

amber snail population in its Chittenango Falls habitat while establishing or verifying five additional discrete populations in protected habitats. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft Plan revision.

DATES: Comments on the draft Recovery Plan must be received December 1, 1997, to receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the draft Recovery Plan can obtain a copy from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Northeast Region Endangered Species Program, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, Massachusetts 01035, telephone 413-253-8628. Comments should be sent to this address, to the attention of Mary Parkin.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Parkin (see **ADDRESSES**).

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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare Recovery Plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery Plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of the species, establish criteria for the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, 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 that public notice and an 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 Recovery Plans.

The document submitted for review is the draft Chittenango Ovale Amber Snail (*Novisuccinea chittenangoensis*) Revised Recovery Plan. Since its discovery in 1905, only one extant Chittenango ovate amber snail population has been verified, from a site

within the Chittenango Falls State Park in New York.

This terrestrial snail requires the cool, mild-temperature, moist conditions provided by the spray and mist in its environment. Its habitat lies within a ravine at the base of a 167-foot waterfall, and the ledges it occupies comprise an early successional sere that is periodically rejuvenated to a bare substrate by floodwaters. This snail is found on green vegetation such as various mosses, liverworts, and other low herbaceous vegetation within the spray zone of the falls.

The Chittenango ovate amber snail was listed as a threatened species in July 1978 based on its rarity and a decline in its population, and the initial recovery plan for the species was completed in March 1983. Since then, full protection of the snail's habitat has been achieved and a captive propagation program is underway, but the species' status remains exceedingly precarious. The primary threat to the sole wild population of this snail is considered to be over-competition by an introduced snail, *Succinea* sp. B. Additionally, potential threats persist from habitat changes and inadvertent human disturbance.

Due to the pervasive threat posed by the competitor *Succinea* sp. B, delisting of the Chittenango ovate amber snail is not deemed achievable at this time. The revised recovery objective for this species, therefore, is to stabilize, to the extent possible, the extant population at Chittenango Falls while establishing or verifying five additional, discrete Chittenango ovate amber snail colonies in protected habitats free from the competition of *Succinea* sp. B. To achieve this objective, four major actions need to be implemented: (1) continued protection of the species and its habitat and Chittenango Falls; (2) acquiring more data on the biological and environmental requirements of *N. chittenangoensis*; (3) enhancing the snail's habitat at Chittenango Falls as feasible or appropriate; and (4) as feasible, broadening the distribution of the Chittenango ovate amber snail.

The draft Recovery Plan revision is being submitted for agency review. After consideration of comments received during the review period, the revised Plan will be submitted for final approval.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the Recovery Plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of the Plan.

Authority

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

Dated: September 25, 1997.

Ronald E. Lambertson,

Regional Director, Region 5.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Comprehensive Management Plan

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare comprehensive management plans and associated environmental documents.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) intends to gather information necessary to prepare comprehensive management plans (CMPs) and environmental assessments for units within Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Ohio. Readers should note that pending legislation may change the names of CMPs to comprehensive conservation plans. The CMPs will be prepared for the Illinois River Refuges and Mark Twain, DeSoto, Shiawassee, Minnesota Valley, Squaw Creek, and Ottawa National Wildlife Refuges and the Wetland Management Districts in Minnesota. The Service is furnishing this notice in compliance with Service CMP policy and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and implementing regulations:

(1) To advise other agencies and the public of our intentions, and

(2) To obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to include in the environmental document.

DATES: Inquire at the address below for due dates for comments regarding specific projects.

ADDRESSES: Address comments and requests for more information or to be put on a mailing list to: Chief, Branch of Ascertainment and Planning, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111, (612) 725-3306, *E-mail:* R3PLANNING@fws.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Service will solicit information from the public via open houses and written comments. Special mailings, newspaper articles, and radio announcements in the areas near each unit will inform people of the time and place of open houses to be held in 1997 and 1998 related to the CMP and NEPA documentation.

It is Service policy to have all lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System managed in accordance with an approved CMP. The CMP guides management decisions and identifies goals, objectives, and strategies for achieving unit purposes. Public input into this planning process is encouraged. The CMPs will provide other agencies and the public with a clear understanding of the desired conditions of each of its units and how the Service will implement management strategies.

The Illinois River National Wildlife and Fish Refuges is a complex of four areas in the Illinois River floodplain. The names of the four areas, the year they were established, and their acreage are: Chautauqua Refuge (1936) 4,658; Meredosia Refuge (1973) 3,397; Emiquon Refuge, which is authorized for 11,312 acres, (1993) 1,120; and the Cameron/Billsbach Unit (1958) 1,709. Each of the areas consists of backwater lakes, bottomland forests, floodplain wetland, and a small amount of upland forest.

The Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Complex encompasses over 350 miles of the Mississippi River bottoms between Muscatine, Iowa, and Gorham, Illinois. As part of an area of 100,000 acres cooperatively managed by the States of Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri, and the Corps of Engineers, the Service directly manages 31,500 acres. The Refuge was established in 1958 and includes the Wapello, Iowa; Annada, Missouri; and Brussels, Illinois Districts; and the Clarence Cannon NWR in Missouri. The Refuge is part of the internationally significant migratory bird corridor along the Mississippi River.

DeSoto NWR is located in southwestern Iowa, approximately 30 miles north of Omaha, Nebraska. Established in 1958, the Refuge includes 3,499 acres in Iowa and 4,324 acres in Nebraska. Located in the Missouri River Valley, the Refuge is a fall migration stop for hundreds of thousands of snow geese. In addition, the Refuge houses a salvaged 1860's steamboat and its cargo.

Shiawassee NWR consists of 9,102 acres located near Saginaw, Michigan. The Refuge was established in 1953 and has an approved plan to expand by 7,500 acres. The Refuge is part of the "Shiawassee Flats" in the Saginaw Bay watershed, historically one of the largest and most productive wetland ecosystems in Michigan.

Minnesota Valley NWR, which was established in 1976, consists of 9,429 acres within the metropolitan area of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. The Refuge, which has an authorized

acreage of 14,000, is a greenbelt providing wildlife habitat along 34 miles of the Minnesota River. The Refuge also provides environmental education and compatible outdoor recreation opportunities.

Squaw Creek NWR, which was established in 1935, includes 7,178 acres of the Missouri River floodplain. Located northwest of St. Joseph, Missouri, the Refuge is a major wintering area for bald eagles and snow geese. Wetlands and loess bluff hills with remnants of native prairie exist within the Refuge.

Ottawa NWR (5,794 acres) and its satellite units, Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge (2,445 acres) and West Sister Island National Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness Area (77 acres), are situated along the southwestern shore of Lake Erie in Lucas and Ottawa Counties, Ohio. The major parcel of Ottawa NWR was acquired in 1961 with land acquired under the authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act. Cedar Point was accepted as a donation by the Secretary of Interior in 1964. West Sister Island was established as a Refuge in 1938 by Presidential Order and was designated a National Wilderness in 1975. Under a lease agreement, Ottawa NWR also manages the Navarre Marsh, which is owned by the Toledo Edison Power Company. The Refuge is authorized to expand by an additional 5,000 acres.

The five Minnesota Wetland Management Districts (WMDs) exist within the Prairie Pothole Region. In 1958, Congress amended The Duck Stamp Act to authorize acquisition of wetlands and uplands as Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs). The WPAs became part of the National Wildlife Refuge System in 1966 through the National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act. The WMDs were created in 1962 as the acquisition of wetlands and uplands accelerated due to a loan from Congress against future Duck Stamp sales. The WMDs include approximately 172,000 acres. In addition to WPAs, WMD staff manage wetland and grassland easements that are perpetual contracts with private landowners. Current wetland easement acreage is approximately 62,000.

The Service units need CMPs because no formal, up-to-date, long-term management direction exists. Until the CMPs are completed, management will be guided by official unit purposes; Management and General Public Use of the National Wildlife Refuge System (Executive Order 12996); Federal legislation regarding management of national wildlife refuges and

wilderness; and other legal, regulatory and policy guidance.

Upon implementation, the CMPs will apply to Federal lands, easements, and lands leased by the Service within the boundaries of the units. The plans will be consistent with the Service's Ecosystem Approach to Fish and Wildlife Conservation and include approaches to habitat management, wildlife population management, cultural resource identification and protection, and management of any special uses.

The environmental review of these projects will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), NEPA Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, Executive Order 12996, and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations.

We estimate that the first draft CMPs and associated environmental documents will be available by March 1998.

Dated: September 25, 1997.

Marvin E. Moriarty,

Acting Regional Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WO-310-1310-01-24 1A]

OMB Approval Number 1004-0134; Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has submitted the proposed collection of information listed below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 3501 *et seq.*). On March 28, 1996, the BLM published a notice in the **Federal Register** (61 FR 13868) requesting comments on the collection. The comment period ended May 28, 1996. No comments were received. Copies of the proposed collection of information and related forms and explanatory material may be obtained by contacting the BLM Clearance Officer at the telephone number listed below.

OMB is required to respond to this request within 60 days but may respond after 30 days. For maximum consideration your comments and