

Hawaiian Hoary Bat

Thermal IR and Acoustic Monitoring Project for Trimming and Removal of Trees along Kunia Road at Wheeler Army Airfield and 9098 McMahan Road, Schofield Barracks on 21 July 2017

Survey Goals

Establish whether or not Hawaiian Hoary bats (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*) are roosting with pups in two Monkey Pod trees (*Albizia saman*) on the grounds of the Dog Park at Wheeler Army Airfield (Figure 1) and four dead Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* spp.) just on outside of security fence near building 9098 McMahan Road on Schofield Barracks (Figure 2). The Monkey Pod trees are located along Kunia Road and are impeding traffic of larger trucks. The Eucalyptus trees are alongside the powerlines and could impact them when they fall. If bats present, discuss with regulatory agency possible mitigation measures to continue project or postpone removal of trees until pupping season is completed.

Survey

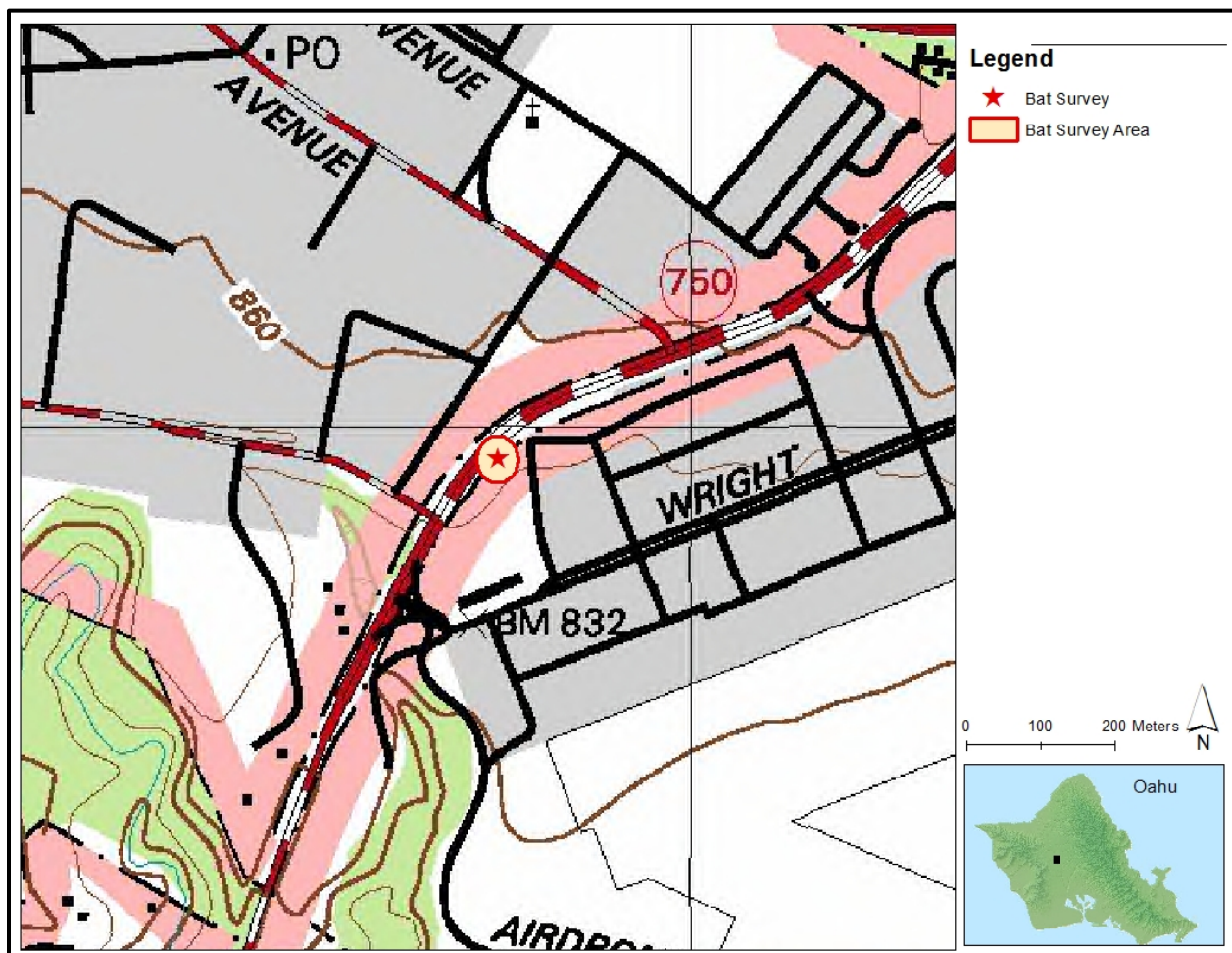


Figure 1. Map of project site at Wheeler Army Airfield.

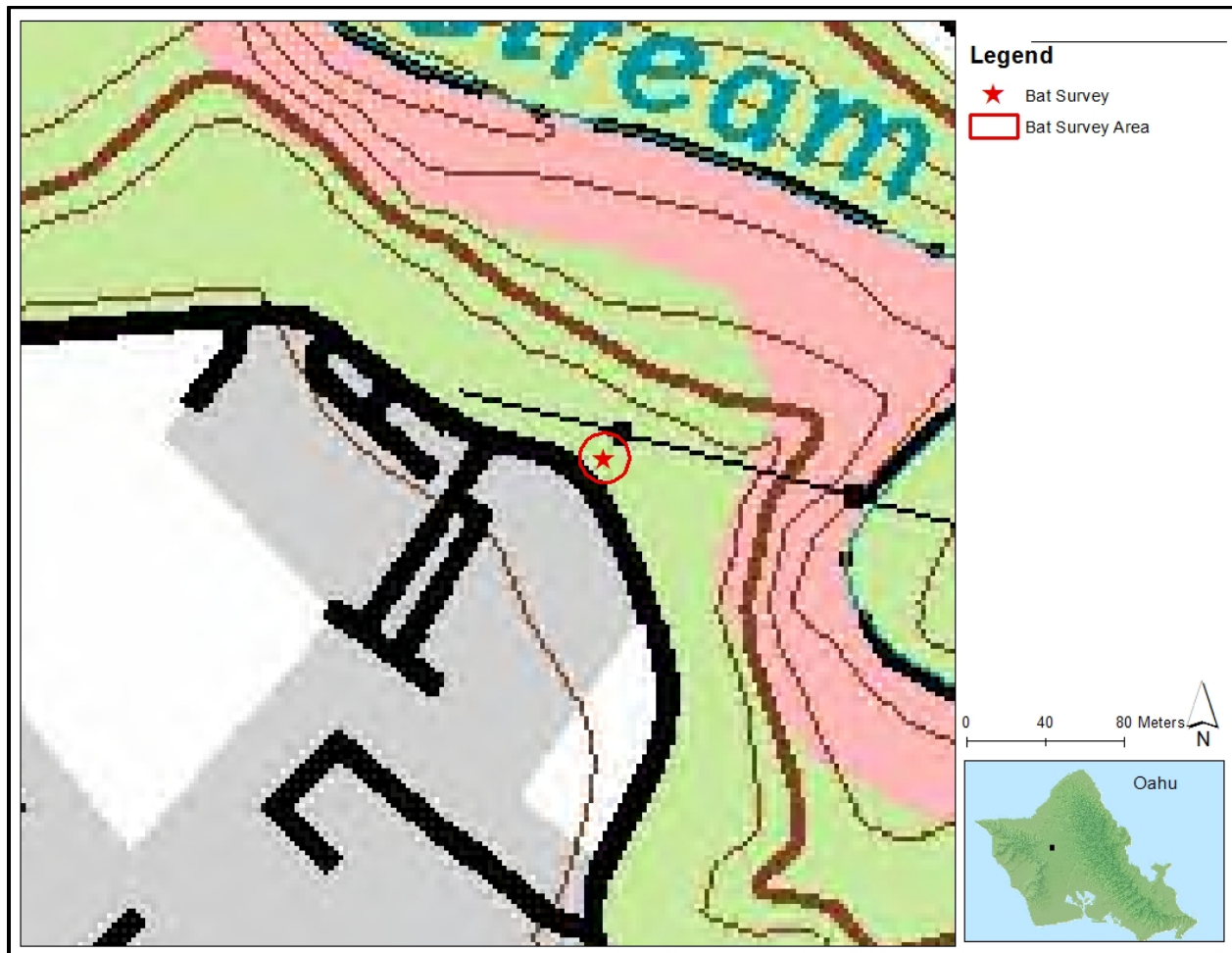


Figure 2. Map of project site at 9098 McMahan Road

Methods

Visual and acoustic surveys for bats were conducted on 21 July 2017, the day of the scheduled tree trimming (Figures 3 and 4). A Fluke Ti400 thermal imager was employed to scan the trees for any roosting bats to confirm no presence. OANRP also employed the hand held Wildlife Acoustics Echo Meter Touch attached to an iPad as a way to scan the area for any possible bats returning to a roost within close proximity. This tool has the ability to listen to bats in real time, GPS tracks and tags all recordings with location information and has full color spectrograms. Scanning commenced from 04:40-07:30 from the ground from different angles and locations.

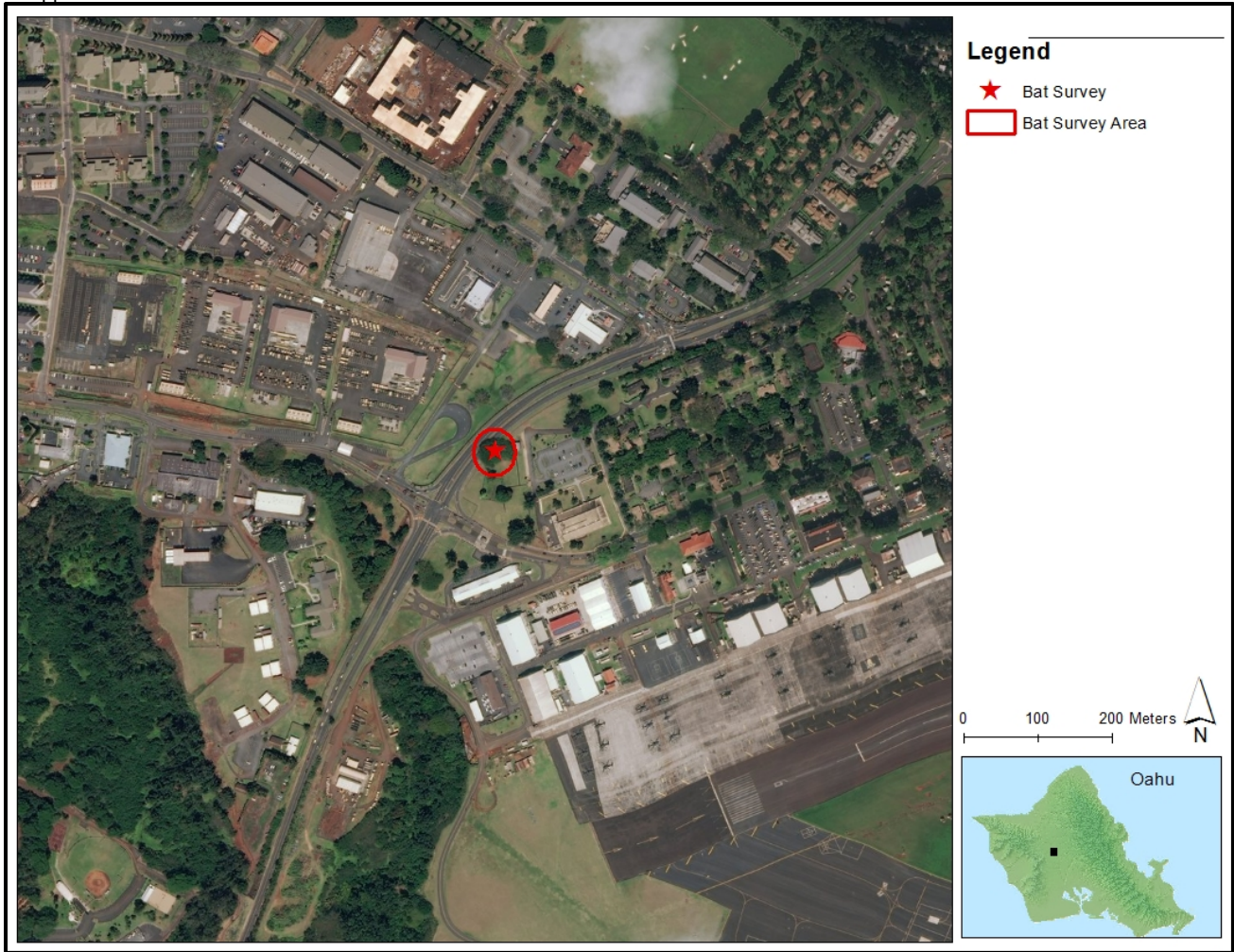


Figure 3. Image of project site at Wheeler Army Airfield

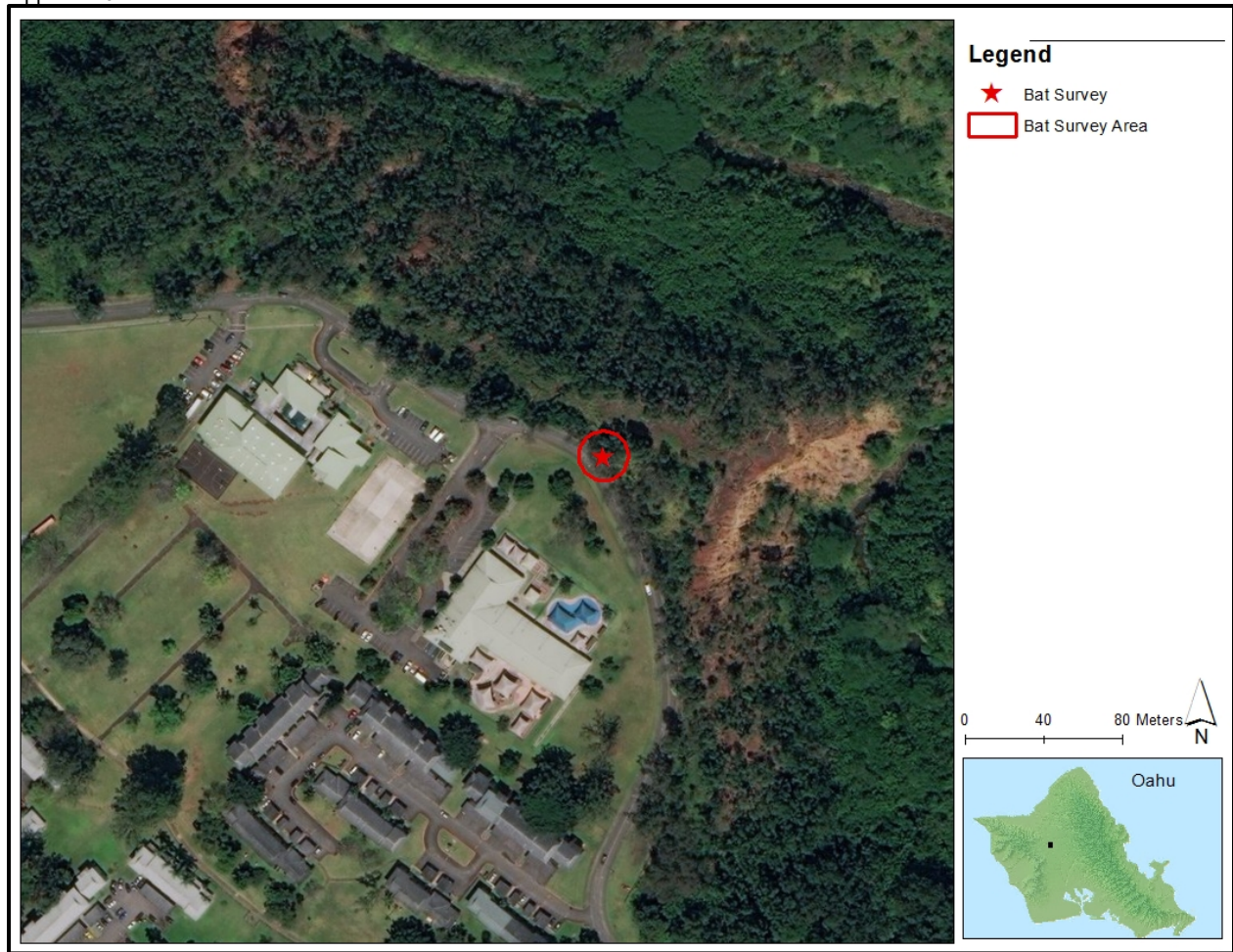


Figure 4. Image of project site at 9098 McMahon Road

Results and Discussion

The visual, thermal IR, and acoustic surveys detected no bats at all. Multiple species of birds were observed with the thermal IR, with visual confirmation, in and around the area. It was determined that there would be No Effect to bats if the trees were removed and the corridor cleared.

Recommendations

Work with DPW to better monitor the contractors work so that trees that need trimming are not missed prior to the pupping season.