

OISC General Meeting
6 August 2007

Introductions

OISC Update

New Staff Introductions- Temp coqui crew & Field Crew; Rachel Neville's new role as OISC coordinator

OISC Target Species Control and Eradication: 1 January 2007 – 30 June 2007

Estimated and Actual field time spent per species

Exceeded aerial ground on Miconia due to less actual required for other target species and covering ground in the buffer zones.

Exceeded estimated hours total and for Miconia (less hours required than estimated for species other than Miconia).

Refer to chart on handout for discussion of work accomplished on target species.

Less acreage for Miconia (due to training days and more work focused on steeper areas inside buffer that requires more time).

Waimea Miconia Survey now completed and no plants found.

Mature Miconia trees found in June (and also in July). All were within the buffer.

Aerial scouting for bush beardgrass on Pali; found Miconia in inaccessible area. Ball sprayer borrowed from MISC and used by OISC to herbicide tree. Reconnaissance flight required to determine status (dead or alive).

Rappelling training by Adam at MISC.

Genetic study of Miconia trees (insurance on buffer strategy to determine relatedness of individuals within buffer). CTAHR was given plant material to extract DNA and run test. However, test is costly and not feasible at this time; perhaps graduate student can take it on as a project.

Himalayan blackberry:

Maintenance mode using volunteer labor. Preliminary results of trials: handpulling appears to me most successful. Garlon and Roundup working to a certain extent, but roots remain alive. Escort has only been used twice so it is too soon to determine efficacy.

Bush beardgrass:

Pali population – OISC is trying to determine appropriate treatment.

Ahuimanu – maintenance mode

Halawa – Katy is working from reps from BEI (?) to determine if BEI will run a trial to establish baseline treatment of aerals. However, BEI retracted because they think any herbicide will be detrimental to native plant species.

Suzy: There's no way to eradicate Temple Valley plants without eradicating Pali population.

Lower numbers in Halawa relative to initial efforts, but now the numbers appear to be steady.

Jane: How often do you go back. Suzy: Every month, two field days.

Chris: Grass specific herbicides? Suzy: Used to use Roundup, now just handpull.

Joby: OUST herbicide; OISC can use some of Army's supply to do trials. Army didn't find it to be as effective as Roundup.

Christian: BEI might set up a trial in the flat areas where natives are scarce. OISC might need to set up trial rather than wait on BEI. ASSURE herbicide.

Fountain grass:

Selecting locations with easy access for volunteers and an abundance of plants for volunteers to remove.

Fountain grass found at airport at rental car site. North Shore location near construction lot (few individuals). One section has been bulldozed since they were sighted. These sights will be revisited. No plants found on Waianae side so far; restricted to established spots on windward side and Diamond Head.

Fountain grass is treated with herbicide; volunteers can choose whether or not they want to handle herbicide (Roundup). Goal in Lanikai is public outreach as well as to keep it off the trail, preventing further dispersal by foot traffic.

Invitation only Miconia trip on the first Saturday of each month for Charlotte and Thomas (and any others who want to join).

Dead-Bird Pickups:

Increase in advertising for 211 number, so potential increase in calls. However, current load is 1-2x/week.

Oahu Early Detection:

Kapua Kawelo found *Verbena bonariensis* in _____. Performed 100-meter scour around site in 32 hours and located other species (refer to list on handout). The plants were seeding and flowering (seed bank likely present). Species introduced to site via hydromulch. Josh: *Senecio* also introduced by same hydromulch; HDOA is working on it. HDOA is supposed to inspect a certain percentage of all hydromulch that is brought to the island.

Joby: What is the revisitation strategy to the Verbena site?

Rachel: Every 3 months since no herbicide was used. Depends on habit – grass (more frequent), tree (less frequent), etc.

Joby: Other hydromulch sites visited?

Rachel: Hydromulch sites should be visited, possibly OED can survey these sites.

Hydromulch from Australia is notorious for containing Senecio.

Jane: Will this site become part of regular site for OISC.

Suzy: It was an OISC site already, but visitation frequency will increase from 6 months to 3 months.

Josh: How does *V. bonariensis* rate on WRA.

Rachel: New, or wasn't checked because it was a good trial for early detection response (and Kapua brought it to OISC's attention). Likely has not been rated yet and OISC did not send it in, chose to eradicate instead to prevent spread since it was new to island.

Pampas grass:

Ornamental in yards; OISC offers to re-plant after removal (Hawaiian sugar cane). Some owners don't respond.

Smoke bush:

No new plants found.

False awa:

Spent more time than anticipated. Found often as an ornamental, which requires more time to get permission from owners to treat plants. HDOA recommends owners deal with it themselves and recommends OISC deal only with populations in natural communities.

Rachel: Most people that bought the plant were told it was Hawaiian 'awa. Outreach to suppliers might curtail supply; too difficult to put more time into false 'awa in people's yards because it would mean taking time away from other target species; impractical to put it on eradication list. This can be determined at the next strategy meeting with HDOA. Josh: Determine time required to eradicate it.

Friends of Samoa location: entire yard was re-done.

Suzy: Labor-intensive species to remove (spreads by runners), and herbicide treatment relatively effective, but resprouts always occur. Sprouts outside spray area emerged and had to be treated.

Rachel: False 'awa bought from backyard business plant-sellers, not nurseries).

Rachel: 4 July interview with Tina Shelton. Interview with 'awa grower. Rachel described difference between Hawaiian and false 'awa. Outreach at annual 'awa festival. *Piper auritum* used in cooking (tamale) so has some ethnobotanical value.

Hiptage in Waianae Range:

Peacock Flats camping area. 3 day camping trip. Surveys, 100-meter scour and 800-meter good habitat. Found a resprout where an individual had been treated. Likely recommend at strategy meeting to re-survey only in 100-m zone.

Tet pub:

Koko Head and Likelike – treating resprouts

Tibouchina granulosa – found in Manoa; owner refused to remove it. Also at art gallery.

Rodomirtus tomentosa ?? – owner allowed removal and replaced with *Hibiscus* sp.

Species to monitor:

Tib urv – *Tantalus*. Future volunteer work trip.

Fire Tree: One found in Hau'ula and _____?

Coqui Update: Brian Caleda

Vertebrate Operations, OISC.

2007 success in Wahiawa. Mahalo to partnerships with Army and coqui working group.

Three years working consistently in Wahiawa. Last calls heard in November 2006.

Population considered eradicated after one year of silence.

Strategy for Wahiawa this year:

As of 2006 12 acres need to be covered. 30 vocalizing males from last year, focused on western side of site (Section 4) and Section 2. Clear foliage on ground and trees less than 10" diameter, but delay in doing so. No calling heard in section 4 this year, so may not need to do habitat modification. Surveyed all of Wahiawa and prioritized areas based on activity from last year. This likely will be the last year to do large-scale systematic sprays in Wahiawa. Strategy this year is to focus on nurseries (as primary site of introduction). Nurseries that receive monthly shipments from Big Island. Night surveys now being conducted at these nurseries, several visited on a regular basis that had infestation in the past. These surveys will be required until HDOA comes up with effective way to deal with shipments from Big Island. Swath of Kahaluu area and nurseries and no calls heard. Oahu may serve as good example to deal with coqui eradication.

Josh: Who is the primary with coqui as far as dealing with calls that come in?

Brian: Coqui working group system – if call comes in, it filters through a phone tree and people/partners on different sides of the island respond depending on location. Partners-DOA, DOFAW, OISC, Army Environmental. OISC and DOA respond to a significant amount of calls.

Josh: Envisioned OISC to hit hot spots that emerge due to continual influx of coqui from outer island. As time frees up with Wahiawa spraying, perhaps refinement of rapid response can follow.

Rachel: Even if they get hot water treatment system going, there are always possible failures so OISC needs to be able to respond.

Brian: Derek HDOA good communication in getting lists to OISC on a timely basis.

OISC has a database where all these data are stored. HDOA lacks full-time permanent person focused on coqui.

Brian: Tokay gecko on target species list as of 2006. OISC provides detection work. Located in Manoa, 2 geckos on one property, but owner has not been cooperated.

Chris: HRS 194. Letter has been drafted that needs to be signed by two chairs of HISC that will allow access to private property. If owner refuses, then court order will be required. The letter can't be used to search property, need confirmation that Tokay gecko is there before OISC/HDOA can access property.

Brian: Site in Makiki surveyed and tokay gecko were not heard. Hoomaluhia will be surveyed next to determine presence or absence of tokay gecko (based on past report of its presence at that site).

OISC Outreach:

False awa TV interview on 4 July 2007.

Canvassed neighborhood for Tokay gecko; found neighbors to be supportive of detection and removal of tokay gecko.

TV spot on Manoa neighborhood board to give heads-up about neighborhood canvas.

Foster Garden plant sale in May.

Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii Conference – presentation about invasive ants.

Invasive ants conference

Helped HDOA with rapid-response of stinging nettle caterpillar at a nursery (detected on Oahu in June 2007). Pesticide treatment of pupae, cocoons manually-removed. Letters sent to individuals that purchased plants from nursery.

OED

Alex and Danielle

OISC & Bishop Museum

1st part Initial surveys

2nd part Made list of plants and road survey

New to Oahu

Not widespread

Harm ag or quality of life

Google Oahu early detection

Road Surveys – what on list that have been intro are popping up on roads

Test safety issues (GPS, slow speeds, etc.)

Botanical gardens and Codes of Conduct project

Waimea Audubon has signed codes but have not announced

Lyon has new director, who wants to sign

10-15 list of plants to get rid of (i.e. Piper aduncum)

New introduction of plants at gardens will be Weed Assessed
Botanical gardens and new position filled by Naomi, Chrissy discussing with nursery and they are open
Spent a week at Kew ID class held at Bishop Museum

Outreach with Lyon about MedMag? Need to discuss at strategy meeting, prob very widespread. May need to become a target, but not naturalized widespread. Assess impact.

New Money!!!!

NFWF for Miconia aerial surveys, US forest Service, HISC gave \$ to pay for OED
Oahu did not get money for Coqui, though all other islands did. Need to raise \$100,000.

Talk of a BWS baseyard, though RCUH did not deem it safe enough

Partner updates

FWS Joshu Fisher

Avian influenza: migrating birds coming back in, will start sampling soon, esp. morbidity surveillance. Just starting up. If you find a dead bird please take it in for sampling and promote that. If people don't want to handle dead birds they can call 211, operating will determine where it should be routed, it will come to OISC. There has been some advertising for that number, calls may go up. Awareness is low now. The main thing is to get people to report the bird, it's your call whether to take it in. WNV they'll take doves, all kinds of stuff. AI, just migratory species, shorebirds and waterfowl, though they really don't know. Would start for us in migratory birds.

USGS on Guam is putting on rapid response training for BTS in September, some reps from DOA will be going (guy next to Josh) Training is free, is just cost of getting to and staying in Guam. Josh did it.

Joby: Bring in forest birds? Josh, yes, if it's in good condition, not if it's stinky. There's no data on that really, you guys are the only ones who come across those. Brian: DOH says death needs to be within 48 hours for viable testing.

Joby talked about someone who is here who would be interesting in being involved if there's a scare.

Jane: Army: Continuing same monitoring of our list of species that we overlap on. Nothing much new. We will hopefully be working with Jean to make an automated report we can send to OISC to keep up to date better. We had one meeting so far. Will see if Roy can create a report.

Joby. T. urvilleana we found, destroyed 8 years ago, still find sprouts. So Manoa populations will probably persist after removal too. It was treated with herbicide too. It

doesn't seem to produce viable seeds but it will probably be persisting some time longer.
(How to kill?MI)

KMWP: Miranda Smith is the new coordinator. Just had a meeting, quarterly partners meeting. Our 2 guys have surveyed a bout 85% of mts, prioritizing areas for weeding, plus Manana fire site, a great chance to partner with OISC. Waiting for mone to come in, then we can figure out budget.

Stan Oka, Div. Urban Forestry. Mostly we manage urban areas, but talking with Jean and Christie they convinced me we need to be part of this. Would like to see how we can work together on all of this.

MCBH: (?who) We've been doing a lot of hand pulling of red beardgrass, described at Bellows. It's new for us, the wetland has been opened up, there's a lot of California grass, and a lot of this stuff coming up along with our sedges. (?MI could it be related to sedge planting?) Army helped a lot with mangrove.

SWCA: Still waiting for permission to proceed SNIP (State Noxious Invasive Plant Program, DOT). Then will do contact. Got acceptance of fee, about a month ago. Notice of award of project in Feb. Negotiation of fees in June. June 30 at lunch we learned \$250,000 less, so we had to renegotiate, anticipate starting very soon, we'll get together with you then. This is first year of a 3 yr pilot program for Oahu, then to other islands. During this 1st year, about ¼ of the effort to ctl and erad, also dev. A roadside manual for hwy div to use, also pr effort. Data gather, map, GIS. Others include Matt and Rick, John Leong at Pono Pacific, OISC, and Belt Collins and Parsons Brakeman(?) to make sure strategic planning esp. meshes with other hwy plans. In later years we expect more effort in control and erad. First we have to get these other documents out of the way. SWCA has done this for Utah, Tx, AZ highway depts. Good models to work with.

Christ got this money from the feds, it's his brainchild. (Rachel). I want to thank him, it will be a great way to get DOT more involved.

Chris B: Budget approved on the 19th. \$4M total, \$1.4 to invasive spp., \$1.3 to ISCS. \$700,000 for inv. Spp. Research. RFP out in about a month. Grad students can do.

Rachel: Did the 1066 bill pass? Chris: They are agoing to charge \$1 per container. Don't have mechanism set up. Will be special fund for inspectors. Nowhere near enough, NZ charges more like \$10US per container, and \$100/hr when there's a problem. They adjust their fee every year based on costs.

Shahin: Codes of conduct: Lyon set to sign. Everything is taken care of. Christy is going to do a press release and set it up.

DOFAW: Vicki Caraway. Filling in while Brent L. is out.

J. Hanley, refuges. Inv (Jason) speces manager for fed. Refuges. I'm just getting my feet on the ground right now, getting introduced to the ISCs. We get about \$450,000 for all the island refuges, we have small budgets. We want to rally Congress to this.

Rachel: There are probably ways we can work together, maybe volunteer stuff. You have a lot of good natural areas.

Jason: We're also working on the monument, don't know what the budget for that is yet. Ongoing projects all the way out to Midway. EDRR was huge back when Clinton was in. I came from Florida, worked on an invasive species strike team for 3 years.

Rachel: Any other announcements or questions? Let me know if you like the meeting format. The next meeting will be the Strategy Meeting. Last year I think we all sat in a room for a long time and pummeled you with PwrPt presentations. If that works, we can do it again. If you have any other ideas or strong feelings about anything, let me know. We'll announce it for sometime in November.

Pau.