*View of the lower North Fork of the American River*

CHAPTER 4

# The Plan

# 4 The Plans

## 4.1 Purpose and Vision

### 4.1.1 Declaration of Purpose

Public Law 89-161 authorized the Secretary of the Interior to construct, operate, and maintain the Auburn-Folsom South Unit, American River Division, Central Valley Project. The agency directed to build, operate, and maintain the Unit is the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. As a principal part of the Unit, the law authorized the acquisition of the Auburn Project Lands (APL) for 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. Reclamation has decided to manage the waters and lands through a Managing Partner Agreement with California State Parks (CSP).

The purpose of Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA) 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.

*Source: CSP*

*The purpose of Auburn State Recreation Area/Auburn Project Lands 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.*

## 4.1.2 Vision for Auburn State Recreation Area

Auburn State Recreation Area and Auburn Project Lands (ASRA/APL) offer 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. ASRA/APL is managed by a collaborative partnership of agencies, concessionaires, and volunteers.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*The vision for ASRA/APL includes providing a range of opportunities for visitors seeking relaxation, access to the natural environment, exercise, solitude, and social experiences in outdoor settings.*

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. Other popular recreation activities include camping, off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, rock climbing, history appreciation, hunting, and recreational gold panning.

ASRA/APL provides for the perpetuation of important natural and cultural resources. Habitats within ASRA/APL 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. ASRA/APL 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 adventure and endurance sports.

# 4.2 Land Use and Management

## 4.2.1 Unit Classification

The federal Unit is identified as the Auburn-Folsom South Unit and consists of other works such as Folsom Dam and Lake, Nimbus Dam and Lake Natoma, and what is planned to be the Auburn Dam and Reservoir. The State Park System is organized in a ten-level classification system. Most parks fit into the following six classifications: State Park, State Beach, State Historic Park, State Recreation Area, State Natural Reserve, and State Vehicular Recreation Area. These classifications are described in Sections 5019.50 et seq. of Article 1.7 of the Public Resources Code (PRC). ASRA was classified as a State Recreation Area in 1979. State Recreation Areas are defined in *PRC Section 5019.56(a)* as follows:

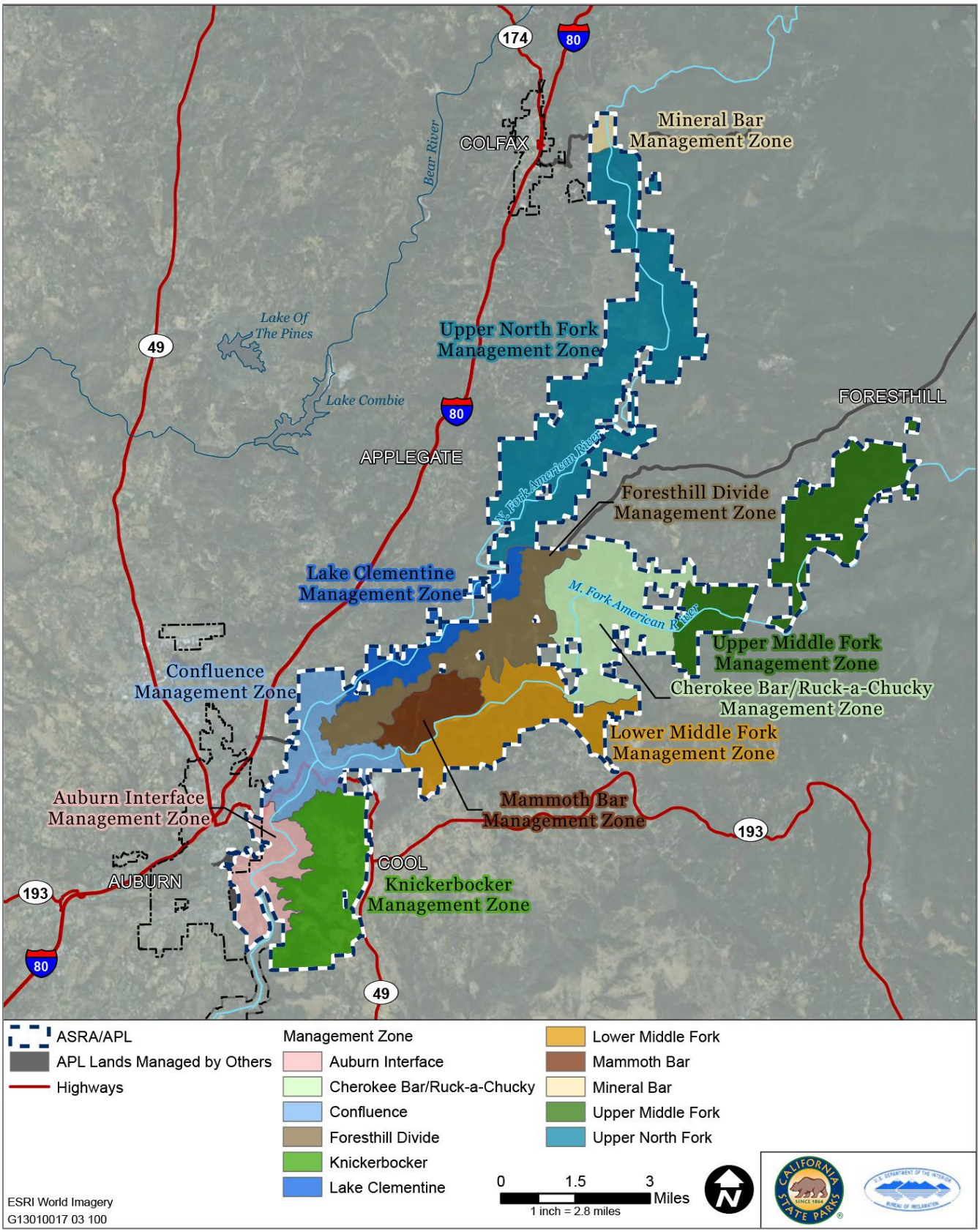
> *"State recreation areas, consisting of areas selected and developed to provide multiple recreational opportunities to meet other than purely local needs. The areas shall be selected for their having terrain capable of withstanding extensive human impact and for their proximity to large population centers, major routes of travel, or proven recreational resources such as manmade or natural bodies of water…"*

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Management zones and activity nodes have been designated with ASRA/APL. This plan identifies facilities and management actions that are allowable within each activity node. The exact location of facilities or management actions within each activity node will be determined through site-specific assessments during project planning and design.*

## 4.2.2 Management Zones and Activity Nodes

APL consists of those lands that make up the federal project known as the Auburn-Folsom South Unit or more commonly known as the Auburn Dam and Auburn Reservoir lands. There is a very small percentage of lands that are owned in fee-title by the State of California. The State Parks and Recreation Commission established the Auburn State Recreation Area and the footprint of the ASRA covers a majority of APL. ASRA/APL has been further divided into 11 management zones that reflect geographic areas with similar existing conditions and issues. Figure 4.2-1 shows the location of the location of the management zones. The management intent for each zone and management zone-specific goals and guidelines are provided in Section 4.4, Management Zone Intent, Goals, and Guidelines.




*Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2017*

Figure 4.2-1 ASRA/APL Management Zones

Each management zone may include one or more activity nodes, which are smaller areas where specific actions or facilities would be located. This plan identifies facilities and management actions that are allowable within each activity node. The exact location of facilities or management actions within each activity node will be determined through site-specific assessments during project-specific planning and design.

## 4.2.3 Land Use Designations

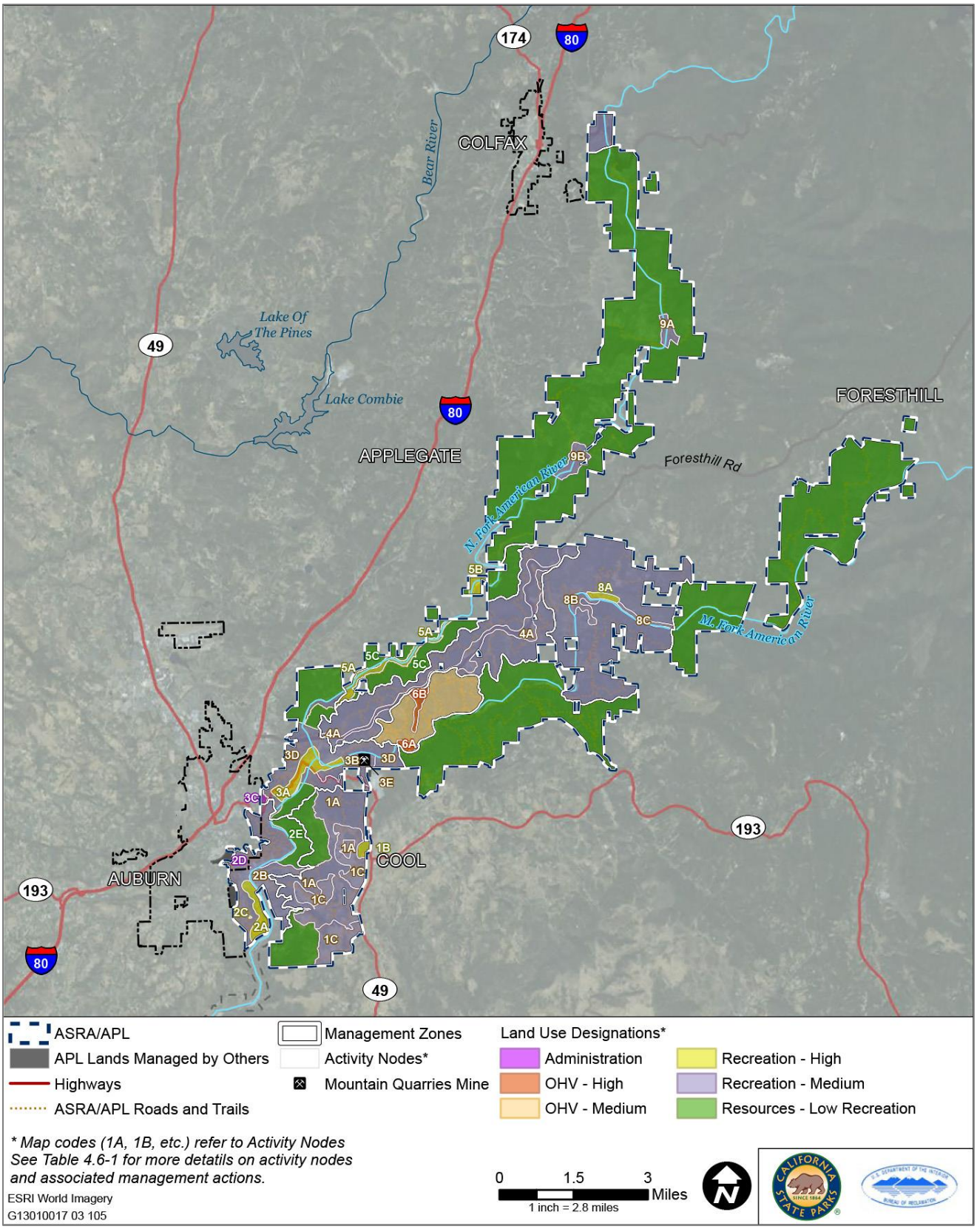
The intensity of land use in some management zones and activity nodes would change due to changes in activities and/or facilities proposed under each alternative. The locations of proposed land use designations throughout ASRA/APL are shown in Figure 4.2-2. Section 4.4, Management Zone Intent, Goals, and Guidelines, includes tables that show 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 alternatives maps in Section 4.4. The land use designations are defined as follows:

- **Recreation (High and Medium Intensity).** Areas that allow intensive recreational use in a developed and structured setting. These areas accommodate the highest levels of visitor use in ASRA/APL, 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 ASRA/APL 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 these areas emphasizes protecting and restoring natural processes with only minor modification of non-sensitive resources permitted to accommodate additional visitor use.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*The intensity of land use in some management zones and activity nodes would change due to differences in planned activities and/or facilities under each alternative.*




*Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2017*

Figure 4.2-2 Land Uses within ASRA/APL

- **OHV (High and Medium Intensity).** Areas that 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 ASRA/APL 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 Area Recreation and Park District (ARD), Placer County Water Agency, El Dorado County, Placer County, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and California State Parks, thus multi-agency facilities may be appropriate in these areas.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*The goals and guidelines in the GP/RMP were developed after extensive outreach to and with input from the public, local agencies, and organizations.*

# 4.3 Goals and Guidelines

This section presents goals and guidelines that apply to the entirety of ASRA/APL and guide the use, development, and management to achieve the Declaration of Purpose and Vision Statement. The goals and guidelines address the issues, opportunities, and constraints identified for ASRA/APL.

As described in the California State Parks (CSP) 2010 Planning Handbook, the park-wide goals and guidelines provide "topical guidance of a scope relevant for the entire park. These goals and guidelines were developed in response to an evaluation of the existing conditions and are intended to address existing issues, foreseeable trends/patterns, and provide ongoing guidance for the incremental actions that will be taken over time to realize the long-term vision for the park." The planning team used input from the public, local agencies, and organizations received during public workshops and meetings, and in comment letters and emails to develop and influence the goals and guidelines. The goals and guidelines are consistent with Title XXVIII of Public Law 102-575 and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Resource Management Plan (RMP) Guidebook. As noted in the 2003 Reclamation RMP Guidebook, "the goals should be expressed in general terms and should describe a desired condition to be achieved within the

planning life of the RMP. The objectives are brief statements that describe a broad-based strategy."

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*The goals and guidelines in this GP/RMP are intended to address existing issues, foreseeable trends/patterns, and provide ongoing guidance for management of ASRA/APL.*

The purpose of the goals and guidelines is to describe the desired future conditions and approach for achieving those conditions in the context of issues, opportunities, and constraints. Proposed primary themes for interpretation and education are also provided. Goals and guidelines are defined as follows:

- **Goals:** General, overall, and ultimate purpose, aim or intent toward which management will direct effort. Goals are not necessarily measurable except in terms of the achievement of component objectives that are involved in the attainment of the goal.

- **Guidelines:** General set of parameters that provide direction for accomplishing goals. These are strategies used to achieve the goal. There are many ways to meet the plan goals which are not included in the guidelines below, because they are required by law and policies, or are not currently foreseeable or feasible. These guidelines describe site-specific strategies which are expected to help meet the goals. Where application of the guidelines does not help meet the goals, they should be reconsidered. The goals take precedence over the guidelines.

Goals and guidelines are supplemented by, and must not conflict with, numerous policies and regulations that guide the management of every CSP unit. In addition, goals and guidelines must not conflict with federal rules, regulations, and laws. Policies and laws take precedence over the plan goals. ASRA/APL management is guided by the United States Constitution, federal laws, Code of Federal Regulations, State Constitution, state laws and regulations, proclamations, executive orders, and the California Code of Regulations (CCR). Reclamation has Policies, Directives and Standards and CSP has adopted a series of policies that are housed within the Department Operations Manual (DOM). Policies that are helpful for NEPA and CEQA analysis of this Plan are listed in the relevant sections of the Plan. In addition to applicable laws, regulations, and policies; all projects that implement this GP/RMP will adhere to the Reclamation and CSP standard project requirements, which describe requirements for the protection of cultural and natural resources.

The following proposed goals and guidelines are applicable to ASRA and all portions of the APL that are congruous with ASRA. The portions of the APL managed by others (see Figure 4.2.2) will continue to be managed by others and are not affected by these

goals and guidelines. The goals and guidelines are organized into the five broad categories listed below. Each of these broad categories is subdivided into more specific topics:

- Resource Management and Protection (RES)
- Visitor Experience and Opportunities (V)
- Facilities (F)
- Interpretation and Education (I&E)
- Operations and Maintenance (O&M)

## 4.3.1 Resource Management and Protection

Wise stewardship of ASRA/APL's natural and cultural resources is crucial to retain and sustain its biological, historical, aesthetic, educational, and recreational values. Physical and biological components form a dynamic ecosystem with complex, interdependent relationships. These relationships have been altered and shaped by human influences since prehistoric times. Natural and cultural resources management attempts to reconcile current human needs and desires with perpetuation of natural and cultural resource values.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Management of ASRA/APL is guided by federal and state laws and regulations, Reclamation directives and standards, and CSP policies in addition to the goals and guidelines in this GP/RMP.*

Resource management at ASRA/APL is guided by a host of federal and state laws and regulations summarized in Chapter 2, Existing Conditions. Reclamation directives and standards direct resource management on lands owned or withdrawn by Reclamation, which comprise the majority of ASRA. In addition to these federal policies, CSP policies, including those policies that comprise the DOM, provide direction on the management of natural and cultural resources within ASRA/APL. The goals and guidelines included in this plan provide additional guidance that is specific to the management of resources in ASRA/APL. Taken together, the goals and guidelines in this plan, in combination with applicable federal and state laws, Reclamation directives and standards, and CSP policies provide the overall framework for the management of natural and cultural resources in ASRA/APL.

Chapter 0300, Natural Resources, of the DOM includes policies relevant to management of ASRA/APL. While these policies are not repeated in this plan, they are available at: http://www.parks.ca.gov.

The policies below are applicable to the management of natural and cultural resources in ASRA/APL. Once it is adopted, DOM chapter 400 (Cultural Resources) will also guide the management of cultural resources in ASRA/APL.

0304.3 Knowledge-Based Management Approach
0304.4 Active Management
0304.5.1 Removal and Disposal of Debris
0304.5.2 Public Use of Motor Vehicles
0305 Air Resources
0306.1 Water Resources Planning and Management Policy
0306.2 Watershed Management Policy
0306.3 Stream Management Policy
0306.4 Watershed and Stream Protection Policy
0306.5 Stream Restoration Policy
0306.6 Floodplain Management Policy
0306.7 Wetlands Management Policy
0306.9.1 Water Quality and Quantity Policy
0306.10.1 Water Rights Policy
0307.1 General Geologic Policy
0307.2 Geologic Monitoring
0307.3.1.1 Siting Facilities to Avoid Natural Hazards Policy
0307.3.1.2 Siting Structures in Seismic Hazard Zones
0307.4.1 Cave Management Policy
0307.5.1 Geothermal and Hydrothermal Resources Policy
0308.1 Soil Protection Policy
0309.1 Site Development Policy
0309.2 Paleontological Resource Protection Policy
0310.1.1 Plant Management Policy
0310.2.1 Natural Succession Policy
0310.3.1 Vegetation Management Planning for Developed Areas
0310.4.1 Genetic Integrity Policy
0310.5.1 Protection of Rare, Threatened and Endangered (RTE) Plants and Their Habitats
0310.5.2 Knowledge of Rare, Threatened, Endangered and Other Sensitive Plant Localities
0310.5.3 Park Projects and Plant Species of Concern Policy
0310.5.3.1 Use of Plant Species of Concern Policy
0310.5.4 Restoration of Listed Plant Populations
0310.6 Plant Protection Policy
0310.6.1.1 Emergency Tree Felling Policy
0310.7.1 Exotic Plant Landscaping Policy
0310.7.2 Removal of Established Populations of Exotic Plants
0310.8.1 Woody Plant Material and Debris Removal Policy
0310.8.2 Wood Removal Resource Protection Policy
0310.8.3 Transport of Wood Invested with Exotic Pests
0310.8.4 Wood Permit Policy
0310.9 Monitoring
0311.1 Animal Management Goal
0311.2 General Animal Management Policy
0311.3 Genetic Diversity Preservation Policy
0311.4.1 General Habitat Management Policy
0311.4.3.1 Habitat Restoration Policy
0311.4.4.1 Habitat Enhancement Policy
0311.5.1.1 General Animal Protection Policy
0311.5.2.1 Special Animal Policy
0311.5.3.1 Animal Feeding Policy
0311.5.3.2.1 Animal-Proof Food Storage and Garbage Management Policy
0311.5.3.3.1 Supplemental Feeding Policy
0311.5.4.1 Injured, Sick or Dead Animal Policy
0312.2.1 Scenic Protection Policy
0312.3.1 Lightscape Protection Policy
0312.4.1 Soundscape Protection Policy
0312.5.1 Odor Policy
0313.2.1.1.1 Wildfire Management Planning Policy
0313.2.1.2.1 Flammable Vegetation/Fuel Modification Policy
0313.2.2.1 Prescribed Fire Management Policy

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0313.2.2.8.1 | Project Burn Plan Preparation Policy | 0313.2.2.13 | Cooperative Burn Policy |
| 0313.3.1 | Information and Data Management Policy | 0313.4.1.1 | Scientific Information and Collection Policy |
| 0313.5.1 | Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment Program Policy | 0314.2.2 | Tree Appraisal Policy |
| 0315.3.1 | Habitat Conservation Plan Approval Policy | 0316.1.1 | Off-Site Mitigation Policy |
| 0320.1 | Cooperation Policy | 0317.1.3.7 | Materials Gathered by California Native Americans |
| Chapter 0600, Environmental Review, of the DOM provides guidance on environmental review and compliance, which also serves to protect resources. | | 0600 | et. seq. Environmental Review |

CSP manuals, including the 2001 Cultural Resource Management Handbook, and Departmental Notices also provide guidance on the management of natural and cultural resources within ASRA/APL. Applicable Departmental Notices include the following:

| | |
|---|---|
| DN 2007-05 | Native American Consultation Policy and Implementation Procedures |
| DN 2004-02 | Cultural Resource Review and Related Procedures |
| DN 1994-13 | Application and Permit to conduct Archeological Investigations/Collections |
| DN 2004-02 | Cultural Resource Review and Related Procedures |
| DN 2002-4 | Fuel Modification Policy |

In addition to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) requirements, including those related to mineral collection and use of metal detecting equipment as part of CFR 423.29, Reclamation directives and standards guide the management of natural and cultural resources in ASRA/APL. The Reclamation Manual containing relevant policies, directives, and standards are available at: https://www.usbr.gov. Applicable directives and standards include the following:

| | |
|---|---|
| LND 14-01 | Wildland Fire Management |
| LND 02-01 | Cultural Resource Management |

# Biological Resources

**GOAL RES 1:** Support self-sustaining native plant and animal populations and their habitats.

**Guideline RES 1.1:** Implement vegetation management activities that safely mimic the effects of a natural fire regime on vegetation communities consistent with a Fire or Vegetation Management Plan and/or Prescribed Burn Plan that sets priorities and identifies implementation measures to maintain and restore native vegetation communities and reduce wildfire risk, while minimizing the potential for the introduction of invasive species.

**Guideline RES 1.2:** Locate, plan, and design new facilities or resource management activities to minimize habitat fragmentation. Maintain and restore areas of connected habitat that allow for the movement of wildlife species. Protect and maintain connected riparian corridors along the North and Middle Forks of the American River. Protect and maintain continuous native vegetation connecting lower elevations near the confluence to higher elevations at the eastern end of ASRA/APL.

**Guideline RES 1.3:** Decommission, relocate, or repair existing facilities that contribute to habitat degradation, including fragmentation, and impede natural processes.

**Guideline RES 1.4:** Develop and maintain an inventory of biological resources and species in ASRA/APL.

**Guideline RES 1.5:** Develop and implement management strategies to protect plant and wildlife species against pathogens such as sudden oak death syndrome, when found to occur in or near ASRA/APL.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*The GP/RMP calls for sustaining native plants and animal populations and their habitats through maintenance and/or re-establishment of natural processes.*

**GOAL RES 2:** Prevent introduction or spread of invasive plants throughout ASRA/APL, and treat, control, and eradicate invasive species as appropriate.

**Guideline RES 2.1:** Implement a long-term invasive plant management program for both natural and disturbed areas in ASRA/APL. The program should:

- Systematically identify and map invasive species;
- Prioritize areas and species for treatment;

- Implement appropriate methods of treatment and long-term management, including manual, mechanical, biological and chemical removal; and
- Use volunteer groups, where appropriate.

**Guideline RES 2.2:** Develop an early detection and rapid response program to quickly treat new infestations of invasive species before they can become established.

**Guideline RES 2.3:** Implement an ongoing aquatic weed management program to prevent introduction of aquatic invasive species, including boater education and/or boat inspections.

**Guideline RES 2.4:** Treat new infestations of aquatic invasive species soon after they are detected and before they have an opportunity to spread.

**Guideline RES 2.5:** Coordinate with U.S. Forest Service, Placer and El Dorado Counties, City of Auburn, other agencies, and weed management groups and organizations to develop and implement programs and projects to comprehensively treat and control invasive plant species, where appropriate.

**Guideline RES 2.6:** Monitor and treat invasive species in disturbed areas that are created by forest management activities, facility development, fuel breaks, or other projects that can create opportunities for invasive species to become established.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Tree of heaven (Ailanthus altissima) is considered an invasive plant that is found in ASRA/APL. The GP/RMP includes guidelines for management and removal of invasive plants.*

**GOAL RES 3:** Protect and restore habitat for native (common, sensitive, and special-status) wildlife and plant species.

**Guideline RES 3.1:** Conduct surveys throughout the ASRA/APL and within individual project areas prior to construction to identify and map sensitive plant and animal species in order to better protect them.

**Guideline RES 3.2:** Install wildlife-proof trash receptacles in all facility areas.

**Guideline RES 3.3:** Control non-native animal populations with greatest threat to native plant and animal populations.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*The GP/RMP includes guidelines for maintaining, protecting, and enhancing habitat for native wildlife and plant species in ASRA/APL.*

**Guideline RES 3.4:** Locate new trails, facilities, and ground- or vegetation-disturbing activities outside of occupied habitat for special-status plant and animal species, where feasible. Where avoidance of occupied habitat is not feasible, develop project-level measures to minimize impacts to special-status plant and animal species.

**Guideline RES 3.5:** Monitor impacts to sensitive species habitat in heavily used recreation areas, such as river access points or trailhead staging areas. Develop appropriate measures to protect sensitive species and habitats from undue encroachment, and repair habitat damage if it occurs.

**Guideline RES 3.6:** Minimize disturbance to important native wildlife-habitat areas, including native grasslands, riparian, wetlands, and native shoreline habitats. Locate new facilities, activity areas, and management actions outside of sensitive habitats and implement construction precautions recommended by CDFW or USFWS.

**Guideline RES 3.7:** Develop and implement vegetation management plans, programs, and actions to protect sensitive vegetation communities such as chaparral, oak woodlands and savanna, wetlands, and riparian areas.

**Guideline RES 3.8:** Identify and restore native aquatic and terrestrial habitats that have been disturbed by past land use practices. Consider the uniqueness of the habitat, number and status of species that would benefit, cost and feasibility of restoration, and likelihood of long-term success when prioritizing restoration actions.

**Guideline RES 3.9:** Avoid or minimize construction disturbance to special-status species during spawning, fledging, or other sensitive periods.

**GOAL RES 4:** Protect and maintain tree health and longevity.

**Guideline RES 4.1:** Develop a list of appropriate native shade trees to be maintained and planted in developed areas to reduce hazardous tree situations that lead to tree removal or ongoing vegetation maintenance.

**Guideline RES 4.2:** Monitor areas exhibiting high rates of tree mortality due to drought and/or bark beetles and implement strategies to prevent or stop the spread of bark beetles to other trees.

# Cultural Resources

Reclamation administers and controls many cultural resources for the benefit and use of the public. Beginning in 1906, numerous Federal statutes have been enacted to address the preservation and protection of Federally-owned cultural resources. Congress has found that protection of America's heritage, as represented by its cultural resources, is in the public interest and that this legacy of cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, economic, and energy benefits should be maintained and enriched for present and future generations. Congress also declared it is the policy of the Federal government to provide leadership in the preservation and protection of America's cultural resources and to administer cultural resources in a spirit of stewardship. Reclamation's responsibilities and requirements to effectively manage its cultural resources are manifest in a number of statutes and regulations that include required actions for preservation and protection of cultural resources.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*The Mountain Quarries Railroad Bridge (also known as the No-Hands Bridge) is a state-registered historical landmark.*

The overall mission of CSP with respect to cultural resources is to provide inspiration and leadership in acquiring, conserving, and managing cultural resources that represent California's rich history and diverse population, and to foster an appreciation of the extraordinary value of California's cultural heritage for the enjoyment of present and future generations through access, education, service, and stewardship.

The first step is to compile a comprehensive inventory and thoroughly document the resources. Curators, historians and archaeologists research CSP parks, often working in teams to locate and describe the physical remains of past human activity. They may find archaeological deposits, ruins, abandoned mines, or standing features. The same area often produces evidence from different time periods. Specialists record, describe, and map existing heritage resources, providing a baseline for future comparisons.

Evaluating the resources and determining their condition is the second step in cultural resource management. Museum curators study objects to assess their significant and relationship to historic events, places and persons, while historians and archaeologists use criteria developed for the National Register of Historic Places to evaluate historic structures, archaeological sites and cultural landscapes.

Then staff identify outstanding characteristics, assess threats and prepare reports. Historic structure reports define the original historic fabric of structures and recommend how best to preserve them. Artifact condition reports document the status of individual objects.

Finally, active stewardship ensures that resources are preserved, protected and made available for public understanding and appreciation. Cultural resource specialists take proactive measures, such as removal of graffiti from an ancient rock art site or stabilization of historic features, to rescue the heritage resources of our state parks from decline and decay, and to ensure that these resources are available for future generations.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*The Mountain Quarries Railroad Bridge is located just below the confluence.*

In its new acquisitions as well as its management, CSP is committed to preserving the diversity and antiquity of human experience in California. Understanding this rich historical legacy gives our citizens a sense of place and continuity in the modern world.

**GOAL RES 5:** Identify, document, and evaluate all cultural resources (archaeological, historical, and Tribal Cultural Resources) in ASRA/APL.

**Guideline RES 5.1:** Continue to survey, document, and map cultural resources and update existing cultural records. Given limited resources, prioritize areas for surveys and cultural resource documentation based on the importance, uniqueness or density of resources and areas that have the potential to be impacted by visitor use, management activities or other threats.

**Guideline RES 5.2:** Identify and nominate those cultural resources that are eligible for inclusion in the National Register for Historic Places and/or California Register of Historical Resources either as individual sites, districts, or as cultural landscape resources.

**Guideline RES 5.3:** Locate descendants of families who lived or worked within ASRA/APL. Include Native American descendants, homesteaders, miners, farmers, ranchers, WPA or CCC workers, ASRA/APL staff, and others. Conduct oral history interviews to complement and expand upon existing historical data on early use in ASRA/APL and help in locating, identifying, and evaluating additional historic archaeological resources.

**Guideline RES 5.4:** Promote cooperative research ventures with local educational institutions and other governmental agencies to complement documentation, evaluation, and analysis needs and to encourage site protection and preservation.

**Guideline RES 5.5:** Conduct archival research with the relevant land management agencies and interested parties such as Reclamation, CSP, BLM, Placer and El Dorado counties, City of Auburn, California State University Sacramento Northern Central Information Center, local historical societies, Native American, and resource interest and professional groups.

**Guideline RES 5.6:** Develop a confidential database of cultural resources within ASRA/APL that is linked to Geographic Information System (GIS) spatial data of the site locations. Share the database within CSP and Reclamation subject to confidentiality limits established under state and federal laws.

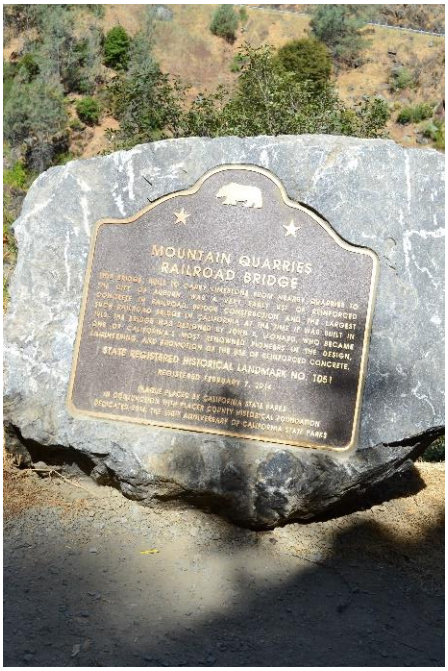
**GOAL RES 6:** Protect, stabilize, and preserve the cultural resources within ASRA/APL.

**Guideline RES 6.1:** Prepare a comprehensive Cultural Resources Management Plan that identifies specific cultural resource identification, evaluation, and protection actions. Coordinate with Native American groups and other agencies with relevant information and expertise in the preparation of the Cultural Resources Management Plan.

**Guideline RES 6.2:** Assess the effects of visitor use and natural erosion on archaeological sites. Implement measures where appreciable damage to sites is identified, such as site-specific closures, realigning roads and trails where possible, revegetation, signage, fencing, site burial, security monitoring, education, and/or other measures.

**Guideline RES 6.3:** If areas are identified where archaeological resources are exceptionally sensitive or at risk of degradation from visitor use, limit or redirect visitor access or increase interpretation of the resource to reduce the potential for degradation.

**Guideline RES 6.4:** Employ applicable professional standards to determine appropriate use (stabilize, restore, reconstruct,




*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Implementation of the GP/RMP would result in additional efforts to expand the understanding and awareness of cultural resources in ASRA/APL, including through surveys, archival research, and development of a confidential database of cultural resources within ASRA/APL.*

or modify for adaptive reuse) for historic properties to provide for their regular maintenance and long-term preservation.

**Guideline RES 6.5:** Identify and implement procedures for careful planning of all undertakings, including (but not limited to) routine maintenance, prescribed burning, and new facility development, to avoid or minimize significant impacts to cultural resources within ASRA/APL.

**Guideline RES 6.6:** Develop measures to protect cultural resources during wildfire incidents and post-fire restoration and revegetation and measures to protect cultural resources from excessive fuel loading by implementing appropriate fuel reduction techniques.

**Guideline RES 6.7:** Complete Historic Structure Reports and/or Cultural Landscape Reports for extant historic buildings, structures, objects, sites, and landscapes. Each will provide physical, graphic, and photographic information about a resource's history and existing condition; recommend appropriate preservation treatments, managerial actions, and appropriate use; and outline recommendations for future work without compromising its character-defining historic features.

**Guideline RES 6.8:** Develop managerial procedures for historic resources based on internal and external professional standards and guidelines such as CSP's Cultural Resources DOM chapter 0400; PRC (Section 5020 et seq.); Executive Order W-26-92; and the United States Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties." (USDI 2017)

**Guideline RES 6.9:** Provide proactive measures and stewardship to ensure that cultural resources are preserved, protected and made available for public understanding and appreciation.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Guidelines in the GP/RMP provide guidance for establishing stewardship practices that provides for protection and preservation of cultural resources while also making them available for public understanding and appreciation.*

## Tribal Cultural Resources

**GOAL RES 7:** Work cooperatively with Native American groups to protect Tribal Cultural Resources.

**Guideline RES 7.1:** Coordinate with Native American groups to identify opportunities to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge into resource management, facilitate collection of culturally important natural materials, and maintain access to Tribal Cultural Resources.

**Guideline RES 7.2:** Coordinate with Native American groups to develop and implement best practices for the protection of Tribal Cultural Resources, such as site visits with tribal representatives, tribal identification and evaluation of cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources, inviting tribal monitors to monitor ground-disturbing activities, and inviting repatriation and laboratory tribal monitors when reburials are necessary. Incorporate best practices for protection of Tribal Cultural Resources into the ASRA/APL Cultural Resources Management Plan, as appropriate.

## Wildfire Management

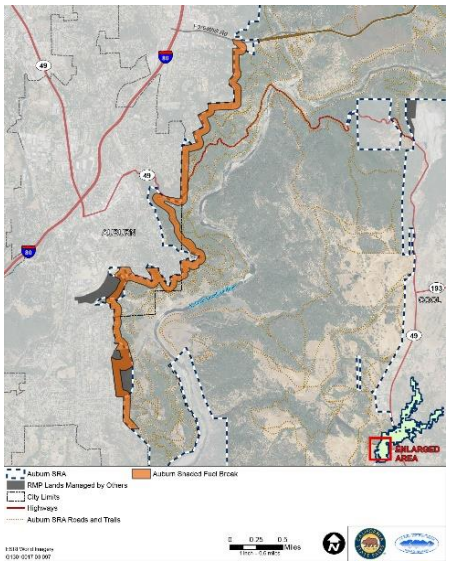
**GOAL RES 8:** Manage vegetation to reduce the risk of wildfire in adjacent populated areas and promote functioning and resilient ecosystems to protect significant resource values, visitor experiences, and public safety.

**Guideline RES 8.1:** Adopt and implement a Fire Management Plan for ASRA/APL consistent with Reclamation, CSP and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection policies and requirements. The federal Fire Management Plan will identify, integrate, and coordinate fire management guidance, direction and activities. The plan will include strategies related to:

- Wildfire suppression;
- Implementing prescribed fire;
- Non-fire fuel treatment;
- Protecting and assisting communities;
- Educating the public;
- Maintaining and restoring native vegetation communities;
- Controlling invasive species;
- Protecting natural and cultural resources;
- Surveying, assessing and documenting post-fire conditions; and
- Rehabilitating resources after a fire.

**Guideline RES 8.2:** As needed, prepare, adopt and implement a state Wildfire Management Plan or other relevant vegetation management plan for state fee title lands within ASRA.

**Guideline RES 8.3:** Maintain ongoing coordination, at least annually, between Reclamation, CSP, CAL FIRE, and other fire management agencies to assess, update, and prioritize wildfire management approaches.



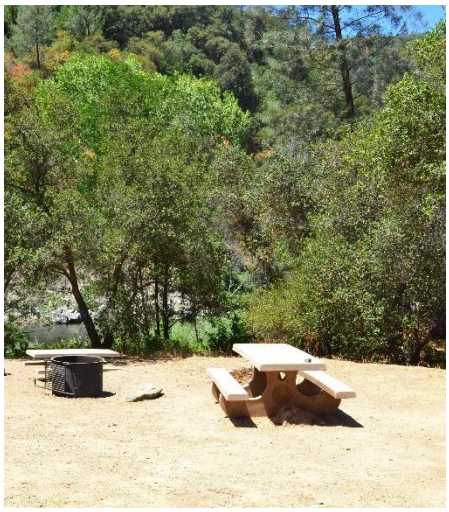

*Source: Reclamtion*

*Vegetation treatment, such as that which has occurred in and is planned for in the Auburn Shaded Fuel Break, can reduce the intensity and severity of wildfire, slowing fire movement and creating favorable conditions for firefighting to protect targeted, high-value resources.*

**Guideline RES 8.4:** Manage vegetation to reduce fuel loads between ASRA/APL and adjacent residential areas. Maintain the Auburn Shaded Fuelbreak and implement additional shaded fuelbreaks that are critical to the protection of life or resources in ASRA/APL consistent with the Fire Management Plan and Reclamation and CSP policies, where applicable.

**Guideline RES 8.5:** Monitor and manage vegetation along roadways and trails consistent with the "Vegetation Management Guidelines for Trails and Roads in Units of the California State Park System".

**Guideline RES 8.6:** Monitor vegetation conditions, reduce excess fuel loading, and maintain appropriate defensible space surrounding existing recreation facilities including parking areas, campgrounds, picnic areas, and other sites with heavy visitation. Implement appropriate fuel reduction and defensible space treatments surrounding any new or expanded facilities or newly opened roads, prior to constructing or expanding the facility or opening the road for public vehicle access.



*Source: Reclamtion*

*Maintaining nonflammable zones around campfire rings and providing defensible space around campgrounds is important for reducing the risk of wildfires.*

**Guideline RES 8.7:** Maintain fire safety standards within all campgrounds, including maintaining minimum nonflammable zones around all campfire rings and maintaining appropriate clearance and defensible space around campgrounds.

**Guideline RES 8.8:** Minimize the impacts of forestry and vegetation management actions on cultural and natural resources by avoiding or mitigating the impacts of forest treatments in sensitive areas, developing forestry prescriptions that address habitat considerations and fuel reduction, and implementing post-treatment monitoring and adaptive management.

**Guideline RES 8.9:** Develop forest and vegetation management planning strategies to identify and prioritize various forest and vegetation types, their current conditions and appropriate forest and vegetation management prescriptions. Efficiently implement forestry management and vegetation modification treatments by programmatically planning for and evaluating treatment programs or multiple projects, where appropriate.

**Guideline RES 8.10:** Implement post-fire resource surveys to identify previously unknown cultural resources and to asses impacts from fire activity.

**Guideline RES 8.11:** Respond to and work with communities, homeowner associations, and firesafe councils regarding boundary vegetation modification and clearance consistent with Reclamation and CSP policies and guidelines.

**Guideline RES 8.12:** Coordinate with Placer and El Dorado Counties, and the City of Auburn to review and provide input on development and infrastructure proposals, land use or zoning plans, and environmental review documents. Encourage strategies to minimize wildfire risk, and reduce potential fire threats to adjoining communities, in the planning and development of adjacent lands, including maintaining adequate setbacks and vegetation management on adjacent private lands.

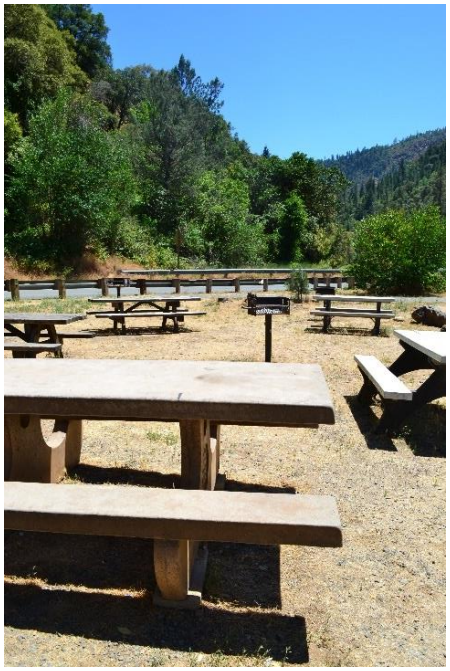
**Guideline RES 8.13:** Coordinate with utility providers to ensure that existing and future utility corridors within and adjacent to ASRA/APL maintain fire-prevention standards.

**GOAL RES 9:** Minimize the risk of human-caused wildfires within ASRA/APL through effective education, enforcement, and management strategies.

**Guideline RES 9.1:** Enforce fire restrictions established in the California Code of Regulations (Title 14, Division 3, Sections 4311 and 4314) at all times. These restrictions require that within ASRA:

- Campfires may only be maintained in fire rings provided and maintained by CSP;
- Portable camp stoves may only be used in areas designated by CSP;
- Fires must be maintained in a safe condition that does not threaten any structure, person or natural feature; and
- No person shall possess or discharge any fireworks or similar devices.

**Guideline RES 9.2:** Enact and enforce additional restrictions on public use based on wildfire hazard conditions in order to provide for public safety and to



*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Level 1 fire restrictions in ASRA/APL are in effect at all times. These restrictions limit fires to designated fire rings and limit charcoal may to permitted locations with a designated charcoal receptacle for the disposal of charcoal and ash.*

protect resources. Additional restrictions on public use may be implemented based on wildfire hazard conditions including wind, temperature, time of year and other factors. These additional temporary restrictions could vary depending on the severity of wildfire hazard conditions. They may include, but are not limited to:

- Prohibiting campfires or open flames within ASRA/APL;
- Prohibiting smoking within ASRA/APL;
- Limiting portable stove use to designated campsites; and/or
- Temporary closure of portions of ASRA/APL to public use.

**Guideline RES 9.3:** Educate visitors about current fire restrictions, prohibition on fireworks, and general fire safety. Include fire safety information at campgrounds, parking areas, and other locations with heavy visitation.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*The risk of human-caused wildfires within ASRA/APL can be reduced, in part, through effective education, including through coordination with other land management and/or fire agencies to develop and implement public education campaigns to increase awareness of wildfire risks and prevention measures.*

**Guideline RES 9.4:** Coordinate with other land management and/or fire agencies to develop and implement public education campaigns to increase awareness of wildfire risks and prevention measures prior to visitors' arrival at ASRA/APL. Consider public service announcements in local media, social media campaigns, and/or public education opportunities at special events or in conjunction with fuel reduction projects.

**Guideline RES 9.5:** Enforce fire restrictions, prohibitions on fireworks, requirements for OHV spark arresters, and other fire-safety regulations as a law enforcement and public-safety priority.

**Guideline RES 9.6:** Where determined appropriate, such as at campgrounds or special event locations, make emergency fire suppression equipment or resources available, which could include fire hydrants, water tanks, and water drafting equipment. Train appropriate CSP staff in basic wildland fire response and safety.

**Guideline RES 9.7:** Prior to developing a new campground or expanding an existing campground, conduct an assessment to determine whether campfires will be allowed and identify potential site-specific campfire restrictions. The assessment will include consultation with CAL FIRE and

applicable local fire districts and will consider risk factors, including accessibility and response times; proposed campground staffing; and site-specific fire hazards, including slope, topography, and adjacent fuel conditions. The assessment will identify campfire management requirements specific to each new or expanded campground, which could include prohibiting campfires, allowing a limited number of shared campfires, allowing only natural gas campfires, implementing seasonal or temporary campfire restrictions, or allowing individual campfires at each campsite.

**GOAL RES 10:** Provide for safe and effective emergency access and evacuation.

**Guideline RES 10.1:** Prepare and maintain an emergency access and evacuation plan for ASRA/APL. The plan should:

- identify emergency access and evacuation routes for all facilities,
- identify roadway or access improvements necessary to facilitate emergency ingress and egress, and
- include a map of roads, trails, and emergency helicopter landing sites.

**Guideline RES 10.2:** Coordinate with applicable fire agencies in the planning of new or expanded recreation facilities. Incorporate feasible emergency access recommendations prior to constructing or expanding facilities.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*The GP/RMP includes goals and guidelines that protect existing geologic features in ASRA/APL.*

## Geology, Soils, and Topography

**GOAL RES 11:** Protect and manage existing geologic features within ASRA/APL and, to the fullest extent possible, allow natural geologic processes to proceed with minimal interference.

**Guideline RES 11.1:** Limit human-caused impacts to existing geology/topography through design and location of visitor use facilities, educational materials, and the use of barriers, as appropriate.

**Guideline RES 11.2:** Remove defacements of geologic features and restore damaged sites to a natural appearance, where feasible.

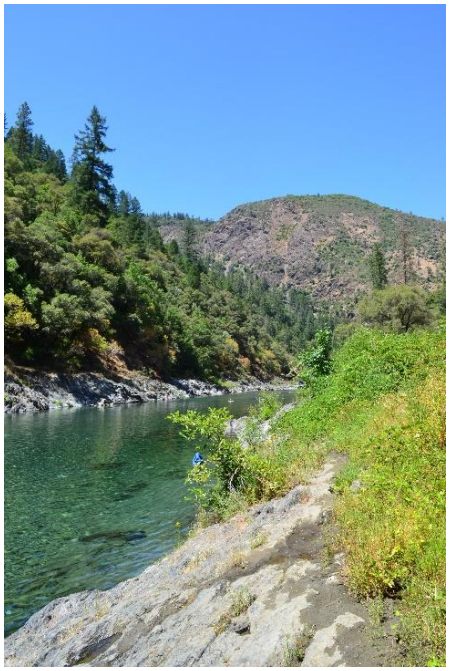
**Guideline RES 11.3:** Before allowing public access to the Hawver Cave and Mountain Quarries Mine, inventory and evaluate natural and cultural resources and assess geologic and seismic hazards associated with the cave and mine. After the appropriate studies are conducted, if public access is allowed, prohibit public access to portions of the cave and mine when necessary to protect natural and cultural resources and human safety.

**GOAL RES 12:** Protect soil resources within ASRA/APL to minimize unnatural erosion, soil removal, and contamination of soils.

**Guideline RES 12.1:** Minimize erosion and soil migration in the construction and operation of facilities. Minimize human-induced erosion by reducing concentrated run-off, avoiding over-watering with irrigation systems, and limiting disturbance of steep slopes and soils with high-erosion potential.

**Guideline RES 12.2:** Incorporate temporary and permanent erosion control BMPs during the construction and operation of trails, roads, and other facilities.

**Guideline RES 12.3:** Develop guidelines and threshold/trigger for closure of native material roads and trails during wet weather conditions and following fire events in order to prevent erosion and damage to the road or trail.



*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Implementation of the GP/RMP would help protect and improve natural hydrologic processes and functions, including floodplain functions and groundwater recharge.*

## Hydrology and Water Quality

**GOAL RES 13:** Protect and, where appropriate, restore natural hydrologic processes and functions, including floodplain functions and groundwater recharge.

**Guideline RES 13.1:** Avoid new development in floodplains that could adversely affect floodplain function and increase flood risks. Where it is not practicable to locate or relocate permanent structures outside floodplains, minimize impact to natural resources and floodplain function and use non-structural measures to reduce hazards to human life and property, such as temporary or seasonal closures.

**Guideline RES 13.2:** Restore river and floodplain connectivity and natural flooding processes, where appropriate.

**Guideline RES 13.3:** Minimize impediments to the natural recharge of groundwater from precipitation.

**Guideline RES 13.4:** Minimize the non-historic conveyance of stormwater between watersheds.

**Guideline RES 13.5:** Incorporate water quality themes into interpretive and educational materials and programs. Refer to I&E goals and guidelines for more details.

**GOAL RES 14:** Manage Reclamation lands and facilities consistent with federal and state authorities, including, but not limited to, Public Law 89-161 which authorized acquisition and withdrawal of lands for 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.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*State and federal law, and goals and guidelines in the GP/RMP protect water quality in ASRA/APL.*

**Guideline RES 14.1:** Design and manage new uses, facilities, or management actions so they do not impede providing the beneficial uses of the American River including in water supply, hydropower generation, public access and outdoor recreation, protection of natural and cultural resources and consistent with preservation of the public trust.

**Guideline RES 14.2:** Participate in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission hydroelectric licensing and relicensing processes, and subsequent actions, in the North and Middle Fork American River watersheds to provide projects and programs that meet the multiple purposes of Public Law 89-161, are consistent with the purpose and vision of ASRA, protect the resources and uses of ASRA/APL, further the missions of CSP and Reclamation and consistent with preservation of the public trust.

**GOAL RES 15:** Manage existing, new, or expanded facilities and uses so they do not degrade water quality.

**Guideline RES 15.1:** Coordinate with other state and local agencies to monitor waterbodies that receive heavy visitor use for water pollutant constituents that are closely associated with visitor use.

**Guideline RES 15.2:** Limit visitor access to sensitive surface water features and watershed lands, such as wetlands or steep erodible slopes, to prevent water quality degradation.

**Guideline RES 15.3:** Establish appropriate buffers and site-specific measures for siting new or relocated use areas or

facilities away from wetlands and watercourses, prior to the development or relocation of facilities.

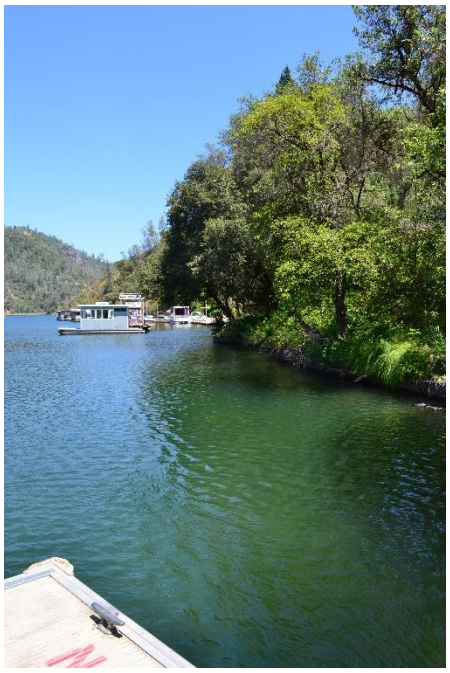
**Guideline RES 15.4:** Reduce existing trail crossings through riparian corridors. Build bridges boardwalks or other appropriate crossings through such corridors, where appropriate.

**Guideline RES 15.5:** Improve visitor education to reduce transport of pollutants from animal waste to wetlands and other watercourses.

**Guideline RES 15.6:** Restore degraded shorelines and riparian corridors to support native vegetation and minimize accelerated erosion.

**Guideline RES 15.7:** When designing or modifying facilities, limit or otherwise mitigate impervious surfaces to minimize runoff and infiltrate stormwater on site. Consider the use of permeable materials for new or expanded pedestrian and vehicular surfaces, especially in close proximity to surface water.

**Guideline RES 15.8:** Provide toilet facilities where the need exists to protect water quality.



*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Future management of ASRA/APL will consider the potential effects of future climate conditions, which could include changes in hydrology, increased wildfire risk, and changes in the timing, amount, location, and types of recreational activities.*

**GOAL RES 16:** Minimize the potential for fuel management activities to degrade water quality.

**Guideline RES 16.1:** Follow applicable guidance from the State Water Resources Control Board on best practices to protect water quality during prescribed fire and other fuel management activities.

## Sustainability and Climate Change

**GOAL RES 17:** Adapt to climate change by incorporating long-term climate trends into management decisions.

**Guideline RES 17.1:** Maintain habitat corridors, particularly along elevation gradients, to allow plants and animals to move in response to changing climatic conditions.

**Guideline RES 17.2:** Consider the effects of future climate conditions, including drought, higher temperatures, changes in the location and composition of vegetation communities,

and increased wildfire risk, when planning forest management and revegetation projects.

**Guideline RES 17.3:** Consider changes in hydrology, including reduced snowpack, altered precipitation patterns, changes in water demand, and increased water temperature, when planning facilities or management actions affected by hydrology.

**Guideline RES 17.4:** Monitor and manage recreational uses and visitor access to address changes in the timing, amount, location, and types of recreational activities that could occur in response to changes in the local and regional climate.

**GOAL RES 18:** Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from operations and visitor use to help reduce ASRA/APL's contribution to climate change.

**Guideline RES 18.1:** Increase multi-modal transportation options and encourage alternatives to single occupancy vehicle access to ASRA/APL. Consider providing infrastructure for alternative energy vehicles that have reduced or no greenhouse-gas emissions.

**Guideline RES 18.2:** Design new facilities and retrofit existing facilities to maximize energy efficiency.

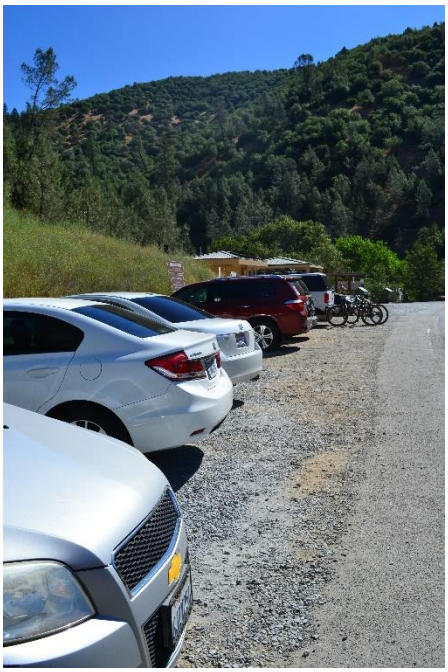
**Guideline RES 18.3:** Use distributed renewable energy generation systems, where feasible and appropriate, for other resource management goals and guidelines, such as small solar or wind systems, to supply energy needs within ASRA/APL.

**Guideline RES 18.4:** Use alternative fuel or other very low or zero-emission vehicles for operations, where feasible.

**Guideline RES 18.5:** Develop and incorporate carbon management criteria into forest management and fire fuel treatment strategies to minimize greenhouse gas emissions and implement carbon sequestration practices, when feasible and consistent with other goals and guidelines.

**GOAL RES 19:** Encourage visitors to mitigate and adapt to climate change by educating them on its causes and effects.

**Guideline RES 19.1:** Incorporate information into educational programs on the causes of climate change,



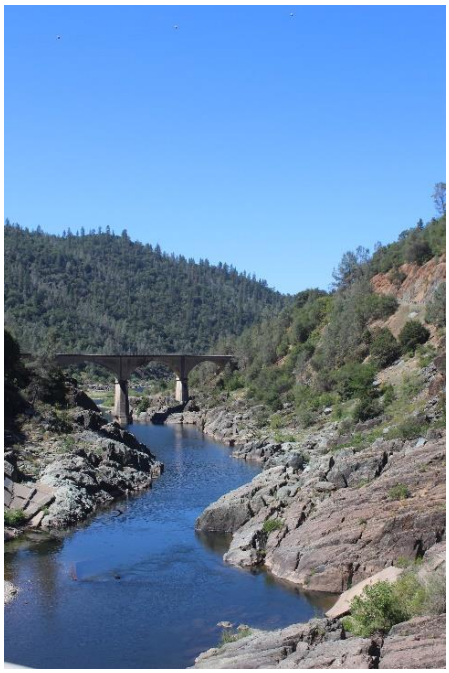
*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Greenhouse gas emissions from ASRA/APL operations and visitor use could be reduced through the use of very low or zero-emission vehicles for management and operations activities.*

effects on ASRA/APL resources, and actions visitors can take to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

**GOAL RES 20:** Include climate adaptation and greenhouse gas mitigation requirements from federal and state legislation, regulations, executive orders, secretarial orders, and policies in ASRA/APL planning documents and implement them as they evolve over time.

**Guideline RES 20.1:** Prepare a Climate Action Plan as a management plan to define climate risks and vulnerabilities and identify more specific strategies, actions, and funding needed for operating ASRA in manner that is consistent with state legislation, regulations, executive orders, and relevant policies to help reach greenhouse gas reduction goals and prepare for climate change impacts on recreation uses and ASRA/APL resources.



*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Preparation of a landscape viewshed assessment with maps of priority views and scenic resources could help to protect scenic quality.*

## Scenic and Aesthetic Resources

**GOAL RES 21:** Protect and, where appropriate, restore scenic vistas and views of the natural landscape.

**Guideline RES 21.1:** Prepare a landscape viewshed assessment with maps of priority views and scenic resources that should be protected from visual intrusions.

**Guideline RES 21.2:** Coordinate with Placer and El Dorado counties and the City of Auburn to encourage zoning and design standards that protect scenic views from ASRA/APL.

**Guideline RES 21.3:** Participate in adjacent local jurisdictions' reviews of development proposals, variances and other discretionary approvals to advocate for the protection of scenic resources.

**Guideline RES 21.4:** Restore important scenic views that have been degraded by non-historic human activity such as grading or vegetation clearing, where appropriate.

**Guideline RES 21.5:** CSP will explore opportunities for strategic acquisition of private in-holdings or adjacent private lands to protect scenic resources and/or provide expanded recreational opportunities or access. Work collaboratively with other agencies, non-profit organizations, and/or other

parties to secure conservation easements or fee-title acquisition of priority private lands.

**GOAL RES 22:** Maintain a high-quality, aesthetically pleasing built environment that is compatible with the visual character of the surrounding natural environment. Branding and recognition of Reclamation will be a component of all identifying signs as described in the MPA.

**Guideline RES 22.1:** Incorporate the following design guidelines in new or redeveloped facilities in ASRA/APL:

- Buildings shall be constructed of wood, stone, or similar natural or natural-looking materials. Reflective materials, smooth surfaces, or brightly colored materials shall not be used, except where necessary for public safety.
- Facilities shall be medium or dark earth-tone colors that blend with the natural environment and minimize the visibility of facilities. Lighter earth-tone colors can be used on portions of facilities to provide architectural detail and visual interest.
- The architectural design of facilities should reflect the natural canyon environment. Roofs should be sloped, and buildings should include articulation and architectural details and not exceed the height of surrounding trees.

**Guideline RES 22.2:** Develop outdoor lighting only where necessary to maintain the operational efficiency of the site and provide public safety. Outdoor lighting, at a minimum, shall comply with the following design standards:

- Limit new or existing sources of exterior lighting and reflective materials to the minimum amount necessary for public safety and operations.
- All overhead lighting fixtures shall be fully shielded and directed downward to prevent light pollution.
- Exterior lighting should use the lowest wattage necessary for the application.
- Lighting should use yellow-spectrum luminaires, such as low-pressure sodium or narrow band amber Light-Emitting Diode (LED) and avoid bright white light sources.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Much of the uses at ASRA/APL are daytime uses that do not require exterior lighting. Any new outdoor lighting would be limited to the minimum amount necessary for public safety and operations with overhead lighting fixtures that would be fully shielded and directed downward.*

**GOAL RES 23:** Provide visitors with opportunities to experience a quiet and tranquil setting.

**Guideline RES 23.1:** Design infrastructure, including roads and parking areas, to minimize vehicle noise intrusion into existing use areas and visitor facilities.

**Guideline RES 23.2:** Locate new, or relocate existing, use areas and visitor facilities away from existing incompatible noise sources.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*A wide range of recreation opportunities are available in ASRA/APL that attract a large number of visitors throughout the year, including for special events.*

**Guideline RES 23.3:** Develop and enforce limitations on engine noise, amplified sound or other noise sources in collaboration with other agencies and where consistent with the intent of management zones and necessary to protect visitor experiences.

**Guideline RES 23.4:** Limit noise-generating construction where visitor use or sensitive resources will be impacted. Noise-generating construction near private residences should be limited to between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekends, and on state- or federally-recognized holidays.

## Air Quality

**GOAL RES 24:** Minimize dust and emissions of air pollutants during construction and from management activities.

**Guideline RES 24.1:** Comply with the state's Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control Measure for Construction, Grading, Quarrying, and Surface Mining Operations when a construction or management activity would disturb greater than one acre including areas with naturally occurring asbestos, serpentine or ultramafic rock.

**Guideline RES 24.2:** Ensure project-generated emissions of ROG, $NO_X$, $PM_{10}$ and $PM_{2.5}$ from site preparation (e.g., grading and clearing), off-road equipment, material delivery, worker commute exhaust emissions, and other miscellaneous activities (e.g., building construction, asphalt paving, application of architectural coatings) do not exceed the thresholds set by PCAPCD and EDCAQMD (lbs/day) and federal de minimis thresholds (tons/year) for ozone, $PM_{2.5}$, or CO.

## 4.3.2 Visitor Experience and Opportunities

ASRA/APL is an important recreational and community resource for the surrounding region, the state, and the nation. A variety of high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities and events will inspire all citizens to engage in healthy outdoor activities, to maintain the quality of life enjoyed by visitors, and to continue to support the economic and community benefits that ASRA/APL provides. Because of the State Recreation Area classification, providing public access and high-quality recreational experiences is one of the primary considerations in developing the General Plan. ASRA/APL offers recreational opportunities which, at times, attract a large number of visitors seeking swimming, boating, hiking, horseback riding, biking, fishing, camping, picnicking, and other outdoor-recreational pursuits.

The management of visitor use at ASRA/APL is guided by numerous federal and state laws and regulations. Reclamation directives and standards address visitor use on lands owned or withdrawn by Reclamation, which comprise the majority of ASRA/APL. CSP policies, including those policies included in the DOM, provide direction on the management of visitor use within ASRA/APL. The goals and guidelines included in this plan provide additional guidance that is specific to the management of visitor use in ASRA/APL. In combination with applicable federal and state laws, Reclamation directives and standards, and CSP policies, they provide the overall framework for the management of visitor use in ASRA/APL.

In addition to the CCR, and policies and Departmental Notices listed in the Resource Management section, above, the following policies and Departmental Notices are applicable to visitor use management at ASRA/APL:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DN 2005-06 | Trail Policy | 0317.1.3.6 | Rocks and Rockhounding |
| DN 2015-01 | Transportation Route Designation Policy | 0317.1.3.7 | Materials Gathered by California Native Americans |
| 0317.1.1 | Visitor Recreational Uses Policy | 0317.1.4 | Rock Climbing Policy |
| 0317.1.3.1 | Fishing | 0317.2.1 | Concessions |
| 0317.1.3.2 | Hunting | 0317.2.2 | Filming and Photography |
| 0317.1.3.3 | Driftwood | 0317.2.5.1 | Mineral Exploration within Parks Policy |
| 0317.1.3.4 | Mushrooms | | |
| 0317.1.3.5 | Berries and Pine Cones | DOM 0800 | Hazardous Materials |

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Rock climbing is currently available in ASRA/APL at the Cave Valley Climbing Area. Implementation of the GP/RMP will explore expanding rock climbing to additional areas.*

In addition to the CFR, Reclamation directives and standards guide facility management in ASRA/APL. Applicable directives and standards include the following:

| | |
|---|---|
| LND P04 | Recreation Program Management |
| LND 04-02 | Concessions Management by Non-Federal Partners |
| ENV 02-07 | Management of Shooting Ranges on Reclamation Lands |

CSP has adopted a "Road and Trail Change-in-Use Evaluation Process" to consider proposals for desired changes to the allowed use designations of existing roads and trails in the State Park System. The goals of the process are to provide orderly procedures for review of the proposals and to incorporate standard project features into qualifying proposals that protect the environment. The evaluation process will be used for change-in-use proposals that involve existing ASRA/APL roads and trails.

## Recreational Opportunities

**GOAL V 1:** Provide a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities that offer high-quality experiences for visitors of different backgrounds, interests, and abilities.

**Guideline V 1.1:** Manage recreational opportunities within a regional context and in coordination with other parks and recreation areas such as the City of Auburn, Auburn Area Recreation and Park District, Georgetown Divide Recreation District, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Placer and El Dorado Counties, and other State Park Units, so that recreational opportunities in ASRA/APL complement nearby opportunities.

**Guideline V 1.2:** Maintain and afford opportunities for visitors to experience a variety of natural and developed settings that accommodate a wide range of resource-dependent recreational activities.

**Guideline V 1.3:** Provide an adequate variety and number of river-access points, including primitive access points in remote areas and easily-accessible sites that accommodate people with disabilities, to accommodate public access to the rivers and the range of river-recreation opportunities and beneficial uses of the rivers.

**Guideline V 1.4:** Provide a range of opportunities and access for all trail user types including hiking, running, bicycling, and equestrian use to accommodate public demand for high-quality trail experiences and healthy outdoor activities.

**Guideline V 1.5:** Offer a variety of camping and picnic opportunities to meet public demand and consistent with the resources of the area.

**Guideline V 1.6:** Manage appropriate areas for off-highway vehicle use consistent with Reclamation and CSP policies.

**Guideline V 1.7:** Designate areas for technical rock climbing.

**Guideline V 1.8:** Allow for hunting and fishing consistent with California Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations.

**Guideline V 1.9:** Provide opportunities for activities that allow visitors to appreciate, be inspired by, and serve to protect ASRA/APL cultural and natural resources, such as nature observation, historic-resources tours, and birding events.

**Guideline V 1.10:** Manage recreational mineral collection, or rockhounding of stones and minerals found occurring naturally of the land on the undisturbed surface by hand or with the use of gold pans consistent with Reclamation and CSP regulations and policies. Prohibit recreational mineral collection in specific locations if there is a site-specific risk of resource damage.

**Guideline V 1.11:** If state law is changed to allow suction dredging or other forms of mechanized mineral collection, coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Water Resources Control Board and/or other regulatory agencies to evaluate whether the use is consistent with Department policy and appropriate within some areas of ASRA/APL.

**Guideline V 1.12:** Monitor visitor use and trends in recreational activities. Use visitor-monitoring data to identify locations where congestion is occurring and where potential conflicts between uses could result in safety hazards, resource damage, or impacts to visitor experience. Information from visitor-use monitoring should inform the timing and location of management actions to reduce congestion, resource damage, safety risks and provide opportunities for new activities or activities that are increasing in popularity.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Future actions under the GP/RMP could utilize the CSP "Road and Trail Change-in-Use Evaluation Process" to consider proposals for desired changes to the allowed use designations of existing roads and trails in ASRA/APL.*

# Trail Use

**GOAL V 2:** Manage, develop, and maintain ASRA/APL trails to support a variety of user experiences with connections to other trails in adjacent jurisdictions, neighborhoods, and parks.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*ASRA/APL includes an extensive trail system. Per guidelines in the GP/RMP, a Road and Trail Management Plan will be prepared that addressees development, coordinated use, opportunities for future trail development and improvements, connectivity parking, access, and current uses of trails.*

**Guideline V 2.1:** Prepare a Road and Trail Management Plan that addresses development, coordinated use, opportunities for future trail development and improvements, connectivity parking, access, and current uses of trails within ASRA/APL, including the following components:

- Identify new trail facilities, including trail extensions, trail connections, trailheads, access points, etc.;
- Identify specific enhancements to existing facilities, including minor facility expansion, maintenance projects and programming and signage;
- Follow the CSP Trails Handbook guidelines in designing, constructing and maintaining sustainable trails;
- Establish a consistent wayfinding and sign program with information provided at trailheads;
- Help identify and prioritize trail-maintenance needs;
- Include standardized trail designs and traffic engineering practices to reduce the potential hazards and perceptions of user conflicts;
- Proactively identify priority trail segments that can provide Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) trail access consistent with existing accessibility policy, plans and programs;
- Establish trail safety and etiquette messages that can be incorporated into education programs;
- Identify non-system, user-created trails and determine whether to remove and restore them, or incorporate them into the designated trail system;
- Coordinate the management of trails with the management of river uses by providing river-access points for trails users and trails that access popular put-in or take-out spots for river users;

- Develop a policy regarding when, where, and for what duration to close trails during wet weather to prevent trail damage, erosion, and water quality impacts;
- Clarify and determine the specific route of the Western States Pioneer Express National Recreation Trail; and
- Recommend changes to trail names in consultation with Native American groups to incorporate traditional Nisenan or Miwok place names and remove culturally insensitive trail names.

**Guideline V 2.2:** Implement periodic user surveys to assess levels, types, and patterns of trail use, user preferences and satisfaction levels, and recreational trends to assist in trail system planning and management.

**Guideline V 2.3:** Using CSP established policies and processes ("Change in Use"), designate allowable trail uses to make any changes from established use designations with the goal of accommodating access for all user groups while limiting potential safety conflicts between user groups and providing a variety of trail experiences.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*The "Road and Trail Management Plan" will provide guidance for developing, improving, and maintaining trail access for visitors, including identifying trails segments that could provide ADA access, comply with ABA requirements, and improve river access points.*

## Whitewater Boating

**GOAL V 3:** Maintain whitewater boating as a unique and high-quality recreational opportunity in ASRA/APL.

**Guideline V 3.1:** Adaptively manage whitewater boating based on the existing commercial whitewater management. Adjust and improve operations and concession contracts to accommodate changing conditions and CSP regulations and policies. Revise plans, guidelines or standards and practices, in response to changing conditions.

**Guideline V 3.2:** In response to increased demand and within resource constraints, adjust whitewater management to accommodate increased commercial and private whitewater recreation use.

**Guideline V 3.3:** Guideline V 1.3: Manage the type, amount and timing of commercial whitewater use within the physical limitations of the topography and facilities at access locations, the availability of boatable flows, the physical characteristics and resource values of each run of the river; and to provide a high-quality experience for both commercial and non-commercial whitewater users.

**Guideline V 3.4:** In managing commercial whitewater use, retain capacity for an appropriate level of non-commercial use for each reach of river. Do not allow commercial use to displace non-commercial use.

**Guideline V 3.5:** Provide site-appropriate, day-use facilities, such as restrooms, new or improved paddle craft river access, and picnic sites along the North Fork and Middle Fork to serve and accommodate whitewater recreation use.

## Special Events and Concessions

**GOAL V 4:** Provide concession opportunities for offer high-quality, resource-dependent visitor experiences and stewardship of natural resources.

*Source: CSP*

*Special events at ASRA/APL include mountain bike, trail running, and horseback riding races. Special event organizers are required to complete an application with CSP and meet a number of requirements to avoid potential impacts to the environment, public access, and emergency response.*

**Guideline V 4.1:** Ensure that concessions in ASRA/APL enhance visitor experiences, are compatible with ASRA/APL resources, fit within the limitations of the management zones, are consistent with the purpose and vision of this plan, and are consistent with the mission and policies of CSP and Reclamation. Conduct periodic review of ASRA/APL concession contracts and concession opportunities.

**GOAL V 5:** Consider and provide special event permits that support recreational use of ASRA/APL and promote understanding and stewardship of the natural and cultural resources at ASRA/APL.

**Guideline V 5.1:** Manage special events to maintain adequate capacity for both special events and general public use. Enforce limitations on the number, extent and location of special events during peak use times.

**Guideline V 5.2:** Consider new types and locations of special events that increase public participation in healthy, resource-dependent outdoor activities.

**Guideline V 5.3:** Provide and participate in community-sponsored events that increase the public's understanding and stewardship of the significant values of ASRA/APL and the health benefits of outdoor recreation.

**Guideline V 5.4:** As necessary and required, conduct environmental review of special events to ensure impacts to resources are avoided or minimized.

**Guideline V 5.5:** CSP will require that special events submit and implement a traffic management plan to provide appropriate parking and access for the event while maintaining acceptable traffic flow on roadways outside of ASRA/APL.

**Guideline V 5.6:** CSP will require event promoters to provide emergency resources, including fire suppression equipment and staff as determined necessary by CSP at special events, including during periods of high fire danger.

## Intensity of Use

**GOAL V 6:** Use information and data on visitation levels and use patterns to inform management.

**Guideline V 6.1:** Conduct visitor counts, surveys, or other monitoring to maintain an understanding of visitation levels and patterns.

**GOAL V 7:** Manage the types and levels of use within ASRA/APL so that visitor use is consistent with the land use designations and does not exceed what an area can appropriately accommodate given the existing natural and cultural resource conditions, desired visitor experience, and management program.

**Guideline V 7.1:** Implement an adaptive management process to manage visitor use while eliminating or minimizing significant impacts on natural and cultural resources.

**Guideline V 7.2:** Where overcrowding occurs, direct use to other areas and recreation opportunities with capacity and/or initiate more intensive visitor management such as instituting a visitor parking pass reservation program, seasonal occupancy limits, closures or fees; and/or other approaches.

**GOAL V 8:** Maintain ASRA/APL as open space for recreation, resource protection, and water supply.

**Guideline V 8.1:** Work with adjacent jurisdictions in land use planning and development processes to protect resources, views, and recreational uses within ASRA/APL.

**Guideline V 8.2:** Within each agency's regulations and policies, acquire in-holdings and adjacent private parcels where net benefit to recreation and/or resource protection may be demonstrated.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Congestion in popular areas of ASRA/APL could be reduced by expanding visitor capacity in less used areas, such as adding campsites and parking in the Mineral Bar area.*

**Guideline V 8.3:** Work with adjacent land managers and owners to clarify ownership boundaries. Sign or mark the boundaries of public lands within ASRA/APL to manage access. Where existing or proposed trails cross or encroach on private lands, obtain easements or other agreements for public access and use.

**Guideline V 8.4:** If planning and construction of Auburn Dam and Reservoir are re-initiated, or should Congress deauthorize the dam, prepare a revised general plan/resource management plan for ASRA/APL that reflects this change.

## 4.3.3 Facilities

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Development of new facilities to meet the needs of visitors can be limited by physical constraints, such as topography, floodplains, maintenance costs, and limited access points.*

Adequate facilities are necessary to provide safe, enjoyable, and high-quality recreational and educational experiences and activities in ASRA/APL. Developed facilities in a scenic location can detract from the visitor experience depending on the design, scale, and character of the facility. Developed facilities also provide an important role in protecting natural and cultural resources and providing for public safety and emergency services.

Facility planning involves numerous considerations. Within ASRA/APL, one important facility planning consideration is the possible future inundation if the Auburn Dam and Reservoir were constructed. Other considerations for facility planning in ASRA/APL include:

- Facility development in floodplains where much of the recreational activity occurs within ASRA/APL;
- Sustainable design to reduce long-term energy and water consumption of facilities;
- Ongoing maintenance needs of any new or expanded facilities;
- The remote character, inaccessibility, and lack of utilities in much of ASRA/APL;
- Topographic constraints that challenge development of roads and parking; and
- The potential for developed facilities to negatively affect the remote and natural character of much of ASRA/APL.

Facility development and management at ASRA/APL is guided by a host of federal and state laws and regulations. Reclamation directives and standards direct facility planning throughout the

majority of ASRA/APL on lands owned or withdrawn by Reclamation. CSP policies, including those policies that comprise the DOM, provide direction on facility management including accessibility, sustainability planning, public safety, and protection of natural and cultural resources. The goals and guidelines included in this plan provide additional guidance that is specific to the management of facilities in ASRA/APL. Taken together, the goals and guidelines in this plan, in combination with applicable federal and state laws, Reclamation directives and standards, and CSP policies provide the overall framework for facility management in ASRA/APL.

In addition, to policies and Departmental Notices listed in the Resource Management section, above, the following policies and Departmental Notices are applicable to facility management of CSP ASRA/APL infrastructure:

| | |
|---|---|
| DN 1991 | Accessibility Program Policy, Goals, and Objectives |
| DN 1995-36 | Proposed Development, Programs, or Activities – Determination of Consistency with General Plan or Exemption from G.P. Amendment |
| DN 1995-32 | Accessibility Program Policy |
| DN 2005-06 | Trails Policy |
| DOM 0800 | Hazardous Materials |

*Source: CSP*

*The North and Middle Forks of the American River in ASRA/APL are renowned destinations for whitewater boating.*

In addition to the CFR, Reclamation directives and standards guide facility management in ASRA/APL. Applicable directives and standards include the following:

| | |
|---|---|
| LND 01-01 | Implementing Cost Sharing Authorities for Recreation and Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Facilities |
| LND 04-02 | Concessions Management by Non-Federal Partners |
| LND | Land Withdrawal, Withdrawal Management, and Withdrawal Revocation |
| LND 11-01 | Disposal of Bridges and Crossings on Bureau of Reclamation Land and Easements |
| LND 13-01 | Visitor Centers |

# Visitor Use Facilities

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Facility planning for ASRA/APL must take into consideration the possible future inundation if the Auburn Dam and Reservoir were constructed.*

**GOAL FAC 1:** Provide facilities that support existing uses while minimizing facility investments that would be inundated by the creation of an Auburn Dam and Reservoir.

**Guideline FAC 1.1:** Consider the potential for inundation by Auburn Dam and Reservoir in planning and design of new facility construction below the elevation of 1,140 ft mean sea level (msl) upstream of the Auburn Dam site. Consider if facilities need to be designed to be easily removed or demolished if necessary, for prospective future dam and reservoir construction. If determined necessary, CSP is responsible for removing recreation facilities developed by CSP from the reservoir pool should the dam construction be renewed.

**Guideline FAC 1.2:** When substantial maintenance or replacement of existing facilities located below 1,140 ft msl and upstream of the Auburn Dam site is necessary, evaluate whether the visitor experience or other functions of the facility could be achieved by relocating it to above 1,140 ft msl or other locations along the American River.

**GOAL FAC 2:** Design and maintain facilities to provide quality visitor experiences for a range of visitors with different interests and abilities, while maintaining the natural and historical character of ASRA/APL.

**Guideline FAC 2.1:** Provide facilities for public health and safety and benefit, such as restrooms, drinking water, trash receptacles, and signage at heavily used sites.

**Guideline FAC 2.2:** Provide camping opportunities to assist in meeting regional and state-wide demand. Provide a total of up to 176 campsites, which includes five group sites and 15 alternative camping facilities, such as cabins or yurts.

**Guideline FAC 2.3:** As needed, provide several small dispersed facilities for visitor contact, safety equipment storage and staging, education, and interpretation. The need for such facilities may be driven by development of substantial new visitor use facilities such as a campground.

**Guideline FAC 2.4:** Minimize impacts to sensitive resources in siting new recreation use areas and facilities by involving resource specialists early in conceptual design.

**Guideline FAC 2.5:** As required and needed, conduct a geotechnical investigation by appropriate professional prior to siting, designing, and approving permanent structures, campgrounds, roads, and trails to avoid or minimize potential damage to unique geological and paleontological resources and damage from landslides or other potential geological or soils hazards. Incorporate study results and findings into facility siting and design.

**Guideline FAC 2.6:** Incorporate sustainability principles and green building techniques into new and renovated facilities to minimize the energy and water consumption, life-cycle costs, and other environmental impacts.

**Guideline FAC 2.7:** Work with the CSP Accessibility Section to evaluate existing facilities for improvements to provide increased access for users with mobility difficulties by removing access barriers consistent with the CSP Transition Plan, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) requirements.

**GOAL FAC 3:** Provide a range of facilities that can be adaptively managed to respond to changes in public demand for outdoor recreation opportunities, recreation use patterns, and provide safe and adequate access to the public lands and the beneficial uses of the river(s).

**Guideline FAC 3.1:** Monitor locations and levels of use to inform the planning of new or modified facilities.

**Guideline FAC 3.2:** Locate new recreation facilities and consider the need to relocate existing facilities outside of areas that are at high risk of flooding, landslides, rock fall, naturally occurring asbestos, or other natural hazards.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Implementation of the GP/RMP will expand parking capacity, where appropriate, and improve existing parking to provide adequate and safe access.*

## Roads and Parking

**GOAL FAC 4:** Develop and maintain an integrated and efficient circulation system that facilitates multi-modal visitor access to and movement within ASRA/APL.

**Guideline FAC 4.1:** Establish alternatives for accommodating peak period or special event parking, such as satellite parking areas and shuttle services.

**Guideline FAC 4.2:** Expand existing parking areas that are prone to hazardous parking practices (e.g., double and/or illegal parking), where appropriate, to provide adequate and safe access and evaluate opportunities to provide additional parking capacity as a component of other roadway improvement projects. Where expanding parking is not possible, develop and implement management strategies to address parking problems such as striping unmarked parking areas, collecting fees, developing shuttle opportunities, and providing offsite parking.

**Guideline FAC 4.3:** Encourage trail connections and other non-motorized alternatives for access to ASRA/APL from surrounding areas to reduce parking demand and traffic congestion.

**GOAL FAC 5:** Maintain roads throughout ASRA/APL to provide access for recreation use and operations throughout the year where appropriate.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*The Road and Trail Management Plan can provide additional guidance on improvements to existing trails and additional trail routes in ASRA/APL.*

**Guideline FAC 5.1:** Improve roads that are subject to seasonal damage or closure, where feasible. Improvements could include paving unpaved roads, improving drainage, and/or re-routing road segments.

**Guideline FAC 5.2:** Evaluate and adapt seasonal road closures to increase the amount of time park roads are open to the public while providing for public safety, resource protection, and high-quality visitor experience.

## Trails and Trail Bridges

**GOAL FAC 6:** Develop and maintain an integrated trail system that provides trail connectivity throughout ASRA/APL and to surrounding lands.

**Guideline FAC 6.1:** Prepare a Road and Trail Management Plan as described in Guideline V 2.1.

**Guideline FAC 6.2:** Construct additional trail routes to improve connectivity and provide new recreation opportunities.

**Guideline FAC 6.3:** Provide trail bridges to improve trail connectivity: 1.) between Auburn and Cool across the lower North Fork American River; and2.) across the Middle Fork of the American River near the former Greenwood Bridge

site. CSP is responsible for the development of recreational trail bridges.

**Guideline FAC 6.4:** CSP will develop, improve, or extend the following major trail routes:

i) Auburn-to-Cool Trail,

ii) Confluence to Ponderosa Road Crossing,

iii) Olmstead Loop to Peninsula Campground in Folsom Lake SRA, and

iv) Multi-use route between Cool and the China Bar area using Mountain Quarries Railroad bridge or Highway 49 bridge.

**Guideline FAC 6.5:** Enhance and expand existing formalized or informal trailheads where demand warrants and space permits.

**Guideline FAC 6.6:** Secure access easements for historic and/or popular trails that cross private lands.

**GOAL FAC 7:** Develop and maintain sustainable trails that provide for visitor safety and experience, protect resources, and prevent excessive erosion.

**Guideline FAC 7.1:** Incorporate volunteer efforts, including individuals and volunteer organizations, into trail maintenance or development projects with CSP oversight and environmental review.

**Guideline FAC 7.2:** As part of the Road and Trail Management Plan, establish a regular schedule of trail condition monitoring and maintenance.

## Collaborative Facility Management

**GOAL FAC 8:** Collaborate with other agencies to develop and maintain facilities that serve the needs of ASRA/APL visitors.

**Guideline FAC 8.1:** Coordinate trail system planning and development with the efforts of nearby trail providers, such as ARD, Placer and El Dorado counties, City of Auburn, BLM, and the USFS, to maximize connectivity and opportunities for an integrated regional trail network.

*Source: Caltrans, City of Auburn, County of El Dorado, County of Placer*

*Coordination with other agencies can help to provide facilities that are efficiently developed and maintained.*

**Guideline FAC 8.2:** Coordinate with Caltrans, Placer County, El Dorado County and transportation agencies to retain and improve existing transportation and parking capacity within their right-of-way, while increasing safety.

**Guideline FAC 8.3:** Coordinate with the City of Auburn, Placer County, El Dorado County and/or concessionaires to provide off-site parking with shuttle or transit service to popular areas in ASRA/APL with limited parking.

**Guideline FAC 8.4:** Coordinate with Caltrans, Placer and El Dorado counties and other involved land management agencies, to provide efficient and integrated maintenance of roads and roadside parking within ASRA/APL. Develop formal maintenance agreements, as needed, where they do not currently exist and review existing agreements to determine if they meet the plan vision.

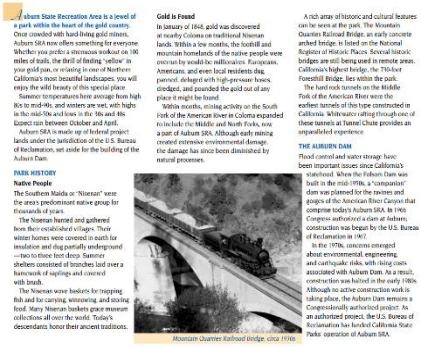
**Guideline FAC 8.5:** Coordinate with El Dorado County, Placer County, and the City of Auburn to advocate for transportation improvement projects on adjacent roadways that maintain and, where appropriate, enhance access to ASRA/APL.

**Guideline FAC 8.6:** Coordinate with Caltrans to address the current informal roadside parking, pedestrian safety along State Route 49, and pedestrian connections to the Confluence area from State Route 49 and confirm fees can be charged for in these areas.

**GOAL FAC 9:** Conduct comprehensive project-level planning and evaluation prior to the development of any substantial facilities identified in the GP/RMP.

**Guideline FAC 9.1:** Comprehensive project-level planning for substantial new or expanded facilities will include:

- Evaluation, identification, and development of adequate parking, public access, and emergency ingress/egress to the proposed facility;
- Identification and implementation of fire fuel clearance and defensible space around a proposed facility and access routes as part of the planning and construction of the facility;



Auburn State Recreation Area is a jewel of a park within the heart of the gold country. Once crowded with hard-living gold miners, Auburn SRA now offers something for everyone. Whether you prefer a strenuous workout on 180 miles of trails, the thrill of finding "yellow" in your gold pan, or relaxing in one of Northern California's most beautiful landscapes, you will enjoy the wild beauty of this special place.

Summer temperatures here average from high 80s to mid-90s, and winters are wet, with highs in the mid-50s and lows in the 30s and 40s. Expect rain between October and April.

Auburn SRA is made up of federal project lands under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, set aside for the building of the Auburn Dam.

PARK HISTORY

Native People

The Southern Maidu or "Nisenan" were the area's predominant native group for thousands of years.

The Nisenan hunted and gathered from their established villages. Their winter homes were covered in earth for insulation and dug partially underground —two to three feet deep. Summer shelters consisted of branches laid over a framework of saplings and covered with brush.

The Nisenan wove baskets for trapping fish and for carrying, winnowing, and storing food. Many Nisenan baskets grace museum collections all over the world. Today's descendants honor their ancient traditions.

Gold is Found

In January of 1848, gold was discovered at nearby Coloma on traditional Nisenan lands. Within a few months, the foothill and mountain homelands of the native people were overrun by would-be millionaires. Europeans, Americans, and even local residents dug, panned, deluged with high-pressure hoses, dredged, and pounded the gold out of any place it might be found.

Within months, mining activity on the South Fork of the American River in Coloma expanded to include the Middle and North Forks, now a part of Auburn SRA. Although early mining created extensive environmental damage, the damage has since been diminished by natural processes.

A rich array of historic and cultural features can be seen at the park. The Mountain Quarries Railroad Bridge, an early concrete arched bridge, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Several historic bridges are still being used in remote areas. California's highest bridge, the 730-foot Foresthill Bridge, lies within the park.

The hard-rock tunnels on the Middle Fork of the American River were the earliest tunnels of this type constructed in California. Whitewater rafting through one of these tunnels at Tunnel Chute provides an unparalleled experience.

THE AUBURN DAM

Flood control and water storage have been important issues since California's statehood. When the Folsom Dam was built in the mid-1950s, a "companion" dam was planned for the ravines and gorges of the American River Canyon that comprise today's Auburn SRA. In 1965 Congress authorized a dam at Auburn; construction was begun by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in 1967.

In the 1970s, concerns emerged about environmental, engineering, and earthquake risks, with rising costs associated with Auburn Dam. As a result, construction was halted in the early 1980s. Although no active construction work is taking place, the Auburn Dam remains a Congressionally authorized project. As an authorized project, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has funded California State Parks' operation of Auburn SRA.

Mountain Quarries Railroad Bridge, circa 1930s

*Source: CSP*

*The interpretive and educational programs at ASRA/APL are based on the Interpretative Mission that describes the "who," "what," "where," and "why" for ASRA/APL's resources.*

- Development of an emergency evacuation plan for the proposed facility;
- Interagency coordination regarding the proposed facility development and project-level planning, including, but not limited to, State Fire Marshal, CAL FIRE, local fire and public safety agencies, affected local jurisdictions, and other agencies and districts;
- Evaluation of and provision for the level of staffing and funding needed to operate and manage the facility;
- A public involvement process to engage the local community, park visitors, and other interested members of the public;
- Completion of the required level of environmental review and analysis addressing all required issues (e.g., traffic, biological resources), including a site-specific inventory of natural and cultural resources; and
- For campgrounds, an assessment to determine whether campfires would be allowed and identify potential site-specific campfire restrictions (see Guideline RES 9.7).

### 4.3.4 Interpretation and Education

Interpretation is a special form of communication that helps people understand, appreciate, and emotionally connect with the rich natural and cultural heritage preserved in parks. It is also used to acquaint and inform people about recreation opportunities, the health benefits and safe use of parks, and the reasons behind park rules.

Interpretive and educational programs inform the public about the value, sensitivities, and significance of ASRA/APL natural and cultural resources, as well as how the resources are managed. These programs encourage visitors to become engaged as stewards of ASRA/APL and assist in pursuing CSP's mission and achieving ASRA/APL's purpose and vision.

The elements of Interpretive Mission, Vision, and Themes represent the broadest level of interpretation planning. The Interpretive Mission describes the "who," "where," and "why:" the area or resource being interpreted, the audiences for whom it is interpreted, and why it is important to interpret. The Interpretive Vision presents the desired outcome for future interpretation in

the unit. Interpretive themes provide focus for interpretive direction in ASRA/APL. Interpretive Themes differ from topics in that they provide a specific approach to interpreting a topic. In other words, they are a message to be communicated or a point to be made about a topic.

**ASRA/APL Interpretive Significance:** Auburn SRA is positioned in a complex of multiple mixed ecosystems. The rugged slopes, forested ridges, verdant canyons, and massive rock formations are supported by the abundance of flora and fauna that creates this biodiverse region and is sustained by one of California's largest watershed systems—the American River.

Spanning 1900 square miles the American River watershed is comprised of small streams and tributaries that flow from the peaks of the northern Sierra Nevada into the South, Middle and North Forks of the America River before it converges with the Sacramento River in the Sacramento Valley region. For centuries, this winding watershed has shaped the land through which it flows, providing for multiple uses of its resources over time.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*The American River is the unifying theme for interpretation and education at ASRA/APL because it has a significant role in the cultural and natural history of ASRA/APL.*

The Middle and North Fork of the American River were the traditional homeland of Maidu, Miwok, and Nisenan communities. The indigenous peoples inhabited the American River region for at least 5,000 years and remained stable for centuries before Euro-American gold miners and settlers arrived. Human use continues to shape the surrounding landscape in the quest for food, minerals, resources, and recreation. ASRA encompasses an array of unique and significant natural and cultural resources that are interwoven and connected by their value and the importance of the American River.

**ASRA/APL Interpretive Mission:** The mission of interpretation at ASRA/APL is to create a positive connection and understanding between ASRA/APL visitors and the natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational opportunities and diverse uses of the American River, ASRA/APL and adjacent lands by inspiring them to protect those resources, become stewards of the watershed and recreate safely.

**ASRA/APL Interpretive Vision:** Through high quality interpretation, ASRA/APL visitors will be given opportunities to develop a greater awareness, understanding and appreciation of the ASRA/APL's rich natural and cultural resources, aesthetic values, and recreational opportunities that contribute to the ASRA/APL's sense of place, and foster through environmental literacy and education a desire to preserve and protect these resources in alignment with management practices and decisions.

Policies included in the CSP DOM and Departmental Notices provide direction related to Interpretation and Education at ASRA/APL. These policies and notices are not repeated in this plan. In addition, to policies and Departmental Notices listed in Section 4.3.1, Resource Management and Protection, the policies in the Interpretation and Education section of the DOM are applicable to ASRA, including the following:

| | |
|---|---|
| 0319.1 | General Natural Resources Interpretation and Education Policy |
| 0319.2.1 | Interpretation and Education Cooperation Policy |
| 0900.3.1 | Interpreting the Role and Purpose of the Department Policy |
| 0900.3.2.1 | Quality Interpretive Services Policy |
| 0900.3.3.1 | Accessibility of Interpretive Services Policy |
| 0900.3.4 | Critical Resource Issues Policy |
| 0900.3.5.1 | Interpreting Cultural Diversity Policy |
| 0900.3.6.1 | Interpreting Native California Indians Policy |
| 0900.3.7 | Training for Interpretive Presenters |
| 0901.1.3.1 | Interpretation and Education Division Policy |
| 0902.1.1 | Planning Process Policy |
| 0902.1.1 | Research Policy |
| 0902.3.1 | Stakeholder Involvement Policy |
| 0902.4.1 | Thematic Interpretation Policy |
| 0902.6.3.1 | Interpretation Management Plans Policy |
| 0902.6.5 | Interpretive Services Plans Policy |
| 0904.1 | General Interpretive Programs Policy |
| 0904.3.1 | Interpretive Program Safety Policy |
| 0904.4.1 | Interpretive Program Accessibility Policy |
| 0904.5.1 | Interpretive Data Reporting and Analysis Policy |
| 0904.7 | Use of Objects in Interpretive Programs 0904.8 Use of Live Animals |
| 0904.9.1 | Interpretation Policy |
| 0905.1 | Interpretive Facility Access Policy |
| 0905.4 | Visitor Centers and Museums |
| 0906 | Interpretive Media |
| 0907 | Intellectual Property |
| 0908 | Supporting Interpretation and Park Operations |
| 0909 | Sales of Materials and Services |

In addition to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Reclamation directives and standards guide education and interpretation at ASRA/APL. The directive applicable to Interpretation and Education is LND 13-01 Visitor Centers.

**Themes:** Themes are critical for establishing the overall interpretive direction and tone, and they imply desired outcomes for visitors' attitudes and perspectives. The unifying theme provides overall focus to ASRA/APL's interpretive development. It must relate to the resources, the mission, and visitors' interests. The most significant ASRA/APL resources and history are presented through the development of primary interpretive themes. Secondary themes offer valuable concepts that are significant to the unit and/or to department-wide interpretation goals, like sidebars or footnotes in a book, but do not necessarily relate to the overall unifying and primary themes. Supporting themes (also known as subthemes) provide a more detailed perspective on a primary or secondary theme. Supporting/sub themes are too specific to be included in a general plan. They are developed in more detailed planning documents, such as an interpretation master plan. For each primary and secondary theme below, topics covered by the theme are given. These may be used to develop supporting themes.

**Unifying Theme:** The American River has and continues to sculpt and shape everything it contacts, from the physical environment to the lifestyles of the peoples who have called and continue to call this area home.

ASRA/APL's unifying theme focuses on the significant role of the American River in all aspects of cultural and natural history, including shaping the American River canyon, creating habitats for flora and fauna, providing the salmon runs around which the lifestyle of the Native Americans revolved, attracting miners in search of gold, being the impetus for authorizing the Auburn Dam, and a resource that has been used for hydraulic and placer gold mining, dredging, drinking water, and high-quality recreation.

## Primary Themes

1. **Native Americans:** The American River is the centerpiece of the lifestyle of the native people who have lived here for thousands of years prior to the arrival of Euro-Americans, relying on the bounty of the land and river.

    - Importance of fall and spring salmon runs
    - Harvest of acorns and grinding them into flour using grinding rocks along the river (prominent at Confluence)
    - Villages along the banks of the river
    - Used the ridges along the river as a trading route, connecting them with people of the Tahoe Basin and of the California Coast
    - Harvested native plants for sustenance, dwellings, clothing, weapons, adornments, and other uses
    - Contemporary Native Americans continue to use the landscape for religious and ceremonial purposes

2. **Gold Rush:** The California Gold Rush rapidly transformed this region, altering the landscape, ecology, and lifestyles of those living there, with impacts still felt today.

    - Native Nisenan people quickly displaced by miners seeking gold in the American River watershed
    - Bridges built to facilitate access to gold fields and communities
    - Roads and trails appeared, connecting communities to gold fields and to sources of supplies and trade goods
    - Settlement pattern that resulted from locations of mining areas and travel routes
    - Miners and loggers who dynamited and dredged the river
    - Hillsides washed away by hydraulic mining, altering topography, creating massive sedimentation
    - The North Fork Dam, which created Lake Clementine, is a debris dam built to trap sediment from hydraulic mining

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Mining activity in and around ASRA/APL prompted building facilities, such as bridges, to access areas with mineral resources.*

- Impacts on native flora and fauna
- Impacts of mining still affecting the area today (dredge spoils, mercury, etc.)
- Restoration of mining areas

3. **Use of water resources:** Changing use of the American River over time reflected shifts in societal values, needs, and concerns.
   - Use of the river by Nisenan for food resources
   - Use of the river by miners for hydraulic and placer mining
   - Use of gravel bars and streambeds for mining
   - Agricultural and ranching uses of water
   - The role of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in developing water resources
   - Authorization of the Auburn Dam for a water supply, flood control, and hydropower reservoir and the subsequent environmental and social debates regarding the proposed Dam reflect changing priorities and values
   - ASRA/APL as a highly-valued source of recreation opportunities
4. **Recreation:** The current rugged terrain of ASRA/APL provides a unique array of challenging recreational opportunities.
   - Popularity of the area for mountain biking hiking and equestrian use
   - Hazards of hiking, such as lack of drinking water, the difficulty in communication due to the canyon, the difficulty in help arriving quickly in case of problems, poisonous plants, extreme heat, ticks, rattlesnakes, and other hazards
   - World renowned Tevis Cup 100-mile endurance horse ride
   - Western States 100 Endurance Run
   - World-class whitewater rafting and kayaking opportunities on the North and Middle Forks of the American River

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Interpretive and educational efforts implemented by CSP include providing information about potential hazards in ASRA/APL educating visitors about how to keep themselves safe.*

5. **Human impact on natural resources:** Human activities have directly and indirectly altered the ecosystems within ASRA/APL.

   - Reduced biodiversity
   - Habitat fragmentation
   - Impact of invasive species of flora and fauna
   - Increased wildfire hazards (e.g., history of fire suppression, vegetation management practices [or lack thereof], increased development in the Wildland Urban Interface)
   - Environmental impacts of mining
   - Global climate change affecting water temperatures, snow pack, rainfall, and hydrology, which consequently adds stress to native flora and fauna adapted to current conditions and alters fire regimes.

6. **Diversity of flora and fauna:** The rich diversity of plant and wildlife communities in ASRA/APL reflects the wide range of environmental conditions.

   - Hot and dry conditions of south facing slopes supporting the drought- and fire-resistant species that comprise chaparral and foothill woodland communities
   - Riparian habitat thriving in the cooler, moist American River canyon
   - The wetter, cooler environmental conditions on north slopes supporting mixed conifer communities
   - The lotic (fast moving) aquatic and lentic (ponds, lakes and reservoirs) aquatic environments
   - Caves, old mines, and the species they support

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Human activities have directly and indirectly altered the landscape in ASRA/APL. Interpretation and education can create an appreciation for the stewardship of natural and cultural resources.*

# Interpretation and Educational Goals and Guidelines

The interpretive goals and guidelines give broad guidance on how interpretation will attain the interpretive vision.

**Overall Interpretive and Educational Goal:** Connect visitors to the natural and cultural resources of ASRA/APL and adjacent lands, the diverse uses of the American River and inspire them to protect those resources and recreate safely.

*Source: California State Parks*

*The GP/RMP includes guidelines to provide interpretive information for educational purposes in ASRA/APL, including about hazards such as poison oak.*

**GOAL I&E 1:** Provide ASRA/APL visitors with educational information on how to be properly equipped and prepared prior to visiting ASRA/APL, and location and character of hazards they may encounter, including hazards of the river and drowning, so that visitors are able to use their best judgement in ensuring a safe recreation experience. River hazards include cold, fast-moving water; rapids and turbulent water; rocks, logs, and other debris in the river; and changeable flows and river levels.

**Guideline I&E 1.1:** Provide interpretive information at the major areas of visitor concentration focused on raising awareness of the various hazards in the area, such as mountain lions, drowning and other river hazards, poison oak, and ticks.

**Guideline I&E 1.2:** Provide key safety information, such as the need to bring water, sunscreen, a map and a compass, and how to identify poison oak, on the ASRA web page.

**Guideline I&E 1.3:** Provide CSP staffed interpretive opportunities during peak use periods at the major areas of visitor concentration in ASRA/APL to raise awareness of the various hazards in the area, such as mountain lions, poison oak, ticks, drowning risks, and lack of potable water supplies.

**Guideline I&E 1.4:** Create effective outreach strategies focused in part on preparing visitors for a safe experience.

**Guideline I&E 1.5:** Develop recreation user training and associated resources focused on recreational safety for various user groups. These resources could be coordinated with other agencies where other agencies have specialized knowledge or where activities cross jurisdictions.

**Guideline I&E 1.6:** Work with other public safety and resource management agencies to develop and present programs about recreational safety in ASRA/APL to local outdoor groups and the community in general.

**GOAL I&E 2:** Provide information to visitors about ASRA/APL's resources, facilities, and routes that allows them to enjoy a high-quality recreational experience with ease, while navigating to their destinations.

**Guideline I&E 2.1:** Collaborate with non-profit organizations and local agencies to distribute accurate detailed maps that include all official trails, roads and major landmarks. The maps should be available at major access points and trail junctions and for download from the Reclamation and CSP ASRA websites. All products will have branding from Reclamation and the appropriate partners who developed the products.

**Guideline I&E 2.2:** Provide adequate wayfinding signage at all trailheads and trail intersections to allow visitors to safely and enjoyably navigate the trail system, and to indicate the visitor is within ASRA/APL.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Collaboration with non-profit organizations and local agencies can improve wayfinding by providing detailed maps at major access points and trail junctions.*

**GOAL I&E 3:** Strengthen visitor stewardship to decrease the negative impacts on cultural, historic, aesthetic, and natural resources from visitor behavior. Motivate visitors to increase their stewardship by (1) establishing/increasing their personal value for resources, (2) increasing their awareness that the resources are threatened, (3) increasing their awareness of what CSP or Reclamation is doing to address the threat, and (4) telling them what they can do to help.

**Guideline I&E 3.1:** Provide interpretive opportunities that focus on the value of the resources to support specific recreational activities and/or attributes valued by the audience.

**Guideline I&E 3.2:** Provide interpretive opportunities that include the consequences of the degradation of ASRA/APL's resources on activities and/or attributes valued by specific user groups.

**Guideline I&E 3.3:** Interpret Reclamation and CSP's management programs to restore and preserve ASRA/APL and the surrounding area's natural, cultural, historic, aesthetic and recreational resources valued by the public.

**Guideline I&E 3.4:** Interpret the distinctive features of ASRA/APL and put them into a regional and statewide context in such a way as to increase the public's value for this area.

**Guideline I&E 3.5:** Provide staffed interpretive opportunities during peak-use periods at the major visitor concentration locations to raise awareness of ASRA/APL's sensitive and fragile resources, how they enhance the quality of the recreational experiences, and what visitors can do to protect those resources from inappropriate use.

**Guideline I&E 3.6:** Include portable exhibits and other interpretive opportunities as a strategy to address the dispersed nature of use areas, the seasonality of use, and the limited number of staff.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Providing interpretive materials that focus on exemplary values and stories can enhance the public's understanding of and value for the special qualities and attributes of ASRA/APL.*

**GOAL I&E 4:** Enhance the public's awareness and support of Reclamation and CSP and their management of ASRA/APL and its resources.

**Guideline I&E 4.1:** Interpret Reclamation and CSP's measures to mitigate climate change and inspire ASRA/APL visitors to adopt similar measures in their daily lives.

**Guideline I&E 4.2:** Make the Reclamation and CSP logos prominent on all orientation and interpretive materials and use the logos, uniform, and other strategies to provide awareness in Reclamation and CSP's role in those opportunities. Reclamation's logo and identification is required for all products pursuant to the MPA.

**Guideline I&E 4.3:** Require that concessionaires operating within ASRA/APL take steps to provide public awareness of the positive measures taken by CSP and Reclamation to manage the area. Focus information provided by concessionaires on the positive management of resources on which the particular activity offered by the concessionaire depends.

**Guideline I&E 4.4:** Approach interpretation in a holistic manner, emphasizing connections between natural, cultural, historical, aesthetic and recreational resources in ASRA/APL and the fact that individual resources are part of larger processes and relationships.

**Guideline I&E 4.5:** Integrate natural, cultural, aesthetic and recreational interpretation. Interpret wildlife, plants and people (past, present and future) in the context of ecological processes and in the context of the varied cultural landscape components within those lands.

**Guideline I&E 4.6:** Enhance and increase public understanding of changing wildfire conditions, the connection of increased wildfire hazard to climate change and the role visitors can play in helping to reduce some of these risks.

**GOAL I&E 5:** Increase public understanding of the value of the special qualities and attributes of ASRA/APL by focusing interpretive efforts on the stories that can best be told at ASRA/APL and guiding visitors to other nearby places for additional, related stories.

**Guideline I&E 5.1:** When developing interpretive programs and plans for ASRA/APL, focus on the exemplary values and stories of the lands and how they relate to the resources, programs, facilities and stories of surrounding areas and to Reclamation's and CSP's missions and their agency-wide interpretation and education programs.

**Guideline I&E 5.2:** Work with other Gold Country parks to provide a complementary network of interpretive opportunities, rather than ones that duplicate each other.

**Guideline I&E 5.3:** Work with local Native Americans and other parks and entities in the area to integrate the story of Native Americans and provide interpretation that is complementary rather than duplicative.

**Guideline I&E 5.4:** Research and develop opportunities to coordinate and partner with nearby state parks such as the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area, Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park and other area interpretive facilities to tell the regional story of cultural and natural resources. This can be done with joint programs or by referring to interpretation in another facility where visitors can learn.

**GOAL I&E 6:** Engage all public audiences in interpretive opportunities and provide equal access both within ASRA/APL and outside its boundaries.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Staffed interpretive activities can raise awareness of ASRA/APL's sensitive and fragile resources and what visitors can do to protect those resources.*

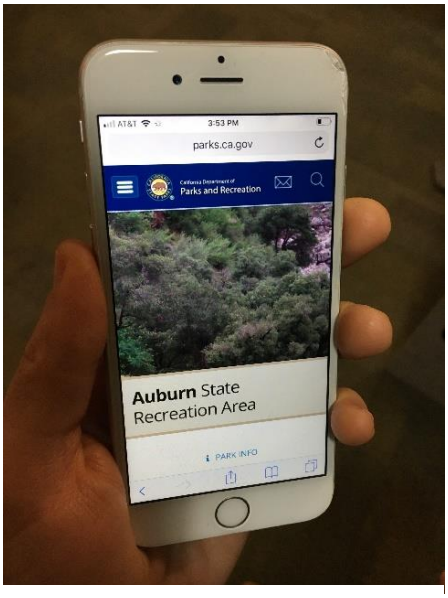
**Guideline I&E 6.1:** Emphasize tactile, auditory and visual-related media that are dynamic and dramatic.

**Guideline I&E 6.2:** Use a well-designed mixture of media to make interpretation interesting and accessible to all.

**Guideline I&E 6.3:** Expand the use of offsite outreach programs and online, digital interpretation techniques.

**Guideline I&E 6.4:** Continue to explore the possibilities of new technologies to further enhance interpretive presentations and broaden the audience and venues for ASRA/APL interpretation.

**Guideline I&E 6.5:** Expand public outreach to reach diverse populations, under-represented groups, youth and urban areas to welcome a diverse visitor base and to create and maintain relevancy with the public for the stewardship and management of ASRA/APL.




*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Interpretive and educational materials can be provided to visitors through a variety of formats and technologies remotely and while they are at ASRA/APL.*

**GOAL I&E 7:** Expand interpretation resources and opportunities through the use of partnerships and cooperative relationships.

**Guideline I&E 7.1:** Work with interested parties to provide environmental education, research and restoration opportunities.

**Guideline I&E 7.2:** Develop and maintain partnerships that allow non-profit organizations to assist with supporting the Reclamation and CSP volunteer program.

**Guideline I&E 7.3:** Explore options and potential locations for a multi-agency visitor center that is easily accessible to visitors to the area.

## 4.3.5 Operations

The day-to-day operation of ASRA/APL is guided by numerous federal and state laws and regulations. Reclamation directives and standards address operations on lands owned or withdrawn by Reclamation, which comprise the majority of ASRA/APL. CSP policies, including those policies included in the DOM, provide direction on operations within ASRA/APL. The goals and guidelines included in this plan provide broad-level guidance for operations of ASRA/APL. They do not address specific changes to staffing and organization, which should be adjusted as necessary

for successful implementation of the plan. Taken together, the goals and guidelines in this plan, in combination with applicable federal and state laws, Reclamation directives and standards, and CSP policies provide the overall framework for the operation of ASRA/APL.

Policies included in the DOM and CSP Departmental Notices provide direction related to operations. In addition, to policies and Departmental Notices listed in the Resource Management section, above, the following policies and Departmental Notices are applicable to visitor use management at ASRA/APL:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1400 | Park Operations | 1100 | Emergency Medical Services |
| 0700 | Pest Control | 1900 | Concessions and Reservations |
| 0800 | Hazardous Materials Management | 2100 | Real Property Acquisition and Management |
| 1600 | Facilities Maintenance | | |

In addition to the CFR, Reclamation directives and standards guide facility management in ASRA/APL. Applicable directives and standards include LND 01-03

**GOAL OP 1:** Manage resources and activity in ASRA/APL through collaboration between CSP and Reclamation.

> **Guideline OP 1.1:** Review and, as necessary, amend the Managing Partner Agreement every five years to reflect changes in management needs.
>
> **Guideline OP 1.2:** Reclamation will inform and consult with CSP should Reclamation wish to enter into a managing partner agreement with other parties for the management of APL.

**GOAL OP 2:** Partner with other agencies, organizations and volunteers to support land management, operations, maintenance, interpretation, resource identification and protection and other needs.

> **Guideline OP 2.1:** Strengthen partnerships with volunteer and non-profit organizations to increase visitor services and interpretation. Establish new partnerships to provide specialized services to the public.
>
> **Guideline OP 2.2:** Enter into partnerships or agreements with other federal, state and local agencies such as ARD, Placer and El Dorado Counties, BLM, U.S. Forest Service, and CAL FIRE to clarify management responsibilities, share resources,

and more efficiently achieve goals and guidelines. Partnerships and agreements could address road maintenance, fuels reduction, interpretive programs, law enforcement, emergency response, and/or other operational needs.

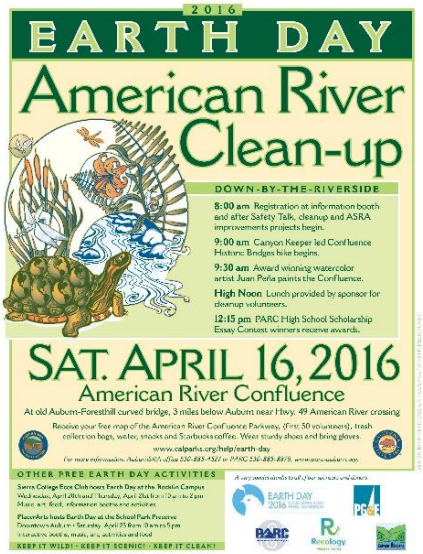
**Guideline OP 2.3:** Expand use of concession contracts when they can increase services or more effectively provide services to the public at a lower cost than directly providing services.

**Guideline OP 2.4:** Develop and assist with promotion of volunteer events and other volunteer opportunities. Provide ongoing communication between ASRA/APL staff, visitors, and stakeholders to increase awareness of volunteer opportunities.

**Guideline OP 2.5:** Develop a partnership program with local businesses or other civic groups to sponsor recreation enhancement or resource management projects, where consistent with policies governing federal and state appropriations. Such a program could leverage available funds through financial assistance, donated materials and volunteer labor.

**Guideline OP 2.6:** Develop a multi-disciplinary volunteer trail patrol (including equestrians, bicycles and pedestrians) that serves as a model for shared-use trail ethics and etiquette and can enhance communication between trail users and CSP staff.

**Guideline OP 2.7:** Pursue a management agreement with the USFS regarding management of whitewater use on the Middle Fork American River.




*Source: http://www.visitauburnca.com*

*Organized volunteer events provide opportunities to support ASRA/APL operations, maintenance, interpretation, and resource identification and protection.*

# Public Safety and Law Enforcement

**GOAL OP 3:** Provide effective public safety and security measures for the protection of visitors and resources.

**Guideline OP 3.1:** Review and update emergency response plans and training with local partners and ASRA/APL staff to provide the safest and most effective protocols during emergencies.

**Guideline OP 3.2:** Within agency constraints, increase the number of properly trained and equipped law enforcement officers to prevent and respond to incidents throughout ASRA/APL commensurate with increases in visitor attendance.

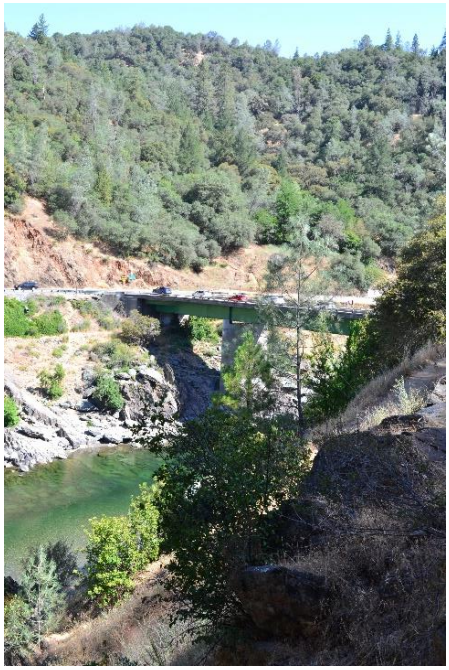
**Guideline OP 3.3:** Explore opportunities for agreements and partnerships with other law enforcement agencies, to augment CSP law enforcement.

**Guideline OP 3.4:** Prioritize public contact and enforcement actions to minimize the risk of wildfire consistent with GOAL RES 9.

**Guideline OP 3.5:** Coordinate with partners to improve electronic connectivity and communications where appropriate, including improving the radio repeater system to provide better coverage in and around ASRA/APL.

**GOAL OP 4:** Reduce risks to visitors from short-term or exceptional safety hazards by effectively communicating risks and safety measures.

**Guideline OP 4.1:** Implement an enhanced visitor safety communication program. Consider the use of social media, signage, public service announcements and other approaches to convey risks and safety measures. This may include additional signage and other public messaging regarding the dangers of the river and risk of drowning related to cold water; changing water levels and flows; rocks and other debris in the river; and fast, turbulent water and rapids.



*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*The GP/RMP includes goals and guidelines that support public safety and security measures, including updating emergency response plans, coordinating with local partners, and increasing the number of law enforcement officers to prevent and respond to incidents throughout ASRA/APL.*

## Accessibility

**GOAL OP 5:** Provide equal access to, and opportunities for, enjoyment of ASRA/APL for all visitors, regardless of ability.

**Guideline OP 5.1:** Improve accessibility to all facilities, activities, and programs in accordance with the CSP Transition Plan for ASRA and consistent with ADA and ABA requirements. Facilities that support activities and programs shall also be made accessible.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Adequate funding needs to be sought or made available in order to support the GP/RMP goals and guidelines as well as meeting visitor needs. Opportunities for supplementing or providing funding include improved fee collection technologies, the use of volunteers, where appropriate, and grant funding.*

## Revenue Enhancement

**GOAL OP 6:** Seek funding to support implementation of the plan's goals and guidelines, as well as changing needs for public safety, management, interpretation, facility maintenance, and resource protection.

**Guideline OP 6.1:** Evaluate and adjust staffing needs based on ongoing management needs and use patterns.

**Guideline OP 6.2:** Explore the use of volunteers to complement staff where feasible.

**Guideline OP 6.3:** Seek funding from grants, donations and other sources to compliment base funding levels.

**Guideline OP 6.4:** Reduce the funding provided by Reclamation, where appropriate.

**GOAL OP 7:** Increase ASRA revenues, as appropriate, to offset costs of operation and maintenance. Specifically seek to reduce Reclamation's cost share and reliance on the cost share.

**Guideline OP 7.1:** Where appropriate, require payment for parking when facilities are provided. Implement revenue-collection technology to increase fair collection of parking fees, including use of enhanced, internet and smart-phone parking technologies, and demand-based pricing

**Guideline OP 7.2:** Manage entrance station hours, season, and staffing to increase visitor contact and revenue generation.

**Guideline OP 7.3:** Coordinate with agencies responsible for road infrastructure (Caltrans, Placer and El Dorado counties, City of Auburn) regarding parking improvements and fee assessment within their roadway rights-of-way.

**Guideline OP 7.4:** Consider opportunities to include new and enhanced revenue-generating activities and facilities. Construct new or expand existing facilities in upland areas to diversify and increase mission-appropriate revenue sources.

# 4.4 Management Zone Intent, Goals, and Guidelines

## 4.4.1 Knickerbocker Management Zone

The Knickerbocker Management Zone includes 3,124 acres of federal and state lands that are relatively flat in the southeastern portion of ASRA/APL, near the town of Cool. The primary access point is the Cool Staging Area, adjacent to the town of Cool, and the management zone includes numerous trails. Because the management zone is flat, near existing communities and infrastructure, and outside of the area that would be inundated by an Auburn Dam, it provides opportunities for new and expanded facilities. This zone includes potential habitat for special-status species and cultural resources that should be protected and interpreted. The management intent of this zone is to maintain and expand recreation opportunities while protecting sensitive resources. The management zone includes three activity nodes: Knickerbocker Flat, Cool Staging Area, and Knickerbocker Road Corridor. Facilities and improvements in this area will improve access to the river in the adjacent Auburn Interface Management Zone, and expand opportunities for high-quality upland recreation, including trail use, camping, special events, and picnicking. Table 4.4-1 shows the size and land use designation of each activity node in the management zone. Figure 4.4-1 shows the location of the management zone along with existing and proposed facilities.

Table 4.4-1 Activity Nodes in the Knickerbocker Management Zone

| Activity Node | Acres | Land Use Designation |
|---|---|---|
| Knickerbocker Flat Activity Node (1A) | 1,386 | Recreation - Medium |
| Cool Staging Area Activity Node (1B) | 46 | Recreation - High |
| Knickerbocker Road Corridor Activity Node (1C) | 818 | Recreation - Medium |
| Management Zone Outside of Activity Nodes | 875 | Resources – Low Recreation |

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*The management intent of the Knickerbocker Management Zone is to maintain and expand recreation opportunities while protecting sensitive resources.*

**GOAL MZ 1:** Manage and develop the Cool Staging Area and Knickerbocker Road Corridor Activity Nodes to provide a hub for upland outdoor recreational activity while maintaining resource values.

**Guideline MZ 1.1:** Provide a campground in the Knickerbocker Road Corridor Activity Node with a total camping capacity equivalent up to 50 individual campsites and 3 group campsites, including alternative camping options such as cabins or yurts. Consider the needs of trail users, including equestrians, mountain bikers, and pedestrians, in developing and designing camping facilities in the Knickerbocker Management Zone. Design and planning of these camping facilities should consider camping demand around trail special events at ASRA/APL and in the Knickerbocker Management Zone.

**Guideline MZ 1.2:** Provide expanded day-use and trailhead facilities at the Cool Staging Area Activity Node. Provide up to 50 parking spaces, 20 picnic sites, and 10 shade ramadas.

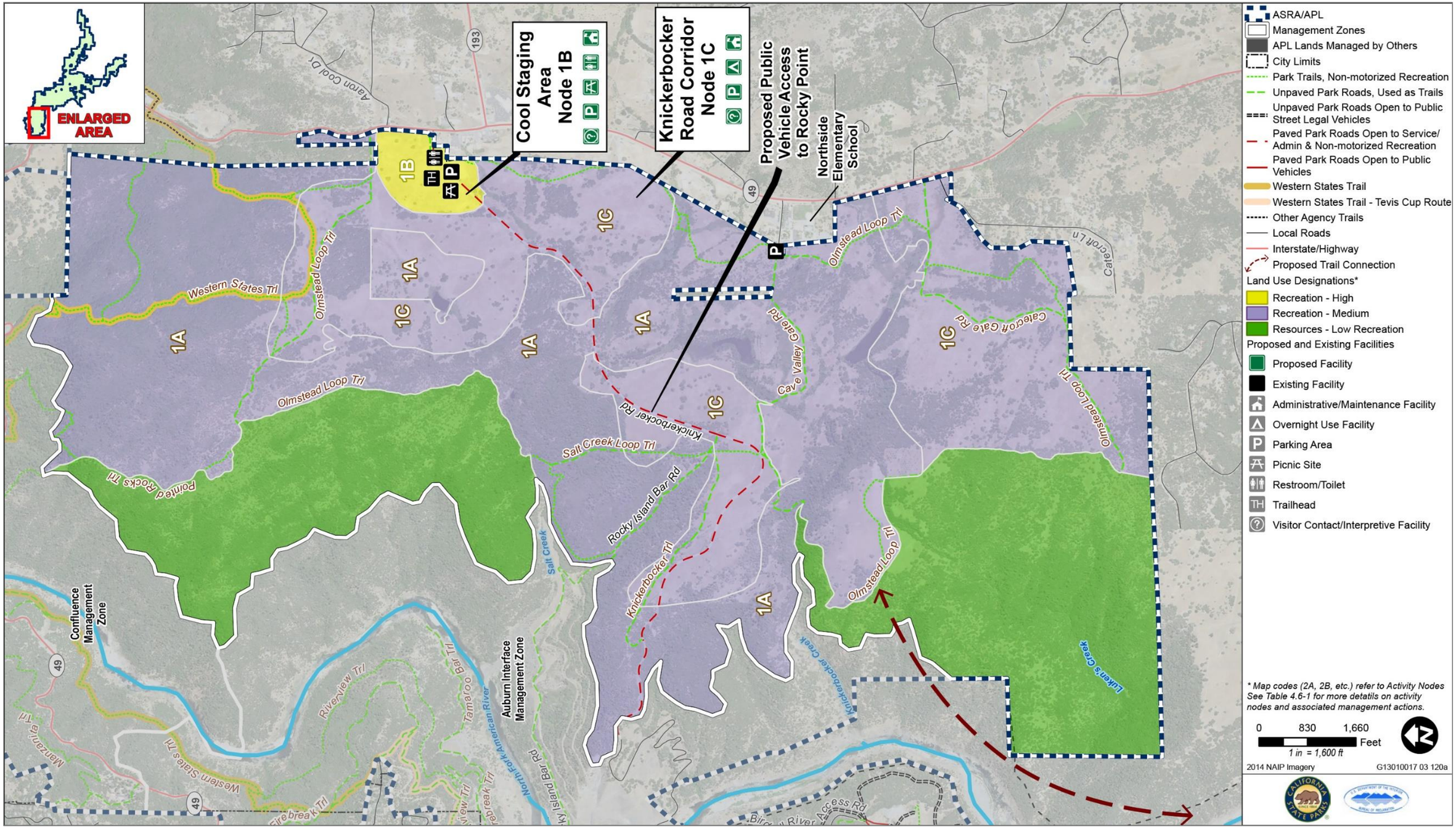
**Guideline MZ 1.3:** Install interpretive features consistent with the interpretive and educational themes in this plan.

**Guideline MZ 1.4:** As needed, establish a small maintenance yard and equipment storage area of up to ¼ acre within the Knickerbocker Road Corridor Activity Node, to support resource and facility management.

**Guideline MZ 1.5:** Accommodate special events consistent with resource capacities.

**Guideline MZ 1.6:** Design facilities to maintain appropriate setbacks from SR 49, and incorporate vegetative plantings or other visual screening to protect scenic views from SR 49. Protect views of the undeveloped land north of the Cool Staging area.

**Guideline MZ 1.7:** Protect, and as appropriate, interpret and manage cultural resources, including historic orchards.




*Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2017*

Figure 4.4-1 Knickerbocker Management Zone

**GOAL MZ 2:** Provide excellent opportunities for hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers, runners, and other trail users in the Knickerbocker Management Zone.

**Guideline MZ 2.1:** Maintain and enhance the existing trail system.

**Guideline MZ 2.2:** Provide a trail connection from the Olmstead Loop to Folsom Lake SRA.

**GOAL MZ 3:** Provide visitor access to the river through the Knickerbocker Management Zone to reduce congestion near the Confluence and increase river recreation opportunities on the El Dorado County side of ASRA/APL.

**Guideline MZ 3.1:** Provide public vehicle access to the river from Knickerbocker Road. Complete necessary physical improvements prior to opening the road to public use, such as installing fencing, vehicle barriers, and gates to prevent unauthorized access; installing signs; grading dirt roads or reconstructing substandard portions of road; and developing alternate trail routes where the road serves as a primary trail route.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*The Knickerbocker Management Zone can support a variety of recreational uses.*

## 4.4.2 Auburn Interface Management Zone

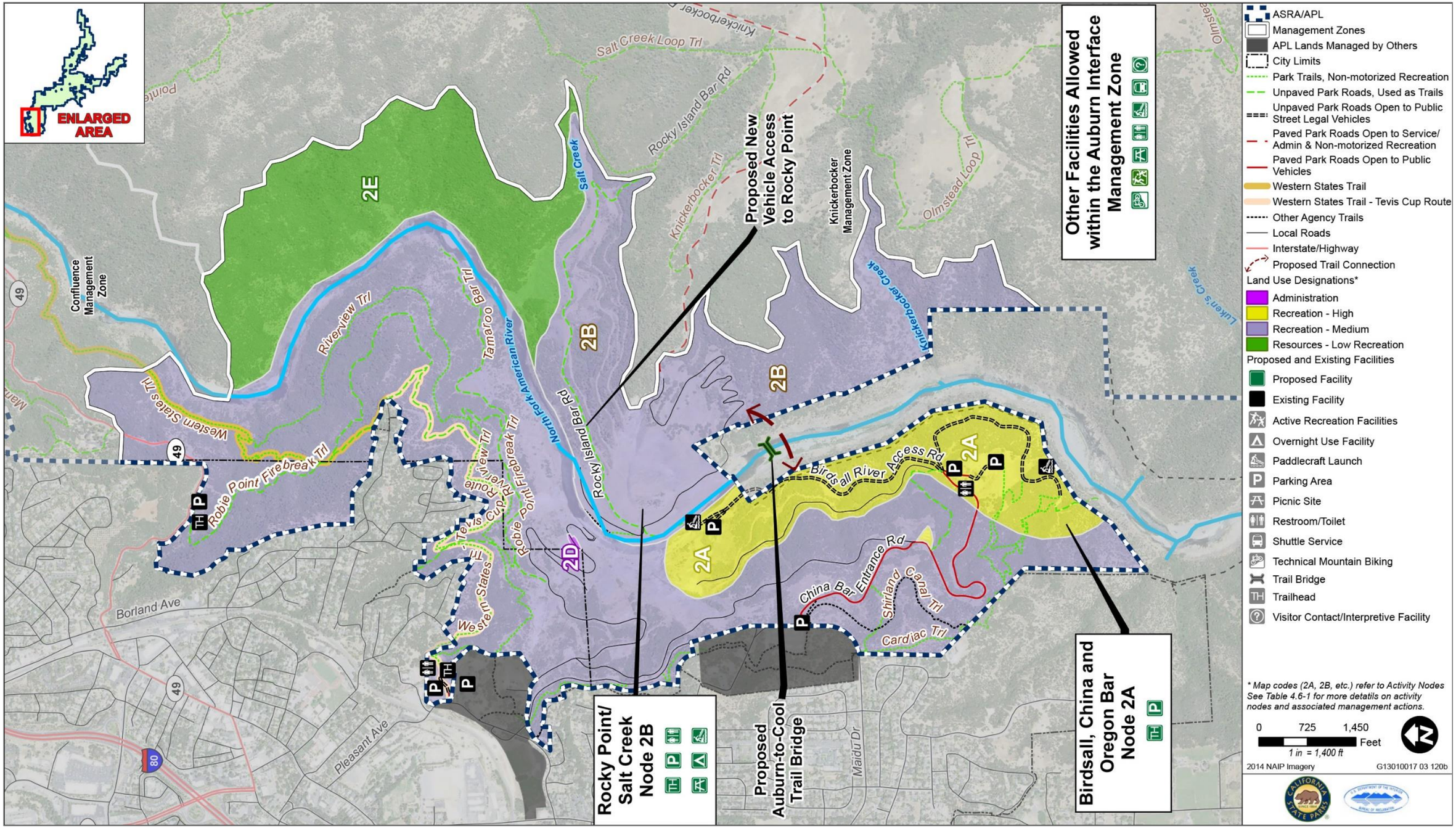
*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Trail connectivity across the river can be improved in the Auburn Interface Management Zone.*

The Auburn Interface Management Zone includes 1,610 acres of federal land on both sides of the North Fork of the American River downstream of the confluence with the Middle Fork. The management zone is adjacent to the southern portion of the City of Auburn; and it includes the Auburn Dam site and the China Bar, Oregon Bar, and Birdsall areas. The management zone provides opportunities for river access near the City of Auburn and the potential for connectivity between the east and west sides of the river. The management intent of this zone is to maintain and expand recreation upland and river-dependent recreation opportunities, improve trail connectivity across the river while protecting sensitive resources. The west side of the river should be managed for day use and the east side of the river could provide both day use and camping opportunities. The management zone includes five activity nodes: Birdsall, China, and Oregon Bar; Rocky Point/Salt Creek; Core Sheds; Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) Pump Station; and Lower North Fork View. Facilities and improvements in this area will improve trail connectivity across the river, and expand opportunities for high-quality water-dependent and upland recreation, including river access, trail use, camping, active recreation, special events, and picnicking. Table 4.4-2 shows the size and land use designation of each activity node in the management zone. Figure 4.4-2 shows the location of the management zone along with existing and proposed facilities.

Table 4.4-2 Activity Nodes in the Auburn Interface Management Zone

| Activity Node | Acres | Land Use Designation |
|---|---|---|
| Birdsall, China, and Oregon Bar Activity Node (2A) | 162 | Recreation - High |
| Rocky Point/Salt Creek Activity Node (2B) | 353 | Recreation - Medium |
| Core Sheds Activity Node (2C) | 1 | Recreation - High |
| PCWA Pump Station Activity Node (2D) | 0.5 | Administration |
| Lower North Fork View Activity Node (2E) | 256 | Resources – Low Recreation |
| Management Zone Outside of Activity Nodes | 838 | Recreation - Medium |




*Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2017*

Figure 4.4-2 Auburn Interface Management Zone

**GOAL MZ 4:** Provide high-quality trail opportunities in the Auburn Interface Management Zone.

**Guideline MZ 4.1:** Develop a trail bridge across the lower North Fork of the American river, potentially at the upper outlet rapid location, to provide year-round trail connectivity between the east and west sides of the river. CSP is responsible for the development of a recreational trail bridge.

**Guideline MZ 4.2:** Re-route and/or construct trails to provide a high-quality trail system connecting Auburn to Cool.

**Guideline MZ 4.3:** Provide challenging technical mountain bike trails.

**Guideline MZ 4.4:** Improve and expand trailhead and staging facilities.

**GOAL MZ 5:** Provide high-quality day-use and river access opportunities that are accessible from the City of Auburn on the west side of the river.

**Guideline MZ 5.1:** Efficiently provide access to existing facilities in the Birdsall, China Bar, and Oregon Bar Activity Node by increasing the amount of time vehicle access is allowed through the China Bar entrance station and allowing for paid parking when the entrance station is not staffed.

**Guideline MZ 5.2:** Improve river access points in the Birdsall, China Bar, and Oregon Bar Activity Node by constructing up to 50 additional parking spaces and improving trails to the river.

**Guideline MZ 5.3:** Remove the administrative storage sheds in the Core Sheds Activity Node and convert the site to recreational uses.

**Guideline MZ 5.4:** Provide additional day-use facilities on the west side of the river, including up to 30 family and group picnic sites, up to 20 shade ramadas, restrooms, and formalized gathering and use areas that support special events and programs.

**Guideline MZ 5.5:** Provide opportunity for recreation equipment rentals, such as bicycles or kayaks.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*The Auburn Interface Management Zone is a popular location for staging trail-dependent recreation activities, such as trail running on the popular Cardiac Bypass Trail.*

**GOAL MZ 6:** Provide high-quality camping, day-use, and river access opportunities on the east side of the river and accessible from the town of Cool.

**Guideline MZ 6.1:** Provide public vehicle access to the river in Rocky Point/Salt Creek Activity Node along Rocky Island Bar Road through the adjacent Knickerbocker Management Zone. Install up to 100 parking spaces and associated facilities near the river. Complete necessary physical improvements prior to opening the road to public use, such as installing fencing, vehicle barriers, and gates to prevent unauthorized access; installing signs; grading dirt roads or reconstructing substandard portions of road; and developing alternate trail routes where the road serves as a primary trail route.

**Guideline MZ 6.2:** Provide a campground in the Rocky Point/Salt Creek Activity Node with the camping capacity equivalent of up to 25 individual campsites and one group campsite, including alternative camping options such as cabins or yurts.

**Guideline MZ 6.3:** Provide day-use facilities near the river including river access trails formalized gathering and use areas that support special events and programs, up to 20 picnic sites with shade ramadas, restrooms, and a variety of other day-use facilities that provide opportunities for a range of recreation activities.

*Source: CSP*

*Proposed improvements in the Auburn Interface Management Zone would support high-quality paddlecraft opportunities, including increased boating concessions, shuttle services to other areas of ASRA/APL, and improvements for river launching and landing.*

**GOAL MZ 7:** Provide high-quality paddlecraft opportunities on the lower North Fork of the American River.

**Guideline MZ 7.1:** Increase boating concession opportunities below the Confluence, including rafting and inflatable kayak trips, canoeing and kayaking trips, and standup paddleboard trips.

**Guideline MZ 7.2:** Institute or promote shuttle services for boaters, including between the Confluence and China Bar, either through concession or partnership with local jurisdictions or other entities.

**Guideline MZ 7.3:** Construct, renovate, or modify river launching and landing facilities to expand paddlecraft put-in and take-out opportunities.

**GOAL MZ 8:** Teach visitors about environmental stewardship and the history of the Auburn Dam consistent with the interpretive themes in this plan.

> **Guideline MZ 8.1:** Install interpretive elements that focus on watershed protection, water supplies, environmental education, natural and cultural resource awareness and stewardship. Provide interpretive materials, features and programs regarding the dam site history, features, and status.

**GOAL MZ 9:** Support the Placer County Water Agency to ensure that the pump station continues to provide a safe and reliable water source.

> **Guideline MZ 9.1:** Maintain the Pump Station Activity Node as an administrative area that is within a non-exclusive easement to PCWA for the operation and maintenance of the Pump Station.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

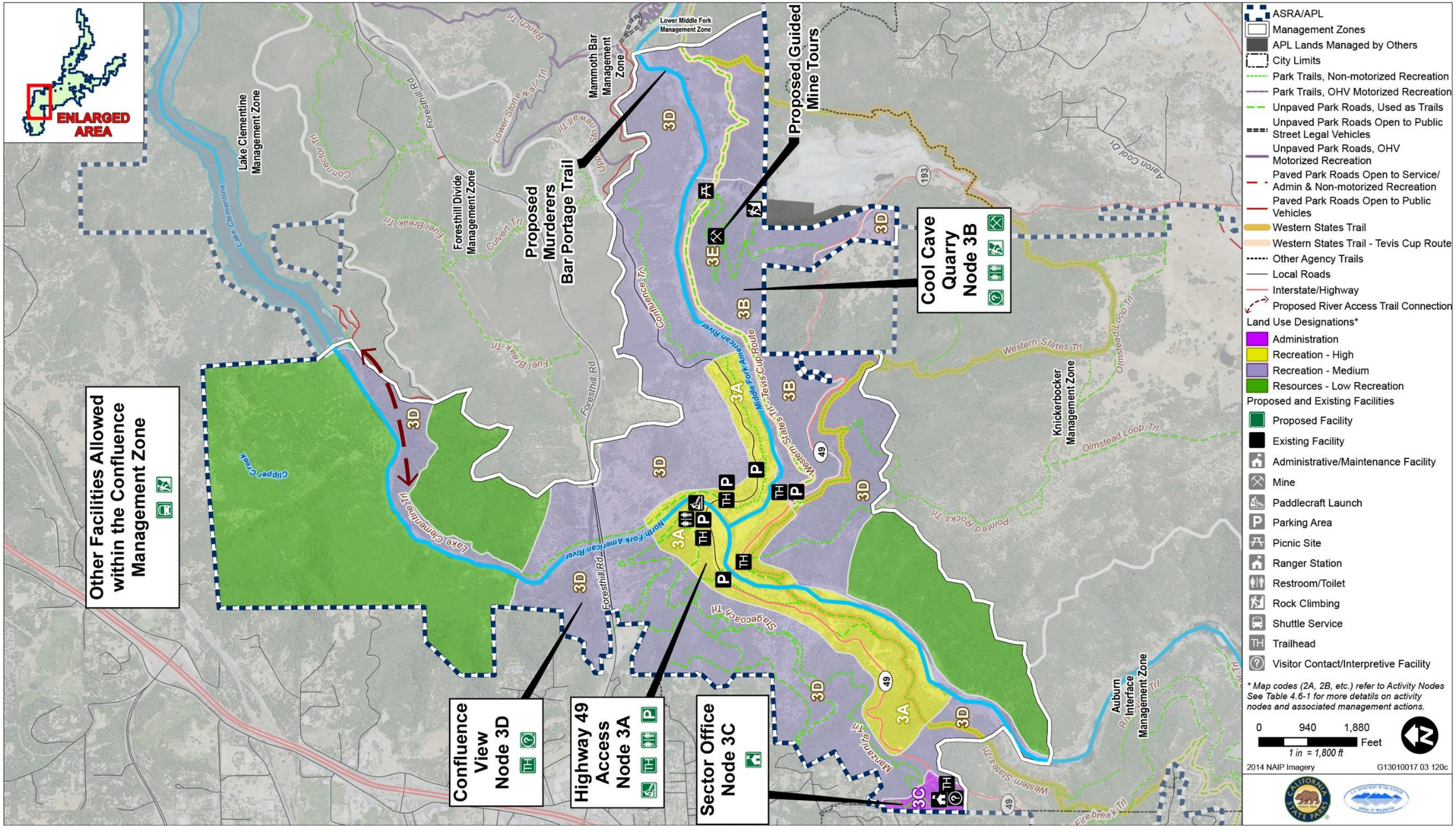
*The Confluence Management Zone is one of the most heavily-used areas of ASRA/APL. Plans in the GP/RMP for this area includes managing and improving parking and access.*

## 4.4.3 Confluence Management Zone

The Confluence Management Zone includes 2,199 acres of federal land surrounding the confluence of the North and Middle Forks of the American River. The management zone is adjacent to the northern portion of the City of Auburn; and it includes the CSP office, the Highway 49 and Foresthill bridges, the Mountain Quarries Mine and Cool Cave climbing area, and the popular Confluence area. The management zone is easily accessible from SR 49 and includes the most heavily used portion of ASRA/APL. The management intent of this zone is to maintain and enhance recreation opportunities and manage visitor use to protect sensitive resources and visitor experience. The management zone includes five activity nodes: Highway 49 Access, Cool Cave Quarry, Sector Office, Confluence View, and Mountain Quarries Mine. Facilities and improvements in this area will manage and improve parking and access, and enhance opportunities for high-quality water-dependent and upland recreation, including river access, trail use, rock climbing, mine tours, special events, and picnicking. Table 4.4-3 shows the size and land use designation of each activity node in the management zone. Figure 4.4-3 shows the location of the management zone along with existing and proposed facilities.

Table 4.4-3 Activity Nodes in the Confluence Management Zone

| Activity Node | Acres | Land Use Designation |
|---|---|---|
| Highway 49 Access Activity Node (3A) | 239 | Recreation - High |
| Cool Cave Quarry Activity Node (3B) | 200 | Recreation - Medium |
| Sector Office Activity Node (3C) | 17 | Administration |
| Confluence View Activity Node (3D) | 1,021 | Recreation - Medium |
| Mountain Quarries Mine Activity Node (3E) | 1 | Recreation - Medium |
| Management Zone Outside of Activity Nodes | 721 | Resources – Low Recreation |




*Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2017*

Figure 4.4-3 Confluence Management Zone

**GOAL MZ 10:** Provide safe and convenient visitor parking and access in the Confluence Management Zone.

**Guideline MZ 10.1:** Coordinate with Caltrans, Placer County and El Dorado County, to improve and formalize parking along SR 49 in the Highway 49 Activity Node and install pedestrian safety improvements, such as crosswalks, on the SR 49 Bridge, Old Auburn-Foresthill Road, and at roadside parking areas.

**Guideline MZ 10.2:** Coordinate with the City of Auburn, Placer County, El Dorado County, and relevant transit and transportation agencies or concessionaires to identify or develop drop off areas and determine if it is feasible to provide shuttle or transit stops at trailheads.

**Guideline MZ 10.3:** Increase wayfinding information in the Highway 49 Activity Node, including improved maps and signs. Employ technology, such as smart phone applications and changeable message signs, to provide information on parking availability.

**GOAL MZ 11:** Provide opportunities for visitors to learn about the region's cultural and natural history through guided tours of the Mountain Quarries Mine.

**Guideline MZ 11.1:** Assess the Mountain Quarries Mine for public safety hazards including geotechnical stability.

**Guideline MZ 11.2:** Survey the Mountain Quarries Mine for sensitive resources including special-status bats, other sensitive biological resources, and paleontological resources, and develop specific protection measures to avoid and minimize impacts to these resources.

**Guideline MZ 11.1:**Pending the results of public safety and resource assessments, provide guided mine tours that include education regarding the natural and cultural history of the mine and surrounding area. Consider partnering with volunteer docent organization.

**GOAL MZ 12:** Provide opportunities for high-quality active upland recreation in the Confluence Management Zone.

**Guideline MZ 12.1:** Retain rock climbing opportunities and accommodate climbing events at the Cool Cave Quarry area. As appropriate, provide rock climbing opportunities in

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*The Mountain Quarries Mine in the Confluence Management Zone provides a unique experience for visitors to learn about the region's cultural and natural history.*

other areas of the Confluence Management Zone within access constraints and while protecting resources.

**Guideline MZ 12.2:**Provide restrooms near the Cool Cave Quarry climbing area.

**Guideline MZ 12.3:** Improve the Lake Clementine Trail in the Confluence View Activity Node as the first segment of a multi-use trail from the Confluence to Ponderosa Road Crossing.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*With implementation of the GP/RMP, CSP will continue to manage the cave valley climbing area to protect peregrine falcon nesting and other sensitive resources.*

**GOAL MZ 13:** Provide a variety of opportunities for high-quality river-dependent recreation in the Confluence Management Zone.

**Guideline MZ 13.1:** Improve river access for paddlecraft launches near the Confluence to increase river access for boaters and to minimize conflicts with swimmers and sunbathers. Consider creating a new river access route for paddlecraft, where consistent with resource constraints.

**Guideline MZ 13.2:** In coordination with USACE, connect the Lake Clementine Trail to the North Fork Dam Overlook. Improve trail access to the river from the Lower Lake Clementine parking area.

**Guideline MZ 13.3:** Construct portage trail for paddlecraft users around Murderers Bar Rapid, including providing take-out and put-in locations.

**GOAL MZ 14:** Manage recreation activities and disturbance to protect sensitive natural and cultural resources.

**Guideline MZ 14.1:** Reroute, improve, or remove unauthorized river access and spur trails.

**Guideline MZ 14.2:** Manage the location and timing of rock climbing to protect peregrine falcon nesting and other sensitive resources.

**GOAL MZ 15:** Develop and implement interpretive and educational materials and programs that effectively reach visitors in the Confluence Management Zone.

**Guideline MZ 15.1:** Construct a small canyon rim overlook and interpretive facility that take advantage of views of the American River Canyon.

**Guideline MZ 15.2:** Provide interpretive elements near the Cool Cave Quarry climbing area.

**GOAL MZ 16:** Maintain the Auburn Sector office complex to support administrative and operational functions.

**Guideline MZ 16.1:** Evaluate the historic significance of the buildings at the Auburn Sector office complex, including the Murphy House.

**Guideline MZ 16.2:** Renovate or replace the existing administrative offices to better serve increased Auburn Sector staffing. Add facilities within the Sector Office Activity Node as necessary to support administrative or operational needs.

*Source: CSP*

*The GP/RMP provides an opportunity to develop some additional recreation facilities that support high-quality upland recreation in the Foresthill Divide Management Zone.*

### 4.4.4 Foresthill Divide Management Zone

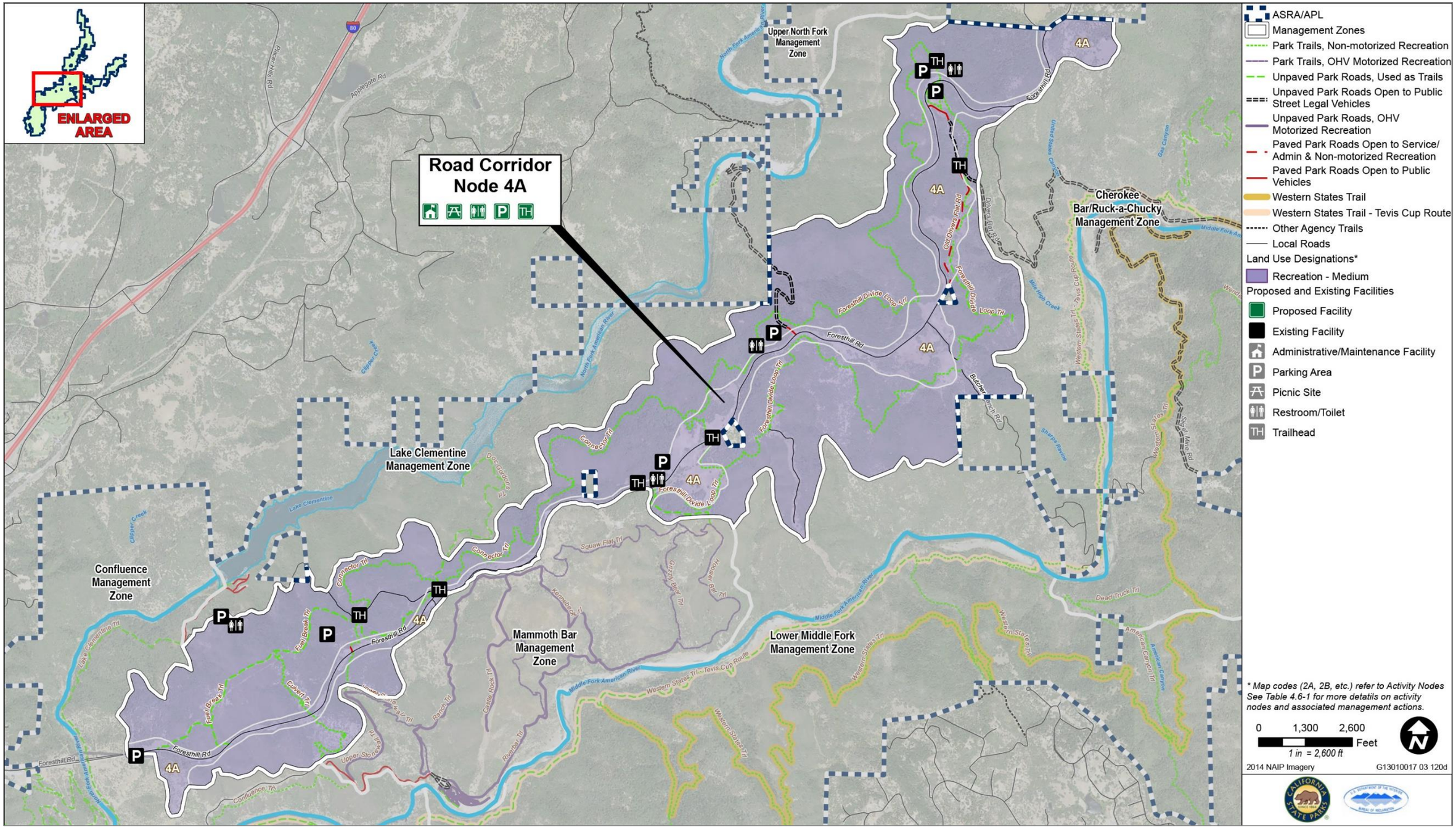
The Foresthill Divide Management Zone includes 2,927 acres of federal land that is mostly upland areas in the center of ASRA/APL along both sides of Foresthill Road. The management zone includes Foresthill Road and numerous trails and trailheads. The management intent of this zone is to maintain and expand access to dispersed upland recreation opportunities while protecting sensitive resources. The management zone includes one activity node: Road Corridor. Facilities and improvements in this area will improve and expand access to high-quality upland recreation, including trail use and camping. Table 4.4-4 shows the size and land use designation of each activity node in the management zone. Figure 4.4-4 shows the location of the management zone along with existing and proposed facilities.

Table 4.4-4 Activity Nodes in the Foresthill Divide Management Zone

| Activity Node | Acres | Land Use Designation |
|---|---|---|
| Road Corridor Activity Node (4A) | 615 | Recreation - Medium |
| Management Zone Outside of Activity Nodes | 2,313 | Recreation - Medium |

**GOAL MZ 17:** Provide access to high-quality dispersed recreation opportunities in a natural setting within the Road Corridor Activity Node.

**Guideline MZ 17.1:** Improve trailhead and trail access facilities along Foresthill Road. Add restrooms and up to 100 parking spaces, 10 shade ramadas, and 20 picnic sites spread between multiple trailheads.




*Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2017 and revised in 2020*

Figure 4.4-4 Foresthill Divide Management Zone

# 4.4.5 Lake Clementine Management Zone

The Lake Clementine Management Zone includes 1,363 acres of federal land, including Lake Clementine and some of the surrounding land. The management zone includes the North Fork Dam, Lake Clementine Marina, a boat-in campground, and the popular Upper Lake Clementine day-use area. The management intent of this zone is to maintain and enhance water-dependent recreation opportunities while managing use to protect sensitive resources. The management zone includes two activity nodes: Lower Lake and Lake, and Upper Lake Beach. Facilities and improvements in this area will maintain and improve existing recreation opportunities and expand opportunities for trail use and watercraft concessions. Table 4.4-5 shows the size and land use designation of each activity node in the management zone. Figure 4.4-5 shows the location of the management zone along with existing and proposed facilities.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*The GP/RMP includes goals and guidelines that maintain and enhance water-dependent recreation opportunities.*

Table 4.4-5 Activity Nodes in the Lake Clementine Management Zone

| Activity Node | Acres | Land Use Designation |
|---|---|---|
| Lower Lake and Lake Activity Node (5A) | 193 | Recreation - High |
| Upper Lake Beach Activity Node (5B) | 65 | Recreation - High |
| Management Zone Outside of Activity Nodes | 2,313 | Resources – Low Recreation |

**GOAL MZ 18:** Provide access to high-quality boating opportunities at the Lake Clementine Marina and boat ramp.

**Guideline MZ 18.1:** Continue to provide marina facilities operated by concession, including boat slips, loading and fuel dock, and ice sales.

**Guideline MZ 18.2:** Renovate the existing marina facilities to protect resources and public safety, and to improve the visitor experience. Repair or replace marina facility components when needed, without increasing the number of slips.

**Guideline MZ 18.3:** Maintain the existing boat ramp, parking lot with 50 vehicle parking spaces and 25 vehicle/trailer parking spaces.

**GOAL MZ 19:** Provide a variety of high-quality water-dependent recreation opportunities at Lake Clementine.

**Guideline MZ 19.1:** Maintain a boat-in campground with up to 15 campsites. Relocate campsites, as necessary in response to sedimentation or other constraints.

**Guideline MZ 19.2:** Provide paddlecraft concession opportunities that include classes, trips, rentals and boat storage facilities at either Lower Lake Clementine or Upper Lake Clementine.

**Guideline MZ 19.3:** Provide concession opportunities for motorized and nonmotorized watercraft, including marina slips, rentals, trips, instruction, supplies and storage.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*The GP/RMP supports continuation of the boat-in campground as well as providing additional opportunities for paddlecraft concessions in the Lake Clementine Management Zone.*

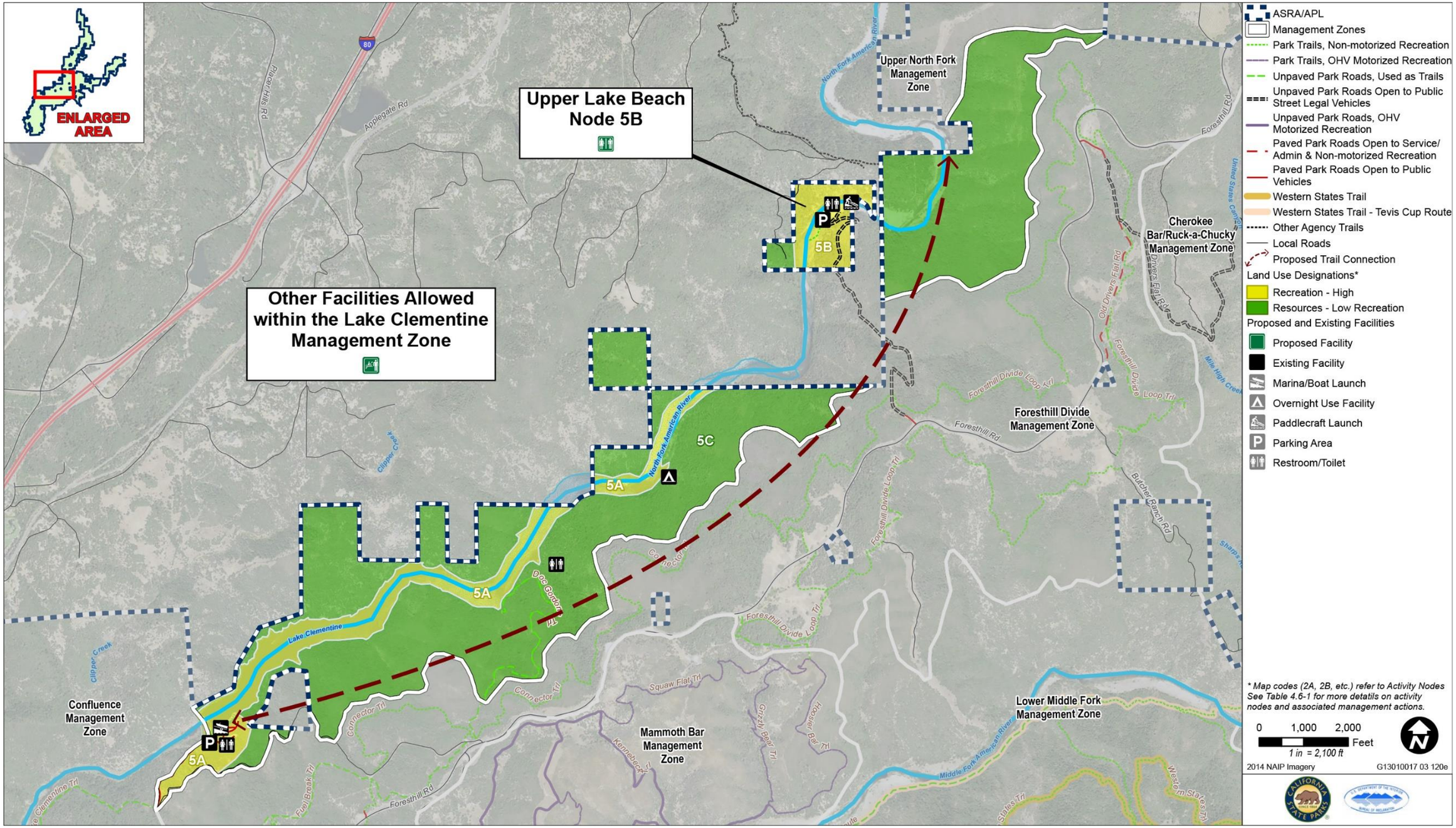
**GOAL MZ 20:** Develop a multi-use trail from the Confluence to Ponderosa Road Crossing.

**Guideline MZ 20.1:** Provide a trail connection along Lake Clementine from the vicinity of the Lake Clementine Marina to the north end of the management zone as part of a multi-use trail from the Confluence to Ponderosa Road Crossing.

**GOAL MZ 21:** Protect and restore sensitive natural and cultural resources.

**Guideline MZ 21.1:** If the boat-in campground is relocated, restore the decommissioned campground to native habitat.

**Guideline MZ 21.2:** Improve Upper Lake Clementine entrance road to reduce dust and erosion, protect resources, and reduce maintenance costs. Improvements could include enhanced drainage, gravel surfacing, paving, or other enhancements.




*Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2017*

Figure 4.4-5 Lake Clementine Management Zone

## 4.4.6 Mammoth Bar Management Zone

The Mammoth Bar Management Zone includes 1,170 acres of federal land along the north side of the Middle Fork of the American River. The management zone includes the Mammoth Bar OHV tracks and trails and is the only portion of ASRA/APL designated for OHV recreation. The management intent of this zone is to maintain and expand opportunities for both motorized and non-motorized recreation while protecting sensitive resources. The management zone includes two activity nodes: Staging Area and Castle Rock. Facilities and improvements in this area will maintain, improve, and relocate opportunities for high-quality upland and water-dependent recreation including OHV use, non-motorized trail use, camping, picnicking, and river access. Table 4.4-6 shows the size and land use designation of each activity node in the management zone. Figure 4.4-6 shows the location of the management zone along with existing and proposed facilities.

Table 4.4-6 Activity Nodes in the Mammoth Bar Management Zone

| Activity Node | Acres | Land Use Designation |
|---|---|---|
| Staging Area Activity Node (6A) | 47 | OHV - High |
| Castle Rock Activity Node (6B) | 89 | OHV - High |
| Management Zone Outside of Activity Nodes | 1,034 | OHV – Medium |

**GOAL MZ 22:** Provide high-quality and regionally important OHV recreation opportunities compatible with resource capacities in the Mammoth Bar Management Zone.

**Guideline MZ 22.1:** Repair, re-construct, re-route, close, or add trails to improve trail sustainability and recreation opportunities.

**Guideline MZ 22.2:** Allow OHV use up to six days per week.

**Guideline MZ 22.3:** To reduce the risk of future flood damage, reconfigure the OHV track, parking area, staging area, helicopter pad, and trials biking area, within the existing footprint of disturbance, in order to shift the track further from the river.

**Guideline MZ 22.4:** If the OHV track is damaged by flood events in the future, reassess the suitability of the track in this location.

**Guideline MZ 22.5:** Evaluate the feasibility of relocating the OHV tracks and staging area to the Castle Rock Activity Node with vehicle access from Foresthill Road. The evaluation should consider potential noise effects and other environmental impacts and implement mitigation measures, as necessary to reduce substantial adverse or significant effects. If the OHV tracks are relocated, restore riparian habitat along the river and consider opportunities for non-motorized recreation near the previous site of the tracks.

**Guideline MZ 22.6:** Add picnic sites and a viewing area adjacent to the youth OHV track.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*The management intent of the Mammoth Bar Management Zone is to maintain and expand opportunities for both motorized and non-motorized recreation while protecting sensitive resources.*

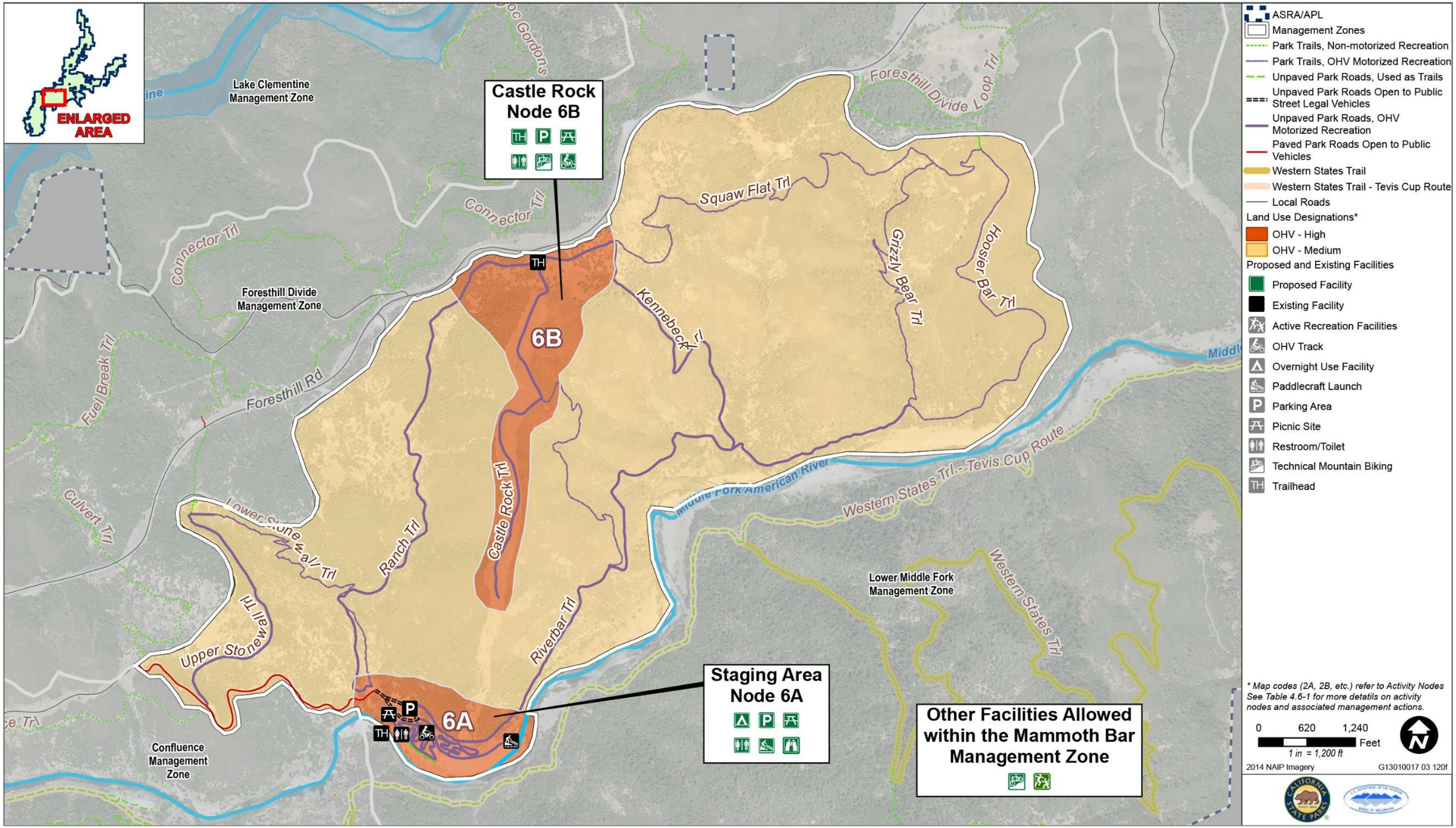
**GOAL MZ 23:** Provide a variety of non-motorized recreational opportunities in the Mammoth Bar Management Zone.

**Guideline MZ 23.1:** If the OHV tracks are relocated to an upland location or otherwise eliminated, reconfigure the existing disturbed area in the Staging Area Activity Node to provide other recreation facilities including up to 15 developed campsites, up to 50 additional day-use parking spaces, 10 shade ramadas, 20 picnic sites, restrooms, and improved river access.

**Guideline MZ 23.2:** Maintain a boating take out and beach play area in the Staging Area Activity Node.

**Guideline MZ 23.3:** Maintain and renovate existing day-use facilities to better serve both OHV and non-OHV uses.

**Guideline MZ 23.4:** Provide technical mountain biking trails and other active recreation opportunities.




*Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2017*

Figure 4.4-6 Mammoth Bar Management Zone

# 4.4.7 Lower Middle Fork Management Zone

The Lower Middle Fork Management Zone includes 3,066 acres of federal land along both sides of the Middle Fork of the American River. The management zone includes trails, trailheads, and popular paddle stops along the river. The management intent of this zone is to restore and protect sensitive resources and enhance access for high-quality dispersed recreation. This management zone does not include activity nodes. Facilities and improvements in this area will maintain and improve access to high-quality upland and water-dependent recreation including trail use and river access. Table 4.4-7 shows the size and land use designation of the management zone. Figure 4.4-7 shows the location of the management zone along with existing and proposed facilities.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*The land use designation for the Lower Middle Fork Management Zone is Resources – Low Recreation, which reflects the GP/RMP intent to support high-quality dispersed recreation and restore and protect sensitive resources.*

**GOAL MZ 24:** Provide high-quality dispersed recreation and river access opportunities in a quiet and natural setting in the Lower Middle Fork Management Zone.

> **Guideline MZ 24.1:** Improve existing system trails that connect to adjacent access points and parking areas. Review user-created trails to determine the suitability of formalizing them as system trails.
>
> **Guideline MZ 24.2:** Construct formalized trailheads.

**GOAL MZ 25:** Provide visitors with opportunities to learn about the history of the lower Middle Fork of the American River, consistent with the interpretive themes in this plan.

> **Guideline MZ 25.1:** Install interpretive elements to interpret the mining heritage evident in this area.

Table 4.4-7 Land Use Designation in the Lower Middle Fork Management Zone

| Area[1] | Acres | Land Use Designation |
|---|---|---|
| Entire Management Zone | 3,066 | Resources – Low Recreation |

[1]There are no activity nodes in the Lower Middle Fork Management Zone.

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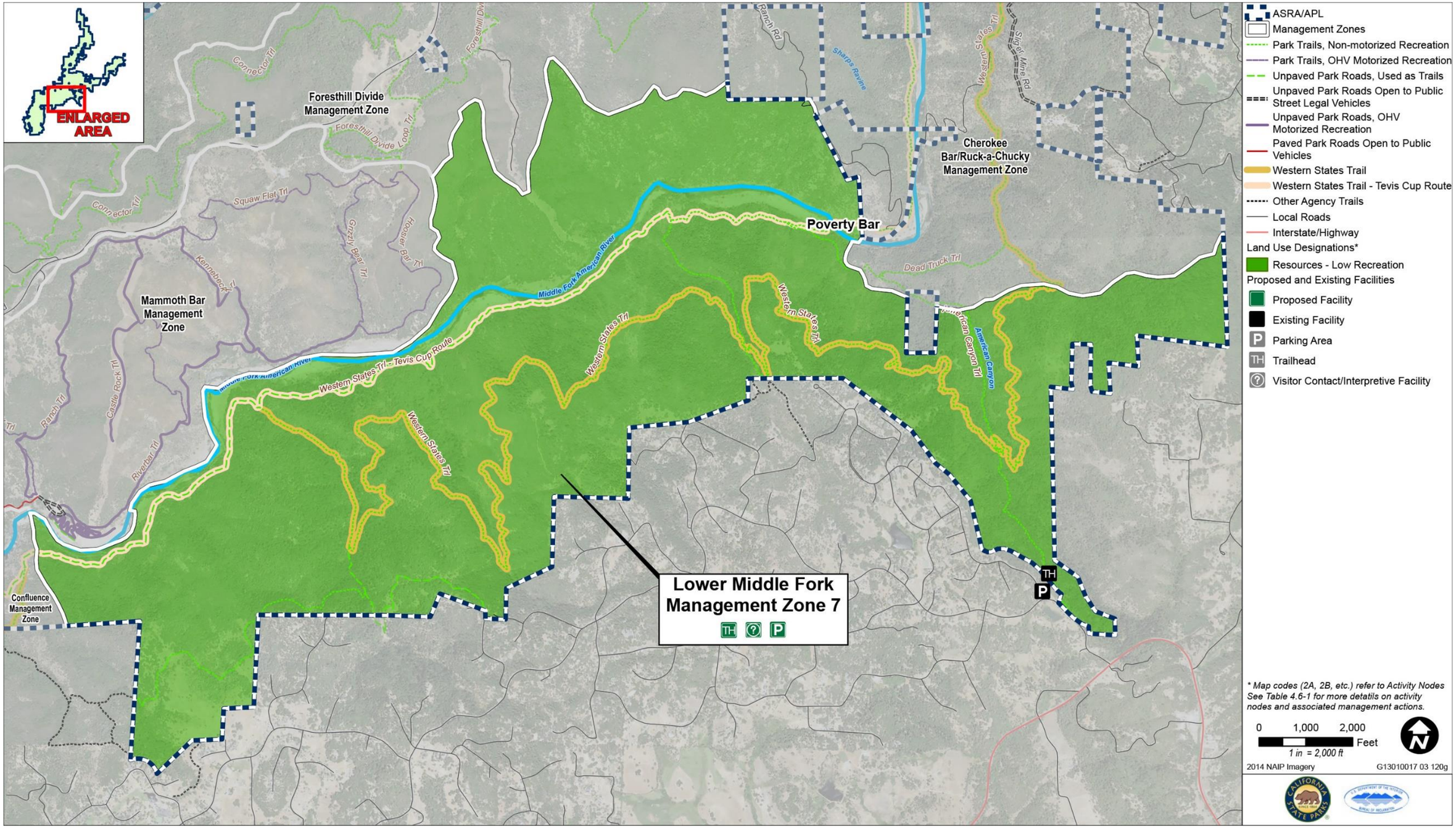
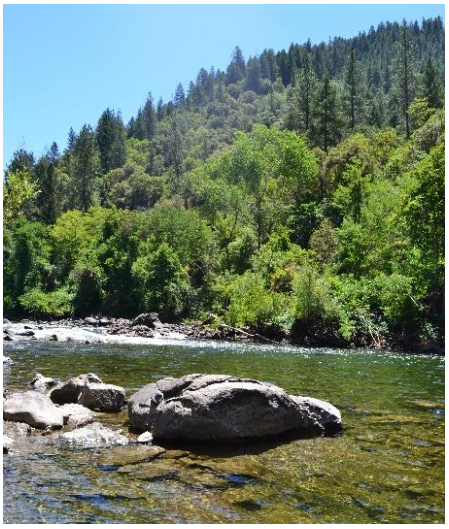



*Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2017*

Figure 4.4-7 Lower Middle Fork Management Zone

# 4.4.8 Cherokee Bar/Ruck-a-Chucky Management Zone

The Cherokee Bar/Ruck-a-Chucky Management Zone includes 3,657 acres of federal land along both sides of the Middle Fork of the American River. The management zone includes the Ruck-a-Chucky campground and river access point, and the Cherokee Bar area. This zone provides opportunities for expanded river access and recreation opportunities that could reduce congestion in other parts of ASRA/APL. The management intent of this zone is to maintain and expand recreation opportunities while protecting sensitive resources. The management zone includes three activity nodes: Greenwood/Ruck-a-Chucky, Cherokee Bar, and Canyon Creek. Facilities and improvements in this area will improve access to the river, increase trail connectivity across the river, and expand opportunities for high-quality recreation, including trail use, camping, and picnicking. Table 4.4-8 shows the size and land use designation of each activity node in the management zone. Figure 4.4-8 shows the location of the management zone along with existing and proposed facilities.



*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*The Cherokee Bar/Ruck-a-Chucky Management Zone provides opportunities for expanded river access and recreation opportunities that could reduce congestion in other parts of ASRA/APL.*

Table 4.4-8 Activity Nodes in the Cherokee Bar/Ruck-a-Chucky Management Zone

| Activity Node | Acres | Land Use Designation |
|---|---|---|
| Greenwood/Ruck-a-Chucky Activity Node (8A) | 50 | Recreation - High |
| Cherokee Bar Activity Node (8B) | 112 | Recreation - Medium |
| Canyon Creek Activity Node (8C) | 64 | Recreation - Medium |
| Management Zone Outside of Activity Nodes | 3,431 | Recreation - Medium |

**GOAL MZ 26:** Provide camping opportunities on both sides of the river in the Cherokee Bar/Ruck-a-Chucky Management Zone.

**Guideline MZ 26.1:** Renovate and expand the Ruck-a-Chucky Campground to add up to 10 additional campsites within the Greenwood/Ruck-a-Chucky Activity Node, as consistent with resource constraints.

**Guideline MZ 26.2:** Provide a small campground in the Cherokee Bar Activity Node, with a camping capacity equivalent to up to 15 individual, developed campsites and one group camp, outside the floodplain. Coordinate with affected agencies to improve Sliger Mine Road prior to development of the campground.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Ruck-a-Chucky and Cherokee Bar provide opportunities for expanding overnight camping in ASRA/APL.*

**GOAL MZ 27:** Develop a safe and convenient trail crossing of the river near Ruck-a-Chucky and Cherokee Bar.

**Guideline MZ 27.1:** Improve the McKeon-Ponderosa Road and open the road for public vehicle access to provide enhanced access to the river.

**Guideline MZ 27.2:** Improve Drivers Flat Road to better accommodate recreation use.

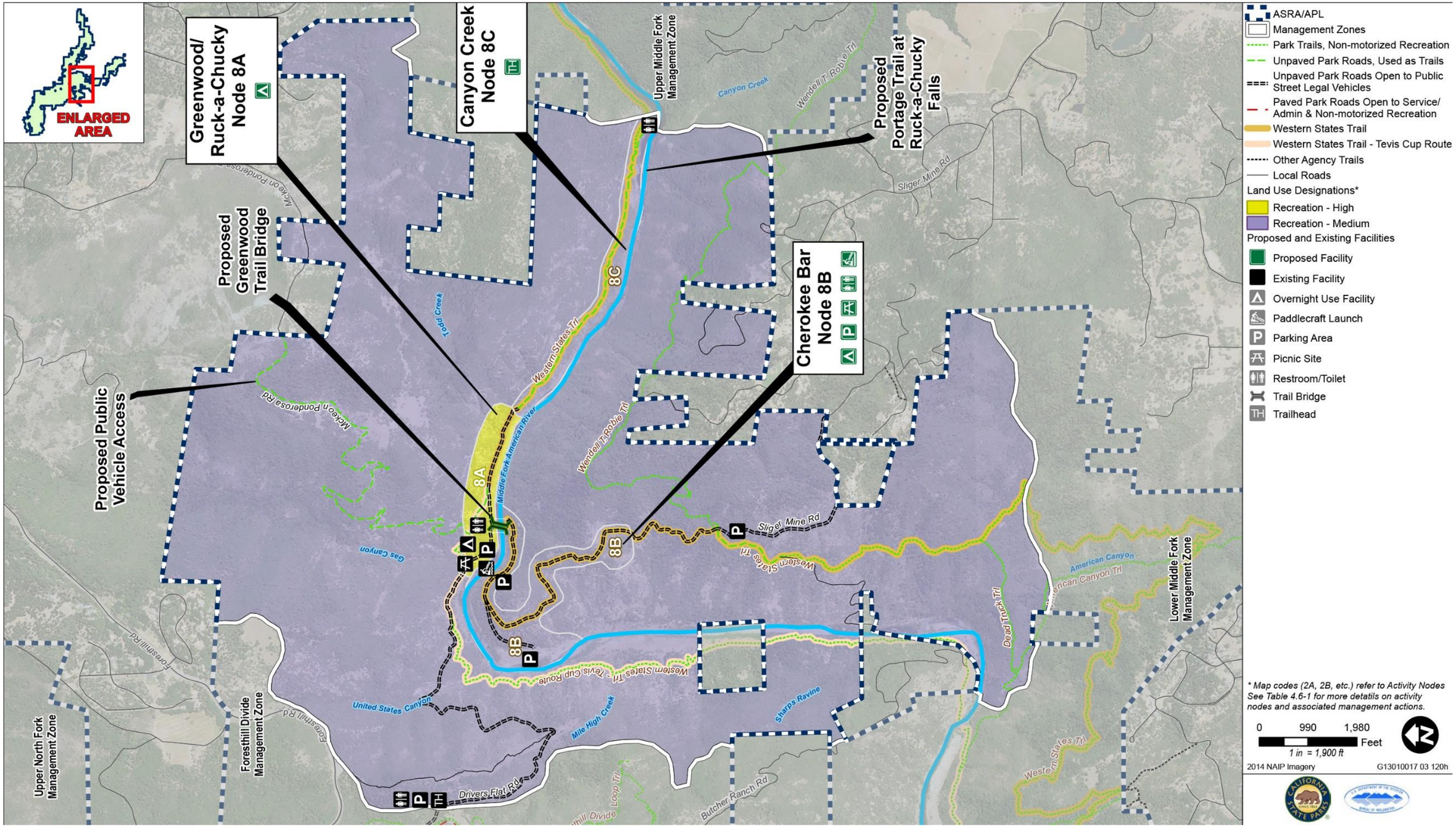
**Guideline MZ 27.3:** Coordinate with El Dorado County to improve Sliger Mine Road to Cherokee Bar to accommodate additional recreation use, including camping and river access.

**Guideline MZ 27.4:** Construct a recreational trail bridge on the over the river at the Greenwood Bridge site to improve connectivity of the Western States Trail.

**GOAL MZ 28:** Provide high-quality river access and day-use opportunities consistent with resource capacities in the Cherokee Bar Activity Node.

**Guideline MZ 28.1:** Provide day-use facilities at Cherokee Bar, including restrooms, up to 40 parking spaces, up to 10 shade ramadas, and up to 10 picnic sites. Coordinate development of the day-use facilities with improvements to Sliger Mine Road.

**Guideline MZ 28.2:** Install guard rail, gates and other vehicle barriers to prevent off-road vehicle use at Cherokee Bar.




*Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2017*

Figure 4.4-8 Cherokee Bar/Ruck-a-Chucky Management Zone

# 4.4.9 Upper North Fork Management Zone

The Upper Middle Fork Management Zone includes 7,358 acres of mostly federal land along both sides of the North Fork of the American River between Lake Clementine and Mineral Bar. The management zone includes the Ponderosa and Yankee Jims day-use areas, as well as popular paddle stops along the river. The management intent of this zone is to maintain and enhance high-quality dispersed recreation opportunities, while protecting sensitive resources and the wild and scenic characteristics of the river. The management zone includes two activity nodes: Shirttail Canyon/Yankee Jims and Ponderosa Crossing. Facilities and improvements in this area will improve access to the river and increase trail connectivity along the river. Facility improvements could coincide with the planned replacement of the Ponderosa and Yankee Jims bridges, to maximize efficiency. Table 4.4-9 shows the size and land use designation of each activity node in the management zone. Figure 4.4-9 shows the location of the management zone along with existing and proposed facilities.

Table 4.4-9 Activity Nodes in the Upper North Fork Management Zone

| Activity Node | Acres | Land Use Designation |
|---|---|---|
| Shirttail Canyon/Yankee Jims Activity Node (9A) | 94 | Recreation - Medium |
| Ponderosa Crossing Activity Node (9B) | 154 | Recreation - Medium |
| Management Zone Outside of Activity Nodes | 7,110 | Resources - Low Recreation |

**GOAL MZ 29:** Improve river access opportunities in the remote natural setting of the Upper North Fork Management Zone.

**Guideline MZ 29.1:** Coordinate with Placer County to improve river crossings and associated day-use facilities. Efficiently develop facility improvements at crossings by designing and constructing visitor facilities at the same time as bridge improvements.

**Guideline MZ 29.2:** Provide additional river access and day-use facilities in the Shirttail Canyon/Yankee Jims Activity Node. Provide restrooms and up to an additional 20 parking spaces and 10 picnic sites.

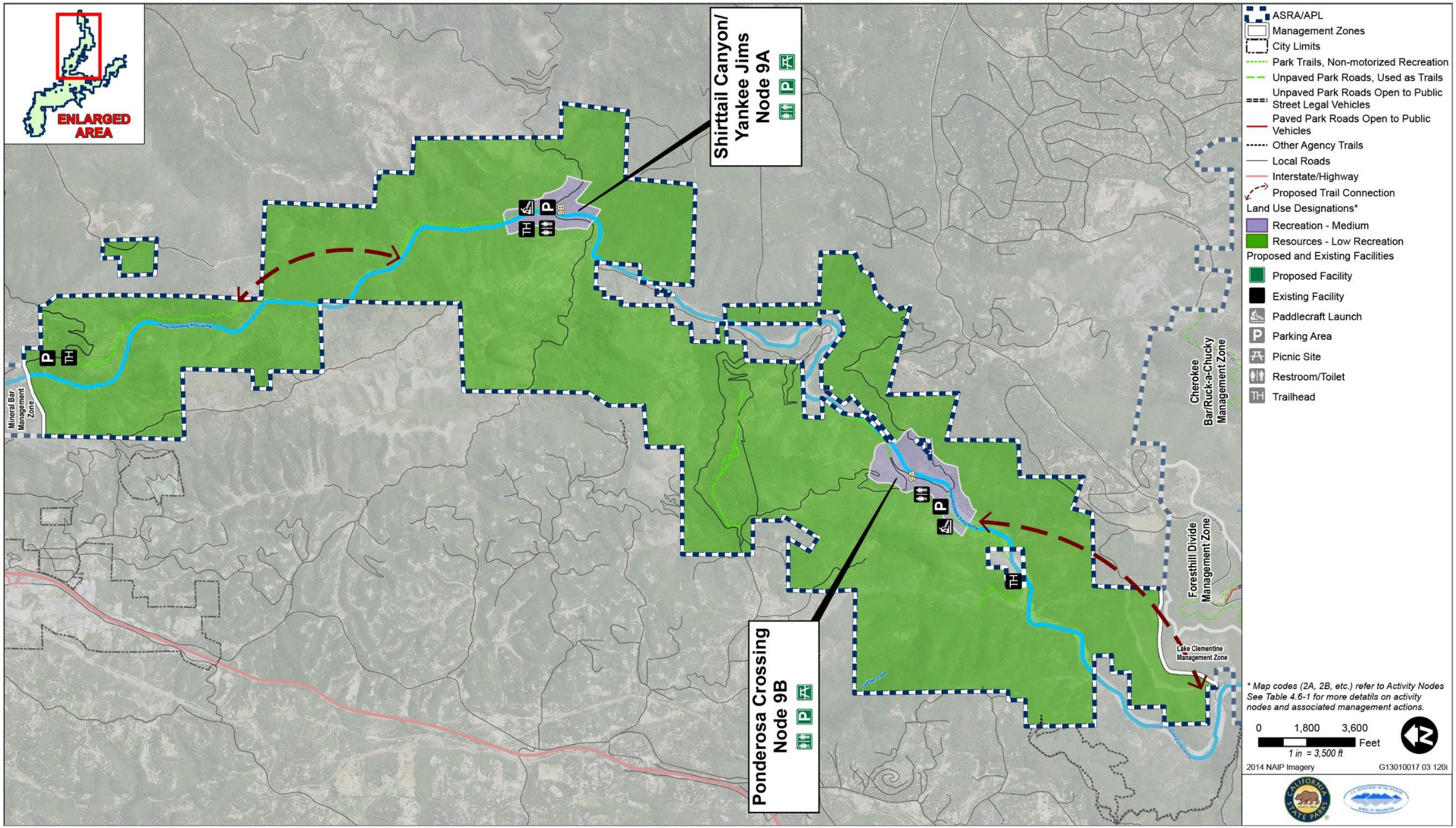
*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Facilities and improvements in the Upper North Fork Management Zone proposed under the GP/RMP will improve access to the river and increase trail connectivity along the river.*

**Guideline MZ 29.3:** Provide additional river access and day- use facilities in the Ponderosa Crossing Activity Nodes. Provide restrooms and up to an additional 20 parking spaces and 10 picnic sites.

**GOAL MZ 30:** Provide appropriate trail connections along the North Fork of the American River.

**Guideline MZ 30.1:** Improve Windy Point Trail and evaluate the feasibility and desirability of connecting it to Indian Creek Trail. Provide improved parking and trailhead access at Iowa Hill Road.




*Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2017*

Figure 4.4-9 Upper North Fork Management Zone

# 4.4.10 Mineral Bar Management Zone

The Mineral Bar Management Zone includes 217 acres of federal land along both sides of the North Fork of the American River at the northern edge of ASRA/APL. The management zone includes the Mineral Bar campground and river access point. The management intent of this zone is to maintain and expand high-quality camping and water-dependent recreation opportunities while protecting sensitive resources. The management zone includes no activity nodes. Facilities and improvements in this area will improve river access and expand camping and day- use opportunities. Table 4.4-10 shows the size and land use designation of the management zone. Figure 4.4-10 shows the location of the management zone along with existing and proposed facilities.

Table 4.4-10 Land Use Designation in the Mineral Bar Management Zone

| Area[1] | Acres | Land Use Designation |
|---|---|---|
| Entire Management Zone | 217 | Recreation – Medium |

[1]There are no activity nodes in the Mineral Bar Management Zone.

**GOAL MZ 31:** Provide high-quality camping opportunities in a natural setting with easy access to the river in the Mineral Bar Campground.

> **Guideline MZ 31.1:** Renovate and expand the Mineral Bar Campground to add up to 20 additional individual campsites, as appropriate and within the physical constraints of the site.

**GOAL MZ 32:** Provide convenient access to the river and high-quality day-use opportunities in the Mineral Bar Management Zone.

> **Guideline MZ 32.1:** Improve paddlecraft launch areas and day-use facilities to improve visitor experience and increase capacity. Add restrooms, up to 20 parking spaces, and up to 10 picnic sites.

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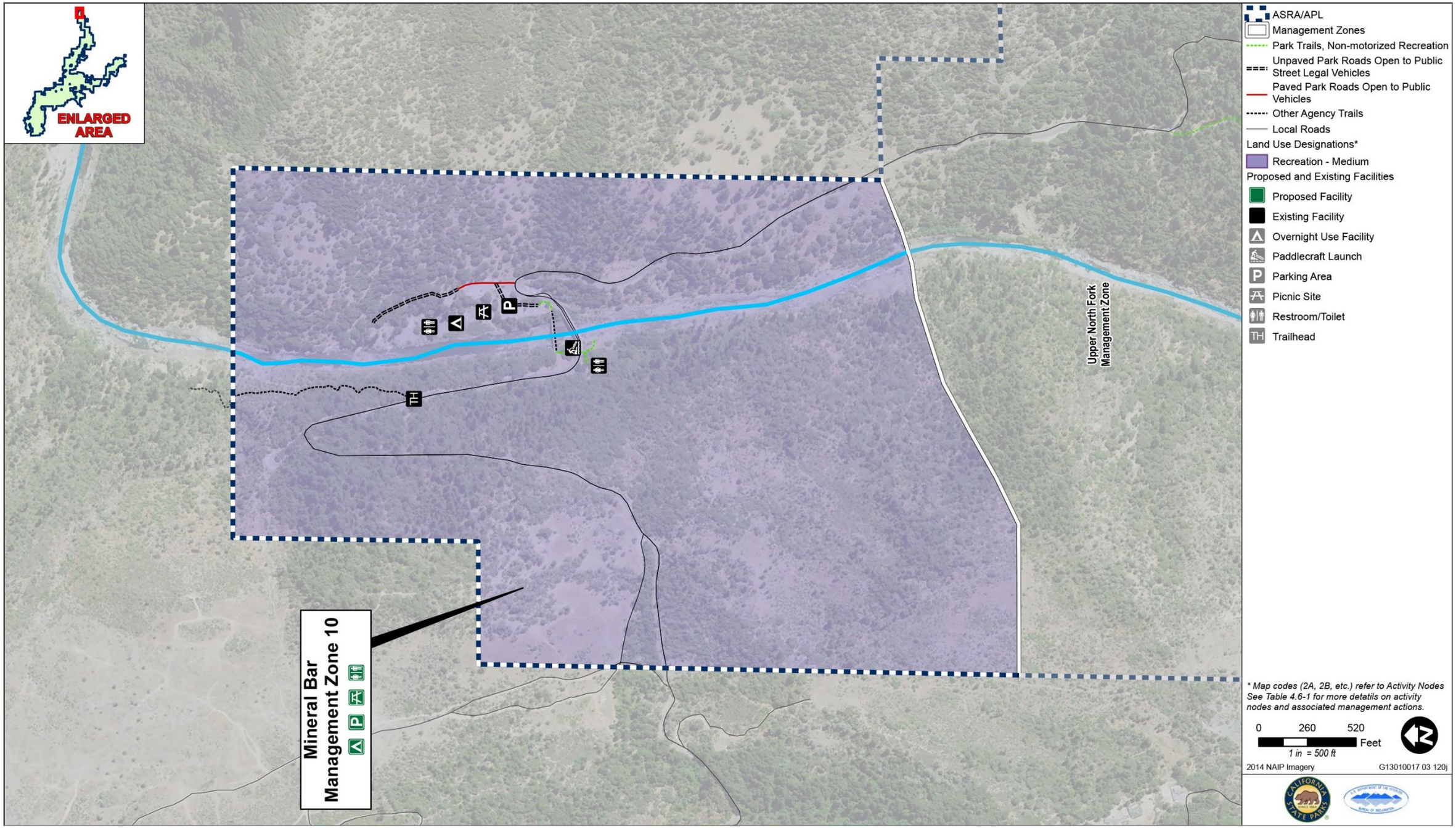


*Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2017*

Figure 4.4-10 Mineral Bar Management Zone

# 4.4.11 Upper Middle Fork Management Zone

The Upper Middle Fork Management Zone includes 3,919 acres of federal land along both sides of the Middle Fork of the American River at the eastern edge of ASRA/APL. The management zone includes trails, trailheads, and popular paddle stops along the river. The management intent of this zone is to restore and protect sensitive resources and enhance access for high-quality dispersed recreation. This management zone does not include activity nodes. Facilities and improvements in this area will maintain and improve access to high-quality upland and water-dependent recreation including trail use and river access. Table 4.4-11 shows the size and land use designation of the management zone. Figure 4.4-11 shows the location of the management zone along with existing and proposed facilities.

Table 4.4-11 Land Use Designation in the Upper Middle Fork Management Zone

| Area[1] | Acres | Land Use Designation |
|---|---|---|
| Entire Management Zone | 3,919 | Resources – Low Recreation |

[1]There are no activity nodes in the Upper Middle Fork Management Zone.

**GOAL MZ 33:** Provide high-quality dispersed upland and river recreation opportunities in the remote and natural setting of the Upper Middle Fork Management Zone.

**Guideline MZ 33.1:** Maintain and replace existing facilities, as necessary, but do not expand facilities.

**Guideline MZ 33.2:** Prepare an agreement with USFS to formalize existing operation and management of whitewater at Oxbow/Indian Bar put-in and through USFS lands.

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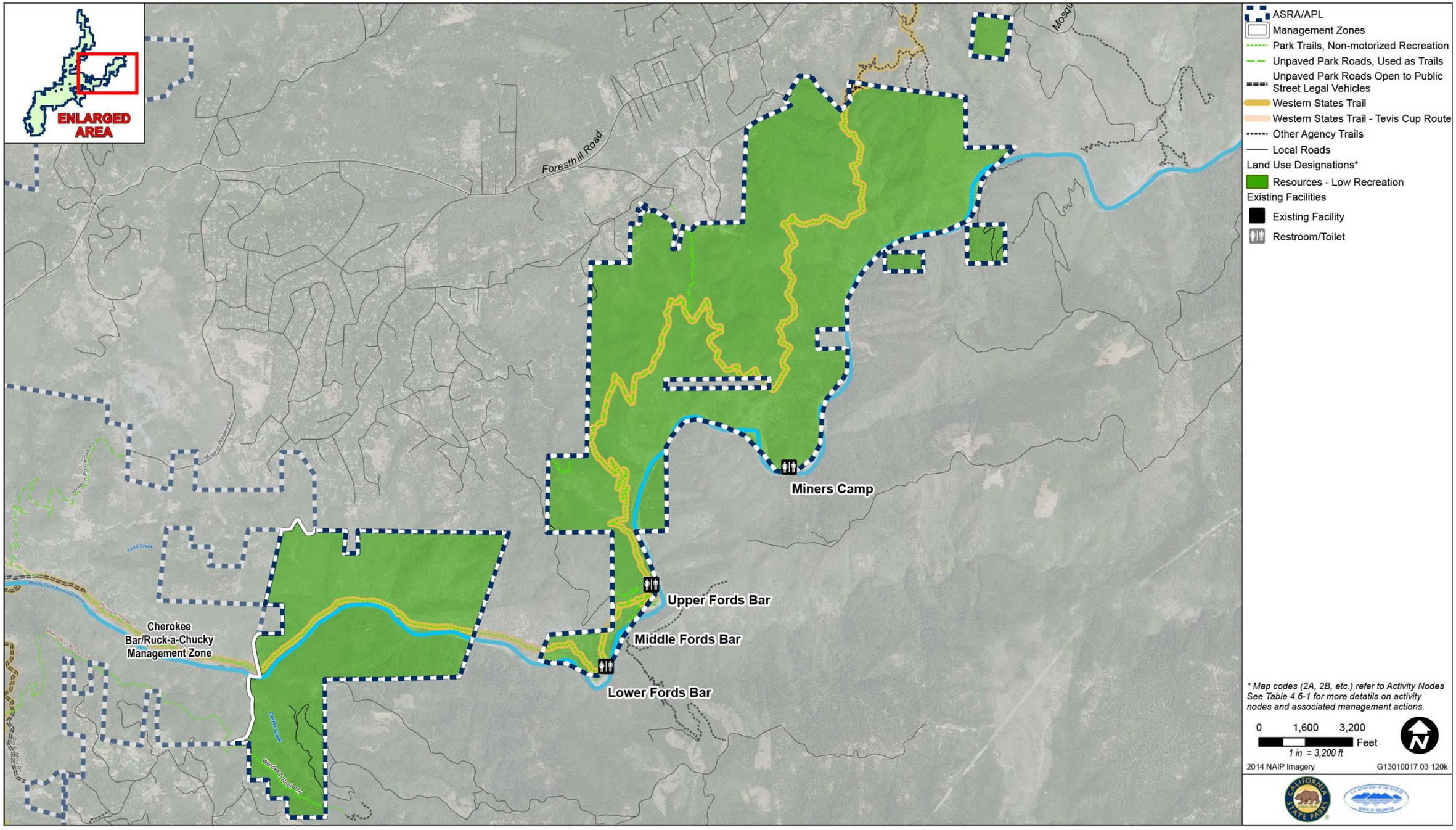
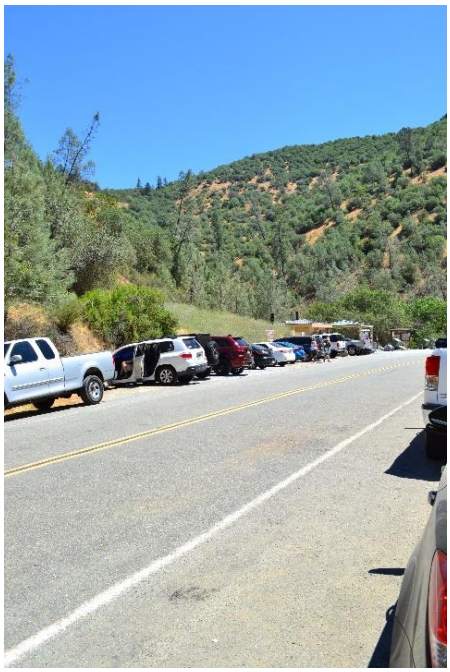



*Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2017*

Figure 4.4-11 Upper Middle Fork Management Zone

# 4.5 Visitor Capacity and Adaptive Management

The visitor capacity management approach is consistent with Reclamation's requirements for an implementation procedures component in an RMP and CSP's methods for determining desired outcomes for visitor experience and resource conservation, developing measurable or observable indicators to evaluate their condition, monitoring of conditions, and adaptively adjusting management in response to changing resource conditions. This method complies with PRC Section 5019.5 by identifying the approach CSP will use to survey, evaluate, and manage visitor capacity to meet desired natural/cultural resource conditions and visitor experiences (i.e., social conditions). This section discusses the existing capacity of ASRA/APL, adaptive management measures that may be used, and key capacity indicators.



*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*Anecdotal observations suggest that visitation to ASRA/APL is steadily increasing, and some popular areas (e.g., the Confluence) exceed capacity during peak periods.*

## 4.5.1 Visitor Capacity

Because ASRA/APL contains numerous dispersed access points, precise visitor counts are not feasible. Current annual visitation is estimated at approximately 1,000,000 visitors. This level of visitation represents a 400 percent increase from the estimated 250,000 annual visitors when the 1992 Interim Resource Management Plan was prepared. Anecdotal observations suggest that visitation is steadily increasing, and some popular areas of ASRA/APL exceed capacity during peak periods.

Peak visitation at ASRA/APL typically occurs during June through August, with the lowest visitation occurring in December through February. The peak period of use varies for different recreation activities, as shown in Table 4.5-1. Visitation also varies substantially between different portions of ASRA/APL. The Confluence area and other locations that provide easy access to the river are typically at or exceed visitor capacity during summer weekend days. In contrast, less accessible portions of ASRA/APL provide opportunities for low-density dispersed recreation.

While some visitors access the area on foot or bicycle, most visitors use personal vehicles to travel to ASRA/APL. As a result, visitor capacity is limited by the availability of parking spaces. ASRA/APL currently contains a parking capacity equivalent to nearly 1,600 day-use parking spaces, which are typically at or near capacity during peak summer weekends. In addition, informal roadside parking typically occurs in some areas of ASRA/APL.

Table 4.5-1 Peak Use Periods for ASRA/APL Recreation Activities

| Recreation/Use | Peak Season |
|---|---|
| Camping | July-August |
| Hiking | May-June |
| Hunting | Sept.-Oct. |
| Horseback Riding | April-May |
| Lake Clementine (boating, camping, and swimming) | July-August |
| Mountain Biking | May-June |
| Off-highway Vehicle Use (Mammoth Bar) | April-May or Oct.-Nov. |
| Boating – Middle Fork | July-August |
| Boating – North Fork | May-June |
| Swimming and river use | July-August |

Source: Compiled by CSP in 2007

Upon build-out of this plan, up to an additional 470 day-use parking spaces would be created, which would increase parking capacity by approximately 30 percent. In addition, this plan would allow for the construction of up to 230 developed campsites to address the latent demand for camping in the region. Taken together, the additional parking and camping capacity would accommodate up to an estimated 35 percent increase in annual visitation, upon full build-out of the plan.

The additional visitor capacity would be provided, wherever feasible, adjacent to existing facilities, in already disturbed areas, and/or in locations near existing infrastructure. The additional visitor capacity is intended to: 1) reduce congestion in areas that currently exceed capacity by providing alternate access points, 2) accommodate expected future increases in recreation demand at ASRA/APL, 3) protect natural and cultural resources by directing use away from the most sensitive areas. Additional visitor capacity would be added incrementally in response to demonstrated demand. The actual increase in visitor capacity may be less than the maximum allowed by this plan.

Natural and cultural resource conditions limit visitor capacity in specific portions of ASRA/APL. To protect resource values, the activity nodes identified in this plan are intended to direct facilities and uses away from sensitive resources. Visitor capacity may be further limited through the site-specific planning and design of access improvements, which would be designed to sensitive resources based on site-specific resource surveys.

The goals and guidelines outlined in Sections 4.3 and 4.4 provide qualitative parameters for attaining the desired natural and cultural resource conditions, visitor experiences, and management efforts that are compatible with the existing and maximum future capacity of ASRA/APL.

## 4.5.2 Adaptive Management

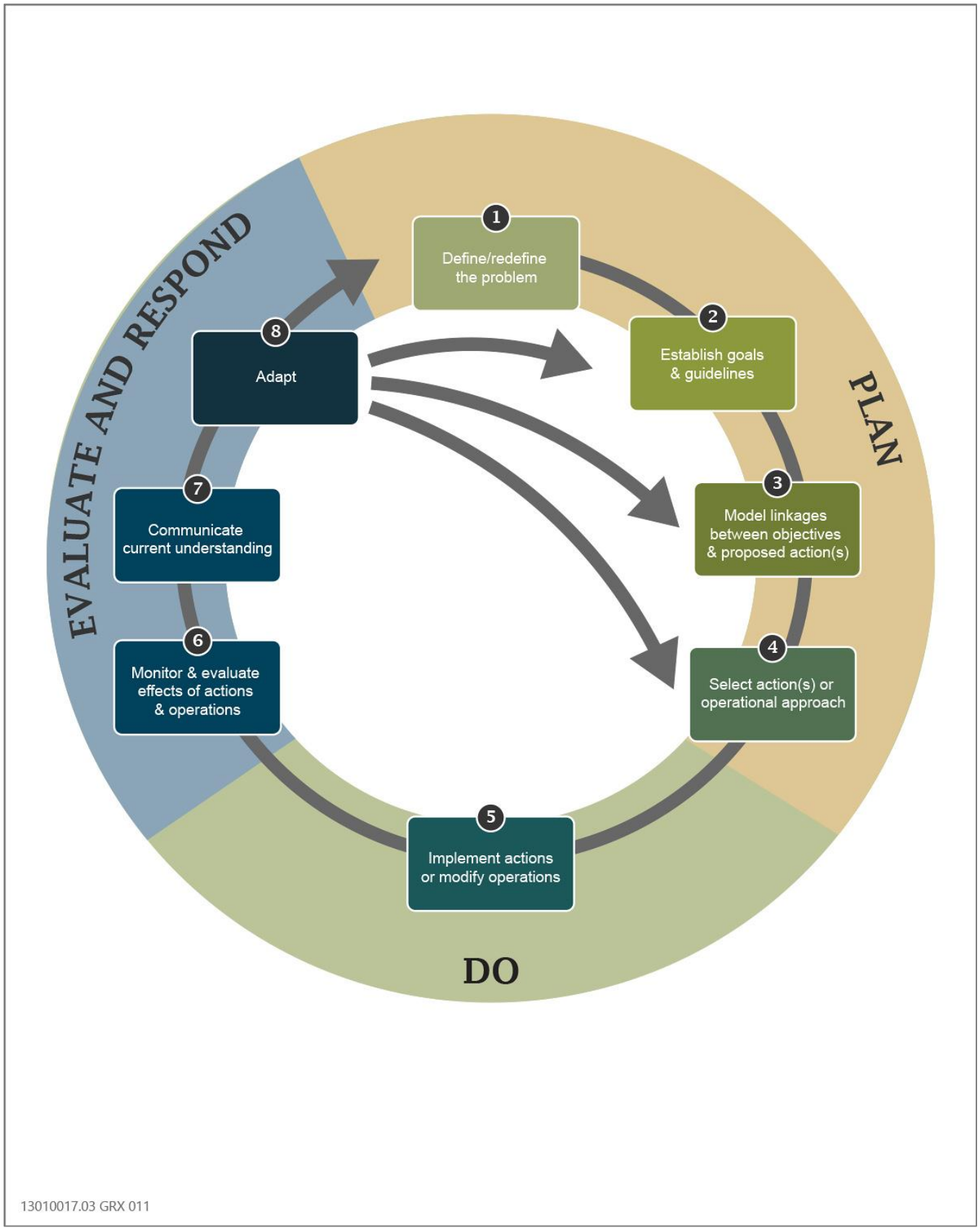
ASRA/APL will be managed with an adaptive management framework to minimize effects on resources due to visitor use, respond to changing conditions, and continually improve management. Implementation of this plan by CSP and Reclamation will be guided by existing and future laws, executive orders, and regulations; and the additional guidance provided in this plan. The roles and responsibilities of each agency are specified in the Managing Partner Agreement; and both agencies will collaborate on the implementation and adaptive management of ASRA/APL consistent with this plan. Within APL, other Managing Partner Agreements with other agencies also remain in effect and are not affected by this Plan.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*The guidelines included in the GP/RMP are written broadly so that the approach to implement a guideline can be adjusted under an adaptive management framework without requiring a plan revision to adapt to changing conditions.*

Adaptive management is a flexible approach where management actions are continually adjusted in response to monitoring feedback. The approach recognizes that management actions can have uncertain outcomes and that conditions can change over time, and therefore management actions should be adjusted over time to achieve the desired results. Adaptive management can include several steps, beginning with the identification of issues, opportunities, and constraints (discussed in Chapter 3), a vision for ASRA/APL (see Section 4.1.2), and goals and guidelines intended to lead to the desired future conditions (see Sections 4.3 and 4.4).

The CSP and Reclamation management team and staff will continue to monitor the effects of management actions and adjust future actions under an adaptive management framework. This GP/RMP contains a variety of guidelines that are meant to achieve the goals and vision for ASRA/APL. Most guidelines are written broadly, so that the approach to implement a guideline can be adjusted under an adaptive management framework without requiring a plan revision to adapt to changing conditions. Figure 4.5-1 shows the adaptive management cycle, including a continual process of planning (Plan), implementing (Do), monitoring, and adapting (Evaluate and Respond).




*Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2018, adapted from CDFW*

Figure 4.5-1 Adaptive Management Process

## 4.5.3 Carrying Capacity Indicators

Indicators are measurable variables that provide information on whether desired outcomes are being achieved. Table 4.5-2 contains selected indicators that were developed based on the management goals in this GP/RMP that are related to carrying capacity. It should be noted that the carrying capacity indicators may be regularly modified, based on site-specific knowledge, ongoing observations in the field, and updates in technical understanding of measures necessary to achieve the desired outcomes. CSP and Reclamation will monitor other site-specific or resource-specific indicators as appropriate.

Table 4.5-2 ASRA/APL Desired Conditions and Indicators

| Topic | Desired Condition | Indicators of Not Achieving Desired Condition | Potential Monitoring and Management Actions |
|---|---|---|---|
| Invasive Species | No new introductions of invasive species at ASRA/APL | Presence of new invasive species is reported | ◆ Monitoring of the location and extent of invasive species populations<br>◆ Increased control of invasive species<br>◆ Increased invasive species education programs |
| Cultural Resources | Historic, prehistoric, and paleontological resources are protected | Evidence of cultural resource degradation is observed | ◆ Reroute trails or close access points to reduce visitor disturbance of sensitive resources<br>◆ Increase education programs regarding cultural resource protection<br>◆ Increase law enforcement patrols near sensitive resources<br>◆ Map, document, and record cultural resources |
| Fire Fuel Management | Wildfire fuels are managed adjacent to use areas, facilities, roadways and between ASRA/APL and adjacent communities. | Defensible space standards are not maintained around use areas, facilities, or roads; or shaded fuelbreaks do not meet standards | ◆ Reallocate resources to increase the pace and scale of fuel reduction<br>◆ Enter into agreements with other agencies or organizations to expand fuel reduction work<br>◆ Apply for additional funding to accelerate fuel reduction work<br>◆ Close portions of ASRA/APL during periods of high fire danger until fuel reduction standards can be achieved<br>◆ Work with adjacent jurisdictions on development proposals adjacent to or near ASRA/APL to incorporate measures to reduce wildfire risk into development projects |
| Wildfire Prevention | Visitors comply with applicable fire restrictions | Visitors are observed violating applicable fire restrictions | ◆ Increase signage regarding fire restrictions, including notices regarding applicable penalties<br>◆ Increase visitor contact regarding fire restrictions<br>◆ Initiate or expand interagency public education campaigns |

| Topic | Desired Condition | Indicators of Not Achieving Desired Condition | Potential Monitoring and Management Actions |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | ◆ Coordinate with local organizations and businesses to increase awareness of fire restrictions<br>◆ Increase law enforcement personnel coordination among responsible agencies |
| Emergency access and evacuation | Emergency access and evacuation routes are maintained in adequate conditions consistent with the emergency access and evacuation plan | Access and evacuation routes are observed in deteriorated conditions | ◆ Close facilities or use areas until routes meet access and evacuation standards<br>◆ Implement emergency route repairs<br>◆ Open alternate access and evacuation routes, as feasible, subject to environmental review<br>◆ Coordinate with other agencies to implement emergency repair and maintenance activities across jurisdictional boundaries |
| Visitor Experience and Opportunities | Satisfaction with the quality and range of recreation opportunities | Complaints about the visitor experience (e.g., crowding), or resource condition | ◆ Regular visitor satisfaction surveys<br>◆ Improved public information and/or wayfinding |
| Special Events and Concessions | Special events and concessions contribute to the variety of recreation opportunities and do not substantially displace other public uses | Visitor complaints about a lack of access during events, staff observations of conflicts, or visitor requests for additional events or concessions | ◆ Revise the number, size, location, or timing of permitted special events<br>◆ Revise the type, location, location, or number of concession contracts<br>◆ Implement additional traffic management and access requirements as a permit condition for special events |
| Interpretation and Education | Dynamic interpretive activities and programs are attended by new and repeat visitors | Interpretive activities and programs are limited and stagnant and are not attended by repeat visitors or residents | ◆ Monitor the number and rate of turnover of activities and programs<br>◆ Survey visitors to determine if they repeatedly participate in activities and programs<br>◆ Modify public outreach and advertising that promotes interpretive activities and programs at ASRA<br>◆ Seek opportunities for new partnerships with outside groups to expand program offerings |
| Parking and Access | An adequate amount and variety of parking and access opportunities are available for visitors, and parking revenue supports ASRA/APL operations | Parking areas regularly reach capacity early in the day and/or excessive unmanaged parking occurs outside of designated parking areas | ◆ Provide additional parking capacity consistent with this plan<br>◆ Prioritize parking and access opportunities at other areas, consistent with this plan, to reduce congestion at high-use areas<br>◆ Initiate or expand transit or shuttle service |

# 4.6 Alternatives to the GP/RMP

## 4.6.1 Introduction

Four GP/RMP alternatives were developed and considered during the planning process: 1) an Increased Recreation and Resource Management Alternative, 2) a Resource Management Emphasis (RME) Alternative, 3) a Recreation Emphasis (RE) Alternative, and 4) a No-Action Alternative. Each alternative includes resource management actions to protect the natural and cultural resources of ASRA/APL as well as a range of visitor facilities and improvements that achieve the GP/RMP purpose and vision. The alternatives were developed and evaluated through the public planning process described in Chapter 1, Introduction.

The Increased Recreation and Resource Management Alternative was selected as the Proposed Action, and it is reflected in this plan. Each of the other alternatives is described below.

*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*In addition to the Proposed Action, which is reflected in the plan, three additional alternatives were developed and considered during the planning process.*

## 4.6.2 Key Differences among the Alternatives

Each of the alternatives would result in some differences in the types, amounts, and locations of facilities and land uses based on the established themes for each alternative. The main theme of each alternative is as follows:

- The No-Action Alternative would retain current facilities and land uses according to current practices and as specified in the Interim Resource Management Plan.
- The RME Alternative would provide increased resource protection and conservation as identified through comprehensive inventory, survey, or other mechanisms, such as NEPA and/or CEQA review. This alternative primarily assumes the current level of recreation use would continue.
- The RE Alternative would anticipate and accommodate demographically relevant and diverse increases in regional and statewide recreation demand. This alternative also increases resource protection and management to address this correspondingly higher level of recreation use and demand.

A list and comparison of the management actions and facilities that could occur under this GP/RMP and each alternative are provided in Table 4.6-1.

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Table 4.6-1 Key Proposed Management Actions and Guidelines for Each Alternative

| ID # | Activity Node | Proposed Management Actions and Guidelines | No-Action Alternative | RME Alternative | Proposed Action Alternative | RE Alternative |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Issues that apply throughout ASRA/APL | | | | |
| | | **Transportation and Parking** | | | | |
| **1.** | All | Coordinate with Caltrans, Placer County, El Dorado County, and transportation agencies to retain existing transportation and parking capacity within their right-of-way, while increasing safety. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **2.** | All | Modify existing parking to enhance public safety and reduce sensitive resource impacts. Actions may include, but are not limited to, clearing, widening, grading, paving, striping, and the installation of vehicle barriers, signage, drainage features, and trash receptacles. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **3.** | All | Increase day-use parking capacity by up to 25% to better serve existing recreation use and to accommodate a limited amount of additional use. Actions may include, but are not limited to, clearing, widening, grading, paving, striping, and the installation of vehicle barriers, signage, drainage features, and trash receptacles. Provide drop-off areas where recreation capacity exceeds parking capacity. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **no** |
| **4.** | All | Increase day-use parking capacity by up to 35% to better serve existing recreation use and to accommodate a moderate amount of additional use. Actions may include, but are not limited to, clearing, widening, grading, paving, striping, and the installation of vehicle barriers, signage, drainage features, and trash receptacles. Provide drop-off areas where recreation capacity exceeds parking capacity. | **no** | **no** | | **yes** |
| **5.** | All | Coordinate with the City of Auburn, Placer County, and El Dorado County to provide off-site parking with shuttle or transit service to popular areas with limited parking. | **no** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **Recreation Uses and Facilities** | | | | |
| **6.** | All | Retain existing recreation uses such as, but not limited to, camping, hiking, running, horseback riding, mountain and road bicycling, rock climbing, picnicking, OHV use, hunting, mineral collection, motorized and non-motorized boating, swimming, beach use, and nature study; and associated facilities and facility management. | **yes** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **7.** | All | Reduce size and/or footprint of existing facilities and use areas that experience ongoing public safety challenges, sensitive resource impacts or degraded visitor experience. | **no** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| **8.** | All | Design any new recreation facilities so they can be removed or demolished, if necessary, for future dam and reservoir construction. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **9.** | All | Design facilities to avoid or minimize damage from flooding. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **10.** | All | Construct additional recreation facilities and increase use areas to serve existing recreation uses and accommodate increased regional demand over time. Use previously disturbed areas where feasible. | | | **yes** | **yes** |
| **11.** | All | Increase opportunities for new recreation activities and experiences to serve regional and statewide demand. | | | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **Special Events** | | | | |
| **12.** | All | Continue to accommodate the existing types of special events that have occurred, subject to the current special event permit requirements. Continue to use popular staging areas for large events, including those at Rocky Point, Cool Staging Area and China Bar area. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **13.** | All | Require that all proposed events contribute to resources preservation, stewardship, education or restoration activities. | **no** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| **14.** | All | Consider new types and locations of special events that increase public participation in healthy, resource-dependent outdoor activities. | **no** | | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **California State Parks Road/Trail Access and Circulation** | | | | |
| **15.** | All | Retain existing road and trail system, including authorized multi-use trails, motorized trails and trails restricted to hiking and/or equestrian use. | **yes** | **no** | **no** | **no** |
| **16.** | All | Implement a comprehensive signage improvement program for directional, informational, and regulatory signage. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | |
| **17.** | All | Prepare and implement a Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP). Determine which routes to retain, expand, re-align, improve or remove. Provide a comprehensive trail maintenance program that would be implemented by CSP staff, volunteers and entities, in accordance with CSP trail maintenance standards and guidelines. | **no** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **18.** | All | Construct, improve, extend or sign the following major trail routes. Actions may include, but are not limited to, re-aligning existing routes, clearing, widening, grading, and the installation of signage, drainage features, and trash receptacles.<br>◆ Auburn-to-Cool Trail<br>◆ Confluence to Ponderosa Road Crossing<br>◆ Olmstead Loop to Peninsula Campground in Folsom Lake SRA<br>◆ Multi-use route between Cool and the China Bar area using Mountain Quarries Railroad bridge or SR 49 bridge | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **19.** | All | Improve existing ASRA/APL roads to improve public access and accommodate increased recreation use. This may include opening some existing routes to public vehicle access that are currently closed and incorporating additional routes into the ASRA/APL road system. Actions may include, but are not limited to, re-aligning, reconstructing, clearing, widening, grading, paving, striping, and the installation of vehicle barriers, signage, drainage features, and trash receptacles. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |

| ID # | Activity Node | Proposed Management Actions and Guidelines | No-Action Alternative | RME Alternative | Proposed Action Alternative | RE Alternative |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **20.** | All | As public demand and recreation use warrants, construct additional ASRA/APL roads to increase public access and accommodate increased recreation use. | **no** | **no** | **no** | **yes** |
| **21.** | All | Add facilities to existing formalized trailheads including additional parking. Actions may include, but are not limited to, clearing, grading, paving, striping, and the installation of vehicle barriers, signage, drainage features, trash receptacles and toilets. Level of development would vary by location. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **22.** | All | Where demand warrants and space permits, formalize and add facilities to existing informal trail access points (e.g., turnouts) along public roads. Actions may include, but are not limited to, clearing, grading, paving, striping, and the installation of vehicle barriers, signage, drainage features, trash receptacles and toilets. Level of development would vary by location. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **23.** | All | Realign/reconstruct or remove existing trail routes that are not sustainable. Removal may include, but are not limited to, full topographic restoration, revegetation and signage. Where needed, construct bridges or other drainage structures at creeks and drainage-ways to reduce on-going resource impacts on trails. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **24.** | All | Construct additional trail routes to improve connectivity for trail users, provide new recreation opportunities, and expand trail mileage within ASRA's existing trail system, and to adjacent trail systems. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **25.** | All | Work with Placer County and El Dorado County to provide a road and/or multi-use trail corridor from I-80 in Applegate to CA 193 on the Georgetown Divide, generally following the historic Ponderosa and Sliger Mine road alignment. | **no** | **no** | **no** | **yes** |
| | | **Hunting** | | | | |
| **26.** | All | Retain hunting program consistent with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regulations, which currently allows hunting for deer, California quail, dove, band-tailed pigeon, and turkey in the northern and eastern portions of ASRA/APL with certain exceptions. Coordinate with CDFW on wildlife population control as needed for resource protection or management. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **Whitewater Management** | | | | |
| **27.** | All | Retain existing draft commercial whitewater management system, which is managed under a concession program that limits the number of launches for commercial outfitters and institutions on certain days. Private whitewater recreation use is not restricted. Make adjustments and improvements to existing operations and concession contracts to accommodate changing conditions. Revise plans, guidelines or standards and practices, as needed, to make adjustments to whitewater management system. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **28.** | All | Reduce commercial use levels and allocations to accommodate changing conditions and enhance resource protection, as needed. Revise and/or prepare, plans, guidelines or standards, as needed, to make adjustments to whitewater management system. | **no** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| **29.** | All | Adjust whitewater management system to accommodate increased commercial and private whitewater recreation use, as demand increases. Revise and/or prepare, plans, guidelines or standards, as needed, to make adjustments to whitewater management system. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **30.** | All | Construct additional day-use facilities along the North Fork and Middle Fork in order to better serve and accommodate whitewater recreation use. Facilities may include additional restrooms, formal picnic sites and lunch stop locations, and improved access (parking, trails, ramps, etc.) to the river. Level of development would vary by location. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **31.** | All | Construct additional overnight facilities along the North Fork and Middle Fork in order to better serve and accommodate whitewater recreation use. Facilities may include up to 10 additional developed and primitive campsites. Level of development would vary by location. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **Natural Resources Management** | | | | |
| **32.** | All | Protect and manage natural resources, survey and monitor special-status species, and control invasive species as needed. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **33.** | All | Prepare and implement proactive management strategies to protect natural resource values in the entire plan area. The strategies would respond to current and/or anticipated conditions, including climate change, following U.S. Dept of Interior adaptive management guidance. | **no** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| **34.** | All | Prepare and implement management strategies to protect natural resource values in areas of greatest threats, such as where additional recreational access and/or new facilities are proposed. The strategies would respond to current and/or anticipated conditions, including climate change, following U.S. Dept. of Interior adaptive management guidance. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **no** |
| **35.** | All | Assess existing conditions, identify the key natural resource values of those conditions, monitor how these communities may be changing, and determine whether to institute management actions to mitigate or adapt to changing conditions. | **no** | **no** | **no** | **yes** |
| **36.** | All | Restore and protect aquatic areas that are suitable habitat for the foothill yellow-legged frog and other special-status species. Activities may include, but are not limited to, removal of non-native species and physical restoration of habitat, as needed to sustain a balanced ecosystem. | **no** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| **37.** | All | Restore damaged areas and important habitat corridors. | **no** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| **38.** | All | Implement early detection and rapid response program to prevent introduction and spread of invasive exotic plant species. | **no** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **39.** | All | Focus invasive species management, including surveying, treatment, and monitoring, in areas where threats are greatest, including existing recreation use and facilities, and where new or expanded recreational uses and facilities are provided. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **40.** | All | Increase natural resource stewardship programs with volunteers and/or partners. | **no** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |

| ID # | Activity Node | Proposed Management Actions and Guidelines | No-Action Alternative | RME Alternative | Proposed Action Alternative | RE Alternative |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **Cultural Resource Management** | | | | |
| **41.** | All | Continue existing cultural resources management practices, including surveys and monitoring. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **42.** | All | Prepare and implement a Cultural Resources Management Plan that includes a strategy for inventory, evaluation, interpretation, monitoring, and preservation of cultural resources throughout the management area(s). | **no** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| **43.** | All | Selectively inventory, interpret, and/or apply protective measures to previously-identified culturally and historically significant resources where threats are greatest. | **no** | **no** | **no** | **yes** |
| **44.** | All | Target intensive cultural resources surveys, interpretive programs, and/or implementation of protective measures to areas where additional recreational access and/or new facilities are proposed. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **45.** | All | Create and implement stewardship program(s) utilizing professional cultural resources specialists and trained volunteers to assist with public education, interpretation, site monitoring, and/or other preservation activities. | **no** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **Interpretation and Education** | | | | |
| **46.** | All | Continue existing interpretive and education practices such as guided hikes and water safety activities. Retain, and periodically update, existing interpretive elements, such as information kiosks, panels and signage. Construct a small Interpretive Center. | **yes** | **no** | **yes** | **no** |
| **47.** | All | Interpret the following themes-- Unifying interpretive theme: the American River has and continues to shape the natural and cultural history of the area. Primary interpretive themes: Native Americans, Gold Rush, Use of Water Resources, Recreation, Human Impact on Natural Resources, Biological Diversity. | **no** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **48.** | All | Prepare Interpretation and Education Plan to interpret natural and cultural resources, address current recreation opportunities within the area, and meet management objectives, including resource stewardship. | **no** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **49.** | All | Provide a robust interpretation and education program that focuses on protection of natural and cultural resources. | **no** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| **50.** | All | Increase interpretation and education program, including providing information about recreation access and opportunities. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **51.** | All | Construct a moderate-size Interpretive Center of about 3,000 square feet, with up to 20 parking spaces. | **no** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| **52.** | All | Construct a small Interpretive Center of about 700 square feet, with up to 6 parking spaces. | **no** | **no** | **no** | **yes** |
| | | **Overnight Lodging/Camping** | | | | |
| **53.** | All | Retain existing developed camping facilities (16 campsites at Mineral Bar Campground, 5 campsites at Ruck-a-Chucky, and 15 boat-in campsites on Lake Clementine) and the primitive camping permit program. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **54.** | All | Designate areas for primitive, backcountry camping. Expand primitive camping permit program, if demand increases. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **55.** | All | Increase developed camping capacity by up to 200 total campsites, and up to 5 group camps. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **no** |
| **56.** | All | Increase developed camping capacity to help meet statewide demand, including up to 370 individual developed campsites (up to 20% suitable for RVs), and up to 7 group camps. | **no** | **no** | **no** | **yes** |
| **57.** | All | Construct up to 30 primitive environmental and equestrian/hike/bike campsites. | **no** | **no** | **no** | **yes** |
| **58.** | All | Construct up to 15 alternative camping facilities, such as family camp cabins or yurts. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **Revenue Generation** | | | | |
| **59.** | All | Implement revenue-collection technology to increase fair collection of parking fees, including use of enhanced, internet and smart-phone parking technologies, and demand-based pricing. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **60.** | All | Construct new or expand existing facilities in upland areas to diversify and increase mission-appropriate revenue sources that would reduce the operating deficit and fund increases in recreation opportunities, visitor experiences and education, public safety, and resources management. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **61.** | All | Manage entrance station hours, season and staffing to increase visitor contact and revenue generation. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |

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| | | **Fire Management** | | | | |
| **62.** | All | Implement the objectives and strategies specified in the Final Reclamation Fire Management Plan related to fire management and suppression activities; additional NEPA compliance may be necessary on a case-by-case basis. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **63.** | All | Prepare a separate State Fire Management Plan to address state fee title lands within ASRA. | **no** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **64.** | All | Incorporate defensible space, emergency evacuation plans, and other preventative measures prior to expanding or establishing new recreational facilities. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **65.** | All | Implement vegetation management strategies, including selective use of prescribed fire, where appropriate and/or manual thinning practices that mimic the role of natural fire regimes in restoring habitat, maintaining forest health, native species diversity and ecological succession. | **no** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| **66.** | All | Identify and map areas of sensitive resources and develop suppression strategies that protect these resources. Review maps with CDF, USFS, and other suppression agencies and have these maps and strategies readily available to fire agencies. | **no** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **67.** | All | Utilize non-fire vegetation management strategies, such as manual thinning, to reduce the risk of catastrophic fires. | **yes** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **Administrative** | | | | |
| **68.** | All | Retain existing land use agreements with PCWA for water infrastructure and administrative buildings, and with PG&E for power facilities. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **69.** | All | Construct facilities to support habitat restoration projects. | **no** | **yes** | **no** | **yes** |
| **70.** | All | Modify concession contracts over time to be consistent with this Plan. | **no** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **71.** | All | Expand use of concession contracts when they can increase services to the public at a lower cost. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **72.** | All | Coordinate with partners to improve electronic connectivity and communications. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **73.** | All | Prepare a feasibility study to identify location(s) for expansion or relocation of administrative, operation and maintenance facilities. Coordinate with other agencies regarding development of a multi-agency facility. | **no** | **no** | **no** | **yes** |
| | | **1. Knickerbocker Management Zone** | | | | |
| | | **Visitor Facilities** | | | | |
| **74.** | All | Retain existing facilities to support activities such as, but not limited to, horse and bicycle trail riding, picnicking, wildlife viewing, and hiking. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **75.** | 1B | Install interpretive elements to the existing trailhead and Cool Staging Area, to educate visitors about the natural and cultural resources of the area. | **no** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **76.** | 1B | Construct additional day-use facilities at the existing trailhead and Cool Staging Area within the developed and/or previously disturbed area. Add up to 5 shade ramadas, 10 picnic sites, restrooms and interpretive elements. | **no** | **yes** | **yes** | **no** |
| **77.** | 1B/1C | Expand and improve the Cool Staging Area and construct additional day-use facilities. Add up to 50 parking stalls, 10 shade ramadas and 20 picnic sites, interpretive elements and restrooms. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **78.** | 1C | Construct up to 50 individual campsites, including alternative camping options (cabins, yurts, etc.), and up to 3 group camps. Construct a small maintenance yard and equipment storage area of up to ¼ acre. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | |
| **79.** | 1C | Construct campgrounds with up to 200 individual campsites, and up to 5 group campsites. Consider developed campsites, equestrian campsites, primitive /undeveloped campsites, RV hookups, and camp cabins. Construct a maintenance yard and equipment storage area of up to one acre. | **no** | **no** | **no** | **yes** |
| **80.** | 1B/1C | Construct a visitor center with space for educational programs and events. | **no** | **no** | **no** | **yes** |
| | | **Vehicle Access to River** | | | | |
| **81.** | All | Improve trail and emergency vehicle access from Cool to the river. Actions may include, but are not limited to, re-aligning, clearing, widening, grading, and the installation of signage and drainage features. | **no** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| **82.** | All | Provide public vehicle access from Cool to the river. Actions may include, but are not limited to, clearing, widening, grading, paving, striping, and the installation of vehicle barriers, signage, drainage features, trash receptacles and toilets. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **Administrative** | | | | |
| **83.** | 1B/1C | Construct a greenhouse, native plant nursery and rain water collection system to support habitat restoration projects, interpretation and public stewardship. | **no** | **yes** | **no** | **yes** |

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| | | **2. Auburn Interface Management Zone** | | | | |
| | | **Administrative** | | | | |
| **84.** | All | Construct a greenhouse, native plant nursery and rain water collection system to support habitat restoration projects, interpretation and public stewardship. | **no** | **yes** | **no** | **yes** |
| **85.** | All | Retain limited vehicle access through China Bar entrance station. | **yes** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| **86.** | 2A | Increase vehicle access through China Bar entrance station depending upon demand. Allow vehicle access without necessarily having China Bar entrance station staffed. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **87.** | 2C | Remove the core sheds, contents and associated fencing. Utilize this area for recreation purposes. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **Natural Resources Management** | | | | |
| **88.** | All | Implement active restoration of disturbed and/or eroded areas to restore ecological function and scenic beauty. Remove abandoned site features, restore topography, remove abandoned roads, re-establish natural drainage patterns and revegetate with native vegetation. | **no** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| | | **Roads and Trails** | **no** | **no** | **no** | **no** |
| **89.** | 2A/2B | Do not install a permanent Auburn-to-Cool Trail river crossing. | **yes** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| **90.** | 2A, 2B | Construct a year-round multi-use trail bridge across the lower North Fork in the China Bar Area. The Upper Outlet Rapid location is identified as a preliminary preferred ACT bridge site. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **91.** | All | Construct mountain bike technical trails. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **92.** | 2B | Retain existing trail access to Rocky Point and the east side of the river from Cool. | **yes** | **no** | **no** | **no** |
| **93.** | 2B | Improve trail and emergency vehicle access from Cool to the river. Actions may include, but are not limited to, re-aligning, clearing, widening, grading, and the installation of signage, drainage features, and trash receptacles. | **no** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| **94.** | 2B | Provide public vehicle access from Cool to the river at Rocky Point and add up to 100 parking spaces. Actions may include, but are not limited to, clearing, widening, grading, and the installation of paving, vehicle barriers, signage, fencing, drainage features, and trash receptacles. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **95.** | 2A | Improve river access points in the China Bar area on the west side of the river, including up to 50 parking stalls and trails to river. Actions may include, but are not limited to, re-aligning, clearing, widening, grading, paving, striping, and the installation of vehicle barriers, signage, drainage features, and trash receptacles. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **Camping** | | | | |
| **96.** | 2A/2C | Construct up to 20 developed campsites, including alternative camping facilities such as camp cabins, group campsites and individual campsites that serve trail users. Use previously disturbed areas on the west side of the river, while considering views and proximity to the river. | **no** | **no** | **no** | **yes** |
| **97.** | 2B | Construct one group and up to 50 individual developed campsites, including alternative camping facilities such as camp cabins. Use previously disturbed areas on the east side of the river, while considering views and proximity to the river. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **Day Use** | | | | |
| **98.** | 2A | Retain existing day-use facilities including parking areas, restrooms, trash receptacles, signage, and related infrastructure. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **99.** | All | Construct additional day-use facilities on the west side of the river. Add up to 30 family and group picnic sites and 20 shade ramadas. Construct restrooms; trailhead and staging area facilities; and formalized gathering and use areas that support special events and programs. Provide recreation equipment rentals, such as bicycles, rafts, kayaks, etc. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **100.** | 2A/2C | Construct additional active recreation facilities, such as volleyball courts and a disc golf course. | **no** | **no** | **no** | **yes** |
| **101.** | 2B | Construct river and trail access on the east side of the river, formalized gathering and use areas that support special events and programs, and other day-use facilities at the flat at Rocky Point. Add up to 20 shade ramadas, 20 picnic sites, and restrooms. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **102.** | 2B | Construct and install a wide array of recreation facilities to accommodate additional types and capacities of active recreational activities, including trail use and river access, within previously disturbed areas on the east side of the river. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **Interpretation** | | | | |
| **103.** | All | Install interpretive elements that focus on environmental education, resources awareness and stewardship. Provide interpretive materials, features and programs regarding the dam site history, features, and status. | **no** | **yes** | **yes** | **no** |
| | | **Watercraft Management** | | | | |
| **104.** | All | Continue current watercraft management and activities, such as a concession system for commercial operators, and no restrictions on private paddlers. Retain existing boat launching and landing facilities. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **105.** | All | Increase boating concession opportunities below the Confluence, including rafting and inflatable kayak trips, canoeing and kayaking trips, and SUP trips. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |

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| **106.** | All | Limit additional paddlecraft concession opportunities below the Confluence to those focusing on interpretation and education of natural and cultural resources. | **no** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| **107.** | All | Institute or promote shuttle services for boaters, including between Confluence and China Bar, either through concession or partnership with local jurisdictions or other entities. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **108.** | All | Construct, renovate or modify river launching and landing facilities. Actions may include, but are not limited to, clearing, widening, grading, and the installation of vehicle barriers, signage, fencing, drainage features, and trash receptacles. | **no** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **3. Confluence Management Zone** | | | | |
| | | **Access and Parking** | | | | |
| **109.** | | Retain current parking areas within the SRA to support activities such as, but not limited to, horse and bicycle riding, beach play, wildlife viewing, and hiking. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **110.** | 3A | Work with Caltrans, Placer County and El Dorado County, to restrict or prohibit roadside parking on SR 49 as needed to improve public safety. | **no** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| **111.** | 3A | To improve public safety and revenue generation, work with Caltrans, Placer County and El Dorado County, to formalize parking along SR 49 and install pedestrian safety improvements, such as crosswalks, on the SR 49 Bridge, Old Auburn-Foresthill Road, and at roadside parking areas. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **112.** | | Work with City of Auburn, Placer County, El Dorado County, and any relevant transit and transportation agencies to construct drop off areas and provide shuttle or transit stops at trailheads. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **113.** | 3A | Increase wayfinding near the Confluence, through improved mapping and signage. Utilize technology (e.g., smart phone, changeable message signs) to identify areas of parking availability. | **no** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **114.** | 3B | Improve the Quarry Trail road and open to public vehicle use. Actions may include, but are not limited to, widening, grading, paving, striping, and the installation of vehicle barriers, signage, and drainage features. Construct parking at the flat below the Mountain Quarries Mine. Add up to 100 parking stalls, 10 shade ramadas and 20 picnic sites, and restrooms. Retain parking at the Quarry Trailhead. | **no** | **no** | **no** | **yes** |
| | | **Interpretation** | | | | |
| **115.** | All | Construct a moderate size visitor and interpretive center, in a suitable upland location (e.g., potentially near or adjacent to the Foresthill Bridge), that focuses on education and interpretation of natural and cultural resources and promotes protection and stewardship of those resources. | **no** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| **116.** | 3A | Retain existing interpretive elements at Old Foresthill Road and the river. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **117.** | 3D | Construct a small canyon rim overlook and interpretive facility near Foresthill Bridge. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **no** |
| **118.** | All | Construct a small visitor center in a suitable upland location, potentially near or adjacent to the Foresthill Bridge. | **no** | **no** | **no** | **yes** |
| | | **Mine Access** | | | | |
| **119.** | 3E | Provide no public access into the Mine. Interpret mine history and resources off site and/or outside the mine entrance. | **yes** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| **120.** | 3E | Provide guided tours of the Mine. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **121.** | 3B | Add interpretive elements to the flat just below the Mine. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **Climbing** | | | | |
| **122.** | 3B | Retain current climbing opportunities. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **123.** | 3B | Expand climbing events at the Cool Cave Quarry area. Construct restrooms and install interpretive elements. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **124.** | All | Expand climbing to other areas within the Confluence Management Zone. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **Trails** | **no** | **no** | **no** | **no** |
| **125.** | 3D | Improve the Lake Clementine Trail as the first segment of a multi-use trail from the Confluence to Ponderosa Road Crossing. Actions may include, but are not limited to, re-aligning, clearing, widening, grading, and the installation of signage, drainage features, and trash receptacles. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **Whitewater and River Access** | | | | |
| **126.** | 3A | Improve boating put-in at Confluence to increase river access for boaters and to minimize conflicts with swimmers/sunbathers. Actions may include, but are not limited to, creating a new river access trail and/or road, re-aligning, clearing, widening, grading, paving, striping, and the installation of vehicle barriers, signage, drainage features, trash receptacles and toilets. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **127.** | All | Reroute, improve or remove river access and unauthorized spur trails. Actions may include, but are not limited to, re-aligning, clearing, widening, grading, and the installation of signage, fencing, drainage features, and trash receptacles. | **no** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **128.** | 3D | Connect the Lake Clementine Trail to the North Fork Dam Overlook. Improve trail access to the river from the Lower Lake Clementine parking area. Actions may include, but are not limited to, clearing, widening, grading, and the installation of signage, fencing, drainage features, and trash receptacles. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |

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| **129.** | 3D | Construct portage trail for paddlecraft users around Murderers Bar Rapid, including take-out and put-in locations. Actions may include, but are not limited to, clearing vegetation, constructing trail tread and drainage features, and the installation of signage. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **130.** | 3D | Close or clear the blind chute on the right-hand side near the bottom of Murderers Bar Rapid, where there may potentially be a hazardous entrapment at certain river flows. | **no** | **no** | **no** | **yes** |
| | | **Administrative** | | | | |
| **131.** | 3C | Continue current administrative land uses, including the Auburn Sector office complex. Retain and repair existing administrative offices. | **yes** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| **132.** | 3C | Evaluate the historic significance of the buildings at the Auburn Sector office complex, including the Murphy House. | **no** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **133.** | 3C | Renovate or replace the existing administrative offices to better serve increased Auburn Sector staffing. Add facilities if needed. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **134.** | 3C | Construct a greenhouse, native plant nursery and rain water collection system to support habitat restoration projects. | **no** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| | | **4. Foresthill Divide Management Zone** | | | | |
| | | **Recreation** | | | | |
| **135.** | All | Retain existing facilities and land uses, such as, but not limited to, day-use hiking, horseback trail riding, running, and mountain biking. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **136.** | 4A | Construct a small developed campground of up to 20 campsites, with a small maintenance yard and equipment storage area of about ¼ acre. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **137.** | 4A | Improve trailhead and trail access facilities at various locations. Add up to 100 parking stalls, 10 shade ramadas and 20 picnic sites, and restrooms. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **Interpretation** | | | | |
| **138.** | 4A | Install interpretive elements at the Grizzly Bear House site. | **no** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| | | **5. Lake Clementine Management Zone** | | | | |
| | | **Marina** | | | | |
| **139.** | 5A | Retain the existing marina facilities operated by concession, including 61 boat slips, loading and fuel dock, and ice machine/sales. | **yes** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **140.** | 5A | Close marina and remove facilities if and when no longer feasible to operate and maintain. | **no** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| **141.** | 5A | Renovate the existing marina facilities to protect resources and public safety, and to improve the visitor experience. Repair or replace marina facility components when needed, with no increase in capacity. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **no** |
| **142.** | 5A | Renovate the existing marina facilities and expand watercraft capacity. Construct additional facilities such as a marina store. | **no** | **no** | **no** | **yes** |
| | | **Boat-in Camping** | | | | |
| **143.** | 5A | Retain a boat-in campground at current capacity of 15 campsites. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **144.** | 5A | Relocate campsites in response to reservoir sedimentation or other constraints and factors. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **145.** | 5A | Add up to 5 new primitive boat-in campsites. | **no** | **no** | | **yes** |
| | | **Other Recreation Facilities** | | | | |
| **146.** | 5A | Retain the existing boat ramp, parking lot with 50 vehicle parking spaces and 25 vehicle/trailer parking spaces. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **Concessions** | | | | |
| **147.** | All | Limit additional paddlecraft concession opportunities to those that provides guided trips interpreting natural and cultural resources. | **no** | **yes** | | |
| **148.** | All | Provide paddlecraft concession opportunities that include classes, trips, rentals and boat storage facilities at either Lower Lake Clementine or Upper Lake Clementine. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **149.** | All | Provide concession opportunities for motorized and non-motorized watercraft, including marina slips, rentals, trips, instruction, supplies, and storage. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **Beach Use** | | | | |
| **150.** | 5B | Retain current Upper Lake Clementine facilities and allowable uses, including swimming, beach play, hiking, and paddleboating. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **151.** | 5B | Improve Upper Lake Clementine entrance road to reduce dust and erosion, protect resources and reduce maintenance cost. Actions may include, but are not limited to, re-aligning, clearing, widening, grading, and the installation of gravel, paving, vehicle barriers, signage, and drainage features. | **no** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |

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| **152.** | 5B | Restore decommissioned campground area to riparian habitat. | **no** | **yes** | **yes** | **no** |
| **153.** | 5B | Pave or grade the parking area for visitor safety and convenience. | **no** | **no** | **no** | **yes** |
| **154.** | 5B | Construct or install a restroom. | **no** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **6. Mammoth Bar Management Zone** | | | | |
| | | **Off-highway Vehicle Use** | | | | |
| **155.** | 6A | Retain the OHV trails and tracks (youth track and motocross track) and other facilities (portable restrooms, shade ramadas, picnic tables, trash receptacles, and signage) in their existing location. Retain existing system of alternating days and use within the current Mammoth Bar OHV area boundary. Do not expand OHV area boundary. | **yes** | **no** | **no** | **no** |
| **156.** | All | Repair, re-construct, re-route, close or add trails to improve trail sustainability and recreation opportunities. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **157.** | All | Phase out OHV use, including tracks and trails, and convert Mammoth Bar MZ to non-OHV uses. | **no** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| **158.** | All | Retain existing OHV uses within the current Mammoth Bar OHV Area boundary. Do not expand OHV area boundary. Allow OHV use up to 6 days per week. If motocross track is significantly damaged due to river flooding, reconfigure the tracks, existing parking and staging area, helicopter pad, and trials biking area, within the existing disturbed area, to reduce future flood damage. Add picnic and viewing facilities to Youth track. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **no** |
| **159.** | All | Retain existing OHV facilities and uses. Expand OHV area boundary and trail system by up to 20%. Allow OHV use up to 7 days a week. Increase the diversity of OHV opportunities. | **no** | **no** | **no** | **yes** |
| **160.** | 6B | Potentially relocate the OHV tracks and staging area to an upland location, connected to existing OHV trail system, and with vehicle access along Foresthill Road. Investigate a potential site near Castle Rock. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **Other Day Use** | | | | |
| **161.** | 6A | If the OHV tracks are removed or relocated to an upland location, utilize the existing parking and staging area, trials biking area, and track areas for other recreation facilities including, but not limited to: up to 50 developed campground sites, up to 50 day-use parking stalls, 10 shade ramadas and 20 picnic sites, restrooms and improved river access. Restore riparian habitat along the river. | **no** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **162.** | 6A | Renovate day-use facilities, such as shade ramadas, picnic areas, restrooms, etc. to better serve OHV and/or non-OHV uses. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **163.** | All | Construct technical and downhill mountain biking trails and other active recreation opportunities. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **164.** | 6A | Retain boating take out and beach play areas. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **7. Lower Middle Fork Management Zone** | | | | |
| **165.** | All | Install interpretive elements to describe the mining heritage evident in this area. | **no** | **yes** | **yes** | |
| **166.** | All | Improve trail access to the river, including selected spur trails. Actions may include, but are not limited to, re-aligning, clearing, widening, grading, and the installation of signage, drainage features, and trash receptacles. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **167.** | All | Construct more formalized public trailhead facilities and trail access. Actions may include, but are not limited to, re-aligning, clearing, widening, grading, and the installation of up to 20 parking stalls, vehicle barriers, signage, drainage features, and trash receptacles. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **8. Cherokee/Ruck-a-Chucky Management Zone** | | | | |
| | | **Camping** | | | | |
| **168.** | 8A | Retain current camping facilities at Ruck-a-Chucky (vault toilet and 5 campsites) and primitive sites along the river. | **yes** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **169.** | 8A | Phase out camping adjacent to the river. Remove camping facilities and restore area to native habitat. | **no** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| **170.** | 8A | Renovate existing campsites. Construct up to 10 additional campsites near Ruck-a-Chucky. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **171.** | 8B | Construct a small campground at Cherokee Bar, with up to 20 individual, developed campsites and one group camp, outside the floodway. Coordinate with improvements to Sliger Mine Road. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **172.** | 8A/8B | Install up to 5 alternative camping facilities, such as camp cabins. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **River Access/Recreation** | | | | |
| **173.** | All | Continue current river access management, activities and facilities, including restricting vehicle access along unmaintained road alignments. | **yes** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| **174.** | **8C** | Improve portage trail at Ruck-A-Chucky Falls for public safety and resource protection purposes. Actions may include, but are not limited to, re-aligning, clearing, widening, grading, and the installation of drainage features. | **no** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **175.** | All | Improve McKeon-Ponderosa Road and open the road for public vehicle access to the river. Actions may include, but are not limited to, re-aligning, clearing, widening, grading, and the installation of vehicle barriers, signage, drainage features, and trash receptacles. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |

| ID # | Activity Node | Proposed Management Actions and Guidelines | No-Action Alternative | RME Alternative | Proposed Action Alternative | RE Alternative |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **176.** | All | Improve Drivers Flat Road to better accommodate recreation use. Actions may include, but are not limited to, re-aligning, clearing, widening, grading, paving, striping, and the installation of vehicle barriers, signage, drainage features, and trash receptacles. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **177.** | 8B | Install guard rail, gates and other vehicle barriers to prevent off road vehicle use at Cherokee Bar. | **no** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **178.** | All | Coordinate with El Dorado County to improve Sliger Mine Road down to Cherokee Bar to accommodate additional recreation use, including boating access. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **179.** | 8C | Improve road to Canyon Creek and open road to public vehicle access. Actions may include, but are not limited to, re-aligning, clearing, widening, grading, and the installation of vehicle barriers, signage, drainage features, and trash receptacles. | **no** | **no** | **no** | **yes** |
| **180.** | 8B | Construct day-use facilities at Cherokee Bar. Add up to 40 parking stalls, 10 shade ramadas and 10 picnic sites, and restrooms. Coordinate development of new facilities with improvements to Sliger Mine Road. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **181.** | 8A, 8B | Construct a trail bridge over the river at the Greenwood Bridge site. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **9. Upper North Fork Management Zone** | | | | |
| | | **River Access** | | | | |
| **182.** | 9A, 9B | Retain existing river access and day-use facilities including parking, interpretive elements, river access trail, portable restrooms, and a self-pay fee station. Adjust facilities as needed to accommodate Placer County's proposed Yankee Jims bridge replacement. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **183.** | All | Install interpretive elements that only focus on resource education and stewardship. | **no** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| **184.** | 9A, 9B | Construct additional day-use facilities at Yankee Jims and Ponderosa Road crossings. Add up to 40 parking stalls, 20 picnic sites, and restrooms. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **185.** | All | Coordinate with Placer County to improve Yankee Jims Road to better accommodate recreation use and access. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **186.** | All | Improve Windy Point Trail and connect to Indian Creek Trail. Improve parking and trailhead access at Iowa Hill Road. Actions may include, but are not limited to, re-aligning, clearing, widening, grading, and the installation of signage, drainage features, and trash receptacles. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **10. Mineral Bar Management Zone** | | | | |
| | | **Recreation** | | | | |
| **187.** | All | Retain existing campground (vault toilets and 16 campsites), river access, boat launch area and day-use facilities (parking, picnic tables, barbecue grills, and vault toilets). | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **188.** | All | Renovate campground with no expansion or reduction in capacity. | **no** | **yes** | **no** | **no** |
| **189.** | All | Renovate and expand campground. Add up to 20 individual campsites. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **190.** | All | Improve boat launch area(s), river access and day-use facilities to improve visitor experience and increase capacity. Actions may include, but are not limited to, re-aligning, clearing, widening, grading, and the installation of signage, drainage features, and trash receptacles. Add up to 20 parking stalls, 10 picnic sites, and restrooms. | **no** | **no** | **yes** | **yes** |
| | | **11. Upper Middle Fork Management Zone** | | | | |
| | | **River Access** | | | | |
| **191.** | All | Execute an agreement with U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to formalize CSP operation and management of whitewater at Oxbow/Indian Bar put-in and through USFS lands, outside of ASRA/APL, recognizing that boats continue downriver through ASRA/APL. | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** | **yes** |
| **192.** | All | Construct river recreation facilities at lunch stop sites. Add up to 10 picnic sites, and toilets. | **no** | **no** | **no** | **yes** |

## 4.6.3 No-Action Alternative

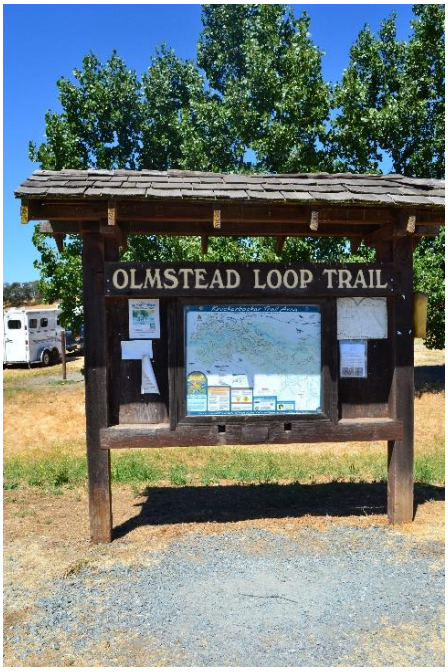
The No-Action Alternative would retain current facilities and land uses. Management of ASRA/APL would be guided by Reclamation's 1992 Interim Resource Management Plan and CSP would defer to that management plan. Figure 4.6-1 depicts the land uses and facilities under the No-Action Alternative.

## 4.6.4 Resource Management Emphasis Alternative

The RME Alternative provides increased resource protection/conservation as identified through comprehensive inventory/survey or other mechanisms, such as NEPA/CEQA review. This alternative accommodates and plans for the continuation of the current level of recreation use. It would:

- Proactively manage natural resources to protect, enhance and restore ecological function and natural processes.
- 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.

Figure 4.6-2 depicts the land uses and facilities under the RME Alternative.




*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*While the RME Alternative would limit construction of new or improvements to existing facilities, but would provide robust educational and interpretive messages, programs, materials, and features to enhance visitor understanding and engagement in resource protection and stewardship.*

## 4.6.5 Recreation Emphasis Alternative

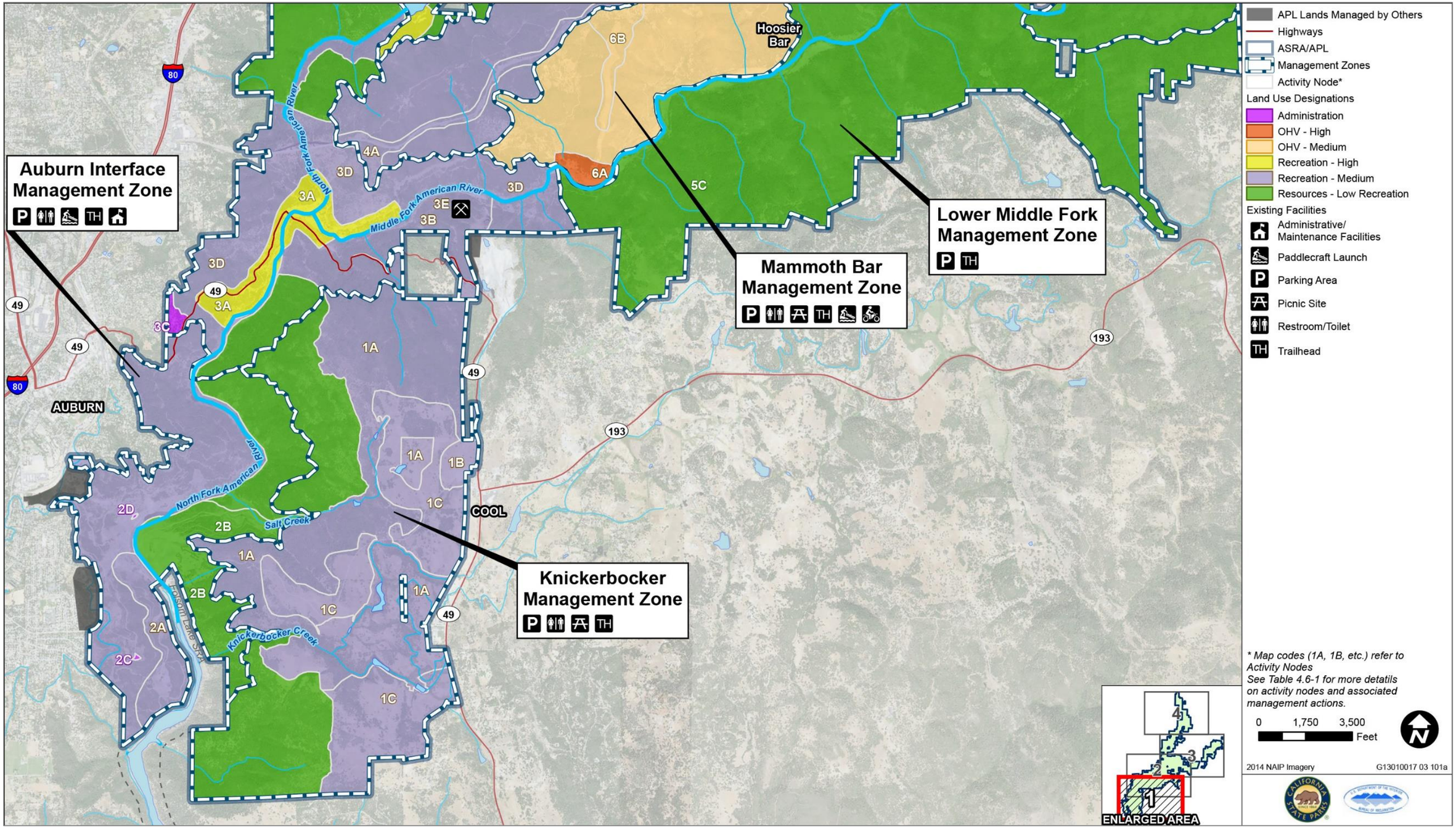
*Source: Ascent Environmental*

*The intent of the RE Alternative would be to expand visitor capacity, including increasing the number of access points, beyond that allowed by the GP/RMP*

The RE Alternative anticipates and accommodates demographically relevant and diverse increases in regional and statewide recreation demand. This alternative also increases resource protection and management to address this correspondingly higher level of use and demand. It would:

- Provide new, expanded and renovated facilities and programs to allow an increase in recreation access and opportunities.
- Primarily target resource management in areas where threats are increasing, including: existing recreation use and facilities; where new facilities or use are proposed; or where other resource threats exist, in order to avoid or minimize impacts.
- 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.

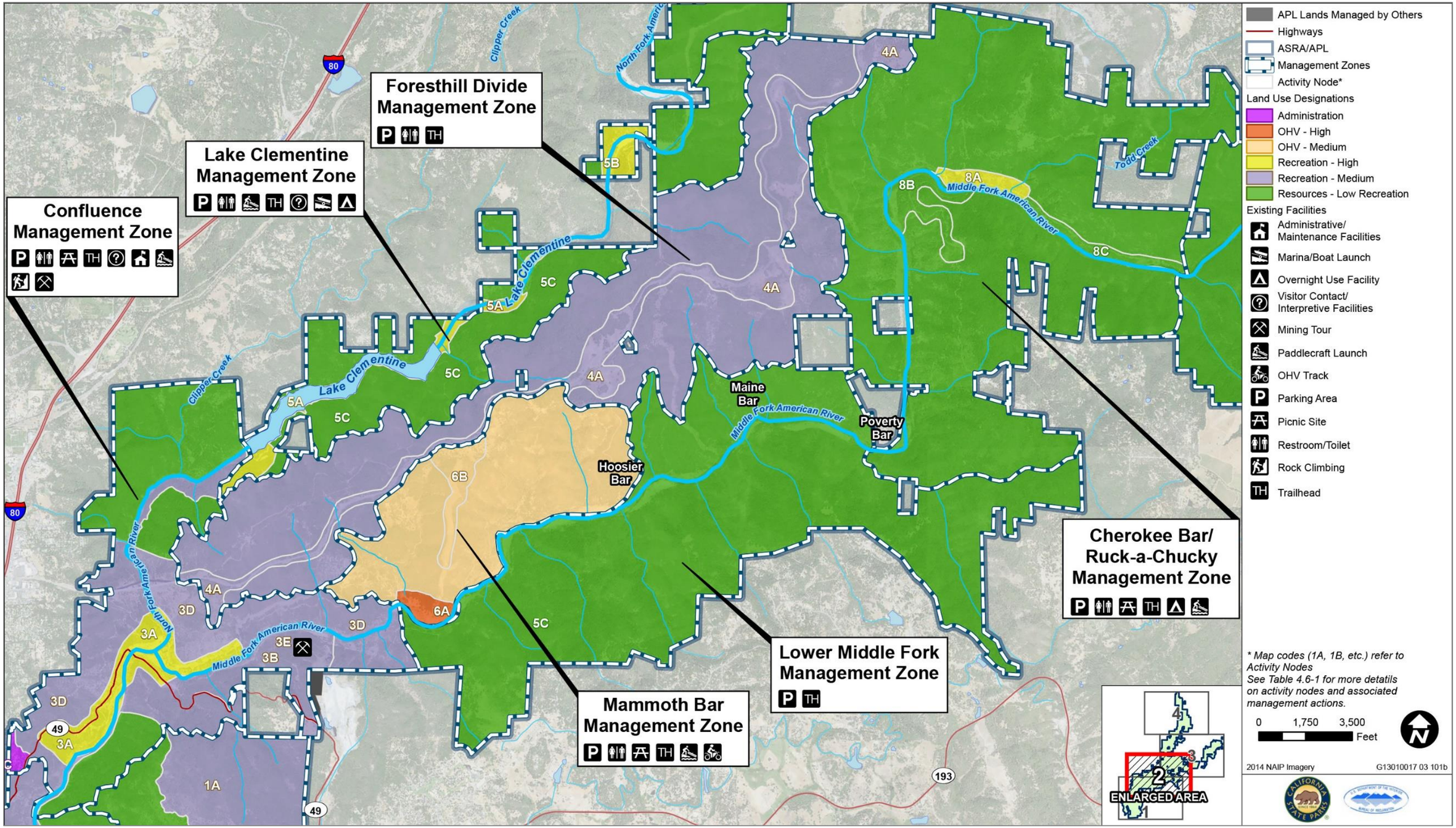
Figure 4.6-3 depicts the land uses and facilities under the RE Alternative.




*Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2017*

Figure 4.6-1a

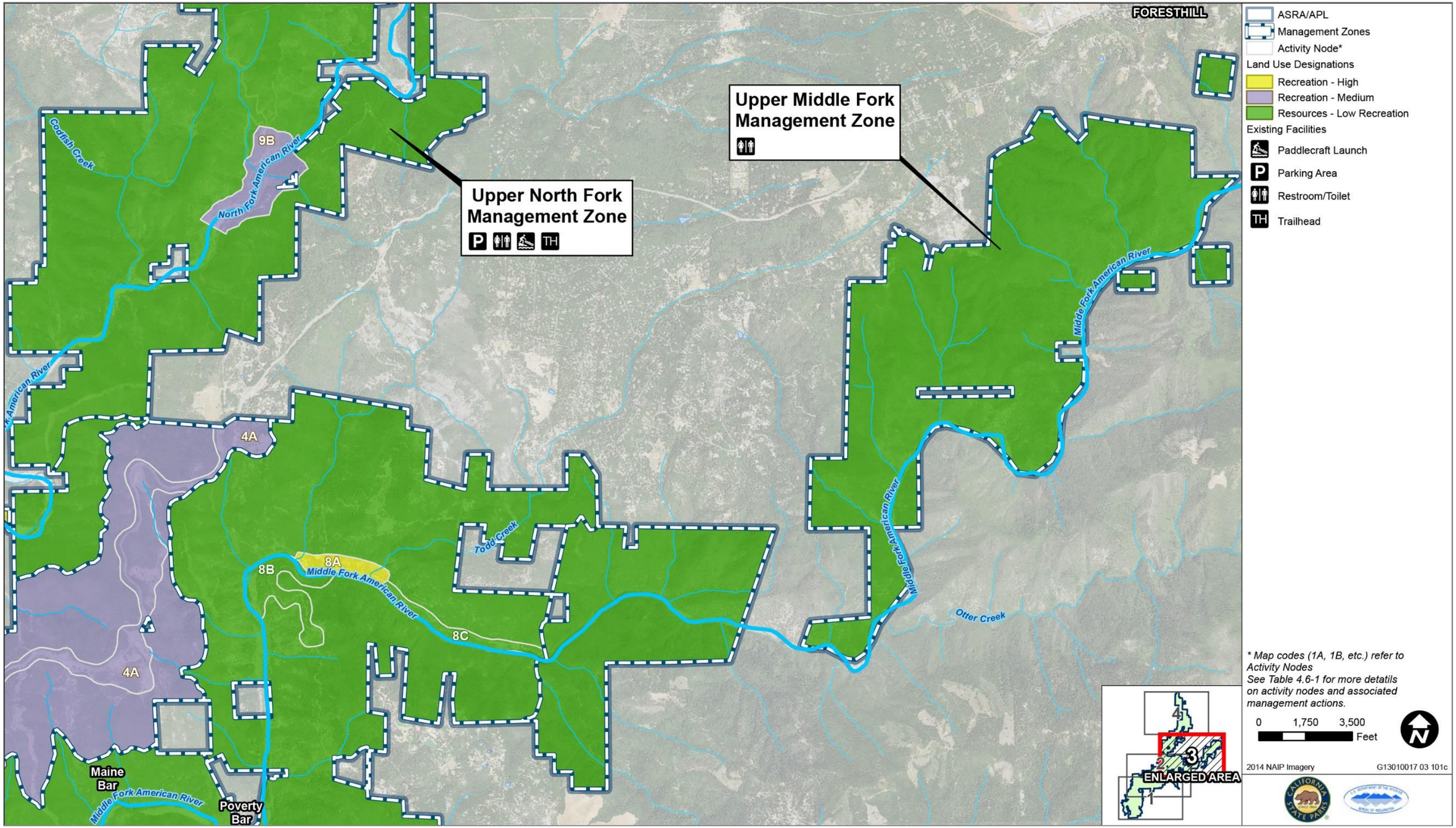
No-Action Alternative (1 of 4)




*Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2017*

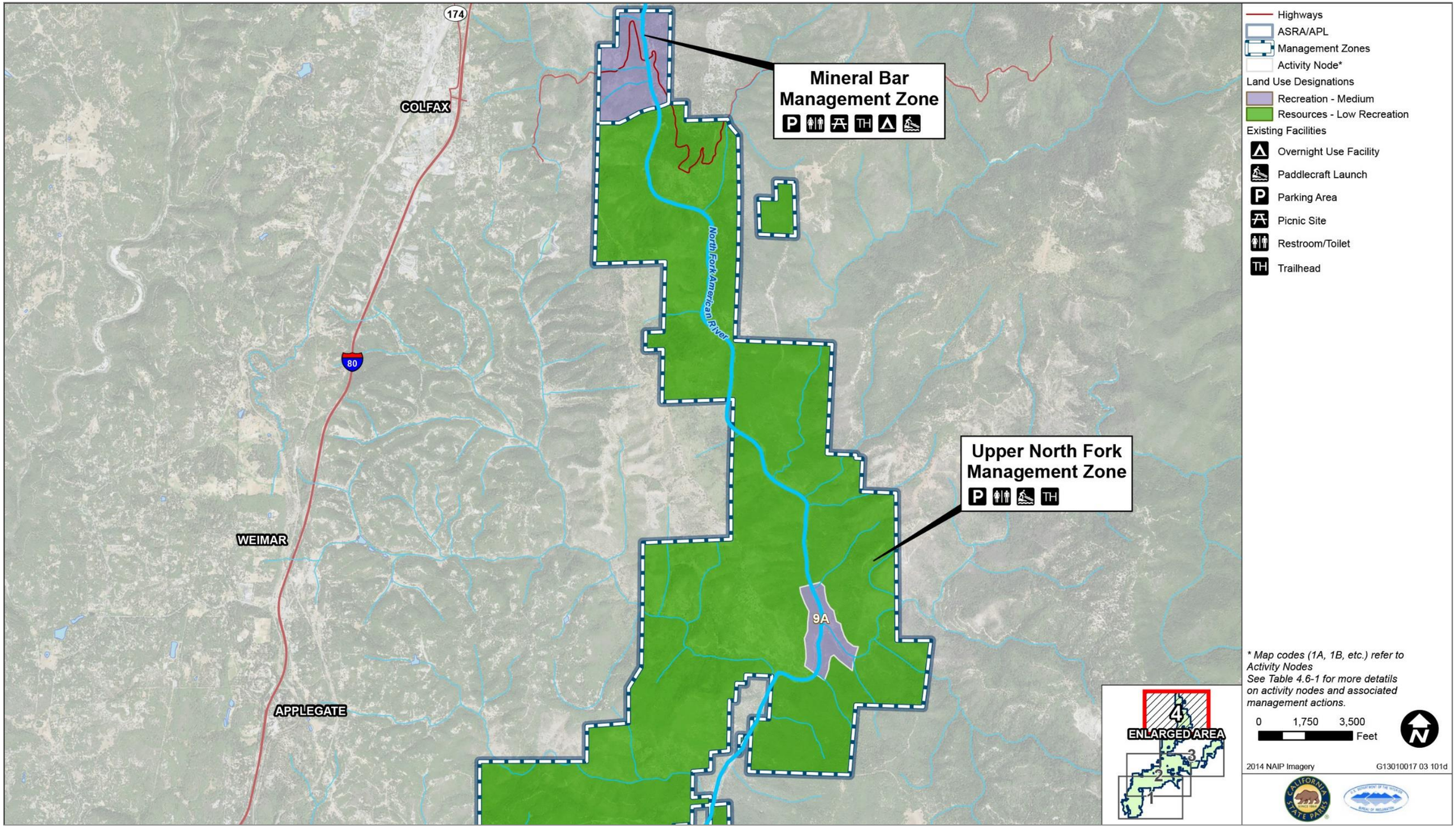
Figure 4.6-1b

No-Action Alternative (2 of 4)




*Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2017*

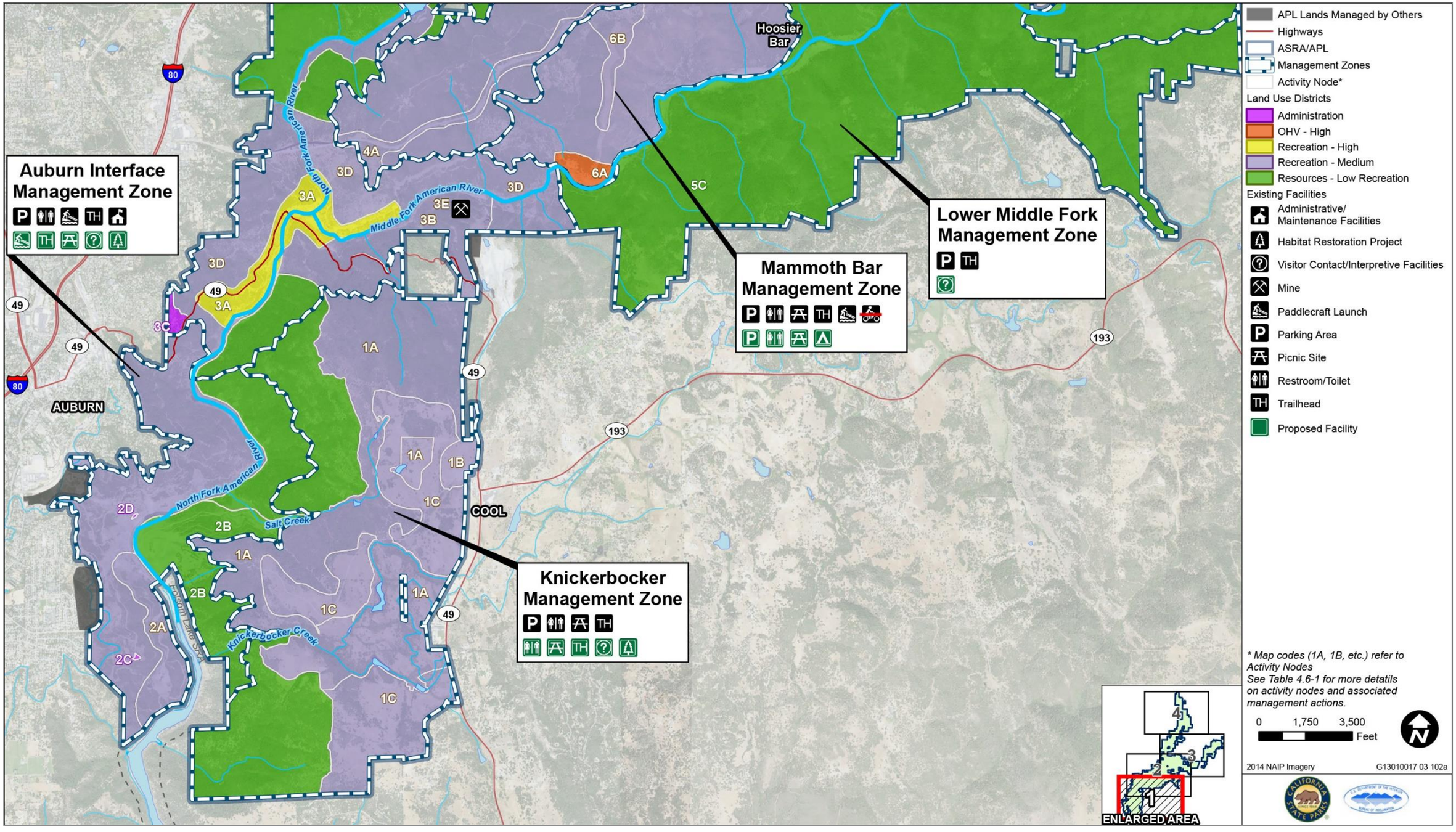
Figure 4.6-1c No-Action Alternative (3 of 4)




*Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2017*

Figure 4.6-1d

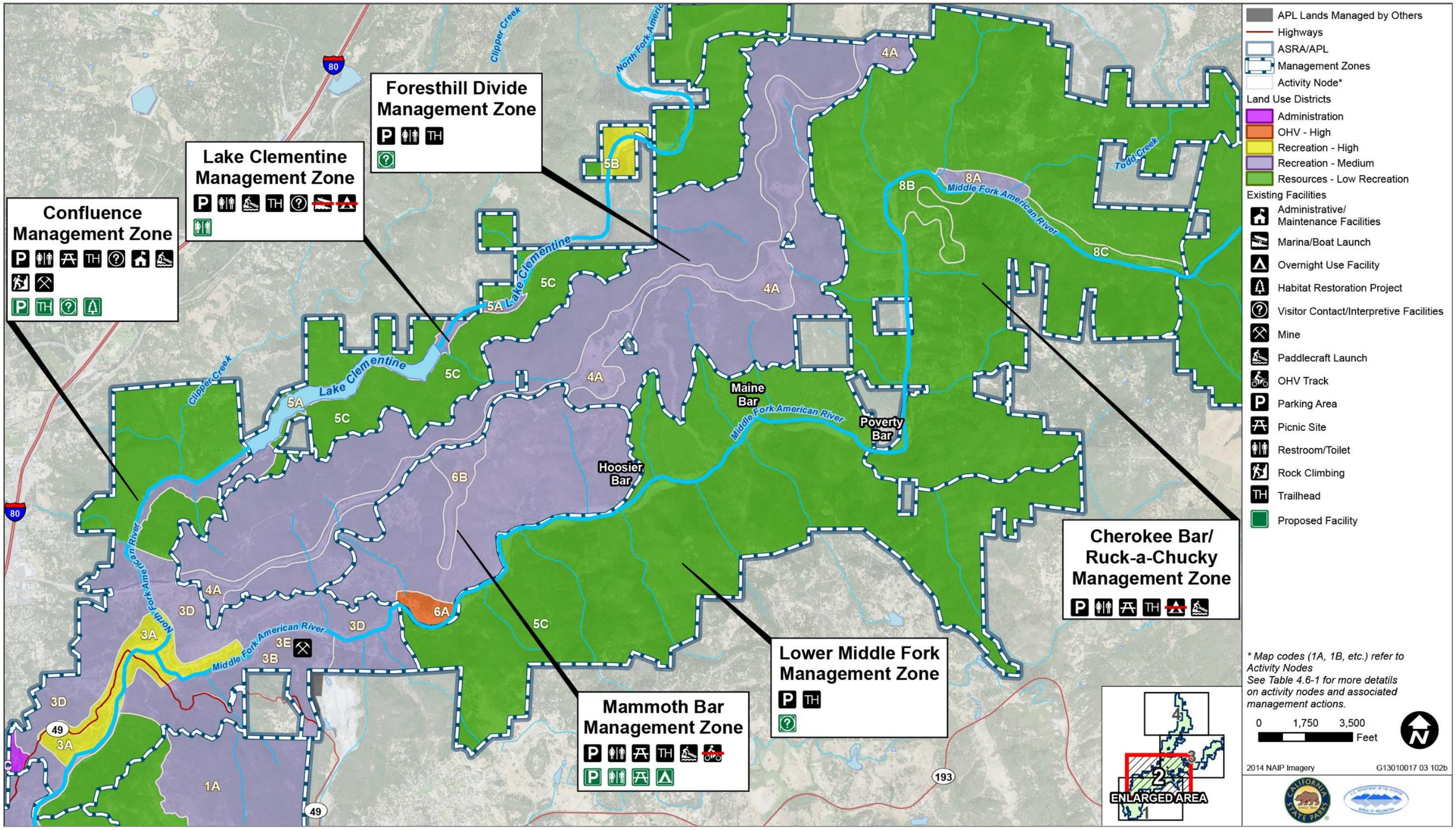
No-Action Alternative (4 of 4)




*Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2017*

Figure 4.6-2a

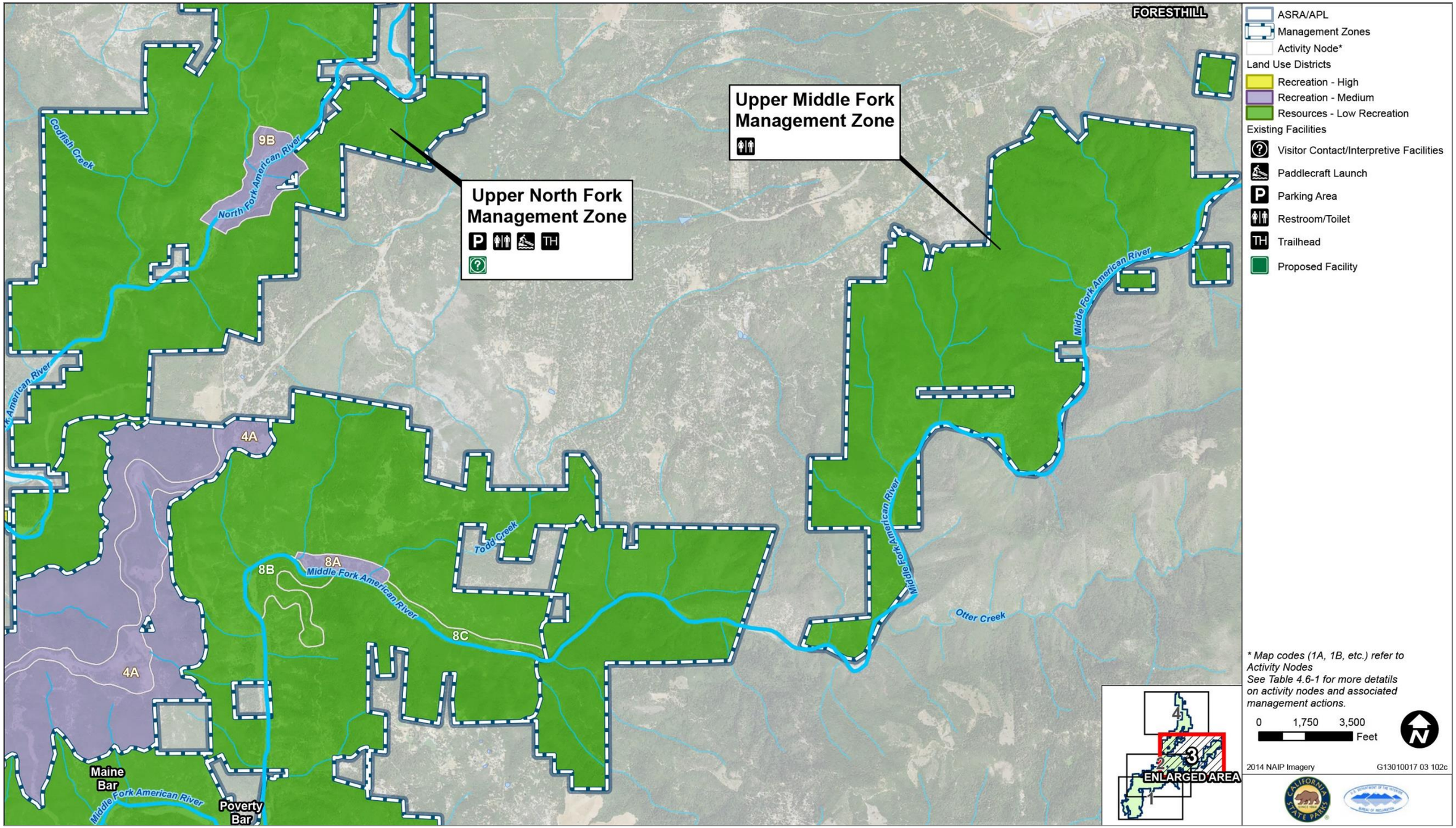
Resource Management Emphasis Alternative (1 of 4)




*Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2017*

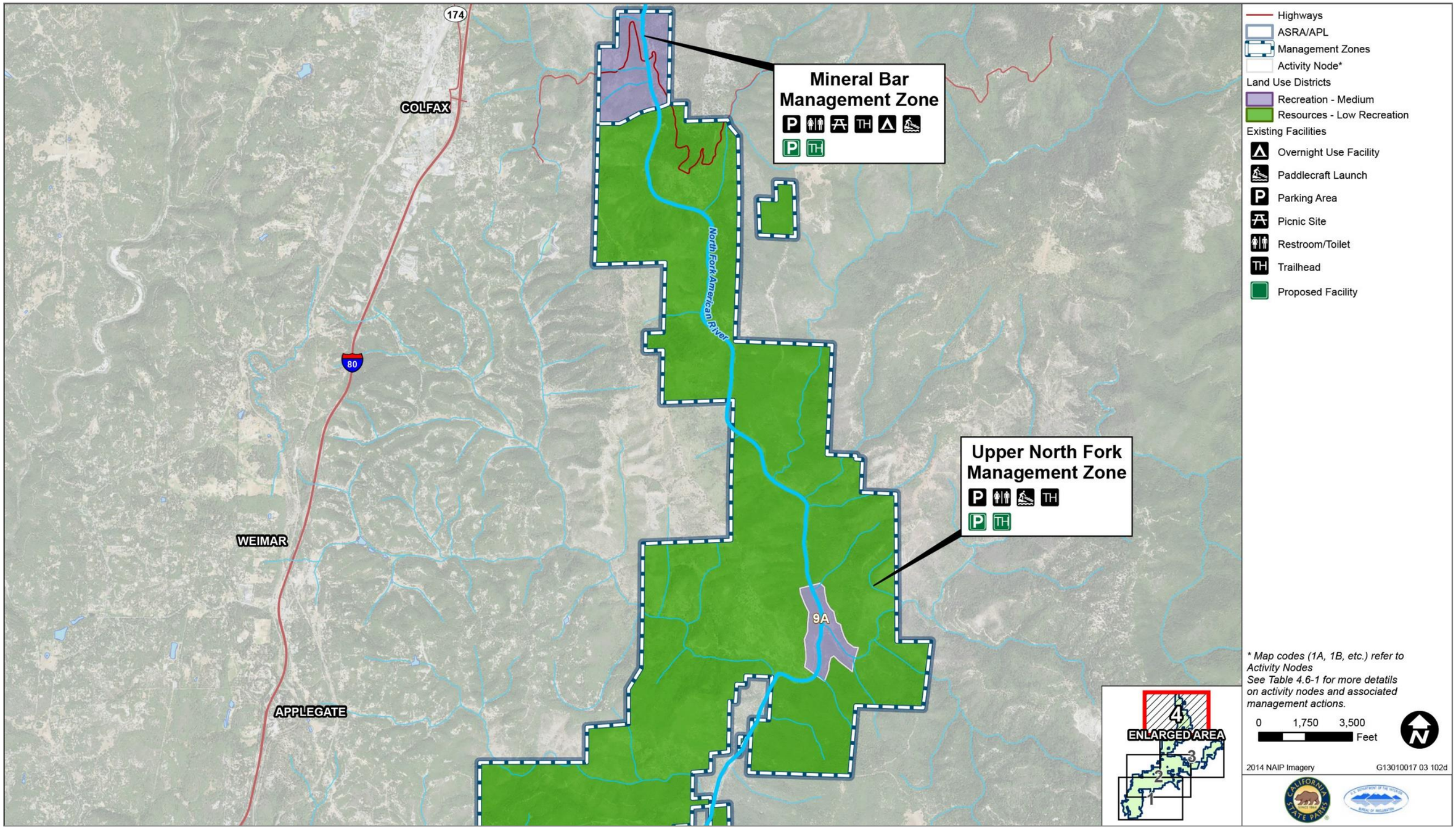
Figure 4.6-2b

Resource Management Emphasis Alternative (2 of 4)



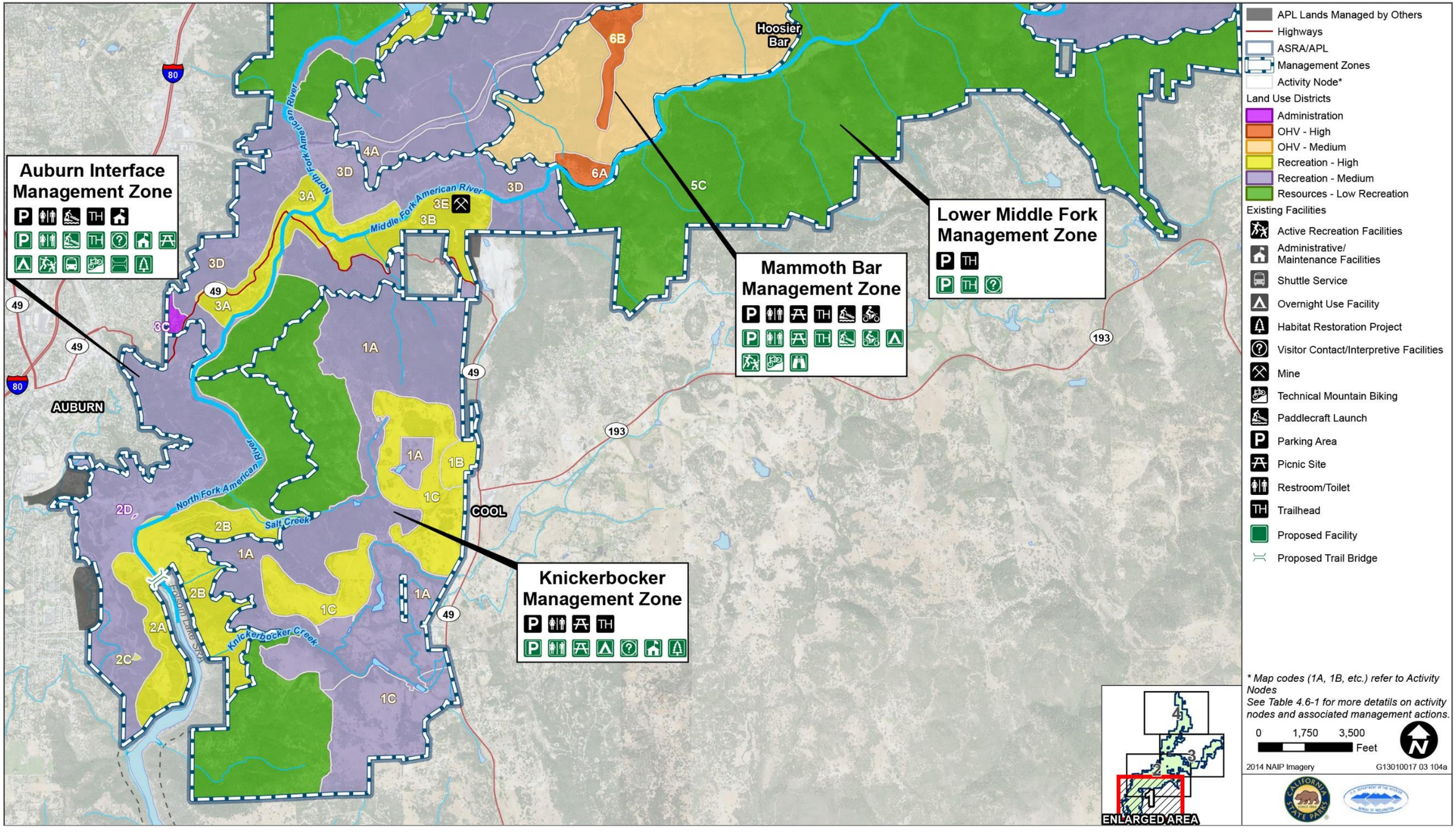

*Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2017*

Figure 4.6-2c Resource Management Emphasis Alternative (3 of 4)




*Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2017*

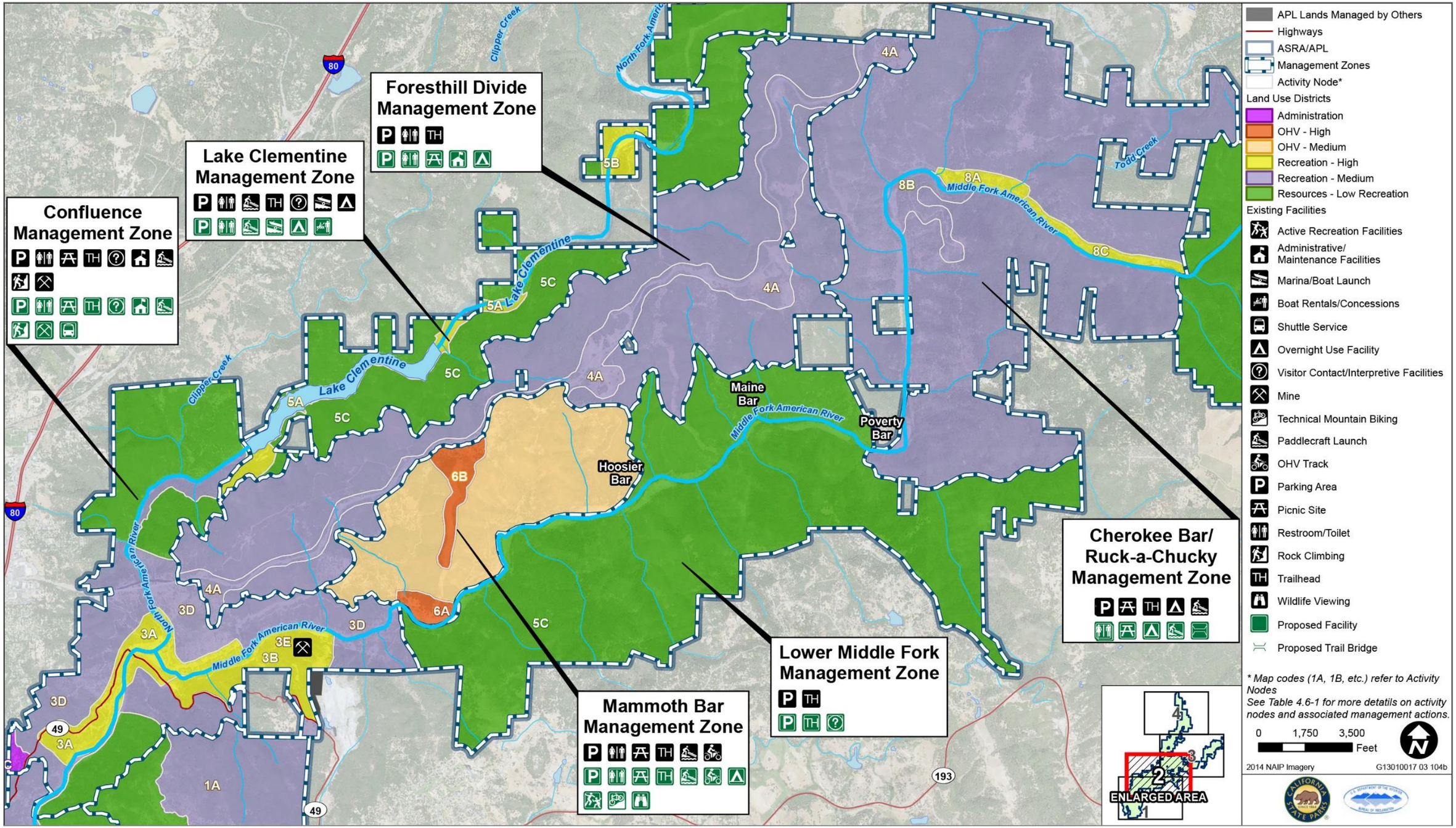
Figure 4.6-2d Resource Management Emphasis Alternative (4 of 4)




*Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2017*

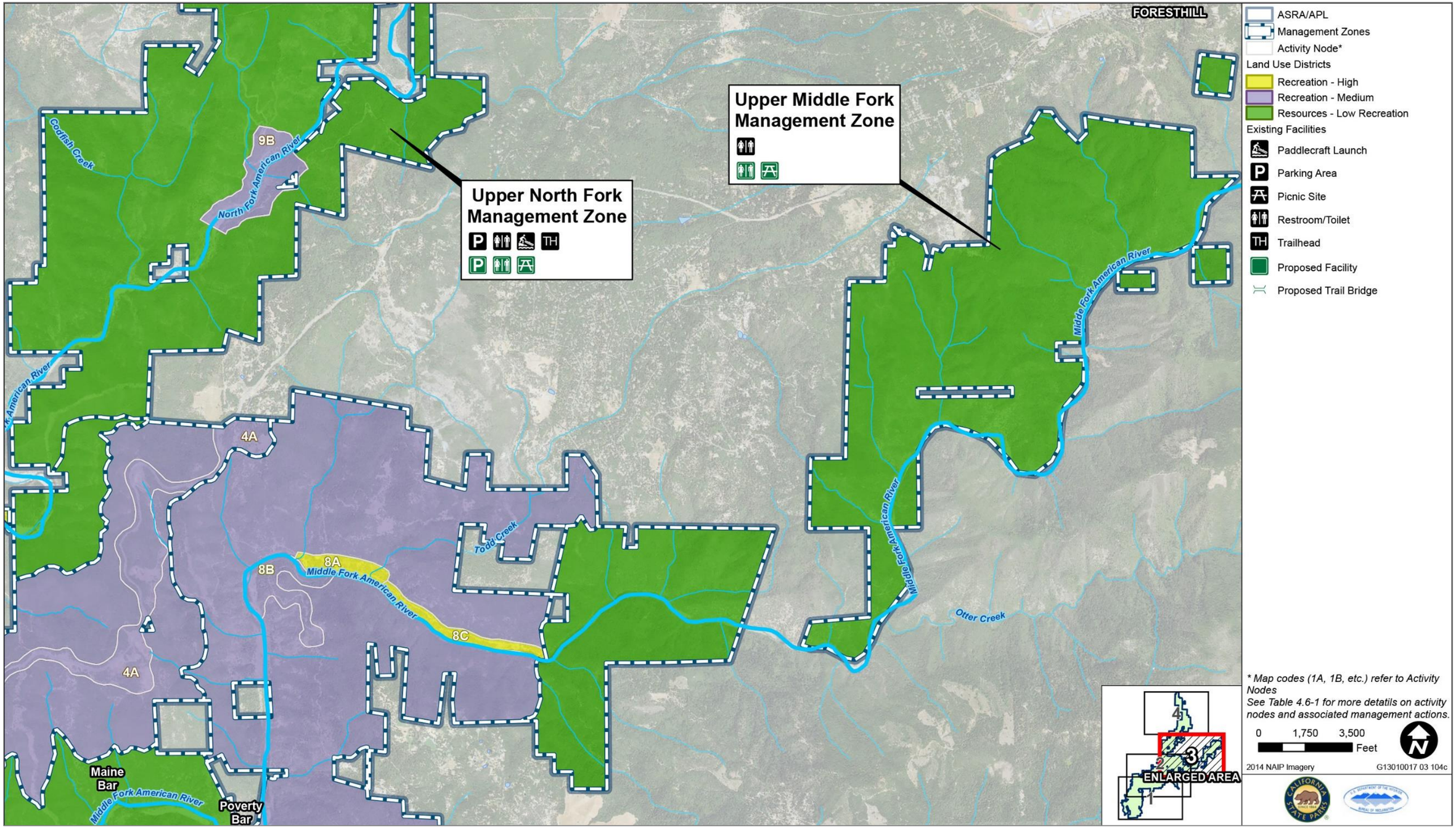
Figure 4.6-3a

Recreation Emphasis Alternative (1 of 4)



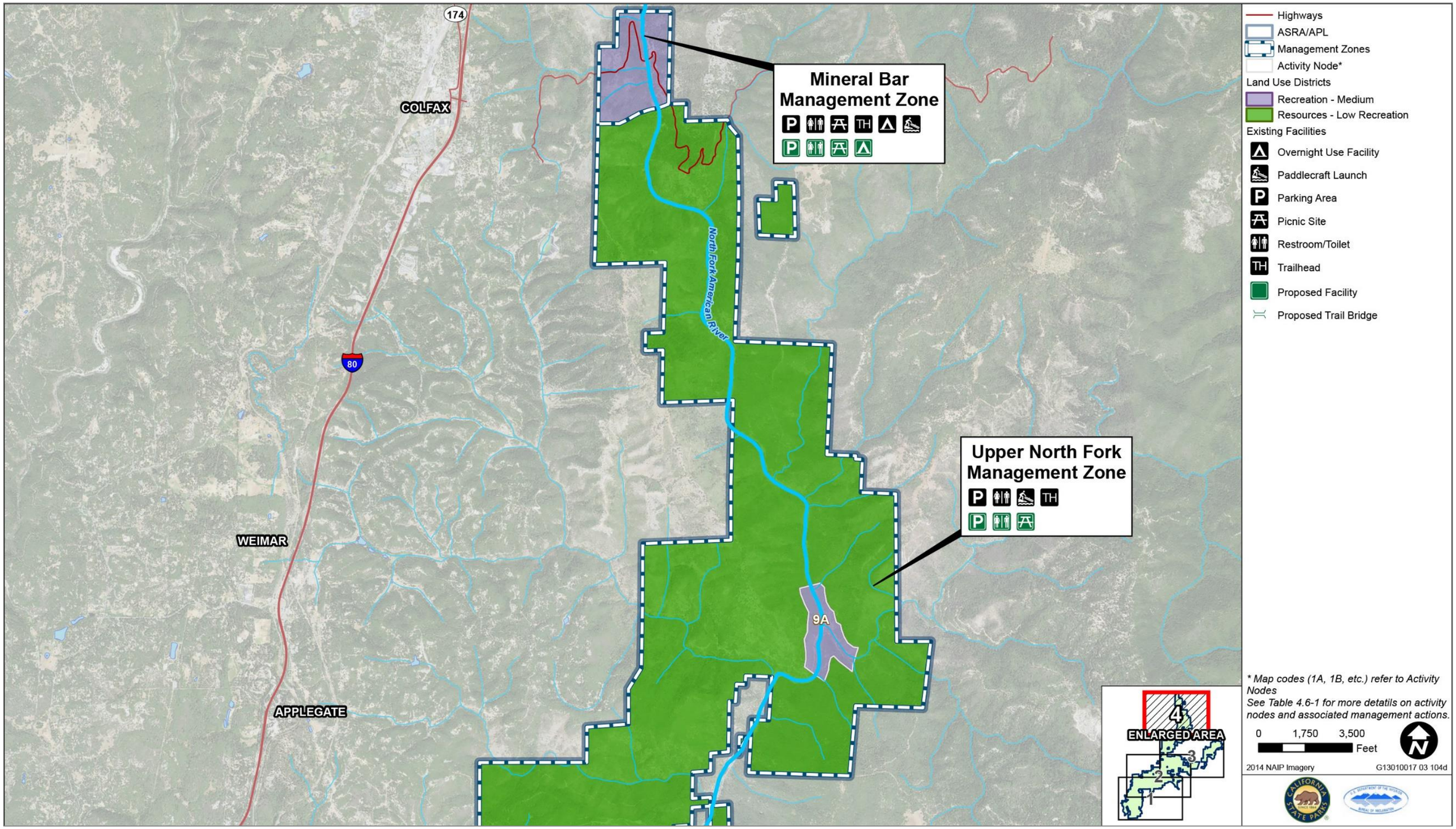

*Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2017*

Figure 4.6-3b Recreation Emphasis Alternative (2 of 4)




*Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2017*

Figure 4.6-3c Recreation Emphasis Alternative (3 of 4)




*Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2017*

Figure 4.6-3d

Recreation Emphasis Alternative (4 of 4)