

Plan for Hawaii's Wildlife

HAWAII'S WILDLIFE includes birds and two mammals that are native to the state plus birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians brought here from other places.

The different forms of wildlife, the different concerns of hunters and environmentalists, and the increases in human population have created complex problems.

An attempt to reconcile the competing concerns is made by the Hawaii Wildlife Plan, which has just been published by the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, state Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The 113-page publication states goals and objectives and outlines plans for a wide range of species, ranging from native sea and forest birds to such an exotic import as the brush-tailed rock wallaby. It is illustrated with good photos, in color, of the species, many of them taken by Ronald L. Walker, wildlife biology program manager, plus those taken by other biologists.

"Many of our endemic animals are threatened or endangered with extinction due to changing land use patterns, disease, predation, or competition with introduced animals," the plan says.

"Although all of the wild animals used for hunting are exotic, they have become important to sportsmen for recreation and as a supplemental food source. To manipulate, manage, and balance these resources for their utilization and/or protection has become increasingly difficult and complex in recent years."

IN ITS INTRODUCTION, the plan says that wildlife resources and habitats are finite but wildlife resource users, such as hunters, birdwatchers and collectors, and demands on land use have increased with the population.

"Under these conditions, programs to meet the needs of these resources and the public are becoming exceedingly complex," the plan says.

"The advent of a vigorous endangered species program in Hawaii, for instance, has meant that some very difficult decisions must be made with respect to land management, public hunting, research and captive propagation."

The plan attempts to provide a strategy toward solving the most critical wildlife problems, with multiple use a guiding concept.

In recent years the conflicts between exotic animals and native wildlife have become more evident. In the early years, exotics were imported with little thought given to the environ-



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mental impacts. Many of the imports have had harmful effects, although not all such introductions have been entirely bad.

In any case, the exotic animals are here, but the plan opposes release of any more species.

FERAL GOATS should be eliminated from Lanai, Kahoolawe and Oahu, the plan says. If

A blueprint for recognizing and solving problems.

game birds and mammals are associated with exotic environments and don't impact on endangered plants and animals, they should be managed for sustained yield sport hunting, the plan says.

Hunters and environmentalists often disagree on what should be done with exotic mammals. Hunters object to eradication programs while scientists and environmentalists frown on maintenance of exotic mammals in native forests.

The plan outlines steps to balance the differing concerns. Hunter satisfaction is generally low because of number of hunters, loss of public hunting areas and restrictions on hunting on private lands, the plan says.

A successful wildlife conservation program needs coordination among wildlife biologists, administrators, legislators, lawyers, land managers, users, and the general public, the plan says.

One area where Hawaii's program has been deficient is in its information and education pro-

gram. Hawaii is the only state in the nation without such a program at a department or division level. Measures to establish such a program have been presented the Legislature but failed to pass.

The basic time frame for the plan is five years, but elements of it are expected to be useful for years in the future.

Rare Plant

A SHRUB FOUND only at Kaena Point and Barbers Point is the latest Hawaiian plant proposed for listing as an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The shrub, *Achyranthes rotundata*, was first recorded in 1819 by the botanist Charles Gaudichaud. It grows from 1½ to 6½ feet tall and is covered with short, silvery hairs.

Only two individuals of the species are known to exist at Kaena Point and the Barbers Point population, of about 2,000 individuals, is mostly in land proposed for industrial development.

Research for the proposed listing was done mostly by Kenneth M. Nagata under contract to the Fish and Wildlife Service. Comments on the proposal should be sent to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 500 N.E. Multnomah St., Portland, Ore. 97232.

Meetings

A LECTURE and film presentation on "Sharks of Polynesia" will be given by Richard Johnson, author and marine biologist, at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Waikiki Aquarium, 2777 Kalakaua Ave. Johnson lives in Tahiti.

Attorney Boyce Brown will discuss issues in the H-3 freeway dispute at a meeting of the Hawaii Chapter, Sierra Club, at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Ross Davis Room, Church of the Crossroads. Attorney Cynthia Thielen will discuss issues involving state conservation districts at the same meeting.