



File Code: 2300

Date: April 9, 2015

Eagle Lake Recreationists and Boaters,

The Eagle Lake Ranger District has received many requests for information regarding the operation and availability of the low water boat ramp at the Eagle Lake Marina for the upcoming 2015 season. Unfortunately, the past winter has provided little snowpack or precipitation to improve water levels at Eagle Lake.

The low water boat ramp will be available for launching boats beginning Memorial Day weekend, May 23, 2015. Boaters will need to determine for themselves if their boat can be safely launched based on water conditions. Lake levels have not recovered over the winter and an increased number of shallow-water hazards should be expected, now and as the summer progresses.

As of March 24th, water depth at the bottom of the ramp was 24 inches and only 36 inches at a distance of 100 feet from the boat ramp. Water depths are expected to continue to decrease as there is no snowpack in the surrounding watershed that typically would fill the lake in the spring and continue to add water throughout the summer. Beginning in May, there will be weekly updated information about lake levels available at the Eagle Lake District office, (530) 257-4188 and at the Marina once it opens.

We have also received questions about extending the boat ramp or dredging at the base of the ramp. The slope of the lake bottom is relatively flat from the base of the boat ramp to several hundred feet into the lake. California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) took measurements of the lake bottom last spring and confirmed that extending the existing low water ramp would not provide additional depth for launching. Unfortunately, dredging would only create a hole or trench that would continually fill with sediment from boat activity, wave and wind action. Dredging at the ramp would not change water depths beyond the immediate area of dredging and would require on-going, continual efforts. Due to the nature and flat slope of the lake bed, neither extension of the ramp nor dredging would be effective solutions to mitigate the continually declining lake levels.

There will be a lower profile boarding dock at the ramp for easier access to and from boats this year. Users should plan to have equipment loaded into their boats before launching to avoid needing to moor to the dock for more than a limited time, or not at all, if possible.

The Lassen National Forest is aware of the effects the weather and ongoing drought are having on the environment, the recreation opportunities and the related economy of Lassen County. We hope this information will be helpful to visitors planning to boat at Eagle Lake this year.

If you have any questions or wish to express your concerns about the above information, please contact KC Pasero at the Eagle Lake Ranger District, (530) 257-4188.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dave Hays

DAVE HAYS
Forest Supervisor

