



You're Invited!

The National Park Service (NPS) is requesting input and mana'o on options to rehabilitate perimeter fences at Kalaupapa National Historical Park (the Park), located on the island of Molokai in Hawai'i. NPS is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities as a steward of this special landscape. Please help safeguard the future of this outstanding resource by participating in the planning process and attending a virtual public meeting.

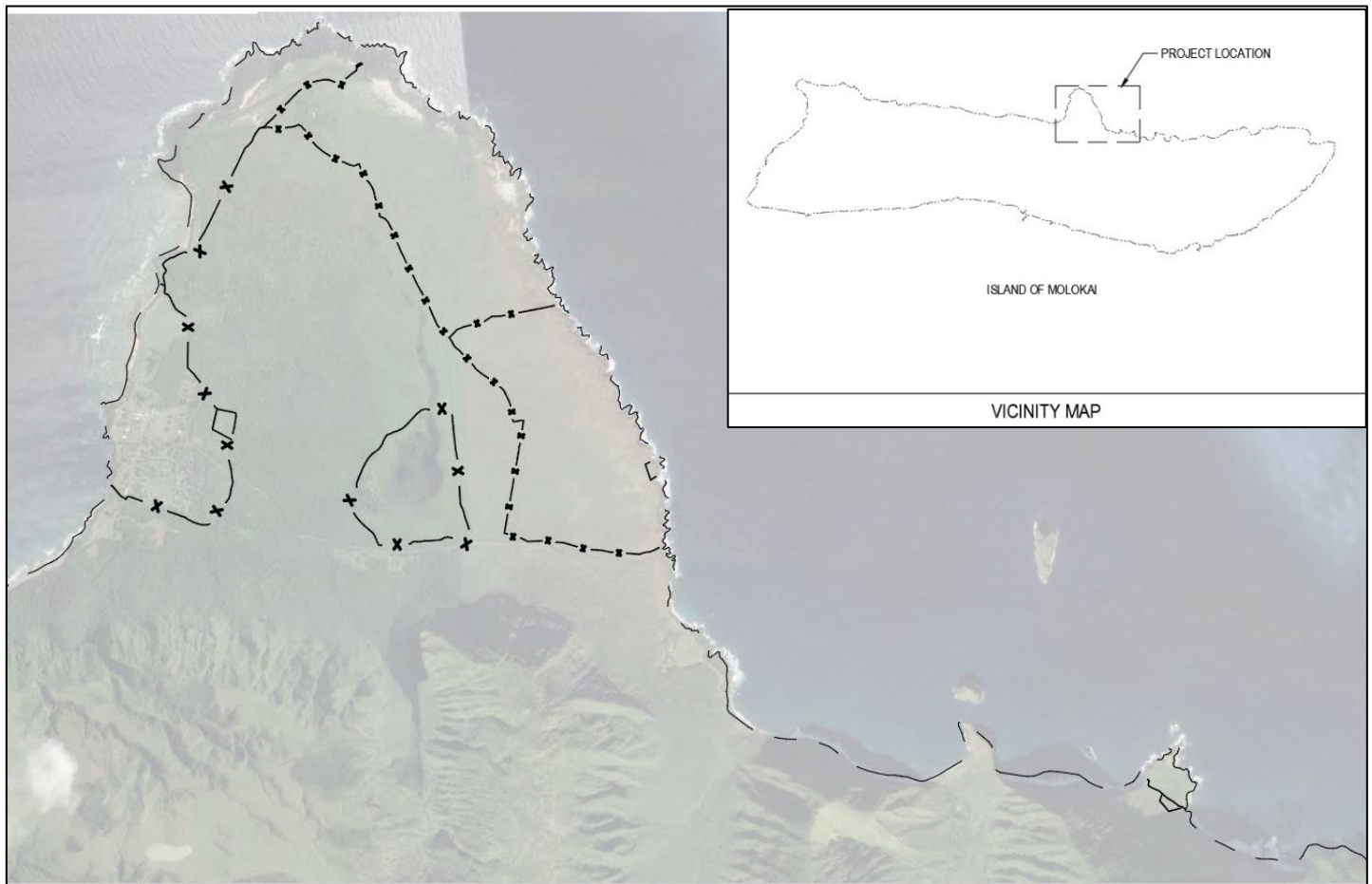
Background

The Park preserves the only intact historic institutional settlement in the United States created for the sole purpose of isolating Hansen's disease patients from the rest of society. The Park's surviving (and deceased) Hansen's disease population, with its material culture, oral histories, and intact cultural landscape, is the only community of its kind in the United States. The Park's history and landscape document at least 900 years of native Hawaiian life, activities, and cultural heritage prior to 1866 when the first patients arrived.

Protection of native ecosystems and natural and cultural resources is culturally connected to the Native Hawaiian people. The long-term integrity of biocultural resources connected to Native Hawaiians is ensured by having effective perimeter fencing for ungulate and predator exclusion, which directly influences the experience of each visitor. Over 50 federally listed threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat are protected from invasive animals within the fenced areas at the Park. Barrier fences remove key stressors on Hawai'i's unique species and ecosystems. The NPS is proposing to rehabilitate (replace and upgrade) up to 9 miles of fence at the Park.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of the project is to protect unique ecosystems in the Park from damage by large numbers of invasive, non-native animals, such as goats, pigs, deer, and cats. Exclusionary fencing is the primary tool to protect native ecosystems and watersheds as well as cultural resources from damage by these types of invasive, non-native animals. The fence barriers protect from irreversible damage to native flora and fauna, as well as landscape erosion that adversely affects Park landscapes caused by trampling and herbivory by introduced species, as well as Hawai'i's aquatic resources such as stream life and coral reef habitat. Fences also prevent widespread erosion and damage to Park trail systems, campsites, front country areas, cultural landscapes, archeological features, deterioration of downslope water quality, and harmful wildlife-visitor confrontations. The project is needed because many of the existing fence segments – constructed and maintained over the last 50 years – are old and close to failure or have already failed. Existing fence location is shown below.



Project Location

Potential Alternatives

As part of the NEPA process, NPS conducted a Value Analysis Workshop for the Project. The team involved in the workshop evaluated multiple alternate development options with a variety of assembly types. At the workshop conclusion, the team developed the Proposed Action as described below. The No Action Alternative is also described for comparison purposes.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the existing perimeter fences at the Park would not be rehabilitated. The existing perimeter fence consists of metal t-posts, with metal mesh and metal skirt, with rocks placed on the skirt to hold it down.



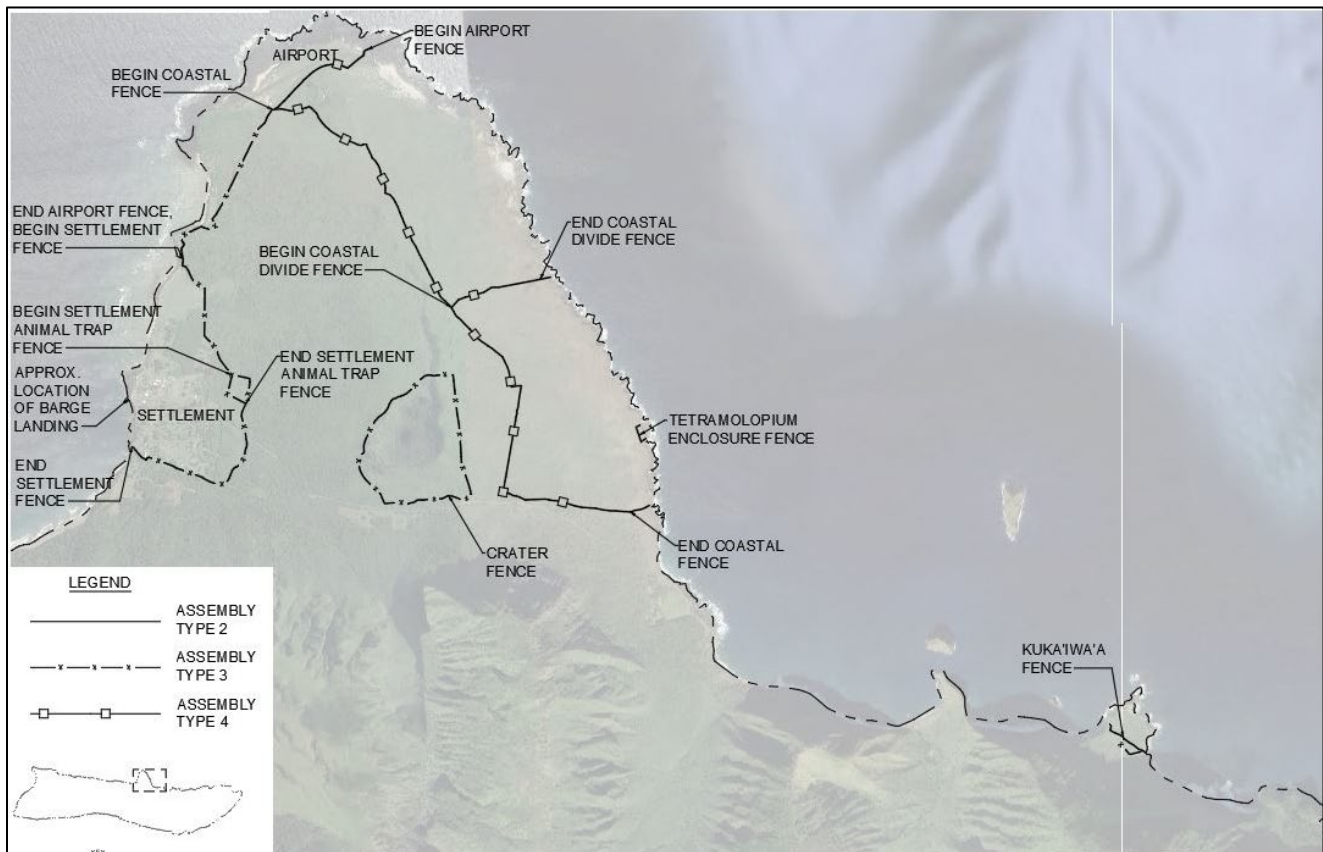
Image of Existing Fence

Proposed Action: Rehabilitate Perimeter Fence

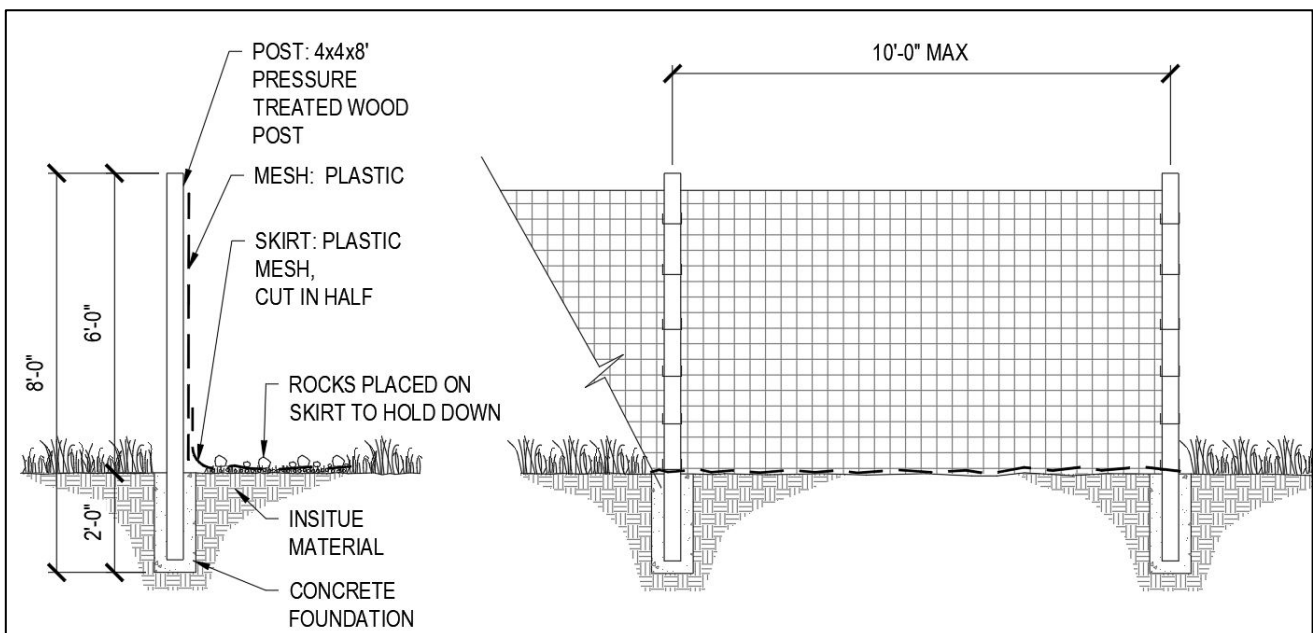
The Proposed Action would rehabilitate up to 9 miles of fence at the Park, which includes removal and replacement of existing fences. Key information about the project is summarized below and the locations and different assembly types are shown in the images on the following pages.

- All existing fence posts, mesh, and associated objects within the project area would be removed and replaced in the same location unless there is a sensitive resource that should be avoided.
- All materials that would be removed as part of the existing fence demolition would be properly recycled or disposed of.
- The fence sections to be replaced vary in length, condition, and threat species. Therefore, three different assembly types are proposed to strategically meet the varying demands of the Park's perimeter fencing, which include addressing the different threat species and different levels of exposure to the harsh marine environment.
- The mesh material utilized for the fence types is proposed to be plastic mesh fencing.
- For the majority of the length, the fence would be comprised of one wood post alternating with three Class III galvanized T-posts. Wood posts would be constructed with a concrete foundation and installed at the same post hole locations as the existing. Metal T-posts would be driven or predrilled into the substrate.
- Within the coastal zone, only pressure-treated wood posts set in concrete would be used for longevity. A floppy fence top would be added along coastal fence segments and a portion of the airport fence to enclose the protected coastal zone.

- Fence assemblies would be 6-feet tall with a predator skirt placed horizontally at the base of the fence. To prevent uplift, the skirts would be secured to the ground with rocks.
- Work to replace fence segments would be prioritized by areas with segments that have already failed or have the greatest potential to fail.



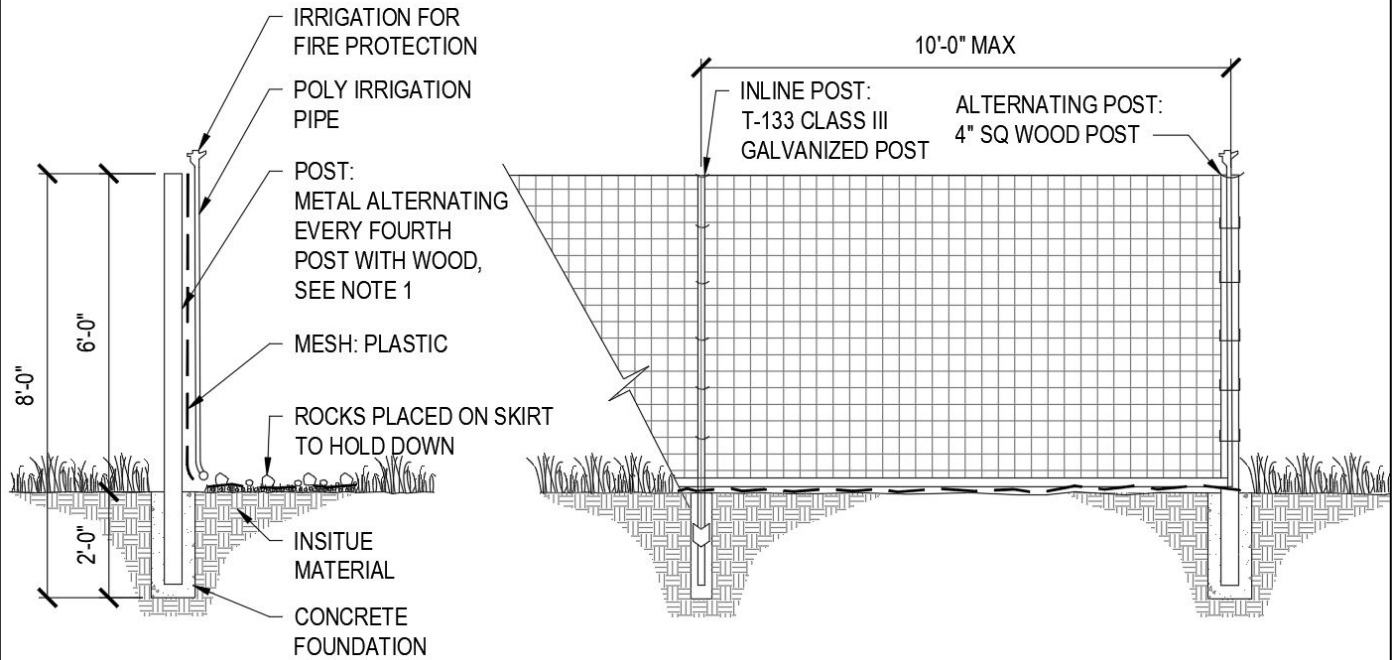
Proposed Action



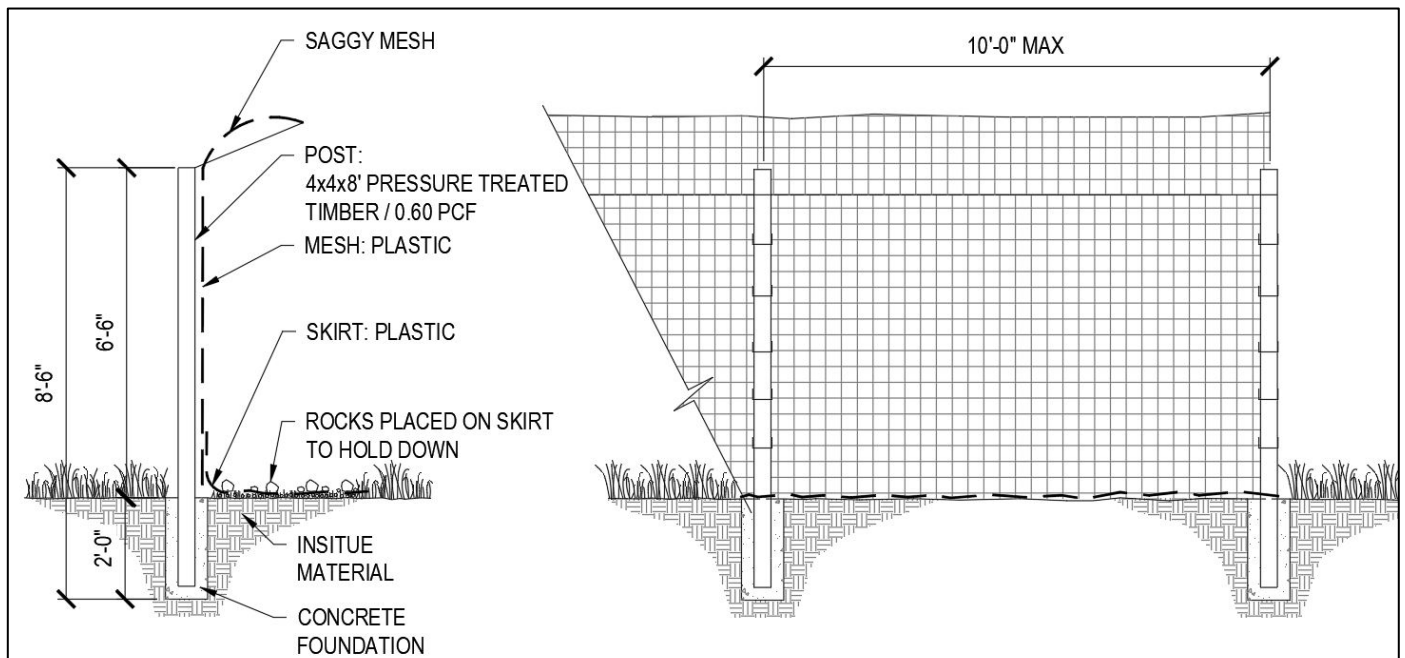
Type 2 Fence Design

NOTE:

1. POST TYPE 1: 4x4x8' PRESSURE TREATED WOOD POST
- POST TYPE 2: 8.5' T-133 CLASS III GALVANIZED



Type 3 Fence Design



Type 4 Fence Design

How to Participate and Comment

As part of the planning process, a 30-day public comment period is being held from October 10 to November 10, 2022. The public comment period represents the public's opportunity to be involved in the planning process.



On the web (preferred method) at: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/KALA>



By email at: KALA_consultation@nps.gov



By mail:

Kalaupapa National Historical Park
Attn: Superintendent, Rehabilitate Perimeter Fences
290 Beretania St Box 2222
Kalaupapa, HI 96742

Comments must be received by November 10, 2022 to be considered in the analysis.

The NPS is holding a virtual public meeting to provide the opportunity for members of the public to learn more about the project. The meeting will be held on October 26, at 1:00 p.m. HST using Teams. Closed captioning will be available during the meeting.



Existing Fence Segments

Note: Comments will not be accepted by fax or any means other than those specified above. Please also note that your entire comment—including personal identifying information such as your address, phone number, and e-mail address—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Comments submitted by individuals or organizations on behalf of other individuals or organizations will not be accepted.