

Declaration of Purpose

Public Law 89-161 authorized the Secretary of the Interior to construct, operate and maintain the Auburn-Folsom South Unit (Unit), American River Division, Central Valley Project, under Federal reclamation laws. As a principal part of the Unit, the law authorized the acquisition of lands for and construction of the Auburn Dam and Reservoir to provide for the purposes of water supply, hydropower generation, outdoor recreation, public use and enjoyment, and fish and wildlife enhancement. The law specified that non-Federal public bodies may agree to administer lands for these purposes, with certain cost-sharing provisions.

The purpose of Auburn State Recreation Area is to preserve and make available to the people for their enjoyment and inspiration the outstanding recreational, scenic, natural, and cultural values of the North and Middle Forks of the American River, Lake Clementine, the steep river canyons, and associated upland areas, while recognizing that Congress may determine that an Auburn Dam and Reservoir may be constructed at some time in the future. The area's rugged and varied terrain provides for a wide variety of water-related and upland, backcountry and close-in outdoor recreation with outstanding opportunities for appreciation of the recreation area and relaxation for visitors of all abilities. The area's natural values include riparian corridors, oak woodlands, conifer forests, chaparral and grasslands; habitat for sensitive species including ringtails, peregrine falcons, foothill yellow-legged frogs, yellow-breasted chat, willow flycatchers and Sierra Nevada red fox; and unique geologic formations. Cultural resources within the area include Native American sites; paleontological resources; and important historic sites and artifacts associated with ranching, mining, water conveyance and transportation.

Vision for Auburn State Recreation Area

Auburn State Recreation Area offers important recreational opportunities, natural and cultural resources, and educational and interpretive values. These values are maintained while providing for the management and stewardship of the nation's water resources. The recreation area is managed by a collaborative partnership of agencies, concessionaires, and volunteers.

The area's recreational values include access to the North and Middle Forks of the American River, which are renowned for whitewater boating. The river, along with Lake Clementine and seasonal creeks, provide swimming, fishing, and other water-oriented recreation for visitors of all ages and abilities. Upland recreational pursuits attract visitors seeking relaxation, access to the natural environment, exercise, solitude, and social experiences in outdoor settings that range from easily-accessible developed areas to remote backcountry areas. The scenic river canyons and forested uplands and ridges support many trails for hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use. Popular recreation activities include rock climbing, history appreciation, hunting, and recreational gold panning.

The recreation area provides for the perpetuation of important natural and cultural resources. Habitats within the recreation area support populations of native aquatic and terrestrial species including special status plant and animals. The area provides wildlife corridors and sensitive riparian and oak woodland communities. The recreation area is within the traditional homeland of the Nisenan or Southern Maidu, and Native American sites abound. Historic resources are prevalent from the early 1800s, the gold rush, and more recent mining, timber harvesting, and transportation and dam construction activities.

Educational and interpretive opportunities provide visitors with a connection to the area's cultural and natural history. Visitors also learn about the Auburn Dam and Reservoir, as well as the area's current role in water resource management and as a venue for extreme endurance sports.



Mid-Pacific Region
Sacramento, CA



California Department
of Parks and Recreation

California State Parks (CSP) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) have developed four alternatives for the ASRA GP and APL RMP. Each alternative represents a different feasible approach to achieve the vision and purpose of ASRA consistent with the mandates of CSP and Reclamation. Each alternative includes a different thematic approach that addresses key issues, trends, opportunities, and impacts. The alternatives are:

- No Action Alternative (NAA);
- Resource Management Emphasis Alternative (RME);
- Increased Recreation and Resource Management Alternative (IRRM) – CSP Proposed Action; and
- Recreation Emphasis Alternative (RE).

Table 1, below, summarizes the theme of each alternative and Table 2 describes the land uses within each alternative.

Table 1 Alternative Themes	
Alternative	Theme
No Action (NAA)	This alternative retains current facilities and land uses according to current practices and as specified in the Interim Resource Management Plan.
Resource Management Emphasis (RME)	<p>This alternative provides increased resource protection/conservation as identified through comprehensive inventory/survey or other mechanisms, such as NEPA/CEQA review. This alternative primarily assumes the current level of recreation use will continue. It would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactively manage natural resources to protect, enhance and restore ecological function and natural processes. Increase management of natural and cultural resources, and prioritize ecosystem restoration in impacted areas. • Modify visitor access and recreation facilities to enhance resource protection and public safety. • Comprehensively inventory, survey, evaluate and monitor natural and cultural resources to provide additional data needed for effective protection and management. Prioritize areas for survey/inventory using factors including: potential threats to resources, current level of impact, unique or special status resources, habitat diversity and resource types. • Manage risks associated with climate change. For example: increase water efficiency in existing facilities; plant drought tolerant vegetation, especially trees, where there are losses; construct catchment systems for irrigation; and allow natural processes (fire, flooding)—and resulting vegetation succession, to occur where life and property are not threatened. • Provide robust educational and interpretive messages, programs, materials, features and facilities to enhance visitor understanding and engagement in resource protection and stewardship.
Increased Recreation and Resource Management (IRRM) – CSP Proposed Action	<p>This is the CSP proposed action. The alternative anticipates and accommodates increases in regional recreation demand by enhancing existing facilities and providing additional recreational facilities and access. This alternative also increases resource protection and management. It would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase recreational opportunities. Focus new recreation development primarily in existing medium or high intensity recreation use areas, or previously disturbed areas. • Selectively inventory, survey, evaluate, and monitor natural and cultural resources; and restore sensitive natural resource values. Prioritize the most significant resources and areas of greatest threats, including newly developed areas. • Use natural resource management strategies, such as protecting wildlife/habitat corridors and habitat elevation gradients, to maintain the capacity of natural resources to adapt and respond to climate change. • Provide interpretation and education messages, programs, materials, features and facilities to inform the public of recreation opportunities and promote awareness of natural and cultural resources.
Recreation Emphasis (RE)	<p>This alternative anticipates and accommodates demographically relevant and diverse increases in regional and statewide demand. This alternative also increases resource protection and management to address this correspondingly higher level of use and demand. It would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide new, expanded and renovated facilities and programs to increase recreation access and opportunities. • Manage natural and cultural resource to avoid or minimize impacts where threats are increasing, including areas where recreation use is increasing and where new facilities or uses are proposed. Focus survey and inventory of resources in areas where threats are greatest. • Monitor and report potential effects of climate change on natural and cultural resources. • Provide interpretation and education messages, programs, materials, features and facilities to inform the public of recreation opportunities, and to enhance awareness and stewardship of natural and cultural resources.

**ASRA GP and APL RMP
Land Use Designations
May 31, 2018 Draft**

ASRA has been divided into 11 proposed management zones that reflect geographic areas with similar existing conditions and issues. Each management zone may include one or more activity nodes, which are smaller areas where specific actions or facilities would be located. The intensity of land use in some management zones and activity nodes would change due to changes in activities and/or facilities proposed under each alternative. The table below, shows the land use designations for each management zone and activity node under each alternative. The locations and land use designations for proposed management zones and activity nodes are displayed on separate maps. The land use designations are defined as follows:

- **Recreation (High and Medium Intensity).** Areas that allow more intensive recreational use in a developed and structured setting. These areas accommodate the highest levels of visitor use in the SRA, provide vehicle access to recreational and interpretive activities and facilities, and are of a sufficient size to locate the parking, utilities, and infrastructure needed to support the visitor use. The focus of resource management in these areas is to minimize or avoid additional impact to resources. The Recreation designation is further classified by intensity of use. High Intensity Recreation represents the most extensively-developed areas in the SRA* and the major gateways for visitors. Medium Intensity Recreation areas are somewhat less developed and offer fewer facilities.
- **Resources (Low Recreation Intensity).** Areas whose natural and cultural resource values will be protected while allowing lower intensity recreation and interpretation that is compatible with, and dependent on, the resource values. These areas offer opportunities for more challenge- and adventure-based recreational activities in a more natural setting. Facilities in these areas (if provided) tend to be more primitive than in Recreation areas and direct vehicle access may not always exist. Resource management in Conservation areas emphasizes protecting and restoring natural processes with only minor modification of non-sensitive resources permitted to accommodate additional visitor use.
- **OHV (High and Medium Intensity).** Areas which allow for motorized off-road vehicle use, in addition to other compatible uses as described in the High and Medium Intensity Recreation Use designation.
- **Administration.** Areas with facilities associated with the operation and maintenance of the SRA or nearby public lands. These areas provide vehicle access, and are of a sufficient size to locate the parking, utilities, and infrastructure needed to support administrative and visitor use. Interpretive and visitor information facilities and activities may be provided. Portions of these areas are generally restricted to staff and related personnel associated with facilities operations. Resource management in Administration areas generally emphasizes modification of natural processes to accommodate operation and maintenance facilities. Public lands in the vicinity are administered by the Auburn Recreation District, Placer County Water Agency, El Dorado County, Placer County, U.S Bureau of Reclamation, the U. S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the California Department of Parks and Recreation, thus multi-agency facilities may be appropriate in these areas.

**It should be noted that “High” or “Medium” Intensity land use for ASRA will not be comparable to Folsom’s similarly-labeled land use. Land Use Intensity should be considered relative only to other areas of ASRA.*

Table 2: ASRA Comparison of Land Use Designations by Alternative

Zone	Management Zone Name/ Activity Node	Approximate Acres	No Action Alternative (NAA)*	Resource Management Emphasis (RME)*	Increased Resource Management and Recreation* (IRRM) – CSP Proposed Action	Recreation Emphasis (RE)*
1	Knickerbocker	3,124				
	A. Knickerbocker Flat	1,779	A. Recreation – Medium	A. Recreation – Medium	A. Recreation – Medium	A. Recreation – Medium
	B. Cool Staging Area	46	B. Recreation – Medium	B. Recreation – Medium	B. Recreation – High	B. Recreation – High
	C. Knickerbocker Road Corridor	424	C. Recreation – Medium	C. Recreation – Medium	C. Recreation – Medium	C. Recreation – High
	Remainder of Management Zone	875	Resources – Low Recreation	Resources – Low Recreation	Resources – Low Recreation	Resources – Low Recreation
2	Auburn Interface	1,610				
	A. Birdsall, China and Oregon Bar	162	A. Recreation – Medium	A. Recreation – Medium	A. Recreation – High	A. Recreation – High
	B. Rocky Point/Salt Creek	353	B. Resources – Low Recreation	B. Resources – Low Recreation	B. Recreation – Medium	B. Recreation – High
	C. Core Sheds	1	C. Administration	C. Administration	C. Recreation – High	C. Recreation – High
	D. PCWA Pump Station	0.5	D. Administration	D. Administration	D. Administration	D. Administration
	E. Lower North Fork View	256	E. Resources – Low Recreation	E. Resources – Low Recreation	E. Resources – Low Recreation	E. Resources – Low Recreation
	Remainder of Management Zone	838	Recreation – Medium	Recreation – Medium	Recreation – Medium	F. Recreation – Medium
3	Confluence	2,199				
	A. Highway 49 Access	239	A. Recreation – High	A. Recreation – High	A. Recreation – High	A. Recreation – High
	B. Cool Cave Quarry	200	B. Recreation – Medium	B. Recreation – Medium	B. Recreation – Medium	B. Recreation – High
	C. Sector Office	17	C. Administration	C. Administration	C. Administration	C. Administration
	D. Confluence view	1,021	D. Recreation – Medium	D. Recreation – Medium	D. Recreation – Medium	D. Recreation – Medium
	E. Mtn Quarries Mine	1	E. Resources – Low Recreation	E. Resources – Low Recreation	E. Recreation – Medium	E. Recreation – Medium
Remainder of Management Zone	721	Resources – Low Recreation	Resources – Low Recreation	Resources – Low Recreation	Resources – Low Recreation	
4	Foresthill Divide	2,927				
	A. Road Corridor	615	A. Recreation – Medium	A. Recreation – Medium	A. Recreation – Medium	A. Recreation – Medium
Remainder of Management Zone	2,313	Recreation – Medium	Recreation – Medium	Recreation – Medium	Recreation – Medium	
5	Lake Clementine	1,363				
	A. Lower Lake and Lake	193	A. Recreation – High	A. Recreation – Medium	A. Recreation – High	A. Recreation – High
	B. Upper Lake Beach	65	B. Recreation – High	B. Recreation – High	B. Recreation – High	B. Recreation – High
	Remainder of Management Zone	1,105	Resources – Low Recreation	Resources – Low Recreation	Resources – Low Recreation	Resources – Low Recreation
6	Mammoth Bar	1,170				
	A. Staging Area	47	A. OHV – High	A. Recreation – High	A. OHV – High	A. OHV – High
	B. Castle Rock	89	B. OHV – Medium	B. Recreation – Medium	B. OHV – High	B. OHV – High
	Remainder of Management Zone	1,034	OHV – Medium	Recreation – Medium	OHV – Medium	OHV – Medium
7	Lower Middle Fork	3,066	Resources – Low Recreation	Resources – Low Recreation	Resources – Low Recreation	Resources – Low Recreation
8	Cherokee Bar/Ruck-a-Chucky	3,657				
	A. Greenwood/Ruck-a-Chucky	50	A. Recreation – High	A. Recreation – Medium	A. Recreation – High	A. Recreation – High
	B. Cherokee Bar	112	B. Resources – Low Recreation	B. Resources – Low Recreation	B. Recreation – Medium	B. Recreation – Medium
	C. Canyon Creek	64	C. Resources – Low Recreation	C. Resources – Low Recreation	C. Recreation – Medium	C. Recreation – High
	Remainder of Management Zone	3,431	Resources – Low Recreation	Resources – Low Recreation	Recreation – Medium	Recreation – Medium
9	Upper North Fork	7,358				
	A. Shirttail Canyon/Yankee Jims	94	A. Recreation – Medium	A. Recreation – Medium	A. Recreation – Medium	A. Recreation – Medium
	B. Ponderosa Crossing	154	B. Recreation – Medium	B. Recreation – Medium	B. Recreation – Medium	B. Recreation – Medium
	Remainder of Management Zone	7,110	Resources – Low Recreation	Resources – Low Recreation	Resources – Low Recreation	Resources – Low Recreation
10	Mineral Bar	217	Recreation – Medium	Recreation – Medium	Recreation – Medium	Recreation – Medium
11	Upper Middle Fork	3,919	Resources – Low Recreation	Resources – Low Recreation	Resources – Low Recreation	Resources – Low Recreation
Total:		30,610				

*Note that colors depicted on this table correspond to land use designations shown on the CSP proposed action maps.