

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

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## TWO ZEBRA SPECIES LISTED AS THREATENED

Two species of zebras, the victims of excessive killing both for the sale of their hides and because they compete with livestock for available food supplies, have been added to the U.S. List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The rulemaking, published in the August 21, 1979, Federal Register, lists the Grevy's and Hartmann's mountain zebras as threatened, a category meaning they are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future. They had been proposed for endangered status in December 1977 but new data show the threatened classification to be more appropriate.

Fewer than 14,000 Grevy's zebras are believed to exist in Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya. The main concentration of the Hartmann's mountain zebra--about 7,000--is now restricted to Southwest African and neighboring Angola.

Listing the animals under the Endangered Species Act makes funds and wildlife expertise available to the host countries to assist in their conservation programs.

The rulemaking prohibits the importation of the two zebra species except for limited purposes authorized by a Federal permit. It also prohibits commercial importation of zebra hides, wallets, purses, belts, and other products made from these species. Since the United States has been a major consumer for such products, this action will reduce the market for zebra hides and will lessen the incentive for poaching.

Importation of sport hunting trophies from the Hartmann's zebras will be allowed under Federal permit, however, as being in the best interest of the survival of the species. These zebras are now protected by ranchers, who might destroy the animals as agricultural pests if they did not have the economic incentive provided by revenue from sport hunters.

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