

# Managing Hazardous Vegetation on MOLOKA'I

**Reduce Wildfire Spread and Damage** ❖ **Increase Firefighter Safety**

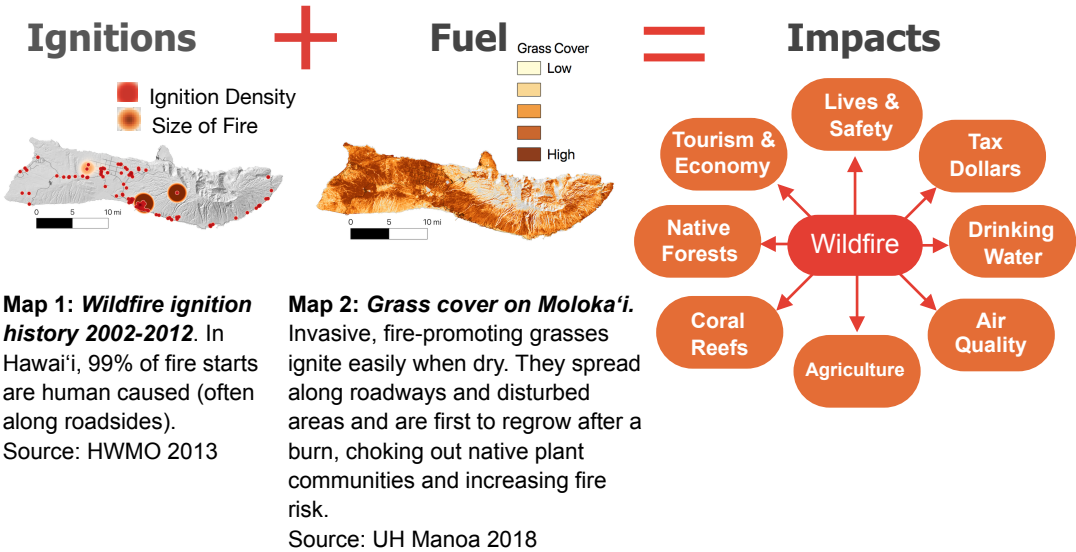
## Why manage vegetation?

Dry plant matter ignites easily and provides **fuel** for a fire to follow.

In Hawai'i, the **amount of flammable hazardous vegetation**, or **fuel load**, can develop quickly due to rapid growth of vegetation, multiple growing seasons, and regular dry and drought cycles.

Frequent, active **vegetation management** is critical to reduce fire hazard across the landscape and to **protect our communities and valuable ecosystems from destructive fire impacts mauka to makai**.

Wildfires need **oxygen**, **ignitions (heat)**, and **fuel** to start and spread. Moloka'i has all of these ingredients year-round and wildfire impacts are devastating and far-reaching.



## Land Managers are Currently Reducing Wildfire Risk Through Vegetation Management

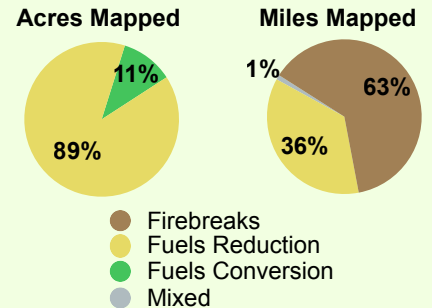
In 2018-19, Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) conducted a statewide rapid assessment to identify where vegetation is managed in a way that reduces wildfire hazard.

Vegetation management efforts were categorized as strategies that:

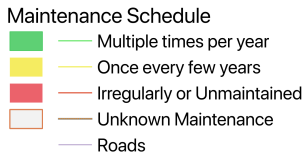
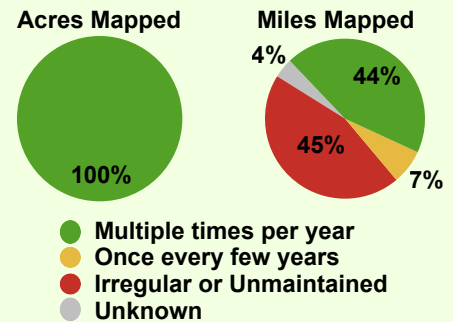
- ❖ Reduce fuel load (**fuels reduction**)
- ❖ Transition vegetation from higher to lower fire risk (**fuels conversion**)
- ❖ Provide safer first response access and breakup fuel continuity across landscapes (**firebreaks or access roads**)

Mapping contributors included agency representatives, community groups, and other large landowners stewarding land across Moloka'i.

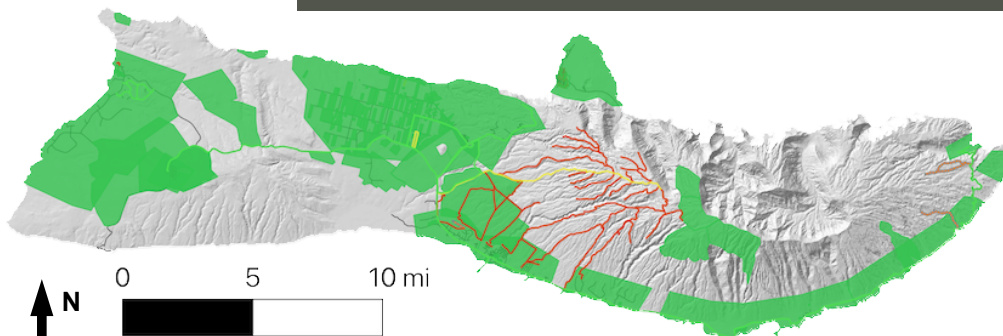
### Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Strategy



### Maintenance Schedule



Land stewards on Moloka'i are managing roughly **150 miles** and **65,000 acres** of vegetation (nearly **40%** of the island).



**Map 3: Maintenance frequency of areas with vegetation management activities reported by mapping participants.** Regular, ongoing maintenance of vegetation is critical to effectively reduce wildfire hazard.

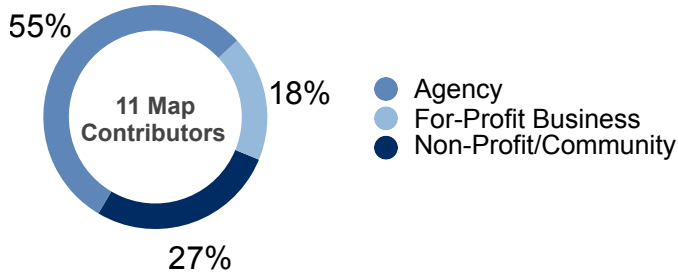
For more results visit:



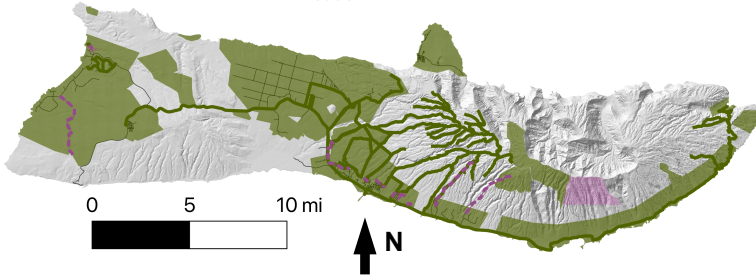
[hawaiiwildfire.org](http://hawaiiwildfire.org)

There is a great need for investment in and collaboration on vegetation management as expressed by the 11 map contributors and 17 action planning workshop participants on Molokā'i.

Mapping contributors identified roughly **2,000 acres** and **15 miles** of needed vegetation management.

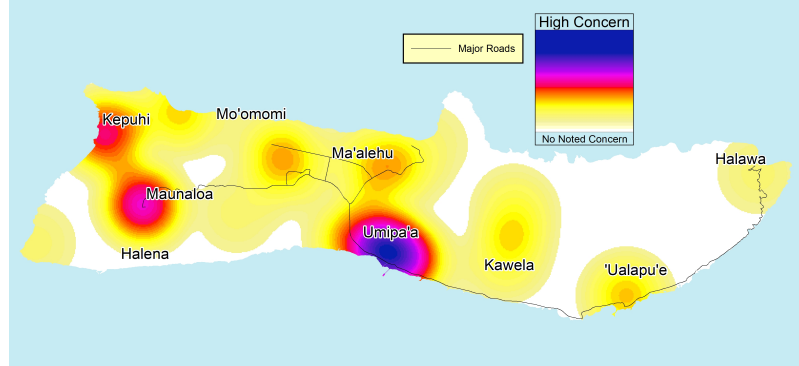


--- Proposed Vegetation Management  
--- Proposed Vegetation Management  
--- Current Vegetation Management  
--- Current Vegetation Management  
--- Roads



**Map 4: Rapid assessment results.** Land stewards identified current and proposed areas in need of ongoing vegetation management.

## Where to Start First?



**Map 5: Collaborative priority areas.** Participants at the action planning workshop identified areas of highest concern where fire hazard (hazardous vegetation, fire weather, and frequent ignitions) and values at risk of fire damage intersect.

## Recommended Actions

(input from 17 action planning workshop participants)



### Increase capacity for fire prevention and emergency response through:

- Coordinated **public/private partnership for resource sharing** in fire response
- **Community capacity building** with training and certification for rapid response to wildfires
- Expand **community awareness and empowerment** to take action through Firewise Community program



### Prioritize fuel management around communities and important resources, for example:

- Establish **stable funding for regular maintenance** of existing strategic fuelbreaks
- **Reduce fuels around critical infrastructure** including water, power, communications, airport, etc.
- Establish and **maintain firebreak buffers** around communities
- Prevent mauka fires to protect makai resources



Action Planning Workshop, Kaunakakai, April 2, 2019

The 2018-2019 statewide rapid assessment of vegetation management was conducted by HWMO to better understand existing vegetation management and prioritize needed vegetation management to **reduce future losses from wildfire**. This project was made possible by the numerous land steward and agency partners who participated in the project and funding support provided by the Hawai'i State Grant-in-Aid Program 2016 and the U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, under the terms of Grant No. 16-11052012-146 and No. 17-DG-11052012-143. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

More project details at: [hawaiiwildfire.org](http://hawaiiwildfire.org)

