

Local Work Group

Conducted for USDA Program Compliance

Summary Report – Rota, CNMI

5/22/2015

Location: USDA/NRCS Saipan Field office conference room

Time: 12:01 pm – 1:30 pm

Attendees

- See sign-in sheet taken for the meeting dated 5/22/15. Twelve participants were present for the LWG discussion.

Findings:

- Good discussion by the participants occurred throughout the LWG meeting including the listing of new resource concerns for 2015.
- Kendal Hicks, DC, NRCS Saipan FO, provided brief information/orientation about the 2014 Farm Bill with most of the discussion surrounding the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Kendal informed the LWG that EQIP funds could be used on public lands if a private individual or entity was the contract applicant and participant. Kendal also highlighted the potential for EQIP funds being targeted for wildlife habitat & forestry improvement on public &/or private agriculture, forestry, & wildlife lands.
- See attached scanned copies of notepad used to list feedback about natural resource concerns.
- All participants were then asked to list their top 5 recourse concerns from the items discussed and listed on the note pad. The results were tabulated and weighted to provide the following resource concern priorities based upon the participants' feedback.
- Cautionary note: about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the participants were wildlife biologist, thus the emphasis upon wildlife habitat is a reflection of their professional interests and job related functions.
- Listed in descending values from greatest concern to least concern with total scores:
 1. Wildlife Habitat loss @ 25 points
 2. Crop protection products/methods @ 22 points (including feral pigs/deer and birds)
 3. Soil Health @ 22 points
 4. Invasive plants @ 21 points
 5. Soil Erosion @ 13 points
 6. Ungulates control (mostly deer) @ 8 points
 7. Water quality/quantity @ 6 points
 8. Rodent control &/or vs. feral cat control @ 5 points
 9. Recovery of Threatened & Endangered Animals @ 5 points
 10. *Disaster Relief @ 5 points
 11. Food Safety @ 4 points
 12. Cover Crops/Crop Rotations @ 4 points

*This was the week following Typhoon Dolphin, thus full recovery efforts were underway on Rota.

Rota Local Working Group

5/22/2015

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Bethany's husband		670-532-6000	CNMI/DFW

12 in attendance from Noon to about 1:30pm.

Identified Priorities

Rota (aka Luta) LWG
Meeting held 5/22/15

T&E species,			(2) (Crop protection)
Habitat loss - native limestone forest.			IPM/Insect control
Deer ungulates.		T&E species	5, 1, 4, 2, 5, 5
Fencing fall - deer.		Soil Health (2)	
Plant invasives.		5, 3, 1, 4, 4, 1, 1, 3	CC/crop rotation
			(4)
	Human	Food Safety	Crop Diversity
Air - good	2	4,	2,
Water - good		Ungulates (8)	Sustainability/systems (2)
Animal Health priority		3, 3, 2	1, 1
		Invasive Plants (2)	Wildlife Habitat (2)
Talakaya erosion		2, 4, 2, 3, 3, 3, 4	5, 5, 5, 5, 4, 1
Dugi burning (erosion).		Rodent Control (5)	Soil Erosion (13)
		1, 2, 2,	3, 3, 4, 3.
		Poaching	
Rat control (human concern re: cat removal)			Disaster Relief
			5,
			Weather
			3,
			Water
			2, 4

Soil Health - don't track crop protection products, fertilizers
Cover Crops, Crop Rotation, Diversity of crops, sustainable crops
Food safety - post harvest for exporting pests/disease
↳ also rat control due to rat feces on vegetables

SHT for insect control & bird damage control

Notes taken by Kendal Hicks, D.C.