Bass Lake has star quality. A classically pretty mountain lake, ringed by tall sugar and ponderosa pines, it served as Technicolor backdrop to the beautiful B-West classic, "Jezebel" in the '40s. From Oakhurst, take State 41 north to the Bass Lake turnoff (County Rd. 222) and drive about 4 miles to the lake. The lake is at its best between Memorial Day and Labor Day—after that, water levels drop. It's managed by California Land Management; pick up a map or parking pass ($5 at Bass Lake office [139/352-3419] on County Rd. 222 on the south shore. Parking passes are required for developed picnic areas. Area code is 259 unless noted.

**LAKE FUN: BOAT RENTALS.**

The Bass Lake Water Sports and Marina (642-3200) is the lake's only full-service marina, with rentals, docks, ramps, and supplies. Boat rentals are also available at Miller's Landing Resort (642-3633) and the Forks Resort (642-3737). Yosemite. Try for any of 15 species, including kokanee salmon and rainbow trout. A California fishing license is required. **SWIMMING.** The two main swim beaches (no boats allowed) are Falls Beach Picnic Area and Recreation Point; there are no lifeguards.

**DINING.** Ducey's Dining Room. Restaurant is the best around in Ducey's on the Lake; see "Lodging," with favorites like salmon Wellington and rack of lamb, and tables with water views.

**Lodging.** Bass Lake Lodge. This luxurious lodge was inspired in part by Yosemite's Ahwahnee Hotel. It's right on the shore, with a boat dock offering small boats for guests. Six rooms from $259. 54300 North Shore Rd.; 642-2360. Ducey's on the Lake. Modern and plush. Ducey's has 20 lake-view suites; the lobby is a pine-paneled retreat to the mountains, with deer heads and Native American rugs on the walls. From $219. 54255 Marina Dr., Bass Lake; (800) 350-7463 or www.basslake.com.

**Pines Resort and Conference Center at Bass Lake.** Managed with Ducey's, the Pines is the largest resort on the lake; it offers over 100 condominiums, 54422 North Shore Rd. at the Pines Village; (800) 350-7463 or www.basslake.com.

**Camping.** There are 250 sites at four campgrounds around the lake. Spring Cove, close to a great beach, is a favorite. 5576 reservations required. (877) 444-8777.

Go fast, go slow: Bass Lake fun ranges from waterskiing to easy canoeing.

**BASS LAKE TRAVEL PLANNER**