



**CITY OF CHICO
BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)
NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE**

(Commissioners Haar, McReynolds, and Nickell)

Regular Meeting Agenda

October 24, 2017, 6:00 p.m.

Municipal Center - 421 Main Street, Council Chambers

Materials related to an item on this Agenda are available for public inspection in the Park Division Office at 965 Fir Street, during normal business hours or online at <http://www.chico.ca.us/>.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. REGULAR AGENDA –

2.1. CONSIDERATION OF REPAIRS TO BIDWELL PARK UPPER PARK ROAD

The Committee will consider repair options that were identified in the assessment report prepared by Pacific Watershed Associates for the gravel portion of Upper Park Road beyond the Diversion Dam. These repairs are needed to reduce erosion and sediment, and to allow emergency vehicle access.

Recommendation: Due to the environmental permitting process and fast approaching winter, Staff is recommending 1) the clearing of debris from existing culverts, and 2) road drainage treatments only for the three high priority erosion sites to be conducted over the next month using a private contractor.

2.2. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SURVEY FOR BIDWELL PARK UPPER PARK ROAD

The Committee will review a survey to be distributed to garner public opinion on the desired use and access of Upper Park Road in Bidwell Park. The Committee will be providing recommendations on the survey questions only for Bidwell Park & Playground Commission (BPPC) consideration at its 10/30/17 meeting. BPPC discussions regarding future Upper Park Road access and policies will take place after the public survey is complete.

Recommendation: That the Committee provide input and comments on the draft public opinion survey.

3. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Members of the public may address the Committee at this time on any matter not already listed on the agenda, comments are limited to three minutes. The Committee cannot take any action at this meeting on requests made under this section of the agenda.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn to the next regular meeting tentatively scheduled for November 15, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room 1, Chico Municipal Center Building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).



Please contact the Park Division Office at (530) 896-7800 if you require an agenda in an alternative format or if you need to request a disability-related modification or accommodation. This request should be received at least three working days prior to the meeting.



Natural Resources Committee Staff Report

Meeting Date 10/24/17

DATE: 10/20/17
TO: Bidwell Park & Playground Commission Natural Resource Committee
FROM: Linda Herman, Parks and Natural Resources Manager
SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF REPAIRS TO BIDWELL PARK UPPER PARK ROAD

REPORT IN BRIEF:

At its 9/25/17 meeting, the Bidwell Park & Playground Commission (BPPC) considered an assessment prepared by the City's Consultant Pacific Watershed Associates (PWA) on the possible repair options for Upper Park Road beyond the Diversion Dam gate. The BPPC forwarded discussion of this item to the Natural Resource Committee (NRC).

Recommendation: Due to the environmental permitting process and fast approaching winter, Staff is recommending 1) the clearing of debris from existing culverts, and 2) road drainage treatments only for the three high priority erosion sites to be conducted over the next month using a private contractor.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The estimated cost to complete the road drainage treatments, including technical oversight from PWA, is approximately \$15,000. The culvert clearing costs are to be determined. A Capital Project (Project # 50303) for the rehabilitation of the Upper Park Road was established during the 2015-16 fiscal year budget process, which has a current balance of \$37,490.

BACKGROUND:

After receiving extensive damage from the storms in 2012, the approximate 4.4 mile unpaved section of Upper Park Road between the Diversion Dam gate and the end of Upper Park Road has been closed to private vehicle use. The BPPC received a presentation on a physical assessment of the Upper Bidwell Park Road prepared by PWA. The purpose of the assessment was to conduct an inventory of the current road conditions and to develop an action plan to control or prevent erosion and sediment from entering Big Chico Creek. In its report, PWA presented the following:

1. PWA identified a total of 43 erosion sites within the 4.4 miles of unpaved road inventoried (map of the erosion sites are attached as Attachment A).
2. 3.42 miles of the total 4.4 miles are hydrologically connected to streams, thereby having the potential to deliver sediment directly into Big Chico Creek (BCC).
3. Recommended repair measures include both sediment control treatments, such as modifying stream crossings, and road drainage improvements.
4. Treatment of all of the erosion sites could reduce approximately 3,572 cubic yards of episodic and chronic (over 10 years) sediment from depositing onto Upper Park Road and potentially entering into BCC.
5. Treatment of the 43 erosion sites were prioritized as High Immediacy, High-moderate Immediacy, Moderate Immediacy, Moderate-low Immediacy, and Low Immediacy.
6. Erosion sites #27, 38 and 39 were identified as High to High-moderate priority.
7. The estimated costs to treat all 43 sites was estimated at \$457,000

It was clear from the report that some repairs are necessary to reduce erosion and sediment, and to allow emergency vehicle access, regardless of the policy decision to allow private vehicle access. The BPPC directed further discussion of the proposed repairs to the NRC.

DISCUSSION:

The Commissioners inquired on what the costs would be to repair the three high priority sites and possibly prepare portions of the road for this winter. In the report, PWA recommended that these sites receive both repairs to the stream crossings and road drainage treatments. The recommended treatments for these sites include armor fills, a new culvert, installation of rolling dips, berm removal, and grading.

PWA estimates that implementation of these treatments could potentially reduce approximately 266 cubic yards of sediment from flowing onto the road and possibly into BBC. The specifics regarding these site treatments are summarized in the attached **Table 1** (Attachment B).

PWA also advised that the stream crossing repairs would require a Lake and Streambed Alteration permit from the California Fish and Wildlife Department (CDFW), which could take 30 days or more to obtain. Road drainage treatments would not require a permit.

PWA estimated the total costs for these both types of treatments as follows:

**Table 4. Grand total for High and High - Moderate priority sites,
Upper Park Road – Bidwell Park, Chico, CA**

Site #	Treatment immediacy	Problem	Grand total (\$)
27	HM	Stream crossing	\$8,195
38	H	Stream crossing	\$12,945
39	HM	Stream crossing	\$4,382
Total			\$25,522
Permitting			\$2,400
PWA layout, supervision, technical oversight			\$3,500
Grand total			\$31,422

Road drainage treatments can reduce overall maintenance costs and fine sediment input from road surfaces. The costs for implementing road treatments only are estimated as:

- Site 27 \$ 3,489
 - Site 38 \$ 5,797
 - Site 39 \$ 2,328
- Total \$11,614

These repairs are estimated to take 54 hours of staff and equipment time, and approximately 100 cubic yards of road rock. PWA also recommended a visual maintenance inspection and the cleaning of existing culvert inlets before winter, which would take additional staff time. The road repair functions could be conducted in-house or contracted out. However, the City is entering into its November-December leaf collection program, so the availability for the City crews to conduct this work is limited. Some of the clean out work could also be conducted by one of the City's agency partners, such as Cal Fire Salt Creek Crews, or by volunteers.

Attachments:

Exhibit A: Map of Upper Park Road Erosion Sites

Exhibit B: Table 1: Summary of Treatments


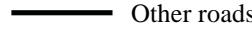


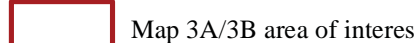
Distribution: BPPC
BPPC Interested Parties email


EXHIBIT A - MAPS OF EROSION SITES BY TYPE AND PRIORITY

Map 3. Road related sediment source **by treatment immediacy** for the Upper Bidwell Park Road, Big Chico Creek, Butte County, California.

Sites by priority


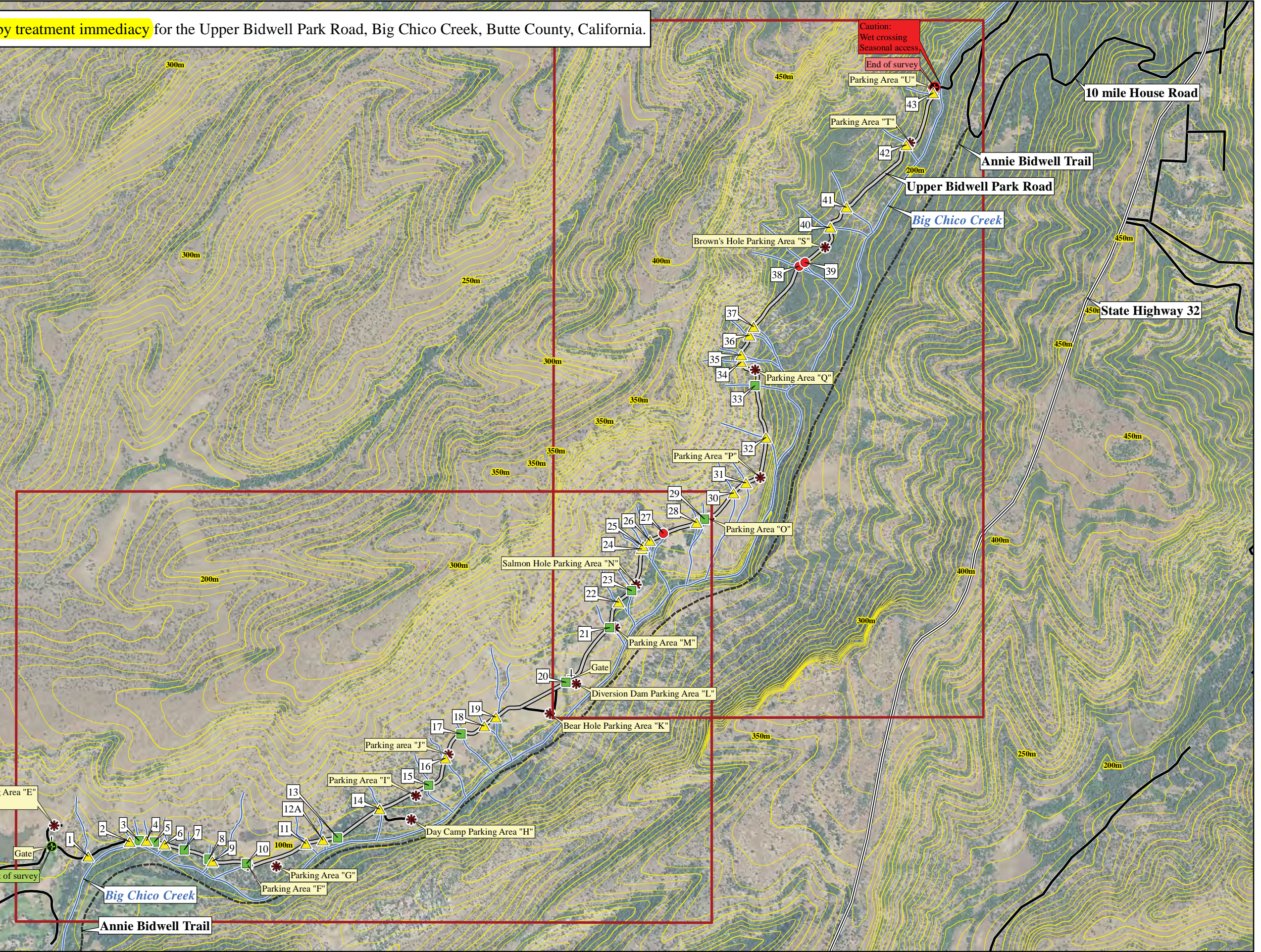
- High
- ▲ Moderate
- Low
- ⊕ Start of survey
- ⊖ End of survey
- ✱ Parking Areas
- ⊥ Gate

 PWA assessed roads
 Other roads
 Streams
 State Highway 32
 Map 3A/3B area of interest

0 750 1,500 3,000
 Feet
 Scale: 1:18,000 1 in : 1,500 ft
 Contour interval: 10m
 Imagery: NAIP 2016

Note: Streams displayed are based on field mapping and aerial photo interpretation.

Prepared February 2017 by:
 Pacific Watershed Associates
www.pacificwatershed.com



Natural Resources Committee Staff Report

Meeting Date 10/24/17

DATE: 10/20/17
TO: Bidwell Park & Playground Commission Natural Resource Committee
FROM: Linda Herman, Parks and Natural Resources Manager
SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SURVEY FOR BIDWELL PARK UPPER PARK ROAD

REPORT IN BRIEF:

The Natural Resource Committee (NRC) will review a survey to be distributed to garner public opinion on the desired use and access of Upper Park Road in Bidwell Park. The Committee will be providing recommendations on the survey questions only for Bidwell Park & Playground Commission (BPPC) consideration at its 10/30/17 meeting. BPPC discussions regarding future Upper Park Road access and policies will take place after the public survey is complete.

Recommendation: That the Committee provide input and comments on the draft public opinion survey.

BACKGROUND:

At its 9/13/16 and 12/13/16 meetings, the NRC began discussions on whether to allow private vehicle access to the unpaved portion of Upper Park Road east of the Diversion Dam gate. The Committee heard numerous public comments from those in attendance at the meetings, but also considered a draft survey (attached as Exhibit A) that would be used to garner more public input on this matter. Distribution of this survey was put on hold until an assessment of the physical conditions of Upper Park Road could be completed.

DISCUSSION:

At its 9/25/17 meeting, the BPPC considered the Upper Park Road assessment report prepared by the City's Consultant Pacific Watershed Associates (PWA). It was clear from the report that some repairs were necessary to reduce erosion and sediment, and to allow emergency vehicle access, regardless of the decision to allow private vehicle access. Yet, the overall policy determination on private vehicle access and other types of uses will influence the type of road required to support those uses, and thereby affecting the extent in which Upper Park Road should be improved.

For these reasons, Staff intends to distribute the public opinion survey through various means, such as through social media and an online survey (e.g. Survey Monkey). Staff believes that the draft survey previously presented to the NRC is too long and broad in nature. Suggested revisions include reducing the number of questions and providing questions that are more focused on the use of Upper Park Road and not Bidwell park in general. However, Staff did not want to eliminate or revise any questions that may be of interest to the BPPC, so is asking the Committee to provide comments on which questions should remain, the rewording of some of the questions, and any potential new questions, if desired.

Attachments:

Exhibit A: 12/13/16 Draft Survey

Distribution:

BPPC
BPPC Interested Parties



**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - PARK DIVISION
UPPER PARK ROAD SURVEY 2016-2017**

The Park Division is evaluating the graveled portion of Upper Park Road as part of the Trails Plan required under the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan. This survey is an effort to gain your input to understand the community's needs and craft policy for the road. Thank you for your time and comments, they will make a difference in the future of Bidwell Park. For some of the questions please answer as if on your last trip to Upper Park.

1. How long have you been a user of Upper Bidwell Park?
 1st Time <1 Year 1-5 Years 6-10 Years 11 + Years

2. In the past month, how often have you used Upper Bidwell Park?
 This is my 1st time 3-7 days 15 days – everyday
 1-2 days 8-14 days

3. How much time do you typically spend in Upper Bidwell Park?
 < 29 minutes 1 hour to < 2 hours > 4 hours
 30 minutes - <1 hour 2 hours to < 4 hours

4. On your visit today (or last visit), how did you arrive at the park today?
 Bike Motorcycle/Scooter Public transport
 Automobile Foot Other (specify: _____)

5. What is your primary motivation for visiting?
 Enjoy Nature and the Outdoors Solitude Other (specify: _____)
 Exercise and Fitness Socialize with friends or family Decline to state
 Reduce stress or unwind Walk the dog

6. What is your primary activity?
 Driving/Sightseeing Mt. Biking View wildlife or plants
 Education Picnic Volunteer (stewardship)
 Hiking/Walking Running/Jogging Other (specify: _____)
 Horseback Riding Swimming Decline to state

7. What could be done to improve your experience at Upper Bidwell Park?
 Additional restrooms Improve trails Require leashes on dogs
 Additional signage Nothing Other (please specify): _____
 Drinking water Ranger presence and programs

8. How important are the following to you in general about Upper Bidwell Park?

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Unimportant	Very Unimportant
Car access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Car Parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Park information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protect resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Restrooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signage/Trail Markers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swimming access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Upper Park Road	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vegetation/Native Plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wilderness setting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. What aspect of Upper Park Road is most important to you?

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Unimportant	Very Unimportant
Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Efficiency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physical challenge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clearly defined/signage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fun/Playfulness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural looking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustainable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-motorized Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vehicle Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. The current policy allows vehicles on the unpaved section of Upper Park Road from Tuesday to Saturday and seasonally opens the Diversion Dam gate in summer (currently closed because of damage to the road). Please respond to the following options related to vehicles on the graveled portion of Upper Park Road:

a. Time restrictions

- Do not change the current policy.
- Allow vehicle access May 1 to October 31 only.
- Reduce vehicle access additional days or hours.
- Allow non-motorized recreation only.
- Other (specify: _____)

b. Geographic access

- Do not change the current policy.
- Do not allow motorized vehicles.
- Allow vehicles from Horseshoe Lake to the Diversion Dam only.
- Allow vehicles to Salmon Hole.
- Allow vehicles to Brown's Hole.
- Allow vehicles to end of Road.
- Other (specify: _____)

11. What is the best way to get park and trail information?

- Call Park Division or Trails Hotline
- Facebook
- Friends
- Webpage
- Kiosk
- Newspaper
- Email
- Newsletter
- Other _____

12. What additional park information would you like to have?

- Better Maps
- Cultural
- Geology
- Management
- Resource protection
- Rules
- Trail work info
- Vegetation
- Wildlife
- Other _____

13. What do you like best about Upper Park Road?

14. What do you like least about Upper Park Road?

15. What could improve your experience related to Upper Park Road?

- Reduce dust
- Improve road surface
- Create rough but durable surface
- Limit motorized use
- Other specify (_____)

16. Would you support a vehicle parking or annual pass to help pay for the maintenance of park facilities and infrastructure and potentially reduce congestion and encourage use of bikes or carpooling?

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

17. What daily fee amount is appropriate for Bidwell Park?

- \$1/day
- \$3/day
- \$5/day
- \$10/day
- >\$10/day

Demographics

18. Date of survey: ___/___/___

19. Time of survey: ___:___ am/pm

20. What is your gender? Male Female

21. What is your Zip Code of your residence?

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22. What County do you live in?

- Butte
- Glenn
- Tehama

- Shasta
- Yuba

Other (Please specify)

23. What is your age group?

- 15 – 19
- 20 – 29
- 30 – 39

- 40 – 49
- 50 – 59
- 60 – 74

75 or over

24. Including yourself how many people are you with today? #

25. How many dogs are with you today? #

Thank you for your time, please contact the Parks Division if you have any questions.

DRAFT