

A Guide to Kanaka Valley and the Management Planning Process

Bureau of Land Management, Mother Lode Field Office

5152 Hillside Circle, El Dorado Hills, CA 916/941-3101

E-mail planning: cafokvp@blm.gov

http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/folsom/kanaka_valley.html

Consisting of an open valley on the east side and steeply sloping hills on the west, Kanaka Valley encompasses 695 acres of public land near Rescue, California. A one-lane public road, Kanaka Valley Road, runs through the eastern portion of the property; this road is maintained by El Dorado County. Kanaka Valley contains 295 acres of California chaparral which includes white leaf manzanita and chamise; 107 acres of annual grassland; 104 acres of blue oak woodland; 155 acres of interior live oak woodland; 10 acres of valley oak woodland; 12 riparian mixed hardwood; and 12 acres of white alder dominated wetland. Private residences are located along Kanaka Valley Road.



Land Use History

The property was brought into federal ownership in February 2010 through a cooperative acquisition process with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), American River Conservancy and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The acquisition process was fueled by funding from two separate efforts: Folsom Dam Safety and Flood Damage Reduction Project (Folsom DS/FDR) and the Central Valley Project Conservation Project (CVPCP). Following acquisition, Kanaka Valley became subject to the Sierra Resource Management Plan (RMP) adopted in 2008 and by the guidance posed by the acquisition agreements.

Kanaka Valley provided partial in-kind conservation compensation for the impacts of the Folsom DS/FDR project. Given the location of the reservoir just upstream from the Sacramento metropolitan area, the Folsom DS/FDR project is important in providing increased flood damage protection as well as remedying dam safety issues. Foothill cover-types such as oak/grey pine woodlands, chaparral and riparian woodlands were impacted by the Folsom DS/FDR; thus, mitigation was required. BOR acquired Kanaka Valley for the purpose of transferring it to the BLM “to manage and preserve the new lands in perpetuity as part of the Pine Hill Preserve ACEC [Area of Critical Ecological Concern] or other conservation area in the Sierra RMP”. Management and preservation of the new fee title acquisition fulfills a mitigation requirement.

The CVPCP grant agreement provided funding to acquire 86 acres of rare plant habitat within the recovery areas of the FWS Gabbro Rare Plant Recovery Plan (2002). These recovery areas were highlighted for conservation efforts to stabilize and protect rare plant populations. The objective of the CVPCP grant is “to protect habitat for federally listed plant species in the Pine Hills [sic] Preserve in Western El Dorado County” and further the conservation of the rare plants. The grant explains that “Protection of lands within the Pine Hills Preserve will have significant benefits for listed plant species found specifically on gabbro soil habitat...Urban development and offsite impacts have threatened the continued existence of these species. Accordingly, protection and long-term management of Pine Hills Preserve is considered a priority task.”

It appears that the property was not actively managed prior to federal ownership. Evidence suggests that parts of the property were grazed, but knowledge of past land use is incomplete. It is known, however, that the land was not open to public use.

Present Management Situation

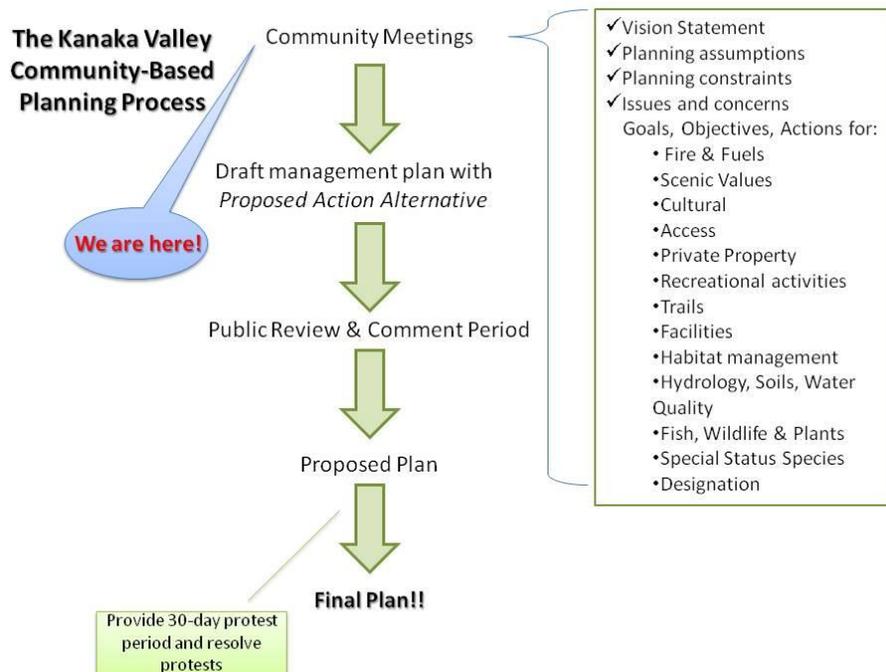
Kanaka Valley is currently owned and managed by the Mother Lode BLM. Acquisition and adaptive management of Kanaka Valley is consistent with the Sierra Resource Management Plan Record of Decision (ROD), approved in February 2008. The ROD states that the Mother Lode BLM will “maintain the ecological integrity of foothills ecosystems in the face of urban growth and residential development through protection or improvement of habitat connectivity” (page 12). Kanaka Valley connects existing public lands, serving as a corridor of wildlife habitat. Because populations of rare plants occur within the Kanaka Valley acquisition, management of Kanaka Valley will also help advance the goals of the Pine Hill ACEC “to protect the rare gabbro plants species and their habitat”.

Future Management Direction

Consistent with previous BLM planning processes in the Sierra Foothills, development of a management plan for Kanaka Valley will utilize a community-based planning process. This method has been especially successful in the wildland urban interface (WUI) where public lands are literally a part of the neighborhood. Community-based planning acknowledges the unique pattern of land use in the foothills and draws on the knowledge of the engaged community to shape appropriate management action.

The planning process will make use of community-based planning within the parameters of the Sierra RMP, legislation, policy and the conservation purposes for which the lands were acquired. Following Sierra RMP guidance, Kanaka Valley will not be open to mineral entry. Off-highway vehicle routes are not compatible with the purposes for which the lands were acquired thus will not be allowed. The portion of Kanaka Valley with federally protected rare plants will be incorporated into an ACEC to apply special management to the important and relevant values of rare plants, gabbro soils and northern mixed chaparral.

Public involvement in the beginning stages of management planning brings a variety of interests together. This collaboration creates a plan that will be better able to incorporate appropriate use levels for activities on public land.



This schematic is an overview of the community-based planning process; checked tasks have been completed.

Public meeting process will shape the Proposed Action Alternative.

Dec 2010