take place at New Melones Lake Area that require a permit from Reclamation. However, the permit fee is minimal and other activities such as boat launching and day-use do not have a user fee, unlike many other lakes in California. This is creating an economic stress on Reclamation as visitor numbers and corresponding facilities maintenance increases but revenue does not increase in kind.

At present, there are few activities that require permits from Reclamation. Special use permits are subject to an administrative fee, plus additional fees to recover costs incurred by Reclamation because of the event. Activities that require a special use permit are fishing tournaments, houseboat launching/retrieving, triathlons, bicycle races, swift water rescue competitions and training, horseback events, and commercial guides.

#### ***Current Management***

When appropriate, Reclamation coordinates recreation management with other agencies. Current management actions or guidance for special events is given in Table R-56 below. For example, Reclamation defers to CDFG rules and regulations for hunting and fishing. The CDFG also issues licenses for such activities.

**Table R-56: Management Action for Special Events**

Decision	Source
Special events are allowed by permit such as equestrian trail trials, special hunts, or cross-country sporting events.	43 CFR 423

## 7.3 Recreational Facilities and Management Areas

Reclamation provides facilities including the visitor's center, amphitheater, day use areas, trails and paths, campgrounds, and boat ramps for visitor use. Those facilities are described below.

The planning area has been subdivided into management areas based on such criterion as type of use, degree of development, accessibility, or restrictions. Each management area and the facilities offered in that area are described in this section, along with a summary of the issues particular to each management area that Reclamation may address in the RMP/EIS.

### 7.3.1 Visitors Center and Interpretive Services

The visitor's center at New Melones Lake Area provides visitors with an opportunity to learn about the lake with maps, directions, and information about boating and other recreation opportunities. Visitors can also learn about the history of the area in the visitor center. Interpretive services, such as hikes and campfire programs at the amphitheater, are offered to visitors to experience the history, wildlife, and aesthetic value of New Melones Lake Area.

#### ***Current Conditions***

The New Melones Lake Visitor Center is accessible from SR 49, midway between the towns of Sonora and Angels Camp in the Mark Twain Planning Area. General information, directions, and maps are available at the center. In addition, the visitor center showcases a variety of displays and exhibits, including the area's geologic past, Miwok Indian and early human history, the California Gold Rush, natural history, and the New Melones Dam and Reservoir Project. Visitors can also see displays of some of the wildlife that inhabits the New Melones Lake area.

The New Melones Lake Visitor Center hosts various events, including a fall and spring lecture series, throughout the year. In the spring, a lecture series takes place on Thursday evenings which, in the past, has focused on the area's cultural and natural history. Several times a year public stargazing programs are offered at the visitor's center.

During the fall, winter, and spring, interpretive park rangers at New Melones Lake schedule hikes to explain the area's cultural and natural history. Park rangers provide formal campfire programs and children's programs throughout the summer recreation season. A majority of these programs are held at the Glory Hole amphitheater.

### **Resource Management**

The visitor's center and interpretive services are managed in accordance with internal guidance provided by the 1995 Draft RMP and by decisions in the 1976 Master Plan as shown in Table R-57 below.

**Table R-57: Management of Visitors Center and Interpretive Services**

<b>Decision</b>	<b>Source</b>
A visitor center and interpretive trails would be provided to implement this program of visitor information and interpretation.	Master Plan 1976
Detailed interpretive plans would be developed when the archaeology and historical programs are completed.	Master Plan 1976
The program has been designed to unify the widely separated recreation areas at the project, to orient visitors to the facilities and services available, and to create greater awareness and understanding of the many natural, historical, and archaeological features.	Master Plan 1976
The center of the orientation and interpretation program is the visitor center.	Master Plan 1976
Interpretation of the water resource aspects of the project would describe the role of the Corps and Reclamation in water resource development, the project purposes and operation, and the New Melones Lake integration into the Central Valley Project.	Master Plan 1976
The Administration Center is envisioned for visitor orientation, project operation interpretation, and archaeological and historical facets interpretation of the area.	Master Plan 1976
The general concepts for the area include level areas used for interpretive displays, observation decks, and an interpretive trail leading from the visitor center to various other outdoor interpretive areas, including nearby plant communities.	Master Plan 1976
Initial development would include the central information facilities, interpretive facilities, and administration and operation facilities for the recreational features for the project.	Master Plan 1976
Ultimate development would include additions to operation and visitor administration facilities, as needed.	Master Plan 1976
The visitor center would provide for an initial design day load of 1,800 persons, sightseers, and other day users.	Master Plan 1976
Plans for the visitor center reflect the prominent land forms of the site, the architectural theme established for recreation structures, and the interpretive theme for the New Melones Lake project.	Master Plan 1976
Interpretive signs would be located primarily along trails where the major purpose is hiking, but an occasional interpretive plaque would be helpful in describing a view, rock outcrop, or other natural features.	Master Plan 1976
Interpretive signs generally would not be found on interpretive trails, where numbered markers at strategic interpretive locations would refer to information on a pamphlet available at the visitor center.	Master Plan 1976

Internal Guidance	Source
A variety of multi-media will be used in the Visitor Center to provide information to visitors.	DRMP 1995
An active volunteer program will be developed to assist staff with Visitor Center staffing, trail patrol and maintenance, special events, and campground management.	DRMP 1995
Reclamation would coordinate with the Speleological Society for assistance in monitoring and controlling access to caves and to provide volunteers for interpretive programs.	DRMP 1995
Interpretive programs, for a variety of subjects related to New Melones resources, would be developed as a means of providing low-cost recreational activities, while educating the public.	DRMP 1995
Interpretive programs would be developed for the visitor center, using the cultural and natural resource displays being designated, as well as Calaveras and Tuolumne County Historical Society displays. The visitor center would serve as the meeting place for ecological resource and other resource interpretive field programs.	DRMP 1995
Selected sites would be for the education and enjoyment of the general public; priority would be given to sites within public use areas near special geologic, cultural, or natural features; special attention would be paid to public use areas being degraded through natural or human impacts.	DRMP 1995
Opportunities would be provided for natural and historic interpretation along trails and roads and at recreational facilities.	DRMP 1995
Cultural resources (prehistoric and historic properties) would be interpreted in consultation with the appropriate agencies.	DRMP 1995
Interpretive displays, trails, booklets, and scientific presentations and publications would be provided.	DRMP 1995
Visitor center exhibits would be completed.	DRMP 1995
A docent program would be developed.	DRMP 1995
Aquatic resource education would be incorporated into interpretive programs, particularly as it deals with healthy wetland, riparian, stream, and lake ecosystems.	DRMP 1995
On-site interpretation at significant/sensitive resource sites would be discouraged, unless a no adverse effect determination is assured.	DRMP 1995
Public information would be an important component of all recreational activities.	DRMP 1995
Signs, brochures, maps, and other materials would be used to increase public awareness and understanding of regulations and the availability of recreational facilities and services and to promote good outdoor manners, respect for the environment and other uses, and public safety.	DRMP 1995
Information would be disseminated at boat launch facilities on state laws and regulations, the Reservoir Management Zoning requirements, and general boating etiquette.	DRMP 1995

Internal Guidance	Source
All concessionaire contracts would include 1) explicit measures related to the notice and dissemination of public information; 2) communications equipment necessary in the event of emergencies; 3) medical emergency provisions; and 4) spill emergency response measures.	DRMP 1995
Reclamation would produce scientifically accurate and culturally sensitive displays and brochures.	DRMP 1995
Public education and involvement would be encouraged in protecting wetlands and riparian communities and wildlife habitats.	DRMP 1995

### 7.3.2 Management Areas

The following section outlines the current condition as it relates to recreational resources, by management areas (see Figure R-2), from north to south. Recommendations from the Visitor Capacity Analysis of 2003 are specified in each planning area, when applicable.

***Camp Nine Management Area*** (WROS description is semiprimitive; located within the Camp Nine Water Management Unit) is in Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties and is the northernmost of the planning areas and recreation areas along the upper Stanislaus arm. Although this area is the most remote and is farthest from the campgrounds, marina, and boat launches, it experiences intensive use because it is a favorite recreation area for whitewater rafters, kayakers, and swimmers. Before the dam was completed in 1979, the Old Camp Nine Bridge was the launch site for rafters, who would travel nine miles to Parrotts Ferry Bridge, where they would take out their boats. This area was once thought of as the best run for intermediate-skill rafters in California. After the dam was constructed, it was assumed that the bridge would be inundated and many of the aquatic opportunities would be lost. However, due to drought and low water levels the bridge is often exposed, and there are some whitewater opportunities. Bridge jumping is also a popular activity, but recently a gate has been put up to restrict access to the Old Camp Nine Bridge, and signs warning against bridge jumping have been posted. Due to safety and public health concerns, the Old Camp Nine Bridge is planned for deconstruction in 2008/2009.

Access to the Camp Nine Management Area is limited, with the only practical route being Camp Nine Road, which is an unimproved road that originates near the town of Vallecito. Development is minor, consisting of an informal parking area, footbridge, hiking trails, and one vault restroom. Opportunities in this area are for more adventurous visitors. Recreation opportunities and development is minor, consisting of a hiking trail to the cultural sites at Clark Flat. Low-impact activities, such as wildlife viewing and hiking, are encouraged. Table R-58 lists management actions specific to this management area.

*Issues* specific to the Camp Nine Planning Area include limited access, due to the nature of the narrow and winding Camp Nine Road, and access to the main day-use area, which is restricted to a footbridge which leads to Clark Flat and a hiking trail which accesses the Stanislaus River. Vandalism is an issue due to the remoteness of the area. The area has inadequate launch facilities, and when the lake is at gross pool (lake capacity), the boating access

is inundated. Bridge jumping and bungee jumping at the new Camp Nine Bridge is creating a potential liability problem. A weir located in the inundation zone is a safety and navigation hazard. Other management issues include vandalism and looting of cultural resources due to its remoteness. Variable flows caused by release from two power plants in the immediate vicinity make for unreliable river flows.

**Table R-58: Management Actions for the Camp Nine Management Area**

Decision	Source
Day-use access is provided along Camp Nine Road up to Collierville Power Plant gate as well as across the New Camp Nine bridge to the Stanislaus Power Plant gate. Non-motorized access is allowed across the foot bridge to Clark’s Flat. Also minimum facilities such as a vault restroom, trash receptacles, and signage, are maintained by Reclamation.	Master Plan 1976
The area provides non-motorized boat access, fishing, swimming, hiking, and picnicking.	Master Plan 1976

*Stanislaus River Canyon Management Area* (no WROS recommendation) is in Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties, just south of the Camp Nine Planning Area. Power boat users regularly visit the area, although the area upstream of the confluence of the upper Stanislaus fork and the south fork of the Stanislaus is a designated no-ski zone. During years of extreme drought when the lake level is low, whitewater rafters visit this area. As such, this planning area is subject to intensive use. This area is a significant cave resource area, with numerous caves on both sides of the river. Developed recreation opportunities in this planning area are limited; management is primarily focused on preserving sensitive resources. However, many of the caves are explored by spelunkers, an activity that is difficult to manage and for which little official data regarding use levels exists. To protect sensitive resources such as rare or listed animal species and cultural resources, some caves have been gated. No facilities have been developed in this area. Table R-59 lists management actions specific to this management area.

*Issues* specific to this area include high recreational use, potentially impacting cave resources, the riparian corridor and habitat, and the lack of facilities to support the level of use.

**Table R-59: Management Actions for the Stanislaus River Canyon Management Area**

Decision	Source
To preserve cave resources such as scenic qualities, fragile formations, cultural resources, and/or sensitive species recreation use is managed to minimize impacts.	Master Plan 1976
Grapevine Gulch Cave was acquired and gated to limit the number of visitors and protect the formations.	Master Plan 1976
Internal Guidance	Source
Public recreational access is allowed within some caves at the users own risk. However Reclamation has limited access to some caves due to known safety concerns.	Cave Management Plan

**Parrotts Ferry Management Area** (WROS description is rural developed; planning area is within the Mark Twain Water Management Unit) is in Tuolumne County, adjacent to Parrotts Ferry Road. The area is very steep except for two small flat areas along the road. In recent years, this area was known for having high water-related recreation opportunities and low ecological sensitivity. Before the dam was constructed, Parrotts Ferry was the take-out location for rafters who started nine miles upstream at the Old Camp Nine Bridge. The old road was heavily used as lake access for boat launching, but the road and retaining wall were deemed safety hazards and vandalism was a problem. As a result, the road was closed to public access several years ago. Recreationists use the area for fishing, boating, and suction dredge gold mining. No facility development has occurred. Table R-60 lists management actions specific to this management area.

*Issues* specific to this area include restricted access to the boat ramp due to hazardous conditions. Steep slopes above and below the road limit facility development and make the development of a boat launch ramp for trailered boats infeasible. High recreational use levels occur in the northern part of this planning area, potentially impacting the riparian corridor and habitat, and the area lacks facilities to support the level of use. As a result, there is also high demand for access to the upper stretches of the lake from this vicinity.

**Table R-60: Management Actions for the Parrotts Ferry Management Area**

Decision	Source
The old Parrotts Ferry Road on both banks of Stanislaus River is used for non-motorized recreation activities such as fishing, swimming, hand-launching of boats, and mountain biking.	Master Plan 1976

**Carson Management Area** (WROS description is rural developed) is in both Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties on the eastern shoreline of the lake. Low slopes in the western part of this planning area make this area particularly susceptible to variable water levels, while steep slopes on the eastern side make access to the lake from land difficult. Horseshoe Bend, on the eastern side of this planning area, is a well-known fishing cove. This area was not identified in the Master Plan (1976) and has no facility development. It is heavily transited by boaters traveling between the main body of the lake and the Stanislaus River Canyon area of the lake.

*Issues* specific to this area include impacts on shorelines, due to low shallow slopes on the western side, and limited access due to steep slopes on the eastern side. Other issues include cattle and motorcyclists trespassing onto Reclamation lands and crowded conditions on the lake due to heavy use as a transit area.

**Mark Twain Management Area** (WROS description is rural developed; located within the Mark Twain Water Management Unit) is in Tuolumne County, on the northeastern portion of New Melones Lake, adjacent to SR 49. Old Highway 49 receives high use as a boat ramp, particularly when the lake level is low. Recreation opportunities in this planning area include sheltered cove swimming and fishing. Despite its high use, there has been minimum facility development.

Reclamation’s headquarters and visitor center are in this planning unit. Details regarding the visitor center are located under Section 7.3: Visitor Center and Interpretive Services. Table R-61 lists management actions specific to this management area.

*Issues* specific to this area include limited access. Steep slopes preclude graded beaches and the construction of a launching ramp for trailered boats.

**Table R-61: Management Actions for the Mark Twain Management Area**

Decision	Source
As the area is small, the Mark Twain Planning Area would be developed initially to its full potential.	Master Plan 1976
Facilities at the Mark Twain Planning Area include a visitor center, administration and maintenance complex, parking lot, trails, picnic areas, flush restrooms, and undeveloped boat launch at old Highway 49. The use of this area includes visitor information and interpretation, picnicking, boat launching, fishing, swimming, and hiking.	Master Plan 1976

***Tuttletown Management Area*** (WROS description is rural developed recreation opportunity; it is within the Tuttletown Water Management Unit) is the largest of the public use areas on the Tuolumne County side and the second most highly developed recreation area on the lake. The area consists of approximately 1,115 acres and is accessed by Reynolds Ferry Road, off SR 49. This highly developed area is very popular for overnight camping, group camping, day-use picnicking, and boat launching. Recreational activities include hiking, biking, and fishing. Table R-62 lists management actions specific to this management area.

The Tuttletown Recreation Area has three campgrounds, Acorn, Manzanita, and Chamise, with a total of 161 campsites. There are no electrical hookups at any of the campground sites, and one free RV dump station is available to registered campers. All campsites have restrooms, showers, water taps, and barbeque/fire pits. Campsites at Tuttletown may be reserved through the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS). When not reserved, campsites are available on a first come, first served basis.

*Acorn Campground* is on the north side of the Reynolds Ferry Road. This campground sits at the highest elevation and therefore is the campground farthest from the water. This campground has limited shade and is most popular in the winter. The Heron Point Trail is accessed from the campground and connects users to the Heron Point day-use area.

*Manzanita Campground* is on the southeastern portion of the recreation area. Plans have been developed for compliance with the ADA, but these changes have not yet been made. This campground was established for lower access to the water; however, in 2006 one loop of this campground was inundated.

*Chamise Campground* is on the southwestern portion of the recreation area.

The Tuttletown Recreation Area entrance gate is closed at night and reopened in the morning to help alleviate vandalism. The area contains two group camps, Fiddleneck and Oak Knoll, which

accommodate 40-60 people and 20-50 people, respectively. Campsites at Fiddleneck are easily accessible but do not meet ADA standards; Oak Knoll offers walk-in campsites only. Fiddleneck has access to a flush toilet that does not have showers, while Oak Knoll has access to a vault toilet. Both sites require special use permits available through Reclamation.

Tuttletown has three day-use areas (Heron Point, Lupine, and Eagle Point), fish cleaning stations, one dump station, and hiking and biking trails. Three seven-lane boat ramps, for use at various reservoir levels, are at the end of the Reynolds Ferry Road.

*Issues* specific to this area include accessibility to the lake, most notably during times of lower water levels, resulting in congestion at the boat ramps. Underused or inappropriate use of day-use facilities. Underdeveloped facilities at campgrounds limit recreation opportunities (for example, there is no lighting available at Acorn Campground). Fish cleaning stations are inappropriately located at day-use areas instead of near boat ramps. Compared to similar facilities in the region, this recreation area has inequitable user fees resulting in an inflated amount of users compared to other areas. For example, Tuttletown provides the only free dump station in the area and it is accessible at all times. In addition, at certain times, recreation demand exceeds capacity (for example, boat launches and parking).

**Table R-62: Management Actions for the Tuttletown Management Area**

Decision	Source
Facilities at Tuttletown include those for camping, picnicking, fishing, boat launching, and hiking.	Master Plan 1976
Three formal campgrounds are developed in Tuttletown: Manzanita, Acorn, and Chamise. These campgrounds include group (Oak Knoll and Fiddleneck), accessible, standard, and walk-in campsites with paved parking, picnic tables, and fire rings. Campground amenities include flush and vault restrooms, coin operated showers, potable water, RV dump station, camp hosts, entrance station, bulletin boards, and self-pay stations. Individual and group campsites can be reserved through a reservation system.	Master Plan 1976
A limited number of below gross pool campsites have been developed. At times these campsites are inaccessible due to lake level.	Master Plan 1976
Three day-use areas are located in Tuttletown Recreation Area: Heron Point, Lupine, and Eagle Point. Amenities include picnic tables, barbeques, paved parking, flush restrooms, potable water, hiking and biking trails, and a fish cleaning station. Eagle point is an accessible group day-use facility which can be reserved.	Master Plan 1976
One hiking and biking trail head is located in Tuttletown Recreation Area, Heron Point. The trail begins from the Heron Point day-use area and the amenities are shared.	Master Plan 1976
A tot lot is located between Manzanita and Chamise campgrounds.	Master Plan 1976
Boat launch facilities in Tuttletown include three ramps and parking lots at different lake elevations. The amenities include courtesy docks, flush restrooms, and trash receptacles.	Master Plan 1976

**French Flat Management Area** (WROS description is rural developed; planning area is within the Tuttle town and Bear Creek Water Management Units) lies between the highly developed Tuttle town planning area and the more rural Bear Creek Planning Area. This area has no developed recreational facilities but is popular for inappropriate uses such as late-night parties, target shooting, and ORV use. There is no overland access to this area through Reclamation lands or private easements.

*Issues* specific to this area include impacts on shorelines, due to low shallow slopes, and cattle, horses, motorcyclists, and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) users trespassing onto Reclamation lands. This area is managed separately from adjacent areas due to management requirements related to issues mentioned in the preceding paragraph. In addition, illegal recreation activities on a parcel of land adjacent to this management area, owned by the Bureau of Land Management, sometimes spill over into this planning unit.

**Bear Creek Management Area** (the WROS description is rural developed; planning area is within the Bear Creek Water Management Unit) is in Tuolumne County on the eastern shoreline of New Melones Lake. This area is very popular with boaters because it provides a very natural setting with many coves, bays, and islands. The shoreline has no developed recreational facilities. Popular activities in this area include fishing and houseboating, and waterskiing is popular in the main body of open water. This planning area is accessible via Shell Road and Old Melones Dam Road, but the road has been gated and vehicular access is restricted.

*Issues* specific to this area include impacts on shorelines, due to low shallow slopes, and cattle, horses, motorcyclists, and ATV users trespassing onto Reclamation lands.

**Peoria Wildlife Management Area (PWMA)** (WROS recommendation is rural natural) is in Tuolumne County and was set aside as an area dedicated to wildlife habitat protection and enhancement. Management objectives focus on wildlife enhancement measures and not on recreation opportunities. However, recreational activities such as hunting and horseback riding occur here, and the area offers opportunity for grazing leases in the future.

Table Mountain Planning Area is within the PWMA, just inland from the Bear Creek Management Area. This is the most sensitive ecological area within Reclamation lands, and it offers rich and diverse recreation opportunities. This area has minor facility development, including a parking area at the trailhead and one vault toilet.

Rock climbing is the most notable recreation, predominately at two locations, the Grotto and the White Room, both situated on the west-facing side of Table Mountain. Other prominent recreation activities in this area include hiking, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, and hunting. From the trailhead, hikers can follow a trail that leads to the top of Table Mountain. In fall, winter, and spring, Reclamation park rangers offer guided hikes along this same route. From the top, visitors have panoramic views of New Melones Lake and surrounding lands. Table Mountain also provides extensive northern basalt flow vernal pool habitat. Mastiff bat, golden eagle and great horned owl sightings are also common. Hunting for such species as deer, quail, and mourning dove is a popular activity at Table Mountain. Table R-63 lists management actions specific to this management area.

*Issues* in this planning area include livestock and unauthorized vehicle trespassing, vandalism to fences, and target shooting. Trespassing onto private land is also a problem. Specific issues include inadequate parking for rock climbers and other users, and potential for conflicts between rock climbers and cliff habitats for raptors and bats. There is also the potential for conflicts between rock climbers, hikers, and hunters regarding use of the area.

**Table R-63: Management Actions for the Peoria Wildlife Management Area**

Internal Guidance	Source
The PWMA, including Table Mountain Planning Area, is used for dispersed recreation including hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, mountain biking, horseback riding, fishing access, and climbing. The area is closed to motorized vehicles, camping, fires and target shooting.	Peoria Wildlife Management Area EA
Within PWMA, group camping is permitted by special recreation use permit in the Peoria Equestrian staging area.	Peoria Wildlife Management Area EA
The Table Mountain planning area was identified as Chaparral in the Master Plan, but is actually part of the Peoria Wildlife Management Area (PWMA). The Table Mountain planning area consists of an informal trailhead for the Table Mountain hiking trail, the Grotto and other rock climbing routes, and the PWMA.	Peoria Wildlife Management Area EA
Should further studies indicate that climbers are adversely affecting sensitive species, a climbing management plan would be developed to identify specific non-conflict areas that are suitable for rock climbing.	Peoria Wildlife Management Area EA
Rock climbing is allowed at the users own risk.	Peoria Wildlife Management Area EA
Rock climbing is permitted as long as there are no negative impacts to sensitive bat species and other flora and fauna. Climbers are not currently restricted to designated routes, nor are they required to remove rock anchors	Peoria Wildlife Management Area EA
Trails in the Table Mountain planning area are listed as connecting into trails in the Tuolumne County General Plan, Recreation component.	Peoria Wildlife Management Area EA
A radio controlled flying club has a license to use an existing paved runway and adjacent lands within PWMA. This non-profit organization is open to the public and conducts periodic public outreach activities.	Peoria Wildlife Management Area EA

***Dam and Spillway Management Area*** (WROS recommendation is rural developed) is in Tuolumne County and consists of the area south of the dam to north of the lake spillway. This area is not subject to development for recreation opportunities.

*Issues* mainly stem from unauthorized mineral extraction in the area and the need for security around the dam and spillway.

**Bowie Flat Management Area** (no WROS recommendation) became part of the New Melones Lake Area to provide a borrow area for construction of the dam. The area is not currently managed for any special uses and has no recreational development.

*Issues* include lack of access to this area since it is surrounded by BLM and private lands. Options for this area include connecting it to the Westside Management Area by arranging a land swap or purchase with BLM, or disposing of the area.

**West Side Management Area** (WROS recommendation is rural natural) is in Calaveras County and contains an extensive collection of cultural resources, particularly in Texas Charley Gulch. This area is not subject to development for recreation opportunities.

*Issues* include unauthorized vehicle trespassing in the planning area.

**Greenhorn Creek Management Area** (WROS classification is rural developed; located within the Angels Water Management Unit) in Calaveras County is well known as a fishing cove. It offers no recreational development and there is currently no overland access in this area. Table R-64 lists management actions specific to this management area.

*Issues* specific to this area include accessibility to the lake due to lower water levels.

**Table R-64: Management Actions for the Greenhorn Creek Management Area**

Decision	
Bear Creek Planning Area (Greenhorn Creek Management Area) has no facilities but is used for dispersed recreation such as boat-in day use, swimming, and fishing, as well as hiking, hunting, and horseback riding. The area is closed to motorized vehicles, camping, fires and target shooting.	Master Plan 1976
To preserve cave resource areas in their natural state and maintain scenic qualities associated with the Coyote Creek Planning Area (Greenhorn Creek Management Area), recreation use would be kept low.	Master Plan 1976

**Glory Hole Management Area** (WROS description is rural developed; located within the Glory Hole Water Management Unit) is in Calaveras County in the midbasin vicinity of the New Melones Lake study area. It can be accessed from SR 49 via Whittle Ranch Road. This planning area is composed of the main portion, which includes the large peninsula extending into the lake, and is the location of the New Melones Lake Marina. Within Glory Hole Management Unit is the Angels Creek Recreation Area. This area is the most highly developed recreation area on the lake. The area provides a wide array of recreation opportunities, ranging from day-use picnicking to boat launching and take-out. This area is a major boat launch, parking, and transportation corridor for boats traveling to the main body of the lake. The only public beach on the lake is located here. The swim area has picnic tables and barbeque grills, and there is no lifeguard. Other facilities within the Glory Hole Management Area include a boat ramp, parking lot, picnic shelter, and fish cleaning station. Trails are available for hiking and mountain biking.

The Glory Hole Recreation Area has two campgrounds, Ironhorse and Big Oak, with a total of 144 campsites. Campgrounds at this recreation area may be reserved through the National Recreation Reservation Service.

*Ironhorse Campground* is on the west side of the Gloryhole Access Road and has full service restrooms with showers, water taps, and barbeque/fire pits. Updates have been made to one campsite to comply with ADA.

*Big Oak Campground* is on the east side of the Gloryhole Access Road and has restrooms, showers, water taps, and barbeque/fire pits.

Glory Hole Recreation Area gate is closed at night and opened in the morning to help alleviate vandalism. There are four day-use areas (Buckbrush, Angels Creek, Black Bart, and Osprey Point) and hiking and biking trails, in addition to the only concessionaire-operated marina on New Melones Lake (see Section 6.3: Facilities). Four boat ramps are used for high, medium, and low water levels. Three of the four boat ramps have seven lanes, while the lowest ramp has two lanes. Table R-65 list management actions for the Glory Hole Management Area.

*Issues* specific to this area include accessibility to the lake (due to constant water level fluctuations), fire concerns, lack of parking, and sanitation problems due to an inadequate number of restrooms. Compared to similar facilities in the region, this recreation area has inequitable user fees, resulting in an inflated number of users compared to other areas. For example, there is no boat launch fee or day-use fee, and large groups and fishing tournament participants pay minimal fees. At certain times, increased recreation demand exceeds the capacity of boat launches and parking areas.

**Table R-65: Management Actions for the Glory Hole Management Area**

Decision	Source
The boat ramp at Angels Creek extends to the 975-foot elevation, due to topographical constraints; below 975 feet, the launch ramp on the lower peninsula provides additional capacity.	Master Plan 1976
The boat launch ramp on the peninsula extends to the 900-foot elevation and functions as the only usable launching area during low lake levels at the Angels Arm Planning Area (Glory Hole).	Master Plan 1976
Facilities at Glory Hole include those for camping, hiking, picnicking, fishing, swimming, and boat launching. Within Glory Hole Recreation Area is a concession operated marina. A sub-planning unit called Angels Creek Recreation Area is also located within Glory Hole.	Master Plan 1976
Two formal campgrounds are developed in Glory Hole: Iron Horse and Big Oak. These campgrounds include accessible, standard, and walk-in campsites with paved parking, picnic tables, and fire rings. Campground amenities include flush restrooms, coin operated showers, potable water, RV dump station, camp hosts, entrance station, bulletin boards, and self-pay stations. Individual campsites can be reserved through a reservation system.	Master Plan 1976
Two developed day-use areas are located in Glory Hole Recreation Area: Osprey and Black Bart. Amenities include picnic tables, barbeques, paved parking, flush restrooms, and potable water.	Master Plan 1976

Decision	Source
Two hiking and biking trail heads are located in Glory Hole Recreation Area: Carson Creek and Tower Climb. Amenities include picnic tables, parking, vault restrooms, and potable water.	Master Plan 1976
Angels Creek Recreation Area is comprised of designated swim beach, Buck Brush day-use area, Angels Creek boat launch. Amenities include fish cleaning station, pave parking, picnic tables, barbeques, flush restrooms, potable water, and hiking and biking trails.	Master Plan 1976
A tot lot, amphitheater, and horseshoe pits are located at Iron Horse campground.	Master Plan 1976
Boat launch facilities in Glory Hole include three ramps and parking lots at different lake elevations and the amenities include courtesy docks, vault restroom, and trash receptacles. The boat launch facilities at Angels Creek include one ramp with parking area and the amenities include courtesy docks, flush restroom, and trash receptacles.	Master Plan 1976
New Melones Lake Marina has a lease agreement to operate the marina concession in Glory Hole Recreation Area. The marina offers slip rentals, boat and houseboat rentals, refueling, sewage pump out, routine boat maintenance, boat towing, and convenience store. The lease agreement expires in 2012.	Master Plan 1976

**Coyote Creek Management Area** (WROS description is rural developed; located within the Mark Twain Water Management Unit) is in Calaveras County off Parrotts Ferry Road. This historically significant area is freely accessible to the public and provides the only access to the Natural Bridges caves. Minor facility development at this site includes a parking area at the Natural Bridges trailhead and one vault toilet. The trail leads 0.7 mile to the Natural Bridges caves situated on Coyote Creek; the trail is rated as moderately difficult. The Natural Bridges day-use area is popular for hiking, spelunking, swimming (wading or floating), and picnicking. Many enjoy floating through the caves on inner tubes or inflatable mattresses. During fall, winter, and spring, Reclamation's park rangers lead interpretive hikes in this area to teach visitors about the unique geologic history. Table R-66 lists management actions specific to this management area.

*Issues* specific to this area include inadequate parking for hikers and the creation of social trails, which leads to erosion. Vandalism to cave features is also an issue. A third issue is lack of adequate minimum basic facilities for the public. There is no restroom at the trailhead or along the route, no potable water, insufficient parking on the old roadway, insufficient signage, and no entrance gate or ability to manage visitation.

**Table R-66: Management Actions for the Coyote Creek Management Area**

Decision	Source
To preserve cave resource areas in their natural state and maintain scenic qualities associated with these areas, recreation use would be kept low.	Master Plan 1976
These caves would be open to the public without restrictions and would have informational signs explaining the natural history of the cave. Only the Natural Bridges in Coyote Creek are not slated for this category.	Master Plan 1976

**North Bay Management Areas** (WROS recommendation rural developed) is most associated with boaters and lake users coming from the Glory Hole boat ramps and marina. Boaters transit this area on the way to other parts of the lake or may use the area for waterskiing or fishing.

*Issues* specific to this area include user conflicts due to high boater speeds. Enforcement of boating laws is difficult in this area due to lack of adequate patrol capacity.

**Middle Bay Management Area** (WROS recommendation rural developed) is most associated with lake users coming from the Tuttle town boat ramps and campgrounds. As with the North Bay Management Area, boaters transit this area or use it for waterskiing. Floatplanes also land in this area on occasion.

*Issues* specific to this area include user conflicts due to high boater speeds. Enforcement of boating laws is difficult in this area due to lack of adequate patrol capacity.

**South Bay Management Area** (WROS recommendation rural developed) is used extensively by water skiers due to the presence of a water ski park at the south end of the main body of the lake.

*Issues* specific to this area include user conflicts due to high boater speeds. Enforcement of boating laws is difficult in this area due to lack of adequate patrol capacity.