Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

SPECIAL OCEAN USE Permit Application

NOTE: ***This Permit Application (and associated Instructions) are to propose activities to be conducted in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. The Co-Trustees are required to determine that issuing the requested permit is compatible with the findings of Presidential Proclamation 8031. Within this Application, provide all information that you believe will assist the Co-Trustees in determining how your proposed activities are compatible with the conservation and management of the natural, historic, and cultural resources of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (Monument).***

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Any or all of the information within this application may be posted to the Monument website informing the public on projects proposed to occur in the Monument.

- In addition to the permit application, the Applicant must either download the Monument Compliance Information Sheet from the Monument website OR request a hard copy from the Monument Permit Coordinator (contact information below). The Monument Compliance Information Sheet must be submitted to the Monument Permit Coordinator after initial application consultation.

- Issuance of a Monument permit is dependent upon the completion and review of the application and Compliance Information Sheet.

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED
Send Permit Applications to:
Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Permit Coordinator
6600 Kalaniana'ole Hwy. # 300
Honolulu, HI 96825
nwhipermit@noaa.gov
PHONE: (808) 397-2660 FAX: (808) 397-2662

<u>SUBMITTAL VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL IS PREFERRED BUT NOT REQUIRED. FOR ADDITIONAL SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS, SEE THE LAST PAGE.</u>

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
Permit Application Cover Sheet

This Permit Application Cover Sheet is intended to provide summary information and status to the public on permit applications for activities proposed to be conducted in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. While a permit application has been received, it has not been fully reviewed nor approved by the Monument Management Board to date. The Monument permit process also ensures that all environmental reviews are conducted prior to the issuance of a Monument permit.

Summary Information

Applicant Name: Jessica M Pociask
Affiliation: Wildlife & Nature Travel

Permit Category: Special Ocean Use
Proposed Activity Dates: December 13-20, 2010
Proposed Method of Entry (Vessel/Plane): Plane
Proposed Locations: Midway Atoll

Estimated number of individuals (including Applicant) to be covered under this permit: 16
Estimated number of days in the Monument: 7

Description of proposed activities: (complete these sentences):

a.) The proposed activity would…
Enable the general public to visit an important historical and ecological national monument that has been relatively inaccesible over the last 100 years.

b.) To accomplish this activity we would ….
Visit all accessible locations on Midway and lecture on the conservation of the wildlife, and the roll that Midway plays for seabirds and other marine life. Visitors will also directly contribute to habitat restoration by removing beach debris and invasive species, and planting native grasses in accordance with USFWS and the Biotech administrator at the monument. All of activities will be documented through writing, video and photography, and then presented upon return at at libraries, universities, and other public viewings. More specifically, documentation on behalf of Wildlife and Nature Travel will be published on WANT's website to raise awareness for the protection of Seabirds and other endemic wildlife residing on Midway, including a call to action to reduce ocean debris.

c.) This activity would help the Monument by …
generating public awareness of Midway's unique and special habitat, so that they have a greater understanding and incentive to call for and support public and private funding necessary to

preserve and maintain the monument for future generations. Our activities would also help the monument by providing labor at no charge for habitat restoration on the island.

Other information or background: At Wildlife and Nature Travel, we are a small conservation oriented travel company who focuses on unique destinations with rare and endemic wildlife. We attempt to run all of our tours with sustainable and responsible tourism in mind, and take a multidiciplinary approach to tackling conservation issues by providing educational lectures on our tours that tie in the history, economy, and culture to the state of the environment of our destinations. This approach not only generally results in financial and public support of the areas we visit through donations, but it has a pay it forward affect by motivating our passengers to take their experiences home and share them with friends, family, co-workers, etc.

Section A - Applicant Information

1. Applicant

Name (last, first, middle initial): Pociask, Jessica M.

Title: Ms.

1a. Intended field Principal Investigator (See instructions for more information):
Jessica M. Pociask

2. Mailing address (street/P.O. box, city, state, country, zip): [redacted]

For students, major professor's name, telephone and email address:

3. Affiliation (institution/agency/organization directly related to the proposed project):
Wildlifeandnaturetravel.com

4. Additional persons to be covered by permit. List all personnel roles and names (if known at time of application) here (e.g. John Doe, Research Diver; Jane Doe, Field Technician):

Jessica M. Pociask Wildlife Conservation Guide

Akos Hivekovics Wildlife Conservation Guide/Photographer

Section B: Project Information

5a. Project location(s):

		Ocean Based	
☐ Nihoa Island	☐ Land-based	☐ Shallow water	☐ Deep water
☐ Necker Island (Mokumanamana)	☐ Land-based	☐ Shallow water	☐ Deep water
☐ French Frigate Shoals	☐ Land-based	☐ Shallow water	☐ Deep water
☐ Gardner Pinnacles	☐ Land-based	☐ Shallow water	☐ Deep water
☐ Maro Reef			
☐ Laysan Island	☐ Land-based	☐ Shallow water	☐ Deep water
☐ Lisianski Island, Neva Shoal	☐ Land-based	☐ Shallow water	☐ Deep water
☐ Pearl and Hermes Atoll	☐ Land-based	☐ Shallow water	☐ Deep water
☒ Midway Atoll	☒ Land-based	☒ Shallow water	☐ Deep water
☐ Kure Atoll	☐ Land-based	☐ Shallow water	☐ Deep water
☐ Other			

NOTE: There is a fee schedule for people visiting Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge via vessel and aircraft.

Location Description:

Eastern Island & Sand Island

5b. Check all applicable regulated activities proposed to be conducted in the Monument:

☐ Removing, moving, taking, harvesting, possessing, injuring, disturbing, or damaging any living or nonliving Monument resource
☐ Drilling into, dredging, or otherwise altering the submerged lands other than by anchoring a vessel; or constructing, placing, or abandoning any structure, material, or other matter on the submerged lands
☐ Anchoring a vessel
☐ Deserting a vessel aground, at anchor, or adrift
☐ Discharging or depositing any material or matter into the Monument
☐ Touching coral, living or dead
☐ Possessing fishing gear except when stowed and not available for immediate use during passage without interruption through the Monument
☐ Attracting any living Monument resource
☐ Sustenance fishing (Federal waters only, outside of Special Preservation Areas, Ecological Reserves and Special Management Areas)
☐ Subsistence fishing (State waters only)
☒ Swimming, snorkeling, or closed or open circuit SCUBA diving within any Special Preservation Area or Midway Atoll Special Management Area

6 Purpose/Need/Scope ***State purpose of proposed activities:***

The purpose of our swimming and snorkling proposed activities will provide the most indepth and well rounded experience of all the facets of Midway, such as observing the unique Marine-life that is able to thrive due to the relative protection of the lagoon and lack of fishing pressures.

7. Answer the Findings below by providing information that you believe will assist the Co-Trustees in determining how your proposed activities are compatible with the conservation and management of the natural, historic, and cultural resources of the Monument:

The Findings are as follows:

a. How can the activity be conducted with adequate safeguards for the cultural, natural and historic resources and ecological integrity of the Monument?
Prior to visiting the Monument, our guides will be fully literate in the rules and regulations of Midway though reviewing published documents and communicating with the Monument's Visitor Services Manager. Then prior to actually visiting the Monument, our passengers will be fully educated on the history and importance of the Monument, and the rules designated for the Monument's protection and conservation.

b. How will the activity be conducted in a manner compatible with the management direction of this proclamation, considering the extent to which the conduct of the activity may diminish or enhance Monument cultural, natural and historic resources, qualities, and ecological integrity, any indirect, secondary, or cumulative effects of the activity, and the duration of such effects?

Once the visitors have completed an orientation of Midway and its ecological and historical resouces, visitors will enhance the monument by participating in several habitat restoration sessions, as well as completing photographic documentation of the current state of the monument for public dissemination, such as presentations at libraries and Michigan State University Park, Recreation, and Tourism classes.

c. Is there a practicable alternative to conducting the activity within the Monument? If not, explain why your activities must be conducted in the Monument.

Due to the monument's location and unique wildlife, there is no other practical alternative that could subsitute for such an experience. For example, rather than visiting the Monument, in order to view the Short-tailed Albatross, Monk Seal, Spinner Dolphins,

one would have to travel to Japan, Hawaii, and Mexico, a feat that would not only be cost prohibitive and impractical.

d. How does the end value of the activity outweigh its adverse impacts on Monument cultural, natural and historic resources, qualities, and ecological integrity?

The monument will receive hands on habitat restoration, plus public documentation and exposure that will lead to future conservation efforts and greater public awareness of its importance and need for preservation.

e. Explain how the duration of the activity is no longer than necessary to achieve its stated purpose.

Due to flight schedules and the size the of the monument, the amount of time scheduled for this visit allows us just enough time to properly document, through observation and photography, all historical, natural, and cultural aspects of the island.

f. Provide information demonstrating that you are qualified to conduct and complete the activity and mitigate any potential impacts resulting from its conduct.

Myself and Akos have been guiding trips all over the world in locations (i.e. Antarctica) that have extremely strict requirements for human codes of conduct on shore and with wildlife, such as maintaining a 5 meter distance between yourself and the wildlife. We have worked in both large and small groups, and are familiar with general public handling requirements as well as mitigating and potential forms of conflict.

g. Provide information demonstrating that you have adequate financial resources available to conduct and complete the activity and mitigate any potential impacts resulting from its conduct.

Wildlife and Nature Travel has an insurance policy and private funding to support and compensate any potential impacts resulting from the improper conduct of itself, its affiliates or its passengers.

h. Explain how your methods and procedures are appropriate to achieve the proposed activity's goals in relation to their impacts to Monument cultural, natural and historic resources, qualities, and ecological integrity.

Our company's premise is to promote sustainable tourism polices no matter what location in the world that we travel. We accomplish this by operating (and developing if nothing substantial exists) within the historical, cultural and political framework and

regulations for each location. We also strive to work with local operators, rather than giant corporations, to ensure that they receive the greatest impact from our visit. Our passengers are throughly informed of any and all policies, rules and requirements for traveling to these destinations, and our tour leaders are extremely well experienced in conducting such trips and conservation projects associated with them.

i. Has your vessel has been outfitted with a mobile transceiver unit approved by OLE and complies with the requirements of Presidential Proclamation 8031?
Yes

j. Demonstrate that there are no other factors that would make the issuance of a permit for the activity inappropriate.
We are visiting Midway Atoll with the sole intention of promoting conservation and awareness for the general public who desire to visit and support such a project. There are no other factors or alterior motives that would make the issuance of a permit inappropriate.

FOR SPECIAL OCEAN USE ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF MIDWAY ATOLL SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

k. Will the activity directly benefit the conservation and management of the Monument?
N/A

l. Is the purpose of the activity for research or education related to the resources or qualities of the Monument?
N/A

m. Does the activity involve the use of a commercial passenger vessel (defined as a vessel that carries individuals who have paid for such carriage)?
N/A

FOR SPECIAL OCEAN USE ACTIVITIES WITHIN MIDWAY ATOLL SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

n. Does the activity further the conservation and management of the Monument?
Yes

o. Is your activity compatible with the purposes for which the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge was designated?
Yes

NOTE: If this is a first time Special Ocean Use activity, it will be subject to a pilot project. Additionally, public notice of the application and an opportunity to provide comments is given at least 30 days prior to issuing the permit.

8. Procedures/Methods:
While on Midway we intend to further the conservation and management of the monument by assisting personnel stationed there with native grass plantings, as well as the removal of invasive species and beach debris on two occasions minimum. All other activities will be conducted fully within the scope of USFWS rules and regulations.

9. Provide proof of general liability insurance, or indicate that you will be posting an equivalent bond against claims arising out of activities conducted under the permit:
Bond will be posted and provided upon request.

10. If applicable, describe how you are collaborating with others in any way to reduce duplicative activities in the Monument or elsewhere?
To reduce carbon emissions, we are working with Oceanic Societies and USFWS to piggyback on flights to and from Honolulu.

11. List all specialized gear and materials to be used in this activity:
Maritime Air's charter plane -Gulfstream 1

12. List all Hazardous Materials you propose to take to and use within the Monument:
N/A

13. Describe any fixed installations and instrumentation proposed to be set in the Monument:
N/A

14. List all Applicants' publications directly related to the proposed project:
Photographs taken on the Monument by Akos Hivekovics and Jessica Pociask will be publish on Wildlife and Nature Travel's website.

With knowledge of the penalties for false or incomplete statements, as provided by 18 U.S.C. 1001, and for perjury, as provided by 18 U.S.C. 1621, I hereby certify to the best of my abilities under penalty of perjury of that the information I have provided on this application form is true and correct. I agree that the Co-Trustees may post this application in its entirety on the Internet. I understand that the Co-Trustees will consider deleting all information that I have identified as "confidential" prior to posting the application.

_____

Signature Date

SEND ONE SIGNED APPLICATION VIA MAIL TO THE MONUMENT OFFICE BELOW:

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Permit Coordinator
6600 Kalaniana'ole Hwy. # 300
Honolulu, HI 96825
FAX: (808) 397-2662

DID YOU INCLUDE THESE?

☐ Applicant CV/Resume/Biography
☐ Intended field Principal Investigator CV/Resume/Biography
☐ Electronic and Hard Copy of Application with Signature
☐ Statement of information you wish to be kept confidential
☐ Material Safety Data Sheets for Hazardous Materials