

# Annual Report

Grant No. 10-DG-11052012-082

Fiscal Year 2010-11

July 1, 2010 – March 30, 2012



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.

#### **Accomplishments**

*Fully attained.*

1. Handed out Smokey Bear material during Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 5-8 2010) in cooperation with the various county fire departments statewide. Approximately 85,000 residents were able to benefit from this outreach.
2. Continued to maintain and upgrade DOFAW's statewide fire prevention material inventory.
3. Continued to hand out Smokey and other fire prevention paraphernalia statewide from the DOFAW offices.
4. Participated in the Kekaha Elementary School (island of Kauai) Career Day. Approximately 75 students participated in the event.
5. Smokey visited all 9 elementary schools (3,600 students) on Kauai, along with Sparky from the Kauai Fire Dept. during Fire Prevention Week.
6. Participated in the Kauai County Fair with a fire prevention display. Estimated attendance: 40,000-50,000 people.
7. Continued to hand out Smokey and other fire prevention paraphernalia statewide from the DOFAW offices.
8. Continued to work on the agency's historical GIS wildfire database.
9. The Firewise Coordinator continued her outreach to communities and fire management agencies statewide.
10. Worked with a videographer for potential Green Channel news (Oahu).
11. Continued to work on the agency's historical GIS wildfire database.
12. Participated in the Maui Homebuilder's Association Exhibit (August 2010). Approximately 20,000 residents and visitors were able to benefit from this outreach.
13. Maui Branch personnel participated in the 2010 Maui County Fair Parade with Smokey Bear and fire prevention trucks on September 30, 2010. Approximately 5,000 spectators witnessed the event. 12 DOFAW staff members participated in the festivities.

## **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.

### **Accomplishments**

*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 fuels hazard reduction projects on 35 acres in the Kuaokala, Kealia, Waianae Kai, and Honolulu Watershed Forest Reserves, island of Oahu.
4. Conducted fuels hazard reduction projects on 25 acres in the West Maui Forest Reserve, island of Maui.
5. Conducted fuels hazard reduction projects on 86 acres in Mauna Kea, Honuaula, and Puu Waawaa Forest Reserves as well as the Kaohe and Puu Anahulu Game Management Area, island of Hawaii.
6. Completed 29 acres of road and fuel break maintenance in the Puu Ka Pele Forest Reserve and 13 acres of fire break in the Na Pali Kona Forest Reserve (Kauai). Completed 80 acres of fuel break maintenance in the Kekeha GMA. Completed 12 acres of safety zone maintenance to keep vegetation levels low in case of fire emergencies. Five (5) helicopter landing zones were also maintained.
7. Continued to monitor RAWs data statewide. Maintained 18 RAWs statewide.
8. The Hawaii Branch Protection Forester assisted with the instruction of a S130/190 fire training session for the Hawaii County Fire Dept. recruits and VFD volunteers.
9. Maintained FEPP vehicles and equipment statewide.
10. Conducted the annual statewide FEPP inventory.
11. Attended meetings as a participating agency of the Maui and Big Island Wildfire Coordinating Groups.
12. Participated in the State-wide emergency response operations briefings conducted by the State Civil Defense Agency regarding flooding, tidal wave, and high surf conditions. Fire training records were updated for all DOFAW employees. Statewide fire caches were updated and maintained.
13. Conducted a fuel mitigation project at the Keanae Arboretum, Maui. Felled and chipped approximately 40 hazardous or potentially hazardous trees.
14. Created and installed new fire prevention signs in the Kula and Makawao Forest Reserves. This was a direct result of an increase in camp/warming fire (unattended) incidents over the past few months. State Parks Division stopped all camp site users from having any open flames in park grounds.

15. The DOFAW Fire Cadre conducted the 130/190 training on Kauai (Aug. 19-22, 2010) for 21 personnel from Kauai DOFAW, the Kauai Fire Dept. recruit class and the Pacific Missile Range Facility fire department.
16. The State Protection Forester attended the Western State Fire Managers' WUI Grant Committee meeting in Missoula, MT (Oct. 5-7, 2010). Hawaii's lone grant proposal(\$300,000) received approval from the Committee.
17. The State Protection Forester, along with the Kauai and Hawaii Branch Protection Foresters, attended the California/Nevada/Hawaii Forest Fire conference in South Lake Tahoe, CA (Oct. 16-18, 2010).
18. The DOFAW Fire Instructor cadre attended the Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association annual conference (Nov. 18-21, 2010) in Poipu, Kauai.
19. Provided technical assistance to the Maui Fire Department with coordinating and planning the S234-Dozer Ops/Firing workshop (Sept. 27-Oct. 1, 2010).
20. Continue to review and process building permits (via County Planning Dept.) Plans are sent to the office to see if Maui DOFAW needs to remove any hazardous fuels from adjoining boundary property lines. This process allows DOFAW to remove any potentially hazardous fuels before homeowner initiates construction; hence DOFAW avoids costly removal expenditures (Nine plans were submitted and approved within this period).
21. Participated in a West Maui Fire Mitigation field recon. Topic of discussion was fuel mitigation issues along the West Maui corridor, from Maalaea to Lahaina. Participating agencies and cooperators included; DOFAW, Cattle Association and West Maui Watershed Partnership. Group initially designated project areas and potential fuel mitigation activities within each project area. Prepared GIS planning maps for working group.
22. Continue with the development of a Fire Management Plan for Mauna Kea Forest Reserve. The plan is being written by Andy Beavers of Colorado State University Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands.
23. The Division fire database was updated during this grant-reporting period.
24. The DOFAW Fire Cadre conducted the S-336 course for the Maui Fire Dept. (22 personnel) on April 22-24, 2010.

### **SUPPRESSION**

During this period, a fire on the Big Island involved the entire Division. Fire crews from across the state were dispatched to the Mauna Kea 33 Fire that started on August 21, 2010. This fire burned 1,378 acres in the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve in the Palila critical bird habitat.

Across the state, three DOFAW Branches were involved in fire suppression activities on their respective island. The Kauai Branch was involved in one fire (25 acres), Oahu Branch was involved in one fire (500 acres) and the Hawaii Branch was involved in three fires totaling 1,997 acres. Besides the Mauna Kea 33 Fire, the Maui Branch was not involved in any fires on their island.

### **VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE**

The county fire departments have met their obligation to the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program. Funds were spent to acquire PPE's, various small equipment as well as attend fire courses and conferences.



The Mauna Kea 33 Fire brought resources from across the state including units from the National Park Service. The fire burned in the Palia Critical Bird Habitat.



The DOFAW Fire Cadre conducts a backfire training exercise during the S234 Firing Ops workshop on Maui.



Kauai DOFAW personnel review notes during the Wild Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher. The Annual Fresher was conducted across the state. DOFAW was able to conduct the training for NPS personnel and the local county fire departments as well.



Maui Branch Protection Forester Lance De Silva briefs the Kauai Fire Dept. recruits on the use of hand tools.



John Truett, USFS Region 5, directs a DOFAW employee during the S234 Fire Operations workshop on Maui.



Students get a briefing during the S234 Fire Operations workshop. Participants in the workshop included personnel from DOFAW and Maui Fire Department.