



Farallon National Wildlife Refuge

Planning Update 1 - Winter 2005

Comprehensive Conservation Planning Begins in the Winter

Farallon National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) is embarking on an important process to develop a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Refuge. This plan will help to guide overall Refuge management for the next 15 years. Your ideas and comments will be an important part of the process, so I encourage you to participate.

Before we begin the process, I'd like to provide background about the largest seabird colony in the contiguous United States. In this update, you'll also find some information about the National Wildlife Refuge System and how comprehensive conservation planning fits into refuge management.

This first "Planning Update" describes the beginning of the planning process and provides information about attending our CCP kick-off meeting to be held on May 25, 2005 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Marina Room at the Fort Mason Center in San Francisco, California (see directions on page 6).

We will refer to information provided in this planning update throughout the CCP process. Please try to read it prior to our first meeting; this will facilitate discussions at the public meeting.

Please join us at the meeting and share your thoughts about the Refuge. We welcome your comments, suggestions, and questions. Maps to the meeting location are available, please call Winnie Chan, the Refuge Planner, at (510)792-0222.

I hope you'll feel free to contact me or Winnie Chan if you have any questions.

Joelle Buffa
Refuge Manager

Save the Date!

**Farallon CCP
Public Meeting
Join us on
May 25, 2005
6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
at the Fort Mason Center
in the Marina Room
(Building A)**

Directions on Page 6

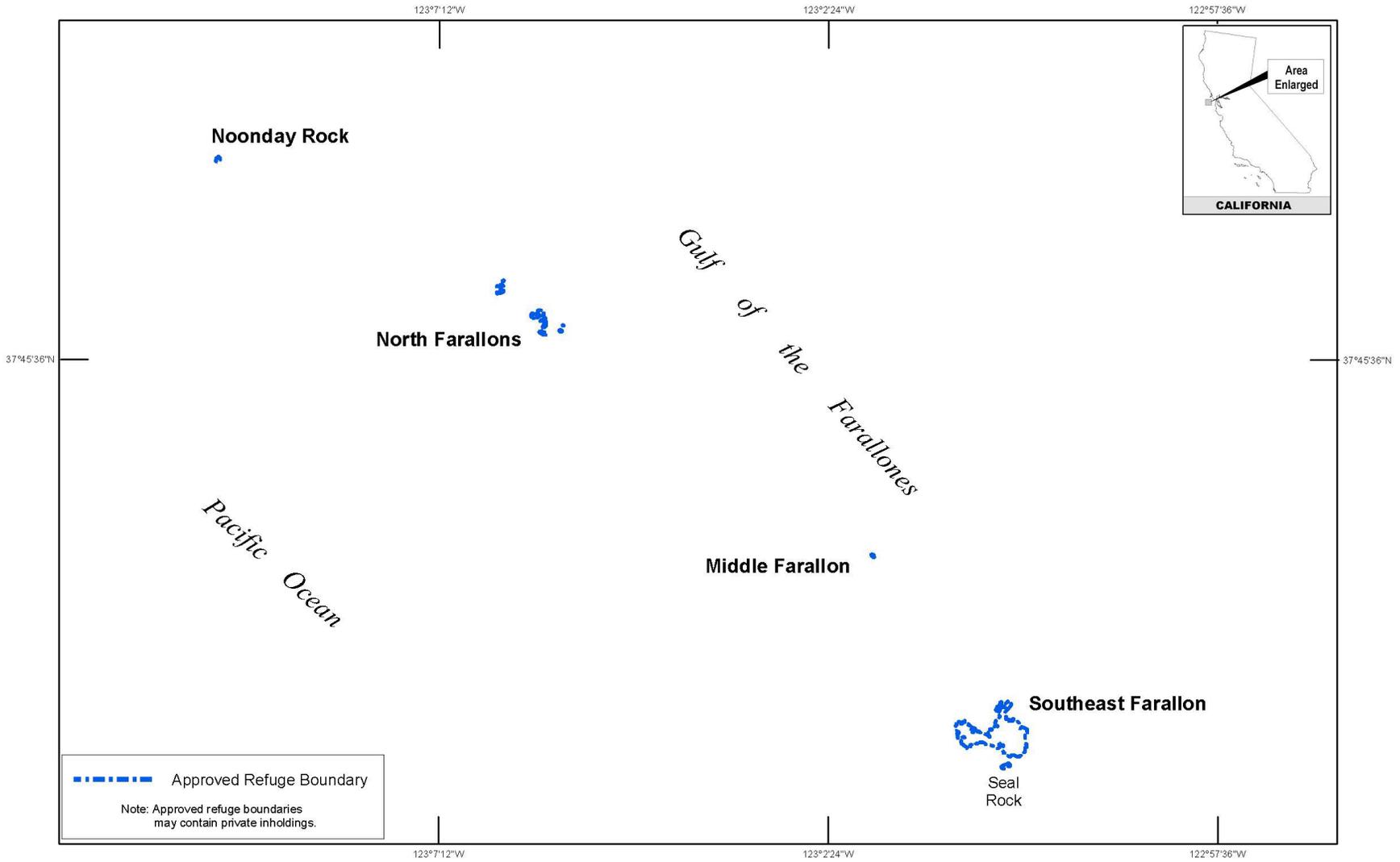
Table of Contents

Approved Boundary Map	2
Refuge Location, Description, and Purpose	3
What is a CCP?	3
About the Fish and Wildlife Service	4
About the Refuge System	4
Help Us Plan	5
Contact Us	6

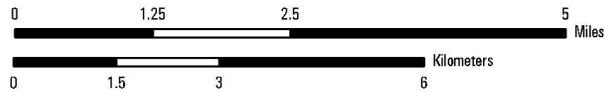


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Farallon National Wildlife Refuge
San Francisco County, California

Approved Boundary Map



PRODUCED IN THE DIVISION OF REFUGE PLANNING
 PORTLAND, OREGON
 LAND STATUS CURRENT TO: 1/4/05
 MAP DATE: 1/4/05
 BASEMAP: 24K DRG
 MERIDIAN: NA
 FILE: 04-083-73.MXD



The Refuge Location and Description

The Farallon Refuge is part of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex, which consists of seven refuges within the San Francisco Bay area. The 211-acre Farallon Refuge is an archipelago generally made up of four major islands. The Refuge is located offshore, approximately 28 miles west of San Francisco, within the county of San Francisco. The Farallon Refuge is remote, encountering few recreational and occasional charter tour boats. Due to the rocky shoreline and sensitivity of wildlife, the Refuge is closed to the public.

Refuge Biology

Vegetation on the Refuge is limited by the rocky granite geology. Floral diversity is limited and invasive plants occur on the Refuge due to human transport. There are 12 species of nesting seabirds and 6 species of marine mammals that are known to inhabit the Refuge:

Seabirds

ashy storm petrel
black oystercatcher
Brandt's cormorant
Cassin's auklet
common murre
double-crested cormorant
Leach's storm petrel
pelagic cormorant
pigeon guillemot
rhinoceros auklet
tufted puffin
western gull

Marine Mammals

California sea lion
Guadalupe fur seal
harbor seal
northern elephant seal
northern fur seal
Steller's sea lion

Total individual seabirds number approximately 300,000 annually during the nesting season.

The Refuge Purpose

The Refuge was one of the first refuges established by Theodore Roosevelt in 1909 under Executive Order 1043, it is also designated as a State Game Refuge and a Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve. The Refuge serves "...as a preserve and breeding ground for native birds" (Executive Order 1043, dated February 27, 1909). The Refuge was established to provide wintering and nesting habitat for migratory seabirds and pinnipeds. In 1974, Congress enacted Public Law 93-550 which designated all the islands, except for Southeast Island, as Farallon Wilderness, totaling 141 acres.

What is a CCP?

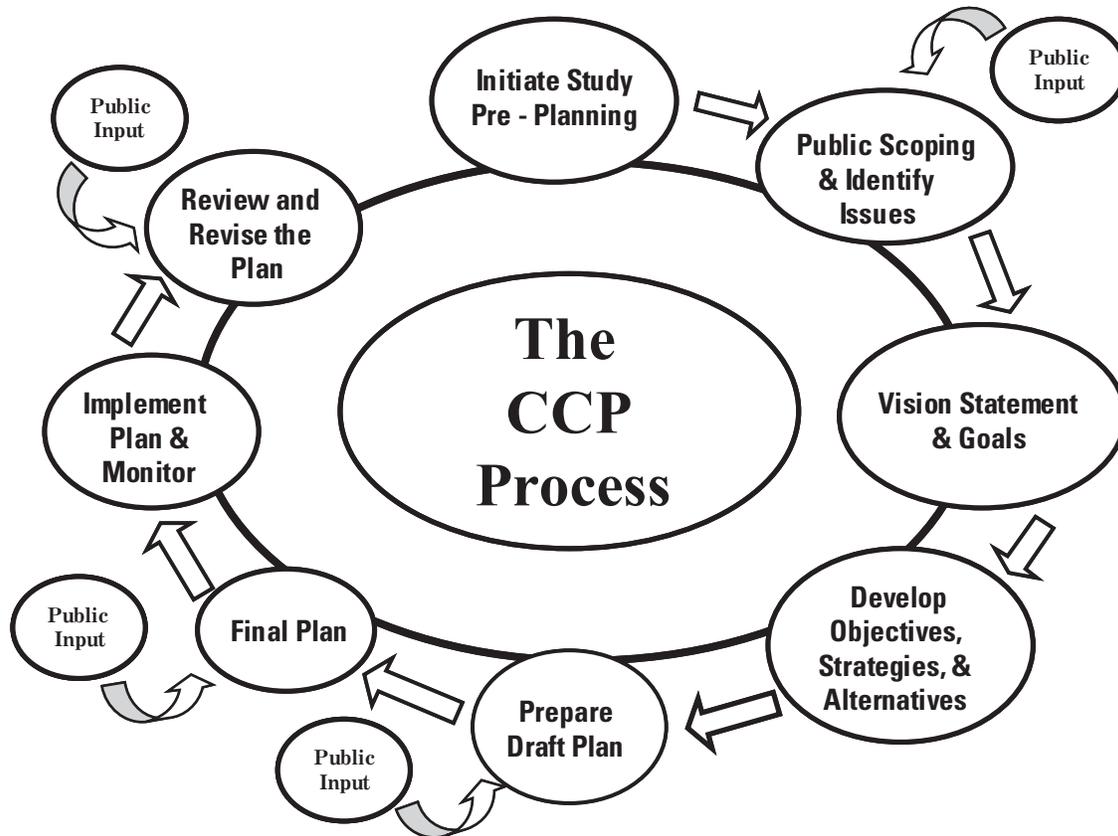
In 1997, Congress passed the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act. The Act defined the mission for the Refuge System, and states that all wildlife refuges must have a CCP in place by the year 2012. These plans provide a 15-year guide, using the best available scientific knowledge, to help managers achieve the purposes for which each refuge was established, and to contribute to the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Act provides the Service with guidance for managing refuges in a way that ensures the long-term conservation of fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats. Maintenance of biological integrity and diversity along with facilitating compatible wildlife-dependent recreation in the Refuge System are two of the important principles laid out in the Act.

The CCP for the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge will outline goals, objectives and management strategies for the Refuge for a 15-year period. The accompanying Environmental Assessment will describe the alternatives considered and their environmental effects. The Service is preparing this CCP for the following reasons:

- To ensure that management of the Refuge reflects Refuge purposes and the mission, policies, and goals of the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- To provide the public with information and opportunities to comment on management actions planned for the Refuge.
- To provide a vision statement for the Refuge.
- To ensure the compatibility of current and future uses of the Refuge.
- To provide long-term continuity in Refuge management.
- To provide budget justification for operation and maintenance, and facility development requests.

The CCP will be a flexible "living document." It will be reviewed periodically to ensure that its goals, objectives and implementation strategies and timetables are still appropriate.

The key planning steps are described in the flow chart on the following page. Currently, we are in the pre-planning phase gathering data and beginning public scoping with the release of this update.



About the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

The Service manages the 100-million acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses more than 545 units in all 50 states and several U.S. territories. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices, and 81 ecological services field stations.

The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their wildlife and habitat conservation efforts.

The Service also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

About the National Wildlife Refuge System

In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt protected an island in Florida's Indian River with nesting pelicans, herons, ibis, and roseate spoonbills from feather collectors decimating their colonies. He established Pelican Island as the nation's first bird sanctuary and went on to establish many other sanctuaries for wildlife during his tenure. This small network of sanctuaries continued to expand, later becoming the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The National Wildlife Refuge System is the largest system of lands in the world dedicated primarily for the conservation of wildlife. It is spread across 50 states, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Johnston Atoll, Midway Atoll, and several other Pacific Islands. About 21 million acres on 65 refuges in the Refuge System are managed as wilderness under the Wilderness Act of 1964.

What is the mission of the Refuge System?

Refuges are places where wildlife comes first.

“The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.” (National Wildlife Refuge Systems Improvement Act of 1997)

The Service is a “primary use agency.” This means that units of the Refuge System are managed first and foremost for the benefit of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats. Our mission differs from other federal agencies, such as the U.S. Forest Service, which focuses on forest stewardship and sustainable forest uses; the Bureau of Land Management, which deals with the productivity and multiple use of the land; and the National Park Service, which conserves scenery, wildlife, and historic objects for people’s enjoyment.

Help Us Plan the Future

Over the next year, interested individuals, agencies, and organizations are invited to express their concerns and share their visions for the Refuge. We will be sending these planning updates periodically to local constituents, government agencies, private organizations, and others who express interest.

This is your opportunity to help us identify issues and concerns, and for us to answer any questions you may have. Your participation is critical to the success of this planning effort. You will have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft CCP and Environmental Assessment.

A Notice of Intent to initiate the CCP has been published in the Federal Register. The Notice can be accessed via the Internet at: <http://pacific.fws.gov/planning>.

You are invited to a public meeting for the Refuge’s CCP. The date and location of this meeting is listed on the following page. This meeting will provide an opportunity for you to meet with Refuge staff and learn more about the Refuge, the CCP process, and help us identify issues to be addressed in the CCP. If you cannot attend the meeting, fax or e-mail your comment to Winnie Chan, her contact information is on page 6.

What’s in a name?

The Farallon Refuge is managed by the Service, which coordinates with California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) on a variety of management issues.

Many people confuse state and federal fish and wildlife agencies because their names are similar. The Service is a federal agency within the U.S. Department of Interior. The DFG is a department within the California Resources Agency.

Our names are similar and so are our missions: both agencies are dedicated to wildlife conservation for the benefit of present and future generations. Our jurisdictions are different. The Service is the lead agency responsible for federally-listed species and migratory birds, whether they are located on federal, state, or private lands. The DFG has primary responsibility for resident fish and wildlife on state and private lands, and oversees state-listed species and stream alteration issues throughout California.



Southeast Farallon Islands (© Lown 2003).



Tufted puffins on Southeast Farallon (© Irwin 2004).

Public Meeting Location

Date: Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Time: 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Where: Marina Room in Building A, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, California at the intersection of Marina Boulevard and Buchanan Street (no street address is available).

Directions:

BY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Muni Lines To or Near Fort Mason Center

10 Townsend, 22 Fillmore, 28 - 19th Avenue, 30 Stockton, 47 Van Ness, 49 Van Ness/Mission, 82x Presidio/Wharves Express. Call MUNI for details (see below).

BY CAR

East Bay- Bay Bridge to Fremont Street Exit; on Fremont (100 yards north) take first right on Howard; left on Embarcadero and go 2 miles; left on Bay and go 2 miles; right on Buchanan. Cross Marina Boulevard and turn sharp right into Fort Mason Center.

North Bay- Golden Gate Bridge (US 101) to Marina Exit; Marina Boulevard (1.5 miles) to Buchanan and turn left into Fort Mason Center.

Peninsula/South Bay- US 101 North to 9th Street Exit; 9th across Market and left on Hayes; right on Franklin; left on Bay; right on Buchanan. Cross Marina Boulevard and sharp right into Fort Mason Center.

Fort Mason Center Parking

Enter at the intersection of Buchanan Street and Marina Boulevard. Make a sharp right into the Center, or a left to park along the Marina Green.

Directions also available at:

<http://www.fortmason.org/directions/index.shtml>

Please feel free to contact us

We are available to provide additional information regarding the Refuge and the planning process. Feel free to call, write, or e-mail us at sfbaynwrc@rl.fws.gov.

If you did not receive this update through the mail and would like to be on our mailing list, or if you would like to be removed from the list, please contact us.

Winnie Chan, Refuge Planner

San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 524
Newark, CA 94560
(510) 792-0222

Joelle Buffa, Refuge Manager

Farallon National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 524
Newark, CA 94560
(510) 792-0222

John Bradley, Acting Project Leader

San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 524
Newark, CA 94560
(510) 792-0222



Elephant seals (© O'Neill 2003).



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
P.O. Box 524
Newark, California 94560-0524
Address correction requested