DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Notice of Submission of Proposed Information Collection to OMB; Disaster Recovery Grant Reporting System

AGENCY: Office of the Chief Information Officer, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

HUD is requesting renewal of approval to collect information from cities, counties, and states that have received program grants. Grantees describe their recovery needs, develop action plans, and report performance on a Disaster Recovery Grant Reporting System. HUD also uses the information for quarterly reports to Congress.

DATES: Comments Due Date: August 13, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB approval Number (2506–0165) and should be sent to: HUD Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503; fax: 202–395–6974.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne Eddins, Reports Management Officer, AYO, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20410; e-mail Wayne.Eddins@HUD.gov; telephone (202) 708–2374. This is not a toll-free number. Copies of available documents submitted to OMB may be obtained from Mr. Eddins and at HUD’s Web site at http://www5.hud.gov/foi/icbts/collectionsearch.cfm

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Notice informs the public that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has submitted to OMB, for emergency processing, a survey instrument to obtain information from bias based and community organizations on their likelihood and success at applying for various funding programs. This Notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affecting agencies concerning the proposed collection of information to:

1. Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

This Notice also lists the following information:

Title of Proposal: Disaster Recovery Grant Reporting System.

OMB Approval Number: 2506–0165.

Form Numbers: None.

Description of the Need for the Information and Its Proposed Use: HUD is requesting renewal of approval to collect information from cities, counties, and states that have received program grants. Grantees describe their recovery needs, develop action plans, and report performance on a Disaster Recovery Grant Reporting System. HUD also uses the information for quarterly reports to Congress.

Frequency of Submission: Quarterly, Annually.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Approved Recovery Plan for the Higgins Eye Pearlymussel (Lampsilis higginsii)

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability of the approved recovery plan for the Higgins eye pearlymussel (Lampsilis higginsii). This species is federally listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); it occurs in the Mississippi River and tributaries to the Mississippi River in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

Actions needed for recovery of the Higgins eye pearlymussel include alleviating threats posed by exotic species, especially zebra mussels (Dreissena polymorpha), protecting remaining populations, and reintroducing the species into habitats that it historically occupied.

ADDRESSES: This recovery plan is available from the following addresses:


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Phil Delphrey, Twin Cities Field Office, (see ADDRESSES section No. 1 above), telephone (612) 725–3548 ext. 206. TTY users may contact Mr. Delphrey 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 its status has been improved to the point at which listing is no longer appropriate under the criteria set out in section 4(a)(1) of the Act. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for delisting species, and provide estimates of the time and cost for implementing the measures needed for recovery.

The Act requires the development of recovery plans 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 public notice and the opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. 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.

Higgins eye pearlymussel is a large river species occupying stable substrates that vary from sand to boulders; it does not occur in firmly packed clay, flocculent silt, organic material, bedrock, concrete or unstable sand. Water velocities should be less than 1 m/s during periods of low discharge. The species is usually found in mussel beds that contain at least 15 other species. The density of all mussels in the bed typically exceeds 10/m².

Although zebra mussels are currently the most important threat to L. higginsii, construction activities and environmental contaminants may also pose significant threats. This revised plan includes ten Essential Habitat Areas: six in the Mississippi River between river miles 489 and 656; one in the Wisconsin River; and three in the St. Croix River, which empties into the Mississippi River at river mile 811, just downstream of Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota. Higgins eye also occurs elsewhere in the Mississippi River and recently has been reintroduced into several tributaries of the Mississippi River in which it historically occurred. This revised plan recommends that surveys be conducted in several specific areas to better describe other potentially important habitats.

The objective of the recovery plan is to provide a framework for the recovery of Higgins eye pearlymussel so that protection by the Act is no longer necessary. Higgins eye may be considered for reclassification from Endangered to Threatened when the following occurs: (1) At least five identified Essential Habitat Areas contain reproducing, self-sustaining populations of L. higginsii that are not threatened by zebra mussels; (2) a freshwater mussel toxicity database is completed, and specific sediment and water quality parameters in Essential Habitat Areas and reestablishment areas have been characterized; and (3) harvest of freshwater mussels is prohibited by law or regulation in Essential Habitat Areas.

Recovery will be achieved and the species removed from the list of Threatened and Endangered Wildlife (50 CFR part 17) when the following criteria are met: (1) Populations in at least five Essential Habitat Areas are reproducing, self-sustaining, not threatened by zebra mussels, and are sufficiently secure to assure long-term viability of the species; (2) zebra mussels are not present in locations where they or their offspring are likely to adversely affect L. higginsii populations in any of the five identified Essential Habitat Areas; (3) the use of double hull barges or other actions have alleviated the threat of spills to each of the identified Essential Habitat Areas; (4) L. higginsii habitat information and protective responses to conserve each of the identified Essential Habitat Areas have been incorporated into all applicable spill contingency planning efforts; and (5) harvest of freshwater mussels is prohibited by law or regulation in Essential Habitat Areas. Water quality criteria may be added to the delisting criteria upon completion of the tasks referred to in the reclassification criteria.

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


Dan Sobieck,

Acting Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 3, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

[FR Doc. 04–15910 Filed 7–13–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Draft Annual Funding Agreement

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is making available for public review a draft annual funding agreement (draft AFA or draft agreement) with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, as amended by the Tribal Self-Governance Act of 1994. This action is taken at the discretion of the Service to provide public review opportunity and solicit comments from the public for a 90-day period.

DATES: Written comments should be received by October 12, 2004.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments and information to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Bison Range, 132 Bison Range Road, Moiese, Montana 59824 or by facsimile to (406) 644–2661. You may hand-deliver written comments to the National Bison Range at the address given above. You may send comments by electronic mail (e-mail) to draftafapubliccomments@fws.gov. All comments provided become part of the official public record. If requested under the Freedom of Information Act by a private citizen or organization, the Service may provide copies of comments.

You may obtain copies of the draft AFA, by appointment, during normal business hours, from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Bison Range, 132 Bison Range Road, Moiese, Montana 59824, (406) 644–2211. In addition, copies may be obtained from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office, Mountain-Prairie Region, National Wildlife Refuge System, P.O. Box 25486, Denver, Colorado 80225–0486, (303) 236–4306, or from the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, P.O. Box 278, Pablo, Montana 59855, (406) 675–2700. The draft AFA is also available on the Internet at http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/cskt-fws-negotiation.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In spring 2003, the Confederated Salish and