

**From:** [Meredith, Lauren K](#)  
**To:** [McChesney, Gerry](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FOR APPROVAL: Point Blue Conservation Science outreach video  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 10:04:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Sounds good. My cell isn't working since back from vacation, so please call me at 303-945-5127 or via Teams. Thanks Gerry.

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Lauren Meredith | she/her/hers  
Congressional Liaison | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Sacramento, CA  
Cell: 916-467-5793

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**From:** McChesney, Gerry <[gerry\\_mcchesney@fws.gov](mailto:gerry_mcchesney@fws.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 9:33 AM  
**To:** Meredith, Lauren K <[lauren\\_meredith@fws.gov](mailto:lauren_meredith@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR APPROVAL: Point Blue Conservation Science outreach video

I'll call you when done with my appt.

Gerry McChesney  
Manager, Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge and  
Common Murre Restoration Project  
Office: (510) 792-0222; Cell: (510) 435-9151  
[gerry\\_mcchesney@fws.gov](mailto:gerry_mcchesney@fws.gov)

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**From:** Meredith, Lauren K <[lauren\\_meredith@fws.gov](mailto:lauren_meredith@fws.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 9:28:22 AM  
**To:** McChesney, Gerry <[gerry\\_mcchesney@fws.gov](mailto:gerry_mcchesney@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR APPROVAL: Point Blue Conservation Science outreach video

Thanks for that.

We've encountered a hiccup with HQ – there are some new protocols in place with filming with commercial entities (which include NGOs). I'm hoping we can work through it quickly or, if necessary, find our way quickly around it. Do you have time to talk when you are back from your doctor's appointment?

Regardless of how we get this approved, it still needs to go through additional approvals at HQ, so we do not have clearance on this yet.

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Lauren Meredith | she/her/hers  
Congressional Liaison | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Sacramento, CA

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**From:** McChesney, Gerry <[gerry\\_mcchesney@fws.gov](mailto:gerry_mcchesney@fws.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 8:46 AM  
**To:** Meredith, Lauren K <[lauren\\_meredith@fws.gov](mailto:lauren_meredith@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR APPROVAL: Point Blue Conservation Science outreach video

Since we're a partner on it and its largely to support us, I don't see a need for a SUP.

Gerry McChesney  
Manager, Farallon Islands NWR & Common Murre Restoration Project  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
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Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SanFranciscoBayNWRComplex>

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**From:** Meredith, Lauren K <[lauren\\_meredith@fws.gov](mailto:lauren_meredith@fws.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 8:41 AM  
**To:** McChesney, Gerry <[gerry\\_mcchesney@fws.gov](mailto:gerry_mcchesney@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR APPROVAL: Point Blue Conservation Science outreach video

I am on a call with HQ EA right now (not a great sign but still discussing) and will let you know what I find.

Is there a special use permit we've signed on this, or is there a need for a special use permit? That may be relevant to the discussion, and apologies that I can't find reference in my notes.

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Lauren Meredith | she/her/hers  
Congressional Liaison | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Sacramento, CA  
Cell: 916-467-5793

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**From:** McChesney, Gerry <[gerry\\_mcchesney@fws.gov](mailto:gerry_mcchesney@fws.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 8:36 AM  
**To:** Meredith, Lauren K <[lauren\\_meredith@fws.gov](mailto:lauren_meredith@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR APPROVAL: Point Blue Conservation Science outreach video

Any updates on approval? If not, do you know who we can check with. I'm scheduled for 1:00 PM today. Thanks.

I'll be out at a Dr's appt, getting back here about 10:30 then showing Zach good places for shooting interviews (he's also interviewing Brad Keitt and Anna Weinstein). So if you have any updates, please text my cell.

Thanks.

Gerry McChesney

Manager, Farallon Islands NWR & Common Murre Restoration Project

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1 Marshlands Rd., Fremont CA 94555

510-435-9151 (cell)

[gerry\\_mcchesney@fws.gov](mailto:gerry_mcchesney@fws.gov)

[https://www.fws.gov/refuge/farallon\\_islands/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/farallon_islands/)

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SanFranciscoBayNWRComplex>

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**From:** Meredith, Lauren K <[lauren\\_meredith@fws.gov](mailto:lauren_meredith@fws.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 2:43 PM

**To:** McChesney, Gerry <[gerry\\_mcchesney@fws.gov](mailto:gerry_mcchesney@fws.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR APPROVAL: Point Blue Conservation Science outreach video

Great, thank you. I agree and appreciate the need for us to review material before it goes out.

As far as interview status: I tracked down the request, which is currently with HQ. We've requested feedback by COB today, so I hope we get word back soon.

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Lauren Meredith | she/her/hers

Congressional Liaison | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Sacramento, CA

Cell: 916-467-5793

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**From:** McChesney, Gerry <[gerry\\_mcchesney@fws.gov](mailto:gerry_mcchesney@fws.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 2:23 PM

**To:** Meredith, Lauren K <[lauren\\_meredith@fws.gov](mailto:lauren_meredith@fws.gov)>

**Subject:** Fw: FOR APPROVAL: Point Blue Conservation Science outreach video

Lauren,

Please see email chain below. Want to make sure you're aware.

Gerry McChesney

Manager, Farallon Islands NWR & Common Murre Restoration Project

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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[https://www.fws.gov/refuge/farallon\\_islands/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/farallon_islands/)

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**From:** McChesney, Gerry <[gerry\\_mcchesney@fws.gov](mailto:gerry_mcchesney@fws.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 23, 2021 12:40 PM

**To:** Wheeler, Polly PW <[polly\\_wheeler@fws.gov](mailto:polly_wheeler@fws.gov)>; Barr, Chris J <[chris\\_barr@fws.gov](mailto:chris_barr@fws.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: FOR APPROVAL: Point Blue Conservation Science outreach video

This may turn out to be multiple, short video clips (maybe 2 min tops) along with a 2-3 minute video that can be posted on social media sites and used for other outreach efforts (e.g., presentations and such). We're still discussing how to best utilize the material gathered. For now, Lauren is the FWS lead and I think she has good ideas on content and potential use.

Gerry McChesney

Manager, Farallon Islands NWR & Common Murre Restoration Project

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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**From:** Wheeler, Polly PW <[polly\\_wheeler@fws.gov](mailto:polly_wheeler@fws.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 23, 2021 11:05 AM

**To:** McChesney, Gerry <[gerry\\_mcchesney@fws.gov](mailto:gerry_mcchesney@fws.gov)>; Barr, Chris J <[chris\\_barr@fws.gov](mailto:chris_barr@fws.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: FOR APPROVAL: Point Blue Conservation Science outreach video

Thanks Gerry. Given the controversial nature of this issue, it makes complete sense for us to review the video prior to its release.

Polly Wheeler, PhD., Regional Chief

National Wildlife Refuge System

California and Nevada (Interior Region 10)

Sacramento, CA

916-414-6476

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**From:** McChesney, Gerry <[gerry\\_mcchesney@fws.gov](mailto:gerry_mcchesney@fws.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 23, 2021 10:59 AM

**To:** Wheeler, Polly PW <[polly\\_wheeler@fws.gov](mailto:polly_wheeler@fws.gov)>; Barr, Chris J <[chris\\_barr@fws.gov](mailto:chris_barr@fws.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: FOR APPROVAL: Point Blue Conservation Science outreach video

This video will be done in collaboration with us but Point Blue is funding and taking the lead. Lauren Meredith has already provided substantial input on content and will continue to. I discussed briefly with Matt Brown before he went on leave and he gave his approval so long as EA was on board.

Thank you.

Gerry McChesney  
Manager, Farallon Islands NWR & Common Murre Restoration Project  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
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**From:** Wheeler, Polly PW <[polly\\_wheeler@fws.gov](mailto:polly_wheeler@fws.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 23, 2021 10:44 AM  
**To:** Barr, Chris J <[chris\\_barr@fws.gov](mailto:chris_barr@fws.gov)>; McChesney, Gerry <[gerry\\_mcchesney@fws.gov](mailto:gerry_mcchesney@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR APPROVAL: Point Blue Conservation Science outreach video

Okay, thanks, and that makes total sense.

Polly Wheeler, PhD., Regional Chief  
National Wildlife Refuge System  
California and Nevada (Interior Region 10)  
Sacramento, CA  
916-414-6476

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**From:** Barr, Chris J <[chris\\_barr@fws.gov](mailto:chris_barr@fws.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 23, 2021 10:11 AM  
**To:** Wheeler, Polly PW <[polly\\_wheeler@fws.gov](mailto:polly_wheeler@fws.gov)>; McChesney, Gerry <[gerry\\_mcchesney@fws.gov](mailto:gerry_mcchesney@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR APPROVAL: Point Blue Conservation Science outreach video

Hi Polly

I'm okay with Point Blue producing a video but I would like to see Public Affairs and Point Blue hold off on scheduling the public release of the video until such time as Matt Brown and I can review the video and discuss further with Gerry and External Affairs on the timing of the public release.

Thanks

Chris

\*\*\*\*\*

Chris Barr  
Complex Deputy Manager  
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
DOI Unified Region 10/CA-Great Basin  
Desk 510-792-0222 ext 72027  
Mobile 510-377-6144  
(preferred pronoun he/him)



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**From:** Wheeler, Polly PW <[polly\\_wheeler@fws.gov](mailto:polly_wheeler@fws.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 23, 2021 10:03 AM  
**To:** Barr, Chris J <[chris\\_barr@fws.gov](mailto:chris_barr@fws.gov)>; McChesney, Gerry <[gerry\\_mcchesney@fws.gov](mailto:gerry_mcchesney@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: FOR APPROVAL: Point Blue Conservation Science outreach video

Before I approve, want to make sure you all are good with this.

Polly Wheeler, PhD., Regional Chief  
National Wildlife Refuge System  
California and Nevada (Interior Region 10)  
Sacramento, CA  
916-414-6476

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**From:** Bierce, Pamela <[pamela\\_bierce@fws.gov](mailto:pamela_bierce@fws.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 23, 2021 10:01 AM  
**To:** Wheeler, Polly PW <[polly\\_wheeler@fws.gov](mailto:polly_wheeler@fws.gov)>; Heil, John C <[john\\_heil@fws.gov](mailto:john_heil@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** FOR APPROVAL: Point Blue Conservation Science outreach video

Good morning Polly and John,

Please see the below request for a filming project by Point Blue Conservation Science. They are creating an outreach video for the Farallon Mouse Eradication Project and would like to interview Gerry McChesney. Let me know if you have any questions. Once approved at the RO level, this will need to go to HQ EA/OCO. Thanks, Pam

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## Media Response/ Media Interview Request

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**Reporter:** Brandon Schilling (videographer)

**Outlet:** Point Blue Farallon Mouse Eradication Project Outreach Video

**Subject:** Ecosystem benefits of the Farallon Islands mouse eradication project

**Deadline:** 9/30/2021

**Spokesperson:** Gerry McChesney, Manager, Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge

### Additional information/Driver for request:

FWS's partner, Point Blue Conservation Science, is producing an outreach video about the Farallon mouse eradication project for use in social media postings and other outreach venues. The goal is to educate the public about this important restoration project and the main ecosystem benefits that are expected.

### Submitted questions and responses:

Specific questions or topic of interview and specific answers to questions OR talking points.

1) What makes the Farallon Islands so unique?

The Farallon Islands host the largest seabird breeding colony in the lower 48 states, with nearly 400,000 breeding birds of 13 species. For the rare ash storm-petrel, the Farallones hold the world's largest breeding colony. The islands also host rare endemic species including the Farallon camel cricket, Farallon arboreal salamander, and maritime goldfield.

2) Can you describe the role of USFWS and Point Blue in protecting the Farallon Islands?

The Service has management responsibilities for the Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge. To assist us with that task, since 1972 the Service has partnered with Point Blue Conservation to safeguard, restore and monitor the Farallon Islands ecosystem.

3) Can you describe the current house mouse threat and how it is affecting the islands' ecosystem?

House mice feed extensively on the island's rare plants, insects and possibly seabird eggs and chicks, reducing their productivity and populations. They also indirectly impact the Farallon ecosystem by unnaturally supporting a wintering population of migrant burrowing owls, which arrive in the fall when the mouse population is at its annual peak. Several owls remain for the winter, expecting to be sustained by mice. But when the mouse population crashes in winter, the owls switch to feeding mostly on rare ash storm-petrels. Studies have shown that owl predation, which is linked to the mouse population and thus unnatural, is causing the storm-petrel population to decline. The owls also feed extensively on the rare, endemic Farallon camel cricket, another indirect impact of the mice.

4) Why is removal of the mice an urgent issue?

The Farallon ecosystem is out of balance because of invasive house mice. Rare species such as the ash storm-petrel are in decline as a result of house mouse impacts. Rare insects, salamanders and plants are also impacted. Rapidly accelerating climate change will further impact the Farallon ecosystem. It is critical to remove mice as an ecosystem stressor now before rare species decline further and are in need of endangered species protection and to help buffer the Farallon ecosystem from climate change.

- 5) What is the proposed solution for removing the mice from the islands?

Mice would be 100% eradicated from the islands using widely accepted best practices, which have been used in the removal of mice and other rodents from over 700 islands worldwide. For mice, the Service proposes to use the rodenticide Brodifacoum-25D Conservation applied by aerial broadcast, a product registered by the U.S. EPA specifically for island conservation projects like the Farallon project.

- 6) Has this method been used before?

Yes. This method has been used in nearly 700 successful island rodent eradications worldwide, including over 60 specifically for house mice, and is widely considered to be best practice. These methods have been used to eradicate rats from three other national wildlife refuges. In California, this method was used to eradicate black rats from Anacapa Island in Channel Islands National Park.

- 7) Why rodenticide over other methods? Doesn't rodenticide harm the environment?

The rodenticide brodifacoum is the only proven tool to completely eradicate house mice from an island. While there are risks, the Service has developed several mitigation measures to best assure the project does not harm the environment. Making sure the benefits far outweigh the costs is a major component of project success.

- 8) Who else supports this plan?

Many local, national, and international conservation organizations support the plan, including Point Blue Conservation Science, American Bird Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, National Audubon Society, International Bird Rescue, several local Audubon chapters, and many others.

- 9) What happens if no action is taken?

The Farallon ecosystem will continue to be out of balance because of invasive house mice. Rare ash storm-petrels will continue to decline. The storm-petrels and endemic crickets, salamanders, and plants may eventually require endangered species listing and more drastic, costly measures to protect and restore their populations.

- 10) Describe the Farallon Islands after using a thoroughly planned, one time use of rodenticide. The last invasive mammal will have been removed from the islands. With mouse impacts removed, rare species such as the ash storm-petrel, Farallon camel cricket, and Farallon arboreal salamander can increase and be better buffered to survive the impacts of climate change. Without having their seeds eaten, native plants will be better able to thrive.

**Pam Bierce (she/her)**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service-California, Nevada and Klamath Basin**

**External Affairs**

**(916) 414-6542 office or (916) 207- 8385 cell**



*"Outside is the best side"*