



# Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program - Pacific Islands Program Overview



*The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's primary mechanism to deliver on-the-ground habitat projects on private lands.*

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is a proactive, voluntary program that assists landowners by providing technical and financial assistance for native habitat improvement projects on private lands. The program also attracts support, both financial and technical, from many diverse partners, federal agencies, non-governmental entities, tribes, states, and local governments. In 2002, the State of Hawai'i Department of Hawaiian Homelands was added to the definition of "private lands".

Native habitat improvement projects can include, but are not limited to, construction of fences to exclude feral ungulates, control of alien plants, control of mammalian predators, control of feral ungulates, out-planting of native plants, and restoration of native ecosystem elements such as hydrology as in the case of wetlands and stream corridors.

The assistance provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) can range from informal advice on the design and location of potential restoration projects, to cost-share funding of project implementation under a formal cooperative agreement with the landowner.

The USFWS can also provide participating property owners with technical assistance to develop Safe Harbor Agreements that cover habitat managed for endangered or threatened species, and provide assurances that additional land, water, and/or natural resource use restrictions will not be imposed as a result of their voluntary conservation actions to benefit covered species.

Funding is limited and projects must meet the following objectives:

- 1) Implement proactive, voluntary, ecologically sound, on-the-ground native habitat projects on private lands.
- 2) Promote habitat conservation and stewardship on private lands.
- 3) Contribute to USFWS' conservation goals.

Projects given highest priority are those that re-establish natural biological communities and provide long-term benefits to declining migratory bird and fish species, species that are endangered, threatened, candidates or proposed for listing, and those projects on private lands that satisfy the needs of wildlife populations on National Wildlife

Refuges. Additionally, a 1:1 match from the landowner is normally required. This match can be from another non-federal funding source, and/or in-kind contributions to the restoration project.

Landowners who receive funding enter into a ten-year cooperative agreement (at a minimum) with the USFWS which restricts any development, farming, or grazing within the restoration area.



Hawai'i's koa forests are important nesting habitats for rare birds, economic resources for sustainable forestry products, and cultural treasures cherished by Native Hawaiians.

For more information please contact:

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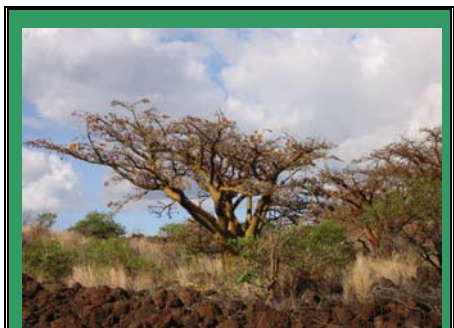
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Some of the most threatened ecosystems are found in dryland habitats. The leaves of the dry forest tree wiliwili (*Erythrina sandwicensis*), pictured here, are susceptible to galls caused by an alien wasp.