

**DRAFT MINUTES OF ENHANCEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING of the
NATURAL AREA RESERVES SYSTEM COMMISSION (NARSC) January 20,
2010, Honolulu**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Trae Menard
Mr. Ronald Rapanot
Dr. John Sinton
Dr. Flint Hughes

STAFF:

Ms. Emma Yuen, DOFAW
Mr. Bill Evanson, DOFAW
Mr. Ian Cole (via speakerphone), DOFAW
Mr. Michael Wysong, DOFAW
Dr. Dave Leonard, DOFAW
Mr. Michael Constantinides, DOFAW

VISITORS:

Ms. Jody Kaulukukui, The Nature Conservancy
Mr. John Henshaw, The Nature Conservancy
Mr. Jim Kraus (via speakerphone), Fish and Wildlife Service

ITEM 1. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 am.

ITEM 3. Discussion of Waiea, Hawaii, and acquisition of adjacent land for conservation purposes: Staff Yuen discussed the proposed acquisition of state owned land, Waiea in South Kona on McCandless Ranch and possible acquisitions of Honokua from McCandless in Conservation Lots 11 and 10. The Enhancement Subcommittee has previously identified this area of Waiea as a biologically important area. There has been discussion of if the two lots were acquired what we could do with the Waiea tract which is in the middle and is currently leased to McCandless on a month-to-month pasture lease. We would like to see if there could be a more large-scale conservation designation of this area. We are trying to talk about this parcel now because it might strengthen the case to acquire the McCandless parcel. It could show that it could be contiguous with other conservation designations and would strengthen the natural health of the area. The land is currently State land, 1260 acres, elevation is between 1600 and 6000 feet. Waiea is at the top and below are two triangular parcels that are unencumbered state lands and further down are two private lands are sandwiched in with areas that are currently part of the South Kona Forest Reserve.

One reason why the area is important is because it is adjacent to the Hakalau-Kona Unit of the Refuge. At lower elevations, the area consists of an ohia forest, with ohia-koa with mixed native fern understory in higher elevations, and a dry ohia forest with sandalwood and mamane at highest elevations. This area was designated as a Refuge to preserve the bird populations since it was a former primary habitat for alala and also for other types of endangered species such as akepa, Hawaii honeycreeper, etc. There are numerous non-

native plant threats and there are still feral cattle, pigs, and sheep present in the area. Currently there is a cattle fence on the Kona units southern boundary and there is a project to build a fence around the entire unit.

Mr. Kraus pointed out that the acquisition offers an opportunity of incorporating additional acres that the combination of the Kona forest unit, the Waiea tract, and parcels 10 and 11 of McCandless would push the whole area to over 9000 acres. This could be fenced and we could remove ungulates from the entire area. We still have not fenced the Kona unit. We have funding to get that done and get the project started within the next year. The long-term value of the area is greatly enhanced by the potential for an expansion. We are very interested in the McCandless parcels but if we could ensure that the Waiea tract between was managed in a way that was consistent with what we do in the Refuge it would work much better. We are hoping to work very closely with the State so that ultimately we have, even if we need a management agreement of some sort, a parcel in which what we are trying to do with the Refuge is consistent with what would be done with Waiea. Obviously we think there is a high value for forest birds and a lot of listed plant species on the landscape or that could be outplanted. It's an opportunity for the State and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to work closely together. We're fortunate that we have a willing seller with McCandless. It's so close to an existing Refuge that trying to expand it in that circumstance is the kind of thing that we are really interested in pursuing and we are keenly interested in supporting the acquisition of the Waiea tract.

Staff Yuen asked if there were other management proposals being considered in addition to the possibility for fencing, outplanting and protecting forest birds. Mr. Kraus replied that the primary goal is to get the area fenced and getting ungulate control efforts underway. They have ownership of the land for over a decade and are just getting started and are anxious to get fencing and ungulate control underway. Then they can then get outplanting efforts underway. We have the same objective with the McCandless parcel. Weed control will be an important part of future management, but fencing and ungulate control is the primary concern. Weed control at the lower elevations is already a concern on the Kona unit. Funding and staffing will be a major determinant on what gets done and it will need to be a cooperative effort. We will certainly pursue funding and may possibly contract some of the work since there is no staff over there at this point. This is all dependent on ability of funding and staffing the refuge.

Ms. Kaulukukui, representing The Nature Conservancy (TNC), stated that TNC is involved in an "assist" to help McCandless and FWS to work together to get the purchase for FWS and that TNC is trying to get federal funding so that this can happen. Part of the main issue is that the main access going up weaves in and out of the Waiea tract. We need to resolve what would happen with that access to all parties involved. Any kind of state designation of Waiea would be better than month-to-month leasing by McCandless. TNC would be willing to hold a lease and manage the Waiea piece until such a designation is made. TNC is willing to work with FWS management now since designation may take a while. Ms. Kaulukukui was uncertain on how much a lease would cost. Mr. Kraus stated that the key thing on the overall proposal is that they work it out in a favorable way with the State.

Roger Imoto, who was unable to attend the meeting, expressed interest in DOFAW management of Waiea; favoring the designation as a forest bird sanctuary (FBS) as it is something that would seem consistent with the FWS designation. He thought that that would also be consistent with fencing the area and doing that type of forest bird management.

Member Menard asked if the point of this discussion was then to determine whether to designate the area as a Natural Area Reserve (NAR) or Wildlife Sanctuary (WS). Staff Yuen replied that we are trying to determine possible designations and how to best see that these resources are protected and what works with access to the area. This area has been determined as a biologically important area and so we need to discuss the area.

Staff Cole has surveyed in the Koa refuge with BRD and others and thought the Waiea proper is probably similar and that this area is very unique and feels very strongly that the area should be given a higher consideration as a NAR than a FBS because NAR management strategy is in line with the Refuge goals and could be a good partner with FWS in managing the area to become a native ecosystem. He noted that NAR would be more capable in helping with fencing because of their skill set and current finances. He believes they could be a good partner with FWS and could help bridge the gap of Waiea. He thinks they have the same goals for the area between the Refuge and the new parcels should they get them. Staff Cole noted that the area is more of a leeward wet forest, making it a unique area quite a bit different from Kipahohoe.

Staff Yuen, speaking for Jim Jacobi, noted that he was also in favor of the area becoming a NAR but also noted that the new WS rules are stronger. Also, Staff Yuen stated that Randy Kennedy felt that either option worked, but favored Wildlife Sanctuary because he felt it was consistent with the adjacent Refuge designation. Speaking for Roger Imoto, Staff Yuen stated that Imoto felt that because the land is adjacent to FWS Refuge, a Forest Bird Sanctuary it is most appropriate as a WS under DOFAW and that he feels that NARS does not need more representation of the area. Imoto said that birds need more habitat and that a WS would be okay with the proposed fencing or conservation management and that we missed an opportunity before for co-management with FWS in fencing since it wasn't under DOFAW.

Member Menard stated that we could still apply the same NAR skill set whether it's a NAR or a WS. Staff Cole replied that if it became a WS, he doesn't believe NAR staff should spend as much time in the area because running of the area will not be under their command and if NAR is giving support, it should be a NAR designation. If it did not, there is always the possibility that NAR staff could stop investing in the area unexpectedly. Staff Cole personally believes that the area should be a NAR in which they don't control all of the cards, but we have more of the final say. He noted that if NAR is providing the labor, it should be a NAR.

Staff Leonard would like DOFAW to combine the NAR with a WS because he feels that they are very compatible in management. He also agrees with Staff Cole because they

are the people that are in the field. As a wildlife administrator, he notes that the money may not be available to take on another project.

Staff Constantinides mentioned that the road being a primary access will have to be addressed and will have to be managed for continued use by McCandless. If an easement will be needed for access is not allowed for the McCandlesses, they could potentially bulldoze their own road. Personnel need to make sure that within their statute of the rules, this access is compatible. Ms. Kaulukukui agreed and noted that the access jogs in and out of the Waiea boundary between McCandless and Waiea land and that the McCandlesses have legal access to lots 11 and 10. This is not on the ground but exists on paper. This is their land and they could bulldoze it if they wanted to. She notes that if they are cut off from the access they would have no other choice than to bulldoze through lots 11 and 10 which are pretty nice forests. Staff Cole noted that there have been several road easements through the NARs (ie. Kipahoehoe) so this could be likely be worked into the agreement.

Mr. Kraus clarified that he thought the best solution was some kind of cooperative management approach in which DOFAW and FWS would help each other out in whatever areas had greatest need. Staff Leonard clarified that if FWS were going to fence the whole thing, DOFAW would basically only be in for the makai portion of the Waiea tract because we are sandwiched between the refuge and McCandless parcels. Mr. Kraus responded that this was correct and that they would pursue funding to get the two parcels fenced though they are not limited by that because if they are working together with cooperation from the State, they would try to pursue whatever funding they needed for the whole area.

TNC has put in a request for FY11 federal funding from the Land and Water Conservation Plan for the McCandless piece that was last appraised at \$10 million. The McCandless family is willing to accept an offer and want to work with FWS. Two separated pieces don't make much sense but still strengthens case. The Waiea tract in between the parcels would make the conservation designation contiguous and acquiring it would make for a much stronger argument for acquisition funding.

Staff Yuen remarked that the Waiea tract is 10-22 inches wetter than Kipahoehoe and that there are some endangered species that are not represented in any NAR. Thus, she concluded that the area is unique enough to add into the NAR.

However, the question was posed that since cattle have extensively lived on the land wasn't the area likely to be highly degraded and is the quality up to standard for a NAR? Paul [Conry] will likely be the decider on whether the area becomes a NAR or WS. Since TNC is willing to fund the lease for several months, a decision is likely to be reached.

Staff Evanson recently went through a similar case and that that case went to Paul with the recommendation that a portion is a NAR and the rest was FWS. Staff Evanson stated that Paul has a role, but ultimately the District needs to own the area first. Staff Evanson

encourages the District to hold discussions because it was found very helpful with the Maui acquisition.

Staff Cole stated that he has not had a meeting with the District, but that Nick [Agorastos] made a site visit and he felt the District wanted the area to be a FBS. Staff Cole reiterated that he feels the area should be a NAR and believes it needs further discussion. Staff Yuen replied that after talking to Roger [Imoto], it seemed like everyone had consensus that it should be a FBS.

It was asked if, for purposes of strengthening the proposal, DOFAW could state interest in it becoming a sanctuary and work it out at the Branch level first to see what the best approach is?

Staff Evanson replied that we should let the Branch run through discussions on restoration, fencing, weed control, ungulate removal, etc of the area. He stated that how this would make the question arise of how they are going to do this, and will thus get the District to make a decision. Member Hughes believes that a timetable with a set of actions laid out is necessary.

TNC's world-wide decision will be completed in March. The sooner this acquisition decision is made, the better. Within the next sixty days would be ideal. At least being vague on the timetable for now would be helpful. Any information to pass along would help. Staff Cole replied that the NARS fencing and ungulate control is already able to assist and that FWS seems to want to get something done. Staff Cole would like the Commission to decide what the area should be and to help this along if it will be a NAR.

Mr. Kraus inquired about how a NAR and a WS differed in levels of protection and public use. Staff Yuen replied that a NAR is open unless closed by the Commission and BLNR recommendation for only two years at a time and then has to be renewed. Staff Leonard inserted that he is pretty sure that there is no hunting allowed in a WS, but that it is allowed in a NAR. Staff Cole also commented that there is no collection of plant material and that permits are required for scientific research in a NAR. Mr. Kraus noted that a NAR makes the area automatically closed and needs a formal proposal to open to public use. He doesn't anticipate opening the Kona unit to public use. Staff Cole has periodically closed areas to public hunting depending on management actions. There has from management actions such as safety issues due to lethal cable snares. Staff Cole would like to liberalize public hunting further to aid in ungulate control efforts.

Staff Evanson added that "uniqueness" to the system is the key to an adding area to the NARS. Staff Evanson stated that the WS has wildlife as its main focus, while the NARS has a more ecosystem-wide approach, but that the work both would end up doing is pretty much the same thing and that both would be eliminating the threats to the natural resources found there. He noted that if public access were to go up to the boundary, and that rules do not prevent people from entering the area, NARS would not be able to prevent people from coming into the parcel, though as a Refuge, it could be enforced, and

is a big difference from a NWR. He also added that not discussing this with the District will make acquisition a lot more difficult.

John Henshaw, from TNC, has been negotiating with the McCandless family for 6 years. Mr. Henshaw stated the acquisition issue controls the access issue. The area has never been open to hunting. The area has been under lease to the McCandless Ranch until just a few years ago when they dropped that lease and just went to an access road lease. The family has no interest in public access, but is fine with selling the rights to anything associated with the FWS. They are also open to public entering if they are with the FW staff. The access issue is also really interested in the access issue. Currently, the Forest Legacy is trying to acquire the upper lots of the McCandless Ranch. The long-term concept is to get the whole McCandless Ranch under some type of conservation easement so that at some point we have a fairly large unit of Kona forest that could really add conservation value to the area.

Member Menard would like to at least consider the area as a NAR, but asks whether it would be easier to manage as a NAR or a WS. He also asked which would make the management actions easier to move forward on without much controversy? If a case can be made that a NAR would make it easier to manage, and if it is likely that NAR staff will be working in the area, then he thinks it should become a NAR. Mr. Henshaw thought that if FWS could manage the area for the NARS, it would relieve some of the management costs. TNC could take an interim lease and then the ungulate removal process could begin so that at least by the time it became a part of the System, it could be further along. Member Hughes was under the impression that designating it as a NAR would make management more straightforward and easier and that we should get a solid timeline and start moving forward. Staff Menard agreed that we should at least show support for the area becoming a NAR (if it is easier to manage) so that when Staff Cole talks to Roger from the DOFAW branch, he could at least say that the NARS Commission believes it is a good idea.

Mr. Henshaw noted that the area has had a 50-year lease to for ranching and wondered if this area was NARS quality. He thinks that NAR personnel need to do a site visit to see if the area is of suitable quality. Staff Evanson replied that even if it may have lots of weeds, it might qualify because it is a representative of the best of what is left. Member Menard felt that even if it isn't up to NAR standards, the fact that the parcel is between to areas that will be managed/are high quality forests makes the context good and may offset any downsides of poor conditions.

The area is currently DLNR leased land with land division designation. If it became a NAR or a WS it would automatically become part of TMA because it is part of the watershed partnership area. Staff Evanson noted that the area could become unencumbered within a month.

Mr. Henshaw feels that it is critical to bring the landowner into discussion on access issues. Mr. Henshaw stated that they do in fact have a position and that is that they need permanent access and have legal access to plow a road. Thus, he argues that it would be

best to do a permanent lease for access to their property. Mr. Henshaw clarified that the key is negotiation and a working relationship with the family, stating that they have been disgruntled before and have locked up the land. Henshaw suggested that the committee should invite Keith Unger, the ranch manager, to the Big Island meeting.

Staff Evanson noted that the District likes to talk amongst themselves before bringing in anyone from the outside. Shortly thereafter, other important parties need to be included. The initial meeting amongst the Staff can talk about the need to bring them in and how the others feel.

Staff Yuen rephrased where the meeting was leading and concluded to have another meeting with the branch and possible internal meeting and other key stakeholders to talk about fencing, weed control, access issues, differences between NAR and WS, and if it would be easier to manage if it were a NAR or FBS.

Member Hughes felt that if Staff Cole is going to approach DOFAW staff about the parcel becoming a NAR, he needs some support from at least the subcommittee or commission. Flint recommended pursuing the proposition of the area becoming a NAR and that the committee needs to decide the pieces and parties of making it go forward.

Mr. Henshaw noted that TNC might be able to do a partnership with FWS much easier because they could do an interim or long-term lease. He felt that the key is that the division of the property is the same among all parties and that we keep the area a large, intact unit that is managed for native forests and bird sanctuary. He brought up the question of which way can you best set up the best partnership with FWS to meet management needs and acquire funding.

Staff Evanson thought that by it being a WS you don't have to worry about the representativeness qualifications and that a FBS would be better able to acquire funding because it clearly shows that birds are the focus. Staff Leonard replied that the NAR program currently receives about one million dollars annually in forest bird work across all of the Islands and that there are additional opportunities here and there for competitive grants. Staff Cole thought that a long-term TNC lease was out of the realm of possibilities because Land Division is trying to get rid of all of their leases. The area needs a designation otherwise it will become DOA land or something else.

Member Hughes felt that the opportunity for partnerships between neighboring parcels would be outstanding. He noted the need to work with family and not give the impression that we are forcing the issue.

Mr. Henshaw mentioned starting to manage the land that would be sold to FWS in partnership with TNC now. Henshaw would like to start applying for fencing before FWS even takes over. If a partnership is formed with the State, he stated that they could use a lot less fence (~1/4 less). He continued that if they can get the area fenced and wild cattle out (which there is a lot of), they would be able to get the land to a point that when FWS buys it, it will already be moving towards goals. He concluded that the stronger the

area looks, the better it will be for acquiring funds. Mr. Henshaw has two maps and write-ups of meetings on the area that detail parcel history and access. Staff Cole does not believe that there is a difference in funding depending on a NAR or FBS designation. He believes that the key issue is the support of the State and a willing seller.

Member Menard would like another discussion before the designation of the area and Staff Yuen said that if DOFAW wants land to be a NAR, will go straight to Commission and Subcommittee will not need to meet again. If not, will need to meet again.

Staff Yuen made recommendations from summarizing the meeting: (1) set-up a meeting with Big Island DOFAW (internal first and then with land owners over proposal), (2) NAR Subcommittee is in support of the designation of Waiea as a Reserve because it will ease management, (3) should have DOFAW Branch meeting before March deadline.

Staff Evanson suggested that it should be phrased that the NARS Subcommittee supports the designation and would like the Commission to discuss the arrangement.

ITEM 2. Approval of Minutes of the August 25, 2009 NARSC Enhancement Subcommittee Meeting.

MOTION: Rapanot/Sinton moved to approve minutes of the August 25 NARSC Enhancement Subcommittee Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 4. Enhancement: Recommend opportunities or strategies for conservation management and designation of Biologically Important Areas statewide: The meeting focused on Kauai (Kalalau Back Pali, North of Kuia surrounded by Na Pali FR) since Mike Wysong, a Kauai representative, was present. This region consists of a mesic/wet mixed forest that supports seabird habitat in the sea cliffs. The area is biologically important for several endangered plant species.

Staff Wysong discussed current fences and fences under way. The smallest fencing area is 4 acres and biggest is 80 acres. A lot of the fencing is in the lower mesic forest, but the upper section contains a slightly different mesic forest and is of better quality and more intact. Staff Wysong suggested that since this upper area is contiguous with an existing NAR, it would be a good add-on. Staff Wysong noted that current fences somewhat pop out of the existing NAR and that he would like to redraw the boundaries to incorporate a southern and western NAR. Alvin [Kyono], when he was around, gave support to this idea. Some of the staff are showing resistance because this area is used by hikers and hunters. Fences are a concern for hunters because they fear the area will be closed to public hunting, though Staff Wysong has no inclination of doing such. Some have expressed concern of a change in management objectives down the road.

These fences are already compromised from what they originally wanted to do, which was fence the entire southern part of NAR. This current solution is workable because they are not cutting off entire areas. The southern area is really degraded and full of

lantana. Staff Wysong proposed completing fencing in the lower parts and then working on other areas.

Member Menard mentioned that there is some benefit to having some ungulates around to maintain grasses and that public hunting would be very compatible with this management plan. Staff Evanson noted that fencing is based primarily on vegetation, and that as a NAR goal, being ungulate free is a priority. He agreed that small fenced areas might make hunting easier for hunters. Member Hughes added that topological constraints make parcels very logical. Member Menard suggested that the management plan state that public hunting will always be allowed, in addition to smaller fences. Member Hughes remarked that if the area becomes NAR, there are stipulations about hunting and that someone could unilaterally say what they want done.

Staff Yuen stated that the proposal was presented to the Kauai Branch and they were concerned that as a NAR, it may eventually affect hunting and gathering of forest products. Staff Yuen also met with State Parks to discuss parts of the area becoming a NAR. Following these meetings, there have not been any official recommendations on areas becoming a NAR. Staff Wysong thought that due to this apprehension, it might benefit us to have more discussions with the Branch to hear their concerns. He brought up that State Parks and the FR have not been doing any fencing on their lands. Staff Wysong would like to scout the area for bio-diverse regions and endangered species so as to determine if any land there would be good for fencing.

Member Menard noted that through surveying four years ago, the most intact sections were found in the northern portion and that the area gets wetter as you go further north. He added that the Reserve captures a full range of habitat and that there's not too much animal damage in the northern section, even along the streambeds. However, he was uncertain if goat pressure from Na Pali is moving in, especially in dry times. Member Hughes added that it is important to consider warming and drying changes over time. Staff Wysong believes that a higher elevation enclosure would allow for refuge during warmer/drier weather. He has talked with program managers about numerous proposed areas discussed for Kauai, but this area was determined to be the easiest to manage. Staff Wysong suggested that it would at least be worth discussing other ideas with the Branch and having another meeting.

Member Rapanot inquired on contacting hunting clubs in the region and suggested proposing this plan to the KALAWAC Advisory Commission. Rapanot expressed the need to bring to the people what you would like to do, but not tell them what to do. Need to ask them for their input. In addition, Rapanot mentioned the possibility of using ramps for dogs to cross over and back. Staff Wysong replied that this particular parceling arose from meetings with stakeholders (KALAWAC) that have been involved in the process since the beginning (KALAWAC). Though there has been the occasional fence cutting, there would be a lot more concern with a huge parcel.

Staff Constantinides, representing DOFAW Forestry, inquired why we were discussing the area becoming a NAR when we are talking of transferring from one dedicated land

owner to another, both in the same organization. He felt that this course of action was like tackling the symptom rather than the cause. Staff Constantinides noted that the southern area within NAR is already degraded and that instead of expanding NAR boundary out, why not turn it into “Swiss cheese” and take out all of the valleys that are degraded. Staff Constantinides would be committed to making additional fence units in the FR and would dedicate his energy into making that happen. He is interested in talking to Alvin further about this. In addition, he has been contacted by DOFAW managers and stated that they are not in support. They believe there is a threat to the total amount of hunting areas on Kauai if there is not a gain somewhere else. He stated that Galen [Kawakami] believes this can be accomplished with ownership remaining as it is. He noted that the Kauai Branch Staff is very evolved on cooperation between branches, but that that may change with a new branch manager coming in. He is interested in documentation and guidelines adopted as priorities, rather than boundary changes stating that boundary changes may gain for the short-term, but he doesn't believe the long-term.

Staff Wysong replied that in terms of protection for the northern area, he doesn't foresee anything proactive happening by it staying a FR and believe it should be a NAR designation and that fences were identified for being highly diverse areas. If the NAR Staff will be doing the work, it warrants a NAR designation. The NAR program has played a big role in actually getting fences in and he is not convinced that this will happen unless the area is a NAR. Member Hughes continued by adding that any fencing in a FR would cause issues with public attitudes because their perceptions on what should be going on in certain designated areas (by it becoming a NAR, it would validate the need for further forest protection). Member Hughes also brought up the issue of not having a lot of time.

In response, Staff Constantinides believes that in working with his Branch, they are now starting to actively put in fencing and that with his encouragement, he will get staff to understand the need for fencing in certain areas. The FR is trying to help the public understand that they are not taking away something that is damaging to their interests.

Member Hughes expressed the need to get agreement between agencies codified in management plans. Member Menard responded that are reasons why they may want to stay vague.

Staff Wysong suggested that the next step be to survey other areas to decide where more fencing needs to go up. Member Rapanot wanted to be sure that fences would be maintained and noted that hunters would rather not see any fence go up. Member Menard replied that they think long and hard before putting up fences up and are aware of the responsibility. He feels that the area does not need to be made into a NAR, but it does need fences and he supports Staff Constantinides.

Staff Wysong feels that the area will be worked on by the NAR and that they can it would be more difficult to get funding to do NAR projects that are not on NAR property. Staff Constantinides does not see why FR can't give funding since they have already put in several thousand.

Staff Wysong feels that if the area is not recognized as a NAR, he is going to have to rely on someone else to make decisions and push things through (such as the EA) and is uncertain if that will happen. Staff Wysong stated that it should be a NAR because: 1) it is easier since we have the kuleana to push things through, and 2) the FR is multi-use and it will not be as high of a priority since they have other concerns. Staff Wysong thinks that the designation for Kuia as a NAR should have changed management a lot earlier. The area was designated as a NAR in 80s and has degraded a lot and if we don't take action soon, it will degrade much further. Staff Wysong has been pushing for increased hunting in the NAR as well as more hunting pressure on area outside of fence.

Staff Yuen questioned why Galen and Thomas were in opposed the proposal. Staff Constantinides replied that Galen believes the management won't significantly change in the area and Thomas is concerned with fragmentation and rules changing as changes in boundaries occur. He did not want to speak too much for others and suggested that this be discussed further with them.

Member Hughes asked if fences across the landscape would cause concern for hikers. Staff Anderson replied that there are styles in the Pahole NAR for hunters and hikers to cross and that the main issues are accidentally crossing into Army lands and people poking holes in fence to let dogs out. Staff Wysong clarified that a lot of where the fences are is not what hikers would be coming across and that the fences can't be seen from the trail.

Staff Constantinides suggested to not just making a proposal to take a chunk of FR and make it into a NAR. He feels that if you want to make the area a NAR, then you should also dedicate some to new GMA so as to provide a potential balance. He also suggested engaging Paul Conry directly. Staff Evanson felt that the Commission should make a recommendation and that the Chair should talk to Paul. Furthermore, Member Hughes recommended talking more with hunters and other DOFAW staff before any formal recommendations are made. He would like to see a presentation on how feasible it is to put up fences within the context of forestry and what constraints they would have in implementing the fencing. Staff Constantinides said that he would be willing to get involved more.

ITEM 7. Meeting was called to adjournment at 11:40am.