



# How to Use This Book



The **Quick Reference Guide** allows you to quickly locate destinations with the number of shoreline miles you like to paddle, with all of the amenities you prefer, which allows you to easily plan a customized paddling trip itinerary.

The large **County Section Area Map** located at the beginning of each section is designed to give you a perspective on where the lakes in the section are located in relationship to one another. The numbers located on the **County Section Area Maps** correspond with a featured lake.



## Featured Lake Pages

The **Featured Lake Maps** show the names of roads to use to reach the lake, which are cross-referenced with the lake and campground directions provided. They also depict where the campgrounds, boat launches, marinas and dams are located. The Featured Lake Maps show the shape of the lake, and any restricted buoy areas. The maps are drawn to scale unless otherwise noted.

**Address and Telephone Number** of the lake, or campground, or the telephone number for the most available source of information is listed on each Featured Lake page.



The **Legend** displays what the symbols represent on the Featured Lake maps.

**Miles of Shoreline** is the distance around the perimeter when the lake is full. It is important not to overestimate your skill level or physical condition. Pick destinations that match your physical ability.

**Area Map #** will show you where the lake is located by referring to the California Map in each section.

The number of feet of **Elevation** of the lake will be a good indicator if the lake has cold water and a cooler climate.



LET THE JOURNEY BEGIN!

**Lake Surface Acre** is the number of acres the lake covers when it is full. Always call prior to paddling a lake, (or before booking camping reservations), to find out the present number of surface acres of water. By comparing the number of surface acres when the lake is full to the level the lake is presently, you will know how high or low the water level is on the lake. A lake's water level can drop extremely low due to a drought season or due to the lowering the lake for spring melt-off, which can leave only a fraction of the size of the lake left to paddle. This seems to be a consistent occurrence during the summer through early spring. Many reservoirs and lakes have water levels that fluctuate several feet higher or lower in a day.

The **operating** hours, days and months of the year the lake is open to paddlers and any special lake permits required and the lake's boat speed limit are listed.

**Tides, currents, wind, and weather** should always be factored into your trip planning. Check for current conditions before you leave to go on a trip or begin paddling. There is nothing worse than driving a long distance to a lake only to discover bad weather, or a forest fire. Unless, of course, you get caught half-way around a lake in a thunderstorm!

There's always a chance of getting wet, so adequate protective clothing is also essential. Also, before you leave to go on a trip always check the current water level conditions and the lake's Quagga Mussels Inspection regulations which can change from day to day.

Make safety your top priority to ensure that your paddling experience is a positive one. As fun and exciting as it may be to kayak on a river, don't forget that paddling on a river entails an amount of risk due to the elements of nature. Rivers have different behaviors throughout the year. River flows can be impacted by runoff from storms, snow melt and by the daily ebb and flow of the ocean tides. What once was flat water can quickly become Class I to Class III rapids after a recent storm.

The **terrain** description will help you select which lakes are best suited to your taste by giving you a complete description of the lake's topographical setting that complements the color photograph of featured lakes.

The **fees** category will specify if the lake and campground charge a fee for day use, for launching or for pets. If you would like to know what the lake's specific fees are, you can contact the lake with the telephone number provided. Most lakes have a price list they

can e-mail to you. Also, many lakes now have a web site address that lists the current fees.

The **Directions** to the lake and to the campground, (if the campground is not located at the lake) are provided. The miles given are very close approximates.

**Campgrounds and Facilities** at the lake or the next nearest campground to the lake.

**Reservations for camping and boating.** Many campgrounds across the United States have similar names. Give the campground reservations agent the name specified under the campground category and always confirm which lake the campground is located when making camping reservations.

Before booking any camping reservations, be sure to request that the reservation agent read you the cancellation policy and ask what, if any restrictions there are due to quagga mussels. If you plan to camp at a lake during the summertime, especially on a holiday weekend, you will most likely need to make reservations a number of months in advance, (up to six months prior for some lakes if they are popular vacation spots).