



File Code: 1560
Date: May 23, 2017

Aloha:

I am writing to inform you of the availability of the Environmental Assessment and draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for the proposed the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry’s research and education field facility within the Pu’u Wa’awa’a Unit of the Hawai’i Experimental Tropical Forest (HETF) (see Figure 1). For more information about the HETF, including annual reports containing research discoveries and youth engagement, please visit the following Internet URL: <http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/ef/hawaii/>.

As the Responsible Official, Station Director Alex Friend prepared a draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Pu’u Wa’awa’a Construction Project Environmental Assessment. The project would provide administrative and educational facilities servicing research and education in the HETF near the community of Pu’uanahulu Homesteads. The Environmental Assessment and draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact are available for review at the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, 60 Nowelo Street, Hilo, HI 96720; or, on-line at: http://www.hetf.us/page/projects_plans/.



Figure 1

Opportunity to Object

This proposed decision is subject to objection pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. Objections will only be accepted from those who submitted project-specific written comments during scoping or other designated comment period. Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted comments unless based on new information arising after the designated comment periods.

Objections must be submitted within 45 days following the publication of the legal notice of availability of the draft Decision Notice in the *Sacramento Bee*. The date of this legal notice is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframes provided by any other source. It is the objector’s responsibility to ensure evidence of timely receipt (36 CFR 218.9).

Objections must be submitted to the reviewing officer as follows: Mailed to: USDA Forest Service at: Attn: Objection Reviewing Officer, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, EMC-JAR, Mailstop 1104, Washington, DC 20250; E-mailed electronically in a common digital format to objections-chief@fs.fed.us. Please put OBJECTION and Pu’u Wa’awa’a Construction Project Environmental Assessment in the subject line; Delivered during business hours (M-F 8:00am to 4:00pm) to: USDA Forest Service, Attn: Objection Reviewing Officer, 210 14th Street, SW, EMC-JAR, Mailstop 1104 Washington, DC 20250, 202-205-1449, between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm, M-F; or Faxed to: 202-205-1172, ATTN: OBJECTIONS.



Objections must include (36 CFR 218.8(d)): 1) name, address and telephone; 2) signature or other verification of authorship; 3) identify a single lead objector when applicable; 4) project name, Responsible Official name and title, and name of affected Experimental Forest; 5) reasons for, and suggested remedies to resolve, your objections; and, 6) description of the connection between your objections and your prior comments. Incorporate documents by reference only as provided for at 36 CFR 218.8(b).

For additional information, contact Ricardo D. Lopez at the Institute for Pacific Islands Forestry, at 808-854-2601 or rdlopez@fs.fed.us, during normal business hours.

Thank you for your interest in the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ric Lopez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ric" and last name "Lopez" clearly distinguishable.

Ric Lopez
Director, Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry

Cc: Colleen Schneider, Cary Pence, John Slown

Hawai'i Experimental Tropical Forest Pu'u Wa'awa'a Proposed Project Site

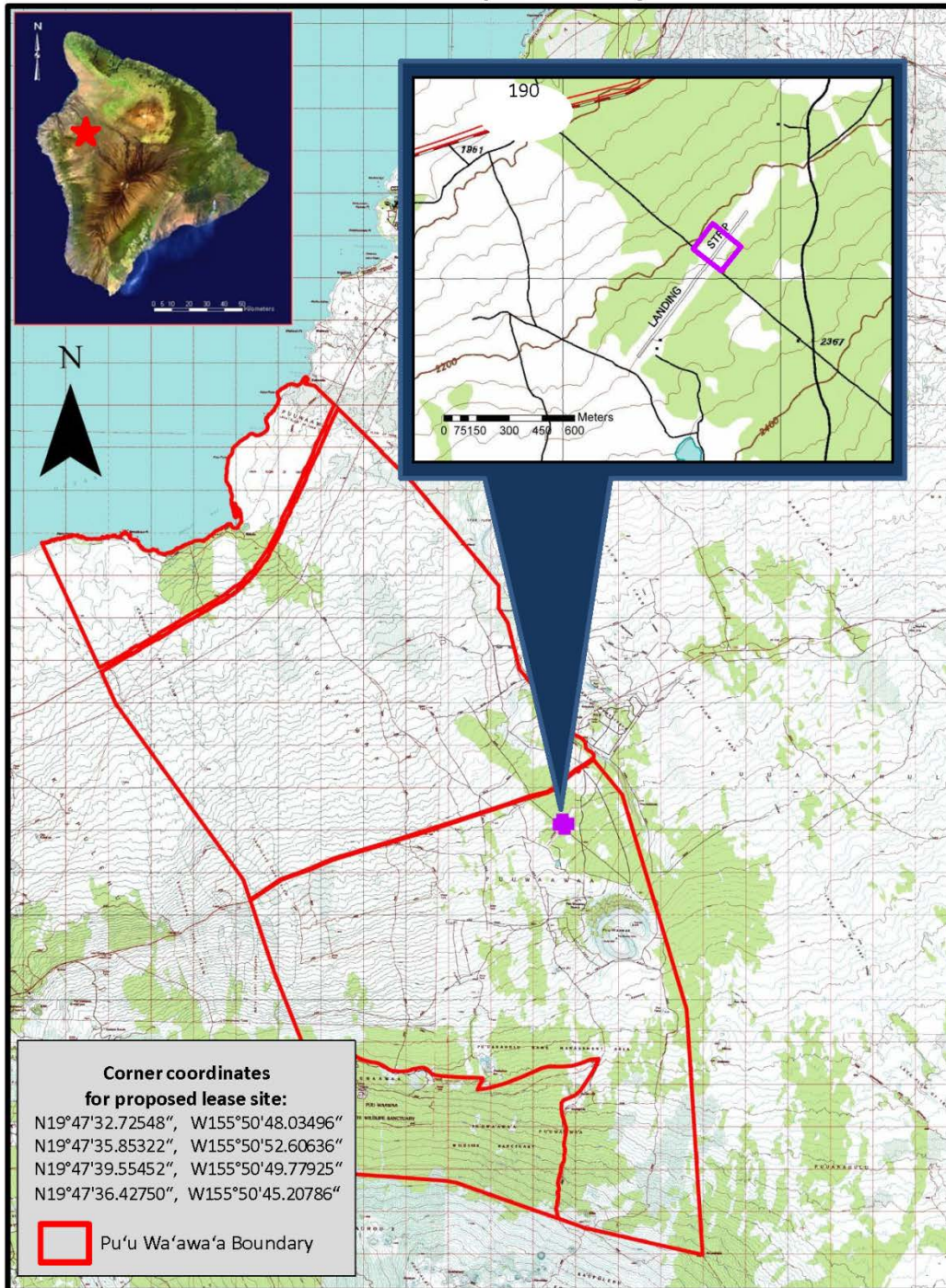


Figure 2

The Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry is a field unit located in Hilo, Hawaii and is a part of the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Research Station. Additional information available at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/ipif/>.