DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service
[55290]

Approved Recovery Plan for the Dwarf Lake Iris

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 dwarf lake iris (Iris lacustris), a species that is federally listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The dwarf lake iris was listed as threatened on October 28, 1988, under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The species grows along the northern shorelines of Lakes Michigan and Huron in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Ontario, Canada. Of 167 known occurrences, many lie on private property where awareness of the species’ presence and significance is limited. Direct loss of plants and habitat is continuing, and is expected to accelerate due to the high demand of shoreline properties for development and recreation. Dwarf lake iris typically grows in shallow soil over moist calcareous sands, gravel, and beach rubble. Sunlight is one of the most critical factors to the growth and reproduction of the species, and partly shaded or sheltered forest edges are optimal for sexual reproduction. Some form of disturbance is also required to maintain the forest openings that provide these partial shade conditions. The species is most often associated with shoreline coniferous forests dominated by northern white cedar and balsam fir. The principal limiting factor for dwarf lake iris is the availability of this suitable shoreline habitat.

The principal recovery strategy is to conserve the habitat that supports dwarf lake iris populations by implementing a variety of protection strategies, including landowner notification, education, and the preparation of management and monitoring plans. Additional efforts will focus on improving the baseline understanding of dwarf lake iris ecology. Outreach materials will be developed to improve awareness of the species’ presence and its status as a threatened species.

The dwarf lake iris will be considered for delisting when the likelihood of the species becoming threatened in the foreseeable future has been eliminated by the achievement of three criteria:

Criterion 1. The species has a 95-percent probability of persistence within the next 20 years, based on data obtained from accepted standardized monitoring methods and population viability analysis. In order to meet this criterion, the following must be verified:

1.a. There is a sufficient number and geographical distribution of element occurrences required to ensure long-term persistence, and 1.b. Each element occurrence needed to ensure a 95-percent probability of persistence within the next 20 years must meet a minimum viable population size and exhibit an increasing or stable population trend over a 10-year period.

Criterion 2. Management plans have been developed and are being implemented to protect and manage the habitat associated with the element occurrences identified in Criterion 1.b.

Criterion 3. A plan to provide public outreach and education for dwarf lake iris has been developed and is being implemented. Additional detail on these delisting criteria is available in the draft recovery plan.

We will achieve these criteria through the following actions: (1) Protect occurrences; (2) Manage and restore habitat; (3) Inventory and monitor known sites; (4) Conduct population viability analysis; (5) Develop an education program about dwarf lake iris, other federally listed shoreline species, natural communities, and their protection and management; (6) Improve understanding of baseline dwarf lake iris ecology; and (7) Review and track recovery progress.

Authority: Section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: August 30, 2013.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
National Park Service

Information Collection Request Sent to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval; Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program Grants

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We (National Park Service) have sent an Information Collection Request (ICR) to OMB for review and approval. We summarize the ICR below and describe the nature of the collection and the estimated burden and cost. This information collection is scheduled to expire on October 31, 2013. We may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of...