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JOHN WAIHEE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
P. O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

WILLIAM W. PATY, CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DEPUTIES

JOHN P. KEPPELER, II
DONA L. HANAÏKE

RECEIVED

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OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY CONTROL

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
AQUATIC RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
CONVEYANCES FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
LAND MANAGEMENT
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION
STATE PARKS
WATER AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

MAR 10 1992

DOFAW

Mr. Brian Choy, Director
Office of Environmental Quality Control
465 South King Street, Room 104
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Choy:

Attached is a Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife's agency action determination of Negative Declaration for a cabin and trail construction in the Kahikinui Forest Reserve, Maui.

We are submitting this declaration for action as required in Environmental Quality Commission - Environmental Impact Statement Regulations.

Very truly yours,

William W. Paty
WILLIAM W. PATY

Enclosure

cc: Maui District
DWRM

70

1992-03-23-MA-PEA-Kahikinui Forest Reserve MAR 23 1992
Development of trail and cabin

DETERMINATION NOTICE OF NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TRAIL AND CABIN,
KAHIKINUI FOREST RESERVE, MAUI

I. Proposing Agency

State of Hawaii
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Maui District

II. Approving Agency

Department of Land and Natural Resources

III. INTRODUCTION

Historically, the Kahikinui Forest Reserve established in 1928 consisted of some 17,590 acres. However, through the years lands were withdrawn, leaving only the 3,531-acre State-owned lands designated as the Kahikinui Forest Reserve.

Although the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands withdrew 7,049 acres of land from the forest reserve status, the Department of Land and Natural Resources has maintained public access through the area under an informal agreement. Adjoining the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands land to the east is the State-owned Kahikinui Forest Reserve.

Recreation in the Kahikinui Forest Reserve consists primarily of public hunting with limited use by hikers and horseback riders. An extended trail system will provide excellent opportunities to further these activities in the forest reserve. The primary action necessary will be a development project for trails, trail cabin with water storage tank to provide shelter to protect campers and to encourage overnight visits in the more remote sectors of the forest reserve.

IV. Agencies Consulted in Making Assessment

Division of Land Management, Maui
Na Ala Hele
Natural Areas Reserve System
Aquatic and Wildlife Advisory Committee, Maui County.

V. General Description of the Actions Technical, Economic, Social and Environmental Characteristics

Act 316, Item H-2 of the 1989 regular Legislative Session appropriated \$88,000.00 for the construction of a trail cabin and a trail system in the remote eastern section of the State-owned Kahikinui Forest Reserve. The capital improvement is planned to proceed first with the construction of a rustic cabin with a water storage tank followed by the trail system work.

The forest reserve has game mammals such as feral goats (Capra hircus), and pigs (Sus scrofu), and game birds including ring-necked pheasants (Phasianus colchicus), chukar (Alectoris chukar) and Japanese quail (Coturnix japonicus). Hunting of these game species are regulated under the Division of Forestry and Wildlife public hunting administrative rules. The feral goats and pigs inhabiting the eastern sector of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve are subjected to light hunter pressure due to the remoteness of the area that lack defined access routes and protective shelter. Access through good trails with a shelter for protection in the eastern section will be the key to adequate recreational distribution. The trail cabin will make it possible for public hunters to remain in the field for longer periods of time in pursuit of goats and pigs, thus increasing harvest.

The proposed development should attract other recreationists to visit the forest reserve. Since recreationists would travel from different areas of Maui, businesses along the route to Kahikinui would benefit.

VI Summary Description of the Affected Environment, Including Suitable and Adequate Location and Site Maps

The proposed development project will occur in the State-Owned Kahikinui Forest Reserve located on the south slope of Haleakala. The 3,531-acre forest reserve is adjacent to Haleakala National Park along the south rim of the crater. Downslope, the forest reserve is bordered by a private ranch. The forest reserve ranges from about 3,200 feet elevation on the eastern boundary to better than 9,000 feet in the upper elevation and is characterized by steep slopes (40 to 50 percent) and dissected by deep gulches (EXHIBITS B and D).

Soils in the Kahikinui Forest Reserve is very shallow, either cindery, barren recent lava flow, and older lava flow with vegetation, steep rockland and rock outcropping. The higher elevation is relatively dry with most of the rainfall occurring below 6,000 feet elevation.

VII. Identification and Summary of Major Impacts Alternatives Considered, If Any

Short-term adverse effects of the proposed project are related to the understandable conditions which will exist during the progress of the work. There will be noise generated during site preparation, delivery of prefab materials by helicopter and construction, but since the project site is far removed from residential areas, residents should be unaffected. Site preparation will consist of removal of primarily introduced grasses during the footing excavation for the 12 feet by 16 feet cabin. Trail construction will involve grubbing, hand-grading and leveling to provide firm ground surface for foot travel. Through the brush-grassland, mostly grasses will be removed during trail work and at higher elevations, there will be grading and leveling of cinder and rocky surfaces. A limited amount of oil and lubricants and exhaust fumes from small construction equipment. There will be a 16 feet long footing excavation for the cabin.

The footing will be set with a single course of eight-inch center blocks. Vegetation removed during excavation of the footing will involve primarily introduced grasses. Trails will be constructed approximately four to five feet wide, avoiding the removal of any native shrub or trees. Grading of trails on steep slopes, will slope down to reduce gully erosion. Disturbance to wildlife in area will be minimal during construction. All of these adverse effects will dissipate once the construction phase is completed and conditions stabilize following the development.

VIII. Proposed Mitigation Measures, If Any

The proposed development will involve the pre-fabrication of the 16 feet by 12 feet cabin at the baseyard and later airlifted to the project site by helicopter. The pre-fab work will greatly decrease the construction time spent in the forest reserve, thus reducing prolonged disturbance in the area. Trail construction work will be with hand tools making clearing and grading more controlled, minimizing the possibility of damages.

IX. Determination

That a Negative Declaration is appropriate for this project.

X. Findings and Reasons Supporting Determination

Game mammals, particularly feral goats, are subjected to very limited hunting pressure in the more remote eastern sector of the Kahikinui Forest Reserve. The proposed development project will provide good access trails

and a shelter for protection making it possible for recreational hunters to enter the area and prolong the hunting trips. The project will also be the key for adequate hunter distribution in the area. A year-round daily hunting season for feral goats with a bag limit of two goats per hunter per day is the management plan. Increased harvest of goats in the remote areas will benefit the recovery of vegetation in the eastern sector. Other recreational activities that are sure to increase will be hiking, camping and horseback riding.

XI. Agencies to be Consulted in the Preparation of the E.I.S., if applicable

Department of Land and Natural Resources
Maui County Aquatic Life and Wildlife Advisory Committee
Maui County Public Works Department
Office of Environmental Quality Control
Soil Conservation Service
The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii
Haleakala National Park Service