

Auburn State Recreation Area
General Plan/Interim Resource Management Plan

Stakeholder Focus Group Meetings

April 3, 5, 6; May 4 and June 14, 2006

Between April and June of 2006, members of the Planning Team for the Auburn SRA General Plan/Interim Resource Management Plan met with key project stakeholders in five, two-hour focused meetings. The goal of the meetings was to engage representatives of various user and interest groups in focused discussions prior to the initiation of the first public workshop in June. Participants were asked to identify what they were passionate about with regards to Auburn SRA. They were also asked to describe the special values or niche that Auburn SRA holds for them as a recreation and natural resource within the region. Lastly participants were asked to identify issues, challenges or opportunities they believe the GP/IRMP needs to address.

In general meeting participants identified an intense sense of place when asked about the Park. Most were interested in maintaining the unique natural setting of the park and most of its recreational opportunities. Others used the words history and legacy to describe their connection to the park. They recognized an urgent need to plan for a future that would almost certainly mean increased park use. They also recognized the need to work with other park user groups in an organized focused collaboration. Communication between user groups, better signage, and organized efforts to distribute users to recreational opportunities in other parts of the park were also identified as much needed improvements. Facilities maintenance and security were noted as important issues that need to be discussed during the planning process.

Monday, April 3, 2006

Special Values, Niche, Passion

- Safe trails
- Beauty
- Big deep canyons
- Keeping it wild
- Wildlife
- Incredible enclave -- transports us back in time
- Multiple use recreation
- Exploration
- Adventure of looking for gold
- History is powerful – a special unique value of the park -- significant
- Grandeur of canyon
- Gold rush historic trail
- Protecting historic integrity of entire trail

- Chance to work on trails---satisfying
- Chance to add something to the public
- Vision of interagency cooperation and sharing
- Retain semi-primitive
- Don't overly develop
- Peaceful experience -- natural and quiet
- So accessible to urban
- Multiple use
- See Nature
- Natural quiet and nature
- Unique canyons and rivers
- Feeling of wilderness close to home

Issues, Problems, Concerns

- New people moving into area with new values
- Need to take a regional look
- Number of uses is changing and increasing
- No legal rock climbing
- Pressure for hang gliding
- Fire safety
- Signage on trail -- Signage is tremendously important -- mileage markers, interpretive signs
- Interpretation and interpretive loop trails
- Need to show more details on maps, distances, difficulty
- Enforcement is vital
- Need way to report violations
- Not enough money
- Perhaps consider foundation
- Rules and regulations on dredging need to be clearer - what you can or can not do
- Access---where can people get out of there boats
- Need signage, maps, enforcement, and toilets
- Set up foundation and endowment
- Need single purpose trails
- Mountain bike conflict with horse is serious
- Placer County may be looking for a mountain bike area
- How can we generate money?
- Need good goals and values from which actions flow
- Reconsider Mammoth Bar and motorized recreation -- does motorized recreation belong in this SRA?
- Don't over engineer trails
- Need some separation of user groups
- Need set of good goals and values-implementation will flow from this process
- A few shorter trails, connecting trails and loops

- Need way to report incidences
- Structure of funding
- Need to deal with in-holdings
- Property encroachment
- Maintenance of trails more than new trails
- Keep trails open
- Vandalism
- Sell maps to raise money
- Need guidelines for general plan implementation
- Staging areas-where and improve them
- Loose dogs are a problem
- Motorcycles on trails-problem
- Need group talk and work with management-together help guide management
- Navigable water-who owns right to use water and land through private property
- Clarify public conception that State Parks has a policy to provide only multi-use trails

Wednesday, April 5

Motivation for being at meeting, Passion for the area

- Beauty
- Want to protect and preserve
- Unique valuable open space
- Only Sierra Nevada foothill-river-canyon setting -- other watersheds have dam and development
- Unique recreation potential
- Scale of Auburn SRA
- Opportunities are fantastic
- Treat canyon with extreme care
- Need more rugged wilderness
- Wants to collaborate on extension of American River Parkway
- The outdoors can touch families
- Extensive hiking
- Management on heavily used areas
- 90% of use on 10% of area
- Family uses area for many activities
- Unique recreation setting
- Wants equitable use
- Need for extreme care in use and development
- Gets kids off computers and into nature
- Quality area
- Stunning

- Miracle that it is still here and natural
- Quality of scenic experience

Special Values, Niche

- Convenience
- Scenic area in backyard
- Provides family inspiration/togetherness
- We have a sense of ownership/pride
- Leave something for future generation
- You can feel and see the great outdoors
- Pristine nature of canyon
- Provides a healthy lifestyle
- Good escape and stress relieve
- Worried about the scenic quality
- Large contiguous area – special opportunity -- fluke that it is here
- Power of river—awesome inspiring
- Wildlife -- lots of wildlife, in the wild
- Mosaic communities of plants on different slopes, aspects, and elevations
- Migration route for birds
- Diversity of plant communities
- Rich diversity
- Representative of ecosystem in this elevation zone
- Scenic area in back yard
- Prime migratory route for birds
- Amazing mosaic of plants and animals
- Year-round area
- Rugged area-more rugged than others

Issues, Problems, and Opportunities

- Funding
- Management attention
- Equity of management
- Respect for all activities
- Hikers in Mammoth Bar
- Repair track
- Expand opportunities
- Confluence is dirty by end of summer
- Parking and vehicle safety is huge
- Enforcement and surveillance is needed
- Lower Clementine road too narrow
- Upper Clementine road too dusty—worse than OHV track
- OHV roads under too much attention---seems unfair
- Better trail maps
- Mammoth Bar is very well managed -- manage rest of SRA like OHV area

- Trail maintenance is lagging
- Streamline process for trail maintenance
- Volunteers dedicated to help
- Take pictures of bad trails
- More interpretation and public education
- More volunteers needed
- Original trails not well designed
- Need trail signage with name, miles, direction, and difficulty
- Favors some new trails to connect others
- Supports County proposed trail from confluence to ponderosa
- Consider ADA/family trail status for Mt. Quarry Trail
- Supports separation of some uses
- Some new trails but be strategic
- Funding is a huge issue
- Restore dam site
- Supports pedestrian bridge need dam site
- Get Placer County more involved with roads
- Need trail management plan
- Need in-holding acquisition strategy
- Need ridgeline protection strategy
- Concerned about view-shed
- Public education is needed to increase support
- More interpretive trails
- Need funding and more rangers
- Problem at Ponderosa crossing with crime, vandalism, and squatters
- Not everything should be accessible
- Consider trailhead hosts and security booth
- Talk about economic impact of recreation to ASRA
- No Dam!
- Counties need to maintain roads and coordinate with State Parks, and have standard operating procedures to avoid environmental damage from building and maintenance of roads
- Manage confluence better
- Equitable recreation use
- Manage recreation with environment
- Safety-presence, surveillance, enforcement
- Quality of recreation experience is at risk with home development
- Rock climbing opportunity
- Caving-old mine has great potential for public tours
- Archery range-other side of Forest Hill Bridge?
- Define the economic value of the SRA to local area communities and county.
- Manage hunters in designated areas away from other users
- Stigma OHV not environmentally friendly-all users have environment impact
- Streamline process to use staff and volunteers for trail maintenance

- Training to maintain trails
- Need more volunteers
- Need coordinated friends of the park group
- Need to know who to contact
- Communication between Auburn, Folsom, and Forest Service needed, including trails tied together
- Need inventory done-archeology, geology
- Dedicated funding stream needed for trails
- Rate trails, sign and use standard color and symbol ratings for trails
- Outlaws on trails
- Great potential for trail at confluence old railroad grade -- Mtn. Quarry Railroad-family handicapped trail, also Quarry Trail for handicapped access and family use
- Pioneer Express trail-connect trails-Placer County trail?
- Educate people!
- Protect view-shed – in-holdings -- acquisition strategy
- Rangers understaffed
- Problem with squatters
- Trash problem
- Universal symbols needed and multi lingual signing and info.
- Bring County into the planning process
- Road and parking safety issues
- Alternative transportation

Thursday, April 6th

Motivation to be at meeting, Passion for area

- Want my kids to have a chance to experience this
- A chance to experience something from 100 years ago
- Personal enjoyment
- Outdoor learning lab
- Sense of accomplishment
- Opportunity to teach
- Unique opportunity for locals
- Greatest multi-use park in nation
- Piece-meal to progress
- Diverse recreation opportunities
- 4-5 premier national events per year take place at ASRA
- Moved here to be close -- virtually all in attendance moved here because of park
- A year-around resource
- Link to future
- Careful planning is needed
- Beauty

- Challenge
- Moved here for horse trails
- Preserve Western States Trail ride
- Educate and preserve trail resources
- Moved from Southern California
- Area is key to future generations
- Love trails
- Preserve beauty
- Maintain historic trails
- Restore and maintain historic trail
- Mammoth Bar is important
- There are areas where OHV should not be
- Rain has closed area
- Keep roads open for fire, maintenance, and public safety
- Moved here because of River & Auburn SRA
- Blessed area
- Opportunity to teach respect for outdoors
- Family here since 1950's
- Recreation groups show courtesy and respect and generosity for each other
- Area managed to preserve
- All trails lead to Auburn
- Link to past and future
- Beauty
- Year-round resources
- Preservation of the park is key
- Love trail and ride and runners
- Wonderful place-wonderful park
- Passion to keep area for future

Special Values, Niche

- American River
- Timber and wildlife
- Trails
- Rugged terrain
- Too steep for recreation in many areas
- Good long distance vistas
- See lots of beauty
- Accessible but challenging—you have to work at it
- Historic value
- Many stories to be told
- Diversity
- Deep canyons
- Flora diverse
- Spectrum of ease of access---families to ultra-extreme

- Real multi-use enjoyment of park
- Diversity of topography
- Diversity of access
- Young children and families can access
- Diversity of experiences
- Outdoor classroom
- Elevation change
- High level of passion
- One can really see, smell, and feel the historic ruggedness
- Good for family
- Contrast between Folsom -- easy access, flat and Auburn -- have to work at it, rugged topography
- Should be a park that you need to work at to get in
- History is colorful-tells a story
- Diversity of uses
- Diversity of surroundings-natural topography
- Great diversity of physical attributes
- Unique species-diversity of plants
- Just about every different ecosystem
- Seems remote with just a short walk
- People from out of town can easily enjoy park
- Outdoor classroom
- Variety and multi-use
- Absolute radical challenge

Issues, Problems, and Opportunities

- Need more camping opportunities
- Low impact camping in some areas
- Need information to the public
- Great ignorance among public and community
- We don't more trails but rather maintenance
- Need trail maintenance training and volunteers
- More signage could help solve conflicts
- Need well established staging areas
- Streamline bureaucracy for trail maintenance
- Some new trails may be OK
- Streamline process for trail work
- Horse and bike is dangerous conflict
- Mountain bikes impact resources
- Enforcement is needed
- Consider seasonal closures of trails when they are wet
- Improvement of staging areas is needed -- toilets, parking, signage
- Lots of trails need regular maintenance -- down trees, small slides, litter
- Streamline process so we can help

- Partnership agreement needed for maintenance
- Security and enforcement is needed
- Adopt an Area program
- Need to keep access roads open
- Streamline process for doing routine or maintenance type improvements
- Volunteers and cooperators are critical
- Need standardize information at trailheads to include symbols, map, names, distances, how to report incidents
- Use volunteers in a coordinated fashion
- Enforcement needed -- host idea and cell phones
- Save and preserve Western State's Trail
- Change piecemeal approach and do-it-as-you-please approach
- Area needs to be carefully planned
- Mesh Folsom with Auburn
- Educate and preserve ride and historical resources of trail (Western States)
- Keep trails open and safe and maintain and restore them
- Need concerted effort to keep roads open and passable
- Keep OHV use legal and responsible
- Color code and use standardized signs and symbols (for trails)
- Clear up bureaucratic requirements to allow volunteers to do an efficient job
- Informative and educational signage essential to solving illegal and damaging use
- Develop a system for public to report illegal activity-call in system-use cell phones and picture phones
- Clear up backlog of archeology review to allow trail maintenance and facility development
- Need system to coordinate trail work and activities
- S. side of No-Hands bridge example of a need for a trail
- Need more dispersed low impact camping-backpacking, make it legal-hall it in hall it out
- Need water wells-trails and camping
- There are areas where OHVs should not go
- Security, theft and crime big problem at Lake Clementine-especially in off season
- Put in place a coordinate system for all groups to work together for the good of the Park – Park foundation group?

Thursday, May 4

Motivation for being at meeting, Passion for area

- My business depends upon access to the canyon
- Diverse uses
- Lots of appropriate use, some not appropriate
- Access to dirt trails, near home in Foresthill

- Make the plan suitable for all users
- Multi-use trails
- Shared use trails in ASRA
- Value of the natural setting of the canyon
- Access
- Happy with multi-use trails which have been built
- Opportunity to build more trails
- Moved in the area to be near the canyon
- “Almost wilderness”
- Lack of development a positive
- Mountain bikers have had good relationship with the park
- Allow staff to work directly with user groups
- Park has gotten busy over the past several years
- Need equitable use of trails
- Convert roads, flumes into trails
- Grew up in area, area is near and dear
- The dam is the reason for the area
- Climbing is a healthy outlet
- Climbing could provide recreation opportunity for at risk kids
- Clarks Hole to Lake Clementine is a secluded portion of the North Fork
- There are places where you are able to get away
- Leave portions of the area wild
- ASRA supports diverse uses
- Area is not over-used
- Keep it wild
- Keep OHV track
- Access to wild, natural country
- Challenge, excitement with easy access
- Don't want Auburn Dam
- OHV track is an important resource
- More trails, more multi-use trails
- Connect to trails around Folsom Lake
- Want free-riding and downhill mountain bike trails
- Year-round riding
- Heart and soul of the area is the river canyons
- Excited about tunnel closure, river restoration, public access
- Class I-II water from Murderers Bar to Dam site
- Healthy resource
- User fees are ok because they can be kept locally at park

Special Values/Niche

- Year round climbing opportunity
- Nearest climbing opportunities are Donner Pass, Highway 50, Cosumnes River Gorge

- Locations other than quarry within SRA are suitable for climbing
- Best climbing in winter north of Joshua Tree
- Open entire SRA to climbing
- Make Teichert operation compatible with climbing
- Variety of year-round nearby recreation opportunities: biking, running, swimming
- Year-round access
- Many recreation opportunities
- Wild nature of the canyons, wildflowers, wildlife
- Limit trail use during wettest part of winter
- Limestone vein runs across both North and Middle Forks
- Diversity for recreation users
- Auburn is the “endurance capitol of the world”.
- Access for all kinds of users: kids in a stroller; quick hour long run, ride or hike; or long endurance ride.
- Lots of elevation gain and loss, training opportunities for biking, other uses
- Steep topography that is close to home
- Film opportunities
- Tunnel Chute, Ruck-a-chucky, Murderers Bar
- Middle Fork is a unique resources, whitewater runnable from May through Fall, consistent Class 4-5 whitewater all summer long
- Class 2 section below Confluence is a unique new opportunity
- Climate is the key: out of valley fog, below snowline, year-round recreation
- Size of area is unique – 40,000 acres

Issues/Concerns/Conflicts/Opportunities

- Conflicts between various trail users
- Timing to avoid conflicts
- Other users need to know when hunting occurs, better signing for hunting, early morning is best hunting opportunity, hunting occurs off-trail
- OHV noise
- Downhill mountain biking, erosion, conflicts with other trail users
- Trails closed to bikes
- More multi-use trails
- Mammoth Bar – mtn bike free riding opportunities, elevated trails
- Downhill mountain biking opportunities
- Conflicts with noise from dredging
- Conflicts at Ponderosa, too many people in a small area, not enough space
- Guns, gang activity at Ponderosa, also rafting take-out
- Concern about noise at Mammoth Bar
- Not appropriate to have OHV use in area on the river
- Trail conflicts not too bad at ASRA
- There are a number of multi-use trails so equestrians are aware of other users

- More multi-use trails, opportunities to build relationships between user groups
- Foresthill Loop trail a good example of shared use
- Provide education to both equestrians and mountain bikers, use patrol groups, leaders of user organizations
- Concern about perceived trail conflicts versus real trail conflicts
- Problem with user growth, trails more heavily used
- Add more miles of trails to disperse users
- Need funding for trail maintenance
- Need State Park representative to work with volunteers, need better system to work with volunteers
- Trail conflicts more perceived than real
- Acquire more property
- Need more trails in the plan
- Need more options, spread use out
- Need more intermediate trails that aren't so steep, demand for this type of trail is high
- Problem with State Parks in working with volunteers, need staff person focused on trails
- Need equitable mountain bike trail access on El Dorado County side of the Canyon
- Opportunity for new trails above Drivers Flat, multi-use trail that contours along the Middle Fork
- Deal with fringe downhill mtn bike riders
- Development along the ridge at Foresthill
- Need more trail mileage
- Olmstead Loop is only mtn bike trail on El Dorado side of canyon
- Create multi-use trail across canyon at Browns Bar
- Post "nude beaches ahead" signing for reach of river below Confluence
- Best climbing opportunity is on the North side of the Middle Fork across from the Quarry
- Provide parking off Mammoth Bar road or off Quarry Trail
- Allow hunting, recognize different types of hunters (rifle, shotgun, bow)
- Bike/horse conflicts
- Educate equestrians, many trails not suitable for "green" horses
- Provide OHV area at the Dam site – already highly disturbed
- Need trails that connect down to river on the south side of the Middle Fork
- Preserve the dramatic wilderness on the North Fork
- With more visitors, greater concern about personal safety, need State Park Rangers patrolling on trails
- Need to provide for OHV somewhere
- Provide for OHV at a location away from the river

Wednesday, June 14

Motivation for being at meeting, Passion for area

- Uniqueness of canyons, trails
- Don't have to drive to recreate
- A wild place in an urban area
- Would like to see more education, connection with youth
- Biological diversity, scenery – always see new plants and birds
- Foothills have rich habitat
- River – the water is a big draw and connection – whitewater boating, swimming
- Connection with watershed

Special Niche of the Area

- NF is an un-dammed river – special
- Wildness of the river
- Proximity of canyons to large population center
- Need to get people to recreate in the canyons so they will appreciate the area

Issues, Problems, Concerns

- Lack of staff, need more people to manage the area
- Concerned about lack of staffing when the river below the Confluence opens up
- Concern about access points to ASRA that go through neighborhoods – e.g. Robie Point
- Need to connect with neighborhoods and find out their concerns
- Need better signing in neighborhoods for park access points
- Work with the Auburn Police Department
- Auburn is the endurance capitol of the world
- Trails need to be better maintained and signed
- Noise pollution on Lake Clementine – stereos on wakeboard/ski boats
- Motorized boats don't use Lake much in winter
- Auburn Boat Club is entrenched
- Lake is very narrow for lots of fast boats, don't paddle on Lake in summer due to motorized boat traffic
- North Fork Trail needs more thought
- Access for more people versus keeping area wild
- Lots of trail use would change the character of area
- Trophy homes on ridgelines
- Lots of opportunity for stretch of river below dam site

Meeting Participants

Monday April 3

Joan Dowis	Mounted Trail Patrol
Linda Potter	Loomis Basin Horseriders Association
Donna Williams	Robie Foundation
Kathy Dombrowski	Loomis Basin Horseriders Association
Terry Davis	Sierra Club
Don Robinson	Motherlode Gold Hounds
Walt Tibbitts	Western States Trail Foundation
Jay Galloway	California State Parks – Auburn SRA
Bob Aukerman	Aukerman & Haas Association
Glen Haas	Aukerman & Haas Association
John Clerici	CirclePoint

Wednesday April 5

Jim Borow	Mammoth Bar Riders Association
Max Borow	Mammoth Bar Riders Association
Dani Berchtold	Mammoth Bar Task Force
Eric Peach	Protect American River Canyon
Andrea Rosenthal	Protect American River Canyon
Bill Wauters	Auburn State Recreation Area Canyon Keepers
Jim Ferris	Auburn State Recreation Canyon Keepers
Tim Woodall	Protect American River Canyon
William Wauters	Protect American River Canyon
Bob Aukerman	Aukerman & Haas Association
Glen Haas	Aukerman & Haas Association
Jim Micheaels	Department of Parks and Recreation

Thursday April 6

John Brun	Auburn Boat Club
Hal Hall?	Placer Co. Historical Museum Foundation
Sharon Rossene	Loomis Basin Horseman – Sierra Club
Mike Pickett	Western States Trail Foundation
Bill Pieper	Western States Trail Foundation
Tim Twietmeyer	WS100 Endurance Run Foundation
Virg Andeisory	Boy Scout Leader
Greg Soderlund	Western States Endurance Run Foundation
Jack Velasco	Western States Trial Foundation
Jim Ferris	Canyon Keepers
Dave Pickett	American Motorcycle Association Dist. 36
Glen Haas	Aukerman & Haas Associates
Bob Aukerman	Aukerman & Haas Associates
John Clerici	CirclePoint

May 4

Jaime Cader	Rock climber, motocross, boating
Sean Allen	Mtn Biking
Mary Allen	Mtn Biking
Jim Haagen-Smit	Mtn Biking
Cathy Haagen-Smit	Mtn Biking
Glen Meeth	Mtn Biking
Nate Rangel	WW Outfitter
Brian O'Brien	Hiker, ww kayaker, mtn biker, hunter
Gordon Ainsleigh	Runner, rock climber
Curtis Christensen	Mtn biking, free riding, downhill
Jim Micheaels	CA State Parks
Glen Haas	Aukerman & Haas Associates
Bob Aukerman	Aukerman & Haas Associates

June 14

Tom Toy	Rock climber, motocross, boating
Jim Micheaels	CA State Parks
Bob Aukerman	Aukerman & Haas Associates