

Kapāpala Koa Canoe Forest Working Group Meeting 2 Minutes

January 9th 2016

Draft Plan Overview & Comments

Objectives

- Overall forest health-the forest can be managed for the larger eco system rather than just koa trees.
- This plan could be applied to other forests.
- This project should be a showpiece for other forests, a model.
 - This plan can reset the forest and provide long term benefits for all parts of the forest and its inhabitants for future generations

Timeline

- Fence line
 - Constant monitoring will need to be done to ensure no trees have fallen on the fence
 - It would be best to harvest all trees along fence lines, however this may be difficult with conservation zone bordering two sides
 - Using a drone to monitor fence (automated)
 - Using a monitoring wire on the fence line
 - If a tree falls it will ground the wire and a camera will take a picture and send out a notification that a tree has fallen
 - Using electric off set that will keep cattle out of the forest if a tree has fallen
 - Everyone in the forest should alert DOWFA or the ranch if there is a down tree on a fence
 - DOFAW can check the fence monthly and after a storm
 - In 1990 all the trees along the fence line were removed
 - 3 Koa Canoes where harvested in 1985 while building the fence line
 - Harvested by bulldozer while building the fence

Harvesting

- 60 Years is a long time to wait to harvest a tree that may already be mature
- Harvest an entire section and in 100 years there will be another 100 acres that can all be harvested at once
 - This would create competition prompting trees to grown straight and tall
 - Koa trees are more likely to become canoes when they have completion
- Compartments do not have to be linear
 - Start auxiliary harvest in the bottom compartments while harvesting in another area
- Auxiliary harvesting can be used for cultural practices other than racing and voyaging canoes

Proposed Roads

- Proposed roads will go through old growth trees and will disturb the ecosystem
 - Roads in forests are pathways for disturbances in the forest
 - roads bring invasive species and disease due to more people coming into the forest
 - There will need to be a give and take when it comes to protecting the ecosystem and harvesting koa logs
 - There will likely be destruction of some native habitat but it would be easier to harvest and reforest koa for the purpose of canoes which the area was set aside for

- Skidding logs out to the closets road will have less of a permanent impact and the skid trails will eventually turn into koa regeneration due to the scarification from the machines
- Are there any other trees in the forest that could aid in financing roads?
 - Silver oak was previously harvested in the lower portions of the forest

Extraction

- Logging equipment'
 - There will need to be two pieces of equipment to drive out a log and enough area to turn a 45+ foot straight log
- Skidding takes out a lot of vegetation but it brings a lot of regeneration to the forest
 - Skid tails can be used multiple times and it often leaves the forest better than it was
 - Most common method for log extraction
- Helicopter extraction with the military is still an option but needs more research
 - Permissions to use military helicopter aid changes with each command
 - Possibly involve a State representative
 - Necessary to have the infrastructure in the ground and use the helicopter extraction if and when its available
- Sub group can be formed defines what is needed for a canoe in each class
 - This would help with inventory and help determine what type of canoes are in each compartment

Plan Discussion- Questions and Comments

Since koa grows well with ohia will there be supplemental planting of ohia with the koa?

- The seed bank underneath will come up with scarification
 - Mixed species and useful understory can be planted as well

Recreational uses can be added to the plan.

This project could become a world class example of an outside classroom, make this project a one of a kind show piece and hold the working group accountable to follow through.

There are other ways to get into the forest that are more gradual. There are multiple roads that make KCF accessible.

- Hawaiian trails and roads are in that forest. There are better roads with a better substrate that can be utilized

How many canoe trees are in each compartment?

- The number of canoes trees in each compartment can only be determined by a full inventory
- This can be done during the auxiliary harvest

It takes 100-125 years for a racing canoe to be reach maturity.

- A planted seedling would be ready to harvest after two 60 year cycles.

It will be vital to educate the hunters so they can be aware of what is going on in the forest and because they are in the forest more than anyone else

- Hunters could help monitor the forest and notify DOFAW or the ranch of any damages to the fence.

Transects can be used to determine the amount of tress, pig activity, invasive species ect.

Model for land management

- Resources are need to find out what is currently in the forest
- Management of the forest require funding, if this forest can also become financially stable, it can be used as a model for other forests

Begin by harvest the top first while regenerating the bottom sections.

- Only need roads on the side and logs can be pulled out to the side roads

Use the auxiliary harvest for repairs to canoes and for 'Ōpelu canoe which only need to be 20 feet.

A flume down the middle of the forest would have the least impact of the forest.

- Would need an engineer to look into this option.

Potential funding can come from non-profit and grant writing.

Groups that might object to the proposed objectives for the forest need to be identified and contacted

- Endangered birds, existing nests
- limited endangered plants
- Would it adversely affect hunters/gathers
- Plan needs to go through a public approval
- Potential conservation- stigma around harvesting native species
- Could upset the equilibrium of the birds but in the long run it will provide better habitat
 - Resting natural environment

Collecting Permit Draft Summary

- Put together by Forest & Wildlife and DLNR
- Currently limited to salvage and dead trees
- Need to revise the draft to fit this model
- Long term maintains, reporting protocol

Discussion

- The protocol is an ongoing discussion.
- There should be a longer relationship between someone getting on the list and getting the log. There needs to be some type of give back before and maybe even after obtaining a tree or choosing a tree to eventually harvest.
- The people who are on the list should still have the priority, along with anyone who doesn't have a koa canoe.
- Financials will need to come into play. Funding is needed to cover the cost of extraction and transportation, but clubs also need to show they can afford to have the canoe built (60-150k).
- If a club is next on the list and they can't afford the extraction cost, the log will go to the next club, and the original club will maintain its position on the list.

Breakout Group Discussion

Cost

- Extraction
- Reforestation/giving back

- Transportation
- Carver costs 60-100k
- Auxiliary harvesting can be used for wa`a kaulua, pins, donuts, and other pieces that go on the canoes.
 - Since this forest was designated as a canoe forest, should all harvested koa go only to canoes?
 - Portions on the auxiliary harvest can be for other parts of the canoe while some can be sold to fund the management of the forest
- Potential for HRCA to match funds

List

- People on the list still get priority
- Who should have priority
 - Someone with no canoe
 - Someone who can afford to take care of it
 - Someone who wants another one
 - Education plan, saying how you are going to educate other on the koa and the forest how it connects to the rest of the island, number of people reached
 - Can be out into action in any forest, photos to verify, letter from wherever it is being done
 - Using a score card as an ordering system for the approval process
 - There is a year to submit a proposal and priorities it based on order and score

Log Allocation

- There needs to be a balance between resources since most of the trees will be leaving the island.
 - Roughly only 2 clubs that may need a canoe on Hawaii Island
- Using extra wood for carving, paddling ect.
- Reforestation- clubs can support financially or use their own labor.
 - Organized groups allows for education
- Trees from Kapāpala should only be used for traditional style canoes.
- One log does not need to be the entire length of the canoe, two can be put together.
 - What percent of the canoe needs to be 1 log?
- Low density and High density koa can affect cost of transportation and carving
- There may need to be an incentive for clubs to finish the carving of a canoe.
 - Disincentive to make sure the koa is used appropriate and for the same reason it was harvested
- Ensure logs are for educational purposed.
- Who competes the application?
 - A canoe club would make transfer easier rather than a person in the case that a club falls
- Priorities- should people without a canoe get one first.
- Can one koa tree be used for multiple canoes?
- Extra koa cannot be taken by canoe clubs and sold to fund the canoe building- this needs to be made clear in the collection permit.
- The current waiting list and permits needs to be made public.
- A template plan should be available for small or inexperienced clubs that may not have the knowledge or resources to complete the application process.
 - DOFAW forester can help with the application process
- Clear criteria could allow for a web automated scoring system
 - The working group need to create a criteria and a scoring system
- Clubs should not be limited to having only one koa canoe- many clubs travel with two incase the main canoe break.

- Does the state have an interest after it become a canoe?
 - What will happen to the canoe if the club folds
 - Is the canoe owned by a club or by a person
- Does a club need to be an active club to be on the list?
 - Yes, the club needs to be active- HRCA website can aid in checking a clubs status

Tracking

- Database of canoes with picture and associated names (HCRA website potentially)
- Voyaging canoes can be tracked though the same process
- 'Ōpelu canoes need some way of being tracked since they don't always have names (possibly HRCA)
- Clubs will need to provide images from all stages of the canoe from the harvesting, carving and giveback phases

Application

- How many canoes does the applying club have?
- How many members are active in the club?
- Is anyone actively searching for canoe logs in other places/ other islands?
- How will this club fund the extraction, transportation and harvesting of the canoe?
- Clubs must provide a reforestation/ giveback plan
 - Monetary or labor
 - Can be ar KCF or other locations due only a limited amount of restoration can be done in KCF due to the limited area and many clubs may not be from Hawaii Island

Management

- Adding pruning as an option in silviculture

For the next meeting

Inventory

- Inventory does not currently fall under this grant
- With the completion of this plan next 5 years will give a very in depth inventory of the entire forest
- Vegetation monitoring- \$3-5K /5years
- Annual monitoring/Permanent sampling plots - \$1K /year
- Make all information and data available to the group for the next meeting (not just as an appendices)

Objectives

- Continue working on draft protocol
- The plan must be COMPLETED BY JUNE
- Add small educational component/ outreach to the plan
- Open hunting area maybe an issue for reforestation projects and the stewardship of the area

NEXT MEETING APRIL 9th at DOFAW building