

BIG ISLAND FORESTRY

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA

Area #6406

ANNUAL FORESTRY WORK PLAN

Fiscal Year 1988

THE SUMMARY OF NEEDS  
FOR  
THE KOA FOREST PROGRAM

Conservation and industrial forestry are important to everyone in Hawaii. Areas of concern are: Conservation, Legislative, and Legal, Land Use Planning, Koa Industry, and Incentives to Promote Koa Reforestation.

Conservation

1. Definition and designation of native areas to be protected for recovery of native forests.
2. Continuance of Kilauea Forest Reserve in conservation district--existing protective subzones.
3. Protect native/natural areas to maintain diversity and to curtail encroachment of non-native species (pigs).
4. Clearly separate conservation areas from industrial forestry areas.
5. Conduct biological surveys prior to designation of industrial forestry areas in order to determine the boundaries.
6. The aforementioned to be achieved through negotiation of parties.

Legislative and Legal

1. Long-term or guaranteed harvesting of industrial forests.
2. A legal definition of industrial forests (forestry) within land use laws.
3. Review tax laws for existing disincentives to reforest koa/native species.
4. Licensing of sawmill operations.
5. Ensure protective subzone (conservation) designation for Kilauea Forest Reserve.
6. Request Attorney General's office to review constitutionality of conservation zoning for private lands.
7. Establish a minimum insurance liability and workman's compensation for timber workers.
8. Promote legislation mandating koa reforestation of appropriate state-owned lands.
9. Designate Acacia Koa as Hawaii's state tree.

## Land Use Planning

The legitimacy of different land uses is recognized. These uses include:

1. Wood products industry.
2. Preservation of natural ecosystems.
3. Livestock industry.
4. Recreation.
5. Watershed.

We recommend that an updated statewide plan designate and locate the minimum areas needed to sustain the above land uses as it relates to koa within one year.

## Koa Industry

To achieve some of these goals, the following were suggested as methods of implementation for koa reforestation/harvesting project:

1. Determine availability of resources.
2. Investigate insurance obstacles.
3. Create an industry council.
4. Promote education, forestry practices, and harvesting techniques to: landowners, sawmill operators, and to the general public.
5. Clearly define industrial forest areas.

## Incentives to Promote Koa Reforestation

1. Tax:
  - Relief.
  - Credits.
  - Income tax exemption at time of reforestation.
2. Cost Sharing:
  - Governmental.  
FIP Act--Remove current maximum limits imposed on cost sharing acreage.
  - Community.  
Penny-a-tree program.
  - Compensation to landowner for lands left in native forests.
3. Assurance that industrial forests can be harvested.
4. Publicize current incentives offered by government.
5. Promote koa wood and reforestation through HVB.

BIG ISLAND RC&D AREA

AREA #6406

Annual Forestry Work Plan

FY-88

INTRODUCTION

The forested lands of the Big Island RC&D area provide many opportunities for beneficial uses. Most important of these is the source of, and natural reservoir for, a large portion of the area's water supply. Additionally, these lands provide for recreation, wildlife habitat, timber harvesting, open space, and some grazing.

Hawaii has an inventory of native hardwood species in suitable quantities to support a small industry. However, many hardwood and introduced products are being imported to Hawaii. Products manufactured from Philippine mahogany represent the largest volume of hardwood lumber and plywood products imported, but other species like walnut are also represented. The potential for timber growth and development for future markets represents an important opportunity for the Hawaii hardwood industry.

According to a 1970 Forest Resource Survey of sawtimber by the US Forest Service and Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, there were 572 million board feet (MMBF) for ohia, 187 MMBF of Koa, and 108 MMBF of eucalyptus. Since the survey, only a small volume to hardwood sawtimber has been harvested from Big Island forest lands. There is still a sizeable amount of sawtimber remaining.

The Forestry Committee and the Big Island Resource Conservation and Development Council set forth this annual work plan and request assistance of forestry programs to implement the plan.

BACKGROUND

The Big Island RC&D area authorized by the US Department of Agriculture in 1975 encompasses the Island County of Hawaii. An area plan completed in 1978 deals with resource conservation and resource management in the RC&D area.

The Forestry Resource Committee and technical advisors have provided input on forestry resources to the RC&D Council. The plan addresses the need relating directly to the development of a sustaining hardwood industry.

POLICY

Policies adopted by the sponsors represent their position in guiding and coordinating the use of natural resources on the Big Island.

1. Coordinate and cooperate with all planning and development groups to minimize duplication when planning and implementing major courses of action.
2. Recognize the importance of sound land use planning as a means of achieving orderly development and wise use of all natural resources.

3. Encourage all planning organizations to use basic resource data to assist them in making decisions on land use.
4. Actively seek advice and assistance from those agencies with responsibilities and expertise needed to assure that RC&D proposals will be properly addressed and environmental impacts considered.

RC&D program assistance will be based on the following criteria:

1. The measure qualifies for RC&D program assistance.
2. The measure sponsor(s) are ready, willing, and able to implement the measure.
3. The measure will aid in achieving one or more of the goals set forth in the RC&D Area Plan of Action.

#### RC&D GOALS RELATING TO FORESTRY PROPOSAL

1. Assist in the development of sound land use planning criteria that will result in the allocation of land uses that will preserve the social, cultural, and physical environment of the county.
2. Assist in the development and implementation of research programs designed to improve land management techniques and practices.
3. Protect and improve vegetative cover and soil condition to retard storm runoff and control soil erosion.
4. Manage and/or protect prime and unique agricultural and other lands of statewide importance.<sup>1/</sup>
5. Expand a viable agricultural and forest products program in selected areas of marketing and production.
6. Manage and/or protect unique (pristine) forest ecosystems.

#### RELATED FORESTRY RESOURCE OBJECTIVES IN PLAN OF ACTION

1. Promote the initiation of a koa forest management information program.
2. Conduct workshops on processing efficiency, forest safety, and the safe use of pesticides and herbicides.
3. Promote recognition in the maintenance of prime lands by meeting with all major island organizations.
4. Provide educational information relating to sound land use and treatment to the public.
5. Assist in implementing the proper land treatment of critically eroding areas.
6. Initiate a hapu'u management research program in the lower Waiakea Forest Reserve.

<sup>1/</sup> The Big Island RC&D Forestry Resource Committee prefers the term "productive and pristine" to be substituted for "prime and unique."

- 7. Promote a forestry marketing conference.
- 8. Initiate a campaign to promote use of locally grown forest products.
- 9. Develop and promote an areawide marketing program for selected crops.

FY-1988 ANNUAL FORESTRY WORK PLAN SUMMARY

The Big Island Forestry measures proposed are as follows:

1. Hardwood Lumber Grading Workshop FY-88

Conduct a Hardwood Grading Workshop in order to educate sawmill operators and improve market communication.

FORESTRY MEASURE	FISCAL YEAR FUNDING <sup>2/</sup> 1988	
	FS <sup>3/</sup>	FS&W <sup>4/</sup>
Hardwood Lumber Grading Workshop <sup>1/</sup> Information Packets/Kits/Transportation #244	<u>3,800</u>	<u>950</u>
TOTAL	3,800	950

<u>OUTPUT ITEM</u>	<u>COMPLETION</u>	
Hardwood Lumber Grading Workshop	Aug 88	Jan-----Aug

1/ See Attachment #1.

2/ Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) financing provided by the USDA Forest Service is based on a cost-sharing ratio of 80% federal/20% sponsor. The Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife will provide the matching funds; however, this is an estimate for technical assistance cost of accelerated programs.

3/ US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (FS).

4/ State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (FS&W).

BIG ISLAND RC&D FORESTRY MEASURE

HARDWOOD LUMBER GRADING WORKSHOP

Problem Definition

The koa industry is currently at a level of development where sawmill operators are still trying to adjust to demands of the local craftsmen. There is a gross lack of knowledge throughout the industry concerning hardwood lumber grading. Very few people on the Big Island or throughout the state understand the basic standards of grading. This fact was evident at the small sawmill workshop conducted under the auspices of the RC&D program.

Relationship to Area Plan of Action Goals

There is a need to improve the marketing of local forest products.

Benefit

Improve hardwood lumber market standards and communications.

Schedule

Measure to be completed by August 1988.

Budget

FY-88 appropriation of \$3,800 of RC&D funds from the US Forest Service is requested. Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife will need to appropriate about \$950 to the project.

Priority

High.

Constraints

None.

Lead Agency

Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Technical Advisors

US Forest Service (FS).

US Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

US Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS).

BIG ISLAND

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT AREA

ANNUAL FORESTRY WORK PLAN

HAWAII

FY-88

This proposed work plan, which represents the sponsoring organizations, was prepared by the RC&D Forestry Resource Committee of the Big Island Resource Conservation and Development Council.

By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Big Island RC&D Council

Prepared in compliance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Soil Conservations Service and the Forest Service, USDA, dated April 29, 1975.

This proposed plan of forestry operations has also been authorized by the following cooperating agencies:

Representing the State Division of Forestry and Wildlife:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Administrator Date

Representing the Soil Conservations Service:

\_\_\_\_\_  
State Conservationist, Hawaii Date

Representing the US Forest Service:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Regional Forester, Pacific SW Region, R-5 Date