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ASRA plan

1 message

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To: bosone@edcgov.us, bostwo@edcgov.us, bosthree@edcgov.us, bosfour@edcgov.us, bosfive@edcgov.us, edc.cob@edcgov.us

To the Board of Directors,

My name is April Ashmore I live in Cool. I am writing to say thank you for creating a letter fighting the ASRA plan. I got these email addresses off of Lori Parlin's post on Whats Really Happening on the Divide. She asked for comments and support. It is a disaster of a plan with no input from residents as you stated in the letter. I do hope that this is fought from your end with everything possible as a voter and resident I will be watching and hoping for the best. I have copied what I sent in as a comment just so you know I did my part also. I was wondering if we could get our Cool fire chief and Garden Valley fire district to draft some kind of letter along the same lines condemning the plan. I know Foresthill fire got involved with a letter. In light of the CountryFire and the failed measure B and GV fire assessment seems like ASRA and Bureau of Reclamation might need to apprise of the new situation that is happening up on the divide in regards to our fire personnel and resources from official sources.

Thank you
April Ashmore

My emailed comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the ASRA Preliminary General Plan/ APL Draft Resource Management Plan. My name is April Ashmore I am a 5 year resident of Cool, CA along with my husband. We have 3 kids, 2 horses, 2 dogs and weekly utilize horse and hiking trails such as Olmstead Loop, Robie Trail, and the Quarry Trail. We drive Highway 49 specifically over the Confluence Bridge daily. The ASRA plan needs to start over. After going over the visitor survey done in 2007, the resident survey done last summer which I participated in, and the other documents posted on the webpage it sounds like the people (especially the residents) and ASRA/Bureau of Reclamation are of differing opinions.

First, and my biggest concern is the 245 camping sites and fire danger. Throw the camping idea in the garbage can! It is impractical and stupid. Campsites breed campfires. It is inevitable for the people that come up from Sacramento and San Francisco true city-folk, they want a campfire. They want to have fun. They are going to smoke their pot and light those cigarettes. ASRA is ill-equipped in the ranger department and their ability to control anything. All one has to do is watch the parking catastrophe that unfolds every single weekend thru spring and summer at the confluence bridge. It will cause a person to lose their faith in humanity watching the stupidity of drivers and pedestrians as they navigate a bridge. The rangers are busy though doing a very good job though of sitting under an EZ-up at the trail head parking lot on the Cool side of the bridge for the Western States trail and placing that "Parking lot is full sign and up" and staring at it for hours. Every so often a warden will stop in and ticket people that can't park properly near the information booth and then disappear. It is a joke.

Second, ASRA and Bureau of Reclamation have done nothing to protect Northside school, Cool, and Sliger Mine Rd residents from fire after placing campsites below it. There is no fire break in the plan, no vegetation removal, nothing. Get serious. The camping is a catastrophe to the residents of the Divide from Cool to Greenwood. At the end of the day ASRA/Bureau of Reclamation need to wake up they do not need to over-develop this park. It is a day trip park utilized by people within an hour of it. Every survey you have conducted proves this, in fact, every survey you have conducted shows people come here to hike/ bike/ride/raft and go home.

Third, opening up Olmstead Loop to traffic as is, is ridiculous. Leave Olmstead alone. There is zero signage to designate trail crossing for bikes/people/horses. There is no way to slow traffic down from idiots who will race up and down it. That fire road is littered with pot holes and most importantly if campers are trying to get out how are fire trucks going to get down?? The road is wide but not the whole way down and people in a panic situation are stupid. All one has to do is look at the CountryFire from last week. I left with my horses toward Pilot Hill the 4-way stop in Cool was a nightmare. Traffic into Cool backed all the way into canyon, Olmstead was crowded with cars, the town parking lots were inundated with cars. Law enforcement personnel struggled with the traffic trying to get thru to fire area. It was a second Paradise in the making. The only thing that stopped the CountryFire was no wind and our brave firefighters.

ASRA and Bureau of Reclamation need to wake up and realize all of this. I am not against a plan but be realistic.

Homeowners are losing their insurance and now after CountryFire it will only get worse. Measure B failed! Garden Valley Assesment Failed! Garden Valley has already released a statement they are laying 2 firefighters of as of June 2020. Rumor has it Cool fire station might close with the Measure B loss. Our fire resources and personnel CANNOT SUPPORT this plan. By implementing this you put my family and all our friends at risk with no regard to our livelihood and homes. The Bureau of Reclamation has a long history of over-development, false studies, and made up facts all one has to do is look at its history and the development of the southwestern United States and all its dams and parks. ASRA cannot manage the park as it currently exists effectively and you people think adding stuff to it like campsites is a great idea. This needs to stop and it needs to stop here. Auburn State Park is a jewel to this community and things like fixing the parking nightmare (which could be its own study with Cal TRANS), more picnic spots, better trail signage, better bathrooms and MAINTENANCE! are the key. Throw in a footbridge if you have to, but if you connect Auburn to Cool better put a ranger near the bridge to stop homeless people from Auburn coming over and camping and starting fires. ASRA needs to create a wonderful day trip park that goes along with what the PEOPLE WANT not big government agencies and clueless management. Leave Auburn state park as is and enhance what is here not overdevelop it. Stay out of Olmstead Loop, do not put campsites in ANYWHERE!!!, stay away from Sliger Mine Rd and the residents there, they have had enough fire scares in the past 5 years already we do not need to burn the place down. PLEASE listen to the residents we are the people living here when everyone goes home. I doubt anyone associated with this plan lives up on the Divide. We are the ones to clean up visitor weekend messes, we are the ones that will be evacuating and losing everything due to a careless camper that you let in. Be reasonable, if there is money to spend fix what exists don't add more crap. Thank you

April Ashmore