



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Hanalei, Hulē'ia, and Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuges

Planning Update 1, January 2010

Kīlauea Point NWR / © Mary Hughes

Hanalei, Hulē'ia, and Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuges - Help Us Plan for the Future!

This month, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will seek input from the public, interested agencies, Native Hawaiian groups, and organizations regarding your interests, concerns and viewpoints about management issues for the Kaua'i National Wildlife Refuge Complex (Complex), including the Hanalei, Hulē'ia, and Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuges (Refuges).

Input and feedback from you will be considered as we develop the Refuges' Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCPs), which will guide Refuge management for the next 15 years. This planning update is the first in a series of updates to keep you informed and invite your participation in the planning process for these Refuges.

As we begin this planning process, we have the opportunity to look at our habitat management and public programs from fresh perspectives. The purposes of the Refuges will remain the same. However, we have a chance to review our wildlife management programs and each of our public programs, such as fishing, hunting, and environmental education; our placement of facilities such as trails and signs; our management of wetlands, riparian zones, cliff faces, and other habitats; and our management of historical, cultural, and other resources.

Your insights and observations are important to ensure a more complete and thoughtful process. Please share your ideas with us by attending upcoming public meetings or by submitting written comments to the Refuge Complex (see page 8 for contact information).

You are invited to the first Open House Public Scoping Meetings

For Hulē'ia Refuge
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2010
Time: 6:00 - 9:00 pm
Place: Lihue Public Library
4344 Hardy Street, Lihue, Kaua'i, HI 96766

For Hanalei and Kīlauea Point Refuges
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2010
Time: 6:00 - 9:00 pm
Place: Kīlauea Elementary School
2440 Kolo Road, Kīlauea, Kaua'i, HI 96754

National Wildlife What?

Refuges are places where wildlife comes first. The National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) comprises the world's largest collection of lands set aside specifically for wildlife and provides important habitat for native plants and animals. The NWRS is administered by the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing the nation's fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for the benefit of the American people.

The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is *"To administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans."*

Refuge Complex Overview

Each Refuge was established for specific purposes. Hanalei Refuge, located along the lower reach and floodplain of the Hanalei River along the northern shore of Kaua'i, was established in 1972 for the purpose of providing habitat for four of Hawai'i's endangered waterbirds: ae'o/Hawaiian stilt, 'alae ula/Hawaiian moorhen, 'alae ke'oke'o/Hawaiian coot, koloa maoli/Hawaiian duck, and the nēnē/Hawaiian goose.

Hulē'ia Refuge, located along the Hulē'ia River on Kaua'i's eastern shore, was established in 1973 for the purpose of providing habitat for Hawai'i's endangered waterbirds.

Kilauea Point Refuge, located at the northern most point of Kaua'i, was established in 1985 for the purposes of providing habitat for seabirds, nēnē, and native plants; preserving the historic lighthouse; and providing environmental education and interpretation to the public. Kilauea Point Refuge's boundary was expanded in 2004 by Public Law 108-481 to protect and recover endangered Hawaiian waterbirds and other endangered birds, including the nēnē, and to conserve and manage native coastal strand, riparian, and aquatic biological diversity.



Nēnē on Kilauea Point NWR/USFWS

Preliminary Goals

Goals are broad statements intended to provide direction for the future management of Refuges. They are based on the purposes of the Refuges, the mission and policies of the NWRS, input received through the planning process, and the key issues identified as most significant to the Refuges. The planning team has developed preliminary goals for the three Kaua'i Refuges and would like your input on them.

Goal 1: Protect, restore, and manage seasonal wetland habitats to meet the needs of and promote the recovery of endangered waterbirds.

Goal 2: Protect, restore, and manage upland habitats to meet the needs of nēnē, seabirds, and native plants.

Goal 3: Work with partners to ensure the restoration, protection, and management of habitat on Refuge inholdings.

Goal 4: Collect scientific information (inventories, monitoring, research, assessments) necessary to support adaptive management decisions on units of the Kaua'i Complex in support of Goals 1-4.

Goal 5: Educate students and teachers about the NWRS and the ecology and management of the Refuges.

Goal 6: Encourage visitors and local residents to enjoy, value, learn about, and support Kilauea Point and Hanalei Refuges.

Goal 7: Protect the educational, scientific, and spiritual values of historical and cultural resources.

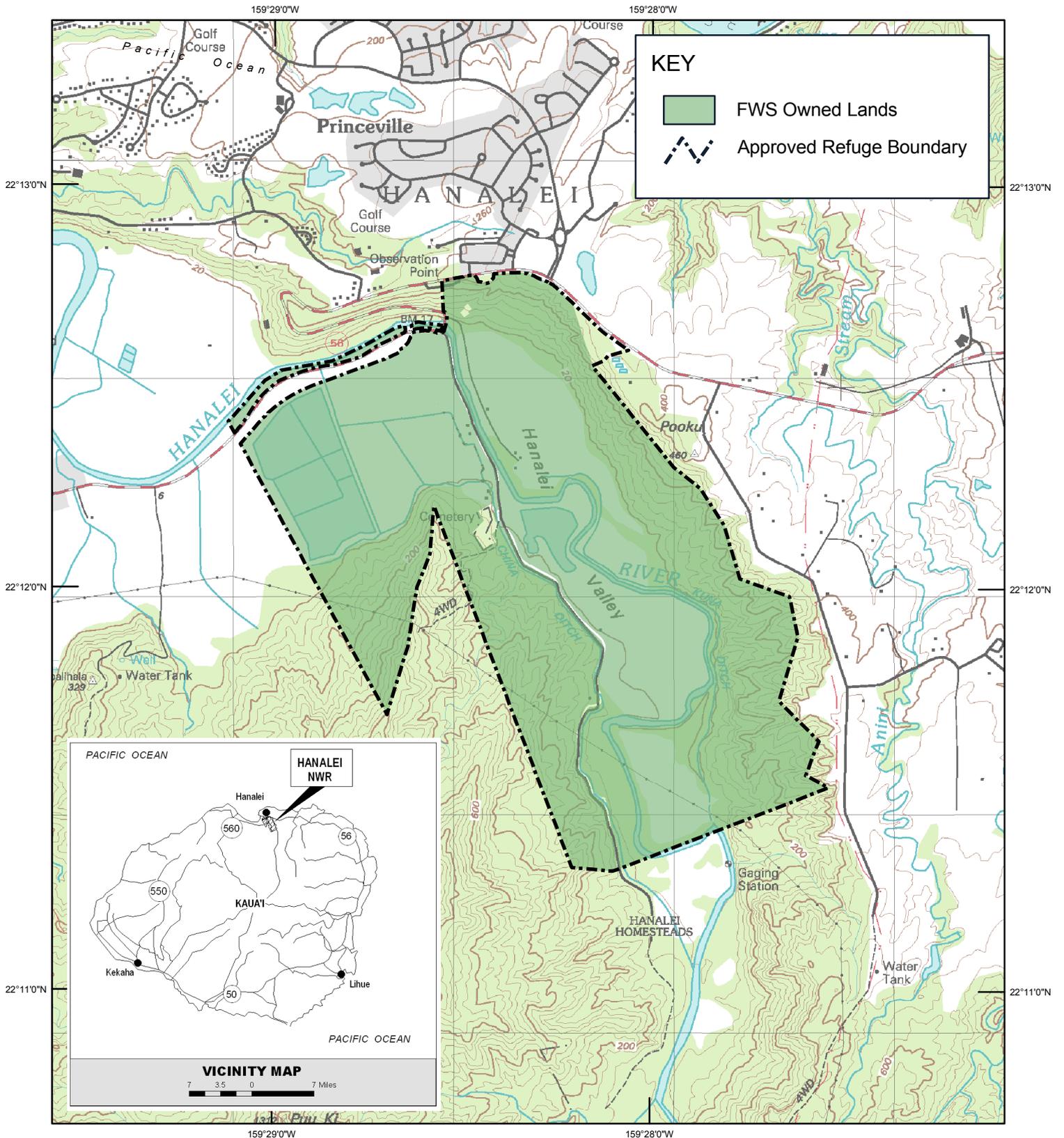


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge

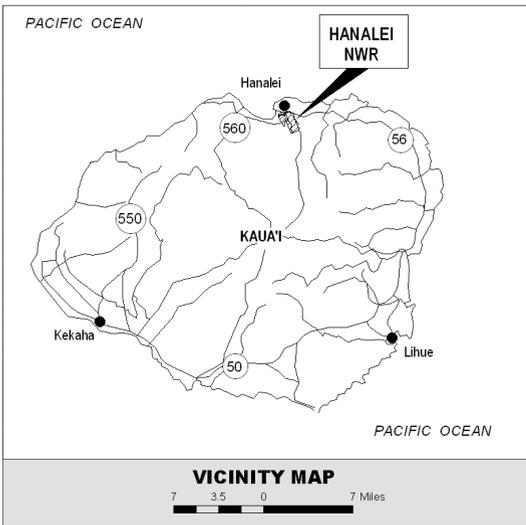
Kauai County, Hawai'i

Refuge Overview

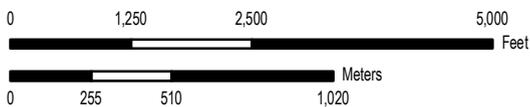


KEY

- FWS Owned Lands
- Approved Refuge Boundary



PRODUCED IN THE DIVISION OF REALTY & REFUGE INFORMATION
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 MAP DATE: 03/19/09
 BASEMAP: DRG 24K
 MERIDIAN:
 FILE: 09-104-1.MXD



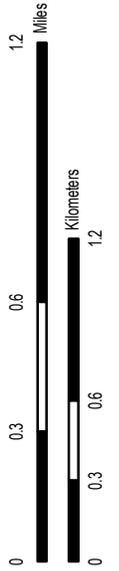
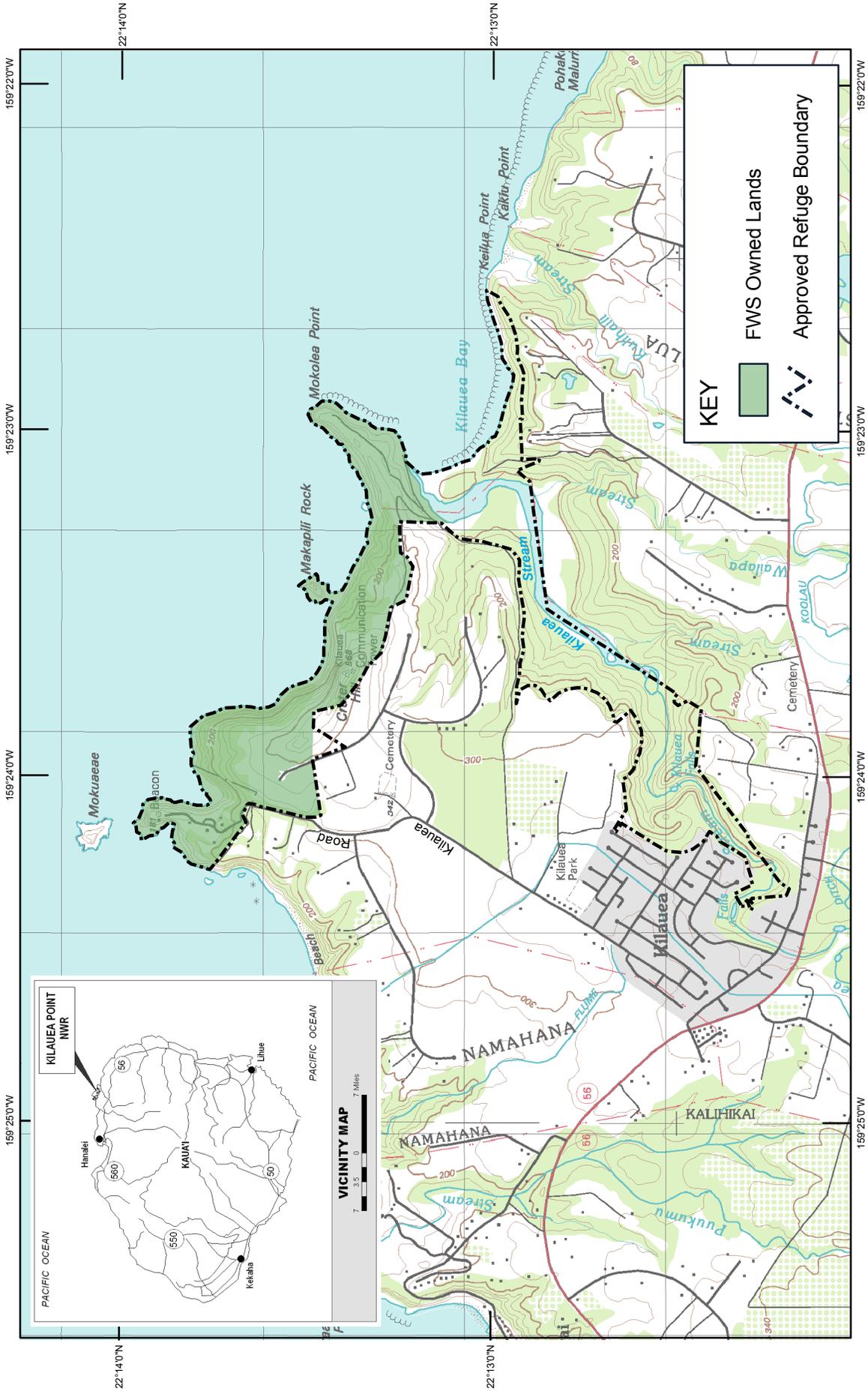


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge

Kauai County, Hawaii

Refuge Overview



PRODUCED IN THE DIVISION OF REALTY & REFUGE INFORMATION
 PORTLAND, OREGON
 LAND STATUS CURRENT TO: 3/6/02
 MAP DATE: 03/11/09
 BASEMAP: DRG 24K
 MERIDIAN:
 FILE: 09-103-1.IMD

Talk Story Sessions

Refuge staff held three “talk story” sessions to hear concerns about Refuge management as well as share stories with long-time residents and hear some of the living history associated with the three Refuges. The meetings were announced locally and open to the public, specifically targeted to local community members and kūpuna (elders). The sessions were held on October 8 in Hanalei, November 4 in Kīlauea Point, and January 12 for Hulē‘ia. Brief summaries of the main points for the Hanalei and Kīlauea Point sessions follow; a summary of the Hulē‘ia session will be included in a future Planning Update.

Hanalei

Attendees at the Hanalei Talk Story session shared stories about farming life in Hanalei, along with their vision for the future management of the Refuge. The majority of individuals stressed the importance of kalo (taro) to the Native Hawaiian culture. The role of Hanalei Valley for kalo production was also brought up as an important consideration, as 79 percent of kalo in the state is grown in the valley. In addition, many participants cited the view of Hanalei Valley as a critical piece of the north shore of Kaua‘i. Other examples of what we heard are included below:

An individual recounted the history of farming in the valley. Historically, many crops were grown in the valley, such as coffee, sugar, rice, and cotton; the most suitable is taro. In the late 1800s, Chinese immigrants grew rice to supply workers who were rebuilding the South after

the Civil War. After foreign markets drove down the price of rice, farmers reverted to kalo farming in the 1970s.

The sense of community has been an important component of the valley. One participant shared a story of how the ditches were cleaned in the past. The farmer and farm workers at the end of the ditch would start cleaning. As they worked up through the ditch, the next farmer’s family and workers would join the cleaning. As the crew continued to work its way up the ditch, workers would clear the ditch and pass the other workers. This built camaraderie among the farmers and workers. By the time they reached the last farmer all of the community would be working together to clean the additional mile of ditch up to the intake.

What would individuals like to see in the plan?

- Conservation of scenic, cultural and historic views.
- Protection of culturally significant farming in the Hanalei Valley and the role of the valley in providing food security for Kaua‘i.
- Recognition of the symbiotic relationship between farmers and birds.
- Recognition of the Hanalei River as an American Heritage River and conservation of the river’s water quality, instream flow, and water quantity; a water budget for Refuge and farming operations and the riverine resources.
- Identification of partnership opportunities to meet species and habitat goals for endangered species both on the Refuge and other areas throughout the island.

Preliminary Issues to be Considered

In preparing the CCP, a range of possible alternative management approaches will be explored and evaluated, including current management practices. The effects of the various alternatives on the biological resources and local communities will be evaluated in an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The planning team has identified some potential issues to be considered during CCP development. We would like to hear your comments on these issues, and any other topics of concern, at our public meetings (see first page).

If you are not able to attend one of our public meetings, please submit your comments in writing to the Refuge (see page 8 for contact information). Summaries of the preliminary issues identified by the planning team follow:

Visitor Services Activities, such as congestion and overcrowding at Kīlauea Point Refuge; effects of traffic and visitors on endangered species and local communities; visitor safety; restoration and preservation of the lighthouse station, and the potential relocation of the overlook at Hanalei Refuge.

Protection of Historic and Cultural Resources which exist on all three Refuges.

Kīlauea Point

At the Kīlauea Talk Story session, individuals shared stories about plantation times in Kīlauea, the Coast Guard light station, and fishing in the area around Kīlauea Point NWR (Kalihiwai and Mokuāeae), along with their vision for the future management of the Refuge. A brief summary follows:

We heard from a family who were historically the konohiki "managers" for fishing in the Kalihiwai ahupua'a, which included Mokuāeae. The family caught fish and shared with the local community. Historically, fishermen would look from Crater Hill to spot fish to plan their fishing.

We also heard from individuals who fished the shoreline below the lighthouse to feed their families. They maintained trails from the lighthouse down to the shoreline, using ropes along the trail for safety. They caught what they needed. The best time to fish has been sunrise and sunset.

The importance of the lighthouse for navigation by the local community was discussed. It was used to find bearing from both the ocean and mountains. Community members would watch for the light to return home safely.

Individuals talked about the importance of the seabirds in the area. We heard that birds used to nest along Kīlauea Road and that the

introduction of cattle egrets had a detrimental impact on bird populations on Kaua'i. One person related that in the 1950s red-footed boobies nested all around the lighthouse. In the 1960s, there were no nēnē, few shearwaters, and no albatross. From his perspective the wildlife value has increased under the Service.

What would individuals like to see in the plan?

- Access to Crater Hill. The community believes that commitments to maintain access have not been honored and noted that ownership patterns and rules have changed over time. This could be accomplished with a walking trail up to the area.
- Fishing outside of the normal operating hours. Fish do not run at 10 a.m: sunset and sunrise are key fishing times.
- Construction of a parking lot along Kīlauea Road so people can watch the sunset.
- Protection of important historic properties and consideration of moving the administrative facilities to adjacent lands and restoring historic structures. This would provide an opportunity to interpret the history of Kīlauea Point, including the light station.
- Increase opportunities to incorporate and interpret Hawaiian culture, including the potential to do cultural demonstrations of fishing under a kūpuna or mentor program.
- Consideration of providing pedestrian and bicycle access to the lighthouse.

Preliminary Issues to be Considered continued...

Wildlife and Habitat Resources Management, such as the water supply for wetland restoration; potentially refining cooperative farming Special Use Permits; addressing water quality; management or reduction of invasive species; expansion of Kīlauea Point Refuge and other opportunities for acquisition, restoration, and management; intensive public use at Kīlauea Point Refuge and potential conflicts with wildlife; disease management; and the impacts of global climate change.

Facilities Management, such as the maintenance and protection of equipment from corrosion and deterioration caused by the coastal environment; securing all equipment; the evaluation of the need for a transportation hub and off-site maintenance space; and self-sufficiency for energy needs.



Hanalei River / © Chris Stammen



Kaua'i National Wildlife Refuge Complex
P.O. Box 1128
Kilauea, HI 96754

How Do I Contact the Service or Provide Comments?

For Information on the National Wildlife Refuges:
 Shannon Smith, Project Leader
 Kaua'i National Wildlife Refuge Complex
 P.O. Box 1128
 Kilauea, HI 96754
 Phone: (808) 828-1413
 Fax: (808) 828-6634

E-mail: FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov
 Web: <http://www.fws.gov/hanalei/>
<http://www.fws.gov/huleia/>
<http://www.fws.gov/kilaueapoint>



Ferns on Hanalei NWR/ © Mary Hughes

Planning Target Dates

Planning Update 1 issued.....	January 2010
Public Meetings	January 2010
Planning Update 2 issued.....	Spring 2010
Planning Update 3 issued.....	Fall/Winter 2010
Draft CCP/EA released for public review ...	Fall/Winter 2010
Final CCP	Fall 2011