

**MAUI INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2003  
9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON  
*Minutes as approved at May 16, 2003 meeting***

ATTENDANCE: Mindy Wilkinson, Christy Martin, Mach Fukada, Bob Hobdy, Fern Duvall, Mike Walker, Erik Barnard, Mele Fong, Teya Penniman, Shannon Wianeki, Jeremy Gooding, Randy Bartlett, Elizabeth Anderson, Steve Anderson, Lloyd Loope, Pat Bily, Alex Michailidis, Sharon Souza, Stacia Bobitevich, Rob Parsons

- The meeting was called to order by Randy Bartlett (ML&P/Chair pro tempore) at 9:10 am.
- The minutes from the February 21, 2003 meeting were approved. They will be posted on the website.
- Randy presented Bob Hobdy with the book "Remains of a Rainbow" on behalf of MISC in recognition for his many years of dedicated service.
- Bob just returned from a post-retirement trip to New Zealand and shared some observations. It was a great experience from an invasive species standpoint. On the airplane they have a declaration form with very strong language. They basically lock you up. Bob declared some dried fruit. After they arrived, airport staff went through all of their gear, checked their boots, etc. The staff is very knowledgeable and they were very cordial. The papers in New Zealand frequently contain articles on invasive species issues. A number of places have big posters on the walls with color pictures of the different invasive species. There is enough gorse to cover the entire island of Maui several times over. They have a huge timber export industry with Monterrey pine and they use the proceeds to fund conservation work. The people are very knowledgeable about their native flora and fauna.

**REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS FROM FEBRUARY 21 MEETING (Teya Penniman)**

**General**

1. Get details on bio-control meeting scheduled for April 8, 2003. Have someone attend if appropriate.
  - Lloyd attended the meeting, which was sponsored by USGS. The goal of the meeting was to get agency commitment for supporting bio-control efforts. Lloyd pushed for miconia. The Forest Service is taking the lead in trying to get a budget initiative for melastomes.
2. Send out a draft concept for MISC's mission, vision, and values for committee review.
  - Teya sent this out. We've heard from two people and would still like additional comments. We need to add a discussion of this concept to a future meeting agenda to get further clarity.

**PR/Education**

1. Follow-up on local stores, websites, etc. selling pampas grass seeds.
  - This is still pending.
2. Explore the idea of developing an award program for landscape professionals.
  - Mele will discuss our progress in detail during the PR section of the meeting. There has been a lot of work done.
3. Develop educational materials on mullein.
  - Mele and Mach visited the location and Mele has put together a summary.

## **Vertebrates**

1. Contact the property owner where the two remaining cockatoos were last seen.
  - This has not been done yet.
2. Follow-up on the one-legged cockatoo reported by Anna Palomino.
  - Elizabeth checked with Forest and Kim for more details. They didn't have any additional information. We need to call Anna.
3. Add an after-hours contact number for live animal reports to MISC's "2116" phone message.
  - Done.
4. Include Tina Lau in any training for rabbit or bird surveys.
  - We will do this. We are looking at in-house training with Fern soon, especially for bird identification.
5. Schedule a day-time chameleon search at the West Maui site.
  - We have completed a night-time survey and still need to schedule a day-time survey. We need to look at where this fits into the overall chameleon strategy.
6. Have a dialog with David Duffy regarding IACUC as related to the conure contract.
  - Fern has discussed the issue with him. We will cover this topic under the vertebrate section of the meeting. David would like MISC to consider being a "test case" with IACUC.

## **Plants**

1. Schedule a miconia subcommittee meeting in mid-May.
  - The meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2003 from 1pm to 4pm. The regular MISC meeting will be held that morning from 9am to noon.
2. See if the Watershed Coordinator on Lanai can assist with fountain grass control.
  - Randy hasn't gotten in touch with him yet.
3. Control Kula mullein population (EPMT).
  - Jeremy will follow-up on the control

## **ACTION ITEMS PENDING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Teya Penniman)**

### **PR/Education**

1. The existing bulbul flyer needs to be updated --- phone numbers are incorrect.
  - Mele looked into this. We aren't the producers of the flyer. Tina is going to white out the incorrect numbers on the copies posted on Molokai and fill-in the correct information.
2. Attend Koolau hunter volunteer group meetings and talk to them about miconia.
  - We are in contact and have their schedule. We will fit it in when our schedule allows. They are very open and will let us have an entire meeting. Their next meeting is April 22 in Pukalani.
3. See if the Hunter Education program is willing to include information on miconia in their course.
  - Alex has a contact and they are receptive to the idea. Alex suggested we should try to reach EMI workers as well. EMI is looking for training opportunities for their staff. Pat noted that Mark Vaught talked with him about doing some training and he will be working on setting something up. Pat tries to go to their base-yard once a year and talk with them. They know about miconia and clidemia.

## Vertebrates

1. Compile a review summary of the different agency's roles, what legislation exists, what the punishments are, etc. for vertebrate issues
  - This item is still outstanding.
2. Develop a strategic plan for chameleons.
  - Our plan for chameleons is constantly developing and evolving. We are still in the data gathering phase.

## Plants

1. Find a way to get rid of the pampas grass in the Quonset hut at NIFTAL.
  - This is still outstanding.
2. Send a plant results summary out via email before the regular MISC meetings.
  - We will discuss our data program status under the field work section of the meeting.
3. Get together with Sierra Club to set up another service trip
  - We have not moved forward with this yet. This will be difficult since Hana Ranch is completed and it was the most convenient location for using volunteers. Maybe a service trip doesn't have to be for miconia. We could explore the feasibility of other species. Mike W. noted that the last trip went well, but there were only three people. They worked hard and got a real feel for what it is like. Christy suggested seeing if we could get them into the core. They tried it on Kauai and they ended up with some very solid people that are putting out the message. More outreach in Hana town would be good. Mach added that a sense of ownership is a good thing. Jeremy suggested that defining a core area for volunteers is a good idea. Lloyd commented that it is really more of an educational activity than a real idea that volunteers are going to make a difference from a labor standpoint. The Sierra Club is good because they are passionate about the environment, but they don't know much about invasive species. Maybe the focus of these service trips is really education.
  - Shannon suggested that we could use volunteers for fountain grass. It is accessible, there are no herbicides involved, and we need to revisit frequently. It is an area that is contained and it seems like it would be an easy access situation. Pat noted that landowner liability is an issue. He went through some clippings recently from when we had volunteers in the core in 1996 and it looked good in the media, but it falsely portrayed the situation to politicians. The volunteers got into the core and realized the difficulty and they were very supportive. We need to be careful about reporting large kill numbers and what that really means. Lloyd agreed that we need to make sure that we don't give the impression that we are able to control miconia with volunteers.
  - Teya noted that at a recent public meeting Lucienne, from the Sierra Club, was very supportive of our work. Jeremy suggested that if we are going to pursue this idea, we should look at making it a regular thing (i.e. the first Saturday of every month). Mindy added that if we are serious about this, we should look at having staff trained as Sierra Club leaders. In the past the Sierra Club has had trouble coming up with enough leaders. Mindy has several of her crew trained as leaders. Christy added that there is a leader training on Maui next month. Lloyd asked if going through the Sierra Club resolves the liability issue. Mindy replied that the indemnification is for leaders only. The volunteers sign a waiver. It doesn't help with the landowner liability and doesn't cover the volunteers themselves.
4. Contact Fern regarding addressing endangered birds in the miconia EA.
  - Fern brought this item up awhile ago because the lady preparing the EA didn't contact him. Jeremy noted that the status on the EA hasn't changed since the last meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Randy recognized Rob Parsons, Executive Assistant to the Mayor on environmental concerns, who joined the meeting.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (R. Bartlett)

- A lot of bills are dead including the appropriation for DLNR for invasive species. Basically anything asking for funding is dead. Our best hope is that DLNR 402 doesn't get cut.
- Alex asked if the bill for more NARS funding is still alive. Mindy responded that it wasn't heard. The Hawaii Invasive Species Council and the landowner liability bills are still alive. Where the Council will be placed is still under debate.

## BUDGET/FUNDING/REPORTS STATUS

### **MISC Budget Status** (Elizabeth Anderson)

- We have finished spending down the FY02 County funds and this year's NFWF grant.
- The new OED FY03 account is finally on-line with RCUH. The \$135,000 account is good until February 28, 2004 and is budgeted for payroll only. We have moved most of the staff over to this account effective April 1, 2003. Hopefully the FY03 DWS funds (\$225,000) will be available with RCUH in another month.
- We have a balance of ~\$40,000 left in our FY03 DLNR/FS account. These funds will be used for supplies, utilities, etc. through June and for any additional expenses necessary to make the new Piiholo site habitable (hiring an electrician, cement, dividers, etc.).
- Our current HCF account will carry Mike Walker through August. The MoMISC account should cover Lori's salary through the summer or beyond depending on whether she goes to full-time for a couple of months. Tina has put together a MoMISC budget request for ~\$60,000 for FY04 that will be discussed at the next meeting.
- The four guys on the Hana miconia crew are continuing to be paid out of the EMPT account.

### **County Funding/Reports Update** (Teya Penniman)

- For FY04 we put in a \$200,000 request to OED. They have a budget item for \$250,000 which includes \$50,000 for fireweed. We have also requested \$200,000 from DWS. Teya has attended various budget hearings to thank the County for previous funding and request continued support. At the moment, the DWS funding is more secure than the OED funding.
- Teya was asked by OED to testify on agricultural-related issues. We asked for \$50,000 for parrot control but would be very surprised if we get it.

### **Federal Funding/Reports Update – Haleakala NP** (Steve Anderson)

- Steve spoke with NPS regional contacts regarding the 3-year Natural Resource Preservation Program (NRPP) funding for miconia (~\$290,000 per year). The FY03 funds should come on-line in the next month.
- The Cooperative Conservation Initiative (CCI), part of the Challenge Cost Share Program, was authorized. We received the request for proposals yesterday. There is \$984,000 to be split up competitively for the NPS Pacific West Region. We did pre-proposal for \$650,000, but we have been told that the most we could expect would be half of the total pot. A figure around \$300,000 is more likely. This may end up being a multi-year program. Originally we thought it would only be 1-year money. The deadline for proposals is April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Steve will be pulling together a proposal. This funding is through the same folks that got us the miconia funding. We need to be careful how we express the need.

- Funds from the CCI program must be matched 1:1 with non-federal partner dollars. For federal FY03 it looks like MISC has ~\$500,000 available to use as a match.
- Teya asked where the NRPP funds will be going. Steve replied that a chunk will go to refinance the helicopter contract for another year. A lot of the money will probably go into PCSU. The same will be true of the CCI funding. We will want to get it into PCSU since it is late in the fiscal year already and it will be difficult to use it up otherwise. Jeremy noted that some of the FY03 NRPP funds may be put towards the costs for the EPMT mainland crew that just left.
- Fern indicated that the request for proposals for FWS eradicable species funding should be out soon. We hope to put in conure and chameleon requests. The funding is available for both plants and vertebrates and we think we can make good proposals for both. The proposed species must be eradicable within two years. Steve pointed out that we need to get a better definition of what is considered eradication. Can something qualify if it is eradicated in a defined area such as West Maui? Lloyd added that he would like to see a coordinated MISC proposal that includes plants. Teya continued that at the last all-ISCs meeting they discussed the concept of some large and some small proposals. We need to coordinate with the other ISCs as well. Lloyd countered that the overall distribution of the funds should be up to the funding agency. Nothing is guaranteed to get funded. It is in our interest to put together the best Maui proposal possible. Mindy noted that Earl wants the funding to be open to all interested groups not just agencies or ISCs. The little fire ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*) may be a statewide target, with survey funding for Maui.

#### PR/EDUCATION STATUS REPORT (Mele Fong)

##### **Community Outreach/Meetings**

- Mele sent out, in advance, a written report covering the details of her PR activities since the last meeting. MISC has had exhibits at three local fairs recently: the Haiku Hoolaulea and Flower Festival, the Hana Taro Festival, and the Maui Community College's Agriculture and Natural Resource Awareness Day for high school students. Mele gave three presentations on invasive species and conservation: one at the Haiku Festival, one at the MCC Awareness Day, and one for an MCC Hawaiian Studies Class.
- Mele obtained landowner permissions for two more chameleon searches and developed a new flyer for the residents. She also developed a "Junior Field Assistant" badge for kids that have been helpful in providing information. We have a copy of the chameleon PSA, which we will show after the meeting for anyone who wants to view it.
- Mele is exploring the possibility of partnering with the National Park on their third grade environmental education programs. We may be able to piggyback onto their existing program and provide post-field trip classroom visits. She also is hoping to work with the Hawaii Nature Center on school programs. Fern cautioned that we need to be careful to stick with MISC targets when working with the Nature Center. They don't always just do incipients.
- Mele will be on the radio from 10 am to noon next Friday with Uncle Charlie Maxwell to talk about Earth Day.

##### **Products**

- Mele has developed new exhibit panels for use at community fairs. She recently completed a new poster on stopping the spread of miconia for East Maui. She has made several flipbooks containing the material in our exhibits for people to flip through at local fairs. For the Taro Festival, she made a flipbook on the miconia story and also a shorter take home version for people who want it.
- A draft MISC brochure on who we are, etc. for the general public was passed out for review.
- We had an information request from a publisher in New York doing an "Invaders" book for the Ranger Rick series. Mele provided them with information and reviewed a draft copy of the book.

- We are looking at redesigning the website for all the ISCs. Mele drafted a proposal to start getting the information together. We want a website that has a more public oriented and educational focus.
- A draft of MISC's strategic communication plan was sent out for review via email prior to the meeting.
- We have been accepted for a free 45-second PSA that A&B is paying for. The PSA will be played on all major local radio stations during drive time. We need help fine-tuning the possible messages for the PSA. What do we want to say? What is the key message for a short spot? A draft of six possible messages was passed out for discussion (attached at the end of the minutes).
- Randy commented that for the 45-second PSA he would go with #1,2,3, and 6. We want to emphasize who we are, what is at risk, the investment in future, and give people somewhere to go for more. Fern suggested that for the second paragraph in #2 we should add a comparison to the rate of arrival of new plants and animals today. He also recommended striking the "without natural predators" line.
- Lloyd emphasized that the final message needs to be very carefully edited. Lloyd would like to review the final text. We need to zero in on the important message. Mele replied that we are trying to identify what our one core point is. What do we want them to come away with? Teya added that maybe it isn't a single item. We should have time for a couple of core messages.
- Fern continued that item #4 is more like sound bytes. We really need sound bytes: "don't bring in prohibited things --- they are prohibited for a reason," "keep pets pets for their sake and Hawaii's sake," "know your stuff, be Maui smart."
- Mindy noted that she likes the idea of explaining why it is important. There are a lot of lists of what not to do. You have to explain it in terms of people's values and the value of the land itself. Rob added that #3 is a strong message and reads well. You could add a couple of lines to get them to "what to do." The "call legislature" line and #6 added to the bottom of #3 would work as a full message.
- Mach suggested that dengue may not be a good example in terms of invasive species. It obviously has an impact, but it really isn't the focus of this group. Teya agreed that healthy watersheds and agricultural costs are probably better.
- Pat suggested that mentioning numbers, even though they are important, will be lost in a 45-second sound byte. You probably shouldn't spend much time quantifying. You really don't have time to answer the question regarding what an invasive species is. Forget #2 and #1 is implied. Emphasizing the resources to be lost is good and what people can do is certainly worth mentioning.
- Any additional comments should be to Mele by Tuesday.
- Mele has a flyer ready to go for the landscape industry award. She will be adding some information on coqui to the package. She also wants to add a list of the top ten plants of concern that we don't want nurseries to sell. Philip put together several lists to help us out. Philip's final list contains the top 64 plants and we need help narrowing it down.
- Pat recommended that it would be good to tie in current issues like the mullein. Lloyd added that it seems obvious not to sell anything on the noxious weed list. Teya asked if we need to give them a list with a certain number of plants versus referring them to a website. Mele noted that many landscapers may not have access to the web. Lloyd indicated that he doesn't like the idea of the top ten worst plants. It would be better to give them ten examples of things not to sell.

- Bob shared that Julie Denslow from the Forest Service in Hilo has put together a proposal to come up with a way to evaluate the plants that are potential weeds in Hawaii. Bob is participating in process. We had one meeting and a lot of key plant people are involved. We are sort-of following the process developed in California and Florida. The list could be used by regulators. It is hard to know where this will go and there are a lot of lists out there. Lloyd noted that the process is closely associated with the Weed Risk Assessment. Randy suggested we use the list that Julie's project is developing. Teya countered that we are ready to move forward with the award now. Lloyd's idea of examples may be the best way to go. We can always revise the list later per Julie's project.
- Steve recommended that we should have a categorical statement to include all weeds on the Noxious Weed list. Randy agreed that anything on the Noxious Weed list should be included as well as anything on MISC's list. Lloyd continued that if Mele wants a list of ten, they will be just examples. Pat added that there are species on Philip's list that people don't actively plant. A quick run through at a few nurseries will tell you what the popular items are. Australian Tree fern is not on the list. You need to focus on something you have graphic examples of like *Cyathea*. You need to go to the nurseries and see what the dominant stocks are.
- Teya concluded that we would like to ask everyone to rank their top ten and get back to Mele. The top ten will be in addition to the Noxious Weed list and the MISC priority list. Steve added that there should be other categorical exclusions including nurseries selling plants with frogs and selling tree ferns infested with weed species. These should be automatically disqualified.
- Randy asked if Rob could help us get the County to endorse the award so we can use the County logo on the flyer.

#### MOMISC UPDATE (Tina Lau)

- Tina wasn't able to attend today's meeting. She sent the following report.
- MoMISC had one article printed in TNC NewsFlash, one article in the Honolulu Advertiser, and an aerial spray notice in the local Molokai paper. Except for public notice, no further articles regarding aerial sprays will be published due to the sensitivity of the issue.
- Lori is working on a display for the April 25th Earth Day celebration on Molokai. The display topic will be "Do not release unwanted pets into the wild" and will include alternatives to release. They are having a tough time coming up with alternatives for all types of pets – Humane Society, MoMISC, etc. They are looking for suggestions.
- Posters and flyers on MoMISC target species have been distributed at central and west island locations.
- Two days were spent on gorse surveys. The strategy is to survey areas where fire crews were most likely to have conducted activities. They are preparing to conduct an aerial spray for cat's claw in April with Windward Aviation using Garlon 4. They also completed three days of cat's claw control work using volunteer groups. One day was spent surveying a two-acre property with Creighton Low for fountain grass and one day of arundo control was done. Additional cat's claw and kudzu reports were investigated. Both findings were negative.
- Fern identified the parrot-like bird recently reported on Molokai as a conure species but not a mitred conure. They will attempt to trap it. Another parrot and two parakeets have also been sighted flying free.
- Lori and Tina completed a CPR refresher course and Tina attended the ISC Coordinator Meeting.
- The next MoMISC meeting will be Wednesday, July 9, 2003 from 10:00am to 11:30am at the Plant Materials Center.

## LAMISC UPDATE

- Brian Valley's TNC position on Lanai is ending due to budget cuts. We will need to rely on Darryl Stokes from Lanai Company.

## FACILITIES (Erik Barnard)

- We have been doing site preparation at the CTAHR Haleakala Field Station on Piihola Rd. Jay Penniman has been putting in a lot of time helping us out. We have cleared trees at the site where the yurts will go. Maui Land and Pine has provided several loads of gravel for the road and sump and a backhoe with an operator for a day. We owe them a huge thanks. We plan to pour concrete next week and hope to begin construction soon. Will have a grand opening and blessing in the future
- We have had issues here at NifTAL recently with vandalism. Someone broke into our Chevy and tried to steal it. We have been invaded by some very bold rats.

## **FIELD WORK**

- MISC's database is currently down.
- During the past four months, the MISC crew spent ~75% of their field time on plants and 25% on vertebrates. Out of total field hours we spent 37% on miconia; 17% on ivy gourd; 10% on pampas grass; 10% on chameleons; 7% on birds; 6% on fountain grass; 5% on snakes; 3% on arundo, and 1% or less each on downy rose myrtle, rubber vine, frogs, geckos, and other plants.

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

## VERTEBRATE CONTROL UPDATES

### **Vertebrate Subcommittee Meeting on 4/10/03** (Fern Duvall)

- We had a vertebrate subcommittee meeting yesterday. The last two meetings have been very poorly attended. We need to find a better way to encourage attendance. It might be better to schedule the subcommittee meeting after the MISC meeting, on the same day. We would like to stop recapping the entire subcommittee meeting at each regular MISC meeting. Randy agreed that it would be easier if the subcommittee met on the same day right after the regular meeting.
- We did not hire anyone from the first list of applicants we received for the vertebrate supervisor position. We re-advertised the position and the second recruitment has been extended until April 25. Please help get the word out to potential candidates. Teya mentioned that we have deferred a lot of vertebrate action until the position is hired. Given the hiring delays we need to shift our focus and go ahead. Erik has been carrying the bulk of the extra work-load. We've spent 25% of time our field time since December on vertebrates. This reflects our commitment to the policy of "No new vertebrate establishments in Maui County." Lloyd asked if we have funding specifically for vertebrates. Teya replied that we have some frog funding and the rest comes from our regular funds.

### **Veiled Chameleons** (Fern Duvall & Erik Barnard)

- We just completed a four night survey in Makawao. We had 14 people each night including Domingo, Earl, and Fern's staff. We have surveyed 32 properties since December 3<sup>rd</sup> for a total of 290 search hours (including DLNR and HDOA staff time). Veiled chameleons have been found on eight of the 32 properties surveyed. Fifty-eight chameleons have been found, ranging in size from 2.5 to 17 inches (18 adults, 20 young adults, and 10 juveniles). The chameleons have been found in 11 different plant types with 54% in Christmas berry.
- Fern noted that the size class distribution we are seeing is approaching a normal distribution curve. That is bad. It means we are dealing with animals that have been there awhile. We are finding individuals on the same plants on consecutive nights. Randy suggested that given the assumption that they have been there for

a few years, it will take at least that long a period of concerted effort to make a dent in the population. Fern continued that we have reports of animals from outside this area. We need to evaluate the other sites including the new MISC base-yard on Piiholo Road. If we find animals elsewhere, we will need to review our strategy. The densest concentration of native bats on Maui is on Piiholo Road. If the chameleons are found there, there will be negative implications. Randy indicated that it would be surprising to him if this were the only population. Whoever put them out there started with areas that were easy.

- Fern also mentioned that there is the West Maui chameleon site too and we don't really have a handle there. Mach noted one report in Iao Valley as well.

#### **Molluccan Cockatoos** (Fern Duvall)

- Fern still needs to get in touch with landowner. It is just a matter of time as he will likely give permission.

#### **Mitred Conures** (Fern Duvall)

- We will propose using the Huelo mitred conures as a target for the eradicable species funding.
- We are planning a helicopter over-flight soon using infrared to see if we can identify a landing area for the birds. The other priority is trying again to get landowner permission to access the cliff site.
- David Duffy has suggested using the conures as a "test case" for IACUC by having MISC do the actual control work rather than contracting with Wildlife Services. The problem is that none of the current MISC position descriptions specify firearms use. Additionally, we really want to be able to use silencers. We may pull the EMWP crew in to help with the actual control work if we go that route.

#### **Other Parrots** (Fern Duvall)

- The bird reported on Molokai is probably a Nanday conure. MoMISC will try to capture it.

#### **Saffron Finches** (Fern Duvall)

- There have been no further reports since the dead bird that was found at Keopuolani Park. That bird was banded. It was sent to the Bishop Museum.

#### **Bulbuls** (Fern Duvall)

- We have no new information on the bulbul on Molokai. The property owner where the bird is located is not interested in having government employees on their property. This needs to be brought to HDOA attention.

#### **Frogs** (Fern Duvall & Erik Barnard)

- There has been no field action on frogs since the last meeting.
- Rob noted that he was asked by the Mayor on Monday to put together a strategy for frogs so Maui doesn't get to the point where Big Island is. Teya did a great job of pulling together information for the Mayor. Rob is interested in working with MISC on this issue. If funds are needed, we should let him know. The frogs at the County Nursery are a top priority. Can MISC help with that? Randy replied that they should get citric acid. Fern and Erik will go with Rob to meet with the nursery staff.
- Fern emphasized that he thinks MISC should focus mostly on frogs in wildland situations. The hotels and nurseries should be able to take care of their own problems. Teya continued that MISC wants to remain a central data repository as far as where the populations are. We will be following up on verifying previous reports and cleaning up existing data. We plan to focus on an education campaign for hotels, nurseries, homeowners, etc. regarding what they can do. We also plan to conduct a trial citric acid spray in the near future.

## **Snakes (Fern Duvall)**

- We had snake traps set for 16 days in Kaanapali and did not capture a snake. There is no further information on the animal and there is still no positive identification of the species. It may have been poisonous, but we don't know for sure. We think it may have come in with a golf bag. This is a new way for things to come into the state that we hadn't looked at before.
- Sam Akoi IV has offered to have his dog trained as a snake dog. We should write an official letter to Domingo to find out the protocol for getting that done. Mindy added that there are no dogs trained to do environmental searches, as opposed to building and cargo area searches. Environmental search is still experimental. Christy noted that HDOA has five dogs at the airport, but they only concentrate on flights from Guam. They have no funding for anything else. Fern continued that the dog that came over had a specific response along the wall, but Domingo warned that it could have been caused by someone who ate an orange in that location rather than a snake because of the way the dogs are trained. Erik cautioned that Sam's dogs are pig hunting dogs so we need to be aware we may lose the dog after it is trained.
- Teya mentioned that this snake incident really pointed out the need for training for our staff. Fern noted that MISC did a great job despite the lack of training. Mindy and Domingo are going to Guam in May or June for training and will provide statewide training after that.

## PLANT CONTROL UPDATES

### **Miconia (Mike Walker, Erik Barnard, & Jeremy Gooding)**

- Mike W. summarized that there have been two weeks of miconia aerial spray operations since the last meeting. A map was projected showing the locations of those operations. During the first week of aerial operations, 3,271 plants (63 seeding) were controlled. During the second week, there were 7,512 plants (141 seeding) controlled. During the helicopter weeks, four days in a row we are running two helicopters for eight hours a day. We are doing some spraying in the core to fill-in gaps. We are carving out management areas where we have gaps in coverage. We are also hitting remote populations in Keanae and Wailua. We are continuing to find new plants. Hanawai stream is still loaded. We have developed a map book for these operations so that anyone in the helicopter can easily find the areas they need to work in and the topographic maps have been made more readable.
- The MISC crew did two weeks of ground work in the Nahiku area and also worked in Helani Gardens. On March 26<sup>th</sup> they pulled out the plant at Twin Falls.
- Randy noted that Tri-Isle had received a comment from an organic farmer in Kipahulu with concerns regarding aerial spraying in the area. Jeremy replied that there has been no aerial spraying in the Kipahulu area to date. The individual is most likely referring to green harvest flights. Jeremy will be compiling a list of East Maui residents who have concerns. He needs to contact them individually. We need to put up signs in Hana when we spray so we aren't confused with green harvest.
- Jeremy continued by reemphasizing that we are spraying in core. We can't just do the periphery with the amount of helicopter time we have. We are continuing to have dye problems. It just doesn't stick well enough. We have experimented with a bunch of dyes but haven't found anything that is ideal. Consequently, we need to go back and forth between the core and periphery. We have shortened the helicopter operation weeks to four days due to safety/fatigue concerns for the ground crew and the pilots.
- The merged operation is going well. The addition of Kerri Fay as a crew leader out in Hana has really helped. She is good at balancing and problem solving. Both the Hana and EPMT crews have had helicopter training. Hana Ranch is 80% done. The area is not as biologically significant as some areas, but it will give us an accomplishment to report. It was a good controlled environment to work in while training and merging crews.

- We have one yurt up in Hana and one more to go. We need to do some site preparation for the second one. The yurts are in Bob Getzen's flower farm, which is a two-minute walk from the state base-yard. We are operating primarily out of state base-yard now. The living and working areas will be separate.
- The North Cascades National Park (NOCA) EPMT crew has returned to the mainland. They worked out fairly well, but the arrangement was cost prohibitive. It was a good test run and will serve as ammunition to make future EPMT crews truly mobile. Crews should be listed under multiple duty stations so there won't be the high per diem costs.
- Jeremy will be leaving again on Sunday to do talks on partnerships and leveraging federal funding at the George Wright Society Conference. He will be highlighting the MISC partnership at the conference.

#### **Miconia EA (Jeremy Gooding/Lloyd Loope)**

- The EA is in the hands of the NPS Pacific Islands Support Office (PISO) at the moment. We may need to really push to get them to look at it. The draft is 100 pages long and there is still a lot of work to be done. Gary Barbano at PISO thought that the draft was trying to do too much. Back in February, the helicopter contract was ready to go but the EA was not finished so Don Reeser sent a letter to all the concerned partners and parties. Nobody brought up any problems and this let us start helicopter operations. NPS compliance has become very complicated. If we did everything by the book, it would take at least six months. That would result in too much damage and we couldn't wait.
- Alex reminded Jeremy that his staff is available for miconia work. He continued with a point on the EA. There was a court case brought to his attention where the Forest Service was found negligent in not addressing water quality impacts from aerial spraying for a moth outbreak in a Douglas fir forest. We need to get the EA done. Alex is also worried about spraying on non-state land or near the ditch system.

#### **Pampas Grass**

- Shannon indicated that most of the known *jubata* sites are under control. We have reached a wall on *selloana*. The public still thinks *selloana* doesn't spread and this leaves us in a difficult position. Randy suggested that until *selloana* gets on the Noxious Weed list, it will be difficult. Lloyd continued that there are more important things we should focus on than *selloana*. There is so much of it. Shannon noted that we are working against a few landowners and we need to decide if we want to convince them of something new or not. Do we want to put the message out that *selloana* can cause a problem? Randy noted that it is very difficult to tell the difference between the species. Fern suggested that it may be time for a newspaper article on pampas focusing on how hard it is to tell the difference and noting that there is new information. Pat added that in California *selloana* is more of a problem than *jubata*. This should be mentioned. Lloyd offered to track down the California reference for us.
- Teya suggested that we need to really look at our target list and reprioritize. It has been awhile since we have done that. Lloyd noted that there may be value in having a plant workshop before the eradicable species proposals are due. We will set-up a meeting as soon as we know the deadline for that funding.

**Next Meeting Date/Time: May 16, 2003 from 9 am to noon followed by a Miconia Strategy Meeting from 1pm to 4pm the same day.**

**MISC ACTIVITY SCHEDULE**  
February 24 to April 11, 2003

- 2/24 Ivy Gourd: Kihei (Mike A., Sam, Jin-wah, & Shannon)  
All ISCs Meeting, Hilo (Mele, Teya)
- 2/25 Snake: Kaanapali (Erik, Mike A., Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, Shannon, Fern, Creighton, Domingo, Earl, & Scott)  
Miconia: Helicopter Spray Operation Support in Hana (Mike W.)
- 2/26 Ivy Gourd: Kihei (Sam & Shannon)  
Miconia: Huelo (Mike A. & Jin-wah)  
Miconia: Helicopter Spray Operation Support in Hana (Mike W. & Russ)
- 2/27 Snake: Kaanapali (Erik, Mike A., Jin-wah, Shannon, Fern, & Creighton)  
Miconia: Helicopter Spray Operation Support in Hana (Mike W., Sam, & Russ)  
Ivy Gourd: Kapalua (Erik, Mike A., Jin-wah, & Shannon,)
- 2/28 Ivy Gourd: Kihei (Mike A., Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)
- 3/3 Ivy Gourd: Kahului (Mike A., Jin-wah, & Shannon)  
Rubber Vine: Wailuku (Mike A., Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)
- 3/4 Piiholo: Site prep (Erik, Mike A, Sam, & Russ)  
Pampas Grass: Upcountry (Jin-wah & Shannon)
- 3/5 Piiholo: Site prep (Erik, Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)
- 3/6 Piiholo: Site prep (Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)
- 3/7 Piiholo: Site prep (Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)
- 3/10 Piiholo: Site prep (Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)  
Miconia: Lower Nahiku (Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)
- 3/11 Miconia: Lower Nahiku (Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)  
Snake: Kaanapali trap check (Erik)
- 3/12 Miconia: Lower Nahiku (Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)
- 3/13 Miconia: Lower Nahiku (Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)
- 3/14 Miconia: Hana (Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)
- 3/15 Haiku Hoolaulea and Flower Festival (Mele, Mike W., & Mike A.)
- 3/17 Pampas Grass: Kula (Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)  
Veiled Chameleon: Makawao (Erik, Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)
- 3/18 Arundo: Kahului (Mike A, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)  
Veiled Chameleon: Makawao (Erik, Mike A, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)
- 3/19 Pampas Grass: Kula (Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)  
Rubber Vine: Kula (Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)  
Veiled Chameleon: Makawao (Erik, Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)  
Budget hearings, Hana (Teya)
- 3/20 Parrots: Huelo (Erik, Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, Shannon, Fern, Creighton, & EMWP)  
Maui Community College Hawaiian Studies Class Presentation (Mele)
- 3/21 Parrots: Huelo (Erik, Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, Shannon, Fern, Creighton, & EMWP)
- 3/24 Crew Holiday, Prince Kuhio Day  
Miconia: Helicopter Spray Operation Support in Hana (Erik)
- 3/25 Ivy Gourd: Kapalua (Mike A, Sam, & Russ)  
Pampas Grass: Kula (Jin-wah & Shannon)  
Miconia: Helicopter Spray Operation Support in Hana (Erik)  
Budget hearings, Kula (Teya)
- 3/26 Ivy Gourd: Kapalua (Mike A, Sam, & Russ)  
Pampas: Kula (Jin-wah & Shannon)

- 3/27 Miconia: Helicopter Spray Operation Support in Hana (Erik)  
Ivy Gourd: Kapalua (Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)  
Miconia: Helicopter Spray Operation Support in Hana (Erik)  
Budget hearings, Kula (Shannon, Teya)
- 3/28 Ivy Gourd: Kapalua (Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)
- 3/29 Hana Taro Festival (Teya, Mele, Mike A. Sam, Russ, Jun-wah, & Shannon)
  
- 3/31 Ivy Gourd: Lahaina (Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)  
Rubber Vine: Lahaina (Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)  
Veiled Chameleon: Makawao (Teya, Erik, Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, Shannon, & others)
- 4/1 Piiholo: Site prep (Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)  
Veiled Chameleon: Makawao (Erik, Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, Shannon, & others)
- 4/2 Piiholo: Site prep (Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)  
Veiled Chameleon: Makawao (Erik, Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, Shannon, Teya & others)  
All ISCs meeting, Oahu (Teya)
- 4/3 Piiholo: Site prep (Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)  
Veiled Chameleon: Makawao (Erik, Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, Shannon, others)
  
- 4/7 Miconia: Lower Nahiku (Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)
- 4/8 Miconia: Helani Gardens (Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)  
Budget hearings, County Council (Teya)
- 4/9 Miconia: Lower Nahiku (Mike A, Sam, Russ, Jin-wah, & Shannon)
- 4/10 Miconia: Lower Nahiku (Mike A, Sam, Russ, & Jin-wah)  
Maui Community College Ag and Natural Resources Awareness Day (Mele & Shannon)  
Vertebrate Subcommittee Meeting
- 4/11 Miconia: Lower Nahiku (Mike A, Sam, Russ, & Jin-wah)  
MISC MEETING