



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Guam National Wildlife Refuge

Planning Update 3, July 2009



The cliffs on the Refuge's Ritidian Unit. Photo: Bill Perry, USFWS.

Greetings from Guam National Wildlife Refuge

This Planning Update is the third in a series of updates distributed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to keep you informed about the development of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan and associated Environmental Assessment (CCP/EA) for Guam National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). This update provides an overview of our proposed alternatives for managing the Refuge. Your comments on the Draft CCP/EA are requested. See page 8 for contact information.

Comments on the Draft CCP/EA are due by August 24, 2009.

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The Draft CCP/EA is Available for Public Comments

The Draft CCP/EA is available for public review and comments. We developed and analyzed three alternatives in the Draft CCP/EA for managing the Refuge.

- Alternative A is the No Action alternative, under it we would continue current management. The No Action alternative is a baseline from which to compare the action alternatives.
- Alternative B is our preferred alternative, under it we would engage in an intense, short-term increase in wildlife and habitat management activities.
- Alternative C describes a modest increase in wildlife and habitat management.
- Constructing a typhoon-proof pest species barrier around the Refuge's Ritidian Unit and a portion of the Air Force Overlay Unit.
- Restoring limestone forest and shoreline community habitats.
- Protecting the Refuge's cave resources, including protecting petroglyphs from the effects of the mud dauber wasp.
- Providing safe, year-round, attractive, and accessible opportunities for Refuge visitors to observe, photograph, learn about, and enjoy Refuge habitats and wildlife.
- Protecting the Refuge's cultural resources.

Management actions proposed under Alternative B, our preferred alternative, include:

We summarized and compared the alternatives on pages 4-6.

Public Open House Meetings will be held August 4, 2009, in Dededo, and August 6, 2009, in Hagatna (see back page for more details).

Public Comments and Next Steps

We want to thank all those who have taken the time to be involved in our planning so far. Your comments were considered during development of the draft alternatives.

Between now and August 24, 2009, interested citizens, agencies, and organizations will have a chance to review and comment on the Draft CCP/EA.

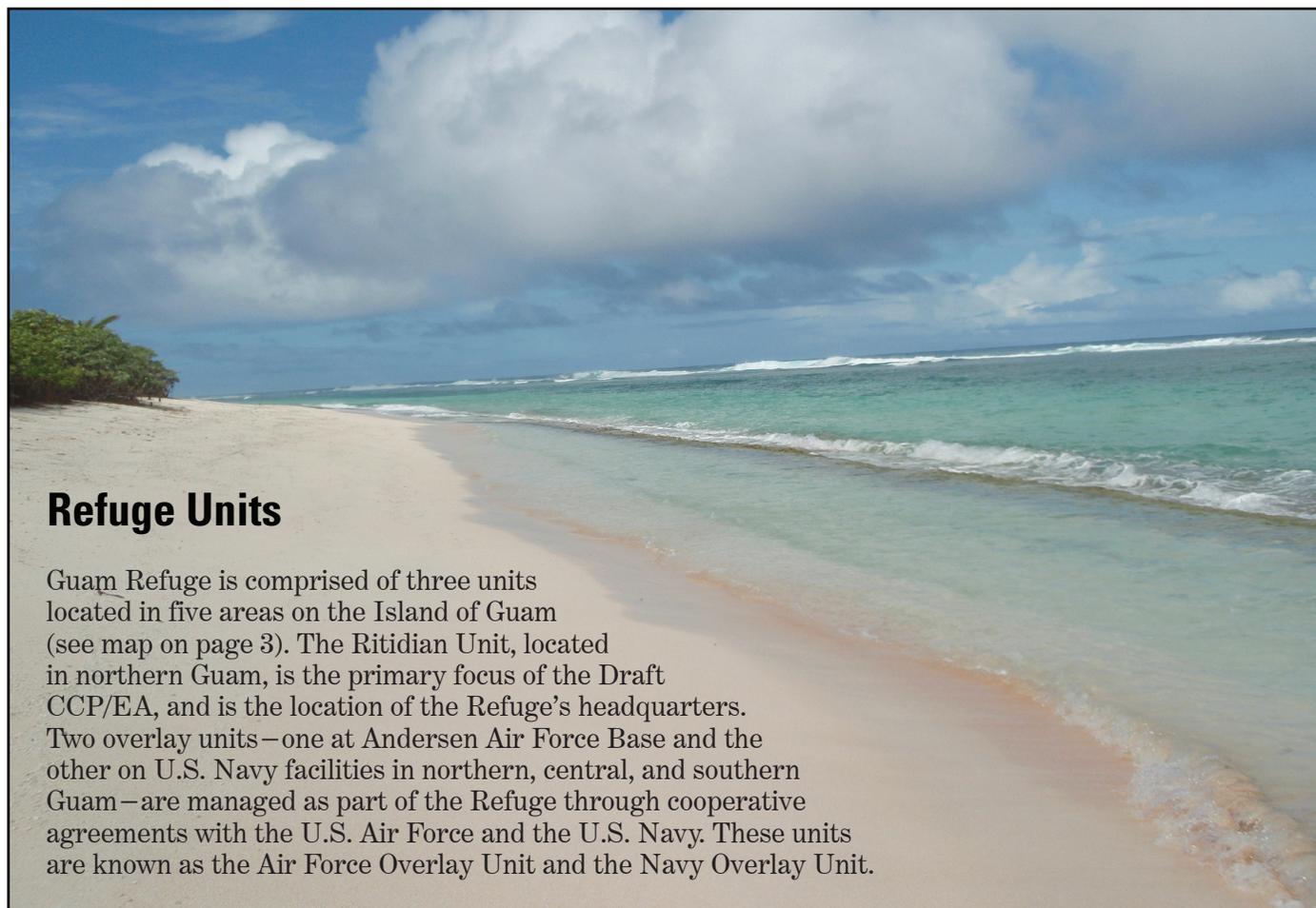
We have included a comment form as an insert to this planning update. Your thoughts and comments on the Draft CCP/EA are important and we encourage you to use the comment form to write down your comments and bring them to one of the public meetings, or send them to us (see page 8 for public meeting details and options for sending us comments).

The planning team will evaluate and address your comments in the final CCP. We will publish and distribute the final CCP, which will guide management of Guam Refuge for 15 years. After the final CCP is published, actions will be implemented as funding becomes available.

How to Obtain or View a Copy of the Draft CCP/EA

Copies of the Draft CCP/EA are available in the References Section of Guam Public Libraries. You may request the Draft CCP/EA on CD-ROM by calling the Refuge office at

(671) 355-5096, or you may access it on the internet at <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/planning>. A limited number of copies are available to borrow from the Refuge office; see contact information on page 8.

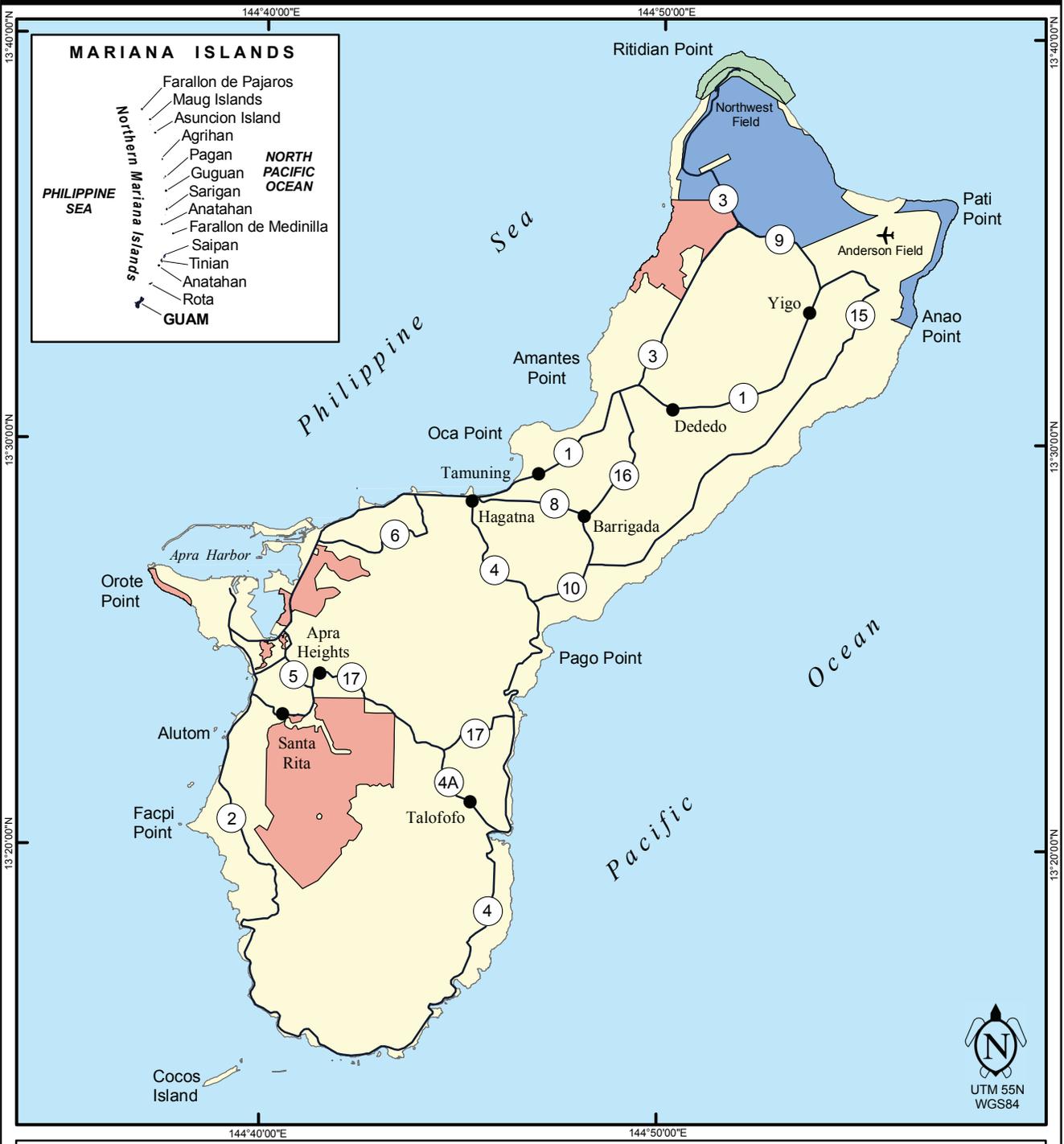


Refuge Units

Guam Refuge is comprised of three units located in five areas on the Island of Guam (see map on page 3). The Ritidian Unit, located in northern Guam, is the primary focus of the Draft CCP/EA, and is the location of the Refuge's headquarters. Two overlay units—one at Andersen Air Force Base and the other on U.S. Navy facilities in northern, central, and southern Guam—are managed as part of the Refuge through cooperative agreements with the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy. These units are known as the Air Force Overlay Unit and the Navy Overlay Unit.

The shoreline at the Ritidian Unit. Photo: Bill Perry/USFWS.

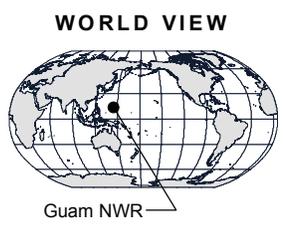
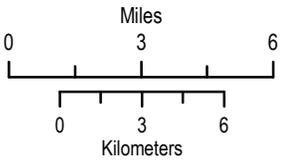
Guam NWR



- MARIANA ISLANDS**
- Farallon de Pajaros
 - Maug Islands
 - Asuncion Island
 - Agrihan
 - Pagan
 - Guguan
 - Sarigan
 - Anatahan
 - Farallon de Medinilla
 - Saipan
 - Tinian
 - Anatahan
 - Rota
 - GUAM**
- NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN*
- PHILIPPINE SEA*
- Northern Mariana Islands*

Guam National Wildlife Refuge

- Ritidian Unit (FWS)
- Air Force Overlay
- Navy Overlay
- Non Refuge



Alternatives Summary and Comparison Table

Key Themes / Issues	Alternative A Current Management	Alternative B Full Habitat and Species Enhancement	Alternative C Habitat Enhancement and Public Use Restrictions
Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species			
Endangered endemic species	Cooperate with Guam Division of Aquatic & Wildlife Resources (DAWR), U.S. Navy, and U.S. Air Force on captive rearing and habitat improvements for the Mariana crow, Micronesian kingfisher, Guam rail, and Mariana fruit bat at specific sites on the Ritidian Unit.	Cooperate with DAWR, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Air Force on captive rearing and habitat improvements for the Mariana crow, Micronesian kingfisher, Guam rail, and Mariana fruit bat throughout the Ritidian Unit.	
Guam swiftlet	Cooperate with DAWR, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Air Force on habitat improvements for a healthy, self-sustaining wild population of the federally listed endangered Guam swiftlet at appropriate cave locations throughout the Refuge.		
Extirpated species	No management activities for extirpated species.	Contribute to the restoration of suitable, predator-free habitats on the entirety of the Ritidian Unit as a basis for potential repatriation of extirpated species.	Contribute to the restoration of suitable, predator-free habitats on specific sites within the Ritidian Unit as a basis for potential repatriation of extirpated species.
Turtles	Minimize disturbance to nesting green and hawksbill turtles, turtle nests/eggs, and loafing and foraging sites on lands and associated waters of the Ritidian Unit.		
Serianthes nelsonii	Cooperate with Guam Department of Forestry, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Air Force to establish healthy, self-sustaining populations of the endangered tree, <i>Serianthes nelsonii</i> .		
Native Limestone Forest Habitats			
Protect, maintain, and restore native limestone forest (220 acres)	Protect existing habitat characteristics. <i>See map on page 7 for an overview of the Ritidian Unit's vegetation and habitat types.</i>	In addition to Alts. A and C, minimize pest reptilian and rodent species; support the re-introduction of endangered and/or extirpated species; allow natural systems to govern seed survival.	In addition to Alt. A, minimize feral ungulate species; reduce reptilian pest species; reduce plant pest species; minimize human disturbance. Foraging pest rodent species will limit native seed availability.
Shoreline Habitats			
Protect, maintain, and restore 120 acres of shoreline community (sand beach, coastal strand, and coastal back strand forest habitats)	Protect 62 acres. The varying plant communities found in coastal strand often consist of an overstory made up of coconut, ironwood, and fagot; with an understory consisting of hibiscus, beach morning glory, scavola, less than 5 percent cover of native grasses and herbaceous vegetation, and more than 50 percent cover of invasive grasses and herbaceous species in coastal strand and coastal back strand forest habitat.	Restore 58 acres of habitat and then protect and maintain 120 acres of habitat. Restore a 7-10 percent cover of native grasses in coastal strand habitat with less than 10 percent cover of invasive grasses, herbaceous, and woody species in coastal strand and coastal back strand forest habitat. In addition to Alts. A and C, minimize pest reptilian and rodent species; support the re-introduction of endangered and/or extirpated species; allow natural systems to govern seed survival.	Restore 58 acres of habitat and then protect and maintain 120 acres of habitat. Restore a 5 percent cover of native grasses in coastal strand habitat with less than 15 percent cover of invasive grasses, herbaceous, and woody species in coastal strand and coastal back strand forest habitat. In addition to Alt. A, minimize feral ungulate species; reduce reptilian pest species; reduce plant pest species; minimize human disturbance. Foraging pest rodent species will limit native seed availability.

Key Themes / Issues	Alternative A Current Management	Alternative B Full Habitat and Species Enhancement	Alternative C Habitat Enhancement and Public Use Restrictions
Native Halophytic-xerophytic Plant Community			
Conserve, protect, and maintain 45 acres of halophytic-xerophytic plant community	Maintain closure to public access.	In addition to Alt. A, control pest species using appropriate Integrated Pest Management techniques.	
Caves and Cave Dwelling Species			
Conserve, protect, and maintain caves and cave dependent species	Reduce mud dauber wasps and other invasive insect species at culturally sensitive sites; restore habitat extensively degraded by ungulates and rodents and allow minimal to no human disturbance.	Minimize mud dauber wasps and other invasive insect species; minimize degradation by ungulates and rodents and allow minimal to no human disturbance.	
Submerged Marine Habitats			
Protect and maintain approximately 832 acres of marine submerged lands and the associated nearshore waters to a depth of 100' (30 meters)	Remove marine debris from concrete. Minimize presence of invasive/undesirable species (e.g., invasive algae). Minimize impacts by visitors.		
Wildlife Observation, Photography, Interpretation, and Trails			
Provide safe, year-round, attractive, and accessible opportunities for Refuge visitors to observe, photograph, learn about, and enjoy Refuge habitats and wildlife	Provide safe, year-round, attractive, and accessible opportunities for Refuge visitors to observe, photograph, learn about, and enjoy Refuge habitats and wildlife with the following attributes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretive themes addressing endangered species, invasive species, the marine ecosystem, and Guam's cultural heritage inherent in the Refuge's natural and cultural resources. Ensure accessibility for individuals with disabilities, a safe environment for all visitors, and visitor access to natural public use areas. 	In addition to Alt. A, develop an additional 2 miles of interpretive trails and increase the availability of interpretive materials about Guam's endangered and extirpated wildlife.	
Provide fishing opportunities	Provide safe, year-round, attractive, and accessible opportunities for Refuge visitors to fish. The Refuge will advise visitors to keep only what they need and help visitors understand the need for fishing regulations. Turtle nesting areas will be protected.		

continued on page 6

Key Themes/Issues	Alternative A Current Management	Alternative B Full Habitat and Species Enhancement	Alternative C Habitat Enhancement and Public Use Restrictions
Environmental Education			
Provide a quality environmental education program from the Ritidian Unit	Maintain the existing environmental education program for the Ritidian Unit, with specific learning objectives and diverse opportunities with the following attributes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help fulfill the Territorial standards for learning. • Base content on the Refuge’s biological and culturally-based management goals and objectives. • Support the Service’s “Connecting Children with Nature” priority. 	In addition to Alt. A, increase the number of classes participating in the environmental education program and the number of onsite outdoor classroom visits.	
Non-Wildlife Dependent Uses			
Picnicking, general beach use, swimming	Currently, the Refuge provides one of the few areas on Guam for the local public to “connect with nature.” Existing uses that occur in conjunction with wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation include picnicking, sunbathing, and swimming.	Continue to allow public uses that occur in conjunction with wildlife-dependent public uses, with restrictions, to ensure the activities are compatible with Refuge purposes. There will be an emphasis on connecting the local population with nature, Guam NWR in particular, and the Refuge System in general.	Prohibit all non-wildlife-dependent public uses.
Cultural Resources			
Evaluate known and potential cultural resources and historical sites on the Ritidian Unit	Evaluate known and potential cultural resources and historical sites on the Ritidian Unit, preserve site integrity, and protect sites from management and visitor activity as part of a cultural heritage program. The Refuge will comply with applicable cultural heritage laws and regulations, assure protection and preservation of cultural resources, and encourage cooperative partnerships for the study and preservation of cultural resources.		
Continue opportunities for cultural practitioners on the Refuge.	Opportunities for cultural practitioners will continue on the Refuge, such as collecting medicinal plants, visiting caves with cultural significance, and performing traditional ceremonies.		



Pacific green turtles use the Ritidian Unit's beach.
USFWS

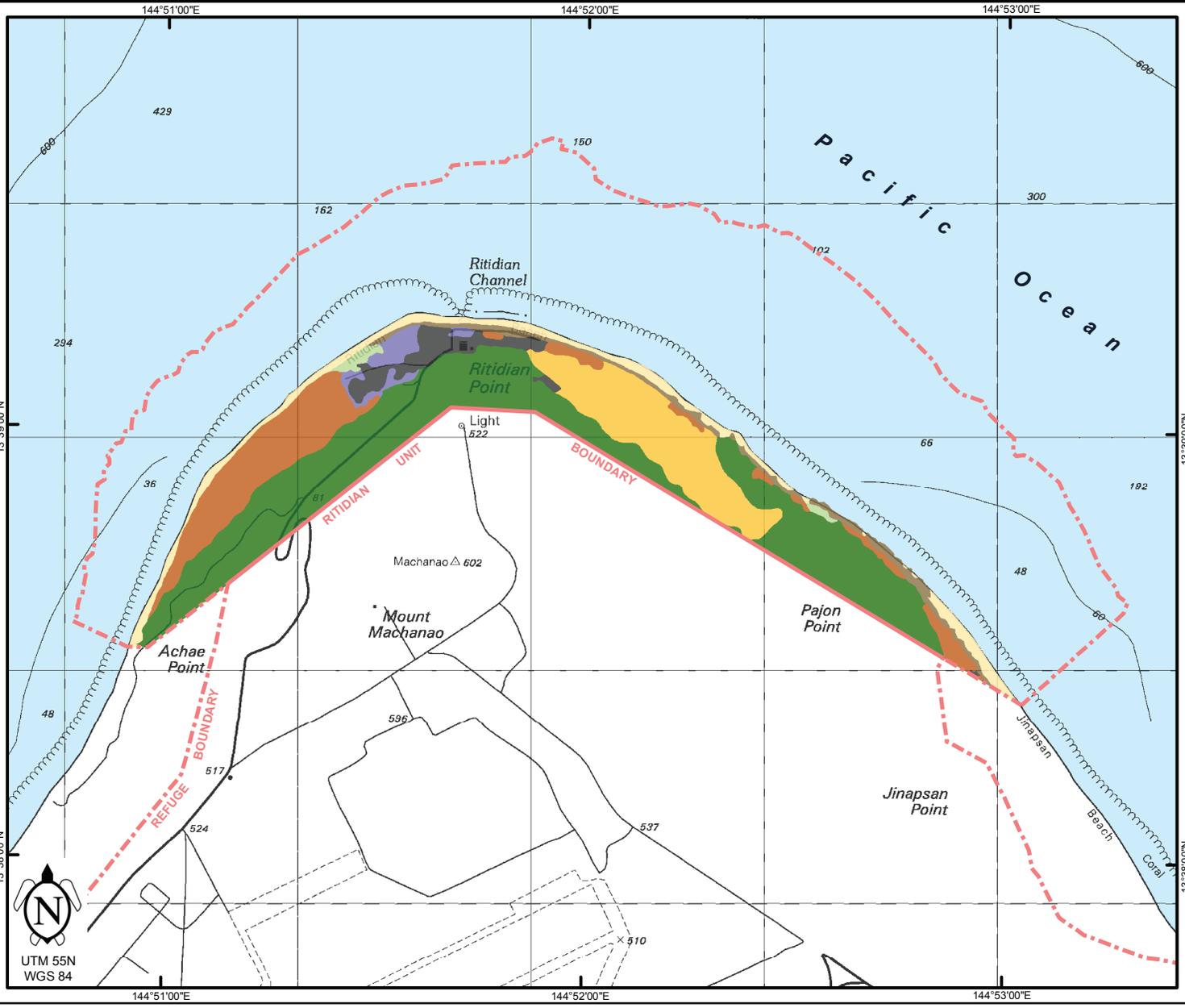
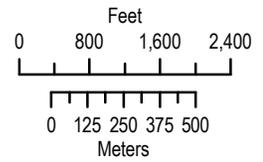
Ritidian Unit Vegetation and Land Cover

Guam NWR



Vegetation and Land Cover Types

-  Strand Rock/Sand
-  Casuarina Forest
-  Coconut Plantation
-  Hibiscus
-  Mixed Herbaceous Scrub
-  Mixed Limestone Forest
-  Developed Land
-  Beach





Guam National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 8134, MOU-3
Dededo, Guam 96929

Change of address requested.

In this issue:
Review a summary
of the three
alternatives we
developed for
managing Guam
National Wildlife
Refuge and send us
your comments!

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You are Invited to Attend a Public Open House Meeting!

We will hold two public open house meetings to answer your questions and obtain your comments on the Guam National Wildlife Refuge Draft CCP/EA. The meetings will be held as follows.

Dededo:

Tuesday, August 4, 2009, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Dededo Community Center, 319 Iglesia Circle, Dededo, Guam 96929.

Hagatna:

Thursday, August 6, 2009, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Hagatna Community Center, 236 East O'Brian Drive, Hagatna, Guam 96910.

Points of Contact

Send comments, questions, or requests for information to:

Christian Eggleston, Acting Project Leader
Guam National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 8134, MOU-3
Dededo, Guam 96929
Phone: (671) 355-5096
E-mail: christian_eggleston@fws.gov

Comments may be faxed to (671) 355-5098 or emailed to FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov. Include "Guam NWR CCP" in the subject line.

Visit the planning website at <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/planning> and select the link for "Projects Online" then select "Guam NWR" to view the Draft CCP/EA and previous planning updates.

General information about Refuges and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available at <http://www.fws.gov>.