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’t do
• Access—where can people get out of their 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 backyard
• 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