

James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan

Prepared by:

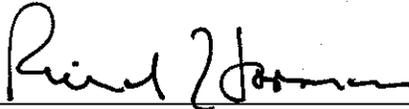
O'ahu National Wildlife Refuge Complex
66-590 Kamehameha Highway, Room 2C
Hale'iwa, Hawai'i 96712

and

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pacific Islands Planning Team
300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 5-231
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96850

September 2011

Approved: _____

 *Acting*
Regional Director, Region 1
Portland, Oregon

9/26/11

Date

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge
Comprehensive Conservation Plan
Approval Submission**

In accordance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, as amended, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service completed a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). The purpose of this CCP is to specify a management direction for the Refuge for the next 15 years. The goals, objectives, and strategies for improving Refuge conditions—including the types of habitat we will provide, partnership opportunities, and management actions needed to achieve desired future conditions—are described in the CCP. The Service's preferred alternative for managing the Refuge is described in this CCP and the effects on the human environment were described in the Draft CCP and Environmental Assessment.

This CCP is submitted for the Regional Director's approval by:



David M. Ellis, Project Leader
O'ahu National Wildlife Refuge Complex

9/6/2011

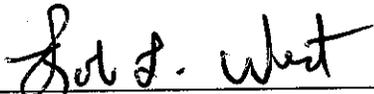
Date

Concur: 

For Barry Stieglitz
Project Leader, Hawaiian and Pacific Islands NWRC

9/7/11

Date

Concur: 

Robin West
Regional Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System

9/9/11

Date

**Finding of No Significant Impact
for the
James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan
Honolulu County, Hawai‘i**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has completed a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). The CCP will guide management of the Refuge for 15 years. The CCP/EA describes our proposals for managing the Refuge and their effects on the human environment under three alternatives, including the no action alternative.

Decision

Based on our comprehensive review and analysis in the CCP/EA, we selected Alternative C for implementation, because it will guide management of the Refuge in a manner that:

- Achieves the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and the purposes, vision, and goals of the Refuge.
- Maintains and restores the ecological integrity of the Refuge habitats and populations.
- Addresses the important issues identified during the CCP scoping process.
- Addresses the legal mandates of the Service and the Refuge.
- Is consistent with the scientific principles of sound wildlife management and endangered species recovery.
- Facilitates priority public uses appropriate and compatible with the Refuge purpose and the Refuge System mission.

Summary of the Actions to be Implemented

Implementing the selected alternative will have no significant impacts on the environmental resources identified in the CCP/EA. Refuge management under the selected alternative will protect, maintain, and enhance habitat for endangered species and resources of concern, and improve the Refuge’s capability to provide food for migrating and wintering waterbirds, including shorebirds and waterfowl. Improving the Refuge’s coastal and wetland habitats will increase the value of these lands and waters for a variety of native plants and wildlife.

The availability and quality of wildlife-dependent recreation on the Refuge will improve under the selected alternative, but within a regional context, the cumulative change would be small. A summary of the CCP actions we will implement follows.

Under Alternative C, intensive management of threatened and endangered waterbird species and their habitat at the Ki‘i and Punamanō Units of the Refuge will continue to focus on protection and successful nesting as part of the Statewide effort to implement the Hawaiian Waterbird Recovery Plan. Management of the unique and sensitive coastal sand dunes and coastal strand will be undertaken to protect and enhance the area for native vegetation, seabirds, other migratory birds, endangered Hawaiian Monk seals and Green turtles. A Visitor Services Plan (VSP) will be developed to identify, evaluate, and select sites for infrastructure needed to fully implement a safe and compatible program for the public (to include roads, parking areas, trails,

overlooks, etc.). The VSP will identify any new special regulations needed to protect sensitive wildlife resources, the fragile coastline, and the visiting public. If funded, the design and construction of a Visitor Center/Environmental Education facility and refuge office will be undertaken to better serve the public, students and refuge staff.

The Refuge will continue to participate and cooperate in community and agency efforts to address flood damage reduction for the local area; and we will continue to evaluate our infrastructure on the Refuge, particularly on newly acquired lands, to determine if further changes can be made to help mitigate flood damages. Both current commercial aquaculture leases will remain in effect until 2023 at which time, by prior agreement, they will expire.

All wetlands, coastal dunes/strand and scrub/shrub habitats will be restored and managed. Fencing will be installed at appropriate locations throughout the refuge to reduce the devastating impacts of exotic predators on native wildlife. Additionally, the trial use of predator-proof fencing will be initiated on selected coastal dunes and/or wetland sites to protect nesting seabirds and waterbirds. Abandoned aquaculture facilities will be cleaned up. If we determine that the Service does not currently have management authority for the shoreline adjacent to the Refuge coastline, we will pursue an Executive Order from the Governor of Hawai'i for jurisdiction to protect wildlife and standardize public use regulations.

Public Involvement and Changes Made to the Selected Alternative Based on Comments

We incorporated a variety of public involvement techniques in developing and reviewing the CCP/EA. This included three planning updates, several meetings with partners, and public review and comment on the Draft CCP/EA. The details of our public involvement program are described in the CCP, in Appendix I.

Based on the public comments we received and considered, Alternative C as described in the Draft CCP/EA has been slightly modified to clarify our management strategies to support flood damage reduction efforts in Kahuku. Any future proposed projects which would involve/impact Refuge lands would be subject to a separate environmental review and regulatory process from this CCP.

Conclusions

Based on review and evaluation of the information contained in the supporting references, I have determined that implementing Alternative C as the CCP for James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Accordingly, we are not required to prepare an environmental impact statement.

Richard Zeman Acting
Regional Director

9/26/11
Date

Supporting References

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. July 2011. James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge, Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. September 2011. James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan.

Note: This Finding of No Significant Impact and supporting references are available for public review at O'ahu National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 66-590 Kamehameha Highway, Room 2C Hale'iwa, Hawai'i 96712, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hawaiian and Pacific Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 5-231, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96850. These documents can also be found on the Internet at <http://pacific.fws.gov/planning/>. Interested and affected parties are being notified of our decision.

