

Lake Berryessa News
December 1, 2024

Just a short message today. More Christmas news to come.

Can this happen again?



Glory Hole Watch 2025 (December 1, 2024)

The rain has stopped, and dry weather is predicted for the next week or more. This means the ground will dry out. It will take about 2-3 inches of rain before the runoff will begin again. But no matter what the rain future holds, Lake Berryessa will be fine for boating next summer. The lake is only 8 feet below Glory Hole which is essentially considered "full enough for a fun summer".

Lake Berryessa Statistics (12/1/24)

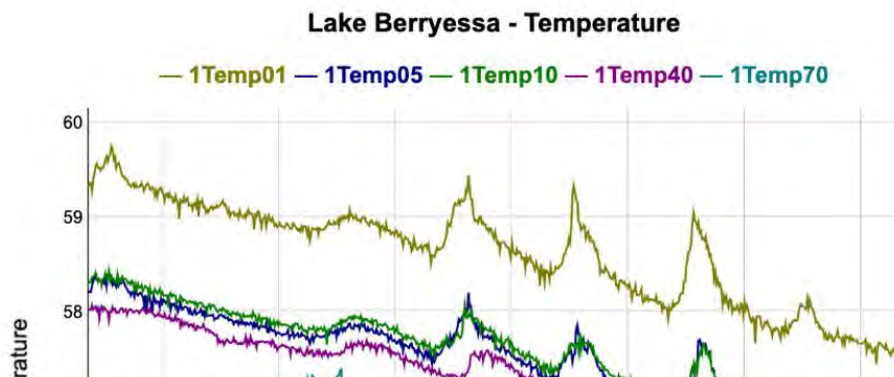
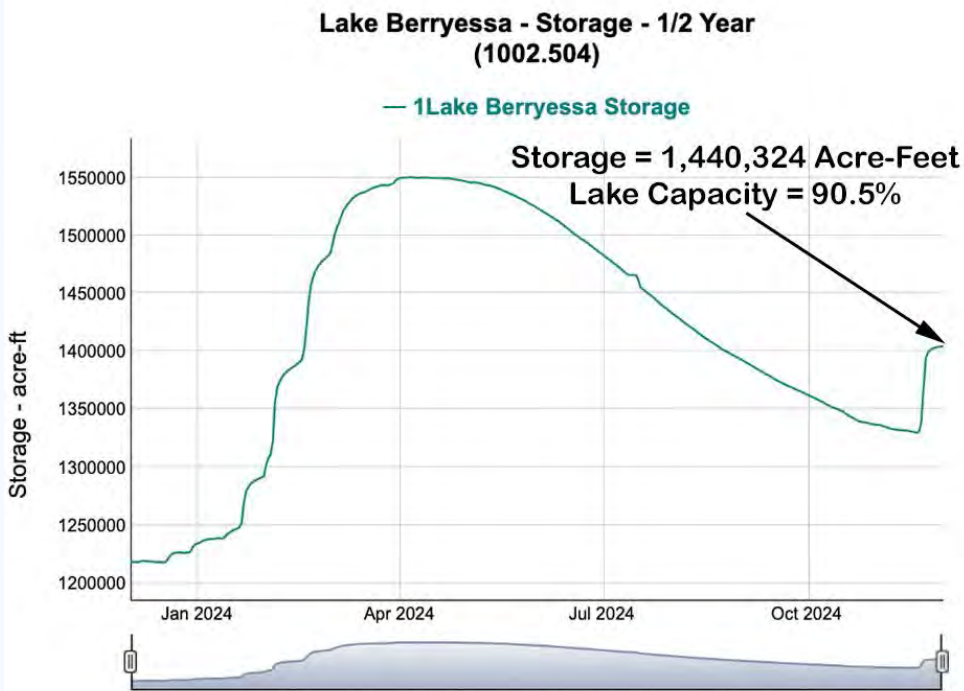
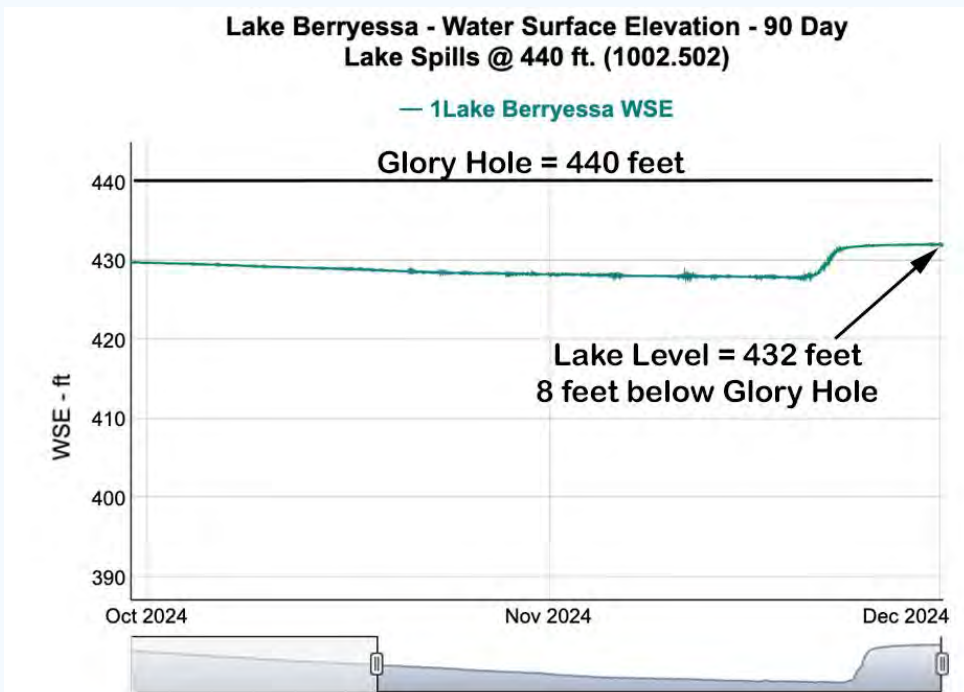
The rain total remains at 6.84 inches at Monticello Dam as of 12/1/24.

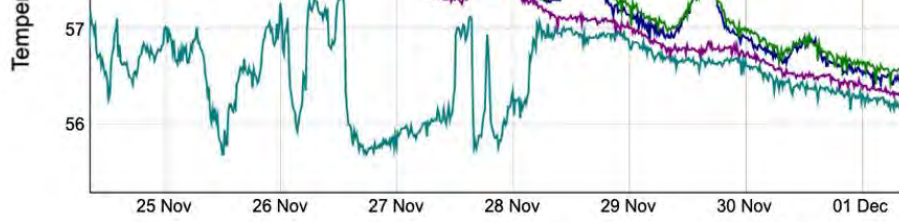
The lake level has stopped rising and has been stable at to 432 feet, (8 feet below Glory Hole) for the last 4 days.

Water temperature continues to drop and has reached 57 degrees.

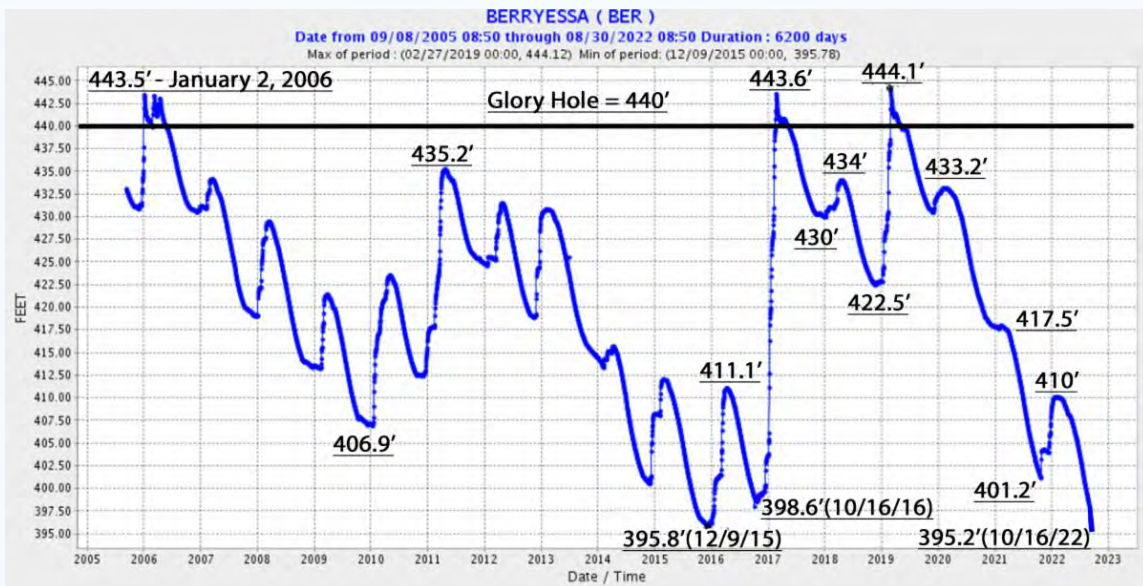
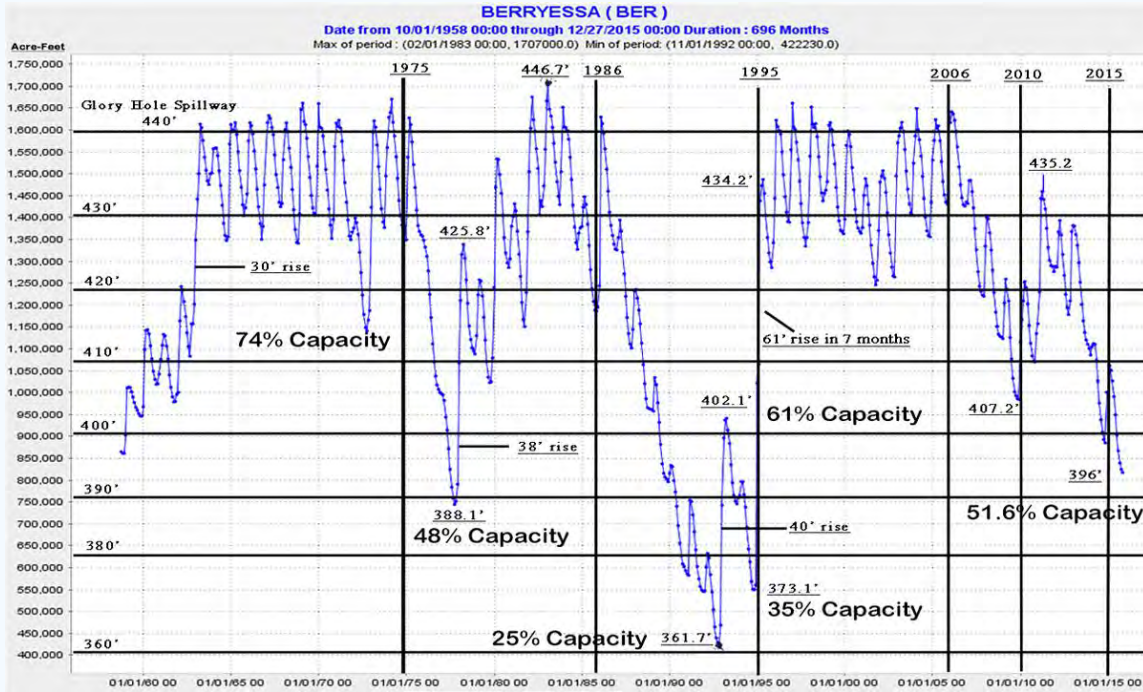
Lake output is up slightly to 90 cfs (cubic feet per second) or 179 A-F (acre feet per day).

The Gamble Gauge shows the lake capacity rose to 90.5%.





Average Rainfall at Monticello Dam for 27 Years = 26.45 inches per year



2025 is Almost Here and the 25 For 25 Program Continues

My sincere thanks to those of you who have already contributed to the future of the Lake Berryess News. But I must continue my appeal for your support for The Lake Berryessa News 25 for 25 program. This email newsletter is regularly opened by more than 400 people per issue. You are, as I am, also receiving a barrage of similar requests from

worthy organizations. But please consider making a donation to your "hyper-local reporting" resource.

I challenge you to find any Lake Berryessa news anywhere. Hopefully, the many years of our intensive reporting about the latest Lake Berryessa issues will convince you of the truth of our motto, "Without The Lake Berryessa News there would be no Lake Berryessa news".

For a review of the impact of The Lake Berryessa News, please see these two articles from Napa Valley Features.

Peter Kilkus: nearly two decades of hyper-local news reporting in Napa County

https://napavalleyfocus.substack.com/p/peter-kilkus-a-leader-in-napa-countys?utm_source=publication-search

Lake Berryessa: Glory Hole watch 2024

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If you love Lake Berryessa and the Lake Berryessa News in all its forms and want to support the Lake Berryessa Revitalization Program please send a donation check of \$25 (or more if you feel so inclined) made out to Peter Kilkus (not the Lake Berryessa News) and mail it to Peter Kilkus, 1515 Headlands Drive, Napa, CA 94558. You can stick crinkly old cash in an envelope with your information and send it to the same address. You can also use Venmo or Paypal if you wish. My Venmo account is under @Peter-Kilkus, Paypal is Member #2051. You can email me at pkilkus@gmail.com. (Note: Your donation is NOT tax deductible)

Thanks, Peter

How about some really dumb "pick your own - write your own" horoscopes.

(Print out this list, cut out the individual horoscopes, put the pieces in a bowl, pick one out every day or week. It will make you a better person)

You are hard- working and focused. you are also witty and entertaining. This is a lovely, fun-loving year for you with opportunities to socialize and enjoy life. Let your guard down and lighten up a bit. be grateful for what you have.

Double check details related to banking, shared property, insurance matters, taxes or debt because something unexpected might catch you off guard. Do pay attention. When it comes to your money and assets — stay abreast of things. Meanwhile, this is a lovely day to socialize and enjoy the company of others! all is sweetness and light. Tonight: listen.

A partner or close friend — possibly an expert like a counselor or a lawyer — might tell you something that surprises you, something you didn't expect. This could make you feel rebellious, or it might make you feel freer in some way. Fortunately, relations with coworkers are warm, friendly and supportive. Your health is good. Tonight: Work.

Your work routine will be interrupted today. Staff shortages, power outages, technical problems, late deliveries and canceled meetings are just some reasons your day will suffer from hiccups and glitches. Enjoy schmoozing with others. Tonight: play!

Parents should be extra vigilant about their kids today because this is an accident-prone day. Keep your eyes open. Meanwhile social occasions might suddenly be delayed or cancelled. Double-check last minute details. This is a lovely day to entertain at home! Tonight: relax.

Your home routine will be interrupted today. Small appliances might break down or a minor breakage could occur. Do what you can to keep the peace with family members. Fortunately, you are diplomatic and smooth today, which will promote sports and fun socializing. Tonight: learn something.

Pay attention to everything you say and do because this is an accident-prone day for you. On the upside, clever ideas might spring to mind. Financial negotiations will go well. Look for ways to boost your income and improve your home. Tonight: check belongings.

Keep your eyes open today because you might find money; you might lose money. Protect what you own against loss, theft or damage. Write down moneymaking ideas. Meanwhile, you are especially diplomatic and charming today! Enjoy talking to everyone! Tonight: demand the advantage.

Be careful today because you might be too hasty or impulsive. Don't jump to conclusions. You might also be too blunt. (you know you always catch more flies with honey.) Meanwhile, this is an excellent day for financial negotiations. Enjoy shopping for something pretty. Tonight: solitude.

You might feel restless today. Don't worry about this because it is short lived. Nevertheless, don't let these feelings make you do something in haste that you will later regret. Think before you speak or act. Fortunately, this is a wonderful day to enjoy the company of friends and organizations. you are loved. Tonight: be friendly.

Today you're high viz. people notice you. Fortunately, you make a fabulous impression on everyone. (you can take this to the bank.) However, a friend, perhaps someone younger, might do something that surprises you or catches you off guard. Process what's happening before you respond. Tonight: you're admired!

Don't be hasty responding to bosses, parents or the police today because you might regret your words. never underestimate the power of courtesy. Don't jump to conclusions. Meanwhile, opportunities to travel or do something different or meet someone fascinating will delight you. Make plans to do something different! Tonight: explore!

You might be alarmed by something you hear in the media today. Or perhaps it's related to legal matters or something to do with a medical situation or publishing and higher education? Fortunately, financial matters will benefit you today. They might also benefit your home, family and real estate in some way. Tonight: check finances.



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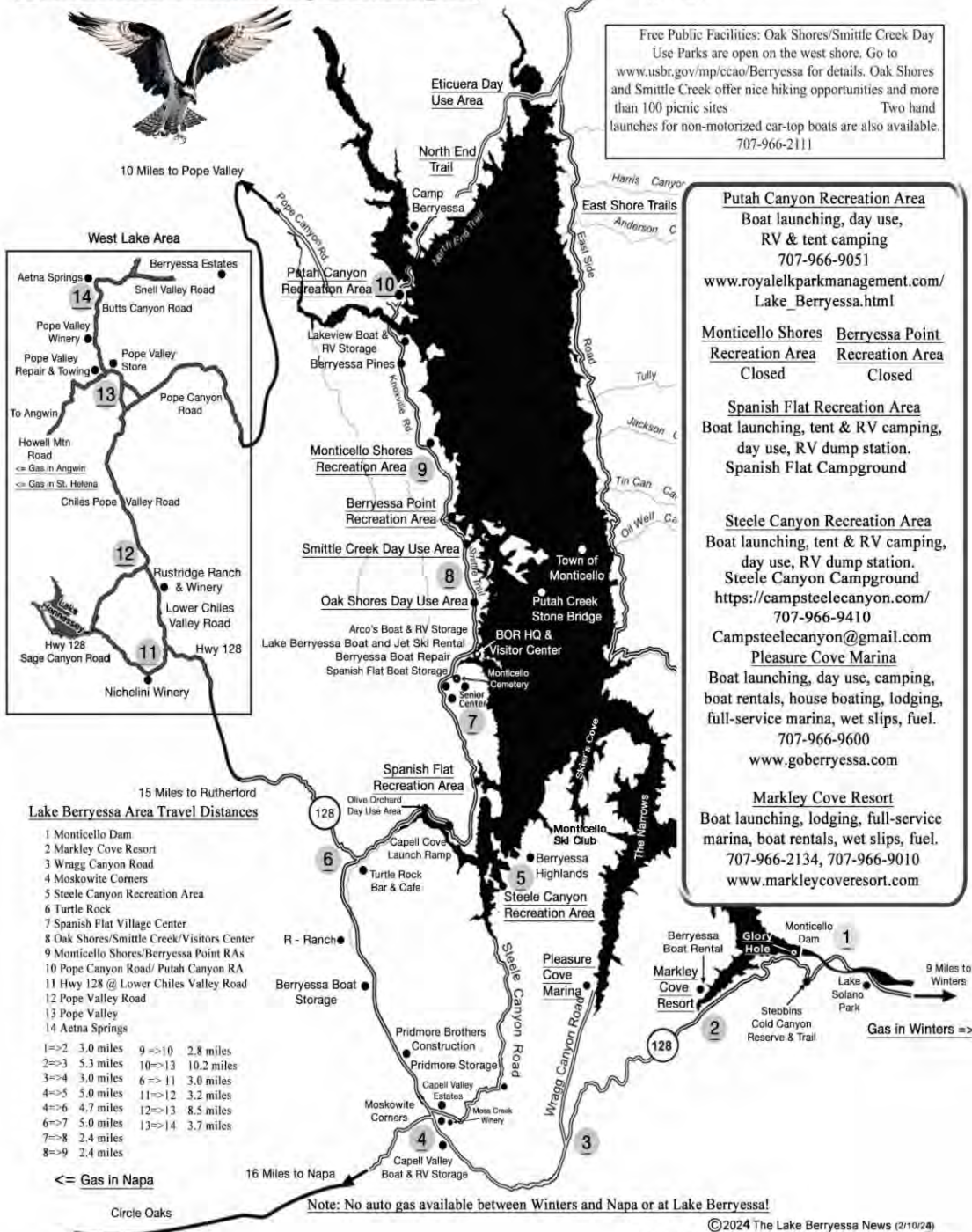
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region

To BLM Knoxville OHV & Recreation Area
34 Miles to Lower Lake



Peter Kilkus | 1515 Headlands Drive, Napa, CA 94558 | 415-307-6906 | pkilkus@gmail.com



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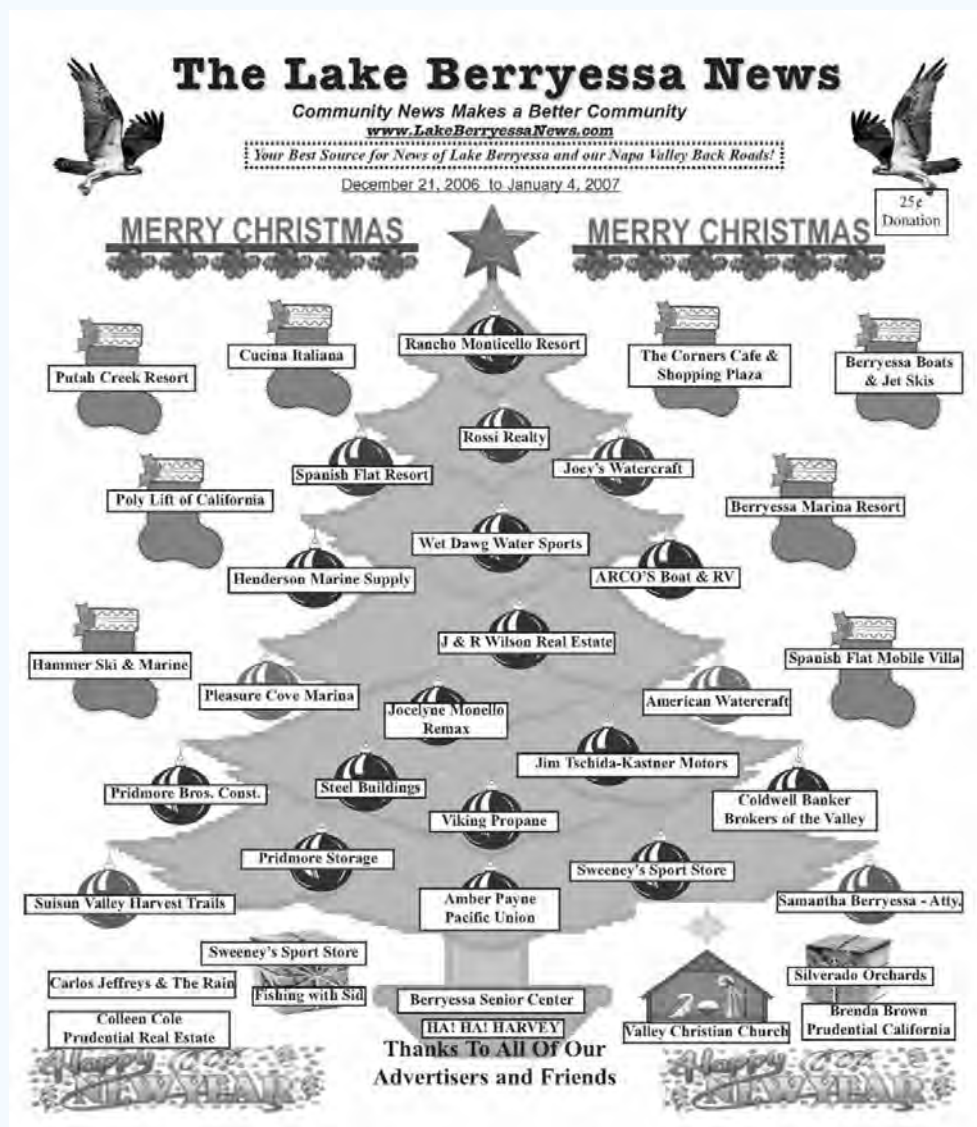
Lake Berryessa News Christmas Edition

December 22, 2024

In 2006 the Lake Berryessa community was slowly dying due to the Bureau of Reclamation's ill-conceived Visitor Services Plan. But there was still hope for a positive outcome. The picture below is one I created to thank all the Lake Berryessa News advertisers for their continued support. The second Christmas tree image was one I made after the devastating fire in the Berryessa Highlands and other locations.

The Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce had around 80 members before the decline. See the 2007 Chamber Directory for a real "Blast from the Past."

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/2007-Chamber-Directory.pdf>



Lake Berryessa Christmas 2020



Glory Hole Watch 2025 (December 22, 2024)

The rains keep coming! This may be the first Glory Hole overflow since 2019 when it overflowed twice. (See chart below.)

Lake Berryessa Statistics (12/22/24)

The rain total has increased dramatically to 10.62 inches at Monticello Dam as of 12/22/24.

The lake level has risen to at to 434.6 feet, (5.4 feet below Glory Hole).

Water temperature continues to drop and has reached 54 degrees.

Lake output is up slightly to 85 cfs (cubic feet per second) or 168 A-F (acre feet per day).

The Gamble Gauge shows the lake capacity rose to 93.5%.

Below is a copy of the December 2006 regular report done by Carlos Jeffreys at The Corners for many years which I published in The Lake Berryessa News.

DAM LEVEL UPDATE				
The elevation of the spillway (Glory Hole) at Monticello Dam is 440 feet.				
The water is now <u>9.31</u> feet below the top of the spillway				
Lake Berryessa has had <u>9.13</u> inches of rainfall since July 1st, 06				
As reported by Carlos Jeffreys of The Corners total for the last rain was 6.14"				
12-9 ~ 1.1" 12-10 ~ .82" 12-12 ~ .97" 12-13 ~ .05" 12-15 ~ .14"				
Date	Elevation	Evaporation	High	Low
12/11/06	430.60	.02	53	39
12	.66	.00	55	43
13	.67	.00	55	49
14	.68	.00	60	53
15	.70	.02	65	47
16	.69	.05	56	30
17	.69	.03	49	29

Christmas Day Lake Berryessa Historical Statistics (Glory Hole = 440)

Christmas Day	Lake Level	Feet Below Glory Hole	Rain on Christmas	Season Total Rain
12/25/08	413.08'	26.92'	.03"	23.96"
12/25/09	407.12'	32.88'	0"	26.41"
12/25/10	414.87'	25.13'	0.33"	13.47"
12/25/11	428.89'	11.11'	0"	19.56"
12/25/12	428.98'	11.02'	0"	20.65"
12/25/13	414.54'	25.46'	0"	13.69"
12/25/14	406.16'	33.9'	0"	19.56"
12/25/15	396.41'	43.59'	0"	24.57"
12/25/16	403.55'	36.45'	.27"	47.55"
12/25/17	430.03'	9.97'	0"	14.89"
12/25/18	422.9'	17.10'	0"	40.53"
12/25/19	432.32'	7.68'	0"	10.93"
12/25/20	417.93'	22.07'	.02"	9.44"
12/25/21	407.82'	32.18'	0"	18.73"
12/25/22	394.33'	45.67'	.78"	41.86"
12/25/23	421.9'	18.1'	.31"	28.14"
12/22/24	434.6	5.4'		
12/25/24	?	?	?	?
Rain Season is July 1 to June 30.				

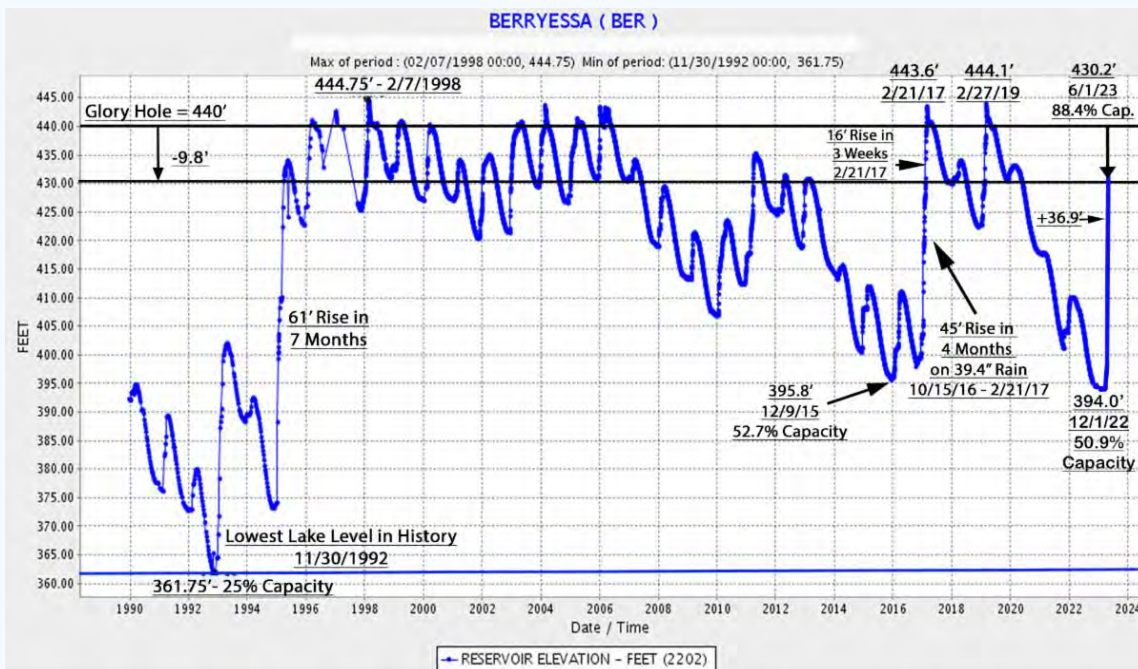
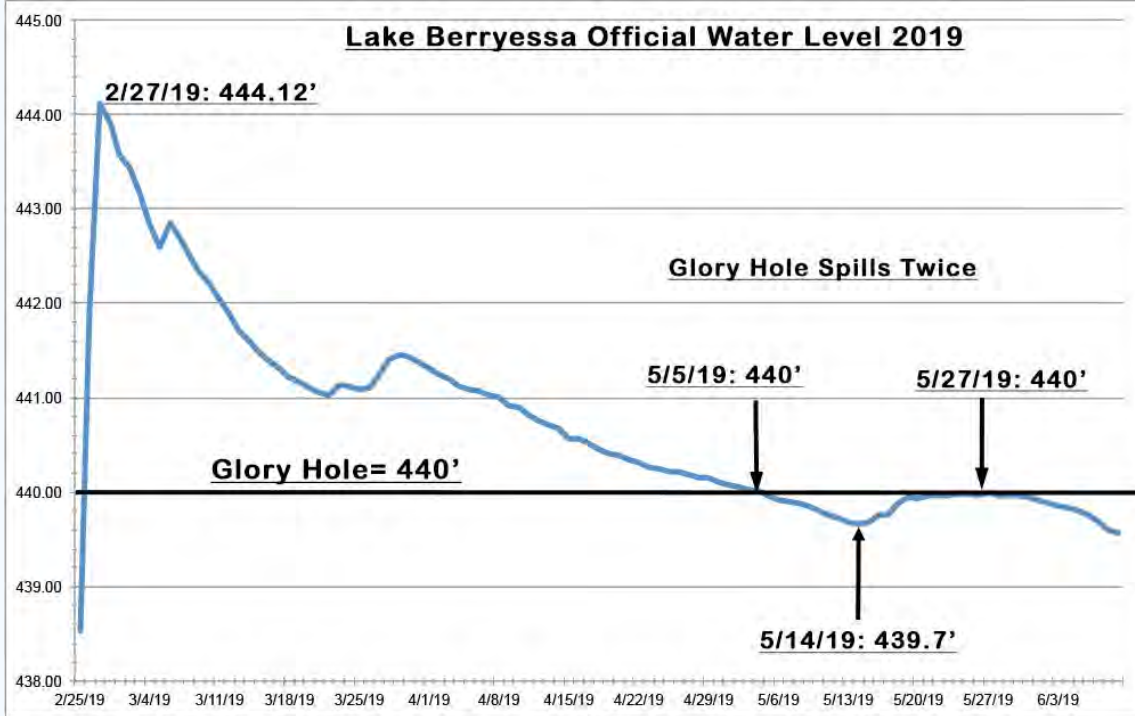
The wettest year was 1983 with 56.94 inches.

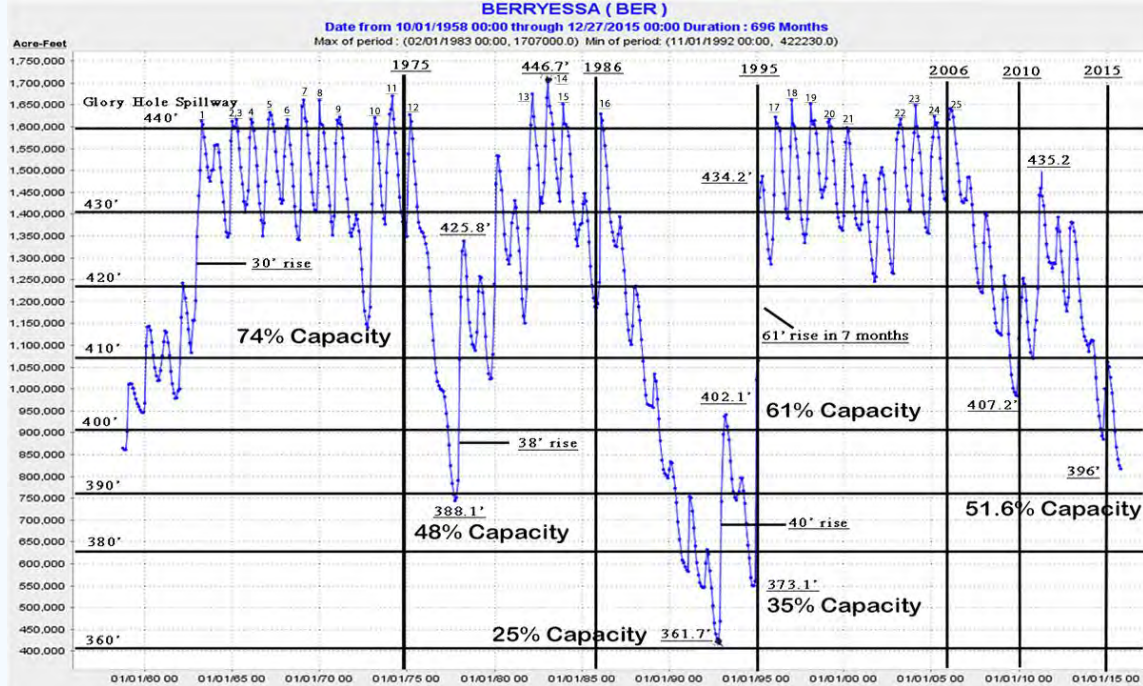
The lake was 6.7 feet over Glory Hole, the highest in history.

The driest year was 1976 with only 7.78 inches total rainfall.

The most precipitation in one month was 21.33 inches in January 1995.

The most precipitation in 24 hours was 5.29 inches on December 31, 2005. If you were around then, this is when the hill collapsed on Monticello Road just past the Wooden Valley Road turnoff, cutting the road to Napa for 2 weeks! We all had to do a lot more driving to reach "civilization".





Coincidentally, here's a reprint of a comprehensive report on Lake Berryessa's Glory Hole I published last Spring when the burning question was whether it would overflow or not. It turned out to be a new record year - the closest the lake has ever been to spilling without officially going over.

Napa Valley Features (December 22, 2024)

Top Stories of 2024 #5: Lake Berryessa — [Glory Hole Watch 2024 \(March 7, 2024.\)](#)

"As 2024 comes to a close, we are dedicating the final two weeks to a countdown of the year's most-read stories. Covering a wide range of local topics, these pieces reflect the varied interests of our readers and offer a moment to look back before turning toward 2025. Join us as we revisit the highlights that shaped the year."

I recently posted a follow-up story you can download at:

[Glory Hole Watch 2025 \(11/24/24\)](#)

2025 is Almost Here and the 25 For 25 Program Continues

My sincere thanks to those of you who have already contributed to the future of the Lake Berryess News. But I must continue my appeal for your support for The Lake Berryessa News 25 for 25 program. You can see the drastic drop in advertisers from the 2006 Christmas tree above, especially after the devastating fires.

This email newsletter is regularly opened by more than 400 people per issue. You are, as I am, also receiving a barrage of similar requests from worthy organizations. But please consider making a donation to your "hyper-local reporting" resource.

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Lake Berryessa: Glory Hole Watch 2024

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Thanks, Peter

Here's a Christmas present from The Lake Berryessa News to my readers - Free downloadable chapters from my book:

Lake Berryessa Technical Manual: The Science, Engineering, History, and Humor of a Major Unnatural Resource:

[The Death of a Valley](#)

[Why Does Lake Berryessa Exist?](#)

[The Lake Berryessa Watershed](#)

[Rainfall and Lake Level History](#)

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[How Deep is Lake Berryessa?](#)

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[Water In, Water Out, But From Where?](#)

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cent

Western Outdoor News (December 17, 2024)

[Northern California Lakes Take Different Approach To Preventing Invasive Golden
Mussels. By Dave Hurley](#)

<https://wonews.com/northern-california-lakes-take-different-approach-to-preventing-invasive-golden-mussels/>

The most recent, and perhaps the potentially the most devastating, invasive species to enter California's waters is the golden mussel, discovered at several sites within the California Delta and in the reservoirs of the California Aqueduct. California boaters already must be inspected at several lakes prior to launching due to the potential spread of

quagga and zebra mussels, but the golden mussel presents a more potent threat as they can establish in waters with considerably lower calcium levels than required by quagga and zebra mussels. Since ocean-going vessels enter the California Delta to offload at the Port of Stockton and Port of Sacramento, invasive species such as the golden mussel are 'easily introduced to California by a ship traveling from an international port, most likely via ballast water release from commercial shipping and introduced to other rivers by overland or aquatic transport on boat hulls or trailers,' according to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

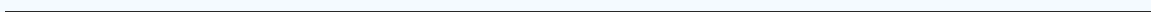
Lake Berryessa was the first domino to fall in northern California due to the potential spread of the invasive golden mussel, and within the past week, Lakes Hennesy, Camanche, and New Melones have followed suit on temporary 30-day launch closures. Lake Don Pedro is monitoring the situation with the possibility of a temporary closure at this body of water. Although the individual agencies responsible for the lakes are responding with some similarity, there are differences in gaining access to the water.

California's lakes are regulated by a plethora of organizations, and like the confusion of who was open with what restrictions during the pandemic, the golden mussel is being met with varying responses. One commonality is that hand-launched boats without electric motors such as kayaks or canoes can be launched with only an inspection. What is unclear if lakes will honor a decontaminated boat with a green tag from another body of water.

Since the potential for the invasive golden mussel is devastating to water systems, these lakes have chosen the path of closing access to allow time to develop protocol. Golden mussels can spread up to 150 miles per year making containment efforts especially challenging. They will clog pipes, filters, and other water systems, causing costly damage to water treatment plants and hydroelectric facilities. Their attachment to surfaces also leads to corrosion and degradation of infrastructure. An adult mussel can filter up to 1 liter of water per day, and 1 square meter of surface can host up to 200,000 mussels. 10 square feet of golden mussels can remove plankton from 1.5 million gallons of water per month, starving fish and damaging fisheries. They feed on plankton, a crucial food source for fish like bass, trout, catfish, and kokanee fry. Despite skepticism from some boaters, golden mussels are a legitimate threat.

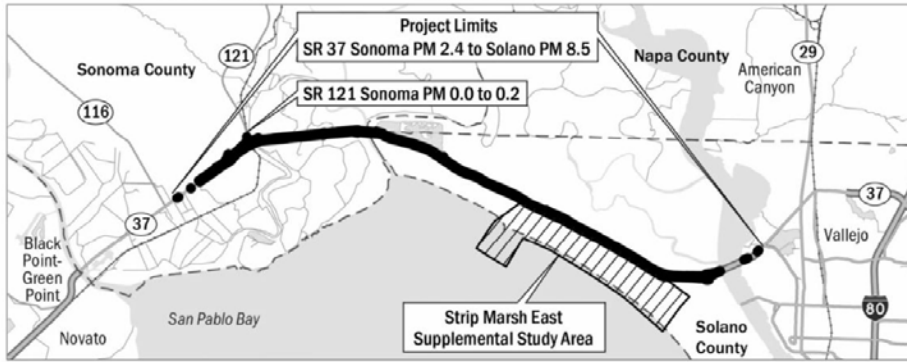
At Lake Berryessa, there are two options for launching: a 30-day quarantine after your boat is sealed with a red tag or going through the hot water decontamination process at Steel Canyon Recreation Area. There are plans to install decontamination stations at all marinas on the lake. A unit costs between \$25,000 and \$35,000, and staff need to be trained for a Level 2 Certification from the Pacific Coast Marine Fisheries.

The restrictions have been met with cynicism and outrage on social media from boaters, but this invader possesses devastating environmental and economic consequences. One thing is clear, human impact is interconnected, and invasive species have become the norm. Only time will tell if these measures can curb the spread of the golden mussel, but regardless of anyone's opinion or inconvenience on the restrictions, cooperation is essential. One thing is for certain, the price tag for launching a boat just went up exponentially.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Availability of Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) and Preliminary 4(f) De Minimis Determination for the State Route 37 Sears Point to Mare Island Improvement Project



WHAT'S BEING PLANNED

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in cooperation with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the North Bay partner agencies of Sonoma County Transportation Authority, Solano Transportation Authority, and Napa Valley Transportation Authority, has proposed improvements to the existing single-lane portion of State Route (SR) 37. The Project and alternatives considered were presented in the SR 37 Sears Point to Mare Island Improvement Project 2023 Final Environmental Impact Report /Environmental Assessment with Finding of No Significant Impact. The Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (Draft SEIR) has been prepared to provide additional information needed to address updated Project changes to the highway and to include the enhancement of degraded marsh habitat at Strip Marsh East, which will be performed as a nature-based solution to minimize SR 37's vulnerability to flooding in the near-term and to minimize project impacts on wetlands, waters, and special-status species habitats.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE

The Draft SEIR and preliminary 4(f) De Minimis Determination can be viewed online at https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-4/d4-popular-links/d4-environmental-docs

Additionally, the document will be made available at the following locations: Novato Library, 1720 Novato Blvd, Novato, California, 94947 Vallejo John F Kennedy Library, 505 Santa Clara St, Vallejo, California, 94590 For printed copies or assistance, email StateRoute37@dot.ca.gov



WHERE YOU COME IN

Share your comments Please submit your comments in writing during the public comment period, from December 18, 2024, to February 3, 2025:

Caltrans District 4 Attn: Skylar Nguyen P.O. Box 23660, MS-8B Oakland, CA 94623-0660

or via email (preferred) to StateRoute37@dot.ca.gov

Attend a meeting One hybrid (in-person and virtual) public meeting will be conducted on Tuesday, January 14th, 2025, from 6:00PM to 7:30PM, at the Vallejo Room, located at the basement level of the John F. Kennedy (JFK) Library at 505 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo, CA 94590. The public meeting will include a presentation providing an overview of the project and the environmental process, followed by a question and answer session. Please visit the Caltrans SR 37 Corridor Projects website at https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-4/d4-projects/d4-37-corridor-projects for information on how to join virtually.

CONTACT: For language translation, use the contact information below. Para la traducción de idiomas, use la siguiente información de contacto. Bart Ney, Caltrans District 4, (510) 715-7212 or StateRoute37@dot.ca.gov



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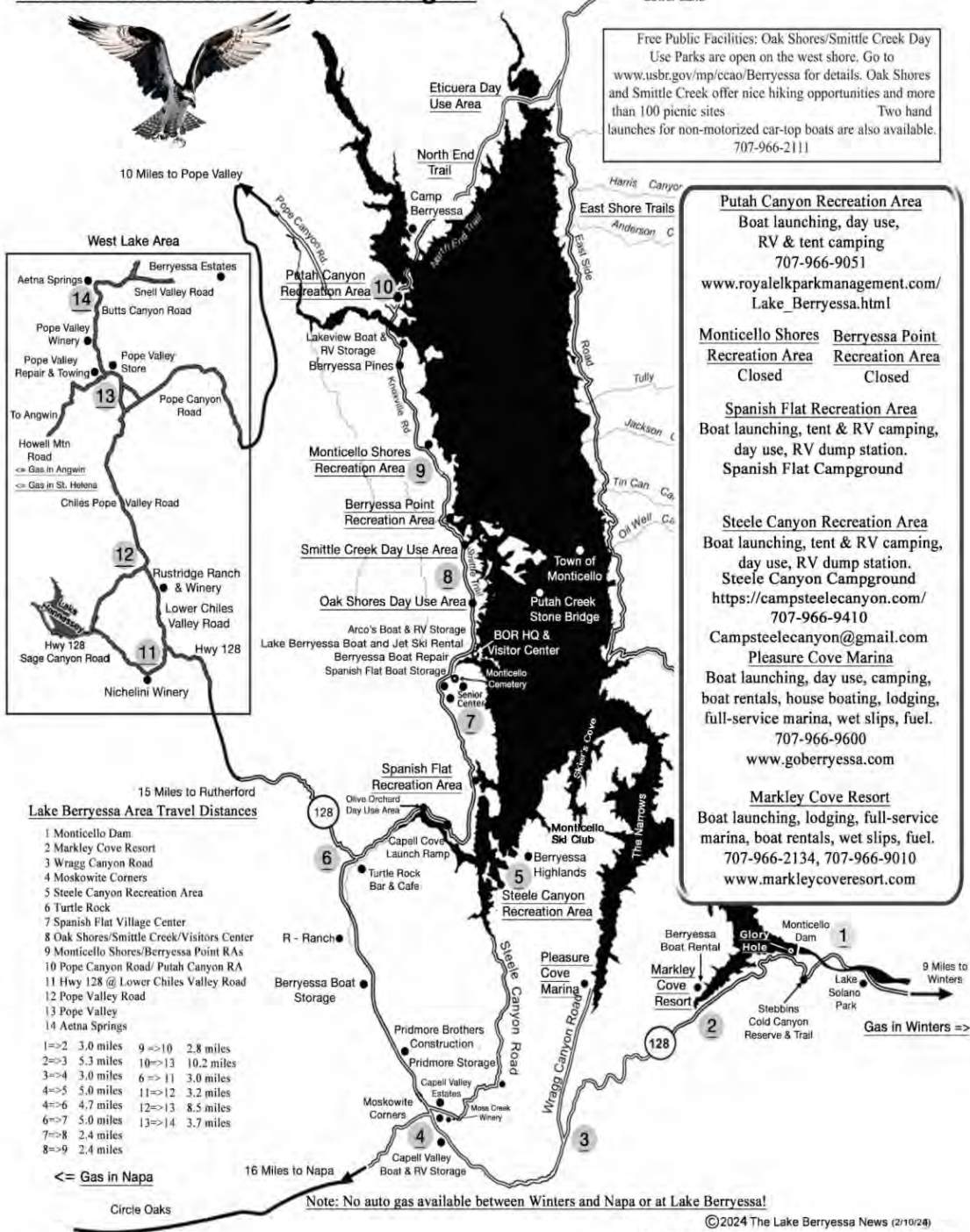
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Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region

To BLM Knoxville OHV & Recreation Area
34 Miles to Lower Lake



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