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## New Parks Director; New Chief Ranger

By Bill Davis

Sacramento County has a new director for the Regional Parks and a new chief ranger.

Jeffery Leatherman assumed charge of the 15,000-acre Regional Park system in February. Stan Lumsden is now permanent chief ranger after taking the job as interim chief last October.

Both face considerable challenges. The county has severely reduced the parks budget over the past several years. Gibson Ranch has been turned over to a contractor, operation of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center was given to the American River Natural History Association and the county is negotiating to sell Elk Grove Regional Park to the City of Elk Grove.

The people who previously held the director and chief ranger positions both took early retirement last year, saying they no longer had the resources to do their jobs.

Leatherman calls himself a lifelong outdoor enthusiast who is personally and professionally dedicated to protecting the environment and natural habitat.

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Stan Lumsden and Jeffery Leatherman



## American River Temperature and Management is Killing Fish

By Felix Smith

The stewardship of the American River, its diverse resources, associated uses and values is essential to life, the pursuit of happiness and the wellbeing of the greater Sacramento Region. The Public Trust Doctrine underlies the exercise of every water right that withdraws, diverts, pumps or otherwise affects the American River.

The Public Trust Doctrine reaffirms the superiority of public rights over private rights for this critical water resource. Under the Public Trust, the state has the mandatory duty of a trustee to manage the trust (water resource) and the aquatic ecosystem for the benefit of present and future generations.

The American River Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Trout are an historical and integral part of the people's fish and wildlife trust. They are directly tied to the people's water trust. Salmon and steelhead don't ask questions, don't criticize and don't vote. We the people must stand in for these resources because there are

interests striving to transform their habitat into a commodity to be conveyed around the state by pumps and canals, and that may be sold to the highest bidder.

Since 1955, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) has operated Folsom and Nimbus Dams and Reservoirs of the Central Valley Project for flood control and for storing American River water for delivery to the Delta for export to the west side of the San Joaquin Valley to "meet contractual obligations." As a part of that operation, the Bureau has been managing American River salmon and steelhead with water left over from its export operation. Therefore, the present and future populations of American River salmon and steelhead are in the hands of the Bureau.

The Water Forum stakeholders recently agreed to move ahead to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act with a

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## Sutter's Landing Trees to be Replaced

By Stephen Green

Representatives of Save the American River Association, Friends of Sutter's Landing Park and neighborhood groups succeeded in persuading the Sacramento City Council to spend more than \$200,000 to replace an acre of cottonwood trees cleared last fall from a retention basin in Sutter's Landing Park.

A city utilities crew cut down the grove of some 200 trees near the American River in September to evict illegal campers who had settled in under the canopy. The decision to cut the trees was made

without notifications to the public or the City Council.

In response, the council formed an eight-member committee of neighborhood and environmental activists to study the incident. Their report recommended planting dozens of trees in the area where the cottonwoods had been cut and in an adjacent area.

That plan, to be carried out over the next five years, will cost the city \$206,000 for plantings and maintenance.

Councilman Steve Cohn called the clearing of the trees a "disheartening, very disappointing event. We did have a failure here in how the city was managing its resources. But we were big enough to correct it and hopefully come up with procedures to make sure this kind of thing doesn't happen again."

The report said the area where the trees were removed "is located in one of the richest areas for raptors along the American River Parkway, especially for the Swainson's Hawk, which is a threatened species." ■

## New Parks Director; New Chief Ranger

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He grew up in Truckee and graduated from California State University, Chico.

Previously, he was general manager of the Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District in Riverside County, California. He also once managed a recreational marina.

Lumsden spent 29 years with the Roseville Police Dept. where he retired as a captain and commander of the Patrol Division. Over the years, he served as a member of the SWAT Team and also had stints in narcotics and vice, youth services and K-9 duty. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and earned a master's degree at St. Mary's College of California.

Lumsden has eleven fewer rangers than his predecessor. There currently are 14 funded ranger positions including Lumsden and two Ranger Supervisors. Lumsden is in the process of filling two vacancies. Two rangers are dedicated to dealing with illegal campers. Because of the reduced number of rangers, the rangers have had to call for backup from other police jurisdictions more frequently.

In a meeting with the Save the American River Association Board of Directors, Lumsden said he wants "more rangers to be seen by the public" when people use the parks and the American River Parkway.

He is organizing a force of up to ten reserve rangers similar to one he once supervised in Roseville. Reserve rangers work without pay and serve at least 15 hours monthly. All, however, are graduates of the police training academy, are fully equipped and have full peace officer status -- comparable to those working in police or sheriff's departments.

"This is a very good opportunity for young folks who want a start in law enforcement," Lumsden said. "There are fewer police/ranger jobs available ... in the current poor economy, and the reserve ranger program can help them get experience that will help them gain permanent employment. I hope to have the program going by the end of May."

The proposal is set for action by the county Board of Supervisors on April 22.

Lumsden said he hopes to get a patrol boat when increased county resources become available. "We have responsibility for the river and don't have a boat," he noted.

SARA board members have been working to restore parks funding. SARA members have been reporting crimes and vandalism in the parks, and the Parkway in particular. But it is apparent that crimes and abuses of alcohol and drugs by parks users are going unreported. There also are increased confrontations with off-leash dogs, and more cycles and motorized vehicles tearing up habitat in areas where they are not authorized to travel.

If you have an emergency on the Parkway, call 911. You can report encounters or illegal activity on the Parkway to the rangers by calling 916-875-PARK (7275).

Chief Lumsden and the rangers are working to respond as best they can. Your report is important so that the rangers can have accurate statistics that give a true picture of conditions on the Parkway. ■

## Fair Oaks Bluff Dedication Set

By Stephen Green

The 14-year effort to preserve a 4.5-acre natural area 100 feet above the American River on the Fair Oaks Bluff will be observed with the dedication of the Donor Plaza at 2 p.m., Sunday, April 29.

Save the American River Association launched the effort in 1998 to preserve the best overlook on the Parkway. In addition to the majestic view of the Parkway, on clear days visitors have a panoramic view from the Sierra Nevada on the east and to Mt. Diablo on the west.

**In addition to the majestic view of the Parkway, on clear days visitors have a panoramic view from the Sierra Nevada on the east and to Mt. Diablo on the west.**

SARA spun off a group called Friends of the Fair Oaks Bluff. Then-SARA President Frank Cirill recruited a pro-bono lawyer, and



View from Fair Oaks Bluff

the two groups brought a lawsuit to stop encroachment in the natural area by adjacent property owners.

In 2000, Fair Oaks resident Tracy Martin Shearer, who had played on the Bluff as a child, founded Citizens to Save the Bluffs to spearhead fundraising to purchase private land to expand the overlook.

The Donor Plaza is on Bridge Street near the Old Fair Oaks Bridge. It was designed by local

artist Hugh Gorman and is paved with bricks recognizing donors. Along with many individual contributions, there were major donations from the Raley Foundation, the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District and a Fair Oaks couple, Gerry and Karen Kamilos.

Interpretive panels have been installed across Bridge Street from the Plaza. They deal with the Bluff's natural history and geology, the first people in the area, the American River and Fair Oaks history.

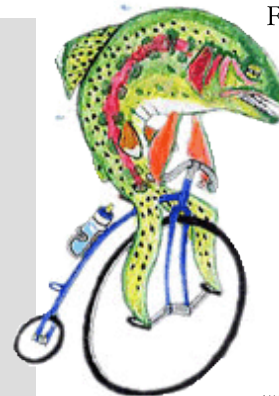
### A Fish Story

"I was supposed to be returning after a day's fishing without a single fish when I met a boy who was toting home a beautiful catch.

"I asked: 'Where did you get them?'"

"He said: 'You just walk down that lane marked 'Private' till you come to a signing saying 'Trespassers Will Be Prosecuted.' Just beyond is a stream marked 'No Fishing Allowed,' and there you are.'"

*Herbert Hoover writing in "Fishing For Fun And To Wash Your Soul."*



# Friends of Lakes Folsom and Natoma

By Linda MacDonald  
President, FOLFAN

Friends of Lakes Folsom & Natoma (FOLFAN) is a new non-profit formed in 2009 and dedicated to supporting the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area, which includes Lake Natoma and approximately 15 miles of paved bike trails.

FOLFAN is working with State Park and Recreation Department staff to install courtesy signs and stencils on the bike trails east of Hazel Avenue on both sides of Lake Natoma and up to Beal's Point. The signs and stencils were paid for by State Parks' Adopt-the-Parkway program financial sponsorships.

In the summer of 2011, FOLFAN sponsored signs for the "Kids Don't Float" program, providing free loaner life jackets at 4 beach locations at the State Park – Beal's Point, Folsom Point, Negro Bar and Nimbus Flats.

Although FOLFAN is in its early

growth stages as an organization, its members have big plans to improve the paved bike trail. In the summer of 2011, the group conducted a trail assessment evaluating the highest priorities for repairing asphalt, re-striping and updating signage.

State Park and Recreation Specialist Jim Micheals, with letters of support from SARA, SABA and FOLFAN, submitted a grant proposal to re-pave the bike trail from Beal's Point to the Folsom pedestrian bridge. This highly competitive discretionary grant through the Public Lands Highway Program should be awarded in late spring or early summer.

FOLFAN manages the financial aspects of the Adopt-the-Parkway program in conjunction with State Parks. Those funds pay for materials, equipment, supplies, training and bike trail repairs.

When large, dangerous bumps developed at the Mountain Oak Underpass, FOLFAN contributed funds from the Adopt-the-Parkway program to make repairs. Repairs were made not only at Mountain Oak, but at several sites including the trail around Beal's Point.

Plans are being developed for FOLFAN's first *Fundraiser for Bicycle Buffs* on June 23, 2012. Proceeds from this event will go to the special fund for bike trail repairs.

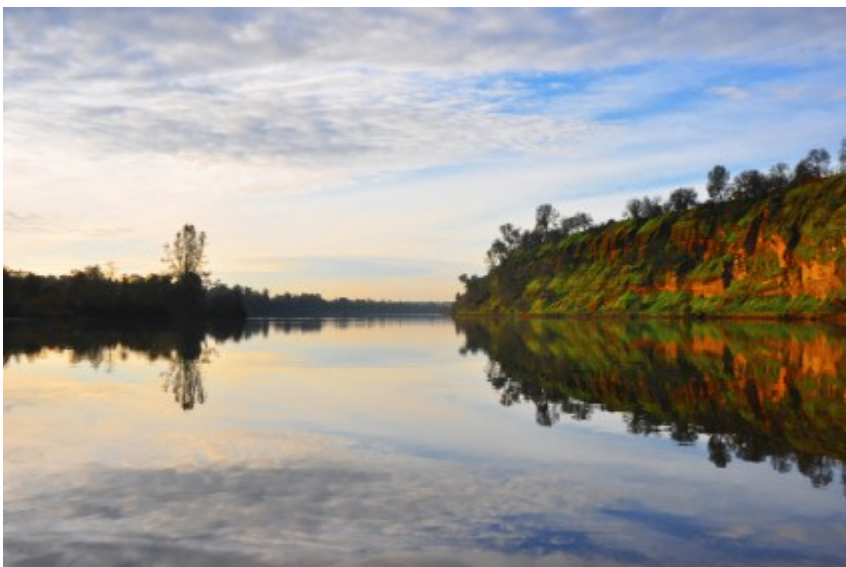
Although FOLFAN has a strong focus on the paved bike trail, the scope of their bylaws includes the entire park and future efforts could include:

- Addressing the needs of any and all recreational user groups
- Providing education programs
- Assisting with habitat restoration
- Preserving cultural resources

FOLFAN members conducted clean-ups on April 22<sup>nd</sup> for Earth Day. They also will participate in the American River Parkway Foundation's Great American River Clean-up on September 15.

The mission of FOLFAN is to expand education and recreation opportunities and protect the natural and cultural resources of Lakes Folsom and Natoma.

To join, donate or find more information about FOLFAN, visit [www.folfan.org](http://www.folfan.org). ■



Lake Natoma



## SARA Membership Donations *January — March 2012*

Oscar Balaguer	George & Natalie Katibah
Balanced Body — In honor of the Endelman Family	James W. Kirstein
Katie & Noah Baygell	Jeanne Lemkuil
Leon & Sandra Biren	Matthew J. McCarthy
Mary Bisharat	John & Patricia McIntosh
Butterfield-Riviera East Community Association	Linda & Vince McDonald
California Fly Fishers Unlimited	Jerry Allan Minton
Joe Ceriani	Stephanie Monzon
Wayne Chubb	Steven Mopsick
Frank & Clara Collamore	Susan Davidson & Dennis Neufeld
Ruth Bertsch & Dave Cossel	Ray & Lois Perryman
Jean & Marvin Delfendahl	Charles & Jane Pivetti
Mark & Karen Delucchi	Judy & Gary Quattrin
Denis De Luchi	Leland H. Ruth
V. Jacobs & Cecilia Delury	Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates
Linda Dixon	Lilla Strauch
Bob & Stacey Dreizler	Gary Stone
Sally Edwards, Heart Zones	Robert H. Sydnor
Peggy Ewing	Edie Taylor
Steve & Loretta Featherston	David Thesell
Granite Bay Flycasters	Shiomi Wilson
Jean Garrity	Ellen Dillinger & Richard Wood
Richard Gerber	Robert & Sandra Woodward
Bud Getty	Dick Zeiner
Ed & Lynne Greaves	
Jane Hagedorn	
Stephen K. Hall	
Carole Harper	
Dave Harzoff	
Emily Wright & Ernest Isaacs	

SARA appreciates the support of our generous members. Without your support, SARA would not be able to continue our role as *Guardians of the American River and Parkways since 1961*. New and renewing members are listed in *Riverwatch* according to their preference (indicated on the SARA membership/ renewal form).

## In Memoriam

Save the American River Association has received donations honoring the memory of the following friends:

### Jim & Emily-Ann Standley

Save the American River Association frequently receives donations in memory of lost loved ones, many of whom were users and supporters of the American River Parkway. Some donors give names. Others prefer to remain anonymous. SARA notifies

family members when donations are made and those people are always very appreciative. The money is used to further SARA's advocacy work on behalf of the Parkway.

Contributions may be made by check, Visa or Master Card. A form for contributions appears on the last page of this newsletter.

**SARA also has a Legacy program. For information on the program, please call the SARA office (916) 482-2551.**

## Support County Parks - Buy An Annual Pass

The Pass pays for itself in 10 visits and all funds go directly towards maintaining and operating the 15,000-acre system. For as little as \$50 per year, you can have unlimited access and parking in the parks.

Pass holders receive free daily entry into Regional Parks and annual passes are valid for one year from date of purchase.

### Pass Fees Are Based On Use:

Vehicle	\$50
Vehicle + Trailer or over-sized vehicle (over 22 feet):	\$100
Vehicle + Horse trailer	\$75
Vehicle and small watercraft:	\$75
Parks supporter pass*	\$50

*\* This pass is for those who want to support Parks but do not drive to Parks facilities*

## Where to Purchase Your Parks Pass

- Online through the Sacramento County Web site [www.co.sacramento.ca.us](http://www.co.sacramento.ca.us)
- At REI stores in Sacramento, Roseville and Folsom
- Patriot Cycles in Fair Oaks
- Effie Yeaw Nature Center at Ancil Hoffman Park
- Regional Park offices and park kiosks
- American River Parkway Foundation Office at the William B. Pond Recreation Area

## American River Temperature and Management is Killing Fish

*Continued from Page 1*

modified Flow Management Standard (FMS). That is a good thing. The EIR should present several alternatives that could accomplish about the same end results, such as protecting and sustaining the salmon and steelhead resources, associated uses and values of the Lower American River. An update of the FMS should reflect instream flow, temperature requirements and needs of The Delta.

The aim of the existing FMS was to maximize the annual production and survival of salmon and steelhead, promote resilient and diverse fish populations in the Lower American River within the Bureau's operational capabilities and constraints. According to model results, flow of 2,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) or more for salmon spawning purposes should be attained about 58 percent of the year.

The actual minimum flow requirements in the fall (October thru December) depend greatly on the 4-reservoir index (French Meadows, Union Valley, Hell Hole and Folsom Reservoirs). Folsom Reservoir storage is used to determine the minimum flow requirements for the remainder of the year (January thru September). The range of minimum flow requirements to be released from Folsom/ Nimbus Reservoirs is:

Oct1 thru Dec 31	800 to 2,000 cfs
Jan 1 thru Sept 7	800 to 1,750 cfs
Sept 8 thru Sept 30	800 to 1,500 cfs

The operational minimum requirement is 800 cfs. Flow can be reduced below 800 cfs to avoid depletion of Folsom Reservoir.

A major issue in the EIR will be water quality — elevated water temperature. Folsom Reservoir is a heat sink (thermal pollution). Water temperature has profound effect on various biochemical processes affecting metabolic rates, which in turn affect activities, behavior and growth of salmonid fishes. The temperature standards that are protective of the various life stages of salmon and steelhead must be incorporated into an operational mode.

The following table presents the temperature criteria established by National Marine Fisheries Service in a 2009 Biological Opinion to protect Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Trout in the American River.

Time/Duration	Not to Exceed	River Reach/Purpose Nimbus Dam to Watt Ave.
May 15 to Sept 30	65 Degrees F	For Juvenile Steelhead Rearing
Oct 1 –31	63 Degrees F	Adult Fall-run Salmon Holding
Nov 1 to May 16	60 Degrees F	Fall-run Salmon Spawning
	56 Degrees F	Egg Incubation Embryo Development

In order to protect the various life stage needs of salmon and steelhead, flows may have to be increased and augmented with water from the Folsom Reservoir

cold water pool to meet temperature requirements.

The Bureau has prepared an annual operations forecast and temperature plan for meeting the various temperature targets since 2001. The 65 degree Fahrenheit maximum target temperature at Watt Ave. has been exceeded in eight of the past ten years (2001-2010, Bureau data 2011). The upper threshold of 65 degrees Fahrenheit was relaxed to a mean high of 71 degrees Fahrenheit because the Bureau did not, or could not, manage the available water supply sufficiently to conserve cold water to maintain less than 65 degrees Fahrenheit in the Lower American River. The high temperature in the upper 60s and low 70s has occurred for several weeks.

The Bureau's business focus is on meeting contract obligations, i.e.

delivering and selling water. As a result, the Bureau is trying to meet the various life history needs of salmon and steelhead with water left over from its

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[www.sarariverwatch.org](http://www.sarariverwatch.org)

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“export it first” operations of Folsom/Nimbus Reservoirs.

Efforts at restoring salmon and steelhead runs must focus on what water temperature and environmental conditions salmon and steelhead prefer, and therefore need at various life stages, not the water temperature each life stage can tolerate on a mortality curve.

Chinook salmon that must hold for three-to-eight weeks in water of elevated temperature water all too frequently die before spawning temperatures occur.

Prespawning mortality as measured by unspawned females has varied from six-to-69 percent of the females examined between 2001 and 2011. In the years 2008 and 2010, the total mortality has been higher than the number of fish in the natural spawning run. In the years 2001 to 2005, the prespawning mortality as measured by egg retention (unspawned females) varied from 18-to-67 percent of the females examined.

The high prespawning mortality rates suffered by Fall-run Chinook salmon in the American River was associated with environmental stress, including elevated water temperature, and easily fits the mortality outcome described in some of the literature. Adults held in hatcheries at water temperature greater than 60 degrees Fahrenheit exhibited poor health, low survival (high prespawning mortality) and poor egg quality with total egg mortality at 62 degrees Fahrenheit and higher.

When adult Fall-run Chinook

salmon are holding in water exceeding 60 degrees Fahrenheit for 12 days during September and October, an estimated 50 percent of the eggs would be lost along with adult mortality exceeding 24 percent of the run. Mortality of both eggs and adults would increase as exposure is prolonged.

**Efforts at restoring salmon and steelhead runs must focus on what water temperature and environmental conditions salmon and steelhead prefer, and therefore need at various life stages, not the water temperature each life stage can tolerate on a mortality curve.**

With water temperature up to 64.5 degrees Fahrenheit, the result in a Fall-run mortality would be 14-to-30 percent. That could result in an eventual loss of the early segments of the run due to prespawning mortality.

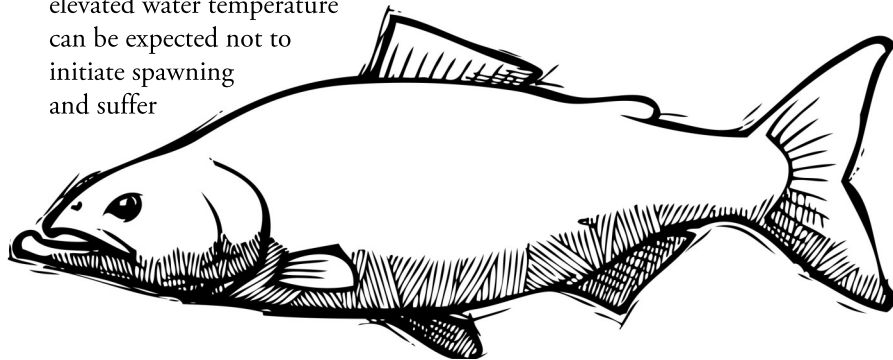
In another reference, adult salmon holding or otherwise delayed in spawning for up to 24 days by various stress factors including elevated water temperature can be expected not to initiate spawning and suffer

100 percent mortality. Delays in spawning because of unfavorable holding conditions may contribute to reproductive failures (poor egg quality, etc.). In addition, because adults do not eat during the spawning migration they virtually exhaust all energy reserves in about 30 days and die without spawning.

Field biologists must document field conditions. They also must investigate the large fish kills that have occurred in the river. They must investigate, evaluate and verify if the temperature criteria is in fact protective of all life stages of salmon and steelhead. And they must determine if the “good condition” of Fish and Game Code Section 5937 is met, along with the state’s mandatory duty as a trustee, to manage the trust

resources and the aquatic ecosystem for the benefit of present and future generations.

Clearly, the Bureau is not meeting the temperature in the Biological Opinion. In addition, even those criteria may be wanting because the criteria are not protective of all life stages of salmon and steelhead utilizing the American River. ■





*Guardians of the American  
River and Parkway Since  
1961*

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☐ Renewal   ☐ New Membership   ☐ Non Membership Donation

☐ Memorial - In Memory of *(Name)*: \_\_\_\_\_

May we publish your name as a SARA member in a future *Riverwatch* issue?

*(Contribution amount will **not** be included)* ☐ Yes   ☐ No

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ *(Please indicate your TOTAL contribution)* Check \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_

*Insert credit card info below or go to our secure Web site to donate — [www.sarariverwatch.org](http://www.sarariverwatch.org).*

**The following membership categories are suggested:** *(Please circle your choice)*

\$10-\$24	Student	\$25-\$49	Regular
\$50 +	Supporting	\$100 +	Family
\$250 +	Business	\$1,000 +	Sustaining

☐ **Please send me information on SARA's Legacy Program.**

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