

# **Preliminary Announcement**

## **Brown Treesnake Technical Meetings**

17 - 20 April 2007

Guam Hilton  
Tumon Bay, Guam

This is a preliminary announcement for the annual Brown Treesnake Working Group Technical Meetings. These meetings are scheduled to occur between the 17th and 20th of April 2007 (a Tuesday through Friday). This meeting is open to the general public and interested parties.

The format of this meeting will be different from previous brown treesnake working group technical meetings and participation is anticipated to be greater than previous meetings. We currently have reserved space for up to 140 people at the Guam Hilton for the first day of the meeting. It is anticipated that attendance will be lower the following three days.

The first day of the meeting is intended to provide an opportunity for the broad range of individuals (dog handlers, technicians, biologists, administrative staff, students) working on this issue regionally to get a comprehensive overview & update on the issue. The subsequent three days will be divided into "presentations and working sessions" related to specific topics. A business meeting will occur on the second day of the meeting. Sessions will be limited to three hours in the morning and afternoon. Sessions will be designed with in a manner to allow time for discussion.

Specific sessions topics will be determine by the Brown Treesnake Working Group. Topics that have been suggested are:

- 1) requesting selected individuals to summarize specific operational / research / public education efforts completed since 2000 with the goal of discussing how these efforts have positively benefitted or been implemented in BTS control efforts;
- 2) new BTS research, operational, and public education efforts;
- 3) canine detection of BTS - a session which would involve the participation of primary canine program leaders from various programs;

4) avian & bat conservation in the Mariana Islands & Pacific in relation to brown treesnake management and quarantine efforts;

5) presentations on selected invasive snake, reptile & amphibian issues worldwide;

6) presentations on current management and research issues related to the Habu (a pest viper) in Okinawa;

7) presentations by individuals working on invasive species quarantine, control, research, and public education incorporated into selected sessions.

We are requesting that agencies that participate in the brown tree snake working group plan schedules of brown treesnake related work in a manner that will allow maximum participation of staff in the meeting (e.g. schedule BTS Rapid Response Refresher Training / BTS Rapid Response Training associated the meeting). If regional organizations working on invasive species issues anticipate having meetings in the Western Pacific during the Spring of 2007, there may be benefit in having these meetings occur before or after the BTS meetings on Guam. If individuals who typically participate in spring brown treesnake meetings in Honolulu anticipate problems getting to a meeting on Guam, please contact the meeting organizer. This meeting advertisement is been distributed early enough to allow for individuals interested in attending the meeting from Palau, FSM, and RMI can request funds for meeting participation through internal mechanisms associated with the use of DOI - OIA funding.

Individuals and entities working on brown treesnake control, interdiction, research, and policy are encouraged to prepare and present presentations at the meeting.

Individuals and entities working on related topics (e.g. invasive species, introduced reptiles and amphibians, public education, economics of invasive species, island conservation) may be invited by the meeting organizers to present information at the meeting or participate in panel discussions. A solicitation for abstracts for "new" presentations will be sent out sometime in November and December 2006.

The Brown Treesnake Working Group (BTS WG) has two meetings annually.

A general two to three day technical meeting (40 - 60 participants) is "typically" held each spring in Honolulu, Hawaii. The public and all individuals involved with brown treesnake control, interdiction, research, policy, and related issues are invited to attend and participate in this meeting. The format of this meeting is 15 to 30 minute presentations that are organized thematically.

A two to three day working meeting (20 participants or less) for agency representatives of the BTS WG is scheduled to occur in October or November in the Mariana Islands or Fort Collins, Colorado. This meeting is intended to be a forum where representatives from BTS WG member agencies can discuss current issues early in the Federal fiscal year. Each BTS WG member agency is requested to have the courtesy to limit attendance to one official representative and potentially a second individual if

needed. This meeting is open to the public but the meeting format will be oriented to covering a limited number of topics in detail by BTS WG representatives.

**Please contact Earl Campbell ([Earl\\_Campbell@fws.gov](mailto:Earl_Campbell@fws.gov)) for more information.**

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