

appropriate primary constituent elements for each species. If more than the area needed for the number of recovery populations was identified as potentially suitable, only those areas within the least disturbed suitable habitat were included as proposed critical habitat. A population for this purpose is defined as a discrete aggregation of individuals located a sufficient distance from a neighboring aggregation such that the two are not affected by the same small-scale events and are not believed to be consistently cross-pollinated. In the absence of more specific information indicating the appropriate distance to assure limited cross-pollination, we are using a distance of 1,000 m (3,280 ft) based on our review of current literature on gene flow (Barret and Kohn 1991; Fenster and Dudash 1994; Havens 1998; Schierup and Christiansen 1996).

The resulting critical habitat units were further refined by using satellite imagery and parcel data to eliminate areas that did not contain the appropriate vegetation or associated native plant species, as well as features such as cultivated agriculture fields, housing developments, and other areas that are unlikely to contribute to the conservation of one or more of the 61 plant species for which critical habitat was proposed on April 3, 2002. Geographic features (ridge lines, valleys, streams, coastlines, etc.) or manmade features (roads or obvious land use) that created an obvious boundary for a unit were used as unit area boundaries.

Following publication of the proposed critical habitat rules, some of which were revised, for 255 Hawaiian plants (67 FR 3940, 67 FR 9806, 67 FR 15856, 67 FR 16492, 67 FR 34522, 67 FR 36968, 67 FR 37108), we re-evaluated proposed critical habitat, Statewide, for each species using the applicable recovery guidelines (generally 8 to 10 populations with a minimum of 100 mature, reproducing individuals per population for long-lived perennials; 300 mature, reproducing individuals per population for short-lived perennials; and 500 mature, reproducing individuals per population for annuals) to determine if we had inadvertently proposed for designation too much or too little habitat to meet the essential recovery goals of 8 to 10 populations per species distributed among the islands of

the species' known historic range (HINHP Database 2000, 2001; Wagner *et al.* 1990, 1999).

Based on comments and information we received during the comment periods, we assessed the proposed critical habitat in order to ascertain which areas contained the highest quality habitat, had the highest likelihood of species conservation, and were geographically distributed within the species' historical range and located a sufficient distance from each other such that populations of a single species are unlikely to be impacted by a single catastrophic event. We ranked areas of the proposed critical habitat by the quality of the primary constituent elements (*e.g.*, intact native plant communities, predominance of associated native plants versus nonnative plants), potential as a conservation area (*e.g.*, whether the land is zoned for conservation or whether the landowner is already participating in plant conservation actions), and current or expected management of known threats (*e.g.*, ungulate control; weed control; nonnative insect, slug, and snail control). Areas that are zoned for conservation or have been identified as a State Forest Reserve, NAR, Wildlife Preserve, State Park, or are managed for conservation by a private landowner have a high likelihood of providing conservation benefit to the species and are therefore more essential than other comparable habitat outside of those types of areas.

Areas that contain high quality primary constituent elements and conservation potential (*e.g.*, are zoned for conservation and have ongoing or expected threat abatement actions) were ranked the most essential. This ranking process also included determining which habitats were representative of the historic geographical and ecological distributions of the species (see "Primary Constituent Elements"). Of these most essential areas, we selected adequate area to provide for 8 to 10 populations distributed among the islands of each species' historical range. Of the proposed critical habitat for a species, areas that were not ranked most essential to provide habitat for populations above the recovery goal of 8 to 10 populations were determined not essential for the conservation of the

species and were excluded from the final designation.

In selecting areas of designated critical habitat, we made an effort to avoid developed areas, such as towns and other similar lands, that are unlikely to contribute to the conservation of the 60 species. However, the minimum mapping unit that we used to approximate our delineation of critical habitat for these species did not allow us to exclude all such developed areas from the maps. In addition, existing manmade features and structures within the boundaries of the mapped unit, such as buildings; roads; aqueducts and other water system features—including but not limited to pumping stations, irrigation ditches, pipelines, siphons, tunnels, water tanks, gaging stations, intakes, reservoirs, diversions, flumes, and wells; existing trails; campgrounds and their immediate surrounding landscaped area; scenic lookouts; remote helicopter landing sites; existing fences; telecommunications towers and associated structures and equipment; electrical transmission lines and distribution, and communication facilities and regularly maintained associated rights-of-way and access ways; radars, and telemetry antennas; missile launch sites; arboreta and gardens; heiau (indigenous places of worship or shrines) and other archaeological sites; airports; other paved areas; and lawns and other rural residential landscaped areas do not contain one or more of the primary constituent elements and are therefore excluded under the terms of the final regulation. Federal actions limited to those areas would not trigger a section 7 consultation unless they affect the species or primary constituent elements in adjacent critical habitat.

In summary, for these species we utilized the approved recovery plan guidance to identify appropriately sized land units containing essential occupied and unoccupied habitat. Based on the best available information, we believe these areas constitute the essential habitat on Maui and Kahoolawe to provide for the recovery of these 60 species.

The approximate areas of the designated critical habitat by land ownership or jurisdiction are shown in Table 4.