

II. INTRODUCTION

In May 1982 the Department of the Interior issued a policy statement for use of the Federal portion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which requires that, in carrying out its responsibility for land protection in federally administered areas, each agency using the fund will:

- Identify what land or interests in land needs to be in Federal ownership to achieve management unit purposes consistent with public objectives in the unit.
- Use to the maximum extent practical cost-effective alternatives to direct Federal purchase of private lands and when acquisition is necessary, acquire or retain only the minimum interests necessary to meet management objectives.
- Cooperate with landowners, other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and the private section to manage land for public use or protect it for resource conservation.
- Formulate or revise as necessary plans for land acquisition and resource use or protection to assure that sociocultural impacts are considered and that the most outstanding areas are adequately managed.

In response to this policy, a Land Protection Plan for Hawaii Volcanoes National Park has been prepared. The purpose of the plan is to

identify methods of assuring the protection of the park's natural, historic, scenic, cultural, recreational, or other significant resources. The plan was prepared in compliance with relevant legislation, Congressional guidelines, executive orders, and Departmental and National Park Service policies.

The major issue addressed by this land protection plan is to identify the means necessary to provide sufficient protection to those non-Federal lands which are (1) authorized additions to the park, (2) contain intact resource values of national significance, and (3) being threatened by non-park uses, either now or in the future. In some instances, these threats are imminent and have the potential to carry over and adversely affect Federal lands now in the park. At issue in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is the identification of the most reasonable way to avoid the construction of a large-scale geothermal power project on lands adjacent to the park, which, since 1951, have been authorized additions.

This land protection plan for Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is intended to serve as a guide for subsequent activities undertaken by the National Park Service to protect the park's resources. Such future activities are subject to the availability of funds and other constraints. This plan does not diminish the rights of existing non-Federal landowners within proposed additions to the park.