

Draft Kanaka Valley Management Plan



Executive Summary

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared the draft Kanaka Valley Management Plan to provide direction for managing 695 acres of public lands recently acquired by the Mother Lode Field Office. Beginning in section V of this plan, you will find the corresponding environmental assessment (EA) (number CA-180-12-03) which analyzes environmental impacts resulting from the implementation of the proposed Kanaka Valley Management Plan.

The purpose of the proposed management plan is to protect and manage environmental, cultural, and recreation resources in a manner that is consistent with the intent of the Kanaka Valley acquisition. The plan will supplement existing law and policy and will be used to steer the BLM's management actions at Kanaka Valley.

Located in western El Dorado County, California, the planning area is in a rural neighborhood and is within an hour's drive of Sacramento. In a series of 16 community-based planning meetings, recreationists, local residents, and other members of the public expressed their opinions, concerns, and worked together to provide solutions for resource management at the planning area. The plan presents a collaborative, community-based vision for the future of Kanaka Valley.

The proposed management plan was developed by the Mother Lode Field Office, and it draws heavily on management recommendations developed by meeting attendees. The BLM considers the proposed management plan (alternative 1) to be the best approach to fulfill BLM policy requirements, provide for public safety and education, honor the intent of the acquisition, conserve rare plant species and other significant resources, provide recreational opportunities, and balance community input from planning meetings.

A variety of management alternatives were developed and explored to find the appropriate balance for the planning area. Six alternatives were developed for detailed analysis. Alternative 1 is the proposed management plan, the draft "Kanaka Valley Management Plan". Alternative 2 would continue current management practices and is called the "no action" alternative. Alternatives 3-6 were developed to study environmental impacts under several different scenarios for hunting, camping, parking, equestrian use, and ACEC designation. The complete proposed management plan can be found in section III. The proposed management plan along with alternatives 2-6 are analyzed in the EA, section V. The proposed management plan (alternative 1) is summarized in the table on the following page.

Draft Kanaka Valley Management Plan & Environmental Assessment (CA-120-12-03)

Resource	Proposed Management Actions (alternative 1)
Habitat Quality*	Manage for air quality, water quality, appropriate hydrology, soil quality, and habitat management for populations of wildlife (including animals and plants). Manage habitat with a “full management toolbox”; implement best management practices.
Vegetation*	Protect special status plants and their habitat; provide interpretation where suitable.
Cultural Resources*	Protect significant cultural resources; provide interpretation where suitable.
Scenic Values*	Classify as BLM visual resource management class II.
Fuels & Fire Program*	Create fuels management plan.
Access, Kanaka Valley Road*	Coordinate with El Dorado County to find solutions to potential congestion, unsafe parking, and other access issues.
Private Property*	Build trails to avoid private property; clearly sign trailhead and parking.
General Recreation*	Prohibit campfires and overnight camping; encourage users to follow Leave No Trace outdoor ethics.
Trail Based Recreation*	Construct trails to provide safe, multiple-use trails for non-motorized recreation; build trails to avoid sensitive resources and private property. Allow hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use.
Hunting Recreation	Establish “Hunting” and “No Hunting” zones (maps, appendix 3). In the fall season, restrict hunting to deer and turkey, and quail and mourning doves. Game for falconry consistent with CDFG regulations. Limit methods of take to archery, falconry, shotgun, and air gun. Establish a lottery hunting program in collaboration with interested partners for spring turkey season (section III, hunting recreation).
Facilities*	Build a vault toilet and other trailhead facilities.
Facilities: Parking Lot*	Build a small parking lot.
Roads & Motorized Use	Continue to allow motorized vehicle access along Kanaka Valley Road, but do not designate routes for motorized recreation in the planning area.
Shooting Recreation	Prohibit target shooting, plinking, and similar activities.
Minerals & Gold Seeking	Allow only hands and pans for recreational gold seeking. No mineral entry.
Firewood Permits	Issue permits on a case-by-case basis and ensure consistency with intent of acquisition, vision statement, and protection of significant resources.
Land Use Authorizations & Realty	Issue on a case-by-case basis and ensure consistency with intent of acquisition, vision statement, and protection of significant resources. Retain lands; do not dispose.
SRUPs	Issue on a case-by-case basis and ensure consistency with intent of acquisition, vision statement, and protection of significant resources.
ACEC Designation*	Designate as a standalone ACEC called the Kanaka Valley ACEC.

*Indicates management actions recommended at public planning meetings.