

**MAUI INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2000  
9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON**

ATTENDANCE: Lloyd Loope, Fred Kraus, Renate Gassmann-Duvall, Melissa Dumaran, Kim Martz, Forest Starr, Fern Duvall, Glenn Shisido, Steve Anderson, Randy Bartlett, Philip Thomas, Martha Martin, Hans Schopen, Christy Martin, Jack Peterson, Nathan Varnes, Bob Hobdy, Mike Richardson, Elizabeth Anderson, and the new NPS SWAT Team: Jeremy Gooding, Kyle Moyer, Thad Coffin, Jeremiah Kaholoa'a, and Francis Quintazol

- Call to Order by Randy Bartlett; MPC/Chair at 9:15 am

**NEW BUSINESS**

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

- Minutes from the August and October meetings were approved. They will be posted on the HEAR web site.

BUDGET/FUNDING REPORTS

**Coordinator's Status Report** (Jack Peterson, MISC)

- Twenty-three copies of the NFWF 2001 Proposal were sent to Washington DC on Nov 7. We asked for \$100,000 at a 1:1 match. Copies of the proposal were distributed to key committee members at the meeting. The proposal is essentially the action plan for next year. It contains a good strong results section through the end of October for all of our target species and public education work. If the maps can be made smaller, the proposal can be posted on the web site. Philip will work on converting the maps to a smaller file size. Tri-Isle is actually the applicant for the NFWF proposal. If NFWF funds us, Tri-Isle will subcontract the funds to PCSU/RCUH. We owe a big round of Thanks to Tri-Isle for their support.
- MISC wants to thank everyone for the letters of support that were sent in for the NFWF proposal.
- There was a meeting in Honolulu last week to discuss FWS funding for all the ISCs. There may be approximately \$150,000 to split between islands. Receipt of the \$46,000 for the MISC education/PR position is not a given as we previously believed. We will be competing with the other ISCs for our PR funding out of the \$150,000 pool. The combined ISCs will submit tier one priorities (\$190,000) composed of distinct chunks. The top priority is \$28,000 to change the half-time CGAPS coordinator position into full time for grant writing and financial support. We are hopeful we will get the \$46,000 for our education/PR position as well.
- We need to get the MISC 2001 Action Plan and budget ready to present to the legislature. The NFWF proposal covers much of what we need in an Action Plan. We need to add the vertebrate component and a projected budget. Jack distributed copies of MISC's proposed budget to several committee members for review. We will work with Fred and Fern on adding in the vertebrate section and plan to have something ready for review by the next meeting.
- We will be able to get a clearer budget figure for parrot work after meeting with Mike Avery, from the University of Florida at Gainesville, in January. Steve added that we need to look at including a beefed up budget for frogs.

- Melissa reminded us that the proposed budget should be as specific as possible. The legislature will ask very pointed questions and we need to make sure we have the data to back up any items in the budget.
- Fern raised the question as to whether the other ISCs are putting something similar together. Fred said that they really weren't.
- As things stand now, excluding vertebrates, we come up with a shortfall of \$88,000 for next year with the confirmed funds. If we get FWS and NFWF funding, we will have a \$60,000 surplus, which would be available for vertebrate work.
- Fred added that we need to consider that the \$130,000 from the state is finished by the end of their fiscal year in June. We could get more funding from the state starting in July. It gets a little tricky dealing with various fiscal year periods of our different funding sources.
- We have received \$30,000 from Hawaii Community Foundation to hire a data management specialist. The position will be advertised in January. It will be full-time for one year and we will buy an additional computer.

**Hana Crew Budget Status Report** (Nathan Varnes, Tri-Isle RC&D)

- Next pay period we will start using the CBDG grant funds, which should sustain us for 9 months. We have applied for the same amount (\$100,000) for next year and have a good chance of getting it. We are also applying to Water Department for \$50,000.

PR/EDUCATION STATUS REPORT (Christy Martin, MISC)

**Hula Bowl Media**

- We are still working on the Hula Bowl package. The full-page ad for the Hula Bowl program is being designed so that it can also be used as a poster for schools. Christy passed around a draft lay-out/design.
- Philip Thomas will be updating the HEAR web-site because it is listed at the end of the 30-second video spot. Philip, Lloyd, and Christy met last week to lay out a new format for the web-site.
- The 30-second commercial break spot for national TV is finished. We will be getting a copy. We are still working on the four in-game spots. Les Matsuura will be coming over from PCSU on December 15 to help us film a frog spot. We need to look at the Miconia PSAs and try to cut them down to 30-seconds.

**News Media**

- The frog article has been reprinted in the Hawaii Real-Estate Journal because of concern for property devaluation due to frogs.
- Nelson Ho, Christy, and Jack are working on a Miconia update for the Big Island, Oahu, and Maui.

## **School Outreach**

- Christy has been meeting a lot of teachers. She did presentations for six periods of Mike Molina's social studies classes at Kalama Intermediate last week.

## EPA FIRE ANT FUNDING PROPOSAL (Lloyd Loope, USGS/BRD)

- We received \$50,000 from EPA to develop a statewide fire ant prevention plan. We need to pull together another proposal by Tuesday for an additional \$100,000 that will target getting more information to help prevent fire ant establishment on Maui, economic analysis, and risk analysis. The proposal includes travel to other ports to see what the situation is with fire ants getting on ships.
- We need \$69,000 non-federal, in-kind matching funds for the proposal. So far we have matching commitments from: Hawaii Department of Agriculture, HI Department of Health, HI Department of Transportation, DLNR, TNC, University of Hawaii, Bishop Museum, and the Cattleman's Council.
- They are asking MISC for a \$6,000 in-kind match over two years. The concern was raised that because Christy's salary comes out of federal funds, her time cannot be used as part of the match. MISC's state funding is already matched elsewhere.
- A possible back up if MISC can't be a match for the proposal would be in-kind time from the Na Kumu o Haleakala group. The group is developing a high school level environmental education curriculum that includes alien species components. The Na Kumu little fire ant activity is being used by Christy as an outreach activity so it dovetails with MISC. Any ants found by students will be sent to Ellen VanGelder (USGS/BRD) for positive identification before being sent on to the Dept. of Agriculture. The activity was used in Hilo schools and they found a new species. Funding for Na Kumu is all private and teacher time could be used as the match. It was agreed that the Na Kumu project would provide a better match for the ant proposal than MISC. Elizabeth will draft a support letter on Monday if additional match is still needed.

## NPS LEARNING CENTER PROPOSAL (Lloyd Loope, USGS/BRD)

- The Learning Center concept originated 4-5 years ago when the NPS lost their scientists to USGS, but still wanted to encourage science in the parks. Hawaii has an excellent chance of having one funded in 2003. Lloyd, Steve, and Elizabeth have been discussing a proposal that would combine research and education. The Learning Center would facilitate invasive species research with an emphasis on social and economic impacts and would support continuation and use of the Na Kumu curriculum. The funding available is \$250,000/year, which would fund 2-3 positions.
- We initially looked at NIFTAL as physical site for the Learning Center, but given the possibility that the University may pull completely out of the site in the next couple of years we reevaluated. Instead we are looking at using the TNC house and Brick Quarters at the park for office space and accommodations for visiting researchers. Lloyd put together a pre-proposal for presentation at the Pacific Area Superintendents meeting next week. Hawaii Volcanoes has a proposal that we may need to blend with to come up with one Learning Center for the Pacific Area.

JANUARY 12 VISIT BY DR. RANDY WESTBROOKS, INVASIVE PLANT COORDINATOR FOR USGS/BRD (L. Loope)

- Dr. Westbrooks will attend the January 12 MISC meeting. There is a conflict in that the next BIISC meeting is also on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There is a CGAPS meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Westbrooks will attend CGAPS and can visit with Duane then. There is an OISC meeting on Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> that it might be beneficial for him to attend as well.

UPDATE FROM FRED (Fred Kraus, DOFAW)

- We are still hoping to start public information and education on the CGAPS capacity project in January. There is a possibility of a meeting with Legislators and there may be a press conference.
- DLNR will have a bill introduced into the Legislature for ISC funding to create rapid response in each county. There will need to be strong lobbying for the bill.
- The Forest Service funding proposal was sent off last week. DLNR is asking for \$60,000 for Kauai because of a recent miconia find and to support work in Kokee. They are also asking for \$110,000 for the Big Island, \$110,000 for MISC, and \$60,000 for OISC.
- OISC is planning to submit two bills to the legislature that provide the Department of Agriculture with authority to have an enforcement branch and funding for three positions.
- DLNR is applying to the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council for funding for screening of plants. They hope to hire a person for two years to screen and generate lists of safe/not safe trees using the Australian quarantine inspection concept. A pre-proposal went in and if the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council likes it, they will ask for a full proposal in February.
- OISC is pushing to add species to the noxious weed list in the next year. Species must meet the five legal requirements to be considered. If you plan on submitting any species, make sure to address how it meets each of the criteria. The list is statewide and can include species that aren't here yet.
- An unidentified species of no-no fly (a biting midge) has been found on Oahu. It is one of the more feared bad guys. Frank Howarth is working on a firm identification.
- Earl passed on that there is a new book on economic analysis of invasive species available for \$99 from Amazon.

MISCELLANEOUS NEW BUSINESS

- Philip brought up the “alternative to invasives” idea to give to landscapers something positive rather than just a list of instead “don’ts”. He is getting together a list of interested folks from the Maui Association of Landscape Professionals. There is a list serve and a web-site. Let Philip know if you are interested in helping out.

- Steve introduced the new NPS SWAT team. They will be a strong field control arm. The team will meet with Jack/Hans and Forest/Kim next week to start strategizing. The first 2 ½ years they will concentrate on Maui with some work on Molokai and in the Kona area. After that the focus will move to the Big Island. Their mission is not just within National Park --- their scope applies as long as there is a park on the island with protection needs.
- Forest, brought up idea of a Northwestern Hawaiian Islands ISC for discussion. The FWS needs to take the lead as the managing agency, but they could use some technical support. At present the best strategy would be for Forest to organize a meeting with the area managers.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**See the attached Activity Summary for an overview of the MISC crew's schedule since the last meeting.**

### PLANT UPDATES (J. Peterson, MISC)

#### **Miconia Peripheral Populations**

- MISC would like to thank Bob Hobdy for helping us with the Discovery Channel filming. Bob offered behind the scene support.
- We are negotiating to stage our helicopter operations out of NIFTAL instead of the airport. Approval is needed from NIFTAL (the leaseholder), the University, the State (DLNR is the landowner and leases to the county), and the County (leases the site to U.H.). We can't do any more aerial spraying out of the airport because of Haz-mat spill concerns (they don't have a storm drain).
- The crew spent 8.5 days on Miconia since the last meeting. One of the days was heliops. We have worked with the Hana crew although there have been a couple of rainouts. We controlled six outlying seeding trees in peripheral locations, 64 in the 1-3 m range, and 100's under a meter. The crew has been resurveying some areas and has not been finding seeding trees where they did sweeps last year.
- There were two trees found on aerial recon missions --- one had just flowered and the other hadn't flowered yet. These were significant outliers. We went back on the ground and controlled both plants in the Nahiku Mauka area. This reconfirms that we need to keep extending the survey rings. We have three helicopter operations scheduled next week to continue filling in gaps in our coverage.
- The Huelo miconia population could become a real issue because of the parrots in the area. Pat is dealing with these plants. Overlap in ranges of this nature should be a real red flag when doing data analysis. When MISC gets their new data person on board they will be able to keep up with revisit tracking and changing data from found to controlled, etc.
- Fred asked what had been done regarding the miconia report from Molokai. There is \$5,000 in the MISC budget this year for aerial survey work on Molokai that needs to be scheduled before July. Christy spoke with Tina Lau regarding the report, which was from Wailau Valley. Tina says they haven't found it yet. It is quite likely that the report was really clidemia as the public often confuses these two plants. MISC should find out from TNC/DLNR what areas they don't typically fly on Molokai so maybe we can fill in gaps.

- Steve added that starting next summer the Park Service will be doing a vegetation survey on Molokai.

### **Miconia, Hana Crew and Bio-Control** (Glenn Shishido, DOFAW)

- November was very rainy and as a result we had to cancel an aerial spray date. Earlier this month we did one 5-hour aerial spray operation.
- The fungus release was a success. Eloise Kilgore came in early November and a technician came back and did a follow-up. We are planning on a follow-up every month or two. Eloise will be working with us on a test aerial application.

### **Pampas Grass**

- The good news is that as far as we know pampas is now eradicated on West Maui (last ones killed down-slope from Eke crater). We did a spray operation, went back the next week to look for plants which were missed, and landed and controlled the last one. We had a good clear day and did a complete re-survey.
- The crew has done six days of pampas work on East Maui since the last meeting. There were two seeding and 108 young plants on Henry Rice's land above Keokea. We controlled four plants on Haleakala Ranch that had been spotted during an aerial survey and spent four days working in residential areas.
- The bad news is we flew Honomanu, in the area where we killed 200 plants by spray earlier this fall, and found more. The pampas seems to be concentrated in small streams and is lined up running down the stream course. They were all seeding plants. This will be expensive control work because it will all need to be done by helicopter and will require a good weather window, which is difficult to get. Philip asked if the new plants had been identified for sure as jubata.

### **Fountain Grass**

- The crew has been revisiting areas previously controlled. At Maui Lani they found two seeding and 39 immature plants. They found seven plants at Waiehu Sand Dunes, but none were seeding.
- It has been seven months since we did aerial surveys in Kanaio. Now is a good time to redo the surveys because there has been rain. The new SWAT Team leader, Jeremy, has a lot of fountain grass experience and should be able to help.
- At Kahakaloa the crew used ropes and removed the inflorescences from 40 plants. These plants need to be vouchered. We are planning out the best technique for using the herbicide safely while working on ropes.

### **Ivy Gourd**

- The crew killed 156 plants in Kihei. Kapalua is a serious problem. They killed 183 plants there recently. They have been using a thin line basal treatment, but may need a foliar technique for some of it. The area is a green waste rubbish dumpsite and totally weedy so foliar shouldn't be an issue for non-target species and would save time. We will be checking with folks on a good foliar technique, concentration, etc.

- Bob mentioned that the ivy gourd is coming up on Alamaha St. again. The 616 Kuiaha site is also back.

### **Arundo**

- The crew spent two days on arundo since the last meeting. The airport site is done --- will need to recheck it next year. The Beach Rd. site is about 50% complete.
- We have six new reports where we are waiting on landowner permission.

### VERTEBRATE UPDATES

#### **Caribbean Frogs (F. Kraus)**

- Oahu has found someone to take on survey work.
- Earl's crew did pretrial caffeine tests last week. They are measuring knockdown by three methods and have gotten significant results. The official trials will start next week on the Big Island. Trials will be done at Howard's Nursery on Maui for two weeks starting 2<sup>nd</sup> week in January. The trials should wrap-up in February and hopefully the registration should be pretty quick. We don't anticipate any problems. Earl purchased big sprayer that works well and will be available for use by the ISCs.
- There has been a lot of journalism interest in the frog issue again --- several recent articles and TV spots.
- MISC did some frog work this month at Kula Ace Hardware and Hula Girl Nursery in Kihei. The source for Kula Ace may be a shipment from Howard's although no frog calls were heard on the initial survey night in Kula. Follow-up visits are planned. We captured seven frogs and heard several others at Hula Girl. We are working with Stephanie Jo and trading up-to-date range information on Maui.

#### **Parrot-Type Birds (Renate Gassmann-Duvall)**

- Anne and Renate are back on board with MISC through early February to continue their parrot work.
- We have a permit from Wailuku Agri Business to survey for the Moluccan cockatoo (rose-crested cockatoo). They are from Indonesia and are quite rare with a world population of not more than 8,000. We have seen four of these beautiful birds. We really should tape these for public relations purposes --- they are very loud! In their home range they eat coconut, berries, and insects. They nest in hollow, mature trees. We need to go back to the area to find more. There are reports of as many as eight. The area is overgrown with lantana and there is very little native vegetation.
- Renate/Anne had a conference call with Earl to get some additional direction. He suggested a call to the heads of DLNR on other islands to see what the status and depredation permit situation is on other islands. On Kauai there are 500-700 rose-ringed parakeets. There was a depredation permit given to a seed corn company on Kauai. Renate will contact animal damage control to find out more about the permit. The report she got from the Big Island was not as detailed. There are mitered conures, sulfur-crested cockatoos, and one other species, in the Hualalai area. No depredation permits have been given out.

- Another issue discussed with Earl was the need for more literature. We should get quite a bit more information when we meet with Mike Avery in January.
- Anne was asked to do a presentation on MISC for APHIS while she is on vacation in Colorado. We OK'd the presentation.
- The permit from EMI was OK'd to continue looking at the conure's movements. Conures were seen feeding on eucalyptus tree flowers --- this behavior hadn't been seen before.
- Need to check out reports from close to the Lahaina tunnel and from Koki Beach in Hana.
- We need to check on what Art was able to germinate from the stomach contents of the conures.

**Saffron Finch** (F. Duvall)

- Fern did six surveys from 4AM to 2PM. The only place the finches were seen was in afternoon at the residence. It is troubling that we don't know where they are at night --- they aren't near the house. They are fed in the evening and stay until dark, but aren't there in the morning. Fern has never seen more than two although there have been four reported.
- Fern will aim to catch them in January and ship to them to the zoo in Honolulu.

OTHER BUSINESS

- MISC has a Field Worker vacancy. We will be filling the position in January --- please help spread the word.
- The Discovery Channel will be coming back to do more filming. We are working with Art on a miconia time-lapse sequence.

**Next Meeting Date/Time: Friday, 1/12/01, 9am-12noon**

**M.I.S.C. Activity Schedule**  
**Oct. 27 – Dec. 8 2000**

- 10/27: MISC Meeting  
Pampas – Polipoli (Wildland/ Rice land)
- 10/30: Fountain Grass-Maui Lani, Kahakuloa  
Frogs PM.: Kihei nursery (Hula Girl)
- 10/31: Pampas Grass-Haleakala Ranch outliers (4 plants)  
Frogs PM.: Kihei nursery (Hula Girl) captured
- 11/1: Miconia-Lower Nahiku
- 11/2: Equipment/Office maintenance, data
- 11/3: Ivy Gourd-Kahului / Pampas Surveys/Flyers  
NFWF proposal submitted. (23 copies)
- 11/6: Election Day Holiday (switched day); Jack on annual leave thru 11/17
- 11/7: Heli-Ops: Recon – Upper Nahiku Miconia (2 outliers found),  
Honomanu Pampas (outlier patch found)  
Pampas-Makawao, Kula, Keokea
- 11/8: Fountain Grass-Kahakuloa / Ivy Gourd-Kapalua
- 11/9: Ivy Gourd-Kihei w/CM
- 11/10: Pampas-Makawao, Kula / Arundo-Kahului
- 11/13: Veterans Day Holiday (switched day)
- 11/14: Pampas-Makawao / Office, data
- 11/15: Pampas-Makawao
- 11/16: Miconia-Upper Nahiku outliers (2 trees, 1 first flower)  
Frogs PM.: Kihei Nursery (Hula Girl)
- 11/17: Fountain Grass-Kahakuloa, Waiehu Dunes / Office data and decon.
- 11/20: Fountain Grass Kahakuloa (removed inflorescence)
- 11/21: Office data and decon. / Pampas Surveys, Frog Flyers. (Miconia Rainout)
- 11/22: Miconia-Lower Nahiku
- 11/23: Thanksgiving holiday
- 11/24: Thanksgiving holiday (annual leave)
- 11/27: Ivy Gourd-Kahului, errands / Arundo-Kahului Airport  
Frogs PM: Kula Nursery (Kula Ace)
- 11/28: Miconia-Lower Nahiku
- 11/29: Heli-Ops: Spray–W. Maui Pampas, Recon–Honomanu Pampas (expanded infestation found; Office,  
data
- 11/30: Miconia-Lower Nahiku, Wailuanui w/Darryl (2 outlier plants, 1 seeding)  
I.S.C./ FWS funding meeting Honolulu.
- 12/1: Arundo-Kahului / Office data and decon.  
Frogs PM: Kula Nursery (Kula Ace)
- 12/4: Miconia-Lower Nahiku
- 12/5: Miconia-Lower Nahiku
- 12/6: Dept. of Ag. Pesticides Evaluation/ inspection  
Office data and decon., equipment pick up, Heli-ops LZ prep., errands.
- 12/7: Ivy Gourd-Kapalua, Lahaina
- 12/8: MISC Meeting AM.; Pampas- Kula, Arundo GPS, HALE staff party PM.