

**Notes from 1968 Studies  
Professional Judgment  
Conducted by Mike Zelle and others**

**Silver Fork American River (China Flat)**

50-55 CFS            Optimal Swimming  
                          Optimal aesthetics

Over 100 CFS        Too high for unrestricted swimming and waterplay

**South Fork American River**

*Compilation of data from Indian Springs, Sand Flat, and Bridalveil*

*50-60 CFS            Optimal swimming and aesthetics*

*5-100+ CFS        Useable Swimming*

*100+ CFS           Above good aesthetics*

**Indian Springs**

5-75 CFS            Usable for swimming

30-100 CFS        Good aesthetics

**Sand Flat**

60-80 CFS           Optimal swimming

Fishing

10-90 CFS           Usable for swimming

30-100+ CFS       Range of good aesthetics

**Bridalveil**

15-75 CFS           Good range for swimming and aesthetics

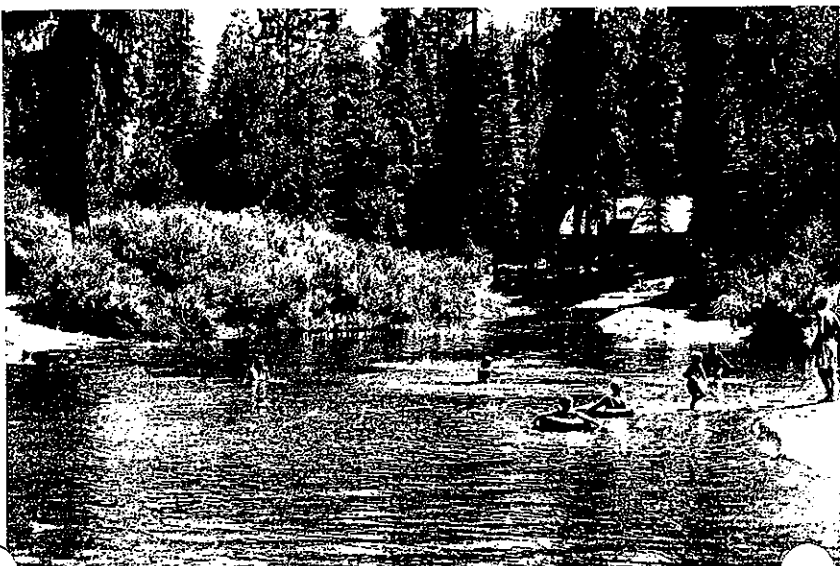
6/27/68  
measuring flow of Silver Fork just  
below swimming hole at Work Center

(1)

55 C.F.S. flow by meter measurement  
3961

Water Temp. 64°

From aesthetic standpoint this is  
a very nice flow



6/27/68  
55 cfs. downstream from bridge  
@ China Flat  
aesthetics very good

3861

(5)

6/27/68  
where 11634 crosses Silver Fork downstream  
55 cfs - (middle creek Long Canyon Co.)  
≈ 51 cfs here  
aesthetics excellent @ this flow

3861

(5)



6/27/68

where 11034 crosses Silver Lake - upstream (9)  
55 cfs @ China Flat - (middle creek & Long Canyon)

51 cfs

178 E

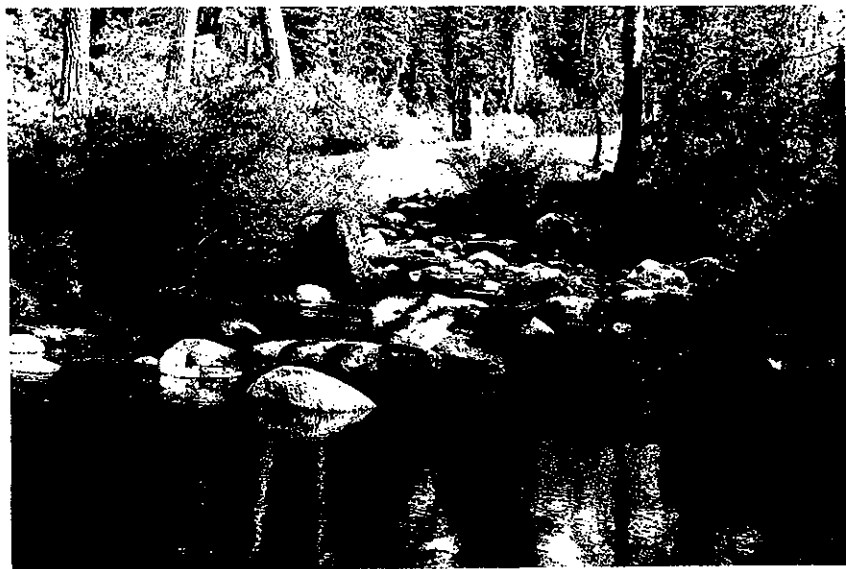
conditions very good at this flow



6/27/68

looking up @ gage house at Silver Lake (11)  
just below Silver Lake - flow 3.3 cfs

178 E



6/27/68

(12)

downstream 100 yds of where (11) taken

Convey upstream 3.3 c.f.s.

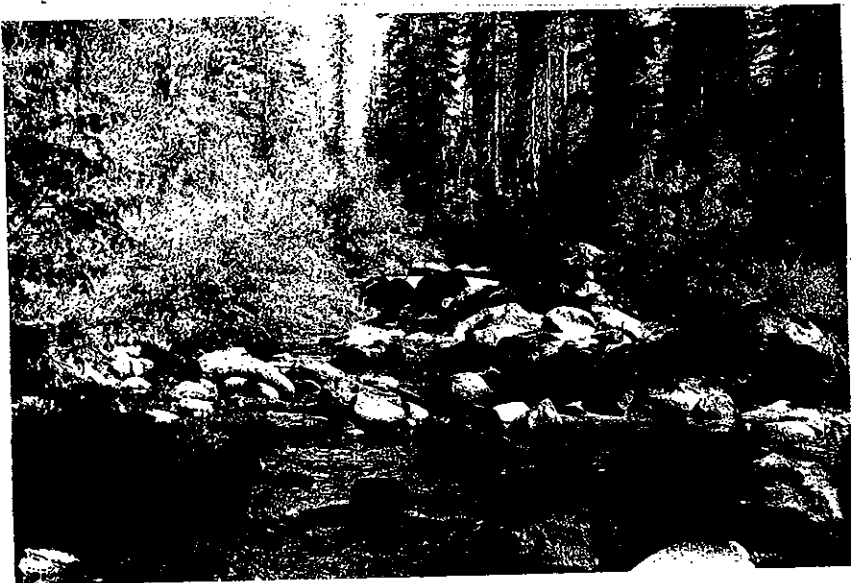
3341

approx. to be adequate although F&G

calls for about a 5 c.f.s. minimum from

Silver Forks (account for fact have 15.7 c.f.s.

leakage from Dryden Creek



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Silver Forks - Upstream from Bridge

@ swimming hole

≈ 50 c.f.s.

7/8/68

Very nice



FIELD NOTES FROM 1968  
IN-STREAM FLOW ANALYSIS  
ON THE SOUTH FORK OF THE  
AMERICAN RIVER

The following notes are provided by the Eldorado National Forest, Placerville, California. The work was conducted in late-spring, early-summer 1968. As noted on the photos, they were taken during the period 6-10-68 to 7-8-68. Estimates for water flow (in CFS) were as gauged at the U.S.G.S. Sand Flat gauging station. Temperatures were measured by a fisheries thermometer at 12" below the surface. Depths were measured using a survey rod hand-held at the deepest points of pools. Observations and measurements were made by a U. S. Forest Service interdisciplinary team which included the Forest's Impact Analysis Specialist, Mike Zelle and the Recreation Forester, Bob Henley.

DIGGER INDIAN SPRINGS - PICNIC AREA TO LEFT

127 cfs

- 6-10-68
- Water temp. - 55°
  - Max. pool - 10-15'
  - Very still - probably area would be slightly better for swimming with lower water - also too cold
  - Aesthetics - excellent
  - Many caddis cases

95 cfs

- 6-13-68
- Water temp. - 56°
  - River down 1 foot lower than @ 127 cfs
  - Swim conditions - very good although water too cold for more than a dip
  - Aesthetics - excellent

72 cfs

- 6-15-68
- Water temp. - 59°
  - Swim and aesthetics - very good at this flow, however due to deepness of pool and this place would also be very nice with a greatly reduced flow

Note: @ 12:00 - 2 parties picnicking

31 cfs

- 6-18-68
- Water temp. - 63°
  - Swimming better as flow subsides
  - Aesthetics - little affected by lowered flows

5 cfs

- 7-8-68
- Water temp. - 68°
  - Present level of flow provides optimum conditions for water use - upper limits 50-75 cfs
  - Aesthetics - little effected by this flow

Note: - 5 people here @ 13:00

DIGGER INDIAN SPRINGS - UPSTREAM FROM PICNIC AREA

Zelle - Made no comments

ALDER CREEK BRIDGE - UPSTREAM

72 cfs

6-15-68

- Aesthetics still very good
- Swim hole - very good

Note:

- 16 people in Alder Creek Campground @ 12:00

31 cfs

6-18-68

- 3 people in Campground

5 cfs

7-8-68

- 15 people in water

SAND FLAT - DOWNSTREAM SWIM HOLE

127 cfs

6-10-68

- Max. pool - 8'
- Small beach area
- Swim conditions are not optimum - a little too much water
- Water temp. 55° (cold)
- Aesthetics - Excellent

95 cfs

6-13-68

- Condition for swimming excellent except water too cool (56°)
- Water depth - 7'
- Aesthetics - very good

72 cfs

6-15-68

- Water temp. - 59°
- Pool depth - 6-7'
- Swim excellent at this flow
- Aesthetics - excellent

Note:

- 1300 time - 23 parties - 90 persons in Campground

31 cfs

6-18-68

- Swimming hole - definitely hurt by this flow - still useable but not at optimum as per 6-15-68 flow (72 cfs)

5 cfs

7-8-68

- Swim hole - down but still useable/pretty poor however

BRIDAL VEIL

87/72 cfs  
6/15/68

- All round swimming excellent
- More beach area (wading)  
(Note: Look @ Book on Beaches 75% of beach use is wading)
- Aesthetics - very good - for a hot July day the overall setting here would be excellent.
- Max. pool 7'
- June 15, 1968 = water temp. 62°
- June 16, 1968, 2:00 p.m.
  - 75 cars in picnic area
  - 300 people
  - 80 people swimming (water temp. must be o.k. - warm enough now)

110/95 cfs  
6/13/68

- Water temp. 58°
- Max. pool-8'
- Swimming generally better than @ 127; more wading for kids.
- Aesthetics - very good
- Abundant caddis cases

142/27 cfs  
6/ /68

- 58°
- Max. pool 8-9'
- Swimming o.k. for adults - not optimum for kids
- Aesthetics - excellent
- Great abundance of caddis cases

46/31 cfs  
6/18/68

- Water temp. 68°
- Swimming good
- Aesthetics still real good
- Max. pool - 6'
- 50 people in area @ 12:00

15/5 cfs  
7/8/68

- Water temp. 72°
- From swimming standpoint, present situation excellent
- Max. depth pool - 6'
- Good for kids now
- Aesthetics still very good

Note: - 15-75 cfs provides range for best recreation use at Bridal Veil



Bridal Veil (Vaughn's Notes):

- 75-25 cfs=desirable swim range
- Above 75 cfs wading zone and sand beach are minimal; lack of the sand zone at the toe of the side-channel slopes could be dangerous for small children; there is less safety rocks (exposed and submerged) for people (especially children) to rest on or utilize in emergencies.
- The portion of swimmable pool changes very little between 25-75 cfs

SAND FLAT - CAMPGROUND TO LEFT

- 127 cfs  
6-10-68 - Aesthetics - excellent
- 95 cfs  
6-13-68 - Aesthetics - excellent
- 72 cfs  
6-15-68 - Aesthetics - still very good to excellent
- 31 cfs  
6-18-68 - Aesthetics have been reduced somewhat
- 5 cfs  
7-8-68 - Aesthetics have been reduced here

1/2 MILE EAST OF ALDER CREEK

- 127 cfs - No comment
- 95 cfs - No comment
- 72 cfs - Aesthetics not as good now as at higher flow - however still not too bad
- 31 cfs - Aesthetics - dropping very rapidly here

RIVERTON BRIDGE - UPSTREAM

- 127 cfs - Aesthetics - very good
- 95 cfs - No comment
- 72 cfs - No comment
- 31 cfs - No comment
- 5 cfs - No comment

ALDER CREEK BRIDGE - DOWNSTREAM  
ALDER CREEK CAMPGROUND TO RIGHT  
ALDER CREEK S.H. ON LEFT

127 cfs	
6-10-68	- Aesthetics - very good
95 cfs	
6-13-68	- Aesthetics - very good
72 cfs	
6-15-68	- No comment
31 cfs	
6-18-68	- No comment
5 cfs	
7-8-68	- No comment