



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

5275 Leesburg Pike
MS-ES
Falls Church, Virginia 22041

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/AES/ DCC/BLPS/075859

Camila Cossío, Staff Attorney
Center for Biological Diversity
P.O. Box 11375
Portland, OR 97211

Dear Ms. Cossío:

We received your letter dated September 8, 2021, stating your intent to sue us regarding a 12-month finding on a petition to the list the Alexander Archipelago wolf (wolf). On July 27, 2021, we found that your petition presented substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that listing the wolf may be warranted (86 Fed. Reg. 40186).

We will begin working on the status review soon and plan to incorporate information from studies that are planned or currently underway that will help inform the review and subsequent 12-month finding. The State of Alaska, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. National Park Service, and several universities are currently working on various studies related to wolf abundance, genetics, and prey interactions. These studies include examining the seasonal predation patterns and diet diversity of the wolf, a genetic study to help understand gene flow and inbreeding for the wolf, and a spatial capture-recapture method using hair snares to provide an updated estimate of wolf abundance on Prince of Wales Island. Additionally, we are testing camera-based methods to estimate wolf and prey abundance. We are also preparing to work with Alaska Native Tribes and corporations within the wolf's range to gather traditional and ecological knowledge to incorporate into the status review, in accordance with our Native American Policy, 510 FW 1.

We plan to complete the 12-month finding for the wolf by the end of Fiscal Year 2023. We have committed the necessary resources to work on the finding, and we are on track to meet that date. The updated National Listing Workplan, which will cover fiscal years 2022 through 2026 and which we intend to post on our website this fall, will reflect this timeframe. It will also reflect that the wolf is in Priority Bin 3 per our Prioritization Methodology (81 FR 49248, July 27, 2016).

Thank you for your interest in conserving the wolf. If you have any questions or if you wish to discuss this matter, please contact Mr. Drew Crane, Deputy Assistant Regional Director for Ecological Services, at 907-786-3323 or drew_crane@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Gina Shultz
Deputy Assistant Director for
Ecological Services