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Environmental News for Kalaupapa

Native plants reintroduced into the wild

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The Division of Natural Resource Management (NRM) grows and establishes grasses, broadleaved forbs, shrubs, and trees. Reasons include: The replacement of weeds; to create seed orchards of desired native plants; and to reintroduce rare plants back into the wildlands. Since the winter season is the best season for establishing plants in the outdoors, NRM had completed several planting projects over the last few months.

Picture: NRM staff weeding existing plants at Kukaiwaa

Readers may have noticed that disease, lightning and old-age have taken many of the coconuts palms throughout the settlement during the recent past.

Early French explorer Jules Remy noticed there were very few coconut palms at Kalaupapa in 1854 before patients with Hansen's disease were located to the peninsula. This means that coconut palms are likely a remnant from early settlement days. We've planted coconuts in the holes left by deceased palms in the vicinity of the pool hall. This was done to retain the pattern of the historic plantings. We intend to expand this project if the planted coconuts establish and grow successfully. *Continued on backside*



Native plants continued

Volunteers helped reestablish several rare plants at the top of the Kalaupapa trail. Past plantings of the white flowered hibiscus (*koki`o ke `oke `o*) and alula have already supplied many seeds for further plant propagation and out-planting.



Outplantings at top of trail are accessible to public and provide an opportunity for education about native plants

NRM also spent a very successful week at Kukaiwaa this past rainy season to weed past plantings and establish a patch of loulou palm. As many of you know, feral animals decimated stands of loulou on the island of Molokai so that the only remaining stand remains on one of the islets protected by the ocean east of Kalawao.

The historic Kalaupapa nursery also sees plenty of action! We grow many of our own plants in our shadehouse.

Another big project within the nursery grounds is to establish small gardens that include plants common to the varied habitats within the crater, coastal spray zone, and coastal forest.

The gardens will not only provide seeds and cuttings for propagation, but also provide visitors a glimpse of how these hard-to-visit special areas appear.

These activities commonly use volunteers to help with the upkeep of the nursery grounds, clean seed, repot plants and a host of other activities. Thank you all for your kokua!

Sick of fighting for vegetables in the store on Wednesday mornings?

Do you have an interest in growing your own vegetables at home?



Contact Val or Luana for containers to grow your own veg!



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