



U.S. NAVY :

PACIFIC MISSILE RANGE FACILITY BARKING SANDS : HAWAII



The U.S. Navy’s Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), located along the west coast of Kaua’i Island, is the world’s largest instrumented multi-environment range. PMRF provides premier training and test capabilities



within an 1,100-square nautical mile instrumented underwater range; 42,000 square nautical miles of airspace, and when needed, up to 2.1 million square nautical miles of operating space. PMRF is capable of simultaneously supporting surface, subsurface, air, and space operations. Portions of the 7-mile terrestrial footprint also provide premier training and test opportunities.

Infrastructure critical to ensuring test and training activities carried out at the installation are safe and effective (i.e. outdoor night lighting, communication towers, utility lines) can result in impacts to seabirds protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), such as the Newell’s Shearwater.

In an effort to improve the ecological baseline for these protected seabirds, PMRF is working proactively with federal, state, nonprofit, and private conservation organizations to implement landscape-level predator control at an important breeding colony site within Kaua’i’s remote Honopu Valley. The project will include placement of artificial burrows, monitoring of colony productivity, predator and invasive species removal, and a native plant restoration component to sustain a healthy ecosystem. The conservation benefits provided by the project will improve regulatory predictability and avoid future constraints to mission activities to help PMRF carry out its national defense mission. This unique project is part of a larger, multi-partner effort that leverages existing species recovery plans and an island-wide predator control program, and will contribute significantly to efforts to reverse currently declining population trends.



Aerial view of Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands (top). Pacific Missile Range Facility is working with partners to establish predator-exclusion fencing around one of the last remaining breeding colonies for the ‘A’o/Newell’s Shearwater, ‘Ua’u/Hawaiian Petrel, and ‘Ake’ake/Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (bottom).

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Protects threatened and endangered species
- Brings together new partners

MILITARY

- Improves operational safety
- Prevents additional training restrictions and unrealistic workarounds

KEY PARTNERS

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife
- State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of State Parks

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2018

- » Acres preserved: **0**
- » Transactions conducted: **0**
- » Total funds expended: **\$0**
- » Project status: **Initiated**

CONTACT

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