

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Notice of Availability of a Draft Revised Recovery Plan for Higgins' Eye Pearly Mussel, *Lampsilis higginsii*, for Review and Comment**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces availability for public review of a technical/agency draft revised recovery plan for the endangered Higgins' eye pearly mussel, *Lampsilis higginsii*. This freshwater mussel is known to presently occur in the Mississippi River from Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, to approximately the Iowa-Missouri border, near Keokuk, Iowa, with populations also occurring in the Wisconsin River, downstream of Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin; St. Croix River downstream of Taylors Falls, Minnesota-St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin; and Rock River below Steel Dam, at Milan, Illinois, all tributaries to the Mississippi River. The Service solicits review and comments from the public on this draft plan.

DATES: Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before August 21, 1998 to receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the Field Supervisor, Twin Cities Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4101 East 80th Street, Bloomington, Minnesota 55125-1665 (telephone 612/725-3548). Written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor at the above address. Comments and materials received will be available, by appointment, for public inspection during normal business hours, at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Gerry Bade, Rock Island Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4469 48th Avenue Court, Rock Island, Illinois 61201 (telephone 309/793-5800, ext. 520), or contact Mr. Chuck Kjos, Twin Cities Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4101 East 80th Street, Bloomington, Minnesota 55425-1665 (telephone 612/725-3548, ext. 206).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant to the point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of the Service's

endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the federally threatened and endangered species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of the species, establish criteria for the recovery levels for upgrading and recovering them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), 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 public notice and opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The document under review revises the original Higgins' eye pearly mussel recovery plan, which was approved by the Service in 1983. Since 1983, additional information on the abundance, distribution, biology, and threats to the species has been developed—for example, the species is known today to be somewhat more widespread than was known in 1983 and zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*), believed today to be a serious threat to Higgins' eye pearly mussel, did not invade U.S. waters until the late 1980s. Endangered species recovery planning today incorporates population concepts and genetic considerations to a greater and more developed degree than it did in 1983 and statistical methods for analysis of mussel populations have advanced significantly since that date. Much recovery work recommended in the 1983 recovery plan remains valid and needs to continue, but the recovery plan needs revision to reflect current knowledge and information of the species' present abundance, distribution, and welfare, as well as actions currently needed for its recovery. The draft revised recovery plan updates information on Higgins' eye pearly mussel abundance, distribution, threats, recommended recovery actions, and recommended criteria for reclassification to threatened status and delisting.

Higgins' eye pearly mussel is known to presently occur in the Mississippi

River from Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, to approximately the Iowa-Missouri border, near Keokuk, Iowa, with populations also occurring in the St. Croix River downstream of Taylors Falls, Minnesota-St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin; Wisconsin River downstream of Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin; and Rock River below Steel Dam, at Milan, Illinois, all tributaries to the Mississippi River. Water quality, navigation, past and present habitat alteration, zebra mussels, incidental loss via legal and illegal harvest of commercial mussel species, natural predation, and loss of genetic variability are addressed in the recovery plan. Recovery efforts will concentrate on protecting the habitat of areas known to support viable Higgins' eye pearly mussel populations and on addressing individually the above identified threats.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified will be considered prior to approval of the plan. Comments should be sent to the Field Supervisor, Twin Cities Field Office, at the above address.

Authority

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

Dated: June 15, 1998.

John A. Blankenship,

Assistant Regional Director, IL, IN, MO (Ecological Services), Region 3, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

[FR Doc. 98-16469 Filed 6-19-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Geological Survey****Request for Public Comments on Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act**

A request extending the collection of information listed below has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). Copies of the proposed collection of information and related forms may be obtained by contacting the Bureau's Clearance Officer at the phone number listed below. OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove the information collection but may respond after 30

days; therefore, public comments should be submitted to OMB within 30 days in order to assure their maximum consideration.

Comments and suggestions on the requirement should be made directly to the Desk Office for the Interior Department, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington DC 20503 and to the Bureau Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 807 National Center, Reston, VA 20192. As required by OMB regulations at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), the U.S. Geological Survey solicits specific public comments regarding the proposed information collection as to:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the bureau, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of the bureau's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. The utility, quality, and clarity of the information to be collected; and,
4. How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other forms of information technology.

Title: Consolidated Consumers' Report.

Current OMB Approval Number: 1320-0084.

Abstract: Respondents supply the U.S. Geological Survey with domestic consumption data of 12 metals and ferroalloys, some of which are considered strategic and critical. This information will be published as monthly and annual reports for use by Government agencies, industry, and the general public.

Bureau Form Number: 9-4117-MA.

Frequency: Monthly and Annually.

Description of Respondents: Consumers of ferrous and related metals.

Annual Responses: 2,923.

Annual Burden Hours: 2,192.

Bureau Clearance Officer: John E. Cordyack, Jr., 703-648-7313.

John H. DeYoung, Jr.,

Chief Scientist, Minerals Information Team.
[FR Doc. 98-16506 Filed 6-19-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-Y7-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Notice of Public Comment Period on Proposed Agreement for Leasing of Colorado River Water and Non-Irrigation of Lands on Chemehuevi Indian Reservation

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of opportunity for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Chemehuevi Indian Tribe entered into an agreement with Southeastern Nevada Water Company, Inc., dated January 31, 1998, for a 25-year lease of 5,000 acre-feet per year of the Tribe's Colorado River water entitlement. The agreement has been submitted to the Secretary of the Interior with a request for the Secretary's approval as a lease of Indian lands within the meaning of 25 U.S.C. 415 and for approval under 25 U.S.C. 81. As part of the Secretary's review, the Bureau of Indian Affairs has determined it is in the public interest to allow an opportunity for interested parties to comment on the proposed lease.

DATES: Any comments must be received by the agency on or before August 6, 1998.

ADDRESSES: If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments to the Area Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Attention: Ms. Cathy Wilson, Phoenix Area Office, P.O. Box 10, MS 420, Phoenix, AZ 85004.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Chemehuevi Indian Tribe is a federally recognized Indian tribe organized under section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (25 U.S.C. § 476). The Tribe is the beneficial owner of the Chemehuevi Indian Reservation which is located entirely within San Bernardino County, California. On February 2, 1998, the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe provided the proposed Agreement for the Leasing of Reservation Water and for Non-Irrigation of Reservation Lands to the Secretary of the Interior for approval. If the lease is approved by the Secretary, it will become effective upon that approval and remain in effect for a term of 25 years.

Under the proposed lease agreement, the Tribe will lease 5,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water per year to the lessee, Southeastern Nevada Water Company, Inc. The lessee is a for-profit corporation, organized under the laws of the State of Nevada and based in Scottsdale, Arizona. The lessee is authorized to do business in the State of

California and will use the water acquired during the period of the lease to meet the present and future water demands of the lessee and any sublessees or assignees in the State of California.

Copies of the lease are available from the Bureau of Indian Affairs at the address listed under **ADDRESSES**. In addition, the Tribe is assessing the environmental impacts of the lease. Any documents created during the environmental compliance process will be made available, as appropriate, from the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Phoenix Area Office at the address listed under **ADDRESSES**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Cathy Wilson, telephone (602) 379-6789.

Dated: June 15, 1998.

Kevin Gover,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 98-16561 Filed 6-19-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Notice of Final Agency Action

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of final agency action.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Interior has decided to take approximately 146 acres of land, located in New London County, Connecticut, into trust for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe of Connecticut. The Secretary shall acquire title in the name of the United States no sooner than 30 days after date of this notice. This notice is published in the exercise of authority delegated by the Secretary of the Interior to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.1.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larry E. Scrivner, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Chief, Division of Real Estate Services, MS-4510/MIB/Code 220, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240, telephone (202) 208-7737.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Mashantucket Pequot Tribe of Connecticut submitted an application to acquire approximately 146 acres of land located in New London County, Connecticut, into trust status. Based upon information provided, we have determined that the acceptance of the parcels into trust status is consistent with applicable guidelines and is in the best interest of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe. The acquisition qualifies for