Maui Nui's Watershed Partnerships







Informational Briefing: January 11, 2011 Senate Committee on Energy & Environment





Molokai Understory Monitoring (MUM) Condition, Transect 1







Control and or Eliminate Invasive Species-Hunt/Weed Sweeps







WMMWP Overview

Formed in1998 in the Lahaina
& Wailuku Districts
13 Pubic and Private Partners

47, 322 acres
Goals:

Protect Essential Recharge Area

- 77% of Dept. of Water Supply water provided. by its aquifers & streams,

• Protect Ecological Resources

- 70% Native Plant Dominated, 170 Endangered & Rare Elements





Fencing Accomplishments · 19.6 miles to date · 21,084 acres fenced · 44% of WMMWP protected Goal

protect against ungulate impacts









Controlling Our Worst Established Weeds Species

- New 5 Year Weed Management Plan
 - Top Down Strategy to Control
- Preserve 15,000 Acre Core Watershed
 - Bio- Control Needed

• Using New Technology like HBT & Remotely Sensed Imagery, and Databases

Example

Strawberry Guava: (Psidium cattelianum) Threatens water quality, quantity & ecology









Working together to restore the native forests of leeward Haleakalā to benefit our biological, cultural, economic and water resources.



Interagency restoration of leeward Haleakalā watershed forests

Kahikinui watershed forest protection - fencing underway and degraded *koa* forest restoration planned



Watershed protection fencing and ungulate exclusion

- 21 miles of fence built protecting 1,733 acres
- 6.4 miles of fence under construction to protect 6,233 acres
- Final south slope watershed fencing will protect 10,600 acres





Watershed restoration technique development and evaluation

 Develop regional restoration techniques

• Evaluate effects of restoration on hydrologic function









Volunteer program – engaging the public in watershed protection

- 4,430 volunteers
- 32,478 volunteer hours contributed
- 110,217 native seedlings planted
- 49 acres of
 native forest
 restored &
 resistant to
 invasive species



East Maui Watershed Partnership





Priority Fencing Project Upper Hana Forest Reserve • 3.1 miles to date • approx. 3,200 acres to be protected Goal protect against ungulate impacts



Typical weather conditions & terrain

EMWP Fence Construction in Hana Forest Reserve



Feral Ungulate Control Success





Maui Nui Watershed Partnerships Goals

- Complete fences to exclude ungulates & protect existing watersheds
- Restore degraded watershed forests
- Continue control of incipient invasive species
- Continue community outreach
- Continue restoration technique development

Challenges

- Funding and training for core staff
- Funding for long-term facilities and equipment
- Biological control for priority invasive species
- Threats from long-term drought and wild-land fire
- Limitation of regional native seed sources

Maui Nui Watershed Partnerships

Mahalo Nui Loa



Maui Invasive Species Committee Moloka'i Invasive Species Committee



MOLOKA'I/MAUI INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE



MAUI INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

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Invasive Species don't care about boundaries:

- legal

- traditional

- watersheds

- jurisdictional

Whether they start in a backyard...



... or end up in pristine natural areas



Arrive in a plant shipment...



... or spread across an island











MISC & MoMISC are taking it on... whether it's

a huge tree...



tiny insect





2012 Achievements

- Controlled or prevented establishment of miconia, pampas grass, coqui frogs and a suite of other invasive plants and animals
- Coqui intercepted on Molokai
- Veiled chameleons at below-detectable levels on Maui.
- Little fire ant surveys and outreach
- Comprehensive outreach and education program to inform and engage the public and youth on invasive species issues.



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Challenges

- recalcitrant landowners
- inter-island movement of pest species
- stable, adequate, long-term funding
- inadequate regulation to stop introduction of new invasive plants







Our future....





Effective Partnerships = Key to Success



MISC & MoMISC are projects of the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit – University of Hawai'i



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