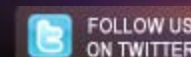


Wednesday, August 28, 2013



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Guam > Guam News > VIDEO: Idyllic Coconut Treeline at Ypao Beach Gone Because of Rhino Beetle

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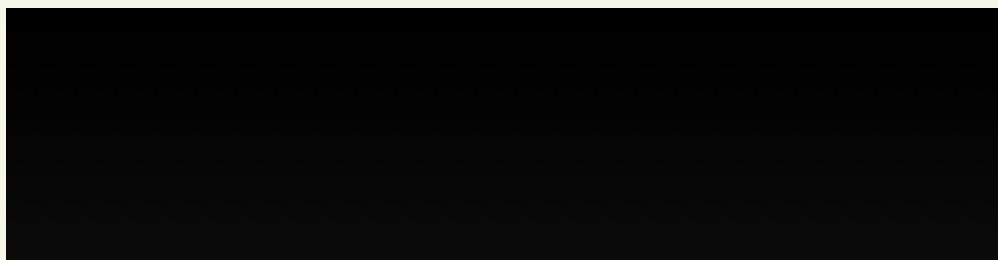
Last Updated on Tuesday, 27 August 2013 17:24
Written by Clynt Ridgell
Tuesday, 27 August 2013 16:19

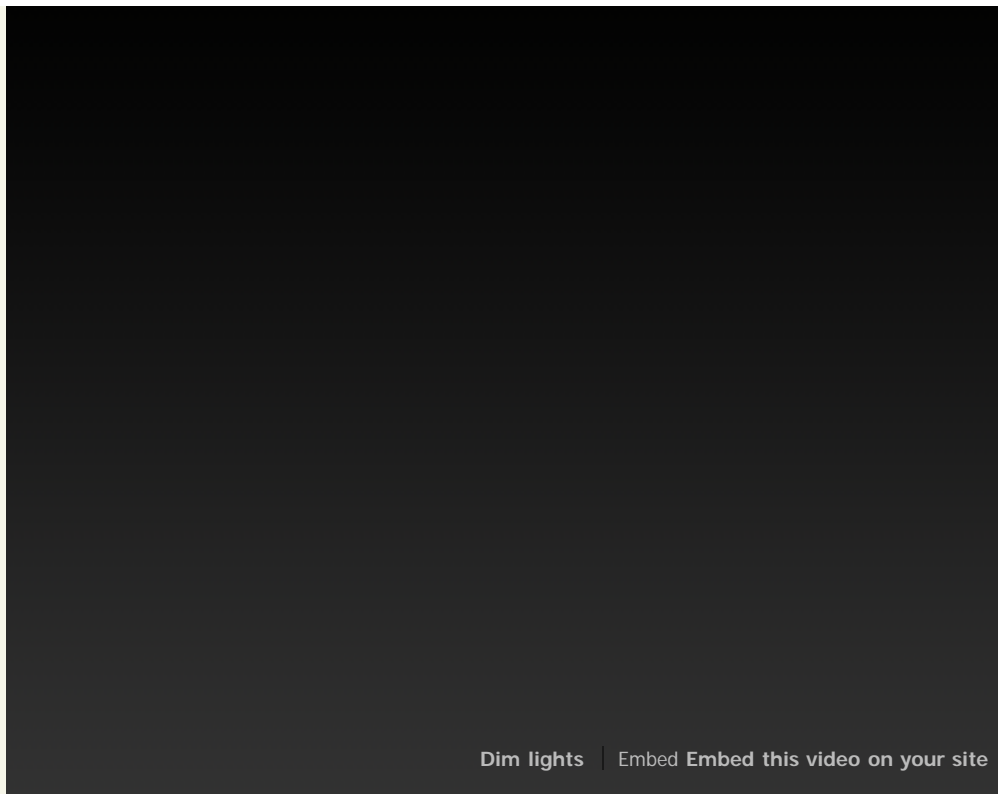


Guam News - Guam News

Guam - The first major effects of the Rhino beetle can now be seen down at Ypao beach as almost all of their coconut trees had to be cut down last week. The picturesque view of the coconut treeline down at Ypao beach is now gone.

It was a view straight out of some tropical paradise postcard. A line of coconut trees bordering the sand at Ypao beach. "The coconut trees here in Ypao beach we had to cut them down because of the rhino beetle situation and it became quite dangerous because some of them were about to fall down because of the condition of the trees," said Department of Public Works Director Ray Blas. Blas says he didn't want to cut down the coconut trees but he could no longer hold out. The trees have been infested with coconut rhino beetles for years.





In fact PNC has done numerous stories on the rhino beetle infestation at Ypao and Tumon is considered ground zero for the invasive beetle. The rhino beetle is not native it hitchhiked aboard some construction material that ended up at Tumon. Tumon was then established as a quarantine zone with hopes of keeping the rhino beetle contained there but the beetle has since been found in every village on Guam. Now the effects of the rhino beetle at the first village it was found in can really be seen.

Blas says over 20 coconut trees were cut down at the recommendation of the Department of Agriculture. "We do have a plan to replant something that is going to survive down here and I am going to work that out with the Department of Agriculture," said Blas.

In the meantime what was once an idyllic palm tree setting is now bare and lacking shade and there are still more trees that are infected. Blas says they need to be cut down soon as well. "And as you see there are still some left over there but i can't do that yet until the department of agriculture you know will come and help us to complete our project down here removing all trees that's contaminated with the Rhino beetle," said Blas.

The DPR director says they've already received some complaints about the removal of coconut trees at Ypao beach, but he reminds the public that the removal of these infected trees was also done in the interest of safety.

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