



AMERICAN RIVER CONSERVANCY *Partners For Habitat*

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695 acres added to the Pine Hill Preserve

After eight years, the American River Conservancy has succeeded in protecting a total of 1,447 acres of rare plant habitat – collectively known as the Kanaka Valley Property. The most recent cooperative effort between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and American River Conservancy (ARC) has purchased 695 acres that represents the third and final phase of the Kanaka Valley habitat acquisition project.

Reclamation provided \$4,749,000 from Folsom Dam Mitigation Project funds and the American River Conservancy provided \$671,000 in purchase funding from two Central Valley Project Conservation Program grants to purchase the property. Reclamation also provided \$301,000 to pay for acquisition costs and some management activities. BLM will own and manage the property as part of the Pine Hill Preserve.

Kanaka Valley is located just southeast of Folsom Lake and north of Green Valley Road in western El Dorado County, California. The land provides habitat for seven rare plants, and includes potential habitat for four federally listed plant species. The property contains 343 acres of blue oak woodland, valley oak woodland, blue oak foothill pine and montane hardwood, 167 acres of chaparral habitat, as well as 100 acres of riparian habitat along Jill's Creek and Crocker Creek, tributaries to the South Fork American River.

"The Kanaka Valley purchase protects an important low-elevation wet meadow system that links federal and state public lands in the Pine Hill Preserve, while also protecting populations of federally listed plant species. The area was also home to Hawaiian settlers prior to the Gold Rush, demonstrating the region's rich cultural history and giving the valley its unique name," said Alan Ehrgott, Executive Director of the American River Conservancy.

The Pine Hill Preserve was established to protect rare native plants in El Dorado County that occur on a unique soil type known as gabbro soils. Since 1991, the American River Conservancy, Pine Hill Preserve Management Group and various funding partners have protected over 2,600 acres of rare plant habitat in the Preserve. The Pine Hill Preserve contains more than 4,000 acres of publicly-managed lands stretching from Folsom Lake in the north to Highway 50 in the south.

The American River Conservancy preserves rivers, land and the life they support. Through education and recreation, ARC inspires the care of natural landscapes for future generations. For additional information, contact Alan Ehrgott, Executive Director or Elena DeLacy, Conservation Project Coordinator at the American River Conservancy. (530) 295-2190.