

Pacific Seabird Group



DEDICATED TO THE STUDY AND CONSERVATION OF PACIFIC SEABIRDS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT

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February 26, 2010

Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge
95 Sterling Hwy., Suite 1
Homer, AK 99603

Re: Invasive Species Eradication for Habitat Restoration on Tangik, Poa, and Sud Islands

Dear Sirs:

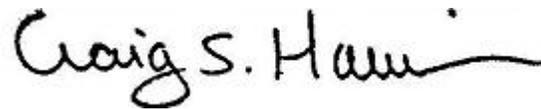
On behalf of the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) we have reviewed the “Environmental Assessment Invasive Species Eradication for Habitat Restoration on Tangik, Poa, and Sud Islands, Alaska.” PSG is an international, non-profit organization that was founded in 1972 to promote the knowledge, study, and conservation of Pacific seabirds. Its membership of nearly 600 scientists is drawn from the entire Pacific basin, including Canada, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Russia, Japan, South Korea, China, Australia, New Zealand, and the USA. Among PSG’s members are biologists who have research interests in Pacific seabirds, government officials who manage seabird refuges and populations, and individuals who are interested in marine conservation. Since its inception PSG has been a strong and vocal advocate of removing invasive species from seabird colonies throughout the Pacific region. PSG members are some of the world’s experts in island restoration, and many of our members have worked on restoring and conserving seabirds in Alaska.

PSG gives it full support to the eradication of exotic European rabbits from Tangik and Poa Islands in the eastern Aleutian Islands. We also support the removal of introduced marmots from Sud Island of the Barren Islands in the Gulf of Alaska. We believe that the removal of invasive species from island ecosystems can provide one the greatest paybacks per dollar spent in wildlife conservation. These projects will continue the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge’s longtime conservation work of restoring islands through invasive species removal. This work does not only benefit Alaska, but also encourages by example island restoration projects in other parts of the world and helps refine techniques for their successful completion.

As you are aware, precautions must be taken not to transport new exotic species to the islands. Access to all these locations likely will involve using ports (Akutan, Kodiak, Dutch Harbor, etc.) that are infested with Norway rats. We fully expect that you will take necessary precautions to prevent new introductions.

We look forward to completion of these projects and wish your field crews a safe, comfortable, and successful time on the islands. We admire their commitment and willingness to spend long periods on such remote and rugged locations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig S. Harrison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Craig S. Harrison
Vice Chair for Conservation