

Fountain Grass Working Group
July 7, 2004
Makiki DoFaW Baseyard

I. Welcome and Sign-in

Diane Drigot announced that a vegetation map and study was completed by a contractor covering Marine Corps Training Area-Bellows (not Bellows Air Force Station). It will be disseminated to our Sikes Act partners including State DLNR (attn Dave Smith).

II. Purpose of Meeting

Ryan – It is important to critically look at all our target species. OISC would like to find out the best way to perform control efforts of fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*). Currently, OISC is overwhelmed with the amount of work it takes to control fountain grass on Oahu. The goal of this meeting is to review the current control efforts and decide how OISC control efforts should be directed, including what areas to focus on and how much time OISC should put towards control efforts.

III. Summary presentation.

Ryan gave a brief overview of all the locations of fountain grass on Oahu and explained the current control efforts. He presented the control strategy that was decided last fall at the reprioritization meeting.

2003-2004 Fountain Grass Species Report from 2003 Reprioritization Meeting.

Common Name: fountain grass

Scientific Name: *Pennisetum setaceum*

1.) Known Locations:

Ko'olau Range

- Diamond Head: Containment only! Outside crater: 5 days every 6 months. Inside crater: 2 days biannual w/HIARNG (~200acres)
- Chaminade: 2 days every 6-8 weeks for eradication (~18acres)
- Lanikai: containment only: 1 day every 6 months, trail clearing (~150acres)
- Sierra Drive: 1hour every 6-8weeks (~<1acre)
- Pali Highway: couple hours every 6-8 weeks
- Lagoon Drive: 3/4 day every 6-8 weeks for eradication.
- Waimanalo HWY: 1 day every quarter for re-visit. Possibly eradicated.
- He'eia: OISC never visited. DOA originally treated a couple hundred plants
- Bellows AFB: full population unknown OISC hasn't surveyed entire base. Annual visit to Marine Corps part of base w/HIARNG and Marine Corps Nat. Res. Staff (Note: HIARNG rents a training facility on Marine Corps Training Area Bellows (MCTAB).
- Kahuku Military: DPW controls
- Dillingham Military: DPW controls

Waianae Range

- Makaha: few plants more recon. needed
- Kaala Learning Center: few plants more recon. needed
- Koolina HWY/ Waimanalo Dump: Annual revisit

2.) Control Method: Preferred foliar application using Roundup Pro at 2% concentration in water for green plants. Also used Velpar at a 10% concentration in water on plants in a dormant state. Most ideal time is fall and winter as the plants are not dormant.

3.) Areas threatened: All dry forest areas, pasture lands. It is a fire promoting grass.

4.) Notes: The limiting factor of controlling Fountain Grass is the difficulty in getting to the plants and the large population size for the given resources. Many plants are growing on steep, crumbly rock that are impossible to get to and do not have adequate tie-downs for accessing via ropes (esp. Diamond Head and Lanikai). This combined by the numerous plants and the necessity for many follow-up visits (due to seed longevity 7 years) make it a highly time consuming task in very harsh working conditions.

5.) Noxious Weed List: yes

6.) Progress Report: 2003-4 Objectives:

1. Eradicate FG from Wai'anae Mountains.
2. Survey and treat all other satellite populations
3. Re-treat all high traffic areas on Diamond Head and Lanikai on a bi-annual basis

7.) Current Management Strategy:

1. Eradicate FG from Wai'anae Mountains.
2. Systematically survey and treat all other satellite populations
3. Re-treat high traffic areas on Diamond Head and Lanikai on bi-annual basis.
4. Coordinate w/HIARNG and Air Force/Marines for strategy to treat Bellows to prevent military spread of FG

OISC Field Effort	# of Field Days	% of Total Effort
2002-2003	25	14%
Proposed 2003-2004	25-35	10-14%
7/03 – 7/04	55	12.7%

IV: Discussion with Partner Agencies: Ryan went through each of the partner agencies control efforts. He noted their current contributions and asked them if they may be able to assist in a greater capacity. This brought up a positive discussion on how we can improve efforts on each of the agencies managed areas. Each agency is listed with current contributions. The focused discussion is included in the notes following.

A.) DOA

- Historically DOA has assisted and initiated control sporadic control efforts of various satellite populations (Town/Windward/Airport) OISC has since assumed the control for these populations and received occasional ground assistance and DOA reports.
- DOA/Animal and Plant Quarantine prohibit import/transport of listed noxious weeds such as fountain grass.

Notes:

- The possibility for a biological control will not be ready for a minimum of five years from today.
- The seed program has ended which frees up a bit more of DOA's schedule, but they have a limited staff and other duties (i.e fire ant) so they can only offer limited assistance.

B.) BWS

- Palolo (10th and Keanu)
- Punchbowl (BelaVista station)
- Makaha (Maunaolu Estates)
(OISC actively controlling the sites)

Notes:

- Ryan asked if the BWS field crew may be able to treat these sites? Amy replied that she would have to talk to the ground crew about it, but notes that the BWS wants to cut back on the chemical control.

C.) DPW-Army Environmental

- Kahuku Military: DPW Eradication
- Dillingham Military: DPW Eradication

Notes:

- Currently DPW is controlling all FG on their lands. They do not need assistance. They check Makaha site with Amy (BWS) often. Landis Ornellis who maintains that area is also on board about checking the site.
- DPW would like to help out with Waianae surveys.

D.) HIARNG

- FY02 treatment of inside Diamond Head crater, complete coverage.
- Initial cooperative push for the outside of crater
- Controlled FG at Bellows on multiple occasions.

Notes:

- All of the land outside the crater is state land. The trail inside the crater is also part of the State Parks.
- HIARNG can assist in control efforts on Diamondhead.
- The trail is of particular concern as it receives high traffic and therefore is a considered a high risk for the transport and accidental transport of seeds.
- It should be treated 4 x/year. It also needs to be timed around when no hikers are using the trail. This could be either during scheduled State Parks maintenance closure or after 6pm when the trail is closed.

E.) Marine Corps

- Bellows: 2002- Initial survey of land with HIARNG/ Emergency Environmental Work Force (EEWF)/MCBH
- Bellows: (Jan '03) A large portion of Marine Corps land including the National Guard leased land was surveyed/controlled (MCBH/HIARNG/OISC)

- 4 Subsequent control visits (Feb 03, May 03, Nov 03, and Mar 04) on Marine Corps and USMC-leased National Guard land (MCBH, HIARNG).

Notes:

- Need to survey and map ALL of Bellows training areas
 - a. National Guard land (previously surveyed / controlled)
 - b. MCBH land (some surveyed / controlled)
 - c. Air Force (NEVER surveyed / controlled)
- Diane Drigot proposed that someone put together a larger control program and go after money specific to this project.
- MCBH has interest in controlling invasive species on their land as it impedes training.
- Mike Wysong has identified all sites on their land and they go to those sites 2-4x/year. He works with the Marines to control the known locations, but proposes help with annual survey for a more coordinated effort. Ryan suggests focusing on doing more recon. for the annual survey
- Diane Drigot suggested that OISC make a presentation to enhance awareness within all branches of the DoD military services (e.g., Navy/Marine Corps, Air Force, Army) about the risk of fountain grass. This could be a way to increase the number of ground crews onboard. She suggests making the presentation focused on how it will adversely affect them and their training. This is key to getting them on-board.
- Mike Wysong would be willing to assist with the presentation about how training impedes training.
- There was discussion about how to limit the spread of invasive species by soldiers to other training areas. There was discussion about the best ways to limit weed seed transport and it came to the conclusion that it is a protocol change v. education.
- Mindy W. noted that in the EIS for the proposed Stryker vehicle training it is written that there be a wash station for soldiers to clean their gear. Mindy thinks that we should put our efforts towards supporting this.
- There was discussion about potential volunteer opportunities with the potential use of soldiers. There was also talks about education possibilities.
- Diane Drigot suggests talking with Aaron Lowe (Na Ala Hele) regarding coming up with a partnership to get help with the Lanikai Trail in exchange for something granted to the soldiers (Perhaps training opportunities)
- Diane Drigot brought up how we need to get the Air Force on board. Ryan asked is she can help set up contacts for the Air Force. Diane Drigot has provided Ryan with a POC and phone no. Their POC for natural resources is: Mr. Gary O'Donnell: 449-1584 (press # and punch in his last name)

F.) Navy:

- Lualualei; FG found in neighboring area
 - Kaua'opu'u bordering Navy lands
 - Ka'ala Learning Center (1000s plants originally grown for thatching)

Notes:

- A. OISC is working with the Navy to help/encourage them to do annual/biannual roadside weed surveys similar to what Army Environmental is doing.

G.) General Comments:

- Mindy suggested that for monotypic stands it may be more advantageous to use something with a pre-emergent such as granular Velpar in order to decrease the number of retreatments
- Can FG survive in salt water?
- Need to come up with a presentation focusing on the Big Island control efforts cost and problems.
- Mindy W. discovered that FG was a suggested planting for the 199 Hawaii Dept. of Transportation. This may explain some of the populations that OISC has found.

V. Revised Fountain Grass Control Plan: (Tasks which require assistance for other agencies are in red)

1. Eradicate FG from Wai'anae Mountains:

- Draw on a map all areas that need survey work in the Waianae mountains
- 15- 20 days of recon and helicopter surveys in Waianae mountains.
- Collaborate with Army Environmental to conduct surveys in Waianae.

Discussion:

- Joby thinks that it would not be too difficult to locate areas that need to be surveyed. There have been a lot of surveys of the area. Estimates 5-10 days of recon and 5-10 days of strategic surveying in Makaha.
- Joby also notes that there was a report in lower Makua. DPW has done extensive surveys of this area and has not found it.. They have also done extensive surveys of the path toward Kaena. He will map out areas with Ryan that need to have more extensive surveys.
- Sharon (MCBH) asks about the possibility of looking into using remote sensing as a possibility for detecting

2. Satellite Populations:

- Increase education and PR with residences – Ask them to take personal responsibility to control it themselves. (i.e. get groundskeepers to control)
- Get community groups, watershed partnerships notified, educated, and involved.
- Increase surveying around town sites. Use a spotting scope to detect populations around town.
- Find out other possible treatment methods:
 - Ronstar- granular
 - Contact Mark Matsukawa (DOA)
 - Do a test plot on dense areas in Palolo
- DOA will handle fountain grass sites in and around airport and complete follow-up treatment.
- Put together a presentation for the Military officers that is specifically focused on how it will adversely affect their training. (Mike Wysong, MCBH staff can potentially assist in this effort)
- Look at potential for specific grant money for FG removal
- Amy from BWS will check to see if it is feasible to have ground crew treat the fountain grass sites that OISC is currently treating.

3. Main Populations:

- Look at cooperative efforts with various groups such as the Boy Scouts of America. Contact Kimo Palikiku 277-5064 about an invasive species removal project.
- Look into potentially getting a group started for “Make a Difference Day”
- Lanikai: Look into forming a plan with Aaron Lowe regarding the population in Lanikai
- Diamondhead: Cooperative effort with HIARNG for control along trail
 - Obtain State Parks Closure schedule
 - Possibly treat after 6pm during summer months.
 - Treat trail 2-4days/year
 - Provide more education for HTMC about FG

4. Other Tasks:

- Look into if FG can survive in salt water? (OISC)
- Find out if DOT ever planted FG. (OISC)

IV. Closing : Thank you to all participating agencies.

~PAU~

Attendees: Nilton Matayoshi (HDOA), Joshua Fisher (OISC), Leila Gibson (USFWS – OISC chairperson), Mike Wysong (HIARNG), Shari Lyons (Marine Corps Base Hawaii- MCBH), Diane Drigot (MCBH), Juan Chavez (USFWS- American Fellows Program), Meghan Halabisky (OISC), Joby Rohrer (DPW- Army Environmental), Mindy Wilkinson (DLNR), AmyTsuneyoshi (BWS), Domingo Cravalho (HDOA-PQB), Keevin Minami (HDOA – PQB) , Ryan Smith (OISC)