

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
**Proposed Listing of the Big Creek Crayfish and**  
**St. Francis River Crayfish**  
**Virtual Public Meeting Transcript**  
**May 13, 2021 6:00 - 7:15:00 PM Central Time**

00:00:22.410 --> 00:00:31.380

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Hello everyone. I'd like to welcome you all to the US Fish and Wildlife Service's virtual public meeting for the proposed listing

00:00:31.860 --> 00:00:46.620

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: 4(d), and critical habitat rules for the Big Creek Crayfish and St. Francis River Crayfish. We're going to give folks a few minutes here to join the meeting, and then we will begin the PowerPoint presentation shortly, so please stay tuned.

00:02:23.610 --> 00:02:33.120

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Again welcome everyone to today's meeting. We're going to give folks just a few more minutes to join the meeting, so please stay tuned and we will start the presentation shortly.

00:02:33.870 --> 00:02:46.470

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: I want to note that closed captioning is available by selecting the closed caption icon at the bottom of your zoom screen if you are using the zoom web portal or zoom app on your computer today.

00:03:50.400 --> 00:03:59.490

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Hello everyone, we're going to go ahead and get started with our meeting today. I would like to thank you all for joining us, we appreciate your time and participation.

00:04:00.150 --> 00:04:11.550

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: My name is Amanda Biedermann with Environmental Management and Planning Solutions, a contractor for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and I'm going to be one of your meeting facilitators today.

00:04:12.360 --> 00:04:19.800

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Additionally, I have several members of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with me on the meeting today, who will be introduced in a moment.

00:04:23.220 --> 00:04:26.460

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: On the screen is our expected agenda for the meeting today.

00:04:27.570 --> 00:04:31.260

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: I will first go over some brief ground rules for today's meeting.

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EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: The Fish and Wildlife Service will then provide a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed listing, 4(d), and critical habitat rules

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EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: For the Big Creek Crayfish and St. Francis River Crayfish, which will last approximately 30 minutes.

00:04:47.970 --> 00:05:01.950

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Then the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will answer any questions you may have about the proposed listing. 4(d), and critical habitat rules for these species for about 45 minutes in a question-and-answer session.

00:05:02.970 --> 00:05:14.700

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: We will then take a brief 15-minute break before moving into the verbal public hearing portion of the meeting from 7:30pm until nine o'clock PM Central Time.

00:05:21.450 --> 00:05:26.940

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Before we get started with the presentation, I'm going to go over some ground rules for the meeting today.

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EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: First, this meeting is being recorded as part of the project record, and a recording will be posted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website displayed on the screen.

00:05:39.690 --> 00:05:53.460

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Second, your microphones and videos will be turned off for the duration of the meeting today. You will only be unmuted if and when I unmute you during the question-and-answer session or verbal public hearing portion of the meeting.

00:05:54.660 --> 00:06:07.980

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Questions will be addressed during the question-and-answer session after the PowerPoint presentation. We will do our best to address the questions in the order they come in and to allow everyone an opportunity to voice their questions today.

00:06:09.900 --> 00:06:22.110

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: After the question-and-answer session, we will then move on to the verbal public hearing portion of the meeting, during

which we will accept verbal public comments from participants who have joined today's meeting.

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EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: If you selected you wanted to offer a verbal public comment when you pre-registered for today's meeting, you should have received a separate email stating that you would be called on during today's meeting to provide that comment.

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EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: If you do not get the opportunity to offer your verbal public comment today, written public comments can be submitted at regulations.gov or by mail.

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EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And we will provide further information on how to submit your written comments after the presentation. You can also see where you can submit them here on the screen.

00:07:00.600 --> 00:07:11.790

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: I'm now going to turn it over to Jonathan JaKa with the Fish and Wildlife Service to lead us through the introductions of the Fish and Wildlife service team members who are on the meeting today.

00:07:18.810 --> 00:07:29.700

USFWS - John JaKa: Thanks Amanda. Yeah, so first of all, yeah Trisha Crabill. She was the species lead for this package, and she works in our Missouri ecological services field office.

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USFWS - John JaKa: Then myself is next on the list. I'm John JaKa. I was the project manager for this package, and I work on our national species assessment team.

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USFWS - John JaKa: Next Karen Harrington, she's the field supervisor for the Missouri ecological services field office. I should go a little slower so cameras can catch up sorry about that, there's Karen.

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USFWS - John JaKa: Next is Barb Hosler. She works at our regional office. She's the regional listing coordinator. That's region three, regional office in Minnesota.

00:08:09.510 --> 00:08:19.260

USFWS - John JaKa: And also on the call today will be Alisa Shull, she's our endangered species program coordinator, also in the region three regional office in Minnesota.

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USFWS - John JaKa: And last but certainly not least, is Lori Nordstrom, and she is our assistant regional director of ecological services in the region three regional office as well.

00:08:33.330 --> 00:08:37.800

USFWS - John JaKa: And I think I'm kicking over to Trisha or am I, giving it back to Amanda for now.

00:08:39.630 --> 00:08:42.150

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Yep, we'll hand it off to Trisha now thanks John.

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USFWS - John JaKa: Absolutely, thank you.

00:08:49.770 --> 00:08:51.780

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Okay, thanks Amanda and John.

00:08:53.250 --> 00:09:05.790

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: So I wanted to go ahead and note that for participants that might be listening by audio only which I think we have at least a few, I'll go ahead and spell out the URL addresses for any web links that I reference.

00:09:07.230 --> 00:09:17.130

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: So the actions we'll be discussing include three proposed rules related to the Big Creek Crayfish (*Faxonius peruncus*) and the St. Francis River Crayfish (*Faxonius quadruncus*).

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: The first action is a proposed rule to list both species as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, or ESA.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: The second, second action is a proposed rule that would prohibit only those actions that are necessary and advisable for the conservation of each species.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: And that's through a 4(d) rule. And then the third action is a proposal to designate critical habitat for each crayfish. We'll talk more about each of these actions, but I first wanted to show where in Missouri the two crayfishes occur. Next slide.

00:09:53.730 --> 00:10:02.490

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Both the Big Creek Crayfish and the St. Francis River Crayfish occur in the southeastern portion of Missouri in the upper St. Francis River watershed. Next slide.

00:10:05.430 --> 00:10:21.030

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: And here's a map that shows the range of the two species relative to cities in the area. Cities included in the ranges include the southern portion of Park Hills, Farmington, Iron Mountain Lake, Pilot Knob,

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Ironton, Arcadia, Junction City, Fredericktown, Cobalt, Annapolis, Des Arc, and Greenville.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: And I'd like to also note that the ranges do not include Wappapello Lake or anything downstream of the lake. Next slide.

00:10:45.000 --> 00:10:54.750

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: So why is the Service proposing to list these crayfishes? We're proposing a list of the Big Creek Crayfish and the St. Francis River Crayfish because both species are being impacted by

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: an invasive crayfish that is not native to the upper St. Francis River watershed - the Woodland Crayfish (*Faxonius hylas*).

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: The Woodland Crayfish has been introduced at numerous locations and is expanding its range within the watershed. And the two native crayfishes are subsequently being displaced in areas invaded by the Woodland Crayfish.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: The Big Creek Crayfish and St. Francis River Crayfish are also being impacted by heavy metal contamination in the watershed.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Though mining ceased in this area in the early 1970s, contaminated sediment is still present within a portion of streams and the floodplains. And research in the streams shows that crayfish abundance is reduced in areas with the heavy metal contamination.

00:11:40.950 --> 00:11:57.750

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Because of these impacts, the Service has determined that both species meet the definition of a threatened species, which is defined as a species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future and we define endangered as in danger of extinction. Next slide.

00:12:01.110 --> 00:12:02.550

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: So what do these actions mean?

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: We'll start with the proposed listing rule. If the listing rule for the crayfish is, is finalized as its proposed,

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: the following actions would be prohibited, except as identified in the 4(d) rule or through formal consultation with the Service:

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: the import or export of the species; intentional take of the species; incidental take of the species, including from activities that impact the species' habitat;

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: possessing, selling, offering to sell, delivering, carrying, transporting, or shipping the species; and, lastly, conducting interstate or foreign commerce with the species.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: And take is defined as to harass, harm, pursue, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect or attempt to engage in any such conduct.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: In addition, if the species are listed, Federal agencies would need to consult with the Service on any activities that could affect the species, and I expect we'll discuss this part of listings during the question-and-answer portion of the meeting. Next slide.

00:13:14.790 --> 00:13:22.680

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: As far as what the 4(d) rule means. I'll start with what those rules are. 4(d) rules are special rules under Section 4(d) of the ESA,

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: which allow the Service to prohibit only those activities that are necessary and advisable for the conservation of a threatened species.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: 4(d) rules can allow incidental or unintentional take of the species under certain circumstances, so long as it doesn't impede the conservation of the species.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: The Service uses 4(d) rules to encourage positive conservation actions that might have a temporary impact

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: and also to streamline the regulatory process for minor impacts to a species as part of these goals. A 4(d) rule is often used to clarify or simplify what forms of take of a threatened species are allowed and those that are prohibited, such as injury or mortality.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: With the 4(d) rule for the crayfish species, we wanted to prohibit only those actions that would affect the status of the species,

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: mainly actions facilitating the spread of the Woodland Crayfish or compromising the health of populations, such that they'd be more vulnerable to the invasion by the Woodland Crayfish.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: The actions we felt would not affect the status of the species and thus would be allowed under the proposed for 4(d) rule include:

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: incidental or unintentional take of the species when collecting the crayfish for use as bait, with a limit of 25; collecting the species for educational purposes;

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: and then take from conservation efforts, so long as the activities are otherwise conducted in a lawful manner and result in net benefit to the species so, for example, streambank stabilization projects or heavy metal remediation.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: A full list of exceptions to the, excuse me, exemptions, to the prohibitions are included in the proposed 4(d) rule as published in the Federal Register at 85 FR 58192. Next slide.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: So what does the proposal to designate critical habitat mean? Critical habitat is defined in the ESA as an area that contains habitat features that are essential for the survival and recovery of listed species, which may require special management considerations or protections.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: For the Big Creek Crayfish and St. Francis River Crayfish, the habitat features we consider essential include certain water temperatures, stream depths, and streamflow velocities.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: And then, a low level of stream embeddedness or sedimentation and other stream conditions necessary for the species to persist.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Regulation of critical habitat is limited to the requirement under Section 7 of the ESA that federal agencies consult with the Service on any actions that may affect critical habitat.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: That's so that the Service can recommend ways to minimize adverse effects to that critical habitat, which is a way to conserve the listed species.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: But it means that the designations only effect Federal agency actions or Federally funded or permitted activities, activities we refer to as having a federal nexus.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Therefore, critical habitat designations do not affect activities by private landowners that don't have a federal nexus. Next slide.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Examples of activities by private landowners that would be affected by the designation, however, include instream projects requiring the US Army Corps of Engineers permit

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: and then also projects funded or subsidized by the Farm Service Agency or the Natural Resource Conservation Service. However, consultation would only be required if the projects would impact the habitat features that are essential to the survival and recovery of the two species.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: And I should note that, in most cases, if a project requires consultation for critical habitat, the relevant Federal agency will already be consulting on potential impacts to the species themselves.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: For more information about critical habitat, you can go to [www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/critical\\_habitat.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/critical_habitat.pdf).

00:17:49.470 --> 00:17:50.070

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Next slide.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: In terms of the location of the proposed critical habitat, here's a map that depicts the streams that have been proposed for designation. It's very similar to the range of the species, but just includes the streams themselves.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: The proposed critical habitat also does not include Wappapello Lake or anything downstream.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: And I'll note again here that this presentation is being recorded so you'll be able to look more closely at the maps, if you go to the web link we provided at the beginning of the presentation and which I'll provide again in a moment.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Next slide.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: To find out if your property is within the ranges of the crayfishes or their proposed critical habitat, you can also go to the Service's information for planning and consultation website at

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>. Select get started, and then enter an address or a city close to your area and then zoom in on the map or, instead, you can upload a shape file if you use GIS.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Next define the area by one of three methods: sketching your area, drawing a polygon of your area, or drawing a line.

00:19:21.330 --> 00:19:26.580

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Lastly, once your area has been defined, select continue to verify your area.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: A list will be generated of all of the Federally listed species, species proposed for listing, designated critical habitat, and proposed critical habitat that occur within your area.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: And the Service does not keep a record of your information, unless you proceed further and request an official species list.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Next slide.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: To learn more about the proposed rules, you can view the rules and supporting documents online at regulations.gov.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Enter the docket number FWS-R3-ES-2019-0020

00:20:10.980 --> 00:20:21.540

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: in the search panel and then click on the search button. A window with the proposed rule and links to supporting documents will open. Next slide.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: We intend that any final action resulting from the proposed rule is based on the best scientific and commercial data available and be as accurate and effective as possible.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Therefore, we're requesting comments or information concerning the proposed rules. You may submit comments by one of the following methods, electronically through the Federal eRulemaking portal. Go to regulations.gov and then in the search box enter FWS-R3-ES-2019-0020

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: which is again the docket number for this rulemaking. Then click on the search button.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: On the resulting page on the left side of the screen and under the document type heading, check the proposed rule box to locate this document.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: You may submit a comment by clicking on comment now. You can also submit hard copies by U.S. mail or hand delivery to: Public Comments Processing Attn: FWS-R3-ES-2019-0020

00:21:35.820 --> 00:22:00.810

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Headquarters, MS: BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church Virginia 22041-3803, and then you can also comment during the public hearing portion of this meeting later on this evening. Next slide.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: The Service will accept and consider comments and information that is received or postmarked on or before May 26, 2021. We accept comments submitted electronically using the Federal eRulemaking portal by 11:59pm Eastern Time on the closing date.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: And we request that you provide your comments only by the methods described previously. Verbal comments left on phone voicemail or comments sent to other postal or email addresses won't be accepted.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: And then the Service will post all information that we've received on regulations.gov, which also generally means that the Service will post any personal information you provide such as your name.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Next slide.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: As far as next steps for the process. Once the public comment period closes, we'll review all of the comments and make a final listing determination based on the best available science.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Substantive comments will either be incorporated into the final rule or responses to the comments will be published in the final rule.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Final rules are generally published within 12 months of the proposed rule.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: So that means a final rule could be published around September of this year.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: We also intend to develop a programmatic consultation to streamline the consultation process for the species and their critical habitat.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: With a programmatic console, consultation, we evaluate projects that occur routinely and then we also evaluate their potential impacts.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Then, when the projects are proposed, most of the evaluation and consultation has already been conducted, so the intent of that is to reduce the regulatory burden for the Federal agencies that will need to consult on their activities. Next slide.

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USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Lastly, if you'd like to get additional information beyond what we covered this evening, including the recording of tonight's meeting, you can visit

00:24:07.230 --> 00:24:25.770

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: [fws.gov/midwest/endangered/](https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/) or you may contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Columbia, Missouri Field Office at Karen Harrington, field supervisor, Missouri Ecological Services Field Office,

00:24:27.450 --> 00:24:47.550

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: 101 Park DeVille Drive, Suite A, DeVille is spelled D-E-V-I-L-L-E, Columbia, Missouri 65203. You can also call 573-234-2132 or email the field supervisor at [Karen\\_Herrington@fws.gov](mailto:Karen_Herrington@fws.gov).

00:24:48.180 --> 00:25:04.290

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: And if you use a telecommunications device for the deaf, you can call the Federal Information Relay Service at 800-877-8339.

00:25:05.520 --> 00:25:10.980

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: And now we'll turn it back over to Amanda to proceed with that question-and-answer portion of the session.

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EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Great. Thank you Trisha I'll go ahead and put you on mute and move on to our next slide.

00:25:20.430 --> 00:25:28.230

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: So again, everyone, this is Amanda Biedermann and I'm going to be the moderator for the question-and-answer session today.

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EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: So we're now going to begin that Q and A portion of this meeting, and as I said earlier, this Q and A portion will last approximately 45 minutes.

00:25:38.760 --> 00:25:54.570

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And the intent of this question-and-answer session is to answer any substantive questions you have for Fish and Wildlife Service staff on the proposed listing of the two species during, discussed during the PowerPoint presentation.

00:25:55.980 --> 00:26:05.130

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: So I will first go over instructions for how to submit a question using the chat function if you are using the zoom web form or zoom app today.

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EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: After we have gone through questions submitted via the zoom web platform or zoom app chat feature, we will then move on to any

participants calling in over the phone today who would like to ask a question, so please stay tuned for those instructions.

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EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: At this time, if you have a question and you're using the zoom web platform or zoom app, please go ahead and click on the chat icon located at the bottom of your zoom screen.

00:26:32.520 --> 00:26:48.930

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: If you hover your mouse over the bottom of your zoom screen that chat icon should appear, and you may need to exit out of your full screen view in zoom to see that chat icon, and I have included a graphic on the screen of where you can find that chat icon.

00:26:50.250 --> 00:27:00.090

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: You can then type your question, and I'm just now realizing that I've actually circled the wrong icon, apologies for that, so I'm just going to move it.

00:27:00.480 --> 00:27:12.330

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Okay, there you go, so if you click on that chat icon, apologies, instead of the participants icon, and you can then send your question over to the host of today's meeting Amy Lewis.

00:27:15.330 --> 00:27:24.120

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: I will then read the question aloud for all participants to here and a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff member will respond to your question aloud.

00:27:25.020 --> 00:27:32.790

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Again, we will try to answer your questions in the order that they are received, so please note there may be a slight pause between asking your question

00:27:33.150 --> 00:27:47.310

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: and a Fish and Wildlife Service staff member answering your question. So at this time, I'll give everyone a few minutes here to go ahead and send their questions over again to Amy Lewis, the host of today's meeting.

00:28:15.810 --> 00:28:24.690

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And again, you can send your question over to Amy using the zoom chat feature located at the bottom of your zoom screen.

00:28:25.110 --> 00:28:35.820

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: If you go to the top of your zoom screen, there should be like a zoom view button that you might need to click to exit out of your full screen view in zoom to see that chat icon.

00:30:05.040 --> 00:30:17.880

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Alright, so we do have our first question from participants today, again, I will read the question aloud and then I will unmute a Fish and Wildlife Service staff member who will respond to that question aloud.

00:30:18.450 --> 00:30:37.620

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: So the first question is, "Why does the critical habitat include Woodland Crayfish invaded area? I thought your comments stated there was no method to remove the Woodland Crayfish or stop the interbreeding." And I will go ahead and go back and unmute Trisha Crabill to respond to that question.

00:30:40.380 --> 00:30:42.000

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Okay, thanks Amanda can you hear me?

00:30:43.050 --> 00:30:43.980

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Yes, we can hear you.

00:30:44.040 --> 00:30:49.020

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Okay, great yeah so, the areas that the Woodland Crayfish has invaded.

00:30:51.120 --> 00:31:04.050

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Sometimes that's the middle of a stream, and so there, the native species can still be present upstream and downstream of that location and so

00:31:05.100 --> 00:31:17.520

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: that is a good question. Right now we don't know any effective ways to curtail the invasion, but we hope that we are able to determine ways that we can curtail the invasion and then

00:31:18.450 --> 00:31:34.080

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: if we're able to do that, we want those areas to still have suitable habitat. That is essential for the two native crayfish species, so that they can, they can recolonize those areas and, and

00:31:35.280 --> 00:31:41.280

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: we think that they'll be able to do that, because of the fact that there's upstream and downstream locations that

00:31:42.480 --> 00:31:53.370

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: may still have the species present and so that way they can recolonize from either direction and, and hopefully move through those areas as well, to maintain the gene flow.

00:31:57.210 --> 00:32:05.160

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Great. Thank you, Trisha, for that response. I'll go ahead and put you back on mute, so that we can move on to any additional questions today.

00:33:01.470 --> 00:33:15.990

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Again, if you have any questions related to the presentation, or the actions for the species discussed during the presentation, please go ahead and use that chat feature to send your questions over to Amy Lewis.

00:33:16.800 --> 00:33:22.800

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And again for our phone callers, I will read off those instructions here in a little bit, so please stay tuned.

00:34:41.220 --> 00:34:59.250

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Alright, we do have question number two from participants today and that question is, "Are there past examples of success for combating invasive species with critical habitat designation?" And I will go ahead and go down to John to respond to that question.

00:35:02.400 --> 00:35:08.820

USFWS - John JaKa: Yeah, thanks that's a good question and it gives me, I just wanted to, I'm going to answer the question and clarify a little bit, I think.

00:35:09.450 --> 00:35:16.980

USFWS - John JaKa: Critical habitat is one of the several tools in the, in the toolbox for the Fish and Wildlife Service for recovery.

00:35:17.220 --> 00:35:26.700

USFWS - John JaKa: And so I wouldn't expect just designating critical habitat to, to combat an invasive species. It certainly might help through the educational needs to make

00:35:27.000 --> 00:35:43.470

USFWS - John JaKa: people aware of the fact that there is that issue out there, but there is, I wouldn't expect the critical habitat designation itself to actually stop the spread of the invasive species. That's going to be more through our recovery efforts and on-the-ground activities.

00:35:44.550 --> 00:35:53.520

USFWS - John JaKa: And I was just trying to think of past examples. As a lot of people on the call probably already know invasive species are a real challenge and a real problem, there's a lot of them out there that we're dealing with

00:35:54.420 --> 00:36:02.130

USFWS - John JaKa: all the time but I always think back to the, oh my gosh no I forgot the name of the, the, in the Great Lakes, it's escaping me.

00:36:03.510 --> 00:36:07.500

USFWS - John JaKa: Anyways I'll think of the example and I'll keep talking but

00:36:07.980 --> 00:36:13.440

USFWS - John JaKa: there's you know, we're battling Asian carp all the time in the Mississippi River, as long as well as other places, so.

00:36:13.650 --> 00:36:24.000

USFWS - John JaKa: There is places where we've made gains, but I wouldn't, again the main point I'm trying to make is I don't know critical habitat designation itself would not combat the invasive species.

00:36:25.410 --> 00:36:42.030

USFWS - John JaKa: I was thinking of sea lamprey, that was the one I was trying to think of we were, had various success in not in fighting invasive species, but, but, again, the critical habitat designation itself would not combat the invasive species movement, you know.

00:36:45.000 --> 00:36:53.730

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Great. Thank you, John, for that response. Again, we'll go ahead and wait for any additional questions coming in through that zoom chat feature today.

00:38:39.300 --> 00:38:57.000

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Again, if you have any questions you would like to ask Fish and Wildlife Service staff today, please go ahead and click on the zoom chat icon located at the bottom of your zoom screen, you can then send your question directly to Amy Lewis using that zoom chat feature.

00:40:18.210 --> 00:40:35.430

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Alright, so we have question number three from our participants today that question is "Would it make sense to list the species as threatened only rather than including the critical habitat designation?" And I will go back to you John to respond to that question.

00:40:38.820 --> 00:40:40.290

USFWS - John JaKa: Yes, thank you so.

00:40:42.420 --> 00:40:51.780

USFWS - John JaKa: The designation of critical habitat is not an optional exercise for us according to, I'm going to say some, some ESA numbers here, according to a section 4(a) (3) (a) for a three a.

00:40:52.680 --> 00:41:08.160

USFWS - John JaKa: Secretary of the Interior has to the maximum extent prudent and determinable, concurrently with a determination that species is endangered or threatened, has to designate critical habitat for that species. Now there are a number of



00:41:09.480 --> 00:41:21.570

USFWS - John JaKa: exclusions for critical habitat, but once we've determined that the critical habitat is both proven and determinable for the species, we are then required by the Act to propose for critical habitat. Those areas that

00:41:22.500 --> 00:41:32.280

USFWS - John JaKa: the species by, I'm sorry, those areas occupied by the species at the time of listing and that contain the physical or biological features essential for the conservation of species,

00:41:32.550 --> 00:41:49.170

USFWS - John JaKa: which may require special management considerations for protection, so it is not, unfortunately, an optional exercise. We are required by law to designate critical habitat concurrently with the listing when it meets the definition of critical habitat.

00:41:52.320 --> 00:42:00.150

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Great, thank you for that response John. I'll go ahead and put you back on you and we can move on to any additional questions today.

00:42:12.570 --> 00:42:19.140

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And I will briefly read through those phone instructions now for any phone callers who might have a question.

00:42:19.590 --> 00:42:32.430

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: So if you are using your phone today, and you have a question, please press star nine on your phone keypad to access the raise hand feature to let staff know you have a question.

00:42:32.880 --> 00:42:43.170

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: I will then unmute you so that you can verbally ask your question again. We are in the Q and A portion of the meeting; please save any comments you have until the verbal public hearing portion of the meeting.

00:42:43.890 --> 00:42:59.160

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And you may be muted on your end, if that is the case, I'll prompt you to unmute yourself by pressing star six. Once you ask your question, we'll put you back on mute and a Fish and Wildlife Service staff member will then respond to your question verbally.

00:43:13.740 --> 00:43:20.610

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Alright, alright I don't see any raised hands and I don't see any new questions coming in from participants on the meeting today.

00:43:21.090 --> 00:43:33.270

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: So, in order to stimulate perhaps some more questions, we're going to ask a frequently asked question that the Fish and Wildlife Service has developed on these proposed listings for these species.

00:43:34.110 --> 00:43:41.520

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And again, we'll just go through the same method. I'll ask it aloud and then a Fish and Wildlife Service member will respond to that question aloud.

00:43:41.850 --> 00:43:53.340

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: So this is question number four, an FAQ question, and that is "What can I do to help native crayfish and their waterways?" And I will go ahead and go back to John to respond to that.

00:43:56.730 --> 00:44:02.310

USFWS - John JaKa: Thanks Amanda, yeah, some common things we like to tell folks to help native crayfish in the waterways.

00:44:02.760 --> 00:44:14.580

USFWS - John JaKa: It's already illegal to dump bait in the Missouri waterways, but throw any unused bait in the trash. Unwanted animals and plants can invade the local waterways and damage habitat.

00:44:15.120 --> 00:44:20.670

USFWS - John JaKa: Help keep your local rivers and streams clean and naturally and join a local stream team,

00:44:21.210 --> 00:44:30.810

USFWS - John JaKa: a volunteer organization that brings people together to clean, care for, and monitor rivers. If you do canoe or fish, keep these rivers and lakes clean by leaving no waste behind,

00:44:31.170 --> 00:44:43.440

USFWS - John JaKa: and keep pollutants out of the waterways by minimizing the use of pesticides and properly disposing of household toxic waste, avoid washing spills, dirt, and debris down storm drains.

00:44:46.740 --> 00:44:55.320

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Great. Thank you, John, for that response, and we'll go ahead and see if we have gotten any new questions from participants on today's meeting.

00:44:55.680 --> 00:45:07.410

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Again, please use that zoom chat feature, if you are using the zoom web platform or zoom app or, if you are calling in through the phone today, please press star nine on your phone keypad.

00:45:47.160 --> 00:46:00.870

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Again, we are in the question-and-answer portion of today's meeting, we will wrap this portion up at about 7:15pm Central Time. Again we'll take that brief 15-minute break

00:46:01.320 --> 00:46:12.600

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: before we return at 7:30pm Central Time to move into that verbal public hearing portion of the meeting, during which time you can then provide your verbal public comments.

00:46:13.020 --> 00:46:21.990

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: So if you have a question, please send it over. This is your opportunity to do so, or if you have a comment, please wait until that verbal public hearing portion.

00:47:02.940 --> 00:47:10.410

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Alright, I don't see any new questions coming in from participants today and I don't see any raised hands from our phone callers.

00:47:10.800 --> 00:47:15.150

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: So we're going to go ahead and again pose another frequently asked question

00:47:15.840 --> 00:47:32.280

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: in order to perhaps stimulate some new questions today, so that is question number five which is "Does a critical habitat designation mean an area is considered a wildlife refuge or sanctuary?" And I will go ahead and go back to John to respond to that.

00:47:35.730 --> 00:47:40.140

USFWS - John JaKa: Thanks Amanda. We get this one quite a bit, so I just thought I'd take the opportunity to bring it up.

00:47:41.190 --> 00:47:50.100

USFWS - John JaKa: No is the answer. Critical habitat designation does not affect land ownership or establish the refuge, wilderness, reserve, preserve, or other conservation area.

00:47:50.550 --> 00:47:56.400

USFWS - John JaKa: Critical habitat designation identifies areas that are important to the conservation of federally listed

00:47:56.970 --> 00:48:06.870

USFWS - John JaKa: threatened or endangered species. Critical habitat designation requires that Federal agencies consult with the Service on any other actions that may affect critical habitat.

00:48:07.290 --> 00:48:19.920

USFWS - John JaKa: The Service can then recommend ways to minimize adverse effects. The critical habitat designation imposes no requirements on private or state actions on private or state lands where no Federal funding permits or approvals are required.

00:48:23.130 --> 00:48:32.280

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: All right, great. Thank you, John, for that response. We'll go ahead and put you back on mute and move on to any new questions we received from participants today.

00:49:11.490 --> 00:49:17.190

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Again I'll just read through the instructions. If you are using the zoom web platform or a zoom app today,

00:49:17.670 --> 00:49:26.190

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: please go ahead and click on the chat icon at the bottom of your zoom screen and send your question directly to the host of today's meeting,

00:49:26.520 --> 00:49:37.410

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Amy Lewis, or if you are calling in through the phone today, please press star nine to access the raise hand feature to let staff know that you have a question today.

00:50:09.960 --> 00:50:15.030

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Alright, I don't see any new questions coming in from participants on today's meeting.

00:50:15.510 --> 00:50:25.680

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: So again, since we do have time remaining in the question-and-answer portion, I'm going to go ahead and pose another frequently asked question, question number six,

00:50:26.100 --> 00:50:37.230

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: which is "What would consultations involve for private landowner activities that have Federal involvement?" And I will go ahead and go down to Trisha to respond to that question.

00:50:41.070 --> 00:50:47.100

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Thanks Amanda .Right, so I mentioned a couple of examples about consultations

00:50:49.470 --> 00:51:01.050

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: that private landowners might encounter, and so this would be for the species themselves or for critical habitat. And so those examples that I included were stream bank stabilization or excuse me,

00:51:02.400 --> 00:51:13.830

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: getting a 404 permit from the army corps of engineers for an instream activity or perhaps Federal funding for conservation practices you're implementing.

00:51:16.050 --> 00:51:16.800

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: And so

00:51:17.880 --> 00:51:19.290

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: what that would look like,

00:51:20.490 --> 00:51:26.370

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: the consultation would happen between the Service and then the relevant federal agency.

00:51:27.600 --> 00:51:42.450

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: And so let's say you, you put in your permit with the Corps and then the Corps consults with us. First, they usually do an evaluation on their own to see what listed species, critical habitat, or proposed

00:51:43.470 --> 00:51:58.650

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: species or critical habitat occur in the area, and then they do a brief evaluation of if there's going to be any potential impacts and so they coordinate with us, and if, if we don't anticipate any impacts to the species,

00:52:00.030 --> 00:52:07.380

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: then we, we provide our concurrence with the evaluation they've done, and then the project proceeds.

00:52:08.790 --> 00:52:18.660

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: When, when there may be impacts to the species or the critical habitat, however, that looks a little different, and so we, the first thing we try to do is

00:52:19.050 --> 00:52:28.230

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: to coordinate, to see if different conservation measures can be implemented, such that those impacts can be avoided. And so an example of that,

00:52:29.070 --> 00:52:44.580

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: that occurs a lot in Missouri is, we have some bats that roost under the bark in trees and so they're active generally from April through October. And so often what we do, if there will be tree clearing during that time,

00:52:46.290 --> 00:53:02.820

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: or rather, if there's tree clearing associated with a project, then we try to see if the project proponent can conduct that

clearing when the bats, bats aren't active and thus impacted by felling a tree that's potentially occupied. And so with the crayfish,

00:53:03.930 --> 00:53:06.360

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: I expect what that would look like is

00:53:07.860 --> 00:53:22.230

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: implementing projects in a way that would reduce sedimentation such that the prey base for the crayfish instream isn't impacted or the turbidity isn't increased so much that the crayfish themselves are impacted.

00:53:23.280 --> 00:53:36.300

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: And for instream projects, that may be a little more difficult to avoid impacts, but it may be that the species aren't present in that stream stretch and, or perhaps

00:53:36.810 --> 00:53:47.070

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: the stream stretch where the project will occur doesn't contain those features that we talked about before that are essential for the conservation of the species and so that's

00:53:47.370 --> 00:53:55.080

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: you know that's, that's one thing we'll probably do first thing with a project to see if that's even suitable habitat and then, if it is,

00:53:55.860 --> 00:54:09.390

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: again, different measures, hopefully, can be implemented to avoid those impacts. But if the impacts can't be avoided, then we go through a process that's referred to as formal consultation, and that's when

00:54:10.410 --> 00:54:15.600

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: the federal agency would do a more thorough evaluation of the potential impacts

00:54:16.680 --> 00:54:34.800

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: in what we refer to as a biological assessment, and then we, we review that biological assessment and then, in turn, we draft up our own document, called the biological opinion. And as part of that biological opinion, we include, I'll refer to it as take coverage. It's an incidental take statement

00:54:36.000 --> 00:54:42.000

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: that exempts the take that may occur from the prohibitions of the ESA. So in short,

00:54:43.020 --> 00:54:59.760

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: that take is, is not prohibited or illegal, and so like I said, I'll just refer to that as take coverage. And so that can be, that's a lengthier process, and so, if a project goes through formal consultation, that can be a two-to-three-month process, process.

00:55:01.200 --> 00:55:03.000

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: But because we recognize,

00:55:05.250 --> 00:55:23.490

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: you know the extent of the critical habitat designation or the proposal for it, we'd really like to reduce that regulatory burden and so what we intend to do is develop a programmatic consultation and I touched on this in the presentation, but what that involves is we,

00:55:24.630 --> 00:55:30.360

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: you know, we would select what projects would be covered by it, but for those projects, then we

00:55:31.440 --> 00:55:36.330

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: identify and describe the potential impacts. And then

00:55:37.440 --> 00:55:42.660

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: in some instances, we can go ahead and do that in the form of a biological opinion.

00:55:43.560 --> 00:55:53.820

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: And so, then what happens is when the projects come along, we've already done that evaluation on the front end, so if there's if there's a biological opinion already, we can

00:55:54.210 --> 00:56:04.800

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: tier to that and we've done that with the Northern Long-eared Bat and so, which has a 4(d) rule. And so the biological, programmatic biological opinion for that species,

00:56:05.460 --> 00:56:16.380

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: it covered the take that is exempted through the 4(d) rule, and so what that look like for projects that meet the scope of that programmatic and the 4(d) role.

00:56:17.760 --> 00:56:18.450

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: it's, it's

00:56:19.590 --> 00:56:25.110

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: about a one and a half to two-page form that the project proponent for the Federal agency fills out.

00:56:26.910 --> 00:56:29.850

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: And then, and then, that's, they send it to us.

00:56:31.770 --> 00:56:40.410

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: And then, so we've been thinking along those lines, and we don't know exactly what that would look like, but we do recognize that that would be really important so that

00:56:41.250 --> 00:56:52.650

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: we reduce the regulatory burden that project proponents and the Federal agencies would, would undertake if there's going to be impacts to the species.

00:56:56.640 --> 00:57:01.440

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Great. Thank you, Trisha, for that response. I'll go ahead and put you back on mute now.

00:57:02.190 --> 00:57:08.280

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: We'll see if we're getting any additional questions. Again if you are using the zoom web platform or a zoom app,

00:57:08.940 --> 00:57:18.480

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: please go ahead and use that chat feature located at the bottom of your zoom screen to send your question over to Amy Lewis directly.

00:57:19.350 --> 00:57:36.600

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: For our phone callers who can't access that chat feature, you can press star nine on your phone keypad. We will then briefly unmute you so that you can ask your succinct question to the Fish and Wildlife Service. We'll then put you back on mute and respond to your question verbally.

00:57:57.420 --> 00:58:05.340

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Alright, I do see a raised hand coming from a phone caller, but this participant might not be able to access their zoom chat feature.

00:58:05.700 --> 00:58:14.070

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: So, Robert I'm going to go ahead and unmute you so that you can ask your question again. We are in the Q&A portion so please ask your question.

00:58:14.460 --> 00:58:23.250

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: If you have a comment, you can save it until the verbal public hearing portion, but I'll go ahead and ask to unmute you now, so that you can ask that question.

00:58:25.890 --> 00:58:27.240

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Hi there Robert can you hear us.



00:58:28.230 --> 00:58:35.640

Robert DiStefano: Yeah, This is Bob de Stefano with the Missouri Department of Conservation and it's not a question, it's, it's a,

00:58:36.540 --> 00:58:51.090

Robert DiStefano: it's part of an answer to one of the earlier questions and I couldn't get it through, because I don't know how to send this chat. I've typed it out and I can't figure out how to send it and it's driving me crazy so that's the story. I don't if you want my answer or not anymore.

00:58:52.980 --> 00:58:59.940

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: All right, we'll check in with the Fish and Wildlife Service, but I'll put you back on mute now briefly and we'll see if we have any additional questions.

00:59:31.800 --> 00:59:44.460

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Okay, so I did check in with Fish and Wildlife Service so I'll unmute you so that you can provide that additional input that you tried to put into the chat. Let's see I unmuted you from my end, I'll try again here.

00:59:46.800 --> 00:59:49.410

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: You might need to unmute yourself from your end.

00:59:51.120 --> 00:59:51.690

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: There we go.

00:59:53.820 --> 00:59:54.300

Robert DiStefano: Okay.

00:59:56.160 --> 00:59:57.030

Robert DiStefano: So I can speak?

00:59:58.530 --> 01:00:05.100

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Yep, the Fish and Wildlife service said it'd be helpful if you provided that input that you were going to send in the chat.

01:00:06.210 --> 01:00:14.610

Robert DiStefano: Okay, so there was a question somebody asked about anything they could do to help the crayfish or the crayfish habitat.

01:00:15.810 --> 01:00:20.640

Robert DiStefano: And the answer that was provided was good, but I would add one important factor.

01:00:21.750 --> 01:00:23.340

Robert DiStefano: And I would start by saying that

01:00:24.750 --> 01:00:35.490

Robert DiStefano: probably the worst destroyers of crayfish habitat that we have in Missouri streams are inputs of silt and fine sediments into the stream.

01:00:36.540 --> 01:00:39.060

Robert DiStefano: The silt and fine sediments cover up

01:00:41.760 --> 01:00:49.830

Robert DiStefano: the larger rocks and the cracks and crevices between the rocks that are the predominant habitat of these crayfish.

01:00:51.360 --> 01:00:52.110

Robert DiStefano: So

01:00:53.370 --> 01:01:02.340

Robert DiStefano: the way they could, average citizens could help is if they see construction projects in the floodplains or around streams.

01:01:03.090 --> 01:01:13.950

Robert DiStefano: where proper and appropriate silt and sedimentation containment devices have not been installed, and by those I'm talking about silt-fences

01:01:14.670 --> 01:01:28.290

Robert DiStefano: and techniques like that, if they see those sites lacking those devices, because the silt and sediment is washed in with, with rains that occur while the construction process is ongoing.

01:01:29.220 --> 01:01:42.690

Robert DiStefano: So they can notify the Department of Natural Resources, or even the Department of Conservation about, about the projects and the lack of self-containment devices and that's it.

01:01:45.480 --> 01:01:52.680

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Great. Thank you, Bob, for that additional input, we appreciate that. I'll go ahead and put you back on mute and lower your hand now.

01:01:58.560 --> 01:02:07.020

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And again if anybody has any additional questions that they would like to ask the Fish and Wildlife Service staff, we do have just about

01:02:07.590 --> 01:02:23.130

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: 10 or so minutes left on our question-and-answer portion so please go ahead and send those over to Amy Lewis, using the chat feature or, if you are calling in through the phone today and have a question, please press star nine on your phone keypad.

01:04:34.080 --> 01:04:43.170

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Again, we have about 10 minutes left on our question-and-answer portion of today's meeting before we will then take that brief 15-minute break.

01:04:44.280 --> 01:05:00.210

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: We will keep the zoom meeting running and so we won't close out of the meeting or anything, we'll just put up a slide letting everyone know that we're taking that brief break. We will then return at 7:30pm Central Time to begin that verbal public hearing portion of the meeting today.

01:05:25.980 --> 01:05:41.430

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: We have a little bit of time remaining we're going to go ahead and just pose another frequently asked question that is question number seven, which is "what is being done to protect and conserve the species?" And I will go ahead and go back to Trisha to respond to that.

01:05:45.120 --> 01:05:52.680

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Thanks Amanda. Yeah so, a few different things and we'll give credit to the Missouri Department of Conservation for

01:05:53.430 --> 01:06:09.330

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: a chunk of these. So the MDC conducts surveys, with the different crayfishes in Missouri and has conducted extensive surveys, with the Big Creek Crayfish and St. Francis River Crayfish and they've also looked,

01:06:10.410 --> 01:06:28.290

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: they've compiled a lot of information on the spread of the Woodland Crayfish and how quickly it's moving through the streams and in which it's invaded and then documented those impacts of the nonnative crayfish, so those studies are ongoing.

01:06:29.610 --> 01:06:34.530

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: And we hope that the Service is able to fund some future studies along those lines.

01:06:35.820 --> 01:06:42.990

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: And then the US Geological Survey has conducted multiple evaluations and their studies have focused largely on the effects from

01:06:43.260 --> 01:06:51.240

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: heavy metal contamination and so they've looked specifically at the St. Francis River Crayfish for some of those studies and that's where we've got

01:06:51.720 --> 01:07:01.620

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: the information that indicates that the crayfish abundance, as well as survivorship, is reduced in areas with the heavy metal contamination.

01:07:02.550 --> 01:07:18.720

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: And we've got some other organizations that have conducted genetic studies that have helped us better understand how the Woodland Crayfish may be displacing the native crayfish species, and then the MDC also

01:07:20.460 --> 01:07:28.620

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: put in place, or rather, they amended the Missouri Wildlife Code in 2011 to 2012, and that's when they

01:07:30.210 --> 01:07:41.940

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: effectively banned the sale and purchase of live crayfish for bait, with the exception of the Virile Crayfish which should really help reduce future invasions.

01:07:43.020 --> 01:07:52.920

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Although sometimes the invasions can be caused by native crayfish species that aren't native to certain watersheds and so

01:07:53.940 --> 01:07:54.330

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: that

01:07:55.350 --> 01:08:09.000

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: That amendment is certainly helpful and then also we work with a number of federal agencies on listed species conservation and so the Mark Twain National Forest is, is one agency that we've already worked with

01:08:10.110 --> 01:08:24.540

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: to, to help the species, and so they, excuse me, have been in, for the past several years, evaluating whether or not to replace or repair the dam at Crane Lake and so.

01:08:25.620 --> 01:08:30.480

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: And Bob de Stefano actually provided helpful input for this project and so,

01:08:31.800 --> 01:08:45.270

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: the Woodland Crayfish occurs downstream of Crane Lake, but it has not been able to move upstream of the dam, presumably because of the dam itself and not being able to,

01:08:47.400 --> 01:08:57.330

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: to move around, physically move around, the dam, and so we think that area of above Crane Lake is going to serve as an important refugia

01:08:57.840 --> 01:09:06.390

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: for the Big Creek Crayfish, is the native crayfish that occurs and, in this area, and so the Forest Service was really great in

01:09:06.840 --> 01:09:24.420

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: implementing different conservation measures, not only to keep the dam intact, so that the Woodland Crayfish can't move above it, but also minimizing the impact to the Big Creek Crayfish as part of their project activities. They'll be doing a bridge replacement

01:09:26.280 --> 01:09:44.250

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: And some, some trail hardening, a bridge removal, and things along those lines, and so they're going to minimize the impact of, or rather minimize the footprint of, their heavy equipment instream specifically to minimize those impacts to Big Creek Crayfish that may be present in the area.

01:09:45.900 --> 01:09:47.670

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: And we expect that

01:09:49.140 --> 01:09:54.660

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: we'll also work with the Corps of Engineers in different ways to benefit the species and then

01:09:55.770 --> 01:09:59.640

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: other federal agencies that may have actions going,

01:10:01.200 --> 01:10:03.450

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: conducted in the area of the species' ranges.

01:10:06.450 --> 01:10:22.050

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Oh, and I'm sorry, I'm, one more thing I completely forgot to mention this, so the EPA has done extensive remediation in this part of the state and, and within the ranges of the species and so that is certainly beneficial to the species and then,

01:10:23.220 --> 01:10:40.590

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: the Fish and Wildlife Service as a program called Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration, and so they do some further restoration to help remedy the, the impacts from the heavy metal contamination and they work with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources extensively

01:10:41.640 --> 01:10:46.590

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: on those restoration efforts, and so those are benefiting the crayfishes as well.

01:10:49.200 --> 01:10:54.120

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Great. Thank you, Trisha, for that response. I'll go ahead and put you back on mute now.

01:10:55.800 --> 01:11:04.230

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And we only have a couple minutes left here. I don't see any raised hands from our phone callers or any new questions coming in.

01:11:23.580 --> 01:11:37.800

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: So we are going to go ahead and pose one last FAQ, and that is question number eight, which is "How do I comment on the proposal?" And I'll go ahead and go back to Trisha to respond to that.

01:11:41.520 --> 01:12:03.900

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: Okay, so one way is to stay on this zoom meeting until 7:30 and you can provide your comment then during the public hearing. You can also go to online at regulations.gov. You can go back, and Amanda if you want to go back to slide 16.

01:12:08.310 --> 01:12:12.060

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: There you go, so you can go to regulations.gov and

01:12:13.080 --> 01:12:21.720

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: enter the docket number which we've got listed here which for those on the phone that is FWS-R3-ES-2019-0020

01:12:22.980 --> 01:12:28.560

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: and then there'll be an option where you can

01:12:29.910 --> 01:12:45.060

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: search for the proposed rule, or rather click a box to look for only proposed rules, or you can scroll through the results from that search for the docket number. Then you can also submit your comments via hard copies by U.S. mail.

01:12:46.080 --> 01:12:57.090

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: And then the address, for that is Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R3-ES-2019-0020,

01:12:59.160 --> 01:13:18.030

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: PRB/3W, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

01:13:19.170 --> 01:13:21.450

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: The due date for comments is

01:13:22.710 --> 01:13:29.700

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: May 26, 2021 and if you submit those via regulations.gov, you'll need to have those in

01:13:30.900 --> 01:13:34.260

USFWS - Trisha Crabill: By 11:59 Eastern Standard Time.

01:13:39.720 --> 01:13:50.070

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Great. Thank you, Trisha, for that information. I'll leave this slide up just for a minute here more before I then move on to that break slide. Again, we're going to take a break

01:13:50.430 --> 01:13:58.380

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: about 15 minutes, before we then begin the verbal public hearing portion of the meeting at 7:30pm central time.

01:13:59.610 --> 01:14:03.180

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: So I'll let everyone write down this information if they would like to.

01:14:22.320 --> 01:14:35.760

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: And I do just want to clarify quickly that the due date for comments is actually May 27, and so May 27 at 11:59pm Eastern Time on regulations.gov.

01:15:06.120 --> 01:15:23.580

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: Alright, so at this time it is 7:15pm Central Time, so I'm going to move into that break slide. Again we're going to take a brief 15-minute break before we return at 7:30pm Central Time and the zoom meeting will stay up and running so,

01:15:24.300 --> 01:15:31.020

EMPSi - Amanda Biedermann: please feel free to just stay on with us and we will begin at 7:30pm Central Time, thank you.