

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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## MONKEYS SEIZED IN FIRST ACTION UNDER ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION ACT

The Interior Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife announced today that it has made the first seizures of foreign endangered wildlife under the Endangered Species Conservation Act which went into effect in June.

Seized in Miami by Bureau game management agents were two Red-faced Uakari monkeys that are on the endangered species list.

This species occurs in western Brazil and eastern Peru. Hunting is reputed to be the cause of its decline, according to the Red Data Book of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. The monkey is sought by subsistence hunters, as well as professionals who seek the economic value of their skins and meat. Several kinds of wildlife have almost been eliminated from the greater part of the Peruvian Amazon basin.

With the U.S. endangered species law now in force, any importation of wildlife species declared by Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel to be threatened with worldwide extinction is forbidden except for specific scientific and educational purposes or for propagation to preserve the species.

Assistant Secretary Leslie L. Glasgow, who heads Interior's programs for fish, wildlife and parks, has said that the statute will be "rigidly enforced."

The seized shipment arrived at Miami airport from Bogota, Columbia addressed to Animal World of Miami, Inc.

The monkeys are being cared for at Crandon Park Zoological Garden in Miami until disposition is decided.

The law provides for civil penalties up to \$5,000 and criminal penalties of up to \$10,000, and forfeiture of the animals.

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