

Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee Meeting

Division of Forestry & Wildlife
Village Center Conference Room
2000 Village Road
Kapalua, Maui
September 12, 2014

Present: Nicholas Koch (Chair-elect), Betsy Gagné (Ex-officio), Alvin Kyono, Michael Constantinides, Mark White, Rich von Wellsheim, J. Friday, Greg Hendrickson, Jay Warner

Staff: Malia Nanbara, Marissa Chee

Guests: Connie Laumann, Katie Friday, Pomaikai Crozier

1. Meeting Site Visit:

Committee members and interested guests met at the Village Center Conference Room and conducted a site visit from 9:30 am – 12:00 pm.

2. Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 12:16 pm by Chair-elect Koch.

3. Meeting Minutes – May 2, 2014:

The FSAC reviewed the meeting minutes from the May 2, 2014 meeting and made the following corrections:

- Member Gagné provided written corrections to staff.
- Page 10, Member Constantinides stated that “Waimea Valley” should be replaced with “Ka‘awaloa” in the motion to approve the forest stewardship plan.

Motion to approve the May 2, 2014 FSAC meeting minutes as corrected. Moved by Member J. Friday, seconded by Member Wellsheim.

Approve: Koch, Gagné, Kyono, Constantinides, White, J. Friday, Hendrickson, Warner, Wellsheim; Oppose: none; Abstain: none.

Motion passed.

4. Distribution of Forest Service cups to Committee members:

Guest K. Friday distributed cups to present committee members, staff, and guests.

5. Forest Legacy Project Updates:

- Staff Nanbara updated the FSAC on Forest Legacy Program (FLP) projects. The Kainalu Watershed Forest project has closed and the acquisition has been terminated. The appraised value for the project was significantly less than previous market analysis, largely due to changes in the real estate market. The landowner has determined that they are not able to proceed with the acquisition. Staff is in negotiation with the current landowner regarding the Kukai‘au Koa Forest project. If they proceed, the project will most likely be scaled back. Staff is proceeding to close the Ka‘awaloa Forest project and is waiting on finalization of due diligence and the appraisal. The Helemano Wilderness Area and Ho‘omau Ranch projects ranked 28 and 30 in the national rankings (respectively), but will most likely not receive funding for fiscal year 15. Both projects are being resubmitted for fiscal year 16. Helemano

project was reduced to \$3,000,000 in funding from FLP for fiscal year 2015, while the grant price was \$5,000,000. Ho‘omau was considered the most memorable according to feedback from rankings. Staff stated that Hawaii has a number of open grant projects, so this could be impacting Hawaii’s ability to compete nationally.

6. FY16 Project Proposals

6.1 Review and Scoring of submitted project proposals:

- The FSAC was given time to review and score proposals based only on the application. The proposals will be rescored after further discussion in order to capture how changes to the applications might affect their scores.
- Staff Nanbara reminded the FSAC that the FLP protects working forests. Member J. Friday clarified that conservation easements (CE) do not necessary take away the landowner’s right to graze and log, but may include restrictions on both.

6.2 Project proposal discussion and approval:

Ho‘omau Ranch, Hawaii County:

- Staff Nanbara introduced the proposal as a 764 acre CE with an asking price of \$2 million dollars.

Discussion:

- Member J. Friday asked if having *Pritchardia schattaueri*, which is federally listed as endangered, gave any type of protection to the property. Member Gagné and Kyono clarified that it does not add protection because the property is not listed as critical habitat and is zoned agriculture. Member Hendrickson added that although it is endangered, it could still be cut down since “take” does not apply to plants.
- Member J. Friday made several comments. He believed annual rainfall should be 40 inches, not 60 inches. He also questioned whether native forest birds would be found at that elevation. Member Gagné and Hendrickson stated that there are forest birds there, but it is unlikely that the i‘iwi is found there. The proposal claims scenic value, but Member J. Friday did not believe the property could be seen from the highway. The picture used on page 3 does not look like it is from the property, but rather from the TNC property. He felt that the statement on page 2 regarding cattle management should be clarified.
- Member Hendrickson pointed out that parcels in this area of Kona are not selling, so parceling the property may not give it the best price right now. Member J. Friday asked about the property being converted to agriculture. Member Hendrickson said coffee conversion is possible, but is not sure if the area has good growing conditions. He also felt that the possibility of mac nut conversion is low due to the market, even though it grows well nearby.
- Chair-elect Koch said that there are several Forest Legacy projects and protected government land in this area. He felt like this project was just trying to join in. Member Hendrickson said that program should create contiguous protection, and saw it as strategic. Guest K. Friday added that TNC and Kona Hema are interested in protecting the loulou population, and felt that importance and strategic are the drivers of the proposal, not threat.
- Member White felt that the conversion threat is high, and that the contiguous nature of projects in the area is important. He also felt the *Pritchardia* population is important, especially because there are outplantings.

- Guest K. Friday noted that although the area is fenced, she did not see regeneration when she visited the *Pritchardia* site, possibly due to rats. If the proposal moves forward, she suggested that staff talk with the Plant Extinction Prevention Program Staff to see if they could do anything more to protect this species if the entire property is protected.
- Member Warner added that the ranch's highway frontage used to be very scenic with pasture and old 'ohi'a growth. Within the last couple years however, it has changed to look like it is overgrazed and not properly managed.

Helemano Wilderness Area, Honolulu County:

- Staff Nanbara introduced the project as a 1,613 acre fee acquisition, and asked the committee to consider it at the \$5 million dollar asking price. The application is the same as the one submitted last year.

Discussion:

- Member J. Friday commented that there is no native forest in the project area which is below the forest reserve, so this is about buying access to the forest. He felt that DOFAW would essentially be buying a weed patch, and asked if this was something they could manage in the future. Chair-elect Koch asked if it was possible to lease the land to a person or group who would do that kind of management. Member Constantinides noted that the intent to create a timber management area was mentioned in the proposal, so if DOFAW decides that commercial forestry is to be part of the landscape, they could put out lease or license.
- Chair-elect Koch was happy to see a project on Oahu, and felt it has the potential to have a big impact since Oahu has a large urban population and the area has limited access. Member J. Friday added that DOFAW currently has access to the road that goes to the forest reserve, so if it is sold, DOFAW could lose that access.
- Member Hendrickson commented that a variety of uses are articulated in the proposal such as camping, forestry, and hunting. However, all of these cannot happen in the same place or time, so it would be beneficial to include a plan or map articulating how these uses are going to be effectively combined on this property. Staff Nanbara said she had previously made this type of map. Chair-elect Koch commented that if they had to get rid of a picture to put this type of map in, it would be the picture on page 3.
- Member Constantinides stated that he scored this project as the most threatened since it is on an urban island, zoned Ag 1, and on the market, but scored it lower in other categories. He felt that some of the other projects were stronger in terms of importance since it lacks things such as endangered species and unique forest communities. Member Hendrickson stated that he also scored it high in the threatened section, but scored it high in the other sections as well. He felt that it is strategic on a lot of levels, and that elements such as public access should be weighted higher. He also emphasized that the growth in population and population density should be better articulated.
- Staff Nanbara stated that the national review team does not prefer projects that score high in one area but low in others, over projects that score well in all areas, and vice versa. It is better to highlight the true important, threatened, and strategic elements rather than pushing things that are not necessarily there.

- Member Hendrickson said if bats are located in areas adjacent to the property, there should be bats found there as well. If it can be confirmed that bats are on the property, it would be a stronger statement than saying they are next door.
- Member White commented on the hunting component. He felt that providing opportunities for the public to hunt, such as a creating game management area could directly benefit endangered species and watershed management. Member J. Friday added that it is his understanding that DOFAW is trying to increase public access for hunting in mauka areas, which Member White considered as more of a detriment. Member White wanted a better understanding of what DOFAW is trying to accomplish with this project in terms of hunting. Member Constantinides though that hunters would want to hunt this unit if they could.
- Guest K. Friday asked if DOFAW has explored buying a permanent easement incase this proposal does not rank high enough. Member Gagné stated that Oahu staff wants to expand since there are no camping grounds in central Oahu. The idea is to locate camping grounds away from the forest reserve.
- Chair-elect Koch asked how many camping opportunities are located on Oahu. Members Gagné and Constantinides said that opportunities for mauka camping are very limited. Member Wellsheim stated that one of the reasons he scored this proposal high was because of the public benefit that would be gained from added more camping grounds. He also asked whether DOFAW could come up with the money to match.
- Guest K. Friday said that because the proposal essentially states that DOFAW is going to manage for non-timber products, there is an expectation that the management plan will pursue this if funded. She suggested this be thought through more to make sure that it is realistic.
- Guest Crozier stated that Kukaniloko is located near the property. As one of the most sacred area for Hawaiians in the state, he felt that this culturally significant site, as well as culture in general should be included in the proposal.

Pua‘ahala, Maui County

- Staff clarified that this project is located a few parcels over from Member Dunbar’s project, Kainalu Forest Watershed, using the provided map.

Discussion:

- The proposal states that 75% of the property is zoned ag, so Member Constantinides asked if the other 25% is zoned conservation. If it is, it already has a level of protection on it.
- Member White believed the top 15-20% of the property is in good condition while the lower section has been affected by invasive species. The upper section of the property is included in a proposed fencing plan. It is one of the few parcels the Watershed Partnership cannot proceed on since future ownership is in question. Member Constantinides asked how this was the cornerstone parcel of the regional conservation vision. Member White stated that the East Molokai Watershed Partnership (EMoWP) is trying to double in size expanding toward the east. Pua‘ahala is more like a missing link in the series of parcels that EMoWP is trying to add to the existing partnership area. If the landowner does not enroll or if the parcel is not acquired, the partnership will have to fence around the property.
- Member Constantinides clarified that the mauka portion of the parcel is a proposed forest reserve and the makai portion is a proposed wildlife sanctuary. DOFAW would manage the

wildlife sanctuary for native wildlife, mainly water birds at this particular area. Member J. Friday felt like DOFAW would be acquiring another large weedy area, and wanted to see a map of vegetation type and conservation zones.

- Guest K. Friday added that although it would be another big chunk of land for DOFAW to manage, it would be easier for EMoWP to manage the area if this parcel is enrolled.
- Member Constantinides commented that if the mauka portion became forest reserve, it would open an access route from the shore to the mountains, which is rare in East Molokai.
- Chair-elect Koch asked if providing public access is really the intent of this project. He was concerned that the public would be given access and then be restricted later. Member Constantinides said the FSAC should take what is proposed in the applications at face value.

Haloa Aina

- Staff Nanbara introduced the project as a conservation easement for 2,888 acres. The asking price is approximately \$4 million dollars. Staff Chee stated that a title report, preliminary management plan, preliminary cruise date, letters of support, a willing seller, the easement terms, and the appraisal amount have been submitted.

Discussion:

- Member Hendrickson felt that the best approach would be 80 acre parcels. The land below was subdivided into eighty100 acres parcels, several off which have been sold since May. If they went through that process, they could get 80-100 acre parcels and probably sell them.
- Member J. Friday commented that his initial reactions to the proposal were that watershed recharge is an unlikely feature since the vegetation most likely sucks up all of the rainfall. The fact that they are able to harvest while doing regeneration fits into idea of a working forest. Since there was no regeneration prior to ownership, it is good that they are regenerating trees. He questioned the number stated in the proposal of trees that were replanted or regenerated. He was interested in seeing if scientific information that has come from the work on this property has been published. He felt that having a lot of groups and educational activities at the property is a positive aspect.
- Member Hendrickson stated that the property is a viable landscape for sandalwood, and it would be a good opportunity for people to appreciate that forest type. If an easement were in place, it would provide a sense of insurance that the property will be managed as forest land in a way that will allow it to be successful. He agreed that there are things in the application that that are not necessarily verifiable or accurate, but felt the proposal was promising.
- Chair-elect Koch commented that the property is not another weed patch, and that it has all of the components there to make it a good forest. It is on the right path of appropriate stewardship and management.
- Member J. Friday added that to the North and East, Kamehameha Schools is doing fencing resulting in some regeneration. To the south is the conservation easement at Kealakekua.
- Member White asked if there was sandal wood harvesting being done. Member J. Friday said there is but it is not under any easement restriction. Member White asked if there are any cows left on the property. Member Hendrickson said they have been working on getting animals out for a while now, but there are still some left. They are taking the animals to the

fenced areas in Kealakekua. The principal partner is strongly interested in having those animals off the property. They appear to have money set aside for additional fence work.

- Member J. Friday clarified that regeneration is being done by coppicing. Member Warner asked if coppicing is successful for sandalwood. He wanted to know if there is any science showing that coppicing sandalwood will result in something bigger than a bush. Guest K. Friday commented that the management plan will hopefully describe the results of coppicing sandalwood.

- Member J. Friday added that blue tree tubes are being used to protect shoots from sheep. Member Koch said they cannot predict the outcome, but if they just leave the areas as it is, the forest will continue to decline.

- Member Koch stated that a lot of money is going into native forest habitat in the adjacent property, with 40,000 acres of palila habitat being restored on the Kamehameha School parcel. He was not sure if that benefits Haloa Aina or not.

- Member White asked if they have the support and drive to reach the potential they allude to in the proposal, or if it will just be an opportunity to defer some of the purchase costs. Member J. Friday did not think it will just be business as usual since they are putting effort and money into protecting trees, and appear to be invested in it over the long term.

- Member Hendrickson said that if DOFAW maintains standards in terms of how easements are shaped, it will provide a strong base for the property to be conserved in perpetuity. The existing inventory will be preserved over time.

- Member J. Friday added that the other main threat to the area is fire. They have built interior road firebreaks, so they are doing what actively makes sense to prevent fires. Member J. Friday also noted that since the area has been receiving a lot of rain, coppicing sandalwood has been very successful.

- Member Wellsheim liked the community buy in and that jobs will be created. Given its proximity to the Kamehameha School property and Kealakekua Ranch, he felt it would be nice addition to the South Kona area.

- FSAC members submitted their Forest Legacy (FL) rescores for each project to staff.

Helemano Wilderness Area				
FSAC Member	Importance	Threatened	Strategic	Total
Alvin Kyono	25	20	25	70
Jay Warner	15	19	15	49
Michael Constantinides	15	20	25	70
Mark White	20	20	15	55
Greg Hendrickson	27	19	27	57
Rich von Wellsheim	27	20	20	67
JB Friday	8	20	25	53
Nicholas Koch	30	20	30	80
Total	167 out of 240 (possible)	148 out of 160 (possible)	182 out of 240 (possible)	501 out of 640 (possible)

Ho'omau Ranch				
FSAC Member	Importance	Threatened	Strategic	Total
Alvin Kyono	25	20	28	73
Jay Warner	25	5	25	55
Michael Constantinides	17	16	27	60
Betsey Gagné	30	20	30	80
Greg Hendrickson	20	6	23	49
Rich von Wellsheim	21	5	20	46
JB Friday	20	17	25	62
Nicholas Koch	30	10	30	70
Total	188 out of 240 (possible)	99 out of 160 (possible)	208 out of 240 (possible)	495 out of 640 (possible)

Pua'ahala				
FSAC Member	Importance	Threatened	Strategic	Total
Alvin Kyono	25	20	20	65
Jay Warner	25	20	25	70
Michael Constantinides	22	12	22	56
Betsey Gagné	30	20	30	80
Greg Hendrickson	18	7	21	46
Rich von Wellsheim	26	15	25	66
JB Friday	12	10	20	42
Nicholas Koch	8	5	15	28
Total	166 out of 240 (possible)	109 out of 160 (possible)	178 out of 240 (possible)	453 out of 640 (possible)

Haloa Aina				
FSAC Member	Importance	Threatened	Strategic	Total
Alvin Kyono	25	20	25	70
Jay Warner	5	15	5	25
Michael Constantinides	16	13	23	52
Betsey Gagné	30	20	30	80
Mark White	15	15	20	50
Rich von Wellsheim	26	15	25	66
JB Friday	24	16	21	61
Total	141 out of 210 (possible)	114 out of 140 (possible)	149 out of 210 (possible)	404 out of 560 (possible)

Project	Average	Ranking
Helemano Wilderness Area	62.625	1
Ho'omau Ranch	61.875	2
Haloa Aina	57.714	3
Pua'ahala	56.625	4

Motion for Helemano Wilderness Area, Ho‘omau Ranch, and Haloa Aina to be submitted to the Forest Legacy Program for Federal Fiscal Year 2015 funding. Moved by Member Constantinides; seconded by Member Kyono.

Approve: Kyono, Constantinides, Warner, J. Friday, Wellsheim; Oppose: None; Abstain: Gagné, White, Koch, Hendrickson.

Motion passed.

7. Assessment of Needs

- Chair-elect Koch explained that an assessment was needed because it has been 10 years since the last one. A Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) will be established after the discussion.
- Guest K. Friday stated that the FLP manager in California suggested that the PIG consider defining what the priorities for recreation are in Hawaii. He also suggested attempting to address what types of harvest levels would be viewed as sustainable. They wanted to see consistency in what is in proposal and what is addressed in management plan. The Assessment of Needs (AON) is a document that clarifies to all involved, including staff, the committee, and applicants, what the expectations are. Guest K. Friday said that there should be a more active outreach process to get the types of applications that the AON says are the highest priorities in Hawaii. Another potential topic of discussion is if they should continue doing easements in conservation zoned areas and why. There is a possibility that conservation areas could be overturned, but more research should be found on how often that happens. Some of the island’s tax structures have changed since 2004 and need to be updated.
- Member Constantinides asked if this assessment was deemed necessary because the AON is not functioning the way it was intended to. He also asked if defining local priorities makes a difference at the national level.
- Guest K. Friday responded by saying that original program guidelines state that the AON is required. The AON should layout how the state should run the program and what they define as important, threatened, and strategic. She agreed that just because the state defines importance its own way, the committee’s ranking does not directly affect how Washington ranks the proposals. To keep it from becoming an abstract exercise, the local process for seeking out what the state considers important should be established. Proposals could also link the important, threatened, and strategic features to those defined by the State.
- Member J. Friday said the prime timberlands map was using 1970’s data. The report should be redone and use current data for prime timberlands. He also felt that the soil section should be improved with new data.
- Member Hendrickson explained that the eligible FL areas defined in the first AON only included South Kona. They realized it was imperative to expand the eligible areas, so they came up with variety of overlays that would justify expanding the areas. The intention was that states would identify what is most important to them and that the AON would be the guiding force behind what is valued as an important project. The AON should provide that first level of filtration in the application process.
- Member Constantinides asked if are there projects the committee feels should not be moving forward for their consideration. He also asked if they felt that they are not getting applications they want to see because they do not fall in eligible areas. He felt that although

the eligible areas are broader than before, the system seems to be working. He asked how much time and effort needs to go into reviewing and revising the AON.

- Member Wellsheim felt that data in the report could be presented better, and that the AON could be shorter, or there should be a shorter version. In terms of a working document to help land owners engage in FLP, it could be better.
- Guest K. Friday said if the eligible areas significantly change, the program manager in Washington will read the AON and sign off on the changes. She felt that the main audience for the AON is DOFAW staff and the FSAC. Currently, the application process consists only of a simple set of procedures. If the State wanted to make it more elaborate, such as having projects of high importance go into partnerships to achieve a higher level of readiness before being reviewed by the committee, it could be done in the AON.
- Chair-elect Koch said that the soil information should be updated. New information that was not available 10 years ago should be included.
- Staff Nanbara asked the FSAC to discuss recreation and tourism on FLP lands.
- Chair-elect Koch was appalled at how little public access there is for hiking in the State. Member White agreed that more recreational opportunities are needed, but does not want to see it forced on projects. Helemano for example is a tremendous recreational opportunity. He felt it is potentially important for a lot of reasons beyond the recreational opportunity itself because it may take pressure off of other important values that are being managed for.
- Member Hendrickson liked the ecotourism component because it is another way landowners can make use of their property that keeps forests in place as opposed to being converted. The more options landowners have to make their property economically viable, the better. If this is articulated in the AON, there will be less push back when easements contemplate doing fee recreation.
- Member Wellsheim felt that they are mandated to get the public into forests so that the next generation can make a connection with nature. The hope is that they will continue to preserve what others are trying to do today. He felt that recreation is key mechanism for that.
- Staff Chee asked the FSAC to discuss the types of activities they felt should be allowed on FLP lands and the types of parameters that should be put on those types of recreation. Member J. Friday felt that activities that draw upon and reinforce the other forest values should have higher value than those that do not. For example, dirt biking would be lower and birding would be higher. Member Gagné felt that it is about finding the appropriate area for these outdoor activities. Member J. Friday referenced the all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and mountain biking trails that were constructed in the Waiakea Timber Management Area. Supporting appropriate uses means constructing them in a sustainable way. Member Warner added that ecotourism operations should manage themselves and not put people in danger.
- Guest K. Friday said that recreation or any other expectation they deem valuable should be included in the management plan.
- Member Hendrickson explained that at Kealakekua, they do a separate recreation plan if the proposed activity is high impact. For their ATV tour that goes into the easement area, they worked with DOFAW to delineate various procedures as to how that would work in the plan.

- Member Wellsheim asked if the committee could receive management plan proposals in advance of FL proposals. This would give them a better idea of the landowner's intention, and what the project is trying to accomplish. Member Hendrickson felt that although that would be helpful, adding more time to the application process would complicate things. Landowners would have to spend more money just to have their legacy application reviewed.
- Member White suggested using a questionnaire that would help define potential management. Member Warner suggested applicants submit a potential management outline.
- Guest K. Friday said that Hawaii's application process is unusual because in other states, the Forest Legacy Information System (FLIS) application is compiled after a state based application is submitted and reviewed. If Hawaii were to have an internal state application, it could ask the types of questions that would ask for more detail on management.
- Member Wellsheim felt that it should be about more than just buying the development rights, and that some type of management should take place. If a management plan was provided with the application, he would have an easier time ranking the projects.
- Member Hendrickson agreed that proper management is good, but money that landowners are paid is not for management. Easements only provide a base for conservation to occur.
- Chair-elect Koch said that it seems like the committee needs more context to really grasp what these projects are trying to do.
- Member Constantinides added that the character and bullet restrictions may cause applications to lose their context making it difficult for the FSAC to understand projects. He suggested applicants voluntarily submit a short companion narrative that outlines the project.
- Staff Nanbara said submitting the companion document would be helpful if the committee reviews and scores applications in the FLIS format, then rescores it again after reading the companion document. It would provide a better idea of what is missing from that application. She also clarified that staff receive applications in various states and does work to format them.
- Member Hendrickson suggested doing a survey of what other states do in terms of their application process. He also suggested reviewing and voting on project applications before they are in the FLIS format. This would require moving the date to submit up.
- Chair-elect Koch asked for volunteers to form the Permitted Interaction Group to review the AON. Chair-elect Koch, Member Gagné, and Member Hendrickson volunteered to participate.

Motion to create a Permitted Interaction Group including Chair-elect Koch, Member Hendrickson, and Member Gagné. Moved by Member Wellsheim, seconded by Member Constantinides.

Approve: Kyono, Constantinides, White, J. Friday, Warner, Wellsheim; Oppose: none; Abstain: none.

Motion passed.

8. Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) Project Proposals

Ho'omau Ranch

- Chair-elect Koch recused himself due to an association with the project.
- Guest K. Friday said the plan should discuss what will be done regarding palm regeneration.

- Member Constantinides said that the management plan should include a map that details which units will be grazed, harvested, or neither depending on the landowner's objectives.
- Member J. Friday reiterated that the species of birds found on the property should be accurately described. A map of where the easement will be on the property should also be provided. He felt that an element of community involvement would strengthen the proposal.

Motion to approve the project proposal for the development of a Forest Stewardship management plan with 50% cost share support for the total cost of the management plan not to exceed \$2,500. Moved by Member Constantinides, seconded by Member Kyono.

**Approve: Kyono, Constantinides, White, Warner, Wellsheim, Gagné, Hendrickson;
Oppose: none; Abstain: J. Friday, Koch.**

Motion passed.

9. Chapter 195F, HRS, 2014 Legislative Proposal

- Staff Chee said that staff is in the process of submitting a legislative proposal for this legislative session. The purpose of the proposal is to clean up the language, ask for 75% cost-share for the development of management plans rather than 50%, and to change the definition of a "landowner" to include lease holders.

10. Forest Stewardship project updates

- Staff Chee updated the committee on the Forest Stewardship program. There are 50 people on the contact list, and 8 cost-share projects, 1 of which has been moved to the maintenance phase. 1 plan has been cost-share approved, but is not contracted. There are 8 management plans and 10 developing plans. 2 of the management plans are FLP projects.

11. Joint Forestry MOU

- Member Constantinides explained that the Joint Forestry MOU was executed in 2011, but is now expired since it ran with the Farm Bill that expired in 2012. They are working on developing and updating the draft language and plan to have it re-executed soon. They are waiting to receive comments from the other partners. The MOU allows NRCS to take approved FSP plans and use them in other programs such as EQIP and CREP.
- Guest K. Friday commented that EQIP can cover removal of albizia.
- Staff Nanbara updated the FSAC on the landowner workshop. A description was sent to the Joint Forestry group for them to provide feedback. It will be sent to Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts where they will gauge the interest of landowners in their districts. The workshop will focus on landowners speaking to landowners. There will also be an opportunity for landowners to get technical assistance.

12. Forest Stewardship evaluation criteria

- This agenda item will be discussed at the next meeting.

13. Announcements and Travel

- Next meeting: Kilauea Military Camp, Hawaii Island on January 22 and 23, or 29 and 30, 2015.

14. Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm