



## Public Scoping for an Environmental Assessment

### Project Description for Conservation Work at Nu'u

The National Park Service (NPS) in partnership with the Leeward Haleakalā Watershed Restoration Partnership (LHWRP), and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) proposes to protect and restore either 1,300 or 2,100 acres of habitat for native species on the leeward Haleakalā slope. The area would include a large portion of the Nu'u parcel of Haleakalā National Park (HNP), and is targeted at providing additional breeding and nesting habitat for endangered 'ua'u (Hawaiian petrel, *Pterodroma sandwichensis*). Habitat restoration would be accomplished by building an ungulate control fence; conducting feral and introduced animal control; removing invasive, non-native plants; and increasing native plant cover through outplanting and seed scatter. The fence installation is proposed to keep feral and introduced animals (feral goats, feral pigs, feral dogs, axis deer, and cattle) out of known 'ua'u habitat and to facilitate habitat restoration within the enclosure. Infrastructure improvements associated with the project include: minimal improvements to the existing dirt road; minimal improvements to existing helicopter landing zones (LZ); installation and removal of temporary shelters; improvements to and installation of water catchment systems; installation of a pit toilet; and installation of a remote automated weather station (RAWS). These infrastructure improvements are necessary to support the installation and maintenance of the ungulate control fence, animal removal, native plant restoration efforts, and monitoring activities.

The 'ua'u is an endangered seabird endemic to Hawai'i, once abundant and widely distributed throughout the archipelago. Today, the largest known breeding colony is found at Haleakalā Crater on Maui, with other colonies on Mauna Loa, Hawai'i Island, Kaua'i and on the summit of Lāna'i. Current threats to 'ua'u include habitat loss, predation by introduced mammals, groundings, and collision with man-made objects. The NPS has been working to restore 'ua'u populations by protecting their breeding habitats via feral ungulate exclusion and controlling predators within HNP since the 1970s. These management activities, combined with minimizing human disturbance and habitat restoration, have resulted in significant increases of reproductive success and survival of 'ua'u in the park.

The 4,178 acre Nu'u parcel of HNP was acquired by the NPS in 2008. Land degradation and loss of habitat caused by previous cattle grazing and the continued presence of feral goats, feral pigs, and axis deer are primary concerns for the area. Currently, ungulates trample landscapes and consume vegetation. Feral dogs, which may be attracted to feral ungulates as prey, are known to be present in the area. Feral dogs also prey on 'ua'u adults and nests, and are a safety hazard. With a recent grant from the NFWF and other funds from the NPS, HNP and the LHWRP have an opportunity to restore the area and protect additional 'ua'u habitat.

The NPS will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to provide a decision-making framework that explores a reasonable range of alternatives to meet project objectives, evaluates potential issues and impacts

to park resources and values, and identifies mitigation measures to lessen the degree or extent of these impacts. Two different fence line configurations, along with a no action option, are currently being evaluated.

***Concept A: Fencing and Conservation Activities in Nu'u Parcel and a Portion of the Adjoining State Property.*** This alternative consists of: installation of just over 5.5 miles of ungulate control fence to enclose 2,115 acres; infrastructure improvements to support project activities; removal of feral and introduced animal species and invasive, non-native plants; and habitat restoration activities. The fence line will run between approximately 1,250 ft and 7,650 ft elevation and connect to existing NPS and State fences on both ends. A natural barrier (cliff) would be used. Other infrastructure work would include: improvements to the existing dirt road; minimal improvements to existing helicopter LZ; installation and removal of temporary shelters; improvements to and installation of water catchment systems; installation of a pit toilet; and installation of a RAWS.

***Concept B: Fencing and Conservation Activities in Nu'u Parcel.*** This alternative consists of installation of just over 6.5 miles of ungulate control fence to enclose 1,343 acres. Infrastructure improvements to support project activities and conservation actions would be the same as listed in Concept A.

***No Action.*** The NPS maintains the status quo, which means no fencing would be installed and none of the supporting infrastructure improvements or conservation work would occur. Minimal site maintenance would be conducted, as needed. Currently, the park conducts minimal management activities in the area.

Issues that will be analyzed in depth in the EA include the project's effect on vegetation, wildlife, habitat, special status species, critical habitat, geology and soils, water resources, wildland fire, air quality, natural soundscape, cultural and historic resources, safety, transportation, park operations, visitor use and recreational resources, any cumulative effects, and potentially any other effects identified during this public scoping process.

NPS strongly encourages public participation during the NEPA process. The public has two opportunities to formally participate: during this initial public scoping period and during future public review of the EA. At this time we invite you to help identify concerns and to express any ideas or comments regarding fencing and conservation work in the Nu'u parcel of HNP. These comments will be considered during preparation of the EA.

NPS will hold two open meetings to allow for discussion with and comment by the public. The meetings will be an open house format with displays to inform about the proposed project and staff on hand to answer questions and receive comments. The meetings will be held:

Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at Kula Community Center, Kula, Maui: 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Thursday, May 14, 2015 at Hana High and Elementary School Cafeteria, Hana, Maui: 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

You may find more information online at the NPS Planning, Environmental, and Public Comment website: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=55701>

Or on the HNP website: [www.nps.gov/hale](http://www.nps.gov/hale)

Comments may be submitted online at the NPS Planning, Environmental, and Public Comment website: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=55701>

Via email to: HALE\_Superintendent@nps.gov with the subject line "Nu'u Public Scoping"

Or by regular mail:

Attention: Nu'u Public Scoping EA  
Haleakalā National Park  
P.O. Box 369  
Makawao, HI 96768

**Please provide all comments by close of business May 17, 2015.**

Contact Information: Cathleen Bailey (cathleen\_bailey@nps.gov)

Comments will not be accepted by FAX or in any manner other than the methods specified. Bulk comments in any format (hard copy or electronic) submitted on behalf of others will not be accepted. Before including a personal address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in written comments, anyone providing written comment should be aware their entire comment - including their personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While anyone wishing to comment may ask the National Park Service in their comment to withhold their personal identifying information from public review, the National Park Service cannot guarantee it will be able to do so.

