

Sample Preliminary Proposal

NATURAL AREA PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Submitted by: Cathy Caretaker

Date: June 5, 1991

on behalf of LANDOWNER   X    
or COOPERATING ENTITY \_\_\_\_\_  
(please check one)

Landowner: Wild Places, Inc.  
Address: 1234 Front Street Mall  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
Phone: 537-8901  
Contact: Cathy Caretaker, Property Manager

Cooperating Entity: The Nature People  
(if known):  
Address:

Phone:  
Contact:

**1. What are the natural resources being managed?**

The project would protect some of the last remaining native forests in the Koolau Mountains on Oahu, including habitat for native birds (elepaio, apapane, amakihi and pueo have all been seen recently), rare plants and endangered land snails. The vegetation is predominantly native above 1800 feet elevation, with koa and ohia in the overstory and many native plants in the understory. It would also improve public access to certain areas for educational and recreational hiking.

**2. Where is the project located? How many acres will be managed? (Please include a map.)**

The proposed project would include approximately 3,000 acres in the central Koolau Mountains, extending from Nogo trail in the south to Mobettah trail in the north, from 1600 feet elevation to the summit (map attached).

**3. How will the project be accomplished? Provide details (i.e. build fence to protect koa and rare plants from feral animals.)**

The major purpose of the project is to reduce damage to the forest by feral animals, especially pigs through strategic fencing, hunting, and trapping. A combination of public and staff hunting will be used, and the effect on pig activity/damage will be monitored. Populations of very rare plants and endangered snails will also be monitored, and some will be fenced. The trails through the area will be restored to improve access for management. Part of the requested funding will be used to develop a long-range management plan to get a current biological survey and identify resources in need of most immediate attention.

**4. Are there any public benefits from this project?**

Public benefits include protection of a major piece of the watershed serving central Oahu, which contains unique native Hawaiian wildlife and forests. Portions of the trail system being developed for management will also be available to the public on a permitted basis.

**5. Are there any partnerships/other organizations involved? How will they be involved in the project?**

Wild Places, Inc., the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), the Nature People (TNP), will be the primary partners in the project. Wild Places, Inc. has already made a gift of a permanent conservation easement to TNP, and will provide staff and in-kind support for the management program. TNP will provide expertise to develop the management plan and to oversee its implementation. TNP will also help raise a portion of the required matching funds.

In addition, the project will seek the assistance of various botanical gardens for propagating rare plants; Dr. Mike Hadfield at the University of Hawaii to continue his work on propagating and reintroducing endangered snails; and DOFAW's Na Ala Hele staff for assistance in reestablishing some of the public trails.

**6. When could the project begin? Provide an approximate timetable for project development for a minimum of 10 years.**

The project could begin within three months after notification of funding. The following is a very rough timeline. Most of the details would be developed as part of the long-range plan scheduled for completion in the first year.

Year 1 (1991)

- Build one mile of strategic fence (along 5 key ridges)
- Initiate hunting & trapping programs in fenced units
- Establish monitoring transects for ungulate activity & weed distribution

- Conduct biological reconnaissance (ca 2 wks) to determine the distribution & status of native natural communities, rare species, feral animals, and habitat- modifying weeds
- Draft long-range (5-10 years) management plan

#### Year 2 (1992)

- Finalize long-range management plan
- Build additional mile of strategic fence (remaining 3 key ridges)
- Continue & expand hunting/trapping programs to include additional units
- Continue existing monitoring transects & establish transects in new units
- Implement strategy to protect & propagate rare plants & snails
- Treat 3 target weed species
- Restore minimum one trail suitable for public use & conduct monthly hikes

#### Year 3 and 4 (1993-94)

- Maintain fences and monitoring
- Maintain aggressive hunting/trapping program
- Expand rare species & weed control work
- Continue monthly hikes; develop volunteer & intern program
- Restore more trails

#### Years 5-10 Same as Year 4

- Update long-range management plan in Year 5

### **7. Why does the project need funding?**

The proposed project is adjacent to a state Forest Reserve on the south and a National Wildlife Refuge on the north. Hence, management of this area would enhance the protection of resources for more than 10,000 contiguous acres of native forest in the central Koolau Mountains. The landowner is eager to protect these native resources, but they have neither the expertise nor funds to support the needed management on their own. The Nature People are prepared to accept the easement and management responsibilities and to fund-raise for part of the management costs, if the area qualifies for Natural Area Partnership matching funds. This is a great example of a place where partnerships can make the most out of the state's matching dollars.

### **8. What is the estimated total cost or the project?**

For 1991-95 (Years 1-5), the estimated total cost is \$210,000/year. After that period, the total cost may be reduced to reflect the reduced effort required to maintain the ungulate control program. Alternatively, the funding may remain constant as weed control activities increase.