

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

NOTICE OF ANIMAL CONTROL ACTIVITIES AND TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF  
MAUNA KEA FOREST RESERVE, MAUNA KEA ICE AGE NATURAL AREA RESERVE,  
PALILA MITIGATION LANDS AND KAOHE GAME MANAGEMENT AREA

Legal Notice DOFAW

HILO -- The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) will conduct animal control activities specifically for trapping mouflon/feral sheep hybrids; staff control and/or aerial shooting from helicopters for feral goats, feral sheep, mouflon and mouflon/feral sheep hybrids within palila critical habitat in the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve (Unit A), Mauna Kea Ice Age Natural Area Reserve (Unit K), Palila Mitigation Lands, and the Kaohe Game Management Area (Unit G) on the island of Hawai'i. Aerial shooting is required for compliance with the federal court order mandating the removal of sheep and goats from critical habitat for palila, a bird endemic to Hawai'i. The portion of Mauna Kea Unit A south of the Gilbert Kahele Recreation Area (bordering Pohakuloa Training Area) will remain open for mammal hunting.

Control is scheduled for October 9-10, and October 30, 2024. Public access to Mauna Kea Forest Reserve, Mauna Kea Ice Age Natural Area Reserve, Palila Mitigation Lands, the Kaohe Game Management Area and Mauna Kea Hunter Access Road will be restricted and allowed BY PERMIT ONLY for animal salvage purposes on the following dates:

6 a.m. October 9, 2024

7 a.m. October 10, 2024

7 a.m. October 30, 2024

These actions are pursuant to HAR§ 13-130-19 and § 13-104-23(a) (3). The Mauna Kea Observatory Road will remain open. The temporary closure is needed to minimize the dangers of incompatible uses in the forest area and safely conduct animal control activities. To implement the closure, the Hale Pohaku, Kilohana, and Pu'u Ko'ohi gated entrances to Unit A and G and the gate behind Gilbert Kahele Recreation Area will be locked/reopened as follows:

Locked 8 p.m. October 8, 2024, and reopened 7 p.m. October 10, 2024

Locked 8 p.m. October 29, 2024, and reopened 7 p.m. October 30, 2024

Copies of the map illustrating the area subject to aerial shooting on these dates are available for inspection at the Division of Forestry and Wildlife Office in Hilo only.

Due to high public participation, telephone call-ins to the DOFAW-Hilo Office at (808) 974-4221 for receiving salvage permits will be conducted from 9 a.m. October 2, 2024, through 10 a.m. the day before on October 8, 2024, and from 9 a.m. October 23, 2024, through 10 a.m. October 29, 2025. One permit will be issued per call per vehicle for one day only. Applicants can have their names added to a stand-by list for additional days, should all slots not be filled by other applicants. No standbys waiting at the gates will be allowed access. The driver, occupants,

and vehicle license plate are needed when calling in. A maximum of 15 permitted vehicles will be allowed at the Pu‘u Mali location and 15 permitted vehicles at the Pu‘u Ahumoa location.

Carcasses taken during the shoot will be available to the permitted public for salvage at the following locations (4-wheel drive vehicle are required, and access permits will be issued). There is no guarantee that animals will be able to be salvaged.

Salvage locations are subject to change:

- On October 9, 2024, at Pu‘u Mali. Permittees must meet across from the Waimea Veterinary office on Mana Road at 6 a.m. sharp.
- On October 10, 2024, at Pu‘u Ahumoa. Permittees must meet at Kilohana check-in station at 7 a.m. sharp.
- On October 30, 2024, at Pu‘u Ahumoa. Permittees must meet at Kilohana check-in station at 7 a.m. sharp.

Contact the Division of Forestry and Wildlife in Hilo at (808) 974-4221 for additional details regarding meat salvage or access permits.

**Done at Honolulu this \_\_th day of September 2024.**



**Dawn N. S. Chang, Chairperson  
Department of Land and Natural Resources**