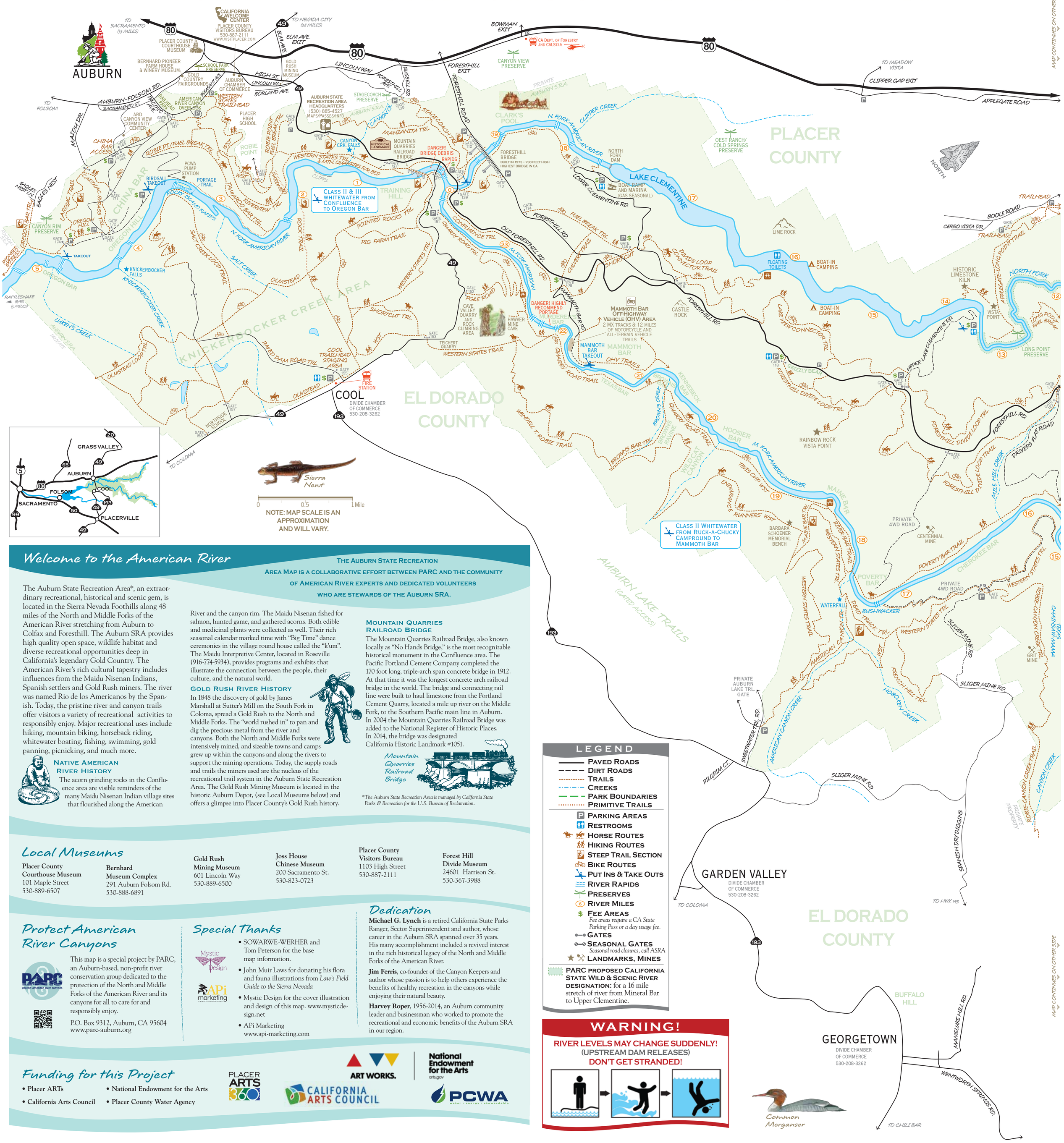
Auburn State Recreation Area

NORTH AND MIDDLE FORKS OF THE AMERICAN RIVER



Welcome to the American River

The Auburn State Recreation Area Map is a collaborative effort between PARC and the community of American River experts and dedicated volunteers who are stewards of the Auburn SRA.

The Auburn State Recreation Area*, an extraordinary recreational, historical and scenic gem, is located in the Sierra Nevada Foothills along 48 miles of the North and Middle Forks of the American River stretching from Auburn to Colfax and Foresthill. The Auburn SRA provides high quality open space, wildlife habitat and diverse recreational opportunities deep in California's legendary Gold Country. The American River's rich cultural tapestry includes influences from the Maidu Nisenan Indians, Spanish settlers and Gold Rush miners. The river was named Rio de los Americanos by the Spanish. Today, the pristine river and canyon trails offer visitors a variety of recreational activities to responsibly enjoy. Major recreational uses include hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, whitewater boating, fishing, swimming, gold panning, picnicking, and much more.

Native American River History

The acorn grinding rocks in the Confluence area are visible reminders of the many Maidu Nisenan Indian village sites that flourished along the American River and the canyon rim. The Maidu Nisenan fished for salmon, hunted game, and gathered acorns. Both edible and medicinal plants were collected as well. Their rich seasonal calendar marked time with "Big Time" dance ceremonies in the village round house called the "k'um". The Maidu Interpretive Center, located in Roseville (916-774-5934), provides programs and exhibits that illustrate the connection between the people, their culture, and the natural world.

Gold Rush River History

In 1848 the discovery of gold by James Marshall at Sutter's Mill on the South Fork in Coloma, spread a Gold Rush to the North and Middle Forks. The "world rushed in" to pan and dig the precious metal from the river and canyons. Both the North and Middle Forks were intensively mined, and sizeable towns and camps grew up within the canyons and along the rivers to support the mining operations. Today, the supply roads and trails the miners used are the nucleus of the recreational trail system in the Auburn State Recreation Area. The Gold Rush Mining Museum is located in the historic Auburn Depot, (see Local Museums below) and offers a glimpse into Placer County's Gold Rush history.

Mountain Quarries Railroad Bridge

The Mountain Quarries Railroad Bridge, also known locally as "No Hands Bridge," is the most recognizable historical monument in the Confluence area. The Pacific Portland Cement Company completed the 170 foot long, triple-arch span concrete bridge in 1912. At that time it was the longest concrete arch railroad bridge in the world. The bridge and connecting rail line were built to haul limestone from the Portland Cement Quarry, located a mile up river on the Middle Fork, to the Southern Pacific main line in Auburn. In 2004 the Mountain Quarries Railroad Bridge was added to the National Register of Historic Places. In 2014, the bridge was designated California Historic Landmark #1051.

*The Auburn State Recreation Area is managed by California State Parks & Recreation for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Local Museums

Placer County Courthouse Museum
101 Maple Street
530-889-6507

Bernhard Museum Complex
291 Auburn Folsom Rd.
530-888-6891

Gold Rush Mining Museum
601 Lincoln Way
530-889-6500

Joss House Chinese Museum
200 Sacramento St.
530-823-0723

Placer County Visitors Bureau
1103 High Street
530-887-2111

Forest Hill Divide Museum
24601 Harrison St.
530-367-3988

Protect American River Canyons

This map is a special project by PARC, an Auburn-based, non-profit river conservation group dedicated to the protection of the North and Middle Forks of the American River and its canyons for all to care for and responsibly enjoy.

P.O. Box 9312, Auburn, CA 95604
www.parc-auburn.org

Special Thanks

- SOWARWE-WERHER and Tom Peterson for the base map information.
- John Muir Laws for donating his flora and fauna illustrations from *Law's Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada*
- Mystic Design for the cover illustration and design of this map. www.mysticdesign.net
- APi Marketing www.api-marketing.com

Dedication

Michael G. Lynch is a retired California State Parks Ranger, Sector Superintendent and author, whose career in the Auburn SRA spanned over 35 years. His many accomplishment included a revived interest in the rich historical legacy of the North and Middle Forks of the American River.

Jim Ferris, co-founder of the Canyon Keepers and author whose passion is to help others experience the benefits of healthy recreation in the canyons while enjoying their natural beauty.

Harvey Roper, 1956-2014, an Auburn community leader and businessman who worked to promote the recreational and economic benefits of the Auburn SRA in our region.

Funding for this Project

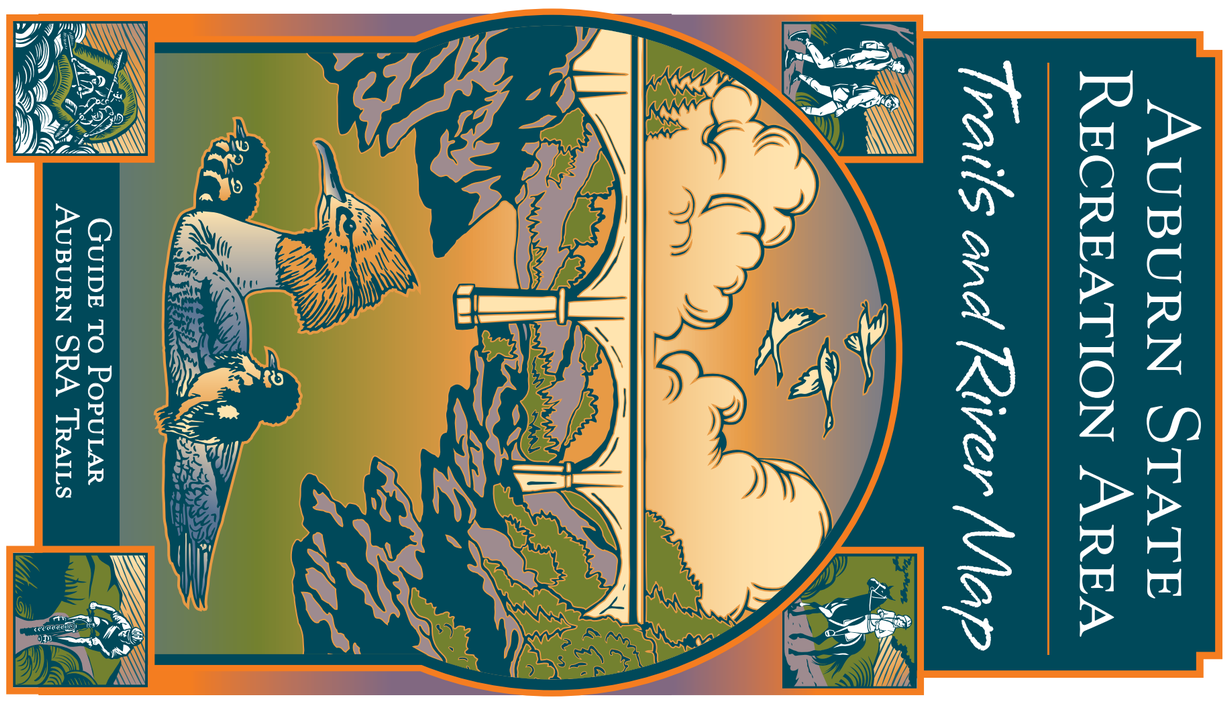
- Placer ARTs
- California Arts Council
- National Endowment for the Arts
- Placer County Water Agency

LEGEND

- Paved Roads
- Dirt Roads
- Trails
- Creeks
- Park Boundaries
- Primitive Trails
- Parking Areas
- Restrooms
- Horse Routes
- Hiking Routes
- Steep Trail Section
- Bike Routes
- Put Ins & Take Outs
- River Rapids
- Preserves
- River Miles
- Fee Areas — *Fee areas require a CA State Parking Pass or a day usage fee.*
- Gates
- Seasonal Gates — *Seasonal road closures, call ASRA*
- Landmarks, Mines
- PARC proposed California State Wild & Scenic River designation: for a 16 mile stretch of river from Mineral Bar to Upper Clementine.

WARNING!

RIVER LEVELS MAY CHANGE SUDDENLY!
(UPSTREAM DAM RELEASES)
DON'T GET STRANDED!



Resources

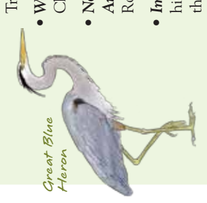
Useful Visitor Contact Information

- **California State Park's Auburn State Recreation Area Headquarters Auburn Office**, 530-885-4527
- **Auburn State Recreation Area Canyon Keepers conduct volunteer river docent programs**, www.canyonkeepers.org
- **American River Flow Information**, http://cdec.water.ca.gov/river/americanStages.html
- **Auburn Area Recreation and Park District**, 530-885-8461
- **US Bureau of Reclamation**, 916-978-5100
- **California Fire and Department of Forestry**, 530-823-4904
- **Placer County Water Agency**, 530-823-4850
- **Bureau of Land Management**, 916-941-3103
- **Placer County Visitors Bureau and the California Welcome Center in Auburn**, 530-887-2111
- **Auburn Area Chamber of Commerce**, 530-885-5616
- **Auburn American River Watershed Institute**, www.arwi.us
- **Placer Nature Center in Christian Valley**, 530-878-6053
- **Placer Land Trust in Auburn**, 530-887-9222
- **Auburn Endurance Capital**, auburnendurancecapital.com
- **American River Conservancy and Nature Center in Coloma**, 530-621-1224

Useful American River Guides

(Check www.parc-auburn.org for more books)

- ***The American River Insider's Guide to the North, Middle and South Forks***, a recreational and cultural guide book for the Auburn State Recreation Area, 2013 edition, published by PARC.
- ***American River Canyon Hikes***, a practical guide to hikes in the Auburn State Recreation Area, published by the Canyon Keepers.
- ***Georgetown Hiking Trails***, Tom Petersen's Guide to popular and obscure trails in the American River Watershed, published by Get Off Your Ass, www.getoffyourass.com
- ***ASRA Trails Map***, a comprehensive topographic trails map of the entire ASRA trails system, published by SOWARWE-WERHER.
- ***Law's Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada*** by John Muir Laws, published by Heyday Books, (*see illustrations on this map*).
- ***The Western States Trail Guide Squaw Valley to Auburn***, Hal Hall's comprehensive guide to the 100 mile trail from Squaw Valley to Auburn is available from the Western States Trail Foundation 530-823-7282.



- ***Wildflowers of Placer and Nevada Counties***, published by the Redbud Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, www.redbud-cnps.org
- ***North Fork Trails: A guide to hiking the trails of the North Fork American River Canyon from the Foothills to the Sierra Crest*** by Ron Gould.
- ***Images of America, American River Canyon*** is a rich collection of historic photos and descriptions that document the many human uses that have shaped the history of the American River Canyons by Rodi Lee and Michael G. Lynch.

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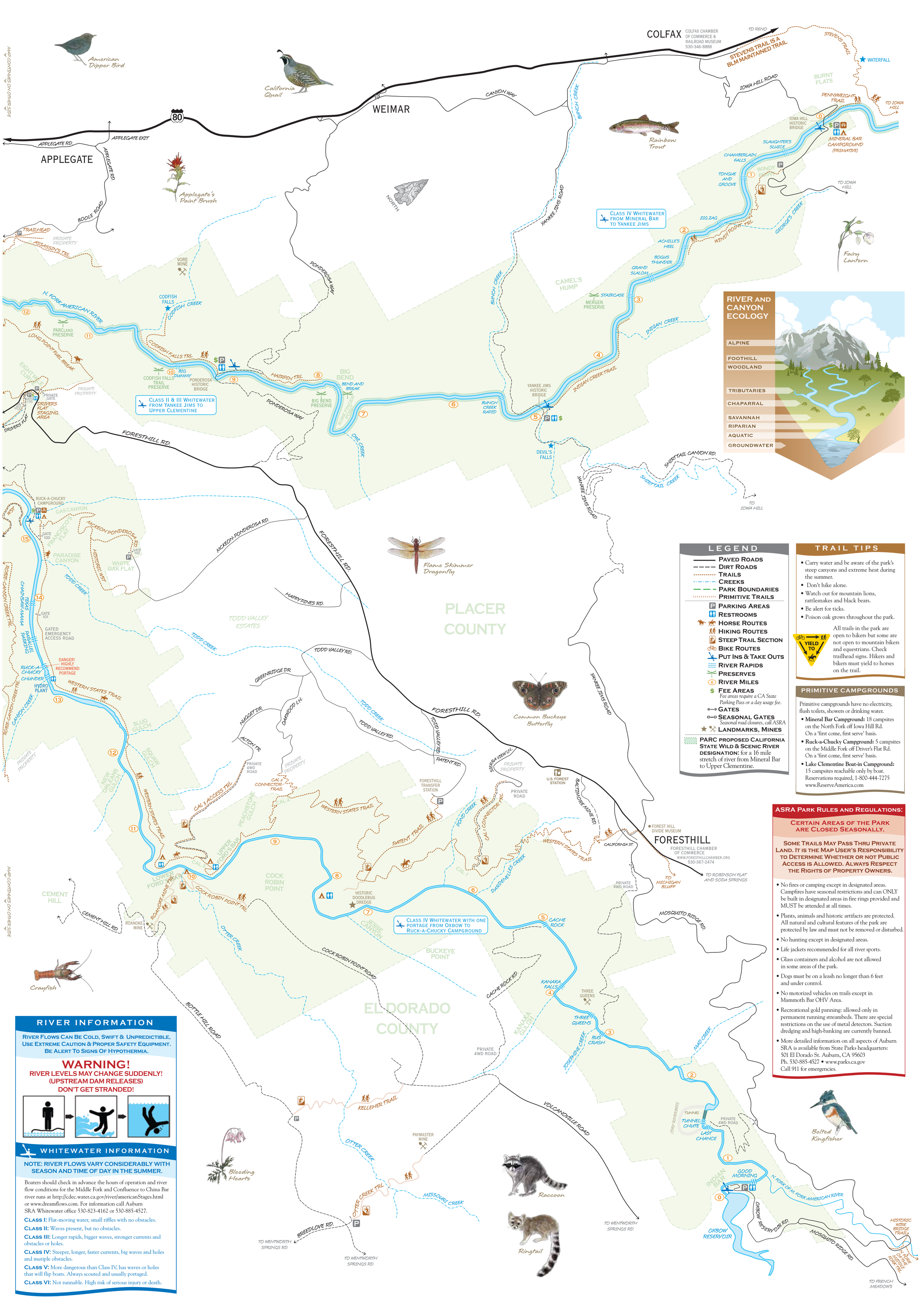
COLFAX
COLFAX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & RAILROAD MUSEUM 530-346-8888
TO RENO
STEVENS TRAIL IS A BLM MAINTAINED TRAIL
STEVENS TRAIL
WATERFALL
BURNT FLATS
IOWA HILL ROAD
PENNYWEIGHT TRAIL
TO IOWA HILL
IOWA HILL HISTORIC BRIDGE
MINERAL BAR CAMPGROUND (PRIMATIVE)
SLAUGHTER'S SLUICE
CHAMBERLAIN FALLS
TONGUE AND GROOVE
WINDY POINT
TO IOWA HILL
CLASS IV WHITEWATER FROM MINERAL BAR TO YANKEE JIMS
ZIG ZAG
WINDY POINT TRL
GEORGE'S CREEK
ACHILLE'S HEEL
BOGUS THUNDER
GRAND SLALOM
STAIRCASE
MERGEN PRESERVE
INDIAN CREEK
INDIAN CREEK TRAIL
YANKEE JIMS HISTORIC BRIDGE
BUNCH CREEK RAPID
DEVIL'S FALLS
SHIRTTAIL CANYON RD.
SHIRTTAIL CREEK
TO IOWA HILL
YANKEE JIMS ROAD
BUNCH CREEK
CAMEL'S HUMP
WEIMAR
CANYON WAY
APPLEGATE
APPLEGATE RD.
APPLEGATE EXIT
BOOLE ROAD
TRAILHEAD
PRIVATE PROPERTY
ASSASSIN'S TRL
VORE MINE
PONDEROSA WAY
NORTH
N. FORK AMERICAN RIVER
CODFISH FALLS
CODFISH CREEK
PARCLAND PRESERVE
LONG POINT FUEL BREAK
CODFISH FALLS TRL
CODFISH FALLS TRAIL PRESERVE
BIG DUMMY
PONDEROSA HISTORIC BRIDGE
HAIRPIN TRL
BIG BEND
BEND AND BREAK
BIG BEND PRESERVE
STORE FINGER
OWL CREEK
EIGHTMILE CURVE
PRIVATE GATE
DRIVERS FLAT STAGING AREA
DRIVERS FLAT
CLASS II & III WHITEWATER FROM YANKEE JIMS TO UPPER CLEMENTINE
FORESTHILL RD.
RUCK-A-CHUCKY CAMPGROUND
GAS CANYON
FRANCISCO'S FLAT
MCKEON PONDEROSA RD.
HISTORIC WEST
WHITE OAK FLAT
PARADISE CANYON
TODD CREEK
ROBIE CANYON CREEK TRL
CHAINSAW MAMA
TEXAS
PARALLEL PARKING
GATED EMERGENCY ACCESS ROAD
DANGER! HIGHLY RECOMMEND PORTAGE
RUCK-A-CHUCKY CHUNDER
HYDRO PLANT
WESTERN STATES TRAIL
CANYON CREEK
SLUG GULCH
SQUAW GULCH
NEW ORLEANS GULCH
HAPPY PINES RD.
TODD VALLEY ESTATES
PLACER COUNTY
TODD VALLEY RD.
GREENRIDGE DR
NUGGET DR.
OAKWOOD LN.
ALTON TR.
PRIVATE 4WD ROAD
CAL 3 ACCESS TRL.
CAL 2 CONNECTOR TRAIL
PEACHSTONE GULCH
UPPER FORD'S BAR
LOWER FORD'S BAR
CAL 3
CAL 2
CAL 1
PATENT TRL
PATENT RD.
FORESTHILL TRANSFER STATION
SIERRA VIEW LN.
U.S. FOREST STATION
PRIVATE ROAD
POND CREEK
CAL 1 CONNECTOR TRL
DARDENELLES CREEK
BALTIMORE MINE RD.
CALIFORNIA ST.
FOREST HILL DIVIDE MUSEUM
FORESTHILL
FORESTHILL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WWW.FORESTHILLCHAMBER.ORG 530-367-2474
TO ROBINSON FLAT AND SODA SPRINGS
TO MICHIGAN BLUFF
MOSQUITO RIDGE RD.
CEMENT HILL
CEMENT HILL RD.
ROANOKE MINE
ROANOKE MINE TRL
COCK ROBIN POINT TRL
COCK ROBIN POINT
HISTORIC DOODLEBUG DREDGE
JESSE CANYON
CLASS IV WHITEWATER WITH ONE PORTAGE FROM OXBOW TO RUCK-A-CHUCKY CAMPGROUND
CACHE ROCK
OTTER CREEK
COCK ROBIN POINT ROAD
BUCKEYE POINT
CACHE ROCK RD.
EL DORADO COUNTY
BOTTLE HILL ROAD
KANAKA FALLS
THREE QUEENS
KANAKA GULCH
JOSEPHINE CREEK
BUS CRASH
MAD CREEK
KELLEHER TRAIL
VOLCANOVILLE ROAD
PAYMASTER MINE
MISSOURI CREEK
OTTER CREEK TRL
BREEDLOVE RD.
TO WENTWORTH SPRINGS RD.
TUNNEL
TUNNEL CHUTE
LAST CHANCE
(TWO RIVERBED)
INDIAN BAR
GOOD MORNING
N. FORK OF N. FORK AMERICAN RIVER
OXBOW RESERVOIR
OXBOW RESERVOIR RD.
HISTORIC WIRE BRIDGE TRAIL
N. FORK OF N. FORK AMERICAN TRL
TO FRENCH MEADOWS
American Dipper Bird
California Quail
Rainbow Trout
Applegate's Paint Brush
Fairy Lantern
Flame Skimmer Dragonfly
Common Buckeye Butterfly
Crayfish
Bleeding Hearts
Raccoon
Ringtail
Belted Kingfisher
MAP CONTINUES ON OTHER SIDE
RIVER AND CANYON ECOLOGY
ALPINE
FOOTHILL
WOODLAND
TRIBUTARIES
CHAPARRAL
SAVANNAH
RIPARIAN
AQUATIC
GROUNDWATER
LEGEND
PAVED ROADS
DIRT ROADS
TRAILS
CREEKS
PARK BOUNDARIES
PRIMITIVE TRAILS
PARKING AREAS
RESTROOMS
HORSE ROUTES
HIKING ROUTES
STEEP TRAIL SECTION
BIKE ROUTES
PUT INS & TAKE OUTS
RIVER RAPIDS
PRESERVES
RIVER MILES
FEE AREAS
Fee areas require a CA State Parking Pass or a day usage fee.
GATES
SEASONAL GATES
Seasonal road closures, call ASRA
LANDMARKS, MINES
PARC PROPOSED CALIFORNIA STATE WILD & SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION: for a 16 mile stretch of river from Mineral Bar to Upper Clementine.
TRAIL TIPS
• Carry water and be aware of the park's steep canyons and extreme heat during the summer.
• Don't hike alone.
• Watch out for mountain lions, rattlesnakes and black bears.
• Be alert for ticks.
• Poison oak grows throughout the park.
YIELD TO
All trails in the park are open to hikers but some are not open to mountain bikers and equestrians. Check trailhead signs. Hikers and bikers must yield to horses on the trail.
PRIMITIVE CAMPGROUNDS
Primitive campgrounds have no electricity, flush toilets, showers or drinking water.
• Mineral Bar Campground: 18 campsites on the North Fork off Iowa Hill Rd. On a 'first come, first serve' basis.
• Ruck-a-Chucky Campground: 5 campsites on the Middle Fork off Driver's Flat Rd. On a 'first come, first serve' basis.
• Lake Clementine Boat-in Campground: 15 campsites reachable only by boat. Reservations required, 1-800-444-7275 www.ReserveAmerica.com
ASRA PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS:
CERTAIN AREAS OF THE PARK ARE CLOSED SEASONALLY.
SOME TRAILS MAY PASS THRU PRIVATE LAND. IT IS THE MAP USER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT PUBLIC ACCESS IS ALLOWED. ALWAYS RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF PROPERTY OWNERS.
• No fires or camping except in designated areas. Campfires have seasonal restrictions and can ONLY be built in designated areas in fire rings provided and MUST be attended at all times.
• Plants, animals and historic artifacts are protected. All natural and cultural features of the park are protected by law and must not be removed or disturbed.
• No hunting except in designated areas.
• Life jackets recommended for all river sports.
• Glass containers and alcohol are not allowed in some areas of the park.
• Dogs must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet and under control.
• No motorized vehicles on trails except in Mammoth Bar OHV Area.
• Recreational gold panning: allowed only in permanent running streambeds. There are special restrictions on the use of metal detectors. Suction dredging and high-banking are currently banned.
• More detailed information on all aspects of Auburn SRA is available from State Parks headquarters: 501 El Dorado St. Auburn, CA 95603 Ph. 530-885-4527 • www.parks.ca.gov Call 911 for emergencies.
RIVER INFORMATION
RIVER FLOWS CAN BE COLD, SWIFT & UNPREDICTIBLE, USE EXTREME CAUTION & PROPER SAFETY EQUIPMENT. BE ALERT TO SIGNS OF HYPOTHERMIA.
WARNING!
RIVER LEVELS MAY CHANGE SUDDENLY! (UPSTREAM DAM RELEASES) DON'T GET STRANDED!
WHITEWATER INFORMATION
NOTE: RIVER FLOWS VARY CONSIDERABLY WITH SEASON AND TIME OF DAY IN THE SUMMER.
Boaters should check in advance the hours of operation and river flow conditions for the Middle Fork and Confluence to China Bar river runs at http://cdec.water.ca.gov/river/americanStages.html or www.dreamflows.com. For information call Auburn SRA Whitewater office 530-823-4162 or 530-885-4527.
CLASS I: Flat-moving water, small riffles with no obstacles.
CLASS II: Waves present, but no obstacles.
CLASS III: Longer rapids, bigger waves, stronger currents and obstacles or holes.
CLASS IV: Steeper, longer, faster currents, big waves and holes and mutiple obstacles.
CLASS V: More dangerous than Class IV, has waves or holes that will flip boats. Always scouted and usually portaged.
CLASS VI: Not runnable. High risk of serious injury or death.