

introduction and establishment of non-native waterfowl.

We anticipate that this Agreement will result in the following benefits: (1) Establishment of a self-sustaining population or expansion of core populations for nene and koloa on the island of Hawaii; (2) reduced likelihood of hybridization of koloa with feral mallards and preservation of genetic integrity of koloa on the island of Hawaii; (3) increased genetic diversity of nene; (4) safe nesting sites that will support reproduction and an increased number of koloa and nene in the wild (anticipated five pairs of koloa and ten pairs of nene); (5) greater understanding of the effectiveness of management techniques for koloa and nene; (6) and additional sources of koloa and nene for future management activities.

Consistent with Safe Harbor policy, we propose to issue a permit to the Ranch authorizing incidental take of koloa and nene which occur on the enrolled lands, and their progeny, as a result of lawful activities at the Ranch, so long as baseline conditions are maintained and terms of the Agreement are implemented. These activities include unintentional incidental take of koloa and nene from: (1) Koa forestry; (2) eco-tourism; (3) cultivation of agricultural crops; and (4) cattle grazing. We expect that the maximum level of incidental take authorized under the Agreement will never be realized. The Ranch has no plans to change land uses. Further, we anticipate that any koloa or nene taken will not be injured or harmed, but will be relocated, with permission from landowners, to other suitable lands. We expect that the creation and enhancement of wetland and associated upland habitat will result in the establishment of a self-sustaining permanent population or expansion of core populations for nene and koloa on the island of Hawaii. Therefore, the cumulative impact of the Agreement and the activities it covers, which are facilitated by the allowable incidental take, will provide a net conservation benefit to koloa and nene.

We provide this notice pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act and pursuant to implementing regulations for NEPA (40 CFR 1506.6). We will evaluate the permit application, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the permit application meets the requirements of section 10(a) of the Act and NEPA regulations. If, upon completion of the 30-day comment period, we determine that the requirements are met, we will sign the Agreement and issue an enhancement of survival permit under section

10(a)(1)(A) of the Act to Umikoa Ranch for take of koloa and nene incidental to otherwise lawful activities in accordance with the terms of the Agreement.

Public Review and Comments

Individuals wishing copies of the permit application, the Environmental Action Statement, or copies of the full text of the Agreement, including a map of the proposed permit area, references, and legal descriptions of the proposed permit area, should contact the office and personnel listed in the **ADDRESSES** section above.

If you wish to comment on the permit application, Environmental Action Statement, or the Agreement, you may submit your comments to the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this document. Comments and materials received, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address in the **ADDRESSES** section above and will become part of the public record, pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act.

Dated: May 23, 2001.

Anne Badgley,

Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

North American Wetlands Conservation Act: Request for Small Grants Proposals for Year 2002

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council), are currently entertaining proposals that request match funding for wetland and wetland-associated upland conservation projects under the Small Grants program. Projects must meet the purposes of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989, as amended. We will give funding priority to projects from new grant applicants with new partners, where the project ensures long-term conservation benefits. However, previous Act grantees are eligible to receive funding and can compete successfully on the basis of strong project resource values.

DATES: Proposals must be postmarked no later than Friday, November 30, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Address proposals to: Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 110, Arlington, Virginia 22203, Attn: Small Grants Coordinator.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Keith A. Morehouse, Small Grants Coordinator, or Office Secretary, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, 703-358-1784; facsimile 703-358-2282.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The purpose of the 1989 North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 4401 *et seq.*) is, through partnerships, to promote long-term conservation of North American wetland ecosystems and the waterfowl and other migratory birds, fish and wildlife that depend upon such habitats. Principal conservation actions supported by NAWCA are acquisition, enhancement and restoration of wetlands and wetlands-associated uplands habitat.

Initiated in 1996, the underlying objective of the Small Grants program is to promote long-term wetlands conservation activities through encouraging participation by new grantees and partners who may not otherwise be able to compete in the regular grants program. We also hope that successful participants in the Small Grants program will be encouraged to participate in the NAWCA-based Standard Grants program. Over the first six years of the program, about 472 proposals requesting a total of approximately \$16.2 million competed for funding. Ultimately, 122 projects were funded over this period for about \$4.7 million. For 2002, with the approval of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, we have made the Small Grants program operational at a base level of \$1.0 million. Between \$1.0 and \$2.0 million in Small Grants projects may be funded. However, ultimately, the level of Small Grant funding depends upon the quality of the pool of grant proposals.

To be considered for funding in the 2002 cycle, proposals must have a grant request no greater than \$50,000. We will accept all wetland conservation proposals that meet the requirements of the Act. However, considering appropriate proposal resource values, we will give funding priority to projects from new grant applicants (individuals or organizations who have never received a NAWCA grant) with new partners, where the project ensures long-term conservation benefits. This

priority system does not preclude former NAWCA grant recipients from receiving Small Grants funding; ultimately, project resource value is the critical factor in deciding which projects receive funding. Also, projects are likely to receive a greater level of attention if they are part of a broader related or unrelated effort to bring or restore wetland or wetland-associated upland conservation values to a particular area or region.

In addition, proposals must represent on-the-ground projects, and any overhead in the project budget must constitute 10 percent or less of the grant amount. The anticipated magnitude of wetlands and wildlife resources benefits that will result from project execution is an important factor in proposal evaluation, and there should be a reasonable balance between acreages of wetlands and wetland-associated uplands. Mitigation-related projects may be precluded from consideration, depending upon the nature of the mitigation application.

Please keep in mind that NAWCA and matching funds may be applied only to wetlands acquisition, creation, enhancement, and/or restoration; they may not be applied to signage, displays, trails or other educational features, materials and equipment, even though the goal of the project may ultimately be to support wetland conservation education curricula. Projects oriented toward education are not ordinarily eligible for NAWCA funding because education is not a primary purpose of the Act. However, useful project outcomes can include educational benefits resulting from conservation actions. Research is also not a primary purpose of the Act, and research proposals are not considered for funding.

Even though we require less total application information for Small Grants than we do for the Standard Grants program, Small Grant proposals must have clear explanations and meet the basic purposes given above and the 1:1 or greater non-Federal matching requirements of the NAWCA. Small Grants projects must also be consistent with Council-established guidelines, objectives and policies. All non-Federal matching funds and proposed expenditures of grant funds must be consistent with Appendix A of the Small Grants instructions, "Eligibility Requirements for Match of NAWCA Grant and Non-Federal Funds." Applicants must submit a completed Standard Form 424, Application For Federal Assistance. Hard copies of Small Grant instructions (booklets) are no longer provided, except under

special circumstances. However, the NAWCA Program website, birdhabitat.fws.gov, contains instructions for completing and submitting a Small Grant application, as well as forms and instructions for the Standard Form 424.

Small Grant proposals may be submitted prior to the due date but must be postmarked no later than Friday, November 30, 2001. Address submitted proposals as follows: Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 110, Arlington, VA 22203, Attn: Small Grants Coordinator.

Applicants must submit *complete* grant request packages to the Division of Bird Habitat Conservation (DBHC), including *all* of the documentation of partners (partner letters) with funding pledge amounts. Information on funding in partner letters, i.e., amounts and description regarding use, must correspond with budget amounts in the budget table and any figures provided in the narrative.

With the volume of proposals received, we are not usually able to contact proposal sources to verify and/or request supplemental data and/or materials. Thus, those proposals lacking required information or containing conflicting information are subject to being declared ineligible and not further considered for funding.

For more information, call the DBHC office secretary at 703-358-1784, facsimile 703-358-2282, or send E-mail to R9ARW_DBHC@FWS.GOV. Small Grant application instructions may be available by E-mail as a WordPerfect® file, upon request.

In conclusion, we require that, upon arrival in the DBHC, proposal packages must be: complete with regard to the information requested, presented in the format requested, and be presented according to the established deadline.

The Service has submitted information collection requirements to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. On May 26, 1999, OMB gave its approval for this information collection and confirmed the approval number as 1018-0100. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The information collection solicited: is necessary to gain a benefit in the form of a grant, as determined by the North American Wetlands Conservation Council and the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission; is necessary to determine the eligibility

and relative value of wetland projects; results in an approximate paperwork burden of 80 hours per application; and does not carry a premise of confidentiality. The information collections in this program will not be part of a system of records covered by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552(a)).

Dated: May 22, 2001.

Thomas O. Melius,

Assistant Director—Migratory Birds and State Programs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 01-14327 Filed 6-6-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Gaming

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of approved Tribal-State Compact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 11 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA), Pub. L. 100-497, 25 U.S.C. 2710, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish, in the **Federal Register**, notice of approved Tribal-State Compacts for the purpose of engaging in Class III gaming activities on Indian lands. The Deputy Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs (Management), Department of the Interior, through his delegated authority, has approved the Off-Track Wagering Compact between the Choctaw Nation and the State of Oklahoma, which was executed on March 28, 2001.

DATES: This action is effective June 7, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George T. Skibine, Director, Office of Indian Gaming Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC 20240, (202) 219-4066.

Dated: May 25, 2001.

James H. McDivitt,

Deputy Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs (Management).

[FR Doc. 01-14308 Filed 6-6-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-02-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Gaming

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of approved Tribal-State Compact.