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**Subject:** Regular Farallon maintenance activities  
**Date:** 06/04/2012 04:41 PM

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Gabrielle,

Russ and Jonathan, feel free to add anything I missed.

Here is a list of the big regular maintenance activities that occur on the island. This does not include the weekly or monthly inspections and minor maintenance (greasing, oiling, etc.) of a variety of things, including generators, boats and motors, derrick, water system, etc. Many of those tasks are done indoors as well.

- 1) East Landing and North Landing derricks annual maintenance - Usually conducted in fall, but sometimes in winter. Takes 3-5 days to complete. Includes greasing, corrosion removal, re-painting, etc.
- 2) Annual inspection and maintenance of photovoltaic system - Includes PV panels (outside), electrical connections (inside and out), PV batteries (inside), PV generator (inside), and inverters (inside). Usually in fall but can happen in winter or spring depending on scheduling and contracting.
- 3) Semi-annual inspection and maintenance of septic system - One day about every six months, usually fall and spring.
- 4) Other - Pretty much every year, there is some fairly major repair project, such as repairing buildings, operation systems, derrick(s), but nothing that is regular.

Here is list of planned upcoming or in progress restoration projects:

- 1) Invasive plant control - Ongoing. Majority of effort includes: a) a one-week effort in early to mid-August each year, 5-7 personnel, treating invasive plants on SEFI, especially New Zealand spinach. Most work is on slopes of south side of island; and b) plant pulling efforts that occur in winter-spring. Intensity varies from year to year based on staffing and funding availability.

- 2) Project titled "*Farallon Island Nest Site Improvements*," funded by the Cosco Busan Trustee Council. We will be likely be starting this project this fall or winter. This project aims to provide high quality nesting sites for Rhinoceros Auklets, Cassin's Auklets, and Ashy Storm-Petrels. The first two are burrow nesters and will utilize nest boxes placed in the ground, while the latter nests in rocky crevices.

Currently on Southeast Farallon Island there are 450 Cassin's Auklet and 80 Rhinoceros Auklet nest boxes. These boxes have provided secure nest sites for these burrow-nesting seabirds. However, in recent years, many of the boxes have fallen into disrepair. Furthermore, because of the thin materials and locations of the boxes, they have been subject to overheating. The island has experienced unusually warm days in recent summers and this phenomenon is expected to increase due to climate changes. This has resulted in adult birds dying in their nest boxes due to the heat. This project will replace all of these deficient boxes with higher quality boxes, turning unproductive nest sites that can lead to adult mortality into successful breeding sites. The project includes redesigning the boxes, building new ones with better insulation and more durable materials, and placing them on the island in more protected locations with more soil cover.

The second component of the project is to create nesting habitat for crevice nesting seabirds such as the Ashy Storm Petrel by using old concrete slabs and other old construction materials that have

no current use. The materials will be broken up and arranged into rock piles for nesting habitat. Fully half the world's population of Ashy Storm Petrels nest in the rocky crevices on one hillside on Southeast Farallon Island. This project would provide up to 60 additional nesting sites.

Gerry

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