



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9589



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/Region 5/ES-TE

SEP 12 2006

Defenders of Wildlife
1130 17th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Petitioner:

This letter is in regard to your petition dated July 28, 2005, which requested the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to emergency list the red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended. Your petition was received on August 5, 2005. In a letter dated December 22, 2005, we notified you that we received your petition and that we would begin processing your request.

Under the provisions of the ESA we are to make an initial finding as to whether or not a petition to add a species to the endangered species list presents substantial information indicating that the requested action may be warranted. Section 4(b)(3)(A) of the ESA provides that, to the maximum extent practicable, our finding should be made within 90 days. If our initial finding concludes that the petition presents substantial information indicating that the requested action may be warranted, then section 4(b)(3)(B) gives the Service 1 year from the date the petition was received to make a final determination on the petitioned action.

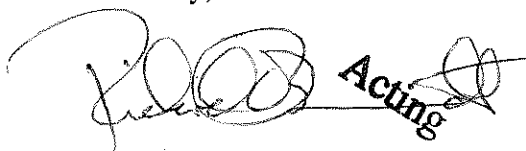
On September 12, 2006, the Service published the annual Candidate Notice of Review (CNOR) in the Federal Register. This document presents an updated list of plant and animal species native to the United States that we regard as candidates or have proposed for addition to the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. The Service defines a candidate species as a species for which we have, on file, sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to support a proposal to list as endangered or threatened, but for which preparation and publication of a proposal is precluded by higher-priority listing actions. In the most recent CNOR, we have added the subspecies of red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) to the candidate list. This publication of the CNOR provides notice of a substantial 90-day finding on your petition to list this subspecies, as well as a warranted but precluded 12-month finding pursuant to section 4(b)(3) of the ESA. A copy of the CNOR can be found at our Web site:
<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/candidates>.

A candidate species is assigned a listing priority number (LPN) of 1 to 12 depending on the magnitude of threats, the imminence of threats, and by its taxonomic status in accordance with

our priority guidance as published on September 21, 1983 (48 FR 43098). The red knot subspecies *rufa* was designated a LPN of 6. We have determined that there is a high magnitude of threats, the threats are considered non-imminent at this time, and the taxonomic status of subspecies equates to a LPN of 6.

If there are any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Michael G. Thabault, Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, at 413-253-8390, or Ms. Diane Lynch, Regional Listing Coordinator, at 413-253-8628.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marvin E. Moriarty". The signature is stylized with large loops and a long horizontal stroke. To the right of the signature, the word "Acting" is written in a bold, sans-serif font.

Marvin E. Moriarty
Regional Director