



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Folsom Field Office  
63 Natoma St  
Folsom, CA 95630

July 2004

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management's South Fork American River Management Plan of 2004, set parameters and limitations in its scope that does not allow for any alternative plan which would result in significant adverse environmental impacts, and accommodates suction dredging as an acceptable use; and

# The South Fork American River A Management Plan



## PLANNING CONSTRAINTS

Planning constraints form the parameters, or limitations, in the scope of a plan. They clearly state what the plan will not cover, or define how something will or will not be accomplished. As with the Planning Assumptions, these were developed in an open forum in consultation with the South Fork Planning Group.

1. No plan alternative will be selected which results in significant adverse environmental impacts.
2. The acquired federal lands are currently withdrawn from mineral location and entry (not open to mining claims for 50 years). The original public domain lands, approximately, 2,531 acres of the larger planning area, are currently segregated (segregation is an action which closes the lands to the mining laws for a five year period). This land is withdrawn until February 9, 2007. This plan must determine whether these segregated lands will continue to be withdrawn or be reopened to mineral entry.
3. This plan must be consistent with federal laws, regulations, and policy, and, to the greatest degree possible, the applicable local and state laws.
4. All legal prior existing rights of mining claimants will be recognized.
5. Planning actions will be constrained to BLM managed lands within the boundaries of the South Fork American Planning Area.
6. Newly acquired lands will not be open to the mining law (subject to mining claims).
7. Planning actions and capital developments will be subject to financial constraints and availability of funds.
8. Planning decisions will be based on available data, with only limited crucial inventory work completed by BLM and volunteers to direct and perfect planning decisions.
9. This plan will provide management decisions needed to address problems associated with the shooting area on the Ponderosa Parcel.
10. Restrictions may be placed on public use to protect sensitive natural and cultural resources. Restrictions may also be imposed to protect private property and provide for public health and welfare.
11. No planning decisions will impact recreational navigability of the South Fork American River within the planning area.
12. During the planning process BLM will not issue any permits, leases or rights-of-way, within the planning area which would alter the character of the area or impede planning decisions. Annual Special Recreation Permits will continue to be issued as long as they do not impact or change the character of the area.
13. The BLM will not use condemnation as a management tool.



## VISION STATEMENT

The vision statement contained in a plan such as this one is basically a description of the long range goals of the management plan. The purpose of a good vision statement is to clearly define the purpose of the plan, and to describe what the planning area will be like 20 years from now.

### Vision Statement:

The public lands along the South Fork American River will continue to provide an enjoyable, educational experience for visitors, and to contribute to the quality of life in the local community. The South Fork American will be managed in a fashion that recognizes human needs through a partnership between the BLM, State Parks, El Dorado County, other agencies, landowners, businesses, the community, and recreational users.

Cultural resources, including both prehistoric and historic, will be protected and preserved. The different ecosystems found on the public lands will be protected and enhanced, and, where desirable and practical, restored to pre-Gold Rush conditions. Reasonable public access to the river and the public lands will accommodate a wide range of recreation uses, including, but not limited to boating, hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, bicycling, recreational gold-panning, and suction dredging, consistent with resource protection. The public lands will be managed in a way that respects and protects private property rights, and balances competing uses. Environmental education will be an important aspect of public land management. Where appropriate to implement this vision, the public lands may be supplemented by the acquisition of additional property.

## GENERAL MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

The following management guidelines, or policy statements will apply equally to all parcels of public land which make up the South Fork American River Management Area. These reflect a mixture of conformance to Federal law and policy, and of recommendations from the South Fork Planning Group.

### Relationship with Laws, Policy, and Other Planning Documents

Management of the public lands along the South Fork American River is guided by the Sierra Planning Area Management Framework Plan (MFP), as amended in 1988. The Management Plan for the South Fork American River will be an amendment to the MFP to implement decisions contained in this plan. Topics and issues not specifically addressed in the South Fork Plan will continue to be guided by the MFP.

### Special Area Designation

During the public planning process, participants unanimously recommended the South Fork of the American River for Special Area status. This is consistent with BLM regulations [43 CFR 8372.0-5 (g)] which authorize Special Area designation when it is determined that resources on the public lands require special management and control measures for their protection. The public lands of the South Fork contain extraordinary recreation values, and are part of a region that occupies a unique place in California history. Because of the South Fork's proximity to a major metropolitan area, the need to manage for large numbers of recreationists, and fragile