

Reservoir

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Latin, a long-time visitor of the lake who had landed five trout by noon.

Another man, Wally Corroll from Live Oak, said fishing at Loch Lomond is like "spending time in the High Sierra. You wouldn't think you were so close to a metropolitan area."

In fact, the reservoir wouldn't be there if it wasn't for the metropolitan area that depends on it.

Loch Lomond gives up an average of 800 million gallons of water a year to residents of Santa Cruz and Live Oak.

The Santa Cruz Water Department draws 50 percent of its annual 4 billion to 4.5 billion gallons of water from the San Lorenzo River, 25 percent from streams along the North Coast and 25 percent from Loch Lomond.

If the late spring rains fail to materialize, the stream sources may fail, causing the city to rely instead on the reservoir, said Toby Goddard, a water conservation manager with the city's water department.

To date, Loch Lomond has had 37.7

inches of rain, slightly more than the 37-inch season-to-date average. Last year, 34.5 inches fell during the entire season, far below the 49-inch annual average.

"The bottom line is that we did get good rainfall and Loch Lomond is full. We should be adequate to meet water delivery, but we expect to see less natural flow in the steams," Goddard said.

It's possible that by the time Loch Lomond closes in mid-September, the water line may be low enough to make next year's rainfall vital to replenish the city's water sources, said Bill Kocher, director of the Santa Cruz Water Department.

But forecaster Steve Anderson of the National Weather Service office in Monterey said we can expect more rain before the season ends July 1.

Meanwhile fishermen, birders and anyone looking to relax at Loch Lomond, can visit the park for \$1 if you come by foot, \$4 if you come by car and \$5 if you bring a trailered boat. Gas-powered motors and swimming are not allowed.

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