

Forest Recovery Project Fast Facts

The Nature Conservancy has engaged two conservation contractors from New Zealand– Prohunt, Inc. and Landcare Research– to conduct a short-term research and demonstration hunting project in Hawai‘i.

In addition to reducing the number of non-native animals (such as pigs and goats) on the private lands where TNC works, this project is designed to answer the following questions:

- How effective are TNC’s existing animal management strategies?
 - Is contract animal management a viable conservation tool in Hawai‘i?
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The basics

- Prohunt is a New Zealand-based animal management company
 - 6-8 person team, 12 dogs; own and operate their own helicopter
 - Focus on forest conservation work in remote, inaccessible areas
 - Specialize in live capture, telemetry monitoring & animal removal
- Landcare Research is a New Zealand-based science consultancy
 - Assisting TNC with data analysis & overall project evaluation
- Demonstration hunting planned only on private lands on Maui and Moloka‘i
 - Only in conservation landscapes where TNC is already working
 - Focused on remote areas, high elevations, dangerous terrain
 - **No** hunting on public lands
 - **Not** an island-wide eradication
 - 7,780 total acres on Maui – 1.7% of island
 - 9,640 total acres on Moloka‘i – 5.8% of island
- Planned research projects include GPS tracking of 55 feral pigs & goats on three islands: Maui, Moloka‘i and Kaua‘i
 - Data will be used to evaluate effectiveness of conservation fencing
 - Opportunity to study animal behavior and movement patterns
- Short-term project (6-8 months) to begin in the fall
- Contractors will receive no public money; all private funds

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Reaching out to community & partners

- Extensive outreach effort to gather community input
 - Began discussing with partners & public in November 2006
 - Public meeting with Moloka'i Hunters Working Group in January 2007
 - 27 additional meetings reaching more than 200 Moloka'i community members & leaders
 - More than three dozen meetings held statewide to date
 - Hawaiian groups & leaders consulted broadly for input, many support the project
 - Ongoing outreach to Walter Ritte & Moloka'i Hunters Association
 - Incorporated public feedback to refine projects
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Responding to community concerns

- Prohunt to hire at least two Hawai'i residents
 - Meat to be distributed to the community, as allowed by law
 - Reduced scope of work on Moloka'i
 - No hunting in lower Pelekunu Valley, an area more routinely accessed by public hunters
 - South slope goat removal only at higher elevations, near fence line
 - Community hunting programs to continue
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Examining the business opportunity for Hawai'i companies

- These projects designed as research and development to test strategies and business model
 - Results will help determine whether contract animal management is a viable, cost-effective conservation strategy in Hawai'i
 - Results to be shared with interested partners and the public
- TNC exploring other ways to involve local companies
 - Hawai'i-based animal management companies interested in conservation work will have an opportunity to participate in project, review results, and collaborate with Prohunt
 - Request for proposals issued to evaluate statewide market potential for locally-owned companies; results to be shared with interested firms & individuals