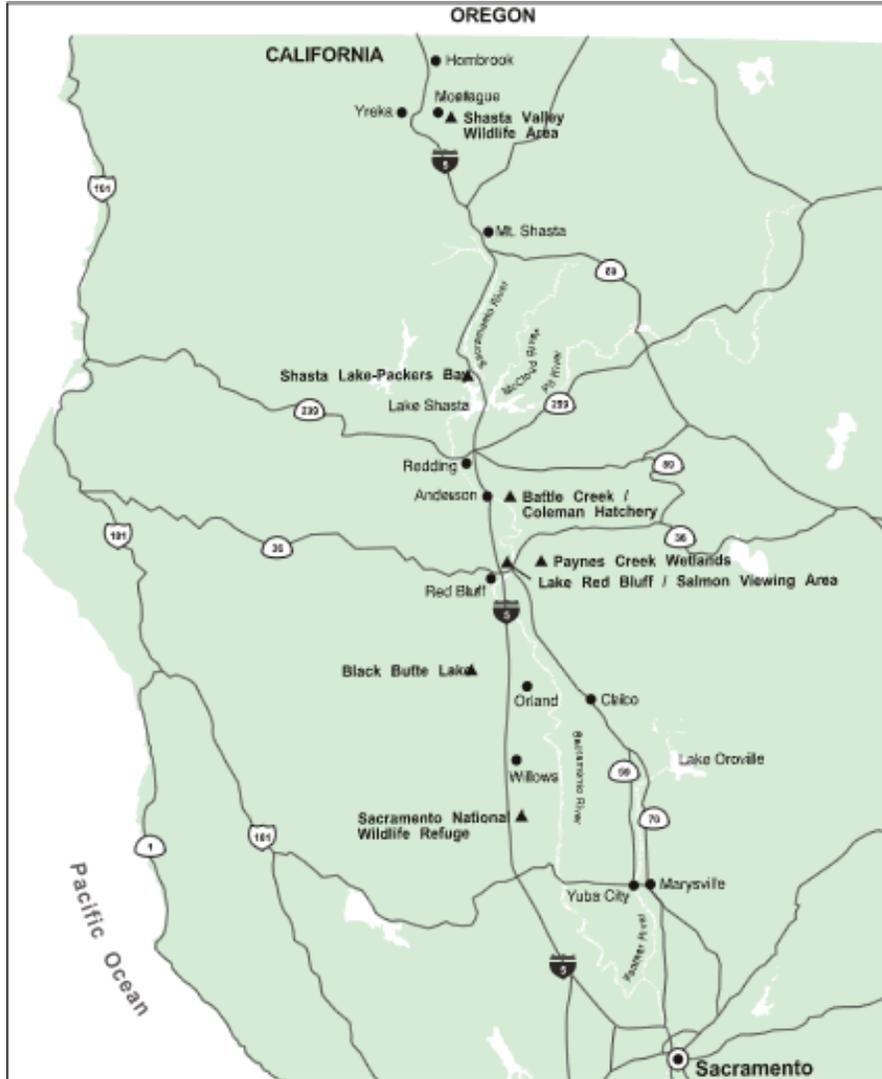


Sacramento to Oregon Border via I-5

Route Description

Interstate 5 between Sacramento and Redding parallels one of the greatest wildlife migration routes in North America — the Pacific Flyway. The highway and flyway run the length of the Central Valley. The Sierra Nevada to the east and coastal foothills to the west funnel migrating birds into the valley where food and water are plentiful. The rich Central Valley which once supported vast oak woodlands, grasslands and marshes along the Sacramento River now grows rice, nuts, fruits and vegetables. Less than five percent of the grasslands and riparian forests remain, but these areas support a remarkable diversity of wildlife. Agricultural fields also attract wildlife so watch the fields as you travel.



Viewing Locations

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex



Location: 80 miles north of Sacramento; 79 miles south of Redding. 6 miles south of Willows on I5.

Best Seasons: Fall and winter

What to See: Permanent and seasonal marshes attract thousands of migratory waterfowl from fall through early spring. Rich wetlands support over 265 bird species and many types of mammals including black-tail deer, black-tail jackrabbits, raccoon and muskrats. A visitor center, restrooms, driving tour loop, viewing platforms, and interpretive exhibits are available year-round.

Amount of Time for Visit: Plan on at least two hours to view during fall and winter. At other times of year, wildlife viewing can be sporadic, but it is always worth a stop for a quick drive on the tour loop to watch for wildlife.

Other: \$\$ day entry fee. Open daily, though some areas closed to non-hunters during hunting season.

Contact: (530) 934-2801

<http://sacramentovalleyrefuges.fws.gov/>

Local Accommodations and Travel Information:

www.visitcalifornia.com

Sacramento Convention & Visitors Bureau

(916) 264-7777

www.sacramentocvb.org/

Black Butte Lake



Location: 98 miles north of Sacramento; 61 miles south of Redding. 9.5 miles east of I-5 on Newville Road (road 200) west of Orland.

Best Season: Winter and spring offer the best viewing of waterfowl, wading birds, birds of prey and songbirds. Spring wild flowers can be spectacular on the hillsides.

What to See: Several forks of Stony Creek flow from the Coast Range to this lake set among rolling oak woodlands, jagged lava flows, and the rock spires of the towering basalt buttes. The Buckhorn Trail winds through the blue oaks and is best in spring. The Big Oak Trail meanders near Stony Creek and is best during the dry season where permanent water attracts wildlife. Restrooms, picnic area, camping and hiking available year-round.

Amount of Time for Visit: Set aside a few hours for a leisurely hike.

Contact:

Phone (530) 865-4781

www.spk.usace.army.mil/cespk-co/lakes/blackbutte.html

Local Accommodations and Travel Information: www.visitcalifornia.com

Shasta Cascade Wonderland Association (800) 474-2782 or (530) 365-7500

www.shastacascade.org/

Lake Red Bluff/Salmon Viewing Plaza



Location: 128 miles north of Sacramento; 31 miles south of Redding. At Red Bluff, turn east on highway 36. Turn right on Sale Lane and travel 2.4 miles to plaza.

Best Seasons: Peak fish migrations occur from August through October. Bird watching year round.

What to See: The Sacramento River is backed behind the Red Bluff Diversion Dam where two fish ladders allow salmon and steelhead to migrate above the dam. The lake and surrounding riparian forests attract song birds and osprey in the spring and summer; waterfowl and bald eagles in the fall and winter; and wading birds year-round.

Amount of Time for Visit: Restrooms, picnic area and trails make this a good lunch or rest stop.

Contact: (530) 934-3316

Local Accommodations and Travel Information: www.visitcalifornia.com

Shasta Cascade Wonderland Association (800) 474-2782 or (530) 365-7500

www.shastacascade.org/

Paynes Creek Wetlands



Location: 134 miles north of Sacramento; 25 miles south of Redding. Take Jelly's Ferry exit and travel east 2.6 miles to Bend Ferry Road. Turn right for 2.6 miles to parking area.

Best Season: Year-round.

What to See: This area gives you a glimpse of what the Sacramento River once looked like prior to agricultural development. Lush riparian forests, marshes, ponds, oak woodlands, grasslands and vernal pools attract many species of wildlife. Restrooms, picnic tables, walking trails and fishing access.

Amount of Time for Visit: Restrooms, picnic area and trails make this a good lunch or rest stop.

Contact: (530) 224-2100 www.ca.blm.gov/caso/wf-payncrk.html

Local Accommodations and Travel Information: www.visitcalifornia.com

Shasta Cascade Wonderland Association (800) 474-2782 or (530) 365-7500

www.shastacascade.org/

Battle Creek/Coleman Hatchery



Location: 147 miles north of Sacramento; 12 miles south of Redding. At Anderson, take Deschutes Road exit. Turn east and drive two miles to Ball's Ferry Road. Turn right and drive 3 miles to Ash Creek Road. Turn left and travel 1.2 miles to Gover Road. Turn right and drive 1.6 miles to Coleman Fish Hatchery Road and turn right.

Best Season: Wildlife viewing is good year-round, but salmon viewing is the highlight in the fall.

What to See: Battle Creek Wildlife Area and Coleman National Fish Hatchery are located side-by-side on Battle Creek in the foothills. King salmon and steelhead spawn in the creek as well as at the hatchery in the fall. Rich riparian forests, marshes, oak woodlands and grasslands surround Battle Creek. Bald eagles and osprey nest in the area. There are very few areas in California where you can observe 30 pound salmon spawning in natural gravel beds. Restrooms, picnic tables, hiking trails.

Amount of Time: Plan at least two hours if you want to tour the hatchery and wildlife area.

Contact: Hatchery phone (530)365-8622; Wildlife Area Phone (530) 225-2300

Local Accommodations and Travel Information: www.visitcalifornia.com

Shasta Cascade Wonderland Association (800) 474-2782 or (530) 365-7500

www.shastacascade.org/

Shasta Lake — Packers Bay



Location: 17 miles north of Redding; 107 miles south of Oregon Border. At O'Brien exit, turn left under freeway and return to I-5 south. Exit at Packers Bay and turn west 1.5 miles on Packers Bay road to boat ramp and trailhead.

Best Season to View: Year-round wildlife viewing; Bald eagles fall through spring. Very popular for water sports in the summer.

What to See: Lake Shasta offers some of the best views of nesting ospreys and bald eagles in the winter and spring. Trails along the lake's shoreline and among oaks, chaparral and heavily forested slopes offers views of many bird and mammal species. Restrooms, picnic area, trails, boat access.

Amount of Time for Visit: A great location for a one-hour lunch and leisurely hike, or spend a half-day hiking or boating .

Other: \$\$ fee area.

Contact: (530)275-1587

Local Accommodations and Travel Information: www.shastalake.com/

Shasta Valley Wildlife Area



Location: 104 miles north of Redding; 20 miles south of Oregon Border. At Yreka, take highway 3 east 8 miles to Montague. In town, take Ball Mountain/Little Shasta Road east 1.5 miles to entrance sign.

Best Season to View: year-round

What to See: views of Mt. Shasta provide a dramatic backdrop to one of the state's hidden wildlife gems. This is a remote, unimproved site, but it offers great views of birds of prey, wading and shorebirds, waterfowl, mule deer, and uncommon mammals such as marmots, porcupines and coyotes. Unpaved driving routes, hiking trails, portable toilets.

Amount of Time to Visit: Plan on at least two to three hours to explore this area by foot and car.

Local Accommodations and Travel Information: Shasta Cascade Wonderland Association
(800) 474-2782 or (530) 365-7500
www.shastacascade.org/

Other: Area closed on some days during fall waterfowl hunting season.

Contact: (530) 225-2300.

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