

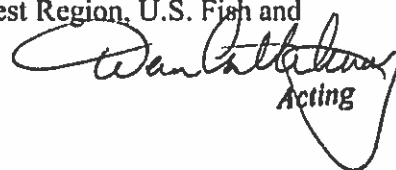
Request for Waiver of Time and Page limits under S.O. 3355

To: Office of the Deputy Secretary

Through: Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
Exercising the Authority of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

From: Principal Deputy Director
Exercising the Authority of the Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Prepared by: Paul Souza, Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service


Acting

Date: April 1, 2019

1. Bureau or Office Name: Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge

2. Title of Document: South Farallon Islands Invasive House Mouse Eradication Project: Final Environmental Impact Statement

3. Description of Action: The project proposes to eradicate introduced, invasive house mice (*Mus musculus*) from the South Farallon Islands which are located approximately 30 miles offshore from San Francisco, California. Eradicating mice is expected to benefit native seabirds, amphibians, terrestrial invertebrates, and plants and will help restore natural ecosystem processes on the islands. The Preferred Alternative (FEIS Alternative B) proposes two aerial applications of rodent bait Brodifacoum-25D Conservation to the islands.

The project includes a number of mitigation measures to reduce or avoid adverse impacts to native species including operational timing that avoids the breeding season for most native species and an extensive gull hazing operation to minimize impacts to gulls from non-target take.

There are no cooperating agencies; however, the Service consulted extensively with collaborating agencies including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (USDA/APHIS/WS), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife prior to choosing the preferred alternative for this project.

4. Time waiver: ☒ 150 Page waiver: ☐ (check all that apply)

5. Was a waiver or extension previously granted, and if so, how much time or many pages were previously approved? We have not previously requested a waiver.

6. Description of Reason for Request:

We are requesting an extension of the due date for signing the Record of Decision for this project, until July 23, 2019, in order to complete the Coastal Zone Management Act federal consistency review.

This request is an outgrowth of recent consultations with the California Coastal Commission (Commission) on the schedule for reviewing the federal Coastal Consistency Determination (Determination) and getting the project on the agenda for one of the Commission's regularly scheduled public hearings. Commission staff advised us that there will likely be significant public interest in this project and that members of the public will want the opportunity to address the Commissioners at the required public hearing on the Determination. Also, because of the complexity of the project, they will need the full 75-day period of review to prepare their report to the Commission and for the Commission to review the Determination, which includes a public comment period and public hearing.

The Commission holds monthly meetings in different parts of the state. In order to maintain the current schedule of receiving the Commission's concurrence in time to meet our current ROD target date of June 20, 2019, a hearing on the project would need to be held not later than the Commission's May meeting. However, Commission staffers notified us that the agenda for the May meeting is already full. The Commission consequently is recommending addressing the Determination at the July meeting (July 10-12) in San Luis Obispo, which is the next meeting near the San Francisco Bay Area (the area of the Farallon project). This would provide the Commission sufficient time to complete their review and for the interested public to attend the Commission hearing and provide comments. We concur with this recommendation and feel it is in the best interest of the Service.

7. Need and deadline (if any) for issuance of waiver(s) decision: A decision on this waiver request is needed by April 26, 2019.

8. Positions of affected stakeholders: Members of the public who want the opportunity to comment on the consistency of the project with the Commission's Coastal Plan will support this time extension because a meeting location closer to the Bay Area will facilitate their participation in the public process.

9. Other relevant considerations: Delaying the ROD until late July would not affect project implementation because the Service does not have funds to implement this project this year.

10. Attachments: Spreadsheet with current and new proposed project timeline.

Granted:  Date: 5/6/19

Denied: _____ Date: _____

	A	B	C	D
1	FARALLON MOUSE ERADICATION NEPA timeline (as of 03/21/2019)			
2		Target Date	Comment	Proposed Revised Schedule
3	Project Briefing to the Review Team		Done	
4	Review Team provides comments to Project Team (day of the briefing and up to 5 business days following)	3/1/2019	Done	
5	Review Team approval	3/1/2019	Done	
6	Delegated SES (Regional Director) signs and approves FEIS and NOA	3/4/2019	Done	
7	File FEIS with EPA	3/8/2019	Done	
8	Federal Register Notices Published - (Friday of the week following filing with EPA)		Done	
9	Final EIS wait period - 30 days	4/15/2019		
10	Submit Consistency Determination to the Coastal Commission (Coastal Commission has 60-75 days to review the Determination, but need to allow 90 days for review)	3/15/2019		4/26/2019
11	Coastal Commission hearing on Consistency Determination	April 10-12, 2019 (Salinas, CA)		July 10-12, 2019 (San Luis Obispo)
	ROD Clearance Process - EIS Project Team sends a one-page notice to the Review Team seeking objections to Final ROD approval. Notice includes: 1) a brief discussion on any substantive issues that arose during the Final EIS notice period, 2) the Final ROD text, and 3) confirmation that it did not change from what was initially reviewed, or advise of any outstanding	6/17/2019		
12	Issues that need to be addressed, such as protest resolutions or Governor's Consistency Review objections.			7/17/2019
13	Review Team has 3 days to request an oral briefing or object to the ROD.	6/19/2019		7/19/2019
14	Regional Director signs ROD and Notice of Availability (NOA)	6/20/2019		7/23/2019
15	ROD NOA sent to Federal Register for publication	6/20/2019		7/23/2019