

way maintenance chemicals, and overflow from campground toilets. This Agreement provides a net conservation benefit to Oregon chub by creating a protected refugia for this segment of the Oregon chub population and thereby reducing risks of complete loss of the donor population and thus loss of any unique genetic material. The Agreement is expected to contribute to recovery of Oregon chub by reducing threats and expanding Oregon chub populations. Recovery of the species would be further enhanced by increasing the reproductive viability of the populations.

Under the Agreement, consistent with the Service's Safe Harbor Policy, published in the **Federal Register** on June 17, 1999 (64 FR 32717), the Service would issue a permit to the Applicant authorizing incidental take of Oregon chub as a result of activities outside of the 15-meter (50-foot) buffer zone around the perimeter of the pond. These activities include: diversion of water for irrigation or other purposes, grazing of livestock upslope of the pond, stocking of fish or amphibian species, logging trees, removal of vegetation surrounding the pond area, use of herbicide or pesticide, and any earthmoving activities upslope of the pond. We expect that the maximum level of incidental take authorized under the proposed Agreement will never be realized.

We are providing this notice pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act and pursuant to implementing regulations for NEPA (40 CFR 1506.6). We will evaluate this 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 proposed Agreement and issue an enhancement of survival permit under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Act to the Applicant for take of Oregon chub 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, the 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 24, 2001.

**Rowan W. Gould,**

*Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### **Availability of an Environmental Action Statement and Receipt of an Application for a Permit To Enhance the Survival of the Hawaiian Duck or Koloa and Endangered Hawaiian Goose or Nene through a Safe Harbor Agreement for Umikoa Ranch, HI**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that Umikoa Ranch, Limited (Ranch) has applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service (we, the Service) for an enhancement of survival permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) for Hawaiian Duck or Koloa (*Anas wyvilliana*) and Endangered Hawaiian Goose or Nene (*Branta sandvicensis*). The permit application includes a Safe Harbor Agreement (Agreement) between the Ranch, the Service, and the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources. The proposed permit and Agreement would become effective upon initialization of the Agreement and remain in effect for 20 years. The Service has made a preliminary determination that the proposed Agreement and permit application are eligible for categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). We explain the basis for this determination in an Environmental Action Statement, which also is available for public review.

We announce the opening of a 30-day comment period to receive comments from the public on the Applicant's enhancement of survival permit

application, the accompanying proposed Agreement, and Environmental Action Statement. For further information and instruction on the reviewing and commenting process, see Public Review and Comment section below.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received by July 9, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be addressed to Mr. Paul Henson, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, PO Box 50088, Honolulu, Hawaii 96850; facsimile (808) 541-3470. (See Public Review and Comment section below.)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Gina Shultz at the above address or telephone 808-541-3441.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **Background**

Under a Safe Harbor Agreement, participating property owners voluntarily undertake management activities on their property to enhance, restore, or maintain habitat benefitting species listed under the Act. Safe Harbor Agreements encourage private and other non-Federal property owners to implement conservation efforts for listed species by assuring property owners they will not be subjected to increased property use restrictions if their efforts attract listed species to their property or increase the numbers or distribution of listed species already on their property. Application requirements and issuance criteria for enhancement of survival permits through Safe Harbor Agreements are found in 50 CFR 17.22(c).

We have worked with the Ranch and the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop a Safe Harbor Agreement for the creation and enhancement of habitat for the endangered Hawaiian duck or koloa and Hawaiian goose or nene on Umikoa Ranch, Hawaii. Under this Agreement, the Ranch will: (1) Construct and maintain wetland and associated upland habitat for nene and koloa; (2) maintain fences that exclude cattle from newly created wetland and associated upland habitats; (3) allow for controlled grazing to prevent encroachment of kikuyu grass and for maintenance of open, short grass habitat for nene; (4) prevent the establishment of problematic alien invasive plant species; (5) implement a program to control predators in and around newly created habitats where koloa and nene are likely to occur; (6) prohibit hunting in areas within the upper portion of the Ranch managed for koloa and nene; and (7) prevent the

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