

**Forest Stewardship Program Advisory Council
Kilauea Military Camp Volcano, Hawaii
March 7-8, 2008**

March 7, 2008 DAY 1

10:15am MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Committee Members present: Mike Tulang, JB Friday, Day Day Hopkins, Bill Cowern, Betsy Gagne, Laura Brezinsky, Katie Friday, Craig Rowland, Lea Hong. **Members Absent:** Bill Sager, Kip Dunbar, Bob Joy. **Staff:** Sheri Mann, Melissa Sprecher, Michael Constanitides.

Jan 15, 2007 Forest Stewardship Meeting minutes. Motion to approve minutes. Moved by J Friday, seconded by Gagne. Passed unanimously

Introductions

Guests: John Henshaw, Michael Constantinides, Jonathan Sifuentes, Beverley Brand, Pat Conant, Dave Faucett, Dale Bonar, Christine Ogura, Molly Schmidt.

FSP pre-proposal:

Monoha'a Ranch - 472 acres in N. Kona area – Jonathan Sifuentes representing the project. Project Goals: 1) restore a functioning native ecosystem, 2) establish a volunteer program for environmental education, 3) conduct ecosystem based research.

Motion to approve the Monoha'a Ranch Forest Stewardship Project Proposal. Moved to approve by Cowern, Brezinsky seconded.

Discussion points:

- Requesting NRCS updated soil survey for the project area.
- Consider suggested alternatives for koa stock. Applicant could contract Kealakekua Heritage Ranch (an adjacent FSP client) to discuss the potential of sharing seed stock. Some questions on prices of stock, suggest seeking additional quotes to verify pricing.
- Initial scarification of an area within the project site did not have regeneration of koa seedlings. Committee suggests scarifying after removing ungulates from project area, as ungulates will inhibit regeneration.
- Recommendation to start with less plants per acre in the beginning of the project as survivors will be better able to regenerate.
- Management Plan will need to include support letters from collaborating organizations.
- Taking an herbicide class might be a good idea if applicant seeks to utilize such chemicals.
- Rhizobium are not currently for sale, but they can be commonly found within old koa logs with roots
- Clarify in the maps to be included in the management plan exactly where and what activities under the project are to be implemented & the associated cost per acre.
- Include more detail about the previously fenced area (Lot 9 is fenced?). What is the fencing plan for the rest of the project area.
- Develop a planting timeline to coincide with the local weather conditions and annual rains.

- Include in the management plan, exactly what species will be planted where and at what density.

Motion to accept the Monoha'a Ranch Forest Stewardship Project Proposal, pass on the above comments, and invite the applicant to develop a management plan. Moved by Cowern, Brezinsky seconded. **Passed Unanimously**

FSP Final Management Plans:

1) **Patrick Conant** request for approval of **FSP Management plan** – most were in agreement that this is a good plan. An important component is despite the fact that Pat is not asking for much money for many practices, he is deeply engaged in many ongoing management practices. There should be no thought by the BLNR that this is landscaping project. This should be addressed clearly in the Board submittal. Perhaps this project could be involved in a Volcano-wide umbrella restoration/conservation management plan that incorporates both stewardship practices and a strategic acquisition plan.

Motion to approve the Conant Forest Stewardship Management Plan. Moved by Gagne, seconded Brezinsky.

Discussion & Suggestions:

- For ease of the administrative process, the approximately \$400 requested over the last six (6) years of the project should be rolled into an one (1) year reimbursement request.

Passed Unanimously.

2) **Waikoloa Dryland Forest** request to approve **FSP Management Plan** – Beverley Brand & Dave Faucett representing the project. Beverley Brand is the project coordinator and Dave Faucett is the project manager.

The project site was affected by the Erythrina Gall Wasp biocontrol, but the project has been working with the authorities on preserving the remaining Erythrina's on site. Pat Conant is a good person to consult with regarding this topic. Bill Garnett has been painting the trees on the Waikoloa project site.

NRCS funded this project for \$310k for 10 years for primarily for fencing, pest management (including some feral ungulate control), & weed management largely focusing on control of the invasive grass population.

Motion to accept the Waikoloa Dry Forest Recovery Project Forest Stewardship Management Plan provided the applicant address Committee concerns (listed below). Moved by J. Friday, seconded Gagne.

Discussion:

- Applicant needs to provide more detail and information on the NRCS budget breakout and what is being paid for by the WHIP program. Information should include what is there match and where is it coming from? The Committee wants to make sure their match is not double

dipping (the match is being used multiple times between different agencies). The Committee requests that the entire NRCS & Stewardship budget be combined into one table.

- It would additionally be helpful to see the specific practice costs and match source for these funds in a table next to the FSP practices. It may clarify exactly what practices is being done and where the match is coming from.
- The FSP budget request within the first year of the project cannot be beyond the total amount of \$75k. This should be changed in the budget summary and implementation scheduled.
- The FSP does not typically fund Outreach & Education as a practice. If we fund this aspect of the project, it should be put into the Special Practices category. The applicant will need to provide for **deliverables** from the education funds. The program needs to be able to account for the funds spent as well as show/have a measure of success.
- Additional consideration should be given to the fire perimeter and point reach buffers as there is concern that the size is enough for such a highly flammable place. There should be an Incident Suppression and Response Plan in place so if there is an fire incident the appropriate agencies/authorities can be contacted and actions can be taken immediately. The Waikoloa Village should have a fire suppression and response plan.
- The Committee recommends implementing a wider buffer & including sufficient water tanks.
- There is question as to the height of the 6 foot fence and whether this is enough for a goat proof fence. If mouflon sheep encroach they can definitely get over a 6ft fence. The height of the Kaupulehu fence (How tall is the height?) may be appropriate for the Waikoloa project site. The applicant should make sure the fence height is sufficient for the animals in the project area.

Motion to amend the original motion, to approve the Waikoloa Dry Forest Recovery Project Forest Stewardship Management Plan provided the applicant address the below five conditions to the satisfaction of program staff. Moved by Hong, Brezinsky seconded.

Conditions:

- 1) Applicant must provide further details on the Special Areas: Outreach & Education practice, including deliverables and their associated timeline.
- 2) Applicant must provide details on the NRCS WHIP funded portion of the overall project, including the breakout of practices and match requirement in relation to funds requested from Forest Stewardship Program .
- 3) Within the first year of the budget summary and implementation schedule needs to be corrected to keep reimbursement request under the program limit of \$75,000/year.
- 4) Applicant must provide a Fire Suppression and Response Plan for the project area.
- 5) Consideration of the six foot fence height to exclude feral ungulates and the fire perimeter/buffer protection should be readdressed.

Vote: six in favor & three apposed. **Motion carried/approved.**

12:00 Lunch

1:00 General discussion about ongoing FSP projects:

- Maui Land & Pineapple Company: Management Plan final approval and contract generation in process.

- Kokua Kalihi Valley: Contract was approved by the Board of Land and Natural Resources, waiting on final contract approval.
- Ola Honua: EA has been completed.
- Lanaihale: Staff conducted a site visit and discussed the possibility of an umbrella plan to aid in the project implementation for the client.

3:00 Break

3:15 Urban & Community Forestry & FSP Committee group discussion

Overall description of the State & Private Forestry Redesign. The standard programs within this pot of funds are becoming competitive and the baseline program funding is being reduced as the competitive funds increase. This is a fundamental change in how Forest Service program funds will be delivered. Applications can overlap into multiple program areas.

- Overlap
- State Assessment need to be developed. We have some time.
- Clear language so any application reader can understand goals.

March 8, 2008 DAY 2
Start at 8:25pm

Forest Legacy in the Pacific - John Henshaw provided a general history of this program in Hawaii. Much discussion about how Conservation Easement's (CE) in general may very well come under major scrutiny in the future because in some ways the County Tax base is reduced, however the County does not have to provide services for those areas that could have been developed had the CE not been put in place. There is still no definitive decision about the status of funding the Pu'u O Hoku FY 09 application. The Federal FY 09 budget may be on continuing resolution until the Presidential election is completed.

Spatial Analysis Program (SAP) – Ron Cannarella provided the latest draft of the SAP. Some of the GIS layers are still weak, we realize that. We are trying to improve them but if there is no existing layer available we do not have the means to develop it because it must be put through rigorous scrutiny before being full accepted. So, the SAP will be an evolving process as new layers are created. PDF versions of these analyses will be available soon for your review. We are interested in your thoughts on this, so please give us your feedback. Information on how to provide feedback will be send out with the PDF map versions.

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Watershed Partnerships – Christine Ogura gave an overall description of this program. These Partnerships receive State funds that are made available to private and public landowners interested in restoration and conservation on their lands. Many of the practices done through this program are similar to those in the FSP.

2:00 Legacy Land Conservation Fund – Molly Schmidt gave a presentation about the development, methods, and results of the first year of this program. It is a land acquisition program (fee title & CE)

that is quite broad and include not only forested lands but also coastal, cultural and agricultural lands. These are also State funds, so they are a very good potential match for federal acquisition funds.

3:00 Natural Area Reserve Commission Chair (Dale Bonar) was present. The funds for FSP come from the same source as the Natural Area Preserve Program, Watershed Partnerships and the Youth Conservation Corps. Each year these entities need to meet and update each other on the progress and/or issues pertaining to these programs. The amount of money available changes each year, therefore in years with not much money it is important that these entities to meet and potentially make tough decisions.

4:00 Site visits:

- 1) Asta Mikilius 30 acres in Volcano. This is a completed Forest Lands Enhancement Program project. The goal was to remove invasive species and plant Hapu'u, Koa, and Ohia. Currently Asta is developing a FSP management plan and hoping to enter the stewardship program.
- 2) Pat Conant 7 acres in Volcano. This FSP mgmt plan was just approved and will be in contract development over the next 3 to 6 months. Pat's project is very developed. The majority of what Pat needs at this point is a pig proof fence and some native planting.

Next FSP Meeting to be held on Oahu on June 20, 2008.

5:30 Close of Meeting