

Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee Meeting

**Kapalua, Maui
Maui Land and Pineapple
October 19, 2007**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Tulang (Chairperson), Craig Rowland, Lea Hong, Bill Sager, Katie Friday, DayDay Hopkins, J.B. Friday, Kip Dunbar, Bill Cowern **Members Absent:** Betsy Gagne, Bob Joy, Laura Brezinsky. **Staff:** Sheri Mann, Melissa Sprecher. **Visitors:** Megan Webster.

9:41am

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

OLD BUSINESS:

Meeting minutes June 29, 2007. Motion to accept the minutes as amended. Moved by Hopkins, seconded by J Friday.

Corrections:

Hui Ku Maoli Ola Management Plan project should take the plan to the Kaneohe Neighborhood Board. Under **Further Discussion** for Kokua Kahili Valley revise page four sentence language to include the word 'species' after native.

Agenda:

Include new agenda items: Update of Kokua Kahili Valley contract, Mendes Windbreak Trails, Honouliuli Preserve Update, House Concurrent Resolution 200 Legislative Report, CREP Update, SAP update, Sunshine Law, and Landowner Assistance Workshops.

Committee in agreement

Motion to accept the minutes June 29, 2007 as amended. Moved by Hopkins, seconded by Dunbar. Passed unanimously.

Kokua Kahili Valley

The Kokua Kahili Valley (KKV) project contract has been submitted for internal review by the Attorney General's office. Staff are working on appropriate documentation for the Board of Land and Natural Resources approval at an up coming meeting. Staff will continue to move this project forward with the intentions of contract finalization within the next two to three months. Lisa Ferentinous is the principle contact for this project.

Kealakekua Heritage Ranch

The Forest Legacy Program has approved and granted \$2 million for Phase 1 of the Kealakekua Heritage Ranch (KHR) 2007 Conservation Easement. Staff's plan is to wait to close on this acquisition until the approval of the 2008 has been issued by the federal

program. The KHR Phase 2 Conservation Easement looks well poised to receive the requested grant for 2008 as well. Once notification is received, staff will simultaneously close on both acquisitions, thus easing the process for both the landowner and the State. There has been some interest in the KHR Forest Legacy and Forest Stewardship project from the Forest Service and Environment Hawaii newsletter staff. The issues raised by Environment Hawaii stems from information concerning the 1980s development restrictions placed on the property and associated potential appraisal value. Environment Hawaii does not feel that the KHR conservation easement is worth \$2 million due to these restrictions. The KHR already did a preliminary appraisal of the ranch and adjacent Honukano Ranch valued at \$30 million of the development rights. The preliminary appraisal did not include the current improvements on the Honukano Ranch or KHR. Staff will be conducting their own appraisal for this acquisition per the Forest Legacy Program requirements, and will not pay above fair market value for the property. However, it is not believed that the value of the KHR conservation easement will be below the requested \$2 million amount. Environment Hawaii has reviewed the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) files and has logged an initial complaint in relation to a request for informational documents that DOFAW did not currently have on file. The complaint has been resolved. Environment Hawaii has recently released an article on Greg Hendrickson and the ranches proposed golf course.

Staff will request a stall letter from KHR for their Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) project until the appropriate contractual documents are approved by KHR. The contractual documents have not yet been received by staff and thus the stall letter is needed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sunshine Law

Environment Hawaii has recently brought up the Committee's lack of use of Sunshine Law. They have file an investigation with the State Office of Information and Practices (OIP) to explore if the Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee is subject to Sunshine Law. Staff is currently collecting information on the Committee's duties in consultation with OIP. The Committee is not opposed to following the Sunshine Law should it be required.

Natural Area Reserve Commission

The Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee needs to consult with the NARs Commission on program happenings. Staff would like to have the whole FSP Committee meet the NARs Commission; however, NARs Commission next meeting will largely focus on their new Strategic Plan. A subcommittee may be formed to consult with the Commission should this be necessary around late November/early December.

Mendes Project

The Mendes FSP project has experienced major wind problem and associated limited grow by native species. Staff has decided to assist the Mendes, the larger Molokai community, and landowners throughout the state by conducting a series of natural and

artificial windbreak trial. The Mendes FSP site will be the first trail location, followed by others throughout Molokai and surrounding islands. The major trial on this site will be using native species in conjunction with a construction grade windbreak. The landowner is currently growing kou and milo among other native and Polynesian introduced species. The windbreak trail project will be done by the DOFAW Maui and Molokai staff with assistance from DOFAW Administration Office. The NRCS staff will also be invited and included in the project.

Discussion:

- The FSP Management Plan recommended that they build non-native species windbreaks, but the Mendes are only interested in using native species on their property. The Kaho‘olawe windbreak trails produced some good sample tree, but they are also now only using native species. Kaho‘olawe staff are largely using pili grass bales as windbreaks, but they are not focusing on growing trees (just shrubby species). Where they are growing trees they are in more wind protected areas.
- J Friday has a literature on constructed windbreaks that he will provide to staff.
- The Kukui tree may serve as an excellent windbreak tree if the Mendes are interested in using a Polynesian introduced species.

Honouliuli FSP Update

The Honouliuli Preserve is currently for sale by Campbell estates along with adjacent land holdings. Staff was originally going to submit a Forest Legacy application for the acquisition of this piece and thanks to a lot of work from the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) the application was received by the date deadline. However after much internal discussion, DOFAW decided not to submit the application for the program based largely on ownership issues. The DOFAW has decided not to take the title do to a limited capacity and requirements of the federal monies. The DOFAW and TPL have asked OHA to take ownership of the preserve along with the surrounding lands that they are interested in acquiring. OHA will proceed with the acquisition of the Preserve.

Campbell Estate has said that they want to have a contract in place for the acquisition of this land by the end of the calendar year, and closing of the acquisition two to three months following. There is a lot of time pressure associated with this acquisition. The TLP has already been award \$2.5 million in funds from Army acquisition programs and TLP feels like the deal will happen. The Forest Legacy application could have been submitted and OHA see this an opportunity for management experience in conjunction with the Army programs. Unfortunately, DOFAW is also considering pulling the Recovery Land Acquisition (RLA) grant submitted to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (F&WS) to fund another DOFAW project that was ranked high by DOFAW review but low by the F&WS.

Forest Stewardship Program Updates

Ola Honua FSP Project

Staff recently conducted a site visit to the Ola Honua FSP project site, and would like to eventually get the Committee out to site and view how the project is progressing.

Progress on their project is very impressive with their mahogany, teak, and eucalyptus plantings reaching from 50 to 80 feet in only four years. Ola Honua has received their organic certificate and are in the process of being certified as Biodynamic. They are using their 'tea' fertilization mixture and inoculating the planted species with mycorrhizae collected from upland or cleared areas. The only material that they are getting from off the farm is phosphorus from South America. Ola Honua is currently looking for funding to build a fence that connects with Haleakala National Park and will close out new entrances from pigs. Staff is talking with project coordinators on their what their needs are. The project is experiencing some problems with ohia growth and potentially koa wilt. Staff has pictures of the potential wilt trees and will share the images with the Committee in the future. Ola Honua is also running their work vehicles on vegetable oil.

The Ola Honua Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) is out for comment published in the October 8, 2007 OEQC Environmental Bulletin. It would be appropriate for the Committee to submit comments on the project. The DEA cost approximately \$15,000 to compile and the FSP does reimburse for this cost. DLNR is the approving agencies for this project. The cultural aspects of this project added to the overall cost of the DEA. Other FSP clients that have completed a EA are Green & Russo and Hawaiian Mahogany Co.

Ola Honua has had some issues with their worker building being up to code with Maui County. It appears that surrounding neighbors are not in support of the project actives and have filed a compliant. Ola Honua is currently rebuilding the housing structures to code. Staff would like the Committee to consider involving more public and community outreach with FSP clients to educate and relief some of the burden that the clients might face.

Other Updates

Committee members visited with the Molokai Forest Land Enhancement Project. Nine different sites are growing trees on DHHL and there has been process with the project. This was work conducted in the 2004 workshops.

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The Committee reviewed one new FSP proposal, Conant, and two FSP Management Plan, Hui Ku Maoli Ola and Honolua Wao Kele (Maui Land & Pineapple). The Committee agreed to follow the procedure with potential clients presence at the meetings. Potential clients will be asked to present their projects and be available for Committee questions, but will be asked to leave during Committee deliberation and final approval of the project.

Conant

The Conant FSP proposal is located in the Volcano area on the Big Island of Hawaii. The property represents two 3.5 acre lots (totaling 7 acres) in Agricultural and Urban State zoning. The Conants are interested in fencing their property to remove feral pig

damage, planting species community/ecosystem, and controlling invasive species. They have also included some provisions for education and recreation.

Discussion:

- Their budget will need to be more flushed out within a management plan.
- In their proposal most of the funds will be spent on fencing. Weed control and planting will largely be spent by the Conants.
- The project fits within the FSP, but there may be an issue with the acreage size meeting the 5 acre requirement. From the included map, there appears to be housing units and parking areas. These areas will need to be excluded from the FSP project. May need to double check on the actual size of the project.
- It would be nice to include some smaller landowners in the program as they are under represented in the program.
- With smaller projects and conservation projects, the Committee does like to see some components of education involving the community, although this is not a requirement of the program, so that the program extends its reach through education.

Motion to accept the Conant proposal into the FSP and invite the landowner to write a management plan with passing on the condition of the required 5 acre enrollment (excluding the housing units) and a letter or support from community group involved in the education components of the project. Moved by J. Friday, seconded by Dunbar. Passed unanimously.

Hui Ku Maoli Ola Management Plan

Schirman has resubmitted their management plan for Committee approval. The applicant has adjusted the project budget to reflect a reduction in overall costs of the project. Schirman has followed the budget submitted by Kokua Kahili Valley approved by the Committee and reworked some of their costs. Staff has not received news that the project coordinators have contacted the Kaneohe Neighborhood Board.

Discussion:

- The variable cost for this project comes to \$26,000/acre within the first year.
- Schirman has echoed what is in KKV's budget associated with the special areas practice with their albiza removal.
- In forestry practices on 20 acres (small non-industrial operation), it is \$2,500-\$5,500/acre for boutique woods.
- The project requests \$5.00 for seedling acquisition; this is an allowable amount under the program. However, this does seem high as the applicant will be growing the plants themselves, and the amount of seedlings is equal to 6,000/year.
- The Committee would still like to see letters of support for the project from the surrounding community.
- The project area sits on a relatively flat valley floor and then reaches up steep valley walls.
- There are cultural and water resources throughout the project area and thus limits the use of big equipment for tree removal, site preparation, and planting.
- The applicant does not need to remove all trees limb by limb, instead of felling the tree.

- There is also still the concern with the practicability of the project. How do you maintain per year with the large amount of weed infestation. The project area will always require continual maintenance to sustain the native population.
- The management plan speaks of what is generally on the land, and not necessarily what and where on the ground. There needs to be a more detailed map of what will be done where, so that monitoring the project will be easier down the road. This map will also provide the applicant with a detailed schedule of activities for reporting.
- The applicant is very good at growing plants and they are just now learning how to do the associated restoration work.
- If you ask all current and passed FSP clients what they have learned, they will say that it is way more work than you originally think it will be. This project is an astounding amount of work.
- They are requesting a lot of money, but not necessary for the amount of work that they are doing. The question remains is it worth the funds on such a difficult site. The FSP does not, however, have enough clients to make it a competitive program.
- The cost of the project is a major concern.

Motion to reject proposal. Moved by Sager, seconded by Hopkins.

Further Discussion:

- The management plan needs to still address three things: a reduced amount of money; detailed project practice plans for monitoring and reporting; and the community support letter.
- The project could also be downsized to make it more manageable.

Motioned passed with a vote of 6 in support and 3 against. Motion carried.

Honolua Wao Kele Management Plan (Maui Land & Pineapple)

The Maui Land & Pineapple (ML&P) management plan represents a restoration project on fallowed pineapple field. The project will restore a native dry-mesic forest community on approximately 30 acres of conservation zoned lands in East Maui. ML&P has submitted their DEA and Conservation District Use Permit (CDUP) application.

Discussion:

- The management plan seems like it is requesting a much larger amount than what was submitted in the proposal. However, the proposal requested approximately \$31,200/year and was increased to approximately \$42,000/year.
- With restoration practices we do not want to replant the entire area, we would like to see some regeneration by the species planted. Also there is no need to plant everything all at once, we would like to see that pioneer or tree species are planted first to prep the site. This project uses a‘ali‘i in that role.
- The project work looks very similar to Art Mederious work on Ulupalikua, in that project they are using round-up in select areas to kill the kikuyu grass and then planting a‘ali‘i.
- ML&P may need to be careful with pre-emergent herbicides in the soils from the pineapple field days.

- Dave Burney work uses a tiller between plantings to keep down weed; it seems that this project could be easy set up the same way.
- The site preparation is very reasonable for this project, and it appears that they are using mechanical techniques for this component of the project.

The project coordinator for the ML&P project, Megan Webster, was asked to join to represent the management plan and field questions.

Further Discussion:

- The ML&P project represents a demonstration project using an auguring system.
- The initial planting will be 90% a‘ali‘i that is the warrior species and will be able to grow on the site. Following the initial planting 10% of a mixture other native species that are slower growing will be planted in between the a‘ali‘i. It would be very hard work to have the volunteers dig the holes for planting, thus ML&P will be utilizing augured holes and have the volunteer’s plant with the holes. Plantings will occur in the wet season and weeding and maintenance will be year round. The planting density is from the consultant and plant grower, who has worked with Art Mederious on his project. ML&P will be providing the grower with seed to be grown out. ML&P will be utilizing the black mats that are currently on the field to help keep down the weedy species, but will not be using any more on the project site. The community has shown a dislike for the use of this material.
- The density appears to be tight, and thus is costly.
- Mytholbromine was commonly used during pineapple cultivation, and there may be some pre-emergences in the soil. The Mytholbromine will have wiped out the microriza in the soil. ML&P may need to inoculate the seedlings planted to promote their survival.
- Other projects, like KS on Hamakua coast, have used rippers to break up the hardpan in association with pesticides and hand fertilizers. The ripping allows for the plant roots to spread out instead of being planted in a planter hole. Ripping will also increase the soil infiltration.
- The compost mix is implement to deal with the hardpan issue associated with the pineapple field. The augur could go down to a deeper level or use a bigger hole if that would be appropriate.
- ML&P has spoken with NRCS staff at the plant material lab about using the pili grass bales for seeding and weed suppression.
- It would be interesting for ML&P to consider how to use mechanizations to bring in agricultural practices into the restoration. The initial site preparation utilizes this approach, ML&P is interested in involving the community in the project as a very central theme.
- The techniques to be used in the project came from consultation with other restoration efforts in the community as well as involving the pineapple agricultural side.
- The project calls for 6,000 hours in volunteer time, and ML&P has schools lined up to come in and do the work.
- The most common thing that projects underestimate is now big the maintenance is really going to be.

- How can you do forest restoration in a more economical way, what if you demonstrate both methods of restoration with demonstration areas of both.
- The overall goal of the project is to work together with the community and secondly experiment with planting native trees. ML&P is working on a number of projects as different demonstrations, including use of agricultural techniques for restoration purposes. Overall goal of this project is conservation by improve the watershed and overall habitat as well as bring the students to see restoration on land, interact with native species, and to provide opportunities or options for natural resources jobs to think about as they are making their career choices.
- ML&P could consider having the volunteer do other things such as addressing the gulches and involvement in monitoring (water sample, soil sample, did it meet the goals).
- ML&P currently has other project areas that will address other natural resource management disciplines, this project is meant to fill in the one of the gaps in an overall program.
- Other way to involve the volunteers is to have them be involved in the demonstration trails using the mechanized practices and other restoration efforts on the property. Showing the volunteers the pilot project and working the baseline study of the area. Then bring them back to show the major problems associated with the differing methods.
- The project may have a major problem dealing with Formosa koa, and a 'ali'i will not hold the soil that well.
- There are feral pigs in the area, and ML&P has a hunting program to address this concern.
- ML&P eventually wants to have a forest not necessary a forestry plantation.
- The volunteers could do the second series of plantings, and the first plantings could be less dense. Also consider planting koaia, Dunbar available as a seed source if needed.

Project Coordinator was asked to leave the meeting for Committee deliberation.

Motion to approve the plan and pass the comments on. Moved by Hopkins, seconded by Cowern.

Further Discussion:

- The Committee would like to see incorporated into the ML&P plan:
 - 1) Mechanical the operation (plant at less dense, break up hardpan, test for pre-emergent)
 - 2) Demonstration areas that include sites that utilize mechanics and sites without. Project could show the different methods with the demonstrations related to cost with keeping it easy to monitor

Motion not passed with a vote of 2 in support and 7 against. Motion denied.

Motion to defer the management plan and incorporate recommendations. Moved by Cowern, seconded by Dunbar. Pass unanimously.

FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

The DOFAW will be submitting one grant proposal for funding to the Forest Legacy Program (FLP). The approval of the Committee is needed for submission of the application.

Puu O Hoku Ranch

This acquisition represents a Conservation Easement on 1,600 acres of both the development and grazing rights. Staff submitted an application for this acquisition the previous year, but due to the late submission of the proposal it was not as competitive. The grant request is for \$1 million and the landowner will donate the land value as the match requirement of the program.

Discussion:

- The conservation easement is not located in the Halawa Valley watershed. The application should more clearly state that the property is part of the larger East Molokai watershed.
- Need to double check on the scientific name for the nene goose. It may have changed recently.
- Access is include in the transaction but not in the conservation easement. Access will need to be negotiated between Maui DOFAW staff. The landowner is willing to provide for this management access.
- There is not much forested land in the lower section of the property.
- The project will need a management plan that will require approval by the Committee prior to the closing of the acquisition. The management plan will be written upon the determination of funding.

Motion to approve the application and proceed it to the next level of competition.

Moved by Cowern, Seconded by Sager. Pass unanimously.

Next FSP Committee Meeting

The next FSP meeting will be scheduled in conjunction with the NARs Commission meeting. Location will be in Honolulu, Hawaii and may require an overnight stay.

Other

Committee member visited the ML&P FSP project site.