

24th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232. The petition, finding, supporting data, and comments are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above addresses.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Russell D. Peterson, at the above address (telephone 503/231-6179 or FTS 429-6179).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 4(b)(3)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended in 1982 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) make a finding on whether a petition to list, delist, or reclassify a species presents substantial scientific or commercial information to demonstrate that the petitioned action may be warranted. To the maximum extent practicable, this finding is to be made within 90 days of the receipt of the petition, and the finding is to be published promptly in the *Federal Register*. If the finding is positive, the Service is also required to promptly commence a review of the status of the involved species.

The National Audubon Society (Dr. J.P. Myers, Senior Vice President) submitted a petition to list the marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) as a threatened species in the States of Washington, Oregon, and California. The petition, dated January 12, 1988, was received by the Service on January 15, 1988.

The petition identified the present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of the subspecies habitat or range, and the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms as the primary factors for the petition. The status review that accompanied the petition cited habitat loss of old-growth and mature forests as the principal factor affecting the continued existence of the subspecies over the southern portion of its North American range.

Considerable habitat reduction has occurred in the three-State area under

petition and anecdotal information exists that may indicate a corresponding reduction in the local portion of the murrelet population. Questions pertaining to the significance and relationship of this portion of the murrelet population with the larger and more secure portion in the northern part of its range remain to be answered. Nonetheless, the Service found that the petition presented substantial information indicating that the requested action may be warranted.

Review of the status of *Brachyramphus marmoratus* is initiated with publication of this notice. The Service would appreciate any additional data, comments, and suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any interested party concerning the marbled murrelet.

Author

This notice was prepared by Ms. Jackie Campbell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 500 N.E. Multnomah Street, Suite 1692, Portland, Oregon 97232 (503/231-6150 or FTS 429-6150).

Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*; Pub. L. 93-205, 87 Stat. 884; Pub. L. 94-359, 90 Stat. 911; Pub. L. 95-632, 92 Stat. 3751; Pub. L. 96-159, 93 Stat. 1225; Pub. L. 97-304, 96 Stat. 1411; Pub. L. 99-625, 100 Stat. 3500 (1986)), unless otherwise noted.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and threatened wildlife, Fish, Marine mammals, Plants (agriculture).

Dated: October 7, 1988.

Susan Recce,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Notice of Finding on a Petition To List the Marbled Murrelet in Washington, Oregon, and California

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of finding on petition.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces a 90-day petition finding for a petition to amend the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. Substantial information has been presented that a petition to list the marbled murrelet in Washington, Oregon, and California may be warranted. Formal review of the status of the marbled murrelet is initiated herewith.

DATE: The finding announced in this notice was made in August 1988. Comments and information may be submitted until December 1, 1988.

ADDRESSES: Information, comments, or questions may be submitted to the Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Field Station, 727 N.E.