



Welcome!

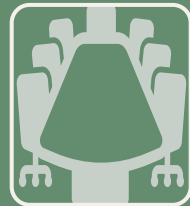
Public Engagement Meeting
East Walker River Wildlife Area Land Management Plan
Mono County, California

Introductions

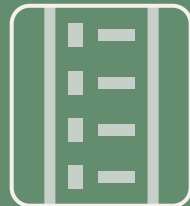
Agenda



“What is a Land
Management Plan”
Presentation



Discussion



Wrap Up and Next
Steps

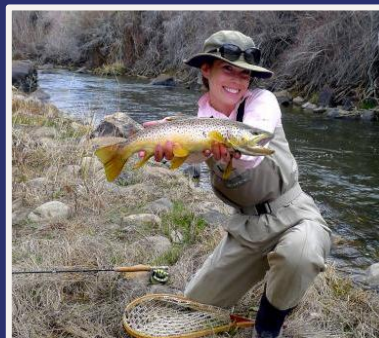
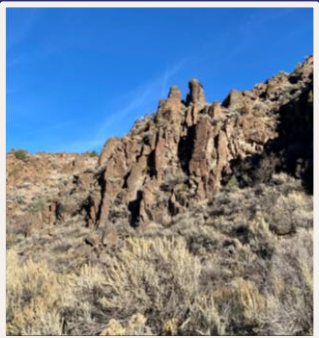


LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING

What is it?

What to expect?

How to engage?



What is a Land Management Plan?



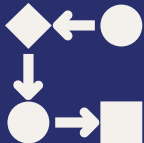
Long term planning document

- Intended lifespan 30-40 years



Multi-year planning process

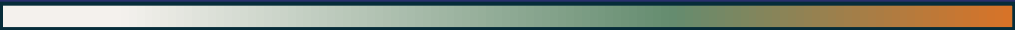
- Interdisciplinary and collaborative
- Bring together diverse internal and external perspectives



Comprehensive Approach

- Infrastructure and Public Use
- Cultural Resources
- Physical and Natural Resources





A Land Management Plan:

- A guidance document
- Defines a property's primary purpose(s)
- Outlines the management issues and opportunities
- Identifies goals and strategies for comprehensively managing the property.



What are CDFW Lands?

Our Mission

To manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and their use and enjoyment by the public.



Type of Lands

- 
- Wildlife Area
 - Ecological Reserve
 - Fish Hatchery
 - Public Access
 - Undesignated
 - Conservation Easements

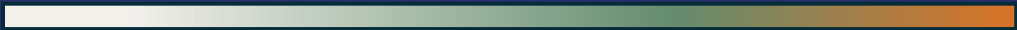


What is a Wildlife Area?

- Designated by the California Fish and Game Commission
- Described in Title 14 FGC 551
 - All wildlife areas are maintained for the primary purposes of developing a statewide program of ecological conservation, restoration, preservation, development and management of wildlife, wildlife habitat, and hunting.
 - Generally open for public use (may have closed areas, seasonal restrictions, etc.)
- Title 14 FGC 550 and 551 relate to public use
- Many other relevant code sections



What is the LMP Process?



There are three components:



Resource
Inventory

1 – 1.5 years



The Land
Management Plan
Document

1 – 2 years



California
Environmental
Quality Act (CEQA)

0.5 – 1+ years



Resource Inventory

- Internal process that creates an inventory of resources present on, or in the vicinity of, the property.
 - Includes the physical, cultural, infrastructure, and public use resources in addition to the biological resources
- Highlights data gaps that need to be filled to better inform the management needs of the property.



Resource Inventory Actions

- Review existing data
 - CDFW Files
 - California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB)
 - Community science (e.g., eBird and iNaturalist)
- Collect new data
 - Cultural resources
 - Vegetation mapping
 - Sensitive plants



Contents of a Land Management Plan

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Environmental Setting
and Management Considerations

Chapter 3: Management Plan



Chapter 1: Introduction

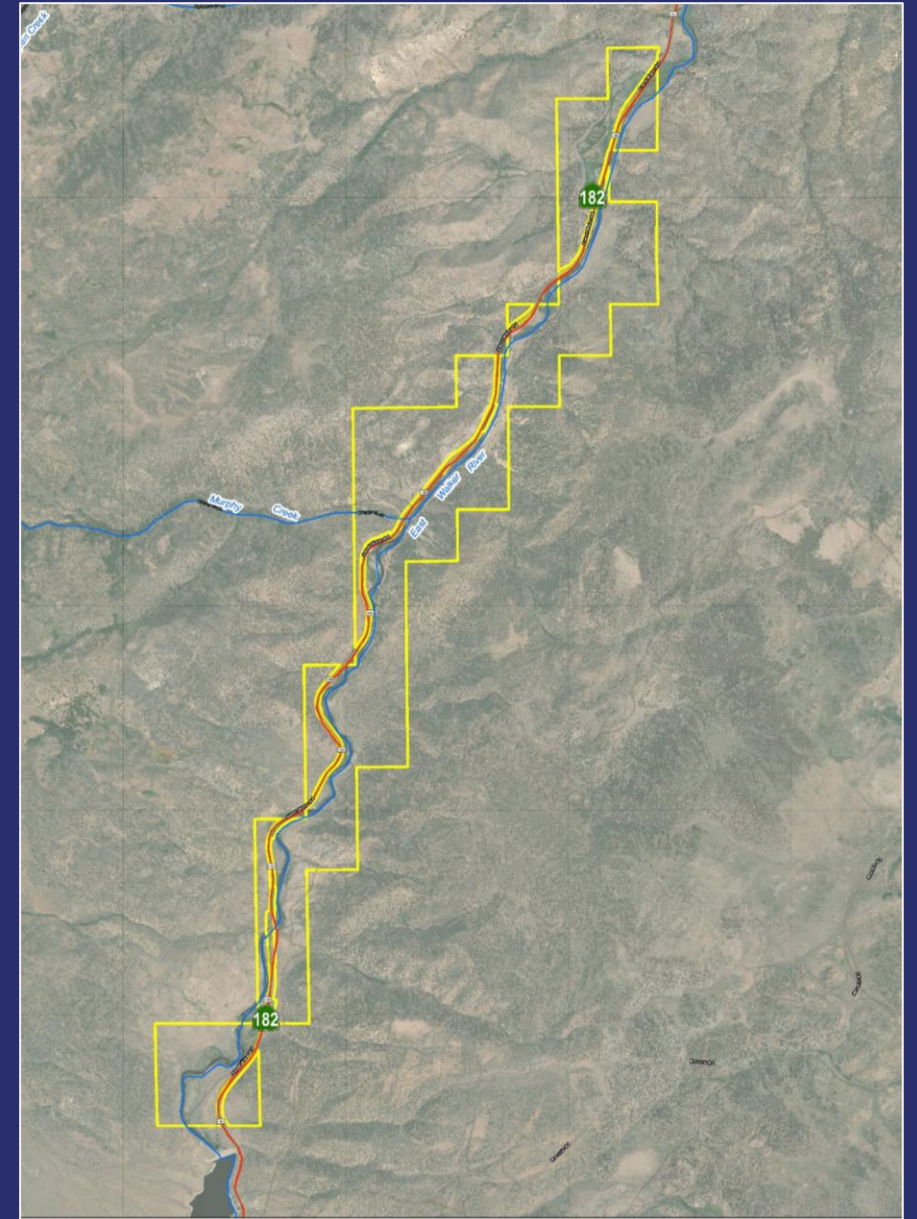
Provides an overview of the property and the planning process

- Where is this property located?
- Why was this property acquired?
- What is the purpose of the Management Plan?
- Are there any relationships to other existing plans?
- Who did we consult with during the planning process?



East Walker River Wildlife Area:

- Acquired to protect public access for angling, world class trout river, and associated wildlife habitats
- ~ 1,400 acres along approximately 7 miles of the East Walker River
- First land acquired in 1994 via the Trust for Public Lands
- Neighbored by federal public lands
- Historic ranch site
- Stock drive between Bridgeport and Smith Valley continues today

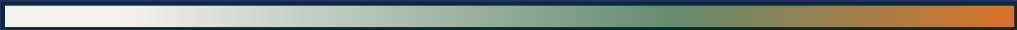


Chapter 2: Environmental Setting and Management Considerations

Provides an overview of resources present on the property followed by management issues and opportunities

- How do factors such as topography and hydrology affect management?
- What sensitive species exist on the property?
- How was the area used in the past? Currently?





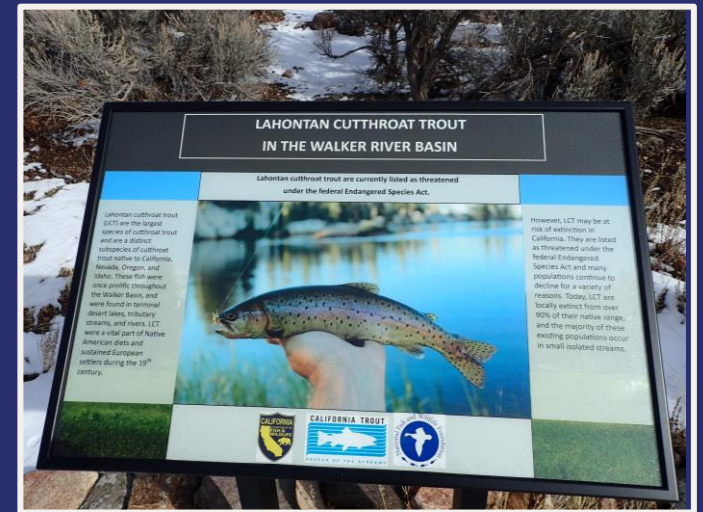
Environmental Setting and Management Considerations

- Long human history
 - Native Americans
 - Feridell Ranch
 - Currently popular for fishing, waterfowl and upland game hunting, birdwatching, and photography
 - “Miracle Mile” East Walker River
- Habitats: Great Basin sagebrush scrub, montane riparian forest, piñon-juniper woodland, and wetland meadows
- Fish and Wildlife: Lahontan cutthroat trout; Brown and rainbow trout; East Walker mule deer herd

Chapter 3: Management Plan

Builds upon the background information from Chapter 1 and the analysis in Chapter 2 to create Goals and Strategies

- What are some challenges with the property?
- What are some management opportunities to solve those?



DRAFT Example: Aquatic & Botanical Resources

DRAFT Goal

- Conserve & enhance aquatic and sensitive botanical species.

DRAFT Strategies

- Manage aquatic habitats to support Lahontan cutthroat trout, native freshwater mussels/mollusks, and the native Paiute sculpin
- Establish protection zones around special-status plant populations to safeguard them from human activities (e.g., trampling)
- Require floristic surveys prior to construction of future public facilities or infrastructure (e.g., parking areas or restrooms)
- Selectively thin Pinyon-Juniper bands that infringe on native sagebrush and wet meadow habitats, preserving mature Pinyon groves identified as culturally significant by local tribes.

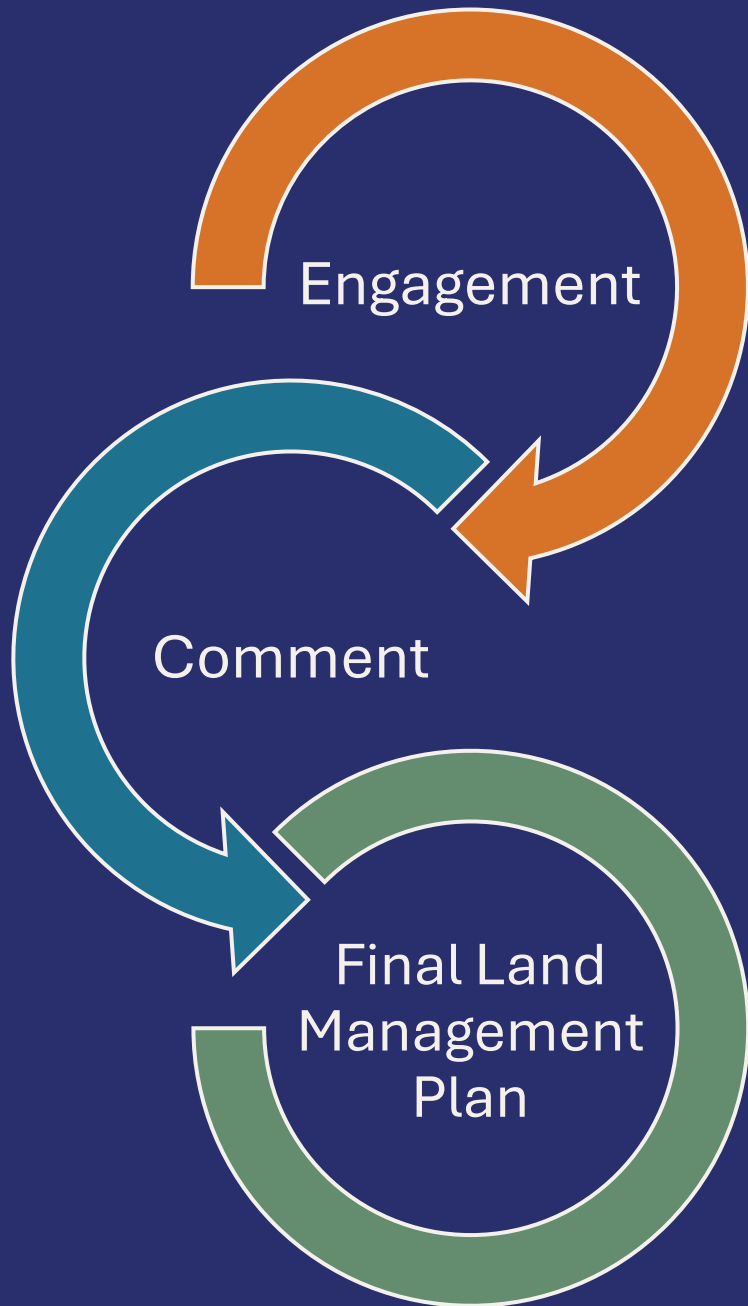


California Environmental Quality Act

- The LMP is a project under CEQA
- CEQA requires public entities to:
 - Disclose and evaluate the potential significant environmental impacts
 - Adopt all feasible mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate those impacts
- Specific document yet to be determined
- If you want to learn more, Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation:
<https://lci.ca.gov/ceqa/getting-started/>



How Can I Get Involved?



Plan Development

- Join the email notification list
- Actively participate in our discussion
- Submit ideas

Draft Document

- Review the Draft Document
- Submit written comments

Final Document

- Available on the Property Webpage
<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Lands/Places-to-Visit/East-Walker-River-WA>
- Enjoy the property!

Discussion Best Practices



Respect
differing
opinions



Listen as
well as
speak



Allow
everyone a
chance to
participate



Initial Discussion Prompts

- What activities draw you to East Walker River WA?
What improvements are you hoping that CDFW can make to improve your experience?
- Describe your aspirations for East Walker River WA, what does it look like in 20-30 years?
- What are your biggest concerns about the management of East Walker River WA?
- What do you see as the greatest opportunities at East Walker River WA?





Next Steps

- Welcome additional thoughts via email
 - LandMgmtPlanning@wildlife.ca.gov
- CDFW evaluation of engagement feedback and incorporation
- Completion of Draft Land Management Plan
 - CEQA process
 - Tribal, focus group, and public comment period

