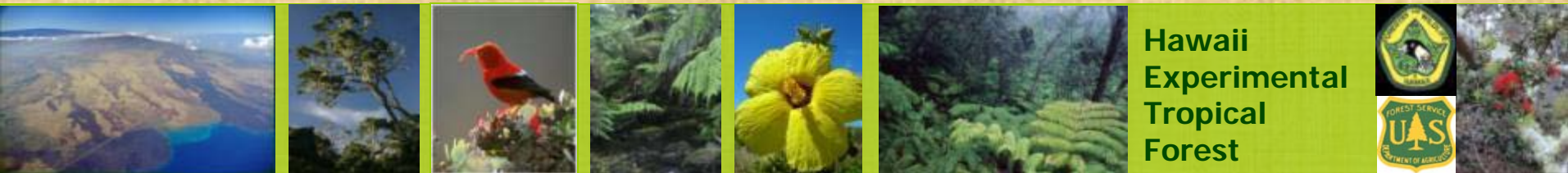


Please note that all information found in this presentation regarding the proposed Laupahoehoe Facility Construction Project is preliminary and under consideration for public review. Please submit written comments for consideration no later than May 3, 2011.





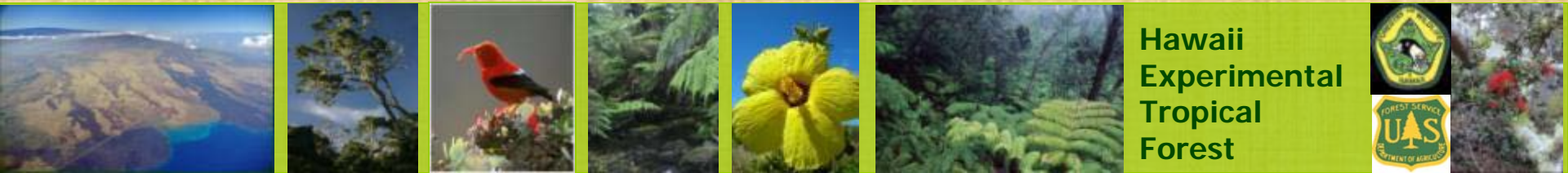
# Hawaii Experimental Tropical Forest (HETF)

## Proposed Laupahoehoe Facility Construction Project

Public Scoping Meeting - April 20, 2011

*Scoping Period: Apr 3 - May 3*





# AGENDA

- Introductions
- Presentation
- Questions
- Time for Written Comments
- Collect Written Comments

Public Scoping Meeting - April 20, 2011



# HETF Background

- **1992:** The Hawaii Tropical Forest Recovery Act passed by Congress; Governor appoints a task force to determine how to implement the TFRA
- **1994 Action Plan:** Task Force spent over 1300 hours on public meetings and community field trips on all islands; public input used to develop the Action Plan
  - Action Plan Recommendation #17: Establish a **network of experimental forests** and associated facilities for permanent, science-driven research and training
- **Feb 2006:** DLNR Land Board recommendation to the Governor to establish Experimental Forests at Puu Waawaa and Laupahoehoe
- **March 2007:** HETF officially established via a Cooperative Agreement with the DLNR.
- **Today:** In the process of developing plans and implementing activities including research, education, and facility improvements

# HETF Locations & Management



Both experimental forest units are located on lands managed by the DLNR.

- Laupahoehoe Unit includes NAR and Forest Reserve land designations administered by DOFAW.
  - 7,894 acres encompassing Laupahoehoe NAR
  - 4,449 acres of Hilo Forest Reserve
- Puu Waawaa Unit, totaling 38,885 acres, includes Wildlife Sanctuary, Forest Reserve, and State Parks land designations administered by DOFAW and Division of State Parks, respectively.

# HETF Vision

“The HETF is an important research, education, demonstration forest where globally relevant activities are conducted to benefit the people and ecosystems of Hawaii, all Pacific islands, and the tropical world”

Facilities needed to achieve objectives and in support of research and education = Proposed Laupahoehoe Facilities Construction Project.

# National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

## Scoping

Public Comment period (30 days)  
Submit written comments and include contact information



Written comments addressed/incorporated into draft EA

## Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)

Public comment period (30 days)



Written comments addressed/incorporated into final EA

Final Environmental Assessment/Decision Notice

# National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

## Scoping

Public Comment period (30 days)  
Submit written comments and include comments

At this stage we present overall project ideas and look for feedback from the community on anything we should take into consideration during analysis.

Written comments addressed/incorporated into draft EA

## Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)

Public comment period (30 days)

Written comments addressed/incorporated into final EA

## Final Environmental Assessment/Decision Notice

# National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

## Scoping

Public Comment period (30 days)  
Submit written comments and include contact information



Written comments addressed/incorporated into draft EA

## Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)

Public comment period (30 days)



Written comments addressed/incorporated into final EA

Final Environmental Assessment/Decision Notice

More detailed information on project plans is provided for further public comment and consideration when the final decision notice is being made

# **Proposed Laupahoehoe Facility Construction Project**

**Purpose:** To provide facilities that will support HETF research, demonstration, and educational functions.

- 1. Laupahoehoe Science & Education Center**
- 2. Field Education Site**
- 3. Laupahoehoe Unit Access**
- 4. Vehicle Wash Station**

# 1. Laupahoehoe Science & Education Center

- Classroom/Meeting space for educational activities, presentations, public seminars, community events, etc.
- Accommodations for day and multi-day stays, for scientists, summer programs, educational/outreach activities, conferences, etc.
- Create opportunities for hands-on field experiences and skill development for students, teachers, and community members, internships and service projects.

## 2. Field Education Site

Space adjacent to the HETF to serve as:

- an outdoor classroom in an area with native plants
- support field trips into the forest
- create space for kid friendly activities
- provide rest room facilities

### **3. Laupahoehoe Unit Access**

Access to the Laupahoehoe Unit is currently via Manowaiopae Homestead Rd. Safety concerns related to the low water crossing, 6 ton limit on bridge, line of sight and road steepness for this existing route led us to investigate access alternatives.

### **4. Vehicle Wash Station**

To prevent the transportation of seeds, invertebrates, and other potential pests that may be trapped within tires and/or on the vehicle undercarriage

# Benefits to the Community

## Immediate

- Enhanced education opportunities for local students, teachers and school programs
- Student exposure to career possibilities in natural resources
- Construction employment
- Economic benefits to local businesses from workers, researchers, and students working in the Forest
- Road improvements/safety

# Benefits to the Community

## Immediate

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## Long Term

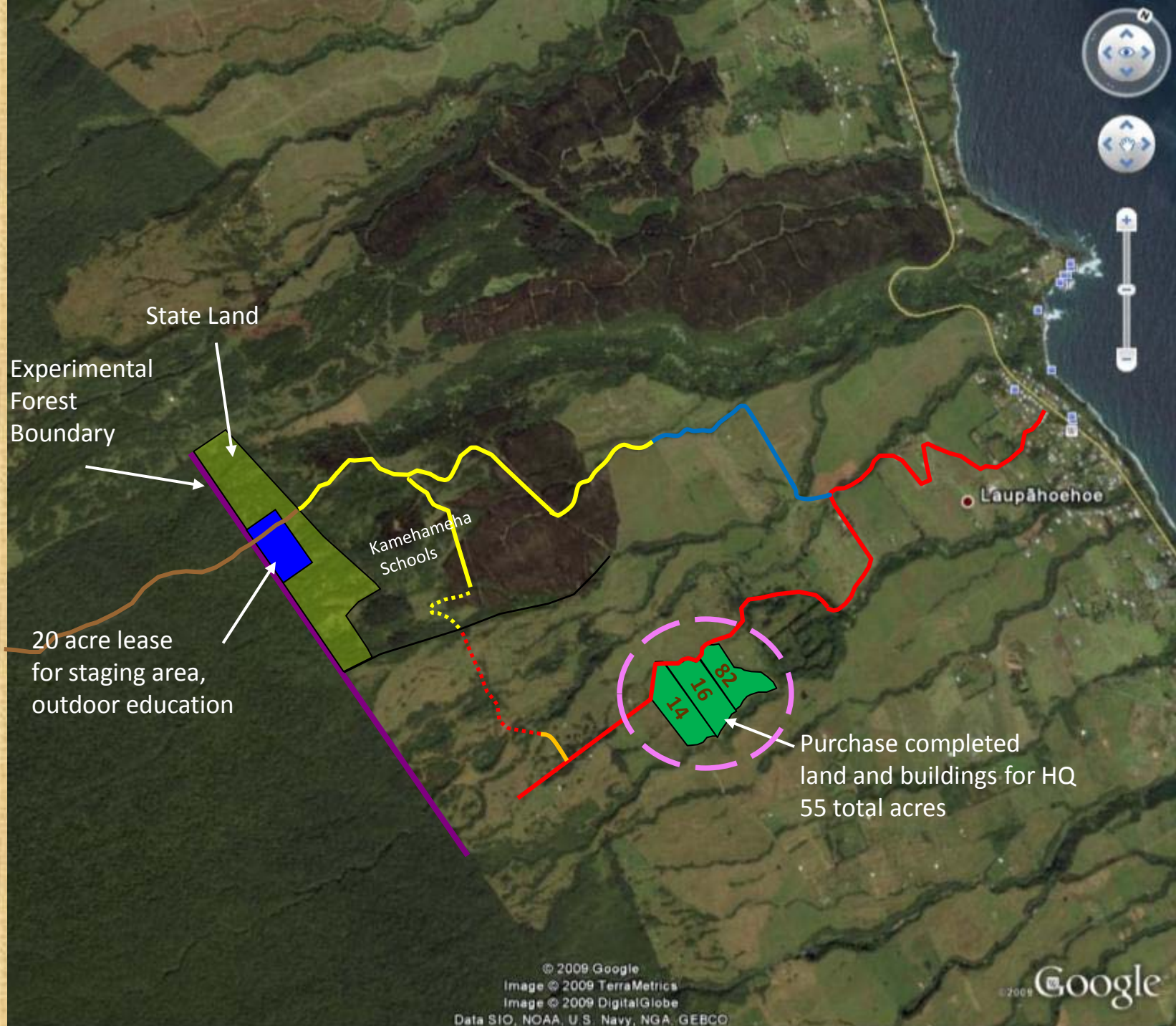
- Employment opportunities are likely to continue in response to research and education needs such as:
  - Professional (scientists, teachers)
  - Technical (lab techs, field techs, IT)
  - Labor (construction, maintenance)

# **Proposed Laupahoehoe Facility Construction Project**

**Purpose:** To provide facilities that will support HETF research, demonstration, and educational functions.

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# Laupahoehoe Science & Education Center



State Land

Experimental Forest Boundary

Kamehameha Schools

20 acre lease for staging area, outdoor education

Laupāhoehoe

Purchase completed land and buildings for HQ 55 total acres

# Laupahoehoe Science & Education Center



Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

Image © 2011 DigitalGlobe  
Data SOEST/UHM

19°57'55.03" N 155°14'59.32" W elev 1448 ft

©2010 Google

Eye alt 2094 ft



Research & Development

# Laupahoehoe Science & Education Center



# Laupahoehoe Science & Education Center

Admin building back



Admin building front



Generator Building



Caretaker/Bunkhouse

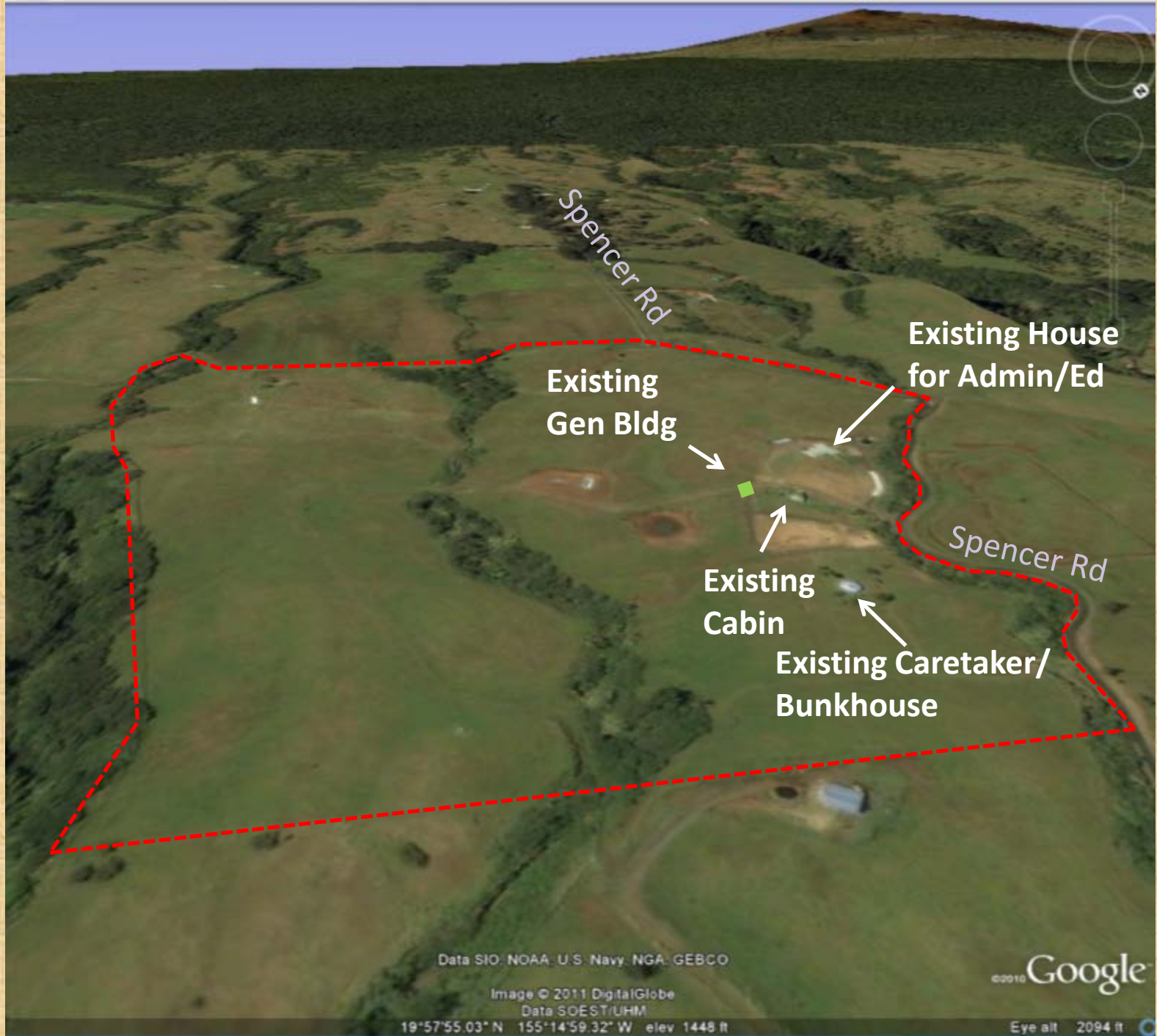


# Laupahoehoe Science & Education Center

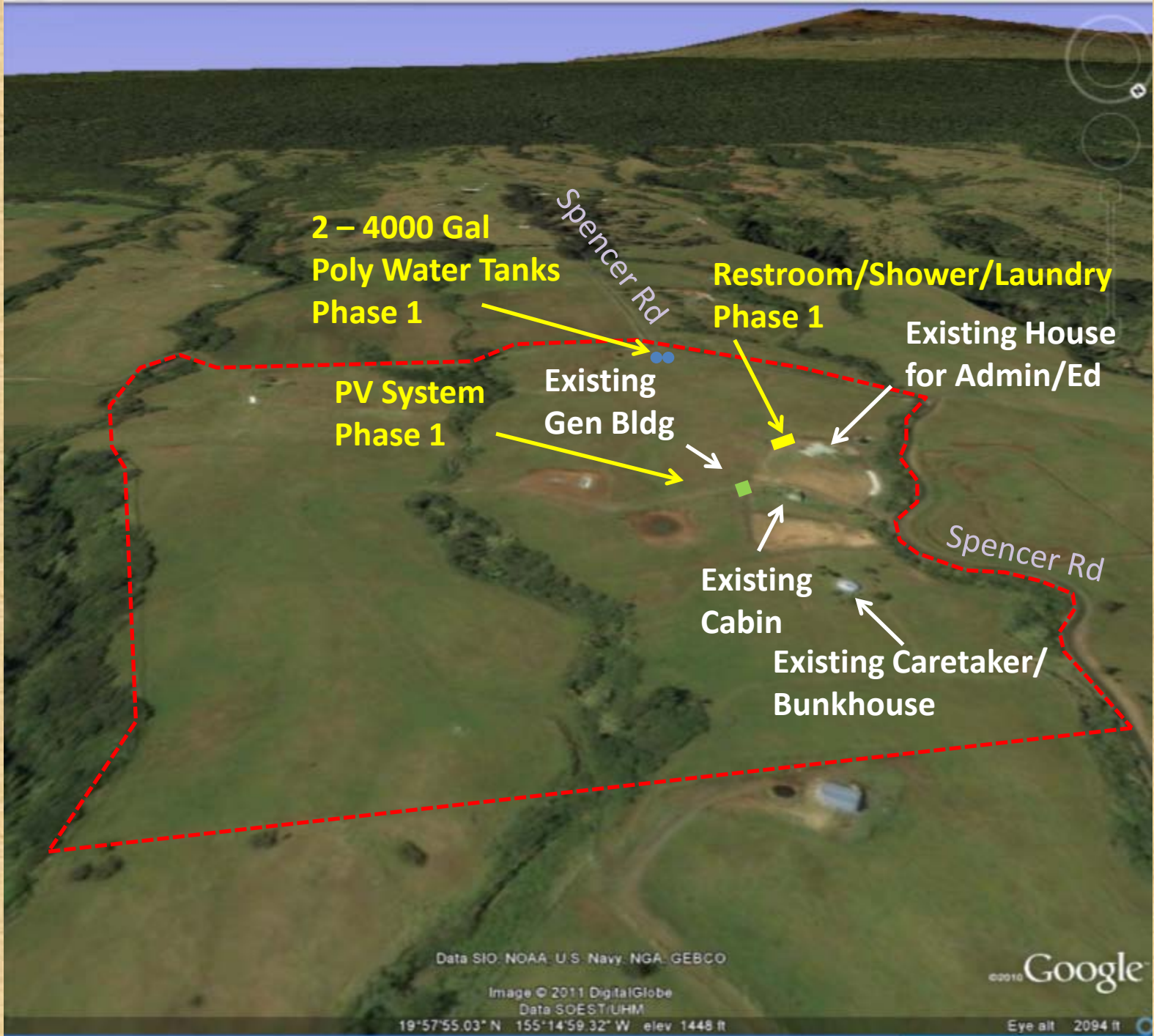
## Proposed Upgrades & New Construction:

- Interior reconfiguration for living space & ADA accessibility
- Remodeling of existing carport into a classroom/meeting space
- Construction of additional toilet building
- Construction of 1 – 2 additional bunkhouse(s) - each 10 person capacity
- Construction of a garage/workshop
- Existing driveway repair & new driveway construction
- Expansion of septic tank and drainfield
- Installation of additional photovoltaic arrays (14 KW system) and related equipment (back-up generator, batteries)
- Installation of water holding tanks with buried installation lines
- Landscaping

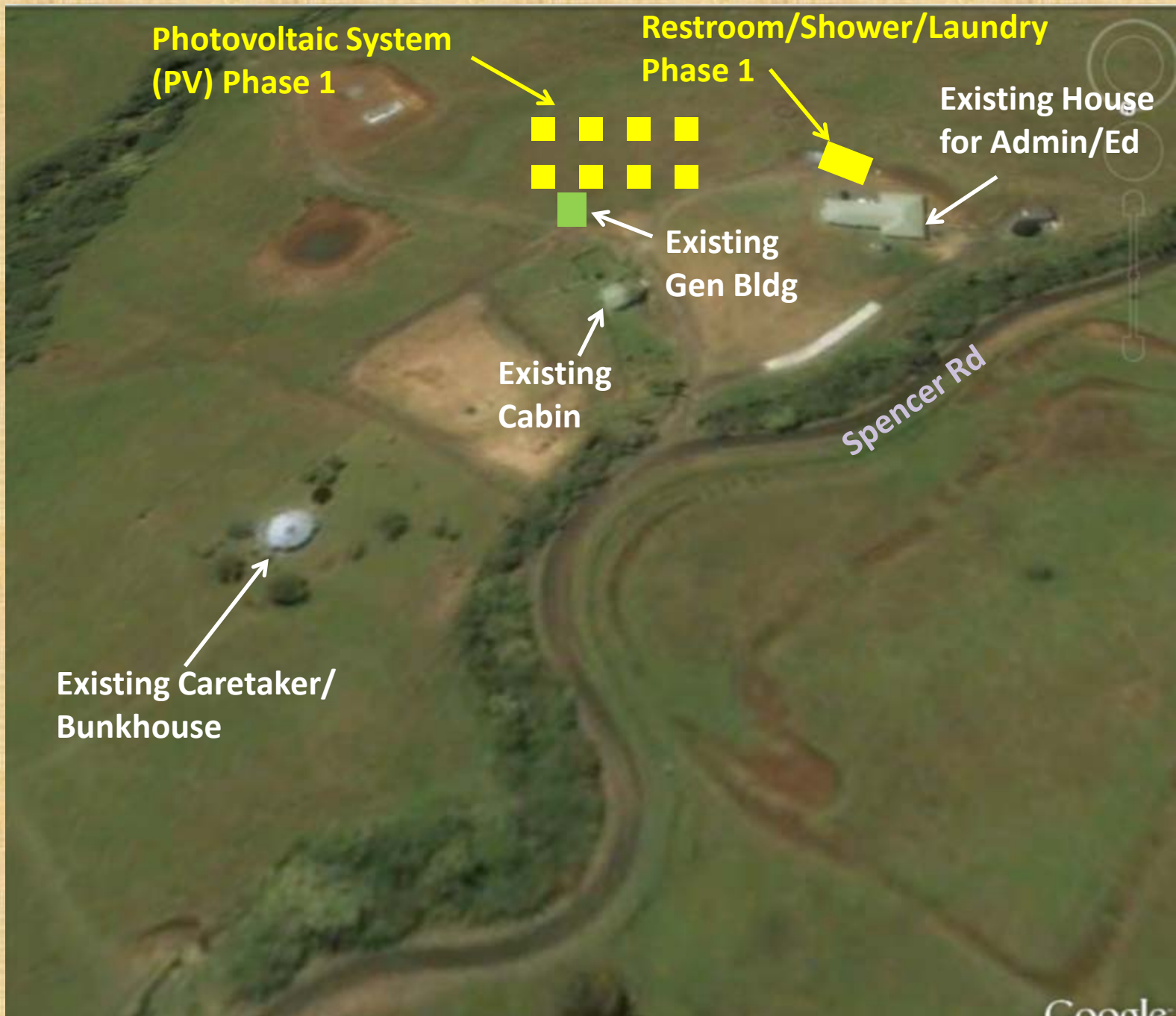
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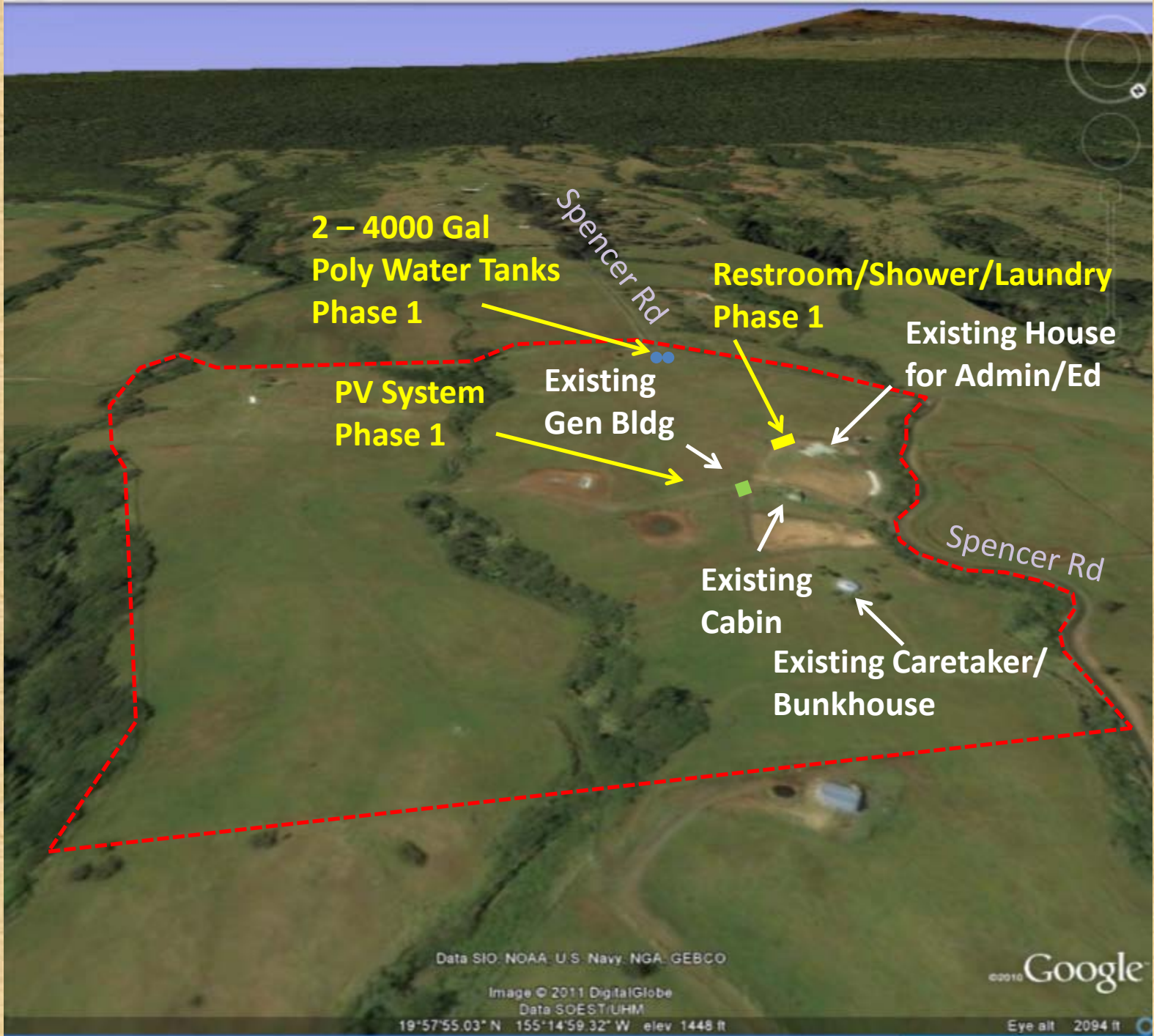
# Laupahoehoe Science & Education Center



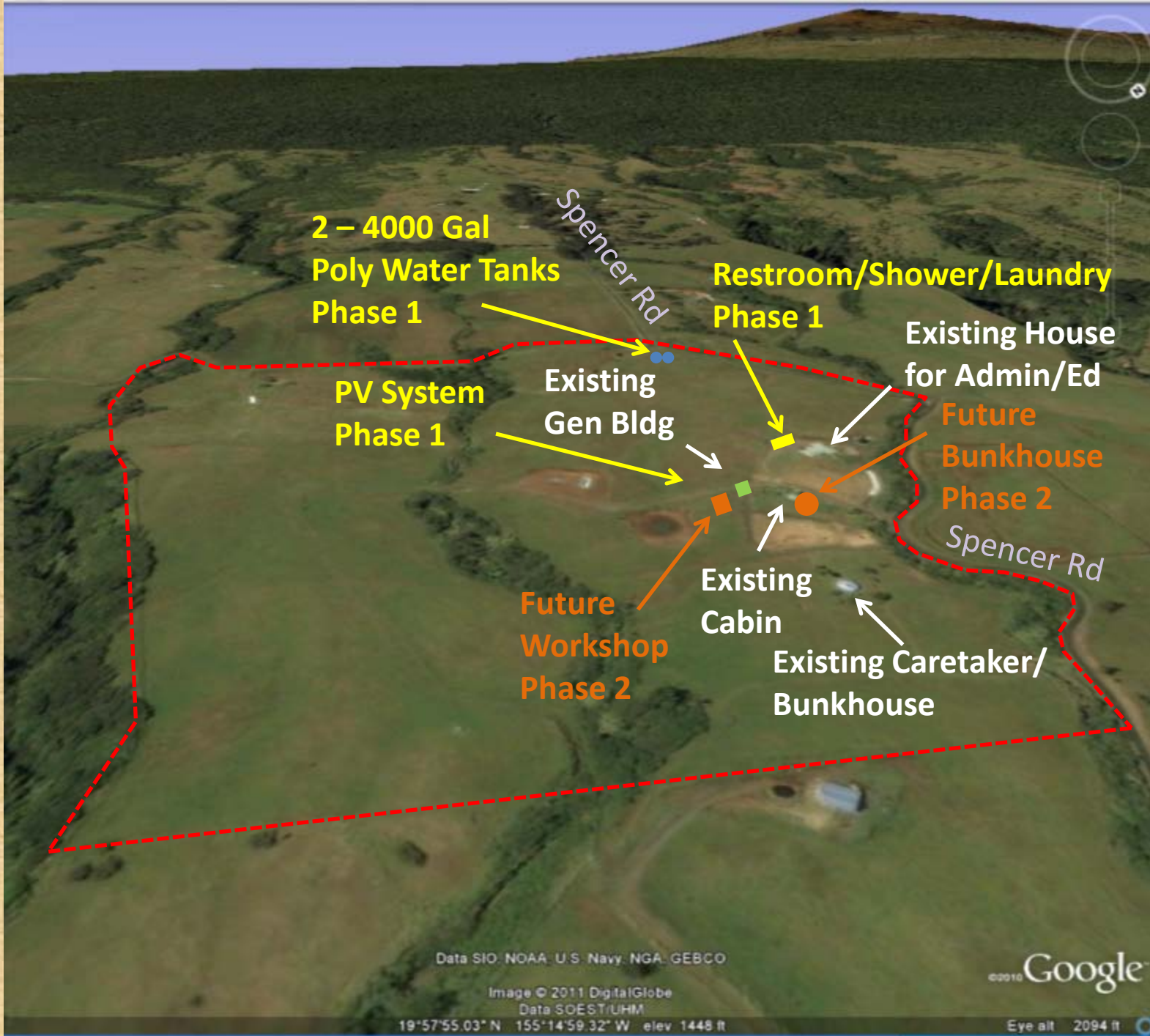
# Laupahoehoe Science & Education Center



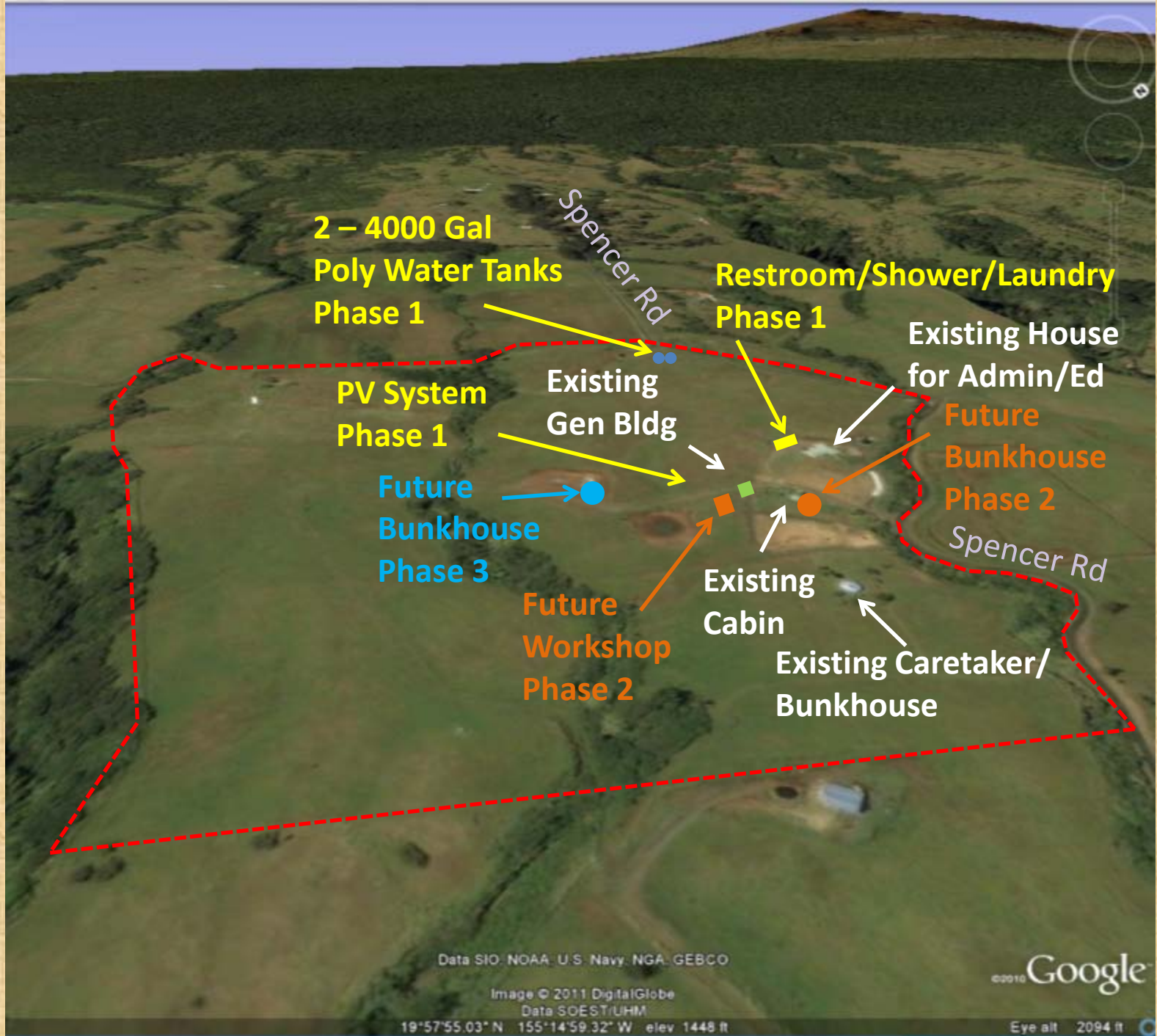
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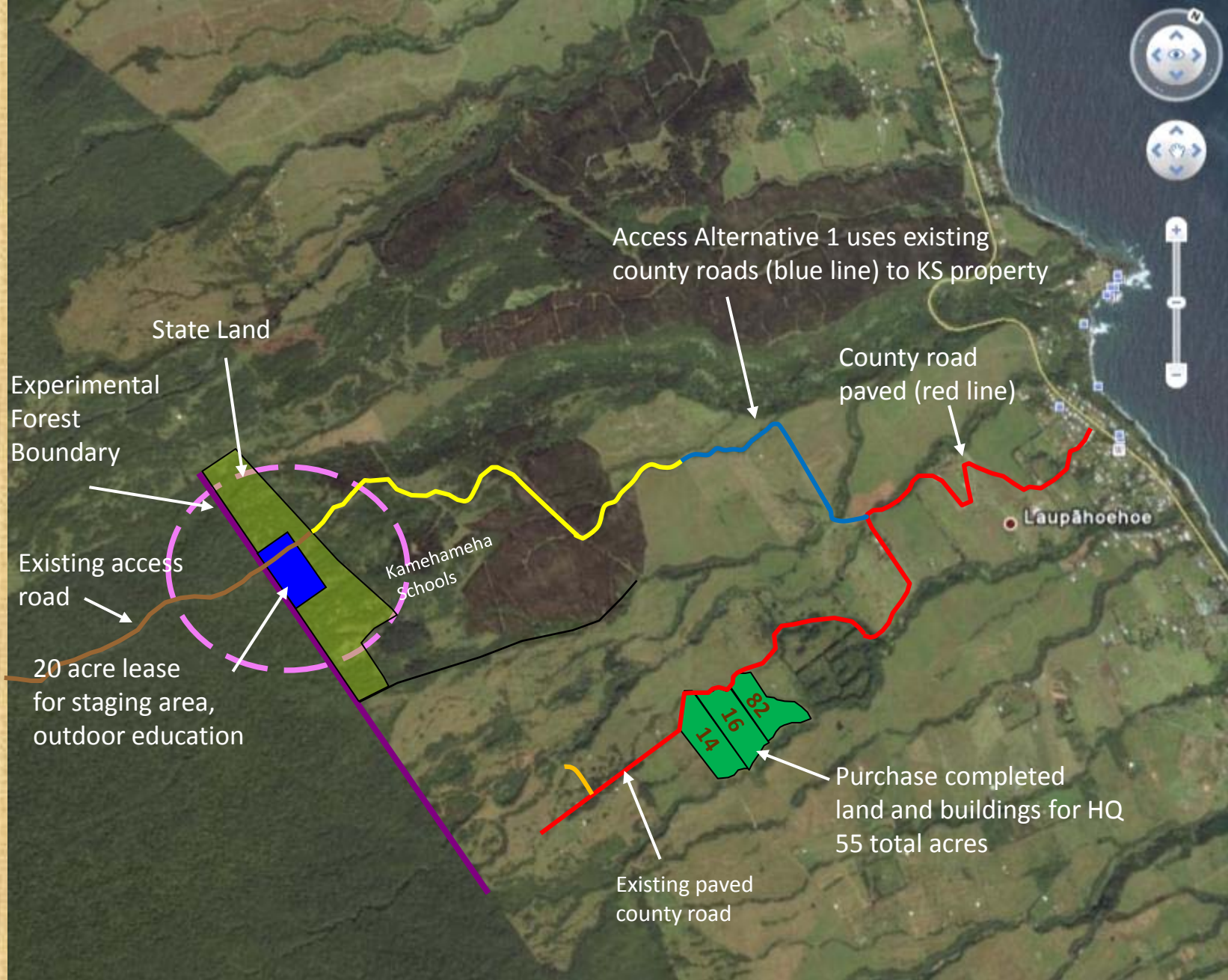


# Proposed Laupahoehoe Facility Construction Project

**Purpose:** To provide facilities that will support HETF research, demonstration, and educational functions.

1. Laupahoehoe Science & Education Center
2. **Field Education Site**
3. Laupahoehoe Unit Access
4. Vehicle Wash Station

# Field Education Site



State Land

Experimental Forest Boundary

Existing access road

20 acre lease for staging area, outdoor education

Kamehameha Schools

Access Alternative 1 uses existing county roads (blue line) to KS property

County road paved (red line)

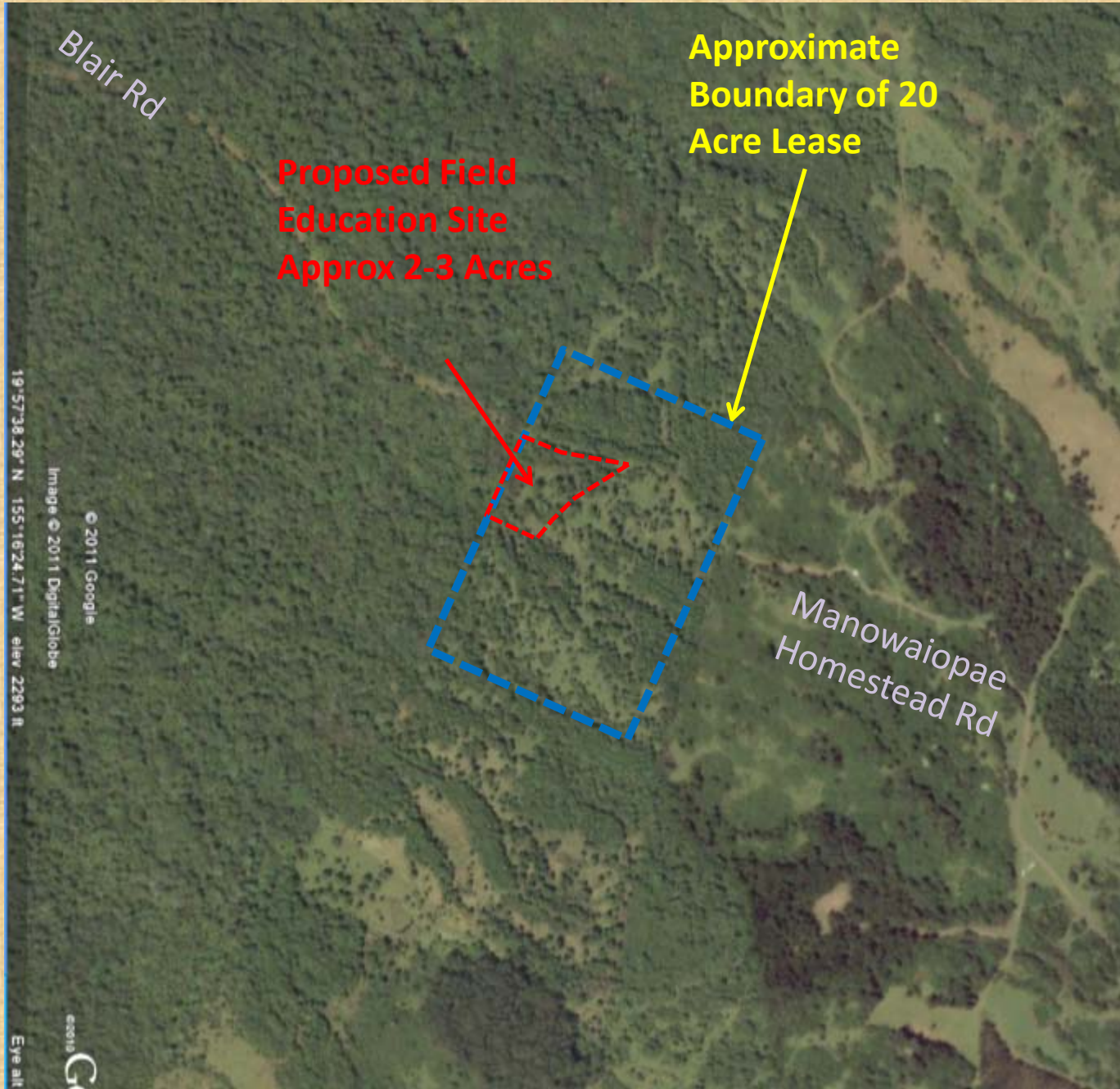
Laupāhoehoe

Existing paved county road

Purchase completed land and buildings for HQ 55 total acres

14  
16  
82

# Field Education Site



# Field Education Site



## Proposed New Construction:

- Pavilion
- 2 stall vault toilet facilities
- Storage building
- Driveway
- Parking lot (~ 10 vehicles)
- Gate and fencing around new facilities ( approximately 2 acres & not expected to exceed 3 acres).



**NAR  
Boundary**

**Parking  
10 Vehicles**

**20' x 30' Pavilion**

**Vault Toilet**

**Proposed  
Livestock  
Fence**

**Manowaiopae Road**

**Access Road**

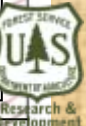
**Gate**

**Grass Road**

**TOTAL FENCED AREA  
87174 SQFT (2.00 ACFT)**

**Laupahoehoe Field Education Site  
DRAFT Site Development Plan**

Jason Anderson and Jerry Carlson 3-24-11  
Not to Scale



# Proposed Laupahoehoe Facility Construction Project

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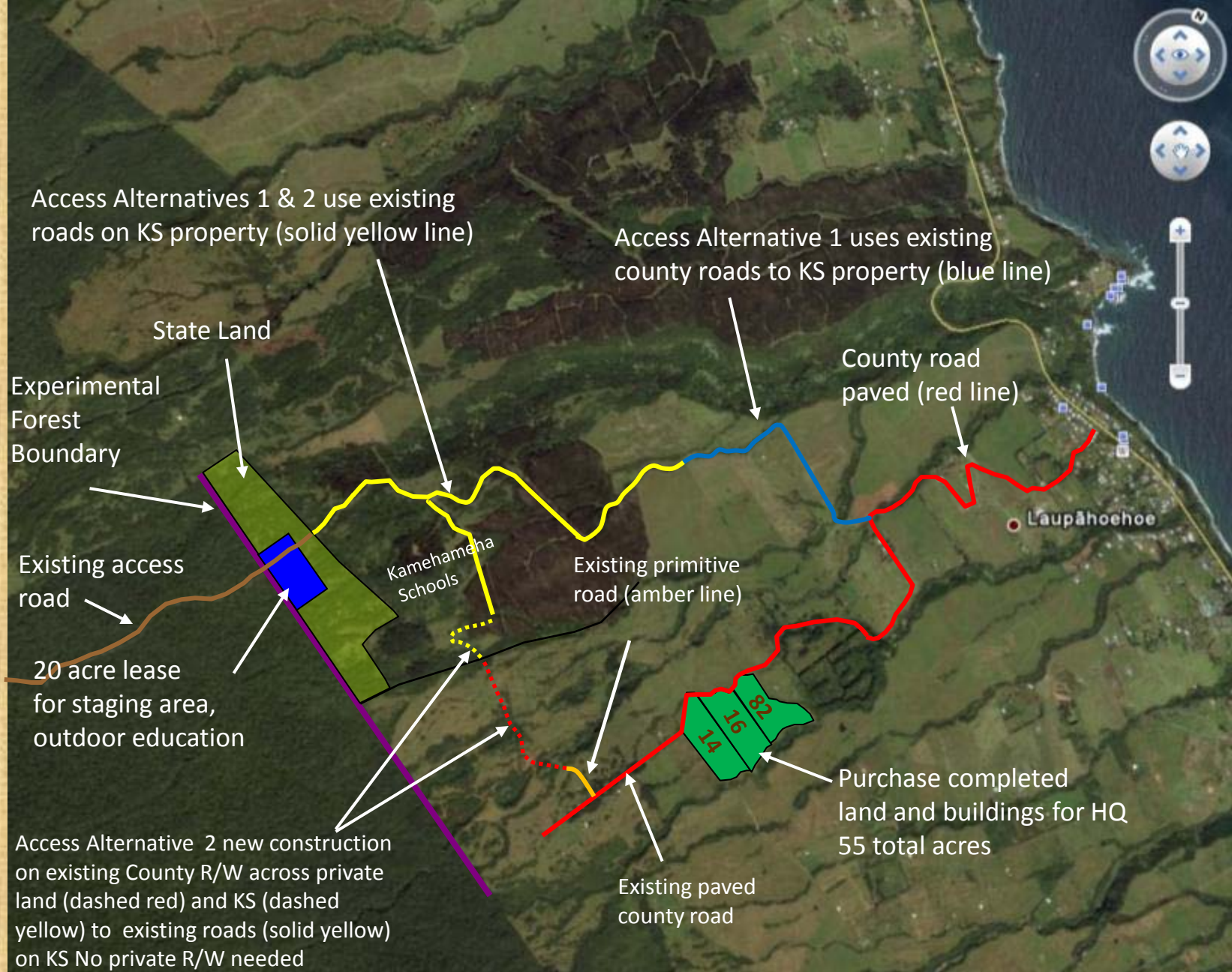
# Laupahoehoe Unit Access

Access to the Laupahoehoe Unit is currently via Manowaiopae Homestead Rd. Safety concerns related to the low water crossing, line of sight and road steepness for this existing route led us to investigate access alternatives.

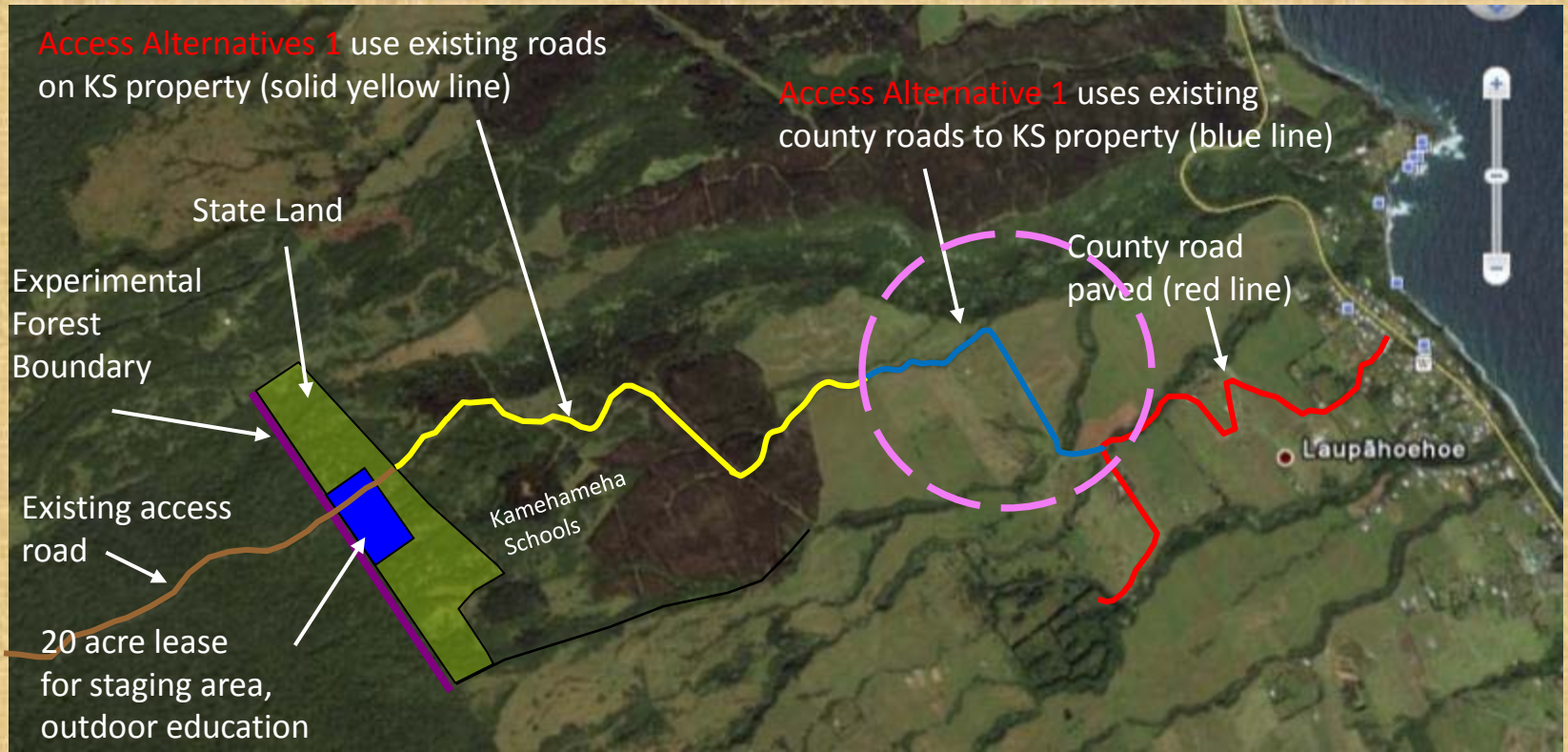


- #1 Current Access with road improvements to address safety concerns
- #2 New Road Construction in an existing County R/W
  - Plans for this road 'Laupahoehoe Homestead Government Rd' were drafted in 1971.

# Laupahoehoe Unit Access



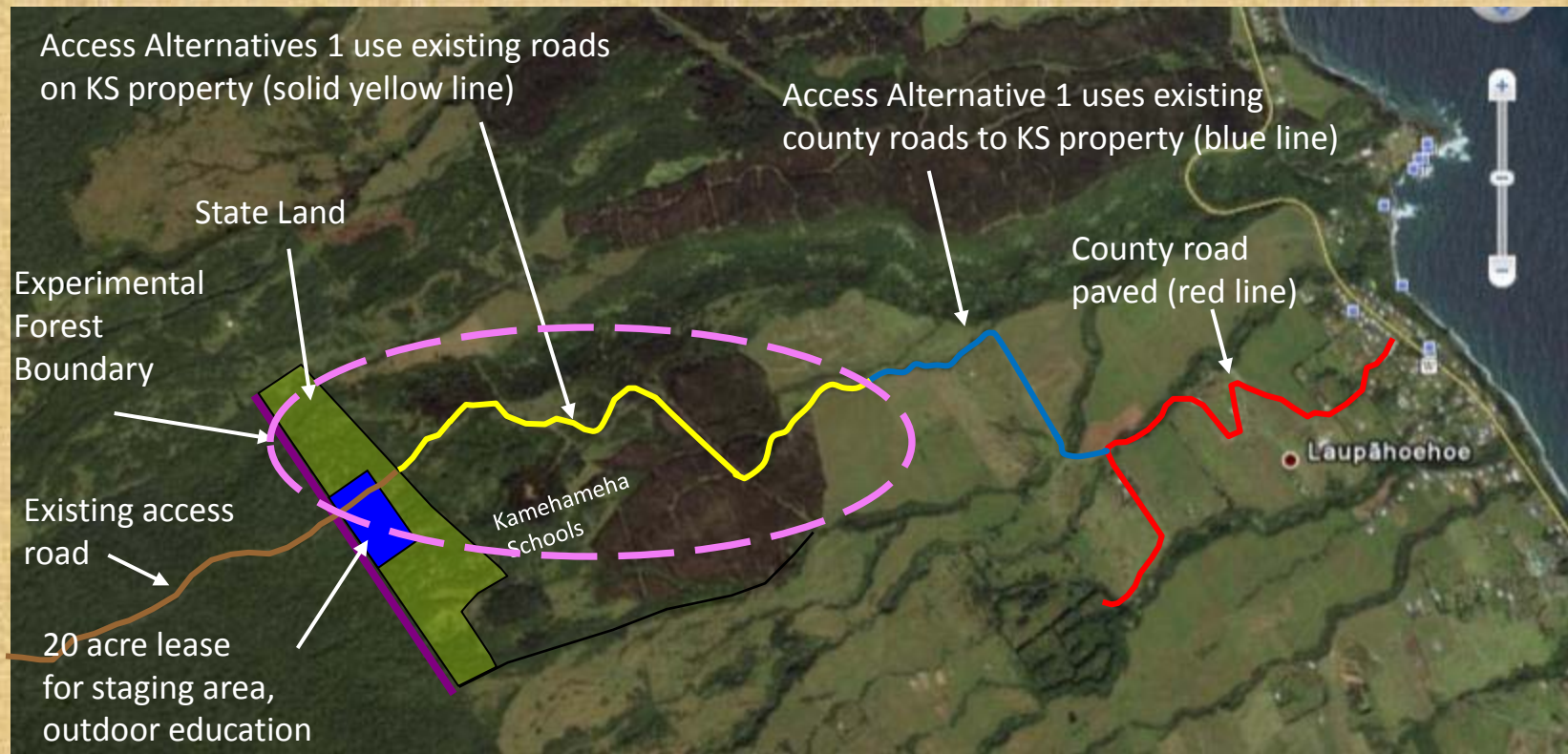
# Laupahoehoe Unit Access: ALT#1



## Existing County Rd (*Road in Limbo*) Improvements:

- Improve load limit of bridge from 6 ton to legal load limit
- New culvert or bridge at low water crossing
- Some patching/repaving of existing roadway
- Vegetation management to provide safe lines of sight

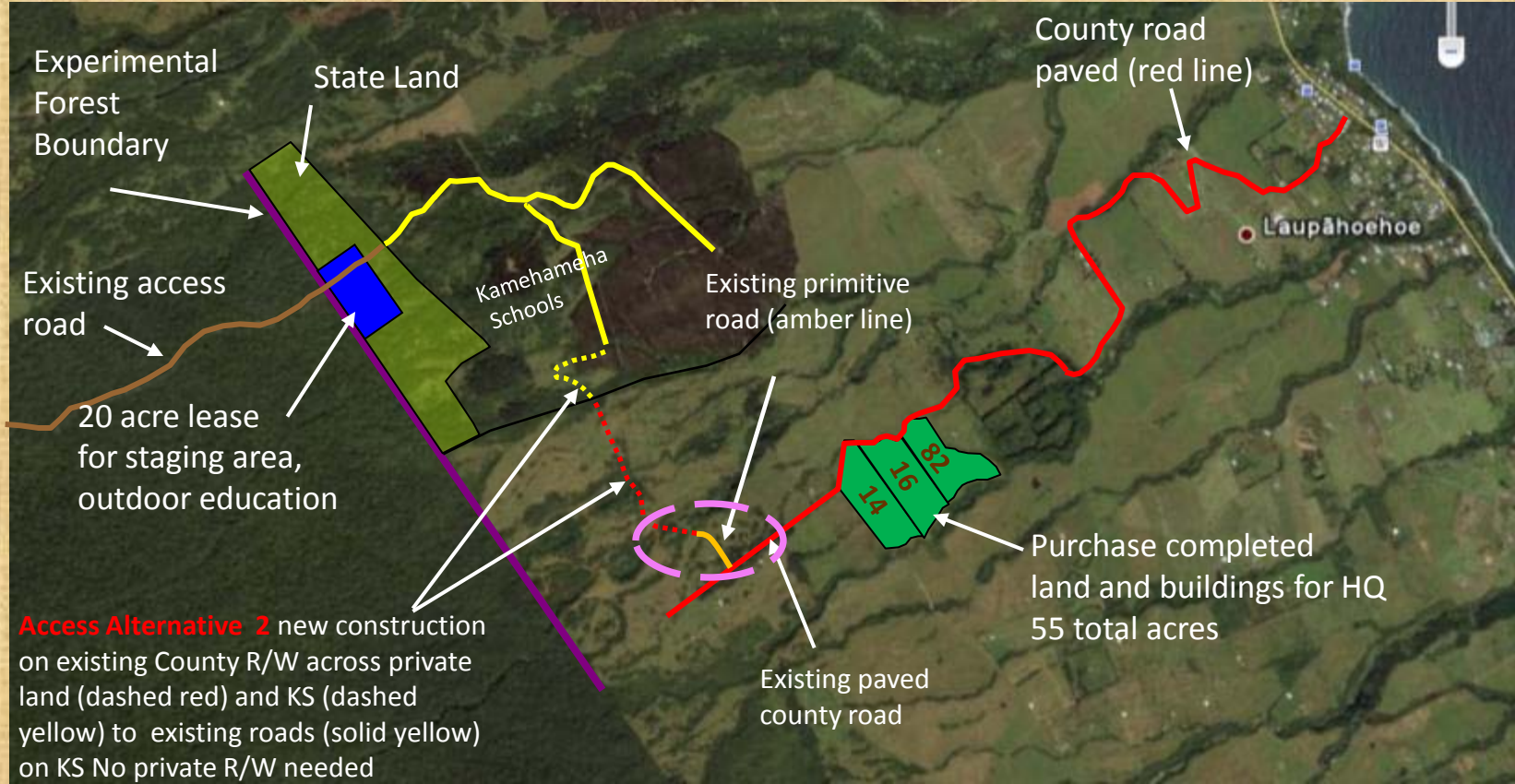
# Laupahoehoe Unit Access: ALT#1



## Improvements to segments on KS and State lands:

- Small cuts and fill to reduce road grade steepness
- Installation of drainage structures (dips) as needed
- Single lane road with turnouts & gravel surfacing as needed
- Vegetation management for safe lines of sight

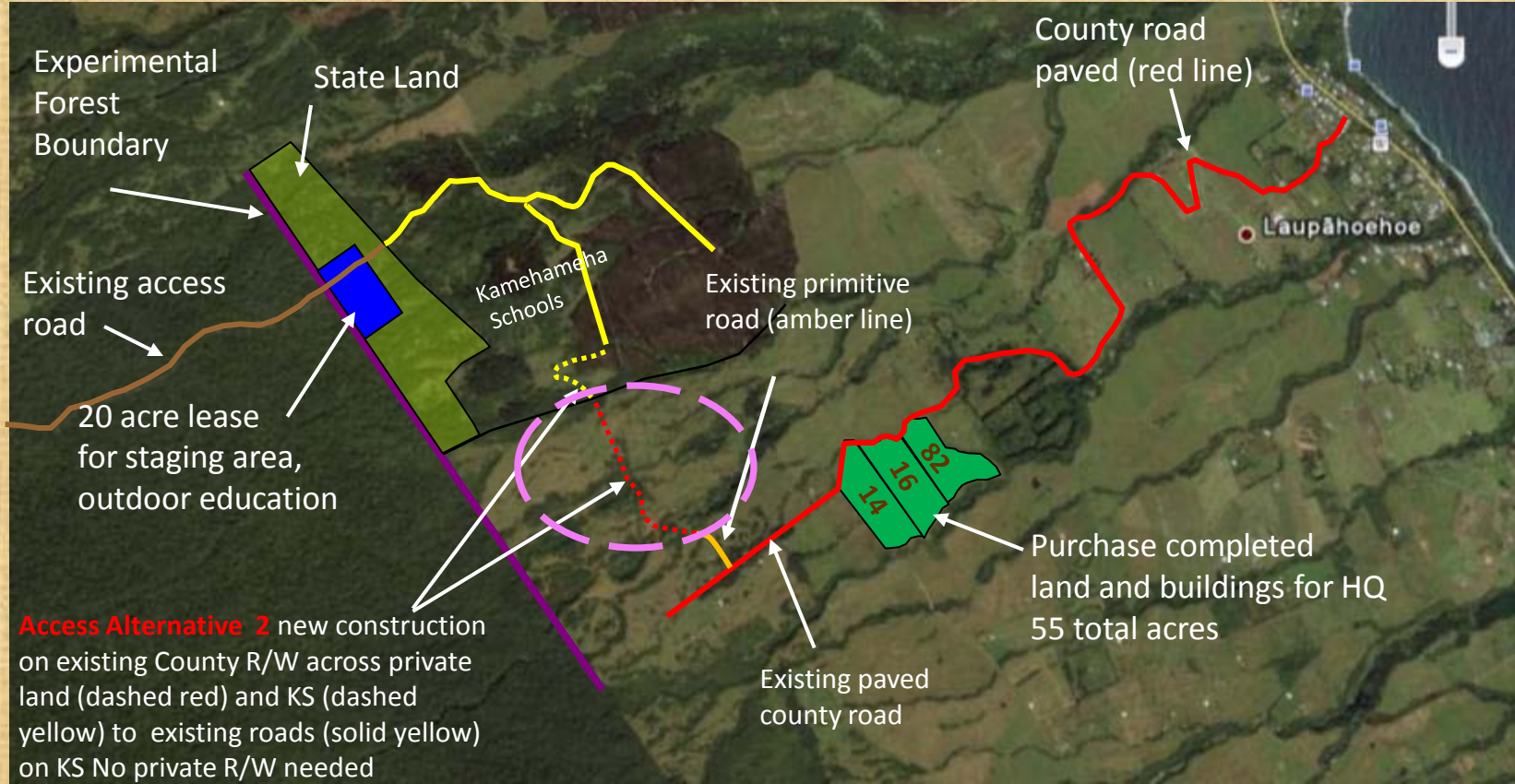
# Laupahoehoe Unit Access: ALT#2



## Existing primitive road:

- Upgraded to single lane with turnouts - gravel or pavement

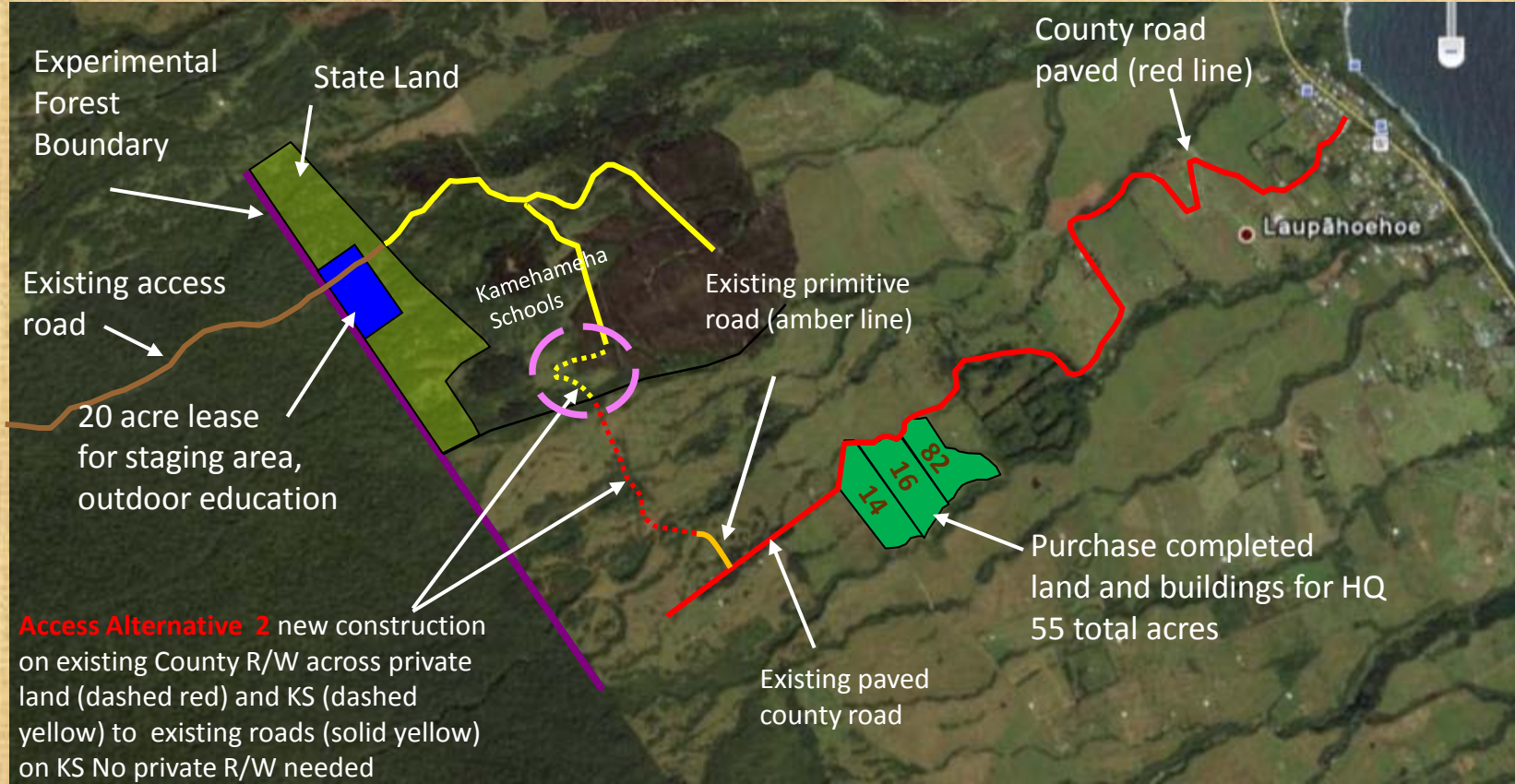
# Laupahoehoe Unit Access: ALT#2



## New roadway construction in County R/W:

- Single lane with turnouts - gravel or pavement surfacing
- 3 stream crossings: likely accomplished with 1 low water crossing & 2 culverts

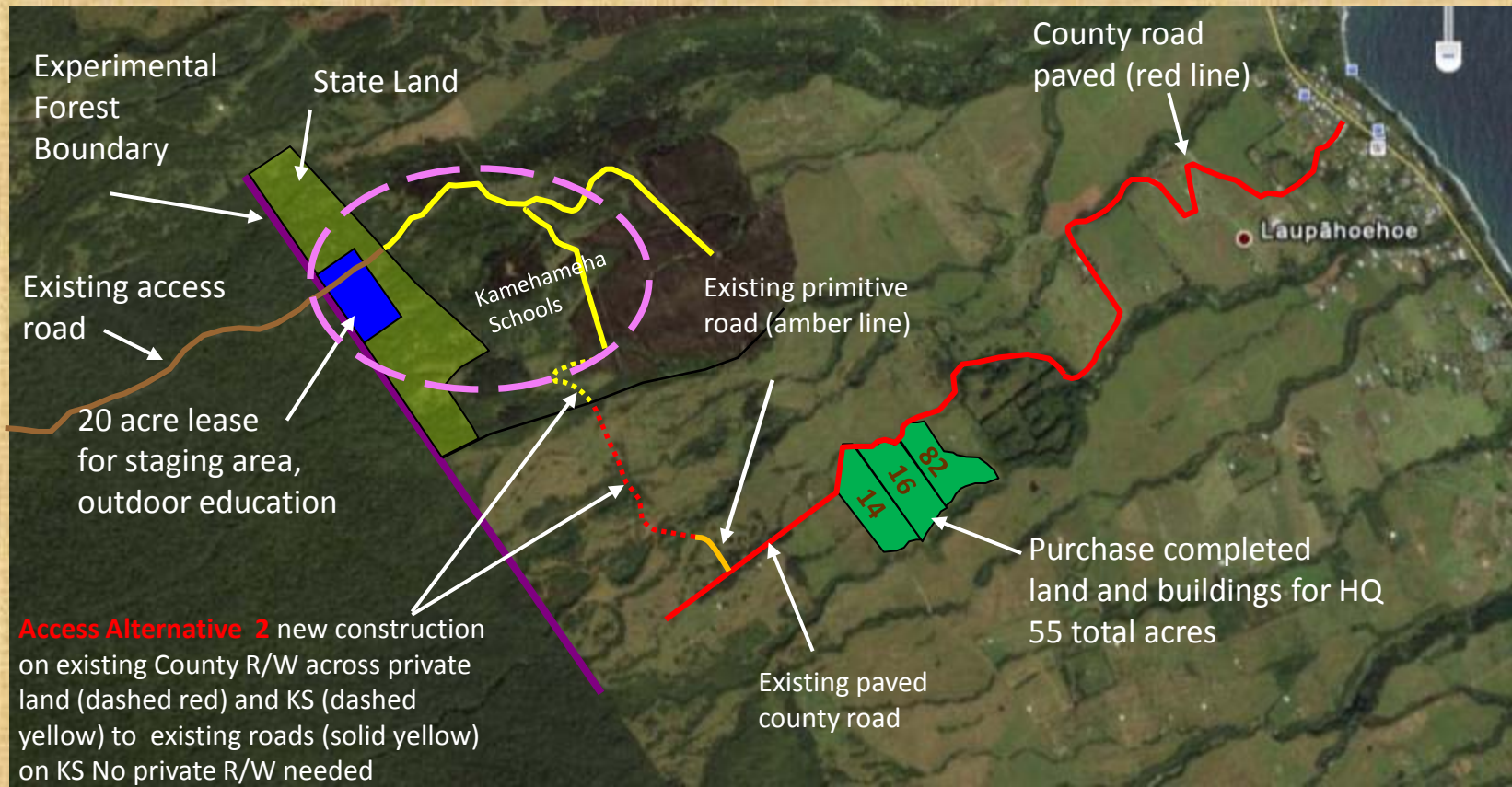
# Laupahoehoe Unit Access: ALT#2



## New roadway construction on Kamehameha Schools Land:

- Single lane road with turnouts with gravel surface
- 1 stream crossing: likely accomplished with large culvert or low water crossing

# Laupahoehoe Unit Access: ALT#2



## Improvements to segments on KS and State lands:

- Small cuts and fill to reduce road grade steepness
- Installation of small drainage structures (dips) as needed
- Single lane road with turnouts & gravel surfacing as needed
- Vegetation management for safe lines of sight

# Laupahoehoe Unit Access Summary

## #1 Current Access with Improvements

- Road improvements to address safety concerns with the bridge, low water crossing, and encroaching vegetation - no additional R/W width anticipated on the "Road in Limbo" section passing through private properties
- Forest Service and County would work together on "Road in Limbo" section in a share cost agreement to make improvements with Forest Service providing portion of the funds commensurate with use and the County completing the work
- Forest Service to work with Kamehameha Schools (KS) and the State in a cooperative process to make safety improvements to the KS section and State sections

# Laupahoehoe Unit Access Summary

## #2 New Road Construction

- Forest Service and County would work together on a share cost agreement for the new construction on the existing County R/W with the Forest Service providing a portion of the funds commensurate with use - private property owners benefitting from new road access may be included in a cooperative agreement with the County for the County's share of the cost
- Forest Service would work with KS and the State in a cooperative process to construct the new section of road and make safety improvements to the KS and State sections of existing road

# Laupahoehoe Unit Access Summary

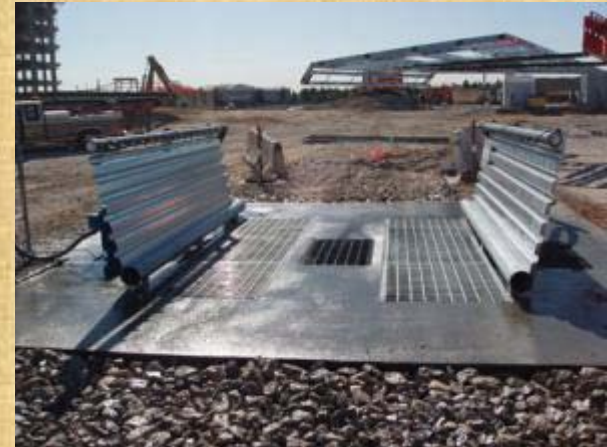
- Final decision to pursue either the current access route or the new construction route, or possibly some combination of the two, is pending analysis and completion of the EA.
- No condemnation of private land will be required with either alternative except for a cooperative process with KS and the State.

# Proposed Laupahoehoe Facility Construction Project

**Purpose:** To provide facilities that will support HETF research, demonstration, and educational functions.

1. Laupahoehoe Science & Education Center
2. Field Education Site
3. Laupahoehoe Unit Access
4. **Vehicle Wash Station**

# Vehicle Wash Station



- Installation at location convenient for use before traveling into the Laupahoehoe Unit of the HETF
- Possible locations: Laupahoehoe School, Science & Education Center, or other developed area

# **Proposed Laupahoehoe Facility Construction Project**

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# NEPA Process: where we are

## Scoping

**Public Comment Deadline** = May 3

Submit written comments and include contact information.



Written comments addressed/incorporated into draft EA

## Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)

Target publication date = June 8

Public comment period = June 8 - July 7



Written comments addressed/incorporated into final EA

## Final Environmental Assessment/Decision Notice

Target publication date = August 8

Appeal period = August 8 - September 22

# Comment Submission

***Submit written comments in one of three ways:***

1. Email comments to  
[hawaiiexperimentalforest@fs.fed.us](mailto:hawaiiexperimentalforest@fs.fed.us)
2. Mail comments to:  
USDA-FS, Attn: Mel Dean, 60 Nowelo St., Hilo, HI 96720
3. Complete comment form (provided) and turn in before the end of this meeting

Copies of the Scoping letter are available for reference when preparing your written comments.

# Questions?

# Comment Submission

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