

Subject: Island Ecology vs Agriculture vs Human Health

From: Royden Saah <royden.saah@islandconservation.org>

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To: "Fred Gould (fred_gould@ncsu.edu)" <fred_gould@ncsu.edu>

Hi Fred,

I have read over the website and understand the ag & health perspective you are speaking of. Example in the first statement,

“Seeking innovations to protect communities and prevent extinctions”. The conservation comes second over community protection.

Highlighted are the sections that state or imply this tool can/should be used for human health or ag:

Like you, we want to save lives, support livelihoods, and preserve our world for generations to come. Every year billions of dollars are lost to damaged infrastructure, crop losses and the associated hunger, and disease and illnesses caused by invasive rodents. And every year, damaging, introduced (invasive) rodents threaten native island wildlife and ecological integrity. Scientific research suggests that today such losses may be preventable.

Our world’s island communities, plants, and wildlife are in crisis due to damaging invasive species, the leading cause of extinctions on islands. Invasive species are also the second greatest cause of plant and animal species loss globally, and have devastating impacts on peoples’ food security, well-being, and livelihoods. Invasive rodents have invaded nearly 90 percent of our world’s islands and transmit dangerous diseases to humans (e.g. Hantavirus and the plague). And globally, the cost of invasive species’ impact and control efforts is an estimated five percent of the world’s annual economy.

There is hope. Five hundred successful invasive rodent removal projects on islands demonstrate that eradication is one of the most impactful conservation interventions available to prevent island extinctions and benefit island communities, economies, and ecosystems.

Yet, these interventions are insufficient to match the magnitude of this global crisis. Today, rodenticides are the only effective tools for removing or controlling invasive rodents on large islands, and there are social, ethical, ecological, and financial constraints that limit this conservation method.

There is also a bit about our humanitarian mission that is not quite accurate.

I would like to meet with you by phone to plan out how we (I) communicate this ‘framing’ issue to the rest of the steering committee. Let me know when you are available over the next several days.

Many Thanks,
Royden

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