



Hawai'i Volcanoes News Release

April 22, 2009

Secretary Salazar Announces \$750 Million Investment to Restore and Protect America's National Parks, Create Jobs

More than 750 Park Projects to Receive Funding under President's Economic Recovery Plan

From the Statue of Liberty and Independence Hall to Yellowstone and Death Valley, the National Park Service will undertake more than 750 projects at parks across the country to create jobs, restore and protect our nation's parks, and preserve our history and heritage for future generations, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced today.

Four projects totaling \$7,802,000 selected for funding at Hawai'i Volcanoes are set to benefit park visitors, native plants and animals, roads, and trails.

"A new Visitor Emergency Operations Center will allow us to consolidate emergency services functions in the park, care for visitors in distress more effectively, and respond to natural disasters more efficiently," said Superintendent Cindy Orlando.

"Our other projects will allow us to protect fragile native ecosystems from non-native influences and repair high visitor use trails," added Orlando. "All of these projects will have lasting value to the state, the island, and our visiting public."

The projects announced for Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park include:

Replace Existing Dilapidated Visitor Contact Station to Support Visitor Services

Hawai'i Volcanoes now has the wherewithal to pursue a dream—to combine its visitor and resource protection operation into one centralized building. The park's long-envisioned Visitor Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) will become a reality.

"We're ecstatic...and shovel-ready!" said Orlando. It's expected the park will be ready to break ground this fall.

The 4481square foot structure will incorporate the existing footprint of the 1271square foot ranger office with a new addition of 3210 square feet.

It will be home base for nearly 25 park staff, including law enforcement and eruption duty rangers, firefighters, and dispatchers of the 24-hour Pacific Area Communications Center. Accessible, it will be the place visitors go for emergency medical services and to register for backcountry hikes.



New VEOC will replace dilapidated ranger station

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The VEOC will serve as the command center during major park incidents—eruptions, elevated SO2 levels, earthquakes, tsunamis, fires, hurricanes, air accidents, etc. An air-filtration system will ensure the building remains a safe haven during times of elevated levels of sulfur dioxide. There will also be training and conference rooms, and an interview room and holding cell for those detained for investigative purposes.

The structure will meet criteria to qualify as a Green Building under Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, with potential to test new alternative energy sources, including solar, photovoltaic and hydrogen (for a back-up energy supply).

Rehabilitate Halema'uma'u Trail



Park trail crews plan to improve several miles of the popular Kilauea summit trails. They'll replace rusted railings, fill holes, add water bars for drainage to curb erosion, and stabilize historic rock walls and steps.

The trails wind through 'ohi'a-hapu'u rainforest, home to 'apapane (Hawaiian honeycreeper) and 'oma'o (Hawaiian thrush).

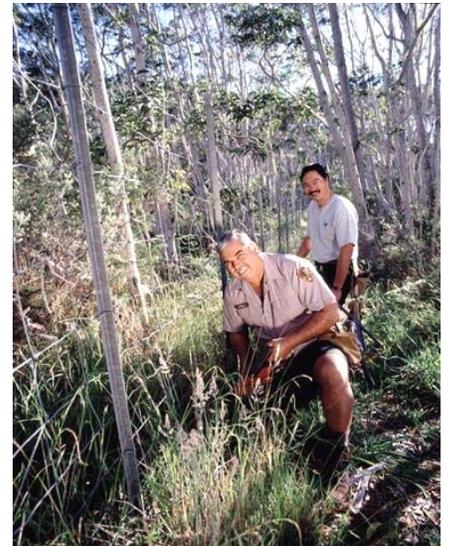
Vistas provide expansive views of Kilauea caldera and Halema'uma'u crater, the site of an ongoing eruption since March 2008.

Replace Boundary and Pig Fencing

Project funding will allow resource managers to replace nearly five miles of fence on Kilauea and Mauna Loa. Fence life in the park's often harsh environment is about 20 years.

The park's 30-year fencing program provides the most effective means to keep out pigs, goats, sheep, and cattle, thus safeguarding the park's native plants, birds, bats, and insects.

Hawai'i Volcanoes provides habitat for forty endangered, four threatened, ten candidate endangered plant and animal species, and a number of rare species and species of concern.



Resurface Rainshed Roads



Maintenance crews will repave approximately 50,000 square feet of asphalt roads near the park's water collection and storage area. The existing road with its pot holes and alligator cracks is heavily used by park staff.

A compacted 2 ½ inch overlay of asphalt cement will provide a smoother and safer surface for vehicles and preserve the rainshed's road system.

For a complete list of funded projects that total \$15,740,000 for Hawai'i national parks (Pu'uuhonua o Honaunau, Kaloko-Honokohau, Haleakala, Kalaupapa, and USS Arizona Memorial), go to http://recovery.doi.gov/docs/nps/nps_state_projects.pdf

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