

Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

Environmental Assessment for the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge Trail Stabilization Project

January 2016

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has completed a Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) Trail Stabilization project. The project site is located within the Refuge in Kaua'i County, Hawai'i. The walking trail from the Refuge parking lot to the Daniel K. Inouye Kilauea Point Lighthouse (lighthouse) has experienced undermining and settlement due to existing slope conditions and erosional processes. Surface water runoff and wind erosion along the walking trail has contributed to increased slope erosion and slope instability issues. As a result of the stormwater runoff, sediment deposition along sections of the walking trail has created operation and maintenance (O&M) issues for the Refuge as well as public safety concerns for Refuge visitors. The purpose of the project is to stabilize the walking trail to the lighthouse. The need of the project is to provide slope stability for public safety concerns along trail sections that have experienced slope erosion, undermining, and settlement.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an evaluation of the potential environmental impacts associated with proposed project actions were analyzed in the Final EA. An evaluation of three project alternatives were included in the Final EA (No Action Alternative, Trail Stabilization with East Slope Discharge Alternative, and Trail Stabilization with West Ravine Discharge Alternative). The Trail Stabilization with West Ravine Discharge Alternative was selected as the Preferred Alternative for this project based on the ability to meet the purpose and need while providing the greatest capacity to accommodate stormwater runoff. As described in detail in the Final EA, implementation of the proposed action will not result in significant impacts to any affected resources.

Actions of the Trail Stabilization with West Ravine Discharge Alternative include the following:

- Repaving the entire length of the walking trail;
- Installation of a pile supported section of trail along the approximate 100-foot length that is most exposed to erosion.
- Installation of a stormwater drainage system to reduce the erosion and undermining along the trail, and address public safety and O&M concerns.

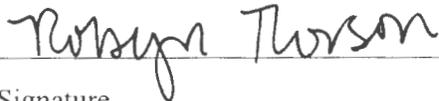
The USFWS encouraged public involvement during the scoping period and Draft EA comment period for the project. A meeting was held for each period which was announced via mailings, online postings and newspaper notices. Letters were sent to potential interested parties including nearby land owners, individuals in the community, federal, state and county agencies, and non-governmental organizations. These letters invited the recipients to review project information, attend the public meetings, and provide comments, ideas, and concerns regarding the project.

The Draft EA was available for review for a 30-day period from October 14, 2015 through November 12, 2015. The notice of availability (NOA) of the Draft EA was announced through mailings, online postings, posters, and newspaper notices. Comments received were analyzed to identify any new issues or concerns that may alter proposed project actions. Comments received included state agency responses regarding necessary permitting for the project, and a question from an individual regarding a recreational opportunity during closure of the Refuge. A summary of comments received and associated responses are included in Section 2.2 of the Final EA. Based on our analysis of comments received proposed project action modifications were not necessary.

The USFWS has prepared this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in satisfaction of requirements of NEPA. This FONSI documents the decision of the USFWS to provide trail stabilization measures to the walking trail at the KPNWR.

Based on review and evaluation of the information contained in the EA, I have determined that implementing the Trail Stabilization with West Ravine Discharge Alternative would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Accordingly, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed action is not required.

This FONSI and supporting references are available for public review at the KPNWR, 3500 Kīlauea Road, Kīlauea HI 96754. These documents can also be found online at <http://www.fws.gov/kilaueapoint>.



Signature

JAN 07 2016

Date

Regional Director

Title