
THE LEADER IN ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY NEWS

11. ENDANGERED SPECIES:**Feds to consider protections for 19 animals**

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The Obama administration will consider endangered or threatened listings for 19 species, it announced today.

The proposals for the listings of 15 species of foreign bats, along with the emperor penguin, Flores hawk-eagle, Ridgway's hawk and Virgin Islands coqui, come from five different petitions received by the Fish and Wildlife Service, according to a **notice** published in today's *Federal Register*.

The petition for the 15 species of bat was filed by the environmental group WildEarth Guardians. The species are found throughout the globe, from Japan to Cuba.

The bats are: the Armenian whiskered bat, Aru flying fox, Bonin flying fox, Christmas Island pipistrelle, Cuban greater funnel-eared bat, greater monkey-faced bat, Hill's horseshoe bat, Jamaican greater funnel-eared bat, Lamotte's roundleaf bat, Lord Howe long-eared bat, Montane monkey-faced bat, Philippine bare-backed fruit bat, New Caledonia long-eared bat, New Zealand greater short-tailed bat and Paraguayan mustached bat.

WildEarth also filed petitions in 2011 for the Flores hawk-eagle, Ridgway's hawk and Virgin Islands coqui.

The Center for Biological Diversity petitioned for protections for the emperor penguin in 2011.

Officials will spend the next year considering the petitions. Groups can submit public comment on the proposals through March 24.

The Fish and Wildlife Service reached agreements with the Center for Biological Diversity and WildEarth Guardians in 2011 that require the agency to within six years issue final listing decisions for more than 250 candidate species and initial listing decisions on hundreds more. In return, the groups agreed to limit new petitions and legal challenges.

The Ridgway's hawk and Virgin Islands coqui fall under those agreements.

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