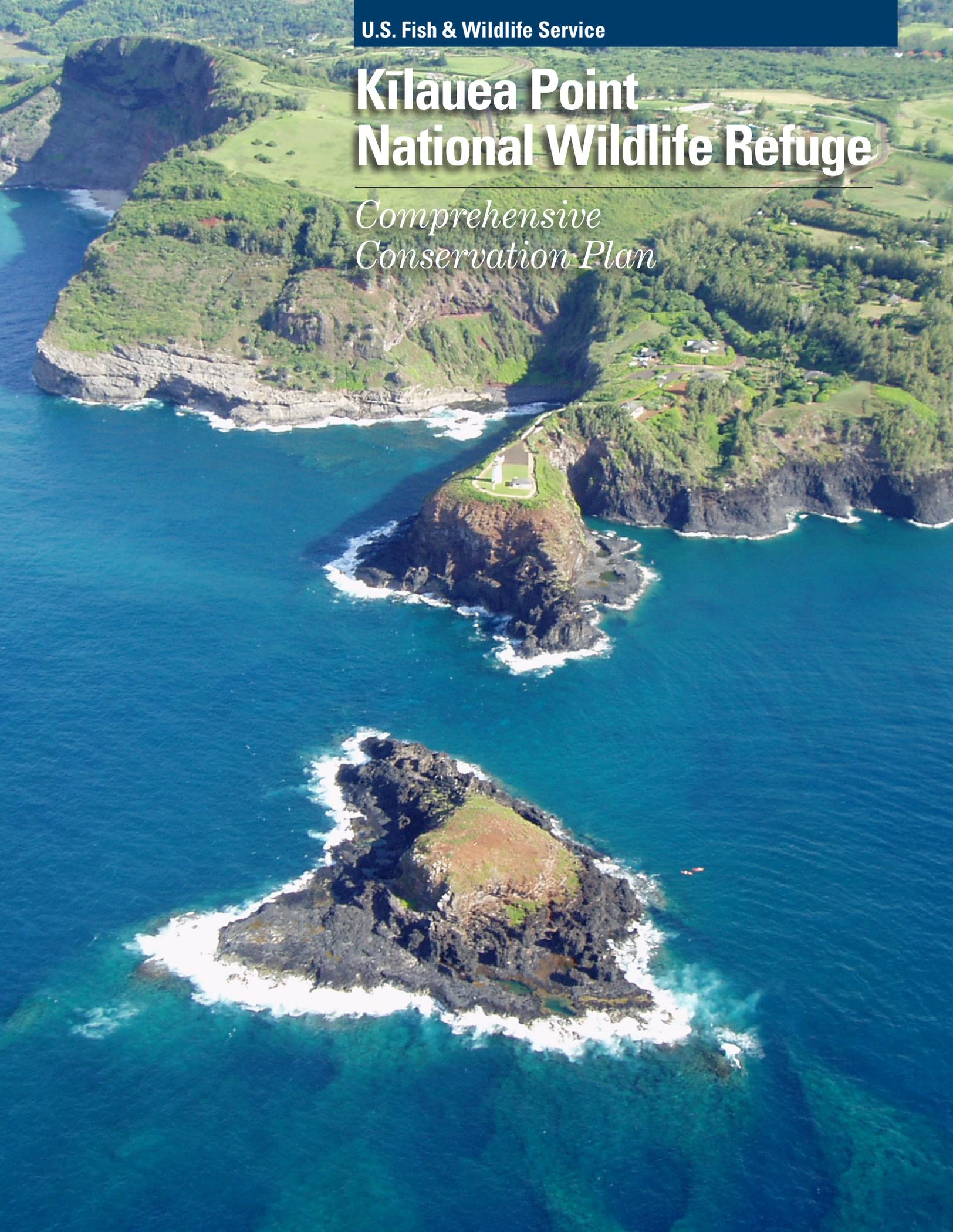


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge

*Comprehensive
Conservation Plan*



Refuge Vision

Shrouded in a salty mist, the steep cliffs of an ancient volcano plunge into a pounding north swell as Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge stands as an oasis where abundant seabirds blanket the pali and ride updrafts. Here a symphony of sounds reverberates — from the whinny of mōlī to a chorus of rattling squawks from thousands of ‘ā. Nēnē nestle within thriving native plant communities that blanket the red soil throughout the Refuge. ‘Īlio-holo-i-ka-uaua and honu bask in tranquil solitude at the edge of the turquoise waters teeming with marine life.

The dynamic and awe-inspiring experiences of Kīlauea Point provide kama‘āina and visitors alike a sense of place and lasting interconnectedness with the natural world. Interwoven with cultural heritage, environmental education links the island’s keiki and the youth beyond with the Refuge’s unique ecosystems and native wildlife. Through strong community support, the Kīlauea lighthouse endures, telling its story, and remains a beacon promoting stewardship of the Refuge’s resources for future generations.

He nu ‘ukia no ka pu ‘uhonua

Kau maila ka ‘ehukai i ka pali kū o ka luapele, a papā mai ka nalu po‘i. Kū kilakila ‘o Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge ma ke ano he kīpuka no ka manu o ka moana kūhohonu, a ma ane‘i lākou e kīkaha a ka‘aniu ai. Kūpina‘i a‘e ka leo o ka mōlī, ua lau. Hauwala‘au mai ka leo o ka ‘ā, ua mano. Nonoho iho ka nēnē i ka nāhele ‘oiwi e uhi ana i ka lepo ‘ula‘ula o ne‘i. Lalala mehameha ka ‘īlio-holo-i-ka-uaua a me ka honu ma ka‘e o ke kai pāpā‘u piha o ka i‘a.

Poina ‘ole nēia wahi ke ho‘okipa ‘ia e ke kama‘āina, pau pū me ka malihini i ke ‘ano o nā mea a lākou i ‘ike ai, i la‘a me ka pilina ma waena o kō a uka, a kō a kai. ‘O ka nohona kanaka a me ke aloha ‘āina ke kahua o ka ha‘awina e a‘o aku ai i ka po‘e ‘ōpio, i moākaka ia mau mea i ka ‘ike a kō lākou mau maka ma kēia mua aku. Ma o ke kākō‘o a ke kaiāulu, kū mau ka hale ipu kukui ‘o Kīlauea i lama kuhikuhi o ka mālama ‘āina no nā hanauna e hiki mai ana.



Comprehensive Conservation Plans provide long-term guidance for management decisions and set forth goals, objectives, and strategies needed to accomplish refuge purposes and identify the Service’s best estimate of future needs. These plans detail program planning levels that are sometimes substantially above current budget allocations and, as such, are primarily for Service strategic planning and program prioritization purposes. The plans do not constitute a commitment for staffing increases, operational and maintenance increases, or funding for future land acquisition.

**Kīlauea Point
National Wildlife Refuge
Comprehensive Conservation Plan**

Prepared by:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge
3500 Kīlauea Road
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Region One Planning Team
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May 2016

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge
Comprehensive Conservation Plan
Approval Submission**

In accordance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, as amended, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service completed a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge. The purpose of this CCP is to specify a management direction for the Refuge for the next 15 years. The goals, objectives and strategies for improving Refuge conditions—including the types of habitat we will provide, partnership opportunities, and management actions needed to achieve desired future conditions—are described in the CCP. The effects of the CCP on the human environment were described in the draft CCP and Environmental Assessment. This CCP is submitted for approval by the Regional Director.

Submitted by:

Michael Mitchell
Project Leader, *Michael Mitchell*
Kaua'i National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Date: *9/9/15*

Concur: *Barry W. [Signature]*
Refuge and Monument Supervisor,
Pacific Islands Refuges and Monuments Office
Date: *9/10/15*

Concur: *KEVIN S FOERSTER*
Regional Chief,
National Wildlife Refuge System, Region 1
Date: *9/16/15*

Approved: *Robyn Thurson*
Regional Director,
Region 1, Portland, Oregon
Date: *9/17/15*

**Finding of No Significant Impact
for the
Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan
Kaua‘i County, Hawai‘i**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has completed a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). The CCP/EA describes our proposals for managing the Refuge and their effects on the human environment under four alternatives, including the “no action” alternative.

The need for the CCP is derived from the overall National Wildlife Refuge System (Refuge System) mission, goals, and policies, as described in or promulgated by the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act (16 U.S.C. 688dd–688ee, et seq.), as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-57). Developing the CCP provides the Refuge with a management plan for conserving fish, wildlife, plant resources, and their related habitats, while providing opportunities for compatible, wildlife-dependent recreation. The CCP, when fully implemented, should achieve Refuge purposes, help fulfill the Refuge System mission, maintain, and, where appropriate, restore the ecological integrity of the Refuge and the Refuge System, and meet other mandates. The CCP will guide management of the Refuge for 15 years, or until it is revised, and actions will be implemented as funding becomes available.

Features Common to All Alternatives

Features common to all alternatives include considering climate change effects in all management actions; monitoring and control of invasive species; coordinating with State, county, and other partners; protecting cultural resources; fishing; allowing traditional cultural practices by native Hawaiians; volunteer opportunities; re-evaluating public use visitation days at Kīlauea Point; and continuing land protection within the approved Refuge boundary. Operational and infrastructure changes for better management of transportation issues associated with Kīlauea Point proper (Point) or at the Kilauea Road terminus (Overlook) were evaluated.

Alternatives Considered

Alternative A (Current Management): Under Alternative A, current wildlife and habitat management aimed at long-term protections and population and habitat enhancements for migratory seabirds and endangered nēnē (Hawaiian goose, *Branta sandvicensis*) would continue. Strategies include invasive species control, outplanting native plants, mowing and weeding grassland-shrubland habitat for nēnē, maintaining or replacing fencing, enhancing the threatened ‘a‘o (Newell’s shearwater, *Puffinus auricularis newelli*) population, and inventories, monitoring, and research.

The majority of public use activities offered at the Refuge would continue to revolve around wildlife observation and photography, environmental education (EE), and interpretation located on the Point or at the Overlook. The Kāhili Quarry area would remain open to wildlife-dependent uses (fishing, wildlife observation, and photography) and for access to off-Refuge areas (Kīlauea River, Kīlauea Bay, and Kāhili Beach) for boating and other stream, beach, and ocean uses (e.g., surfing, swimming, sunbathing, snorkeling, and dog walking).

Alternative B: Under Alternative B, wildlife and habitat management activities would continue in existing areas and be expanded on Crater Hill and Mōkōlea Point. In addition, native plant

communities would be restored to provide recovery habitat for threatened and endangered coastal plants. Priority research, inventories, monitoring, and other scientific assessments would be expanded.

Public use changes, compared to Alternative A, include different uses of some existing buildings, as well as improving public parking, traffic flow, and visitor activities on the Point. Strategies include offering an optional shuttle, a public/tour bus stop, and bike parking at the Overlook; increasing onsite public parking; and expanding outreach, EE, and volunteer programs.

Public access to the Kāhili Quarry area would remain open; however, there would be new stipulations for anglers on temporary shelters and fires, and for all visitors, new stipulations on dogs. Additionally, nonanglers would be limited to daytime use only.

Alternative C: The chief distinctions between Alternative C and Alternative B are the relocation of non-site-dependent functions (e.g., fee collection, restrooms, bookstore, administrative offices, parking) off the Point to a new visitor welcome and orientation center on the southwestern corner of Crater Hill, the use of a shuttle system to provide public access to the Point and Overlook, and the addition of guided interpretive hikes on Crater Hill. The main administrative offices and a new maintenance baseyard (e.g., storage sheds, bays, pole barns, and nursery) would be built in the same area as the new visitor welcome and orientation center.

Wildlife and habitat management under Alternative C would be similar to Alternative B. However, approximately 3–4 acres of nēnē and seabird habitat would be lost due to construction of the new facilities on the southwestern portion of Crater Hill. Public use and access of Kāhili Quarry under Alternative C would be similar to Alternative B.

Alternative D: In response to public comments received on the draft CCP/EA, elements of the facilities and transportation strategies were modified. As a result, the main differences between this alternative and Alternative C are the options for relocating welcome and orientation, non-site-dependent functions, and maintenance facilities off current Refuge lands but within 1 mile of the Refuge boundary. Other medium- to long-term strategies that may be implemented include the removal of public parking on the Point, development of a mandatory shuttle system, and reconfiguring the use of existing buildings. The success of short- to medium-term strategies, such as operational and infrastructure changes, may preclude implementation of the described medium- to long-term strategies. Wildlife and habitat management would be similar to Alternative C.

Public use and access of Kāhili Quarry under Alternative D were modified based on public comments received on the draft CCP/EA. The Quarry area will continue to be open to wildlife-dependent uses and for access to off-Refuge areas 24 hours per day. There will be new stipulations for visitors on temporary shelters, fires, and dogs. Additionally, the Refuge will work in partnership with local nonprofit organizations and community leaders of Kīlauea on promoting community stewardship of the Quarry through habitat protection, monitoring, and managing threats to natural and cultural resources; outreach; and environmental, cultural, and historical interpretation.

Summary of Effects

Alternative A (Current Management): Under Alternative A, the overall effects of current management on the physical environment within the Refuge would generally be negligible to minor negative due to erosion and water quality degradation. Impacts to wildlife would generally be

negligible to intermediate positive. However, we project minor to intermediate negative impacts to sea cliff and beach strand habitats primarily due to human trespass and disturbance (e.g., at Kāhili Quarry).

Impacts to the social and economic environment within and surrounding the Refuge would generally be negligible to minor positive due to public use, volunteer, and outreach programs. However, impacts related to transportation would be intermediate negative, primarily due to traffic-related effects from visitation at the Point and Overlook (e.g., congestion, noise, public safety, and pollution).

Alternative B: Management actions in Alternative B would generally result in long-term minor to intermediate positive effects to the physical environment due to increased restoration of native habitats and removal of nonnative vegetation, and efforts to stabilize areas of accelerated erosion. In the short term, individual actions may have negative effects on soils, water resources, and air quality; however, due to the limited duration, area, and intensity of these activities, the effects would be negligible to intermediate. Overall, a long-term minor to intermediate beneficial effect would be expected for Refuge habitats and associated species from these habitat management actions.

Overall effects to the social and economic environment would be expected to be minor positive due to expanded public use, volunteer, and outreach programs. The availability and quality of wildlife-dependent recreation on the Refuge would have minor to intermediate improvements under Alternative B. Alternative B would alleviate some parking limitations at the Overlook and traffic congestion at the Point (due to the optional shuttle) and would provide more transportation options to the Overlook (bicycle, pedestrian, and bus access), leading to minor positive effects to transportation and the general visitor experience. The effects from implementing Alternative B would not be expected to have any significant beneficial or adverse effects on Refuge resources or other elements of the human environment.

Alternative C: Impacts to the physical environment from Alternative C would be comparable to Alternative B. However, under Alternative C, the development of new facilities at the southwestern corner of Crater Hill would have long-term, minor, negative effects. Regarding effects to Refuge habitats and associated species, Alternative C would be similar to Alternative B; however, the construction of new facilities at Crater Hill and a trail from the new facilities to the Overlook would reduce the quality and quantity of habitat for nēnē and seabirds. Thus, the net result of Alternative C would be an intermediate negative impact, specifically to the coastal mixed woodland-grassland habitat, and minor to intermediate negative impact to seabirds and nēnē.

Overall effects to the social and economic environment would be expected to be similar to Alternative B; however, the availability and quality of wildlife-dependent recreation on the Refuge would be slightly higher compared to Alternative B. Alternative C would have minor to intermediate positive impacts to transportation and general visitor experience by reducing traffic congestion at the Overlook and Point from the use of a mandatory shuttle. The effects from implementing Alternative C would not be expected to have any significant beneficial or adverse effects on Refuge resources or other elements of the human environment.

Alternative D: Impacts to the physical environment will be comparable to Alternative B. Regarding overall effects to Refuge habitats and associated species, Alternative D will be similar to Alternative B, except there will be more restoration at the Point and, compared to Alternative C, wildlife habitat in the southwestern corner of Crater Hill will remain intact.

Overall effects to the social and economic environment are expected to be minor positive. Due to improvements on the Point and increased community engagement and stewardship at Kāhili Quarry, the availability and quality of wildlife-dependent recreation on the Refuge will have minor to intermediate improvements. Alternative D will result in a reduction of traffic-related effects at the Point from visitation and, overall, minor to intermediate positive effects to transportation and the general visitor experience. The effects from implementing Alternative D are not expected to have any significant beneficial or adverse effects on Refuge resources or other elements of the human environment.

Comparison of Overall Effects across Alternatives: Effects to the physical environment would be most beneficial under Alternatives B or D. Regarding wildlife and habitats, Alternative D will have more beneficial wildlife management effects than Alternatives A, B, or C. Impacts under both Alternatives B and D would be minor to intermediate positive; however, Alternative D is considered slightly more beneficial due to the strategies for addressing parking and visitor experience on Kīlauea Point without the loss of habitat at Crater Hill under Alternative C.

Effects to the social and economic environment would be more beneficial under all action alternatives compared with Alternative A. However, Alternative D will lead to more benefits to wildlife, visitor opportunities, including wildlife-dependent recreation, and more positive impacts to transportation and the general visitor experience than Alternatives A, B, or C.

Public Involvement

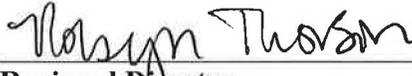
The Service incorporated a variety of public involvement techniques in developing and reviewing the CCP/EA. This included talk story sessions; public open houses during scoping, draft alternatives development, and the draft CCP/EA review; three planning updates; meetings with various county, State, and Federal partners and interested parties. The draft CCP/EA was available for a 44-day period of public review and comment from February 12, 2015, to March 27, 2015. During that period, the Service received comments from over 70 entities. The details of our public involvement are described in Appendix I. The Service prepared responses to all substantive comments, which are in Appendix K.

Selection of Management Alternative for the Final CCP

Based on our review and analysis in the CCP/EA and the comments received during the public review of the draft CCP/EA, we selected a slightly revised Alternative D for implementation due to the positive benefits of addressing parking and visitor experience on Kīlauea Point and improved visitor experience and wildlife management on the Refuge. In response to comments, strategies regarding wildlife and habitat, transportation, public uses, and cultural and historic resources management were added, modified, or deleted. Corrective, clarifying, and editorial changes were also made. Implementing the selected alternative will have no significant impacts on the environmental resources identified in the CCP/EA. Refuge management under the selected alternative will protect, maintain, and enhance habitat for priority species and resources of concern and improve the public's opportunities to enjoy wildlife-dependent recreation.

Conclusions

Based on review and evaluation of the information contained in the supporting references, I have determined that implementing Alternative D as the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Accordingly, we are not required to prepare an environmental impact statement.



**Regional Director
Pacific Region**

SEP 17 2015

Date

Note: This Finding of No Significant Impact and supporting references are available for public review at the Kaua‘i National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 3500 Kīlauea Road, Kīlauea 96754; and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Planning, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97232. These documents can also be found on the Internet at www.fws.gov/refuge/kilauea_point. Interested and affected parties are being notified of our decision.

