

**50 CFR Part 17****Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 90-Day Petition Finding and Initiation of Status Review, Northern Spotted Owl**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of petition finding and status review.

**SUMMARY:** The Service announces a 90-day finding for a petition to amend the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife by adding the northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*). A status review is initiated for the northern spotted owl. Comments and data on this species are requested.

**DATES:** The finding announced in this notice was made July 23, 1987. Comments and information on the status of the northern spotted owl must be submitted by November 10, 1987.

**ADDRESSES:** Information, comments or questions should be submitted to Mr. Rolf Wallenstrom, Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 500 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 1692, Portland, Oregon 97232. The petition, 90-day finding, supporting data, and comments are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Region 1 Office of Endangered Species at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Wayne S. White, Chief, Division of Endangered Species, at the above address (503/231-6131 or FTS 429-6131).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

Section 4(b)(3)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires that the 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.

A petition from Max Strahan, Campaign Director, Green World, Cambridge, Massachusetts, dated November 28, 1986, was received by the Service January 28, 1987. The petition requested the Service to list the northern spotted owl, *Strix occidentalis caurina*, as an endangered species. The owl is known to chiefly inhabit the forests of British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and northwestern California.

The petition stated that the northern spotted owl population is in decline due to habitat destruction. The petition and references cited therein stated that (a) the northern spotted owl is closely associated with dense old-growth forests, (b) timber operations have greatly reduced the available owl habitat, and (c) most of the remaining suitable habitat for the owl is on public lands. The petition, along with additional information available to the

Fish and Wildlife Service, presented substantial information to call for a status review of the species to determine whether listing the northern spotted owl is actually warranted. Therefore, the finding was that the petition presented substantial information that the action requested may be warranted. A formal status review of the northern spotted owl is initiated herewith.

The Service would appreciate any additional data, comments and suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any other interested party concerning the status of the northern spotted owl, *Strix occidentalis caurina*.

Within one-year from the date the petition was received (January 28, 1987), a finding as to whether the petitioned action is warranted is required by section 4(b)(3)(B) of the Act. Data received on or before November 10,

1987, will be considered in making the finding on the merits of the petition.

#### Author

This notice was prepared by Ms. Robyn Thorson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 500 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 1692, Portland, Oregon 97232 (503/231-6131 of FTS 429-6131).

#### Authority

The authority for this notice is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended 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 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: September 9, 1987

Susan Recce,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

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