

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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## PINE BARRENS TREEFROG IN FLORIDA PROPOSED FOR ENDANGERED LIST

The Florida population of the Pine Barrens treefrog, a 2-inch resident of boggy hillsides in Okaloosa County, has been proposed as endangered on the U.S. List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife, Keith M. Schreiner, Associate Director of the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announced today.

The proposal, published in the April 5, 1977, Federal Register, also includes a determination of critical habitat for the species. Interested persons have until June 3, 1977, to comment on the proposal.

In Florida, the Pine Barrens treefrog is currently known to exist in only seven sites in the hill region of the panhandle. Four local colonies have been exterminated since this unique species was discovered in 1970; continued development and clearing of land for agricultural use threatens the existence of the remaining populations.

These Florida sites are isolated by over 580 miles (750 kilometers) from the nearest Pine Barrens treefrog populations in North and South Carolina. They are unique in their color pattern, mating calls, and body proportions from all other populations of Pine Barrens treefrogs. Unless protective measures are taken, this unique member of Florida gulf coast wildlife may be exterminated.

Persons wishing to participate in this rulemaking should submit written comments to the Director (FWS/LE), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 19183, Washington, D.C. 20036.