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)

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There is a great need for investment in and collaboration on vegetation management as expressed by the 40 map contributors and 68 action planning workshop participants on Hawai‘i Island. Mapping contributors identified roughly 310,000 acres and 120 miles of needed vegetation management. 264,000 acres of these are in addition to areas already managed.

Recommended Actions

Encourage funding for vegetation management that reflects maintenance needs:
- Preventing fire would cost a fraction of fire suppression costs and damage from fire.

Collaborative, coordinated effort to reduce wildfire hazards and encourage fire safe behavior:
- Relevant parties at the table. Regional and agency collaboration including road maintenance, utilities, and tourism
- Prevention and awareness
- Align policy and legislation

Plan for fire (particularly in areas with recurring fires):
- Include fire-thinking (firebreaks, fuel reduction/ conversion buffers, and water) in planning and development
- Be ready to go with post-fire restoration!

Target roadside ignitions including fuel reduction/ conversion

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