

Auburn Dam Project Lands/Auburn State Recreation Area
General Plan/Interim Resource Management Plan

Public Workshop #1 – June 15, 2006

Summary of Comments

The comments below came from comments written on flip charts at the June 15, 2006 public workshop and written comments received from that meeting.

Trails

- Open Auburn side of Dam site area to hillside OHV trails and courses, requiring heavy mufflers so the bikes/quads make no more noise than a standard car. The other (south) side of the canyon, a motocross park should be installed on the boat ramps. A multi-use trail about level on the contours should be built down the boat ramps and the around the contours to connect to the Quarry Road Trail. This will allow bicyclists to ride from Cool to all the other ASRA bicycle-accessible trails. Class 2-3 rapids should be manufactured between the Confluence and Oregon Bar.
- Provide more portable toilets, especially on Stagecoach, at Russell Road trailhead.
- Multi-use trail connection from North Fork Trail to Drivers Flat.
- More and new downhill mountain bike trails.
- Improve old RR grade to regional multi-use trail with handicapped access.
- Please restore Auburn-Cool Trail River Crossing.
- Improve Quarry Staging Area.
- Additional single track trails below Highway 49 to Folsom Reservoir boundary and beyond on the El Dorado side of river.
- Russell Road State Coach trail access has no trash can--would be nice to leave dog waste there.
- Change Short-cut and Western States Trails to multi-use.
- Excellent Equestrian Facilities, please maintain. Please retain integrity and safety of equestrian use. We each as individuals who enjoy the trails need an opportunity to enjoy the trails.
- Continue progress toward and build bridge at Dam site for year round trail access.
- Additional handicap parking facilities and trails especially in the Knickerbocker Area.
- Expand the size of the existing Auburn Recreation Area.
- Develop multi-use and new trails and open existing horse trails to multi-use for cyclist access to Cool from the river.
- Concerned about the stability of abandoned roads.
- Change Western States Trail, Robie Trail and American Canyon Trail to multi-use.
- Allow downhill mountain biking in the quarry area.
- Better develop the trail that runs between (above) the Quarry Trail and that is below the Wendall Robie Trail.
- Open Quarry Trail for handicap access – proper signage for access.
- Would like to leave Western States Trail and Robie Trail to stay, some users groups and American Canyon.
- Would like connector trail from Quarry Trail to Wendall Robie Trail for mountain bikes.
- Horses cause more trail erosion than other uses.
- Lower connection trail to Confluence.

- Connection trail or better RR at Mammoth Bar and other areas.
- Keep OHV use, they have to have an area to ride.
- More technical trails for mountain bikes at Mammoth Bar, Foresthill Divide and Auburn Area.
- More mountain bike trails around the lake.
- Connect trails in this area to make loops.
- More shared use trail system.
- No more trails, area too sensitive area and sleep for multi-use trails.
- Continue with County to build North Fork Trail.
- There should be some trails in ASRA that have minimal maintenance and are allowed to be primitive, and off limits to mountain bikes.
- Provide separation of trail users. Some trails should be for hikers and equestrians only (no mountain bikes).
- Provide new trail access in the North Fork corridor (multi-use only).
- Provide funding and staff for trail maintenance throughout park system.
- The General Plan should contain a specific methodology to build new trails. The process should specify requirement for building new trails that are sustainable and are multi-use.
- Minimize road building and new trail construction.
- Mountain bike trails specific to downhill only style (Upper and Lower Lake Clementine).
- Equestrian trails – please keep open and make them safe.
- Continue existing (moderate/limited) use in OHV area. Rebuild track!
- Preserve OHV use, a stellar area close to town.
- Need to have a trail maintenance plan and address new trails, conversion of existing trails to multi-use, volunteer groups and work they can do. General Plan should state a date when the trail management plan is to be completed.
- Make trails safer for bikers/hikers (visibility).
- Park hours extended or allow night mountain bike riding by permit or special use. Currently night riding does occur but is not legal.
- Trails inventory in General Plan should address trails that could be improved, re-routed, converted to multi-use, etc.
- Develop a ‘User-level’ signage to rate/mark trails as beginner-expert level, etc. Similar to ski resorts.
- Develop a State Park Lead Volunteer Stewardship Program, have a specific person responsible to lead/organize and have funding set aside to help preserve and maintain trails which includes all user groups.

Signs

- Post signs along traditional clothing optional area that clearly notifies folks who may be unaware and advise rafters of the area’s status – Black’s Beach is precedent ...sunbathers and surfers.
- Recognize the traditional clothing optional area. Post signs warning others they may encounter nudity if necessary. Rafters and kayakers are welcome to use the area as well--they will know about the clothing optional use and act accordingly. This will work for everyone (except maybe those few who are determined that no one should be nude even if they themselves don’t use the area!).
- Open (re-open) Quarry Trail for handicap access – proper signage for access.

- Improve signs at Upper and Lower Lake Clementine for clarity (fees, dates open, etc.).
- Improve signage to access points from main roads.
- Signs (few exist) often confusing due to multiple names for same trail, e.g. training Hill or Pointed Rocks trail.
- Place signs at trailheads and access point advising other users when hunting seasons are open. Collaborate with hunting groups and Department of Fish and Game to develop a positive multi-use message to reduce potential conflict.

Patrol and Law Enforcement

- Concerned about availability of law enforcement when issues arise in the canyon below us – night noise, security, etc.
- High use/limited resource issue: put in a small ranger kiosk (staffed at posted hours) for higher level monitoring, consider current and possible more effective use of Canyon Keepers (without changing their volunteer citizen status), better publicized (and more consistently enforced) rules for public use (dogs, glass containers, fires, drunkenness, clothing).
- Need law enforcement patrols at night at Lower Lake Clementine parking area. Prevent break-ins (common now).
- Vehicle break-ins at parking lots.
- Educate all rangers and personnel on what to say and not to say in specific sensitive situations. Also be careful not to state opinions rather than facts.

Watershed/Water Quality

- Remove rebar and other metals from river channel (large items, e.g. rebar).
- Protect the park from pollution caused by the Cool Cave Quarry, track and diesel.
- Test sediments behind Clementine Dam for pollutants and describe how, when and where they will be removed.
- Potential pollution to river due to OHV use.
- Prevent storm water run off from adjacent federal, state and local agencies that contain silt, pollution, sedimentation from roadways and fire roads.
- Sediment run-off from dirt roads
- Sediment run-off from with-in park and from outside park.

Park Fees

- No parking fees in park, no more river taxes.
- Keep free for private users.
- Auburn Citizen parking rate discounts.
- Fees (annual permits) available more locations, student rates.
- Advertise more which type/how/where passes can be purchased
- No fees for all trail heads.

Wildlife

- At Quarry - need wildlife inventory i.e. peregrine falcons (listed) wildlife protection.
- Maintain the wild and scenic nature of the North Fork.
- Maintain the semi-primitive character of the North Fork, and ASRA.
- Mammoth Bar should become a non-motorized recreation area. Motorized recreation does not belong in the canyon. It destroys the natural quiet, impacts wildlife, causes erosion, and is incompatible with other forms of recreation in ASRA.

- Keep fairly undeveloped – good for people and animals – not a manicured park.
- I don't know if anything can be done to try to control invasive exotics (yellow star thistle) to protect natives.
- Updated biological inventory.
- Protect primitive character of the river and canyons. Protect the wildlife and habitat for all resident and migratory animals.

Water Access

- Provide early spring public access to Upper Clementine, road closed in winter (issue with commercial rafting access equity).
- Whitewater access from Confluence past tunnel site - will there be a takeout/put in at the old tunnel site where the road goes down to the pump station?
- Open up area below Confluence to private kayak use ASAP – for those don't wish too much whitewater. Better timing in water release- to facilitate river usage – kayak/canoe.
- Improve Cache Bar access (for class III boating and public access).
- Would like Auburn Dam Area ramp access to river for rafts/dories, etc.
- Private boater (pb) access at Canyon Creek for gear take-out. Institute pb registration and key deposit (daisy-chain so commercial and private use different locks) and/or to control access, pb to pay take-out fee to pay for park-aide, if necessary.
- Need sand 'spot' beach to land/launch kayaks/canoe at Lower Lake Clementine.
- Provide Auburn Dam Area take out – rafting.
- Auburn Dam Area put in at RAC
- Portage trail around Murder's Bar for rafting.
- Lake Clementine should be a 5 mph lake.
- Limit powerboat hours on behalf of kayaks and canoes without motors and fishing.
- Keep Upper Lake Clementine open in winter or at least fall for boating access.
- Auburn Dam Area boating access at Yankee Jims

Parking / Roads

- Abandoned roads – public safety issue.
- Additional handicap parking facilities and trails especially in the Knickerbocker Area.
- Better road maintenance to Codfish Creek.
- Minimize road building and new trail construction.
- Need more parking at the Quarry area for horse trailers.
- At the end of the road to Oregon Bar there is parking for 30 vehicles in the lower ¼ mile. Boaters need this. The proposed parking is too far up the canyon.
- Need turn around space for shuttle buses and rafts at the Confluence.
- Unit-wide poor roads for low clearance vehicles.
- More parking at Lower Clementine for public and marina.
- Add an overnight parking at Upper Lake Clementine and boat-in.
- Pave Upper Lake Clementine Road for access to Lake.
- More parking at Yankee Jims and Windy Point

Swimming/Sunbathing

- Preserve the clothing optional beaches. Treat users of these beaches with respect. We care about the river and do whatever we can to keep it clean and enjoyable.

- State Parks are for everybody. Keep the clothing optional beaches. Naturists take care of the land and don't leave as many beer cans.
- Confluence to Oregon Bar should be posted: "Warning – you are entering a clothing optional beach area. You are urged to take out if this will offend you."
- Clothing optional is not compatible with family groups rafting on the river.
- Clothing optional recreation is part of the cultural heritage of the area. C/O [clothing optional] area should be designated as provided for in CCR 14 Section 4322. Parks Department mandate is to manage for diverse recreational uses. Naturists are good stewards of the park. They keep the areas they visit clean and safe. The areas visited by the clothing crowd generate the majority of problems relating to drunkenness, etc. Other uses generate complaints as well, such as OHV, etc. C/O [clothing optional] use is incorporated into the plan.
- Keep the clothing optional beaches.
- Do not ban clothing optional use in the traditional area of current use.
- Please continue the 50+ year policy of having clothing optional beaches.
- I'm a rafter and clothing optional beach user. Let's figure out how to accommodate both uses.
- Clothing optional recreation is an important aspect of river use. Conflicts can be avoided by appropriate signing and information decimation. Do not arbitrarily ban nudity because there might be a potential conflict. Purdon Crossing on the Yuba River is a classic example of naturists and the public co-existing peacefully.
- I'm all for multiple activities, but please keep the nude beach.
- Nude sunbathing should be restricted to off-trail areas and should be clearly marked as such.
- It is very important to me and many others that clothing optional be permitted for swimming and sunbathing.
- The park needs to continue its 30+ year history of having clothing optional beaches.

Mineral Collection/Dredging

- Abandoned mines – public safety issue.
- Open quarry mine to regulated organizational use on limited basis.
- Don't allow commercial extraction of physical resources.
- Dredging for gold has no place in ASRA. It disturbs the river bottom, creating "situation" and clouding of the water. It also destroys the natural quiet, which most recreation users come to ASRA to enjoy.

Rock Climbing

- Rock Climbing activity – attracts visitors from urban areas whom experience the area as hikers and who have a limited impact on the resources. It's an appropriate use which increases the tourist generated income for the county, city and state.
- Rock Climbing – we should be encouraging more of this activity at this location due to its ease of access, safe approach, limited impact on resources and income potential for tourism related businesses. The Placer County Sheriff's Department Rescue Team likes to train here due to the unique rock conditions and response time to the area is quite short due to proximity access roads if an emergency should occur. This activity is not limited to "extreme sport" participants: children, teens and families enjoy the sport and become advocates for preserving the state park areas, i.e. tax payers and voters.
- Climbing should be legal throughout the park. No logical reason has even been given for the ban on climbing. It started after a bungee-jumper died – these are two

very different sports. Climbing is safer. The quality of the rock and the quality of the climbs in ASRA is better, stronger and safer than in Castle Rock State Park, Mt. Diablo State Park and Pinnacles National Monument; all of which permit rock climbing (on sandstone, which often fractures with heavy falls). Rock Climbing also has the ability to fit harmoniously with other user groups. Swimmers and sunbathers sometimes resent rafters; equestrians hate bicyclists and vice versa. Both runners and walkers are inconvenienced by horses and bike, but no one complains about rock climbers. We fit in better than all the others. Climbing also involves very little investment. In fact, the only “investment” is a place to park. If the dam does get built, no climbing specific investment will be lost

- Rock Climbing is an inherent use activity, accepted use some of “crown jewel” parks and some of the most visited parks. ASRA is a popular destination park which should be open for rock climbing and state parks should promote and encourage this activity. It increases the number of users and thus park advocates, tourism dollars, and does no damage to the resources or negatively impacts other users.

Camping

- Require those with reservations to confirm 2 weeks prior to camping.
- Extend camping season.
- Create new campsites—some downstream have changed due to effects of winter storms which has decreased number of campsites with comfortable beach/swimming access.
- Establish primitive campsites and employ permitting system that requires use of “ammo boxes” for sanitation that are provided at time of permit issuance—permits would create accountability.
- Re-open old upstream campsites—could be considered “primitive” and be appealing to canoeists, kayakers, people who fish.
- Re-locate some campsites (some are located next to smelly toilets and experience a great deal of foot traffic throughout the day/night).
- Provide campground at Mammoth Bar?
- Knickerbocker Flat does seem to be the only logical campground and ties in very well with existing roads and bike/horse use.
- Camping at Upper Clementine
- No camping at Upper Clementine

Miscellaneous

- Noise of OHV use.
- As a resident of Robie Point, I am concerned about the increased fire danger when the river is opened for use below highway 49.
- As a resident on Riverview Drive, I am concerned about both increased traffic on a relatively quiet street, especially transient-users and about fire.
- Introduce leash options for dogs who are good with voice control.
- Maintain current hunting areas and regulations, except bears.
- Yankee Jims and Ponderosa – Need some bathrooms and an early season
- Protect the viewshed of the river corridor.
- Acquire additional land for Auburn Park.
- Expand park property boundaries.
- Dam site rehab.
- Expand park property boundaries.

- The canyon is underused, and it appears that some of this is a deliberate action to reduce the value of the canyon relative to the dam that is proposed. This is dishonest. The canyon should be allowed to show its true value by opening up closed areas and forbidden activities. There should be no suppression of recreational opportunity.
- Keep phone message at Park Headquarters up-to-date, especially during bad weather and when closing roads for maintenance
- Supervising ranger hard to reach by phone—scheduling appointment time hampered by lack of phone access—develop a different way of contacting him.
- Voice messaging of staff inadequate or outdated (must contact Park Headquarters between 8-4 on weekdays)—improve communication options.