

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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THIRTY-ONE ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY TEAMS SET UP

The first phase of a priority undertaking to restore endangered animals in the United States to a healthy balance in the wild was announced today with the naming of 31 teams of wildlife experts by Keith M. Schreiner, Associate Director of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Each team will be responsible for developing a recovery plan designed to the specific needs of one animal or of several animals occupying a common ecosystem.

The animals on which this formal, broadbased effort will focus are the greenback cutthroat trout, Rocky Mountain peregrine falcon, Maryland darter, Columbian white-tailed deer, Santa Cruz salamander, American peregrine falcon (eastern population), Cui-ui, San Joaquin kit fox, light-footed clapper rail, Hawaiian waterbirds (coots, stilts, and gallinules), California condor, Kauai forest birds, Northern Rocky Mountain wolf, Warm Springs pupfish, eastern timber wolf, the California least tern, Yuma clapper rail, Mexican duck, Laysan duck, Nene, Palila, black-footed ferret, Maui/Molokai forest birds, red wolf, Delmarva fox squirrel, American alligator, Indiana bat, Mississippi sandhill crane, Kirtland's warbler, dusky seaside sparrow, and the blue pike.

The 31 teams named today are the first of an anticipated total of 50 to 60 recovery teams that the Fish and Wildlife Service will form and set to work between now and July 1, 1975. Each team will comprise three to six wildlife experts drawn from private, academic, and government organizations.

The species announced today include animals that are in critical condition in the wild and animals with which a reasonable degree of success is likely or which have been the subject of considerable field research programs for some time.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 gives Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service of the Department of Commerce lead responsibilities for developing a national effort to restore endangered species. States, other Federal agencies, and various private organizations are already active in many programs designed to restore endangered species.

All 31 teams will draw up specific plans denoting specific actions needed, objectives, and time frames for accomplishment of the actions taken to restore the individual species. These plans will be reviewed regularly and changed as tasks are completed and the animal's situation changes.

Team leaders named today and their affiliations are:

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| Eastern timber wolf | Ralph Bailey | Michigan Department of Natural Resources |
| Greenback cutthroat trout | Rolf Nittmann | Colorado Division of Wildlife |
| Rocky Mountain peregrine falcon | Gerald Craig | Colorado Division of Wildlife |
| Maryland darter | Charles Frisbie | Maryland Department of Natural Resources |
| Columbian white-tailed deer | David Fisher | U.S.F.W.S |
| Santa Cruz salamander | Eldon Vestal | California Department of Fish and Game |
| American peregrine falcon (eastern population) | Alexander C. Nagy | Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association |
| Cui-ui (edible fish of the sucker family) | Earl Pyle | U.S.F.W.S. |
| San Joaquin kit fox | Howard Leach | California Department of Fish and Game |
| Light-footed clapper rail | Sanford R. Wilbur | U.S.F.W.S. |
| Hawaiian waterbirds | Ronald L. Walker | Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources |
| California condor | Sanford R. Wilbur | U.S.F.W.S. |
| Kauai forest birds | John Sincock | U.S.F.W.S. |

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| Northern Rocky Mountain wolf | Dennis Flath | Montana Fish and Game Department |
| Warm Springs pupfish | James Yoakum | U.S.F.W.S. |
| California least tern | Ronald Jurek | California Department of Fish and Game |
| Yuma clapper rail | Robert Delaney | U.S.F.W.S. |
| Mexican duck | Richard W. Rigby | U.S.F.W.S. |
| Laysan duck | Palmer Sekora | U.S.F.W.S. |
| Nene (Hawaiian goose) | Ernest Kosaka | Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources |
| Palila (Hawaiian honey-creeper) | Andrew Berger | University of Hawaii |
| Black-footed ferret | Raymond L. Linder | South Dakota State University |
| Maui/Molokai forest birds | Michael Scott | U.S.F.W.S. |
| Red wolf | Russel Clapper | U.S.F.W.S. |
| Delmarva fox squirrel | Bernard F. Halla | Maryland Department of Natural Resources |
| American alligator | Ted Joanen | Louisiana Wildlife and Fish Commission |
| Indiana bat | James M. Engle | U.S.F.W.S. |
| Mississippi sandhill crane | Jacob Valentine | U.S.F.W.S. |
| Kirtland's warbler | John Byelich | Michigan Department of Natural Resources |
| Dusky seaside sparrow | James L. Baker | U.S.F.W.S. |
| Blue pike | Arden J. Trandahl | U.S.F.W.S. |

Membership on the 31 teams includes representatives from the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service, and the Agriculture Department's Forest Service, the National Audubon Society, Tundra Films, Smithsonian Institution, California Department of Transportation, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council, California Food and Agriculture Department, Office of Environmental Management of the County of San Diego, 20 State fish and game commissions, and 12 universities: Oregon State University, University of Wisconsin, Cornell University, California State University, University of Montana, University of Nevada, University of Hawaii, University of Maryland, University of Maine, Louisiana State University, Purdue University, and Colorado College.