Public Meeting
National Science Foundation

National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act Review of the Proposed NEON Domain 20 Field Site at the Pu’u Maka’ala Natural Area Reserve

May 25th, 2017
5:30pm-7:30pm
Public Meeting
Welcome, please sign-in!

<table>
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<th>AGENDA</th>
<th>PROJECT TEAM</th>
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| • Open-house: 5:30-7:30pm | National Science Foundation  
  ➢ Steve Ellis, Program Officer  
  ➢ Montona Futrell-Griggs, Project Manager  
  ➢ Caroline Blanco, Assistant General Counsel & NSF Federal Preservation Officer |
| • Brief presentation by NSF: 6:30  
  *Introuctions/Materials*  
  *Project background*  
  *Environmental review*  
  *Target dates/next steps* | Battelle Memorial Institute  
  ➢ Richard Farnsworth, Program Manager  
  ➢ Amy Little, Permitting Specialist  
  ➢ Jeff Coleman, Construction Manager  
  ➢ Andrea Anteau, Domain Manager D09 |
| • Written comment forms are available | CH2M HILL  
  ➢ Lisa Kettley, Project Advisor |
Materials

• Handouts: fact sheet, site plan, protocols summary, potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures summary

• Draft EA posted at: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?displayFullSite=true&from=fund&orgAbbr=NSF&pims_id=13440

• Presentation, informational boards, and handouts will be posted on the website following the public meeting
Purpose of this meeting

- NSF has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment to evaluate potential environmental impacts of the proposed NEON field study site within the Pu’u Maka-ala Natural Area Reserve (NAR) on the eastern side of Hawai'i Island
  - Informational posters viewing and brief presentation on the Draft EA and on NSF’s consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act/Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 6E
  - This meeting is informational only; verbal questions/comments will not be a part of the record
  - Written comments may be submitted for inclusion in the record and for NSF’s consideration in finalizing the EA
NEON Mission

NEON is charged to enable understanding and forecasting of the impacts of climate change, land use change and invasive species on continental-scale ecology by providing infrastructure to support research, education and environmental management in these areas.
Collection Methods at NEON Field Sites

A flux tower collects atmospheric data at terrestrial sites

Sensors in the soil collect belowground data at terrestrial sites

Field scientists collect organismal data (from select plants, animals, pathogens and microbes)

Instruments collect stream, lake and groundwater data at aquatic sites

A meteorological station collects atmospheric data at aquatic sites

The Airborne Observation Platform (AOP) flies over sites annually to collect remote sensing data
D20 Site Selection Background: Alternatives Considered but Dismissed

• Laupāhoehoe Forest
  – Originally proposed location (in NSF’s 2009 EA)
  – Logistical challenges made this unsuitable

• Upper Waiakea Forest Reserve
  – Determined unsuitable due to potential conflicts with existing uses

• Various sites within Pu’u Maka’ala Natural Area Reserve (NAR)
  – Evaluated for consistency with NEON requirements and NAR management goals
Proposed D20 NEON Field Study Site
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Review

• NEPA requires federal agencies to consider environmental impacts before making decisions
  – Public scoping
  – Stakeholder meetings
  – Draft EA distribution and public meeting

• Hawai’i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 343 also requires environmental review; the Draft EA complies with both Chapter 343 and NEPA
Draft EA- Resource Areas Considered

- Climate
- Land Use and Recreation
- Geology and Soils
- Water Resources
- Biological Resources
- Archaeological, Architectural, and Cultural Resources
- Visual Resources

- Hazardous Materials
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Transportation and Traffic
- Human Health and Safety
- Public Services and Utilities
- Socioeconomics
Draft EA Availability

• Available on NSF website since May 9th at: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?displayFullSite=true&from=fund&orgAbbr=NSF&pims_id=13440

• Hard copies at public libraries: Hilo Public Library; Keaau Public and School Library; Mountain View Public and School Library; Edwin H. Mookini Library, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo; and Hawai‘i State Library (Honolulu)

• Notification of Draft EA availability with link sent out to stakeholders
How to submit comments on the Draft EA

• Written comments may be submitted during this meeting- please provide them to a project team member

• Written comments (emailed or mailed) will be accepted through June 22\textsuperscript{nd}, 2017 (postmarked)
  – [NEON\_EA\_comments@nsf.gov](mailto:NEON\_EA\_comments@nsf.gov)
  – Ms. Montona Futrell-Griggs
    RE: NEON Pu’u Maka’ala Natural Area Reserve
    National Science Foundation
    4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 615N
    Arlington, Virginia 22230
Section 106 requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions (undertakings) on historic properties:

- Potential consulting parties invited to provide input during scoping and at an October 2016 meeting; potential consulting parties have been updated throughout the process.
- Initiation of consultation with the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) in December 2016.
- Cultural Resources Assessment of Effects completed.
- Letter seeking concurrence from SHPD on findings in May 2017.
- Additional opportunity for consulting parties input at public meeting.

HRS Chapter 6E is the state counterpart and also being addressed through this process.
Cultural Resources Assessment of Effects

- No known historic properties within the Area of Potential Effects (APE)
- Assessment considers potential impacts to the cultural landscape, archaeological resources, and Traditional Cultural Properties
- Implementation of best management practices to address any unanticipated discovery of buried cultural resources
- NSF expects no historic properties to be affected by the proposed undertaking
- In addition, due to the nature of the proposed research site components, NSF finds that the undertaking would result in no adverse effects to TCPs such as the cultural landscape, as well as to cultural uses, practices, and historic properties
Endangered Species Act Compliance Update

• Section 7 of the ESA requires consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) when any threatened/endangered species or their habitat may be affected by a proposed action
  – Species list and recommendations from USFWS
  – Correspondence with USFWS and other project stakeholders on species/critical habitat concerns
  – Revisions to terrestrial sampling protocols and other mitigation measures
  – Continued consultation with USFWS
Next Steps

• Final EA/Finding of No Significant Impact (if appropriate)
• Conservation District Use Permit process (ongoing)
• NARS permit process
• Construction-related permitting
• Construction and installation of sensors (if proposed action is approved)
Thank you for your participation!

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