

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice announces a debenture recall of certain Federal Housing Administration (FHA) debentures, in accordance with authority provided in the National Housing Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Richard Keyser, Room 3119P, L'Enfant Plaza, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20410-8000, telephone (202) 755-7510 x137. This is not a toll-free number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to Sections 204(c) and 207(j) of the National Housing Act, 12 U.S.C. 1710(c), 1713(j), and in accordance with HUD's regulation at 24 CFR 203.409 and 207.259(e)(3), the Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, announces the call of all FHA debentures, with a coupon rate of 5.375 percent or above, except for those debentures subject to “debenture lock agreements,” that have been registered on the books of the Bureau of Public Debt, Department of the Treasury, and are, therefore, “outstanding” as of September 30, 2003. The date of the call is January 1, 2004.

The debentures will be redeemed at par plus accrued interest. Interest will cease to accrue on the debentures as of the call date. Final interest on any called debentures will be paid with the principal at redemption.

During the period from the date of this Notice to the call date, debentures that are subject to the call may not be used by the mortgagee for a special redemption purchase in payment of a mortgage insurance premium.

No transfer of debentures covered by the foregoing call will be made on the books maintained by the Treasury Department on or after December 1, 2003. This does not affect the right of the holder of a debenture to sell or assign the debenture on or after this date. Payment of final principal and interest due on January 1, 2004, will be made automatically to the registered holder.

Dated: September 9, 2003.

John C. Weicher,

Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner.

[FR Doc. 03-24264 Filed 9-24-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-27-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Recovery Plan for the Rough Popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys hirtus*)

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“we”) announce the availability of the final Recovery Plan for the Rough Popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys hirtus*) for distribution and use. *Plagiobothrys hirtus* is found only in the Umpqua River drainage in Douglas County, Oregon, at sites ranging from 100 to 230 meters (328 to 755 feet) in elevation. Extant, naturally occurring populations of this species occur along the Sutherlin Creek drainage from Sutherlin to Wilbur, adjacent to Calapooya Creek west of Sutherlin, and in roadside ditches near Yoncalla Creek just north of Rice Hill. The northernmost reported site is near Yoncalla, and the southernmost at Wilbur. Until 1998, all known sites were east of Interstate Highway 5 (I-5), but at that time a site was discovered at the junction of Stearns Lane and Highway 138, 0.9 kilometers (0.5 miles) west of I-5. The easternmost currently known extant population is just east of Plat K Road outside Sutherlin. Historic collections have been made farther east near Nonpareil, but recent surveys (1998 to 1999) did not locate any populations in this area.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the final recovery plan are available by written request addressed to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Roseburg Field Office, 2900 NW. Stewart Parkway, Roseburg, Oregon 97470. This final recovery plan is available on the World Wide Web at <http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/index.html#plans>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Craig Tuss at the above Roseburg address (telephone: 541-957-3474).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Recovery of endangered or threatened animals and plants is a primary goal of our endangered species program and the Endangered Species Act (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Recovery means improvement of the status of listed species 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 downlisting or delisting listed species, and estimate 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 requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The draft recovery plan was available for public review and comment during a 60-day period from January 28, 2003, through March 31, 2003 (68 FR 4228). Four peer reviewers and two State agencies provided comments. 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 appropriate Federal or other entities so they can take these comments into account in the course of implementing recovery actions.

Plagiobothrys hirtus is a perennial herbaceous plant, but can be annual depending on environmental conditions. The species occurs in seasonal wetlands. The majority of sites occur on the Conser-type soil series which is characterized as poorly drained flood plain soils. Most of the sites are moderately to highly disturbed due to agricultural and development activities. Urban and agriculture development, invasion of nonnative species, habitat fragmentation and degradation, and other human-caused disturbances have resulted in substantial losses of seasonal wetland habitat throughout the species' historic range. Conservation needs include establishing a network of protected populations in natural habitat distributed throughout its native range.

A primary objective of this recovery plan is to reduce the threats to *Plagiobothrys hirtus* to the point it can be downlisted (reclassified) from endangered to threatened status.

Recovery goals include: (1) At least 9 reserves, containing a minimum of 5,000 plants each are protected and managed to assure their long term survival; (2) a minimum of 1,000 square meters (10,764 square feet) are occupied within each reserve, with at least 50 square meters (538 square feet) having a density of 100 plants/square meter (100 plants/11 square feet) or greater; (3) the 9 reserves are distributed among the 3 natural recovery zones (Calapooya Creek, Sutherlin Creek, and Yoncalla Creek), with at least 3 reserves present

in each unit; (4) patches contained in each reserve are within 1 kilometer (0.6 mile) of each other to allow for pollinator movement and gene flow among them; (5) an average of 5 years of demographic data indicate that populations in at least 7 of the 9 reserves within the 3 recovery units have average population numbers that are stable or increasing, without decreasing trends lasting more than 2 years; and (6) 75 percent or more of the plants are reproductive each year, with 30 percent annual seed maturation and recruitment evident in all populations.

Authority

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

Dated: August 1, 2003.

Carolyn A. Bohan,

Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 03-24280 Filed 9-24-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Approved Recovery Plan for the Lake Erie Water Snake (*Nerodia sipedon insularum*)

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 Lake Erie water snake (*Nerodia sipedon insularum*). This species is federally listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), on the offshore islands and in the waters of the western Lake Erie basin of Ohio. Actions needed for recovery of the Lake Erie water snake include monitoring the population, protecting and managing habitat on both public and private land, administering public outreach to address intentional and accidental human-induced mortality, and collecting important ecological data on the snake and its habitat.

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

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).
2. Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Reynoldsburg

Ecological Services Field Office, 6950 Americana Parkway, Suite H, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-4127.

3. The World Wide Web at: <http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/index.html#plans>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Megan Seymour, Reynoldsburg Ecological Services Field Office, (see **ADDRESSES** section No. 2 above), telephone (614) 469-6923 ext.16. The Fish and Wildlife Reference Service may be reached at (301) 492-6403 or (800) 582-3421. TTY users may contact Ms. Seymour 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 threats to the species are removed so that populations of the species are self-sustaining. 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.

Lake Erie water snakes on the offshore islands and surrounding waters of Lake Erie were listed as threatened on August 30, 1999, under the Act. Water snakes found on the near-shore Ohio islands and Ohio mainland are not protected by the threatened designation due to the likelihood that these snakes represent intergrades between the Lake Erie water snake and northern water snake. The Lake Erie water snake spends summers basking on the rocky shorelines of the limestone and dolomite islands in the western Lake Erie basin. Hibernation

habitat for the snake is comprised of areas inland from the shore that typically have soil and rock substrates and consist of natural openings or fissures. Human-made structures such as crib docks and erosion control protection can provide suitable summer habitat, whereas old building foundations and drainage tiles may provide suitable hibernation habitat. The primary threats to the snake include both accidental and intentional human-induced mortality and loss of suitable summer and hibernation habitat through development. There are nine U.S. islands and seven Canadian islands that currently provide year-round habitat for the snake, whereas two U.S. islands only provide summer habitat. The Lake Erie water snake has been extirpated from one U.S. island and two Canadian islands.

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) A minimum of 5,555 adult snakes exist on 9 U. S. islands combined for 6 or more consecutive years, including at least 900 snakes on Kelleys Island, 850 snakes on South Bass Island, 620 snakes on Middle Bass Island, and 410 snakes on North Bass Island, with the remaining snakes occurring on any of the islands; (2) a total of 7.4 km of shoreline habitat and 51 hectares of hibernation habitat distributed proportionately among the 4 largest U. S. islands are protected in perpetuity by a written agreement approved by the Service; and (3) an objective analysis of public attitude indicates that human persecution is no longer a threat to the continued existence of the snake, and accidental human-induced mortality no longer poses a significant threat to the population.

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

Dated: August 28, 2003.

Charles M. Wooley,

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

[FR Doc. 03-24281 Filed 9-24-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Gaming

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of extension to the Tribal-State Gaming Compact between