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The Auburn State Recreational Area is full of the raw beauty of nature that can not be found in any man-made creation. Each time I visit, I am awed by the stunning scenery surrounding the river and trails. On hot summer days hiking in the canyon, the plethora of trails beckon to be explored with new sights to be seen around each bend. Miles of sunscreen and sweat later, there is nothing like the feeling of dipping your dusty feet into the icy waters of the American River. Even in the winter months, the American River Canyon is a special place to visit. Cool grey clouds blanket the sky, making ideal comfortable hiking temperatures. I have witnessed the magnitude and sheer volume of runoff after the large storms this season and rapids that took my breath away.

The most precious resource within the Auburn State Recreational Area is the simplicity of untouched nature and its accessibility to the general public. My personal vision and dream for the Auburn State Recreational Area is the preservation of this treasure and expansion of the trails.

Only through the cooperation of visitors will we truly be able to make the canyon a better place. Further signage to inform and instruct the public on how to reduce their negative impact is important, as is continued growth of the current cleanup and garbage removal programs, such as cleanup days, that are in place now. Additionally, restoration and maintenance of trails is a step forward that I foresee in the future of the Auburn State Recreational area. Through education and combined efforts, the American River Canyon will return to a cleaner and more natural state.

It has become clear that as the surrounding communities expand, the amount of visitors has increased and will continue to do so. In the future, a new, low-impact visitor's center or information kiosk would be ideal in raising public awareness to those visiting the region. Signs and pamphlets, and even day rangers during peak times, could spread information about the resources of the canyon and their conservation, insight on the wide variety of wildlife surrounding the river, and an appreciation for the rich culture and history of the area. These public facilities will improve awareness while protecting the nature.

In the future, I would like to see new trails developed in the recreational area. Low impact trails in the backcountry would link sites, providing more possibilities for access. I envision a time when future generations can experience the beauty of nature as I have, and the opportunity of exploration is as limitless and abundant as the wildlife.

Above all, it is vital to ensure that in all planning and development, the natural character and resources are preserved. The Auburn State Recreational Area provides a perfect escape to disconnect from the busy rushing tendencies of our culture. The vast range of outdoor activities that are available to those seeking adventure each enable anyone to slow down and live in the moment.