



MIDWAY ATOLL CENTRAL PART OF NEW NATIONAL MONUMENT *by Robert Fields*

On June 15, 2006 President George Bush signed one of the most significant conservation documents in this country's history. Using the authority of the 1906 Antiquities Act, President Bush designated nearly 140,000 square miles of emergent and submerged lands and waters of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands as the "Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument."

In making the monument, the presidential proclamation specifically cited Midway National Wildlife Refuge, the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, and the Battle of Midway National Memorial along with the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve. These areas support a dynamic reef ecosystem with more than 7,000 marine species, of which approximately half are unique to the Hawaiian Island chain. This will be the largest marine protected area in the world. It's remoteness has been a major factor in keeping the area from adverse affects of man.

In his remarks at the signing ceremony the President stated, "As a marine national monument, the waters of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands will receive our nation's highest form of marine environment protection. We will protect a precious natural resource. We will show our respect for the cultural and historical importance of this area. And we will create an important place for research and learning about how we can be good stewards of our oceans and our environment."

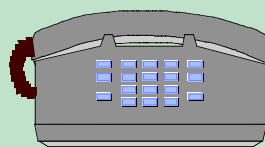
The monument is to be jointly administered by the Secretary of Interior through the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the Secretary of Commerce through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). FWS will have sole responsibility for the management of the areas of the monument that overlay

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Volunteers Needed to Help Eradicate Invasive Species

The Friends of Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge (FOMA) has been awarded a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Pulling Together Initiative to support a collaborative effort between the USFWS, FOMA, and Biological Conservation Assistance Program (BCAP) to control *Verbesina encelioides*, or golden crownbeard, on Midway Atoll. Golden crownbeard is an annual shrub with yellow flowers that resemble sunflowers. On Midway, it is a widespread, aggressive weed that grows in dense stands of up to 8 feet in height. You can learn more on this subject, by reading article published in May Newsletter.

The goals of this project are to remove golden crownbeard from areas of critical habitat for seabirds and the Laysan duck and to restore a native ecosystem. An educational brochure and teaching lesson will be developed for use on the refuge and beyond in educating the public about invasive species. Volunteers will be selected based on their ability to contribute to the task, their interest in gaining experience in invasives management, and their interests in sharing their experiences within the communities in which they live. Potential candidates will be asked how they can share their experiences on Midway in a way that will educate others about Midway and about invasive species in general. Their responses will be a major factor in the selection of volunteers.



Calling all
Volunteers . .

Here's a great chance to get to
Midway Atoll ! See details inside!

Invasive Plant Eradication and Native Plant Restoration Project



Friends of Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge (FOMA) and Biological Conservation Assistance Program (BCAP) are working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, to control invasive plants and re-establish native vegetation in critical wildlife habitat. Volunteers will be sent to Midway Atoll specifically to remove *Verbesina encelioides* (a fast-growing, invasive shrub) and to plant native vegetation in areas where *Verbesina* has been removed. During their time on Midway Atoll, volunteers will also participate in the development of educational materials about invasive species. After leaving Midway Atoll, volunteers will communicate their experiences and what they've learned about invasive species to their communities and beyond.

Volunteers will be provided with:

- airfare from their home to Honolulu, Hawaii
- airfare from Honolulu, Hawaii, to Midway Atoll
- food and lodging while on the island
- transportation (bicycle) and miscellaneous expenses (i.e. laundry) while on the island

Please visit <http://www.fws.gov/midway/> for more information about Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge.

Return applications or address any questions to:

BCAP

P.O. Box 203, Orono, ME 04473-0203

or submit electronically to Christy Finlayson at christy.finlayson@umit.maine.edu.

Upon receipt of your application, you will be sent additional information regarding insurance, requirements for travel to Midway Atoll, amenities available while on Midway Atoll, and details regarding the required Volunteer Service Agreement. You may also request these items before submitting your application.

This project is supported by:

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Pulling Together Initiative (www.nfwf.org/programs/pti.cfm)

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge (www.fws.gov/midway)

Friends of Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge (www.friendsofmidway.org)

Biological Conservation Assistance Program

*Application form****Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge/BCAP/FOMA******Invasive Plant Eradication and Native Plant Restoration Project***

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

I would like to serve:

- on a crew of 3 volunteers from mid-November 2006 to mid-January 2007 (a 60-day commitment each).
APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY: September 15, 2006.
- on crew of 6 volunteers during March 2007 (a 30-day commitment each).
APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY: January 8, 2007.
- on a future trip.

Volunteers must be in good physical condition, have no significant medical issues, and be able to ride a bike, walk up to 3 miles a day in the sand, and lift 40 pounds. Volunteers must be able to get along well with others in a remote environment while conducting grueling work in a variety of weather conditions (heat, humidity, rain). Are you willing and able to commit the time and energy necessary to work 8-hour days in weed eradication (growing plants in the greenhouse, outplanting plants, and hand-pulling *Verbesina*)?

While this will not be used as a decision criterion, please indicate if you can provide for your own transportation from your home to Honolulu. Yes No

Please address the following on a separate page(s):

- Are there any medical issues that are relevant to living and working in a remote area for extensive periods? Please list.
- Please list background experience/education relevant to the tasks outlined in the project description.
- Are there special qualifications or skills that you have to offer to the success of this project?
- In what ways will you contribute to the outreach and education aspects of this project once back in your community?
- Please provide the title, name, address, phone number, email, and relationship of two references familiar with your ability to serve in this position.

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849 Dale Street,
North Andover, MA 01845

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the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, the Battle of Midway National Memorial, and the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge. NOAA will have primary responsibility regarding management of the marine areas. Both agencies are directed to work in consultation with each other and the State of Hawaii in carrying out their respective responsibilities.

Friends of Midway Atoll (FOMA) view the establishment of the monument as a tremendous achievement in marine resources protection. Midway is important for the tremendous wildlife resources at Sand and Eastern Islands, but also important for the great historical values at Midway. We are particularly pleased that the President specifically spoke to the issue of public access to Midway. He stated that "---we are preserving an historic landmark of great importance. Near the northern edge of these islands lies Midway Island, the site of one of the most decisive battles of World War II. On this atoll, there's a memorial to the sacrifice and valor of those who fought in the Pacific theater during World War II. This national monument will have special access area around Midway Island. That's what we want. We want people to go and pay homage to those who sacrifice for our freedom." This is what FOMA wants as well and looks forward to working with FWS in developing a public access plan.

As with any new management program, but especially one involving two agencies of government, "the devil is in the details". FWS and NOAA will be meeting as early as mid-July to start formulating the plans on how the new monument will be administered. FOMA is very interested in what it will all mean for Midway Atoll. We are encouraged that the President gave strong support for FWS to manage refuge areas, and that he strongly supported public access to Midway. As the two agencies formulate operational plans, we will keep you posted. But rejoice in the fact that the monument was established and that President Bush took the special effort to quickly name the monument through the Antiquities Act. For this action he is to be commended.

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[KATHLEEN.LOY@MALLORYCO.COM](mailto:kathleen.loy@malloryco.com)



Visit the FOMA website at:
www.friendsofmidway.org

Friends Of Midway Atoll
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