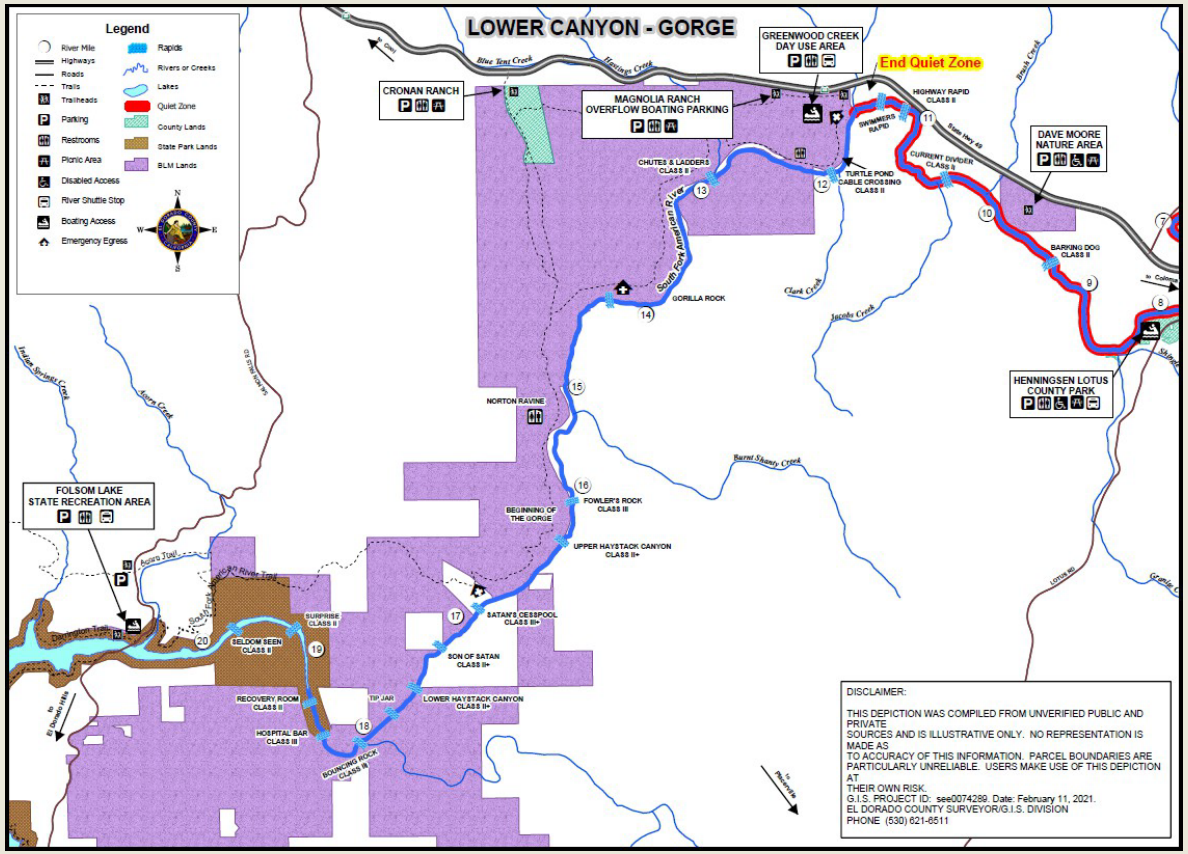
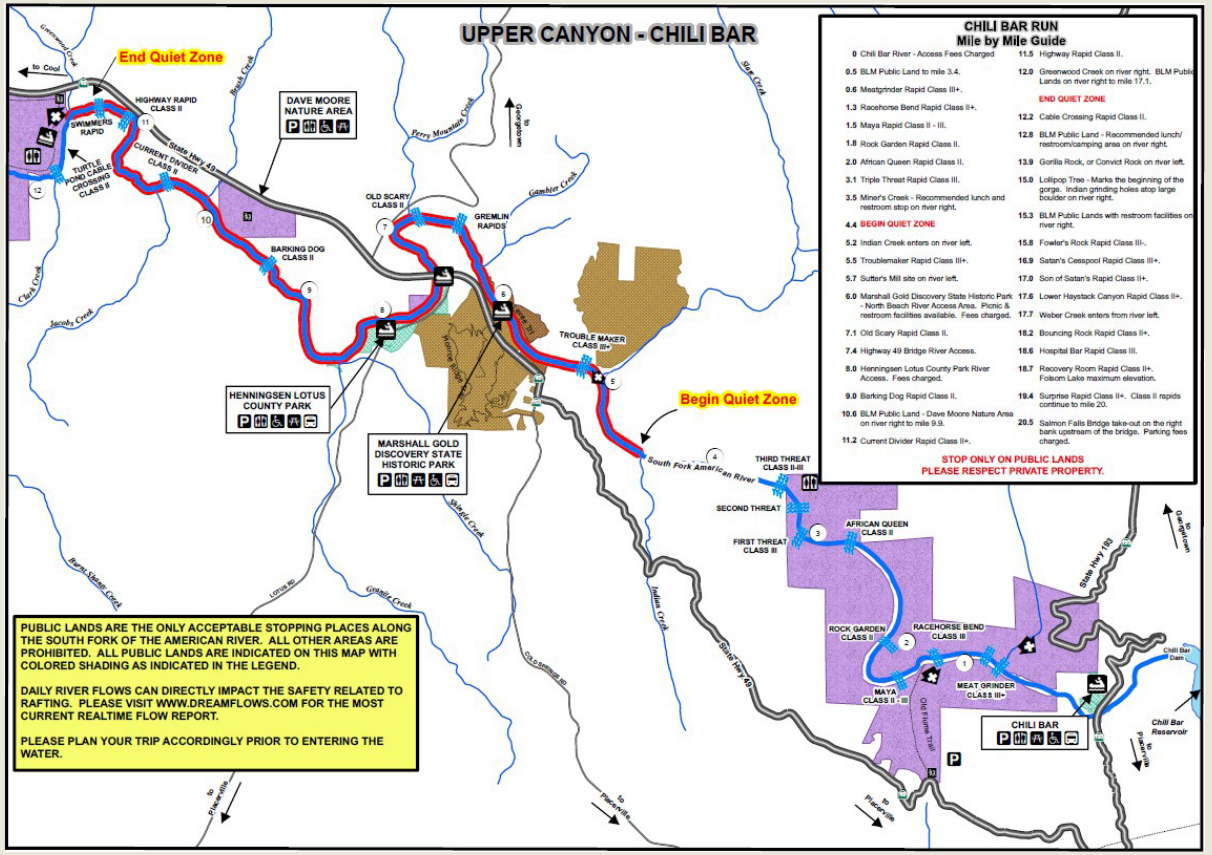
PARKS, TRAILS, & RIVER DIVISION
River Management Plan
2025 Updates

River Management Plan Area of the South Fork of the American River

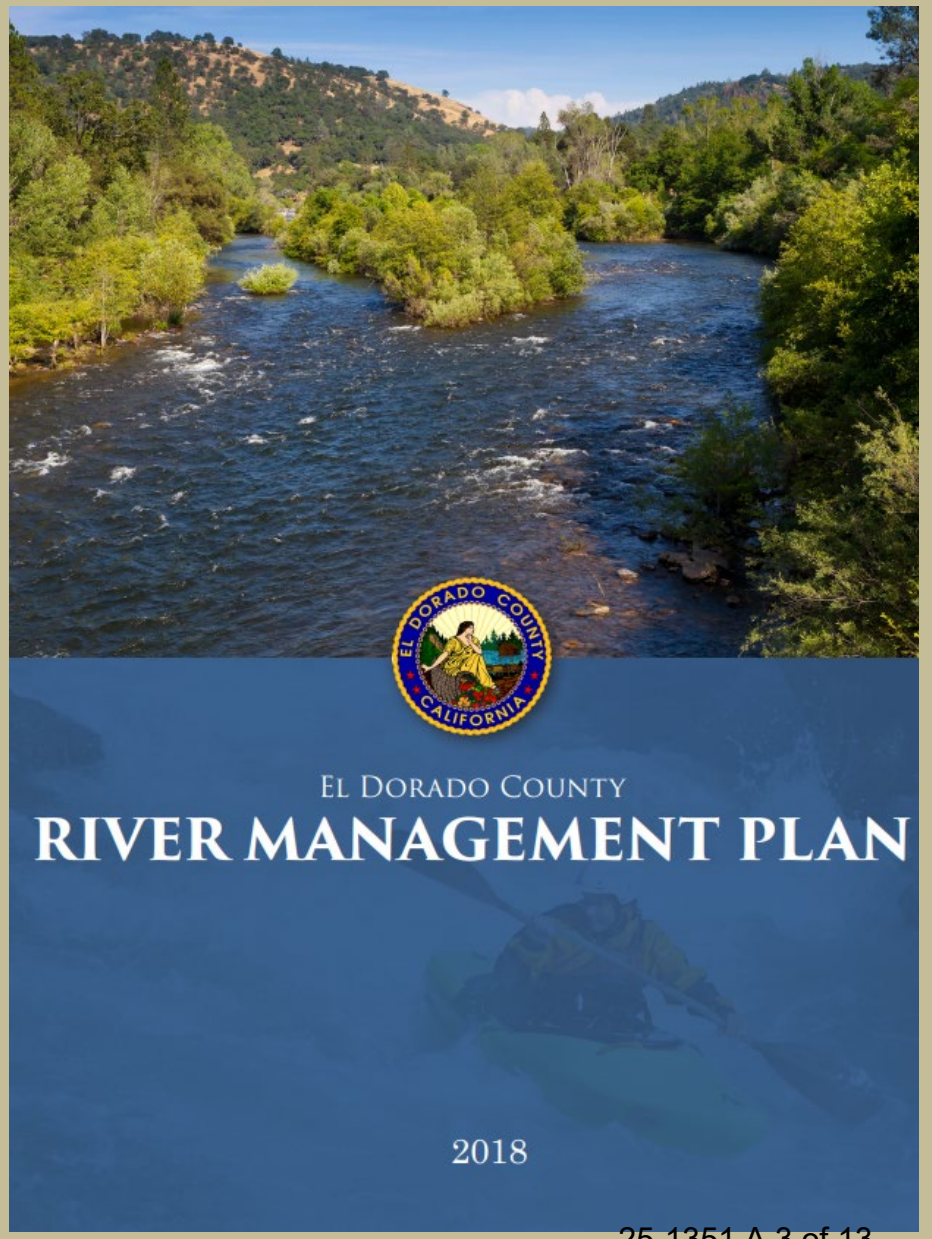




Purpose of the River Management Plan

The River Management Plan (RMP):

- Manages use on the 20.7-mile segment of the South Fork of the American River
- Serves as an active, evolving tool that can be amended as conditions or needs change
- Manages commercial and non-commercial river recreation to enhance public health, safety, welfare of users, and to protect the riparian environment
- Implements the County's river management goals



RMP Background & History

- 2025 – Draft updates to the RMP for consideration
- 2019 – River Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) dissolved and Coloma Lotus Advisory Committee (CLAC) established
- 2018 – Resolution 018-2018 to update the RMP
- 2002 – Ordinance 4596 (Chapter 5.48) adopted
- 2001 – Consultant prepared update to the RMP
- 1992 – Resolution 135-92 to amend the RMP
- 1988 – Resolution 99-88 to amend the RMP
- 1984 – RMP and Ordinance 3463 adopted
- 1980 – Streams and River Rafting Ordinance adopted

RMP Update Process

Annual Report

Compiled by December 30 of every year

Presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC)

Five-Year Summary

Annual reports compiled into a five-year review summary

Staff, PRC, and Planning Commission initial review and recommendations

Presented to Board of Supervisors for final review and approval of recommendations

RMP Update

Board approved recommendations are incorporated into the RMP update

RMP Five-Year Summary

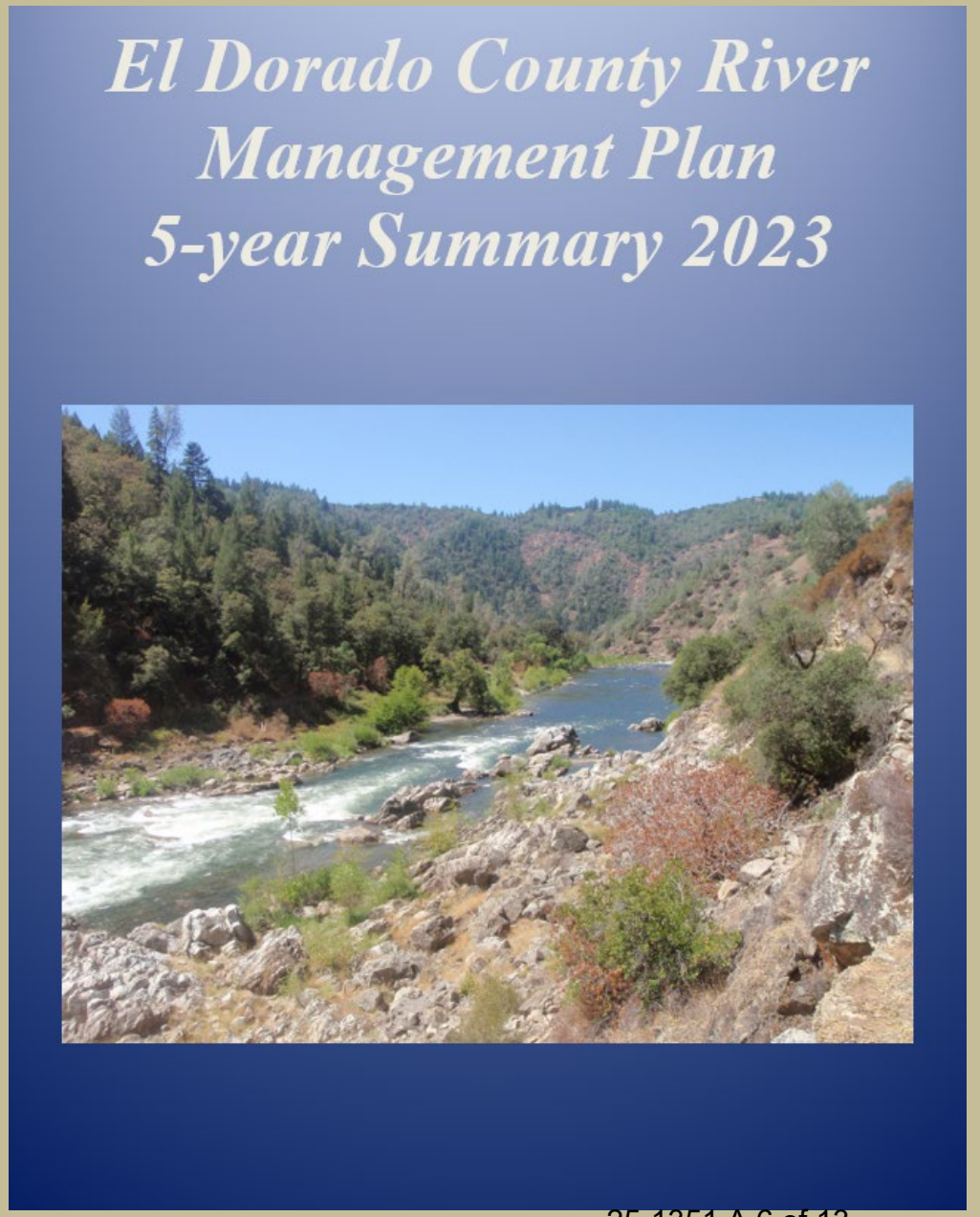
- Provide opportunities for ongoing refinement of the RMP to ensure public safety, environmental protection, and the most efficient use of County resources
- Provides opportunities to review adopted and implemented management actions and mitigation measures to ensure they remain meaningful and responsive

Summary Timeline

3/12/24 Board received presentation and update
1/18/24 PRC reviewed and provided input

Outcome of the Five-Year Summary Review

- Staff and PRC recommend 13 updates to the RMP
- Draft updates are incorporated into the RMP to reflect Staff and PRC recommendations
- Draft updates are incorporated into the Ordinance 5.48 to reflect Board direction to assess and update fees



River Management Plan Update

- Provide management actions that are logical, supportive of safe river use and consistent with the County's riparian environment protection commitments
- Update is time for comprehensive changes that could involve CEQA review

Staff Recommendations to the RMP

Minor Text Changes

Chapter I, Operations of SMUD's UARP and PG&E Operation of Chili Bar

Recommendation #1: Update Chili Bar Dam ownership from PG&E to SMUD

Outfitter Guide Updates

Chapter III, Element 1: Education Programs and Element 6: Safety Etiquette

Recommendation #2: Remove County hosted pre-season guide training workshop

Recommendation #3: County River Safety and Etiquette Standards statement to verify guides

Staff Recommendations Con't

River Use Permits & Transfer Process

Chapter III, Element 6: Annual River Use Permits

Recommendation #4: Eliminate 3-year permit term

Recommendation #5: Update flex permit language

Recommendation #6: Clarify language for user day transfers

Recommendation #7: Remove Planning Commission from user day transfer process

Recommendation #8: Consolidate multiple permits into a single permit

Staff Recommendations Con't

Chapter III, Element 6: Permits and Requirements

Group Size

Recommendation #9: Staff will clarify practices and possible edits to Subsection 6.2.2.1

Fees

Recommendation #10: Clarify user fee payment requirements with the monthly EMOR

Recommendation #14: Update Application fees and Penalty fees

Violations and Appeals

Recommendation #11: Revise four violations to three violations

Recommendations #12 & 13: Staff change for appeal procedure

El Dorado County Ordinance Chapter 5.48 Update

6/24/25 Board provided conceptual approval to amend Section 5.48 Streams and Rivers Commercial Boating and assess user fees

Recommendations:

- Update river use permits issuance procedure to Parks & Trails Division
- Update permit term from three to one-year term
- Update staff position that may revoke a river use permit

Next Steps

Aug. 7, 2025
Presentation to the Coloma Lotus Advisory Committee (CLAC)
Sep. 23, 2025
Presentation to the Board and Hearing for approval of the RMP Update, adoption of resolution, and final reading of ordinance
Presentation to the Planning Commission and Hearing for first reading of ordinance
Aug. 14, 2025

Comments or Questions?