

Farallon Gull Hazing Trial Planning Meeting

July 11, 2012; USFWS Refuge HQ Fremont, CA

Call-in information: Call-in #: 888-443-9573 Passcode: 7646223#

DRAFT AGENDA

10:00 - 12:00 Core partners only (FWS, IC, PRBO)

1. **Funding/Budgeting:** Review status of existing funds and available grants for the trial
2. **Goals:** Determine the objectives of the December Trial, based on available staff and funding
3. **Designing and Writing the Hazing Plan:** Determine internal development and external review process
4. **Logistics/Timing:** Define field window, discuss any conflicts with other USFWS/PRBO/other research

12:00 - 12:30: Lunch

12:30 - 3:00 Core partners and other cooperators (IWS, USGS, USDA & others?)

5. **Field Trial Roles:** Define responsibilities (Lead vs support) of USFWS, PRBO, IC and any additional agencies (USDA, etc)
6. **Staffing Needs:** Identify list of individuals to participate in planning and execution of trial
7. **Equipment:** Develop list and source
8. **Other Trial Studies:** Incorporate other elements into the Fall trial?
9. **Review Action Items and planning schedule**

July 11, 2012 Gull Hazing Trial Planning Meeting Notes for the Farallones Mouse Eradication

Attendees : Gerry McChesney, Jonathan Shore, Russell Bradley, Pete Warzybok, Gabrielle Feldman (note-taker), Dan Grout (Facilitator)

At 12:30, the following joined the meeting: Winston Vickers (IWS-Wildlife Health Center, UC-Davis), Carolyn Marn of FWS-ES and Cheryl Strong (USFWS-Refuges, works closely with SFBBO).

(Michael Hutt of USGS-UAS, and Brian Popper of USDA-APHIS were invited but could not attend)

Assigned Action Items are highlighted in color below for each agency: Advise if edits are needed.
(Unresolved issues are shown in red font)

1. **Funding/Budgeting:** Reviewed status of existing funds and available grants for trial
 - OWCN ask is ~\$41,000 – IC to submit July 24; no decision until Oct 1st ...very late
DG to put PRBO staff time into OWCN budget for Pete and Russ and 1-2 interns
 - IC has secured NFWF funding for ~\$49,000 for portions (1/2?) of the trial
 - Since funding is limited, can we involve USDA (California airport hazers) without having to pay a large amount for their help? (Derek Milsaps and/or others?)- GM
 - Can FWS use the Refuge USDA budget for the Farallones to help fund USDA staff assigned to Refuges for involvement in the hazing trial?
 - Winston Vickers can spend ~1 week on the island
 - FWS: GM for one week, and JS for 2-3 weeks.
2. **Goals:** Determine objectives of December Trial, based on available staff and funding:
 - Established Goals for trial: largely as stated in IHA and NFWF/OWCN proposals, **but should determine particulars soon... (100% flush off SEFI/WEI? but allow refugia on Saddle Island? What about other islets? Plan B = ?)**
 - Ensure goals will satisfy all granted obligations, but not be constrained by them
3. **Designing and Writing the Hazing Plan:** Determined internal development and external review process
 - IC- to lead the design of the plan, with significant PRBO& FWS support
 - GM - get special use permit from Sanctuary (Karen Reyna) for UAV over-flights
 - GM - to make sure he's given USGS the FWS permits they need for FAA COA UAS
 - GM- to check on status of IHA and Section 7, as they still need to go through public comment and approval processes
 - RB – to determine if PRBO staff and interns from fall crew can stay for trial
 - Can any PRBO staff carry over to complete the trial? How many do you need?
 - GM – determine FWS staffing abilities for trial
 - RB: Need to train staff for marine mammal monitoring
 - RB/PW – see if Pete's brother John can volunteer
 - GM – will see if Phil Henderson (former SEFI biologist) wants to volunteer
 - RB - PRBO to design methods, protocols, data sheets and analyze the data
 - There will be cross-over effects of one technique on another, so sequencing
 - RB/GM/DG: FWS/PRBO/IC to develop hazing design collaboratively

- Do we want to use dogs? How much will it cost? GM-
- IC to take first pass at writing hazing plan, with heavy FWS/PRBO help
- Possible reviewers of the hazing plan? (Dennis Orthmeyer of APHIS-USDA; Paul Gorenzel -OWCN?; Dave Riensche of East Bay Regional Park District) - GM
- Could a barge be used as a gull refugia? (Could attract more gulls?)
- CS - to contact Catlin of SFBBO regarding the design of the Hazing Plan for the Refuge, as well as to find out info on "Goose Patrol" in Santa Cruz;
- CS- to find out about landfill hazing operations/contractors (Rich C...?) who spend \$10,000-20,000/month on falcons, dogs ATV and pyrotechnics.
- GF - look up ATF permits/certificates needed to operate pyrotechnics/cannons
- GF - is an FAA permit needed for private use of UAS's on the Farallones?
- WV - will determine which leptos vaccination dogs would need prior to visit
- GM- to get this information to Brian Popper, and contact his supervisors Eric Covington and Dennis Orthmeyer regarding their involvement and others, and equipment (sonic blaster, etc).
- GM or PW/RB?- to find out who is doing the hazing at the Landfills (HMB, Novato, Alviso?)

4. **Logistics/Timing:** Defined field trial to avoid conflicts with USFWS/PRBO research: ~Nov 26 - Dec 17. This will avoid both Holidays, allow for larger gull #s to be tested, and would be at end (slow part) of the fall season. Although there will be a crew change on Dec. 8th, most hazing may be done by then, and we would likely be able to keep a few fall PRBO interns for another week to continue and finish with the same crew, not requiring any new winter crew to help. If weather delays the transfer/start of the trial, then the trial could end as late as Dec. 18-21, 2012.

(At this point ~12:30pm, Winston Vickers of IWS (OWCN) joined the meeting by phone, as did Carolyn Marn of FWS-ES.

5. **Field Trial Roles:** Defined responsibilities (Lead vs support) of each of the core project partners (USFWS, PRBO, IC) and the additional supporting agencies:

Daily (2X? 3X?) Team meetings of key supervisors to develop strategies

IC: Coordinate/direct hazing strategy and assign hazing/monitoring staff

FWS: (GM or JS) ensuring permit conditions met, supporting hazing actions

PRBO: Lead in carrying out hazing efforts & monitoring bird and MM reactions

Advisory and Support Roles for OWCN, USDA, USGS & others to be determined
(based on additional discussions, the staff assigned and the skill set they have)

6. **Staffing Needs:**

- Identify list of individuals to participate in the planning the trial study - GM
- Identify roles and individuals, schedules for on-island trial (GANNT) - DG
- Will be Hazing Webinar in September - WV to provide info for staff to attend

Only certain authorized individuals can use some equipment pyrotechnics? – ATF? USDA? WV to find out who needs to be on island to use what

- Michael Zicardi's involvement = ?

7. **Equipment:** Develop a hazing equipment list and source – WV + IC

- **Lasers:** 2 at OWCN? # at OSPR? - WV to find out
- **Biosonics:** OWCN? OSPR? USDA? # of Birdgards needed/avail? -
- **Pyrotechnics:** OSPR? USDA? Banger/Screamer combo worked well; screamers less impactful to MM than bangers.; Capper rockets ~ 150db
- **Propane Cannons:** who has them? How many needed?
- **What to purchase? What to borrow? - IC**
- **Helicopter contract:** IC to look into
- **Trained Dogs:** See if can get a trainer and dog out for few days free – WV
(Are no transmittable diseases from dogs to MM)
- **UAVs:** USDA, and private pilots/enthusiasts? FAA waiver needed? - GM

8. **Other Trial Studies:** Incorporate other elements into the fall trial:

- A caged bait degradation trial will be done - IC
- Non-toxic pellets to be ordered for use (Amount? Area?) - IC
- Others?