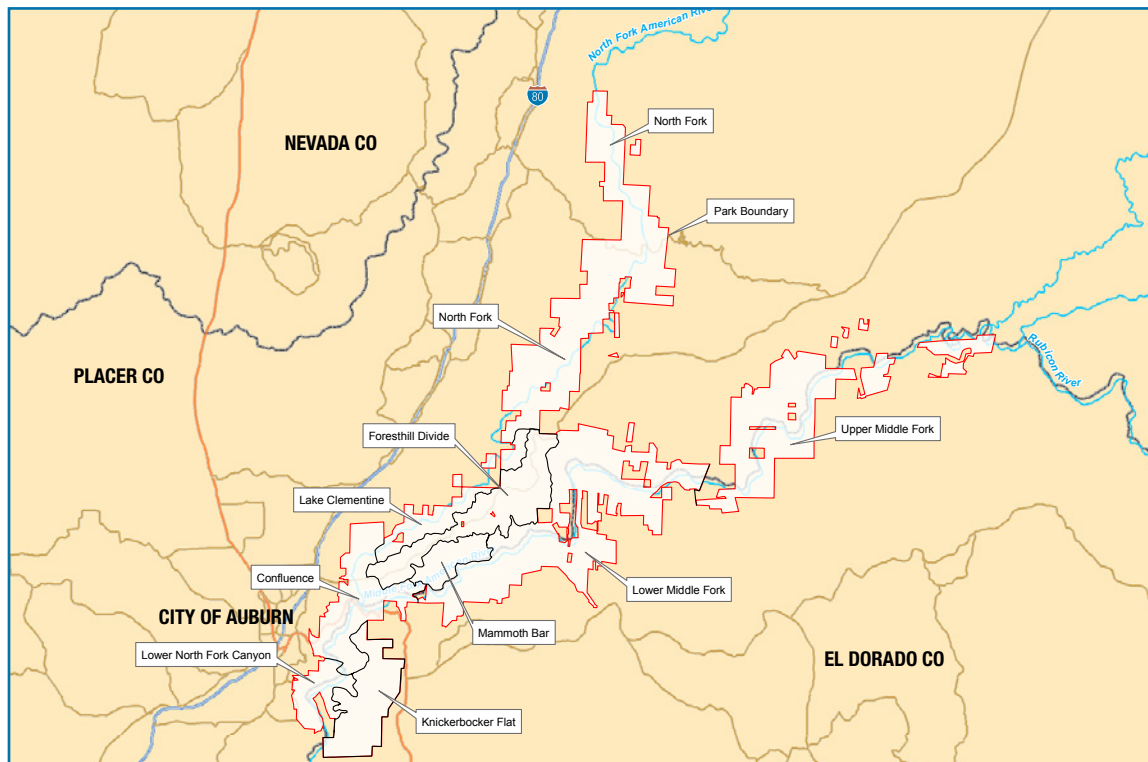


PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Planning Update • May 2007

Work continues on the process of updating the Auburn State Recreation Area (SRA)/Auburn Dam Project Lands General Plan/Interim Resources Management Plan (GP/IRMP). The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and California State Parks are preparing a single cohesive document that will guide the interim management of the area including the protection of natural and cultural resources and the provision for safe public use. The overall goal of this plan is to provide effective management of public use and the protection of resources while containing the cost of operations.



Management Zones

These are the proposed management zones for the Auburn SRA. These zones are designed to manage each area of the SRA lands in a way that best maximizes the SRA's uses, facilities, resources, and visitor experiences.

WHAT IS THE AUBURN STATE RECREATION AREA?

Auburn State Recreation Area consists of 26,000 acres of Federal lands set aside for construction of Auburn Dam and Reservoir. Because the land is currently authorized for the construction of a dam and reservoir, thus the plan in progress remains an "interim" plan until the construction of Auburn Dam is funded or otherwise resolved. The project area encompasses forty miles of river canyon on the North and Middle Forks of the American River and has been managed by State Parks through a contract with Reclamation since 1977. Recreation use within the SRA has been between one-half million and one million visitors annually over the past several years.



RESOURCE INVENTORY

A Resource Inventory for Auburn SRA is in the process of being prepared by the planning team and will be completed by mid-June. Technical experts are gathering and synthesizing information about the range of resources and uses in the project area. The Resource Inventory will provide the context for subsequent Recreation Area planning decisions. Topics addressed in the document include: wildlife, vegetation, geology, hydrology, recreation, cultural resources, scenic resources and land use. When completed the Resource Inventory document will be posted on the Auburn SRA GP/IRMP web page at www.parks.ca.gov.



VISITOR SURVEY

As part of the Resource Inventory and in order to better understand recreational use within the SRA and visitor preferences, an onsite visitor survey was conducted in Auburn SRA during the months of May through October of 2006. Five hundred and twenty eight (528) useable surveys were completed. The survey results will help inform the planning process and decisions. Here are a few of the key findings from the survey:

- 75% of the respondents consider Auburn SRA to be either very important (20%), or extremely important (55%), to them.
- 49% of the respondents moved to, or remain living in the area in order to be close to the SRA.
- 88% of the respondents live within 100 miles of the SRA, with most living in Placer, Sacramento and El Dorado Counties.
- Among those surveyed, the average number of visits to the SRA is 35 per year. This is a much higher figure than is typical of similar state recreation areas.
- 57% of respondents indicated that the beauty, nature and undeveloped and wild character of the area were the main reasons why the SRA was important to them.

PUBLIC WORKSHOP # 1

The first public workshop was held on June 15, 2006 in Auburn. The purpose of the workshop was to solicit public comments for the planning and environmental analysis process. Approximately 100 people attended the workshop representing a wide variety of interests including trail uses (hiking, running, equestrian and mountain biking), off highway vehicle use, whitewater boating, elected officials and representatives from other public agencies. All of these individuals were given the opportunity to voice their concerns regarding the issues they felt needed to be addressed in the plan.

In general, participants were interested in developing a plan that recognized the growing popularity of Auburn SRA, while protecting the natural resources and historic features of the area. Below are some of the topics of concern and interest to the public workshop participants:

- Providing additional trails or access to existing trails including connector trails and more “loop” hiking/riding opportunities.
- A variety of ideas on whether trails should be managed as multi-use or whether different trail uses should be separated.
- Improving signage on trails and other areas throughout the SRA.
- Concern about vehicle break-ins and the need for increased patrol and law enforcement.
- A desire to allow for clothing optional beaches.
- Maintaining the primitive character of the canyons.
- The need for additional parking at a variety of locations in the SRA.

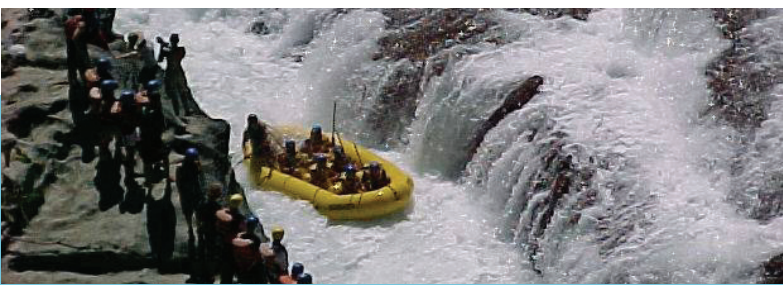


FOCUSED OUTREACH

The public process plays an important role in identifying and addressing concerns of Auburn SRA/Auburn Dam Project Lands visitors and the community in developing a new management plan for area. The planning team is providing multiple avenues for public input. In addition to the public workshops, another method of getting input from the public for the planning process has been through small group stakeholder meetings. Thus far two rounds of stakeholder meetings have been held with representatives of key interest and user groups. The purpose of the first round of stakeholder meetings held in the Spring of 2006 was to identify key issues and concerns to be addressed in the planning process. The second round of stakeholder meetings held in April 2007 brought together the same representatives from a wide variety of user and interest groups. This second round of stakeholder meetings was designed to generate ideas and options to address the key issues previously identified.

- The variety of outdoor recreation activities (42%) was the reason most frequently cited when visitors were asked why Auburn SRA is important to them. Scenic values (17%) and natural resources and wildlife (16%) were also listed as key reasons the area is important to those surveyed.
- 57% of those surveyed indicated that non-motorized trail uses (including hiking, running, equestrian and mountain biking) were the most important recreation activities among visitors to the SRA. Trail hiking (19%) was the highest rated single activity.
- 87% of those surveyed indicated they wanted to see only minor, very little or occasional facility development within the SRA.
- Respondents identified the protection of natural and cultural resources, the purchase of additional recreation area land, and the improvement and maintenance of existing facilities as areas to emphasize in future management actions.

The complete “Report of Findings from the 2006 Auburn SRA Visitor Survey” has been posted on the Auburn SRA GP/IRMP web page at www.parks.ca.gov. Volunteers from the Auburn SRA Canyon Keepers assisted members of the consultant planning team in administering the survey. Thank you Canyon Keepers!



- Improving access to the water at a variety of locations including the area below the Confluence and Upper Lake Clementine.
- Allowing rock climbing.

A second public workshop will be held on May 30, 2007 at the Canyon View Community Center in Auburn. See details on back.



2006

2007

2008

PHASE I

PHASE I: PROJECT INITIATION

- Project Initiation
- Site Reconnaissance & Data Collection
- Stakeholder Identification and Mailing List

PHASE II

PHASE II: UNDERSTANDING THE SITE & PLANNING CONTEXT

- Inventory of Existing Conditions/Final Resource Inventory
- Public Workshop #1 – Scoping
- Stakeholder Focus Group Meetings
- Newsletter #2

PHASE III

PHASE III: DEFINING THE VISION

- Summary of Resources
- Statement of Park Purpose and Vision
- Public Workshop #2 – Draft General Plan/RMP: Concepts, Guidelines, and Alternatives
- Newsletter #3

PHASE IV

PHASE IV: PREPARE GENERAL PLAN

- Prepare Draft GP/IRMP and Draft EIR/EIS
- Final Round Stakeholder Focus Group Meetings
- Public Workshop #3
- Final GP/RMP

PUBLIC WORKSHOP #2

THE MEETING WILL FOCUS ON ALTERNATE OPTIONS AND IDEAS TO ADDRESS OR RESOLVE THE KEY ISSUES WHICH HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED IN THE PLANNING PROCESS.

DATE: MAY 30, 2007.
TIME: 6:30 – 9 P.M.
LOCATION: CANYON VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER, 471 MAIDU DRIVE, AUBURN, CA 95603

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED