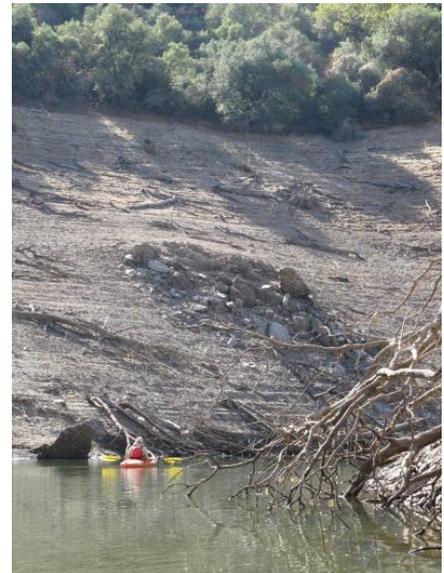


Kayaking Adventures at New Melones Lake

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For those who love kayaking, New Melones Lake is the place to be! Park Rangers recently led two kayaking adventures at the lake:

On Saturday, Oct. 19, 2013, during a four-mile paddle up Mormon Creek, kayakers discovered cultural and natural resources that have been exposed due to New Melones' receding waters. Protecting and preserving these resources are everyone's responsibility, and the first step to stewardship is education. The kayakers learned how to identify specific cultural and natural resources and went home understanding their importance to future generations.



On Saturday, Nov. 2, kayakers traversed three miles to the Coyote Creek inlet in search of raptors. The paddlers learned how important the birds are to the ecosystem and how they are being protected by staff at New Melones Lake. Coyote Creek is a year-round home to raptors, and although unfortunately none were seen that day, 27 species of birds were sighted as well as river otter and bear tracks. Stewardship for our public lands was embraced, and a large bag of trash collected at the inlet. Kayakers helped clean the lake and learned what they can do to help protect our feathered friends.



Above: large bear tracks (very large!) were discovered during the Nov. 2 kayaking trip.

Top left & right: on Oct. 19, kayakers found that the receding waters of New Melones Lake are exposing natural and cultural resources not normally seen.