

TMA News #1 – July 2011



THREE
MOUNTAIN
ALLIANCE



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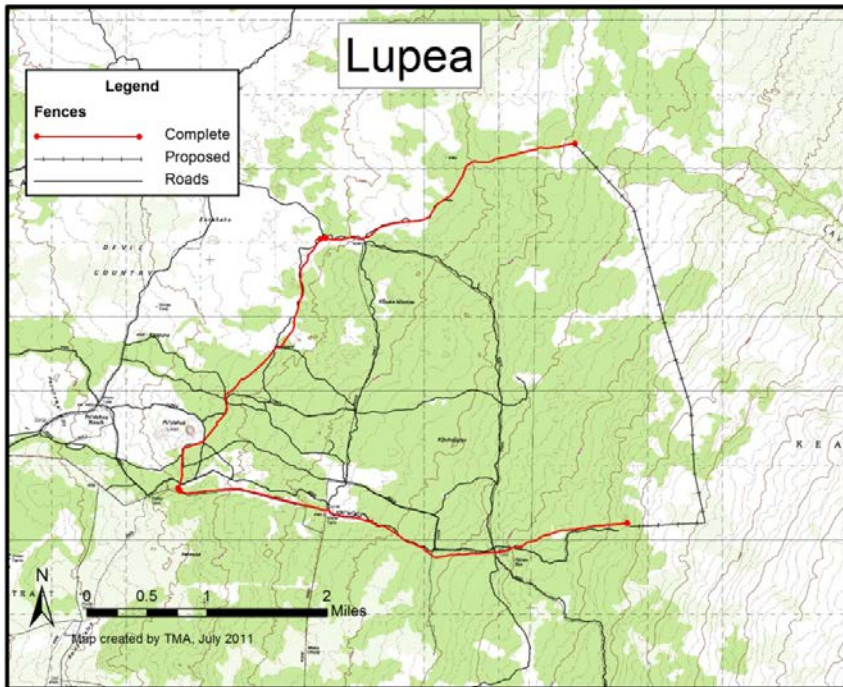
About this newsletter

This TMA newsletter covers the first half of 2011. In the future we hope to keep TMA partners and friends updated with quarterly news.

For our next issue we will use a new email service, so be on the lookout for our request to subscribe to TMA news.

If you would like to see your organization's highlights in here, please send info to karin_schlappa@contractor.nps.gov

Lupea Fence Work



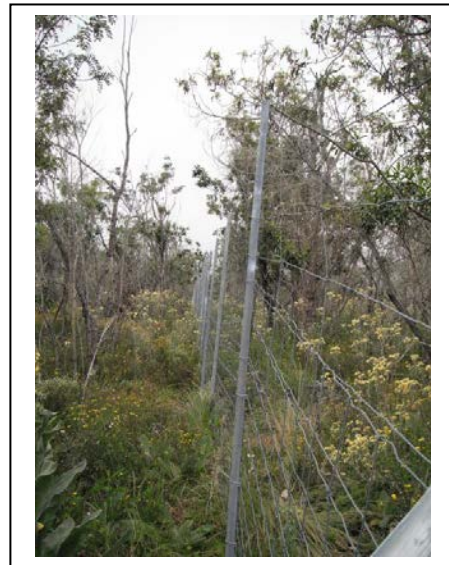
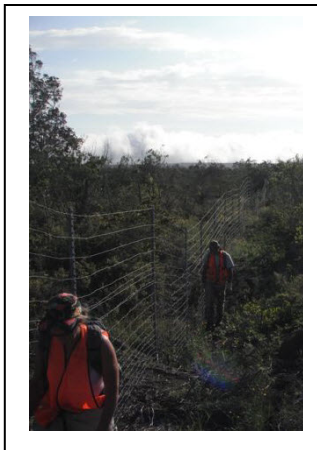
Fences for Segment 1 (2.5 Mi) and most of Segment 2 (4 Mi) were completed in April. TMA is currently working to secure funding for the remaining 4 miles of the proposed fence line.

This spring TMA staff also conducted repair work and weed control along the makai fence line.



Lupea Survey Trip

On our trip to Lupea at the end of May, we inspected the newly completed fence lines for the north and south sides of the unit; re-installed transects/stations for vegetation and bird surveys; and discussed monitoring protocols to measure response of the habitat to management. We were honored to have special guests with us: Sam Gon and Shalan Crysdale from TNC and Lisa Ferentinos from DOFAW's Watershed Partnerships Program. Namaka Whitehead (KS) also joined us for a day. The area has received so much rain over the last few months it was almost unrecognizable to many of us. The trees were flushed out with new growth, the ground covered with many native tree seedlings, and of course, many new weeds have also joined the show!



Collaboration with The Invasive Species Strike Team (ISST)

In late March Three Mountain Alliance joined forces with the US Fish and Wildlife Service Invasive Species Strike Team headed by Jason Handley for a week, conducting invasive plant control of outlier and incipient populations in the Oahu Forest NWR.



The focus of the trip was the treatment of a population of *Cryptomeria japonica* (Japanese tsugi pine, Japanese cedar) using frill and auger control methods. Tsugi pine was planted in the late 1940's in an attempt to reforest areas in Hawai'i that were deforested of koa and sandalwood. Currently, tsugi pine is considered a high risk invasive plant that outcompetes native plants.



Tsugi pines also provide habitat for other non-native plants that grow epiphytically on the trees. The strike team removed five *Schefflera actinophylla* (octopus tree, umbrella plant) from the branches of the tsugi pines and treated approximately 100 tsugi pines in the two-acre treatment area. Once the tsugi pines start to defoliate, native plants in the understory will thrive and return the area to native habitat.



TMA Participates in Merrie Monarch Parade

In April TMA with 'Imi Pono no ka 'Aina, and several member agencies participated in the Merrie Monarch Parade in Hilo, spreading the word about watershed conservation issues. This is the second year that TMA had a float in the parade; it included a band led by Glen Nihipali, NARS staff member.



Rob Robichaux Receives Recovery Champion Award



Rob Robichaux, President of the Hawaiian Silversword Foundation and long-term TMA collaborator was one of 29 recipients chosen nationwide for the FWS Recovery Champion award. This award recognizes FWS employees and their partners for their contributions to the recovery of threatened and endangered species in the United States. Dr. Robichaux was honored for his long-term efforts and success in protecting endangered Hawaiian plant species, in particular *Argyroxiphium kauensis*, the Mauna Loa Silversword. Read more about this in the [USFWS News Release](#). TMA is happy Rob received this long-deserved recognition - Mahalo Rob for all you have done for Hawaii's rare plants and native ecosystems!



Pu'u Wa'awa'a Update

Three Mountain Alliance hosted six different organizations for field trips at Pu'u Wa'awa'a Ahupua'a between May and June 2011, including Hawaii Department of Education, Kona Historical Society, E Mau Nā Ala Hele, The University of Hawaii at Hilo, The Smithsonian, and the Boy Scouts of America. Of these, four participated in service-oriented projects including planting threatened and endangered dry forest



Education and Outreach

Elliott Parsons (lower right), TMA Project Specialist for Pu'u Wa'awa'a Ahupua'a teaching elementary school students from Hilo how to plant native dry forest species. March 2011.

species, trash clean-up, restoration, and trail building. In addition, Three Mountain Alliance assisted the Division of Forestry and Wildlife with surveys for critically endangered plants including 'Aiea, Kauila, and Halapepe, as well as weed control in a fenced conservation unit. Other continuing projects include: monitoring of infestation of Naio by thrips, aerial surveys of large game mammals, seed collecting of rare and endangered plants, and assisting the State of Hawaii with organizing and coordinating management activities and research projects. Of note, roofs were replaced on two buildings serving as an educational and interpretive center, and a UH Hilo graduate student and Forest Service Ecologists were provided access to their research sites.

Volunteer Groups

This is a volunteer work crew from the non-profit E Mau Nā Ala Hele in March 2011. We spent the day clearing weeds and trash around the new hiking trail Kiosk at the entrance of Pu'u Wa'awa'a Forest Reserve.





Restoration and Fence Repair

This area (left), in the upper reservoir at Pu'u Wa'awa'a was cleared of weeds and underbrush by volunteers in preparation for outplanting. The area will also be used for education and demonstration purposes.

A Volunteer patched a hole in the fence of this conservation unit to keep out feral pigs (below).



Contact Information

Three Mountain Alliance
P.O. Box 52
Resources Management
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, HI 96718

or email us:
karin_schlappa@contractor.nps.gov