

Auburn State Recreation Area General Plan/Resource Management Plan

Public Meeting #1

Summary of Public Input (as of December 1, 2015)

Date: November 12, 2015
Location: Skyridge Elementary School (800 Perkins Way in Auburn)
Total Attendees: Approximately 200

This document summarizes the public input received with respect to the first public workshop for the Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA) General Plan and Resource Management Plan (GP/RMP) Public Workshop #1 and any other public comment offered as of December 1, 2015. This summary has been organized as follows:

1. Brief summary of workshop presentation
2. Public comments received at workshop stations
3. Written comments received via comment box or following workshop

1. Workshop Presentation Summary

Introductions

Jason DeWall, CDPR Division Chief

- Thanked everyone for coming and engaging in the process
- Meeting logistics

Leeyan Mao, Reclamation Deputy Area Manager

- Introductions of Reclamation staff

Steve Musillami, CDPR Planning Section Manager

- Introductions of CDPR staff

Presentation

Jim Micheaels, CDPR Gold Fields District Project Lead

- History of ASRA
- Components of the Plan
- Relationship to Prior Planning Efforts

Chris Mundhenk, Ascent Environmental

- Existing Conditions (in preparation)
- What will be addressed and what won't be addressed
- Schedule

Cheryl Essex, CDPR Northern Service Center Project Lead

- Organization of tonight's workshop

2. Public Comments Received at Workshop Stations (by Station)

Station 1: Introduction/Planning Process

- Create partnerships with California schools and community-based organizations

- Use YouTube to replace current mailing system to energize youth
- Ensure that planning process is well published and that instructions are coherent
- Meet with special interest groups
- Interview young park visitors in the park
- Meet with students from local schools
- Interview campers in campgrounds
- Interview users in park not associated with an organized groups
- Utilize social media (e.g., Facebook)
- Conduct online surveys
- Reach out to www.cyclingdev.com to make connections with high school mountain bike groups
- Provide opinion boxes at trailheads
- Prepare and make public a project management plan
- Pursue grants from organizations such as REI
- Work with Placer County to ensure consistency with applicable plans and ordinances
- Station surveyors throughout ASRA

Station 2: Natural and Cultural Resources

- Allow Hawver Cave Tours
 - Resource and asset that should be open to the community
 - Significant machinery and equipment that could be excavated and displayed to the public
 - Preserve new stalactites
- Provide youth education opportunities
 - School tours
- Keep Upper Clementine Road closed for October-May wilderness
- Protect bats from White Nose Fungus
- Clean-up trash in ASRA area
- Eliminate environmental reviews that prevent trail maintenance from occurring
- Install artificial raptor nesting habitat
- Execute proper studies before any development
- Give attention to otters observed in Middle Fork downstream of Mammoth Bar
- Install a pedestrian bridge at China Bar
- Address connectivity, specific populations, and conservation analysis during conservation planning process
- Provide more interpretive exhibits
- Provide directions to scenic areas for photographers
- Develop overlook visitor center
 - Phase I: site improvements
 - Phase II: portable buildings
 - Phase III: permanent buildings with museum, classrooms, offices, etc.
- Improve trail creek crossing to reduce erosion and protect aquatic species
- Protect park animals
- Assess biocontrol agents for non-native species
- Provide annual training for river guides by Bill Deitchman to pass along history and institutional knowledge

- Protect and provide notice of Native American influences (e.g., grinding holes) and native plant and animals
 - Approach casino for financial support
- Partner with State Parks, Foundations, and Park Champions to organize regular volunteer events for non-native plants
- Consider California wild and scenic river designations above Clementine
- Protect old rock walls and other cultural resources
- Protect fossil records of Pleistocene megafauna (i.e., mastodon, dire wolf, giant ground sloth, saber tooth tiger, shrub ox)
 - Note that mammoths were never in California
- Maintain current hours and do not allow night biking unless for certain events
- Ensure natural and cultural resource are not damaged by mountain biking activities
- Encourage removal of dead/dying/down trees by woodcutters for firewood
- Enact ACT crossing options
- Encourage gold mining
- Preserve the air quality of the area
- Work collaboratively with the Nevada/Placer Cooperative Weed Management Area and the Placer County Agriculture Department to identify and eradicate populations of noxious and invasive weeds

Station 3: Aquatic Recreation—Rivers and Lakes

- Improve road (e.g., pave) to Upper Lake Clementine
 - Provide camp site at Upper Lake Clementine with vehicle access
- Enlarge parking areas at Yankee Jim’s Bar and Shirt Tail Circle
- Provide winter access to Upper Lake Clementine
- Extend ramp at Lower Lake Clementine
- Improve stairway at Lower Lake Clementine
- Provide working restrooms on Lake Clementine
- Planned changed on the MFAR and NFAR [?]
- Open commercial photography spots beyond the existing two
- Provide south side access for general public at Rocky Island
- Add additional camp sites in both canyons
- Establish an official clothing-optional beach at Gate 131
 - Allow skinny dipping
- Provide paddle-in campsites at Lake Clementine
- Allow swimming (e.g., long distance) at Lower Lake Clementines
 - Establish an open-water swim area with buoy
- Stock fish
- Designate non-motorized lake days
- Allow motorized use at all times
- Limit wake size on Lake Clementine
 - Limit boat speed to 5 mph
- Extend the season for Lake Clementine
 - Can be weekend-only
- Continue to disallow inflatables at Lake Clementine
- Keep day-site charcoal pit

- Make boating improvements to Murderer’s Bar
 - Build a portage trail
 - Employee a judicious application of explosives to improve safe navigation
- Keep China Bar open for year-round rafting access
- Provide year-round camping at Lake Clementine
 - Year-round vehicle access
- Provide lower connector trail to Lake Clementine to Foresthill Divide Loop Trail
- Establish more of a lake-side trail along Lake Clementine
- Allow vender at Upper Lake Clementine for kayaks/paddle boarding
- Allow more rafting from the confluence to Folsom Lake
- Don’t stock fish
 - Manage habitat, flow, and water quality
- Fix hairpin turn on Lower Lake Clementine Road for better vehicle access
- Provide group campsite at Ruck-a-Chucky area
 - Preferably at 2nd crossing area (Paradise Canyon)
- Provide incentives for a concessionaire to help keep costs down for non-profit users/groups (e.g., soliciting programs)
- Establish dog-friendly areas
- Develop or supervise/support youth boating skills and water safety programs
- Stock Sacramento perch in Lake Clementine
- Put in cable system at Ruck-a-Chucky Portage Trail
- Allow small-time mining
- Maintain current policy allowing river camping by private boaters as outlined in the Auburn SRA River Camp Permit Revise 12-2-14
- Explore opportunities to improve the recreational value of the Pump Station Rapids

Station 4: Confluence, Quarry Area, China Area

- Recommend ban on alcoholic beverages
 - Produces trash
- Recommend ban on cigarette
 - Produces trash
- China Bar Road entrances should be open more often; can’t be used when locked
- Create a China Bar Hill dog park
- Provide a bridge at China Bar for hikers, equestrians, and bicyclists
- Provide wildlife kiosks and interpretive signs with information about history, geology, and wildlife
- Permit commercial outfitters for afternoon and evening float trips at confluence
- Allow parking access on Bode Road (upper Clementine)
- Improve trails on south side of the river below No Hands Bridge
- Open Hawver Caves for tours
- Develop a process that would allow for responsible rock climbing bolts in this area and around the park
- Establish a clothing optional area/beach
- Provide new connections between trails around Auburn Dam site—confluence to Climbar Bridge to Cool Trail System for hikers, equestrians, and bicyclists
- Provide reduced cost carpool parking spots

- Provide more rangers for trail usage
- Provide bike parking in China Bar Area that connect kid-friendly hikes to hiking areas
- Provide disabled parking at Birdsall that is close to the water
- Allow free parking at the confluence every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month
- Provide shuttle service to confluence on the weekends to reduce parking congestion
- Complete Quarries Mine Touring and Interactive Project
- Provide family campgrounds at Cool and a bridge across the old dam site for trail use
- Designate motorcycle parking with a \$5 fee
- Improve trails to river to reduce impacts from erosion
- Remove rocks below man made wave spot
- Allow Vehicle access to dam site
- Provide Mountain bike access from the confluence to Cool from Auburn
- Allow multi-use for trails
- Allow small-scale mining to continue
- Revegetate Auburn Dam site to repair visual quality
- Provide a crosswalk near the bridge at the confluence
 - Speed bumps or strips
- Provide drinking fountain at confluence
- Provide more rangers to patrol parking lot area to reduce vandalism
- Disabled access trail on No Hands Bridge or Mt. Quarry Road
- Improve access Kayak Play Park for kayak events
- Open river view at lower section of Western States Trail to mountain bikers to eliminate the need to park at the bottom of the confluence
- Keep China Bar open year round
- Create signage of trails to ASRA to encourage runners/bikers/hikers to ride from Auburn
- Change Cardiac Bypass to be multiuse
 - Currently restricts mountain bikers
- Provide new equestrian staging areas
- Add multiuse trails to China Bar from Maidu- Pleasant Street to the lower fire road
- Provide new trash can by Clarks Pool
- Encourage gold mining
- Construct an amphitheater at China Bar for concerts, weddings, meetings, and special events
- Open south side roach access to the Pump Station Rapid below the Confluence

Station 5: Mammoth Bar and OHV Use

- Keep Mammoth Bar Mountain Track open all year long
- Provide signs on the river that warn about Class V rapids
- Create mountain bike area with OHV park
 - Trails designed to minimize erosion
- Move motorcycle to another area of ASRA
- Provide downhill and freeride mountain bike and dirt trails with stunts
- Expand trail areas and enlarge MX trail
- Allow clothing-optional area across the river from Mammoth Bar
- Expand operating days for Mammoth Bar and open temperature shot for OHV trails
- Provide mountain biking trail connecting Ranch Trail up to Foresthill Road to get bikes to Connector Trail and Confluence Trails

- Can be modeled after South Lake Tahoe
- Give trail work attention to Grizzly and Eastside trails
- Provide interpretive exhibits
- Create specific day calendar for OHV and mountain bike use
- Keep current schedule for fisherman
- Improve existing trails at Mammoth Bar OHV area which are eroded and create additional trails with jump features for mountain bikers

Station 6: Other Recreation Activities, Facilities

- Allow more gold panning and sluicing
- Provide better up keep and grading on Drivers Flat Road
- Allow clothing-optional areas
 - Provide signage
 - Provide Porta Potties
 - Provide parking
 - Allow skinny dipping
- Maintain flows and water quality so wild trout can survive and prosper
 - In both North Fork and Middle Fork American
- Stock fish
- Open Hawver Mine for tours and history lessons
- Provide disabled access to Mt Quarry Trail for 0.5-1 mile
- Construct visitor center at overlook
- Prohibit camping to prevent fire damage and overcrowding
- Construct Oregon Bar non-motorized vehicle bridge
- Relocate Cardiac Trail to be on public not private property
- Provide sports fields and equestrian facility on HW 49 between Northside School and Catecroft
- Provide access to BLM land not a part of SRA
- Allow base jumping from Foresthill Bridge on certain days
- Do not allow base jumping from Foresthill Bridge
- Host a bridge day event
- Allow bow and arrow hunting during August
 - Add bear to list of species available for hunting
- Maintain no hunting rule except in designated areas
 - No hunting in Olmstead area
- Provide a public shooting range
- Provide more public access to incident reports
- Patrol Yankee Jim area to reduce incidents of crime
- Allow nude hang gliding
- Provide off leash dog areas
- Provide free parking for a number of days a year
- Increase number of rangers
- Educate voters on propositions related to registration fees and state park fees
- Provide a formal plan for trail maintenance
- More poison oak abatement
- Open Railhead and Pioneer Express to mountain bikers
 - Allow night-time riding

- Develop areas based on ecosystem disciplines (e.g., aquatic, food web, wildlife)
- Involve ecologists at every stage of the planning process
- Involve fire prevention science in every stage of the planning process
- Map wildland urban interface (WUI) for use in ASRA management
- Develop an active program to mitigate visual impacts to canyon areas
- Encourage TPZ
- Create ASRA conservancy
- Educate public about gold mining
- Provide park access to underserved populations
- Have hiking tours like the Middle Mountain Foundation in the Sutter Buttes
- Develop a permanent facility for outdoor events (e.g., family reunions, weddings, music events, etc.) near China Bar or on flat areas along Quarry Trail
- Develop campground at Cherokee Bar
- Acknowledge that ASRA is a recreation area and encourage recreational activities within its borders
- Additional overnight camping at trailheads modeled after the Lake Sonoma Rec Area of A.L.O.E.
- Continue to allow dog training by CA Rescue Dog Association (CARDA)
- Prevent campers from washing dishes and pans in the lake
- Implement manure management plan
- Provide restrooms at the quarry for climbers
- Provide information regarding the history of Auburn Dam
- Establish an art and sculpture park

Station 7: Trails, Roads, and Parking

- Don't enforce nude hiking laws
 - Provide clothing optional hiking trails and area
 - Add signage on trails regarding clothing-optional use
- Expand parking fee area on SR 49, south of bridge
- Expand and improve parking at major trailheads
 - Charge for parking to fund maintenance
- If bridge at China Bar isn't added, provide low-water crossing
 - Should be multi-use
 - Would alleviate congestion
- Maintain and increase vehicular access
- Expand off highway vehicle (OHV) throughout area
 - Add downhill jump trail in Mammoth Bar OHV, connect Ranch Trail to Foresthill Road to reduce bikes on the road
- Provide single track mountain bike path from South Auburn to No Hands Bridge
- Provide ADA trail into mine for tours
 - 0.25 miles
- Don't allow North Fork Trail to continue beyond Ponderosa Way
- Provide new trails that are located/designed in the most ecologically sensitive way possible
- Provide multi-use trail from Auburn to Cool
- Provide trail from Downtown Auburn (Borland) to Murphy's Gate
 - Non-vehicle access to ASRA
- Provide mountain bike access to Cool from confluence

- Allow night time mountain biking
- Separate equestrians/hikers/bicyclists
 - More safety signs
- Provide access from private campground at Cool into ASRA
- Consider horse cart access when planning trails
- Open limited use trails to multi-use
- Consider odd/even management of trails to increase access
- Consider night riding trail use
- Set aside some days for free parking
- Separate hiking and biking to keep canyon trails safe
- Make trail and bike access connections from ASRA to Cool, Cronan Ranch, and Granite Bay
 - Western States Trail and Pioneer Express
- Prohibit night riding
- Improve erosion control on trails
- Use old PG&E road as a connector trail from confluence river road to HW 49 next to the quarry
- Maintain equestrian-only trails
- Recognize North Fork Trail
- Parking for fishing access
- Keep trails open for maintenance and brushing
- Remove remnant barbed wire
- Provide more formal parking at Yankee Jim Bridge
- Implement formal Trail Maintenance Program
- Equestrian staging area reestablished at China Bar
- Equestrian staging areas at Cherokee Flat and parking
- Maintain quarry trail road
- Improve pedestrian access to North Fork at info booth near confluence
- Limit or control vehicular access to canyon to prevent fires
- Allow year-round access to upper Clementine
- Reconfigure Cardiac Trail so it is on all public lands and doesn't cross over private lands
 - Provide signage about fire safety
 - Open to mountain biking
- Keep Olmstead Horse Trail in safe condition
- Incorporate fire measures to reduce impacts to homes and cost of fire insurance
- Enforcement of illegal trail use
- Alternate days:
 - For equestrian trails
 - For mountain bike trails
- More policing of mountain biking on the Divide Trail for equestrian safety
- Provide metered parking
 - \$0.25 an hour
- Reduce "time to shovel" for trail projects
- Provide more kid-friendly trails, rollers, without cliffs to reconnect with main trails
- Make parking at confluence at HW 49 safer
- More parking at the top of Lower Lake Clementine
- Provide off-road access from Murphy Gate to Park Office
- Connect North Fork Trail to Iowa Hill Road

- Connects USFS and BLM
- Connect top of Auburn overlooks to other trails
 - Add less confusing signage in the China Bar, Oregon Bar, Birdsall, Riverview, Tamaroo Bar Trail areas
- Open Riverview trail and lower section of Western States Trail to bikes
- Develop year-long at parking to Oregon/Birdsall for fishing
- Correct WST/Pioneer Trail signage
- Open Quarry Trail to mountain bikes
- Open Western States Trail to mountain bikes
- Ban smoking and drinking to reduce impacts associated with litter
- Provide horse-friendly campsites
- Coordinate planning with Placer County's 2016/2017 Trails Master Plan
- Provide picnic tables and benches occasionally along trails
- Comply with International Mountain Biking Association's recommendations for Trail Construction Standards
 - Multi-use trails should be as unobtrusive as possible
- Encourage volunteerism
- Develop plan without construction of Auburn Dam
- Keep WST restricted to equine and pedestrian use only
- Provide new parking and horse staging area at Cherokee Flat
- Create better trail maps
- Develop trail classification system (e.g. easy, moderate, or difficult)
- Develop nature trails with identification of flora
- Develop a geological trail which identifies rocks and rock formations
- Establish an adopt-a-trail program and maintain with money from sponsors and support from volunteers
- Use AQMD shuttle program to reduce overcrowding at Yankee Jim's parking area
- Work with mountain bikers to develop a Road and Trails Management Plan
- Reduce barriers and promote additional mountain biking opportunities such as benefit rides, "poker" rides, night rides, race events, and skills courses
- Promote ASRA as a premier destination for mountain biking
- Prepare a parallel plan to address developing a safe bicycling route from Auburn to Cool
- Continue to require the Poppy Pass or fee for parking
- Provide additional trails, parking, or land closures or openings to maximize sportsmen's ability to utilize and enjoy ASRA
- Provide temporary parking for kayak unloading
- Increase the frequency of road maintenance on the north side of Yankee Jim's Road between Weimar and the Yankee Jim Bridge
- Permit trail access after dark

3. Written Comments Received

Category	Comment(s)
Individual Comments on the Planning Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct an assembly at school for youth to inform about ASRA-related issues • Create a website • Send handouts to school children • Conduct another survey • Communicate with school sports teams (e.g., mountain bike teams) • Host classes for youth • Use social media (e.g., Facebook) • Provide information to the Auburn Journal • Host more workshops • Provide informational tables at festivals • Hold contests (e.g., virtual geocaching) • Hold meetings in San Francisco and Sacramento • Hold in-person public outreach opportunities • Create an email newsletter • Allow children to attend future meetings
Individual Comments on Valuable Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect natural flow and beauty of the river • Retain/preserve riparian areas • Preserve natural science (e.g., geology, biology) of the area • Prioritize tree cover, limestone quarry, swimming and sunbathing, cave spelunking, and bridge on the river below Overlook as actions under General Plan • Preserve Native American resources • Preserve historical resources • Preserve Hawver Mine • Preserve Lake Clementine • Preserve the Confluence • Enforce leash law to mitigate impacts to resources related to dogs • Provide trash cans to reduce litter • Preserve Wild Trout Fishery • Ensure river access • Continue maintenance of Mammoth Bar OHV and expand that resource • Preserve quiet areas within ASRA • Preserve No Hands Bridge • Consult with Auburn Indian Community to manage cultural resources
Individual Comments on Recreation Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a non-motorized vehicle bridge on ford downstream of Mountain Quarry Bridge • Trails for non-motorized-use and fire trails should be the highest priority • More prospecting

Category	Comment(s)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve equestrian trails • Improve trail safety • Keep single-track trails • Preserve existing trails and views • Remove paid parking at confluence; Taxpayers should be allowed to park for free • Include more hiking and photography opportunities • Maintain/provide equestrian trails and hiking • Enforce divide between equestrian trails and mountain biking • Provide biking, hiking, and equestrian trail use • Allow rock climbing • Allow whitewater rafting • Provide more/easily accessible campgrounds • Improve fishing opportunities • Allow base jumping • Provide tours of Hawver Mine • Construct visitor center • Continue to allow swimming • Improve parking • Provide bird watching events • Provide Porta-Potties at trail heads • Include interpretive signage • Increase number of rangers • Preserve clothing optional areas • Provide more access for mountain biking • Allow prospecting in ASRA waterways • Provide sports fields • Construct equestrian facility • Provide disabled access trail (e.g., 0.5-1 mile long trail on Quarry Trail or by No Hands Bridge) • Improve kayak access • Construct multi-use bridge at China Bar • Increase access to China Bar • Improve state of existing trails • Expand camping opportunities • Allow mountain bike access to Western State Tevis Cup trails • Continue OHV use at Mammoth Bar • Re-open temporarily closed OHV trails and open park 5 days per week including Saturday and Sunday • Continue the moto-cross track and look to expansion • Enforce ASRA rules for trails • Construct a link to El Dorado and Placer counties and ASRA and Folsom • Support water skiing and wake boarding on Lake Clementine • Construct a mountain bike trail from Cool to Confluence

Category	Comment(s)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide signage at every trail head • Establish a rifle and pistol shooting range • Permit night riding <p style="text-align: center;">Allow unrestricted climbing in quarry area</p>
Individual Comments on Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide better parking • Provide paved bike trail similar to Lower American River Parkway Trail to connect ASRA with Folsom Lake Recreation Area and Lower American River Parkway • Include structural improvements to reduce fire risk and price of fire insurance • Install diving board on Foresthill Bridge and allow base jumping • Allow tours of Hawver Mine • Provide more campgrounds • Provide permitted events (e.g., races) • Revisit OPR DOM interpretation • Implement SB 204 and AB 549 to increase partnering with local volunteer organizations • Construct China Bar bridge • Construct visitor center • Apply for grants and donations • Provide “Clothing Optional” signage at designated locations • Implement more/higher fees for parking • Construct youth sports facilities • Provide paved parking at quarry • Establish enterprise zones near private property • Provide equestrian staging area at China Bar • Provide free parking • Hold water safety classes at the confluence • Open up China Bar to public access • Increase fishing accessibility to generate income from permit purchases • Provide carpool parking to improve parking constraints • Allow additional commercial photography for whitewater boating • Sponsor a series of “bridge days” for bridge-related recreation (e.g., base jumping, bungee jumping, etc.) • Sponsor off-road motorcycle rallies, scrambles, and moto-cross events • Provide additional multi-use trails especially for mountain biking in South West area of ASRA • Institute a heavy fine for those misusing the trail systems • Continue program of granting volunteers parking passes • Charge all users of Lake Clementine a usage fee • Coordinate with a Canyon Keeper’s group to provide tours of Hawver Mine • Allow OHV to continue and create revenue

Category	Comment(s)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that Western States Trail remains horse and foot trail between Auburn and Cool • Keep ASRA open to all mining activities • Build bridge below PCWA and pump station • Provide better signage • Install more trails, especially an Auburn to Cool trail • Sell “Goldfields District-only” passes • Provide informational panels throughout ASRA • Construct a Visitor Center at the Overlook • Open Hawver Mine to tours • Provide more campgrounds • Provide more mountain biking accessibility to combat obesity • Provide more hiking and biking trails along North Fork of the American River • Designate separate trails for hiking, biking, and equestrian use • Construct bridge below dam site for hiking, biking, and equestrian use only • Develop multi-use trail system • Implement alternating days for trail use • Provide signs regarding littering and fire safety
Other Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise map of ASRA to include more detail (e.g., historical sites, trails, and parking areas) • Charge for bridge jumping • Sell “Goldfields District-only” passes [list above also] • Provide informational panels throughout ASRA • Increase litter management • Increase park security • Educate school children to respect natural resources • Increase fishing opportunities • Promote responsible park use (e.g., littering, trail damage) • Hire more rangers • Hire junior rangers • Encourage the president to declare ASRA a national monument • Educate mountain bikers on how to interact with hikers