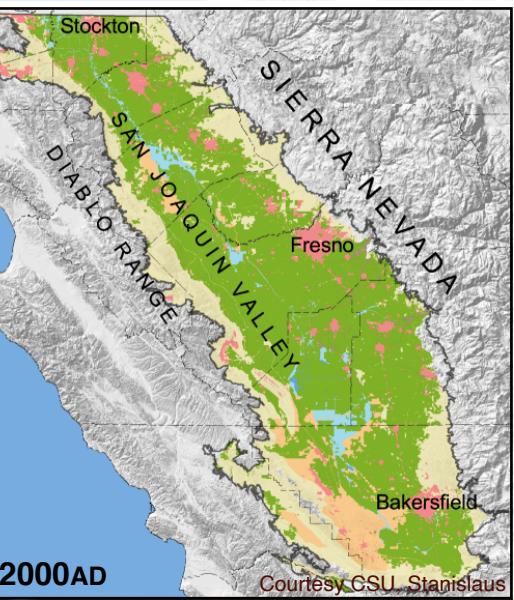
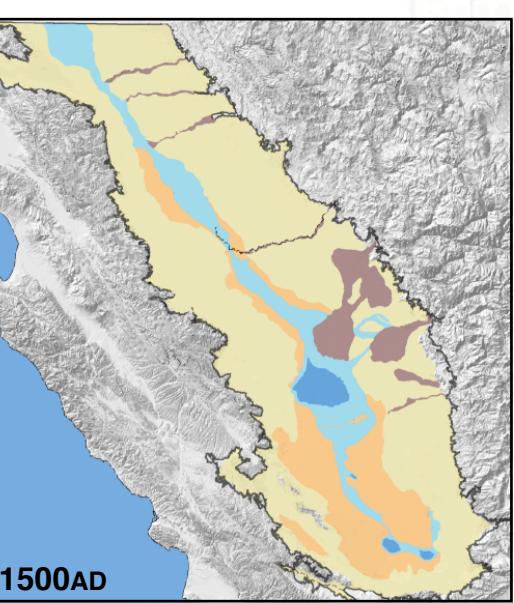


## 500 YEARS OF RECENT CHANGE



## KINGS RIVER MAMMALS

**1500AD**  
mule deer  
giant kangaroo rat  
prong-horned antelope

**2000AD**  
mule deer  
giant kangaroo rat  
possum  
raccoon  
ground squirrel  
tule elk  
grizzly bear  
black bear  
wolf  
mountain lion  
beaver  
badger

**HISTORIC POOL'S FERRY**  
GRAND ISLAND

## KINGS RIVER FISHES

**1500AD**  
salmon  
golden trout  
white sturgeon  
river lamprey eel  
suckers

**2000AD**  
bass  
rainbow trout  
crappie  
catfish  
carp

## KINGS RIVER REPTILES

Western Diamondback rattlesnake  
Garter snake  
California King snake  
Gopher snake  
Western Blue Belly lizard  
Side Sploch lizard  
Southwestern pond turtle

## KINGS RIVER AMPHIBIANS

Leopard tree frog  
Kings River slender salamander



**PLEASE —  
DO NOT TRESPASS  
on  
PRIVATE PROPERTY**



## REEDLEY BEACH & CRICKET HOLLOW

**SMITH FERRY PARK**

**Olson Avenue**

**POWER BOATS BETWEEN OLSON AVE & UPSTREAM**

10 MPH Max Speed  
5 MPH within 200' of a kayak or raft

**POWER BOATS ONLY BETWEEN OLSON AVE & KINGSBURG**

40 MPH Max Speed Fresno County  
30 MPH Max Speed Tulare County

5 MPH within 100' of a swimmer  
5 MPH within 200' of a boat launch

5 MPH Sunset to Sunrise

Prior to European discovery the San Joaquin Valley was a fertile, grassy plain where the now endangered giant kangaroo rat spread native shrub, tree and grass seeds throughout the area.

## BOATING COURTESY

Slower, less maneuverable craft, always have the right-of-way.

### CROSSING SITUATIONS

**GIVE-WAY VESSEL**  
— give way —  
1 short blast

**STAND-ON VESSEL**  
hold course & speed —  
1 short blast

### MEETING HEAD-ON OR NEARLY SO SITUATIONS

1 short blast  
1 short blast

Vessels usually pass port side to port side.



Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover. —Mark Twain

## ARCHAEOLOGIC PERIODS

**Paleo-Indian: 13,000 – 11,000BC.** The first people known in the San Joaquin Valley used Clovis points for killing now-extinct megafauna like camels, giant ground sloths, saber-tooth cats, and the American mastodon.

Paleo-Indians probably lived in small nuclear groups, foraging on game, fishes, and a variety of floral seeds. They apparently traveled widely throughout the valley, hunting and trading with other groups. Because of climate changes that brought drier conditions, it's thought their hunting areas moved upscale, into forests above the valley.

**Archaic 11,000 – 5,500BC.** The scarcity of megafauna was accompanied by increasing climatic aridity. Archaic people adapted to specialized ecological niches like grasslands or mountain areas of oak, and the higher ponderosa pines. These hunter-gatherer groups used smaller projectile points and developed the atlatl (spear thrower).



**Sierran 5000 B.C. – 1500AD.** The Sierran Period comes in Early, Middle, and Late stages. The bow and arrow were developed and widely used, and people around the Kings turned from hunter-gatherers to more sedentary villagers by eating stored nuts, berries and tubers supplied by purposeful agricultural pursuits. The growing use of seeds and nuts is known through the monos, metates and milling stones even today discovered along the river.

**Protohistoric 1500 – 1772AD.** From the east, Paiute culture groups may have crossed the Sierra and settled in the western foothills. Artifacts from this period include trade items like clamshell discs, steatite beads, side-notched arrow points, and coiled baskets.

**That changed dramatically and forever in 1772** when Spanish Conquistadores and Franciscan monks arrived. Among other cultural influences, they introduced deadly pathogens to Native American cultures. Malaria, smallpox and syphilis caused a 15% decline in the regional population, or an estimated 300,000 deaths.

Three-hundred years later the California Gold Rush resulted in the deaths of 80% of local Native Americans through the loss of foodstuffs, virulent and deadly disease, and the social and physical disruption placed on them, everything unaccounted for by the invading white culture.

The **Yokuts People** were native to Central California and consisted of some 60 separate tribes which spoke the same language. One of these groups, the **Choinumni**, lived by the river near today's park of the same name.

Game was secured by inventive methods. Hundreds of small fish were harvested at once with a V-shaped milkweed string net about three feet in diameter and twenty feet long. Facing upstream, the trap was placed below a small rapid. Fish found their way into it when the Indians 'swept' the river with tree limbs. Larger fish like trout were scooped up with a basket, or speared with a double-barbed bone gig attached to a milkweed-woven line.

Dens of ground squirrels were asphyxiated by covering most of their escape routes with rocks. Into the few remaining open holes dry brush would be stuffed, ignited, and then covered over. After an hour or two the holes would be opened and the dead squirrels removed.

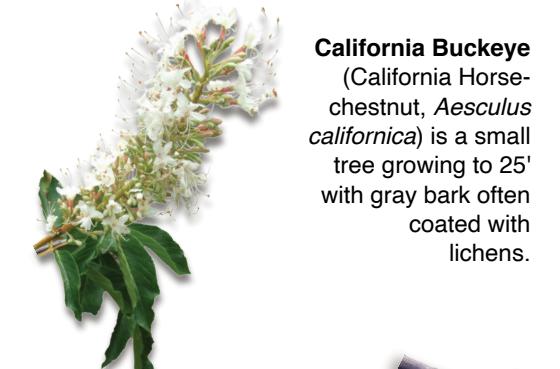
Antelope, elk and deer were taken with bows and arrows. The bow, held diagonally and fired from a kneeling position, was not strong enough to kill game outright. Animals were tracked until dying, and butchered where they fell.

Spring runoff was a special time for the Choinumni. In long rafts lashed from tule rushes, they floated downstream to Tulare Lake on a 10 to 12 day journey to join other tribes snaring pigeons and catching and smoking salmon. Most of the return trip was made on foot, long after the spring runoff had passed.

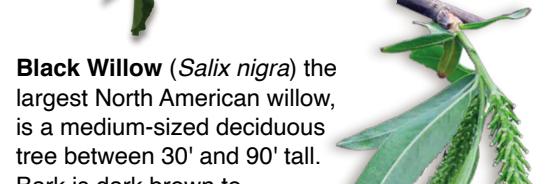
The Choinumni home was a conically shaped wicker hut used primarily for sleeping. They lived outside and were talented basket makers, doing much of their cooking in braided watertight containers by dropping-in hot rocks.

Today, the number of surviving Choinumni is less than 100 souls in Kings River country.

## COMMON RIPARIAN TREES



**California Buckeye**  
(California Horse-chestnut, *Aesculus californica*) is a small tree growing to 25' with gray bark often coated with lichens.



**Black Willow** (*Salix nigra*) the largest North American willow, is a medium-sized deciduous tree between 30' and 90' tall. Bark is dark brown to blackish.



**Arroyo Willow** (*Salix lasiolepis*) is an erect, branching shrub or small tree growing to 30' with smooth bark and yellow to dark brown twigs.



**Fremont Cottonwood**  
(Alamo cottonwood, *Populus fremontii*) is a large tree 40' to 115' tall with a wide crown and trunk 4' or greater in diameter.



**Blue Oak**  
(Mountain Oak or Iron Oak, *Quercus douglasii*) is endemic to California and commonly found in the foothills around the Central Valley. Grows to 45'-75'.



**Valley Oak** (*Quercus lobata*) is the largest deciduous North American oak, endemic to California. Can be 600 years old and grow to 90'. Its thick, ridged bark is reminiscent of alligator hide.



**Interior Live Oak**  
(Sierra Live Oak, *Quercus wislizenii*) is a large evergreen shrub oak up to 65' tall.



**Sycamore** (California sycamore, Western sycamore, *Platanus racemosa*) grows to 100' with a trunk diameter of up to 3'.



**Parrot feather**  
(*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) Grows abundantly, shades out natural algae and clogs irrigation canals. Resistant to herbicides. Cutting and chopping can facilitate the plant's spread.



**Giant Cane**  
(*Arundo*, Spanish cane, Wild cane, *Arundo donax*) Looks like bamboo. Can grow up to 30' and flowers in late summer. One of earth's most quickly growing plants.

## KINGS RIVER Recreation Guide

### Pine Flat Dam To Kingsburg, CA

**OVER**

**EMERGENCY DIAL 911**

**H**

**See other side for Reedley Riverwalk & Rail-Trail**

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5 MPH Sunset to Sunrise

**FERRY ANGLE**

**Upstream Ferry**

By turning your boat or inner tube 45° (or more) upstream to the current, and rowing (or paddling) backward with your oars or arms, you can ferry slowly across the river and avoid deadly hazards.

YOU are facing left, rowing or paddling backward.

**RIVER DIRECTION**

**BOAT DIRECTION**

**Downstream Ferry**

By turning your watercraft 45° (or more) downstream to the current, and rowing (or paddling) forward, you can move across the river with remarkable speed.

YOU are facing right, rowing or paddling forward.

**RIVER DIRECTION**

**BOAT DIRECTION**

**KINGS RIVER HEADWATERS**

## KINGS RIVER

### Recreation Guide

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### KINGS RIVER CONSERVANCY

KRC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation interested in promoting the health and safety of the Kings River and the people who enjoy its many natural attributes: fishermen, river runners, hikers, bicyclists, and others who love the out-of-doors.

We undertake a wide range of activities along the river corridor, from cleaning-up put-ins and take-outs to sponsoring educational events on the area's history, flora and fauna. We enjoy float trips, picnics and BBQs, and meeting and working with individuals and groups who share our appreciation of the river corridor and the activities it offers.

Please join us on one of our river outings, come to a board meeting or BBQ (or both), contribute to our efforts through a monetary donation, or in one of our many volunteer projects along the river.

### KRC MISSION STATEMENT

To foster public involvement by informing and emphasizing environmentally friendly values; to enhance and facilitate recreational access and egress; to promote safe river recreation standards; to preserve agricultural lands; and to encourage sustainable conservation practices along the Kings River between Pine Flat Dam and Kingsburg.

### KingsRiverConservancy.Org

Designed, written and illustrated by Shane Murphy with John Gray.

Background maps via ESRI.

ISBN 0-9703148-8-4



### Access Points

#### Maps

#### Photos

#### Diagrams

### Kings River Conservancy

Box 1550

Reedley, CA 93654

(559) 787-9500

[KingsRiverConservancy.Org](http://KingsRiverConservancy.Org)

### COMMON AVIAN SPECIES

HISTORICAL YEAR-ROUND RESIDENTS STILL NESTING IN THE KINGS RIVER AREA

Great Blue Heron

Great Egret

Mallard

Ring-necked Pheasant

Wild Turkey

California Quail

Kildeer

Rock Dove

Mourning Dove

Barn Owl

Anna's Hummingbird

Nuttall's Woodpecker

Western Scrub-jay

Yellow warbler

American Crow

Horned Lark