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## 5 Public Access

*Does the proposed land use have an effect (positive/negative) on public access to and along the shoreline or along any public trail?*

### 5.1 DIRECT EFFECTS ON PUBLIC ACCESS

*Shoreline Access.* The TMT Observatory, Access Way, and other temporary and permanent facilities on Mauna Kea that comprise the proposed TMT project are all situated at high elevation and are far from the nearest shoreline (the TMT Observatory, for example, is more than 17 miles from the nearest coastal area). Consequently, they have no potential to affect public access to and along the shoreline. The other components of the project that are within the Conservation District are equally far removed from the shoreline and also lack any ability to interfere with public access to or along the ocean shoreline.

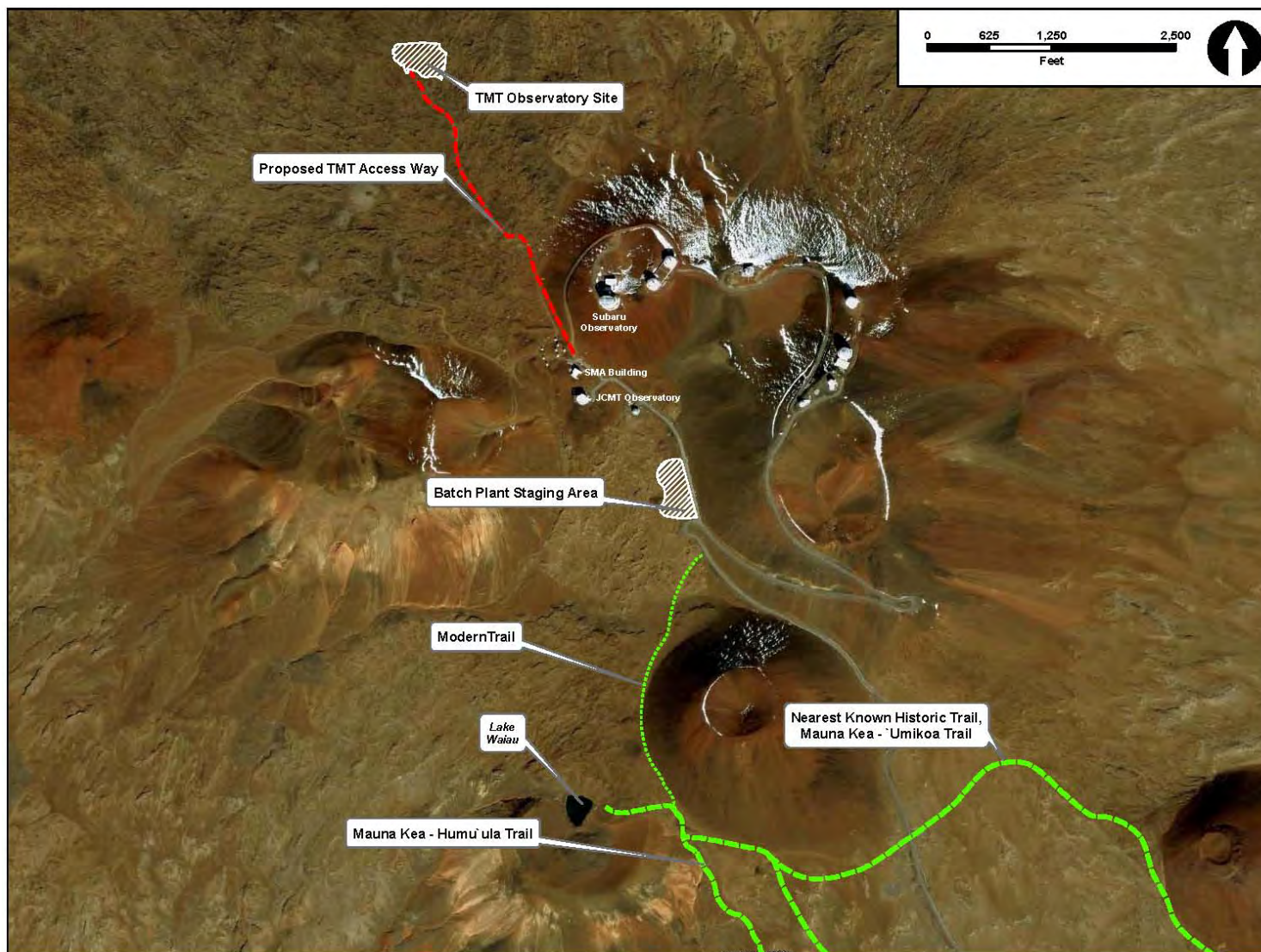
*Trail Access.* As shown in Figure 5.1, there are no trails in the vicinity of the proposed TMT Observatory site. The nearest known customary trail (Mauna Kea – „Umikoa Trail) is approximately a mile to the south-southeast. The limited amount of road construction that is required for the TMT project would pass closer to the Mauna Kea – „Umikoa Trail, but at its closest point they would be over two-fifths of a mile apart. The distance, and the fact that existing topography blocks views from the trails toward these proposed new facilities means that there is no potential for project-related work at those locations to adversely affect public access.

The only location where project-related activities within the Conservation District (other than the use of existing roads) would come close to existing trails is the point where the modern trail around the western side of Pu„u Haukea intersects the Mauna Kea Access Road. At that point, it is a short distance south of the Batch Plant site that would be used during construction of the proposed project. While the Batch Plant site is utilized for the TMT project construction, it will be visible to trail users, just as it has been during the construction of some existing Mauna Kea telescopes. While this is not a direct effect that would deny individuals access to the trail, it does have the potential to alter trail users“ experience slightly for the period of time the Batch Plant site is in operation.

### 5.2 INDIRECT EFFECTS ON PUBLIC ACCESS

The small, temporary direct effect on trail users“ experience that is noted above will be more than offset by the long-term indirect benefits from the public education and cultural awareness efforts that the University of Hawai„i Office of Mauna Kea Management would be able to undertake using the sublease rent derived from the proposed lease to TMT. A Public Access Plan (PAP) for the UH Management Areas on Mauna Kea was prepared as part of the CMP that addresses overall access to the summit area. With existing programs and the implementation of the concepts presented in the CMP and PAP sub plan, including the ranger program and increased education programs, the impact to cultural resources by visitors and employees is likely to be reduced relative to current conditions.

Figure 5.1 TMT Access Way and Nearest Trails



Source: Planning Solutions, Inc. (2010)