

Bicknell's Thrush 90-Day Petition Finding Request for Information

When we make a finding that a petition presents substantial information indicating that listing a species may be warranted, we are required to promptly initiate review of the status of the species (status review). For the status review to be complete, and based on the best available scientific and commercial information, we request information on the Bicknell's thrush from governmental agencies, Native American tribes, the scientific community, industry, and any other interested parties. We seek information on:

- (1) the species' biology, range, and population trends, including:
 - (a) habitat requirements for feeding, breeding, and sheltering;
 - (b) genetics and taxonomy;
 - (c) historical and current range, including distribution patterns;
 - (d) historical and current population levels, and current and projected trends; and
 - (e) past and ongoing conservation measures for the species, its habitat or both.

- (2) The factors that are the basis for making a listing determination for a species under section 4(a) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), which are:
 - (a) the present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range;
 - (b) overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes;
 - (c) disease or predation;
 - (d) the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or
 - (e) other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.

- (3) Information regarding the potential impacts to the species resulting from climate change, such as data, analyses, and predictions related to:
 - (a) the loss of spruce-fir forested habitat where the species breeds, including the projected impacts to the Canadian portion of the species' breeding range;
 - (b) impacts to forest habitats in the Caribbean that provide important wintering habitat for the species; and
 - (c) alterations to the cycling and productivity in balsam fir cone production that may alter population dynamics in red squirrels, a major predator of nestling Bicknell's thrush.

- (4) Information regarding the ongoing and projected impacts of ground-level ozone emissions on spruce and fir in the northeastern United States and Maritime Provinces of Canada.

- (5) Behavioral, survival, and reproductive consequences of various mercury accumulation levels in insectivorous songbirds.

- (6) Impacts to the species resulting from the construction and operation of commercial wind turbines and transmission lines in breeding habitat, including habitat loss, mortality,

productivity, and avoidance of turbines as a result of blade movements or noise.

(7) Regulatory mechanisms that may be protective of the Bicknell's thrush and its habitat, particularly on its wintering grounds in the Greater Antilles.

If, after the status review, we determine that listing the Bicknell's thrush is warranted, we will propose critical habitat (see definition in section 3(5)(A) of the Act) under section 4 of the Act, to the maximum extent prudent and determinable at the time we propose to list the species. Therefore, we also request data and information on:

- (1) what may constitute "physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species," within the geographical range currently occupied by the species;
- (2) where these features are currently found;
- (3) whether any of these features may require special management considerations or protection;
- (4) specific areas outside the geographical area currently occupied by the species that are "essential for the conservation of the species"; and
- (5) what, if any, critical habitat you think we should propose for designation if the species is proposed for listing, and why such habitat meets the requirements of section 4 of the Act.