

## **Mendocino Great Outdoors**

*Outdoor activities abound in Mendocino County*

### **Lake Mendocino, Ukiah**

A first stop when you visit Lake Mendocino should be the Visitor Center at the Pomo Recreation Area. A unique experience awaits you as you explore one of the few visitor centers modeled after an Indian roundhouse. It is operated jointly by the Corps of Engineers and Native Americans. A variety of programs and visitor information is offered here with exhibits on Pomo Indian culture, the Coyote Valley and Corps of Engineers. Hours vary seasonally. Lake Mendocino offers a challenging and rewarding fishing experience - striped bass, largemouth and small mouth bass, crappie, bluegill and three varieties of catfish provide plenty of action. Boat rentals are available. Picnicking, swimming and hiking are just some of the activities available at five developed recreation areas. There are more than 100 picnic sites, 10 group picnic shelters with large barbecue pits, exercise courses, playgrounds, scenic hiking trails, a horse staging area, and a visitor center. The Pomo Recreation Area offers a protected swimming beach. A 689-acre area has been set aside to provide protected habitat for local wildlife species. Park visitors often observe blacktail deer, wild turkey, gray fox, red-tailed hawk, osprey and valley quail.

### **Kayaking along the Mendocino Coast, Ft. Bragg**

Noyo River Estuary Tour, offered by Noyo Pacific Outfitters - This is a peaceful, self-guided trip on quiet water. The two to three hour trip begins at the Noyo-Pacific Dock in stable, dry sit-inside kayaks. These trips may be scheduled to take advantage of favorable tidal currents. Birds that are commonly seen include Herons, Osprey, Kingfisher, Cormorants, Mergansers, Grebes, Mallards and Woodpeckers. In addition to Seals and Sea Lions, river otters, turtles and deer and sometimes seen. Spray skirts can be provided to avoid the occasional drips or splashes. There is no need to put on a wetsuit and you can expect to remain reasonably dry. No previous experience is required and all equipment is provided. This trip is very easy and people are encouraged to do it without a guide. Guided Ocean Kayak Experience is available as well.

### **Cow Mountain Recreation Area, Ukiah**

Named for the longhorn cattle that once roamed wild, the 60,000 acre Cow Mountain Recreation Area offers a variety of recreational opportunities. The terrain is rugged, consisting mostly of steep, chaparral-covered slopes with scattered stands of fir, pine and oak. Elevations range from 800 to 4,000 feet. The area offers beautiful views of Ukiah and Clear Lake, over 31 miles of stream, 13 wildlife reservoirs, and habitat for blacktail deer, bear, wild turkey, and other upland species.

North Cow Mountain Recreation Area is managed for primarily non-motorized activities, such as hunting, hiking, camping, horseback riding, and mountain bicycling. There is [one developed campground](#), a designated rifle range and a 17 mile network of foot trails beckoning to the adventurous spirit. Motorized vehicles are permitted only on main road, and off-highway vehicles are prohibited.

South Cow Mountain OHV Recreation Area emphasizes off-highway vehicle use. Over 120 miles of vehicle trails interweave 23,000 acres, and offer challenges to motorcycle, all-terrain vehicle, and four-wheel drive enthusiasts alike. Non-motorized recreation is also welcome. There are [two developed campgrounds](#) and two OHV staging areas to help make your visit enjoyable. The South Cow Mountain area is subject to closure during periods of wet weather.