



3 January 2008

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: West Maui Watershed Project, Maui, Hawaii

1. Purpose: To provide information on the status of the West Maui Watershed Project.
2. Points of Major Interest and Facts.

a. The West Maui Watershed Project is currently being sought by the State of Hawai‘i, Department of Land and Natural Resources under the Corps’ Specifically Authorized Program. The Honolulu District received appropriations on 26 December 2007 to conduct a reconnaissance study under Section 209 of the Flood Control Act of 1962 (PL 87-874) in the amount of \$295,000.

b. The West Maui watershed includes the entire area associated with the West Maui mountains (approximately 90,000 acres) on the island of Maui, Hawai‘i. It encompasses all of the West Maui drainages from the south at Mā‘alaea, west at Lāhainā, north at Honokōhau, and east at Wailuku (See attached map).

c. The West Maui Watershed has been identified by the State of Hawaii for special conservation and preservation activities due to existing near-pristine forestlands and off shore coral reefs. Protection of these attractions and of the valuable ecological resources is important if West Maui is to remain popular and an economic boost for the State. Lack of improvements and protection measures potentially may contribute to uncontrolled sedimentation and pollution, leading to the detriment of the water and related riverine and coastal ecological systems. Additional flood damage reduction and erosion measures will also be investigated. The reconnaissance study will identify water resource problems to be addressed by all Federal, State, and county agencies, include those potentially implemented by the Corps of Engineers.

d. The State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, along with stakeholders such as the County of Maui, West Maui Soil and Water Conservation District, AMFAC, and Maui Land and Pine Company, fully endorse and support a multipurpose watershed project in West Maui.

e. The reconnaissance study is expected to be a comprehensive investigation that identify watershed problems, determine possible solutions/actions, and identify various agency programs that may be applied towards implementing the actions. The result would be a collaborative approach (using the Hawaiian ‘ahupua‘a concept of resource management) to solving the West Maui watershed problems including aquatic, marine and terrestrial ecosystem degradation, threats to water supply quantity and quality, and storm damage.

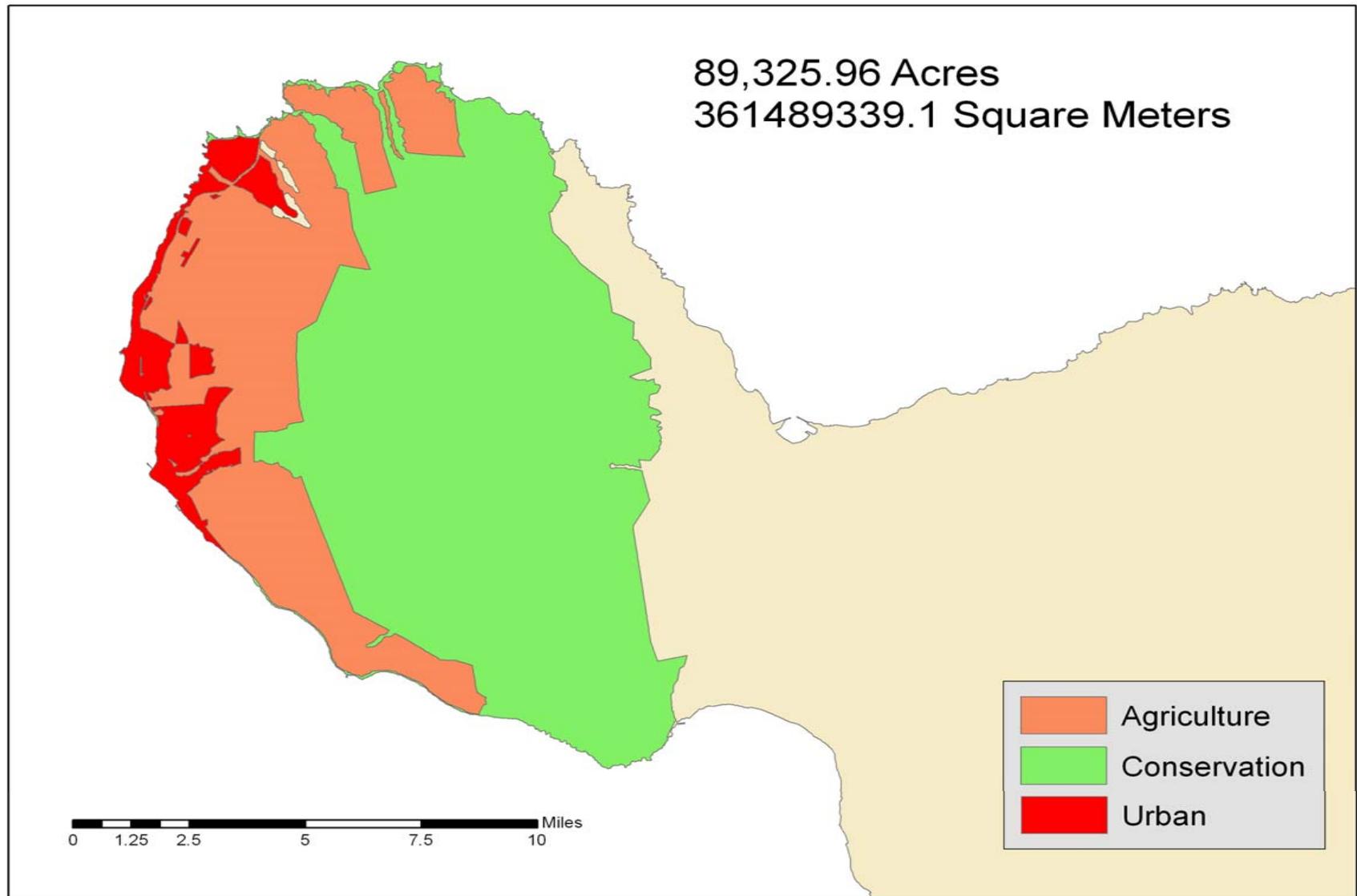


Figure 1: Map of West Maui Watershed Project