

Zebras, African elephants near extinction

The U.S. Interior Department is proposing to list two zebra species as endangered, and plans to classify the African elephant as threatened.

Keith Schreiner, associate director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, says the Grevy's zebra of southern Africa and the Hartmann's Mountain zebra in southwest Africa and Angola are endangered by hide hunters.

"Grevy's zebra numbers appear to have plummeted in the last decade," Schreiner said. "The only sizable populations are in northern Kenya, where it has been estimated that about 1,500 animals survive.

This is down from more than 10,000 in 1971."

Uncontrolled shooting in the last two or three years has wiped out entire populations, according to Schreiner. Poachers are a major factor in the decline, although the zebras are protected by Kenyan law.

The price of zebra skins has recently skyrocketed from \$150 to as much as \$2,000 a hide, making the animals a prime target for poachers.

The Hartmann's Mountain zebra is also killed for its hide, but a much lesser degree, Schreiner said. In the last 25 years, the species has declined from 75,000 to less

than 2,000 individuals.

The decline is due to the introduction of livestock, according to Schreiner. Because the zebras compete with cattle and sheep for grazing lands, ranchers have destroyed them in "vast numbers." "There are no effective means to control the slaughter," Schreiner said.

The African elephant's range has been contracting in recent years because of the expanding human population and illegal killing for ivory, according to Iain Douglas-Hamilton, chair of the Elephant Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Re-

sources.

As many as 100,000 to 400,000 elephants are lost each year from ivory poaching alone, posing a danger to the estimated 1,300,000 remaining elephants. Douglas-Hamilton says.

However, because there are still some stable and carefully protected large populations, the Fish and Wildlife Service does not believe the elephant is in immediate danger of extinction.

For this reason, the service proposes to classify the species as threatened rather than endangered.

Weaver's timber hearings to help little guy

Congressman Jim Weaver, D-Ore., has scheduled Washington hearings Feb. 23 to help assure a steady timber supply for small, independent loggers.

The smaller logging outfits consistently are outbid by larger companies in National Forest timber

sales, Weaver says.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) set-aside program, which makes a percentage of National Forest timber available for sales only to small businesses, isn't providing adequate help for the smallest contractors, accord-

ing to Weaver.

"Since any firm with 500 employees or less qualifies under the (SBA) program, what you really have now is a program designed for companies that are big, but not huge," Weaver says. "We need to design a new category for the little

guys."

The Associated Oregon Loggers (AOL) have proposed a new set-aside category for firms with 25 employees or less. Weaver, who chairs the House Forestry Subcommittee, says, "I am very sympathetic to this concept."

Bob Lindsay, field representative for the state-wide organization says the AOL would like to see either an SBA rule change or new legislation provide "a method by which the small logger can have a chance to purchase federal timber."

Lindsay says this is practically impossible under present conditions. "What we're primarily interested in is salvage material — dead or downed timber," he says.

The AOL represents close to 70 percent of the contract loggers in Oregon.

Weaver says he also is interested in promoting more salvage sales in the national forests.

"There are currently millions of board feet of timber that go to waste every year because of rot," Weaver maintains. "That timber should be used for lumber, plywood and other products."

The waste timber is ideally suited for small entrepreneurs and would require very little capital investment, according to Weaver.

Individuals or organizations wishing to testify at the Feb. 23 hearings can contact Anita Brown, House Committee on Agriculture, 1301 Longworth House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C.

Minor LTD route changes start Monday

Changes that may not make the buses any faster, but may put them back on the right schedules will go into effect for seven Lane Transit District (LTD) routes beginning Monday, according to

David Rynerson, LTD planning director.

The changes, which are routine schedule adjustments, will effect four urban routes, one non-urban route and one Sunday and holiday

service route, Rynerson says.

Routes #12, Westmoreland; #24, Royald Avenue; #53, Springfield/Valley River Center/K-Mart; #55, Oakway Road; #1, Veneta; #2, Junction City and #14, Oakway Road Sunday services were adjusted to meet the new time schedules that will be printed sometime this month, Rynerson says.

The Westmoreland route change won't affect the schedule from the University's Westmoreland Student housing to the University, Rynerson says.

"The changes are actually beyond the area where many of the University students ride," Rynerson says. The change effects the schedule from the 28th Ave. and City View St. stop to the Westmoreland student apart-

ments and gives the driver two extra minutes to drive the route.

"The only effect will hopefully be to make sure the bus is on time at the Westmoreland apartment stop," he says.

The other changes are routine schedule adjustments that are done three or four times a year, he says. The new changes will go into effect when the new schedules are printed and will continue through the remainder of the school year.

Schedule changes are usually made when problems arise on the different routes, Rynerson says, but are only done when new LTD schedules are routinely printed. Route changes aren't made until the end of the summer, Rynerson says, and the LTD route maps are printed.

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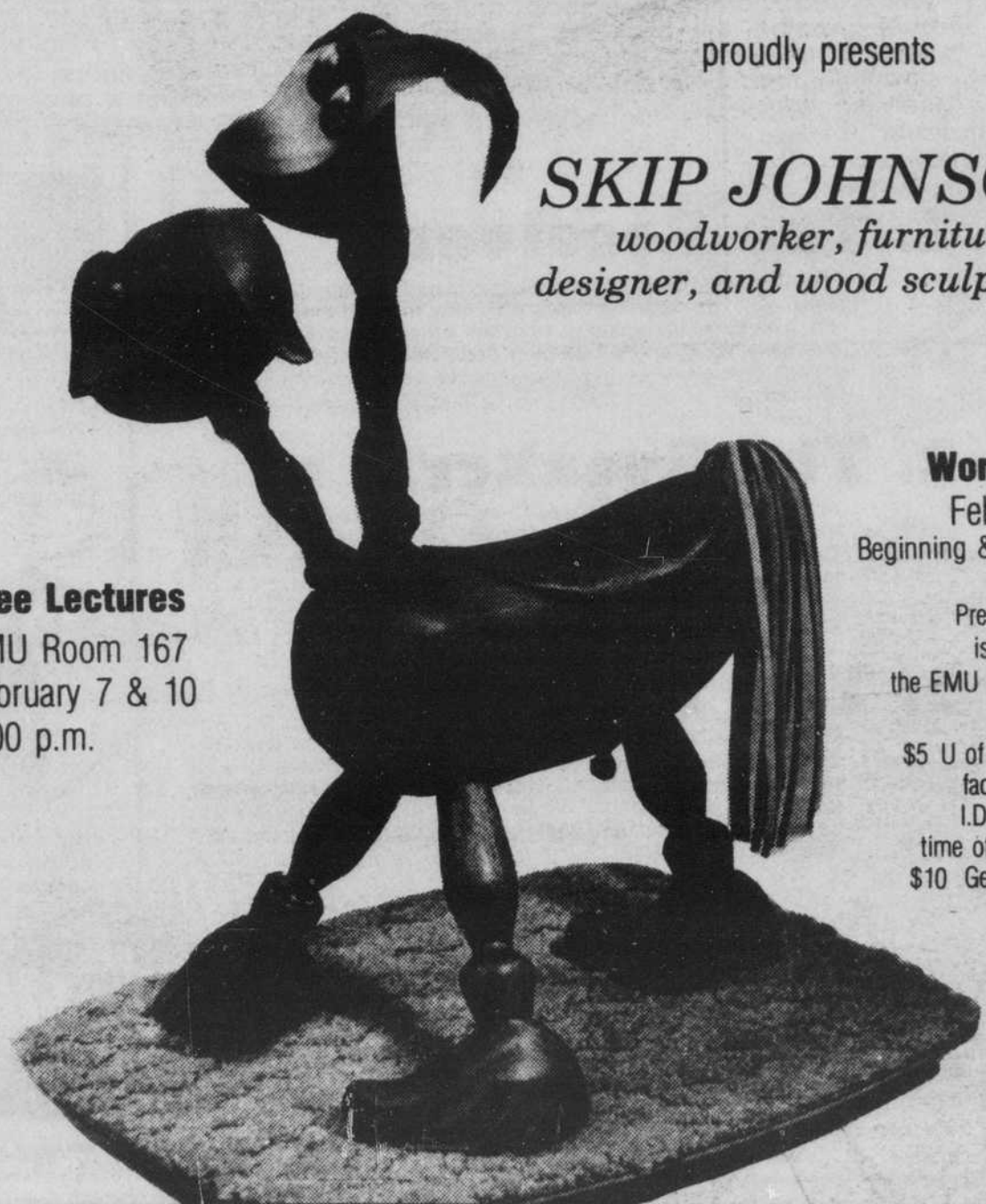
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