Summit district

What are the threats?

Pā rock formations are unique Hawaiian archeological sites found in the alpine area.

Moving rocks can destroy ancient cultural structures, trampling off trails can damage the fragile plants and animals and, without care, thousands of visitors and vehicles can disturb the tranquility of this special place.

Subalpine shrubs, many found nowhere else on earth, rely on moisture from low clouds and mist.

The global climate is changing which will ultimately modify the patterns of rain, cloud, and temperature on Maui, making some areas unsuitable for the unique native plants and animals now found in the park.

Native kuhi'aikamo'owahie (lobelia) and 'i'iwi (scarlet honey-creeper) inhabit the rainforest.

Many invasive plants, grazers (goats, pigs, and deer), predators (cats and mongoose), as well as wasps and ants, are a constant threat to the native plants and animals of the Haleakalā Summit district.

What is the NPS doing?

Handling a traditional instrument helps visitors connect to Hawaiian culture and traditions.

- Preserving native Hawaiian culture by teaching Hawaiian names to park visitors.
- Encouraging visitors to protect culturally significant plants and animals.

Park staff inspect and maintain weather and climate monitoring equipment near the summit.

- Monitoring the weather to detect long-term patterns or shifts in climate.
- Monitoring vegetation health and transition in park ecosystems as a result of changing climate

Park staff install and maintain fences to keep out destructive grazing animals.

- Maintaining fences around the park to keep out goats, pigs, and deer.
- Trapping and removing predatory mongooses and cats.
- Monitoring and controlling invasive plants and insects.

Kīpahulu district

What are the threats?

The cascading streams and quiet pools of 'Ohe'o Gulch provide a natural respite for visitors.

Increasing numbers of people, air traffic, and vehicles add unnatural sounds within the park. Development within and outside the park may damage the natural viewscape.

Taro and sweet potato farm plots once flourished when ali'i (Hawaiian chiefs) ruled.

A lack of understanding leads to disrespect and disturbance of historial structures (farm plot walls) and cultural practices (traditional agriculture) still in place in and around the park.

The rare 'o'opu akupa, a native freshwater goby, lives in streams of the Kīpahulu Valley.

Native forests are threatened by invasive animals and plants, and declinining water quality in streams threaten rare goby fish. Forest birds are attacked by introduced cats and mongooses, as well as mosquito-borne diseases.

What is the NPS doing?

Trailside signs alert visitors to both park features and hazards to watch out for.

- Managing human impacts to enhance the visitors' experience while they enjoy the park.
- Educating visitors of the value of uninterrupted natural sounds and views in the park landscape.

Canoe carving demonstrations for park visitors keep Hawaiian traditions alive.

- Researching cultural sites.
- Maintaining a living cultural place.
- Sharing the Hawaiian perspective on our kuleana (responsibility) for preserving the beauty of nature for all to enjoy.

Conservation workers remove pampas grass which fuels wildfires and invades native ecosystems.

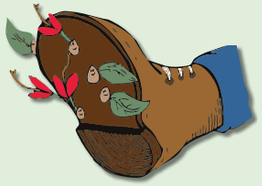
- Removing targeted invasive plants.
- Fencing out and trapping introduced grazing or predatory animals in the Kīpahulu forest.

How can I help?

- Stay on trails.
- Report feral animal sightings.
- Pack it in and pack it out.

- Volunteer to help park programs.
- Don't feed or chase wildlife.
- Don't build rock piles.

- Brush off seeds and dirt from your clothes and boots.
- Leave your pets at home.



- Pits, peels, and food scraps belong in trash cans.
- Respect and protect this peaceful place.

Leave no trace

The wao kanaka (realm of people) of Kīpahulu district is not a journey to be taken lightly.

Endemism, which means globally unique plants and animals , is preserved in the upper Kīpahulu valley. Preserving mauka (upslope) areas ensures that streams, rivers, and coastal areas remain healthy for rare native species .

Hawaiian culture is seen where ahupua'a (traditional land use) philosophies and practices are demonstrated ; historical plantations and ranching can also be discovered in the landscape.

Serenity, the natural sounds of waterfalls , waves, and wind, uninterrupted by traffic and urbanization is increasingly rare.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Haleakalā National Park
Hawai'i

*'O'opu nākea (*Awaous guamensisi*), found only in Hawaii, is the largest and most abundant of five native goby species, reaching up to a foot in length. This rare fish sticks to the glass in this photo the same way it sticks to rocks as it climbs up waterfalls in Kīpahulu's steep streams. One species of 'o'opu was large enough to be a food source for ancient Hawaiians.*

Photo courtesy of Hawaii DLNR/Division of Aquatic Resources

For more information, please visit the Park's Visitor Center or call 808-572-4400.

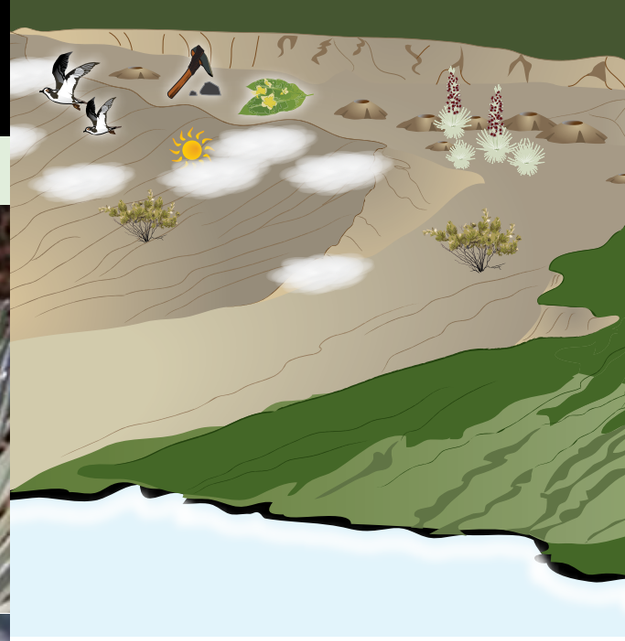
Haleakalā National Park
National Park Service
www.nps.gov/hale

Content is synthesized from discussions with staff at the Haleakalā National Park and developed in collaboration with:

Pacific Island Network
Inventory & Monitoring Program
National Park Service
science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/pacn/

Integration & Application Network
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
www.ian.umces.edu

Making the invisible...visible



Appreciating the wao akua (realm of the Gods) of the Summit district takes more than a moment.

Endemism—the summit area of Haleakalā is one of the last refuges for dozens of plants and animals that are found only in Hawai'i, and is home to species that are endemic (unique) to the park.

Hawaiian culture—for thousands of years, the wao akua (summit) of Haleakalā has been visited by the Hawaiian people for spiritual renewal and natural resources .

Constant change—climate and elevation have produced a diverse landscape. These habitats are finely balanced, a result of interactions between sun and clouds , and vegetation .