

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

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## STATUS OF U.S. WILDLIFE UNDER ENDANGERED SPECIES TREATY BEING ANALYZED

Scientists, exporters, hobbyists, conservationists, and government officials at all levels are invited to assist the Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service in examining the status of native wildlife protected by the Endangered Species Treaty.

The Service invited public participation in a notice in the March 7, 1978, Federal Register. All information received by April 15, 1978, will be considered.

Included in the 134 native species and subspecies are the Mearn's quail, bighorn sheep, cougar, bobcat, lynx, river otter, and American alligator. U.S. regulations implementing the 1973 treaty, called the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, took effect in this country in May 1977. The United States is one of the treaty's 44 producing and consuming member-countries.

The United States and Canada agreed at a recent international meeting on the Convention to document the status of native wildlife species to determine whether they are properly listed under Appendix I and II. Import and export permits are required under the treaty for trade in these species, whether the trade is for commercial, scientific, or private purposes. Appendix I is a list of species threatened with extinction for which commercial trade is restricted. Appendix II species are those that are or may become threatened with extinction unless trade is monitored and controlled. "Look-alike" species may also be listed in Appendix II.

The status of plants protected by the treaty is being reviewed by a committee from the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). However, the Service also welcomes pertinent data on both native and foreign flora.

Persons wishing to contribute data to this study should obtain the list of species, criteria, and format from the Federal Wildlife Permit Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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