

PACIFIC ISLANDS

Whatever It Takes

Funding and staffing shortages coupled with the continual reorganization of research scientists have made it much more difficult for the National Park Service to accomplish natural resource management projects that protect national parks. In Hawaii, park resource managers and scientists have adopted a cooperative strategy to combine forces and expertise to get the job done in national park areas, and the whole

is definitely greater than the sum of the parts. In smaller parks, such as Kalaupapa National Historical Park, developing, organizing, and completing large projects would simply not be possible, given the

very small staff and logistical constraints, without the cooperative support of Hawaii Volcanoes and Haleakala National Parks, the University of Hawaii Cooperative Park Studies Unit (CPSU), the Pacific Islands System Support Office, and the Pacific West Field Area. Additional critical support has been shared



This illustrates the problems

by the NPS Water Resources Division and the USGS Biological Resources Division (BRD).

Good examples of this cooperative spirit come from recent and ongoing fence enclosure construction projects at Kalaupapa. With the assistance of Dr. Cliff Smith of the CPSU, Lloyd Loope, Art Medeiros, and Chuck Chimera of the Haleakala BRD field station, and the resource management staff of Hawaii Volcanoes, especially Larry Katahira and Howard Hoshida and his crew, the park constructed a fence nearly 3 miles long around a volcanic crater containing rare remnant Hawaiian dryland forest. This forest was being severely degraded by marauding nonnative pigs and a rapidly growing population of alien axis deer. Their efforts, coupled with the park maintenance staff, successfully completed this project in time to save this very special resource, one of the last remaining dryland forests of its type in existence. Newly sprouted seed-

being besieged by more than 500 axis deer nightly, and time is running out for the remaining coastal plants. Again, park partners were there to assist with the vegetation surveys, management recommendations, and administrative support to get the project developed and funded. Pacific Islands SSO and Pacific West Field Area staff, especially Jay Goldsmith and Don Tiernan, helped bring the project to life. Resource managers at Haleakala, led by Ron Nagata, enthusiastically coordinated the materials procurement and construction. The Haleakala fence building crew, led by Ted Rodrigues, are constructing nearly a mile of fencing, often drilling through solid rock to set the posts.

With this kind of cooperative spirit, Hawaiian parks will continue to strive to accomplish more with less. There is no choice—native ecosystems in

lings of the native wiliwili tree are being seen in the crater for the first time in years since the exclusion of pigs and deer.

Another fence building project is underway at Kalaupapa, this one designed to protect several federally listed endangered plant species, and a fine example of native coastal strand vegetation. This area is

Hawaiian parks are being rapidly degraded, and parks can not wait.



This illustration depicts the spread of exotic species to Hawaii and some of the resulting natural resource problems. Note the pigs and the enclosure at the far right.