

Hawaii

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said the best part of the job "by far" is creating opportunities for local youth.

"People here in Hawaii, some are struggling to survive," Duman said. "So many people are leaving the islands for the U.S. continent to make a living."

Duman wants the next generation of Hawaiians to know they can stay and have a future and shows them one way through internships at the park. Duman is excited about a new educational program the park is developing in the Hawaiian language, or 'olelo Hawaii, which Duman didn't learn growing up but did as an adult.

"It's not just for us here. It's for serving that community as a whole," Duman said of the lessons for immersive language students. "Hopefully that can be an example or integration for other parks sites who want to be able to connect with their Native communities."

Travelers can learn more about Native Hawaiians and Hawaii at several other National Park Service sites across the islands.

- Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail
- Hawaii Volcanoes National Park
- Kalaupapa National Historical Park
- Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park
- Pu'uohoua o Honaunau National Historical Park
- Pu'ukohola Heiau National Historic Site

Other park service sites include Pearl Harbor National Memorial and Hono'uli'uli, a national historic site that is not yet open to the public, which will share the history of Japanese incarceration on the islands during World War II.



Waves crash into the Kipahulu shoreline at Haleakala National Park on Maui. HONEYGIRL DUMAN, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Project

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"After we did that original work in 2016, in 2019 we actually went back and used that tool," Weber said. "Each year we've been able to go back in and re-treat those areas to bring them up to where the target should have been."

In 2020, the project benefited from a partnership with the Eugene Water and Electric Board, which was building a power line corridor nearby. More than 1,000 large trees were harvested from the corridor and used in the project.

After harvest, 17,000 cubic yards of berms and fill material were removed from the valley bottom and redistribut-

ed to adjacent fill areas. Contractors then placed more than 900 pieces of large wood throughout the project area.

In 2021, contractors removed and redistributed 20,000 cubic yards of berms to fill incised portions of Deer Creek to elevations matching surrounding valley bottom before then placing 525 pieces of large wood in the project area.

'If you build it, they will come'

Weber said there are already successes.

High winter flows have deposited gravel around logjams and over the floodplain. Multiple channels and deep pools have formed. Beaver and vegetation are flourishing around the site.

During fall 2017, spring Chinook

salmon were seen spawning in Deer Creek for the first time since the early 1990s.

"If you build it, they will come," Weber said.

The project's fourth and final phase covers the last quarter mile of the creek where it reaches the McKenzie River.

The area, visible from the McKenzie River Trail footbridge over Deer Creek and from various locations along Deer Creek Road, will be closed between June 13 and July 22, according to a U.S. Forest Service news release. The closure covers about 1.5 miles of Forest Road 2654 (Deer Creek) from the junction of Highway 126 north on Road 2654 to Road 2655. The closure includes both sides of the road along that

stretch.

The news release said visitors to the area may notice a high level of sediment in Deer Creek and the McKenzie River downstream of the waterways' junction. High sediment levels are expected to decrease once the work is completed.

The McKenzie River Trail, closed since the 2021 Knoll Fire burned about two miles of it, will open again once the habitat restoration project is completed, according to the Forest Service news release. One mile of the trail will be repaired by volunteers, and the other will be restored using equipment from the Deer Creek restoration project.

Contact reporter Adam Duvernay at aduvernay@registerguard.com. Follow on Twitter @DuvernayOR

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