

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

February 24, 2017

Chairperson and Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Board Members:

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY (ABC) AND THE DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE FOR \$84,000 IN PRIVATE AND FEDERAL FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE CORE MISSIONS OF THE MAUNA KEA FOREST RESTORATION PROJECT, MAUI ENDANGERED FOREST BIRD RECOVERY PROJECT AND THE KAUAI ENDANGERED FOREST BIRD RECOVERY PROJECT SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

SUMMARY:

The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) offered to award an \$84,000 grant to the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) in support of DOFAW's endangered forest bird recovery projects. DOFAW would receive the grant as a subrecipient of funds that ABC received from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and other private monies that were raised by ABC.

BACKGROUND:

The parties will jointly work on activities which are intended to advance conservation actions for five ESA-listed birds across the State of Hawaii. Restoring habitat, primarily mamane forest, on Mauna Kea, Hawaii is critical for increasing the population of Palilia. The Maui Parrotbill population is limited by the extent of their currently occupied habitat on the eastern side of Haleakala, Maui so creating an additional population of birds is a critical recovery action. Restoring the native forest and preparing the Wailailau unit of Nakula Natural Area reserve site for translocation are necessary to implement the action. The native forest birds of Kauai Alakai Plateau, particularly Puaiohi, Akikiki, and Akekee are depredated by non-native rats. Rats are one of the greatest threats to island birds worldwide, reducing rat populations is critical to preserve these bird species. These activities have been deemed high priorities by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

DOFAW and ABC, aided by the Deputy Attorney General, recently reviewed the agreement for directing ABC's initial NFWF grant to DOFAW, and DOFAW now seeks BLNR approval to accept \$84,000 in grant funds from ABC to support the above projects.

DISCUSSION:

Securing a funding commitment from ABC will enhance DOFAW's commitment to recover Hawaii's endangered forest birds.

CHAPTER 343 - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

The proposed recovery projects is a minor action that will probably have minimal or no significant effects on the environment and is exempt from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment in accordance with Chapter 343, HRS, and Chapter 11-200-8, Hawaii Administrative Rules, under the Department's Exemption Class 5, Exemption 1, 2, 13 & 19. (Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Reviewed and Concurred Upon by the Environmental Council on June 05, 2015):

Exemption Class 5: Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

1. Conduct surveys or collect data on existing environmental conditions (e.g, noise, air quality, water flow, water quality, etc.).
2. Non-destructive data collection and inventory, including field, aerial and satellite surveying and mapping.
13. Research or experimental management actions that the Department declares are Designed specifically to monitor, conserve, or enhance native species or native species habitat.
19. Research or experimental management actions to identify, monitor, control, or eradicate introduced species.

DOFAW activities to be conducted under the terms of the grant agreement include the conservation of five ESA-listed birds across the State of Hawaii. These are minor actions that will probably have minimal or no significant effects on the environment and are exempt from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment in accordance with Chapter 343, HRS, and Chapter 11-200-8, Hawai'i Administrative Rules, under the Department's following exemption classes (Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Reviewed and Concurred Upon by the Environmental Council on June 05, 2015):

Exemption Class 1: Operations, repairs or maintenance of existing structures, facilities, equipment or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion or change of use beyond that previously existing.

Exemption Class 2: Replacement or reconstruction of existing structure and facilities where the new structure will be located generally on the same site and will have

substantially the same purpose, capacity, density, height, and dimensions as the structure replaced.

Exemption Class 3: Construction and location of single, new, small facilities or structures and the alteration and modification of same and installation of new, small equipment and facilities and the alteration and modification of same [].

Exemption Class 4: Minor alteration in the conditions of land, water, or vegetation.

Exemption Class 5: Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

Exemption Class 6: Construction or placement of minor structures accessory to existing facilities.

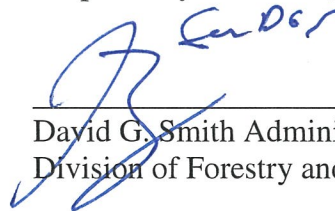
In accordance with the Board's action at its meeting of November 13, 2015, under Item C-6, the Chairperson or the Chairperson's authorized representative is authorized to declare the exemptions.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

DOFAW recommends that the Board:

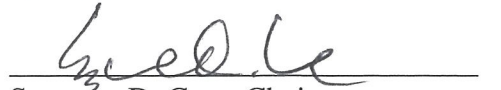
1. Approve DOFAW's acceptance of an \$84,000 grant from the American Bird Conservancy for DOFAW's conservation and restoration initiatives state-wide subject to approval by the Attorney General.

Respectfully submitted,



David G. Smith Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



Suzanne D. Case, Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources