

FUTURE MANAGEMENT AND USE

PARK PURPOSE

The purpose of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is to conserve the volcanic features, endemic Hawaiian ecosystems, Hawaiian cultural and archeological remains, and inherent scenic values for visitor enjoyment and appreciation and for their scientific and historic values with minimum impairment to the resources.

The park preserves for public interest and scientific research significant features of Hawaii's natural history and cultural background, enabling people to understand the powerful volcanic forces, fragile biota and way of life which characterizes the Hawaiian Islands.

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Natural

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

General Management

Develop and manage the park in accordance with the long-range objectives of the National Park Service and the administrative policies established for "natural" areas of the National Park System.

Develop and manage the park as a 7-day per week, year-round operation, mainly for day use.

Do not charge entrance fees.

Seek legislation to include the Oloa Tract as a detached portion of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

Recognize Kilauea Military Camp as an established nonconforming use, but cooperate with the Armed Forces in managing the camp for minimum interference with the public use of the park.

Resource Management

Preserve the evolving natural scene by protecting outstanding geologic features, such as the calderas and rift zones, steam and sulphur banks, the profile of Mauna Loa, and the associated native ecosystems.

Cooperate with public and private landowners in striving to maintain the evolving natural landscape adjacent to the park.

Acquire those lands which will improve the geologic, ecologic, and scenic integrity of the park. Recognize the priority of park land acquisition on this island, if authorized, at (1) City of Refuge and the Honokohau study area, (2) Hawaii Volcanoes.

Protect the park's remnant Hawaiian ecosystems—including endangered species—from further depredation and competition by those exotic animals and plants introduced by modern man.

Reestablish the park's endemic species into their former ranges, concentrating efforts on those species which are in danger of extinction, and those that are key components of major native ecosystems.

Preserve the sites and structural remains of the early Hawaiian period and historical period through a program of limited stabilization and restoration in cooperation with local Hawaiian interests.

Support the U.S. Geological Survey's research program on volcanism which contributes invaluable knowledge needed for park management and interpretation.

Conduct and encourage natural history research focused upon: (1) further definition and insight into the park's native island ecosystems; (2) developing life history and ecologic understanding of species facing extinction; and (3) developing management strategies for preserving endemic island ecosystems.

Encourage research in other fields of natural history and anthropology by other organizations and individuals.

Limit park collections of natural history specimens and artifacts to those intended for display and to those essential to study for the purposes of resource management and authentic presentation of the interpretive themes.

Assist other institutions in developing representative collections required for research, only if such collections do not jeopardize park integrity.

Visitor Use

Develop an interpretive program around the three themes of significance in Hawaii Volcanoes: (1) the primary story of active volcanism from which the island is evolving; (2) the secondary story of native ecosystems and threats to their survival from introduced plant and animal species; and (3) the prehistoric and historic events and culture which illustrate man's adaptation to this local environment.

Provide visitor access between the Kalapana Coast and the Kilauea Caldera, so that these major features can be seen and enjoyed by the majority of visitors. When conditions permit, reconstruct the lava-buried Chain of Craters Road, relocated where necessary.

Encourage visitor enjoyment of remote areas—including the summit and slopes of Mauna Loa, Kau Desert, and the Kau coast.

When reasonable, provide safe routes of access for visitors to significant interpretive features and visitor facilities even though special hazards may exist.

Provide meal service, other day-use visitor needs, and limited overnight accommodations in the park through an authorized concessioner.

Provide only enough overnight facilities (lodging and campgrounds) for some visitors to experience an in-depth enjoyment of park resources, but within the estimated overnight carrying capacity for the park. The extent of campground development may be influenced by the availability of campsites outside the park.

Depend on the gateway communities and private enterprise to develop any additional lodging facilities needed for park visitors.

Recognize Hawaii State Route 11 as the lifeline from the southern area of Hawaii Island over which all commercial agricultural, industrial, and visitor traffic must pass on its way to and from Hilo; cooperate with the State Division of Highways to plan and identify improvements in road design which meet the Islander's transportation requirements and park visitor needs for a scenic parkway which does minimum visual damage to the park landscape.