

Annual Report

Grant No. 01-DG-11052000-177
Fiscal Year 2001-2002



Prepared for USDA - U.S. Forest Service
Fire & Aviation Management - Region 5

By

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I. State Fire Assistance Program (SFA)

A. **Goal.** To provide protection for forest, brush, natural areas, and grassland to the extent needed to hold fire damage below the level at which it would interfere with high-level, sustained yield of products and services from these lands.

B. **Objectives.**

1. Provide fire protection coverage on 3,360,000 acres throughout the State.

a. **Prevention**

Mission. To minimize man-caused fires by improving DOFAW's prevention program via training and adoption of contemporary techniques for public education measures.

- i. Carry out the Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention Campaign, e.g. brochures, posters, signing, etc.
- ii. Participate in fire prevention activities, e.g. Smokey Bear appearances at various parades, schools, farm fair venues, etc.
- iii. Conduct a FireWise Communities workshop.
- iv. Work with the various county fire departments on statewide wildland urban interface issues.

Accomplishments

Fully attained.

1. Smokey was involved with the Federal Fire Department during Fire Prevention Week in October, visiting children at various military installations on Oahu.
2. Smokey made an appearance in Hilo during Fire Prevention Week, working with other fire management agencies on the island.
3. Participated in the County Fair Parade with the Maui County Fire Department (MFD). Three of our engines along with Smokey Bear, accompanied Sparky, and four County Fire engines and rescue craft.
4. Smokey made three appearances on Kauai reaching out to 900 children.
5. Attended the Governor's proclamation signing event declaring October 7-13, 2001 as Fire Prevention Week in Hawaii.

6. DOFAW, as part of the Big Island Wildfire Coordinating Group (BIWCG), took part a display booth at the Jaycees Fair in Hilo in Sept.
7. Created Homeowner's "Watchout" brochures.
8. Participated in the Kaimuki Middle School Career Day event on careers in the fire field.
9. Participated in the National Firewise conference in Hilo, HI in February 2002.
10. Assisted the Newtown Estates community (Oahu) in May 2002 in the process of establishing themselves as a firewise community.
11. Participated with the Honolulu Fire Dept. and The Nature Conservancy of HI in a display booth at the annual Hawaii Home and Garden Show in June 2002.
12. Assisted The Nature Conservancy of HI in preparing fire prevention initiatives for their meeting with the Palehua community, June 2002.

b. Presuppression

Mission. To improve the response and firefighting capability of the DOFAW organization and to integrate fire management as an integral part of natural resource management programs.

- i. Continue to improve and maintain the Remote Automatic Weather Stations on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui, and Hawai'i.
- ii. Conduct basic firefighting and specialized training statewide, based on Branch needs; collaborate with other fire agencies in the development and use of joint training opportunities.
- iii. Incorporate the Geographical Information System concept including the development and maintenance of fire maps, fire weather data, and other fire-related matters.
- iv. Participate in the Council of Western State Fire Managers, California-Nevada-Hawai'i Forest Fire Council, and the Hawai'i Fire Chiefs Association meetings.
- v. Conduct in-house statewide fire management core group meetings as needed to resolve protection issues, consolidate training, etc.
- vi. Continue to manage and use all Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) equipment statewide in accordance with program regulations; conduct onsite review; complete an annual physical inventory of all equipment.
- vii. Continue to integrate fire protection with other resource management programs, e.g .ecosystem management concepts.

- viii. Cooperate with the State Civil Defense, State Fire Council, and USDA Forest Service to augment fire data gathering and simulation, resource tracking and assignments, supporting technologies, etc.
- ix. Construct & maintain existing firebreak roads, trails, etc.

Accomplishments:

Fully attained.

- 1) Maintained and updated the RAWs stations on Kauai and Oahu. Four new stations were purchased. They should be on-line by August 2002.
- 2) A series of basic and specialized training was done statewide over the course of the year. See the attached "Fire Training 2001-2002" Report. The annual critical fire training was also conducted for all DOFAW personnel assigned to firefighting duties.
- 3) FEPP equipment were inventoried and updated. This included the acquisition, transfer and disposition of equipment.
- 4) Statewide fire caches were updated and maintained.
- 6) Maintained 27 miles of fire break roads in various forest reserves, island of Oahu; 11.6 and 8 miles on Mauna Kea, HI and Puu Waawaa, HI respectively, and 12 miles in the Puu Ka Pele Forest Reserve on Kauai.
- 6) Performed fuel hazard reduction activities in and around T&E plant enclosures on the island of Hawaii.
- 7) Fire training records were updated for all employees.
- 8) Conducted and attended meetings as part of the Maui and Big Island Wildfire Coordinating Groups.
- 9) Provided comments to the draft Ulupa'u Crater Fire Management Plan written by the Marine Corps Base Hawaii Kane'ohe Bay.
- 10) The Hawaii Branch Protection Forester attended the California/Nevada/Hawaii Forest Fire Council meeting in Reno, NV. He represented DOFAW.
- 11) Worked with R5 staff on the training schedule for Spring 2002 for Hawaii.

- 12) Attended the HI Fire Chiefs Association conference on the Big Island in November. The State Protection Forester made a presentation at this conference.
- 13) The DOFAW Fire web site (www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/fmp) was maintained and periodically updated during this period.
- 14) Overhauled and installed new engines in two federal surplus Model 60 fire engines on Kauai. All fire vehicles in the district fleet are now operational.
- 15) Established safety zones in the Puu Ka Pele Forest Reserve, Kauai.
- 16) Preliminary work on the Waianae fuel break capital improvement project has begun. The project is expected to commence in July 2002.
- 17) Provided technical assistance to the Riverside Fire Lab for sampling of fuels in the Kuaokala Forest Reserve. This is the first step in establishing a fire danger rating system for Hawaii.
- 18) Fire maps were updated and digitized over the course of the year.
- 19) The Hawai'i Fire Chiefs' Association annual meeting was held at the Hilton Waikoloa on Hawaii in November 2001. The State Protection Forester made a presentation and updated the membership regarding DOFAW's fire program and what issues the agency faced over the last fiscal year.
- 20) The State Protection Forester attended the annual Western State Fire Managers (WSFM) meeting in Albuquerque, NM in April 2002. Issues that affect the 17 western states as well as the western Pacific territories were addressed at this meeting. Issue papers were written and presented to the Council of Western State Foresters in late May 2002. The State Protection Forester serves as the Chair of the WSFM.
- 21) DOFAW staff reviewed over 80 environmental assessments, EISs, conservation district use applications and film permits. Comments and recommendations were made to these reviews to ensure that fire issues were identified and resolved before approval is given.
- 22) DOFAW participated in the annual Makani Pahili (Hurricane) exercise, which is conducted by the State Civil Defense Agency. Various local, county, state, and federal agencies were involved in this important exercise. This exercise is a measuring stick on where the state stands in disaster preparedness.
- 23) Throughout the year, the Region 5 Fire & Aviation Management office is kept abreast of the DOFAW fire program through electronic mail, reports, and other means of telecommunication. Fire data is gathered and sent to the Region office for use in the national reporting system.
- 24) All four county fire departments were the recipients of the Volunteer Fire Assistance grant this year. See Section III – VFA.

c. **Suppression**

Mission. To suppress wildfires in a safe manner and at a minimum cost consistent with land and resource management objectives and fire management direction.

- 1) Continue to gather statewide fire data and add to the existing database for data analysis and reporting fire history for each Branch.
- 2) Respond to each wildfire incident in a timely manner with appropriate forces as mandated by the provisions of the Land Fire Protection Law (Chapter 185, Hawai'i Revised Statutes). Continue to gather statewide fire data and add to the existing database for data analysis and reporting fire history for each Branch.

Accomplishments:

Items 1-2: Fully attained.

- 1) During FY02, 109 fires were reported statewide totaling [] acres. Three fires were reported on Kaua'i, [0.7 acres] [] on O'ahu, [] on Maui, and [] on Hawai'i.

Other accomplishments:

- 1) In June 2002, Six DOFAW personnel participated in the Hayman Fire incident in Colorado. They were part of the California Interagency Incident Management Team No. 5, led by Incident Commander Ron Raley.

II. Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA)

- A. **Goal.** To organize, train, and equip the Kauai Fire Department firefighting force to efficiently and effectively prevent, control, and suppress fires in remote areas.

- B. **Activities.**

The Kauai Fire Department used the VFA grant to acquire a brush rig to supplement their firefighting fleet.



(Above) Students work diligently in making the RAWS operational (01/02).



(Above) Students & instructor relax & pose for a photo opportunity. Chainsaw training over the last 10 years has proven to be very successful (03/02).



(Above) Students review how to deploy a fire shelter as part of the critical fire training taught annually to DOFAW employees (03/02).



(Above) Instructors review notes before taking on the task of teaching the S-420. DOFAW appreciates all the outstanding work done by the instructors (03/02).



(Above) The FEPP program was updated this year to reflect the changes made by the USFS Property Management Branch. DOFAW maintains over \$3.5million of FEPP equipment (03/02).



(Above) Teamwork and cooperation is the main focus here as students work on an operational plan as part of a classroom exercise.



(Above): Students in the Instructor 1B class listen attentively to one of their fellow students give a presentation (04/02).

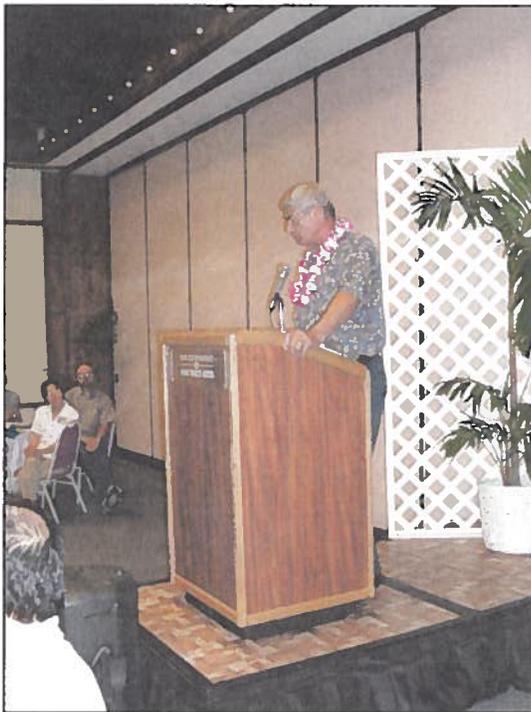


(Above) The Firewise Workshop, held in Hilo, brought a wide variety of thought processes from a cross section of professionals (02/02).

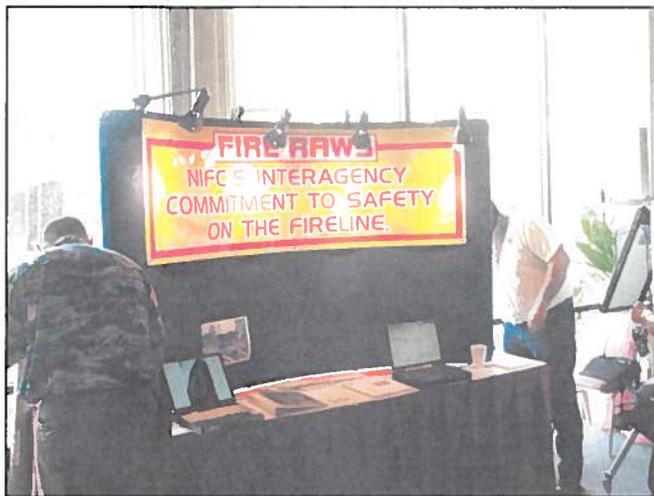


(Above & below) The Western State Fire Managers are representatives of the 17 western states including the western Pacific territories (American Samoa, Guam, and Saipan). The State Protection Forester of HI is the Chair of the WFSM. The group works on fire issues that affect the way wildland fire agencies do business nationwide. The pictures are from the group's annual meeting held in Albuquerque, NM in April 2002.





(Above) Ray Quintanar, R5 Director of Fire & Aviation Management, addresses the California-Nevada-Hawaii conferees at their biannual meeting in Kona, HI in April 2002. The conference was indeed a successful.



(Above): Vendors are a big supporter of CNH. We are appreciative of their support and efforts to make CNH a success.



Fiscal year 2001-2002 was another successful year for the Division of Forestry & Wildlife's Fire Management Program. We acknowledge the support we've received from our cooperators. Without their support and encouragement, the Fire Management Program would be less than satisfactory. Last but not least, we acknowledge the outstanding support of the U.S. Forest Service R5 Fire & Aviation Management. The technical expertise we have received over the years continues to be at a very high caliber. Because of their dedication and "can-do" attitude, the Division of Forestry & Wildlife Fire Management Program continues to meet its goals and objectives to provide for firefighter & public safety while protecting Hawaii's natural resources.