

Appendix B

El Dorado County River Management Plan Update Workshops

Summary of Community Input

El Dorado County River Management Plan Update Workshops **Summary of Community Input**

Overview

On June 3, 2015, the El Dorado County Parks and Trails Department hosted two workshops in Coloma to discuss ways the County can improve/refine the River Management Plan (RMP). Since the early 1980s, the County has managed commercial and non-commercial whitewater recreation to enhance public health, safety, and welfare and preserve environmental values. The RMP establishes a set of operational rules for commercial and private boaters navigating the South Fork of the American River between the Chili Bar Dam and Salmon Falls Road in El Dorado County.

The workshops were held at the Coloma Grange during the following times:

- Workshop A: 2:00 – 4:30 pm
- Workshop B: 6:30 – 9:00 pm

A total of 63 people attended the workshops and provided a wealth of ideas, perspectives and concerns to be addressed in the updated River Management Plan. The following is a summary of the major themes/ideas discussed followed by detailed notes.



Major Themes from Both Workshops



STATION 1: EDUCATIONAL, SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

- Create a loaner program for personal floatation devices (PFDs), and require helmets and PFDs for all river users
- Ban alcohol on the river to reduce noise and crime, and improve safety
- Create a shuttle service to improve traffic and reduce parking impacts
- Improve access for physically impaired private boaters and elderly boaters that may have difficulty moving their boats up access roads
- Support cultural, historical, natural history and interpretation programs for river users, including special training for river guides
- Update signage to provide more effective warnings to prevent unqualified people from entering the river
- Combat invasive species such as the New Zealand Snail
- Coordinate code and law enforcement between agencies
- Increase County river patrols and ensure staff have adequate training
- Track, record and report crime incidents and statistics
- Create a rescue and safety training program

STATION 2: MONITORING, COORDINATION AND FUNDING

- Develop parking solutions for high use areas
- Direct money from the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) towards capital improvement projects such as improvements to Henningsen Lotus park and/or Chili Bar to Salmon Falls project management
- Test water quality and regularly report results to the State database
- Consider requiring fees for private boaters and/or developing a fee structure that directs funds towards a sustainable river program
- Enforce boat tag regulations in order to identify pirate rafters
- Explore funding opportunities such as grants, partnering with non-profit organization, and/or developing a combined funding/education program

STATION 3: PERMITS (INDIVIDUAL, INSTITUTIONAL AND COMMERCIAL)

- Develop a unified interagency permitting system to replace the current need to buy permits from multiple agencies
- Establish a program to either retire or reallocate unused permits
- Rethink the permit system for institutional users
- Consider permits for private boaters, tubers and small rafts
- Do not impose fees/permitting requirements on private boaters
- Check permits and enforce permitting regulations and penalties
- Improve enforcement and fines of permit violations and noise at campgrounds

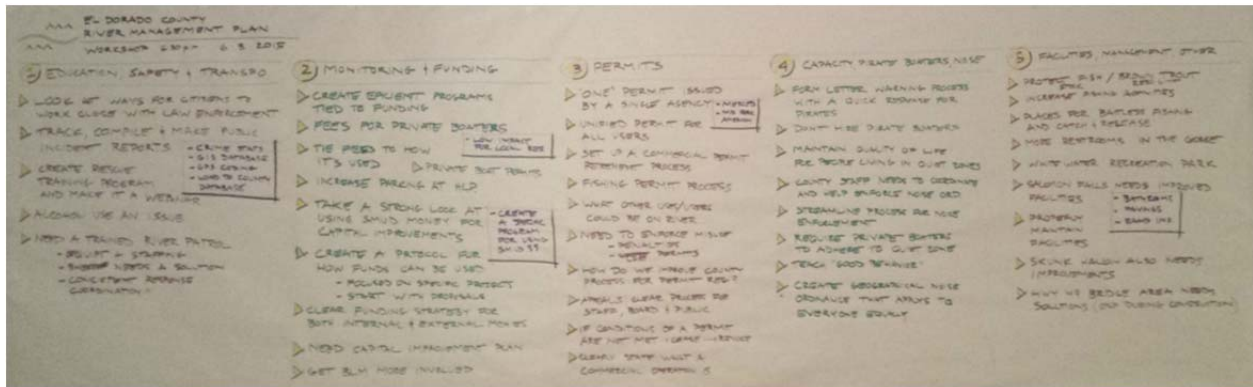
STATION 4: CARRYING CAPACITY, PIRATE BOATERS AND QUIET ZONE

- Study the river's carrying capacity and develop a long term strategy tied to permit quotas
- Create a 24/7 hotline to report pirate boaters
- Improve signage related to quiet zones (enter and exit areas) and better communicate rules and penalties
- Improve enforcement in the quiet zone in order to maintain quality of life for residents
- Consider updating the noise ordinance
- Increase County patrols and Parks and Recreation staff
- Enforce pirate boating laws and impose penalties

STATION 5: FACILITIES, LAND MANAGEMENT AND ALL OTHER TOPICS

- Improve County transparency and accountability
- Improve parking at Greenwood Creek, Henningsen Lotus Park and along Highway 49
- Install more restrooms along the river, including self-composting toilets
- Develop specific guidelines for boaters and how they relate to private property, including a clear understanding of liability issues, legal rights and responsibilities
- Consider catch and release fly fishing only areas
- Properly maintain County and State facilities

Detailed Comments and Input



The following are the verbatim comments written down during the two workshops.

STATION 1: EDUCATIONAL, SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

Workshop A Wallgraphic

- Natural history education led by guides
- Correctly spell all features (Chili Bar vs. Chile Bar)
- Ensure staff have adequate training and clear rules
- Coordinate code and law enforcements – evacuation plans, hazards, responsibilities, property and resident rights
- Ban alcohol on the river
- Consider Personal Floatation Device (PFD) loaner program
- On river education programs

Workshop B Wallgraphic

- Look at ways for citizens to work closely with law enforcement
- Track, compile and make public [crime] incident reports
- Crime states, GIS database, GPS coding, load to County database
- Create resolve training program and make it a webinar
- Alcohol use is an issue
- Need a trained river patrol (equipment and staffing, Sheriff needs a solution, consistent response coordination)

Workshop A Station Notes

- Provide clear guidance on rules for transiting private land (e.g., Chili Bar to Meat Grinder)

- Need more effective warnings at access point to prevent unqualified people from entering the river
- Personal Floatation Device (PFD) loaner program for kids/families
- River Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) meetings should be in Coloma/Lotus
- Cultural and historical interpretation for river guides (commercial and private)
- Natural history education for river users and guides, California Naturalist Certification/American Red Cross
- Shuttle for trail uses during rafting off season
- More shuttle service
- Ban alcohol
- Enforce clearing flood zone, non-APR
- Code/Law enforcement for trespassers
- Update signage at Chili Bar (in cooperation with ARC)
- New Zealand snail information and other invasive species
- Put a new SRT outfitter/EDCO Sheriff committee in place
- More patrolling at Henningsen Lotus Park for private boaters, tubers and PFDs
- What does the Sheriff River Patrol do?

Workshop B Station Notes

- Shuttle stop on Bureau of Land Management (BML) land before the gorge, extending loop
- Not in favor of kayaking or tubing
- All guides (commercial and institutional) could train together (swift water and CPR) in classes sanctioned by the County, better mutual aid and better community
- Does the County track incident report dates and use the data to inform management and/or law enforcement priorities?
- Does the County make incident report data available to the public?
- Guide education-more universal/consistent, first aid training
- Hard-shell helmets should be mandatory for kayakers in addition to PFDs
- Revive outfitter/Sheriff safety committee
- Active involvement of EDSO as per RMP in the code and law enforcement/safety aspects on the American River corridor
- Mandate transportation plans for institutional groups
- Possibly improved access for physically impaired private boaters – there are elderly boaters that have difficulty carrying their boats up access roads
- Schedule interpretive workshops for State Parks
- Webinar for rescue/safety

STATION 2: MONITORING, COORDINATION AND FUNDING

Workshop A Wallgraphic

- Use SMUD money for capital improvements and trust fund
- Need parking solutions for high use areas
- Share water data with the State
- Test water quality less frequently (no issues in the past)
- Need accountability and monitoring
- Grants, other funding sources

Workshop B Wallgraphic

- Create efficient programs tied to funding
- Fees for private boaters
- Low impact for local residents
- Tie fees to how it is uses
- Increase parking at Henningsen Lotus Park
- Take a strong look at using SMUD money for capital improvements
- Create a specific program for using SMUD money
- Create a protocol for how funds can be used, focused on specific projects, start with proposals
- Clear funding strategy for both internal and external money
- Need a capital improvement plan
- Get BLM more involved

Workshop A Station Notes

- Partner with non-profit organizations to attract funding for river improvements and/or facilities
- Report water quality monitoring data to CEDEN (State database)
- Transparency and accountability for ARC/MGDP/BLM funding and operations
- Use percentage of SMUD money for capital improvements and partner with CAL Boating and RMP budget
- Dump water testing, not an issue
- Funding combined with environmental education at Chili Bar and Salmon Falls, like at Folsom Dam
- Have SMUD FERC money directed toward Chili Bar to Salmon Falls project management

Workshop B Station Notes

- Capital improvements to Henningsen Lotus Park, use of SMUD money
- Real boat counts, not self reported or rapid shoot photos
- Funding – EDG needs to fund programs and not depend on commercial funding along
- Carrying capacity – think more about trips at one time crowding
- We need SMUD funding from Chili Bar to Folsom, this river corridor is part of the Upper American River
- Currently, need to buy at least three park passes used for kayaking and enjoying the river. There should be one pass for Chili Bar/Coloma/Henningsen Lotus Park, and Salmon Falls. The funds raised for the interagency pass could support river needs
- Mandatory enforcement and monitoring of the coordination process (see white paper)
- Fee structure that enables a sustainable river program
- The other two forks of the America River are beautiful. The South Fork has a lot of matter suspended in the water and looks mucky. Not just this year (King Fire), but increasingly worse over the past six years. What is causing it?
- Parking fees are not the answer to funding. SMUD money is the answer
- Closer scrutiny of ARC/BLM land acquisitions and legal operations (See 5/5/15 BOS-Sweeney doc re: Chili Bar)
- Private boaters need to pay for a tag and made to pay a fee for river use. More river management staff is needed for this.
- River tags needs unique IDs in order to identify pirate rafters
- Monitoring of residential septic systems and fertilizer/pesticide use. Moratorium on grading and grape vineyard along the river. The river is developing algae and other contamination.

STATION 3: PERMITS (INDIVIDUAL, INSTITUTIONAL AND COMMERCIAL)

Workshop A Wallgraphic

- Use permits or remove from the system
- Compensation to retire unused permits
- Make sure new programs reduce supply and improve the environment
- Lottery system for private boaters (Middle Fork Salmon, Tuolumne)
- Campgrounds permits need monitoring, revoke if necessary
- Tubes/small rafts need permits as well
- Could State charge/enforce?
- Better posting of rules
- Litter issues
- 24/7 hotline

- More staffing
- Coloma resort needs better monitoring
- Protect property and quality of life

Workshop B Wallgraphic

- “One” permit issued by a single agency
- Unified permit for users
- Set up a commercial permit retirement process
- Water other uses/users could be on the river?
- Need to enforce misuse penalties/permits
- How do we improve the County process for permit regulation?
- Appeals, clear process for staff, board, and public
- If conditions of a permit are not met, cease, revoke
- Clear statement of what a commercial operation is

Workshop A Station Notes

- Enhance etiquette handout on boating tag
- Fire safety info at put in
- Code enforcement/consequences of SUP violations, including campground and noise violations
- Stickers rather than tags for regular (private) boaters that they can attach to their boats/helmets to ID them rather than have multiple tags for their various boats (like Idaho’s invasive species stickers which actually stay on)
- Institutions should have permits to insure safe and educated guides
- Institutional permits should only apply to institutional fundraisers. Institutions not raising funds should be treated as private.
- Establish (or study) commercial permit retirement fund
- Do not impose new fees on private boaters. Enforce the law that forbids companies from sharing permit days.
- Get enforcement of non-permitted trips being run for commercial profit (definition of commercial trips)
- Private boater tags are a waste of paper and money

Workshop B Station Notes

- Registered permits for private boaters
- Determine quotas (see carrying capacity) and make sure cumulative numbers between institutional and commercial stay inline
- Commercial permit retirement fund/process

- Separate pool on institutional user days
- Permit availability for guided fishing trips (reallocation of unused user permits)
- Need online calendar for commercial – real time
- Allow temporary transfer/borrowing of commercial used days
- Have BLM administer one permit with MDU's with EDC and SP
- Planning/environmental management/code-law enforcement of campgrounds. Fine and revocation for violations
- Allow commercial RUP's to be split to non RUP holders
- No transfer of commercial user days, no borrowing
- Adequate proof of curriculum for institutions
- Permit checks while on the water

STATION 4: CARRYING CAPACITY, PIRATE BOATERS AND QUIET ZONE

Workshop A Wallgraphic

- More enforcement of pirate boaters and noise
- Change/update noise ordinance
- Improve signage with penalties identified within quiet zones
- Community committed established monitoring
- Unified sign program
- Posted clearly on the two bridges
- Ensure quiet zone has a 'common sense' approach to monitoring
- Enter and exit quiet zone signs
- Overall capacity...what is the long term strategy?
- Rates for high/low water years
- Reduce compression by metering boating starts
- Close quiet zone areas
- Clear vision
- Methodology
- Safety considerations

Workshop B Wallgraphic

- Form letter warning process with a quick response for pirates
- Don't hire pirate boaters
- Maintain quality of life for people living in quiet zones
- County staff needs to coordinate and enforce the noise ordinance
- Streamline process for noise enforcement
- Require private boaters to adhere to quiet zone
- Teach 'good behavior'

- Create a geographical noise ordinance that applies to everyone equally

Workshop A Station Notes

- Better enforcement of the quiet zone
- Require every floater to have a tag and map
- Apply quiet zone noise rules to private boaters
- More law enforcement in Class II areas
- Increase enforcement on pirate boaters
- Code and law enforcement of boaters and campgrounds in quiet zone to protect resident's quality of life and property values. Coordination with EDSO, Planning and CS Parks.
- Enforce a curfew on noise (off river) at outfitter camps
- Enforce pirate laws. There is zero serious enforcement now.
- Nothing in the new RMP should have the potential to increase crowding
- Post a hotline phone number to report pirate trips

Workshop B Station Notes

- Tubers need to be educated regarding private lands
- Private boaters/tubers education regarding access PTSV
- Quiet zone need more patrol/education
- Online calendar for commercial use
- Allocate funds for studying carrying capacity and regulate permits for institutional and commercial permits to stay within the quota.
- Determine a real carrying capacity
- Pirate boating is a criminal offense and should be enforced by all law enforcements (SP/SQ/EWP)
- Eliminate so patrol on river, be land based
- Would like to see a little more County river patrols for safety due to more and more crowding on the river during summer
- Pirate boaters need to be prosecuted
- Happy sounds of people having fund on the river are welcome
- Campgrounds need to be fined/have SUPs (Special Use Permit) revoked for quiet zone violations
- Petition EDSO and planning to enforce/revoke SUPs for frequent violations of noise within the quiet zone
- Quiet zone education and enforcement
- Enforce other 'pirate' activities – photographers, instruction, IK tours, plus follow through with commercial companies that support the pirates (double standard)

- Increase fees to support County enforcement and parks and recreation staffing
- Create an enforceable County code for pirate boats
- Qualify the “look/picture” of pirate boaters, provide opportunity to report, and then follow through. They are blatantly doing something illegal
- Place to turn in their business cars or brochures when they try to drop them off at your business

STATION 5: FACILITIES, LAND MANAGEMENT AND ALL OTHER TOPICS

Workshop A Wallgraphic

- Need transparency and accountability
- More parking at Greenwood creek
- Different legal/resource constraints
- Parking on Highway 49 a safety issue
- More parking at Lotus park
- Need to address invasive plants
- Monroe ridge connector trail
- Network of self-composting toilets and better restrooms
- Specific guidelines for boaters and how they relate to private property
- Clear understanding of liability issues and legal rights and responsibilities
- Catch and release fly fishing only areas
- Protect wild fish
- Fix skunk hollow
- Legal definition, maps, uses/rights, directions

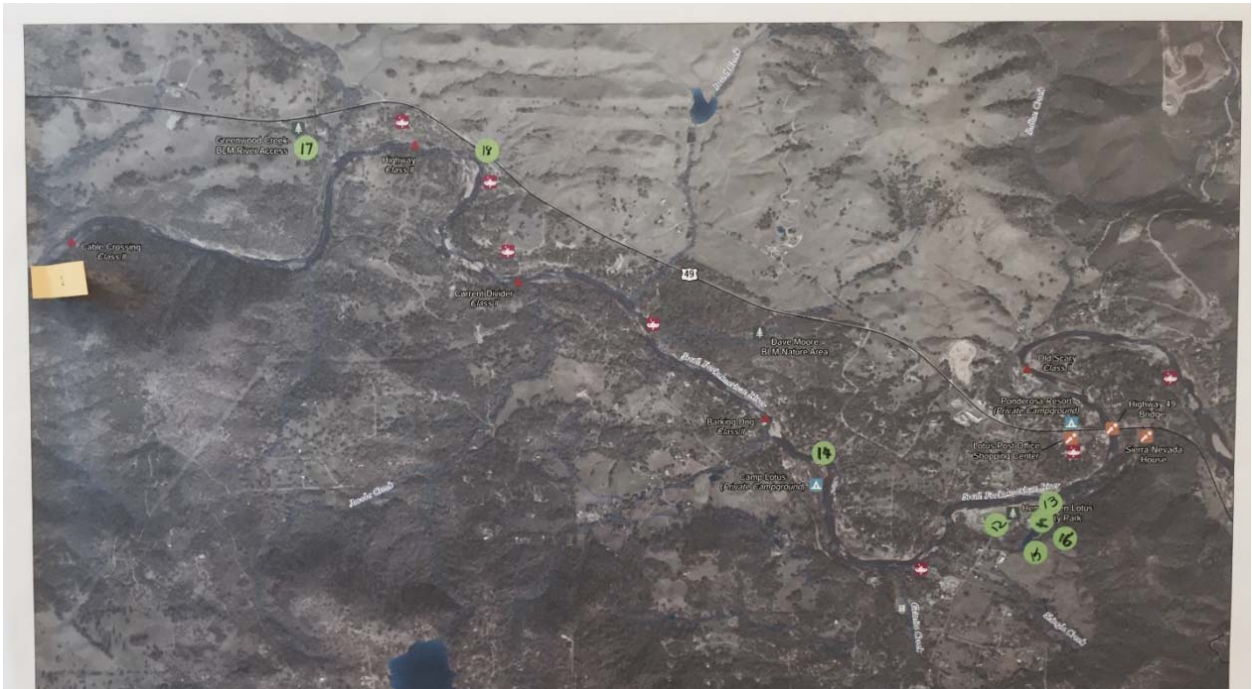
Workshop B Wallgraphic

- Protect fish/brown trout – zero limit
- Increase fishing activities
- Places for bait less fishing and catch and release
- More restrooms in the gorge
- Salomon falls needs improved facilities (bathroom, paving, ramp improvements)
- Properly maintain facilities
- Skunk Hollow also needs improvements
- Highway 49 bridge area needs solutions (especially during construction)

Workshop A Station Notes

Note: the numbers on the following comments correspond to location stickers on the maps

1. Boar ramp to water's edge
2. New restroom facility
3. Drinking water
4. Lotus Park upgrades – water park
5. Gorge restroom
6. Rehab/improve Chili Bar and implement site plan.
7. New bathrooms
8. Cell phone coverage (Gorge and Salmon Falls)
9. Self-composting bathroom every two miles
10. Potable water (Skunk and Salmon Falls)
11. Greater transparency and accountability of operations and land acquisitions by ARC/BLM/MGDP. Coordinate with residents adversely affected by legal issues.
12. Scotch Broom/Ailanthus invasive plant removal
13. Connector trail between MGDSHP and Henningsen Lotus Park, develop and provide access behind the ball fields
13. No white water park at Henningsen Lotus Park. This would be better at Chili Bar.
14. Single barbless fishing
15. If white water is built at Henningsen Lotus Park, more parking will be needed for the summer months.
16. Buy Van Noords property for parking.
17. Simplify the permit process for organizations using the Bureau of Land Management property
18. Put log on river, right on easy Class II rapid before Highway Rapid. It comes into play if one isn't floating down the middle of the river.
19. Provide clear guidance for people walking from Chili Bar to Meat Grinder trail on private property
20. Post information on river etiquette for tubers and private boaters





Workshop B Station Notes

Note: the numbers on the following comments correspond to location stickers on the maps

1. Utilize Chili Bar park for greater public use (camping, day use, store, etc.)
2. Limit and enforce the limitations regarding public drunkenness and alcohol on the river, compared to the Greenway (so drinkers don't come upstream just to drink)
3. Extend class II to Corona Ranch. Take volume off of greenwood. (There is both support and resistance to this idea).
4. Related to alcohol misuse (#2) please enforce the use of PFDs and other safety methods for children who are not careful with child safety (e.g., kids tied into tubes).
5. Potentially great spot for a whitewater feature
6. More patrol of Bridge to Greenwood for tubers, alcohol, and noise
7. More supervision and education at Henningsen Lotus Park
8. Compost toilet
9. Outside legal consultants to monitor ARC/MDGP/BLM land acquisitions (70% of EDC is public owned and exempt from paying taxes)
10. This applies to the entire river. Create and enforce regulations to ban manufactured items (e.g., RVs and camping gear) below the high water line during the flood season
11. Chili Bar to Trouble Maker needs special fishing regulations
12. Need more quiet enforcement, especially for tubers
13. Play Park

- 14. Whitewater play feature at Nugget
- 15. Take out ramp
- 16. Add parking overflow area

