

Forest Stewardship Program Advisory Committee Meeting
Kokua Kalihi Valley, Oahu
June 20, 2008

Members present: Bill Sager, Lea Hong, Mike Tulang, Craig Rowland, Bill Cowern, JB Friday, Katie Friday, Kip Dunbar, Betsy Gagne, DayDay Hopkins. **Members absent:** Bob Joy, Laura Brezinsky. **Staff:** Sheri Mann, M. Irene Sprecher, Ryan Peralta. **Guests:** Matt Schirman, Rick Barboza, John Lindelow, Various KKV Staff during site visit.

9:15am

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

OLD BUSINESS:

Meeting minutes March 7-8, 2008. **Motion to accept the minutes as amended. Moved by Cowern, seconded by Rowland.**

Corrections:

Additional guests in attendance should include Dale Bonar, Christine Ogura, and Molly Schmidt

Passed unanimously.

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM:

FSP Management Plans

Hui Ku Maoli Ola Forest Stewardship Management Plan is being resubmitted to the Committee with revisions and updates to the plan based off of what the Committee recommended during their previous two reviews. New items to the plan include maps, updated practices, and inclusion of larger acreage under the plan due to fence alignment and upper trail inclusion. Additionally, Matt Schirman and Rick Barboza presented their project to the Kaneohe Neighborhood Board; the Board passed a resolution in support of the project.

Motion to approve the Hui Ku Maoli Ola FSP Management Plan. Moved by Hopkins, seconded by Gagne.

Questions & Discussion:

- What type of trails & where will they be put in the project? *The trail location will vary depending on the restoration site. The trails will go through the entire property both the near flat area as well as the upper mauka areas.*
- The Special Areas cost are still too much and the fence costs listed in the budget are too low for a pig proof fence. This costs need to be increased as well as fertilizer cost. *Schirman and Barboza are aware the cost are more expensive than what is requested and they are leveraging more funds elsewhere. They could perhaps describe the project area in different sections; close restoration, middle fencing and the rear valley recreation/trails. The area has a stream that cannot be crossed with heavy equipment, the land is very wet, and there are archeological features that need to be preserved. For these reasons, the special areas practice is costly to remove the large trees. The fence crosses the stream in two places, at those junctions the fence will not the actual stream bed.*

- Recommendation to look at what the Haleakala National Park uses for their stream crossing and to plan the fence line to minimize overall length and expense.
- Are there any remaining concerns among the community for this project? *No the Board was approached and there is no lingering concern.*
- Are there any schools involved in the outreach of the project? *Yes, KS, Punahou, Mamakau and other schools are working with this project.*
- Will this project be sustainable on its own in the future? *Based on past projects we were successful in establishing natives that regenerate on their own. They feel mamaki and native hibiscus, as well as others, will regenerate on their own. The project will probably always require management to control invasive species.*
- Oahu DOFAW branch offered to supply some personnel to aid in the removal of large trees as a training exercise for staff.

Further Discussion:

- The project is still too high to fund the project.
- The project has a large component of education and a high restoration value for a heavily populated island.
- The project also provides recreational value as well as education
- Cowern calls for vote of motion.

7 members in favor, 3 against. Motion carries.

Ahu Lani Sanctuary Forest Stewardship Management Plan project is located on Hawaii Island on the Hamakua Coast. This is the first review of the management plan by the Committee. John Lindelow was present at the meeting to provide a description of the project and answer any questions the Committee may have of the project.

Motion to approve the Ahu Lani Sanctuary FSP Management Plan. Moved by Cowern, seconded by Rowland.

Questions & Discussion:

- John Lindelow provided a short description. The project is located at 3,000 ft elevation above Kalapai Park at the end of the road in North Hamakua. The land borders 7,000 acres of State leased ranch land. The FSP project area is 24 acres of reforestation with eventual timber harvest on mature individuals.
- Does the project involve community outreach or involvement. The Committee would like to see letters of support of those involved in the project. *Yes, there is involvement by the community and schools. Applicant will get those letters to the Committee.*
- The Sanctuary and community would like the neighboring State leased lands reforested and out of ranching activities. Applicant is also working with Paul Scowcroft on genetic improvements for straight koa trees.
- There needs to be an EA done if timber harvesting. *The EA is done and is being routed for review through DOFAW.*
- EA's done 30 or more years before expected harvest can be and is problematic.
- The FSP Committee could ask for an exemption for Chapter 343 for FSP clients or for the EA to be done at the end of a project.

- *Switenia Macrophylla* does better than the African Mahogany (Toon). All species used under FSP must be authorized by DOFAW (assuring the tree is not invasive).
- What does upgrading fence involve? *We would like to upgrade the fence to a pig proof fence, which refers to the hinged fencing on the bottom fence that does not allow the pig to dig under the fence and generally keeps pigs out.*
- Recommendation that the applicant contact Gwyn Hill and/or others on the Hamakua Coast that are doing similar projects.

Amended motion to approve the Ahu Lani Sanctuary FSP Management Plan excluding the use of Toon or any other invasive species as determined by DOFAW staff. **Moved by K. Friday, seconded by Gagne.**

9 members in favor, 1 apposed. Motion carries.

Existing Stewardship Projects:

- 1) **Maui Land & Pineapple FSP project** was approved by the BLNR at the June 6th meeting. Contract generation is in process.
- 2) **Conant FSP project** was approved by the BLNR at the June 6th meeting. Contract generation is in process.
- 3) **Waikoloa FSP project** is in the process of approval and has provided updates pertaining to the Committees previous requests in the approval of their management plan. The applicant has provided details on the contract and budget with NRCS; the fire suppression and response; the fence height; DOA involvement with the biocontrol for the gall wasp; and the outreach and education component of their requested budget.

Discussion:

- There is still some concern about the level of fire suppression capacity with this project. The most recent fire destroyed a few trees in project area, but did not cross much into the project area.
- The Committee would like to see details of the fire fighting abilities of project staff and a respond plan for the project area. Additionally, applicant could consider the use of sprinklers, fire retardant around trees, or green or wet belt (fire in the area could jump a fuel break easily with the wind). It may be a good idea to grade the fire break so that it is drivable and can be used to respond to fires as well as for protection.
- This project may be could be eligible for WUI funding...
- They should spend a lot of time up front establishing a double wide belt that can be driven in the future with water sprayers if a fire comes.
- They could consider putting goats inside to keep the fuel loads down if keiki trees are protected.

12:00pm LUNCH

Showed photos and updated the Committee on the Mendes Family project on Molokai.

FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM updates:

- Kealakekua Heritage Ranch press release June 6, 2008 generated a lot of attention.
- FY 09 Puu O Hoku FLP application does not look that it will be funded.
- FY 10 applications are due to DOFAW staff (Sheri & Irene) by August 20, 2008. Some possible applications are Honouliuli Forest Preserve (fee title) in the Kunia Waianae Mtn area on Oahu and a 614 acre conservation easement on the Dunbar Ranch on Molokai.

- FLP 'Assessment Of Needs' eligibility map is planned for updating to include the addition of the latest Watershed Partnership Program boundaries & the inclusion of all the Agricultural District zoned lands that are 75% or more forested. If the SB 2646 Prime AG land is signed by the Governor it could have some affect on adding AG zoned lands to the Forest Legacy Program.

SPATIAL ANALYSIS PROJECT updates:

Committee reviewed the final SAP maps. These maps should be used as a resource and not as a definitive eligibility criteria for the FSP or other state incentive program. It is not the intent to simplify our selection process, but rather as a tool to critique each plan in front of us based on local values and biological nature of the land in question. Should consider using this as a tool for coordinated outreach in high priority areas. Additional discussion of future uses.

NEW BUSINESS:

FSP Guidelines are submitted for approval with minor changes/corrections as suggested by the Committee to improve language and overall interpretation of the document.

Motion to approve the FSP Guidelines. Moved by Dunbar, seconded by Cowern.

Discussion:

- Under Membership/Quorum possibly use phrasing such as 'cultural practitioner' or 'cultural representative' instead of 'Tribal representative,' which is language taken directly from the Forest Service FSP Guidelines.
- There are additional minor corrections to the reference of the Natural Area Reserves System.
- DOFAW Administrator should be an ex-officio (or their designee).
- Under Voting rights, a sentence is repeated twice.
- Under Attendance at Meetings, should read 'meeting is open to the public' and number 2 should read 'public individuals or private entities interested in **testifying** in...'

Motion tabled until Guidelines are updated.

FSP Committee position announcement: Empty position discussions, FSP staff will actively work to fill the two empty seats (Robert Joy & Rebecca Alakai).

Other Business:

- J. Friday would like to see a map of the CREP eligible lands from Irene.
- KKV invasive species issue. The committee generally feels that unless KKV has significant volunteer force in the future, that they will not be able to keep up with the weeds. However, until the plan is not being followed the Committee will allow them to try without using herbicides.

2:00-4:00pm

Site visit and field trip to KKV FSP project offered. Committee members viewed work preformed by KKV staff to date.