The Sacramento River Recreation and Public Access Guide
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Abstract
The Sacramento River Recreation and Public Access Guide (www.sacramentoriver.org) is a spatially based inventory of recreational opportunities on publicly owned lands along California's major river. Properties are linked to the site database. Each site lists agency ownership, contacts, site opportunities and includes links to aerial photography. The search engine can query on outdoor activities or facilities available. SacRecWeb also contains articles of interest on the Sacramento River, a glossary of river terms and agency acronyms, a Sacramento River Atlas running ArcIMS, aerial photography and a river photo gallery. It would be easy to apply SacRecWeb's map and data base technology to any waterway, watershed, or stream in California.

Paper
The Geographical Information Center (GIC) received funding in 2002 from the California Department of Water Resources-Northern District office in Red Bluff to build a guide for recreation and public access on the Sacramento River. The concept was to build a spatially based Website that highlighted all publicly accessible parcels located along the river between the Northern California cities of Colusa and Red Bluff. A large percentage of river property (approximately 55%) is publicly owned land but much of the area is relatively unknown and unused by the public.
The Sacramento River Recreation and Public Access Guide (SacRecWeb) now includes almost the entire river. SacRecWeb uses maps linked to an SQL database. Each site has ownership and location information, agency contacts, and lists site facilities. We are adding ground photography to each site and a spatial link to a color aerial mosaic of the river. A browser can search sites between selected river miles for available launching ramps, sites with rest rooms, hunting and fishing areas, i.e., over 25 different criteria.

The GIC hired a web service to help design the initial Website. We wanted a straightforward site that was painless to administer and easy to use. Our goal was to show where public land is accessible, using maps but also including a database listing facilities and amenities available at each site.

The site can be found at www.sacramentoriver.org. It is a work in progress but we are very excited about the results thus far. We have been getting positive input and continue to update information. The San Francisco Chronicle gave the site a full page article in its Thursday, Dec. 16, 2004 Outdoor section.

While it took a lot of work to compile all of the information into the guide, it is most impressive to see the amount of land being restored and set aside for future generations to enjoy. This is land in the river floodplain that has traditionally caused society lots of problems.

In order to handle the over 300 river miles, the river was divided into three regional sections. Each regional section has a series of map extents where public parcels are shaded and named.
Access sites are clickable and bring up a site page with a locator and description, along with ownership details, an access description, agency links, activities and facilities available (searchable), and a direct link to the site location on a river aerial mosaic. Site pictures and description boxes become active as information is added.

In addition to access information, the guide contains an Issues and Education section listing news and educational articles on the Sacramento River by searchable category. Articles are of public interest and are exclusive to the river and its geography. Many are linked to Web sites. We have included a glossary of river terms and agency acronyms.

One of the most exciting parts of the guide is the Sacramento River Atlas. The atlas includes a Sacramento River mosaic as its base and a series of GIS layers running on ArcIMS. Access sites are shaded according to characteristics (public, public-no access, and private w/access) and each site is linked back to the database file. Many thematic layers (geology, riparian vegetation, etc) can be queried. Many have database information including classification, area and perimeter statistics. Layers have clickable, user-friendly folders which display legend information. Refresh is automatic.
Finally, we have also built-in a *Photo Gallery* which includes photography of the river taken by Geoff Fricker, a well-known local photographer and others. Geoff’s award winning Sacramento River photographs are found in many California museums including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art collection. The gallery is nature and river oriented and images can be downloaded.

The GIC expanded the site in three phases. Additional funding came from CalFed, the Great Valley Center, the Cantara Trustee Council (through the California Department of Fish and Game), the Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum, and the California Department of Boating and Waterways.

Our final Upper Sacramento River-Cantara section (Lake Shasta to Lake Siskiyou) was recently uploaded and is awaiting comment. Because the guide is online, the GIC has been able to take advantage of agency input and the public for commentary.

Finally, the guide is a continual work in progress as we search for a permanent source of funding.

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**References**


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