

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE LAKE PILLSBURY AREA, CALIFORNIA

DESCRIPTION: Lake Pillsbury is a popular recreation area located in Lake County in northwestern California. The lake is situated within *Mendocino National Forest*, deep in the coastal mountains. It is part of the Eel River drainage. Elevations at the lake are less than 2,000 feet above sea level, and Hull Mountain rises some 6,873 feet in elevation just north of the lake. Some six miles to the east is the *Snow Mountain Wilderness*. The lake is probably the most popular destination in the Forest. Potter Valley is the nearest community, some ten miles down the Eel River.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:44	10:42	11:56	13:13	14:20	14:55	14:40	13:44	12:30	11:13	10:04	9:27
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:23	6:44	7:26	9:14	10:27	12:09	12:32	11:47	10:01	8:34	6:31	4:11
AREA OF BLUE SKY	30%	40%	40%	47%	55%	69%	79%	78%	72%	63%	46%	31%
LOW FOR MONTH	14°	19°	22°	24°	29°	36°	42°	40°	34°	26°	20°	15°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	31°	34°	35°	37°	41°	46°	50°	49°	46°	40°	35°	31°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	53°	57°	60°	67°	74°	82°	90°	89°	85°	74°	60°	52°
HIGH FOR MONTH	67°	71°	76°	83°	94°	101°	106°	104°	102°	92°	76°	67°
FROSTY MORNINGS	57%	37%	24%	9%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	30%	55%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	1%	11%	25%	57%	53%	40%	10%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	63%	54%	46%	44%	38%	32%	27%	27%	30%	37%	54%	64%
DRY DAYS	56%	55%	59%	76%	83%	93%	99%	97%	93%	83%	62%	59%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	63%	65%	70%	84%	91%	97%	99%	98%	97%	88%	72%	66%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	1.62	1.37	1.02	0.47	0.25	0.07	0.01	0.04	0.13	0.44	1.07	1.41
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	33%	23%	14%	6%	2%	1%	1%	4%	6%	13%	31%	34%

CLIMATE: Bright sunshine is likely on 69% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 44% in December, to a high of 86% in sunny July and August. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 12° at some clear and calm winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 107° on some equally clear and windless summer afternoon. Clear skies and calm airs tend to make the high temperatures higher and the low ones lower. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be up to 4° cooler than actual ones, due to the relatively low afternoon humidity. Table values are for the lakeshore elevations. Expect temperatures to drop as you go up into the mountains, and precipitation to increase a bit. Winds tend to blow down the slopes and valleys at night, and up the slopes and valleys during the daylight hours. Strong regional winds or passing storm systems can easily override both of these local winds. Elevation and—to a lesser degree—slope orientation rule local climates. You can expect daytime temperatures to drop an average of 1°F for each 300'-increase in elevation—and *vice versa* going downhill. As in all mountains, the direction the slope is facing makes a difference in how much sunshine and how much rain the slope gets, and therefore in its temperature and humidity.