

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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## STATUS OF RIVER OTTER TO BE REVIEWED

The status of the river otter will be reviewed by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine whether it should be proposed for listing as a threatened or endangered species, Keith M. Schreiner, Associate Director, announced today.

The study is being conducted following receipt of a petition submitted by the Fund for Animals, a conservation organization, which presented sufficient information to merit a review. Anyone having additional information that may assist in determining whether this species, or any population thereof, should be proposed for listing as endangered or threatened is requested to write the Director (OES), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. All comments received by November 25, 1977, will be considered.

The river otter (Lutra canadensis) originally occurred throughout the United States and Canada. In recent years, however, it reportedly has declined because of habitat loss and excessive hunting and trapping for its pelt. Today its population is greatly reduced in all areas, especially in the Great Plains, Rocky Mountains, and Northeastern United States.

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