

	Number of respondents	×	Frequency of response	×	Hours per response	=	Burden hours
HUD-2457 .....	750		2		.5		750

*Total Estimated Burden Hours: 750.*  
*Status: Reinstatement, with changes.*  
*Contact: Ben J. Jacinto, HUD, (202) 708-2866, x2533; Joseph F. Lackey, Jr., OMB, (202) 395-7316.*

Dated: January 15, 1998.  
 [FR Doc. 98-1435 Filed 1-21-98; 8:45 am]  
 BILLING CODE 4210-01-M

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

[Docket No. FR-4315-N-01]

**Mortgage and Loan Insurance Programs Under the National Housing Act—Debenture Interest Rates**

**AGENCY:** Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner, (HUD).

**ACTION:** Notice of change in debenture interest rates.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces changes in the interest rates to be paid on debentures issued with respect to a loan or mortgage insured by the Federal Housing Commissioner under the provisions of the National Housing Act (the "Act"). The interest rate for debentures issued under Section 221(g)(4) of the Act during the six-month period beginning January 1, 1998, is 6¼ percent. The interest rate for debentures issued under any other provision of the Act is the rate in effect on the date that the commitment to

insure the loan or mortgage was issued, or the date that the loan or mortgage was endorsed (or initially endorsed if there are two or more endorsements) for insurance, whichever rate is higher. The interest rate for debentures issued under these other provisions with respect to a loan or mortgage committed or endorsed during the six-month period beginning January 1, 1998, is 6⅜ percent.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

James B. Mitchell, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, S.W., Room 6164, Washington, D.C. 20010. Telephone (202) 708-1220 ext. 2612, or TDD (202) 708-4594 for hearing- or speech-impaired callers. These are not toll-free numbers.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 224 of the National Housing Act (24 U.S.C. 1715o) provides that debentures issued under the Act with respect to an insured loan or mortgage (except for debentures issued pursuant to Section 221(g)(4) of the Act) will bear interest at the rate in effect on the date the commitment to insure the loan or mortgage was issued, or the date the loan or mortgage was endorsed (or initially endorsed if there are two or more endorsements) for insurance, whichever rate is higher. This provision is implemented in HUD's regulations at 24 CFR 203.405, 203.479, 207.259(e)(6), and 220.830. Each of these regulatory provisions states that the applicable

rates of interest will be published twice each year as a notice in the **Federal Register**.

Section 224 further provides that the interest rate on these debentures will be set from time to time by the Secretary of HUD, with the approval of the secretary of the Treasury, in an amount not in excess of the annual interest rate determined by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to a statutory formula based on the average yield of all outstanding marketable Treasury obligations of maturities of 15 or more years.

The Secretary of the Treasury (1) has determined, in accordance with the provisions of Section 224, that the statutory maximum interest rate for the period beginning January 1, 1998, is 6⅜ percent and (2) has approved the establishment of the debenture interest rate by the Secretary of HUD at 6⅜ percent for the six-month period beginning January 1, 1998. This interest rate will be the rate borne by debentures issued with respect to any insured loan or mortgage (except for debentures issued pursuant to Section 221(g)(4)) with an insurance commitment or endorsement date (as applicable) within the first six months of 1998.

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.
11¾ .....	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.
10⅜ .....	July 1, 1983 .....	Jan. 1, 1984.
11½ .....	Jan. 1, 1984 .....	July 1, 1984.
13⅜ .....	July 1, 1984 .....	Jan. 1, 1985.
11⅝ .....	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.
9⅜ .....	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.

Effective interest rate	On or after	Prior to
8 .....	Jan. 1, 1992 .....	July 1, 1992.
8 .....	July 1, 1992 .....	Jan. 1, 1993.
7 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> .....	Jan. 1, 1993 .....	July 1, 1993.
7 .....	July 1, 1993 .....	Jan. 1, 1994.
6 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub> .....	Jan. 1, 1994 .....	July 1, 1994.
7 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> .....	July 1, 1994 .....	Jan. 1, 1995.
8 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> .....	Jan. 1, 1995 .....	July 1, 1995.
7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> .....	July 1, 1995 .....	Jan. 1, 1996.
6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> .....	Jan. 1, 1996 .....	July 1, 1996.
7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> .....	July 1, 1996 .....	Jan. 1, 1997.
6 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> .....	Jan. 1, 1997 .....	July 1, 1997.
7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> .....	July 1, 1997 .....	Jan. 1, 1998.
6 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> .....	Jan. 1, 1998 .....	July 1, 1998.

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" of interest 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 eight- to twelve-year maturities, for the six-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 221.790.

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 six-month period beginning January 1, 1998, is 6 1/4 percent.

HUD expects to publish its next notice to change in debenture interest rates in July 1998.

The subject matter of this notice falls within the categorical exclusion from HUD's environmental clearance procedures set forth in 24 CFR 50.20(1). For that reason, no environmental finding has been prepared for this notice.

(Secs. 211, 221, 224, National Housing Act, 12 U.S.C. 1715b, 17151, 1715o; sec. 7(d), Department of HUD Act, 42 U.S.C. 3535(d))

Dated: January 15, 1998.

**Sarah Rosen,**

*Associate General Deputy, Assistant Secretary for Housing.*

[FR Doc. 98-1434 Filed 1-21-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-27-M

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Notice of Intent to Prepare Comprehensive Conservation Plan**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Prepare Comprehensive Conservation Plan.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) intends to gather information necessary to prepare a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and associated environmental documents for the Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge in Bennett County in southwestern South Dakota.

The Notice of Intent is in compliance with the Service's CCP policy to advise other agencies and the public of its intentions. The Service plans to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to be considered in the planning process.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received by February 23, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments and requests for more information should be referred to Jon Kauffeld, Planning Team Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 203 W. 2nd, Federal Building, Grand Island, NE 68801.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Service has initiated Comprehensive Conservation Planning for the Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge. Each National Wildlife Refuge has specific purposes for which it was established and for which legislation was enacted. Those purposes are used to develop and prioritize management goals and objectives within the National Wildlife Refuge System mission, and to guide which public uses occur on the Refuge. The planning process is a way for the Service and the public to evaluate management goals and objectives for the best possible conservation efforts of this important wildlife habitat, while

providing for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities that are compatible with each national wildlife refuge's establishing purposes and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge (16,410 acres) was established as " \* \* \* a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife \* \* \*" by Executive Order No. 7160, on August 26, 1935. The Refuge is located in the Lake Creek Valley, southern Bennett County, on the northern edge of the Nebraska sandhills. The Refuge provides breeding and migration habitat for Central Flyway waterfowl, other migratory birds, and is home to a significant portion of the high plains trumpeter swan populations.

The Refuge administers the Little White River Recreation Area which was donated to and accepted by the Service on May 20, 1980, under authority of the Refuge Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. 460K-K4) for public recreation. Public use opportunities include wildlife observation and photography, environmental education, and hunting and fishing on the refuge, and on the Little White River Recreation Area boating, waterskiing, swimming, and camping are also permitted.

The Service will conduct a comprehensive conservation planning process that will provide opportunity for Tribal, State and local governments, agencies, organizations, and the public to participate in scoping issues and comment. The Service is requesting input for issues, concerns, ideas, and suggestions for future management of Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge. Anyone interested in providing input is invited to respond to the following three questions.

(1) What makes the Lacreek Refuge (or any specific unit) special or unique for you?

(2) What problems or issues do you want to see addressed in the Comprehensive Conservation Plan?