

Oral Comments
Guam
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Concern is the Brown Tree Snake. Watched a program on PBS called Nature. The documentary discussed how the Vietnamese farmers ate all the snakes around their farms, which caused the rat and mice population to explode. The rats and mice then ate all the crops. The government of Vietnam then had to reintroduce the snakes back into the area to control the rats and mice. Do a Google search to confirm the PBS story.

If DOD plans to eradicate the snakes on Guam, then they need to also make sure that they have a plan to target the mice and rats just as aggressively as their snake eradication program. After all, USDA uses mice to attract the Brown Tree Snakes to their traps which proves how valid the snake is at killing mice.

I have personally seen what rats and mice can do to electrical wiring on numerous occasions. They chewed up the insulation on the wiring which can cause shorts, and I never had that problem with the snakes.

I live next to a chicken farm which attracts the brown tree snakes that surely hasn't eradicated the chickens to any large degree. I have even had a couple of snakes inside my house. I can live with the snakes (even inside the house) but I cannot live with rats and mice which makes my skin crawl.

Another consideration is that half of Europe was wiped out by diseases carried by mice and rats during the Middle Ages. I don't think that the Brown Tree Snake carries any disease.