

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

As can be seen from the discussion in previous sections of this plan, acquisition in fee simple appears to be the most reasonable and effective way to ensure long-term protection of resources. Departmental solicitors are of the opinion that the existing legislative authority for Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is sufficient for adding lands, subject to the enactment of appropriate budgetary legislation.

Tract 22/Ø1-118

Considering the circumstances which presently surround this parcel of land, it is recommended that it be acquired in fee by the National Park Service as soon as possible. For the past several years, the tract has been part of a larger area being proposed by the property owner for geothermal energy development. If carried out on the scale envisioned, this development would significantly diminish the tract's unique natural values of superb native ohia and tree fern forest. As noted, the acquisition of this tract has been a high priority for more than a decade. It has been identified by biologists as an ecosystem not now adequately encompassed and protected in the national park system. The tract has been identified by Congress as "potential wilderness."

Tracts 26/Ø1-111 and 27/Ø1-112

Due to the need to have the entire Great Crack area within the boundaries of the park coupled with the inadequacies of the existing

land use regulations, it is recommended that a fee interest be acquired in these two tracts to prevent the possibility of future low-density residential development (could be subdivided into more than 100 separate parcels), protect native grasses from cattle and feral goats and allow for public access. As noted earlier, acquisition of these tracts could be pursued if the pending exchange of State of Hawaii lands for Campbell Estate lands goes through and geothermal energy development takes place there rather than on lands adjacent to the park.

Tract 19, Parcel 15

Based on surface surveys conducted by National Park Service archeologists on nearby lands within the park, there is every likelihood that the Hawaiian features and sites found on surveyed lands will also be found on this tract. Consequently, a less-than-fee interest would not be adequate to protect these cultural resource values. It is recommended that a fee simple interest be acquired in this parcel.