

provides habitat for five populations of 300 mature, reproducing individuals of the short-lived perennial *Viola kauaiensis* var. *wahiaensis* and is currently occupied with 13 plants. This unit is essential to the conservation of the taxon because it supports an extant colony of this species and includes habitat that is important for the expansion of the present population, which is currently considered non-viable. The habitat features contained in this unit that are essential for this species include, but are not limited to, *Machaerina angustifolia-Rhynchospora rugosa* lowland bog or mixed wet shrubland and adjacent *Metrosideros polymorpha* wet forest. Although we do not feel that there is enough habitat that currently exists to reach the recovery goal of 8 to 10 populations for this species, this unit is at an appropriate size to avoid their destruction by one naturally occurring catastrophic event.

**Kauai 11—*Wilkesia hobdyi*—a**

This unit is critical habitat for *Wilkesia hobdyi* and is 775 ha (1,916 ac) on State land (Hono o Na Pali NAR, Na Pali Coast State Park, and Puu Ka Pele Forest Reserve). This unit contains Anaki, and Kawaiula, Kaaholi, Paaiki, Pohakuao, and Poopooiki Valleys, Kanakou Summit, Manono Ridge, and Nakeikionaiwi Pillar. This unit provides habitat for nine populations of 300 mature, reproducing individuals of the short-lived perennial *Wilkesia hobdyi* and is currently occupied with 81 plants. This unit is important to the conservation of the taxon because it supports an extant colony of this species and includes habitat that is important for the expansion of the present population, which is currently considered non-viable. The habitat features contained in this unit that are essential for this species include, but are not limited to, coastal dry cliffs or very dry ridges. The 325–390 other plants on Kauai are not included in critical habitat because the habitat they occupy is not considered essential to the conservation of this species. The more appropriate habitat on Kauai, within its historical range, are being designated as critical habitat.

**Kauai 11—*Xylosma crenatum*—a**

This unit is critical habitat for *Xylosma crenatum* and is 840 ha (2,077 ac) on State land (Kokee and Na Pali Coast State Parks). This unit contains poritons of the Awaawapuhi, Honopu, and Nualolo Trails, and Kainamanu and Kalahu Summits. This unit provides habitat for four populations of 100 mature, reproducing individuals of the long-lived perennial *Xylosma crenatum*

and is currently occupied with 14 plants. This unit is essential to the conservation of the taxon because it supports an extant colony of this species and includes habitat that is important for the expansion of the present population, which is currently considered non-viable. The habitat features contained in this unit that are essential for this species include, but are not limited to, diverse *Acacia koa-Metrosideros polymorpha* montane mesic or wet forest, or *Metrosideros polymorpha-Dicranopteris linearis* montane wet forest. This unit is geographically separated from the other unit designated as critical habitat for this island-endemic species, in order to avoid all recovery populations from being destroyed by one naturally occurring catastrophe. Although we do not feel that there is enough habitat that currently exists to reach the recovery goal of 8 to 10 populations for this species, this unit is at an appropriate size and distance from the other unit to avoid their destruction by one naturally occurring catastrophic event.

**Kauai 12—*Xylosma crenatum*—b**

This unit is critical habitat for *Xylosma crenatum* and is 52 ha (128 ac) on State land (Kuia NAR and Waimea Canyon State Park) near Lapa Picnic Area and Lua Reservoir. This unit provides habitat for one population of 100 mature, reproducing individuals of the long-lived perennial *Xylosma crenatum* and is currently unoccupied. This unit is essential to the conservation of the taxon because it supports habitat that is important to the establishment of additional populations on Kauai 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, diverse *Acacia koa-Metrosideros polymorpha* montane mesic or wet forest, or *Metrosideros polymorpha-Dicranopteris linearis* montane wet forest. This unit is geographically separated from the other unit designated as critical habitat for this island-endemic species, in order to avoid all recovery populations from being destroyed by one naturally occurring catastrophe. Although we do not feel that there is enough habitat that currently exists to reach the recovery goal of 8 to 10 populations for this species, this unit is at an appropriate distance from the other unit to avoid their destruction by one naturally occurring catastrophic event.

**Kauai 11—*Zanthoxylum hawaiiense*—a**

This unit is critical habitat for *Zanthoxylum hawaiiense* and is 523 ha (1,292 ac) on State land (Alakai

Wilderness Preserve and Puu Ka Pele Forest Reserve), containing portions of Kawaiiki Valley. This unit provides habitat for two populations of 100 mature, reproducing individuals of the long-lived perennial *Zanthoxylum hawaiiense* and is currently occupied with three plants. This unit is essential to the conservation of the taxon because it supports an extant colony of this species and includes habitat that is important for the expansion of the present population, which is currently considered non-viable. The habitat features contained in this unit that are essential for this species include, but are not limited to, lowland dry or mesic forests dominated by *Metrosideros polymorpha* or *Diospyros sandwicensis*. This unit provides for two populations within this multi-island species' historical range on Kauai that are 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)(2) 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 affected by the designation of critical habitat when 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.