

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Oahu and Makua Biological Assessments to cover Dillingham Military reservation, Schofield Barracks, Schofield Barracks East Range, South Range Acquisition Area, Kahuku Training Area, Kawaiiloa Training Area, and Makua Military Reservation, Island of Oahu

Type of Project: Technical Assistance

Project Discipline: Natural

Funding Agency: Department of Defense

Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University

Effective Dates: 9/30/2013 - 3/20/2015

Funding Amount: \$390,188

Investigators and Agency Representative:

Agency:

Investigator: Bob Brozka, Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO; (970) 491-7190; Robert.Brozka@ColoState.EDU

Project Abstract: The goal of the US Army's ecosystem management program is to conserve, protect and enhance the natural and cultural resources of Hawaii and comply with all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations while improving the Army's ability to conduct and maintain military readiness. In order to obtain this goal, it is necessary to reinitiate formal consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) when new training scenarios are developed, new species and habitat are listed as endangered, and when new scientific data changes the understanding of the impacts.

In conjunction with the Army's Natural Resource Program, the US Army and US Fish and Wildlife Service previously completed formal Section 7 consultations (i.e. Biological Opinions (BOs)) for all Oahu training areas except Makua in 2003, Makua in 2007 and a supplemental to the 2007 Makua BO in 2008. The Army has been implementing the minimization and conservation measures outlined in the Biological Opinions and the Makua and Oahu Implementation Plans since completion of the BOs.

Since completion of the BOs, the USFWS has listed 20 new plant species and 3 damselfly species, 16 of which occur on Army lands.

The Army now has ten years of fire science data for Oahu training areas that can be used to rerun previous fire modeling applications to develop fire risk assessments. These assessments can then be used to help determine the action areas for these new Biological Assessments (BAs).

Objective 1 Coordination and Data Gathering. The cooperator's Technical Representative shall coordinate with the US Army Garrison Hawaii Technical Representative as necessary to attend meetings; arrange site visit(s) and to obtain pertinent project information not publicly or readily available. The cooperator's Technical Representative shall coordinate with MSE Hawaii and the 25th ID to gather information regarding training scenarios in order to draft the project description section of the Biological Assessments.

Objective 2: Fire Risk Assessments: Run fire models through FARSITE using data gathered from MSE Hawaii, Develop Fire Risk Assessments, and Develop proposed action areas based on the fire risk assessments.

Objective 3: Species Descriptions and Updated Species Status: Preparing species descriptions for the newly listed endangered plant and animal species based on the data normally provided in a Biological Assessment (Status, conservation needs, ongoing conservation, impacts, etc.)

Objective 4: Impact Analysis. Work with USAG-HI Natural Resource staff to develop an in depth analysis of the impacts of military training on the species found on Army lands on Oahu.

Objective 5: Biological Assessment Drafting. Draft 2 separate Biological Assessments,

Outcomes with completion dates: 3/20/2015

Keywords: Biological Assessments, Technical Assistance, Dillingham Military reservation, Schofield Barracks, Schofield Barracks East Range, South Range Acquisition Area, Kahuku Training Area, Kawaiiloa Training Area, and Makua Military Reservation, Island of Oahu, Colorado State University, Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands