



Aloha

This is the third Planning Update from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, designed to inform and involve you in the planning process for the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge Land Conservation Planning Study in Kaua'i County, Hawai'i.

The planning updates notify you of opportunities to become directly involved in the planning process and provide a status report of our progress on developing a Land Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment.

Your input during this planning process is very important; it helps us identify and analyze information and issues affecting you, your community, and the natural resources of the Kilauea Point area.

How do I comment on this project?

Send comments to Amy Wing, Wildlife Biologist. Her contact information is on the back of this Update, or attend the Open House.

To review Planning Updates 1 and 2, visit the planning Website at: <http://pacific.fws.gov/planning> Select "Projects Online" to find a link to the Kilauea Point study.

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge Land Conservation Planning Study

Planning Update 3
May 2007



The proposed Kilauea Point Refuge additions would provide habitat for endangered birds, including the Nene, an endangered Hawaiian goose. Photo: USFWS.

Land Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment Available for Public Review

The Service has prepared a Land Conservation Plan/Environmental Assessment (LCP/EA) for the proposed expansion of the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) approved boundary, in Kaua'i County, Hawaii. It is available for your review and comment. Copies can be viewed by the public at the following locations Kilauea Farmers Market, Princeville Public Library, and Kaua'i National Wildlife Refuge Complex Headquarters at Kilauea Point, at the end of Kilauea Road. It is also available on the Service's website at <http://pacific.fws.gov/planning>. All comments should be received by June 15, 2007.

Public Open House – May 16, 2007

The Service will host a public Open House to answer questions and receive comments on the proposed expansion of the Refuge. Open House details follow.

Date/Time: Wednesday, May 16, 2007, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Location: Kilauea Elementary School Cafeteria,
2440 Kolo Road, Kilauea, Hawai'i 96754

The Open House format will include a presentation by the Service, an informal question, answer, and comment session with the audience, and a breakout session with stations set up for one-on-one discussions.

Summary of Refuge Expansion Alternatives



Migratory birds such as the Laysan albatross (above) would benefit from additional habitat.

Photos: USFWS.

Congress authorized the Service to expand the Kilauea Point Refuge, in Kaua'i County, Hawai'i, by adding up to 234 acres to the Refuge, from five specific parcels, by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange under the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act of 2004 (Act). Due to the sale of a portion of one of the parcels identified in the Act, the legislated expansion area now includes six parcels. The current approved Refuge boundary encompasses 203 acres. The Service proposes to expand the Refuge by up to 202 acres.

The Refuge expansion would protect high quality coastal and lowland areas (wetlands, coastal strand, aquatic habitats, and their associated uplands) in perpetuity. Protection and management of these areas would allow the Service to contribute to the recovery of endangered or threatened species and to support other native plants and animals. Lands proposed for addition to the Refuge include sea bluffs to the east and west of the Refuge; coastal dunes and the Kilauea estuary located to the east and south; wetlands; grasslands; and riparian woodlands associated with Kilauea stream and Kilauea Falls in the Kilauea River Valley, near the town of Kilauea, on Kauai's north shore.

The LCP/EA evaluates the environmental effects of adding and managing the new Refuge lands. While the LCP/EA does not cover the details of future Refuge management for the proposed expansion, conceptual management actions are described to indicate potential management direction until a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) is prepared for the Refuge.

The Refuge's CCP is scheduled to begin in 2007. The in-depth CCP planning process includes public involvement that will give the community and general public ample opportunity to review and comment on new management plans for this expansion area and the existing Kilauea Point, Hanalei, and Hule'ia Refuges. During development of the CCP, the Service will evaluate the feasibility of offering opportunities for the National Wildlife Refuge System's wildlife-dependent public uses: hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation. Federal law and Service policy requires us to evaluate these uses to determine whether or not each use is compatible with the purposes for which the Refuge was established.

Service management of newly acquired parcels would be nominal until the CCP is completed for the Refuge. Routine, low-impact Refuge management activities that may occur in the interim could include boundary posting and installation of Refuge signage; maintenance of existing unimproved roads and walking paths; routine law enforcement patrols; habitat protection; wildlife and habitat baseline studies and monitoring; and low levels of compatible wildlife-dependent public uses that could be authorized by permit. Potential interim Refuge management activities that involve ground clearing, work within a wetland or floodplain, and any management activity or project that is not considered minor or routine, would undergo environmental review and public involvement in accordance with applicable laws. Access over and through Refuge lands would continue to be controlled in the same manner that private landowners control access to the parcels now. Under all the alternatives being considered, the Service would not have jurisdiction to

Summary of Alternatives continued . . .

manage public access to the coast along existing public right-of-ways (see Figure 7 on page 8).

The Service considered a range of alternatives to accomplish wildlife conservation goals in the Kilauea Point expansion area and analyzed the physical, biological, social, and economic consequences of each alternative. A brief description of the alternatives follows.

Alternative A—No Action. Under this alternative, the Service would not expand the Refuge. Public funds would not be expended for the purchase of additional property or for Refuge operations and maintenance of new property. Additionally, there would be no additional long-term commitments by the Service to recover endangered species in this area.

Alternative B—Coastal-55-acre expansion. Under Alternative B, the Service would add 55 acres of coastal habitat to the Refuge situated geographically adjacent to both the existing Refuge and the Pacific Ocean (see Figure 4 on page 5). A small portion of the Kilauea River estuary is also included in Alternative B. This alternative includes Parcels 2, 5, and 6 (38 acres of coastal bluff to both the east and west of the existing boundary), Parcel 4 (5 acres of coastal dunes), and Parcel 1 (12 acres of river mouth property and a small portion of river estuary).

Under this alternative, the Service would add potentially valuable seabird nesting areas, coastal strand dune habitat with high restoration potential, and a small strip of riparian habitat within Parcel 1 for endangered waterbirds (Hawaiian Duck, Hawaiian Coot, Hawaiian Moorhen, and Hawaiian Stilt) foraging, resting, and reproduction. Species that would benefit from this alternative include the Hawaiian seabirds; wintering shorebirds, ruddy turnstones, Pacific golden Plovers, and wandering tattlers on the shoreline; and the federally-listed endangered Hawaiian monk seal and threatened green sea turtle.

Alternative C—Riverine-179-acre expansion. Under the Riverine Alternative, the Service would expand the Refuge by approximately 179 acres (see Figure 5 on page 6). Alternative C encompasses lands within the Kilauea River Valley from above Kilauea Falls to the rivermouth at Kahili Bay (Parcels 1, 3, and 4).

Under this alternative, the Service would acquire coastal lowlands that include wetlands, riparian, forest, grassland, marsh, stream, estuary, and dune habitats, some of which are currently vulnerable to development. This addition would protect habitat for the federally-listed endangered Nene, Hawaiian Duck, Hawaiian Coot, Hawaiian Moorhen, and Hawaiian Stilt, and several species of estuary dependent fish, crustaceans, and invertebrates. It would also protect nesting habitat for the White-tailed Tropicbird and native and nonnative lowland forest birds.

Alternative D—Coastal and Riverine-202-acre expansion—Preferred Alternative. Alternative D is a combination of a portion of Alternative B with Alternative C (see Figure 6 on page 7). Under Alternative D, the Service would expand the Refuge by 202 acres. This is the Service's preferred alternative.

Under Alternative D, the Service would seek to acquire the following parcels and habitats: 12 acres of coastal river mouth (Parcel 1); 165 acres of brackish and freshwater wetlands, riparian, upland shrub, forest, and portions of the Kilauea River (Parcel 3, 162 acres plus Parcel 6, 3 acres); 5 acres of coastal



Habitat on the Refuge for endangered Hawaiian monk seals and threatened green sea turtles would increase with the Refuge expansion.
Photos: USFWS.





With the Refuge expansion, the Service could protect important estuary and wetland habitat to aid in the recovery of the federally-listed endangered Hawaiian Duck. Photo: USFWS.

Summary of Alternatives continued . . .

dune (Parcel 4); and 20 acres of coastal bluff on Parcel 2. Parcel 5 is included in Alternative B, the Coastal Alternative, but not in Alternative D, the Preferred Alternative. Despite its location and current and potential wildlife habitat values, unresolved controversy and legal questions concerning public access through the parcel precluded the Service from including this parcel in the Preferred Alternative.

Under Alternative D, the Service would protect important estuary and wetland habitat to aid in the recovery of the federally-listed endangered Nene, Hawaiian Duck, Hawaiian Coot, Hawaiian Moorhen, and Hawaiian Stilt. Species that would benefit from this alternative include the Hawaiian seabirds; wintering shorebirds, ruddy turn stones, Pacific golden Plovers, and wandering tattlers on the shoreline; and the federally-listed endangered Hawaiian monk seal and threatened green sea turtle.

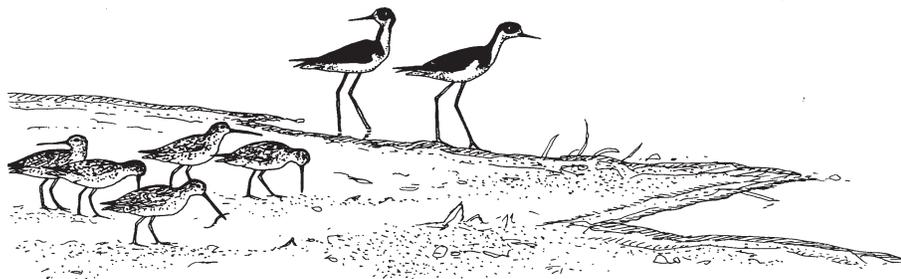
With this addition, the Service would protect a significant portion of the Kilauea River Valley, habitat for the endangered Hawaiian hoary bat.

Public Comments and Selection of an Alternative

Once the public comment period has concluded, the Service will review public comments received on the LCP/EA and recommend a course of action. Approval of the selected alternative will be made by the Service's Regional Director. The Service will notify the public of the Regional Director's decision. Implementation of the selected alternative can proceed based on available funding and willing participants.

Planning Schedule

Planning Update #1	Completed..	May 2005
Planning Update #2.....	Completed..	November 2005
LCP/EA Released/Public Comment Period Begins.....	Current Step..	May 7, 2007
Open House.....	Scheduled..	May 16, 2007
Public Comment Period Ends.....	Scheduled..	June 15, 2007
Final Documents and Notice of Decision Released..	Projected..	July 2007



KILAUEA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Mokuaeae

Kilauea Point
Macon

KILAUEA POINT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

**Parcel 5
15 Acres**

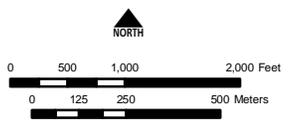
**Parcel 1
12 Acres**

**Parcel 4
5 Acres**

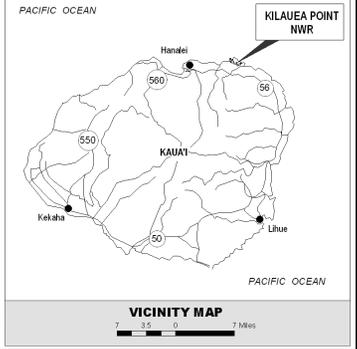
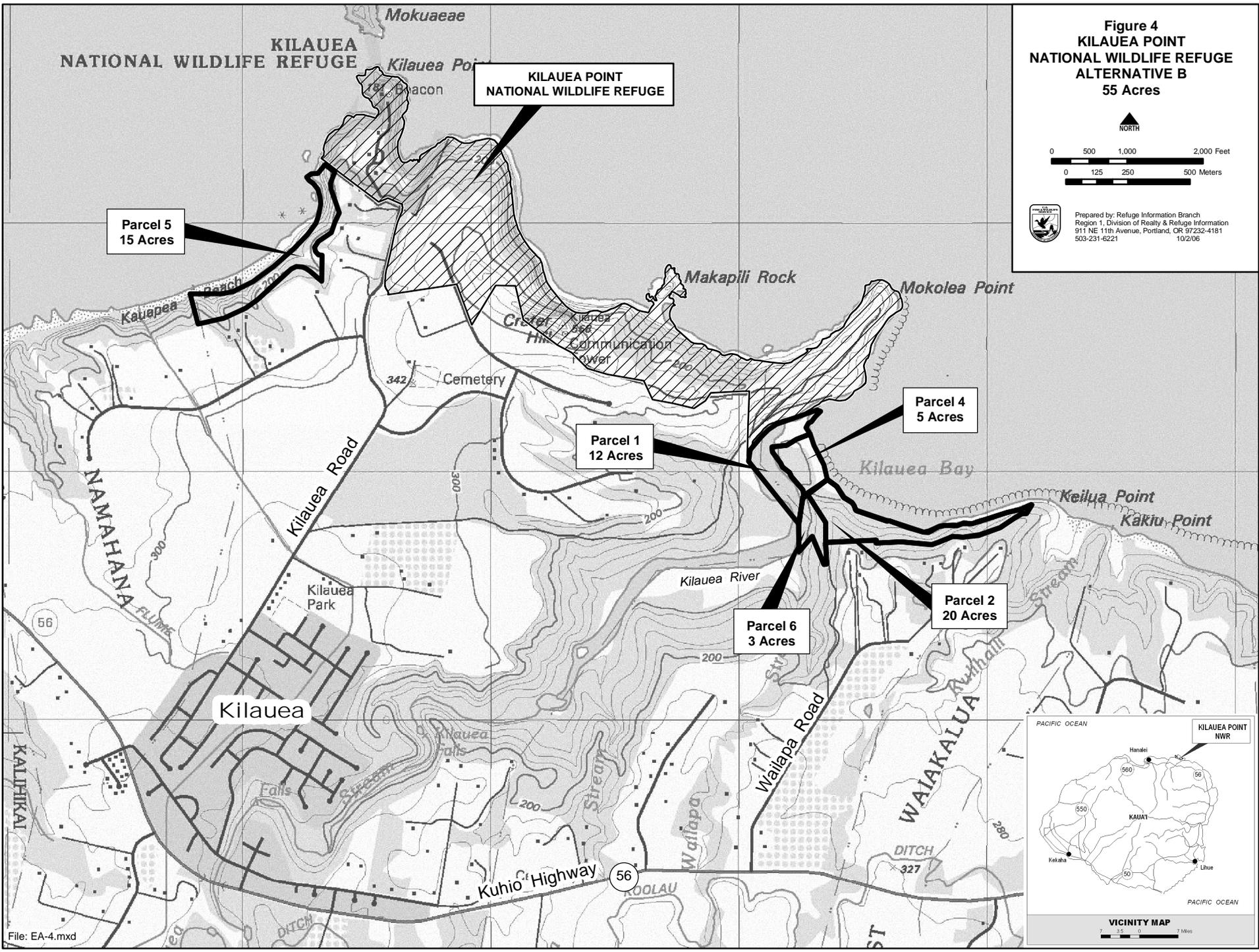
**Parcel 6
3 Acres**

**Parcel 2
20 Acres**

**Figure 4
KILAUEA POINT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
ALTERNATIVE B
55 Acres**



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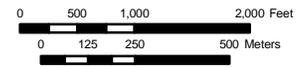
KILAUEA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Mokuaeae

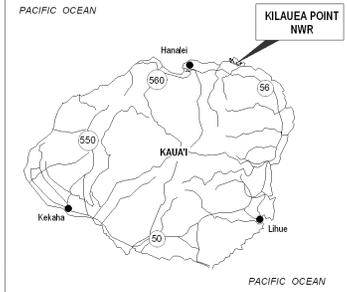
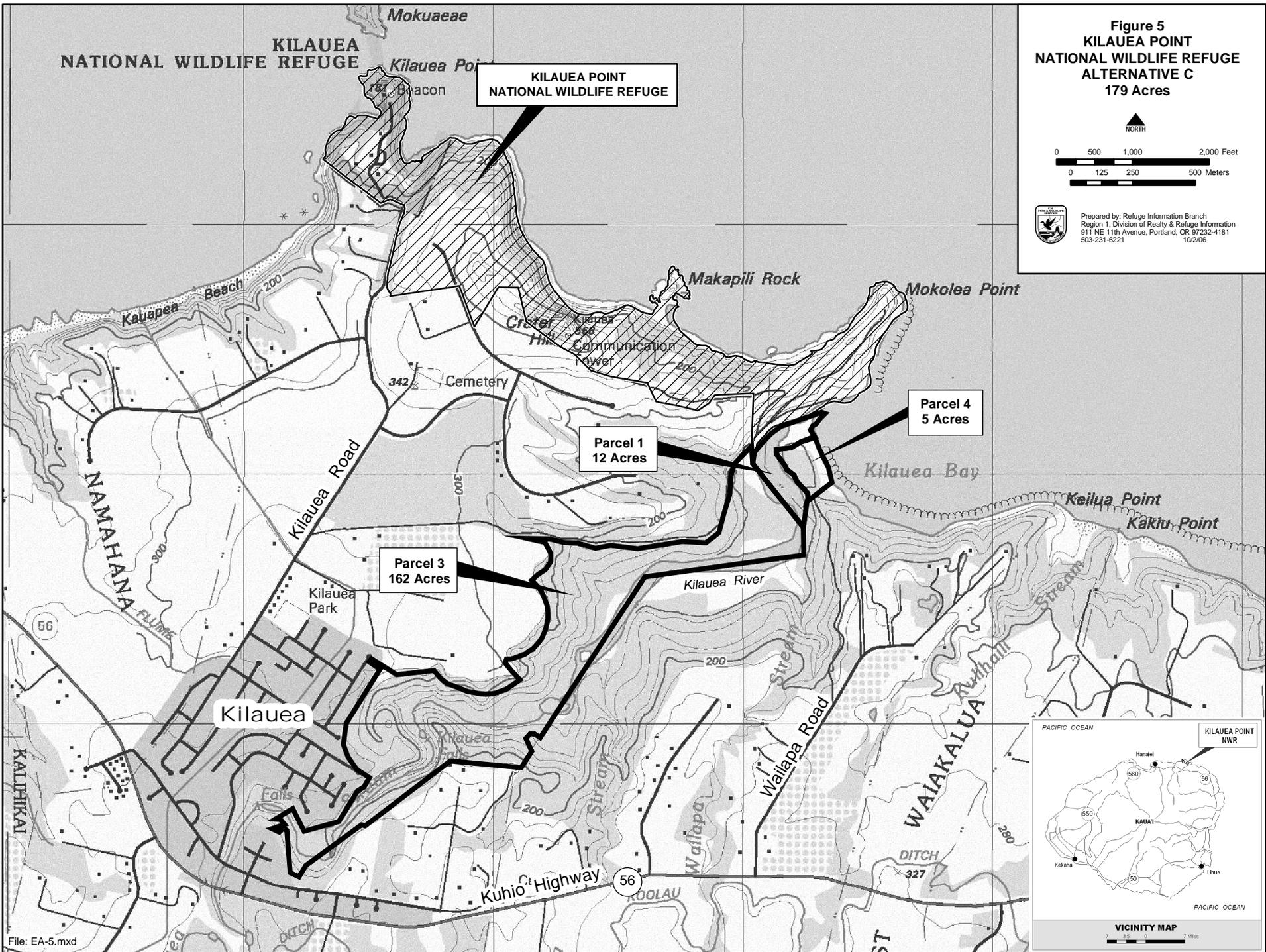
Kilauea Point
Bacon

KILAUEA POINT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

**Figure 5
KILAUEA POINT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ALTERNATIVE C
179 Acres**



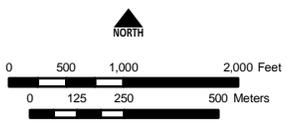
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VICINITY MAP
0 3.5 7 Miles

KILAUEA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

**Figure 6
KILAUEA POINT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
ALTERNATIVE D
202 Acres**



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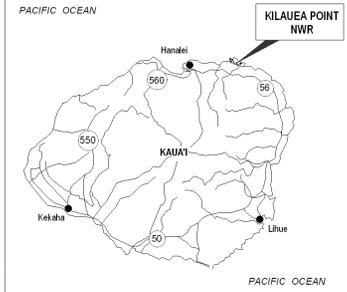
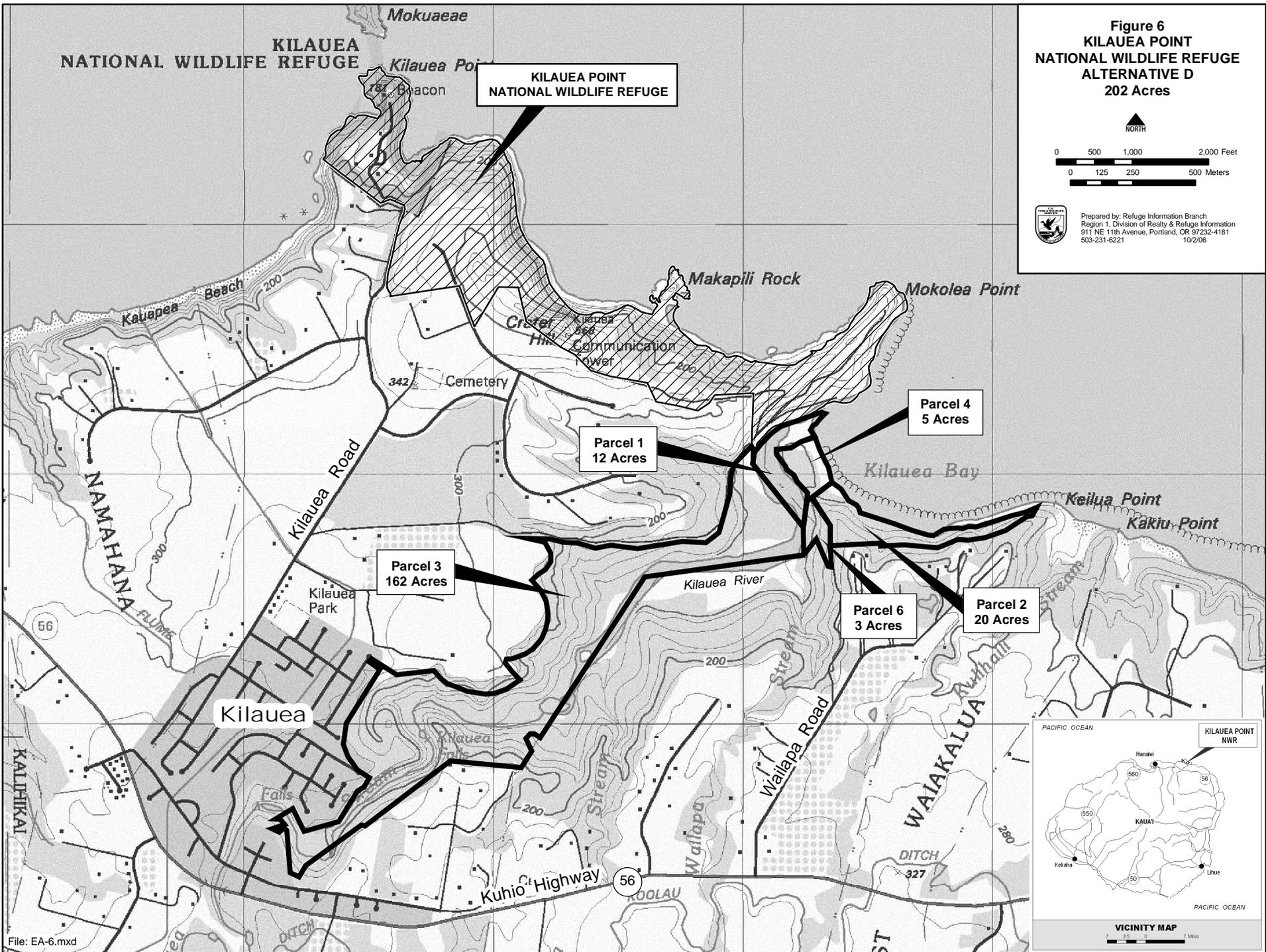


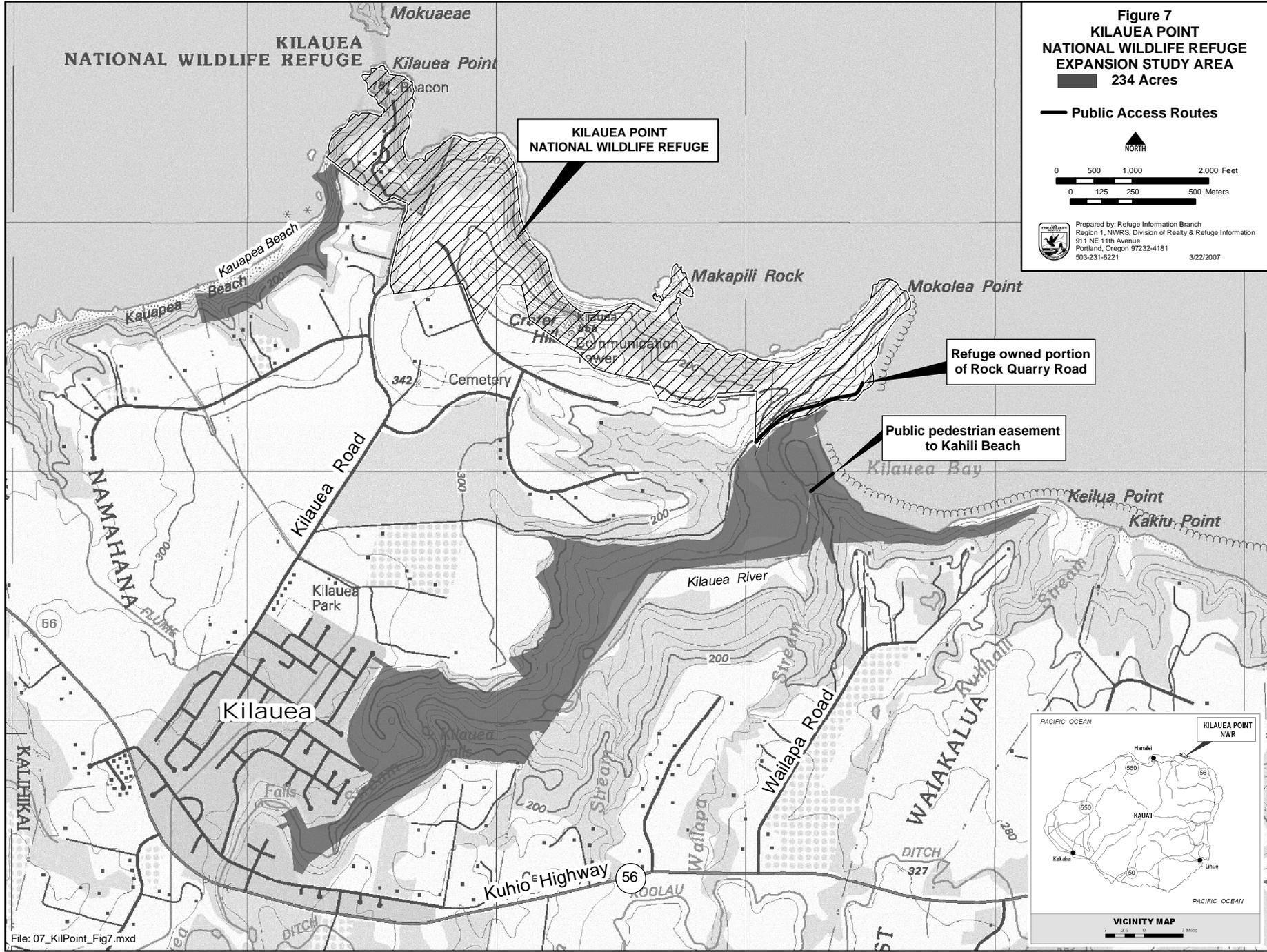
Figure 7
KILAUEA POINT
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
EXPANSION STUDY AREA
 234 Acres

Public Access Routes

NORTH

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet
 0 125 250 500 Meters

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 503-231-6221 3/22/2007

Who Do I Contact?

Send Comments or Requests for Information to:

Amy Wing, Wildlife Biologist
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Division of Planning and Visitor Services
 911 NE 11th Avenue
 Portland, OR 97232-4181
 Phone: (503) 231-2096 or toll free (877) 312-1751
 Fax: (503) 231-6161



E-mail Comments to:

FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov
 (Please use "Kilauea Point Refuge"
 in the subject.)

Website: <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/planning>

For Information on the Refuge System Contact:

Michael "Mitch" Mitchell, Deputy Project Leader
 Kaua'i National Wildlife Refuge Complex
 P.O. Box 1128
 Kilauea, HI 96754
 Phone: (808) 826-6641 Fax: (808) 828-6634

For Information on Land Acquisition Contact:

Georgia Shirilla, Branch Chief
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Division of Realty and Refuge Information
 911 NE 11th Avenue
 Portland, OR 97232-4181
 Phone: (503) 231-2236 or toll free (800) 662-8933
 Fax: (503) 231-6161

Comments on the LCP/EA should be received by June 15, 2007.

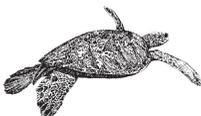


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 Fish and Wildlife Service
 Kaua'i National Wildlife Refuge Complex
 P.O. Box 1128
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Address correction requested

In this issue:

Summaries of the expansion alternatives presented in the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge Land Conservation Plan are provided for review and comment.



Visit the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge Website at: <http://pacificislands.fws.gov/wnwr/kauainwrindex.html>