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**Subject:** Farallon Islands grant proposal  
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Farallon Islands was ranked as the top large invasive grant this year. John Klavitter (National Invasive Coordinator) will soon brief the Refuge Chief, if he hasn't already, and after that the Regional Chiefs will be briefed.

The Farallon proposal was ranked significantly higher than the runner up, which was a feral hog project from Wichita Mountains NWR. Overall, their proposal was well received, but they fell short on their scoring in the "Benefit to Trust Resources" and "Urgency and Need" sections. In general, the relationships listed between trust resources and feral hogs were somewhat speculative and not backed up by evidence (e.g. how does a feral hog affect a tree-nesting insectivorous black-capped vireo? or Hogs are cited as vector of chronic wasting disease, yet there is not evidence to support this relationship).

For the Farallon proposal there was concern expressed about the Coastal Consistency Determination and the EIS. However, thanks to guidance received last year, we left it up to leadership to determine if this should affect a project's ranking. The Farallon proposal also did receive some scrutiny regarding the indirect relationship among the owls, mice, and petrels. Thankfully, the refuge has done a terrific job in documenting this relationship thru peer-reviewed research.

Please let me know if you have any other questions or concerns,

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