



Five Year Summary Report for Implementation of the River Management Plan: 2002-2006

Background

The River Management Plan (RMP) was developed to manage use of the South Fork of the American River that flows within the boundaries of the County of El Dorado and adjacent land. The plan was designed to monitor and evaluate use within and along the river in order to minimize impacts to the environment and private land owners. The plan was approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2001.

The RMP specifies that the annual reports be compiled every 5th year for submission to the Planning Director (now the Community Development Agency, Development Services Division Director) and the County General Services Director (now the County's Chief Administrative Officer). The purpose of the annual reports is to summarize the progress or implementation of the Program Elements that are detailed in Section 6 of the RMP.

The following is a summary of implementation of the Program Elements for the 5 year period from 2002 to 2006. Elements that are quoted from the RMP (Section 6, Program Elements) are shown in italics. Sub-Elements, when referenced, are shown in parentheses. The summary was developed by the Community Development Agency, Environmental Management Division with input from the Sheriff's Department and the Community Development Agency, Development Services Division.

Element 1 - Educational Programs

Element 1 details how educational programs will be developed and utilized to provide river users and landowners with information that can be used to improve safety and social conditions, including river use, requirements, and rights of boaters and landowners.

"1.1 The County will continue to publish a Quarterly Newsletter to provide landowners/residents" with the following information."

The Quarterly Newsletter has been published intermittently since 2001. The newsletter includes an annual summary of landowner and boater rights, limitations, and trespass issues (1.1.1); a directory of services and contact information (1.1.2); information on River Management

Advisory Committee (RMAC) meetings and participation (1.1.3) and a calendar of river related events (1.1.4).

On average, there have been two newsletters printed each year for mailing to landowners within the area affected by the RMP and river use. Copies were also made available to other interested parties upon request.

“1.2 Signs will be developed under the supervision of the County Department of General Services in collaboration with the RMAC, El Dorado County Sheriff’s Department (Sheriff’s Department), the River Safety Committee (RSC), the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park (SHP), and the American River Conservancy.”

The design guidelines for signs developed for this Element have been utilized in all river-related signage. The cost of design guidelines, sign text, manufacture, placement, and maintenance has been funded by River Trust Funds.

Signs have been installed as specified within Element 1.2 (sub-Elements 1.2.1 through 1.2.3) of the RMP that provide the public with the following information:

- The beginning and ending of public lands and the Quiet Zone (which begins at Indian Creek above Coloma, and ends at Greenwood Creek below Rivers Bend); mileage to the location of public restrooms; reminders to the public to only stop on public lands; warnings to the public of the need to wear a life vest; and water flow fluctuations (1.2.1).
- River land status and river mile between Chili Bar and Salmon Falls. Road signs clearly identify public take outs, campgrounds, and parks. Signs for restroom locations are placed when restrooms cannot be easily observed from the river (1.2.2).
- River flow information is presented on kiosks at public put-ins warning people of proper rafting skills and recommended equipment (1.2.3).
 - Element 1.2.3.2 states that signage informing boaters of dangers associated with the Middle Run will be installed in the event that a Special Use Permit (SUP) modification near Highway Rapid results in private boaters utilizing this area. No such modification has occurred to trigger installation.

“1.3 Standardized informational kiosks, using the sign design guidelines developed above, will be placed at Chili Bar, Henningsen Lotus Park, Camp Lotus, Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, and Salmon Falls/Skunk Hollow.”

As specified in Element 1.3, kiosks were designed and constructed by the General Services Department (sub-Element 1.3.2) using a standardized color palate and similar materials where appropriate.

“1.4 The County Department of General Services will continue to facilitate a “flow phone” telephone system.”

The flow phone system provides information throughout the boating season. The flow phone uses a voice message system that is updated when the flow schedule changes, either monthly or seasonally, with information pertaining to high water flow, river safety, and river running recommendations. Currently, other information that is specified by this Element is not included on the flow phone, such as recent recreational use levels; estimates of high and low use periods; parking, camping, and

shuttle options; however the message does contain the web address and phone numbers for obtaining additional information. The flow phone number is posted on the kiosks located at put-in sites.

“1.5 The County Department of General Services will continue to expand its use of the Internet to disseminate and receive information on river management activities via the County’s RMP website.”

A web page located at: <http://edcgon.us/Rivers/> contains information and links pertaining to running the South Fork American River (flow information, approved commercial rafting companies, registration forms, maps, shuttle information, and camping information). The website also contains links to the Annual Reports, River Management Plan, and the River Management Advisory Committee (RMAC).

“1.6 Using brochures, kiosks, and the Internet, the County will institute an educational program designed to provide river users and landowners/managers within the river corridor information regarding the value of plant, fish, and wildlife resources and the habitats on which they depend, and encourage protection of riparian vegetation.”

An educational program that informs rivers users and landowners/managers is fulfilled through the newsletters, guide company talks, Commercial Outfitter managers’ spring meetings, Headwaters Guide Institute Seminars, the Boating and Waterways South Fork American Boating Guide Trail, public kiosks, river maps, and visitor contact by River Program staff.

“1.7 The County will increase efforts to educate boaters (especially those putting in at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park and at Henningsen Lotus Park) of the requirements and sensitivities of the Quiet Zone.”

In addition to signs on the river that identify the Quiet Zone, River Program staff educated boaters at put-ins and boaters on the river about the Quiet Zone by informing them of the Quiet Zone regulation and the Quiet Zone boundaries.. If commercial rafters and their customers are violating the Quiet Zone, River Program staff cites the commercial rafting company for the violation. There was one Commercial Outfitter cited for violating the Quiet Zone during the reporting period of 2002 through 2006.

“1.8 As a part of the river education program, the County will continue to provide information on the location of trash disposal containers and toilets.”

Restroom locations can be found on kiosk maps, river maps provided to the public, and signs located on the river. Private boater tags remind boaters of the requirement to bring a trash container on the river.

“1.9 The County will continue to provide information on the approved river put-in and takeout areas, campgrounds, and lunch stops.”

Kiosk maps and river maps provide the locations for public river put-ins and take-outs, along with the locations of the public campgrounds. Updates are made as facility improvements and additions are completed.

“1.10 Commercial Guide Educational Programs”

Every spring, the County holds a managers and guides meeting which is attended by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California State Parks, El Dorado County (EDC) Sheriffs Boating Unit Deputy, a member of RMAC, and, periodically, representatives from the American River Conservancy and Coloma Lotus Fire (Elements 1.10.1.1 and 1.10.1.1.1). These meetings cover

ongoing permit regulations, problems identified from river use, changes to permits, guide education on natural history, river safety, and acceptable behavior in and around the Quiet Zone (Element 1.10.1.1.2 and 1.10.2).

“1.11 The County, in coordination with Marshall Gold Discovery SHP and American River Conservancy representatives, will lead cultural resources and natural resources workshops at Henningsen Lotus Park and on-river.”

A day long workshop, put on by the Headwater Guide Institute with coordination from the American River Conservancy, River Program, and California Marshall Gold State Historic Park, is conducted annually. The workshop is open to the public and outfitters.

Element 2 – Safety Programs

Element 2 discusses the importance of safety and defines the responsible agencies for implementing safety programs as they pertain to the RMP.

“2.1 River Safety Committee (RSC)”

Elements 2.1.1 through 2.1.3 describe the formation and coordination of the River Safety Committee (RSC). Elements 2.1.1 through 2.1.3 discuss agency responsibilities, participation by private boaters for safety, and incident response.

Element 2.1.1 states that the RSC will be “coordinated by, and provided training under the direction of, the Sheriff’s Department”. There has been no recent activity of the River Safety Committee.

The Sheriff’s Department formed the RSC during the winter months of 2002, and held several organizational meetings. As specified in Element 2.1.2, participation was to be comprised of representatives from the Sheriff’s Boating Safety Unit, the El Dorado Fire Protection District, California State Parks – Auburn Whitewater Recreation Office, riverside residents, and interested professional and expert boaters. It is the opinion of the El Dorado County Sheriff’s Department that the River Safety Committee has become unnecessary because the County Search and Rescue (SAR) program, which is under the purview of the Sheriff’s Department, and the Sheriff’s Department’s dive and boating units, fulfill the intent of the Program Element.

Element 2.1.3 states that the RSC “will form a volunteer River Search and Rescue Team, consisting of government agency personnel and qualified local paddlers”. Interagency trainings have occurred sporadically since 2002.

“2.2 Agency Safety and Rescue Training

Agencies currently cooperating with El Dorado County river management activities have varying degrees of river safety and swiftwater rescue capabilities. To unify, upgrade, and update safety and rescue activities, representatives of the RSC, under the direction of the Sheriff’s Department, will be authorized to conduct training sessions for agency personnel.”

Element 2.2.1 states that annual agency safety and rescue training session will be conducted to train individuals for emergency response and rescue. Element 2.2.2 states that RSC instructors will be paid a reasonable fee for executing training activities. However, no Swiftwater Rescue Instructor (SRT) has been trained to conduct these activities. Therefore, this training has not occurred.

“2.3 The Sheriff’s Department, County Parks, and commercial outfitters will continue to offer boating safety instruction, boating emergency procedures, first-aid, and evacuation and emergency communications education.”

The Sheriff's Department and County Parks (now the River Program) provided boating safety education through the annual spring manager's and guide's meetings, workshops with user groups, and the activities described in Element 2.4.

"2.4 County Park Staff Activities"

This Element discusses staffing along and on the river and when staff will focus on specific responsibilities that pertain to the RMP.

The County of El Dorado River Program is generally staffed by three people: the River Recreation Supervisor and two seasonal river patrol staff. As specified in Elements 2.4.1, 2.4.2, and 2.4.3, the river patrol's daily activities typically include: boater education at the river access points; river safety patrol; Quiet Zone patrol; and river use monitoring. The emphasis among these four activities varies with the season, day of week, and river section that a patroller works.

On Saturdays, two patrollers usually work lower section of the river (also known as the Gorge), from Henningsen Lotus Park to Salmon Falls (Folsom Reservoir), combining aspects from each of these activities during the work day (Element 2.4.2). One patrol staff member monitors river use at Chili Bar and performs a patrol on the Chili Bar run (Chili Bar to Coloma). On Sundays, two patrollers usually work on the Chili Bar section, while one person patrols and monitors river use on the Gorge section. Staff also helps maintain the BLM composting toilets.

The components of the river patrol activities are outlined below:

Provide boater education for non-commercial boaters:

- Provide information on boating safety, boater responsibilities, and river flow information to boaters at river accesses and on river patrols.
- Implement private boater registration system.
- Implement large group and institutional group registration system.

River safety patrol:

- Aid boaters (i.e. wrapped boats and swimmers) on weekends at key rapids while monitoring river use.
- Provide a safety/sweep function by running the Class III sections late in the day.
- Annually place a backboard, c-collar, and head stabilizers below Meat Grinder, Satan's Cesspool, and Fowlers Rock rapids for the regular boating season.

Quiet Zone patrol:

- Provide dual education/enforcement on-river patrol through the Coloma to Greenwood section.
- Emphasize controlling Quiet Zone noise, use of public lands, and use of lifejackets by all boaters and tubers.
- Provide safety information and aid to people floating/boating on the Class II section of the river.

River use monitoring:

- Conduct monitoring on weekends for the carrying capacity system.
- Audit commercial river use.
- Track non-commercial river use levels.

"2.5 The Sheriff's Department will remain the lead agency for river emergency response."

Element 2.5.1 and 2.5.2 delegate the responsibility for river regulation, law enforcement, and river rescue planning and response to the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department is also responsible for riverside enforcement and prosecution of private boaters. The Sheriff's Boating Unit annually provides a report on their river season which is included in the River Program Annual Report as an appendix.

"2.6 The El Dorado County Fire Protection District will continue to coordinate with the Sheriff's Department for river rescue planning and response functions."

The Sheriff's Department, through dispatch response protocols, coordinates emergency responses to river related emergencies.

"2.7 The County will use boater density carrying-capacity thresholds and additional management actions as described in Element 7 to address safety issues associated with high boater density and use levels."

For the report period of 2002 – 2006, this Element was not triggered because boater density had not become high enough to require additional safety measures.

Element 3 – Transportation Programs

Element 3 requires traffic studies and adherence to performance standards to ensure that traffic patterns are not affected by river use. The Element advocates for a reduction in traffic and illegal parking through the use of shuttles.

"3.1 The County will encourage the private sector to implement a river shuttle service."

Shuttle services were not available during the 2002 through 2006 reporting period.

"3.2 The County will seek to obtain a central meeting location and parking area that enables and encourages boaters to organize shuttles on their own as a method to reduce traffic on local roads as well as provide a needed service."

Most of the Commercial Outfitters have staging areas for their clients within the outfitter's private location of business. The clients are shuttled to and from the start and end point of their trip by the rafting company that supplies the trip.

Element 3.2.1 specifies that two areas on the north end of Coloma be given special consideration for off-river parking and staging. During the reporting period, parking capacity was sufficient and did not require the additional parking and staging areas to be developed.

"3.3 The County will undertake the following actions to respond to illegal parking"

Elements 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 require that illegal parking areas that are identified by complaints from the public and merchants be designated as double-fine zones and have signs that notify motorists of those zones. A double-fine zone ordinance has not yet been adopted by the County.

Elements 3.3.3 and 3.3.4 discuss current "no parking zones" and the authorization by the Sheriff's Department to tow illegally parked vehicles. During this reporting period, the Department of Transportation (now the Community Development Agency, Transportation Division) had a Traffic Advisory Committee that discusses where no parking zones should be established.

"3.4 Commercial outfitters may not use Mt. Murphy Bridge for commercial boating activities transport."

In addition to the prohibition for Commercial Outfitters stated in this Element, there is no public put-in on the other side of Mt. Murphy Bridge which is owned by California State Parks and the Coloma Resort. Coloma Resort's Special Use Permit does not allow for commercial boating activities. Therefore, allowing commercial boating activities would be a violation of their permit.

“3.5 The County will conduct detailed traffic studies and adhere to performance standards”

The El Dorado County Department of Transportation (now the Community Development Agency, Transportation Division) oversaw the counting of road traffic on County Roads. The collected data was used to identify road segments that exceed the County General Plan's identified Level of Service for that road segment. Daily traffic volumes were monitored at the same locations that were analyzed in the plan's Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Table 1, and Figures 1 and 2 show the traffic trends on these road segments. The following summarizes the results of the DOT traffic studies:

- Traffic volumes at the monitored locations remain within the Level of Service standards described in the EIR.
- The 2006 traffic counts support the 2005 traffic counts: both counts indicate an increase in midweek traffic levels on all road segments in the project area since the 1997 EIR analysis.
- On weekends, several road segments had lower traffic volumes than in 1997. A lower number of boaters on weekends in 2005 and 2006 than in 1997 contributed to lower traffic volumes on Bassi Road and Salmon Falls Road north of the river.

Table 1. Daily traffic volumes on County roads in the project area

Segment	1997* summer weekday average	2005 summer weekday average	2006 summer weekday average	1997 summer weekend traffic volumes	2005 summer weekend traffic volumes (avg. of Sat + Sun)	2006 summer weekend traffic volumes (avg. of Sat + Sun)	Traffic count dates
Bassi Road	800	955	956	1800	1469	1376	Aug 12-18 2005 Aug 11-17 2006
Cold Springs South of Gold Hill Rd	3000	3442	No Count	2500	2693	No Count	July 6-12 2005
Lotus Rd, South of Thompson Hill	4800	5653	5475	4800	5419	4990	Aug 12-18 2005 Aug 10-14 2006
Marshall Rd, near Hwy 49	3100	3791	3675	2900	3156	2945	Aug 12-18 2005 Aug 15-21 2006
Salmon Falls Rd, North of river	1300	1733	1760	1700	1861	1844	Aug 12-18 2005 Aug 10-16 2006
Salmon Falls Rd, South of river	1800	2696	2627	1900	2278	2275	Aug 12-18 2005 Aug 10-16 2006

* Traffic volumes reported in the RMP's EIR (1997 column) rounded data to the nearest 100

Figure 1. El Dorado County DOT Weekday Average Traffic Volumes on Road Segments within the Project Area

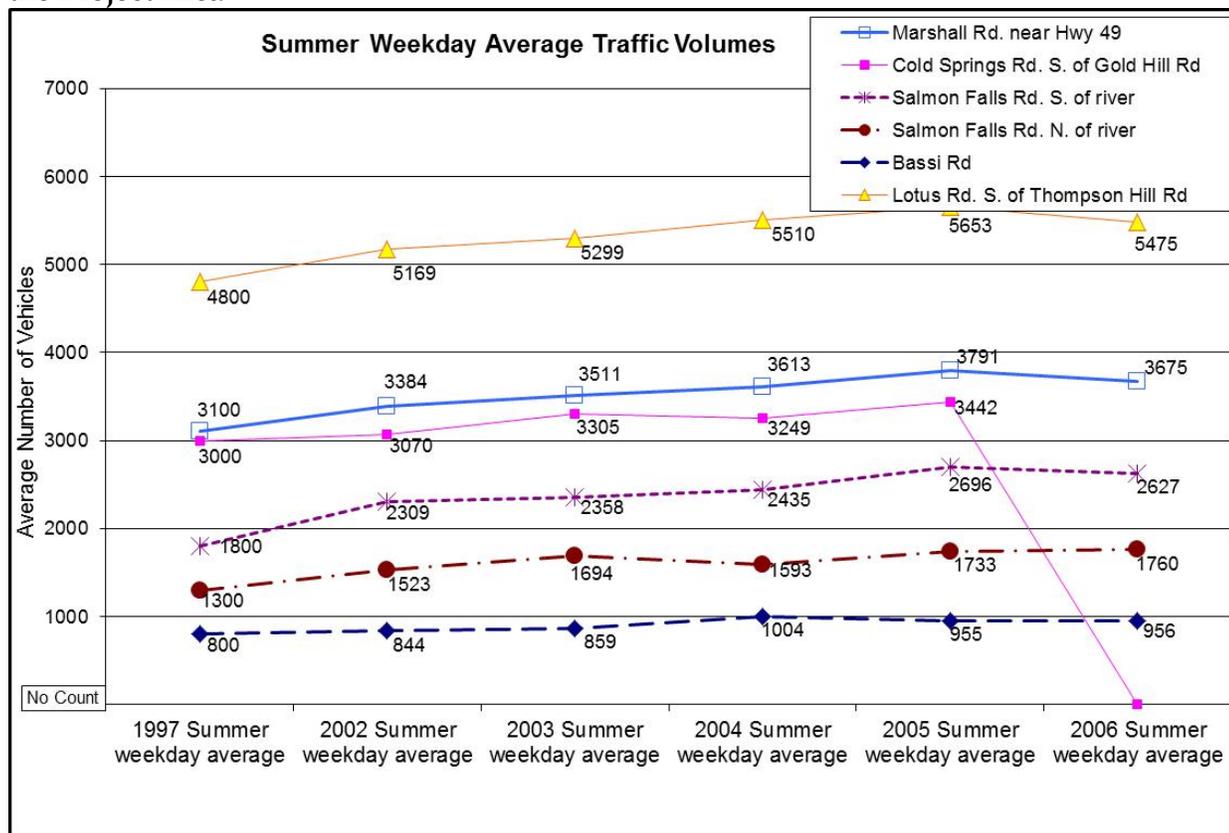
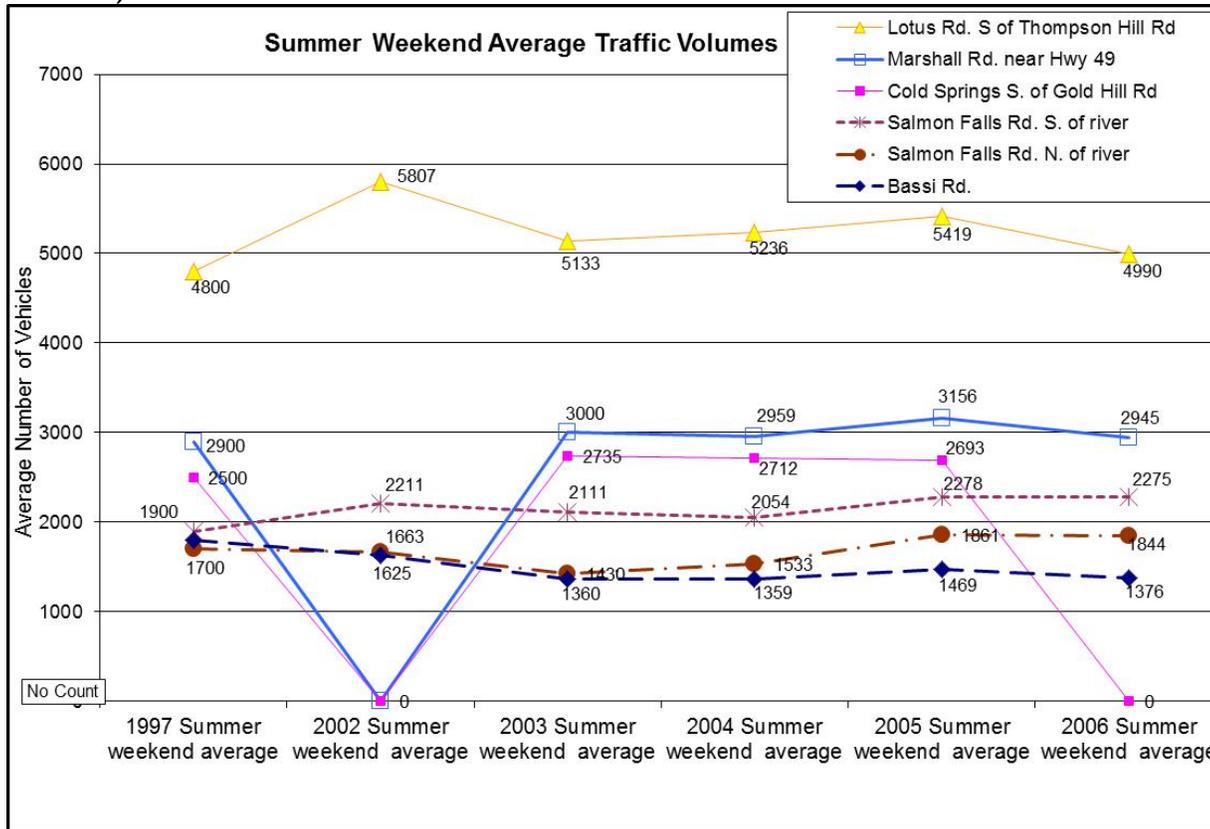


Figure 2. El Dorado County DOT Weekend Average Traffic Volumes on Road Segments within the Project Area



Element 4 - Monitoring and Reporting Programs

This Program Element “identifies methods and protocols for the County to collect information regarding river use, community satisfaction, water quality, and other environmental conditions within the river corridor”.

“4.1 Carrying Capacity Monitoring - To determine use levels and boat densities in order to identify carrying-capacity threshold exceedance associated with Element 7, County Parks will perform boater and boat counts at Troublemaker, Barking Dog and Satan’s Cesspool rapids.”

River Program staff routinely monitors use levels and boat densities as specified in the RMP to evaluate if capacity thresholds are exceeded by recording boat traffic as boats proceed down river. Based on monitoring of use on the river, River Program staff has recommended that Meatgrinder and Fowler’s Rock rapids be added as official boater count locations. These rapids are the first Class III rapids on the upper and lower section of river. Monitoring at these locations would enable staff to educate and help unprepared boaters before problems arise. River Program staff are currently monitoring these locations in addition to those specified in the RMP.

Appendix B of the RMP details the Mitigation Monitoring Plan. The section that details assessment of boater densities (page B-21) states that “two kayaks will be counted as one craft because of their superior maneuverability”. Appendix D of the RMP specifies the data and standards used for monitoring; however, there is no definition of “craft” for counting purposes. For consistency, it is recommended that the same definition used in Appendix B, be incorporated into Appendix D.

“4.2 Incident Reporting/ Cooperating Agency Reports - The Sheriff’s Department and County Department of General Services staff will continue to develop incident and accident, regulation violation, and safety report

summaries. The County will compile the information in an annual report, and present findings to the RMAC. These reports also will include incident information made available by California State Parks, the BLM, and other cooperating agencies. These annual reports will be compiled on a computer data base and summarized in the Department's post-season report. The geographic locations of incidents and accidents will be recorded for inclusion in the County's Geographic Information System (GIS)."

Drownings and violations are recorded in the Annual Reports. To date, the information collected has not been geo-referenced (logging of coordinates) so that GIS maps can be developed. Geo-referencing would require coordination between agencies to ensure that the data is being collected consistently and using like coordinate systems.

"4.3 Public Comments/Complaints"

This Element specifies how the public and landowners can lodge complaints, including traffic, parking, and river management issues, and how complaints will be recorded and resolved. This Element also includes a reporting function to provide information on complaints to the public. Element 4.3.1 requires that landowners, residents, and river users have access to standardized comment and complaint forms. These forms and drop boxes are available at the river information kiosks. Drop boxes are checked frequently and comments are reviewed and addressed. The comment and complaint form includes: "Date", "My Suggestions", "My Suggestions Would Benefit", "Other Comments or Suggestions", and "Name (Optional)". Comments have not been collated or reviewed as specified in 4.3.3.

"4.4 The County GIS will be used to catalogue the spatial location of river use data, including incident/accident reports and public complaints/comments, and to assess management trends and management needs."

The County GIS has provided land status maps with boating information with mailing address support on a case by case basis. As previously stated, GIS mapping is limited at this time due to the lack of geo-referenced data available.

"4.5 The County Department of General Services will continue to compile a summary of river use patterns and totals, incident reports, revenue stream, and County river management expenditures for staff presentation in an annual report at a post-season RMAC meeting."

Except for the year 2005, Annual Reports have been completed every year since the approval of the RMP. The reports are reviewed by both RMAC and the Planning Commission. Copies of the annual reports are available on the County Web Page at:

http://edcgov.us/Government/EMD/Rivers/Annual_River_Use_Report.aspx

"4.6 Water Quality Sampling and Analysis"

Water quality sampling and analysis are conducted to evaluate impacts due to runoff into the river that may contain sediments, fluids from motor vehicles and human waste (4.6.2). Samples are collected to evaluate the effects from storm water runoff as required by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plan (4.6.3.1). Samples are also collected periodically during peak river usage to evaluate bacteria concentrations (4.6.3.2).

Any exceedance of water quality standards as defined by the Basin Plan must be reported to the appropriate agencies (4.6.4). There have not been any exceedances detected above Basin Plan thresholds to date. Details on water quality results and testing plans can be found in the River Program Annual Reports.

“4.7 The County will continue to require that all river-related land uses have the proper zoning and SUPs for proposed or existing uses. Annual and complaint-based inspections of lands subject to SUPs will be conducted as specified in Element 6.5.”

The Planning Department (now the Community Development Agency, Development Services Division) conducted inspections of each campground in 2002. Approximately 120 hours of staff resources were used to complete these inspections. Most campgrounds were found to be in compliance with the SUP’s conditions and any minor violations were addressed and corrected. Since 2002, inspections have been conducted only on a complaint basis. Annual inspections were not feasible due to staff and financial limitations. Complaint inspections for the period of 2002 – 2006 were performed for the Planning Department by the Code Enforcement Officer.

“4.8 Noise Monitoring - The County will develop and implement a system for conducting noise monitoring and reporting for noise-sensitive areas near project area campgrounds and at other sensitive locations along the river, with focus on areas within the Quiet Zone.”

The mitigation monitoring plan (Appendix B in the RMP) places responsibility on County Parks (now the River Program) to implement a noise monitoring system one year after the November 2001 adoption of the RMP. The monitoring would provide the County with noise data that could be used as a basis for issuing violations of noise standards as defined in the General Plan. There are several factors, however, that currently inhibit a noise monitoring program in the County:

- Currently, there is no noise ordinance in effect in El Dorado County which applies to violations of the County General Plan Noise Standards.
- County Ordinance Code 9.16.050 does not have a decibel level identified that has been deemed unreasonable. Therefore, a private land owner would need to initiate the complaint that the noise is interfering with their peace and quiet on their property.
- If there was an enforceable ordinance, the County would have to utilize a certified noise monitoring specialist in order to substantiate any noise standard exceedances.
- There is not a uniform policy regarding whether amplified music is allowed at SUP campgrounds. Several campgrounds’ SUPs allow amplified music and other campgrounds’ SUPs do not allow amplified music.

“4.9 Recreation Impact Monitoring - County Parks will coordinate with California State Department of Parks and Recreation and BLM staff to identify the occurrence of conflicts between non-whitewater recreation, historic interpretation, mining, and uses administered by the RMP. County Parks’ staff also will survey Henningsen Lotus Park users about intended recreational uses and the possible limitation of recreational opportunities resulting from whitewater recreation use.”

No conflicts between uses have been observed or brought to the attention of the County River Program by the BLM or State Parks. County Parks (now the River Program) did not survey Henningsen Lotus Park users.

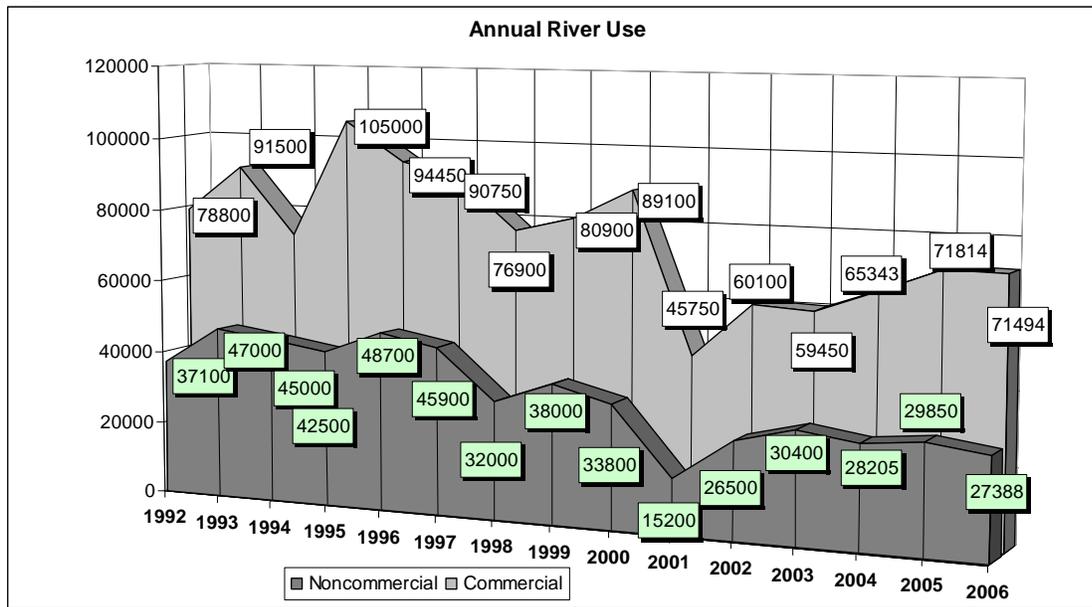
“4.10 The County will hire sufficient seasonal summer staff to enforce and investigate river use characteristics, land use, and other management actions.”

From 2002 to 2006, the River Program consisted of one River Recreation Supervisor and two seasonal River Instructors (River Program). With densities of river use reported from 2001 through 2006, this number of staff was sufficient to implement this Element.

The chart below (Figure 3) displays information on the annual number of commercial and non-commercial boaters from 1992 through 2006. Records on annual boater use peaked in the summer

of 1995.

Figure 3. Annual River Use from 1992 through 2006.



“4.11 The County will record river use data compiled during normal RMP operations in the County GIS.”

River use data collected has not been compiled into the County GIS. As stated previously, data has not been geo-referenced such that they can be mapped using GIS. Coordination would be necessary between the various agencies collecting data to ensure that the data is consistent and accurate. Coordination should include, but not be limited to, determination of the preferred coordinate system, data point determination, and types of data that should be recorded.

Element 5 - Agency and Community Coordination Programs

Element 5 defines protocols for the sharing of information and recommendations through pre- and post-season annual meetings, coordination of community involvement activities including meeting participation and volunteer opportunities, and coordination with federal and state agencies concerning river management issues. The RMAC serves an important role in many of these functions. The RMAC advises the Planning Commission and Board on RMP amendments, Special Use Permit applications, and use of the River Trust Fund. Monthly public meetings are held as a community forum. RMAC membership, role, and conduct are established by Resolution 120-2001.

“5.1 Pre- and Post-Season RMAC Meetings- Each November, the RMAC will hold a post-season meeting to summarize the year’s river management character. This meeting will be publicized by notices distributed to river-area residents and merchants, in addition to the usual RMAC mailing list. The meeting will feature a summary report by County staff and opportunities for residents, outfitters, private boaters, merchants, and all other interested persons to discuss river operations. County staff will be tasked with the review of the minutes of this session to identify issues requiring special attention in the coming recreation season. The minutes of this session will be presented to the Planning Commission by the RMAC Chairperson.”

All RMAC meeting notices, agendas, and minutes are posted on the county website at: http://edcgov.us/Government/EMD/Rivers/River_Advisory_Committee.aspx. County staff prepares a summary report that contains the items discussed at the meeting. Items are reviewed by staff to determine if changes need to be made to address issues for the upcoming season. Post

RMAC season comments made by the public and RMAC members about the river management program can be found in the annual reports located at the above cited website (5.1.1).

Element 5.1.2 states that the various utilities that use water from the river present a forecast for river flow and stream operations. With Sacramento Municipal Utility District's (SMUD) Upper American River Project (UARP) Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing agreement, the flow forecast schedule will be designated annually after the California State Department of Water Resources annual May Snow Survey. The new license for the UARP will have a flow schedule based on the water year type which is determined from data collected during the survey. The scheduled releases listed in the following table start at approximately 8am at Chili Bar.

South Fork American River Below Chili Bar Reservoir Dam Minimum Recreational Flow by Water Year (cfs)								
WATER YEAR TYPE	PERIOD	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Super Dry	April - Memorial Day	3 Hrs @ 1300					3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300
	Memorial Day - Labor Day	3 Hrs @ 1300			3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300	5 Hrs @ 1300	5 Hrs @ 1300
	Labor Day - September						3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300
	October - March						3 Hrs @ 1300	
Critically Dry	March - Memorial Day	3 Hrs @ 1300					3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300
	Memorial Day - Labor Day	3 Hrs @ 1300			3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300	5 Hrs @ 1500	5 Hrs @ 1500
	Labor Day - September					3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300
	October - February						3 Hrs @ 1300	
Dry	March - Memorial Day	3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300			3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500
	Memorial Day - Labor Day	3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300		3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300	5 Hrs @ 1500	5 Hrs @ 1500
	Labor Day - September					3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300
	October - February						3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300
Below Normal	March - Memorial Day	3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300		3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500
	Memorial Day - Labor Day	3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300		3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300	6 Hrs @ 1500	6 Hrs @ 1500
	Labor Day - September				3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500
	October	3 Hrs @ 1300				3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500
	November - February						3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1300
Above Normal	March - Memorial Day	3 Hrs @ 1300	4 Hrs @ 1750	4 Hrs @ 1750				
	Memorial Day - Labor Day	3 Hrs @ 1500	6 Hrs @ 1750	6 Hrs @ 1750				
	Labor Day - September				3 Hrs @ 1500			
	October	3 Hrs @ 1300				3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500
	November - February						3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500
Wet	March - Memorial Day	3 Hrs @ 1500	6 Hrs @ 1750	6 Hrs @ 1750				
	Memorial Day - Labor Day	4 Hrs @ 1500	6 Hrs @ 1750	6 Hrs @ 1750				
	Labor Day - September				3 Hrs @ 1500			
	October	3 Hrs @ 1300				3 Hrs @ 1300	3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500
	November - February						3 Hrs @ 1500	3 Hrs @ 1500

“5.2 The County Department of General Services will coordinate with utilities (i.e., PG&E, SMUD, and EID) to ensure their participation in a pre-season outfitter meeting to receive flow information and outlooks. The goal of this Element is to improve communication with utilities.”

Although SMUDs relicensing with FERC is pending, SMUD has started implementing the regular release schedule, which is public information. Therefore, regular communication with the utilities specified in this Program Element is no longer necessary. County staff will communicate with the utilities in the event that circumstances change.

“5.3 The County will identify opportunities for individuals and organizations to provide service to the river environment. In addition to river cleanups, tree planting, and river safety training, events will be coordinated and conducted by the County to use the efforts of the interested volunteers.”

The River Program has used volunteers for river clean ups, noxious weed removal projects, river patrols, bathroom maintenance projects, trail building, and restoration projects. For example, river

clean ups occur at least two times per year.

“5.4 The River Festival has provided an important opportunity to coordinate with the river community. The County will use this opportunity to provide river safety and management information to festival participants. The festival will be subject to standard Temporary Use Permit (TUP) provisions, as required by the Planning Department.”

The Annual River Festival has been held in the spring each year with various events being located at Henningsen Lotus Park, Chili Bar, First Threat Rapid, Nugget Campground, and EarthTrek Campground. The Annual River Festival provides the public a venue for coordinating with the river community.

“5.5 Any CEQA evaluation of a proposed RMP modification will be noticed and considered in accordance with CEQA.”

If an update to the River Management Plan is proposed, a CEQA analysis will be noticed and considered.

“5.6 Litter Control”

Element 5.6.1 and 5.6.2 state that collection of river trash will be performed using staff, seasonal aides, non-profit organizations, and other volunteers. River clean ups have occurred on the upper (Chili Bar to Coloma) and lower sections (Coloma to Salmon Falls) with volunteers from commercial rafting companies and the public. On average, there were 18 volunteers and 3 yards of trash collected per river clean up. Boaters are educated by the River Program staff on the litter container requirements that must be followed when boating on the river. River Program staff also pick up trash on the river and on shore.

“5.7 Agency Coordination”

This Element requires interagency coordination to identify conflicts between the administration of the RMP and other non-whitewater uses (5.7.1). Element 5.7.2 states that the County will request annual reports from other agencies regarding environmental quality impacts. To implement this coordination, Element 5.7.3 requires a Memorandum of Understanding with other agencies that have jurisdiction over the river that delineates physical and functional areas of responsibility and coordination.

No formal MOU has been executed between the County, State Parks, and BLM, but there continues to be a high level of coordination between these agencies. When the BLM’s South Fork American River plan is completed and SMUDs UARP relicense has been approved by the FERC, BLM may be interested in a formal MOU for coordination activities. However, current applicable laws, land status, and legal jurisdiction dictate most of the physical and functional responsibilities by each agency.

Element 6 – Permits and Requirements

Element 6 specifies requirements for Temporary and Special Use Permits associated with activities by Commercial Outfitters and non-commercial boating. These requirements are separate from the regulatory requirements which are specified by County ordinance.

“6.1 User Group and Definitions”

There are four categories of user groups defined in the RMP: Commercial Outfitters, Institutional Groups, Large Groups, and Private Boaters. Each group is defined by several criteria including whether or not fees are charged to customers; if there are paid employees; if the group is a non-profit; and if they are a large group or individual private boater.

“6.2 Commercial Outfitter Requirements”

Commercial Outfitter Requirements detailed in this section include permitting, safety and conduct for the Commercial Outfitters specifically required for them to maintain their permit to operate. Elements 6.2.1, Annual Commercial River Use Permits; 6.2.2, Maximum Group Size; 6.2.6, County Operating Reports and Fees; and Element 6.2.7, Commercial Guide Requirements, may require updating based on River Program staff experiences and discussion by RMAC and the Commercial Outfitters. Details for changes or updates to each sub-Element are as follows:

Element 6.2.1, Annual Commercial River Use Permits, specified the permit application procedures and standards are specified in the Stream and River Rafting Ordinance Chapter 5.48.

Sub-Element 6.2.1.4.4 addresses inactive status of River Use Permits. This Element allows minimal commercial use while maintaining possession of a River Use Permit. For example, some commercial permittees will run one trip during a given season and then will run no trips the following year in order to keep their permit active. This practice is not in the best interest of the public, because it reduces the competition between commercial rafting companies, or for the County, as it results in a loss in revenue that would be realized by an active rafting company. The County’s River Program relies on user fees from active permits to fund the program. In order to encourage active use of permits, it is recommended that the following updates be added to the permit requirements:

- “A permit cannot be in an inactive status for more than one year or be inactive for more than two years within a 5 year time frame”.
- The required permit maintenance fee for inactive permits shall be the same as the annual permit renewal fee.

6.2.2. Maximum Group Size

Element 6.2.2.1 states that the number of boats in a group cannot exceed 7 boats and are limited to 56 passengers in the group. Element 6.2.2.1 states that kayak and canoe groups are limited to 12 boats. Based on RMAC and Commercial Outfitter discussions, River Program staff recommend adding Element 6.2.2.3 for safety reasons, which would advocate wetsuits for all passengers and create a high water trip requirement that would prohibit single boat trips if flows are above 6,000 cfs. A designated safety kayak would not count as a second boat.

River Program staff also recommends adding Element 6.2.2.4 which requires that all commercial trips will have at least one guide on every trip (that meets the requirements outlined in 6.2.7 of the RMP), per every 8 guests. This requirement meets industry standards for safety and would eliminate the possibility of unguided trips being run by permitted outfitters.

6.2.6 County Operating Reports and Fees

Sub-Element 6.2.6.1.1 mandates that Commercial Outfitters provide monthly reports during the operating season to the County. River Program staff recommends that an additional reporting requirement be added to this Element that requires reporting of lost or missing persons, or deaths related to commercial river rafting trips.

Although the County River Program has a high level of coordination with the EDC Sheriff's Boating Unit, not all fatalities and missing persons are reported, or responded to by the Sheriff's Boating Unit, by the Fire Department or Emergency Management Services. This has led to the River Program being unable to respond in a more expedient fashion either to the emergency or inquiries from the media or other agencies. River Program staff recommends that outfitters be required to notify the permitting agency, which is the EMD River Program, within 24 hours of any incident involving lost or missing persons, or death from any cause, while on a river trip, with a written follow-up detailing the incident. California State Parks already has a similar requirement in place.

6.2.7 Commercial Guide Requirements

Element 6.2.7.1 requires trip leaders working for Commercial Outfitters to have current Swiftwater Rescue Certification. The RMP does not specify the standards required for the certification and there is not an adopted state or national standard. In 2002, River Program staff and Risk Management reviewed the standards that had been developed by County Parks (now, the River Program). Risk Management supported those standards. River Program staff recommends changing the RMP requirements in this section by adding the following:

- At least one guide per trip must have completed a swiftwater rescue training course.
- Outfitters may designate any guide as the swiftwater rescue trained person; he or she does not have to be the "trip leader".
- In-house courses, taught by experienced outfitter employees are adequate, and to allow for lower cost courses, Rescue III or American Canoe Association (ACA) cards of completion are not required.
- Courses must teach at least the suite of skills found in an ACA swiftwater rescue, Rescue III whitewater rescue technician, or equivalent course.
- Each year, Outfitters must submit a list of guides that meet swiftwater rescue training standards to the River Program office by the end of May for the upcoming river season.

6.2.7.2 El Dorado County will work with the commercial outfitters, landowners, and Federal, State, and County staff to develop river guide operational standards, knowledge, and skill levels. If problems caused by an obvious disregard or lack of knowledge are observed, these guidelines will be adopted as mandatory requirements by the County for all commercial outfitters, area managers, and guides.

EMD River Program, BLM, State Parks and the Commercial Outfitters meet twice a year to review the subjects of this Element. The RMP has a list of recommended knowledge and skills that should be followed by Commercial Outfitters staff.

"6.3 Non-Commercial Boater Requirements"

This Element details the requirements for non-commercial boaters based on the designation of the South Fork of the American River as a special use area under the State Harbor and Navigation Code Section 660. This designation requires non-commercial boaters that float in the designated area be aware of basic whitewater boating safety and pollution control. The subsections within this Element detail specifics pertaining to registration, safety, waste, and group sizes including Institutional Groups, Large Groups, and Private Boaters. County River Program distributes private boater tags (permits) which are required for navigation by non-commercial boaters.

"6.4 Temporary Use Permit (TUP) Requirements"

The Planning Department (now the Community Development Agency, Development Services Division) issued TUPs for events on the river and on public property for river-related events. Prior to final approval, applications were reviewed by the Sheriff's Department and the General Services Department. Data is not available to determine the number of TUPs issued during the 2002 through 2006 reporting period.

"6.5 Special Use Permit Issuance, Guidelines, and Inspections"

This Element specifies the Planning Department's (now the Community Development Agency, Development Services Division) role in the issuance and oversight of SUPs, and the preparation of SUP review guidelines for adoption by RMAC and the Planning Commission. The Element also outlines some of the requirements permittees must fulfill to maintain their permits.

Element 6.5.3 states that the County will annually, and on the basis of complaints, inspect private lands within a project area subject to a SUP for compliance. Private properties used by the public and commercial rafting companies have SUPs. There were 15 properties with SUPs along the South Fork below Chili Bar. The Planning Department did not conduct annual inspections of the SUP holders because it was not feasible due to limited staffing and resources. Complaint-based inspections were conducted by the Code Enforcement Officer.

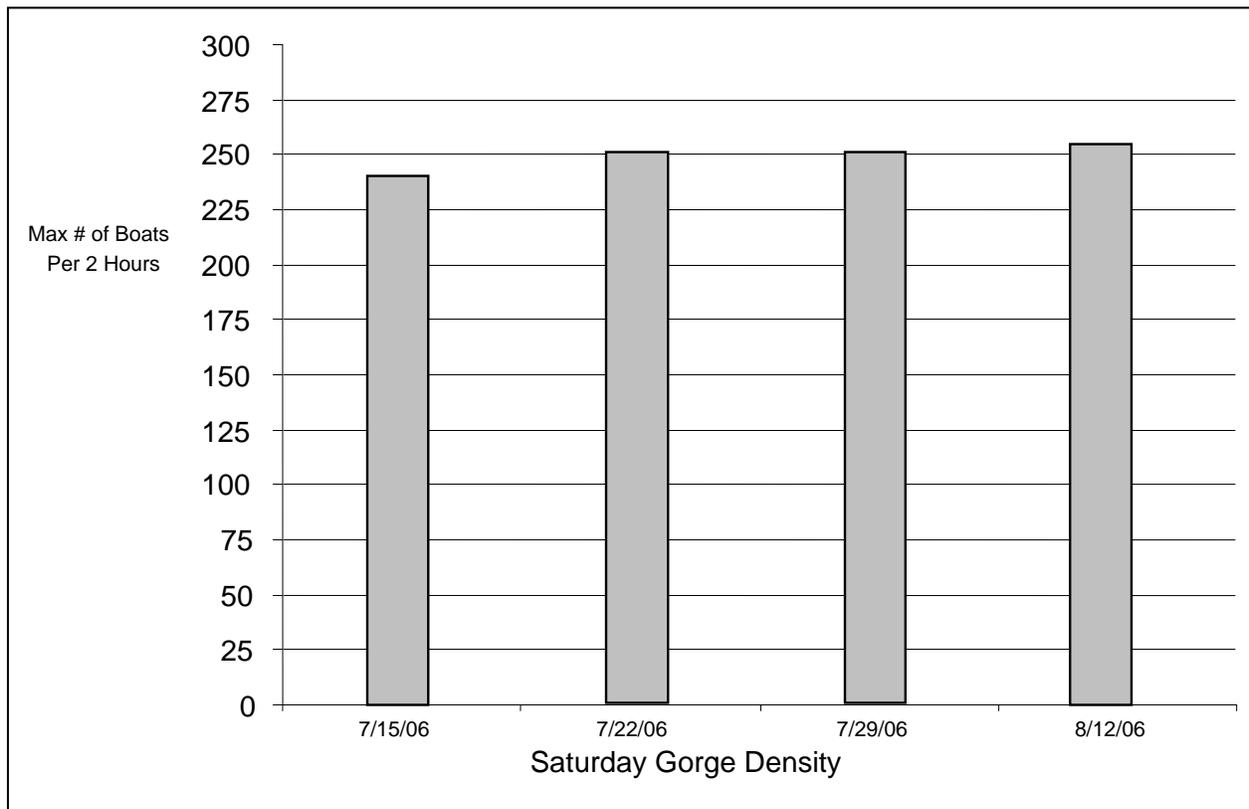
Element 7 – Carrying Capacity Exceedance Actions and Implementation

Element 7 explains how data collected on boater density and totals will be used to determine river management changes. Changes specified in this section would only be implemented if the boater carrying capacity thresholds, provided in Appendix D of the RMP, are exceeded. The Element specifies the methods that would be implemented to reduce use and density to levels that ensure boater safety and protection of resources. Element 7.3 outlines the steps that will be implemented if density thresholds are exceeded and Element 7.4 outlines the steps that will be implemented if Daily Boater Totals are exceeded.

"7.3 In the event that boat counts exceed a "density threshold" (as defined in Appendix D), the County will implement management actions to address density and associated safety issues on the South Fork as specified in this Element."

The density threshold provided in Appendix D of the RMP is 300 boats in 2 hours (based on ¼-hour increments and a rolling 2-hour period) at Troublemaker, Barking Dog, or Satan's Cesspool rapids (encompasses the "Gorge Run", also called the "lower section) on two days during any one season. The Peak Boat Density graph that follows (Figure 3), displays the results of the monitoring on the Gorge in 2006, after scheduled releases were started. Scheduled releases did not occur in 2006 until after July 7. Based on the data, Peak Boat Densities are below threshold values.

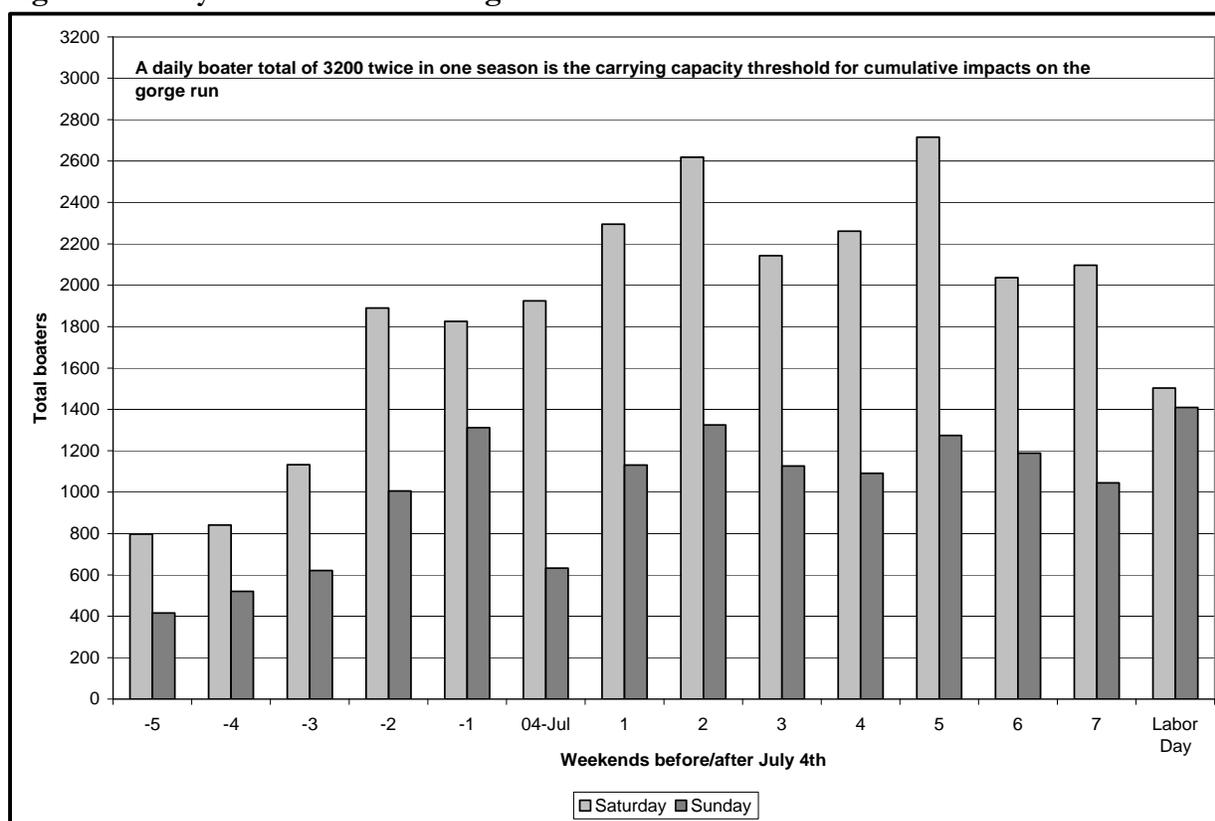
Figure 3. Peak Boat Density - Gorge Run - 2006



“7.4 In the event that data collected in a single year indicate exceedance of a “daily boater total” threshold (as defined in Appendix D), the County will implement management actions to reduce total daily boater use levels and allocate use to address potential environmental and other impacts associated with high levels of river use as specified in this Element.”

The Daily Total Boater threshold, provided in Appendix D of the RMP, is 2,100 boaters on two days during any one season on the upper reach, and 3,200 boaters on two days during any one season on the lower reach. Total Daily Boater Counts for 2006, shown on the following graph (Figure 4) indicate that the Gorge (lower) section of the South Fork has the most use on Saturdays. Totals are below threshold values.

Figure 4. Daily Boater Totals – Gorge run - 2006



Element 8 – Regulations and Ordinances

This Element discusses regulations and ordinances as they pertain to river use. Appendix C has copies of key county ordinance codes as reference.

“8.1 Pirate Boater Ordinance Enforcement”

Under the California State Business and Professions Codes the county can pursue Pirate Boaters (commercial outfitters operating without a River Use Permit) civilly and impose penalties on pirate boating operations. Penalties are divided between the county agency that initiates the action and the District Attorney’s Office.

Pirate boating continued to be a source of complaints from Commercial Outfitters, land owners, and private boaters. No enforcement action had been completed under authorization of the Business and Professions Code. More active enforcement may discourage Pirate Boaters from operating within the areas defined in the RMP.

“8.2 The County will amend Quiet Zone regulations and enforcement mechanisms to enable the issuance of citations to private rafters violating Quiet Zone requirements.”

A County Ordinance 5.50.080 was approved in March 19, 2002, that allows private boaters to be cited for violations within the Quiet Zone.

“8.3 To reduce the occurrence of trespass, the County will:

8.3.1 Increase prosecution of trespass violations.

8.3.2 Increase towing of vehicles parked in unauthorized areas.

8.3.3 Provide prompt response, towing, and substantial fines and/or prosecution when property owners report vehicles blocking access to driveways.”

This Element specifies enforcement as a means to curb trespassing. During the period covered by this report, River Program staff attempted to educate river users on their navigation rights and how to avoid trespassing. Staff also encouraged private property owners to place signs their property to reduce trespass problems. Trespassing was enforced by the Sheriff’s Department.

8.4 Motorboats Prohibited by Ordinance Code 12.64.040

No violations were issued by the Sheriff’s Department in violation of Ordinance Code 12.64.040

Element 9 – Facilities and Lands Management

This Element requires that the County maintain existing facilities and consider opportunities for additional “river-related” facilities. The County is also required by this Element to coordinate with landowners and other agencies for facilities and land use management.

“9.1 The County Department of General Services will obtain a memorandum of understanding with put-in owners in the Chili Bar area, allowing County staff (i.e., County Department of General Services and Sheriff’s Department), the El Dorado County Fire Protection District, and RSC staff, formally recognized access to the put-in site to implement the updated RMP.”

During the period covered by this report, there was no MOU for the Chili Bar area.

“9.2 The County Department of General Services will work with California State Parks, Folsom Lake Division, and adjacent landowners in order to identify opportunities to increase parking in the vicinity of Salmon Falls.”

Increased opportunities for additional parking have been explored with State Parks, but no additional space for parking is available.

“9.3 The County may continue to explore opportunities for land acquisition and/or development of river access facilities within the corridor, including areas near Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park.”

Public River access opportunities near Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park have been developed by State Parks, including kiosks and a parking lot turnabout.

“9.4 The County will pursue identification of appropriate sites for the development of additional restroom facilities within the river corridor. The use of Phoenix composting toilets will be considered at such locations.”

Three Phoenix composting toilets were installed in the 1990’s near the river on BLM lands. No additional restroom sites have been identified along the river.

“9.5 The County will work with the BLM to continue to maintain toilets on BLM sites.”

The County River Program and BLM staff regularly clean, supply, and maintain the BLM’s three Phoenix composting toilets located near the river when doing river patrols. BLM has traditionally provided cleaning supplies.

“9.6 The County may allow, on a willing permittee basis, SUP modifications to enable private boaters to use the Highway Rapid area for put-ins and takeouts. Any such modification to a SUP is subject to all SUP issuance and modification requirements specified in this RMP.”

There have not been any applications received by the County for an SUP modification for private boater access near Highway Rapid.

“9.7 Trails”

Element 9.7 specifies that County will maintain trails that are “owned” by the County within the river corridor (9.7.1). The County will also coordinate with other agencies to develop new trails on public lands or private lands if the landowners express a willingness to allow public access; however no trails can be developed near residences without landowner consent (9.7.2).

County Facilities, Grounds and Maintenance Division maintained trails located within Henningsen Lotus Park. BLM and State Parks have been working on expanding the trail systems on their lands with input provided by the County. No trails have been developed near residences.

“9.8 Prior to and during construction of new facilities or modifications to existing facilities, the County will adhere to Mitigation Measures 5-1, 6-1, 8-1, 10-1, 10-2, 11-1, 12-1, 15-2, and 16-3 as described in Appendix B, Mitigation Monitoring Plan.”

The County did not construct any new facilities in the project area between 2002 and 2006.

“9.9 No net loss of riparian habitat (including wetlands) will occur as a result of development of RMP-related facilities.”

No loss of riparian habitat occurred due to the developments of RMP related facilities.

Element 10 – Funding

Element 10 discusses how permit and river use fees support the River Trust Fund. The River Trust Fund is the main source of funding for the County’s River Management Program and related activities. River activities conducted by the Sheriff’s Department have been funded by the California Department of Boating and Waterways.

“10.1 The River Trust Fund, created in 1981, will continue to function as a savings account for the deposit of commercial River Use Permit application fees and user day fees. County Parks provides fiscal administration of the River Trust Fund.”

The River Trust Fund (RTF) is primarily funded by permit fees that the Commercial Outfitters pay to the County. Additionally, Commercial Outfitters pay the County (currently, \$2 per person) for each paying customer the outfitter takes down the river. That fee has repaid the loan to update the River Management Plan.

“10.2 The River Trust Fund will be used, as budgeted by the County, as the basic funding source for improvements in the river corridor, including education programs, land lease/purchase, mitigation monitoring and reporting, staffing, and other management activities as specified in this RMP.”

The RTF has been used at some capacity for all the programs listed in this Element.

“10.3 The County will ensure that adequate funds are available or funding is secured prior to the implementation of the Elements of this RMP that may require increased County expenditures or Elements that could result in decreased revenue to levels below that necessary to conduct the management activities identified in this RMP.”

The RTF had a positive balance during fiscal years 2002 through 2006 as shown below:

RTF Balance as of July 1, 2002	\$ 53,843
RTF Balance as of July 1, 2003	\$ 81,256
RTF Balance as of July 1, 2004	\$ 95,067
RTF Balance as of July 1, 2005	\$ 135,324
RTF Balance as of July 1, 2006	\$ 208,157

Element 11 – River Data Availability

Element 11 discusses how data collected for water quality, river flow information, boater density, meeting notices and minutes will be collated and presented for public review. River Program data has been made available on the County Website at: <http://www.edcgov.us/Rivers/>. Information on river requirements and flow conditions are also available to the public at the information kiosks. This information is regularly updated as conditions change.

Summary of Recommendations for Modification to the River Management Plan

The RMP revision process is discussed in detail in Section 7 (7.2.2 Periodic Review) which specifies that the five-year summary of the annual reports is submitted to the County General Services Director (now the Chief Administrative Officer [CAO]) and the Planning Director (now the Community Development Agency, Development Services Division Director). Based on their review of the 5-year summary, the CAO and the Planning Director (now the Community Development Agency, Development Services Division Director) evaluate the adequacy of the RMP, as implemented. The evaluation considers:

- Responsiveness to County goals and policies;
- Completeness of impact mitigation measures; and
- Efficiency and economy of RMP implementations.

The findings of the evaluation are presented to the Planning Commission with recommendations to either continue implementation as prescribed; continue implementation with minor modifications, or update the RMP. Because this report was not completed after the first five-year period as prescribed in the RMP, the recommendations that follow should be carried forward with the recommendations included in the Five Year Summary Report for Implementation of the River Management Plan 2007-2011.

The recommendations for updates, changes, or deletions provided within this report are summarized as follows:

Element 4.1 specifies monitoring of use levels and boat densities at Troublemaker, Barking Dog and Satan’s Cesspool rapids to evaluate if carrying capacity thresholds have been exceeded. River Program staff recommend adding Meatgrinder and Fowler’s rapids to the monitoring locations. These two rapids are the first Class III rapids on the upper and lower section of the river. Appendix B of the RMP details the Mitigation Monitoring Plan. The section that details assessment of boater densities (page B-21) states that “two kayaks will be counted as one craft because of their superior maneuverability”. Appendix D of the RMP specifies the data and standards used for monitoring; however, there is no definition of “craft” for counting purposes. For consistency, it is recommended that the same definition used in Appendix B be incorporated into Appendix D.

Element 6.2.1.4.4 addresses inactive status of River Use Permits. In order to encourage active use of permits, it is recommended that the following updates be added to the permit requirements:

1. “A permit cannot be in an inactive status for more than one year or be inactive for more than two years within a 5 year time frame.” The updated language limits how long a permit can remain inactive.
2. The required permit maintenance fee for inactive permits shall be the same as the annual permit renewal fee.

Element 6.2 and its sub-Elements specify maximum group sizes. For safety reasons, it is recommended that the following new sub-Elements be added to the RMP:

1. Add sub-Element 6.2.2.3 which creates a high water trip requirement that would prohibit single boat trips if flows are above 6,000 cfs and advocate that all passengers wear wetsuits to reduce the risk of hypothermia.
2. Add sub-Element 6.2.2.4 requiring all commercial trips to have at least one guide on every trip for every 8 guests. The guide must meet the requirements outlined in Element 6.2.7.

Element 6.2.6.1.1 mandates that Commercial Outfitters provide monthly reports to the County during the operating season. River Program staff recommend adding an additional reporting requirement where Commercial Outfitters must notify the River Program of lost or missing persons, or deaths from any cause on a river trip within 24 hours, and provide a written follow-up detailing the incident.

Element 6.2.7.1 requires that trip leaders working for Commercial Outfitters have current Swiftwater Rescue Certification. Based on standards developed by County Parks (now the River Program) in 2002 it is recommended that the following be added to Element 6.2.7.1:

- At least one guide per trip must have completed a swiftwater rescue training course.
- Outfitters may designate any guide as the swiftwater rescue trained person; he or she does not have to be the “trip leader”.
- In-house courses, taught by experienced outfitter employees are adequate, and to allow for lower cost courses, Rescue III or American Canoe Association (ACA) cards of completion are not required.
- Courses must teach at least the suite of skills found in an ACA swiftwater rescue, Rescue III whitewater rescue technician, or equivalent course.
- Each year, Outfitters must submit a list of guides that meet swiftwater rescue training standards to the River Program office by the end of May for the upcoming river season.