



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: Install Fence at Upper Elevations of Nu'u

PEPC Project Number: 61189

Description of Action (Project Description):

The National Park Service (NPS) in partnership and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) proposes to protect 2,100 acres of habitat for native species on the leeward Haleakalā slope by building a fence to control exotic/non-native feral animals. Approximately 5.5 miles of fence will be installed.

The area would include a large portion of the Nu'u parcel of Haleakalā National Park (HNP), and is targeted at providing additional breeding and nesting habitat for endangered 'ua'u (Hawaiian petrel, *Pterodroma sandwichensis*).

Approximately 5.5 miles of ungulate control fence will be installed. The area is remote and preparation of land for fence line will be limited to clearing of vegetation by hand. Large-scale ground leveling will not occur. The fence will be installed in sections that will be connected to create one continuous fence. The first section of fence will be on the east side of the proposed project area and be approximately 3.2 miles long. The fence will run basically north-south from 7,650 ft. elevation, where it will connect to the existing HNP ungulate control fence, down to approximately 1,500 ft. The fence then will run approximately east-west (depending on topography) between 1,500 ft. and 1,250 ft. for approximately 0.8 miles and then approximately north-south again from 1,400 ft. to 1,700 ft. The remaining western portion will consist of an additional 1.5 miles of fence and utilize a natural barrier to animal movement (steep cliffs 0.26 miles long). The western portion of fence will connect to an existing ungulate control fence within the Kahikihui Forest Reserve just below 4,800 ft. elevation.

The ungulate control fence will be just over 6 ft. tall with 8 ft. galvanized T-posts placed approximately 1.5 ft. underground and 10 ft. apart. The fence will consist of a 75 inch hogwire fence placed on the posts with a 4 ft. hogwire apron connected to the bottom. The hogwire apron will be located on the outside of the enclosure and will close the gap between the bottom of the fence and the uneven terrain. Approximately 3 ft. of vegetation will be cut back on both sides of the fence line for installation. Tools that will be used for the installation of the ungulate control fence and other infrastructure improvements include, but are not limited to: post pounder, post puller, come-along, fence stretcher, chainsaw, rock drill, machete, hammers, axe, pulaski, shovels and other digging devices, and augers. Installation of the fence will require pounding in metal t-posts, drilling through rock, digging holes, and mixing cement.

Vehicles will transport personnel and materials to a staging area (referred to as Nu'u Base) located approximately 0.5 miles up the dirt road from Pi'ilani Highway. Personnel and materials will be transported from Nu'u Base to various pre-defined drop locations via helicopter. Contractors and the NPS staff would install the ungulate control fence beginning in Spring 2016.

Beside installation of fence, infrastructure improvements associated with the project include: minimal maintenance to the existing dirt road; minimal improvements to existing helicopter landing zones (LZ); installation and removal of temporary shelters; improvements to and installation of water catchment systems; and installation of a remote automated weather station (RAWS). These infrastructure improvements are necessary to support the installation and maintenance of the ungulate control fence.

Project Locations:

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Location Nu'u

County: Maui

State: HI

Mitigation(s):

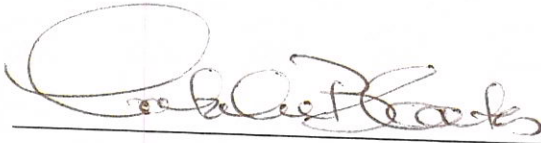
- Avoiding u'au burrows and plants of special concern during construction
- Inspection of fence material prior to installation

CE Citation: C.17 Construction of fencing enclosures or boundary fencing posing no effect on wildlife migrations.

Decision: I find that the action fits within the categorical exclusion above. Therefore, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No extraordinary circumstances apply.

Signature

Superintendent:



Natalie B. Gates

Date:

11/23/15