

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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GRIZZLY BEAR NO LONGER THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION, INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BELIEVES

The grizzly bear is not now threatened with extinction in the United States, Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel said today in announcing revisions to the Department's list of endangered native fish and wildlife.

But there also was some bad news--the American peregrine falcon, severely depleted throughout its range and no longer nesting in the eastern part of the country, has been placed on the endangered list. Pesticides are suspected as the cause of its decline.

The grizzly population in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and Colorado has remained stable at about 800 animals in recent years (larger numbers exist in Alaska and Canada, where the species is doing fairly well), but wildlife managers believe that this mammal of the West is assured survival because it is managed as a game species under State laws. Protection in national parks and establishment of wilderness areas also favor grizzly existence.

Three species of birds formerly believed to be extinct--the Molokai creeper, Maui nukupuu, and Puerto Rican plain pigeon--have been rediscovered in small numbers and placed on the endangered list.

A list of endangered species is compiled periodically by Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, as required by the Endangered Species Preservation Act of 1966, which authorized programs for the conservation and propagation of endangered species. These programs involve State and Federal agencies, national conservation organizations, universities, and private industries.

The current list shows 89 native species threatened with extinction: 14 mammals, 46 birds, 8 reptiles and amphibians, and 21 fish.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: The list of endangered species is available from the Office of Conservation Education, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U. S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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