

Haleakalā National Park



Palikū

E komo mai i ka hale o Palikū (welcome to Palikū Cabin)

The cloud forest ecosystem surrounding this cabin is a haven for many endangered forest birds. Today it is renowned for its community of *nēnē*, but that wasn't always true. *Nēnē* (*Branta sandvicensis*) were wiped-out on Maui by hunting, habitat loss, and introduced predators.

Palikū was chosen as a site for re-introducing *nēnē* to Maui because its remote location in the park meant less pressure from predators and hunters. In one instance, local Boy Scouts helped pack-in several geese from the Hawaii Island. The Palikū area offers plenty of *nēnē* food in the form of native grasses and berries, but the wet cold winters make it a challenging area for our state bird to nest in. Today, *nēnē* can be seen in several places on Maui, but all are endangered and need protection.



A *nēnē* sounds an alarm when hikers come too close.



Boy Scouts pack in *nēnē* to Palikū in 1962.

When you leave this historic cabin and step back on the trail, you are re-entering a part of the national park designated as a Federal Wilderness Area in 1976. The Wilderness Act of 1964 provided federal land agencies with the opportunity to protect certain areas.

You can help protect this wilderness area:

- *Hike only on designated trails* that are shown on the park's official hiking maps.
- *Pack-out all your food and garbage.* Leave nothing behind to feed alien ants, wasps, roaches, mongooses, or rats.
- *Keep them wild: Do not give food or water to birds or other wildlife.*
- *Use resources sparingly:* water and compressed logs for the stoves are precious commodities in the wilderness area. *It is illegal to gather wood or kindling for burning.* Use fire-starters or newspaper to start a fire in the morning instead of burning several logs throughout the night. Reducing your carbon footprint begins at home, and at the cabin!