

State of Hawaii
Cooperative Forestry Assistance State and Private Forestry
FY 2009 Grant Proposal

GRANT PROGRAM: State-Wide Assessment & Resource Strategy (SWARS)

PROJECT TITLE: State-wide Assessment of Forest Resources & State-wide Forest Resource Strategy development for the State of Hawaii

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TIMELINE: April 10, 2009 – April 9, 2011

STATEMENT OF NEED/BACKGROUND: State assessments and resource strategies are integral to the State and Private Forestry (S&PF) Redesign and required as an amendment to the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (CFAA), as enacted in the 2008 Farm Bill.

Two of the three assessment and planning components required by the State and Private Forestry (S&PF) Redesign to approach and identify priority forest landscape areas and highlight work needed to address national, regional, and state forest management priorities will be addressed through the use of this grant request:

- **State-wide Assessment of Forest Resources** - provides an analysis of forest conditions and trends in the state and delineates priority rural and urban forest landscape areas.
- **State-wide Forest Resource Strategy** - provides long-term strategies for investing state, federal, and other resources to manage priority landscapes identified in the assessment, focusing where federal investment can most effectively stimulate or leverage desired action and engage multiple partners.

State-wide Assessment of Forest Resources

Ensure that federal and state resources are being focused on important landscape areas with the greatest opportunity to address shared management priorities and achieve measurable outcomes. The State will work collaboratively with key partners and stakeholders to develop a statewide forest

resource assessment. This resource assessment will provide a comprehensive analysis of the forest-related conditions, trends, threats, and opportunities in and among the 8 main Hawaiian islands.

State-wide Forest Resource Strategy

Hawaii's forest resource strategy will provide a long-term, comprehensive, coordinated strategy for investing state, federal, and leveraged partner resources that address the management and landscape priorities identified in its assessment. The resource strategy will incorporate existing statewide forest and resource management plans and provide the basis for future program, agency, and partner coordination.

GOALS: The goals of the Hawaii **State forest resource assessment** are:

- Provide an analysis of present and future forest conditions, trends, and threats on all ownerships in the state using publicly available information. This information will identify forest related threats, benefits, and services consistent with the S&PF Redesign national themes.
- Delineate priority rural and urban forest landscape areas to be addressed by the state resource strategy. Additionally, linkages between terrestrial and aquatic habitat will be identified and incorporated where sufficient data is available.
- Work with neighboring Pacific and Caribbean Tropical Islands and States to identify any common resource issues and or regional priorities.
- Incorporate existing statewide plans including Wildlife Action Plans, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and address existing S&PF program planning requirements.
- A combination of qualitative, quantitative, and geospatial data will be used in the State-wide Assessment to provide relevant information to key Hawaiian, Pacific Region, Western State, and national themes.

The Hawaii **State Resource Strategy** will:

- Outline long-term strategy for addressing priority landscapes identified in the state forest resource assessment and the following national themes and associated management objectives.
 - **Conserve Working Forest Lands:** conserving and managing working forest landscapes for multiple values and uses; identify and conserve high priority forest ecosystems and landscapes; and actively and sustainably manage forests.
 - **Protect Forests From Harm:** protect forests from threats, including catastrophic storms, flooding, insect or disease outbreak, and invasive species; restore fire-adapted lands and reduce risk of wildfire impacts; and identify, manage and reduce threats to forest and ecosystem health.
 - **Enhance Public Benefits from Trees and Forests:** including air and water quality, soil conservation, biological diversity, carbon storage, and forest products, forestry-related jobs, production of renewable energy, and wildlife.
- Protect and enhance water quality and quantity; improve air quality and conserve energy through the management and restoration of forests to mitigate and reduce global climate change.
- Assist communities in planning for and reducing wildfire risks.
- Maintain and enhance the economic benefits and values of trees and forests.
- Protect, conserve, and enhance wildlife and fish habitat.
- Connect people to trees and forests, and engage them in environmental stewardship activities.
- Identify partner and stakeholder involvement.

- Identify strategies for monitoring outcomes within priority forest landscape areas and how actions will be revised when needed.
- Describe how Hawaii's proposed activities will accomplish national State and Private Forestry program objectives and respond to specified performance measures and indicators.
- Describe how State and Private Forestry programs will be used to address priority landscape and management objectives.
- Incorporate existing statewide plans including Wildlife Action Plans, community wildfire protection plans, and address existing S&PF program planning requirements.

COMPLETED OR ONGOING ACTIVITIES: Hawaii began working on the SWARS in June 2008 when preliminary Farm Bill advice became public. As a result a number of activities have already begun including the following:

- Establishment of www.hawaiistateassessment.info, which is an interactive website hosted and maintained by the State that allows the sharing of national, regional and local documents related to the SWARS; the interactive capacity of anyone interested to post messages, blogs, and/or provide comments pertaining to SWARS materials and eventually drafts, and of course a countdown clock ending June 18, 2010.
- Identified and are participating in the development of new data sources which will augment or replace some of the weaker data used in the Spatial Analysis Project (SAP). New or updated data layers that have been obtained since SAP was completed in June 2008 include fuel mapping, community fire response plans, LANDFIRE, high-resolution landcover from NOAA/CCAP program, impervious surfaces layer and landcover from the NLCD. It should be noted that the development of new data layers has been initiated by other entities (i.e., LANDFIRE, Carnegie Institute). By partnering with the primary data producers (i.e., reviewing data, providing ancillary data), SWARS staff is insuring that the products will be compatible with our needs for the Hawaii SWARS.
- Ron Cannarella has made presentations on the Hawaii SAP and its relation to SWARS to the Hawaii Geographic Information Coordinating Council (HIGICC), the professional association for GIS technicians. Supporting SWARS has been included in the strategic plan for the HIGICC. In addition, Ron has made presentations on SAP"/SWARS to the Hawaii ESRI User Group, the Hawaii Association of Watershed Partnerships, the State Technical Committee, The Forest Legacy Committee and the Forest Stewardship Committee.
- Ron Cannarella, who conducted the data analysis for the SAP has become certified by ESRI (the makers of ArcGIS) as a python programmer. It is expected that using python programming language will greatly improve our efficiency and consistency
- All of the major Federal and Non-Profit partners in Hawaii have been engaged and made aware of the SWARS and the fact that the State is very interested in their help, data, imagery, etc.
- Established working groups within the NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), and Kaulunani Urban Forestry Council.
- Significant interaction with the University of Hawaii in Manoa and Hawaii Community College has begun and resulted in collaborations on large grant proposals, involvement with at least one UH class that has result in technical writing support via students, an offer by a professor who

**Checklist for Statewide Forest Resource Assessments and Strategies
Requirements of the 2008 Farm Bill**

The State Assessment and Strategy must be submitted to the USDA Forest Service, with this check list signed by the State Forester, by June 18, 2010. Federal review will focus on the requirements as outlined in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill).

State: _____

Approved by the State Forester: _____

Name

Date

Statewide Forest Resource Assessment Includes:

- The conditions and trends of forest resources in the state Yes No
- The threats to forest lands and resources in the state consistent with national priorities Yes No
- Areas or regions of the state that are a priority Yes No
- Any multi-state areas that are a regional priority Yes No

Statewide Forest Resource Strategy Includes:

- Long-term strategies to address threats to forest resources in the state* Yes No
- Description of resources necessary for state forester to address state-wide strategy* Yes No

**Can be presented in a strategies matrix with columns for (a) programs that contribute, (b) resources required, (c) national objective it supports, and (d) performance measure(s) that will be used for each strategy.*

Stakeholder Groups Coordinated with for the Statewide Assessment and Strategy:

Note: this could be identified in the body of the documents or as an appendix.

- State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (required) Yes No
- State Wildlife Agency (required)..... Yes No
- State Technical Committee (required)..... Yes No
- Lead agency for the Forest Legacy Program (if not the state forestry agency) (required).. Yes No
- Applicable Federal land management agencies (required)..... Yes No

Other Plans Incorporated in Statewide Assessment and Strategy:

- Community wildfire protection plans (required)..... Yes No
- State wildlife action plans (required)..... Yes No
- Other Yes No

Deemed to be sufficient (all requirements met)

Comments:

Not deemed to be sufficient* (missing one or more requirements)

*Indicate Corrective Action(s) Necessary to Meet Sufficiency Requirement:

Certified by Regional Forester/NA Director: _____

Name

Date

DECISION BY THE DEPUTY CHIEF FOR STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY

Approve _____
Disapprove _____

Date _____

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