

From: [Long, Michael](#)
To: [Carol Damberg](#)
Cc: [Curtis McCasland](#); [Mary Grim](#)
Subject: Reference to DEIS in ashy storm-petrel species report
Date: Friday, September 20, 2013 1:36:58 PM

Hey Carol,

Yes - we did reference the DEIS in several places in the species report. I cut and pasted those sections of the document below:

"In analyzing Nur *et al.* 2013 and burrowing owl predation on SE Farallon Island, we have considered the Service's recent issuance of the South Farallon Islands Invasive House Mouse Eradication Project: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). As set forth in the Service's September 16, 2013, memo, we recognize that Nur *et al.* 2013, was not designed to examine population trends but to examine the recent impacts of burrowing owl predation on ashy storm-petrels and to project potential future population trajectories if the most recent conditions were to continue. Different purposes underlie the DEIS and this Species Report. Accordingly, we recognize that the use of population data from a longer time period than that used by Nur *et al.* 2013, or in the DEIS, is more appropriate here for the purpose of evaluating the conservation status and risk of extinction for the species."

"SE Farallon Island Mouse Eradication Plan

The Service has released for public comment the DEIS for the South Farallon Islands Invasive House Mouse Eradication Project to eradicate house mice on SE Farallon. Currently, there is no timeline for when or if this eradication will occur. If eradication does occur, it is expected to reduce burrowing owl predation on ashy-storm petrel adults because burrowing owls subsist on house mice for a portion of the year. In the fall, burrowing owls at SE Farallon Island feed upon nonnative house mice when mice are seasonally abundant (Nur *et al.* 2013, p. 7). In late winter and early spring, after the mouse population at SE Farallon Island declines in numbers, burrowing owls prey upon storm-petrels, which are courting and prospecting for nesting sites (Nur *et al.* 2013, p. 7). As discussed above, experts hypothesize that by eliminating house mice, burrowing owl abundance will be reduced, which in turn will have a positive effect on ashy storm-petrel population trends (Nur *et al.* 2013, p. 7). We anticipate that eradication of house mice on SE Farallon Island could potentially shift the impact of burrowing owl predation on ashy storm-petrel to a lower severity level. In addition to likely being beneficial to ashy storm-petrels that breed on the island, the eradication of house mice on SE Farallon Island would likely benefit the entire SE Farallon Island ecosystem. Because the potential for this action to be conducted in the future is uncertain, the possible effects of this eradication have not been included in our threats analysis and listing determination. Those findings are based on the current status of the species and only approved or currently implemented actions or actions reasonably certain to occur in the future are taken into consideration when evaluating species status."

Let me know if you need any additional info.....

Mike