



*2020
El Dorado County
River Management
Plan Annual Report*



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2020 El Dorado County River Management Plan Annual Report

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El Dorado County River Management Plan

2020 Annual Report

INTRODUCTION

The El Dorado County River Management Plan (RMP) 2020 Annual Report provides information on the 2020 river season and ongoing RMP implementation. The RMP has been written to be an adaptive management plan and 2020 we have done just as everyone else has we adapted to the changes. This 2020 Annual River Report documents the activities and changes in during the 2020 season.

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

At the beginning of 2020, we expected a typical year with modest flows. But March changed the year when a COVID-19 pandemic was declared, and in subsequent days and weeks many businesses and activities were shut down or restricted. Some restrictions were lifted by mid summer, but the seasonal impact on commercial outfitters, and river operations, was severe. The Parks Division moved forward with issuing the Commercial River Permits as we did not know how the season would unfold. Working with the commercial outfitters it was estimated the season could be about 20% of normal during 2020. The Parks Division implemented an adaptive management plan to meet the projected revenue shortfall.

Commerical rafting was open in the middle of June. State Parks opened Marshall Gold and Salmon Falls in the middle of July. Chili Bar was open the whole time but with commercial use closed it was open for private use. As a result use of at 53% of normal much better then anticipated. But the county took action to meet the revenue shortfall by doing the following:

Staffing: There were four Seasonal River Aides budgeted and staff was proceeding with the hiring process. During the hiring process, commercial river use was not allowed to operate with the COVID restrictions. The commercial outfitters were estimating use could be as low as 20% of normal. The Parks Division has an approved budget but to be responsible and responsive to the situation we also reduced staff to adjust for the loss in revenues. Seasonal staff was reduced to two River Aides.

The two River Aides were providing educational information at the put in locations, taking the water samples and ensuring that the requirments of the RMP was being followed. Mid way through the season staff was reduced to one. To accommodate this change, the division used staff from the Henningsen Lotus Park to provide shuttles and boat counts. This is also at a reduced hourly rate. To ensure that the Parks Division was on the water for education, staff such

at the Parks Manager was also on the water since we cannot run an employee alone. We also had volunteers who would also volunteer to be with the employee so we could be on the water and meet safety requirements.

During COVID we saw many people discovering Coloma and the South Fork of the American River. This was a safety concern for the many people who were enjoying the Coloma to Greenwood section known as the C2G section. Staff focused on this area during the 2020 season. A new lifejacket campaign was launched and staff worked with the campgrounds regarding the safety concern. We had compliance regarding life jackets in the 2020 season.

Another change in 2020 was that the position of the River Recreation Supervisor. This position was replaced with an Administrative Technician. Many of the functions are administrative in nature and staff time studies to programs so that hours spent on the river program are the only charges the program will experience. Therefore this position of Administrative Technician can support other programs in the division and the river is not charged for functions that are not river related.

One of the division goals, is to have the annual river report completed by November so that the community has an opportunity to comment and any changes can be implemented in the spring before the season. This report did not meet that timeline. This report has been present to the adhoc Coloma Lotus Advisory Committee (CLAC) on January 7th. The draft plan will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) on January 21st and to the full CLAC on January 28th. The final report will be presented to the PRC on February 18th. This provides the public time for input and to discuss possible changes that may need to be made for the following year.

In the annual report the budget is always presented. The chart has historically been based on budget but not what the actual expenses are. So a chart has been added to show what the expenses were. The difficult part of this is that is based on a fiscal year July 1 through June 30. But the other information in the report is on a calendar year.

Another impact to the river season was the wildfire season and the smoke in the Coloma Lotus valley. Health official were advising for individuals to stay in side and river use was down during these times.

In the 2021 season the following changes are being discussed with the community.

Possibly changing the map. It seems like the map needs to be revised as the information is old and somewhat inappropriate. For example the map identifies campgrounds and the services available, but they are not public lands. They are services for their customers not the general public but the map directs them to those locations. We also need to identify private property from public lands in a better manner, as it is not clear. The map seems to be confusing for uses. So we will be working with the CLAC on a revised map.

The Parks Division will also work closely with Sheriff's Office on assisting with their patrols. Meaning that is the Sheriff's Office needs a second person for safety one of the River Aides would be able to run with the Sheriff's Office. Also working with the Sheriff's Office on where the community and river aides see additional patrols are needed. So better communication.

Currently we are preparing for a busy river season. We have budgeted and are moving forward with hiring four seasonal River Aides for 2021. We will use the park staff again for shuttles as this was very efficient and a cost savings.

We have an intern that would like to work with the Parks Division this summer. We are pursuing that and would like to get a river count on the C2G section this season. This would be helpful for planning and to quantify the use on the midsection of the river.

We have additional educational information that was developed but not released in 2020. That is explained further in this report.

RIVER VALLEY

The 21-mile section of the South Fork of the American River from Chili Bar Dam to Folsom Reservoir continues to be one of the most rafted and kayaked rivers in the State of California with annual use averaging well over 100,000 people. Due to Covid-19 this year's average numbers were down 47% from previous years.

Seven miles of this river flows through the Coloma Lotus Valley, a well-known historic and national recreational destination. There are four large public campgrounds in addition to the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, Henningsen Lotus County Park, and several Bureau of Land Management (BLM) parcels situated along the river. Public trails provide access to the river and, in some areas, run adjacent to the river at either end of the valley. Public access to the river is available at the State Highway 49 Bridge, as well as nine private properties with Special Use Permits. The number and diversity of recreational facilities and privately owned properties along the river, combined with the annually scheduled recreational water release flows, make the South Fork of the American River a globally recognized destination for class II-III boating as well as other forms of river recreation.

WATER FLOWS

The precipitation for 2020 ended up being below average for the water year. As of May 1st, the yearly precipitation was 70 percent of normal, a decrease from 125 percent at the same time last year. The snowpack water content on May 1, 2020, was about 40 percent of average to date as compared to 160 percent on May 1, 2019. Reservoir storage statewide was also 100 percent of average overall, which was a 15 percent decrease at than the same point in 2019. The complete California Department of Water Resources Bulletin 120 (May 1, 2020) report can be available at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/snow/bulletin120/>.

Figure 1: California Snow Water Content Comparison Panel

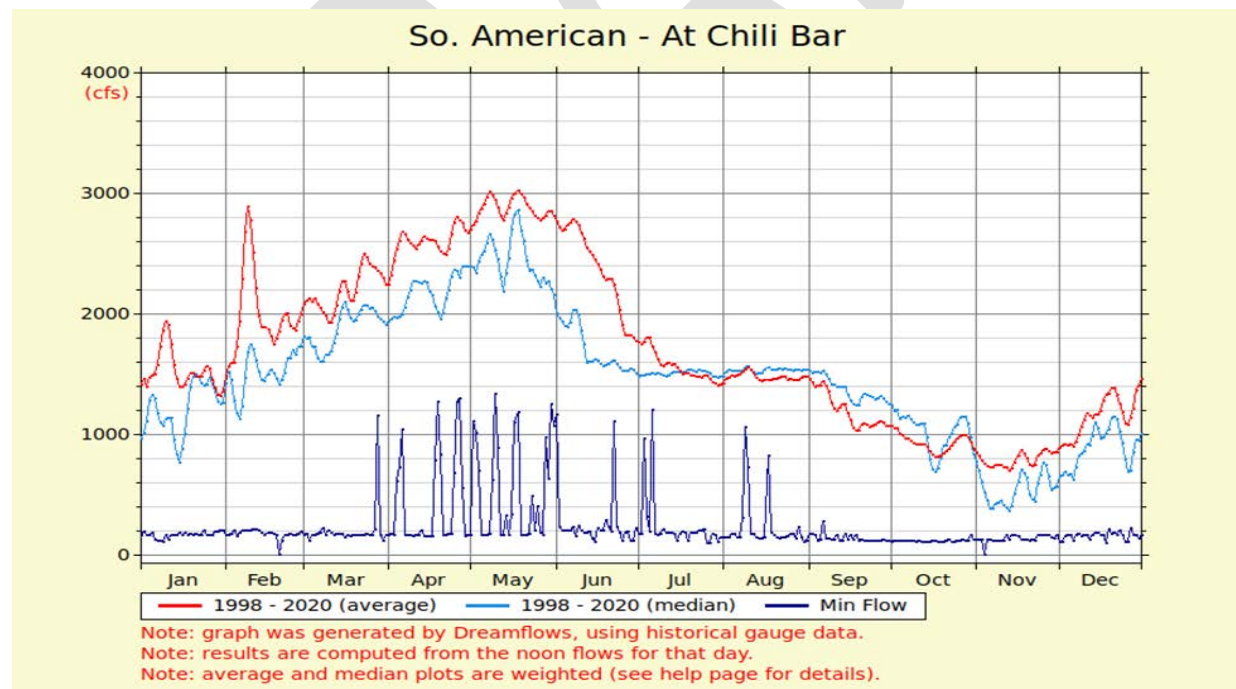
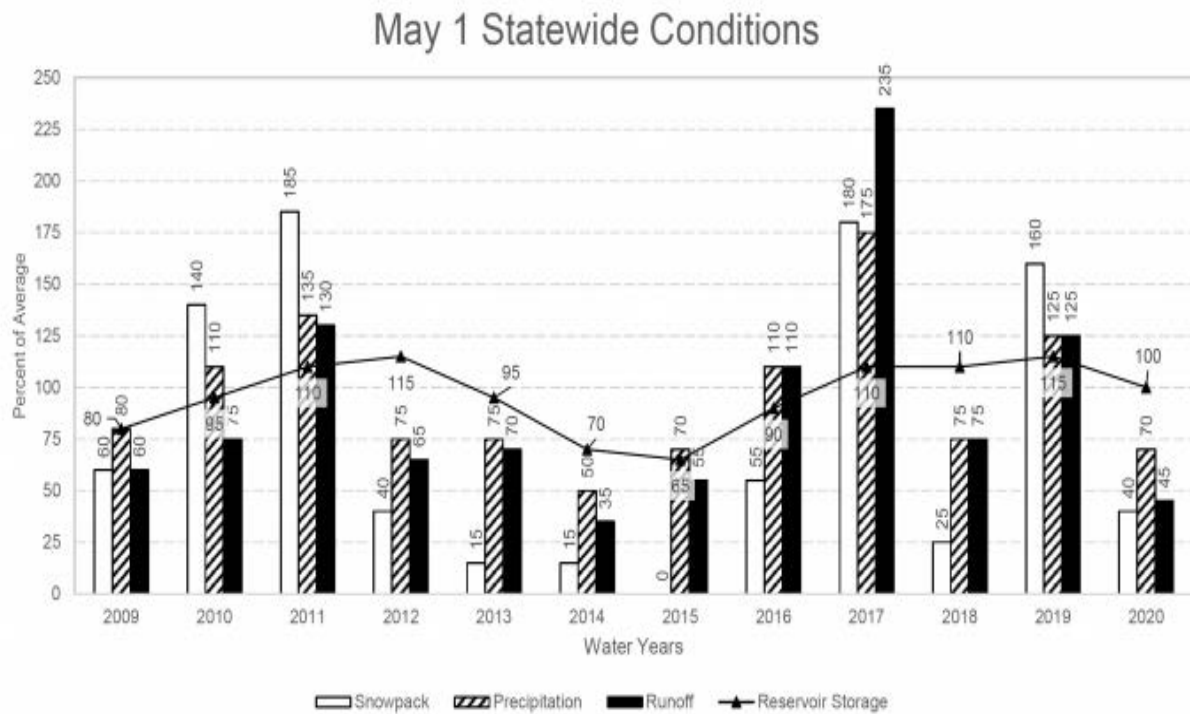


Figure 2: South Fork of the American River Flow as recorded at Chili Bar 2015-2020

The water year type in 2020 was designated as a “dry” year. The water year type assigns the release schedule out of Chili Bar Reservoir for river recreation. The Sacramento Municipal Utility District’s (SMUD), and Pacific Gas and Electric’s (PG&E) Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license for dams on the South Fork of the American River requires regular recreational releases. The release volume averaged between 1,300 on weekdays and 1,500 on the weekend's cubic feet per second (CFS) in 2020.

The change in water year type from last year resulted in lower than expected releases. The graph in figure 2 above demonstrates the release volume.

The chart below explains the Water Year Type designations with corresponding flow schedules out of Chili Bar Dam.

South Fork American River Below Chili Bar Reservoir Dam Minimum Recreational Flow by Water Year (cfs)								
WATER YEAR TYPE	PERIOD	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Super Dry	April - Memorial Day	3 Hrs @ 1300					3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300
	Memorial Day - Labor Day	3 Hrs @ 1300			3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300	5 Hrs @ 1300	5 Hrs @ 1300
	Labor Day - September						3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300
	October - March						3 Hrs @ 1300	
Critically Dry	March - Memorial Day	3 Hrs @ 1300					3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300
	Memorial Day - Labor Day	3 Hrs @ 1300			3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300	5 Hrs @ 1500	5 Hrs @ 1500
	Labor Day - September					3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300
	October - February						3 Hrs @ 1300	
Dry	March - Memorial Day	3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300			3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500
	Memorial Day - Labor Day	3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300		3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300	5 Hrs @ 1500	5 Hrs @ 1500
	Labor Day - September					3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300
	October - February						3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300
Below Normal	March - Memorial Day	3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300		3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500
	Memorial Day - Labor Day	3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300		3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300	6 Hrs @ 1500	6 Hrs @ 1500
	Labor Day - September				3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500
	October	3 Hrs @ 1300				3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500
Above Normal	November - February						3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300
	March - Memorial Day	3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300	4 Hrs @ 1750	4 Hrs @ 1750
	Memorial Day - Labor Day	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500	6 Hrs @ 1750	6 Hrs @ 1750
	Labor Day - September				3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500
Wet	October	3 Hrs @ 1300				3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500
	November - February						3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500
	March - Memorial Day	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500	6 Hrs @ 1750	6 Hrs @ 1750
	Memorial Day - Labor Day	4 Hrs @ 1500	4 Hrs @ 1500	4 Hrs @ 1500	4 Hrs @ 1500	4 Hrs @ 1500	6 Hrs @ 1750	6 Hrs @ 1750
	Labor Day - September				3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500
	October	3 Hrs @ 1300				3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500
	November - February						3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500
	March - Memorial Day	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500	6 Hrs @ 1750	6 Hrs @ 1750

Table 1: Chili Bar Dam Release Schedule by Water year Type (2020 “Dry” water year)

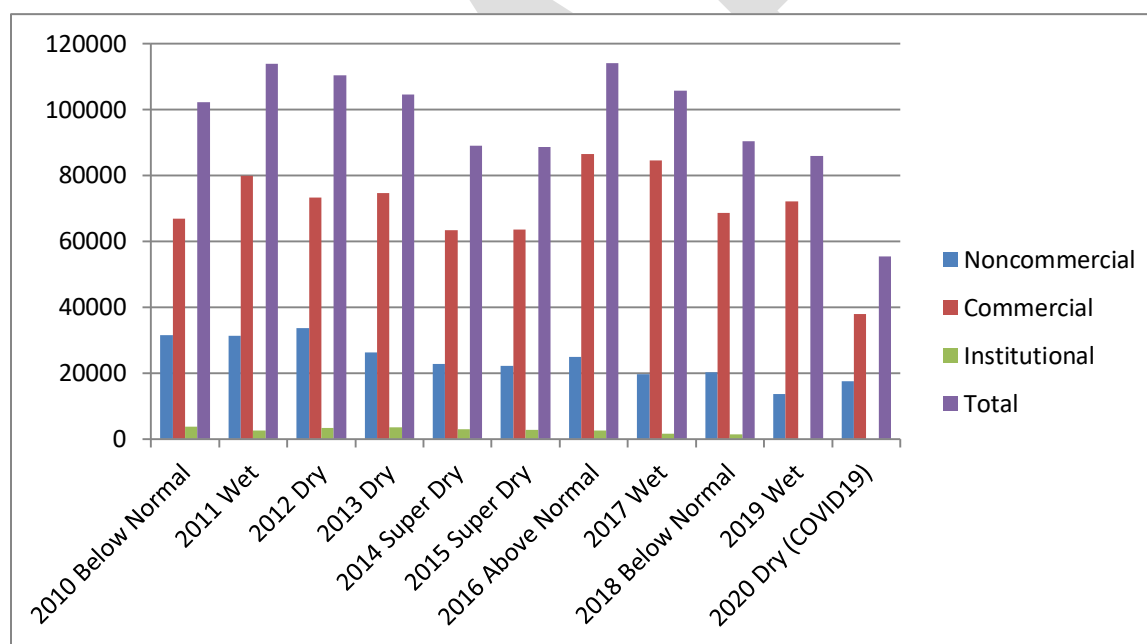
RIVER USE

Use in 2020 decreased drastically in comparison to 2019. The 2020 season began with Covid-19 closures. Commercial Rafting Companies working with the County were able to open

whitewater rafting in the middle of June. State Parks did not open Skunk Hollow and Salmon Falls until the middle of July which meant no lower use. This resulted in use on the upper section until July. As the restrictions were lifted commercial numbers started to rise but below normal and some companies did not apply for permits for the season. Total numbers were down 51 percent compared to 2019. We noticed that camping and river shore use was up sizably because everyone was getting outdoors. . Do to the increase in shore use in the Coloma Lotus area, our staff concentrated many hours on education and life jacket safety in that area.

Spring runoff (snowmelt) behind dams control the river level on the South Fork usually begins in May. The availability of whitewater on the river is consistent year to year from the scheduled recreational water releases. *Figure 3* below shows the river use totals for commercial outfitters (37,917 guests), down 47 percent from 2019 and private boaters (17,500 people Estimated). This year was very difficult for Institutional groups and they are not included in these numbers. The graph also shows the water type year from 2006-2020. SMUD water releases water based on the water year type.

*Commercial Use Numbers do not include guides and guide trainees



The 5-mile middle section of the river from Coloma to Greenwood Creek in the Coloma/Lotus Valley continues to be a popular class II section of the river. There is a continued concern that alcohol bans on other regional rivers during holiday weekends would attract the drinking inner tube partiers to the South Fork of the American River. However, alcohol consumption remains constant and within responsible levels, and there has not been an increase in citations issued by the Sheriff's Department or State Parks A glass ban on the river, implemented in 2017 with additional signage, appears to have reduced the number of glass containers brought on the river.

The seasonal use on the middle section has been difficult to quantify due to the many put-in's and take-out locations along this section of the river. Use during non-scheduled release days and use at minimum flows along with the ability for users to run multiple trips in a day, adds to the complexity of capturing the use numbers for the middle section. There are approximately 30 weekend days annually between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend. Based on prior year counts, a conservative estimate of use for this section could easily be 9,000 people based on an average of 300 people per weekend day. These past counts include class II boaters, inner tubes, and other casual floaters who do not usually attempt to float the class III sections of the river.

The focus of the river staff was on education and the new life jacket campaign. The focus area was the Coloma to Greenwood Creek known as (C2G) where many tubers and other casual floats occur and life jacket compliance has been an issue.

OUTFITTER USE

Commercial outfitters are the primary source for public rafting excursions down the South Fork. There were 20 permitted outfitters in 2020; 17 permits were used. 24 permits were issued in 2019. Some outfitters did not operate due to COVID. The count for commercial use was 37,917 which are 53% of normal use.

The consolidation of outfitters on the South Fork and rivers nationwide has been an ongoing trend over the last 15 years, resulting in more companies having multiple trips on the water or more extended trips more frequently, impacting other river users when these companies' trips overlap. Overlapping typically occurs at lunch rest spots and at various locations on the river when one trip slows down for photos, groups join up for takeout, or when a full river trip catches up to a trip doing just the lower section. While density remains below thresholds, there were still some congestion issues at popular spots for taking out and lunch/bathroom breaks.

The 2001 RMP requirement for keeping trips, defined as seven rafts, of the same company separate so "sufficient distance between groups should be maintained so that, if needed, other individual boats may fit in" was changed with the adoption of the 2018 RMP. The RMP changes call for an initial spacing of five minutes between launches. An exception to this change is allowing for the regrouping of trips below Hospital Bar Rapid for trip consolidation of shuttles and improved efficiency at take-out (Salmon Falls).

INSTITUTIONAL GROUP USE

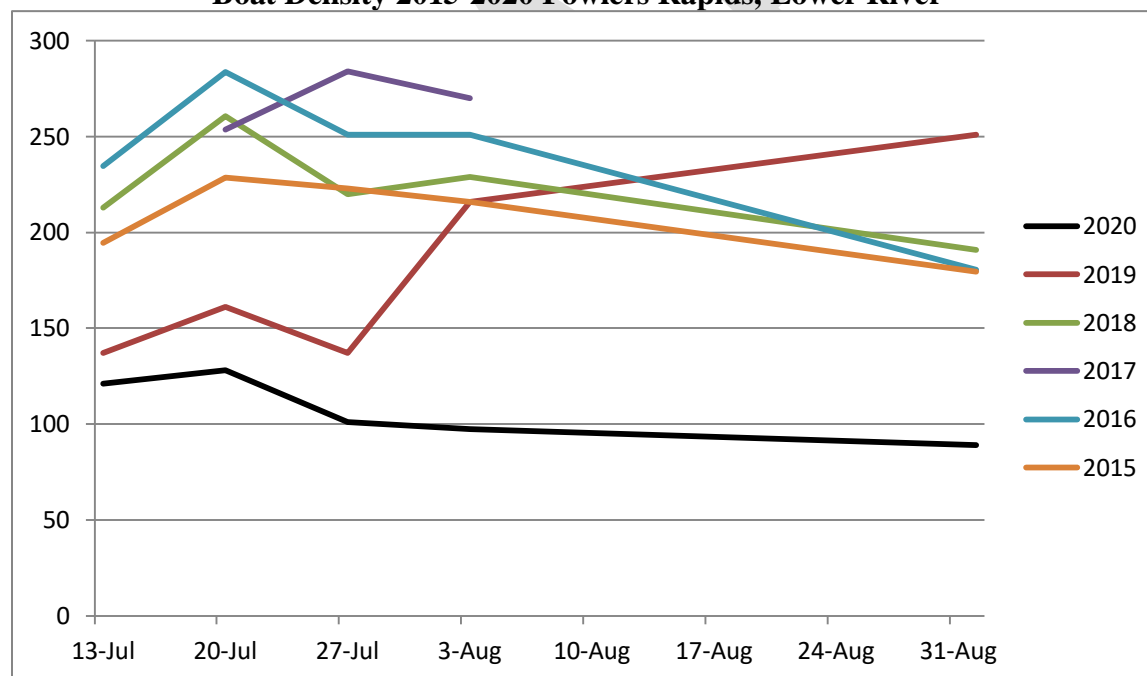
Only organizations teaching accredited educational courses will be able to continue to register as Institutional Groups per the updated RMP. Staff has been working with the nonprofit groups previously identified as institutional groups, to meet the requirement for commercial use. With COVID most of these groups had little to no use. The Parks Division requested a one year extension from the Board of Supervisors, which was approved. This extension was to work with the groups on the requirements and each group was working through their COVID issues.

BOAT DENSITY

The boat density safety measure aims to prevent boating safety hazards from occurring due to boat congestion on weekends. Boat density is the total number of boats passing a set point on the river within a two-hour window. In the event density passes three-hundred boats twice in a season, the RMP prescribes austerity measures to manage overcrowding and regain allowable density levels.

Boat density measurement comes from taking an aggregate total from a combination of, rafts, kayaks, inflatable kayaks, and inner tubes in a two hour period in a designated location. There were no boat counts done on the lower section at the beginning of the season due to Covid -19 and the closure of takeout's at Folsom Lake. Boat counts on the upper section from Chili Bar – were down due to Covid- 19 but saw an increase as the season went on. In July State Parks opened up the lower section take outs at Folsom Lake. Commercial outfitters and private boats took advantage of this and started rafting the lower section from Coloma to Folsom Lake. As the season went on commercial numbers started to rise as they made up lost time from the late start, boat numbers went up from previous years on the lower section but still within the boat density requirements and new Covid-19 spacing regulations.

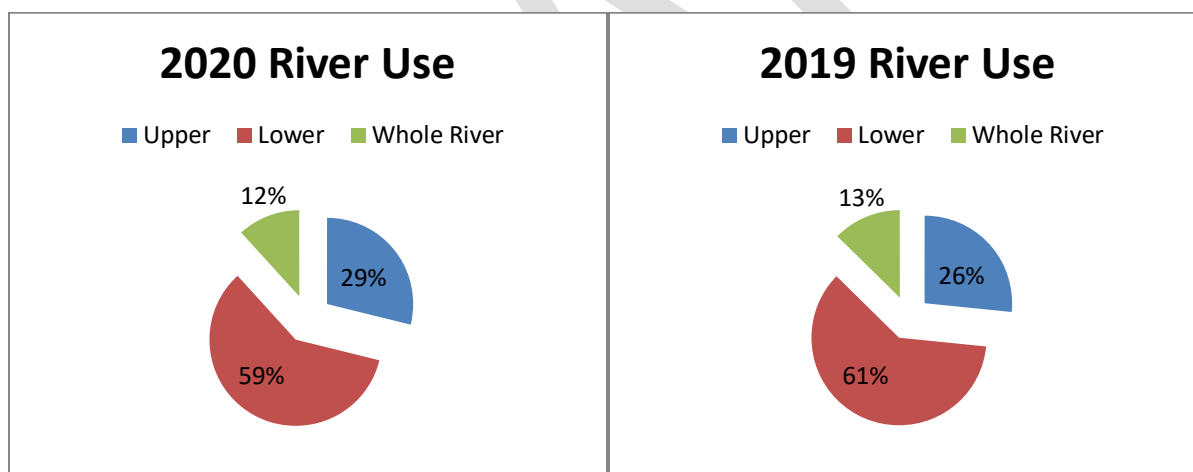
Boat Density 2015-2020 Fowlers Rapids, Lower River



Carry capacity was not exceeded; therefore no mitigation measures to restrict boating use are necessary for 2021. The sources of data utilized. Sources of data for estimating river use were outfitters monthly operating reports, County Parks on-river observation. No actions needed at this time.

RIVER USE PREFERENCES

The longstanding trend of river use for both private and commercial activity is for the lower segment of the river. The County can track total use patterns with regards to financial reports and observations; however, as previously mentioned, the private user data does not represent a full accounting of use patterns. In previous years the lower trips remains throughout the year; however, it did not start until the middle of July due to Covid-19 while the upper section river was open. Whole river trips account for an average of 12% of the total use in the year. The lower section is also better equipped with regards to put in and take out facilities likely reflecting an efficient business decision with a more extended day trip for commercial passengers at 59% for the year. Upper river trips remain relatively stable, at 29% the total activity peaking in July and August before dropping back down by September. With Commercial companies getting a late start because of Covid-19 the season went a month longer with companies running into November. Whole river trips most likely reflect an increase in release levels as higher water increases the speed, thus shortening trip times allowing for more trips to cover the entire length of the South Fork and lower flows taking more time. The middle section of the river is the most accessible section for floating of inner tubes, paddleboards, and other inflatable crafts. Totals reflect commercial use, while private counts appear in the specified months; private use is not monitored at a sufficient level to extrapolate meaningful conclusions. In 2021, the parks division will conduct a more focused count of the middle segment.



2020 COUNTY STAFF ACTIVITIES

The County Parks River Program employed two personnel, in 2020. Hiring was based on projected revenue, due to Covid-19. Revenue was projected to be 20% of normal so procedures were taken to make sure the river program could sustain 2020 and 2021 costs. Midseason staff was reduced to one River Aid. Hennigsen Lotus Park staff was used to assist with boat counts and shuttle driving. This seemed to be an efficient use of personnel and was a savings to the program as park staff salaries are lower.

The county's intention is to hire four River Aides in 2021. River Aides duties are to provide education at the access points, educate and monitor the middle section, monitor commercial use and permits and implement the RMP.

The river staff's daily activities primarily included boater education on the river and at river access points, quiet zone monitoring, and river use monitoring. The emphasis among these four activities varied throughout the season, day of the week, river section and available staff. Most of the Class II use occurs in the Coloma to HLP section.

An overview of the river staff activities in 2020 outlined below:

Provide River and Boater Education for Private Boaters onshore Recreationists:

- River staff made contact with more than 1000 river users during the 2020 season and monitored more than 21 miles of river a day 4 days a week.
- Provided boating safety, boater responsibilities, private property education, river etiquette, leave no trace education, and river flow information at river accesses and on the river.
- Stocking kiosks with free waterproof river maps, providing boaters with the locations of restrooms, put-ins and take-out locations, quiet zone locations, names of rapids with GPS coordinates public and private land designations, agency and campground phone numbers along with a boating safety checklist.

River Safety:

- Completed approximately 112 on river shifts covering 850 miles.
- Provided a safety/sweep function by running the Class III sections late in the day.
- Remove hazardous trees that created obvious hard-to-avoid strainers. There were also several ropes and other smaller hazards that river staff removed during the season.
- Assist law enforcement, upon request.
- Educated tubers on river safety and life jackets in the C2G section.

Quiet Zone:

- Emphasis on controlling quiet zone noise, use of public lands, litter education, and use of life jackets by all boaters and inner-tubers deals with ongoing concerns of the public.
- Provide safety information and aid to people floating/boating on the class II section.

River Use Monitoring:

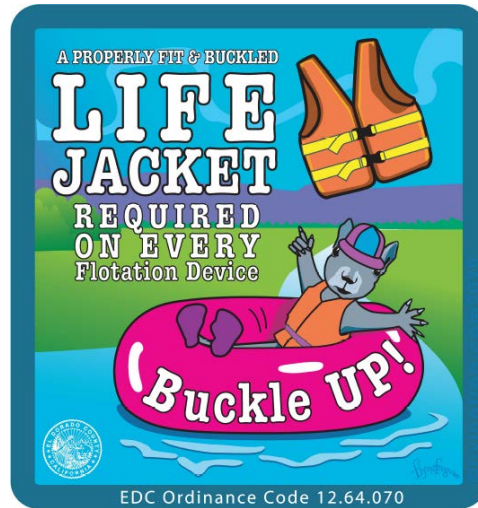
- Conducted monitoring on weekends for the system carrying capacity.
- Auditing of commercial outfitter river use for compliance.
- Tracked noncommercial/private river use levels

Education and Outreach

Because of COVID we were unable to have a planned river cleanup since we could not have an organized group. River staff did daily river clean up on the upper and lower sections to stay on top of any garbage in the river. Also, there was other cleanup done in and around Henningsen

Lotus Park. Trash levels in and around the river were higher this year due to more shore use and increase in population in the Coloma Lotus area so daily clean ups were needed.

In an effort to educate the private boater a new educational campaign was developed. In 2020, we released the new life jacket signage. Staff also worked with campgrounds to inform users on life jacket laws.



Additional signage was developed and will be released in 2021. The idea was to start with the basics. Some of the previous signage was meant for a more experience user. The target audience for this educational campaign is the inexperienced boater.





EL DORADO COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT

In 2020, the Sheriff's Boating Unit made both full and partial river trips throughout the season. The County Sheriff has the authority to issue citations for both State and County life jacket violations along with other related County Ordinances, such as boater violations of the quiet zone and the use of glass beverage containers within 120 feet of the water.

The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit used California Department of Boating and Waterway Grant monies to patrol the waterways, to include, but not limited to, the South Fork American River, within El Dorado County.

During 2020, the Marine Unit spent over 100 hours patrolling the South Fork American River. Deputies contacted no less than 600 local people and tourists utilizing the river for various recreational activities, to include, but not limited to, picnicking, swimming, fishing, rafting, kayaking, paddle boarding, tubing, whitewater training, camping, and other events such as birthday celebrations.

Due to the ongoing 2020 Coronavirus pandemic, many of the local businesses and commercial rafting companies were closed for the first half of the summer season, and there were strict limitations and restrictions for the second half of the season, which caused a significant decrease from prior years. As with prior years, the primary focus was to educate the public about safety concerns, river characteristics, navigation, hazards, and on-going issues relating to quiet zones, lack of personal float devices (life jackets), and trespassing.

We responded to several calls for service which ranged from a several missing rafters/swimmers, arguments, and a drown subject, who was later found at Folsom Lake. Deputies issued 29 safety advisements/ warnings.

South Fork American River – 20.5 miles
Hours patrolled – 100+
Citations - 0
Safety advisements – 29

Report provided by the El Dorado County Sheriff Marine and Boating Unit
American River Summary 2020

STATE PARKS LAW ENFORCEMENT

The 2020 summer season and the South Fork of the American River usage was observed as a high use year. With COVID 19 closures and the advisement of outdoor recreation, we saw an increase in river usage and camping in the local area. Even though there was a restricted use on White Water Concessions, the general public came out in high numbers. Many of these individuals were first time river users and lacked the knowledge of river safety and proper etiquette (including private property access).

The primary area of concern along the South Fork of the American River for Marshall Gold Discovery SHP was from The American River Resort down to Henningsen Lotus Park. Even though those areas are outside of the State Park boundary, many times the Ranger Patrol could and would be the first unit to arrive on an incident. During the 2020 summer season I worked directly with the El Dorado County River Safety Patrol and specifically with Prescott Nicholson. As the safety patrol would stage at Troublemaker, educating the high flow of river tubers. He would also contact me directly when there were enforcement needs along the river. I responded multiple times to the North Beach put-in, Ponderosa Campground, Hwy 49 Bridge and Henningsen Lotus Park for assistance with citations or ejections from the water way. I observed the Safety Patrol floating along the river throughout the summer and transferred information on usage along the entire stretch of the South Fork. I also observed the increase of educational signage along these areas and the dedication to work with the local campground resorts by handing out signage and locating personal flotation devices (PFD's) to loan out where needed.

I also observed a large increase in river access along both of the main parking lots within Marshall Gold Discovery SHP. As stated above many were first time river users and lacked the knowledge of water safety and proper equipment. I gave multiple warnings, educated on PFD's,

advised proper flotation devices (pool tubes vs river tubes), ejected parties from the river when not following the safety rules and issued multiple citations for EDCO 12.64.070 PFD required. We also purchased many PFD's to be loaned out during the summer season, which were placed at the North Beach put-in and along the main day use area of North Beach.

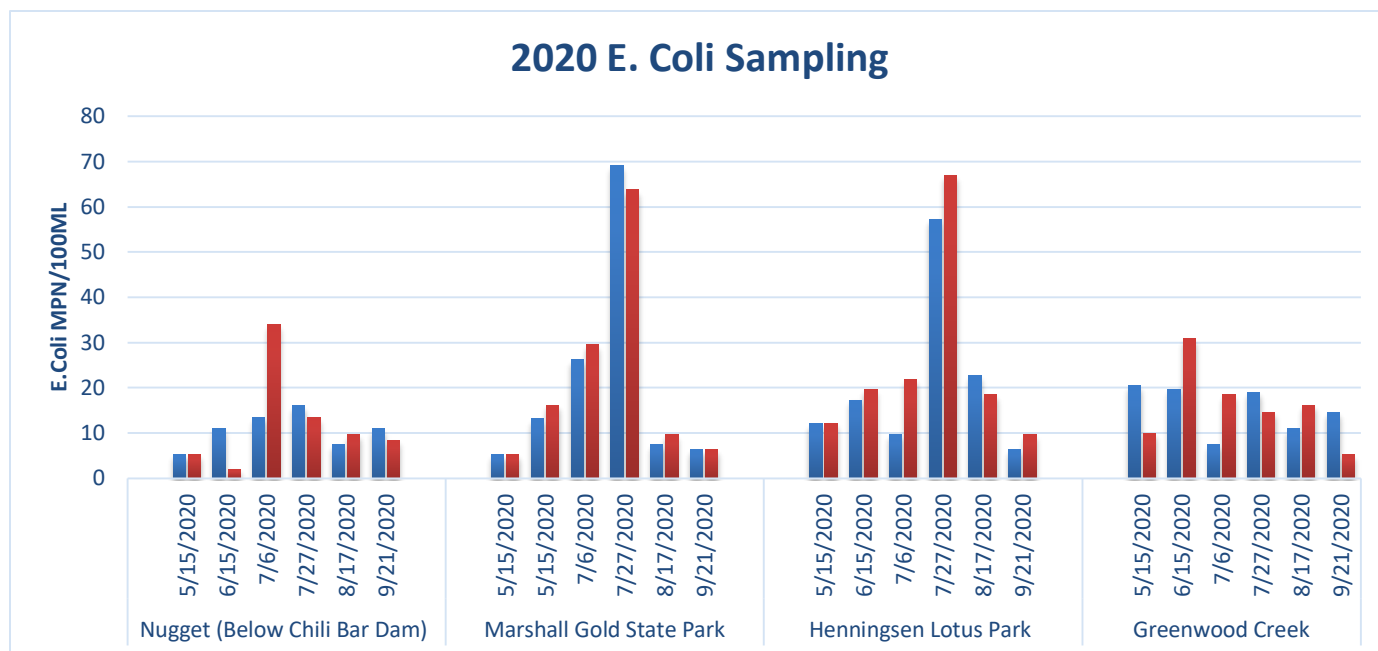
Without the El Dorado River Safety Patrol I feel that there would have been more injuries or loss of life during the 2020 season. I look forward to the coming months and years working directly with the Safety Patrol. I do think that a multi-agency training day would be a good use of resources prior to the 2021 summer season.

OUTFITTER VIOLATIONS

County Parks did not issue any permit violations in 2020. We received a few complains about commercial trips stopping on private property and loud noises in quiet zones. COVID made it difficult for guides from out of the area to return for the season. As outfitters were starting up late in the season, staff felt a reminder to all outfitters of the rules was appropriate instead of fines and there were no further issues.

WATER QUALITY

The water quality monitoring bacterial test results in 2020 had unacceptable readings in May of above 2419.2mpn, which dropped to 14,136mpn a week later. With bacterial testing results showing high, Environmental Management had river staff post signs stating high E-Coili levels and to stay out of the water. The following month June levels had dropped to 30.1mpn a healthy range safe for body contact on the South Fork signs were then removed. There were no other days that had test results above normal which would have resulted in a sampling retest per this program's protocols. County Parks conducted water testing from June through September 2020 the bacterial water testing results for 2020. The results were put into a graph but the high end was so high the graph was unreadable.



Bacteria coliform testing and other water quality measurements are being done by the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) and Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) as prescribed in their new FERC licenses once the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approves their implementation plans. The results of their testing show here: <https://www.smud.org/en/Corporate/Environmental-Leadership/Power-Sources/Upper-American-River-Project/Hydro-Relicensing>. The updated RMP continues bacterial coliform testing during the primary boating season only.

The County also has a comprehensive Storm water Program that implements storm water mitigation measures and best management practices (BMPs) as prescribed by the County Storm Water Management Plan and the Phase II Municipal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit.

BUDGET

The budget for the Parks River Program is a non-general fund program. The primary source of funding since 1997 is a \$2.00 per guest user fee paid by permitted outfitters. If a fee change was deemed necessary in the future due, any fee change is subject to additional action by the Board. Any funding needs will take into consideration any changes which could increase or decrease the level of funding needed to implement the updated RMP. *Table 3* and *figure 6* below provide a snapshot of the 2019/2020 Parks River Program budget year, River Trust Fund balances, and the 2020/2021 approved budget.

Fiscal Year 2019/2020	
Fund Balance as of July 1, 2019	\$170,404
Revenue (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020)	\$157,607
Expenditures	\$110,679
River Trust Fund balance as of June 30, 2020	\$217,332
2020/2021 Approved Budget	\$189,165

Table 3: River Trust Fund Balance and Budget Summary

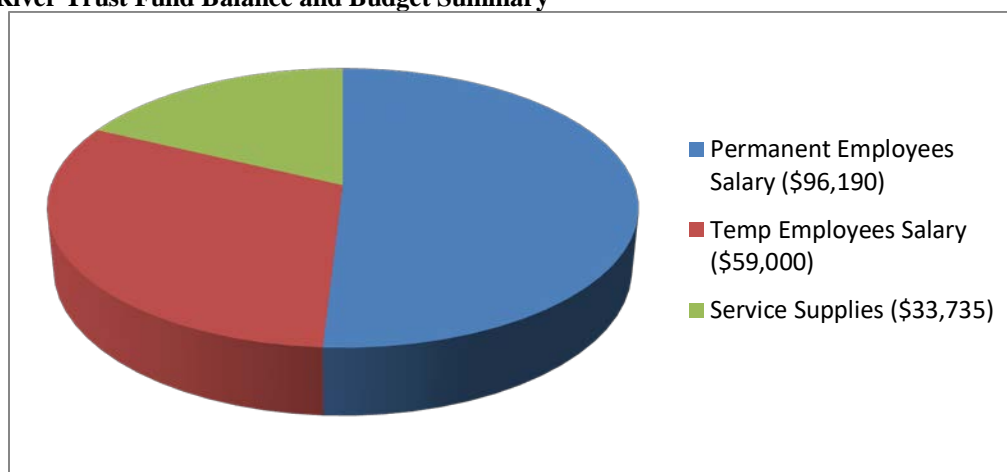


Figure 6:
2019/2020 Approved River Program Budget

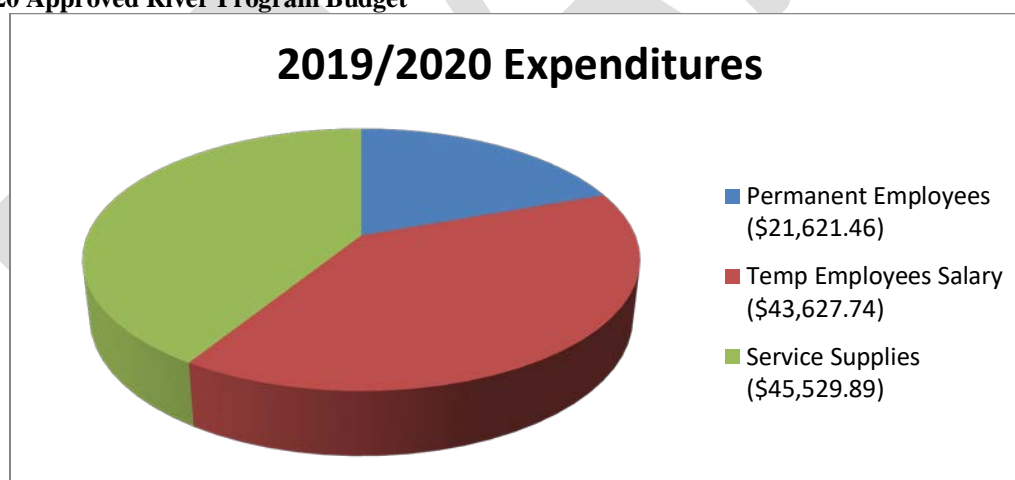


Figure 7:
2019/2020 Expenditures

OTHER RMP OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS

There are some goals identified in the updated RMP and in past annual reports that the County will be continuing to evaluate while also making efforts to implement. River staff will continued educational efforts in 2021. Educational activities include stocking kiosks, boating safety

information, life jacket requirements, public river access, private property locations, different recreation permit requirements, sanitation requirements, bathroom locations, and lists of approved outfitters.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

On January 7, 2020 this report was reviewed by the adhoc committee of the CLAC. This was a very productive meeting and there were great comments. The committee provided written comments that have been incorporated into this report. The section of adaptive management was suggested by the committee to quickly identify to the public the changes that have been made and why. They also added the comment regarding the wildfires which was also a factor in use on the river. There was an active discussion regarding the proposed revised river maps. CLAC will work with staff on developing a new map working with the County GIS department so that the maps are in the county system. The CLAC was also in support of the intern and the counts in the middle section in 2021. We will work together to develop how those counts will be documented.

On January 21, this report was reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission

CLOSING

Overall, the County Park's River Program in coordination with the BLM, State Parks, and El Dorado County Sheriff's Boating Units was successful in managing the South Fork American River's whitewater recreation from Chili Bar Dam to Folsom Reservoir. The implementation of the County's River Management Plan in 2018 met most of the goals and objectives laid out in the plan even under Covid-19 protocols in place. In 2020 people found the outdoors again the population in the Coloma/Lotus area peaked in July/August. The County and State Parks were at capacity.

The Parks Division had complaints about the boat ramp at Henningsen Lotus Park. Staff is looking at the boat launch area and isolating it off so it's more accessible for boaters putting in and taking out while still leaving beach access for park goers.

The River Recreation Supervisor position was vacated in 2019; the division had an opportunity to analyze ways to streamline process and staffing needs. The division hired an Administrative Technician in November that will assist in the river program administration. This position will have the ability to assist with other programs and functions while time studying so that the river is charged for only the time spent on the program. Many of the functions are administrative. During the river season, four seasonal River Aides will be hired to provide the educational and on water support needed for the program.

River staff was able to utilize park staff to assist with boater counts and shuttles at a reduced rate. This leaves more time for the River Aides to spend time on the water and doing river related issues instead of setting shuttles. This also is a cost savings for the program.

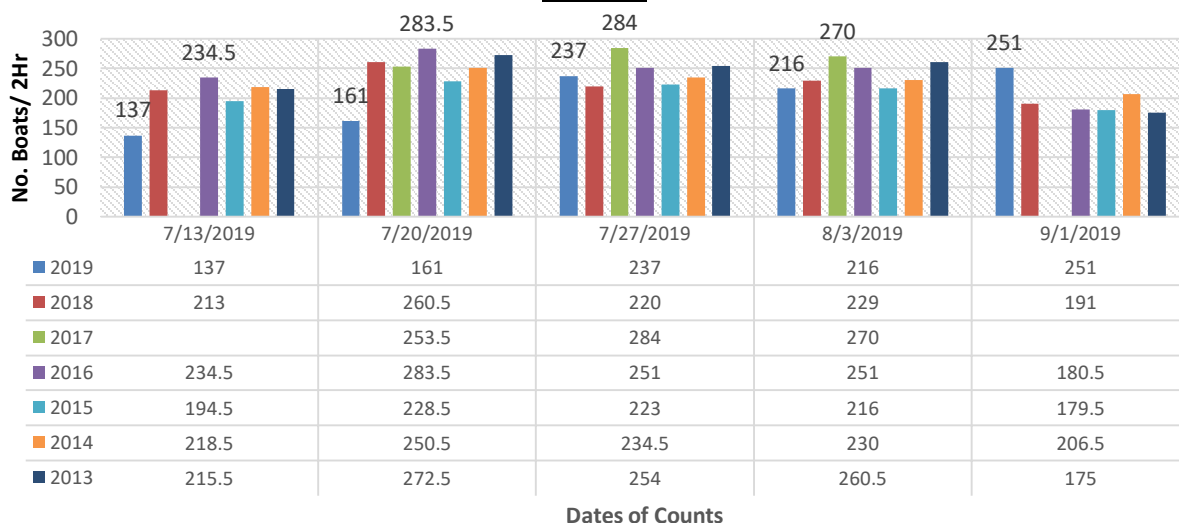
On November 10, 2020, the Board of Supervisors approved an item which entered El Dorado County and State Parks into a Joint Powers Agreement to manage the administrative function of the Salmon Falls and Marshall Gold State Park put in and take out facilities. This should make it easier for outfitters as El Dorado County will issue their river permit and State Parks permit as one. El Dorado County will keep .50 per person in taking this duty over. This should increase the River Trust Fund by an estimated \$25,000 annually. It is staffs opinion this was a win for everyone.

2020 was a complex year, and the Parks Division would like to thank the river community for a cooperative successful year despite COVID.

DRAFT

Appendix A

Boat Density: 2014-2019 Fowlers Rapids, Lower River



Appendix B

River Use 2006-2019

