

endorsement date (as applicable) within the second 6 months of 2002.

For convenience of reference, HUD is publishing the following chart of debenture interest rates applicable to mortgages committed or endorsed since January 1, 1980:

Effective interest rate	On or after	Prior to
9½	Jan. 1, 1980	July 1, 1980.
9⅞	July 1, 1980	Jan. 1, 1981.
11¼	Jan. 1, 1981	July 1, 1981.
12⅞	July 1, 1981	Jan. 1, 1982.
12¾	Jan. 1, 1982	Jan. 1, 1983.
10¼	Jan. 1, 1983	July 1, 1983.
10⅞	July 1, 1983	Jan. 1, 1984.
11½	Jan. 1, 1984	July 1, 1984.
13⅞	July 1, 1984	Jan. 1, 1985.
11⅞	Jan. 1, 1985	July 1, 1985.
11⅞	July 1, 1985	Jan. 1, 1986.
10¼	Jan. 1, 1986	July 1, 1986.
8¼	July 1, 1986	Jan. 1, 1987.
8	Jan. 1, 1987	July 1, 1987.
9	July 1, 1987	Jan. 1, 1988.
9⅞	Jan. 1, 1988	July 1, 1988.
9⅞	July 1, 1988	Jan. 1, 1989.
9¼	Jan. 1, 1989	July 1, 1989.
9	July 1, 1989	Jan. 1, 1990.
8⅞	Jan. 1, 1990	July 1, 1990.
9	July 1, 1990	Jan. 1, 1991.
8¾	Jan. 1, 1991	July 1, 1991.
8½	July 1, 1991	Jan. 1, 1992.
8	Jan. 1, 1992	July 1, 1992.
8	July 1, 1992	Jan. 1, 1993.
7¾	Jan. 1, 1993	July 1, 1993.
7	July 1, 1993	Jan. 1, 1994.
6⅞	Jan. 1, 1994	July 1, 1994.
7¾	July 1, 1994	Jan. 1, 1995.
8⅞	Jan. 1, 1995	July 1, 1995.
7¼	July 1, 1995	Jan. 1, 1996.
6½	Jan. 1, 1996	July 1, 1996.
7¼	July 1, 1996	Jan. 1, 1997.
6¾	Jan. 1, 1997	July 1, 1997.
7⅞	July 1, 1997	Jan. 1, 1998.
6⅞	Jan. 1, 1998	July 1, 1998.
6⅞	July 1, 1998	Jan. 1, 1999.
5½	Jan. 1, 1999	July 1, 1999.
6⅞	July 1, 1999	Jan. 1, 2000.
6½	Jan. 1, 2000	July 1, 2000.
6½	July 1, 2000	Jan. 1, 2001.
6	Jan. 1, 2001	July 1, 2001.
5⅞	July 1, 2001	Jan. 1, 2002.
5¼	Jan. 1, 2002	July 1, 2002.
5¾	July 1, 2002	Jan. 1, 2003.

Section 221(g)(4) of the Act provides that debentures issued pursuant to that paragraph (with respect to the assignment of an insured mortgage to the Secretary) will bear interest at the "going Federal rate" in effect at the time the debentures are issued. The term "going Federal rate" is defined to mean the interest rate that the Secretary of the Treasury determines, pursuant to a statutory formula based on the average yield on all outstanding marketable Treasury obligations of 8-to 12-year maturities, for the 6-month periods of January through June and July through December of each year. Section 221(g)(4)

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 6⅞ 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. 3535(d)).

Dated: August 29, 2002.

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.

ADDRESSES: 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).

2. Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Rock Island Ecological Services Field Office, 4469-48th Avenue Court, Rock Island, Illinois 61201

3. The World Wide Web at: <http://endangered.fws.gov/RECOVERY/RECPLANS/Index.htm>

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) 492-6403 or (800) 582-3421. 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 Madonnville 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. The cave amphipod may be considered for delisting when five viable, stable populations in five separate groundwater basins with distribution in two of three sub-regions remain extant and are supported by persistent use of best management practices substantially protecting the groundwater recharge areas of the five

groundwater basins. The subregions are Columbia, Waterloo, and Renault Sub-regions of the Illinois Salem Plateau.

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

Dated: September 19, 2002.

Lynn M. Lewis,

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

[FR Doc. 02-25954 Filed 10-10-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of the Approved Recovery Plan for the Pitcher's Thistle (*Cirsium pitcheri*)

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 Pitcher's thistle (*Cirsium pitcheri*), a species that is federally listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). This species occurs on the shoreline dunes of Lakes Michigan, Huron and Superior. Actions needed for recovery of the Pitcher's thistle include managing and protecting its current highest quality and extirpated historic sites.

ADDRESSES: 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).
2. Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, East Lansing Ecological Services Field Office, 2651 Coolidge Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823
3. The World Wide Web at <http://endangered.fws.gov/RECOVERY/RECLANS/Index.htm>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Mike DeCapita, East Lansing Ecological Services Field Office (see **ADDRESSES** section No. 2 above); telephone (517) 351-2555. The Fish and Wildlife Reference Service may be reached at (301) 492-6403 or (800) 582-3421. TTY users may contact Mr. DeCapita 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, 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