is implemented in the HUD regulations at 24 CFR 221.255 and 24 CFR 221.790.

The Secretary of the Treasury has determined that the interest rate to be borne by debentures issued pursuant to Section 221(g)(4) during the 6-month period beginning July 1, 2002, is 6% percent.

HUD expects to publish its next notice of change in debenture interest rates in January 2003.

The subject matter of this notice falls within the categorical exemption from HUD’s environmental clearance procedures set forth in 24 CFR 50.19(c)(6). For that reason, no environmental finding has been prepared for this notice.

(Sections 211, 221, 224, National Housing Act, 12 U.S.C. 1715b, 1715l, 1715o; Section 7(d), Department of HUD Act, 42 U.S.C. 3335(d)).


John C. Weicher,
Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner.

[FR Doc. 02–25943 Filed 10–10–02; 8:45 am].

BILLING CODE 4210–27–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of the Approved Recovery Plan for the Illinois Cave Amphipod (Gammarus acherondytes)

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announce the availability of the approved recovery plan for the Illinois cave amphipod (Gammarus acherondytes). The endangered Illinois cave amphipod is known only to occur in Monroe and St. Clair Counties in southwestern Illinois. It is a groundwater dwelling invertebrate found in gravel or cobble sections of cave streams. The quality and condition of groundwater in the amphipod’s habitats are tied to land use practices within cave recharge areas. The plan proposes to develop partnerships with Federal and state agencies, organizations, and private landowners that will provide mechanisms for protecting Illinois cave amphipod populations through voluntary and incentive-driven stewardship efforts.

ADDRESS: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s approved recovery plans are available from:

1. Fish and Wildlife Reference Service, 5430 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 110, Bethesda, Maryland 20814 (the fee for the plan varies depending on the number of pages of the plan).


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Jody Gustitus Millar (see ADDRESSES section No. 2 above) or telephone at (309) 793–5800. The Fish and Wildlife Reference Service may be reached at (301) 429–6403 or (800) 872–3421. TTY users may contact Ms. Millar and the Fish and Wildlife Reference Service through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Recovery of endangered or threatened animals or plants is a primary goal of the Service’s endangered species program. A species is considered recovered when the species’ ecosystem is restored and/or threats to the species are removed so that self-sustaining and self-regulating populations of the species can be supported as persistent members of native biotic communities. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for reclassification to threatened status or delisting listed species, and estimate time and cost for implementing the measures needed for recovery.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) requires that recovery plans be developed for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that during recovery plan development, we provide public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment. Information presented during the comment period has been considered in the preparation of the approved recovery plan, and is summarized in an appendix to the recovery plan. We will forward substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation to appropriate Federal Agencies and other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions.

The Illinois cave amphipod was listed as an endangered species under the Act on September 3, 1998 (63 FR 46900). It is a groundwater dwelling invertebrate...
found in gravel or cobble sections of cave streams. The principle threats to the existence of the species are degradation of karst terrain habitat through groundwater contamination (resulting from urbanization, agricultural activities, and human and animal waste from residential septic systems and livestock feedlots), inadequate protection of water quality in a sensitive geological formation (such as karst) through current state and local regulations, and natural events (i.e., a heavy spring snowmelt or rainstorm) that could cause a flushing of all systems at one time.

Historically, the Illinois cave amphipod was known to occur in six cave systems in Monroe and St. Clair Counties, Illinois. Its presence has not been confirmed in Madonnaveille Cave, Monroe County and it appears to be extirpated from Stemler Cave, St. Clair County. Additional populations have been found within the known range of the species in eight additional groundwater systems in Monroe County. The quality and condition of groundwater in the amphipod’s habitats are tied to land use practices within cave recharge areas. The plan proposes to develop partnerships with Federal and state agencies, organizations, and private landowners that will provide mechanisms for protecting Illinois cave amphipod populations through voluntary and incentive-driven stewardship efforts.

The objective of this plan is to provide a framework for the recovery of the Illinois cave amphipod so that protection by the Act is no longer necessary. As recovery criteria are met, the status of the species will be reviewed and it will be considered for removal from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants (50 CFR part 17). The Illinois cave amphipod will be considered for reclassification to threatened when five viable, stable populations in five separate groundwater basins with distribution in two of three sub-regions remain extant, and when there is a significant increase in the use of best management practices in the groundwater recharge areas in each of the five groundwater basins. The subregions are Columbia, Waterloo, and Renault Sub-regions of the Illinois Salem Plateau.

**Background**

Recovery of endangered or threatened animals or plants is a primary goal of the Service’s endangered species program. A species is considered recovered when the species’ ecosystem is restored and/or threats to the species are removed so that self-sustaining and self-regulating populations of the species can be supported as persistent members of native biotic communities. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for reclassification to threatened status or delisting listed species, and estimate time and cost for implementing the measures needed for recovery.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, requires that recovery plans be developed for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that during recovery plan development, we provide public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment. Information presented during the comment period has been considered in the preparation of the approved recovery plan, and is summarized in an appendix to the recovery plan. We will forward substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation to appropriate Federal Agencies and other entities so that they can take these comments into account during the course of implementing recovery actions.

The Pitcher’s thistle, a rare, distinctive, perennial plant, was listed as a threatened species under the Act in July 1988 (53 FR 27137). It is endemic to the shoreline dune systems of Lakes Michigan, Huron and Superior. The species ranges from the north shore of Lake Superior south to Indiana, and formerly occurred in northern Illinois. Pitcher’s thistle occurs only on dynamic open sand dunes subject to natural processes that maintain habitat in early successional stages. It is currently threatened by human recreational activities and development that obliterate habitat, stabilize sand dune areas, and directly harm individual plants. Introduction of biological agents to control noxious weeds may also threaten this plant.

The objective of this plan is to provide a framework for the recovery of the Pitcher’s thistle so that protection by the Act is no longer necessary. As recovery criteria are met, the status of the species will be reviewed and it will be considered for removal from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife.