



News Release



Pacific Islands External Affairs Office

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Mokapu Island Restoration Project to Begin

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Forestry and Wildlife will begin work on the Mokapu Island Restoration project on or shortly after January 23, 2008, depending on favorable weather conditions. The project involves the aerial broadcast of rodenticide to eradicate rats on Mokapu Island.

To better inform Molokai residents and other interested parties a draft environmental assessment was made available for a 30-day public comment period. In addition, two public meetings were held on Molokai in early January to better inform residents and address concerns.

The goal of the restoration project is to eradicate all the rats on the island to save the native seabirds and rare plants. Rats are known to kill and eat native seabirds and eat rare plants and their seeds.

Tissue and water samples will be taken around Mokapu Island following the bait application. Test results from samples collected will be made public.

Inquiries concerning the project can be directed to Chris Swenson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 808 792 9400, or Fern Duvall, Division of Forestry and Wildlife at 808 873 3502.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Forestry & Wildlife (DOFAW) is the largest land management entity in the State of Hawai'i with direct responsibility for management of approximately 944,500 acres of state trust lands. These lands include the state's forest reserve system, natural area reserve system, plant and wildlife refuges and wilderness and game management areas.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.