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 River just below swimming hole at work center
55 c.f.s. flow by meter measurement

Water temp 69°

From aesthetic standpoint this is a very nice flow.

6/27/68
measured flow 55 c.f.s. just upstream 100' from
Temp: Water 69°
excellent amount of water for swimming

600' short enough people will want to swim
5/27/67
55 cfs. downstream from bridge
crossing flat
Water is very good

4/27/67
where 110 cfs. crossed Salmon, ~5 mi downstream
55 cfs. — (middle creek forks con.)
= 51 cfs. here
Aesthetics are excellent at this flow
6/2/48

Looking up @ gage house at Silver Fork
just below Silver Lake. Conv 3.3 c.f.s

5/1/48

55 cfs @ Chain Filet. (Middle Creek) 50 cfs
= 51 cfs

Conditions very good at this flow.
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/prettty 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
6/27/68
- 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