

From: [Bierce, Pamela](#)
To: [McChesney, Gerry](#)
Cc: [Meredith, Lauren K](#)
Subject: Press Democrat Farallon Islands NWR
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 1:05:35 PM

Hi Gerry,

This request has been approved using the talking points. Please let me know if you decide to do an interview or respond via email and when the story is expected to publish. Thanks, Pam

Media Response/ Media Interview Request

Reporter: Mary Callahan

Outlet: Press Democrat

Subject: Farallon Islands NWR proposed mouse eradication project

Deadline: 12/9/2021

Spokesperson: Gerry McChesney, refuge manager, Farallon Islands NWR

Additional information/Driver for request: The reporter plans to write an article about the coast commission meeting next week where the Farallon Islands NWR proposed mouse eradication project will be discussed.

Proposed response:

Talking Points

The ecosystem on the Farallones is severely out of balance, putting the survival of threatened species at risk.

- The introduction of invasive, non-native house mice to the South Farallon Islands has caused significant disturbance to the islands' sensitive ecosystem. The house mice have direct and indirect harmful impacts on the islands' breeding seabirds, especially ashly storm-petrels, but also on Leach's storm-petrels, as well as on native salamanders, crickets and other invertebrates, and native plants.
- Removing invasive house mice will allow the ecosystem of the globally important [Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge](#) to recover from past human impacts, restoring the island to a more natural state that will also build resilience to the impacts of climate change.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with its partners need to act before the island reaches its tipping point, which could result in the demise of the island's important native species.

A one-time application of rodenticide is the only proven solution effective for island settings that can safely achieve 100% eradication.

- The only way to allow the ecosystem to recover is to ensure 100% eradication of the house mice. The survival of even a single pair of mice jeopardizes the whole project, as the mouse population can recover incredibly quickly.
- A controlled, short-term, limited use of the rodenticide brodifacoum by skilled experts, using best management practices from successful eradications world-wide, will pose minimal risk to native wildlife, the marine environment, and other non-target

resources.

- Invasive rodent removals have been successfully completed on nearly 700 islands worldwide, including on California's Anacapa Island in the Channel Islands National Park, three National Wildlife Refuges in the Pacific, two islands off the coast of Mexico, many islands off the main islands of New Zealand, and recently, multiple islands in the Galápagos Archipelago. Land managers have successfully eradicated house mice from more than 60 islands worldwide. Nearly all of these successful projects utilized techniques like that proposed for the South Farallon Islands house mouse eradication.
- The Service will follow lessons learned from successful eradications and have outlined all of the precautionary measures it will take to minimize any potential negative impacts of the eradication in the final EIS.
- The eradication project has broad support from leading conservation, science, and wildlife rehabilitation groups at the local, state, and national levels. Among the many supporters are American Bird Conservancy, Island Conservation, International Bird Rescue, National Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, and Point Blue Conservation Science.

The research and planning of this project represent one of the most comprehensive, transparent, and scientifically rigorous processes of any ecological restoration project.

- The Service's selection of a short-term, limited use of the rodenticide Brodifacoum-25D, was carefully considered over 15 years, subject to rigorous review by outside experts and agencies, and included extensive public review and input.
- We produced one of the most thorough and scientifically rigorous EIS documents on record. The final product represents over 15 years of careful study that included many peer-reviewed scientific papers. Before publishing the final EIS document, we reviewed all of the public comments and addressed all substantive comments.
- Extensive research and field tests have been conducted on the islands, accompanied by lab testing and modeling by the Service and its partners, to best ensure minimal risk to native wildlife.

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"Outside is the best side"