



AUBURN STATE RECREATION AREA

November 2017



AUBURN SRA PLAN ALTERNATIVES

California State Parks is seeking public input on the future of Auburn State Recreation Area (SRA). The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and California State Parks are preparing a joint General Plan/Resource Management Plan (GP/RMP) to meet both agencies' needs. The GP/RMP will:

- define a long-term purpose and vision for Auburn SRA;
- outline broad goals and guidelines for use, facility development, and operation of Auburn SRA; and
- provide the basis for preparing future, focused management plans, specific project proposals, and other initiatives that implement the GP/RMP goals.

California State Parks and Reclamation held a public workshop in November 2015 and have received a substantial amount of public input on the future of Auburn SRA since the workshop. They considered this input when preparing a series of alternatives for the GP/RMP. Please review these alternatives and provide your input on what you would like California State Parks to focus on in the GP/RMP. Each alternative presents a different approach to providing recreational opportunities and managing the natural and cultural resources at Auburn SRA. California State Parks will use your input on these alternatives to either select one of the alternatives, or combine elements from different alternatives to create one preferred alternative for the GP/RMP that will be presented to the public for review and comment at a later date. Visit www.parks.ca.gov/PlanASRA for a schedule of public input opportunities.

WHAT IS AUBURN SRA?

The Auburn SRA consists of lands set aside by the federal government for the construction of Auburn Dam and Reservoir. Auburn SRA has been managed by State Parks through an agreement with Reclamation since 1977. The Auburn SRA includes approximately 30,000 acres of lands along close to forty miles of river canyon on the North and Middle Forks of the American River. Auburn SRA is located south of Interstate 80 in both Placer and El Dorado Counties.

Recreation uses include hiking, river access, boating, fishing, camping, mountain biking, gold panning, swimming, picnicking, rock climbing, horseback riding, and off-highway vehicle riding. Boating is popular on the North and Middle Forks of the American River.



ALTERNATIVE THEMES

California State Parks and Reclamation have developed four separate alternatives for the GP/RMP. Each of these alternatives would take a different approach to achieve State Parks' and Reclamation's missions at Auburn SRA. The final GP/RMP could include elements from any or all of these alternatives. The major themes of the four alternatives are:

Resource Management Emphasis:

This alternative would place a major emphasis on natural and cultural resources protection and restoration. It would plan for a similar level of visitation as currently exists, but it could reduce some recreational opportunities and remove some facilities when necessary for resource protection.

Increased Recreation and Resource Management:

This alternative would place an approximately equal emphasis on resource management and recreation opportunities. It would accommodate moderate increases in visitation and would expand visitor facilities in areas that already receive a lot of use.



RECREATION FACILITIES

The plan alternatives consider the addition, expansion, or removal of a range of recreation facilities. New campgrounds, trail bridges, a visitor center, interpretive features, and other day use facilities are being evaluated in several areas. The alternatives envision transportation, parking, and access changes near the Confluence and other popular access points. They include various long-term management approaches for facilities and uses at Lake Clementine and Mammoth Bar OHV area. Attend the December open house or fill out a questionnaire to share your thoughts on the most appropriate recreation facilities.

Recreation Management Emphasis:

This alternative would emphasize recreational opportunities. It would accommodate increases in the amount of visitation and provide more diverse recreational opportunities. This alternative would expand visitor access, facilities, and programs.

No Action Alternative:

This alternative would not include an updated GP/RMP. Therefore, it would make no changes to the existing management of Auburn SRA. Existing visitor facilities and uses would be maintained and existing natural and cultural resource management would continue.

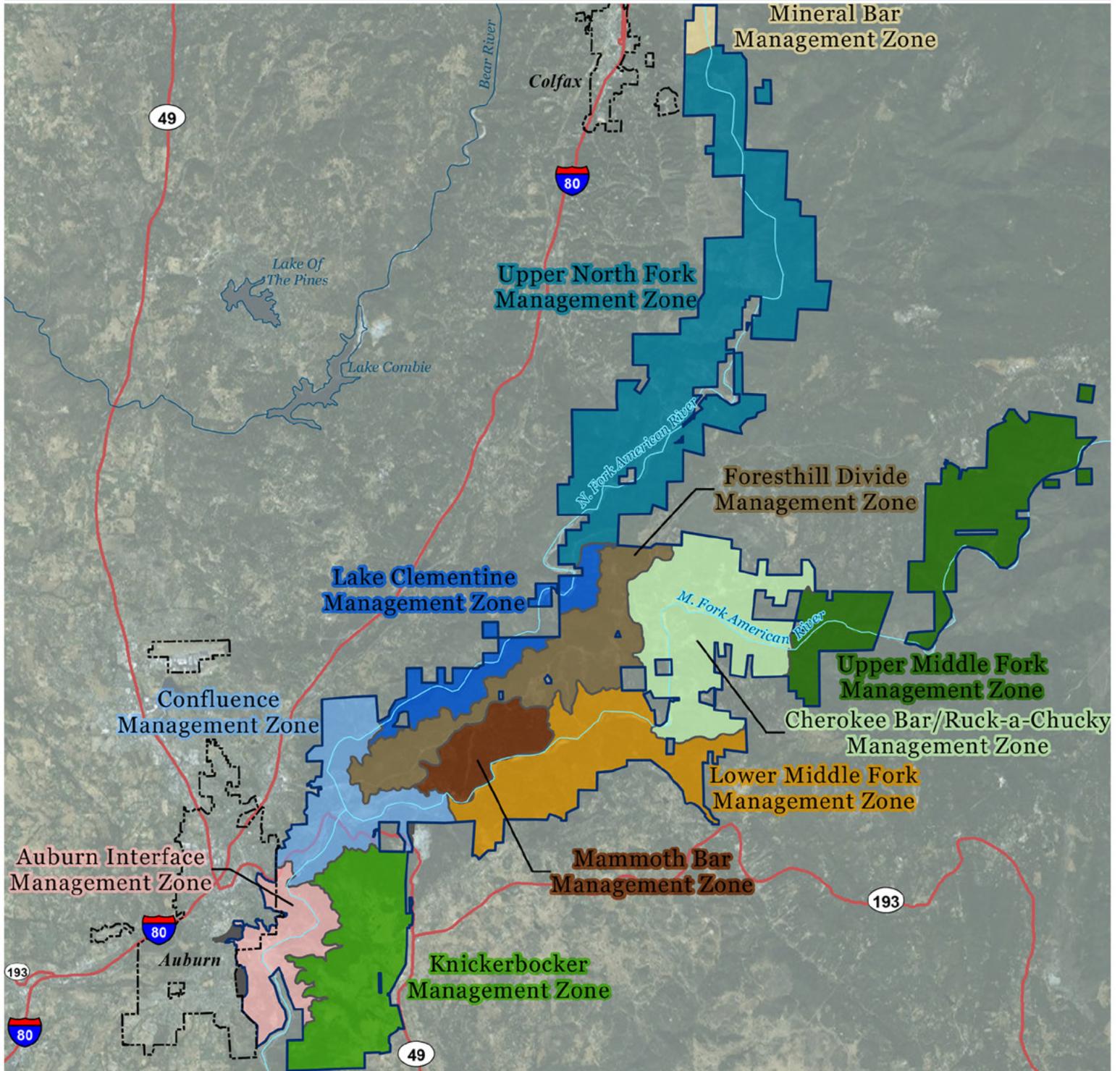


RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The plan alternatives include strategies to manage and protect natural and cultural resources. Auburn SRA contains evidence of the Native Californian, mining, and ranching eras. Auburn SRA is also a very biodiverse park with many species of native plants and animals. All the alternatives seek to manage forests to reduce wildfire risk and protect sensitive natural and cultural resources from human disturbance. The alternatives vary in the level of emphasis placed on locating, protecting, and restoring sensitive resources.

MANAGEMENT ZONES

The GP/RMP divides Auburn SRA into 11 different management zones. Unique goals, guidelines, and facilities will be considered for each management zone. Use the map below to identify the areas you visit. Come to the open house or join us online to learn about various proposals for facilities and management actions. We want to hear your thoughts about potential changes.



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

There are several easy ways to participate:

Get on the mailing list:

Throughout the planning and environmental review process, we will email updates and newsletters informing you of ongoing work, including when the preferred alternative is ready for review and comment. Please email:

plan.general@parks.ca.gov and ask to be added to the mailing list.

Visit our website:

Information about the planning process and opportunities to provide input are available online at www.parks.ca.gov/PlanASRA.

Attend the public workshops:

The upcoming workshop is the second of three public workshops or open houses during the development of the GP/RMP. The purpose of the December 7th workshop is to seek input on alternatives to help inform the preferred alternative. It will be held as an open house (meaning there is no presentation and you can come and go at any time during the workshop). The date, time and place are:

Thursday, December 7, 2017

5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Gold Country Fairgrounds

Sierra Bldg.

209 Fairgate Road

Auburn, CA 95603

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The GP/RMP will undergo a formal environmental review with the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR). You are invited to provide input on topics that should be considered in the environmental review. The formal environmental scoping period for the EIR extends from November 29, 2017 to January 5, 2018. Please provide your thoughts on the environmental effects of the GP/RMP during this scoping period.



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