

Although we do not believe that enough habitat currently exists to reach the recovery goal of 8 to 10 populations for this species, this unit is geographically separated from the other three units designated as critical habitat for this island-endemic species to avoid all recovery populations from being destroyed by one naturally occurring catastrophic event.

**Molokai 5—*Tetramolopium rockii*—d**

This unit is critical habitat for *Tetramolopium rockii* and is 4 ha (10 ac) on State lands (Mokapu Bird Sanctuary). The unit is Mokapu Island. This unit provides habitat for one population of 300 mature, reproducing individuals of the short-lived perennial *Tetramolopium rockii* and is currently unoccupied. This unit is essential to the conservation of the species because it supports habitat that is necessary to the establishment of additional populations on Molokai in order to reach recovery goals. The habitat features contained in this unit that are essential for this species include, but are not limited to, hardened calcareous sand dunes or ash-covered basalt in the coastal spray zone or coastal dry shrubland and grassland. Although we do not believe that enough habitat currently exists to reach the recovery goal of 8 to 10 populations for this species, this unit is geographically separated from the other three units designated as critical habitat for this island-endemic species to avoid all recovery populations from being destroyed by one naturally occurring catastrophic event.

**Molokai 6—*Zanthoxylum hawaiiense*—a**

This unit is critical habitat for *Zanthoxylum hawaiiense* and is 259 ha (640 ac) on private land (Molokai Forest Reserve). The unit contains a portion of Kapuakoolau and Waiakuilani Gulches. This unit provides habitat for one population of 100 mature, reproducing individuals of the long-lived perennial *Zanthoxylum hawaiiense* and is currently occupied by 3 plants. This unit is essential to the conservation of the species because it supports an extant colony of this species and includes habitat that is essential for the expansion of the present population, which is currently considered nonviable. The habitat features contained in this unit that are essential for this species include, but are not limited to, gulch slopes in mesic *Metrosideros polymorpha* or *Diospyros sandwicensis* forest. In addition, it is some distance away from the other critical habitat for this species, in order to avoid all recovery populations from

being destroyed by one naturally occurring catastrophic event.

**Effects of Critical Habitat Designation**

**Section 7 Consultation**

Section 7(a) of the Act requires Federal agencies, including the Service, to ensure that actions they fund, authorize, or carry out are not likely to destroy or adversely modify critical habitat. Destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat occurs when a Federal action directly or indirectly alters critical habitat to the extent that it appreciably diminishes the value of critical habitat for the conservation of the species. Individuals, organizations, States, local governments, and other non-Federal entities are directly affected by the designation of critical habitat only if their actions occur on Federal lands, require a Federal permit, license, or other authorization, or involve Federal funding.

Section 7(a) of the Act requires Federal agencies, including the Service, to evaluate their actions with respect to any species that is proposed or listed as endangered or threatened, and with respect to its critical habitat, if any is designated or proposed. Regulations implementing this interagency cooperation provision of the Act are codified at 50 CFR part 402. Section 7(a)(4) of the Act requires Federal agencies (action agency) to confer with us on any action that is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a species proposed for listing or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat. Conference reports provide conservation recommendations to assist the action agency in eliminating conflicts that may be caused by the proposed action. The conservation measures in a conference report are advisory.

We may issue a formal conference report, if requested by the Federal action agency. Formal conference reports include an opinion that is prepared according to 50 CFR 402.14, as if the species were listed or critical habitat designated. We may adopt the formal conference report as the biological opinion when the species is listed or critical habitat designated, if no substantial new information or changes in the action alter the content of the opinion (see 50 CFR 402.10(d)).

If a species is listed or critical habitat is designated, section 7(a)(2) of the Act requires Federal agencies to ensure that actions they authorize, fund, or carry out are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of that species or destroy or adversely modify its critical

habitat. If a Federal action may affect a listed species or its critical habitat, the responsible Federal action agency must enter into consultation with us. Through this consultation, the action agency would ensure that the permitted actions do not destroy or adversely modify critical habitat.

Regulations at 50 CFR 402.16 require Federal agencies to reinitiate consultation on previously reviewed actions under certain circumstances, including instances when critical habitat is subsequently designated and the Federal agency has retained discretionary involvement, or control over the action has been retained or is authorized by law. Consequently, some Federal agencies may request reinitiation of consultation or conferencing with us on actions for which formal consultation has been completed, if those actions may affect designated critical habitat or adversely modify or destroy proposed critical habitat.

If we issue a biological opinion concluding that a project is likely to result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat, we also provide "reasonable and prudent alternatives" to the project, if any are identifiable. Reasonable and prudent alternatives are defined at 50 CFR 402.02 as alternative actions identified during formal consultation that can be implemented in a manner consistent with the intended purpose of the action, that are consistent with the scope of the Federal agency's legal authority and jurisdiction, that are economically and technologically feasible, and that we believe would avoid the likelihood of resulting in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. Reasonable and prudent alternatives can vary from slight project modifications to extensive redesign or relocation of the project. Costs associated with implementing a reasonable and prudent alternative are similarly variable.

Activities on Federal lands that may affect critical habitat of *Adenophorus periens*, *Alectryon macrococcus*, *Bidens wiebkei*, *Brighamia rockii*, *Canavalia molokaiensis*, *Centaurium sebaeoides*, *Clermontia oblongifolia* ssp. *brevipes*, *Ctenitis squamigera*, *Cyanea dunbari*, *Cyanea grimesiana* ssp. *grimesiana*, *Cyanea manni*, *Cyanea procera*, *Diellia erecta*, *Diplazium molokaiense*, *Eugenia koolauensis*, *Flueggea neowawraea*, *Hesperomannia arborescens*, *Hibiscus arnottianus* ssp. *immaculatus*, *Hibiscus brackenridgei*, *Ischaemum byrnone*, *Isodendron pyrifolium*, *Labordia triflora*, *Lysimachia maxima*, *Mariscus fauriei*, *Melicope mucronulata*, *Melicope reflexa*, *Neraudia sericea*,