

**Puu O Hoku Ranch / Piiholo Ranch / Haleakala Ranch
Safe Harbor Agreement Annual Report**

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Molokai

Puu O Hoku Ranch:

Sighting:

During this period, Molokai DOFAW staff continue to monitor the nēnē (Hawaiian Goose) population at Pu'u o Hoku Ranch. This past year, four (4) adult individuals and two (2) fledglings were regularly observed.

Nesting:

There was one nest that was found in the pen that produced three (3) goslings; however, one (1) gosling was found dead in February.

Banding:

On February 19, 2025, the remaining two goslings were sexed, weighed, and banded at Puu O Hoku's open-top release pen. Additional birds that were translocated from Kauai were banded on April 4, 20245 (see translocation section)

Pen Maintenance:

During this period, Puu O Hoku's open-top pen was reconstructed with new posts, aqua mesh fencing, wire hoods, gates, and rubber skirting along the fence. A 30' x 30' holding pen was also erected in the pen to hold translocated birds temporarily. Water troughs and feeders were also replaced throughout the pen.



(lower section of the new rebuilt open-top release pen)

Habitat Management:

A total of one (1) acre of alien vegetation was removed from the open-top release pen, which included lantana, haole koa, and Christmas berry. A total of twelve (12) acres were mowed during this period in the open-top pen. In addition, Ranch personnel also mowed an additional twelve (12) acres around the outskirts of the pen and the lower pasture adjacent to the pen. No out-planting was conducted during this period.

Trapping:

Fourteen (14) live traps and fourteen (14) A24 traps were deployed around the open-top release pen. During this period, Dofaw staff removed a total of nine (9) mongoose, two (2) cats, and one (1) rat.

Deaths:

One gosling was found dead in the open-top release pen in February.

Translocation:

On April 4, 2025, twenty-four nene were loaded onto a helicopter at Lihue Airport in crates and translocated to Puu O Hoku Ranch, where they were released within the holding pens of the open-top release pen. Of the twenty-four birds, eight (8) were adults and sixteen (16) were fledglings.

Groups one and two were released into the open-top pens during the months of April and May.

Transmitters:

Transmitters on 065 and 072 (adult males) were removed on April 30, 2025, and sent back to CTT Technology after issues with receiving data from these devices. New transmitters were placed on these birds and additional birds after the reporting period.



(Placing the transmitter on 065)

MauiHaleakala Ranch**Sighting:**

Management of the Haleakala Ranch pen was transferred to KWP/TetraTech and is now carried out by a local contractor as of January 2023. This includes mowing, weed control, fence maintenance, water maintenance, predator control, trapping, and road maintenance. DOFAW conducts monthly nēnē monitoring surveys, tracks nesting success, and banding.

During this period, a total of forty-three (43) banded adult birds were observed at the pen with an additional eleven (11) unbanded adults.

Nesting:

A total of ten (10) nests were located inside the open-top release pen and one (1) in the Koa enclosure. A total of twenty-four (24) eggs hatched, and eight (8) were fledged, and five (5) were banded.

Banding:

A total of eleven (11) individuals were banded at the Haleakala Ranch pen this past season, six (6) adults and five (5) fledglings. Of the adults banded, three (3) were rebanded.

Pen Maintenance:

Maintenance is conducted by the contractor, AES, year-round. The one-acre pen was mowed 30 times this past year. The electric fence, grounding stakes, and batteries were maintained throughout this period. The storage shed was painted, and a new hinge for the entrance to the pen was fabricated and installed.

Habitat Management:

Approximately 1 acre of alien vegetation was mechanically removed, including lantana, strawberry guava, Bocconia, fireweed, and bur.

Trapping:

Predator control conducted by AES maintained ten (10) tomahawk live traps, twenty (20) DOC200 traps, ten (10) A24s, one (1) trapinator body grip, and 2 AT220 traps. Of these traps, four (4) mongoose, two (2) cats, and seven (7) rats were removed.

Deaths:

Fifteen (15) goslings were predated by either aerial predators or possibly mongoose; no carcasses were found in the area. Four (4) goslings died of natural causes, and their bodies were salvaged and placed in the DOFAW freezer.

Piiholo Ranch**Sighting:**

Maui DOFAW staff is managing and monitoring the Pi'iholo Ranch Pen year-round. Due to a staffing vacancy, maintenance activities were limited. A total of thirty-five (35) banded individuals were observed at Pi'iholo Ranch pen and surrounding property, with an additional twelve (12) unbanded adults sighted.

Nesting:

A total of twelve (12) nests were recorded within the pen, with eight (8) successful nests. A total of fourteen (14) eggs hatched, and zero (0) goslings were fledged.

Four (4) nests failed. Four (4) gosling carcasses were found within the pen, with two (2) found dead in a water bowl and two (2) dead from unknown circumstances. Two (2) goslings were never found, but their parents were seen without them, and eight (8) goslings and their parents were not seen again.

Banding:

A total of three (3) birds were banded this past season, all three (3) were unbanded adults. Two (2) of the adults banded were released at the pen from elsewhere after injuries.

Pen Maintenance:

The entire perimeter of the fence was checked monthly. The fenceline was weed-whacked two (2) times throughout the year.

Habitat Management:

The interior of the pen was mowed twelve (12) times throughout the year. The pen was very dry during the summer months, so less mowing was needed.

Trapping:

DOFAW staff removed six (6) mongoose and two (2) cats from the pen area from a total of sixteen (16) live cage traps.

Deaths

There was a take of four (4) goslings in the FY25 breeding season. Two (2) of the goslings were found dead due to unknown circumstances, while the other two (2) were found dead in a water dish.