East Moloka‘i Watershed Partnership (EMoWP) Flyer

The East Moloka‘i Watershed Partnership was formed in November 1999, to protect the best remaining native forest watershed areas on the East Moloka‘i Mountains. A grass roots community effort which eventually led to Moloka‘i being designated an USDA “Enterprise Community (EC)” designation, played a key role in the formation of the partnership. The EC also called, “Ke Aupuni Lokahi (KAL)” helped kick off the partnership’s first project, the Kamalā/Kapualei Watershed Project. The Nature Conservancy’s Moloka‘i Program is the coordinator of the EMoWP.

Our Approach

The partnership uses the traditional Hawaiian land division, or ahupua‘a, approach to protecting the EMoWP watershed landscapes, with the upper native forests systems as the highest priority. Such an approach tries to protect watershed areas from the mountain top to the sea. Controlling threats such as hoofed animals and invasive weeds are key strategies to protecting the best remaining native forest areas and to increase vegetation to the highly denuded, eroding mid-elevation slopes and thus reducing the sedimentation rate that severely impacts the adjoining fringing reefs.

Key Strategies

- Fences to protect the upper forest systems.
- Reduction of feral animal populations.
- Monitoring systems that help guide and document management actions.
- Community outreach that engages, educates and gains the support of the local communities.
- Continual development of the partnership through fundraising, capacity building and landowner expansion.
- Involvement with fire (Moloka‘i Fire Task Force) and island invasive species efforts (Moloka‘i subcommittee of the Maui Invasive Species Committee).
Land-based Partners (57,350 acres)
- Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate, Kamalō Ahupua'a (3,566 acres); Keawanui Ahupua'a (192 acres)
- Kapualei Ranch, Kapualei Ahupua’a (1,680 acres)
- Kawela Plantation Homeowner’s Association, Kawela Ahupua’a (5,500 acres)
- State Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Pu’u Ali’i (1,330 acres) and Olokui (1,620 acres) Natural Area Reserves. and the Molokai Forest Reserve East ‘Ōhi’a (220 acres), ‘Ualapu’e (194 acres), Puko’o (124 acres), Honouliuli and Keopukalao (1,188 acres)
- National Parks Service, Kalaupapa National Historical Park (10,800 acres)
- The Nature Conservancy, Kamakou (2,774 acres) and Pelekunu Preserves (5,714 acres)
- The Thacker Corporation, Ka’amola Ahupua’a (33 acres)
- Pedro and Wond, West ‘Ōhi’a Ahupua’a (170 acres)
- Vernon Suzuki, Manawai Ahupua’a (200 acres)
- Dunnam Trusts, Kalua’aha Ahupua’a (700 acres)
- ‘Ilima Partnership, Mapulehu Ahupua’a (1,159 acres)
- Moloka’i Land Trust, Kawaikapu Ahupua’a (200 acres)
- Dunbar Ranch Partners, Kainalu Ahupua’a (400 acres)
- Pu’u o Hōkū Ranch, Honoulimalo’o to Moakea, Moanui, and Hālawa to Wailau (13,200 acres)

Agency Partners
- Ke Aupuni Lokahi, Enterprise Community Governance Board – community, funder
- Maui County (DWS & OED) -- funders
- Moloka’i/Lanai Soil and Water Conservation District - erosion experts
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Services – erosion experts, funder
- US Fish & Wildlife Service – funder, rare species/ecosystem experts
- US Geological Services, Hydrological, erosion and sedimentation experts
- EPA – non-point source pollution expert, funder
- Hawai‘i Department of Health, non-point source pollution expert, funder

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Key Plans: EMoWP 2030 South Slope Management Action Plan; Kamakou Preserve Long-Range Management Plan