

Auburn State Recreation Area General Plan Wins Approval



Eric Peach Photo

At long last, a new general plan to guide future management of the Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA) is in place. The new plan, developed over the last six years with extensive public engagement, was approved by the California State Park and Recreation Commission at a virtual public meeting held on September 30. It replaces an outdated interim management plan that assumed Auburn Dam would

be built and discouraged investment in trails, roads, restrooms, access improvements, interpretive information panels, and other recreational features.

The new plan, by contrast, includes strategies to effectively manage what ASRA has become — an extremely popular river canyon-based recreation area. It includes both strong resource protection measures and enhanced recreational facility/public

access goals. PARC’s proposal to build a trail bridge across the river at China Bar is among the plan’s proposed recreation features.

Much of the public comment at the September 30 meeting focused on wildfire risk, with a number of speakers suggesting that implementation of the new general plan would encourage more visitation and therefore add to the

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Gary Huges Photo



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fire risk that already exists within ASRA's canyonlands. The inclusion in the plan of possible future campground development at several locations also drew heavy criticism, again because of fire risk concerns..

The anxiety about fire is understandable — we have all witnessed how a century of wildfire suppression on public lands and climate change have combined to dramatically increase the number and size of fires that burn in California and throughout the American West every year. This summer's Caldor, River and Bridge fires served as stark reminders that the American and Bear River watersheds are

among those areas at risk.

While not an easy task, much more must be done to reduce wildfire risk, including on ASRA's public lands. The new general plan does include strategies that will help address this need. Included is a commitment to substantially increase fire fuel reduction treatments near canyon rim communities. The plan also requires comprehensive project planning for any new facility development, including consultation with CalFire on appropriate fuel clearance, defensible space, and other fire risk reduction work to be done in conjunction with each proposed facility.

ASRA's recreational riches and proximity to the growing Sacramento metropolitan

region guarantee that it will remain a popular destination. Despite the challenges of high visitation, with adequate funding and effective implementation the new general plan should be able to achieve its strong resource protection, recreation enhancement, and public safety goals. PARC will continue its constructive engagement with State Parks and the Bureau of Reclamation to ensure that it does.

Mother Nature Delivers



Can you find the fish?

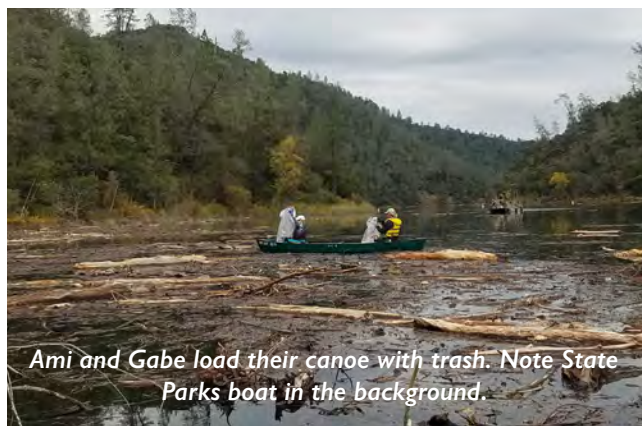
In late October Mother Nature delivered a powerful record setting atmospheric river of rain that saw drought thirsty Folsom Reservoir rise 20 feet in elevation overnight. The mostly Wild & Scenic damless North Fork of the American River peaked at about 16,000 cfs -normal flow this time of year is around 500 cfs- delivering a log jam and many years of trash accumulated on its banks to the Lower Lake Clementine buoy cable. The cable protects boaters from accidentally being swept over the North Fork Dam waterfall.

While extreme bronco kayakers jumped into their boats and rode this mighty wave to Rattlesnake Bar, former whitewater guide and honorary PARC member Ami Stroud and her friend Archangel Gabriel plotted

a strategy to remove the copious amount of trash that landed with the logs in lower Lake Clementine. Along with Auburn SRA staff piloting their trusty aluminum pontoon boat, Ami enlisted the help of PARC and Placer Land Trust members, Eden Rock and Eric Peach. With a great deal of effort, the sturdy canoe and small raft were able to bust through the log jam to remove multiple pickup loads of floating glass, plastic; and everything else that could affect aquatic and wildlife health and public safety. **Many thanks to all of you who Leave No Trace and continue to treat the river and canyons with the respect they deserve. Recycle, reuse and don't treat the planet like a garbage heap. There is nowhere else to go!**



Volunteers and some of the trash they collected from the lower Lake Clementine logjam.



Ami and Gabe load their canoe with trash. Note State Parks boat in the background.

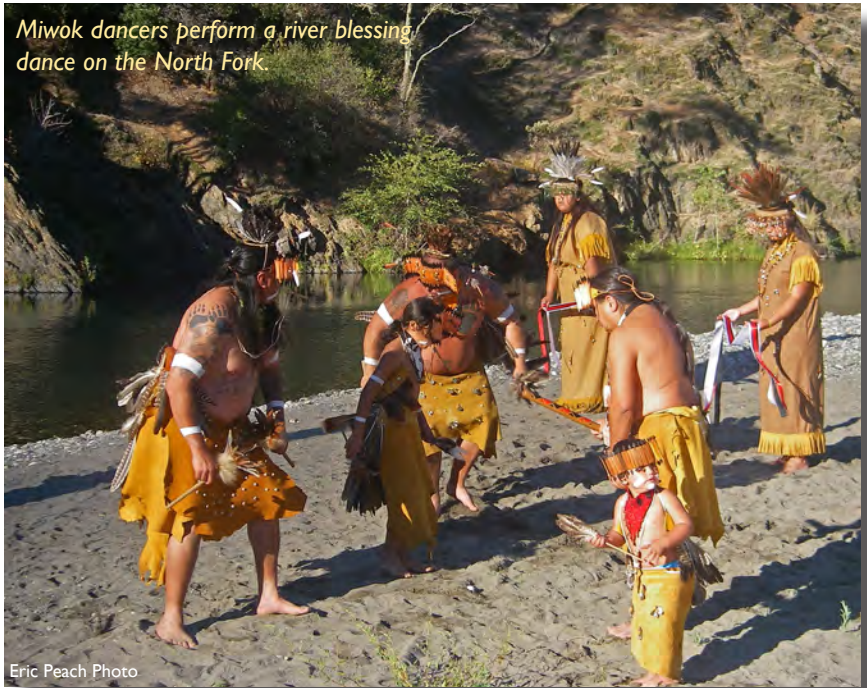
When You Reach the Edge of Your World, Ours Begins

The American River and its canyons are a treasure. Their wild beauty strikes a deep impression on visitors and residents alike. Come here with curiosity and respect – you will be welcomed back.

Despite having a hardy, diverse population of Nisenan and Miwok Native Californians, the American River watershed has little land under control of these Native Americans. More and more they rely on public lands to practice “ecocultural restoration” that connects ecosystems with these ancestral Indigenous communities. Prior to colonization, these lands supported sustainable livelihoods and cultural diversity.

Today tribal restoration projects emphasize traditional food, materials and medicine production. The land, plants and animals are all part of community life. In a sense all species are considered relatives and are treated in a respectful way. The use of fire is an aspect of tribal horticulture that is gaining momentum. Native cultural burns reduce the fuel load, increase the quantity and quality of plants, limit pests, enhance germination, produce desirable forms of growth and improve hunting conditions.

The time has come to establish partnerships between tribes and agencies to foster restoration efforts, including designation of special cultural management areas. Rather than focusing on individual species, tribal horticulture emphasizes ecocultural revitalization that meets traditional needs and encourages cultural dialogue with the plant and animal communities. PARC shares the ecocultural interests of our Native Californians. For more information readers can refer to Fremontia November 2020 Journal of the California Native Plant Society or PARC’s River Guide Book.



Miwok dancers perform a river blessing dance on the North Fork.

Eric Peach Photo

What The Elder Said

You, who come from other places,
you have attachments to your old homeland,
the old country.
Even after several generations,
your sense of belonging can be found in food,
your holiday music, or words you learned
from your grandmother.
All of you from everywhere,
even those whose ancestors came in chains
see this as your new homeland.
For me, these canyons, this river,
the baskets in museums,
the bear paw, and spirals chipped in stone
are my attachments to my old homeland.
This is also my new homeland.

---Roger Groghan



Tenth Annual PARC Scholarship Essay Contest

\$20,000 Awarded to local high school seniors since 2013!



Alexandra Rae Taylor
Woodcreek High

PARC's Board of Directors would like to congratulate these 2021 winners!

Up to \$2,500 in Total Scholarship Awards for 2022 Essay Contest

The Essay Contest topic for high school seniors graduating in 2022 will be:

What is your personal connection to the American River and its canyons, and how has a current concern, such as the COVID pandemic, climate change, social media influence, racial inequality, or another concern you have, impacted the American River and its canyons?

Students can apply for the PARC Scholarships by submitting an original essay of no more than 500 words describing their response to the topic question about the North and Middle Forks of the American River and their canyons located upstream of Folsom Reservoir, in the Auburn State Recreation Area.

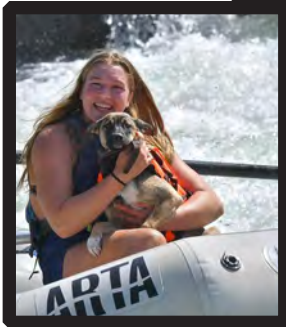
Deadline for submission is March 15, 2022. Details and application forms for the 2022 PARC Scholarship Essay Contest are NOW available on the PARC website www.parc-auburn.org.

To view Marie's and Vance's videos visit our Website:
<https://www.parc-auburn.org>
and click on their links on the Scholarship Page

Jack Galloway
Del Oro High



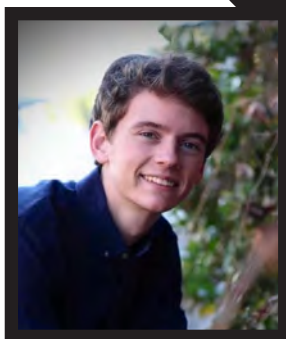
Jordan Freer
El Dorado High



Marie Johnson
Placer High



Vance Byer
Placer High



*Without a doubt, the American River Canyon is a place of solace and mental health and it should be protected for generations to come.
--Marie Johnson, 2021 Scholarship Winner*

Anne Heggli Receives PARC's 2021 Volunteer Award



What do Cool Trails Maps, PARC's American River Socials and Cleanups have in common? Bandana Anne of course! Anne has been designing and expanding her bandana map business to include Auburn SRA and Folsom SRA trails since she took over the business from her family friend several years ago. She collaborates with her family and PARC while embracing our values of river-canyon stewardship, including river clean-ups, in all of her public outreach. In 2021 Anne has organized PARC's super- successful American River Socials at Crooked Lane Brewery. Incredibly, she manages to devote her heartfelt feelings for the American River while working on her Phd and managing a snow survey business with her brother. Go Anne and many thanks from your American River friends!

Anne with her niece Allie at PARC's 2021 Fall American River Cleanup.

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Membership and Donation Opportunities

Protect American River Canyons is a river education and conservation organization dedicated to the protection of the natural, cultural and historical resources of the North and Middle Forks of the American River and its canyons. PARC is very active in the community, sponsoring a variety of social, educational and river service events each year. PARC remains vigilant to destructive development and political threats to the river and canyons. Visit our website www.parc-auburn.org.

Yes! I want to join/renew membership with PARC and help shape the future of the American River!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

- \$25 Regular Member ~ Receive a PARC window sticker
- \$50 River Guardian ~ Receive waterproof version of PARC's Auburn SRA Trails & River Map
- \$100 River PARCster ~ Receive the American River Insiders Guidebook
- \$250 River Crusader ~ Receive the American River Insiders Guidebook and Cool Trails Bandana map
- \$500 River Champion ~ Receive Laws Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada
- \$1,000 River Angel ~ Receive both the AR Guidebook and Laws Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada
- I want to support the PARC High School Scholarship Program with an additional tax deductible donation of \$_____.
- I want to support the PARC Legacy Fund with an additional donation of \$_____.
- I want my entire donation to go to PARC. Please do not send a premium gift.

For your convenience, please take a moment now to complete and return the enclosed envelope to renew your membership. If you prefer to renew online, go to www.parc-auburn.org and click on "Join PARC." There is also a link on our website for contributing to the **PARC Legacy Fund and Scholarship Award Fund**.

PARC is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

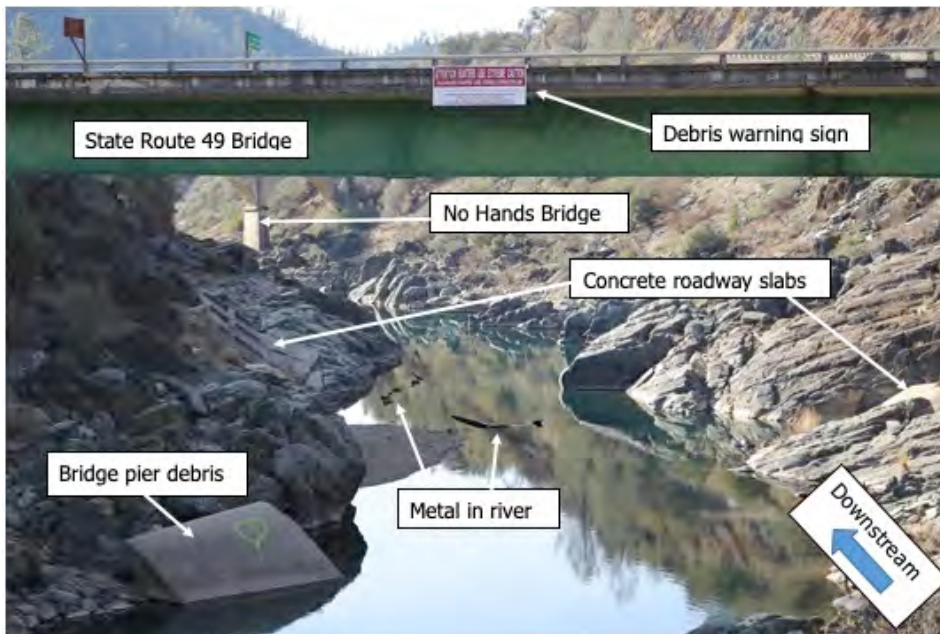
Estate Planning and Leaving Your Own River Legacy



The PARC Legacy Fund is available for those who want to protect the American River and its canyons forever. This endowment fund will grow and provide PARC with a solid financial foundation to continue protecting this unique and irreplaceable environment. The Placer Community Foundation professionally manages the PARC Legacy Fund. There are many ways you can help. Your Giving Options for now or later include but aren't limited to: **Bequests, Retirement Plans, Securities, Real Estate, Life Insurance, Cash and Charitable Trusts.** To learn more about your

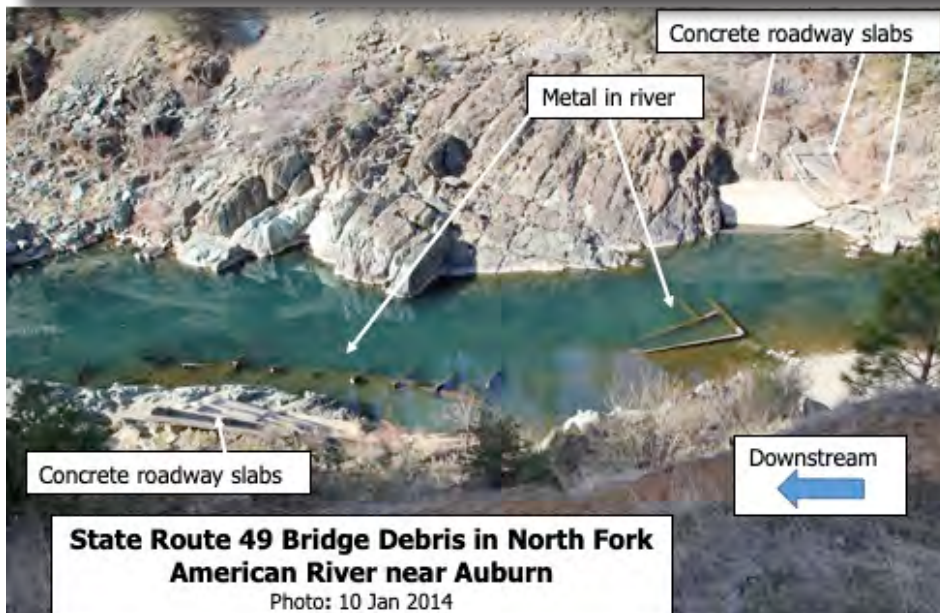
Estate Planning options, please contact Jessica Hubbard at Placer Community Foundation. She is available for free consultations to support your charitable interests and answer your questions. No obligation is necessary. jhubbard@placercf.org or (530) 885-4920.

State Route 49 Bridge Debris Removal Update



State Route 49 Bridge Debris in North Fork American River near Auburn

Photo: 10 Jan 2014



State Route 49 Bridge Debris in North Fork American River near Auburn

Photo: 10 Jan 2014

The twisted steel beams and bulky concrete roadway slabs from the washed out State Route 49 Bridge still remain on the river banks and bottom of the North Fork American River near Auburn. PARC has worked with our State and local elected officials over the past 12 months to get the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to take responsibility for removing this public safety hazard in the very popular Auburn State Recreation Area. While the effort has proven harder than expected, progress has been made and PARC will continue working until this hazard is removed.



Visit the PARC website:

<https://www.parc-auburn.org> for

additional information and updates by looking in the menu for "Debris Removal Project."

Visit the PARC YouTube Channel to view the underwater survey video of debris project produced by Advanced Marine.



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMeny0tPxUiVR9hrVyux9yA>

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Protect American River Canyons is grateful for all of you, our members, donors, sponsors and volunteers. We have you to thank as our inspiration and support as we continue "fighting the good fight" and protecting the area of our world that we love so much.



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Protect American River Canyons (PARC) protects and enhances the natural, recreational and cultural resources of the North and Middle Forks of the American River through leadership and collaboration.

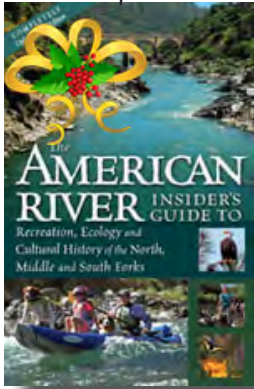
Meet Lisa Chambers!

Lisa has become an important member of the PARC team. She came on board as the PARC office manager in January of 2021. Lisa fulfills orders, manages membership info and assists at events. She also coordinates some of our volunteer opportunities.



If you have any questions in these categories or to just say, "Hi and Welcome" send her an email at lisa@parc-auburn.org. Many thanks to Lisa from the PARC Board of Directors.

Check out our "books and maps" section on our website: www.parc-auburn.org for great gift giving ideas or getting the information you need to learn more about the American River and its canyons.....



THE CONFLUENCE is a seasonal, or as needed, publication of **Protect American River Canyons**. THE CONFLUENCE is included with basic annual membership. Visit our website to be added to our e-news list.
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