Introduction to Statewide Assessment of Forest Conditions and Resource Strategy

A Presentation to the ORMP Working Group
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Today’s Objectives

1. Familiarize You With SWARS
2. Invite You to Collaborate
3. Identify ORMP Issues/Strategies That Overlap with SWARS
4. Seek Your Advice on Public Outreach Process
2 Minute Intro to SWARS

• New Requirement in 2008 Farm Bill
• Each State must Produce SWARS in order to qualify for a large suite of USDA Programs (Forest Service, NRCS)
• SWARS is 2 documents
  • Statewide Assessment of Forest Condition
  • Resource Strategy (for next 5-10 years)
• Assessment Must Identify Priority Issues
• Map (GIS) Priority Land Units (PLU’s)
Real Agenda

1. Identify Where Resources Should be Focused

2. Foster Collaboration Between Land Steward Agencies and Organizations
Scope is Comprehensive

- Focus on lands that are forested or could support forests.
- Consider all land ownerships (State, Federal, Private, Tribal)
- Includes Urban Forestry
- Integrate With New National Themes
Integrative

- Required to integrate existing plans
  - Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)
  - Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS)
  - “Other Relevant Plans” i.e. ORMP
Very Short Timeline (2 years)

- State Forester must submit to Secretary of Agriculture by June 18, 2010
- Federal Guidance has been vague, often conflicting
- Resources have been slow to arrive
- Economic Crisis, furlough, RIF, etc.
Where Are We At Now?
The Assessment Document

- Hawaii is behind schedule
- Table of Contents on PDF Provides General Outline
- Now We Have Very Efficient System
Strategy Timeline

- Begin Feb 1
- Complete DOFAW Internal Review March 1
- Complete Partner Review April 1
- Public Review Period April 1 – 30
- To BLNR in May with Assessment
Submission Process

- State Forester has final say
- State Forester Must Complete Official Checklist
- Submit Both Documents to Forest Service June 18, 2010
Product and Process

- The SWARS Documents will be what they will be.
- Products will be printed, on website, and on DVD.
- Recognition that this is the first one, next one will be better.
Process so Far

- Hawaii “gets it”. Link SWARS to ORMP and other plans.
- Higher level of coordination already happening between agencies.
- It is up to us to translate that to “on the ground results”
Conclusion

- I seek your advice on outreach process
- I seek your advice on review process
- I welcome any time, data or other resources that you can contribute
- We embrace new era of collaboration, ahupua`a approach
If Interested

- Please contact me, to schedule meeting/conference calls, etc.
- Timeline is Short so HONEST FEEDBACK IS ESSENTIAL. IF WE ARE MISSING SOMETHING PLEASE BE BLUNT!
- I Really need your help
  - Setting up public meetings on neighbor islands
  - Better communication with Hawaiian community
  - Better communication with military
On behalf of DOFAW, mahalo for your time and support.

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