



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge

Planning Update Number 4, June 2016



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View of Kīlauea Point from Mōkōlea Point

The Comprehensive Conservation Plan is Available

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is pleased to announce the completion of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). We sincerely thank all the individuals and organizations who participated in our planning process and contributed valuable input. Your help was vital to developing our CCP.

Since our last planning update in February 2015, which announced the availability of the draft CCP/Environmental Assessment (EA) for public comment, we have considered and integrated the public comments into the final CCP. We selected a modified version of

Alternative D, the preferred alternative, to be implemented on the Refuge, as funding allows. The decision was documented in a Finding of No Significant Impact.

To view the CCP, please visit: www.fws.gov/refuge/Kilauea_Point/what_we_do/planning.html. A limited number of printed copies and CDs can be requested from the Kaua‘i National Wildlife Refuge Complex office (see page 4).

As funding becomes available, projects will be implemented as identified in the CCP, such as enhancing coastal ecosystems, restoring seabird breeding populations, conducting research, and improving visitor services and environmental education.

In addition to federal funds, we will rely on grants and partnerships to help implement the CCP.

What Happens Next?

The CCP will serve as a guide for managing wildlife conservation and visitor services programs on the Refuge for the next 15 years or until it is revised.



Brenda Zaun/USFWS

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Endangered Ua'u (Hawaiian petrel)

Public Comments

We released the draft CCP/EA for public review and comment from February 12, 2015, to March 27, 2015. We received comments from over 70 entities covering a variety of topics, including visitor facilities and transportation at the Refuge, public uses at Crater Hill and Kāhili Quarry, protections for seabirds and endangered nēnē, ecological restoration, wildlife disturbance, and control of introduced predators.

A summary of all substantive comments received and our responses to them is provided in Appendix K in the CCP.



Mōlī (Laysan albatross)

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Summary of Management Direction

Wildlife and Habitat Management.

Management programs aimed at long-term protection and enhancement of migratory seabird populations and their habitats will be expanded to larger areas on Crater Hill and Mōkōlea Point. We will work to minimize the threats of introduced (or nonnative) predators and flight



Ilima

David Eickhoff/flickr

obstacles to seabirds. We will use social attraction techniques to enhance the threatened 'a'o (Newell's shearwater) and other seabird populations and work with partners to explore the feasibility of translocation to support 'a'o populations. We will maintain and possibly expand the predator-proof fenced areas.

In addition, the Refuge will protect and enhance habitat for the endangered nēnē population and

restore native plant communities to provide recovery habitat for threatened and endangered coastal plants.

Management activities, including weed control and outplanting native plants, mowing and weeding grassland-shrubland habitat for nēnē, and controlling introduced predators, will continue. Priority research, inventories, monitoring, and other scientific assessments will be expanded.

Public Use. The majority of public use activities offered at the Refuge will continue to revolve around wildlife observation and photography, environmental education, and interpretation located on Kīlauea Point proper (Point) or at the Kīlauea Road terminus (the Overlook).

Opportunities, materials, and facilities for environmental education will be



Naupaka kahakai

Rosa Say/flickr

further developed. Guided interpretive hikes will be offered on Crater Hill led by Refuge staff or trained volunteers. The Refuge will integrate cultural and historic resources into outreach, interpretation, and planning, including specific focus on the Kīlauea Point Light Station and Kāhili Quarry. We will develop orientation and training materials to better educate volunteers, partners, and tour operators on interpretive messages. We will provide bicycle parking at the Overlook and improve visitor circulation.

Uses at Kāhili Quarry. At Kāhili Quarry, we will work with local nonprofit groups and community leaders of Kīlauea on promoting stewardship of the Quarry that will include habitat protection, monitoring and managing threats to natural and cultural resources, outreach, and developing interpretive signage and messaging. Public use and access through the Quarry to Kīlauea River, Kīlauea Bay, and Kāhili Beach will be allowed 24 hours a day.

The Refuge will continue to work with the Kīlauea community to maintain a passable road to the beach and shoreline. The road will be repaired to a standard approved by both the

Refuge and the County of Kaua'i. Bollards will be installed at the northeast end of the Quarry to protect seabird nesting areas.

Visitors may erect temporary shelters during daylight hours only. Dogs will be required to be on-leash using an 8-foot-maximum leash, under control at all times, and will not be allowed to run free. Visitors will be allowed to bring and use portable stoves or self-contained barbecues (e.g., off-the-ground portable enclosed fires), or use fires within a Refuge-designated fire ring or pit. Visitors will need to bring charcoal or firewood. Fires must be attended at all times. We will work with the community stewardship partnership to explore opportunities for an overnight site host program and camping.

Transportation and New Visitor Services Facilities. To address transportation issues at the Point and the Overlook, the Service will implement, in a phased manner, short-, medium-, and long-term strategies.

In the short- to medium-term, the Refuge will adopt an incremental approach and experiment with small-scale operational and infrastructure improvements. A parking reservation system, options for offsite parking and a shuttle system, and allowing pedestrian and/or bicycle access from the Overlook into the Point are among the strategies that will be examined as part of the post-CCP transportation studies.

Strategies which will require a large capital investment and extensive planning process are considered medium- to long-term. These strategies, to relocate welcome and orientation and non-site-dependent functions (e.g., bookstore, administrative functions, fee collection, and parking) off the Point, include options to construct a new visitor welcome and orientation center, modify an existing facility, or co-locate the

Refuge welcome and orientation center with a partnering conservation organization within 1 mile of the Refuge boundary.

Associated actions may include the development of a transit hub and mandatory shuttle system. The success of short- to medium-term strategies may preclude implementation of the described medium- to long-term strategies. Development of a mandatory shuttle system may or may not be associated with the relocation of non-site-dependent functions to an offsite location.

New Maintenance Facilities. The Service will seek to develop a new maintenance baseyard (storage sheds, bays, pole barns, nursery) offsite. Options will include leasing, purchasing, or co-locating with another entity. The new maintenance facilities will need to be in close proximity to the Refuge but do not necessarily need to be coupled with a new welcome and orientation center.

The Refuge is committed to preparing a Master Site Plan as a step-down plan to the CCP, which will further evaluate and detail proposed building use and remodeling/maintenance needs.

Traditional Cultural Practices. Requests for access to closed areas for non-consumptive traditional cultural

practices (e.g., oli and hula) have been infrequent in the past and therefore will be administered on a case-by-case basis and require a special use permit (SUP) unless accompanied by Refuge personnel. The practice of non-consumptive traditional cultural activities in open areas (e.g., Kāhili Quarry) will not require a permit.

Unless accompanied by Refuge personnel, participants of consumptive traditional cultural practices will need to apply for and be issued an annual SUP. Access to Kīlauea (East) Cove for fishing or shellfish gathering will be restricted to those who have genealogical ties to the local community (i.e., specific ahupua'a). The collection and use of materials from native plants or canoe plants, feathers, and possibly other natural resources for traditional subsistence, ceremonial, decorative, medicinal, or other purposes will not be restricted to specific ahupua'a.

Endangered Nēnē Management. We will evaluate the feasibility of redesigning the Overlook area to provide a corridor for nēnē transiting between the Point and Crater Hill. We will work with the state, county, and others on sign design and placement, as well as explore the use of speed-calming or -reducing devices to lessen vehicle strike hazards on Kīlauea Road.



Kumu Kehaulani Kekua and Halau Palaihiwa O Ka'ipuawai offering a blessing at the Daniel K. Inouye Kīlauea Point Lighthouse dedication



Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 1128
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How to Get a Copy of the CCP

Review or download from:

www.fws.gov/refuge/Kilauea_Point/what_we_do/planning.htm

Get a printed or CD copy by contacting:

Heather Tonneson, Project Leader
Kaua'i National Wildlife Refuge Complex
P.O. Box 1128
Kilauea, HI 96754
808/828-1413
808/828-6381 fax
FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov

Printed copies of the CCP are available at the following libraries:

Princeville Public Library, 4343 Emmalani Dr., Princeville, HI 96722
Līhu'e Public Library, 4344 Hardy St., Līhu'e, HI 96766
Kapa'a Public Library, 4-1464 Kūhiō Hwy., Kapa'a, HI 96746
Koloa Public Library, 3451 Po'ipū Rd., Koloa, HI 96756
Hanapēpē Public Library, 4490 Kona Rd., Hanapēpē, HI 96716
Waimea Public Library, 9750 Kaumuali'i Hwy., Waimea, HI 96796



Koa'e 'ula (red-tailed tropicbird)