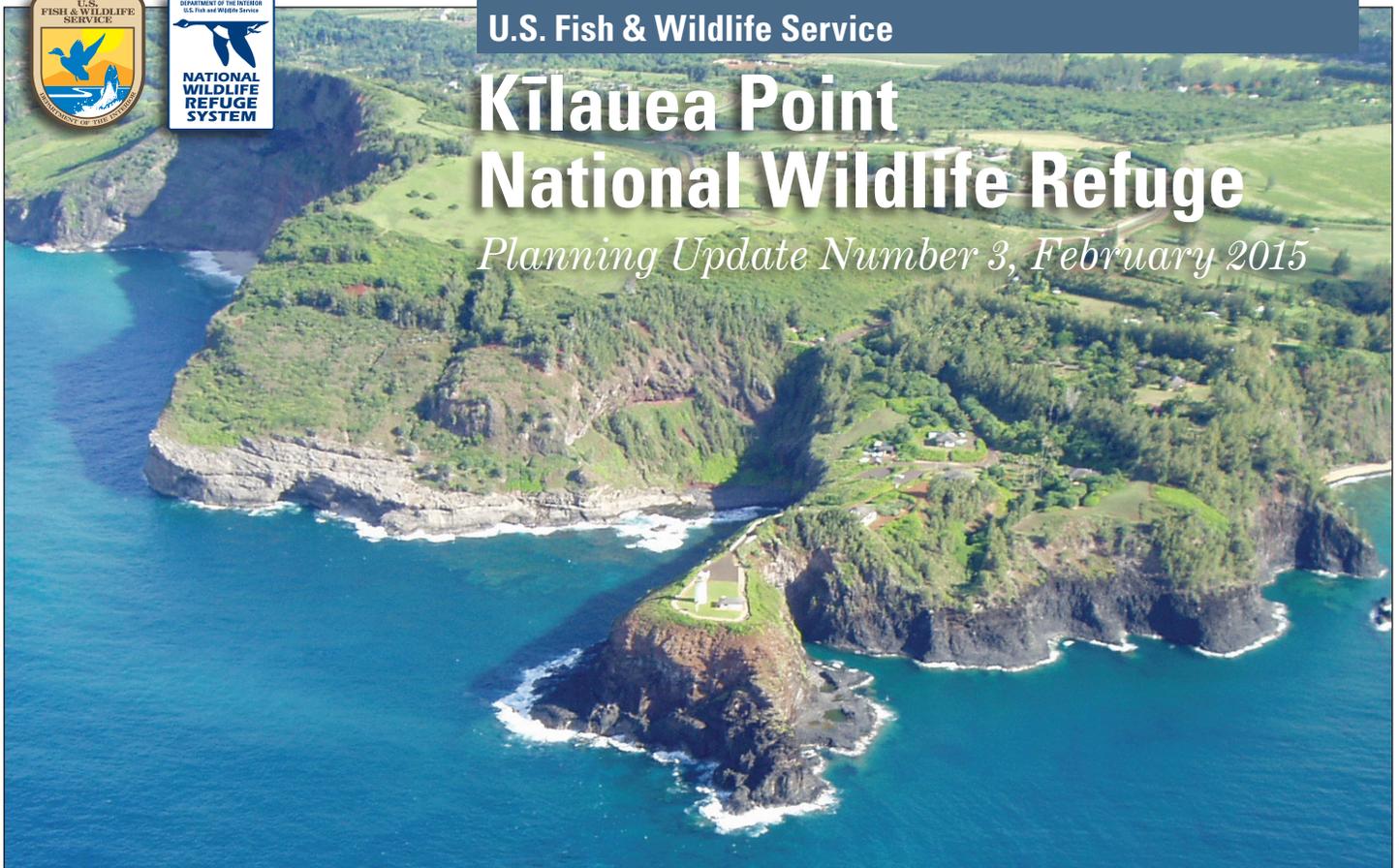




U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge

Planning Update Number 3, February 2015



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Aerial view of Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge

The Draft CCP/EA is Available for Public Comments

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment (Draft CCP/EA) for Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) is available for public review and comment between now and March 27, 2015. We value your comments and encourage you to share them with us. The document can be downloaded from our website:

http://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 6).

Printed copies are also available for review at the Princeville, Līhu'e, Kapa'a, Koloa, Hanapēpē, and Waimea public libraries.

We evaluated four alternatives in the Draft CCP/EA. In August 2011, we solicited public and agency comments on preliminary alternatives. We considered these comments in developing the alternatives and in identifying Alternative D as the preferred alternative. Actions for protecting and sustaining the Refuge's natural and cultural resources are identified in the Draft CCP/EA. Transportation needs and priority public use programs including

wildlife observation, wildlife photography, environmental education, interpretation, and fishing are also evaluated in the Draft CCP/EA.

At the end of the comment period, the planning team will evaluate your comments and address them in the Final CCP. The Final CCP will guide management of the Refuge for the next 15 years, and actions will be implemented as funding becomes available.

In this update

- Public Open House Meeting Information*
- Features Common to All Alternatives*
- Summary of Draft CCP/EA Alternatives*
- Refuge Reference Map*
- Who to Contact for More Information*



'Ua'u kani (wedge-tailed shearwater)

Brenda Zaun/USFWS

Features Common to All Draft CCP/EA Alternatives

Features common to all alternatives include the consideration of climate change effects in all management actions; monitoring and control of invasive species; coordination with state, county, and other partners to accomplish goals; cultural resources protection; volunteer opportunities; and the continuation of land protection within the approved refuge boundary. All proposed actions are subject to funding availability.

Fishing. Under all alternatives, the Refuge will remain open for recreational fishing. Fishing on the Refuge occurs at Kāhili Quarry. Fishing will be allowed on a 24-hour basis in accordance with State regulations and includes harvest via hook and line, throw net, spear, or shellfish gathering. Currently, fishing is not limited to any designated location, nor are related facilities provided. The Service proposes no major improvements to Kāhili Quarry Road or Kāhili Quarry. See page 4 for information on proposed new stipulations under Alternatives B–D

regarding temporary shelters, portable camp stoves or barbecues, and dogs.

Access to the Kīlauea (East) Cove for traditional native Hawaiian fishing will remain open.

Reevaluation of Public Use Visitation Days at the Kīlauea Point. Due to flat and declining budgets, starting in February 2014, the Service reduced the days that Kīlauea Point proper is open to the general public from seven to five days a week. The visitation days will be reassessed to see if it would be possible to reopen on a six- or seven-day a week schedule. However, closures will continue to be a management option depending upon the availability of staff and resources.

Transportation Implementation Study. The Refuge has received funding from the Federal Transit Administration to assist in planning for the implementation of the transportation components that

Highlights of the Draft CCP/EA Alternatives

Wildlife and Habitat Management.

Under Alternative A, current wildlife and habitat management aimed at the long-term protection and enhancement of migratory seabird and endangered nēnē populations and their habitats would continue. Strategies include weed control and outplanting native plants by volunteers, mowing and weeding grassland-shrubland habitat for nēnē, and controlling introduced predators. Biological programs also include maintenance of a 7-acre predator-proof fence, enhancing the threatened ‘a’o population through social attraction and other devices, exploring with partners the feasibility of translocation techniques to support ‘a’o populations, and banding and monitoring reproductive success and survival of seabirds and nēnē. Under alternatives B–D, management activities would continue in existing areas and be expanded on Crater Hill and Mōkōlea Point, including exploring the expansion of or additions to predator-proof fenced units. Native plant communities would be restored to provide recovery habitat for threatened and endangered coastal plants. Priority research, inventories, and monitoring would also be expanded.

Public Use, Access, and Facilities.

Under Alternative A, 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 Kīlauea Point proper (the Point) or at the Kīlauea Road terminus (the Overlook). The high level of Refuge visitation within a constrained geography generates operational, access, and safety issues; and impacts to endangered species. Operational and infrastructure changes such as reconfiguration of traffic flow and signage would be evaluated.

Under Alternative B, the primary difference involves reorganizing uses of existing buildings as well as improving public parking, traffic flow, and visitor activities; all focused visitor services would remain on the Point. Additional strategies include offering an optional shuttle, providing public/tour bus stop, and bike parking at the Overlook; increasing on-site public parking; and expanding the volunteer program. New stipulations on public uses at Kāhili Quarry are proposed (see page 4).

Public Open Houses

Share your comments and thoughts with us at one of the following open house meetings or submit written comments to the Refuge (see page 6 for contacts). Your participation is critical to the success of this effort.

Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2015
Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Place: Kīlauea Neighborhood Center
 2460 Keneke Street
 Kīlauea, HI 96754

Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2015
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Place: Kīlauea Elementary School
 2440 Kolo Road
 Kīlauea, HI 96754

emerge from the Final CCP. The study will provide recommendations on how to implement components, such as coordination with other entities, and service planning necessary for any proposed shuttle services.

The chief distinctions of Alternative C are the construction of a new visitor welcome and orientation center and maintenance facilities on the southwestern corner of Crater Hill, the use of a shuttle system to provide public access to the Point and Overlook during open public hours, and the addition of guided interpretive hikes on Crater Hill.

Under the preferred Alternative D, new facilities would be constructed off of current Refuge lands but within one mile of the established boundary to facilitate public use, visitor access, information, and orientation; provide public parking; and function as the administrative office and maintenance baseyard. Existing structures would be remodeled and/or converted for EE, interpretation, or office use. Similar to Alternative C, no private vehicles would be allowed on the Point; a shuttle system would provide public access during open hours. Since these actions are addressed at a conceptual level within the Draft CCP/EA, more detailed land acquisition planning, facility and transit system design, and appropriate evaluations and documentation would be required.

Draft CCP/EA Alternatives Comparison Table

Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Restore Native Ecosystems; Maintain Visitor Center on the Point)	Alternative C (Restore Native Ecosystems; Build Visitor Center on Crater Hill)	Alternative D (Preferred – Restore Native Ecosystems; Move Visitor Center Off-Refuge Nearby)
Habitat Management			
Manage 40–50 acres of coastal mixed woodland-grassland habitat for seabirds	Manage 97 acres and enhance 2–5 acres per year (within the 97 acres), including additional strategies for reduction of pest ironwood and other species, small-scale outplanting of native plants, and exploring expansion of or separate additions to the Nihoku Ecosystem Restoration Project		
Manage 27 acres of coastal grasslands for nene	Manage 32–34 acres and enhance 5–7 acres per year (within the 32–34 acres), including additional strategies for rehabilitating and maintaining the irrigation system at Crater Hill for native plant establishment and enhancing grasslands with native shrubland plant communities for nēnē		
Protect 59 acres of sea cliff and beach habitat	In addition to Alternative A, stabilize areas of accelerated erosion based on a road and trail assessment		
Sustain/expand current distribution of seabirds (e.g., through the use of social attraction)	In addition to Alternative A, explore re-establishing populations of extirpated seabirds (e.g., determine feasibility of potential ‘a’o chick translocation)		
Restore/enhance 3–5 acres of native coastal plant communities	Restore/enhance 10–30 acres		
Monitoring and Research			
Monitor birds and conduct inventories as needed	Re-evaluate, develop, and implement a prioritized and expanded inventory and monitoring program within regional framework		
Conduct research and scientific assessments on priority species or issues	Develop a collaborative research program for priority research projects and scientific assessments that directly support management objectives		
Visitor Information, Orientation, and Access			
Redesign and enhance Overlook to provide greater orientation and information; re-examine site layout and move some functions off the Point	Same as Alternative A, except remodel existing visitor center (VC) for either EE or new interpretive exhibits and displays and maintain bookstore onsite	Establish new visitor welcome and orientation center on the Refuge at southwestern corner of Crater Hill	Same as Alternative C, except establish new visitor welcome and orientation center off the Refuge (adjacent or within one mile)
Improve traffic flow in the existing parking areas and better delineate parking spaces	Same as Alternative A, except provide optional shuttle from the Overlook to the Point; increase public parking onsite; improve traffic flow at the Overlook and add public/tour bus stop, shuttle stop, bike parking	Institute mandatory shuttle (no private vehicles); acquire and gate portion of Kilauea Road from new visitor welcome and orientation center; improve traffic flow at the Overlook and add shuttle stop, bike parking	Same as Alternative C, except acquire and gate portion of Kilauea Road from new visitor welcome and orientation center only if adjacent to Refuge
Environmental Education			
Enhance partnerships; interns and volunteers help to deliver programs	In addition to Alternative A, develop Junior Ranger program; provide teacher workshops; convert an existing structure to designated EE facility/facilities		

Draft CCP/EA Alternatives Comparison Table, continued

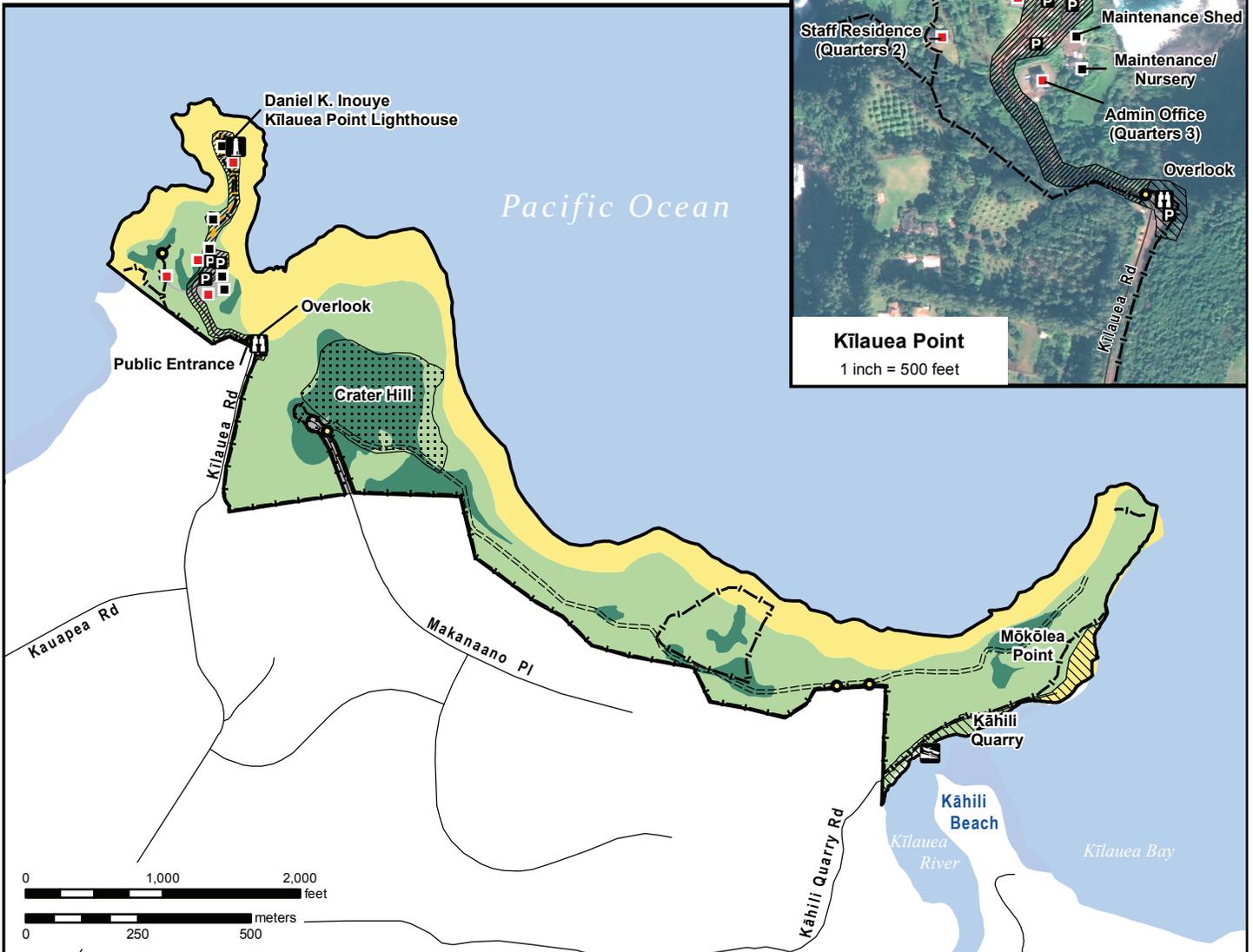
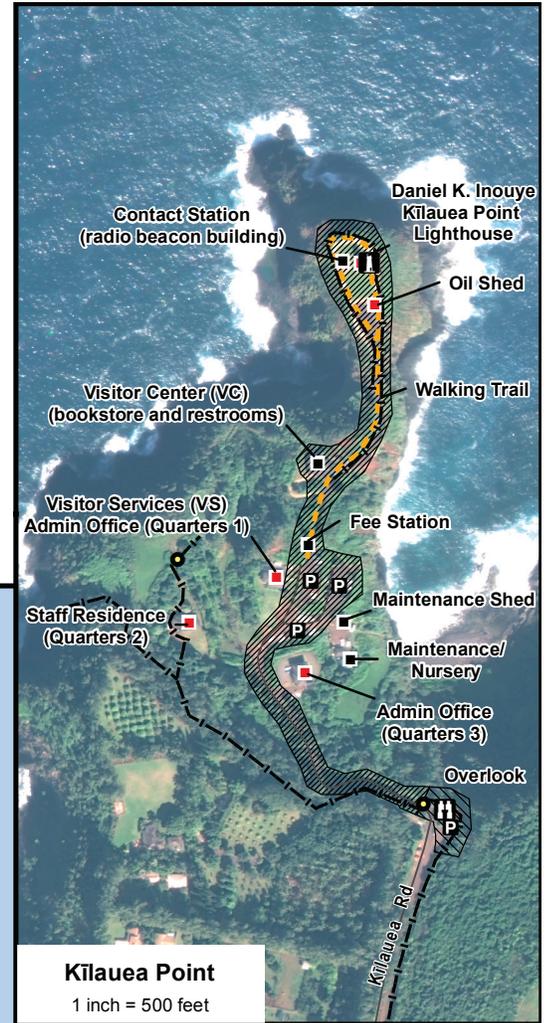
Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Environmental Interpretation			
Continue to provide limited guided interpretive activities; expand opportunities to provide limited access to the interior of the Lighthouse; enhance partnerships	In addition to Alternative A, remodel existing VC; explore converting current visitor services (VS) office (Quarters #1) to other functions; remodel Contact Station	Same as Alternative B, except increase number of guided interpretive activities; offer guided interpretive hikes on Crater Hill; move bookstore to new visitor welcome and orientation center; expand Contact Station to allow for more scenic viewing	
Wildlife Observation and Photography			
Provide viewing scopes and binoculars; work with partners	In addition to Alternative A, expand citizen science opportunities	Same as Alternative B, except offer guided interpretive hikes on Crater Hill; expand opportunities (e.g., workshops, activities)	
Kāhili Quarry Uses			
Allow 24-hour fishing and general access to off-Refuge nonwildlife-dependent uses; maintain passable road to beach and shoreline; post boundary; replace existing fence; explore possibility of cooperatively managing tidelands with State	In addition to Alternative A, implement new stipulations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allowing anglers to erect temporary shelters (protections from the sun and/or rain) in the quarry area during daylight hours only - Allowing anglers to bring and use portable stoves or self-contained barbecues, but not build ground fires or fires in fire rings or pits - Allowing access to Kāhili Beach, Kīlauea Bay and the Kīlauea River through the Kāhili Quarry area from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily - Requiring all dogs brought into the quarry area to be to be leashed on a short (8 foot maximum) leash or kept in a secure, enclosed pen or crate at all times and would not be allowed to run free 		
Outreach, Volunteers, and Friends Group			
Conduct outreach with target audiences	In addition to Alternative A, encourage staff training and engagement		
Continue coordination with Kīlauea Point Natural History Association; improve volunteer materials	In addition to Alternative A, expand to at least 200 volunteers; develop program to focus on natural resource management; implement a training program; host at least two community work days per year		
Cultural and Historic Resources			
Prepare cultural resource overview and conduct archival research and communication with Native Hawaiian organizations, historical institutions, and other preservation partners			
Continue to maintain, restore, and interpret the Kīlauea Point Light Station	In addition to Alternative A, develop an outreach program		
Operations			
Enhance existing maintenance/facility areas and provide protected area for machines/vehicles; pursue offsite parking for staff and volunteers	Same as Alternative A, except remodel existing maintenance/facility areas; remodel and relocate administrative and VS offices to Quarters #2 and #3	Include administrative offices in new visitor welcome and orientation center; remodel Quarters #3 for basic administrative and volunteer offices; build new maintenance baseyard on SW corner of Crater Hill	Same as Alternative C except build new maintenance baseyard off the Refuge
Law Enforcement			
Continue to work with law enforcement partners	In addition to Alternative A, develop law enforcement monitoring system; develop outreach tools; provide workshops and training		

Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge

Reference Map (Current Management)

LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Refuge Ownership | | Fence |
| | Open Tuesday-Saturday, 10-4 | | Gate |
| | Open to Public | | Service Road (Refuge Use) |
| | Limited (Special Use) | | Roads |
| | Refuge Buildings | Habitat Type | |
| | Historic Refuge Buildings | | Coastal Grassland |
| | Kīlauea Point Lighthouse | | Coastal Mixed Woodland-Grassland |
| | Unimproved Boat Launch | | Low Intensity Developed |
| | Parking Lot | | Sea Cliff/Beach Strand |
| | Overlook | | Ocean and Waterways |
| | Lighthouse Path | | |





Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 1128
Kīlauea, HI 96754

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES
February 24 and 25, 2015

Please Join Us!

See page 2 for details.

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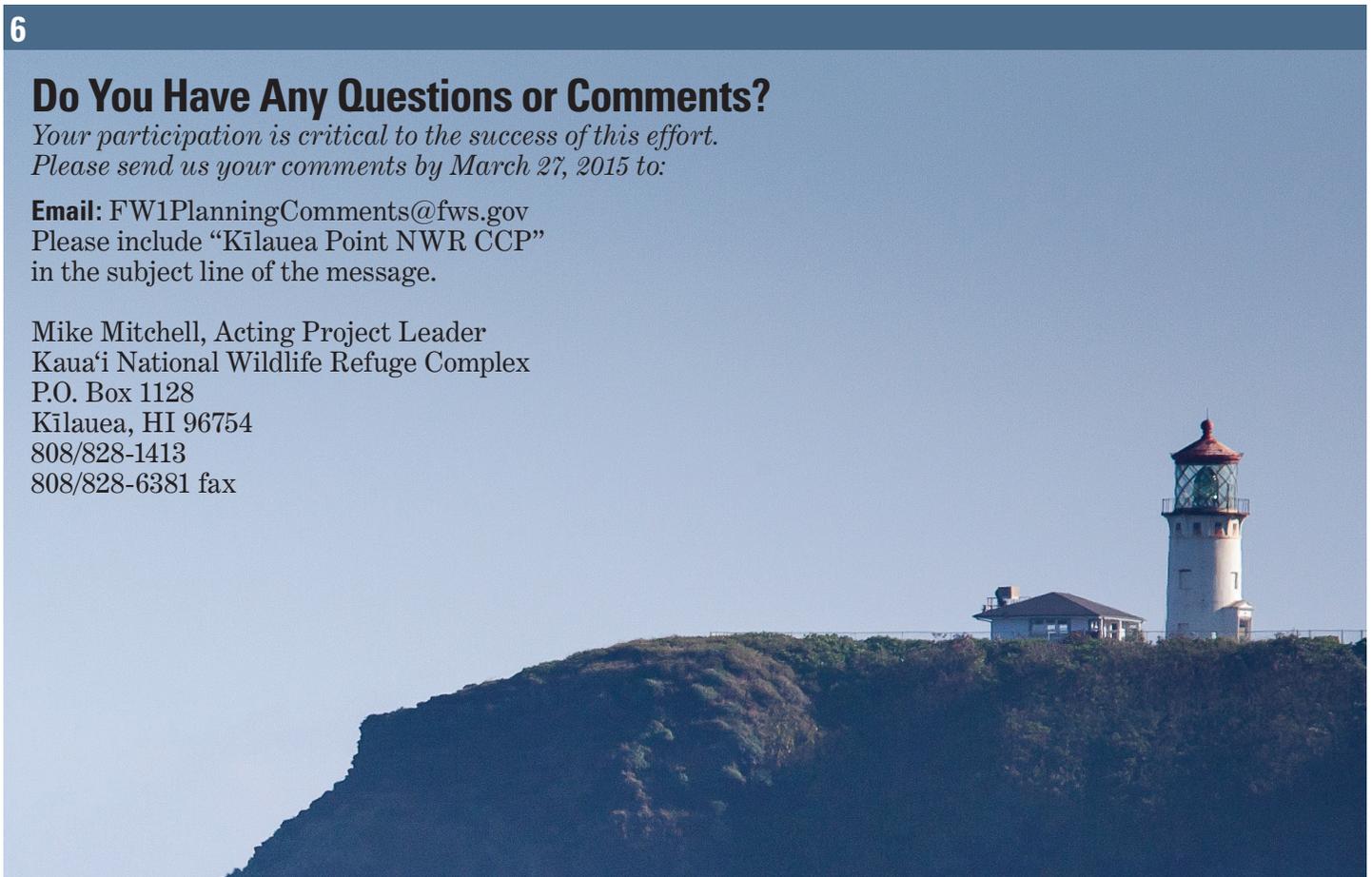
Do You Have Any Questions or Comments?

Your participation is critical to the success of this effort.

Please send us your comments by March 27, 2015 to:

Email: FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov
Please include “Kīlauea Point NWR CCP”
in the subject line of the message.

Mike Mitchell, Acting Project Leader
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P.O. Box 1128
Kīlauea, HI 96754
808/828-1413
808/828-6381 fax



Daniel K. Inouye Kīlauea Point Lighthouse