

8.2 LAND USE/RECREATION

The land uses and recreational resources for PTA, the WPAA, and the PTA Trail were identified through review of the INRMP (USARHAW and 25th ID[L] 2001b), the state Land Use District designations (State of Hawai'i 2002a), the state designations for Agricultural Lands of Importance to the State of Hawai'i (State of Hawai'i 2002a), the County of Hawai'i General Plan (County of Hawai'i 1989) with the proposed revision (County of Hawai'i 2001a), County of Hawai'i Zoning Code (County of Hawai'i 2001b), and the County of Hawai'i Real Property Tax Division data for Tax Map Key identifications and property boundaries (County of Hawai'i 2003).

8.2.1 Affected Environment

Land Use

Pōhakuloa Training Area

PTA is in the north-central portion of the island of Hawai'i, just to the west of the plateau formed by Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea volcanoes (Figure 8-1). Access to PTA is from Saddle Road, which connects the towns of Hilo to the east and Waimea to the north. PTA is the largest Army training area in the state, totaling 108,792 acres (44,027 hectares). Land uses at PTA include the cantonment area, Bradshaw Army Airfield (BAAF), maneuver training areas, drop zones, live-fire training ranges, artillery firing points, an ordnance impact area, and areas unsuitable for maneuver.

The cantonment area consists of 566 acres (229 hectares) with 154 buildings. The structures are mostly Quonset huts and include 11 dining facilities, two motor pools, rations warehouses, a bulk fuel facility, a chapel, a theater, a recreation club, and a medical facility (USARHAW and 25th ID[L] 2001b).

BAAF has a 3,696-foot (1,127-meter) runway and offers helicopter access and limited C-130 access (USARHAW and 25th ID[L] 2001b). Safety zones associated with BAAF extend 15,000 feet (4,572 meters) beyond each end of the runway and 1,500 feet (457 meters) to either side of the runway's center line.

Land suitable for field maneuvers consists of approximately 56,661 acres (22,930 hectares). This total acreage does not include the Multipurpose Range Complex (MPRC), which has been temporarily closed for training. The ordnance impact area is approximately 51,000 acres (20,639 hectares). Two exceptions to the ordnance impact area are two M16 ranges oriented to the east and three small "dudded areas" (where unexploded ordnance accumulates) east of Redleg Road (Nakata Planning Group LLC 2002a). Ranges, firing points, surface danger zones, and the ordnance impact area are shown on Figure 8-2. Existing military land uses within the project areas are listed in Table 8-3.

Figure 8-1
Land Use at Pōhakuloa Training Area

Figure 8-2

Ranges and Training Areas Pōhakuloa Training Area

Table 8-3
Pōhakuloa Training Area Project Areas and Land Uses

Project Title	Existing Land Use
BAX	Training: ranges
AALFTR	Training: ranges
Ammunition storage area	Training
Tactical Vehicle Wash Facility	Training
Range Maintenance Facility	Cantonment area
Upgrade and reorient BAAF runway	Airfield
Fixed Tactical Internet sites	
Anti Armor Range 8	Training
‘Auwaiakeakua WT	Agricultural cattle ranch land with occasional use for military training
Kawaihae	Urban
Koloa WT	Agricultural cattle ranch land with occasional use for military training
Mauna Loa Observatory	Conservation District Resource Subzone
Pu‘u Ahi	Training
Pu‘u Kailua	Training
Pu‘u Kanalopakanui	Agricultural cattle ranch land with occasional use for military training
Pu‘u Ke‘eke‘e	Agricultural cattle ranch land with occasional use for military training
Pu‘u Pohakuloa	Cantonment area
Range Maintenance Facility	Cantonment area
Installation Information	Training and cantonment area at PTA
Infrastructure Architecture	
Maneuver in Training Area 23 (excluding the Multipurpose Range complex)	Temporarily closed maneuver training area
QTR2 ¹	Training: range

Sources: Tetra Tech, Inc. 2002; State of Hawai‘i 2002a

¹Construction and use of QTR2 at PTA is included in the Reduced Land Acquisition Alternative only and is not included in the Proposed Action.

PTA lands are within the state-designated Conservation District (Figure 8-3, State of Hawai‘i 2002a). Conservation District Subzones are shown on Figure 8-3 and objectives are defined in Table 8-4. The County of Hawai‘i General Plan shows PTA as conservation lands (Figure 8-4, County of Hawai‘i 2001a). County zoning designates PTA as forest reserve (conservation) and open (County of Hawai‘i 2001b). The state ALISH map shows the northwestern corner of PTA to contain a portion of land designated as Qther agricultural land (Figure 8-5, State of Hawai‘i 2002a).

Figure 8-3

State Land Use District Map Pōhakuloa Training Area

Figure 8-4

State Land Use Pattern Allocation Guide Map Pōhakuloa Training Area Trail

Figure 8-5

Agricultural Lands of Importance to the State of Hawai'i Pōhakuloa Training Area

Table 8-4
Conservation District Subzones at PTA

Area of PTA	Conservation District Subzone	Subzone Objective
BAAF	General	Designate open space where specific conservation uses may not be defined.
Impact area	Limited	Limit uses where natural conditions suggest constraints on human activities.
Remainder of PTA	Resource	Develop, with proper management, areas to ensure sustained use of the area's natural resources.

Source: State of Hawai'i 2002c

Recreation at PTA includes archery, biking, motor sports, and hunting. Archery tournaments are occasionally held in training areas 5 and 6, south of BAAF (R.M Towill Corp. 1997a). An annual bicycle race is held in May through training areas 1 and 4, southeast of BAAF. An annual motorsport race is held in May along the Redleg Trail through training areas 1 and 4.

PTA includes three types of public hunting units: A, E, and F. Portions of training areas 2, 10, and 11 are designated as hunting unit A and are part of the Mauna Kea Game Management Area. Training areas 1 and 3 through 20 are designated as hunting unit E. Table 8-5 presents the conditions for hunting mammals at PTA units A and E and the conditions for game bird hunting at the installation. Training areas 21 and 22 are designated as hunting unit F, but the Army has closed the hunting area on the eastern side of PTA (training area 21) due to concerns about vandalism and protecting archaeological resources.

The PTA INRMP recognizes the current open post nature of the installation that allows military training and public access for recreation to coexist. Proposed management objectives for outdoor recreation at PTA include the following:

- Continue current public access policies and procedures from 2002 to 2006, unless more effective or efficient systems become available (as part of a five-year review and evaluation period to determine continuity of policy);
- Recognize that the Hawai'i Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) will continue to manage hunting and its associated game management programs at PTA;
- Continue to provide hunter harvest data to DOFAW as well as other monitoring data that may affect hunting programs;
- Continue to maintain unit F consistent with legally mandated requirements;
- Continue to provide access for bird dog training;
- Support DOFAW efforts to make water units accessible to game birds;
- Evaluate the option to allow DOFAW to draw water from firefighting water tanks directly into bird-only watering units;

**Table 8-5
Hunting at PTA**

Conditions	Hunting Unit A	Hunting Unit E	Game Birds
Game to be taken	Wild pigs, wild sheep, and wild goats	Wild pigs, wild sheep, and wild goats	Ring-neck pheasant, green pheasant, Nepal Kalij pheasant; California valley quail, Japanese quail, Gamble's quail; chukar partridge, gray francolin, black francolin, Erckel's francolin; chestnut bellied sandgrouse, mourning dove, spotted dove (large dove), barred dove (small dove); and wild turkey.
Permitted hunting methods	Rifle, muzzleloader, handgun, shotgun, and bow and arrow.	Archery only	Archery only
Open hunting periods	Wild pigs: special seasons Wild sheep and wild goats: year-round	Year-round	First Saturday in November through Martin Luther King Day or the third Sunday in January, whichever occurs later. Special seasons for wild turkey, barred dove, and spotted dove.
Open hunting days	Daily; hunters must confirm with Division of Forestry and Wildlife	Daily	Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays
Special conditions and restrictions	Open to pig hunters with valid tags. Only primitive weapons allowed during muzzleloader season.	Entry permit to PTA required from PTA Commander. Schedule subject to military training.	Hunting on private lands requires permission of landowner.
Hunters	Persons who have the appropriate hunting license, tags, permits, or permit tags on their person and who have signed in at the state hunter checking station.		

Sources: DLNR 1999a and 1999b

- Create a GIS database of wildlife water units; and
- Support requests for use of PTA lands for other outdoor recreation activities when such use is consistent with planned military activities, with the protection of natural and cultural resources, and with the availability of PTA resources to support such activities.

West PTA Acquisition Area

The WPAA is in the Waikoloa area, at the western foot of Mauna Kea (Figure 8-1). Māmalahoa Highway forms the northwestern boundary and Saddle Road forms most of the eastern boundary. Saddle Road Junction, where these roads connect, forms the northern

boundary. The proposed acquisition area is currently used for cattle grazing, limited hunting, and a quarry, and is leased between four and six times a year by the Army or other military entities for maneuver training. The cattle grazing is part of Parker Ranch, one of the nation's largest cattle ranches, with over 35,000 head of Angus and Charolais cattle that produce over 15 million pounds of beef annually.

The state ALISH map shows most of the WPAA as Other agricultural land (Figure 8-5 State of Hawai'i 2002a). These lands are of state-wide or local importance for the production of food, feed, fiber, and forage crops. They are important to agriculture in Hawai'i, yet they exhibit properties that exclude them from Prime or Unique classifications. The WPAA is designated by county zoning as agriculture (A-40a) (County of Hawai'i 2001b).

The WPAA is also a private hunting area, managed by Parker Ranch, used for hunting mammals year-round and birds from November through January. The bag limits are the same as for the state and hunters must have a valid hunting license.

Due to the historical military use of the area, the USACE's overall ordnance and explosives hazard level for the WPAA is low (Earth Tech 2002). The institutional controls for these low risk areas include community awareness outreach programs, educational media, and pre-coordinated construction support. UXO hazards along the Saddle Road corridor (extending approximately 164 feet [50 meters] from the road) need to be cleared to safe depth to support the heaviest track and wheeled vehicles that will use the area. This UXO cleanup project is addressed in Chapter 9, under Cumulative Impacts.

PTA Trail

Land uses within the PTA Trail corridor include cattle grazing, agriculture, occasional military training, open space, existing utility easements, a portion of a former military vehicle trail, and Kawaihae Harbor. The proposed alignment is near the residential areas of Waikoloa Village and Kawaihae Village. The Army met with the Waikoloa Village Association, and the involved parties agreed on the alignment (Takayesu 2002). The portion of the military vehicle trail near Kawaihae Village is along the existing trail alignment.

PTA Trail begins at Kawaihae Bay and runs inland from the harbor and then turns south paralleling the current highway. It passes John Young's house on the coastal side of the property and then turns inland again as it crosses the lands of Pu'u Kohola National Historic Park between Young's homestead and the two heiau in the park. The park is 85.3-acre park (National Park Service 2004). The trail travels up the gentle western slope of the island to PTA.

The state-designated land use districts for PTA Trail and immediately adjacent areas are mostly within the Agricultural District and Urban District at and near Kawaihae Harbor. The state ALISH map shows the southern portion of the proposed military vehicle trail as Other agricultural land (Figure 8-5 State of Hawai'i 2002a).

The 2001 proposed revisions to the County of Hawai'i General Plan show the military vehicle trail corridor and immediately adjacent areas as conservation lands (Figure 8-6

County of Hawai'i 2001a). Along Kawaihae Road, land use designations include urban expansion and low density urban. As the corridor progresses toward Kawaihae Harbor, land use designations include urban expansion and industrial. The 2001 proposed revisions include a rural area along Kawaihae Road. The harbor designations include industrial, medium density urban, and open area.

The proposed military vehicle trail passes through a variety of county zoning designations, including agricultural (A-5a and A-40a) and open (County of Hawai'i 2001b). The zoning at Kawaihae Harbor includes industrial (MG-1a), residential (RS-1.5), and open (O). Kawaihae Harbor and adjacent land to the east, across Akoni Pule Highway, is included in the Special Management Area (Figure 8-6) (County of Hawai'i 2001c). There is also a shoreline setback along the harbor property.

The southern portion of PTA Trail crosses the Parker Ranch-managed private hunting area located within the WPAA.

Due to the historical military use of the area, the USACE's ordnance and explosives hazard level for the PTA Trail alignment ranges from low to high (Earth Tech 2002). The policy regarding use of roads and trails is primarily dependent upon landowners and current land use (Streck 2003). The institutional controls for these areas include community awareness outreach programs, educational media, and pre-coordinated construction support.

Ownership

Pōhakuloa Training Area

Most of PTA land is owned by the state or federal government, with state, federal, and private ownership of the three FTI sites located outside of the installation. The cantonment area includes ceded land (USARHAW and 25th ID[L] 2001b). Figure 8-7 shows land parcels within PTA, and Table 8-6 lists Tax Map Keys (defined in Chapter 3) of the affected land parcels and the associated landowners and lessees.

West PTA Acquisition Area

The 23,000-acre (9,308-hectare) proposed acquisition area (Tax Map Key 367001003) is owned by Richard Smart Trust (Parker Ranch) (Figure 8-8). The military leases this area approximately four to five times per year for military maneuver training.

PTA Trail

Mostly nonmilitary entities own land within the proposed military vehicle trail corridor. Affected parcels are shown on Figure 8-9, and Table 8-7 lists Tax Map Keys of the affected land parcels and the associated landowners and lessees.

Figure 8-6

Land Use Pattern Allocation Guide Map (Proposed) Pōhakuloa Training Area and PTA Trail

Figure 8-7

Special Management Area Map for Pōhakuloa to Kawaihae Trail

Figure 8-8

Affected Parcels Map Pōhakuloa Training Area

Figure 8-9

Affected Parcels Map for Pōhakuloa Training Kawaihae Trail West PTA Acquisition Area and Pōhakuloa to Kawaihae Trail

**Table 8-6
PTA Landowners and Lessees**

Tax Map Key	Landowner (Lessee)
PTA	
338001001	State of Hawai'i
338001013	Hawaiian Home Commission (United States of America)
344015008	State of Hawai'i (United States of America)
344016001	State of Hawai'i
344016005	State of Hawai'i (United States of America)
344016006	State of Hawai'i (United States of America)
344016007	US Department of Defense Army (United States of America)
371004006	State of Hawai'i (United States of America)
371004007	State of Hawai'i (United States of America)
Fixed Tactical Internet Locations Outside PTA Border	
Mauna Loa Observatory	
344016001	State of Hawai'i
WPAA	
367001003	Richard Smart Trust, also known as Parker Ranch
Kawaihae	
361003022	United States of America

Source: County of Hawai'i 2003

**Table 8-7
Proposed PTA Trail Landowners and Lessees**

Tax Map Key	Landowner (Lessee)
361003022	United States of America
361003025	State of Hawai'i
361003026	State of Hawai'i
361003051	State of Hawai'i
362001018	Hale Wailani Partners LP
362001019	The Queen Emma Foundation (Parker Ranch)
362001023	The Queen Emma Foundation
362001051	Mauna Kea Development Corp.
362001060	The Queen Emma Foundation (County of Hawai'i)
362001064	The Queen Emma Foundation (Parker Ranch)
362001070	United States of America (<u>National Park Service</u>)
366001002	State of Hawai'i (Pale Koki Ranch, Inc.)
366001068	State of Hawai'i
367001003	Richard Smart Trust, also known as Parker Ranch
368002008	Waikoloa Land & Cattle Co.
368002014	Waikoloa Village Association
368002018	Waikoloa Village Association
368002019	Waikoloa Village Association
368002022	Waikoloa Property

Source: County of Hawai'i 2003

Surrounding Land Use

Pōhakuloa Training Area

Land uses surrounding PTA include cattle grazing, game management areas, forest reserves, and undeveloped land. Land to the northwest of PTA is agricultural and is primarily used for cattle grazing and also provides hunting opportunities for big game species and game birds. Parker Ranch manages the WPAA hunting lands. Land to the north of PTA includes the Ka'ōhe Game Management Area (GMA), Mauna Kea State Park, and Mauna Kea Forest Reserve. Land to the east and south is included in the Mauna Loa Forest Reserve.

Lands surrounding PTA are generally within the state-designated Conservation District (Figure 8-3). Areas surrounding PTA are zoned by the county as forest reserve, open, or agriculture (County of Hawai'i 2001c).

Hiking trails in the vicinity include the 0.6-mile- (0.97-kilometer) long Pu'u Huluhulu Trail to the east and the 35-mile- (56-kilometer) long Mauna Loa Observatory Road to the southeast (Nā Ala Hele 2003). The Mauna Loa Observatory Road can be accessed on foot, bicycle, and four-wheel drive vehicles.

West PTA Acquisition Area

Land uses surrounding the proposed WPAA include cattle grazing, military training, agriculture, residential lots, and open space. Waiki'i Ranch is a gated residential ranch community bordered on three sides by the acquisition area. PTA is to the south-southeast of the area and the occasionally used Pu'u Pā Military Maneuver Area is adjacent to the northern tip, west of Mamalahoa Highway. The remaining surrounding lands are used for recreation and ranching or are undeveloped. Kilohana Girl Scout Camp and the State Ka'ōhe GMA are located immediately east of WPAA (Figure 8-1). The state ALISH map shows lands surrounding the WPAA designated as Other agricultural land (Figure 8-5).

The Pu'u Lā'au Road is an 8.4-mile (13.5-kilometer) dirt and gravel road located east of the WPAA. This road can be accessed on foot, bicycle, horse, and four-wheel drive vehicles (Nā Ala Hele 2003). The generally undeveloped land west of the WPAA and Mamalahoa Highway is identified as Waikoloa Development Ranch Lots.

Lands surrounding the proposed WPAA are zoned by the county as forest reserve, open, or agriculture (County of Hawai'i 2001b).

PTA Trail

Land uses surrounding the proposed military vehicle trail include cattle grazing, residential (Waikoloa Village and Kawaihae Village), Pu'ukoholā Heiau National Historic Site, agriculture, agricultural subdivision, open space, and periodic military training. The 2001 proposed revisions to the County of Hawai'i General Plan show the areas immediately adjacent to the PTA Trail corridor as agricultural, proposed rural, proposed urban expansion, medium density urban, and industrial (Figure 8-5). Land use designations surrounding the military vehicle trail land to the northwest are extensive agriculture and intensive agriculture. Kawaihae Harbor includes a commercial port harbor and two

recreational boat harbors, one at the north end and one at the south end. The 15.4-mile (24.8-kilometer) long coastal Ala Kahakai Trail (Kawaihae-Anaeho‘omalu) is located south of Kawaihae Harbor (Nā Ala Hele 2003).

Surrounding Land Ownership

Pōhakuloa Training Area

Parker Ranch owns the land northwest of PTA. The state owns the lands to the north, southeast, south, and west of PTA. The Hawaiian Home Commission owns the land to the east, and Kamehameha Schools owns the land to the southwest of PTA.

West PTA Acquisition Area

Adjacent landowners include Parker Ranch, State of Hawai‘i, various Waiki‘i Ranch landowners, and owners of the Waikoloa Development Ranch Lots.

PTA Trail

Ownership of land adjacent to the proposed military vehicle trail corridor is the same as the land within the proposed construction areas, listed in Table 8-7.

8.2.2 Environmental Consequences

Summary of Impacts

Table 8-8 provides a summary of impacts associated with land use and recreation at PTA, WPAA and PTA Trail. Less than significant impacts on land use would occur under conversion of agricultural land to training land, construction of Fixed Tactical Internet sites in a Conservation District, during the temporary construction of the projects, and due to SBCT training on lands currently used for training. Beneficial impacts on recreational land use would occur because approximately 23,000 acres (9,308 hectares) of private hunting land would be opened to the public when the land is not used for training. There would be no impacts under No Action.

Proposed Action (Preferred Alternative)

Environmental impacts discussed in this section are the result of the following: the construction of new training areas and ranges; operation of new training areas and ranges; acquisition of additional land; construction and use of a military vehicle trail; and additional training associated with the Proposed Action.

Less than Significant Impacts

Conversion of agricultural land to training land. Acquisition of the WPAA would involve transferring approximately 23,000 acres (9,308 hectares) of fee simple land from the Richard Smart Trust (Parker Ranch) to the Army. The additional 23,000-acre (9,308-hectare) WPAA would be used for a military vehicle trail, drop zone, and brigade task force maneuver training area. Most of the proposed acquisition area would be used for general SBCT training, and land use within the project area would be converted from agriculture to training land. The proposed training land use of agricultural grazing land at the WPAA is not

Table 8-8
Summary of Potential Land Use/Recreation Impacts at PTA

Impact Issues	Proposed Action	Reduced Land Acquisition	No Action
Conversion of agricultural land to training land	⊙	⊙	○
Impacts on natural resources management and recreational land use	⊙+	⊙+	○
Construction of Fixed Tactical Internet in a Conservation District	⊙	⊙	○
Impacts on land use during construction activities	⊙	⊙	○
SBCT training on lands currently used for current force training	⊙	⊙	○

In cases when there would be both beneficial and adverse impacts, both are shown on this table. Mitigation measures would only apply to adverse impacts.

LEGEND:

⊗ = Significant	+ = Beneficial impact
⊙ = Significant but mitigable to less than significant	N/A = Not applicable
⊙ = Less than significant	
○ = No impact	

consistent with the land use set forth in the County of Hawai'i General Plan (County of Hawai'i 1989), and the County of Hawai'i Zoning Code (County of Hawai'i 2001b). General military training within the proposed acquisition area is not expected to affect off-post land use. In accordance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act, the Army has completed the Farmland Conversion Rating Form in coordination with NRCS. This form assists the federal government in evaluating the impacts of converting farmland to nonagricultural use (see Appendix E).

The WPAA is used for grazing when adequate rainfall results in sufficient vegetation (Hoke 2002). The WPAA would convert two percent of the total designated agricultural lands on the island (three percent of the agricultural lands that are currently in use for pasture land and range land on the island) to military training land (County of Hawai'i 2001a). This would be a less than significant impact.

Various military units lease this area approximately four to six times per year for military maneuver training. A change in ownership of the area from private to military is likely to result in an increase in military training use to 8 to 12 times per year for all size units.

The ITAM program would be used to identify and mitigate potential impacts on the land. The Army is considering establishing a cooperative relationship to allow continued grazing at WPAA in conjunction with training on the land, subject to constraints posed by training.

PTA Trail construction would require approximately 132 acres (53.4 hectares) of land easements. The trail alignment is generally along undeveloped property boundaries, existing roads, and existing utility easements. Hence, trail construction and use is not expected to significantly affect land use. This would result in the land being more intensively used following the Proposed Action, with vehicle traffic between PTA and Kawaihae Harbor increasing in vehicle density from 40 to between 96 and 145. Frequency of travel from Kawaihae to PTA for battalion- or brigade-level training exercises would increase from twice per year to four times per year. The Army would consult with land owners so that, following construction of the PTA Trail, joint use of the trail would be coordinated to minimize impacts on land use.

Impacts on natural resources management and recreational land use. The increased in air flights at PTA could increase reactions of some game mammals or drive them further from the road. This may result in a decrease of roadside availability of game animals to hunters. This impact would be less than significant.

Construction of Fixed Tactical Internet in a Conservation District. Construction of one antenna in the Conservation District Resource Subzone, and within the Mauna Loa Forest Reserve, would result in a less than significant change in land use. The new antenna facility would reuse an existing site, where possible, and when an existing facility is not available the new antenna would be constructed on a relatively small area (no more than 500 square feet [46.5 square meters]). The new facility would also be located, where possible, close to existing access roads or trails. It would be sited, painted, and landscaped to minimize its impact on surrounding areas and users. As required in a Conservation District, endemic or indigenous plants will be used to renaturalize project areas where natural vegetation plant cover has been disturbed. Construction would be scheduled, where possible, to minimize conflicts with existing recreation activities. In addition, antenna sites are available for emergency efforts for aiding or rescuing stranded or lost hikers and hunters.

Impacts on land use during construction activities. During construction activities, land uses (including recreation) may be temporarily affected. Impacts associated with construction of the PTA Trail would be greater due to the presence of UXO along the alignment. Prior to construction, the UXO cleanup would involve identifying the MPM area – a safety radius associated with UXO. Owners and occupants of the areas within the MPM would be notified, and the following actions would occur, as needed: road closures and coordination with local law enforcement agencies, fire departments and transportation agencies. In addition, there may be temporary evacuation of structures within the MPM (Streck 2003). The Army believes these impacts would be less than significant because the likelihood of evacuations or road closures is low and their duration, if required, would be short.

SBCT training on lands currently used for training. Most of the land area within PTA that would be used for general SBCT training is currently being used. The primary land use difference

between training and SBCT training is the introduction of the Stryker vehicle. This would result in the land being more intensively used following the Proposed Action. On the WPAA, the Stryker would be introduced for maneuver training. To prevent land degradation and allow for the continued use of training lands, the Army incorporates all training lands into its ITAM program.

Beneficial impacts. Projects associated with PTA, the WPAA, and PTA Trail would not affect natural resources management areas. The WPAA consists of Parker Ranch-managed private hunting land. Beneficial impacts on recreational land use would occur because approximately 23,000 acres (9,308 hectares) of private hunting land would be opened to the public for hunting game birds and game mammals when the land is not used for training. The hunting conditions would be similar to the state rules, and hunters must have a valid hunting license. In addition, the Army would continue its cooperative efforts with the state to provide access to hunting areas on PTA.

Additional mitigation: In response to public comments, the Army proposes to coordinate with State of Hawai'i DLNR to create additional public hunting check in stations for the WPAA.

Reduced Land Acquisition Alternative

Impacts from construction and land transaction projects would be the same as those for the Proposed Action, except that QTR2 would be constructed within an existing training range area at PTA on the island of Hawai'i instead of on the South Range Acquisition Area. Impacts on recreational land use due to training would be the same as those for the Proposed Action.

Less than Significant Impacts

Conversion of agricultural land to training land. Impacts from converting 23,000 acres (9,308 hectares) of land would be the same as those for the Proposed Action.

Construction of Fixed Tactical Internet in a Conservation District. Impacts from construction of the Fixed Tactical Internet would be the same as for the Proposed Action.

Land use during construction activities. Impacts on land use during construction activities would be the same as for the Proposed Action, with the addition of construction of QTR2 on an existing training range area.

SBCT training on lands currently used for training. Impacts on existing training lands would be the same as for the Proposed Action.

Impacts on natural resources management and recreational land use. Impacts on natural resources management and recreational land use would be the same as those for the Proposed Action.

Beneficial Impacts

Impacts on natural resources management and recreational land use. Impacts on natural resources management and recreational land use would be the same as those for the Proposed Action.

No Action Alternative***No Impacts***

Under No Action, transformation would not occur, so no major changes to training areas would take place in Hawai'i. The Army would continue to operate and maintain its range, training areas, and support facilities in order to meet its current force training mission requirement. However, the level of training would change occasionally in response to this requirement and as a result, the land uses of these areas may change. If future changes could affect the environment, NEPA documentation would be prepared.