such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act requires that public notice, and an opportunity for public review and comment, be provided during recovery plan development. The draft recovery plan for *Fritillaria gentneri* was available for public comment from November 22, 2002 through January 21, 2003 (67 FR 70452). Information presented during the public comment period has been considered in the preparation of this final recovery plan, and is summarized in the appendix to the recovery plan. We will forward substantive comments regarding recovery plan implementation to the appropriate Federal or other entities so they can take these comments into account in the course of implementing recovery actions.

*Fritillaria gentneri*, also known as Gentner’s fritillary and/or Gentner’s mission-bells, is a rare, red-flowered member of the lily family (Liliaceae). This species is found primarily in very small, scattered occurrences in Jackson and Josephine Counties in southwestern Oregon; one small additional population was recently discovered in northern California, near the Oregon border. *Fritillaria gentneri* is threatened by a variety of factors including habitat loss associated with rapidly expanding residential and agricultural development, alteration of habitat by invasive weeds and successional encroachment by trees and brush, habitat disturbance from timber harvest and recreational activities, and vulnerability associated with extremely small population sizes. Other potential threats to *Fritillaria gentneri* include bulb collecting for gardens, and herbivory by deer and livestock.

Recovery of *Fritillaria gentneri* will be based on the conservation of the species through protected populations ("Fritillaria management areas") distributed in natural densities across the historical range of the species in four designated recovery units. Recovery units are geographically bounded areas containing extant *Fritillaria gentneri* populations that are the focus of recovery actions. Recovery units include lands both essential and not essential to the long-term conservation of *Fritillaria gentneri*.

The overall objective of this recovery plan is to reduce the threats to *Fritillaria gentneri* to the point where it can be reclassified (downlisted) to threatened, with the ultimate goal of being removed from the Act’s protection entirely (delisted). The recovery measures identified include: (1) Establishing, managing, and maintaining a minimum number of *Fritillaria* management areas within the four designated recovery units, to be achieved through protection of existing populations, population augmentation, and reintroduction at historically occupied sites; (2) providing information to private landowners to assist with the identification of *Fritillaria gentneri* and management of its habitat; (3) conducting surveys and research essential to the conservation of the species; and (4) development of off-site germplasm banks to maintain reproductive materials.

**Authority:** The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

**Dated:** July 21, 2003.

David J. Wesley,

*Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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