

NPs Participate in Statewide Effort Against Alien Pests

Haleakala NP, having recently successfully fended off an invasion of rabbits, has come to the realization that the park cannot afford to wait until aggressive alien invaders arrive within park boundaries before taking action. The park is actively involved in an embryonic outreach campaign against a number of incipient plant invaders on Maui, including *Miconiacalvescens*, *Cyatheacooperi*, *Cortaderia jubata*, *Pennisetum setaceum*, and *Verbascum thapsus*. We are particularly delighted, therefore, to have participated from an early stage in a project that may well prove to be a landmark among efforts to protect Hawaii's natural areas from the onslaught of alien invaders.

Along with Hawaii Volcanoes NP, Haleakala is an active participant in a statewide effort, coordinated by The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii and the Natural Resources Defense Council, to reduce the flow of alien pest species becoming established in Hawaii. Other participants include the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) Plant Quarantine Branch; HDOA Plant Pest Control Branch; HDOA Animal Industry Division, Inspection and Quarantine Branch; the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (HDLNR) Division of Forestry and Wildlife; HDLNR Division of Aquatic Resources; the Hawaii Department of Health, Environmental Services Division, Vector Control Branch; the U.S. Customs Service; the U.S. Army, Pacific Command; the U.S. Postal Service; the U.S. Forest Service; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Enforcement Division; the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and the Hawaii Sugar Planters Association.

The need for coordination and cooperation among such a diverse array of players is obvious, in view of what is at stake!

A well-attended workshop, held in Honolulu on Oct. 1, 1991, was successful in identifying the major areas where "the system" can be tightened. For national Parks, one of the highest priorities is for increased effectiveness of "the system" in rapidly eradicating newly reported alien species before they become established.

This can best be done through improved communication and coordination among agencies, through at least modestly increased funding for the lead agencies, and through tightening pertinent legislation and rules. Other very high priorities include fostering of public understanding and cooperation through education, and changing the law to allow for inspection of first class mail for illegal entry of prohibited alien pests.

We hope to establish a small working subgroup on Maui to deal with local alien pest eradication efforts at a grassroots level.

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