

## **HETF Update for NARSC meeting, September 20, 2010**

*Update submitted by Mel Dean, HETF Coordinator (USFS)*

### **Laupahoehoe Unit**

#### Facilities

Originally we had planned to build the research and education facility on the 20 acre lease site located below the Laupahoehoe Natural Area Reserve. This building site would have necessitated road improvements on Manowaiopae Road (original alternative on attached map) due to safety concerns. It was determined after the road survey and design that in order to do the work we would need additional right of way (R/W). The road's status, 'road in limbo' would have required us to go through the condemnation process with 6 or 7 landowners. This approach was not supported by the community or Capitol Hill. It was at this point that we found a number of properties for sale that would provide some of the facilities we would have constructed on the lease site.

We have now completed the purchase of three adjacent properties with several buildings that will provide an administrative office, an educational classroom and some bunk space. Those are parcels 82, 16, and 14 on the attached map. These properties are located right along Spencer road. At the lease site we plan to construct an open sided covered area for a class of approximately 20, restroom facilities, small storage building, parking area and an invasive species wash station and road access to the lease site is still necessary.

After locating these properties, we looked at road access alternatives (alternative 2 on attached map) to the lease site and parcel 28 was for sale with what we thought were easements across parcel 30. We decided to move ahead with this purchase to secure this road R/W but have since found out that the existing road is not located in an insurable R/W and that it would difficult to obtain. While this alternative is not off the table, given the circumstances it is not likely to be a viable alternative.

We are now considering another alternative (alternative 3 on attached map) that would build a share cost road with the County on an existing County R/W further up the mountain. The road would extend onto Kamehameha School pasture land and connect into existing Kamehameha School road infrastructure. The Forest Service would be solely responsible for road building costs once outside of the County R/W. Kamehameha Schools (via Marissa Harman) is supportive of the proposed access route as is Roger Imoto with DOFAW. We are in the process of drafting a cost share agreement with the County and hope to be close to a final draft in early November.

#### Environmental Assessment (EA)

The EA is still in progress, though was on hold until a road access alternative to the lease site had been found. Botanical and hydrological surveys will need to be completed for alternative 3. An archeology survey was completed in July when the potential route was identified. February 2011 is our current estimate for the release of the EA for public comment.

#### Lease Site Subdivision

Like the EA, the subdivision application for the lease site was on hold pending an access alternative. We expect the application to move forward once we've finalized a cost share agreement with the County.

## **Pu'u Wa'a wa'a Unit**

### Facilities/EA

Our ultimate plan is to build a small administrative building, an educational pavilion, a bunkhouse and a small storage building at what is known as the Quarry or Quonset hut site. We need to continue work on the EA and plan to complete the EA in FY 2011. We will be designing in FY 2011 with phase 1 construction (site development) to start in FY 2012. We are planning that the State will have the fuel tank and asbestos removed by the end of our FY 2011 (Sep 30, 2011). The tank removal should have no bearing on the EA. Phase 1 in FY 2012 will be site and utility work. Building construction would be phased in through FY 2012 - 2014 depending on availability of funds.

### Lease

Our lease with the State is still under negotiation pending hazardous material liability language. A new draft was sent to the State earlier this month. Our attorneys are confident that we can come up with language that would be agreeable to both parties.