



James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge Land Protection Planning Study

Planning Update 2, March 2005

Aloha!

This second Planning Update provides information about the Land Protection Planning Study that is underway for a proposed addition to James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge, a description and map of the study area are on pages 2 and 3. An overview of the comments we received, a summary of the scoping process, and an updated schedule are also provided.

What's in this Update?

Where is the Study Area?.....	2
Status of Flood Control Project..	2
Study Area Map.....	3
Where are we in the Process?...	4
Who Do I Contact?.....	5

How Do I Comment on the Proposal?

Your participation is encouraged throughout the planning process. Contact information is on page 5.

Thank You for Participating in the Scoping Process

Thank you for providing comments on the preliminary information we provided for our Land Protection Study in Planning Update 1. Twelve letters, a phone call, and a petition were received. Your involvement is greatly appreciated. A summary of the comments received follows and a summary of the scoping process is on page 4.



Hawaiian monk seals could use the area's beaches.

Summary of Comments

Your comments have helped us identify issues important to you and the Kahuku community. Comments are summarized in the following paragraphs. A scoping report that describes the comments in greater detail and how they will be addressed in our planning documents, is available on our website at <http://pacific.fws.gov/planning/>.

Suggested Alternatives

Some of the comments on the initial proposal contained alternatives for the Service to consider; these included:

- Excluding areas from the proposed Refuge addition that are currently being used for aquaculture and/or agriculture;
- Only acquiring commercial production areas after tenants have had the opportunity to buy the land;
- Offering perpetual aquaculture leases on Refuge lands; and
- Only acquiring lands needed for the flood control project.

Flood Control in Kahuku

Many comments indicated continuing concern about the recurring flooding problems in the Kahuku area and an interest in learning more about our participation in the future flood control project. We received questions about how the Service currently manages the Refuge to help prevent flooding and how the Refuge would manage lands and water in the future; what funding would be available; why the Service doesn't wait until after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' proposal is done; and what priority is flood control with respect to other Refuge priorities. See page 2 for the status of this project.

Economic Effects

Some response letters expressed concern about how the project might affect the local economy because the proposal includes the acquisition of lands that are currently used for aquaculture. We are contracting with economic experts to help us evaluate potential effects of Refuge expansion on the local economy, including aquaculture businesses, jobs, the availability of fresh seafood products, and businesses that rely on products from the companies within the study area. Part of our proposal includes lease extensions for the aquaculture businesses to 2023. This will be included in the economic evaluation as well.

Comments continued from Page 1 . . .



Laysan albatross



Bristle-thighed curlew



Semi-palmated plover



Pacific golden plover

Important migratory birds, such as those pictured, would benefit from protection and management of additional habitat.

Photos USFWS

Effects on Tenants' Businesses and Aquaculture

Concern was expressed regarding existing tenants' abilities to continue to successfully operate their businesses. The owners of two large aquaculture ventures confirmed their interest in a long-term lease extension; comments from the owners of another aquaculture business described how Service land acquisition in their area would adversely affect their commercial aquaculture operations including a proposed lease extension to the year 2023. Any effects of the project on businesses in and adjacent to our study area will be evaluated in our planning documents.

Support for an Expanded Refuge and Input on Refuge Management

We received supportive feedback on the proposed Refuge addition from people who are concerned about the conservation of coastal habitats and native wildlife in Kahuku. Some feedback was given by people who have ideas about how the lands and wildlife might be managed. There are some people who believe that aquaculture provides good habitat for endangered waterbirds, and others provided feedback about ways to enhance waterbird habitat while aquaculture operations continue under the proposed long-term leases. There were concerns about whether the Refuge addition would affect access to the coastline.

Where is the Proposed Refuge Addition Study Area?

We have approval to study the possible acquisition of up to 388 acres in the Kahuku coastal plain (see map on page 3). Our approved planning area is located on the *makai* or ocean side of Kamehameha Highway, and includes the following areas:

- Lands between the Ki'i and Punamano Refuge units;
- Two commercial aquaculture pond areas adjacent to Kamehameha Highway;
- Coastal dune and strand areas northeast of the Ki'i Pond Unit.

The Estate of James Campbell (Estate) owns all of the land in our approved study area and is willing to consider an offer from the Service to buy the lands for Refuge purposes.

What is the Status of the Kahuku Flood Control Project?

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in partnership with the State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Design and Construction (project co-proponents) is in the process of developing a feasibility report for the Kahuku Watershed Project with a primary focus on flood control. A draft feasibility report/environmental assessment is scheduled for completion in December 2006. The USACE feasibility study will evaluate a range of flood control plans which will include both structural and non-structural alternatives as well as a "no action" plan.

The USACE's watershed study area focuses on the 'Ohi'a Stream and Hospital Ditch basins in Kahuku. Some of the areas we are proposing to acquire are within the affected study areas and we will be working with the USACE to address the role of our proposed project in that effort. We will also continue to work closely with the USACE, the Ko'olauloa Neighborhood Board, the Kahuku Village Association, the landowner, tenants, and other members of the community to help find viable solutions to the serious flooding in Kahuku. For more information on this effort, visit the USACE's website at <http://www.poh.usace.army.mil/cw/KahukuRest.html>.

Where are we in the Land Protection Planning Process?

Summary of Public Scoping

Our early outreach on the general proposal included participating in the Kahuku Flood Control Task Force and neighborhood board meetings where the topic of expanding the Refuge was discussed. In April 2004, we distributed the first Planning Update. In it, we described our concept for adding high quality habitat to the Refuge to benefit native Hawaiian wildlife found in the Kahuku coastal plain, and participating, where possible, in community and government efforts to reduce flood hazards.

Planning Update 1 was distributed to a broad group of interested parties that included the landowner and tenants; the Ko'olauloa Neighborhood Board; the Kahuku Community Association; local, State, and Federal agencies; conservation organizations; the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program; and local newspapers. It is also posted on our website at <http://pacific.fws.gov/planning>.

What Happens Next?

We are now preparing an environmental effects study and other detailed planning documents that will be available for public review by early Summer of 2005. The planning documents will describe the proposed project and alternatives, provide a conceptual description of interim management of the proposed Refuge addition, and document our evaluation of the alternatives' effects on the human environment.

When the draft documents are available for public review, we will send out another planning update and publish a notice in the main local newspapers and in the *Environmental Notice*, the bulletin of the State Office of Environmental Quality Control. Details on how to comment on the proposal will be provided in the announcements. We will provide a minimum of 30 days for the public to forward their comments. Contact Phyllis Ha for any additional information on the planning process, her contact information is on the back cover.

The Planning Process Schedule

Our anticipated schedule (subject to change) follows:

Draft Documents Available.....	June 2005
Planning Update 3/OEQC Notice/Media Release.....	June 2005
Public Comment Period Begins.....	June 2005
Public Comments Due.....	July 2005
Decision/Final Documents Available.....	October 2005



Photo USFWS

Additional habitat at James Campbell Refuge would benefit migrating Northern pintail ducks.





USE OUR E-MAIL OR WEBSITE

E-mail Comments to:

FW1PlanningComments@r1.fws.gov

(Please use "James Campbell
Refuge" in the subject.)

Refuge Planning Web site:
<http://pacific.fws.gov/planning>

Who Do I Contact?

Send Comments or Requests for Planning Information to:

Phyllis Ha
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pacific Islands Refuge Planning Office
Box 50167
Honolulu, HI 96850
Phone: (808) 792-9424
Fax: (808) 792-9585

For Information on the National Wildlife Refuge System, contact:

Sylvia R. Pelizza, Refuge Manager
O'ahu National Wildlife Refuge Complex
66-590 Kamehameha Highway, Room 2C
Haleiwa, HI 96712
Phone: (808) 637-6330
Fax: (808) 637-3578



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service
Pacific Islands Refuge Planning Office
Box 50167
Honolulu, HI 96850

Address correction requested

In this issue:

Review a summary
of public comments
on the proposal to
expand James
Campbell National
Wildlife Refuge.

Visit the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge Website at: <http://pacificislands.fws.gov/wnwr/ojamesnwr.html>