

answer. The second commenter expressed concern that, because the survey required the respondent's job title and Region, anyone looking at the completed survey would know who had written it. The third commenter raised the issue that the survey questions did not adequately capture the problems that would cause an office to have a high attrition rate. We have not made any changes to the survey in response to these comments. Regarding the first commenter's suggestion, the commenter found the questions difficult because of feelings towards the organization's management, not because of the questions themselves. The second commenter's concern did not result in a change to the survey question because the reported results are aggregated and not personally identifiable. Finally, regarding the third comment, the reported results are giving us valuable insight into the reasons why employees are separating from the Fish and Wildlife Service.

*Title of Collection:* Employee Exit Follow-Up Survey, authorized by the Merit System Principles (5 U.S.C. 2301).

*OMB Control Number:* 1018-0112.

*Form Number:* FWS 3-2186.

*Frequency of Collection:* Annually.

*Description of Respondents:* Former Fish and Wildlife Service employees.

*Total Annual Burden Hours:* 100 hours. The reporting burden is estimated to average 15 minutes per respondent.

*Total Annual Responses:* About 400 individuals are expected to participate in the survey annually.

We invite comments concerning this submission on: (1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of our career development functions, including whether or not the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and, (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents. The information collections in this program are part of a system of records covered by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552(a)).

Dated: July 30, 2004.

**Hope Grey,**

*Service Information Collection Clearance Officer.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Availability of the Scaleshell Mussel (*Leptodea leptodon*) Draft Recovery Plan 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 the draft recovery plan for the scaleshell mussel (*Leptodea leptodon*), a species that is federally listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et. seq.*). The purpose of this plan is to recover this species in order that it can be removed from the list of Threatened and Endangered Species. Currently, only 14 rivers support very small populations in Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

**DATES:** Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before September 7, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Field Office, 608 E. Cherry St., Room 200, Columbia, Missouri 65201-7712 (telephone (573) 876-1911) or by accessing the Web site: <http://midwest.fws.gov/Endangered>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Andy Roberts at the above address and telephone (ext. 110). TTY users may contact Mr. Roberts through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

#### 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 listed threatened and endangered species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of the species, establish criteria for reclassification and delisting, and provide estimates of the time and costs for implementing the recovery measures needed.

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 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 consideration in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The scaleshell was listed as endangered on October 9, 2001. It once occurred in 55 rivers across 13 states in the Mississippi River drainage. The species has undergone a dramatic reduction in range and has further declined in the last few decades. Currently, only 14 rivers support very small populations in Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma. The scaleshell occurs in medium to large rivers with low to medium gradients. It primarily inhabits gravel or mud substrate in stable riffles and runs with moderate current velocity. The scaleshell requires good water quality and is usually found where a diversity of other mussel species are concentrated. More specific habitat requirements of scaleshell are unknown, particularly habitat requirements of the juvenile stage. Water quality degradation, sedimentation, channel instability, and habitat destruction are contributing to the decline of the scaleshell throughout its range.

The scaleshell will be considered for downlisting to threatened status when the likelihood of the species becoming extinct in the foreseeable future has been eliminated by the achievement of the following criteria: (1) Through protection of existing populations, successful establishment of reintroduced populations, or discovery of additional populations, four stream populations exist, each in a separate watershed and each made up of at least four local populations that are located in distinct areas of the stream; (2) all local populations are persistent and viable in terms of population size, age structure, and recruitment; (3) each local population and their habitat are sufficiently protected from any present and foreseeable threats that would jeopardize their continued existence; (4) tasks will be completed to determine if water quality criteria should be included as a delisting criteria and, if so, water quality criteria for delisting will be developed; and (5) measures are in place to prevent the spread of zebra mussels into habitat occupied by the

scaleshell where zebra mussels have not become established.

The scaleshell will be considered for delisting when the likelihood of the species becoming threatened in the foreseeable future has been eliminated by the achievement of the following criteria: (1) Through protection of existing populations, successful establishment of reintroduced populations, or discovery of additional populations, a total of eight stream populations exist in separate watersheds, one located in the Upper Mississippi Basin, four in the Middle Mississippi River Basin (including two east of the Mississippi River), and three in the Lower Mississippi River Basin, and each of these is made up of four local and geographically distinct populations; (2) all local populations are persistent and viable in terms of population size, age structure, and recruitment; (3) each local population and their habitat are sufficiently protected from any present and foreseeable threats that would jeopardize their continued existence; (4) measures are in place to prevent the spread of zebra mussels into habitat occupied by the scaleshell where zebra mussels have not become established; and (5) water quality criteria may be added to the recovery criteria for delisting upon completion of the tasks referred to under the recovery criteria for reclassification. Additional detail on downlisting and delisting criteria is available in the draft recovery plan.

These criteria will be met through the following actions: (1) Prevent the extirpation and stabilize existing populations through artificial propagation; (2) form partnerships and use existing programs to protect remaining populations, restore habitat, and improve surface lands; (3) improve understanding of the biology and ecology of scaleshell; (4) further delineate the current status and distribution of scaleshell; (5) restore degraded habitat in areas of historical range; (6) reintroduce scaleshell into portions of its former range; (7) initiate various educational and public outreach actions to heighten awareness of the scaleshell as an endangered species and solicit help with recovery actions; and (8) track recovery and conduct periodic evaluations with respect to recovery criteria.

#### Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the draft recovery plan. All comments received by the date specified will be considered prior to approval of the plan. Written comments and materials regarding the plan should be

sent to the Field Supervisor, Ecological Services Field Office (*see ADDRESSES* section). Comments received will be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours.

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

Dated: July 14, 2004.

**Ms. Lynn Lewis,**

*Acting Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 3.*

[FR Doc. 04-17974 Filed 8-5-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Availability of the Hungerford's Crawling Water Beetle (*Brychius hungerfordi*) Draft Recovery Plan 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 the draft recovery plan for the Hungerford's crawling water beetle (*Brychius hungerfordi*), a species that is federally listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The purpose of this plan is to recover this species so that it can be removed from the list of Threatened and Endangered Species. The species is only known to occur at four sites in Michigan and one site in Ontario, Canada. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

**DATES:** Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before September 7, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Field Office, 2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101, East Lansing, Michigan 48823-6316 (telephone (517) 351-2555) or by accessing the Web site: <http://midwest.fws.gov/Endangered>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Carrie Tansy at the above address and telephone (ext. 289). TTY users may contact Ms. Tansy through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

#### 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 listed threatened and endangered species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of the species, establish criteria for reclassification and delisting, and provide estimates of the time and costs for implementing the recovery measures.

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 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 consideration in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

Hungerford's crawling water beetle was listed as endangered on March 7, 1994. At the time of its listing, this species was known to occur at only three locations—two in Michigan and one in Ontario, Canada. Since then, two additional sites in Michigan have been discovered. The distribution of this species prior to its discovery in 1952 is not known. Currently, only one site is believed to support a stable population of the species. The species occurs in low numbers at the other four sites, and the status of these populations is not known. Hungerford's crawling water beetle is an aquatic species that is found in streams downstream from culverts, beaver and natural debris dams, and human-made impoundments. It is found in areas of streams with good aeration, moderate to fast flow, inorganic substrate, and alkaline water conditions. Very little information is available on the life history and habitat requirements of this species. Threats appear to be related to habitat alteration and degradation of water quality, and may include habitat modification, fish management activities, and human disturbance. Factors limiting the species distribution are not known. The small size and limited distribution of Hungerford's crawling water beetle make it vulnerable to chance demographic and environmental events. The draft recovery plan recommends research to examine important