

South Fork Newsletter

County of El Dorado Environmental Management Department
River Management Program

October 2010

≧Public Notice:≦

Annual review of the El Dorado County River Management Plan

Held by the River Management Advisory Committee

Location: Marshall Gold State Historic
Park Museum building
310 Back Street, Coloma, CA

Date: Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Time: 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Please come ready to discuss issues related to river use on the South Fork that have arisen in 2010. Only through the understanding of area residents' perceptions of whitewater recreation can the County take measures to address your concerns in the future.

Public comments from this meeting and any River Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) recommendations formed as a result of your comments will be presented to the County Planning Commission within the Annual Report.

The River Management Advisory Committee

The River Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) provides a forum for the discussion of river use issues, ideas and conflicts. RMAC is a formal advisory body which makes recommendations to both the County Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors on matters related to whitewater recreation and campground development along the South Fork American River. The County established RMAC to be representative of a broad base of interests concerning the river. There are seven members of the committee:

- a permitted commercial outfitter
- a non-commercial boater
- a local business representative
- a local resident
- two members-at-large
- a California State Parks representative

RMAC meets the second Wednesday or Thursday night of each month, January through November, at the Lotus Fire Station. The public is invited to attend and participate at these monthly meetings. If you would like to receive the minutes and agendas via email please sign up on the County web site:

https://service.govdelivery.com/service/subscribe.html?code=CAELDOR_1.

Monthly minutes can also be viewed on the web at www.edcgov.us/emd/Rivers/river_advisory_com.html

What can riparian land owners do to prevent the amount of trash getting into waterways?

To help reduce the amount of debris that washes into the river during minor flood events or winter high water, you can do the following:

- 1) Locate the periodic high-water mark (2006 flood elevation) and put a stake (mark) where that is so that you or the next tenant knows that elevation. If you would like help locating the high water mark you can call County River Patrol for assistance @ (530) 621-6052.
- 2) Between the months of November to May do not leave manufactured items unattended below the high water mark of January 1, 2006. Examples of manufactured items would be canoes, BBQ's, lawn furniture, shade tents, picnic tables, RV's, etc.

Winter Release Schedule

There are reliable flows on the South Fork American River below Chili Bar. The current flow and release schedule can be found at <http://dreamflows.com/> or the [County River's web page](#).

Safety and Crime Reporting

When going out on the river or hiking for the day please remember to not leave valuables in your vehicle to deter break-ins. It is best to recreate on the river with a partner, dress appropriately, have a first aid kit and rescue gear.

Training and having a plan if something goes wrong can greatly increase your chances of survival or rescue. If you see suspicious activity, observe a crime or are a victim of a crime please call the El Dorado County Sheriff's Dept at 530-621-6600 and the appropriate land managing agency. Their contact information is listed at the end of this newsletter.

Invasive Species Alert !!! Don't Move a Mussel !!!

**Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all boating equipment!!!**

There is a **new invasive species** in California. The zebra and quagga mussels, originally from Ukraine, landed in the Great Lakes in the 1980s and have spread steadily throughout the Midwest and Mississippi River. The mussels have explosive reproductive rates and can quickly carpet the bottom of lakes and slow-moving rivers, disrupting the food chain (as filter feeders they deplete the phytoplankton from the water) and clog water works. In recent years the mussels have invaded Lake Mead and the lower Colorado River. They have moved through the Metropolitan Water District's Colorado Aqueduct and now have infested about a dozen reservoirs in Southern California. The California Department of Fish and Game is responsible for stemming the tide and sequestering the mussels in Southern California. While the most common threat is mussels "hitch-hiking" on the hulls and in bilge water of trailered boats, there is also a threat they can be transported by whitewater craft that move from river to river. The adult mussels can attach to the bottom of boats or in mud attached to the boat. More problematic to whitewater boating is larval mussels (called veligers), tiny organisms that drift down rivers and can live easily in splash water inside the raft/kayak. The most sure-fire way to avoid distributing them is to make sure rafts and kayaks are clean (mud free) and dry as they are transported river to river. Adult larval mussels die within a week when out of the water, and veligers can be eliminated by simply draining the boat of residual water. **Get in the habit of a cleaning and drying boating and fishing equipment/clothing between trips and especially when going to different rivers or lakes.**

More information on this issue can be found at the following websites:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/quaggamussel/>
<http://www.100thmeridian.org/>

Photos of zebra/quagga mussels are provided below.



Mussel Shell on palm of human hand



Boat hull coated with Mussels

Stormwater Tip of the Season

Stormwater runoff from construction activities can have a significant impact on water quality. As stormwater flows over a construction site, it picks up pollutants like sediment, debris, and chemicals. Sedimentation can destroy aquatic habitat and high volumes of runoff can cause stream bank erosion.

Polluted stormwater runoff can also have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals, and people. Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediment also can destroy aquatic habitats. Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water called eutrophication. Many fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels. Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, often making beach closures necessary.

Debris—plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles, and cigarette butts—washed into waterbodies can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic wildlife like fish, turtles, and birds. Debris can also clog waterways and potentially reach the ocean where they can kill marine wildlife and impact habitat. Household hazardous wastes like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick or die from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water. Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs. If you see any areas where there are potential erosion, sediment control and/or pollution issues, please call the Storm Water Coordinator at 530 621-5909.

For more information on Storm Water issues, please visit our Storm Water website at <http://www.edcgov.us/emd/solidwaste/storm.html>



Private boaters getting ready to brave the river from Chili Bar

River Cleanups in 2010

The County led three river cleanups on the S. Fork in 2010. One cleanup on the upper, one cleanup on the lower and one low water river cleanup on the State Park to Greenwood Creek section. River cleanups are coordinated by El Dorado County Parks, CA State Parks, Bureau of Land Management and the American River Conservancy. If you are interested in participating in a river cleanup in 2011 or other volunteer projects please contact El Dorado County Parks or the American River Conservancy at 530-621-1224. El Dorado County River Patrol and the Environmental Management Department would like to

thank the following entities for their contributions to these efforts:

SMUD
 O.A.R.S.
 River and Rock Adventures
 Coloma Resort
 Camp Lotus
 All Outdoors Inc.
 W.E.T. River Trips
 American River Conservancy
 Sierra Nevada House
 Tributary WW Tours
 American WW Expeditions
 CA State Parks
 American River Resort
 Ponderosa RV Park
 Sierra Rizing Bakery
 The Coloma Club
 River Shack Pub and Deli
 Mad Dog Pizza
 Beyond Limits Adventures
 River and Rock Adv.
 Whitewater Voyages, Inc.
 California Canoe and Kayak
 American River Recreation
 Friends of the River
 Project Great Outdoors

Sierra Disposal
 Adventure Connections
 Marco's Cafe
 Café Mahjaic
 Peak Adventures
 Whitewater Connections
 Kokatat
 Patagonia
 DeReimer Kayaking
 The River Shuttle
 Northwest River Supply
 Inner City Outings
 Gringos Restaurant
 ARTA
 American River Resort
 Mariah Wilderness Exp.
 Action WW Adventures
 Mother Lode River Trips
 Env. Travel. Companions
 UCD Outdoor Adv.
 River Runners, Inc.
 Calvary Chapel, Concord
 The Forest Group
 PG&E
 The Rafters Toe



River Cleanup Volunteers picking up abandoned river debris

Events in the Coloma-Lotus Valley

- Christmas in Coloma December 11&12 @ Marshall Gold Discovery State Historical Park
- Gold Discovery Day Jan. 22&23 @ Marshall Gold Discovery State Historical Park
- ARC Events – Please visit - arconservancy.org

Agency Contact Information

[El Dorado County, EMD River MGMT](#)

2850 Fairlane Ct., Build. C
Placerville, Ca 95667
530-621-6052

Bureau of Land Management, [Mother Lode Field Office](#)

5152 Hillsdale Circle
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762
Phone: (916) 941-3101

[Auburn State Recreation Area](#)

501 El Dorado Street
Auburn, CA 95604-3266
530-885-4527
Dispatch for On Duty Ranger (916) 358-1300

[Folsom Lake State Recreation Area](#)

7806 Folsom-Auburn Road
Folsom, CA 95630-1797
916-988-0205
Dispatch for On Duty Ranger (916) 358-1300

[Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park](#)

PO Box 265
Coloma, CA 95613
530-622-3470

Note: You can also find this newsletter on the El Dorado County Rivers web page:

www.edcgov.us/emd/Rivers/index.html. If you want to continue to receive a paper copy of this newsletter please contact the El Dorado County Parks office. We would prefer to send an electronic version to you in the future. Please email Noah.Rucker-Triplett@edcgov.us to have an emailed copy sent.