



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
1 Marshlands Road
Fremont, California 94555



4 October 2012

U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
Federal Explosives Licensing Center
Martinsburg, VA 25405

To whom it may concern,

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, PRBO Conservation Science, and Island Conservation have partnered together to develop an EIS investigating potential alternatives for eradicating invasive house mice from the South Farallon Islands, Farallon National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), off the coast of central California. Certain potential alternatives may require the hazing of large numbers of gulls from the island. As part of our research on these potential alternatives, Island Conservation plans to lead an island-wide gull hazing trial in November and December 2012 in conjunction with two organizations with vast experience in bird hazing techniques, USDA-APHIS and the California Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN). The hazing trial will include the use of Explosive Pest Control Devices (ECPDs).

In order to maximize the effective use of personnel on the island, Island Conservation is seeking a user permit for EPCD use on the island. Island Conservation personnel have already received training in the proper and safe use of EPCDs from experienced hazing personnel at the OWCN.

I am fully aware of the proposed activities involving ECPDs on the refuge land and hereby grant permission to inspectors of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, to access and inspect the premises intended for the storage and use of EPCDs.

Sincerely,

Gerry McChesney
Manager, Farallon National Wildlife Refuge

