

## **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant Request Project Summary**

**Project Name and Number:** Environmental Compliance for the Proposed Farallon National Wildlife Refuge Mouse Eradication Project.

**Recipient Organization/Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex

**Signatory Name, Title and Contact Information (The person who will be signing the Letter of Donation on behalf of Organization/Agency):** Polly Wheeler, ARD Refuges, polly\_wheeler@fws.gov, (916) 414-6476

**Recipient Organization Web Address:** <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/farallon/>

**Date Submitted:** March 1, 2023

**Period of Performance:** January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016

### **Summary of Proposed Project Activities:**

We propose to perform activities associated with the Environmental Compliance for the proposed house mouse eradication project on the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge, California. Eradicated invasive mice from the South Farallon Islands would benefit this unique ecosystem, including seabirds such as the ash storm-petrel, the endemic Farallon arboreal salamander, invertebrates such as the endemic Farallon camel cricket, and native plants. Funds will be used for preparation of a final Environmental Impact Statement, preparation of environmental compliance permit applications, and for decision-support research. Research will include a lab study of the potential effects of anti-coagulant rodenticides to salamanders, a potential non-target species of the eradication project. The Environmental Compliance efforts will be led by the USFWS San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Fremont, California, in collaboration with multiple partners.

### **Summary of Proposed Budget:**

The budget needed for the study would be about \$35,000 to fund contractors to assist with EIS preparation, permit application preparation, and conduct decision support studies. We estimate this project will cost a total of \$336,462.00, including USFWS/DOI staff salaries, travel and supplies, environmental compliance contractor, cooperators Point Blue Conservation Science (staff salaries, travel), and the salamander toxicity study (\$50,000).

### **Project Manager:**

Name: Gerry McChesney

Title: Manager, Farallon National Wildlife Refuge

Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex

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**Program Synopsis:** This is a multi-partner project led by the USFWS. Other partners and collaborators include DOI Restoration Support Unit, Point Blue Conservation Science, and USDA National Wildlife Research Center. This project will support the management goals of the Farallon National Wildlife of helping to restore the native ecosystem of the Farallon Islands.

**Overall Project Objective:** Invasive rodents cause much damage to island ecosystems. House mice are having adverse impacts to the Farallon Islands ecosystem. The USFWS has proposed to eradicate invasive mice from the islands to help restore the native Farallon ecosystem. A draft EIS, released in August 2013, analyzed two anticoagulant rodenticides as action alternatives for eradicating mice. Our objective is to complete the environmental compliance process for this project, including a final Environmental Impact Statement, so that a Record of Decision can be signed. This will include completing analyses and incorporation of public comments received on the Draft EIS, conducting additional studies to examine potential impacts, and applying for necessary permits (assuming an action alternative is selected).

**Overall Project Outcomes:** Finalization of the Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision for proposed Farallon house mouse eradication project.

**Overall Project Budget.**

NFWF Northern Coastal California Restoration Fund (this proposal): \$35,000

Matching Funds:

USFWS/DOI (staff salaries, travel, supplies): \$131,462

NFWS North Pacific Seabirds grant: \$170,000

Total Budget: \$336,462