



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/AES/019629

DEC 22 2004

Mr. Craig S. Harrison
Vice Chair for Conservation
Pacific Seabird Group
4953 Sonoma Mountain Road
Santa Rosa, California 95404

Dear Mr. Harrison:

Thank you for your letter of November 12, 2004, concerning the status of the marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) conducted a thorough review of the status of the listed population of this species. An important part of that review included consideration of the application of the Service's policy on distinct population segments. Based on the information available, we believe that the appropriate conclusion was to initiate the status review of this species over its full range.

Your letter emphasizes the need for more genetic investigation, as was also noted in the Service's review. We agree and have recently provided \$53,000 to Dr. Vicki Friesen at Queens University, British Columbia, Canada, to support analysis of the genetic differences and similarities between birds found in Oregon and Washington with those in British Columbia and Alaska. This work is scheduled for completion in late 2005.

We assure you that the rangewide status review will also include all new information that may become available since completion of the past review. We appreciate your offer of support, and hope that members of the Pacific Seabird Group will continue to contribute appropriate information.

Sincerely,

DIRECTOR

