

Haleakalā National Park

Maui, Hawai'i

Commercial Services Plan and Environmental Assessment



Newsletter #2: Summary of Comments Received

February 2007

The National Park Service (NPS) is considering options for long-term management of commercial service operations at Haleakalā National Park. The Commercial Services Plan (CSP) provides a process for establishing the types and levels of commercial activities necessary and appropriate for Haleakalā National Park, and the most effective and efficient method for the NPS to use in managing those activities. The CSP will determine whether existing or proposed commercial activities are necessary and appropriate. An environmental assessment will be prepared that will analyze the impacts of alternatives on park visitors, the local economy, cultural and natural resources, and operations within the park.

Please take a few moments to review this newsletter and look for the upcoming release of the draft Commercial Services Plan later this year. Mahalo for participating in planning for the future of Haleakalā National Park.

Marilyn H. Parris,
Superintendent
Haleakalā National Park

Summary of Scoping Activities

In September 2006, 112 newsletters introducing the commercial services planning and compliance effort were distributed to individuals and organizations interested in Haleakalā National Park, its resources, and visitor services. This was followed by two public meetings held on October 17 and 18 in Hāna and Pukalani, Maui, respectively.

Through distribution of the newsletter, information provided on the NPS planning website, and the public meetings, a variety of concerns and suggestions were obtained. A total of 54 documents were received from individuals and organizations. In addition, 37 participants attended the public meetings and offered their thoughts. All comments were sorted and analyzed.

The comments fell into four topical groups: cultural and natural resources; public health and safety; visitor use and experience; and park management activities and financial matters. Comments regarding the protection and preservation of cultural and natural resources focused on the degradation of trails, erosion, and vegetation trampling, especially from horse traffic, hiking, and social trailing. Many comments cited safety concerns associated with downhill bike rides. Other points of view were expressed by comments of support from horse, bike, and bus tour patrons who enjoyed and appreciated the commercial services provided to them. A few comments focused on crowding and visitor conflicts, particularly at Sunrise, which could be addressed by commercial services management.

Existing park commercial use authorization (CUA) management practices along with matters of funding/money also drew comments. Several comments questioned whether fees collected by the park are adequate to cover operating expenses and resource mitigation associated with commercial activities.

Suggestions were made for specific actions or projects as components of the alternatives. These focused on providing more visitor facilities and services, limiting or eliminating certain commercial services, imposing additional fees, and rearranging tour schedules.

Next Steps

The planning team will be developing a draft commercial services management plan/environmental assessment (CSP/EA) that will consider and/or incorporate these public comments. The plan will also include a financial feasibility study to determine the economic potential for future commercial activities in the park. The CSP/EA will be available for public review later in 2007. Once public comments are received, a revised Final Commercial Services Plan will be released and implemented by the park.

If you are interested in continuing to participate in future planning for Haleakalā National Park, upcoming press releases and news announcements will invite you to review the CSP/EA. Additional information concerning commercial services planning can be obtained via the internet and mail addresses located at the end of this newsletter.

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The table below briefly summarizes the process for preparing the CSP/EA and opportunities to participate.

Planning Activity		Public Involvement Opportunity
Summer 2006	Initiate project and conduct public scoping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Newsletter #1 and attend public meetings in October 2006. • Provide comments via letter, website, or at a public meeting.
Fall and Winter 2006/2007	Develop draft alternatives and begin the impact analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read this public comment summary newsletter. • Obtain important background information on the website.
<div style="text-align: center;">  WE ARE HERE </div>		
Summer or Fall 2007	Publish the Draft Commercial Services Plan and EA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become familiar with the draft plan by attending public meetings and by reading the draft plan and environmental assessment. • Provide oral or written comments at meetings or via letter or our website.
Fall 2007	Document decision and publication of final Commercial Services Plan and EA	

How to obtain additional information:

Additional background information about the Haleakalā Commercial Services Plan and process may be obtained at this website: <http://www.nps.gov/hale>.

You may also direct questions about the plan or process by e-mailing the park directly at: hale_csp@nps.gov.

You may also mail your inquiries to:

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