

## CHAPTER 5: CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Throughout the development of this plan/EIS, substantial coordination efforts have been undertaken to provide information to and solicit information from federal, state, and local officials as well as the general public. This chapter provides a summary of the outreach and consultation activities conducted during the planning process. Chapter 5 also contains lists of science team members and personnel involved in preparing the plan/EIS.

### HISTORY OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The public involvement activities for this plan/EIS fulfill the requirements of the NEPA and NPS Director's Order 12 (NPS 2001a).

#### THE SCOPING PROCESS

The NPS divides the scoping process into two parts: internal scoping and external or public scoping. Internal scoping entails discussions among NPS personnel regarding the purpose of and need for management actions, issues, management alternatives, mitigation measures, the analysis boundary, appropriate level of documentation, available references and guidance, and other related topics.

Public scoping is the early involvement of the interested and affected public in the environmental analysis process. The public scoping process helps ensure that people have an opportunity to comment and contribute early in the decision-making process. For this plan/EIS, project information was distributed to individuals, agencies, and organizations early in the scoping process, and people were given opportunities to express concerns or views and to identify important issues or other alternatives.

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Taken together, internal and public scoping are essential elements of the NEPA planning process. The following sections describe the various ways scoping was conducted for this impact statement.

#### INTERNAL SCOPING

Internal scoping meetings were held at the park March 20–22, 2007. Internal scoping is the use of NPS staff to decide what topics need to be analyzed in the plan/EIS. The meetings were attended by personnel from the park, the NPS Environmental Quality Division, and NPS Pacific West Region, as well as the USGS Pacific Island Ecosystem Research Center. Based on these meetings, the interdisciplinary team defined the purpose of, need for, and objectives of the plan, identified potential issues, discussed preliminary alternatives, and defined data needs. The results of the meetings were captured in a report now on file as part of the administrative record for this plan/EIS.

#### PUBLIC SCOPING

Public scoping efforts for this planning process focused on the means or processes to be used to include the public, the major interest groups, and local public entities. Based on past experience, park staff places a high priority on meeting the intent of public involvement in the NEPA process and giving the public an opportunity to comment on proposed actions.

## **Public Notification**

The public scoping process began on February 13, 2008, with the publication of a Notice of Intent in the FR (73 FR 30:8362–8363). The Notice of Intent invited the public to submit comments on the scope of the planning process and potential alternatives through May 19, 2008. In conjunction with the publication of the notice of intent, the park also released a newsletter that was mailed in March 2008 to the project’s preliminary mailing list of government agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals. The newsletter announced the public scoping meetings and provided background on non-native ungulates in relation to the ecosystem at the park. It also summarized the purpose of and need for a plan to protect and restore native ecosystems by managing non-native ungulates, and provided the plan objectives. Publicity also consisted of a website announcement, press releases, and informal contact with interested users. Public Notification included directing comments to the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/havo/>.

## **Public Scoping Meetings**

The NPS held public scoping meetings from April 29 through May 1, 2008, as follows:

- April 29, 2008 (5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.): Hilo, Hawai’i; University of Hawai’i at Hilo; 33 people attended.
- April 30, 2008 (5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.): Nā’ālehu, Hawai’i; Naalehu Community Center; 29 people attended.
- May 01, 2008 (5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.): Kona, Hawai’i; Kona Outdoor Circle Educational Center and Botanical Garden; 19 people attended.

Each of the meetings included presentations on non-native ungulate issues at the park and on the planning process, a listening session, and open house. Park staff and other NPS specialists were on hand to record public comments, answer questions, and provide additional information to meeting attendees. The NPS received 112 pieces of correspondence during the scoping period, all of which were entered into the NPS web-based PEPC system. Each piece of correspondence was either directly entered by the commenter, uploaded as comments were submitted at the public scoping meetings, or sent in hardcopy form to the park.

## **Public Scoping Comments**

The public scoping comment period was open from February 13, 2008, to May 19, 2008. During this period, public scoping meetings were held. Each public meeting provided numerous methods for the community to provide input on the proposed project. During the listening sessions, comments from the speakers were recorded on flipcharts and computers. During the open house portion of the meetings, each information station had a flipchart where an assigned staff person could take comments on a particular topic at issue, or on any other topic on which community members had concerns or questions. Comment sheets were provided that could be filled out and returned if commenters preferred not to make comments at the stations. A return address was provided on the comment sheets to mail back to the park at a later date if the attendees chose not to fill out sheets at the meeting. Those attending the meetings were also given a brochure providing additional opportunities for commenting on the project, including directing comments to the PEPC website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/havo/>.

## The Comment Analysis Process

Comment analysis is a process used to compile and correlate similar public comments into a usable format for decision makers and the plan/EIS interdisciplinary NPS planning team. Comment analysis assists the team in organizing, clarifying, and addressing technical information pursuant to NEPA regulations. It also aids in identifying the topics and issues to be evaluated and considered throughout the planning process.

The process includes seven main components:

- Entering correspondence that was not received directly into the PEPC database
- Reviewing all correspondence
- Developing a coding structure
- Employing PEPC for comment management
- Reading and coding public comments from correspondence received
- Interpreting and analyzing the comments to identify issues and themes
- Preparing a comment summary.

A coding structure was developed to help sort comments into logical groups by topic and issue. The NPS derived the coding structure from an analysis of the range of topics discussed during internal scoping, past planning documents, and the comments themselves. The coding structure was designed to capture all comment content rather than to restrict or exclude any ideas.

The NPS PEPC database was used to manage the comments. The database stores the full text of all correspondence and allows each comment to be coded by topic and issue. The database tallies the total number of pieces of correspondence and comments received, sorts and reports comments by particular topics or issues, and provides demographic information on the sources of each comment.

Analysis of the public comments involved assigning codes to statements made in the public's letters, email messages, and written comment forms. All comments were read and analyzed, including those of a technical nature; opinions, feelings, and suggestions for alternative elements to be considered in the plan/EIS; and comments of a personal or philosophical nature.

A comment analysis report was prepared that summarized concern statements as well as the full text of all comments corresponding to the appropriate concern statement (NPS 2008e). All scoping comments were considered to be important as useful guidance and public input to the public scoping process. With regard to development of the plan/EIS, comments in favor of or against the proposed action or alternatives, those that only agree or disagree with NPS policy, and those that offer opinions or provide information not directly related to the issues or impact analysis were considered non-substantive comments. Although the analysis process attempts to capture the full range of public concerns, the content analysis report should be used with caution. Comments from people who chose to respond do not necessarily represent the sentiments of the entire public.

Of the 458 comments received, 331 were related to the alternative concepts; 79 comments were related to the affected environment at the park; 2 comments were related to the impact analysis; and 14 comments were concerned with the purpose and need of the plan/EIS. A number of comments received suggested incorporating public hunting into lethal removal efforts.

## **AGENCY CONSULTATION**

### **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT CONSULTATION**

In accordance with the *Endangered Species Act* of 1973, Section 7 consultation with the USFWS concerning impacts to threatened and endangered species have been initiated by the NPS, as needed. To date, this has involved sending a request to the USFWS for input during initial scoping. This letter and the response from USFWS are both provided in appendix A. In their response, the USFWS provided a list of threatened and endangered species that occur in or close to the park. These species were included in the affected environment and impacts analysis conducted for this plan/EIS.

### **NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CONSULTATION**

The NPS has initiated consultation with several groups under Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act*. To date, the NPS submitted has submitted a letter to the following groups; these letters, and any responses received are both provided in appendix A:

- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- Department of Land and Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, State Historic Preservation Officer
- Department of Land and Natural Resources, Historic Sites Division
- Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
- Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- Hui Malama I Na Kupuna O Hawai'i Nei
- Historic Hawai'i Foundation
- Kalapana Community Organization
- The Kalapana Community Ohana
- Ho'akea Public Relations LLC
- The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
- Hawai'i Island Burial Council, State Historic Preservation Division
- Kalauonaone o Puna Association
- Kupuna Consultation Group.

## NATIVE HAWAIIAN CONSULTATION

Park staff members have discussed this plan/EIS during regularly scheduled Kupuna consultation meetings held on February 20 and May 12, 2008. Park staff provided informational presentations during both meetings, and provided the opportunity for participants to provide feedback and ask questions. Notes from these meetings have been entered into the administrative record for this project.

## LIST OF RECIPIENTS OF THE DRAFT PLAN / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The following agencies, organizations, and businesses, as well as other entities and individuals, either received a copy of the draft plan/EIS or were notified of the documents' availability on PEPC.

### FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- United States Department of Agriculture
  - Forest Service Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service
  - Wildlife Services
- United States Department of Commerce
  - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
  - National Marine Fisheries Service
- United States Department of Energy
  - Conservation and Renewable Energy Group
- United States Department of the Interior
  - National Park Service
    - Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail
    - Haleakalā National Park
    - Inventory and Monitoring Program
- Kalaupapa National Park
- Kaloko-Honokohau National Historic Park
- Pacific West Region–Honolulu Office
- Pu‘uhonua o Honaunau National Historic Park
- Pu‘ukohola Heiau National Historic Site
- United States Geological Survey
  - Hawaiian Volcano Observatory
  - Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Hakalau Wildlife Refuge
  - Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office
- United States House of Representatives
- The Honorable Neil Abercrombie
- The Honorable Mazie Hirono
- United States Senate
- The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye

### HAWAI‘I AGENCIES

- Big Island Invasive Species Committee
- Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
- East Hawai‘i Governor’s Liaison Officer
- Hawai‘i Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
- Hawai‘i Department of Health
  - Office of Environmental Quality Control
- Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources
  - Hawai‘i State Parks
  - Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement
  - Division of Forestry and Wildlife
    - Natural Area Reserves System
    - Olinda Endangered Species Facility

- Historic Preservation Division
  - Historic Sites Division
  - Land Division
- Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands
  - State Parks
- Office of Hawaiian Affairs
  - Hilo CRC
- State Plant Extinction Prevention Program
- Hawai'i Department of Public Safety
  - Kūlani Correctional Facility
- Hawai'i Department of Public Works
  - Environmental Office
- Hawai'i Department of Transportation
  - State Highways Division
- Hawai'i House of Representatives
  - Jerry Chang
- Hawai'i Hunting Advisory Council
- Hawai'i Island Burial Council
- Hawai'i Office of the Lieutenant Governor
  - Honorable Brian Schatz
- Hawai'i State Library
- Hawai'i State Senate
  - Faye P. Hanohano, District 4
  - Lorraine Inouye, District 1
  - Paul Whalen, District 3
  - Robert Herkes, District 5
  - Gil Kahele, District 2
- Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau
- University of Hawai'i
  - Botany Department
  - Cooperative Extension Services
  - Department of Zoology
  - Office of Mauna Kea Management
  - Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit
  - Urban and Regional Planning Program

## COUNTY AND LOCAL AGENCIES

- County of Hawai'i
- County of Hawai'i Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce
- County of Hawai'i Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation Commission
- County of Hawai'i Research and Development
- Big Island Visitor Bureau
- Hawai'i Community College
- Hawai'i County Council
- Hawai'i County Fire Department
- Hilo Public Library
- Holualoa Public Library
- Honoka'a Public Library
- Japanese Chamber of Commerce
- Kailua-Kona Public Library
- Kea'au Public Library
- Kealahou Public Library
- Laupahoehoe Public Library
- Mountain View Public Library
- Na'alehu Public Library
- North Kohala Public Library
- Ocean View Chamber of Commerce
- Pahala Public Library
- Pahoa Public Library
- Thelma Parker Public Library

## ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESSES

- Ahahui Ka'ahumanu O Kona
- AECOS, Inc.
- Ahahui Malama I Ka Lokahi
- Association of Watershed Partnerships
- Audubon Naturalist Society
- Woodend Sanctioned Headquarters
- Big Island Bird Hunters
- Big Island Bow Hunters
- Big Island Field Trial Association
- Big Island Gun Club
- Big Island Trap Club
- Bishop Museum
- Carnegie Institution
- Department of Global Ecology
- Chaminade University
- Conservation Council of Hawai'i
- Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement

List of Recipients of the Draft Plan / Environmental Impact Statement

- Defenders of Wildlife
- Ducks Unlimited
- Earthjustice
- Environment Hawai‘i, Inc.
- Forest Solutions, Inc.
- Friends of Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park
- Hanapi Foundation
- Hawai‘i Audubon Society
- Hawai‘i Hunting Tours
- Hawai‘i Island Archery Club
- Hawai‘i Island Chamber of Commerce
- Hawai‘i Natural History Association
- Hawaiian Ecosystems at Risk
- Hawaiian Silversword Foundation
- Historic Hawai‘i Foundation
- Ho‘akea Public Relations, LLC
- Hokukano Ranch
- Ho‘opuloa Hawaiian Civic Club
- Hualalai Archery Club
- Hui Malama I Na Kupuna O Hawai‘i Nei
- Hulihe‘e Palace
- Humane Society of the United States
- Ilioulaokalani Coalition
- International Archaeological Research Institute, Inc.
- Kahauloa Hunt Club
- Kahua Ranch LTD
- Kai Malino Ranch
- Kalapana Community Organization
- Kalauonaone o Puna Association
- Kamehameha Schools
- Kapāpala Ranch
- Kealia Ranch
- Keauhou Bird Conservation Center
- Ken Direction Corporation
- Kennedy Wilson
- Kilauea Military Camp
- Kilauea Sporting Skeet Club
- Kona Hawaiian Civic Club
- Kona Historical Society
- Kona Outdoor Circle
- Kuakini Hawaiian Civic Club of Kona
- Kupuna Consultation Group
- Laiopua 2020
- Lanihau Partners
- Mahealani Ranch
- Marine and Coastal Solutions International, Inc.
- Mauka to Makai Ohana Club
- Mauna Loa Outfitters
- McCandless Ranch
- National Park Foundation
- National Parks Conservation Association
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- Volcano Chapter
- National Wildlife Federation
- Native Hawaiian Advisory Council
- Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- North Kohala Gun Club
- Ocean View Community Association
- Oceanit
- Palani Ranch
- Pig Hunters of Hawai‘i
- Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
- Queen Liliuokalani Trust
- Quill Group
- Royal Order of Kamehameha
- Sierra Club
  - Moku Loa group
- Stanford University
  - Biology Department
- The Kalapana Community Ohana
- The Kalapana Ohana Association
- The Mountain Institute
- The Nature Conservancy of Hawai‘i
- The Nature Sounds Society
- The Wilderness Society
- Three Mountain Alliance
- TREE Center Hawai‘i
- Volcano Art Center
- Volcano Community Association
- Volcano Golf and Country Club
- Volcano House
- West Hawai‘i Today
- Wilderness Watch
- Yee Hop Enterprises

## SCIENCE TEAM MEMBERS

Name	Affiliation/Expertise
Ian Cole	Hawai'i Division of Forestry and Wildlife Natural Area Reserves System/wildlife resources, invasive species control
Clifford Smith	Professor emeritus of Botany, University of Hawai'i / non-native ungulate management in Hawai'i
Jack Jeffrey	Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge, USFWS / natural resource restoration, alien species control (predators, plants, ungulates), endangered plant and bird recovery
Steve Hess	USGS PIERC, Biological Resources Discipline / studying mouflon sheep at Kahuku since 2004
Jim Jacobi	USGS PIERC, Biological Resources Discipline / plant ecology, bird populations, impacts to ecosystems
Loyal Mehrhoff	USGS PIERC, Biological Resources Discipline / Center Director
Peter Gogan	USGS Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center / wildlife research biologist; involved with non-native ungulate management plan at Point Reyes National Seashore
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Tom Flanagan	NPS Environmental Quality Division / NPS Project Manager for EIS, NEPA Specialist
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