

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

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## SOME ENDANGERED SPECIES PROPOSALS WITHDRAWN; OTHERS TO BE SUPPLEMENTED

The Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has withdrawn proposed rulemakings to determine the critical habitats of 50 plants and animals that had been listed, or proposed for listing, as endangered or threatened species. The agency also announced that other proposals to add some 1,700 species to the list will not be made final until the proposals have been supplemented with additional information.

These actions, published in the March 6, 1979, Federal Register, are being taken to meet the requirements of the 1978 amendments to the Endangered Species Act. The Federal Register notice also listed the previous proposals that are affected, such as critical habitat designations for the fringe-toed lizard, grizzly bear, and additional areas for the whooping crane.

The 1978 amendments require that critical habitat be specified whenever possible at the same time a species is proposed for listing. This is the supplementary information that will be added if appropriate to the proposals now outstanding to list about 1,700 U.S. plants and animals as endangered or threatened.

Other new requirements include consideration of economic and other relevant factors in the delineation of critical habitat and extensive public involvement through meetings, hearings, and publication of notices in newspapers and scientific journals. Also as a result of the amendments, species that have been proposed for listing, as well as those already listed, now must be taken into consideration in the planning of certain Federal activities. This latter requirement applies to the 1,700 species for which supplementary critical habitat information will be provided.

Copies of previous proposals affected by this action and of the Federal Register notice can be obtained from the Director (OES), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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