

From: [Bierce, Pamela](#)
To: [McChesney, Gerry](#)
Subject: Re: APPROVED: San Francisco Chronicle request
Date: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 9:25:46 AM

Hi Gerry,

I didn't see Lauren's email that had prompted your response. I hate when I don't see the "stacked" emails in a chain. I will reach out to Tara now. Would you prefer her to contact you via email or phone to arrange an interview time? Or if you have a time that you prefer, I can let her know and confirm the time with you and what phone number to use.

Thanks,
Pam

Pam Bierce (she/her)
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service-California, Nevada and Klamath Basin
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(916) 414-6542 office or (916) 207- 8385 cell

"Outside is the best side"

From: McChesney, Gerry <gerry_mcchesney@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 8:58 AM
To: Meredith, Lauren K <lauren_meredith@fws.gov>; Bierce, Pamela <pamela_bierce@fws.gov>
Cc: Brown, Matthew D <matthew_brown@fws.gov>; Barr, Chris J <chris_barr@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: APPROVED: San Francisco Chronicle request

It would be good for one of you to at least introduce me to Tara. I can then coordinate interview.

Not sure I'll have time for a practice run beforehand. I feel pretty comfortable handling the interview but I appreciate the offer.

Gerry McChesney
Manager, Farallon Islands NWR & Common Murre Restoration Project
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Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SanFranciscoBayNWRComplex>

From: Meredith, Lauren K <lauren_meredith@fws.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 8:53 AM

To: Bierce, Pamela <pamela_bierce@fws.gov>; McChesney, Gerry <gerry_mcchesney@fws.gov>

Cc: Brown, Matthew D <matthew_brown@fws.gov>; Barr, Chris J <chris_barr@fws.gov>

Subject: RE: APPROVED: San Francisco Chronicle request

Pam – Thanks so much for working on this and the Pt Reyes inquiry. Two questions:

1. Is there a possibility of getting prior-approval on Farallon Mouse Project inquiries now that they've reviewed the talking points? I understand we'd possibly still have to run "national" level media (like NYT, etc.) up the chain or at least give an FYI.
2. Tara has not been in contact with Gerry, only you and I. Would it make more sense for you to schedule the interview or connect Gerry and Tara via email to get the interview scheduled? I'm not sure how we usually handle, so advanced thanks for your assistance and guidance.

Gerry – Please let us know if you would like to do any media briefing/practice prior to the call with Tara or any other media, or if you have any questions/concerns.

Thanks!

Lauren Meredith | she/her/hers
Congressional Liaison | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Sacramento, CA
Cell: 916-467-5793

From: Bierce, Pamela <pamela_bierce@fws.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 7:55 AM

To: McChesney, Gerry <gerry_mcchesney@fws.gov>

Cc: Meredith, Lauren K <lauren_meredith@fws.gov>; Brown, Matthew D <matthew_brown@fws.gov>; Barr, Chris J <chris_barr@fws.gov>

Subject: APPROVED: San Francisco Chronicle request

Good morning Gerry,

This media request has been approved. Please let me know when the interview is scheduled and when the story is expected to publish. Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks,
Pam

Media Response/ Media Interview Request

Reporter: Tara Duggan

Outlet: San Francisco Chronicle

Subject: Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge restoration/mouse eradication plan

Deadline: December 2, 2021

Spokesperson: Gerry McChesney, Refuge Manager, Farallon Island National Wildlife Refuge

Additional information/Driver for request: The reporter requested an interview with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in advance of the California Coastal Commission vote on the Farallon restoration/mouse eradication plan. The reporter plans to cover the vote and write about the issue in advance.

The Service and its partner, Point Blue Conservation Science, are proposing to restore the native ecosystem of the South Farallon Islands by removing non-native, invasive house mice and eliminating their negative impacts on the wildlife and wild habitats of the islands. Point Blue Conservation Science forwarded the interview request to the Service.

The reporter recently took a boat trip with the Oceanic Society to the Farallon Islands and is fascinated by them and their natural and human history. She is interested in doing more in-depth reporting on the mouse issue and would like to arrange an actual visit with a photographer at some point.

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 ash 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.

Pam Bierce (she/her)

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