Work update at Lawai infestation site

Upcoming control work is scheduled to continue the week of April 21, 2008. Crews will be working during daylight hours and up until around 9:30 pm.

Field crew work is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, April 21 and April 25.

This past week the crew applied herbicide in sections 18 and 15.

Citric acid was applied in sections 14 and 21.

On Monday night three mature frogs and a juvenile were heard in section 14. On Tuesday, a frog was heard just outside of section 18. These areas were sprayed with citric acid on Monday and Tuesday night.

At the end of Tuesday night only one frog was heard in section 4.

This week herbicide is scheduled to be applied in section 12-21.

Lime will be applied in sections 10, 11 and 12. Citric acid control will be focused on wherever calling frogs are heard.

Control work continues at the Lawai infestation site to ensure complete eradication of coqui frogs. Reporting of frogs at this site is very helpful for the crews to help direct their work.

Thank you to all those who continue to support this work on coqui eradication.

Report coqui frogs!

643-PEST

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.

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

There are 14 frogs species around the world that don’t have tongues.
Memphis Zoo Successfully Breeds Endangered Frog

If frogs can have high hopes, then those of the endangered Mississippi gopher frog are resting with the Memphis Zoo, the first zoo to successfully breed the vanishing amphibians.

Using in-vitro fertilization techniques learned while breeding Wyoming toads in 2004, the zoo has produced 93 Mississippi gopher tadpoles, a number nearly matching the 100 frogs still living in the wild.

"Now the Memphis Zoo is recognized as a leader in amphibian conservation. We are taking the lead in this kind of research," said Dr. Andy Kouba, the zoo’s director of research and conservation. He noted that the Association of Zoos and Aquariums has named 2008 the year of the frog.

Endangered all over the world, frogs are necessary for a balanced ecology, said Rachel Hansen, a research biologist in the zoo's conservation department.

Frogs have lungs, but take in air through their skin. When toxins are present in the water supply, frogs are the first to know, Hansen said. "They’re like a canary in the mine," she said.

The Mississippi gopher frog was added to the endangered list in 2001. It has gray skin that looks a lot like tree bark. At about three inches, it’s larger than most frogs, but smaller than a bullfrog.

Their natural habitat is the long-leaf pine forest of the Southeastern United States, but the only wild population is in Harrison County, Miss., about five hours from Memphis.

Those frogs are able to breed, but a tadpole disease with a nearly 100 percent mortality rate keeps their numbers low, Kouba said.

Between the disease and a shrinking natural habitat, the frogs face extinction.

To make matters worse, they won’t breed on their own in captivity. Zoos have not been able to recreate the environment necessary to get them in the mood.

To Read More go to:

Drive to Save Weird and Endangered Amphibians

The Zoological Society of London’s Edge project has identified 100 species of amphibians that have the fewest living relatives, making them evolutionary rarities and precious examples of Earth’s biodiversity. The project will focus on the 10 most endangered, including the Chinese giant salamander, which can grow to the size of a human, the Malagasy rainbow frog that inflates itself when threatened, and the Kenyan Sagalla caecilian, a limbless amphibian with a tentacled head.

The project’s leader, Helen Meredith, said that by highlighting unique species they hoped to reverse their slide towards extinction.

“These species are neglected by current conservation and they will continue to be if we don’t highlight them. They represent the cornerstones of the tree of life, the most unusual species on Earth. If we can protect these, we will preserve a much greater proportion of the tree of life than we would by preserving more common species,” she said.

Climate change, habitat loss and outbreaks of disease have taken their toll on amphibians around the world. Half of all amphibian species are in decline, while a third are threatened with extinction.

“There is a dearth of conservation activity, especially for species that aren’t so charismatic. Biodiversity is something that’s been generated for millions of years and it sustains future biodiversity. If we end up in a world where we’ve only managed to conserve a few charismatic mammals, the future of evolution looks pretty bleak,” Meredith added.

The critically endangered Chinese giant salamander has suffered a devastating decline of 80% since the 1960s. It is used in traditional medicines and its habitat has been damaged by dam projects and river pollution. Also on the list is Chile Darwin’s frog, whose eggs are held in the male’s vocal sac until they hatch into tadpoles; and Europe’s Olm, a cave-dwelling blind salamander with transparent skin that hunts by scent and electrosensitivity.

One fifth of the species on the scientists’ list are missing in action, with no recent sightings recorded. The Chile Darwin’s frog has not officially been seen since the 1980s and may already be extinct.

To Read More go to:
http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/jan/21/conservation?gusrc=rss&feed=11

Informational Links

Please visit the following sites for more info:

- Work Notification Policy:
  http://www.hear.org/kisc/pdfs/200704coquiworknotificationpolicy.pdf

Work Notification Policy:
http://www.hear.org/kisc/pdfs/200704coquiworknotificationpolicy.pdf
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