SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 4(b)(3)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires that the Service make a finding within 12 months of the date of the receipt of a valid petition on whether the petitioned action is (a) not warranted, (b) warranted, or (c) warranted but precluded from immediate proposal by other pending proposals of higher priority.

On December 17, 1993, the Service received a petition dated December 13, 1993, from the Biodiversity Legal Foundation, Eric Holle and Martin J. Berghoffen, to list the Alexander Archipelago wolf (*Canis lupus ligoni*). A 90-day finding was made by the Service that the petition presented substantial information indicating that the requested action may be warranted. The 90-day finding was announced on May 20, 1994 (59 FR 26476). A status review was initiated on May 20, 1994, and the public comment period was open between May 20 and October 1, 1994.

The Service has reviewed the petition, the literature cited in the petition, other available literature and information, and consulted with biologists and researchers familiar with the Alexander Archipelago wolf. On the basis of the best scientific and commercial information available, the Service finds the petition is not warranted at this time.

In the 90-day finding the Service recognized the petitioners concerns for the long-term survival of the Alexander Archipelago wolf; however, the best available information indicates that the subspecies' population is currently stable. The Alexander Archipelago wolf's range lies almost entirely on lands managed by the Tongass National Forest. The U.S. Forest Service is evaluating its land management practices through the development of interim management guidelines to maintain viable populations of native wildlife, and considering long-term management actions through revision of the Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. The Service believes that there is opportunity to manage for the long-term viability of the Alexander Archipelago wolf through the implementation of interim guidelines and the revised Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. However, it is clear by our analysis that without significant changes to the existing Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, the longterm viability of the Alexander Archipelago wolf is seriously imperiled. The Alexander Archipelago wolf will therefore be retained on the Service's list as a category 2 candidate species. If additional data become available, the Service may reassess the listing priority or the need to list this species.

Authority

The authority for this section is the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: February 15, 1995.

Mollie H. Beattie,

Director, Fish and Wildlife Service. [FR Doc. 95–4421 Filed 2–22–95; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 4310–55–M