

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**for the**  
**Rose Atoll National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has completed the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for Rose Atoll National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). The CCP will guide management of the Refuge for the next 15 years. The CCP and EA described the Service's proposals for managing the Refuge and their effects on the human environment under two alternatives, including the no action alternative.

**Decision**

Following comprehensive review and analysis of the two alternatives, the Service selected Alternative B for implementation because it is the alternative that best meets the following criteria:

- Achieves the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System;
- Achieves the purposes of the Refuge;
- Will be able to achieve the vision and goals for the Refuge;
- Maintains and restores the ecological integrity of Refuge habitats and populations;
- Addresses the important issues identified during the scoping process;
- Addresses the legal mandates of the Service and the Refuge; and
- Is consistent with the scientific principles of sound wildlife management and endangered species recovery.

**Summary of the Actions to be Implemented**

Implementing the selected alternative will have no significant impacts on any of the environmental resources identified in the CCP/EA. Refuge management under the selected alternative will protect, maintain, and enhance habitat for priority species and resources of concern. A detailed summary of the CCP actions we will implement can be found in Chapter 2, Table 2.1; however major management actions include:

- Protecting, restoring, and maintaining habitats including the lagoon, perimeter crustose coralline algal reef, area, beach strand, and littoral forest. This will include developing monitoring protocols, installing a remote camera system, increasing surveys, implementing a rapid response program to nonnative species, restoring native plants, and increasing applied research;
- Protecting, restoring, and maintaining the species that rely on the habitats above, including corals, fish, seabirds, shorebirds, sea turtles, native plants, fauna, and invertebrates;
- Expanding outreach, interpretation, and environmental education by working with partners to develop materials and curriculum;
- Protecting and perpetuating cultural resources related to Rose Atoll; and
- Focusing scientific information and research needs to better support adaptive management on the Refuge.

### **Public Involvement and Changes to the Selected Alternative Based on Comments**

Beginning with the public scoping in 2009, the planning process incorporated public involvement in developing and reviewing the CCP. This included seven public open houses/meetings, three planning updates, updates provided through meetings with partners, elected officials, and chiefs, Notices of Availability in the Federal Register, website postings, mail and email list circulations, news releases, and public review and comment on the Draft CCP/EA during the extended public comment period of October 9-November 27, 2012. Public involvement details, our responses to comments, and any changes made to the CCP are outlined in detail in Appendix J.

Based on public comments received, two new research strategies (i.e., to investigate breeding seabird diets and to correlate seabird reproduction with oceanographic conditions and prey locations) were added in Objective 6.2, clarification on the relationship between seabirds and pelagic fish was made on a section of the biological chapter, and a strategy to work with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to identify the Refuge on nautical charts and other marine information products was added to a revised law enforcement section in Chapter 2. Some additional text changes were made to improve readability and accuracy.

### **Conclusions**

Based on review and evaluation of the information contained in the supporting references, I have determined that implementing Alternative B as the CCP for management of Rose Atoll 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, the Service is not required to prepare an environmental impact statement.



Regional Director, Region 1  
Portland, Oregon

9/23/13  
Date

Acting

### **Supporting References**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2012. Rose Atoll National Wildlife Refuge Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1. Portland, OR. 313 pp.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2013. Rose Atoll National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1. Portland, OR.

Note: This Finding of No Significant Impact and supporting references are on file at the Rose Atoll NWR in the National Park Service office, Pago Pago, American Samoa; the Pacific Reefs National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 5-231, Honolulu, Hawai'i, 96826; and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Planning and Visitor Services, 911 NE 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, Oregon, 97232. These documents can also be found at [www.fws.gov/roseatoll/planning.html](http://www.fws.gov/roseatoll/planning.html). These documents are available for public inspection. Interested and affected parties are being notified of our decision.