



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
9500 Thornton Avenue  
Newark, California 94560

April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011

## Re: Scoping Notice for the South Farallon Islands Non-native Mouse Eradication Project

Dear Interested Parties,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex is preparing a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the South Farallon Islands Non-native Mouse Eradication Project, located off the coast of San Francisco, California. This project proposes to help protect and restore the ecosystem of the South Farallon Islands, particularly seabirds and other native biological resources, by eradicating non-native house mice (*Mus musculus*) and preventing their future reintroduction. The EIS will be prepared as an environmental document to comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). A Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register on April 13, 2011, available at: [www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-04-13/html/2011-8813.htm](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-04-13/html/2011-8813.htm).

Through this scoping notice we request your written suggestions on the scope of the issues and concerns that should be addressed in the draft EIS, including the range of suitable alternatives, appropriate mitigation measures, and the nature and extent of potential environmental impacts. The 120-acre project site is located about 27 miles west of the Golden Gate and the City of San Francisco, California. The purpose of the proposed action is to meet the Service's management goal of protecting and restoring the ecosystem of the Farallon Islands, and is expected to have benefits for a number of animals and plants that are currently being negatively affected by mouse presence. In particular, mouse eradication would benefit the ash storm-petrel (*Oceanodroma homochroa*), a rare seabird with its largest population at the South Farallones, as well as other native species such as the endemic Farallon arboreal salamander (*Aneides lugubris farallonensis*) and Farallon camel cricket (*Farallonophilus cavernicolus*).

In 2006, the Service completed a 45-day public scoping period to help determine the range of environmental issues to be addressed in the impacts analysis for this proposed restoration project. The Service then began the process of preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA). In early 2011, the Service decided that the environmental issues identified during the preparation of this EA would be better addressed by an EIS.

The Service is examining action alternatives that will provide a high likelihood of success based on similar projects elsewhere while minimizing incidental impacts to other resources. The alternatives being considered at this time include:

- *Alternative A: No action;*
- *Alternative B: Aerial broadcast of the rodenticide "Brodifacoum-25 Conservation" as the primary technique; and*
- *Alternative C: Phased aerial broadcast of "Brodifacoum-25 Conservation" as the*



*primary technique. In this alternative, different islands would be treated at different times ranging from days to weeks apart.*

These alternatives are subject to change as the impact analysis process develops. We encourage the public and other agencies to participate in the NEPA process by sending written suggestions and information on the scope of issues and range of alternatives that we should consider in the EIS. To ensure that we have adequate time to evaluate and incorporate suggestions and other input, we must receive scoping comments on or before May 27, 2011.

To provide the Service with your comments, please send a written response to :

South Farallon Islands NEPA Scoping Comments  
c/o Gerry McChesney, Farallon NWR Manager  
9500 Thornton Ave.  
Newark, CA 94560

Alternatively, you may fax written comments to (510) 745-9285, or send them by electronic mail to [sfbaynwrc@fws.gov](mailto:sfbaynwrc@fws.gov). Please include the heading "South Farallon Islands NEPA Scoping Comments" in your response.

In addition to providing written comments, the public is encouraged to attend a public scoping meeting to provide us with suggestions and information on the scope of issues and alternatives to consider when drafting the EIS. The scoping meeting will be held on May 12 from 6-8 PM at Building 201, Fort Mason, in San Francisco, California. We will accept both oral and written comments at the scoping meeting. See the attached directions to the meeting location.

For project updates and other information, visit: <http://www.restorethefarallones.org>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerry McChesney", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Gerry McChesney  
Manager, Farallon National Wildlife Refuge

## **DIRECTIONS TO THE SOUTH FARALLON ISLANDS NON-NATIVE MOUSE ERADICATION PROJECT PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING:**

Fort Mason is located in the Marina District in San Francisco. Signs will be posted along the entrance route, and parking is available:

**BY CAR:** From the intersection of Bay and Franklin Sts., proceed north on Franklin into Ft. Mason along the tree-lined drive. At the stop sign you will face a chapel under construction. Building 201 is to the left; a 3-story white building with a green roof. Use the side door entrance to the left of the main entrance.

**BY BUS:** MUNI bus lines 47, 49 and 30 stop at the corner of Bay St. and Van Ness. Enter Ft. Mason on the corner and walk northwest towards Bldg. 201. MUNI bus line 28 ends at the corner of Laguna and Beach Sts. in front of Safeway. Walk across Laguna St. into Ft. Mason and follow the trail through the Great Meadow. The 3-story white building with the green roof is Bldg. 201. Use the side door entrance to the left of the main entrance.