

could and should be providing for migrating and wintering avian species.

Habitat Protection: Current support for the Service's Partners for Wildlife program will continue in order to ensure the program's growth and success. The Refuge will also continue to be an active partner in Colorado Wetlands Initiative Legacy project led by the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

Public Use: Educating the public as to the nature and value of wetlands will focus on contrasting the intensely managed wetlands of Monte Vista NWR with the more natural aspects on the Alamosa NWR wetlands. To assure compliance with public use minimum standards, money will be targeted for projects through RONS (Refuge Operating Needs System) and MMS (Maintenance Management System). Currently, funding proposals are developed for projects that will improve the quality of visitor experiences.

Hunting: Current waterfowl and small game hunting will continue to be supported and encouraged. To the extent feasible, the hunting experience will be further tailored to meet the desires of hunters using the Refuges based on periodic questioning of waterfowl hunters and other public input. The limited amount of overnight use currently available in parking lots during waterfowl hunting seasons will be continued.

Fishing: The shallow water in Refuge wetlands does not support a viable fishery. Wetlands either dry up or freeze solid annually which eliminates all fish that have entered the system. Therefore, fishing is not allowed on the Refuges.

Wildlife Observation: Support for the Crane Festival will continue. On the Monte Vista NWR, public and scientific input will be sought regarding the seasonal expansion of the auto tour route, development of wildlife observation sites at Parker Pond, and development of wildlife observation decks along County Road 3E. Opinion and information will also be sought regarding the development of an observation deck adjacent to the Refuge Headquarters at the Alamosa NWR and near the proposed visitor center and education facility at the Monte Vista NWR.

Wildlife Photography: Photography will continue to be allowed, with no additional Refuge support provided to photographers.

Interpretation: A multi-purpose education and visitor center facility on the Monte Vista NWR is the highest educational priority for the Complex. Also, the Refuge staff will implement an interpretation program centered around the cultural resources found on the

Complex and around the Valley. Interpretation of past human use will focus on the theme that humans have always, and still depend upon natural resources for survival.

Environmental Education: Volunteer and/or contractor led environmental education programs for local schools will continue to be provided, both as Refuge field trips and classroom presentations.

Universal Access and Design: Developments will include new rest room facilities and wildlife observation blinds and/or platforms. Universally accessible hunting blinds will be built on both Refuges. All of these projects will follow the Americans with Disabilities Accessibility Guidelines.

Cultural Resources: Archaeological work on the Complex will be expanded to include work needed to determine the eligibility of four documented sites for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Management will also include a sample archaeological inventory of Refuge lands over a 15-year period.

Elk Management: The resident elk will be managed to discourage their use of Monte Vista NWR in large numbers with the intent to prevent habitat degradation.

Dated: August 29, 2003.

John A. Blankenship,

Deputy Regional Director, Region 6, Denver, Colorado.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Draft Revised Recovery Plan for the 'Alalā (*Corvus hawaiiensis*)

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability for review and comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("we") announces the availability of a draft revised recovery plan for the 'Alalā, or Hawaiian Crow (*Corvus hawaiiensis*) for public review. This endemic Hawaiian bird, a member of the family Corvidae, is now believed to be extinct in the wild and survives only in captivity. The 'Alalā was listed as an endangered species in 1967 (32 FR 4001). The original recovery plan for the 'Alalā was published in 1982.

DATES: Comments on the draft revised recovery plan must be received on or before February 20, 2004 to receive our consideration.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft revised recovery plan are available for inspection, but appointment, during normal business hours at the following locations: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 3-122, Honolulu, Hawaii 96850 (telephone 808-792-9400) and Hawaii State Library, 478 S. King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813. Requests for copies of the draft revised recovery plan and written comments and materials regarding this plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor, Ecological Services, at the above Honolulu address. An electronic copy of the draft revised recovery plan is also available at: <http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/index.html#plans>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jay Nelson, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above Honolulu address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Recovery of endangered or threatened animals and plants is a primary goal of our endangered species program and the Endangered Species Act (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Recovery means improvement of the status of listed species to the point at which listing is no longer appropriate under the criteria set out in section 4(a)(1) of the Act. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting listed species, and estimate time and cost for implementing the measures needed for recovery.

The Act requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not pronounce the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. We will consider all information presented during the public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. Comments may result in changes to the plan. Comments regarding recovery plan implementation will be forwarded to appropriate Federal or other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions. Individual responses to comments will not be provided.

The Hawaiian Crow, or 'Alalā, is an omnivorous, forest-dwelling bird endemic to dry and mesic forests on the island of Hawaii. Although 'Alalā were still abundant in the 1890's, their numbers decreased sharply throughout