

**Annual Report**  
*Grant No. 06-DG-11052012-173*  
Fiscal Year 2006-2007  
July 1, 2006 – December 30, 2007



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

By

Wayne F. Ching  
Fire Management Officer  
State of Hawaii  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

## **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.

#### **PREVENTION**

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

*Fully attained.*

#### **Accomplishments**

- 1) The Division continues to promote and handout Fire Prevention materials and brochures to the public at the Administrative and Branch offices.
- 2) Smokey made an appearance at the elementary schools on Hickam, Schofield, Kaneohe Marine Corps, and Pearl Harbor military bases with assistance from the Federal Fire Department during Fire Prevention Week. Smokey charmed the more than 2,500 adults and children that attended the events at the various bases.
- 3) Provided fire prevention information and paraphernalia at the Kahuku High School's career day fair. Approximately 100 students participated.
- 4) Together with other county and federal fire chiefs, the Oahu Branch staff attended the annual signing ceremony for Fire Prevention Week at the Governor's executive chambers.
- 5) The Oahu Branch replaced all "Fire" signage on the leeward coast of Oahu. They provided technical assistance in making recommendations for fuelbreaks for the Makakilo and Palehua residents. They also provided assistance for Lyman Ranch in Nanakuli.
- 6) Smokey Bear went to the Kamehameha Schools Preschool at Anahola, the Koloa Elementary School Career Fair as well as the Waimea High School Career Fair on Kauai. The message was on the effects of wildfire on the environment. Outreach included 450 students.
- 7) Smokey Bear visited the Kauai County Farm Bureau Fair and passed out Smokey Bear items. Outreach was to approximately 800 residents and visitors.
- 8) Smokey Bear made an appearance at the Project WET event held by the Kauai Department of Water to give Smokey's message and passed out Smokey Bear items. Outreach was over 600 students and teachers. He visited all of the elementary schools on Kaua'i during October's Fire Prevention Week. Outreach was over 5,500 students and teachers.

- 9) Participated in the Makawao Rodeo 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. Approximately 5,000 to 7,000 spectators witnessed the event. Master of ceremonies for the parade delivered a brief fire prevention message to the crowd. Ten volunteers joined our efforts. Ages ranged from 5 to 18 years old.
- 10) Participated in the Maui County Fair Parade (9/28/06) to promote fire prevention and the Smokey Bear campaign. In cooperation with the Maui County Fire Department, DOFAW entered four fire suppression vehicles along with Smokey Bear. Approximately 20,000 spectators witnessed the event.
- 11) Conducted a hiking field trip with the St. Anthony's 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade class through the Waihou Springs Forest Reserve on March 15, 2007. Emphasis of field trip was to promote and educate the students about fire prevention and Smokey Bear. 27 students and 15 adults attended this trip. Smokey Bear made an appearance to hand out fire prevention memorabilia.
- 12) Participated in the 2006 Maui Association of Landscape Professionals fair. Handed out 100 firewise landscape plants throughout the day. Approximately 300 people attended the fair.
- 13) Worked with an Americorps student to create a new Forestry/Fire Program poster board to be used at career fairs and other outreach events.
- 14) Smokey Bear made an appearance at the Volcano Village, Hawaii 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. The parade was attended by approximately 2,000 people.
- 15) The Kohala By The Sea community on the Big Island updated its status as a 2006 Firewise Communities USA community.

b. **PRESUPPRESSION**

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

*Fully attained.*

- 1) Continued to input fire reports into agency database files.
- 2) Continued to conduct field exercises with DOFAW Branch personnel on fire vehicle and pump operations.
- 3) Conducted annual refresher workshops on each Branch for fire personnel.
- 4) Continued to monitor RAWS data statewide.
- 5) Updated PPE's for DOFAW fire personnel. This included firepacks, new generation fire shelters, and fire boots.
- 6) The State Protection Forester and the Hawaii Protection Forester attended the California/Nevada/Hawaii Forest Fire Council meeting in Reno, NV in October. The State Protection Forester moderated a session entitled, "Pacific Islands Update" and made a presentation on the Spring '06 CNH Hawaii conference.
- 7) Attended meetings as a participating agency of the Maui and Big Island Wildfire Coordinating Groups.
- 8) Continued vegetation control in and around fenced RAWS locations.
- 9) Updated and maintained all RAWS Stations statewide.
- 10) Fire training records were updated for all DOFAW employees.
- 11) The DOFAW Fire web site ([www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/fmp](http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/fmp)) was maintained and periodically updated during the grant period.
- 12) Statewide fire caches were updated and maintained.
- 13) Worked with R5 staff on the training schedule for Spring 2007 for Hawaii.
- 14) The State Protection Forester attended the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association in Lihue, Kauai on Nov. 16-19, 2006.
- 15) The DOFAW Fire Core Group meeting was held on July 12-14, 2006 to discuss budget issues and update training schedules for the Division.
- 16) The DOFAW Fire Cadre conducted the 130/190 training on Kauai (Aug. 7-11, 2006), Maui (Aug. 21-25, 2006) and the Hawaii (Feb. 26 – Mar. 2, 2007) respectively. Students were made up of personnel from DOFAW, Kauai Fire Dept., Pacific Missile Range Facility (Barking Sands), Americorps, Maui Fire Dept., Hawaii County Fire Dept., National Park Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and a Hawaii County VFA company. A total of 75 personnel attended

the training sessions.

- 17) Met with Maui Electric Company maintenance supervisor, Steve Williams to update him on DOFAW's current co-op with MECO's vegetation management program. Updated him on current management projects, such as Ukumehame and Olinda powerlines and talked about future management plans.
- 18) The DOFAW Fire Cadre attended the 2006 Firewise Conference held in Denver, CO November 2-5, 2006.
- 19) Met with IPIF and U.S. Army staff to work out a research grant request with Joint Fire Science Program regarding fuel models, invasive species, wildfire cycle, microclimate, and fire behavior.
- 20) Reviewed U.S. Marine Corps (MCBH) vegetation management plan for their Bellows Field training area with special insight towards fuels management, use of incendiaries, and adjacent wildland-urban interface issues.
- 21) Oahu Branch staff worked with the Honolulu Fire Department's management team in providing technical expertise on fuels and fire potential outlook for the island of Oahu.
- 22) Participated in a Kauai fire fuels workshop hosted by the Pacific Disaster Center for the Kauai county fire and planning officials with special emphasis on wildland-urban interface areas.
- 23) Conducted two Firing/Dozer Operations on Hawaii and Maui (April 16-27, 2007). A day was spent on the SIMS software application as well.
- 24) Conducted the S-203, Incident Information Officer, course (June 12-14, 2007). Participants included personnel from the Mayor's offices of Kauai and Maui, the Kauai Fire Dept., Honolulu Fire Dept., Maui Civil Defense Agency, Hawaii County Fire Dept., National Park Service, Dept. of Land & Natural Resources, Hawaii County Police Dept., and DOFAW.
- 25) Conducted a Plans Section Chief workshop (June 18-22, 2007). Participants included the Honolulu Fire Dept., Maui County Civil Defense Agency, National Park Service, Hawaii County Fire Dept., and DOFAW.
- 26) Conducted two chainsaw certification workshops on Hawaii and Kauai, respectively. The workshops were conducted by Doug Dent.
- 27) DOFAW staff attended a FEMA based Train-the-Trainer course hosted by Hawaii State Civil Defense. The course module covered ICS100 thru ICS 400.
- 28) Worked with DOFAW'S GIS Specialist to update Oahu Branch's fire response map. Acquisition of lands at Manana (910 acs), Mokuleia (171 acs), and Olomana (2,457 acs.) prompted conversion from "Pink" to "Green" zones.
- 29) Acquired 1 dozen surplus VHF Saber radios from HFD to allow interoperability with them and other emergency response services.
- 30) Forestry Crew, HBWS, and U.S. Army work/trained together in helicopter and tree falling operations to remove debris and improve a helispot on the ridge separating Waianae Kai F.R. and the Makaha forestlands.

- 31) Attended the Drought Committee meeting to get briefing from NWS and Climatologists regarding outlook for the remainder of the year and prognosis for CY 2007, i.e. there is onset of the El Nino pattern so drying conditions are expected.
- 32) Provided basic radio operating instructions to DOFAW Admin and OISC staff.
- 33) Budgeted for and acquired a position in the Oahu Branch for a Protection Forester and currently in the process of filling the position.
- 34) Participated in Oahu's Public Safety Oversight Committee's communications exercise to demonstrate interoperability capability.
- 35) Maintained 27 miles of firebreak in the Puu Ka Pele FR and 14 miles of firebreak in the Na Pali Kona FR. Thirty acres of firebreak was maintained and 20 new acres of fire break was established in the Kekaha GMA. Twelve acres of safety zones were maintained to keep vegetation levels low in case of fire emergencies. Helicopter landing zones (total of 5 acres) in our remote areas were maintained. Six safety zones (2 acres each) were maintained.
- 36) Completed maintenance of 17 acres of firebreaks in Puu Waawaa, Hawaii. Mowed and herbicided 20 miles (38.8 acres) of firebreaks in Puu Waawaa, 3 miles (5.8 acres) in Puu Anahulu, and 1.5 miles (2.9 acres) in Kipuka Oweowe.
- 37) Three miles (7.3 acres) of firebreak were maintained in the Makawao Forest Reserve, Maui.
- 38) Maintained one mile of fuelbreak in the Waianae Forest Reserve and ten miles of road in the Waianae mountains, Oahu.
- 39) The Maui DOFAW staff completed a fuel reduction project in the Gouania exclosure near Lahainaluna HS. Approximately 6 acres of ironwood trees and brush were felled during the project.

## **SUPPRESSION**

- 1) DOFAW was involved in 25 wildfires across the state, encompassing over 23,000 acres. There were 2 fires on Kauai (292 acs.), 3 fires on Oahu (1,076 acres), 1 fire on Molokai (4 acs.), 9 fires on Maui (16,173 acs.), and 10 fires on the Big Island (5,980 acs.). The Division's fire contingency fund was drawn down to critical levels. A budget proviso request to the Governor, however, added additional funding to the fire contingency fund for the remainder of the fiscal year. The Division had spent approximately \$900,000 on fire suppression. Two of the fires (the Maalaea and Olowalu Fires, both on Maui) were designated FEMA FMAG fires, thereby allowing DOFAW and other agencies to recoup 75% of its expenses on these fires.
- 2) The fire database was updated during this grant-reporting period.

## **VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE**

The county fire departments have met their obligation to the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program.



Smokey Bear makes his annual visit to the Makawao Rodeo parade – July 4, 2006. Smokey was quite busy statewide as well. He made many stops at various fairs, schools, and other public venues.



The DOFAW Fire Management Team was selected as the Department of Land and Natural Resources' 2007 Team of the Year. It was an honored well deserved of those who worked diligently to make the team a success.



Students in the Kauai 130/190 are put to the test as they construct a handline using techniques taught by the DOFAW Fire Cadre.



Instructor Ryan Peralta conducts a briefing on what he wants the students to do during the field exercise. The field practicum is an essential portion of the S130/190 to familiarize the students on what is expected and how to do the job efficiently and effectively in a safe manner.



The Upper Waiohuli Fire sends up a huge smoke column on Maui. The fire destroyed approximately 75% of the Kula Forest Reserve. Efforts are being made to restore and rehab. the area through tree and grass planting projects.



Jay Hatayama, Don Yokoyama, and Kawika Smith take a breather during the Puu Mali Fire, Hawaii. The 2007 fire season in Hawaii will go down as one of the busiest seasons in 25 years.



Patrick Costales, Oahu Branch Manager, recently passed away. His dedication to the Division of Forestry & Wildlife, especially the fire management program has been unsurpassed. In 1994, he was awarded the national Silver Smokey for his work in fire prevention. He is the only person in the Department of Land and Natural Resources to be named Employee of the Year, Manager of the Year, as well as a member of the Team of the Year. He will be sorely missed.