



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office
300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 3-122
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850



MAR 13 2015

Christine Brammer
HCA Conference Coordinator
Hawaii Conservation Alliance/Foundation
677 Ala Moana Blvd, Suite #320
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Nomination for the HCA Distinguished Service Award – Loyal Mehrhoff

Dear Ms. Brammer,

I am pleased to submit to you the nomination of Dr. Loyal Mehrhoff for the Hawaii Conservation Alliance's Distinguished Service Award. Loyal retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service last October after a renowned career protecting and advocating for ecosystem conservation, starting at the Bishop Museum and going on to a variety of Federal agencies.

Loyal received his Bachelor of Arts in Botany from the University of Montana, where he divided his time between studies and many splendid hours fly fishing the rivers of the high Rocky Mountains. He moved on to his Master's degree in Botany from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and finally started his trek westward with a Ph.D. in Botany from the University of British Columbia.

He began his Pacific Islands journey when he joined the Bishop Museum as a research botanist working on patterns and rates of decline and extinction in island ecosystems. From there, he has gained extensive and varied experience with three DOI conservation agencies. Beginning with the Pacific Islands Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Loyal leaped over staff-level positions and immediately began as head of the Listing Program. In this capacity, he guided the listing of over 180 endangered plant, snail, arthropod, and bird species throughout the Pacific Islands. No single individual, locally or nationally, has had such a dramatic and wide ranging impact on the listing of endangered taxa.

Following this work, Loyal moved on to the Service's Portland Regional Office where he worked on Northern spotted owl conservation during the early days of the Northwest Forest Plan. He then advances to head the National Park Service's Endangered Species Program and shortly after that became the Chief of the National Park Service's Biological Resource Management Division, which provides science-based support for invasive species management, ecosystem restoration, wildlife management, and other biological issues to National Park Service Directorates, Regional Offices, and Parks. This position oversaw science-based activities for all National Parks throughout the United States, including Hawaii, American Samoa and the

Mariana Islands. During this time, Loyal again became well versed in conservation activities in Hawaii and was able to draw on his nationally recognized scientific and organizational expertise to help promote Pacific island National Park conservation efforts.

From the Park Service, Loyal then moved back to Hawaii to become the Director of the USGS Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center from May 2006 through August 2009. During that time, he worked to sharpen the science focus of the center, increase the number of publications, and raise the visibility of Pacific Island ecologic work with USGS leadership. He worked with numerous stakeholders to promote interdisciplinary science and landscape change, advance studies on climate change, and was a staunch advocate of research on threatened and endangered species.

Finally, Loyal returned to the Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office where he began his Federal career, but this time as the Field Supervisor. In this position, he drew upon all of his past experiences to help re-shape and focus the office on critical landscape and endangered species issues that are fundamental to long term success in conservation. His dynamic leadership has opened up opportunities within the office that were previously unavailable, and realigned the office both structurally and conceptually on a course that favors protection of the remaining large land areas that are critical for conserving the native flora and fauna of Hawaii, American Samoa, and the Mariana Islands. His legacy of dedication to ecosystem conservation is apparent in many of the efforts being implemented in Hawaii and throughout the Pacific Islands today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristi Young', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kristi Young
Deputy Field Supervisor
(and soon-to-be Acting Field Supervisor)