

Bulletin

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Service to Issue a Revised Proposed Rule Reclassifying the Straight-horned Markhor Under the ESA

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) today announced its intent to revise a proposed rule to reclassify the straight-horned markhor (*Capra falconeri jerdoni*) from endangered to threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The proposed rule includes a special rule that would allow the import of straight-horned markhor trophies from approved management programs. Approved programs provide enhancement to the survival of the species in the wild.

The Service is required to base listing determinations on the best scientific and commercial data available. The planned revisions to the proposed rule are the result of new information that the Service received during the public comment period indicating that *Capra falconeri jerdoni* is no longer a valid taxon and has been combined with *Capra falconeri megaceros*. The combined taxon retains the common name straight-horned markhor.

The ESA provides a critical safety net for fish, wildlife and plants and to date has prevented the extinction of hundreds of imperiled species, as well as promoting the recovery of many others. The Service is actively engaged with conservation partners and the public in the search for improved and innovative ways to conserve and recover imperiled species. To learn more about the Endangered Species program's Branch of Foreign Species, visit: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/what-we-do/international-activities.html>.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We

are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfws, follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/usfwshq, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq>.

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