

**From:** [Dan Grout](#)  
**To:** [Gerry\\_McChesney@fws.gov](mailto:Gerry_McChesney@fws.gov)  
**Subject:** FW: hazing wildlife  
**Date:** 10/05/2011 12:32 PM  
**Importance:** High

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More background and #s for Dennis

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**From:** Brad Keitt  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 06, 2011 1:44 PM  
**To:** Dennis.L.Orthmeyer@aphis.usda.gov  
**Cc:** Madeleine Pott; [Gerry\\_McChesney@fws.gov](mailto:Gerry_McChesney@fws.gov); Dan Grout  
**Subject:** RE: hazing wildlife

Dennis,

Thanks for the response. I am cc'ing Maddy Pott and Gerry on this as Maddy is taking the lead on developing plans for the trial and Gerry will be involved in approving/permitting the plan.

In general, we are aiming to implement the project and thus the hazing during the fall before birds begin setting up territories. Winds are a constant factor out there. I think fire danger is low, but there will be some restrictions on noise makers to avoid disturbing marine mammals. The main goal is to keep gulls away from the island to reduce potential exposure to a rodenticide that is proposed for eradicating house mouse from the island. As for gull behavior, I will leave those answers to Gerry and the experts familiar with the island.

We will be in touch soon to discuss further and see how we may be able to take advantage of you and your staff's considerable experience in this arena.

Brad

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**From:** Dennis.L.Orthmeyer@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Dennis.L.Orthmeyer@aphis.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 05, 2011 2:46 PM  
**To:** Brad Keitt  
**Subject:** Re: hazing wildlife

Brad, Received you call. I had this ready to send Monday, got swamped, saved it to draft. forgot is was there.

Read this over. Then we can discuss in further detail

Brad

I may have more questions than answers.

We usually are not being specie specific in our hazing efforts. A majority of our work may involve gulls, but that is due to close proximity to water and airports.

Random thoughts and questions

Timing of arrival, Season, strong winds?

Fire danger

Size of the area (island or potential new or increase colony area

Species arriving first or second

Response of selected birds to sound (calls or pyros) or visual displays (balloons, Mylar tape).

Are you trying to keep gulls out while others establish territories and/or nest.?

do the selected nesting species land the same way. Could use netting. How do they leave the site?

Who arrives first? If gulls are first, then distress calls, predatory bird calls, harassment on the nesting site. We have used lasers mounted on battery operated motors (motto duck with all parts removed) and speed slowed down. Custom project, did work OK for waterfowl at night. Lasers work very well at night, no so good in the day. We use a lot of pyrotechnics Whistlers, bangers, screamers. Quite a variety out there.

In some cases of endangered specie protection on small isolated areas and islands we do selective lethal removal. When gulls land in a nesting area occupied by a nesting Endangered specie we remove the gull.

Dennis Orthmeyer  
Acting State Director  
California Wildlife Services  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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**Brad Keitt <[brad.keitt@islandconservation.org](mailto:brad.keitt@islandconservation.org)>**

01/03/2011 03:03 PM

To "dennis.l.orthmeyer@aphis.usda.gov"  
<[dennis.l.orthmeyer@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:dennis.l.orthmeyer@aphis.usda.gov)>

cc

Subject hazing wildlife

Dear Dennis,

I am not sure if you will remember my name but back in the 90's I worked with Harry Carter and Gerry McChesney on seabirds in the Channel Islands and spent some time dotting slides in the Dixon office. I understand that you are now involved with USDA and the bird hazing program. I would like to speak with you about your experience in this area- we are working on a restoration project on the Farallon Islands (where Gerry is now the refuge manager) and a mitigation strategy we are looking at involves hazing gulls on the island. I am looking for people with hazing experience to help us develop a plan,

Please contact me at your convenience – we are hoping to trial some different tools on the Farallones in January this year if possible, before the gulls set up breeding territories.

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