Coqui News

Kauai Invasive Species Committee

Work Notification

April 23-27

Work continues at Lawai infestation site

Upcoming control work is scheduled to continue the week of April 23, 2007.

They will be arriving in the afternoon around 2:30 pm and working until 9:30 pm.

Due to high winds last week, crews were unable to spray in section 1 or the spillway southeast of the reservoir.

This week, crews will continue prioritizing eradication of outlying frogs along (or outside) the perimeter of the worksite. Priority areas of concern are the spillway and sections 17, 18, and 19.

On Wednesday, April 25, crews will be applying citric acid during the day as a ground-drench to the spillway. At night they will be working in either the spillway, section 17 or 18.

On Thursday, April 27, crews will be controlling vegetation in sections 2 and 3 with herbicide. They will then be spraying citric acid in either the spillway, section 17, 18 or 19.

The weather has not been ideal for control work at the site recently. Either high winds or rain has hampered efforts and altered plans.

Because of these changing conditions, the crew employs adaptive management to best utilize time spent at the infestation site. Therefore, when planning a week's worth of work at the site, the need to be somewhat flexible is imperative.

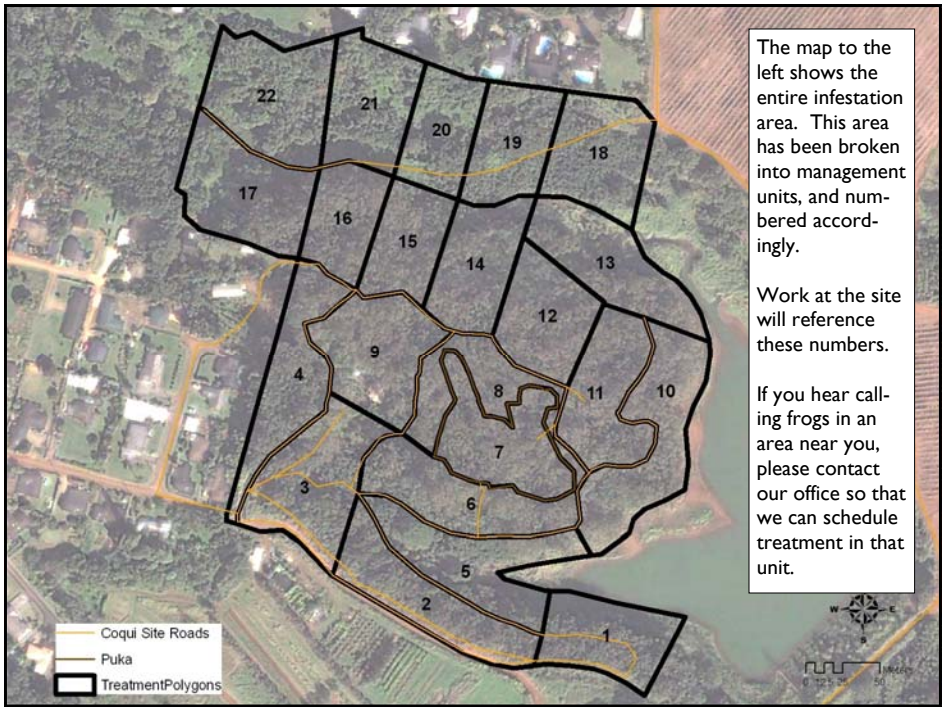
Our utmost concerns are to not only stop the spread of these frogs, but to also not inconvenience neighbors with excessive noise or "drift" from spraying.

Frogs can even climb glass!

We thank everyone for their cooperation with this project.

Please call if you would like to report calling frogs or have any concerns or questions.

Management Area Map



The map to the left shows the entire infestation area. This area has been broken into management units, and numbered accordingly.

Work at the site will reference these numbers.

If you hear calling frogs in an area near you, please contact our office so that we can schedule treatment in that unit.

POSTED:

Friday, April 20, 2007

In this issue:

Contact Phone Numbers:

- **KISC**: 246-0684 (from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm)
- **Crew Supervisor**: 651-8781
- **Hawaii Department of Agriculture**: 274-3069
- **Pest Hotline**: 643-PEST

Tidbit

Research along the lines of interrupting the coqui frog life-cycle is being considered. A spray can be developed to make the coqui frog sterile by interfering with its reproductive processes. It would be specific only to the coqui frog and would break down in sunlight after about a week.

Recording coqui calls

Scientifically monitoring Coqui population densities has been problematic across the state.

All current methods of calculating population densities entail a human element; listening and estimating how many calling males are heard, and on the Big Island, a process of capturing calling males, marking the frogs, releasing them again and then estimating densities based on re-capture of marked (or unmarked) frogs.

At the infestation site in Lawai we are currently placing small recorders throughout the site. These units are housed in protective casings to protect them from the elements and attached to trees at various points. Timers are set for the unit to automatically record a predetermined segment during the night when the frogs are most active.

Many different sounds are being picked up by these sensitive recorders; dogs barking, insects droning, rain falling, roosters crowing as well as Coqui calling. What is interesting to see, however, is that when the recordings are analyzed by frequency, the Coqui calls are the only sound occurring in the 2,000-3,000 mega-hertz range, thus making it easy to identify.

By analyzing these recordings, using software, we are hoping to be able to scientifically represent a downward trend in the population density at this site.

Type of recorder being used to monitor frogs at the site

"Eventually, the hope is that we get a lot of different techniques for controlling the frogs. In some situations, it might be better to spray one product rather than another," [Larry] Nakahara said [manager of the Department of Agriculture's Plant Pest Control Branch].

Custom housing for recorders

Heat being used to kill coqui frog

WAIMANALO, Hawaii (AP) A local nursery is using heat to kill the pesky coqui frog in potted plants.

In a recent test done at Leilani Nursery, nine out of ten frogs died after being exposed to temperatures of more than 113 degrees for five minutes.

Bill Durston is the owner of Leilani Nursery.

He says the goal is to kill 100 percent of the frogs in potted plants being prepared for export.

The plants are treated to a hot shower in an insulated chamber the size of a shipping container for about 20 minutes.

The idea came from University of Hawaii researcher Arnold Hara, who discovered the coqui's sensitivity to heat.

U-H researchers also helped Durston get a 22-hundred dollar grant to build the chamber.

The tiny coqui frogs are loathed in Hawaii for their shrieking. Big colonies have established themselves on the Big Island and Maui.

The frogs are believed to have hitched a ride to Hawaii in plants shipped from Puerto Rico or Florida in the 1990s. Here there are no natural predators to keep their numbers under control.

By Associated Press

Informational Links

Please visit the following sites for more info:

- Work Notification Policy:
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coqu%C3%AD
- http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/coqui/life.asp
- http://www.hear.org/AlienSpeciesInHawaii/species/frogs/
- http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/coqui/spray.asp