





Trae Menard Dir. Of Forest Conservation & Kauai Program The Nature Conservancy









# Kauai Watershed Alliance Members

National Tropical Botanical Garden

**County of Kauai – Department of Water** 



McBryde Sugar Co. **Kamehameha Schools Princeville Utilities** Lihue Land Company Grove Farm Company Inc. Namahana Farms Kauai Ranch LLC. Jurrasic Kahili Ranch

#### KAUA'I WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN Overall Management Strategy

April 2005



Management plan completed & approved - April 05

Sets objectives & operations for 6 – 10 years

TNC selected as KWA Coordinator -April 05



# **Primary Threats**

### **Feral Ungulates**

(Pigs, Goats, Deer, Sheep)

#### **Invasive Plants**

(Strawberry guava, Himalyan ginger, Australian tree fern)















# Without Pigs





# **KWA Fencing Plan**

























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# Bog Before Fence



# Bog After Fence



## Invasive grass patch Before Fence

Invasive grass patch 10 months after Fencé-

## Invasive Plant Control








### Australian Tree Fern Invasion





How to control a landscape-scale weed infestation

Sophisticated mapping and monitoring technique

Rapid control method applied over large areas





## Ikonos Imagery



### **Research & Development**

#### 2006 - 2007

#### Mapping and Monitoring with Remote Sensing

Very high resolution multi-spectral & natural color imagery

#### **USGS Research Contract**



# **Resource** Mapping

Remote Sensing and GIS for Conservation



- Ultra-high resolution image-based mapping
- Weed detection over large areas

### Orthorectification

Images overlayed on Digital Elevation Model





























### Surgical-precision Aerial Weed Control

#### "The Stinger"

No overspray = No damage to surrounding vegetation & no runoff into streams.



### **Image-based Monitoring**

#### **Before treatment**

#### After treatment







### Wired Magazine February 2010

#### **Green Avenger** HAWAIL'S BOTANICAL GUARDIAN RAINS DOWN

DEATH ON ALIEN FLORA.

 The Kauai watershed is the world's most extreme
 w

 botanical garden, a 144,000-acre cloud forest along
 m

 jagged cliffs that can spike 3,000 feet in elevation
 o

Space invaders

PHOTOGRAPHS BY Chad Riley

over just a quarter of a mile. So when Nature Conservancy of Hawaii project director Trae Menard observed that the area had been invaded by millions of watersucking, plant-strangling Australian tree ferns, he knew he couldn't exactly stroll around and yank them out. The terrain would make manual removal prohibitively expensive. The solution: aerial warfare with hoses and paintball guns. This spring, Menard (pictured below) will take to the sky in a helicopter to pinpoint nonnative species and pick them off with targeted blasts ofherbicide. Here's the plan of attack. — BER PAYNTER

#### HOW ECO-GEEKS WIPE OUT NONNATIVE SPECIES



RECONNAISSANCE A Cessna 186 outfitted with digital cameras and a multispectral imager skims the canopy. The pictures are tagged with precise geographic positions.

TARGET ACQUISITION Australian tree ferns can be identified by the distinctive shape of their fronds. Volunteers inspect photos and mark plants for elimination.







AIRBORNE SNIPERS Menard's team has also tested high-pressure paintball guns for shooting special herbicide pellets developed by University of Hawaii weed ecologist James Leary.



MOPPING UP Six months later, a flyaver is dispatched to search for surviving tree ferns and monitor other threatening species—like the dreaded Kahili ginger.

FEB 2010 0 1 9

### Taking the mapping system statewide



**Strawberry Guava** 



#### African tulip



#### Kahili ginger



#### Albizzia





### New Plane



### New Mapping System





### Improved Resolution

2 cm resolution imagery (2008 – 2010)

1 cm resolution imagery (2012)



### Improved Weed Detection Capability

#### The Rain Follows The Forest

Habai no ka ua i ka ululā`au

A Plan to Replenish Hawaii's Source of Water

Department of Land and Natural Resources - State of Hawai'i

November 2011





### 10-year goal: 25,000 acres



### 10-yearPlan




#### Pau

Wainiha Valley – Longest Valley in Hawaii

#### Invasive Species Control: Mauka to Makai Kaua`i Invasive Species Committee

Informational Briefing The Twenty-Seventh Legislature January 11, 2013

#### **KISC Protects the Watersheds**



KISC works on a landscape-level on priority targets that threaten the watershed



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# **KISC Helps to protect agriculture**











#### KISC Helps to protect natural resources











#### KISC Fills the gap between agencies



#### Rapid Response



Wax Myrtle and bingabing detected and eliminated

# KISC Works toward island-wide eradications



Successfully eradicated coqui frogs from Kauai's one wild-land infestation

### **KISC Collaborates with partners**





















### KISC helps to increase partner capacity







#### **KISC Educates and Informs**



WHAT'S INSIDE?

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Kaua **Mongoose Monitor** November 2012

2012

#### Working Hard for the Money

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Invasive Species Committee

The hardworking mongoose response crew works 5 days per week responding to mongoose reports, setting and checking traps, and conducting outreach and education with the public everywhere they go. Matt Kirk (pictured below), worked his last day on November 16, as a temporary hire with KISC, after completing his term. Jamie Harris (pictured on the next page) is an emergency hire with DLNR's Division of Forestry and Wildlife, supervised by Thomas Kaiakapu. Pat Gmelin, the KISC Mongoose Response Project Leader is heading up and coordinating this work and with his team they decide priority trapping areas, bait rotation, and constantly look for new ways to trap mongooses.

To give this work perspective, collection and trapping data is outlined on the next page. It is labor-intensive, and mostly unrewarding work (as far as mongoose captures go). This team has been doing an outstanding job and they are much appreciated for their enthusiasm and diligence. Kudos to this work force!



Coqui News Work commences at infestation site in Lawai Kauai Invasive Species Committee Work Notification April 9-13 POSTED: Thursday, April 5, 2007 be to ities entire In this issue: Work Commences Management Unit Map Contact Phone Tidbit Notification Policy Hand-captured Coqui frog. 2 Information Links 2 Contact Phone Numbers: • KISC: 246-0684 The map to the left shows the (from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm) entire infestation area. This area has been broken • Crew Supervisor: <sup>651-8781</sup> into managemen units, and num • Hawaii Department of bered accord-Agriculture: 274-3069 ingly. Work at the site • Pest Hotline: 643-PEST will reference these numbers you hear callyou hear call g frogs in an ea near you, ase contact office so that can schedule ment in st Tidbit Experts believe the first frog \_\_\_\_ ent in that or frogs — hitched a ride to Hawaii in a plant shipped from Puerto Rico or Florida. Hawaji's year-round temperate weather 戀 and open space provided the coqui with an ideal environment in which to reproduce.

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# ATTACK OF THE KILLER ANTS

6 LEGS, A STINGER AND AN ATTITUDE !

NOTHING ALIVE IS SAFE FROM THE MOST FRIGHTENING FIEND IN THE HISTORY OF HORROR!

STARRING SMALL INDIAN MONGOOSE AND THE KISC CREW • OPPORTUNISTIC FEEDERS THAT PREY ON THE EGGS AND HATCHLINGS OF NATIVE GROUND NESTING BIRDS AND ENDANGERED SEA TURTLES • HITCHHIKES BETWEEN ISLANDS ON CARGO SHIPMENTS • ACTIVE DURING THE DAY • FIRST LIVE CAPTURE ON KAUAI MAY 23, 2012 IN LIHUE STARRING THE LITTLE FIRE ANT AND THE KISC CREW • SPECK-SIZED, SLOW-MOVING ANT • NAMED AFTER ITS POWERFUL STINGS THAT FEEL FIRE-LIKE • ONE COLONY FITS IN A MACADAMIA NUT • LIVES IN HOLES IN POTTED PLANTS, LEAF LITTER, TREES OR CLOTHING • SNEAKS TO KAUAI FROM INVESTED AREAS ON BIG ISLAND

BE AFRAID !

VERY AFRAID !

## **Community Impacts**

#### Loss of ecosystem services

No water= no agriculture, no tourism, no economy

#### Decreased biodiversity

- Loss of native flora and fauna
- Increased health risks
  - Diseases spread by invasive animals and insects
- Threatened way of life
  - Stinging ants, loud calls from coqui

### **Needs and challenges**

- Funding for ground and aerial operations
  - Funding shortages hamper work effort and effectiveness
- Consequence for recalcitrant owners
- Funding for partner agencies for DNA and toxicant studies
- Inter-island biosecurity plan and involvement from all stakeholders

#### What we protect today, we will have for tomorrow

- Healthy watersheds
- Intact native ecosystems
- Unique natural resources
- Sustainable agriculture
- Community awareness
- Green jobs for Hawai'i residents ...and more

The ISCs can continue to protect Hawai`i with dedicated funding and continued political support.

